

GRACE

— S T O R Y —

VOLUME 43 | ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2023



*A time to gather,
worship and sit under
the teaching of God's
Word — chapel is
central to our
students' thriving.*

WWW.GRACE.EDU



“There are three types of people in this room: people who are in a valley right now, heading out of a valley or going right into a valley soon.”

- Davey Blackburn

To go back and watch Davey Blackburn’s chapel, or any of our other chapel speakers this year, visit our chapel playlist on our YouTube channel.



What does it mean to thrive in 2023? The world will give us myriad answers to this question — from making a lot of money to becoming an influencer, becoming your own boss to traveling the globe. In a do-what-makes-you-happy society, the list of ways to thrive in the world today is seemingly endless.

As believers of the risen Savior, we look to a different definition of thriving. A type of thriving that's independent of circumstances. While no two stories are the same, the source of our thriving as believers is singular, and it's found in following our faithful Shepherd.

Over the past year, I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in our weekly chapel services on campus. During this time, students' hearts, minds and affections are stirred for Christ. (I know this from personal experience!) This concept of following Jesus, our good Shepherd, was powerfully presented to students in January, when Davey Blackburn spoke on Psalm 23.

Davey shared that in 2015, his world turned upside-down when his wife of seven years was murdered in their home during a break-in. But since then, God has written a beautiful story of healing, forgiveness and purpose. Davey remarried and launched Nothing Is Wasted Ministries. Together, Davey and his wife, Kristi, have devoted their lives to helping others find redemption in their own stories and purpose in their pain.

What stikes me most about Davey's story is that even in the unthinkable, he continued to trust the promises of God. He found refuge in Psalm 23, which assured him that even in the valley of the shadow of death, the Shepherd is with him. I look at Davey's story, and I think God wants the same for all of us. He wants us to follow Him in paths of righteousness — whether that is by still waters, in green pastures or through the valley of death. And when we look back on the journey, we will see that goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives.

This is the thriving we claim in Christ.

Despite what the world says, thriving comes when we entrust our ways to the Shepherd who leads us through all things. This issue is filled with stories of such thriving. Enjoy!



Drew Flamm

Drew Flamm, Ph.D.
President

INSTITUTIONAL MISSION

We are a Christ-centered community of higher education applying biblical values in strengthening character, sharpening competence, and preparing for service.

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THE COVER

Students whole-heartedly worship the Lord during a Grace College chapel service.

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Marked by Grace

5 After seventeen years of working in admissions at Grace, Dr. Mark Pohl (BS 04, MA 07), vice president of enrollment management, has heard many stories of student transformation. In this issue, he shares with us the one student story he will never forget.

For Their Flourishing

15 What took Indiana-raised Kathryn Morris (MS 19) from New Jersey to New York to Washington D.C.? Helping women flourish. Learn how Morris' nonprofit organization, Restore Hope, has brought hope to women on the streets of the East Coast.

A Peek Into the School of Education

25 Did you know there are 2,972 individuals who have received an education degree from Grace College? After decades of proven outcomes, the school continues to raise the bar. Find out what our education faculty have been doing to ensure their candidates thrive.

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*MARKED
BY GRACE*

WRITTEN BY DR. MARK POHL (BS 04, MA 07)



If you were to take a look at enrollment stats from colleges and universities across the nation, you would find most applications and deposits flatlining or heading in a downward trajectory. But that is not the case at Grace.

For the past four years, Grace has welcomed more than 400 new students to campus annually. For the past three years, we've celebrated a record number of incoming freshmen. For the past two years, we've claimed an all-time high number of new students. And this year, we've seen historic numbers of deposits and FAFSAs for the incoming class of 2023.

At the helm of these strong numbers is a welcoming and supportive admissions team led by Vice President of Enrollment Management, Dr. Mark Pohl (BA 04, MA 07). While serving in senior leadership at Grace since 2019, Pohl was named vice president this past year. Over the course of his 17 years in admissions, Pohl has held nine different titles and taken new responsibilities in stride, like adding financial aid and all online student admissions to his portfolio.

Offering strong scholarships and financial aid is a top priority for Pohl, and he has made a concerted effort to connect the school to its beautiful lakeside community. Grace hosts two PreUnion Lake Days for new students each summer and offers a meal plan which includes \$400 for students to enjoy dining at restaurants in The Village at Winona. While he has a competitive edge and a knack for meeting (and surpassing) goals, it only takes one interaction with Pohl to experience his genuine desire to connect with and care for people.

Much more could be said of Pohl and the ways the Lord has uniquely gifted him for this role, but instead, we thought we would pass the pen and allow him to share a few Grace College admissions stories of his own.

Seventeen years. Some may say that is a long time to work in one department of an institution. But 17 years (with a short break in the middle) goes by with lightning speed when you love your job. I feel blessed to work at Grace. I often say, "I bleed Lancer red" — and I mean it! I truly believe we have the best campus, we have the best people and we are the best college. We're not a perfect place, but people come here by and large because they have a hunger and thirst for Jesus.

It probably goes without saying, but I have seen and heard stories of many student transformations over the years. Students from all around the world come here and thrive here. They find a sense of community. They find their passions. They find their life

calling. And some even find Christ. Although admissions is just the tip of the spear, these stories remind me daily that the work being done at Grace matters.

While every story is significant, there is one student story I'll never forget.

I will never forget the day a lanky, six-foot senior from Ohio, stepped into the visitor's center. High school had not been an easy road for the student. Just a few years prior, his mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. By the time it was caught, it had spread to other organs, resulting in a terminal prognosis. She passed away toward the end of his sophomore year, and the student's high school experience was marked by lots and lots of grief. This was not his first time on campus;

he had come with some friends several months prior. On that visit, he discovered he thoroughly enjoyed the community Grace had to offer.

The son of a barber and builder, he was navigating the college search as a first-generation student. While his family was supportive of the process, it didn't negate the fact that he would have to make big decisions on his own, like which major to choose, which dorm to live in and what loans to take out. Despite his uncertainty regarding many things, he knew that he wanted to graduate from college and that Grace was a place he could call home.

The student was looking forward to introducing his dad (who had recently remarried) to Grace and having some



quality time on the drive. But as he was getting ready the morning of the visit, he noticed his stepmom was also preparing to go. Frustrated that his plans were being disturbed, an argument broke out and as a result, the student drove to Grace alone that day.

Trying to shake off the disappointment, the student went about his visit as usual; he had wonderful conversations with admissions staff, students and faculty, and he especially appreciated it when Dr. Roger Peugh (BA 65, BDiv 68, DMin 06) prayed with him at the end of their meeting. Even still, there were moments he remembered that he was there alone and wished his dad had come.

After his visit was finished, he stood at the front door of the visitor center and realized he only had one-eighth of a tank of gas in his car — not nearly enough for the two-hour trip home. Oh, and, like any teenager, he had exactly zero dollars and zero cents in his wallet.

Overcome by the emotions of the morning, the conflict at home, the near-empty gas tank, the lack of money and the grief of his deceased mother who would never see his college choice, he got choked up.

As he gazed out the front door of Mount Memorial with tears now rolling down his cheeks, his admissions counselor, Dave Pacheco (BS 95), unknowingly asked, "How was your campus visit?" When

Dave noticed the student's tears, he gently moved the conversation to his office where he offered tissues and a listening ear. Dave was moved by the young man's story. He showed genuine care and concern. And ultimately, he took the student to the nearest gas station, filled up his gas tank, and sent him on his way.

I know this student was deeply touched by the grace and generosity he experienced that day.

I know because this is my story. And that was my campus visit, more than 20 years ago.

For many years, I felt ashamed of that encounter. I would even go so far to dodge interactions with Dave when I saw him on campus. But eventually, I



"I know this student was deeply touched by the grace and generosity he experienced that day."

- Dr. Mark Pohl

realized I didn't need to feel ashamed. Many years later, I thanked Dave and gave him the honor he was due.

When I look back on it now, I recognize the interaction I shared with Dave on that visit was indicative of the three transformative years that followed as a communication student at Grace. Over the course of those three years, I grew as an individual, as a student and as a follower of Christ. That is largely credited to the genuine relationships I formed on campus: relationships with faculty, like my literature professor Dr. Joe Lehmann (BA 81) who invited me to stay at his house for two summers rent free; and relationships with peers, like the upperclassman who organically sought to mentor me and speak into my life.

As a sophomore at Grace, I landed my first job in the admissions office as a student ambassador. I wish I could tell you that on my very first tour I fell in love with admissions and decided that I was in it for the long haul, but that wasn't the case. In fact, I'll be the first person to tell you that my heart was not in it. The following summer, I moved to Soweto, the largest black township in South Africa.

During those months, I lived with a Zulu family and served with them in schools and churches throughout Soweto. As is so often the case with missions trips, the Holy Spirit used this experience to impact my life even more than the people I served. I came back to Grace in the fall and was a completely different student ambassador. By the end of that year, my peers voted me "Ambassador of the Year."

Following graduation, I was hired as an admissions counselor by then Director of Recruitment, Collette (Lehman BS 90) Olson. After four years in that role and also earning a Master of Ministry from Grace in 2007, I moved to Haiti for a short time before moving back to Winona Lake to work for Lifeline Youth & Family Services.

In 2009, I met my wife, Vanessa (Sizemore BS 13, MA 15). Vanessa had experienced her own share of pain throughout childhood, dealing with the separation of her parents and family brokenness. After struggling to finish high school, a college degree was a dream that seemed too far out of reach.

After we got married, I returned to Grace as the associate director of admissions, and she began working on her bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in art. She graduated from Grace in 2013 and immediately enrolled in Grace's Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling until she graduated in 2015 (the same year I received my Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership). She went on to teach several courses in Grace's School of Behavioral Sciences, including Social Psychology and Lifespan Development. From barely graduating high school to adjunct college instructor — Grace gave my wife opportunities she never dreamed were possible.

I don't have an inflated view of what we do in admissions. Rarely do we have the opportunity to change someone's life in our brief interactions with them. But what we can do is invite them to Grace where

over the course of years, through many conversations, relationships and the Word of God, there is real hope for life change.

And I'm not just talking about the students who come in with a 4.0 GPA and their future plans all mapped out. I'm talking about first-generation students like me. I'm talking about adult learners like Vanessa. Each Lancer has their own story. I guess you could say each of us is "Marked by Grace."



Dr. Pohl Quick Facts

Little-Known Fact:

I grew up on Pohl Road in Ottawa, Ohio.

Most Influential Professor:

Dr. Tom Stallter (BA 74). He is sharp, humble and experienced!

Favorite Vacation Memory:

Riding a moped along the coast of Cozumel with my wife, Vanessa.

Recent Read:

"The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics" by Daniel James Brown

Go-To Order in The Village at Winona:

A salmon sandwich with sweet potato fries at the BoatHouse.

"And I'm not just talking about the students who come in with a 4.0 GPA and their future plans all mapped out. I'm talking about first-generation students like me. I'm talking about adult learners like Vanessa. Each Lancer has their own story."

- Dr. Mark Pohl



Mark and Vanessa Pohl with their four kids (left to right): Eva (5), Roman (7), Nora (7) and Hosea (3)

Do you have a friend or family member that you think would thrive at Grace? Sign them up to receive information at www.grace.edu/thrive.

Welcome
(ENGLISH)

A Spirit of Welcome

WRITTEN BY MADISON COWMAN

ne, *Murakaza neza*, *Bienvenue*, *Karibu*

(KINYARWANDA)

(FRENCH)

(SWAHILI)

Welcome Kabayiza has always had a knack for languages. Born in Kigali, Rwanda, her native tongue is Kinyarwanda, but she is also fluent in English, French and Swahili. While her linguistic skills are impressive, Kabayiza is most passionate about using her voice to make students from all backgrounds feel welcomed at Grace. Her passion comes from her own story; she knows precisely what it's like to be immersed in a new culture.

Growing up in Kigali, Kabayiza's father gave safari rides to tourists. Kabayiza would often join him, serving as a translator for his English-speaking clients. One particular day, a South African pastor came on a tour. She didn't think much of it. But three years later, the pastor got connected with her father and offered her the opportunity of a lifetime. To this day, she still has no answers as to why.

"I remember my dad sitting me down and asking me if I would want to move to the United States to pursue my education," says Kabayiza. "I was more than excited, so immediately I said 'yes.'"

Kabayiza was only in fifth grade at the time, but her documentation wasn't approved for another four years. Looking back now, Kabayiza knows it was divine timing.

Being raised in a Catholic family, Kabayiza attended mass every morning before school. In her rush to get ready one day, she realized her uniform wasn't dry. Showing up out of uniform would reflect poorly on her, so she decided to sneak into the Protestant gathering instead.

"The message really spoke to me that day," reflects Kabayiza. "It was about the power of the Holy Spirit and being able to hear His voice. Through worship, I was able to really connect with God and feel His presence in my life."

Unsure of what her family would think, Kabayiza continued to secretly attend the

Protestant services until the paperwork was finally approved for her to move to the U.S.

As a freshman in high school, she settled into her new home with Eric and Maci Doden, a strong Christian family residing in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She was enrolled at Blackhawk Christian Academy, and the seeds of faith planted in Rwanda began to grow. The following summer, Kabayiza was baptized.

"It was a huge manifestation of God in my life," said Kabayiza. "I never signed up for anything. I never applied for anything. I was just living my life, and God came knocking on my door."

As senior year approached, Kabayiza had a lot of questions about the future. Would she be able to go to college in America? Would she go back to Africa? She had no clue what was next, but she made a list of schools to visit, and Grace was at the top. After her first visit, she knew Grace was where she wanted to be. But similar to her experience moving to the U.S., documentation proved to be an issue.

"There were days that I felt it would not be possible," she says. "I prayed constantly that God would make a way, and I'll never forget telling God, 'If this works out, every morning for the rest of my life I will say thank you to you.'"

Now a freshman at Grace, Kabayiza still thanks the Lord each day. As a student liaison for Grace's Council for Diversity and Inclusion, she seeks to use her platform to be a voice for others who find themselves immersed in a new culture on campus.

"My job gives me an opportunity to bring diverse groups of people together, hear their stories and speak for those who can't speak for themselves," said Kabayiza. "Embracing diversity on campus is an opportunity to prepare for heaven — when people of all races, cultures and languages will worship God together."

More than anything, Kabayiza hopes to live up to her name and embrace every unique individual with a spirit of welcome.



Not Brothers, Just Twins

WRITTEN BY MADISON COWMAN

May 19, 2004, Max Boruvka was born at 5:19 p.m. in Akron, Ohio. Just five hours later, in Rochester, New York, along came his cousin, Bennett Utter. A year and a half later, the Utter family moved 10 miles down the road from Boruvka's house, and the cousins have been friends ever since. From extreme sports as kids to youth group as teenagers, the "twin cousins" have not known life without the other — and their college experience is no exception.

Boruvka and Utter could tell story after story of their elementary school days together. "We did just about every extreme sport together," said Boruvka. "From mountain biking to soccer, longboarding to basketball and skiing to rip sticking — you name it, we've probably tried it."

And they're sure to throw in a story or two about "Maximum Shots," Boruvka's trick shot YouTube channel where the duo would attempt trick shots with everything from basketballs to airsoft guns.

Now freshmen at Grace, Boruvka and Utter enjoy participating in the newly established Grace Outdoors club, a group that encourages students to enjoy God's creation through mountain biking, skiing, canoeing, hiking and camping outings.

Even when the group isn't holding events, the twin cousins are finding ways to adventure on their own. Whether it be competing on the ultimate frisbee team,

longboarding in The Village or strumming a tune at open mic night, Boruvka and Utter have quickly found Grace to be home away from home.

“When I began the college search, I always got the advice, ‘Go to a place that feels most like home,’” said Boruvka. “And Grace felt like home because of the biking trails, the lake and most importantly, the people.”

For Boruvka, the four hours it takes to get home from Grace was longer than he had hoped for, but after an extensive search evaluating schools of all kinds, he knew Grace was the right place for him. He committed in November of his senior year, completely unaware that Utter would follow in his footsteps.

“I was planning on going to a public university with the hope of saving some money,” said Utter. “But the summer after my senior year, I felt a nudge from the Lord to go somewhere I could grow in my faith and my education.”

That’s when he began to consider Grace. Racing the clock to get a spot for the fall semester, Utter decided on Grace in mid-July without stepping foot on campus.

The cousins are both teachers-in-training: Boruvka studying elementary education and Utter pursuing math education. Suffice to say, the twin cousins are thriving.

“Thriving at Grace is all about being involved in strong community and having friends you can talk to,” said Utter, noting the Bible study they’ve been enjoying with several other guys on campus.

“I’d have to agree,” Boruvka quickly chimed in. “Community is the best part of Grace.”





For The Flouri

WRITTEN BY MADISON COWMAN

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“We want women to know they are loved, they are known and they have potential. Everything we do is for their flourishing.”

Tousled hair. Tired eyes. She sat on the cold, hard ground outside the subway station in Manhattan, eye-level with the strides of hundreds of passersby each morning. None of which took the time to glance her way. To them, she remained faceless. Nameless. But Kathryn Morris (MS 19) knew Alyssa by name.

“I just started stopping to say ‘Hi,’ and to see if she needed anything,” said Morris, who chuckles, recalling that, at first, Alyssa tried to make her go away. “But I started actually showing up for her. If she said she needed something, I brought it. If she was panhandling, I sat on the ground next to her. And if she needed to go to the bathroom, I sat there and panhandled for her.”

“It’s not always pretty,” Morris admits. But when she witnesses women like

Alyssa go from panhandling on the streets to renting a home, getting a job and going back to school, Morris will tell you it’s more than worth it. And when women like Alyssa volunteer their time to help other women facing homelessness, Morris will tell you that seeing the women flourish is like a dream come true — a dream that only God could put on her heart.

NEW JERSEY

A Ball State telecommunications major, Morris saw a future for herself in sports reporting. But her path to founding a nonprofit homeless ministry began when she went on a spring break trip to New York City with City Relief, a nonprofit providing food and resource connections to the homeless. On that trip, her eyes were opened to the daunting reality of homelessness.

That following summer, she returned to the City Relief headquarters in Elizabeth, New Jersey, for two weeks and fell in love with the ministry. “Once I was immersed in it, I saw the depth of the relationships that they were building with people,” said Morris. “It showed me how those relationships could impact somebody’s life, and I knew it was something I wanted to do.”

When graduation rolled around, she packed her bags to help at City Relief once more. This time, for six weeks. After the six weeks were up, she intended to return to Indianapolis to pursue her career in broadcasting. But God had other plans.

By the end of the six weeks helping with the mobile soup kitchen, Morris moved to New Jersey to work full time with City Relief as volunteer coordinator.

But after a year in her role, God began to reveal that City Relief was not the final destination he had for her.

"I had been feeling discontent with the work," Morris recalls. "Not that we weren't doing good work, I just felt like there was more. We would pull up to a location for a few hours, and then we would leave, and they were still there."

One day, while at a prayer meeting, Morris felt God plant the idea in her heart, "What about a shelter for women?" She was only 24 years old, so the notion felt overwhelming and preposterous. "Someday, God," she thought, as she filed the idea in the back of her mind.

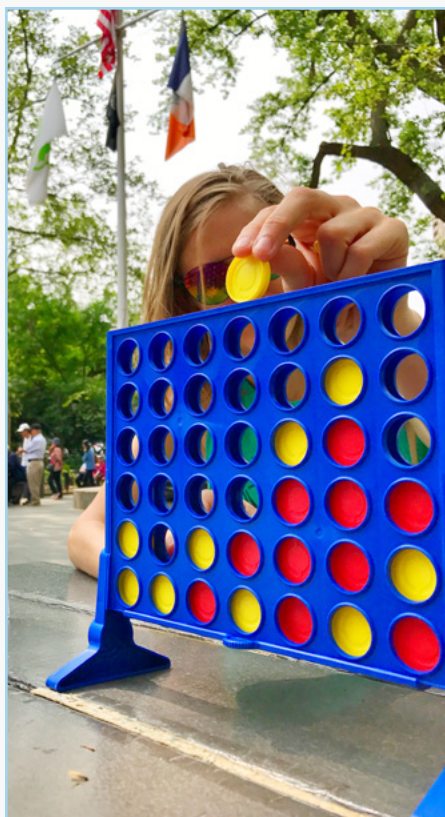
But over the next several months, the discontentment continued to grow, and she realized God had given her a direction; it was time for her to respond, "Yes, Lord. I'll go."

NEW YORK

In February 2013, Morris quit her job and moved to New York City.

"That time was about growing the vision and figuring out what the organization was supposed to be," she said. "I still did not feel confident, and I tried to convince God that there was someone else."

But through that time of prayer, Morris realized that there was no one else; that "someone" was her. In September 2015, Morris legally founded Restore Hope, an organization with the simple vision of giving all women struggling with homelessness the opportunity to flourish. In 2016, Restore Hope officially received its 501(c)(3) status.



Top: A woman plays Connect Four at one of Restore Hope's "Community Game Days." Bottom: Kathryn (left) embraces Alyssa (right), one of the women she's met through Restore Hope.

The ministry began as a mobile outreach, which provided prayer, care bags and referrals for women. While the reach was substantial, Morris felt the relationships were lacking. So in 2017, she transitioned the programming to include what she called "Community Game Days." These informal gatherings invited

women experiencing homelessness to the park for a morning of friendship, games, nail care and coloring. Restore Hope would provide participants with snacks, hygiene kits, resource information and more.

After getting the dream in motion, Morris, who had only taken one business course in college, knew that if she wanted the organization to grow, she needed to expand her knowledge of the nonprofit sector.

"Things would come up, and I wouldn't even know what questions to ask the right people," Morris admits. "Looking back now, I honestly had no idea what I was doing when I started Restore Hope. If I had, I probably would have said 'no.'"

After a quick Google search, she found Grace's online Master of Nonprofit Management degree and was immediately drawn to it. She appreciated that the degree would be instructed from a Christian perspective and, unlike most programs offered as a concentration or emphasis, it was strictly focused on nonprofit management.

"From the moment Katie and I had our first conversation, I knew that she possessed a special gift for serving women in desperate need," said Dr. Steve Grill (BA 70), director of Grace's Master of Nonprofit Management program. "The fact that a very young Hoosier would transplant herself to New York City and single-handedly begin Restore Hope was a testament to her passion, intelligence and drive."

She began the program in January 2018 and saw an immediate impact on Restore Hope. "I was able to use

Restore Hope for all of my projects," she said. "Now I feel confident in every area to at least know what to ask. And the courses on grant writing and strategic planning have been great."

Through her courses, Morris began to shift Restore Hope's programming to a mentoring model, where women facing homelessness would be matched with women of similar interests.

"We want to give women the opportunity to build deeper relationships," said Morris. "Some shelters in New York call women by their case number and not their name. It's very dehumanizing, and it makes it easy for them to give up. We want to have someone there for them who says, 'Do I know all the answers to your problems? No. But we'll figure it out together.'"

WASHINGTON D.C.

Halfway through the online program, Morris moved to Washington D.C. to replicate the model. "I always knew the ministry would go beyond New York," said Morris. "While homelessness doesn't look the same from place to place, everyone can use a mentor."

Shortly after finishing her master's, the global pandemic put an unwelcome delay on her plans. The years 2020 and 2021 were challenging for many homeless services in cities across the nation, forcing many to close down altogether. And while Morris was unable to launch her new programming, she remained a constant and committed resource for the women with whom she had established a relationship. After demonstrating great patience and diligence, Morris officially introduced the mentorship model at Restore Hope towards the end of 2021.

"It's such a daunting situation," said Morris in response to the more than 500,000 Americans experiencing homelessness. "There are so many people, and there is no way you can help everyone. But when you help one person who helps another person, it just keeps going. When you do what you can, it goes beyond just you."

With the long-term goal of offering transitional housing to women, Morris is in the beginning stages of opening a day center for women in D.C., providing snacks, a library and potentially even art classes and Bible studies. While looking toward future

possibilities is energizing to Morris, it doesn't come close to the joy she finds in seeing lives changed.

"We want women like Alyssa to know they are loved, they are known and they have potential," says Morris. "Everything we do is for their flourishing."

To learn more about Restore Hope, visit restorehopeforwomen.org.



"The fact that a very young Hoosier would transplant herself to New York City and single-handedly begin Restore Hope was a testament to her passion, intelligence and drive."

DR. STEVE GRILL

Master of Nonprofit Management
Program Director

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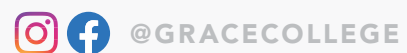


CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



1. Students enjoy the new pads and signs for Grace's nine-hole disc golf course.
2. Malachi Butzin visits a booth at the career fair hosted by the Center for Career Connections.
3. Dr. Jared Burkholder, director of the history and political science program, sports his superhero gear in class in honor of Employee Appreciation Day — a day to recognize the unsung heroes who make Grace special!
4. Lancer fans flood the court after our men's basketball team claimed victory over Huntington University in the Crossroads League tournament championship game.
5. Dr. Jeff Fawcett, dean of the School of Business, and Melissa Chappell (BS 11, MBA 13), assistant professor of management, pose with Kiersten Martin, recipient of \$5,000 as the annual Business Plan Competition winner.
6. Leah Amico, a 3x Olympic gold medalist with USA Softball, shares with the student body in chapel.
7. Students pose for a photo on the coast of Portugal during their spring break Go Encounter trip.
8. Leah Forshtay, daughter of alumni Tobe (BS 13, MBA 17) and Jaci (Dissinger BS 05) Forshtay smiles with her mom for her campus visit photo shoot.
9. Students Genevieve Goldsmith (front) and Tory Mullet (back) sweep Kroger for groceries during the annual Supermarket Sweep event.
10. Grace inducts 26 juniors and seniors into the Alpha Chi Honor Society.
11. Resident Director Gershom Taddesse (BA 15, MBA 20) and student Elijah Moore celebrate students' return to campus for the spring semester.
12. Chapel team members Jabon Butler, Addy Norton and JoAnn Saloga prepare to share in Episode 73 on the Grace Story Podcast.

There is a lot happening on campus. You can keep up with the excitement on our social media platforms.





I Wonder
will it float or sink?

Name	I chose	float	sink
Zachariah	↓		
Major	↑		
Angelina	↓		
Jonathan	↑		
Eniyah	?		
Sunshine	↑		
Ms Malissa			
Ms Mary			



NAME	Heavy ↓	Light ↑
Jonathan	O'Robot	X Robot
Analeya	ViewMaster	Picture Book
Ms Cricket	Big Shell	Small Shell

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THE Good Shepherd

WRITTEN BY MADISON COWMAN

It was Friday, Feb. 8, 2002. Sharalyn (Shaw BS 97) Croft and her assistant teacher, Christina Navas-Mondolo, showed up at Precious Lamb Preschool in Long Beach, California, just as they had for the past several months.

After years of prayer and petition, advocacy and action, the preschool was open to serve children and families in crisis. While community leaders were certain this would meet a great need, the preschool had been open for several months, and not a single child had walked through its doors.

However, on a Friday, two children arrived. Their names, Angel and Savan (pronounced seven, God's number of completion), were a reminder that the good Shepherd had a perfect plan.

THE TRAINING YEARS

Croft had been following the Shepherd for nearly all 25 years of her life. Born and raised in Long Beach, California, she was an active part of Charis Fellowship churches. During her childhood, Croft attended Los Altos Grace Church, where she was dedicated as a baby by pastor Dr. Donald Shoemaker (BA 66, MDiv 69).

As a teen, Croft attended Momentum and participated in Operation Barnabas (OB) in 1992. Post-college, she attended Grace Community Church of Seal Beach, where Shoemaker had become the senior pastor.

Through OB, she visited Grace's campus for a reunion. While her Charis Fellowship roots ran deep, Croft was convinced she would never attend Grace. It was simply too far away for the self-proclaimed homebody. However, it took one meeting with Dr. Shara Curry, the chair of the teacher education department at the time, for Croft to realize Grace was where she needed to be.

During her studies as an elementary education major at Grace, Croft recalls sitting in one of Curry's classes and watching a clip of a school for homeless children in Washington state. Something about the video tugged on her heartstrings. She remembers thinking, "I would love to teach children like that."

Croft's experiences in college continued to reinforce that tug — from volunteering with City Impact

in Chicago to serving as a "big sister" to a girl whose family was homeless through Big Brothers Big Sisters. Each year, the Lord grew Croft's heart for inner-city ministry more and more.

Contrary to her thoughts of teaching at an inner-city school, Croft accepted a position at Lakewood Christian School, in Long Beach, California. Meanwhile, she was serving those in crisis with her young adult group at church. The group volunteered and led Bible studies at a Christian crisis pregnancy program, and they helped serve at the Long Beach Rescue Mission. While these ministries were effective for helping adults, Croft noticed programs for children in the area were lacking.

In an effort to learn more about the need, Croft paid a visit to Christian Outreach in Action (COA), a homeless ministry in Long Beach. When asked why she came to tour the program, Croft went on to share she felt God leading her to teach homeless children. The executive director replied, "God's timing is perfect. We've been looking for someone to come. When can you start?"

Croft just about dropped to the ground. That morning, on the drive to school, she had been singing the lyrics "In His Time."

"Reverend Wood's response was evidence God was at work, and He had a plan for something beautiful," said Croft.

The conversation that day was just the beginning of making a Christian preschool for the children of homeless families in Long Beach a reality. Croft began taking classes to earn her early childhood education certification, and Grace Community Church of Seal Beach and Los Altos Grace Church brought her on as a fully supported local missionary to help get the preschool on its feet. By the end of that semester, she notified her principal at Lakewood that she would not be returning the next school year. It was clear the Shepherd was on the move!

THE MOSES YEARS

Croft dubbed the two years that followed, "The Moses Years." Like Moses and the Israelites who wandered through the desert for 40 years, Croft had an idea of where the good Shepherd was taking her; it just seemed to be a roundabout path to get there.

During the following months of 1999, Croft rallied a group of leaders from key churches in the community to discuss starting the preschool at COA. With a board in place, Croft continued to communicate with COA about the space they had for the program. But on a visit a few months later, she was met with disappointing news. "I remember walking in on a Monday morning and being told by



First day of school at Precious Lamb Preschool on Friday, Feb. 8, 2002

one of the employees, 'Our director was let go last night, and our program is in chaos. We desperately need this preschool program, but we don't have money for it, nor do we have the space.'"

Without a location or a source of funding, the board reconvened with the goal of making Precious Lamb Preschool a nonprofit organization. November 1999, Precious Lamb received 501(c)(3) status. Meanwhile, finding a location proved to be a challenge.

Croft vetted a number of options — churches, houses, community organizations — but every time a prospect appeared to be promising, something would fall through at the last moment. "Those were really hard times," said Croft. "But our faith grew. And what God did in the end was far better and bigger than what we ever imagined."

At the end of two long "Moses years," in September 2001, First Lutheran Church came back with an offer. Precious Lamb Preschool finally had a home.

20 YEARS AND COUNTING

More than 20 years have passed since that first Friday of class at Precious Lamb. The single classroom with two teachers and two students is now three classrooms with 14 teachers, and the preschool has served more than 700 students. Croft has since moved away from Long Beach due to her husband's position in the Coast Guard, and several executive directors have cycled through leadership. But one thing remains: the mission to introduce children and their parents to the good Shepherd.

"Isaiah 40:11 was the verse that God put on my heart as we started Precious Lamb," says Croft. The verse reads, "He will tend his flock like a



Croft (right) with Violet Fenton (left), current executive director at Precious Lamb, at the preschool's 20th anniversary gala.

shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."

Croft knows this tender love of a heavenly Father is the best news these children and their parents can receive, all of whom have been through significant trauma. Some have lived in shelters. Some are impacted by drug abuse. Some are silent and unresponsive. And some have outbursts of anger. But Precious Lamb Preschool has consistently presented children with the truth of the gospel.

"Life isn't always happy, but they feel comfortable, loved and cared for," said Croft. "They can interact and learn. They learn to use their words. They eat good, healthy meals. They are getting exercise. And most

importantly, they are forming a relationship with God."

For many of the children, they arrive at Precious Lamb with little knowledge of God. Over the course of their time there, they hear daily Bible stories, pray before meals and are taught a Christian worldview.

While Croft is no longer serving as executive director at Precious Lamb, she continues to be faithful to the Shepherd's leading in her life. An active member of her church, she stays busy as a mentor mom through MOPS, she serves as a small group leader in Bethany Hamilton's Ohana program for mothers and daughters and she co-teaches her daughters through their Christian University-Model school. She remains a connected founder of Precious Lamb, visiting several times each summer and Christmas when she is in Long Beach.

This past year, she returned to speak at Precious Lamb's 20th Anniversary Gala and was in awe of God's faithfulness to the preschool and the children of Long Beach. "It was surreal," said Croft. "There were so many people and tables. Everything was china, tablecloths, flower arrangements — the whole nine yards. It was unbelievable how many people came to support the mission."

Croft will be the first to admit that God has done far more with Precious Lamb than what she ever hoped or imagined. As she looked into the crowd at the gala that night, she saw familiar faces, like Pastor Shoemaker who supported her from the very beginning, interspersed with many faces she didn't know — faces representing churches, companies and individuals who have come alongside Precious Lamb because they love what they do. All of these people were there because one person said "yes" to God. According to Croft, this is what thriving is all about.

"Part of thriving is seeking God, finding where He is at work and asking how you can join Him in that work," said Croft. "I hope that those who read my story will look at Precious Lamb and be encouraged to ask, 'How can I be involved in the work God is doing in my life?' No matter what city you live in, God is on the move. Find where the Shepherd is leading, and follow Him. That is where thriving is found."

To learn more about Precious Lamb, or to get involved with the ministry, visit preciouslamb.org



TOP: The Grace College School of Education team (left to right): Dr. Kevin Voogt, Julie Thompson, Dr. Mistie Potts, Dr. Rachael Hoffert, Dr. Laurie Owen, Florell Hand, Dr. Cheryl Bremer, Lorinda Kline.

BOTTOM: The stained glass adorning the east wall of Mount Memorial has served as an institutional symbol for decades, reminding our teacher candidates that their highest calling is to go teach the gospel.



2,972. Do you know the significance of this number? There are 2,972 individuals who have received an education degree from Grace College. In just a few weeks, that number will surpass the 3,000 mark.

When I stop and consider what this number means, I'm filled with awe and gratitude. I'm in awe of the tens of thousands of lives these 2,972 professionals have touched in and out of the classroom. I'm grateful that the impact of our program goes far beyond what we measure with job placement rates or principal satisfaction data. It reminds me that thriving teachers foster thriving classrooms that develop thriving individuals.

That's what we're all about: preparing teachers to thrive as Christ followers in the work He has called them to. We know teachers are more likely to thrive when they have confidence in their ability to meet the needs of their learners. And that confidence is the result of a commitment to competence. It is our privilege to help guide and shape our students through this process.

And what a joy it is to hear about our thriving graduates around the globe who are making a true difference in the classroom. Their impact is in part because of our caring and highly competent team of professors that challenge their students and model what it means to be a moral practitioner.

Our freshmen begin their program with our very own Distinguished Professor of Education, Dr. Laurie Owen. She sets the framework and authentically models what it means to thrive as a teacher. Dr. Kevin Voogt supports and mentors our male education students through Men of Ed. Julie (Salomon BS 90) Thompson, our educator preparation support specialist, plays a crucial role on the team as the first touch point for our students. As you'll read in the following pages, Professor Lorinda Kline, Dr. Rachael Hoffert and Florell (Finley BS 87) Hand also play an integral part in the success of our students through their teaching, mentoring and advising. Our newest team member, Dr. Mistie Potts, is now the director of alternative programming and partnerships. As a seasoned teacher educator, she joins us to help start our brand new Transition to Teaching Elementary program.

As these master teacher educators walk alongside our students, they focus on what is truly important: preparing competent teachers to reflect Christ in a field that desperately needs them, whether it's across the street at Jefferson Elementary, at a Christian school in their hometown or in a tented classroom across the ocean in a refugee camp. Our recent national accreditation is a reflection of this good work that starts in the School of Education.

What a privilege it is to be a part of this task of preparing teachers to thrive in the mission field God calls them to.

Blessings,

Cheryl Bremer

Dr. Cheryl (Bartel BS 92) Bremer
Dean of the School of Education





Lorinda Kline

Chair of Secondary Education
Director of Student Teaching

“There is magic in the classroom if you look for it and foster it and believe that everybody in this classroom is created in God’s image.”

Fun Facts

Future Plans:

I am retiring this May and plan to spend more time with my family and grandchildren! I also look forward to kayaking, hiking and biking with my husband.

Teaching Quirk:

I have a teacher inspiration playlist, and I invite students to add songs to it. It’s intended to help us focus and remember our purpose as we drive to work. (I also sing once a class period for one reason or another.)

It takes a village to grow a teacher. Before a teacher candidate graduates, he or she is trained by the School of Education faculty, guided by local teachers through 100+ practicum hours, mentored by their student teaching classroom supervisors and overseen by an adjunct faculty supervisor. Not to mention, if a student is a secondary education major, he or she is also being advised by faculty in the program of specialization. Like we said — it takes a village! At the helm of all of these connections is Professor Lorinda Kline. In the complex ecosystem it takes to raise a teacher, Kline ensures that the right people are in the right place to help teacher candidates grow and thrive.

Kline serves as a secondary adviser for all secondary education majors (which includes 55 students specializing in math, life science, social studies, French, English, Spanish and business). She endeavors to make the School of Education feel like home for these students who find themselves with one foot in education and the other in a different school on campus. From Christmas parties to service opportunities pertaining to their specialties, Kline prioritizes giving secondary education students spaces to find belonging.

In addition to chairing secondary education, Kline serves as the director of student teaching. A master

practitioner of peer-to-peer learning and co-teaching models, Kline not only facilitates these placements for 40+ teacher candidates each year, she also walks closely alongside students, faculty and supervising teachers to ensure the relationships are beneficial for all involved. At the culmination of the student teaching experience, Kline organizes a student seminar which celebrates their transition from pre-professionals to colleagues.

Regardless of the hat she’s wearing at the moment, with enthusiasm and grace, Kline brings the education community — also known as “the village” — together.



Dr. Rachael Hoffert

Chair of Elementary Education, Professor of Education

After eight years of teaching elementary education, Dr. Rachael Hoffert accepted a position at Grace to redesign the School of Education’s literacy coursework. She’s been tweaking and perfecting the program ever since. As a result, the literacy program has proven itself a top performer in Indiana, our students earning among the highest licensure exam scores for Elementary Reading for several consecutive years. Now, Hoffert is finishing a sabbatical dedicated to researching the science of reading. She intends to take the top-notch curriculum to the next level — a demonstration to her students that even teachers should be lifelong learners.

“The science of reading, combining decades of reading research on evidence-based practices, has really gained steam over the past couple of years,” says Hoffert. “While this research has always been a part of our standards, even more research has come out about how the brain processes language and words. It’s vital that we as teachers work with those language centers in the brain to help students learn how to read.”

In addition to her research, Hoffert has maximized her sabbatical to be trained as a dyslexia specialist through Roxie Reading curriculum and audited all four of Grace’s literacy classes. When she’s not tied up with research, training and auditing, she’s dreaming up plans for a Literacy

“I tell our teacher candidates that while they have a lot of jobs in the classroom, there are two main ones: build relationships with your students and give them the gift of reading.”

Fun Facts

Favorite Verse:

2 Corinthians 12:19

Favorite Pet:

My dog, Zuri (which means beautiful in the Swahili language)!

Recent Publication

“Why the role of school superintendent is a family affair” on DistrictAdministration.com

Center for Excellence at Grace, a pursuit catalyzed by a Lilly Endowment planning grant purposed to help colleges and universities in Indiana realign their reading programs. While it’s still in the brainstorming phase, Hoffert has consulted with reading specialists, met with partners and explored opportunities to equip teachers and serve the community.

All the while, Hoffert reminds herself regularly why this work matters. “Reading is a skill students need for life,” she says. “Regardless of their profession, reading opens up so many doors. It’s not easy to teach a child how to read, but it’s well worth it!”



Florell Hand

Systems Manager: Accreditation Coordinator,
Clinical Field Director, Licensing Advisor

When it comes to finishing strong, Florell (Finley BS 87) Hand knows a thing or two. In fact, this past December, she led the School of Education in successfully completing one of the most intense cycles of review in program history — attaining CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) accreditation.

The eight-year accreditation process required all hands on deck, but Hand was the driving force behind the operation, ensuring every data point was gathered, every program reviewed and every deadline met. For the past three years, Hand has devoted herself to the enormous undertaking of analyzing data and writing the report, demonstrating

that the School of Education is worthy of a seal of quality assurance from the premier accreditor in the field of education. The accreditation not only recognizes the program meets national and state standards, it also allows Grace to license its teacher candidates in the state.

As licensing advisor, Hand knows this well. In addition to assisting current students in obtaining their professional educator license, she also helps alumni from 10, 20 or even 30 years ago navigate the licensure renewal process. "It's a unique privilege to watch students come in fresh out of high school, and in just a few short years, they are ready to enter their own classrooms

"I love watching our graduates get jobs in the area and then knock it out of the park as mission-minded, student-engaged educators."

Fun Facts

Little-Known Fact:

I grew up in southern Florida with a pond in our backyard. In the pond lived an alligator, and my friends and I would often swim around with that alligator watching us from just yards away.

What Does Thriving Mean to You?

In Eugene Peterson's book "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction," he writes about a long apprenticeship toward holiness and loving like Jesus does. Remaining faithful to this life-long discipleship is my idea of thriving. And if a few honest, curious and faithful friends commit to walking with you along the way, it can make all the difference!

as partners in the profession," says Hand. "It's a beautiful transition we're blessed to be a part of!"

For those Grace graduates that stay in the area, they just might be hearing from Hand again when it comes time for clinical placements. As clinical field director (Yes, that's title number three, if you're counting), Hand connects students with field placements in surrounding school corporations. The first session alone, Hand looks for 100-150 teachers willing to pour into students and take them under their wings. Once all 100+ volunteers are secured and matched with students in the first session, she does it all again at the start of the next one.



School of Education Introduces Transition to Teaching Elementary Program

The Grace College School of Education is pleased to announce that its new Transition to Teaching Elementary program will launch this June. The online licensure will allow those who hold a bachelor's degree to complete the program and obtain an elementary education teaching license over the course of 18 months.

The new program comes in response to a growing number of teaching vacancies across the United States and seeks to provide an innovative pathway for capable individuals to become licensed elementary educators.

"I frequently speak with administrators and teachers, and there is no question about it — the need for high-quality teachers is great," said

Dr. Cheryl (Bartel BS 92) Bremer, dean of the School of Education at Grace College. "This demand for educators has put pressure on our partnership schools, and Grace College wants to be a part of solving this ongoing problem."

The Transition to Teaching program will begin with a five-day residency in June to be held on Grace College's campus in Winona Lake, Indiana. The residency will give students the opportunity to interact with other teacher candidates in their cohort and get to know the Grace School of Education faculty, who will be instructing their online coursework.

"Taught by the same top-notch faculty who teach our residential degrees, the Transition to Teaching program will bring the same level of excellence

and professionalism, ensuring program graduates are equipped with the tools they need to pass their licensing exams and excel in the classroom," said Dr. Mistie Potts, director of alternative programming and partnerships.

According to Potts, the program has been intentionally designed for anyone with a bachelor's degree, including paraprofessionals serving Grace's local partner corporations.

"Our program will provide an innovative way for nontraditional teaching candidates to become teachers, giving them the chance to fulfill their dreams and make a lasting impact on generations to come," said Potts.

Learn more at online.grace.edu



Grace Receives Grant From Lilly Endowment's 'Indiana Youth Programs on Campus' Initiative

Grace College has been awarded a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Indiana Youth Programs on Campus (IYPC) initiative. The initiative is designed to help Indiana colleges and universities in their efforts to create high-quality, on-campus programs for Hoosier youth.

Grace plans to use the grant to launch four camps this summer in the areas of engineering, exercise science, Indiana ecology and the arts. The school will provide scholarships for lower-income students who might not otherwise be able to attend.

"We are very excited to offer various summer camp experiences this summer," said Dr. Kevin Roberts (BS 93, MA 96), provost at Grace. "Grace has excellent resources,

facilities and talented Christian faculty to make these camps one-of-a-kind. By adding three new academic camps to our existing engineering camps and our long history of sports camps, we look forward to engaging a broader, more diverse group of students from our community."

Grace's four camps will be held on campus beginning in the summer of 2023 and provide programming for students going into 5th-12th grade. The camp content has been carefully curated to engage campers in hands-on, age-appropriate activities pertaining to their areas of interest.

The engineering camp will allow campers to experience the design process for themselves by building CO2 race cars and working with CAD (Computer Aided Design).

The exercise science camp will put campers' bodies to the test in a traditional combine event.

The Indiana ecology camp will take campers to multiple parks and environmental centers and teach them about careers in natural resources and environmental science.

The visual arts camp will teach campers creative skills and help them work towards creating a final project, using field trips as a source of inspiration.

For additional information, visit the website at grace.edu/camps.



Grace Seminary Introduces Online Master of Divinity Degree

Beginning in Fall 2023, Grace Theological Seminary will offer an online Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree for pastors and ministry leaders seeking a flexible and virtual means of advancing their education.

“The M.Div. is a quintessential seminary degree, highly regarded among pastors in the field, and it’s time to give ministry leaders access to Grace Seminary’s top-notch M.Div. program regardless of where they live,” said Dr. Freddy Cardoza, dean of Grace Theological Seminary and the School of Ministry Studies. “Grace Seminary has had a long-standing history of equipping church leaders for ministry through our M.Div. program. Unwilling to compromise quality for flexibility, we’re giving our online students the same thought-provoking content, excellent teaching

and access to our sage professors as our residential students.”

The 75-credit-hour program will be delivered online in an easy-to-navigate learning platform with engaging, high-definition videos. The delivery platform is designed to give students who engage online the same instruction a residential student would receive in the classroom.

In addition, all seven concentrations of the degree will be accessible for Grace M.Div. students who engage online. The concentrations include pastoral studies, general studies, Christian ministry, intercultural studies, exegetical studies, pastoral counseling and chaplaincy. These concentrations allow students to align their studies with their current area of ministry or ministry interests.

“With Grace Seminary’s online M.Div., you will be trained to meet today’s most prevalent ministry needs and build a bridge to meet the ministry needs of tomorrow — all while maintaining fidelity to Scripture,” said Dr. Karla McGehee, director of digital learning at Grace Theological Seminary. “It’s so important to us that our online programs are student focused, ensuring that the virtual learning experience is an extension of our overarching mission to teach, train and transform ministry leaders for Christ and His Church.”

To learn more about the online M.Div. through Grace Theological Seminary, watch the promotional video on Grace’s YouTube channel, visit seminary.grace.edu or talk to an admissions counselor at seminary@grace.edu.



Women's Basketball Enjoys Best Season in Team History

Grace's women's basketball team enjoyed a groundbreaking season. Grace finished with new records for most overall wins (24), regular season wins (19), conference wins (13) and longest winning streak (7).

The Lady Lancers qualified for the NAIA National Tournament for the first time ever and shocked the tournament field as a No. 12 seed, pounding No. 5 Pikeville by 30 points in Grace's NAIA debut. Grace returned home to finish its season at NCCAA Nationals, advancing to the national semifinals and placing third in the nation.



Grace Bowling Wraps Up Inaugural Season

Grace's bowling teams concluded their first official seasons as varsity programs in March. The Lancers competed in 10 tournaments across Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Under head coach Kirk Wyman, Grace competed in the Crossroads League for the first time. Erik Haegeland was named to the men's Crossroads League All-Newcomer Team, and Lilly Kelly earned a spot on the women's All-Newcomer Team.



Grace's Relay Teams Score Big at NAIA Indoor Track

The indoor track and field season for the Lancers finished the year on a high note. Grace's men and women each placed 15th in the nation, marking their highest finishes ever at the NAIA Indoor National Championships. The men's and women's teams also

won gold for the 4x800-meter relay for the first time. Assistant track and field coach Jake Poyner was honored as the Region Assistant Coach of the Year by the U.S. Track and Field Coaches Association, and Bryan Hernandez-Rios was named the Region Track Athlete of the Year.



Lancers Cut the Nets Twice in Sensational Year

The men's basketball team cut the nets not once, but twice during a memorable year. The Lancers claimed both the regular season and postseason tournament championship trophies in the Crossroads League. Grace rallied from 16 points down in the postseason tournament championship to take down Huntington in front of one of the loudest and largest crowds in the history of the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center.

Grace earned a No. 1 seed in the NAIA tournament and was awarded as a host for the NAIA First and Second Rounds for the first time in team history. The Lancers marched to the NAIA's "Elite Eight" before finally tasting defeat again. Grace finished the season with a sterling 31-4 record, including 15-3 in league play under head coach Scott Moore (BS 08), who was named the league's Coach of the Year.

ALUM NOTES

Connecting With Our
Family of Friends

Class Notes

1978

In June 2022, **Dr. Thomas Davis** (M.Div. 78) retired from teaching at Word of Life Bible Institute after 44 years. He continues to teach part time for Davis College and online for Liberty University Online School of Divinity where he is an instructional mentor for professors who are guiding students in their doctoral Ed.D. and Ph.D. dissertations.

1979

1 Jackie (Tarkington BA 79) Meier retired from teaching in May 2022 and is focusing on improving her painting skills by studying online at the Milan Art Institute. She participates in juried art shows and enjoys spending time with her granddaughters. jmartist1410@gmail.com

2000

2 Eli and Emily (Dickey BS 00) Dorman: Married Aug. 27, 2022. The newlyweds reside in Akron, Ohio.

2001

3 Heather (Alexander BS 01) Kamami has served as a customer service specialist at Blackhawk Network (Reno, Nev.) since March 2016. She and her two sons visited family in Texas for a summer vacation in 2022. ladykamami@yahoo.com

2003

Jason Souther (BS 03) was named vice president of marketing at Beacon Credit Union (Wabash, Ind.) where he oversees the branding and marketing strategies of the financial institution. Souther joined Beacon in 2020 as the brand manager and

holds a Master of Business Administration in marketing from the Indiana Institute of Technology. He resides in Kosciusko County (Ind.) with his wife and two children.

2007

4 Jairus and Jenna (Linder BS 07) Bonner: Miles Ray, March 6, 2022. The family lives in Pooler, Ga.

2012

5 Ben and Connie (Okupski BS 12) Marshall: Elliana Faith, Sept. 13, 2022. Elliana joins her sisters, Aliya (6) and Sophia (3) at home in Beaver Falls, Pa. connielynnmarshall@gmail.com

Rev. John Radzikowski (CERT 12, MA 22) has served as senior pastor at First Community Church since March 2017. John and his wife, Janice, reside in College Place, Wash. pastorjohn@firstcommchurch.org

2015

6 Robert (BS 15) and Mary (Mix BA 15) Gongwer: Jonah Edmund, July 23, 2022. Jonah joins his brothers Rowan (4) and Malachi (3) at home in South Bend, Ind.

2016

7 Eric (BS 16) and Cassandra (Worthen BS 16) Lindsay have made Durham, N.C., their home. Eric began serving as assistant director of admissions at The Fuqua School of Business at Duke University in Oct. 2021, and he was recently promoted to associate director of student life for Fuqua's Daytime MBA program. Cassandra completed her master's in occupational therapy at Mount Mary University (Milwaukee, Wis.) and serves as an occupational therapist at Duke University Hospital.

2017

8 Ben (BA 17, MA 20) and Allyson Key: Simmons Colette, Dec. 8, 2022. Simmons joins sister, Monroe Leigh (2) at home in Ashland, Ohio.

9

Brian and **Rachel (Smith BA 17) Wenzel:** Married July 8, 2022. Rachel serves as life enrichment director at St. Mary Health Campus (Lafayette, Ind.). The newlyweds call Dayton, Ind., home. rachelasmith100@gmail.com

2018

10 After graduating, **Marc Baldwin** (BS 18) worked at The Walt Disney Company until the pandemic shut down the Disneyland Resort. He was then blessed

with a mechanical engineer position at NovaWurks Inc. (Los Alamitos, Calif.), which builds powerful spacecraft for high reliability. In Oct. 2020, Marc transitioned to a space systems engineer to assist with the company's future projects. Marc and his wife Savannah reside in Stanton, Calif.

2019

11 Ben (BS 19) and Amanda **Hough:** Married Sept. 24, 2022. Ben has served as a managed services engineer at U.S. Signal Company, LLC (Grand Rapids, Mich.), since Oct. 2021. The couple resides in Rockford, Mich.

2020

Austin and **Madi (Brill BA 20) Heckaman:** Married Oct. 1, 2022. In Nov. 2022, Madi began serving as a fieldwork coordinator and data specialist at Bethel University (Mishawaka, Ind.). The couple calls South Bend, Ind., home.

2021

12 Thomas (BS 21) and **Desiree (Bruno BS 21) Engle:** Married Dec. 15, 2022. The Engles live in North Manchester, Ind. MisterWatermelon@hotmail.com

WHAT'S NEW?

Submit an Alum Note.

Tell us the latest news in your life at www.grace.edu/alumnotes and choose to publish it as an Alum Note in an upcoming issue of Grace Story.

FACEBOOK

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

TELL US YOUR STORY

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



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In Memoriam

1957

1 Dr. Thomas T. Julien (MDiv 57, DDivH 96)
DATE OF PASSING: Jan. 16, 2023
RECENT HOMETOWN: Winona Lake, Ind.
SURVIVING FAMILY: Children: Becky (Julien BA 78) (David (MA 88)) Schwan, Terry Julien (BA 80), and Jacqueline (Julien BA 86) (Jeff (BA 86, BS 91, BS 00, MS 12, MS 15)) Schram; grandchildren: David (C 05) (Emilie Hobert) Schwan, Rachel (Schwan BS 07) (Steve) Williams, Philip Schwan, Jonathan Schram (BA 18, MBA 19), engaged to Heather Cummings, and Joelle (Schram BA 18) (Brandon (BA 18)) Haun; and four great-grandchildren.
FULL OBITUARY: redpathfruthfuneralhome.com/obituary/ThomasTom-Julien

1961

2 Floyd L. Welling (BA 61)
DATE OF PASSING: Oct. 29, 2022
RECENT HOMETOWN: Goshen, Ind.
SURVIVING FAMILY: Children: George (Tonya) Welling, Brenda Welling (BA 78, CERT 81), Joe (Jill) Welling, Dana (Welling BS 84) (David) Derrickson, Gary Welling and Tim (Lisa (Dougan BS 90)) Welling; 15 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and sister, Mary Van Norman.
FULL OBITUARY: yoderculpfuneralhome.com/obituary/floyd-welling

1966

3 Linda (Morrell BA 66) Walker
DATE OF PASSING: Sept. 12, 2022
RECENT HOMETOWN: Harrah, Wash.
SURVIVING FAMILY: Husband, Jerry; children: Cort (BA 97, MDiv 00) (Katrina (Wiley BS 99) Walker, and Todd (BS 97) (Rachelle) Walker; grandchildren, Janelle, Ethan, and Isaac Walker; brother, Dave (C 71) (Kim) Morrell and their children and grandchildren.
FULL OBITUARY: legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/linda-walker-obituary?id=36502018

1968

4 Florence A. (Quine BS 68) Horn
DATE OF PASSING: Jan. 22, 2023
RECENT HOMETOWN: Warsaw, Ind.
SURVIVING FAMILY: Daughter, Nedra (Horn BS 75) Dobbins; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and 26 great-great-grandchildren.
FULL OBITUARY: redpathfruthfuneralhome.com/obituary/Florence-Horn

1974

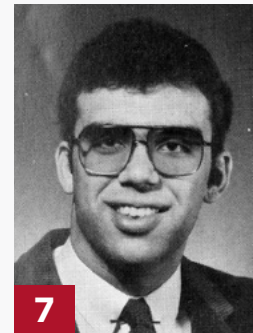
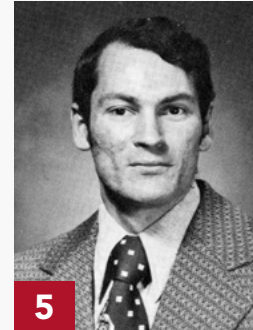
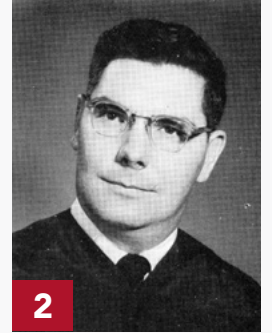
5 Rev. Dr. Marshall Fry (MDiv 74)
DATE OF PASSING: Jan. 17, 2023
RECENT HOMETOWN: Defiance, Ohio
SURVIVING FAMILY: Wife, Carolyn; children: Heather Lynn (James) Eiden, Kevin Shane (Michelle) Fry, Jeremy Allen (Nickie) Fry, and Travis Jared (Jessica) Fry; eight grandchildren; siblings: Thelma Shifflet, Ellen Barrick, Clarence Fry, Martha Stonis, Dorothy Henry and Jerry Fry.
FULL OBITUARY: tributearchive.com/obituaries/27065298/marshall-e-fry

1982

6 Susan (King BS 82) Foegley
DATE OF PASSING: Nov. 29, 2022
RECENT HOMETOWN: Warsaw, Ind.
SURVIVING FAMILY: Husband, Steve; daughters: Stefanie (Foegley AS 08, BS 11) (Ben (C 06)) Essick and their daughters Cora and Adelaide; Karen (Patrick) Dunkerly and son Griffin; and sisters, Elaine McKee; Myrdith King; extended family, Sarita Foegley and John Foegley, Jenny (Dave) Gongwer and a number of nieces and nephews.
FULL OBITUARY: redpathfruthfuneralhome.com/obituary/Susan-Foegley

1983

7 Jonathan G. Walter (BA 83, MA 85, MA 96)
DATE OF PASSING: Jan. 26, 2023
RECENT HOMETOWN: Winona Lake, Ind.
SURVIVING FAMILY: Wife, Lenise "Sam" Dawn Walter; daughter, Carly (Walter BS 09) (Paul (BA 12, MA 15)) Morales; nine grandchildren; mother, Peggy Lou Walter.
FULL OBITUARY: redpathfruthfuneralhome.com/obituary/Jonathan-Walter



In Memory of My Father, Tom Julien

BY JACQUELINE (JULIEN BA 86) SCHRAM

On January 16, 2023, my father, Tom Julien (MDiv 57, DDivH 96), passed peacefully into the presence of Jesus at the age of 91 and was reunited with my mother, Doris.

It was in the Bob Jones orchestra that Dad the trumpet player noticed the “lovely violinist.” And in 1953, Mom and Dad were married. Having committed their lives to Christ and global ministry, they moved to Winona Lake, where Dad studied at Grace Theological Seminary. Then, they headed to France to serve with Grace Brethren Foreign Missions, which later became Grace Brethren International Missions (GBIM) and is now Encompass World Partners.

After initial attempts in evangelism, they acquired the Château, a 14th-century property in Burgundy, which began as a center for encounter and discussion for French youth and continued as a relational bridge for other ministries. After nearly 30 years in France, Dad became the executive director of GBIM. Additionally, he contributed to the development of International Charis Alliance, taught at Grace Theological Seminary and provided leadership training for the mission and Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church.

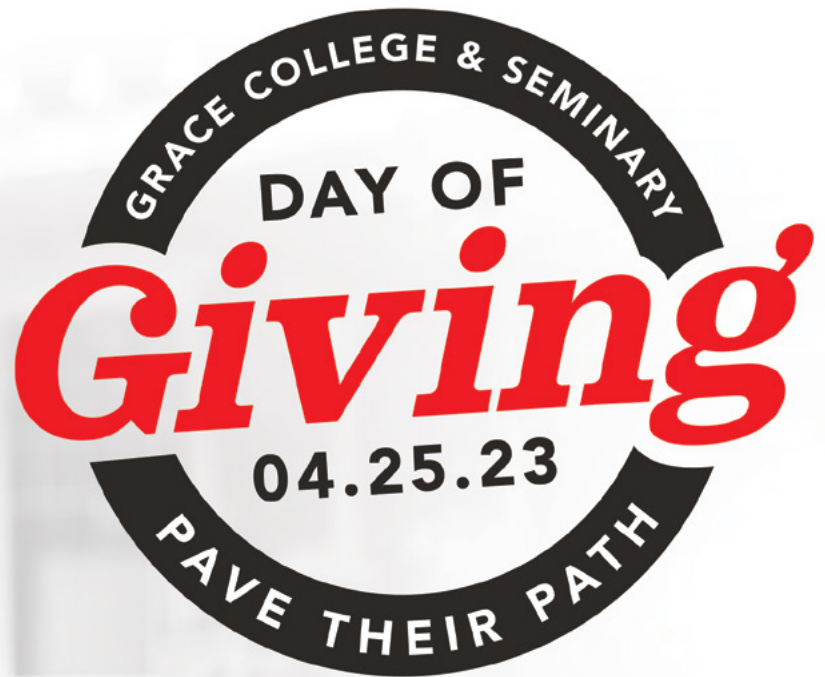
My father’s life verse was John 15:4. Indeed, Dad’s life, aimed at abiding in Christ and sharing Christ with others, was one that bore much fruit and profoundly touched the lives of so many, including mine. He loved well and was so deeply loved.



Please pray for the families of these alumni who also recently passed away:

R. Dean Cooper (S 55), **Rev. Russell L. Hamilton** (MDiv 61), **Patricia “Pat” Morrell** (BSN 61), **Robert C. Moeller** (BA 64, BDiv 67), **Margaret Jeanne “Nean” Tucker** (C 64), **Linda (Hull C 66), Swoverland, Richard H. McCleary** (BA 68), **Robert David McLaughlin** (MDiv 71), **Marsha Kay (Cram C 71) Newhouse, Richard H. Minehart** (MDiv 78), **Rev. Earl Lovett Futch** (C 79, ThD 79), **Rodney K. Bollman** (BA 86)

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