

GRACE STORY

SPRING 2025



GRACE
COLLEGE



Commencement is the culmination of all our core values.



If I asked, “What are your core values?” how would you answer? Do words and phrases spring up, or are you left drawing a blank?

Take a moment and think about your day-to-day life: how you spend your time, what fills your thoughts, what motivates your actions. This is what core values are made of.

At Grace College and Grace Theological Seminary, our core values are how we live out our vision and mission. Therefore, when we sought to define Grace’s core values, we recognized it was a process of unearthing. We considered our institutional history, observed campus happenings, and conversed with students, faculty, and staff. As a result, we defined Grace’s core values as the following:

Live God’s Word - (2 Timothy 3:16-17) As expressed in our Covenant of Faith, the Bible is our only infallible rule of faith and practice. God’s Word strengthens our character, sharpens our competence, and prepares us to make Christ known through service.

Serve Humbly - (Philippians 2:3-4) Humility fuels our intellectual curiosity and lifelong learning. We seek to understand before being understood and to engage in interpersonal relationships with empathy.

Pursue Excellence - (Colossians 3:23) God has created each of us unique and gifted. We want to learn continuously, be innovative, and engage the world effectively, stewarding the gifts we have been given.

Value Mentorship - (Proverbs 27:17) We believe mentorship is the primary means toward growth — spiritual, relational, academic, and professional. We pursue opportunities to foster mentoring relationships with and for our students. We seek our own growth in relationships with others.

Engage Our Community - (Matthew 22:39) We are called to engage our local community and the world. We seek to partner with our community and pursue good for those who live near us.

We have chosen a story (or stories) to flesh out each core value and demonstrate how it is being lived out on our campus and in our community. We pray these values don’t stay here; we hope as students graduate, they take them to all the corners of the earth as vehicles for knowing Christ and making Him known.



Drew Flamm

Drew Flamm, Ph.D.
President

VISION

To Know Christ and To Make Him Known.

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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On the Cover: Dr. Roger Stichter
carries the ceremonial mace during
2025 Commencement.



Vincent Sell in Intermediate Accounting in the fall of 2010

DESIGNER'S NOTE

"I minored in accounting during my time at Grace, meaning I had the opportunity to take all of the core accounting classes with Dr. Stichter. He was also my boss for a couple of semesters because he hired me as a lab assistant. Though I didn't change my major to accounting, Dr. Stichter made a major impact in my life in both the devotions in his classes and the example he set of doing your work unto the Lord."

VINCENT SELL (BS 13)

Senior Graphic Designer, Marketing Office
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REFLECT

Dr. Joe Graham, professor of behavioral science, reminds us of the true definition of pursuing excellence.

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STRIVING TO *KNOW HIM MORE*

WRITTEN BY DR. JOE GRAHAM



The literature on motivation tells us our motivation is made up of two components: energy and direction.

When one is missing, we become confused, frustrated, and unmotivated. This is how I feel sometimes in my Christian walk. I feel, like most believers, I have enough energy to please God, but I may not have figured out the direction part.

When pursuing excellence in other worldly pursuits, we rely on work, persistence, and effort. Most of us learned these ideals early in life, and they produce great results when we apply them.

Since we've been rewarded for them, it is easy to apply them to the direction of our spiritual walk. My favorite passage of Scripture is 2 Peter 1. Verse 3 says, "His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life." I immediately respond with a resounding, "Yes! Thank you, God, for setting me up to show excellence in my faith. I will now work hard to be a better Christian."

But this response leads me to become frustrated with myself. "Why can't I just do better?" I ask God. "I'm waiting on that divine intervention You promised."

The good news is the verse continues and gives directional clarity. It says, "through our knowledge of Him who called us." What does that mean? It means if we want to have everything we need for life and godliness,

we need to know Jesus better. Peter communicates this three times in the chapter to make his point.

Are things not going well at work? Know Jesus better.

Is your marriage off a bit right now? Know Jesus better.

Are you stressed about something out of your control? Know Jesus better.

Whatever life brings us is an opportunity to know Jesus better. When I pour my spiritual energy toward the direction of knowing Jesus better, I trade my unhealthy understanding of pursuing excellence for clarity, peace, and motivation.

I had the privilege of playing for and coaching with the legendary Grace Basketball Coach, Jim Kessler (BS 70). One thing I learned about excellence from Coach K was to always be curious. He never told me this directly, but he modeled it daily in how he lived. I became a better coach and person by simply knowing him better.

I believe this is what Jesus wants from us. God is calling us to put away our desire to achieve spiritual excellence and to focus on knowing Jesus better in every circumstance. In the process, He promises to make us look a little more like Him every day. That's the direction He is calling us to, and it's the true definition of pursuing excellence.



JOE GRAHAM, PH.D.

Professor of Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Joe Graham (BA 88) holds a B.S. in Psychology from Grace College, an M.A. in Counseling from Colorado Christian, and a Psy.D. in Counseling Psychology from Adler School of Psychology. Graham is married to Deanna, his wife of 28 years. They are very proud of their daughter and two sons. In his free time, Graham enjoys gardening and golfing. His favorite thing about working at Grace is interacting with the amazing students.

FAITHFULLY ACCOUNTED FOR

WRITTEN BY MADISON MAXWELL

Professor of Accounting Dr. Roger Stichter's Intermediate Accounting course is known as one of the most rigorous courses in the Grace College academic catalog. If your child or roommate is taking the course, you'll likely know about it. The workload is heavy. The content is dense. It might just cause an accounting student to question why they chose the major in the first place, the perfect opportunity to remind students why they're here. Stichter does so by walking his class through 1 Thessalonians, where Paul explains to the church in Thessalonica what he was trying to accomplish while living among them.

Stichter reminds students that they're not studying accounting to make a lot of money but rather to go out into the world and make Christ known.



GROWING UP AND WORKING HARD

Stichter came from humble beginnings. A self-proclaimed “farm boy,” he grew up in Bremen, Indiana, and was raised by a conservative Mennonite family. His family taught him at an early age the value of hard work. They attended a small church mainly composed of factory workers and farmers. For the Stichter family, and most families Stichter knew growing up, giving your best was not a request; it was an expectation.

This mindset drove Stichter to succeed in high school. A four-sport athlete and an academic achiever, he set his sights on higher education despite neither of his parents having attended college.

Stichter enrolled at Goshen College in 1978 as a business administration major. He found out quickly he wasn't the smartest kid in school. Unlike in high school, his natural ability paired with his work ethic didn't land him at the top of his class.

By the time he was a senior, Stichter realized he had to specialize. He began taking all the upper-level accounting classes he could and worked hard, but it took everything he had to scrape by with low As. Then he took intermediate accounting, arguably the most challenging accounting class.

“My first grade on a test was a low C, and I was shocked,” said Stichter. “But the next class period, after we got our tests back, a third of the class never returned. So I assumed they did a lot worse. I decided I was going to work at this thing. For the first time in my life, I learned

how to study. I changed my habits, got an A in the class, and was the top student on the final exam.”

“WHAT I WAS CREATED FOR”

After graduating from college with a general business degree, Stichter acquired a fair amount of accounting knowledge, but he didn't have the degree. He didn't know how to navigate the interview process, and he was looking for jobs outside of hiring season.

After being turned down at his first interview, his intermediate accounting professor, Dave Stauffer, reached out to him. Stauffer was the managing partner of a smaller CPA firm called Stauffer & Company, where Stichter took his first job in public accounting.

“I didn't know anything about what it would be like or what I was doing,” said Stichter. “The partner comes in, drops a huge stack of papers on my desk, and says, ‘Here's your first job. We're doing a compilation. Do it.’”

After more explanation from another colleague, Stichter finished the project and submitted it to the partner for review. At the end of the month, the partner came to Stichter's cubicle and asked if he had recorded all of his hours on the job. It turned out he had completed the job faster than the person who had been there for the last five years.

“At that point, I realized this is what I was created to do,” said Stichter.

“For some reason, God made my brain to process this information faster than other people.”

Stichter continued to excel in public accounting, doing everything from

“I was also lucky enough to be in the first class of students to have Dr. Stichter. Fresh from the real world, he had a high standard of excellence, and it made each of us work harder. Dr. Stichter's genuine care for his students was evident immediately, as was his desire to help us succeed.”

SARALYN LASH (BA 96)

Wooster, Ohio
Governmental Accounting, Wooster

“Dr. Stichter prepared me well for the CPA exam and my career. He didn't just teach us the fundamentals; he also shared valuable lessons about life, faith, and business ethics. His door was always open, and even after 25 years, he stayed in touch, ready to talk and offer solid career advice.”

EMILY (LECOUNT BS 01) ELROD

Warsaw, Indiana
Johnson & Johnson

“Dr. Stichter was able to connect the highly technical material with Christian teachings because in his own life, vocation and spiritual walk are so interconnected. He aimed to send high-caliber professionals into the world who would worship God by allowing their light to shine through their integrity and work ethic. His powerful devotionals had a lasting impact on me and countless other students.”

CASEY RICHEY (BS 08)

Atlanta, Georgia
Encompass World Partners

audits to taxes. But his busy season was long, and he had a wife and child at home. He transitioned to a job at Miller's Merry Manor, where he found great success. He was promoted several times and given the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to become an owner of a new corporation called Caremet at 29 years old.

After praying about it, Stichter became convinced it was not what God had for him and declined the offer. He was promoted to become the company's controller, supervising four divisions with responsibility for more than 100 employees, handling all accounting, IT, collections, and internal audit functions.

In 1990, Stichter flipped through Goshen's alumni magazine. He found a blurb from the president exhorting Christian business professionals to teach students what it means to be a Christian in the business world.

"I sat there thinking, 'This is me,'" said Stichter. "I know this is what I'm supposed to do."

FAITHFUL SUFFERING

After completing his master's at IU South Bend, Stichter started teaching at Grace in January of 1995.

It took him a few years to settle before his daughter, Rebecca, arrived in March of 1997. Rebecca was born with a three-chambered heart and VATER syndrome, a rare congenital disorder. She spent 21 of her 26 months of life at Riley Children's Hospital, and Stichter and his wife spent much of that time at the Ronald McDonald House.

Stichter says during those trying years, Grace was the perfect place to be. Vice President of Academic Affairs, the late Dr. Dave Plaster (BA 71, MDiv 74, ThM 84), gave Stichter ultimate flexibility. As long as his classes were taken care of, he was not required to be on campus, no questions asked.

"If I had kept my corporate job and become an owner of Caremet, I would have either lost my job, my family, or both," said Stichter.

"In 2017, I went to Dr. Stichter for advice because I was worried about my grades. He encouraged me that being a good accountant and, more importantly, a good steward of Christ, is about more than perfect grades. I reflect on that often in my personal and professional life: in the way I treat others, the way I lead, and the way I approach each day with grace for myself and others."

MEGAN (ALLRED BS 17) O'DELL

Fort Wayne, Indiana
Graphic Packaging International

"Ingrained in my memory are his thought-provoking devotionals, specifically citing 1 Thessalonians as a call for business professionals to be imitators of Christ in the world where we live, work, and serve. Well done, and thank you, Dr. Stichter."

CHARLIE WARNER (BS 20)

Indianapolis, Indiana
Katz, Sapper & Miller, LLP



"Dr. Stichter's classes were both the hardest and the most fulfilling. He taught me how to think rigorously — a skill I've carried through the CPA exam, public accounting, law school, and my legal practice today. More importantly, Dr. Stichter taught and modeled how Christians should think intentionally about family, generosity, and things that bring true fulfillment. Dr. Stichter taught me how to be an excellent accountant — but he taught me much more about how to live."

LAWRENCE WESCO (BA 13)

Highland, Indiana
Kirkland & Ellis LLP



“Dr. Stichter has impacted us in many ways, including how we teach and lead in our respective careers, patiently and with an expectation of growth. His principled approach to life has helped remind us to make decisions with our resources, not just for our benefit but for maximum kingdom impact. We are grateful for the struggle of intermediate accounting, which deepened our friendship and led to us getting married!”

NOAH HICKS (BS 18, MBA 19) AND
CHRISSEY (KARAKO BA 19) HICKS

Washington, Michigan
Plante Moran, Heritage Church

“Our social worker said 85% of the dads of a child with a heart issue at Riley leave the family.”

Stichter looks back and sees the intricacies of God’s divine timing.

BUILDING A PROGRAM

As Stichter got back into a regular teaching routine, he got to work building the program and strengthening its reputation. When he arrived, there were 13 students majoring in accounting.

“One of the keys to our program is you don’t have to be the smartest, and you don’t have to be the best, but you do have to work hard,” said Stichter.

And Stichter promises his students he will work equally hard for them: He’ll return their homework the next day and hold review sessions before tests. He will go above and beyond the job description to give his best to students.

“I expect a lot,” said Stichter. “There’s a lot of homework. It’s going to take time. And the goal is to help you learn how to learn better. This will help you throughout your

life, whether you’re in marketing, management, or accounting.”

Stichter’s approach to teaching was attractive to students. By 2001, the 13 majors had nearly tripled. At the time, Stichter was offered and accepted a job as CFO at White’s Residential & Family Services, now named Josiah White’s. Every year, Grace would call Stichter and ask him to come back. But he loved his job at White’s and felt the Lord had more work for him there.

A few years in, the C-suite leaders at White’s read “Good to Great” by Jim Collins. In the book, Collins asserts businesses should operate where three concentric circles intersect: what you’re passionate about, what you could be best in the world at, and what makes you money. In the middle of those circles is your sweet spot.

“For some reason, God said, ‘Apply that to your own life,’” said Stichter. “So I did. Every time I applied it to my life, I realized my passion was teaching, and the thing I could be the best in the world at was teaching. The problem was the finances.”

With six kids and a commitment to his wife staying at home, he would

need a pay raise. When Grace asked him to come back the third year, his answer had changed.

“I said, ‘Look, I’ll mow the lawns in the summer. I’ll do whatever you want. But I do want to come back,’” said Stichter. “‘I believe God wants me back at Grace.’”

When Stichter returned to Grace in 2004, the number of accounting majors had dropped back to 13. Stichter began to grow the program again, identifying students on campus who were gifted at dealing with numbers. “Part of my passion is ensuring young people don’t miss it if this is how God’s made them,” said Stichter. “Because I almost did.”

Within 10 years, the program had 40 to 50 majors, and in 2010, Grace’s graduates made program history: They scored 10th in the nation on the CPA exam pass rate among nearly 800 schools.

“They were an unusually gifted group of students academically, and many of them have gone on to high-level careers,” said Stichter.

“When we had our senior banquet at the BoatHouse Restaurant, I gave a little farewell speech, and I cried.”

The top-10 CPA pass rate report put the program on the map. People started taking notice, and Stichter started tracking the graduates’ pass rates year to year.

DEVOTIONALS FROM ACCOUNTING CLASSES

Stichter’s pre-class devotionals can be traced back to the ‘90s. What started as simple prayers before class became something more meaningful. Stichter was convicted to create devotionals to share from his life.

“My goal in education has always been for students to see me as a believer first and a teacher or an accountant next,” said Stichter.

In 2005, Stichter decided he wanted to be more intentional with his devotions, so he spent the summer reading through the New Testament and trying to identify topics that would impact students. As a result, he developed several series of devotionals, some derived from books of Scripture, such as 1 Thessalonians, and others on topics like what God thinks about money or how Christians

should handle hardship and suffering. In 2010, the graduating class that scored 10th in the nation on the CPA exam encouraged Stichter to make his devotionals into books. He blew it off at first, but after completing his doctorate, he started writing down his devotionals and has published two books: “Devotionals from Accounting Classes” and “The Principle of Maximums.”

To this day, Stichter’s graduates come to him when they lose a job or a sense of identity, and he reminds them of the right order of things: Before they are a professional or an accountant, they are a child of God.

DR. ROGER STICHTER ENDOWED CHAIR OF ACCOUNTING

After serving four years as dean of the School of Business while working on a doctorate, teaching three-quarters time, and overseeing significantly more advisees than when he began, Stichter was burned out. At just the right time, Jeff Wiesinger (BS 91) gave a lead gift to raise funds for the Dr. Roger Stichter Endowed Chair of Accounting. The \$1.5 million raised allowed the school to fully fund an additional accounting professor’s salary outside its annual

budget — a reflection of just how much of an impact Stichter had on his hundreds of alumni.

In 2023, Danielle (Deal BS 18, MBA 23) Duff joined her former professor as a colleague. “Danielle has made my life so much easier,” said Stichter. “Right from the beginning, she understood the program and what we emphasize.”

As Stichter hands off the baton of leadership after 28 faithful years of service to the institution, he hopes the core pillars of the program remain: students work hard, obediently walk with God, seek Him in prayer, and take their skills and witness into the world.

“That’s the goal,” said Stichter. “It’s all about giving students a skill set to take into a part of the world that needs a witness for Christ.”

Interested in making a career change? Working at Grace gives you an opportunity to impact lives of students. Check current position openings at www.grace.edu/employment.

Fast Facts About Dr. Stichter & Grace Accounting

- Stichter has ridden his bike coast to coast and around the perimeters of Indiana and Michigan.
- He is a board member for the Indiana CPA Society.
- He sends Christmas cards every year to 350+ of his graduates.
- Since 1997, the accounting program has grown more than sixfold.
- Grace has graduated numerous high-grade winners from the Indiana Certified Public Accountant Society, scoring among the top 10 highest cumulative scores in the state.
- In 2010, the graduating class’s first-time CPA pass rates were in the top 10 among all schools nationwide.
- In 2020, Grace’s CPA pass rates ranked in the top 7% nationwide for “first-time, small programs.”

LIVE GOD



Noah and Emma Wright on the porch of their Warsaw home with their Bible study group.



'SWORD

WRITTEN BY BY MARIA IGNAS

Tune into current discourse about the spiritual state of young adults, and what you'll find is pretty bleak.

Masses of young people, even professing Christians, are openly distancing themselves from core tenets of the faith. It's easy to become dismayed when reading up on dismal church attendance statistics or yet another young adult's departure from Christianity.

However, we know with no uncertainty that God remains working in the hearts and minds of His children, and He's not slowing down anytime soon. What seems like barren ground may actually be the perfect clearing for the fire of revival.

Take a look at Noah (BS 24) and Emma (Lehman BS 23, MBA 23) Wright's Bible study. This group, which has grown to about 70 people, is challenging the notion that the younger generations are anything but passionate about unrelenting faith.

The idea for the study began in the summer of 2024, when Noah, Emma, and some friends felt God call them to lead a co-ed community Bible study.

"We felt the Lord lead us to have something where anyone could be invited and no one would be excluded," said Noah.

After much prayer and preparation, the Wrights opened their Warsaw home for the study's first meeting in May 2024. That Wednesday evening, a group of 10-12 young adults worshiped, prayed, read a passage of Scripture, and held conversations in small groups.

"None of us fully knew what we were getting into," said Noah. "We just wanted to provide a space for community, fellowship, and worshipping the Lord."

Each week, the study welcomes young people who are yearning for a genuine relationship with the Lord and a close-knit community to find it in. At each gathering, the Wrights witness attendees form new friendships and deepen existing ones, all while seeking God in His Word together.

"People are just hungry to be with other believers, and they're hungry to chase after the Lord," said Noah.

To third-year nursing major Lucas Wrenn, a member of the group's leadership, a core element of the study is that it turns no one away; it invites all to experience the life-giving presence of Jesus.

"It is an environment that welcomes everybody," said Wrenn. "We very much value people being able to walk in the door with anything they are going through. We want them to feel like they can lay that down at the feet of Jesus and leave their burdens behind when they walk out the door."

Wrenn has found his own spiritual renewal through the study. "This has been a place that not only allows me

to pour my cup out but also allows me to get my cup filled up," said Wrenn.

Tairyn Null, a second-year digital marketing major, has found an invaluable source of community since she began attending in October last year.

"I have gotten to make friends with other upperclassmen girls," she said. "They walk with me and give me wise counsel as I grow in my relationships with God and people. It wasn't something I knew I needed, but God did, and I was able to find that here!"

To many, the study's small groups prove crucial to the community and the mutual edification the group offers. After the week's speaker explicates a passage of Scripture, which is usually a portion of the book the group is progressing through, men and women break into smaller groups for discussion. In these times of earnest conversation and vulnerability, attendees find solidarity with one another.

"I found community in talking to other guys my age who are walking through the same things," said Wrenn. "We can learn from and help one another."

Though the Wrights and many attendees are Grace alumni, the study welcomes people from every sphere of life, from college-age adults to those in their upper 20s, high schoolers, and even a middle schooler.

The study has addressed a need for young adults who live in Warsaw but don't have the opportunity to connect with Grace students.



"We value people being able to walk in the door with anything they are going through. We want them to feel like they can lay that down at the feet of Jesus and leave their burdens behind when they walk out the door."

Lucas Wrenn



"I have gotten to make friends with other upperclassmen girls. They walk with me and give me wise counsel as I grow in my relationships with God and people. It wasn't something I knew I needed, but God did, and I was able to find that here!"

Tairyn Null



"The Gospel is for everyone, so we should speak about it in a way that is palatable for everyone without being watered down."

Logan Anderson (AS 20)

It's given them a space to fellowship with those whose paths they may not otherwise cross.

"It's been so cool to see the Lord take two different groups of people in the same town and bring them together," said Emma.

According to Noah and Emma, one crucial factor of the group's longevity is its core leadership group, which meets 45 minutes before the study to pray, prepare food, and help the Wrights set up. These young adults have relieved pressure from Noah and Emma, allowing the Bible study to belong to everyone, not only one or two people.

Wrenn has found his role is equipping him practically to minister to others.

"It has grown me as a leader in ministry and provided me opportunities to share my testimony with people and lead others closer to God," said Wrenn. "This has sparked a desire in my heart to lead in ministry, whatever that might look like in the future."

According to study leader Logan Anderson (AS 20), speaking on rotation has trained him to share the Gospel.

"The Gospel is for everyone, so we should speak about it in a way that is palatable for everyone without being watered down," he said.

The Bible study has grown into so much more than what anyone, most of all the Wrights, could have

expected. As they reflect on the group, they understand it's marked by God's provision every step of the way.

For example, the group's rapidly growing numbers are a blessing, but they have posed a problem. The couple easily accommodated attendees during the summer months, when everyone could pitch a blanket in the Wrights' spacious yard, but Noah and Emma struggled with how they would host during the colder months of the school year. Could they fit everyone inside their house? Or should they call off the group until it grew warmer?

When the Wrights looked at the work God was accomplishing through the study, they knew they couldn't cut it off. They agreed to hold the study inside their home once it grew colder, and they trusted if they ran out of room, the Lord would provide space elsewhere.

As more people showed up and the house grew crowded, Noah and Emma never lacked space to fit everyone. They continue to offer the study in their home, and no one has to be turned away because of it.

Challenges like these have taught the group's leaders to seek the Lord's direction in everything. As the months have passed, the study has shifted according to what God desires each week. Whether He calls the group to emphasize Scripture reading, small group discussion, or worship, they find tremendous blessing when they align

themselves with His nudging. Ultimately, the study has shown Noah, Emma, and their friends just how faithful God is in using the gifts and offerings of His children.

"The Bible study has taught me to be faithful with whatever you have," said Emma. "And if you don't have that much, it can still be offered to the Lord."

When Noah reflects on the group's effectiveness, he's reminded of the necessity of prayer. According to him, the group's health is directly tied to their active petitioning of the Lord.

"If a ministry isn't founded in prayer, it's not going to be effective," said Noah. "Any effectiveness we've had is because of the Lord. So it's been cool to see people being faithful in prayer every single week, praying over those who come, the Scripture we're going to read, the worship, and even just the baggage and hurt people come in with."

The Bible study continues to meet on Tuesday evenings at the Wright residence. Whether its attendees realize it or not, they are living God's Word. As men and women gather to sing songs of worship, pray over the sick, and minister to the hurting, they are partaking in a rich tradition of sons and daughters who know their Father and what He asks of them.

"We have to live like the Lord is coming back soon," said Noah. "We can't waste any time: We want people to be set on fire for Him."

Every day students have opportunities to grow in Christ. Please remember our students in your daily prayers.



SERVE HUMBLY

WRITTEN BY MADISON MAXWELL

Managing technology is often a thankless job. When the connectivity is strong and everyone can do their jobs, few stop to thank the tech team. But when the Wi-Fi connection goes down, the microphone starts squealing, or the PowerPoint presentation freezes, all heads turn.

Don Fluke, long-time director of the Office of Information Technology (OIT) at Grace, dedicated 42 years of his career to positioning and preparing Grace College for technological advancement. In 1977, when the institution moved away from an external computing service, it hired Fluke to manage an internal data processing department. Over the next five decades, he led OIT under five of Grace's seven presidents. He saw the computer count on campus grow from one to more than 400 devices, and he witnessed internet connectivity increase from 56 kilobits per second to 10,000 megabits per second today.

Most of the time, IT work is unseen, but as the world becomes ever more connected and we venture into new applications of technology, it's increasingly important to approach the role with humble service. That's precisely what Fluke has done.

AN ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Fluke quickly downplays the length of his tenure and jokes it is due to his "boomer" tendencies. However, for more than four decades, he developed an essential infrastructure that enabled Grace to continue in its mission. His contribution to Grace closely mirrors his father's, which is where Fluke's Grace story begins.

Fluke was born in Winona Lake during the 1950s while his dad, William "Max" (C 55) Fluke, attended Grace Theological Seminary. A contractor Monday through Friday and preacher on Sunday, Max put his seminary education to work around the country as he built and simultaneously filled the pulpits of up-and-coming churches. Fluke's early years were spent moving from church to church in California and

Pennsylvania before landing in Winona Lake at age 10. The Fluke family returned to Grace College so Max could serve as the construction superintendent, overseeing the building of Alpha Hall, Beta Hall, and Morgan Library.



Fluke has enjoyed watching the seasons change out the window of his office since 1985. His view of the Morgan Library reminds him of his father's Grace legacy.

"My dad was a master builder," said Fluke, who has a clear view of Morgan Library outside of his office window. "He was proud of the projects he completed and being able to help his alma mater expand. But most of all, his heart was to serve the Lord."

Fluke met his wife, Cindi (Herman BS 76) Fluke, in his fourth-grade Sunday School class at Winona Lake Grace Church. She had a strong Grace legacy of her own.

Between the pair, they count 18 family members, in addition to Cindi and their two daughters, who attended or graduated from Grace.

In high school, Fluke took a course in punched card processing and discovered he had a knack for it. Eager to learn more, he studied data processing at IU Fort Wayne. After graduating in 1973, he returned to Winona Lake and used his degree at several local companies, including local accounting firm Dahms & Yarian.

“Back then, companies didn’t have their own computers,” said Fluke. “They would contract with a service firm to run payroll.”

Grace College was on his list of clients. So Fluke got well-acquainted with the technological needs and the business office staff at Grace. In 1977, the school approached Fluke with a proposition. They wanted to bring him on full time to begin computerizing its records.

Fluke accepted the offer and got to work immediately writing programs to automate accounts payable, course registrations, and other business office functions.

“I enjoyed figuring out how to make the machine do something useful and give people what they needed to do their jobs,” said Fluke. “For several years, I was it; I was the IT department. But over time, it proved difficult being the only person.”

In 1980, Grace hired a second programmer, Audrey Tobias, and Fluke installed the first multi-user minicomputer. At the time, IBM began offering mid-range products,

allowing smaller businesses to get a minicomputer at an affordable cost. Now, instead of punching cards, Fluke could interact with the machine through typing.

THE PROLIFERATION OF TECHNOLOGY AT GRACE

As computers became more widely available, Grace employees welcomed devices into their workflow.

“For the most part, everyone was ready,” said Fluke. “We tried some things that didn’t work, but that’s just part of innovation.”

The influx in computer usage warranted a move for the IT department. Formerly housed off campus, the department needed a central home to accommodate the growing demand for tech support. The classroom above the Little Theatre in Philathea was remodeled and became the official “Computer Center” in 1985. (Coincidentally, Fluke’s office space was precisely where Cindi and long-time friend Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74) sat in class as

students more than a decade prior.) In 1990, Fluke took a short hiatus from working at Grace before returning in 1995. Over those five years, a crucial change had occurred — the internet had arrived.

Beginning with the library, this new technology began to spread on campus. As departments deemed it necessary, they would budget to have the cable run to their office to gain connectivity. It didn’t take long before internet was available campus wide.

“It was clear that we needed to increase our staffing,” said Fluke. “The scope of IT continued to expand; we were installing phones in every dorm room and projectors in every classroom.”

In 1995, Fluke and his team purchased a commercial software package from CMDS, relieving the team of the troubleshooting and support functions. Since then, Fluke has led the school in numerous technological advancements. These include online student



Don Fluke with the OIT team from 2004, faces many will recognize from their time at Grace. L to R Jim Baad (BS 03), Don Fluke, Jacob Barros (BS 02), Sue Koser (BS 13), Deonda (Fritz Jones BS 99) Hostetter, Kelly (Neiderhouser C 82) Sharp

registration, campus-wide wireless, Google Apps for Education, and software such as Jenzabar, OnBase, MoodleRooms, and Canvas.

"I am proud of the progress we have made," said Fluke. "As technology has changed, we have done a fair job at keeping up with technology, and that is not easy being a small department at a small school."

Today, OIT works in conjunction with Winona IT, a local company run by Michael Pahl (BS 13, MBA 24). Winona IT scales its services to Grace's needs, supplying three on-site technicians during busy seasons and two

when things are slower on campus. "They're local. They know us. And there are a lot of Gracies over there," said Fluke. "I am grateful for their partnership."

Whether with a team of eight members or two, Fluke has sought to establish a strong office culture. For 20 years, each May he led a department planning retreat to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, one of Fluke's all-time favorite places. In fact, when his girls were young, he would take them out of school for Carb Day. Fluke hasn't missed an Indy 500 race in the last 47 years. He gets the same seats every year

next to his friends Dan Gehrke (BA 76), Jim Zielasko (BS 79), Bill Lehman (BS 89), and Karl Ashman (BS 76).

Fluke reflects on his tenure with the same spirit of humility that has led him through his 42 years at Grace.

"Grace has provided me a means of using my God-given gifts," he summarized.

Perhaps this is humility at its core — realizing anything you have accomplished was never actually from you. It's all a gift from the God who freely gives.



"Don is an exceptional leader who cares about the wellbeing of his team and fosters a collaborative environment by actively seeking input from his staff. His forward-looking approach and excellent budgeting skills helped ensure Grace was and is prepared for the future."

**Deonda (Fritz Jones BS 99)
Hostetter**
Programmer/Analyst



"Don Fluke was my first real boss. He welcomed me into the OIT department as an inexperienced student worker and eventually honored me with a full-time position when I graduated from Grace. For the next four years, he listened to my ideas, cast a vision for our department, and showed me the kind of impact humble and authentic leadership can make."

Ben Miles (BS 15, MSNM 16)
International Admissions Counselor



"We know that for Don, Grace's technological milestones were motivated by his love for the institution and its students. He is committed to providing dynamic learning environments for them to grow academically and spiritually. For these reasons, the board of trustees approved an honorary doctorate of humane letters for Don which was presented to him at commencement in May."

Dr. Drew Flamm
President



Priscilla with her brother, Stephen, in 1969.



Priscilla sports a traditional Japanese kimono.



PURSUE EXCELLENCE

WRITTEN BY MADISON MAXWELL

Priscilla with her parents, John and Barbara, and brother, Stephen, in 1972.



Priscilla Knoble (BA 89) comes from a rich heritage of Christian ministry. Her mother graduated from Wheaton College in 1949. Among her good friends were Jim and Elisabeth Elliot and Eleanor Vandevort. In response to a call for missionaries in Japan after World War II, Knoble's mom moved to the islands in 1950 with TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission). Thirteen years later, she met Knoble's dad, an off-Broadway actor who had given his life to Christ in his 30s and moved to Japan as a missionary. They married and became church planters, moving every five years to start a new church. This was life as she knew it.

Knoble always imagined herself in Japan. She planned to get an education degree in the States and teach at Christian Academy in Japan (CAJ), her Christian boarding school in Tokyo. Her plan never included a successful career in software, but as Knoble says, when we take Colossians 3:23 to heart, there is no telling how God might use us.



Priscilla with her dogs, Max and Zoe.

THE MAKING OF A MAKER

Knoble's pursuit of excellence can be traced back to her village at the base of Mount Fuji in the '60s. One of her favorite childhood pastimes was making things from scratch. She was gifted her first toy sewing machine at the age of 4, and by the time she was in late elementary school, she was making her own clothes.

"Japan is very hands-on," said Knoble. "They celebrate creativity, crafts, and things being done by hand."

Knoble was also very hands-on with the ministry. At 9, she began teaching the 2- and 3-year-olds' Sunday school class, and by high school, she was in charge of the Vacation Bible School curriculum. Teaching came naturally; she assumed this was her future.

In 1984, Grace College sent an admissions representative to CAJ, and the path to Knoble's future became clearer.

"I had a strong conviction that if I didn't learn to like living in the U.S., I would never be happy anywhere but Japan," said Knoble.

Looking for a small school where she couldn't fall back on speaking Japanese with old classmates, she chose Grace.

TRAINING TO TEACH

Knoble had only visited the States three times before she arrived at Grace as an elementary education major in 1985, so it was no surprise she formed fast friendships with the other missionary kids on campus. "People look at you and assume you are American, so they assume you've

been in the same culture, you watch the same TV shows, and you care about the same things," said Knoble. "It was a very different experience."

Excited about creating a place of belonging for missionary kids like her, Knoble was involved with spearheading a MuKappa chapter on campus in 1986. MuKappa, a club for third culture kids on college campuses, was an invaluable space for students like Knoble to feel understood. The group met for Bible studies, collaborated with chapters at surrounding schools, and attended retreats with missionary kids from other colleges. Knoble found the commonality in the group comforting as she navigated life in the U.S.

As Knoble approached her senior year, she began to experience what she calls a "bone-deep feeling" that she wasn't supposed to return to Japan. When it did not pan out to teach locally in Winona Lake, she whipped out her atlas.

"I knew I needed to go somewhere where if I couldn't teach, I could use my Japanese, my next best asset," she said.

Knoble's options were limited in the '80s, so she took advantage of connections in Seattle and moved there to teach at a small church school. She went on to pursue a master's in developmental reading at the University of Washington. Upon graduating, she moved to the East Coast, where her parents returned to retire, to teach at Delaware County Christian School.

"After three years on the East Coast without the means to travel, I

missed engaging with the Japanese language and culture," said Knoble. "I wondered if I should continue teaching or do something else."

A START IN SOFTWARE

Knoble had several friends in the software industry, including a couple working on Japanese software for Claris and Apple. Although she would have never claimed to be a tech person, she began experimenting with Japanese fonts on her Mac.

When her parents moved into a retirement community, she returned to Seattle. She was well-positioned to get involved with software localization for the Japanese — a market U.S. companies were just beginning to tap into.

Knoble began working for a localization company, where she quickly learned the ropes of preparing the software for different markets. In 1996, both Microsoft and Adobe offered her jobs. She chose Adobe, where she spent the majority of the next 28 years, aside from a few months at Microsoft in 2005. Her first position was to start the Japanese, Chinese, and Korean quality assurance team for PageMaker 6.5. She soon moved to product management, a role that better aligned with her skill set.

She began working on the Japanese version of a promising software called InDesign. Knoble and one of her best friends from Japan pitched the idea of building a separate development team for a Japanese version. With Adobe's full trust and support, they built a team that focused on a completely culturalized product for



In April, Knoble and her brother returned to Japan for CAJ's 75th reunion and visited a church their parents planted almost 50 years ago.

the Japanese market at the same time digitization was taking place.

"We did what no other Western company had done before," said Knoble. "We created from scratch a product that knocked even Japanese competition out of the water."

The product is still considered to have the best Japanese text engine in Japan today, and Knoble was dubbed "the mother of InDesign" because of her vital role in the product's success.

In 1999, Adobe CEO Bruce Chizen told Apple's Steve Jobs about Knoble and the team's work. She was asked to go to Cupertino to meet with Jobs. The following year, she was on stage at Macworld Japan, speaking about InDesign Japan.

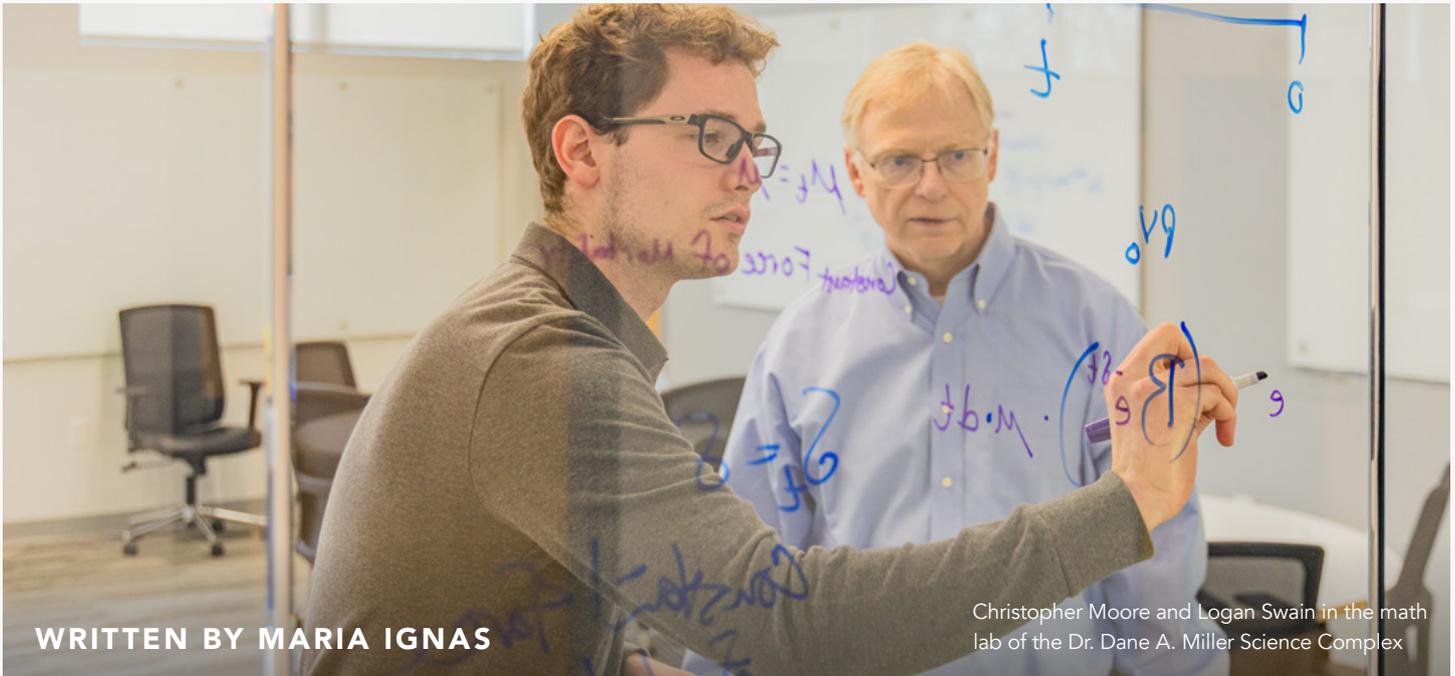
After becoming the group manager of InDesign, InCopy, and InDesign Server, she became the group product manager for system integrators and third-party plugins for Adobe's creative products, like InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator. A few transitions later, Knoble now serves as the senior director of international strategy and product management for the Digital Media Business Unit, where she oversees the strategy for international versions of the apps in the Creative Cloud and Document Cloud. She oversees a team of 20 people and travels 100,000 to 150,000 miles a year.

Regardless of the project or team, Knoble has worked with integrity, invested in relationships, and sought opportunities to share her

faith with colleagues worldwide. Growing up as a missionary kid opened doors to an unexpected but remarkable career that has allowed her to stay connected to her roots in Japan. As she nears retirement, Knoble looks forward to devoting more time to her hobbies. Whether she is working on her latest craft, going on a mission trip, or hosting Taco Tuesday for her neighbors, this is certain: Knoble will "do it heartily, as unto the Lord."

Gifts to the Grace Fund help make Grace College more financially accessible to all students, including international students, through our generous scholarships. Make your gift today at www.grace.edu/give.

VALUE MENTORSHIP



WRITTEN BY MARIA IGNAS

Christopher Moore and Logan Swain in the math lab of the Dr. Dane A. Miller Science Complex

Senior Logan Swain (BS 25) aspires to become an actuary, but a series of exams stand in his way. Professionals who want to work in financial risk management must demonstrate their expertise on these actuarial exams, which are notoriously difficult. The Society of Actuaries places the pass rate for some as low as 45%.

It's the job of Christopher Moore, assistant professor of actuarial science and an actuary himself, to equip Swain to take on these numbers, tackle the exams, and land a job in his career.

Teaching in the classroom constitutes only a portion of how Moore accomplishes this. For example, he's introduced a program called Industry Insights, which connects students with local financial risk management professionals in the area through informational conversations.

Students like Swain gain invaluable knowledge through speaking to these experts firsthand, and they'll have professional relationships to draw on once they enter their careers.

Moore's work extends even outside of the school year. This past summer, Moore taught classes pro bono. He held virtual meetings for actuarial science students. During these voluntary gatherings, he provided extra support for tough concepts tested on the exams.

"He took time out of his own day," said Swain. "It was helpful to know him better and learn these concepts. It's taught me how important it is to pour into others."

As Moore mentors Swain, he's deeply impressed by Swain's character and commitment. "Logan has been a role model, regularly participating in opportunities and engaging with professionals," said Moore. "He

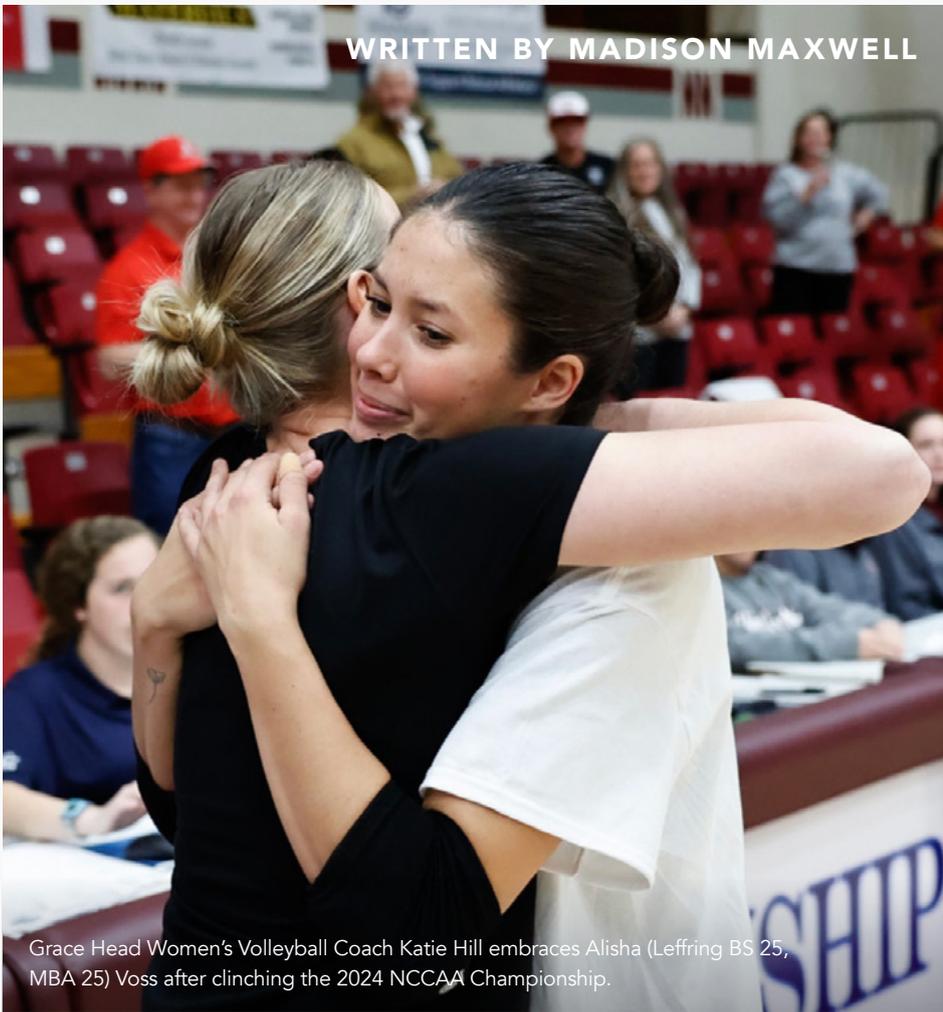
recognizes the importance of career preparation and has made it a priority. In doing so, he gained familiarity with the industry and positioned himself to land relevant and competitive internships."

Swain has passed two of the several required exams but neither on the first try. After some failed attempts, he began to grow discouraged.

"I was frustrated and rethinking everything," he said. "But when I reached out to Prof. Moore, he was encouraging. He told me I had a great work ethic and should keep going."

Swain's hard work has paid off, as he has recently accepted a job offer. Thanks to the mentoring relationships he's cultivated and the industry insights he's received, Swain is completing the kind of work he was created for.

WRITTEN BY MADISON MAXWELL



Grace Head Women's Volleyball Coach Katie Hill embraces Alisha (Leffring BS 25, MBA 25) Voss after clinching the 2024 NCCAA Championship.

Grace Head Women's Volleyball Coach Katie Hill has led the program through immense growth. Now two-time defending champions of the NCCAA tournament, the team is making historic strides. But if you ask Hill about her chief aim as a coach, she'll tell you it's to be the kind of mentor she needed when she was 18-20 years old.

"Even though I attended a Christian college, there wasn't a woman I felt comfortable talking to about heart issues or spiritual issues," said Hill. "So, coming to Grace as a coach, it weighed heavily on me that I needed to be more prepared so when my

players go through challenging situations, I don't just have words, I have wisdom to give them."

Alisha (Leffring BS 25, MBA 25) Voss is one of many who have benefited from Hill's intentionality in this area.

"Coach Katie was that person I needed," she said. "When I started at Grace, I had a major fear of being a failure. At one point in my freshman year, I was failing academically. Coach came alongside and encouraged me not only academically but also explained why I needed to do my best — because ultimately I am doing it for the Lord."

As different seasons came, Voss appreciated the wise counsel Hill provided, whether it was about school, volleyball, dating, or engagement. In addition to the one-on-one conversations with players, Hill held Thursday Bible studies during practice time.

"If I am going to say as a coach that Bible study is really important to me and that it's our goal for the women to grow in Christ, then I can't make it an extra requirement," said Hill.

In addition to their time in the Word together, in 2023, Hill took the team on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic, where they worked with kids, hosted volleyball clinics, and also got to compete.

The culmination of Voss's Grace experience — from her growth as an athlete to her growth as a follower of Christ — made a lasting impact.

"I am a completely different person walking out of Grace than I was walking in," said Voss.

And as her sister began the recruiting process this year, she was unapologetic in her recommendation.

"I told her to come to Grace, because the most important part of the program is following the Lord and honoring Him from day to day," said Voss. "If you fail at volleyball, there is always something that matters much more to fall back on."



WRITTEN BY MOLLY MALICK

Cindy Bradley (MS 17) poses with members of MuKappa. L to R: Samantha Fudge (BA 25), Elaina Danforth, Cindy Bradley, Mikaylah Phillips, Micah Lenn

Cindy Bradley's (MS 17) heart for third culture kids (TCKs) stems from her experience growing up in Liberia, West Africa, as a missionary kid (MK) from age 5 to 18.

A TCK is someone who has spent a significant portion of their formative years in a country different from at least one of their parents' home countries because of one or both of their parents' careers. MuKappa, a national organization, was founded in 1986 by TCKs for TCKs to aid in the transition from living in a cross-cultural environment to a college campus.

Bradley had been working in the admissions office at Grace for 10 years before she became the staff adviser for MuKappa. As an MK, she noticed the need for a dedicated space for TCKs and MKs to connect.

In 2021, Bradley met Mikaylah Phillips, a prospective student visiting from Niger, West Africa, where her

parents were missionaries. Phillips committed to Grace and kept in touch with Bradley once she moved on campus the following fall.

"She used my car when she needed it for her practicums," said Bradley. "I considered myself her auntie on campus."

Phillips and fellow MK Samantha Fudge approached Bradley that next fall about re-starting a MuKappa chapter at Grace. Bradley eagerly accepted.

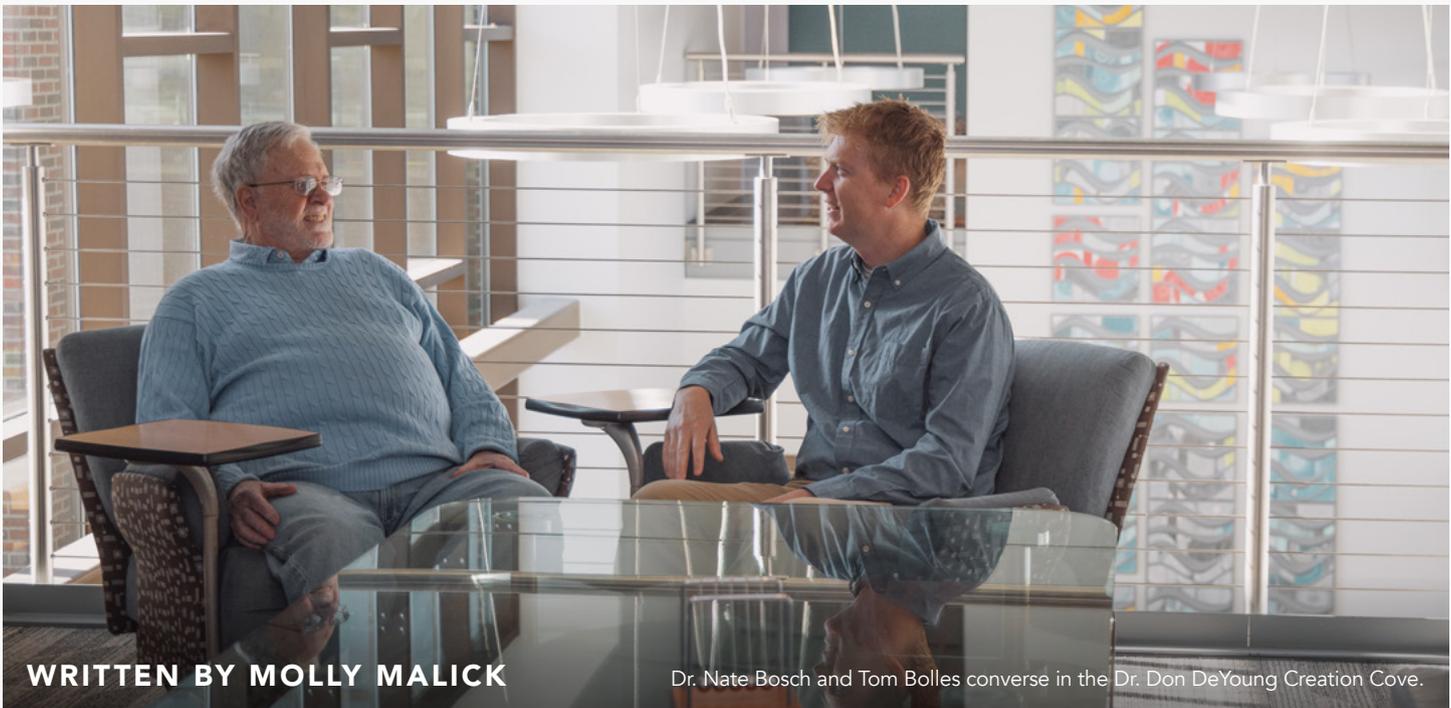
Dr. Jacqueline (Julien BA 86) Schram, dean of academic engagement and success and fellow MK from France, also serves as a mentor to the MuKappa club members.

"It's been an absolute delight to connect with the students in Grace's MuKappa chapter," said Schram. "They represent such a beautiful tapestry of diverse cultures, yet we all share amazingly common experiences."

"Bradley and Schram have been a true provision from the Lord," said Phillips. "The familial relationships formed through MuKappa have eased my transition to college and helped me understand how my background contributed to struggles I've faced."

MuKappa holds weekly "family dinners" on Monday nights at Alpha Dining or Westy Grille. Occasionally, Bradley, Schram, or fellow MK Ana Bryant will host the dinner at their home. The group organizes one special event every month and attends an annual weekend retreat for MuKappa chapters all over the Midwest.

"The main purpose of the group is connecting. Whoever is available meets up, and we catch up on each other's lives. The students express their needs, and we let them know that we're here. I'm excited about our potential for growth and continuing to meet students wherever they are."



WRITTEN BY MOLLY MALICK

Dr. Nate Bosch and Tom Bolles converse in the Dr. Don DeYoung Creation Cove.

As Grace College’s Dean of the School of Science and Engineering, Professor of Environmental Science, and Director of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams, Dr. Nate Bosch often experiences God through nature.

In his many roles, Bosch finds great fulfillment in studying and conserving God’s handiwork. But even more rewarding to Bosch is mentoring students. Before Bosch’s students set out sampling lakes, he guides them in what it means to be a witness to those they encounter. He shares about the great opportunity they have, as many of the Lilly Center’s supporters are not yet believers. But most importantly, he models what it looks like.

Longtime supporter of the Lilly Center, 83-year-old Tom Bolles, became a volunteer boat captain in 2016 on one of the 16 lakes Grace students sample every week

during the summer. Bolles greatly enjoyed these hourlong weekly visits on the lake with students. So much so, Bosch suggested he join Grace’s Silver Scholars program, an opportunity for adults 55 and older to attend classes at a reduced rate.

In the fall of 2017, Bolles joined Bosch’s general ecology class.

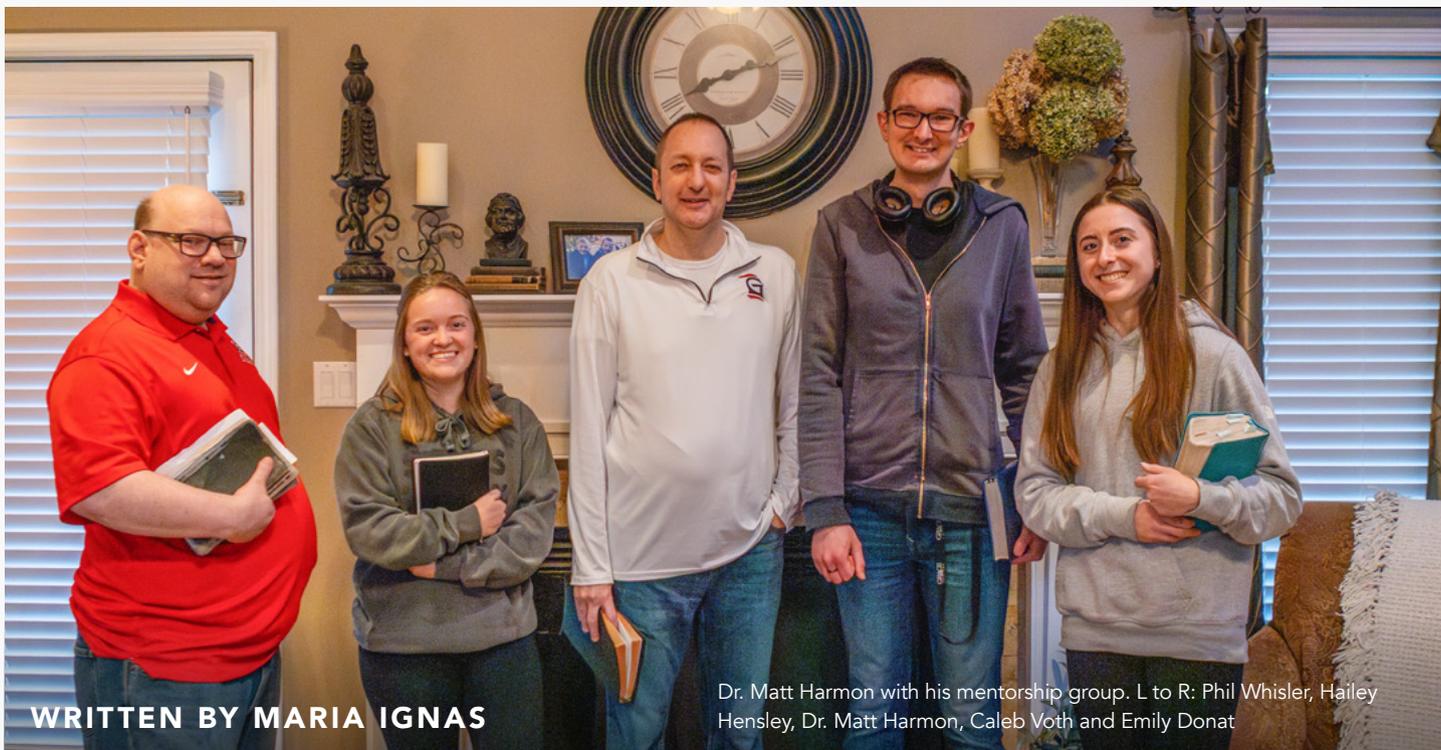
“In that class, we talk about the foundation of God creating the world with interconnected parts and how that shows us God values relationships because He built them into the structure of the world,” said Bosch.

By the end of the class, the two had cultivated a trusting friendship. Bolles came to Bosch with his spiritual questions sparked from a past that made him hesitant to follow Jesus. As Bosch answered Bolles’s questions with grace, he became a respected voice in Bolles’ life.

During the 2021-22 school year, Bosch felt led to form a Bible study. He invited Bolles and 10 students to explore questions of faith by reading “The Walk: Steps for New and Renewed Followers of Jesus” by Stephen E. Smallman. Halfway through the book, the author prompts the readers to consider pursuing a relationship with Jesus. Bolles responded and committed his life to Christ.

The friends continued to meet one on one throughout the spring and summer. Bosch bought Bolles a Bible, and he began reading the Word daily. In the fall of 2024, Bosch decided to host the study again with a new group of students. This time, Bolles co-led it with him.

“Stewarding God’s creation is rewarding,” said Bosch. “But it’s even more rewarding when He uses that stewardship to change people’s lives.”



WRITTEN BY MARIA IGNAS

Dr. Matt Harmon with his mentorship group. L to R: Phil Whisler, Hailey Hensley, Dr. Matt Harmon, Caleb Voth and Emily Donat

To Professor of New Testament Studies Dr. Matt Harmon, mentorship is essential to equipping students for the good works God has planned for them.

“For students to be prepared for a lifetime of discipleship and ministry, they need someone who knows who they are, what they struggle with, and how they need to be prayed for,” he said.

In 2006, the seminary faculty formalized this process through mentorship groups, in which faculty welcome a handful of students into their homes for fellowship and Bible study. These gatherings offer students a glimpse into how their professors live faithfully outside the classroom.

“I want them to see I’m not just an expert in a content area they need for their degree but also a follower of Christ,” said Harmon.

Each week, Harmon and his students meet to share life updates, pray for one another, read the Word, and discuss application. Crucial to the group is Kate, Harmon’s wife, whom he calls a “fountain of wisdom and knowledge.” She is adored for her homemade desserts.

Current group members Caleb Voth and Emily Donat find the meetings to be invaluable in their spiritual walk. “Dr. Harmon shows genuine care and interest in our lives as students,” said Voth. “His great insight and investment are the reasons I’ve made his mentor group a priority.”

“Dr. Harmon’s mentor group has truly been one of my favorite parts of my seminary experience,” said Donat. “I’ve loved getting to connect with and glean wisdom from both him and my fellow classmates. It’s refreshing to my soul.”

The relationships continue when students walk off campus with their diplomas. In the last 20 years, Harmon has mentored students who have become Grace staff, such as Vice President of Advancement John Sloat (BS 10, MDiv 12) and Dean of Chapel & Community Life Brent Mencarelli (MDiv 13), as well as Charis Fellowship pastors, such as Zac Hess (BS 10, MDiv 13), all of whom he continues to keep in touch with today.

To Harmon, it’s a reward to watch graduates’ spiritual and professional journeys after graduation.

“I’m continually challenged and encouraged by the faith our students walk by as they face challenges in life and ministry,” said Harmon. “These groups are a formalized way we mentor students, but our mentorship extends well beyond the groups. It’s a part of who we are.”



WRITTEN BY MARIA IGNAS

Dr. Flamm with Presidential Fellows Isabella Giunta and Carter Clear.

To be a Grace Presidential Fellow, a student must display dedication to his or her faith, strong communication skills, and a propensity for leadership.

The fellows' responsibilities include communications, data analytics, and other duties that contribute to the work of the president's office.

As the 2024-25 school year's Presidential Fellows, exercise science major Carter Clear and biblical studies major Isabella Giunta are receiving a masterclass in leadership through Flamm's mentorship. It's preparing Giunta to achieve her dream career of being an educator on the mission field, while Clear is receiving extensive training in communication and leadership.

"Mentorship is a core value of ours," said Flamm. "It runs through everything we do, and I think it is part of what makes Grace distinctive."

Flamm favors "life-on-life mentoring," which involves working directly with the two on projects, meeting regularly for a leadership book study, and being available to answer their questions along the way.

"Mentorship is passing down knowledge," said Clear. "Dr. Flamm's been open to answering personal questions about leadership, such as what it means with his job, family, and friends."

"Asking him questions and listening has been incredible," said Giunta.

Beyond practical leadership, Clear and Giunta have been edified by Flamm's commitment to Grace's mission of knowing Christ and making Him known. To him, these words constitute so much more than an inscription on the rock beside McClain Hall.

"The mission is continuously brought up in everything we do, whether I'm

writing a script or questions for a podcast," said Clear. "It's evident that it is the center of his aim as president."

"Something that has been really impressed upon me is the consistency between Grace's mission and what Dr. Flamm lives out," said Giunta. "That example is a greater influence on my life than any words he could say or meetings we could have."

While Flamm has endeavored to lead Clear and Giunta well, he also knows mentoring is a two-way relationship.

"Carter is a thinker, and Isabella is driven to her core," said Flamm. "I recently heard the term 'reverse mentoring,' and that definitely applies to how we view the relationship between the president's office and Presidential Fellows. Keep an eye on these two. God has big plans for them, and I'm excited to have been a small part of it!"

ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY

CENTER FOR MOVEMENT & WELLBEING



Over the past several years, there has been a noticeable shift toward a greater emphasis on health and wellness. New gyms are constantly opening, and individuals are becoming more intentional about their food choices. Our society is embracing the importance of exercise and healthy living. People are striving for wellness and seeking ways to thrive. Yet, without discovering God in the process, an individual's pursuit for wellbeing remains shallow and empty.

For some people, their motivation might be aesthetics. For others, it's fear. But at the core, I think many are yearning for a return to wholeness: what I believe is God's calling for all of us. He wants us to see His presence in every aspect of our lives and to steward the bodies He entrusted to us.

In light of this, I am excited to introduce the Center for Movement & Wellbeing at Grace College, where our vision is to serve as a crossroads between our community and the expertise growing within our institution. We envision a thriving Kosciusko County, where movement and wellness are seamlessly integrated into daily life, fostering a foundation of health that transforms generations. Through research, education, and strategic community partnerships, we aim to inspire lifelong wellbeing, ensuring a healthier future for individuals, families, and the broader community. We do this through three core offerings:

ASSESSMENT PACKAGES

Because every fitness journey is unique, we offer comprehensive assessment packages designed to support individuals of all ages and abilities as they take the first step toward their health and wellness goals. Our assessments provide a clear picture of your current fitness level, highlighting strengths, pinpointing areas for improvement, and helping us create a personalized plan tailored just for you. We offer three packages:

1. Basic Package

A great starting point for anyone new to fitness or looking to re-engage. This package offers a

general overview of mobility, balance, strength, and cardiovascular health.

2. Wellness Package

Designed for individuals focused on functional movement and everyday wellbeing. This package dives deeper into lifestyle factors, movement quality, and flexibility to support long-term health and activity.

3. Athlete Package

Created for youth and recreational/competitive athletes, this in-depth assessment targets performance-based metrics, such as power, agility, and sport-specific mobility.

POSTPARTUM CLASSES

Another key focus area is supporting postpartum women as they navigate healing and recovery from pregnancy. We are thrilled to offer postpartum corrective exercise classes designed to help new mothers rebuild strength, restore function, and regain confidence in their bodies.

SUMMER YOUTH LIFT PROGRAM

Our upcoming collaboration with the YMCA this summer will introduce the Summer Youth Lift program, an eight-week strength and conditioning experience aimed at teaching foundational strength, building confidence, and establishing lifelong fitness habits for youth ages 12–16. The partnership is a win-win for both organizations as we seek to impact our community by teaching the fundamentals of weightlifting and performance training in a safe, supportive, and fun environment.

The possibilities at the center are endless, and we want our community to know that we are here to support their movement and wellbeing. Whether it's through

field trips, pickleball performance training, postpartum exercise, or simply learning to move better, there is something for everyone.

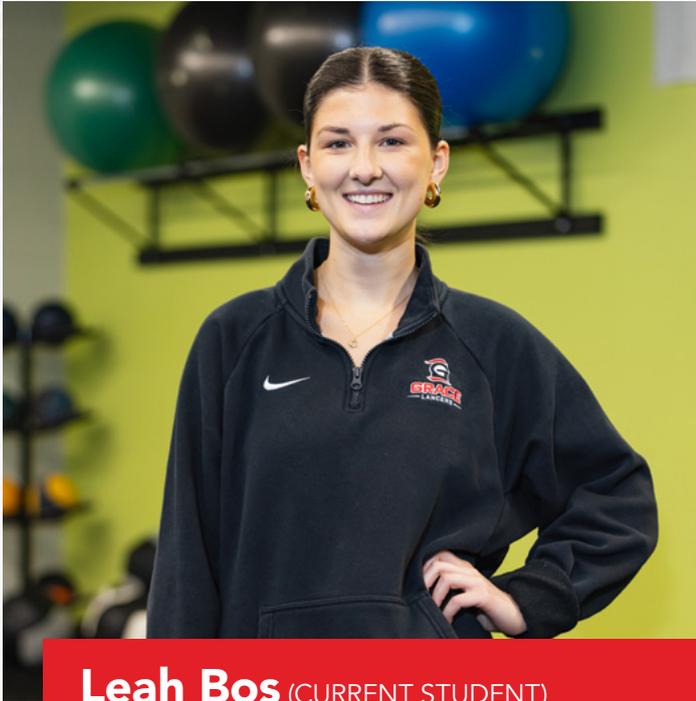
Moreover, our students at Grace College are part of a dynamic and transformative time in the institution's history. I am continuously impressed by the caliber of students in our exercise science program. They are dedicated servants of the Lord, eager to apply their knowledge and skills to benefit the surrounding community. Their enthusiasm for learning and passion for service make them an integral part of our mission.

We would love the opportunity to collaborate and share more about how the Center for Movement & Wellbeing can serve our community together. Please feel free to reach out via email at movewell@grace.edu to discuss potential partnerships, programs, or opportunities for engagement.

Together, we can promote movement and wellbeing for all.



Christina Walters
MS, ATC, FMS, CFSC, PCES
Director, Center for
Movement & Wellbeing



Leah Bos (CURRENT STUDENT)
Intern, Center for Movement & Wellbeing

As an intern at the Center for Movement & Wellbeing, I work closely with Professor Christi Walters, whom I met on my first visit to Grace. She made a lasting impression during that visit, so getting to work with her now and be mentored by her has been a full-circle moment for me.

My role at the center includes helping with wellness assessments, managing the social media accounts, creating posts, writing captions, and designing ads in partnership with the marketing office. It's been a fantastic chance to collaborate with others who share my passions for nutrition, exercise science, and marketing. Additionally, I'm involved with the postpartum class, where I assist in leading women through various movements and sharing educational content with them.

I hope to use the skills I have learned from my internship to open my own functional nutrition clinic. I want to help people truly heal their bodies with the resources God has provided for us in Creation. I know this experience is preparing me to not only excel in my field but also use my profession to point others toward the intricacy and intentionality of God and His Creation.

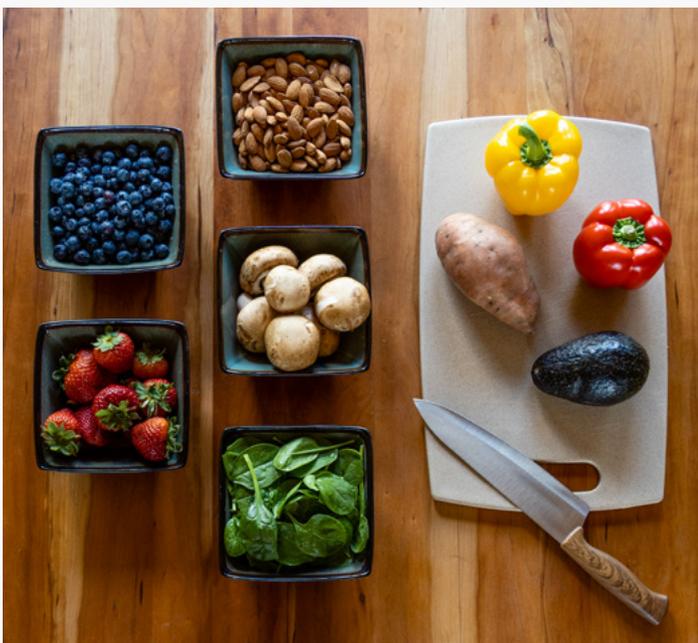


Nico Luna (BS 25)
Intern, Center for Movement & Wellbeing

I chose to study exercise science to help make a difference in people's lives using food and movement. I believe proper nutrition and physical activity are the body's best forms of medicine. With all the advances in medical technology, proper nutrition and movement are often completely forgotten as methods for treatment. As an aspiring doctor with intentions of going on to medical school after I graduate, I don't want to offer patients pills or a procedure when I know their bodies could heal with proper eating and exercise.

Through the exercise science program at Grace, I have gained hands-on experience so rather than just telling a patient to eat healthy, I can walk them through what that looks like. Instead of telling a patient to exercise more, I can give them a plan and educate them about what progress looks like.

I'm excited about the many ways Grace's Center for Movement & Wellbeing can serve the community and allow exercise science majors to get involved and use these practical skills from the classroom to help make a difference in others' lives. I hope those who come after me will take full advantage of their opportunities at the center and commit to making it the best it can be.



GHAWC REMODEL

Exciting changes are coming to the Gordon Health & Wellness Center, with a major renovation already underway. The Center for Movement & Wellbeing will have its grand reopening in August 2025. It will offer a concierge-style fitness experience with VO2 max testing, comprehensive body composition analysis using InBody technology, movement assessments, corrective exercise programming, and educational resources designed to support holistic health and performance.

NUTRITION CONCENTRATION

Grace is introducing a new nutrition concentration within the exercise science major. This concentration is ideal for students planning to pursue graduate programs in nutrition or dietetics, blending exercise science with an in-depth exploration of human nutrition and health sciences.



Elementary Education Students Facilitate "Girls in STEM" at Local Schools

Grace College's elementary education students facilitated their fourth year of Girls in STEM, an after-school program for nearly 150 first- through third-grade girls at Madison, Washington, and Jefferson Elementary Schools. The club, which meets once a week, exposes local girls to robotics, electric circuits, coding, and problem-solving with the goal of teaching and inspiring the next generation of women in STEM.

"At Girls in STEM, Grace students work with small groups of girls to foster a love of science," said Dr. Rachael Hoffert, chair of elementary education at Grace. "Our goal in these partnerships with the local schools is to not just teach education but to build relationships and serve our community. We believe the

best way to do that is through collaborations like this that benefit teacher candidates, STEM-certified elementary schools, and the students they serve."

Jodi Hanson, a part-time professor at Grace, was instrumental in launching the Girls in STEM club four years ago and securing funds for the club's robotics. As an elementary teacher, she brings seven years of experience integrating STEM into reading, math, and writing.

"The School of Education is so thankful to have quality part-time instructors like Jodi, who has taken a hands-on approach to the critical thinking involved in STEM," said Hoffert. "She facilitates powerful science lessons in the classroom, trains our students on STEM equipment, and creates impactful

ways for our candidates to apply their knowledge while serving our community."

Avery Samms, a third-year senior at Grace studying elementary education, values the hands-on experience she has gained through volunteering with Girls in STEM.

"This program creates a safe space for elementary girls to build social skills and ignites interest in primarily male-driven work, ultimately building up our girls' confidence and self-esteem," she said. "I have personally benefited from the exploration of different technologies and STEM-related material as we have learned how to weave each of the components together to build lessons that are more engaging and practical for the real world."

Grace's Student Magazine Earns National Recognition

"Inkspot," Grace College's student literary magazine sponsored by the Department of Humanities, recently received the rank of Honorable Mention by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) in its Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM) contest. In the competition, "Inkspot" was ranked against 422 student magazines in 46 states and five countries.

"What an honor after my first year here at Grace to see our literary magazine win a national prize," said Dr. John Poch, professor of English and the 2024 issue's faculty advisor. "I only advise the students; they do all the creative and editorial work. They take it very seriously, yet they know how important it is to be playful and cultivate a sense of wonder in

the process. I'm confident we can continue to improve all facets of the magazine, and I believe there are more prizes to come with future issues. We're grateful to our donors for so much recent support for creative writing."

"Inkspot" is published as a print volume each spring and is offered to the Grace community at no charge. Students submit original creative work, which is approved, edited, and curated by student editors. A student designs the magazine's layout and cover, and the faculty sponsor reviews the final proof and offers guidance as needed.

"I got involved with 'Inkspot' because I hope to work an editorial career in publishing after college," said Maria Ignas (BA 25), a student editor of the 2024 issue. "I'm thankful

for the meaningful friendships I've formed with fellow editors Bella, Odessa, Kadon, and Riley. I've also gained practical experience in developmental and stylistic editing, as well as communicating and collaborating with writers."

The magazine began in 2016 under the leadership of Dr. Lauren Rich, chair of the Department of Humanities. "A student literary magazine is essential for any college campus; it's a vehicle for students' creative and artistic expression, and the editorial experience for those students who work on the magazine is invaluable," said Rich. "Even students who never set foot in a creative writing class at Grace are enriched by the opportunity to share their God-given creativity."



L to R: Maria Ignas, Isabella Deaton, Dr. John Poch, Odessa Hanlon, and Kadon Arbogast

For more recent Grace headlines, scan here!





L to R: Dametrius Hall, Dr. Fred Wentorf, Marcia Hart, and Andrew Daeger

Engineering Participates in Novel Collaboration with Orthopedic Startup, Contributes to Statewide Initiative

Grace College engineering students have been working with Lifejoint Orthopedic Solutions, a small startup based in Baltimore, Maryland, to create a new finger joint prosthetic implant design. Lifejoint has relied on the students to test and refine the device as the company prepared for its pitch with Plug and Play Indiana, an innovative accelerator platform, part of a statewide initiative to keep Warsaw the Orthopedic Capital of the World®.

“Dr. Fred Wentorf and the Grace engineering students have been fantastic for helping us move the product development along as we work to change the standard of care for advanced hand arthritis,” said Marcia Hart, co-founder and CEO of Lifejoint Orthopedic Solutions.

Andrew Daeger, a Grace student and Warsaw native, hopes to work in the orthopedic industry after graduation.

“The orthopedic industry is one of the most exciting things happening in our area, and I want to be a part of it,” said Daeger. “I know this experience gives me a great foundation to build upon as I pursue a career in orthopedics.”

Dametrius Hall, a sophomore mechanical engineering major from Anderson, Indiana, also began working on the Lifejoint project last summer. “I really enjoy the development side of things,” said Hall. “I love seeing the design change and actively testing a new product that will impact people every single day and make a tangible difference in the world.”

Wentorf says his goal is to give students as many experiential learning projects as possible and to help our community remain a hub for innovation.

“I am incredibly proud of my alma mater, Grace College, and its commitment to fostering innovation and hands-on learning,” said Indiana State Representative Craig Snow (BS 91). “It’s inspiring to see Grace’s engineering students engaging with Lifejoint Orthopedic Solutions, contributing their skills and creativity to a groundbreaking initiative. Their involvement in Plug and Play showcases their talent and highlights the college’s dedication to equipping students with real-world experiences that drive progress in our state. I look forward to seeing the impact they will make in engineering and beyond.”

IN MEMORIAM



Ashley Flowers

Ashley Dawn Flowers, a beloved daughter, sister, and friend, passed away suddenly on February 19, 2025. She was studying elementary education and special education at Grace and was an active member of the School of Education's Council for Exceptional Children. Flowers' heart for others was evident, and her life was a testimony of love and kindness. She loved the beach, playing games, and listening to music. Though her time here was far too short, her victory is secure in Him: "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Romans 8:37



Steve DeLong

Stephen Jay DeLong passed away unexpectedly on March 18, 2025. DeLong served at Grace as the associate director of information technology enterprise applications for 2.5 years. He was known in the IT Department for his kindness, and he enjoyed working for a faith-based organization. He loved spending time with his wife, Tracey, and two daughters: Mackenzie (DeLong BS 23, MBA 23) Parker and Amber Gilpatric. He enjoyed quiet dinners at home and attending his family's sporting events. He was his daughters' biggest cheerleader.



Dr. Paulette Sauders

Paulette (Macon BA 64, CERT 77) Sauders passed away on April 24, 2025. She was a beloved professor of English and journalism at Grace and was known for her love for grammar and leading annual Go Encounter trips to England. Sauders retired in 2020, with the distinction of being the only person to have taught full time for 50 years or more at Grace. In 2020, the Grace Board of Trustees conferred upon Sauders the status of faculty emeritus for her service, scholarship, and teaching. She is lovingly remembered by husband Chuck (BA 68) and daughters Charlette Sauders (BS 90) and Cathy (Sauders BS 10) Cooke.

PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF THESE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF GRACE WHO RECENTLY PASSED AWAY:

Rev. David Atkins (BS 76)
Rev. Gary Austin (BA 65)
Terry Barr (BA 74)
Phil Bianchini
Lisa (Miller BS 88) Broyles
James Burkett (BS 77)
Elizabeth (Christner AS 86)
Chopin
Joseph Clydesdale (BA 73)
Brenda (Jones) Cody
Dr. Larry W. Crabb (BA 20)
Marti Dahlquist (BS 96)
Carolyn (Fisher BS 69) Darch
Marcia (Carmack) Daubert
Stephen DeLong
Stephen Demoret
David Gibble
Rev. E. John Gillis
David Griffith (BA 75)
Gretchen (Rhile BS 20) Harris

Richard Harstine (BA 66)
Karen (Patton BA 79) Hawks
Dr. Timothy Heaton (MA 86)
Rhonda (Wilkinson BS 89) Helvey
Kelli (Zile BS 96) Hepler
Susan (Thompson BA 73) Hobert
Carolyn (Boatman BA 69) Hodson
Daniel Hoepfner
Sheryl Hoffman (MA 93)
Michael Huntine (BS 15)
Rev. Ronzil Jarvis (BA 68)
Adrian Jeffers (BDiv 57)
Paulette (Alter) Kanode
David Kenemer (MRE 68)
Lois (Hall) Kennedy
Andrew Kerr (BA 98)
Rachel (Tressler BS 69) Kishman
James Klemczak (DTh 85)
Martha (Cox BS 63) Klondaris
John Kohler

Joseph LaChance (CERT 88)
David Lawlor (BS 78)
Robert Lowe (AS 10)
Dr. Bardwell Marshall (BDiv 59)
Rev. Gary Martin (BA 77)
Karen (Essig) Maust
Lilith Maynard
Read Morrison
Dr. William Munsey
Stephanie (Fish BS 03)
Newswanger
Marilyn Orlando
Kenneth Overmyer (BS 72)
Rev. Dale Phelps (MRE 62)
David Potts (BS 17)
Edward Reed
Howard Reed (BA 73)
Rev. Lester Reid (BA 74)
Deborah Richards

Margaret (Biddinger BS 71)
Robertson
Rev. Robert Ross (MDiv 76)
Dr. Marvin Royse (MRE 66)
Linda (DeLauney BS 69) Sellman
Judy Siebler (BS 67)
Dotty (Fisher BS 70) Smith
Dr. Leonard Smith (BA 58)
Cletus Snyder
Dr. Mark Soto (MDiv 93)
Rev. Robert Spradling (BDiv 59)
Rev. Vernon Stinebaugh
Dr. Ronnie Thompson (MDiv 63)
Gwendolyn (Bixler BS 73)
Waggoner
Kenton Wildman (BS 75)
Kevin Wilfong
Steve Wilson (BS 74)
Gloria (Vance BA 80) Yoder
Michelle (Wyatt) Young

Serving Sweetly: Kelly Sharp's Lancer Legacy

Sports are often defined by numbers. Games are decided by points, runs, and goals. Student-athletes celebrate milestones and school records. Teams are judged on polls, statistics, and standings.

But for one of the most important figures in Grace College's athletic department, success is measured not by numbers but by warm smiles and empty candy wrappers.

GETTING STARTED

Kelly (Neiderhouser C 82) Sharp has served as the office manager for Grace's athletic department for the past 18 years. With a joyful spirit and sincere heart for the Lord, Sharp has had a deep impact on multiple generations of Lancers in her role. However, her time with the Lancers has come to a close.

Sharp initially began working at Grace in the Office of Information Technology (OIT). Sharp and her husband Mark have three sons who played all sorts of sports (including Jordan Sharp (BS 12, MA 13, MS 23), a soccer player at Grace). She always thought working in athletics would be a fun, interesting profession.

An office manager position opened up in athletics during the spring of 2007, and Sharp jumped at the opportunity. For a going-away present, the OIT department handed Sharp a candy jar, equipping Sharp with one of her most effective tools for years to come.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

Sharp began her work with the Lancers during unsettled times. The athletic department was just about to open up its sparkling new home — the Manahan Orthopedic Capital Center — with a first-time athletic director, Chad Briscoe.

Sharp was about to get a new home ... and a new boss.

Fortunately, the connection between Briscoe and Sharp was seamless from the start. The duo both commented on how similar their personalities were, providing a balanced foundation to begin building up the department.

"It's amazing how much Grace has changed from when I started," said Sharp. "We started with around 80 student-athletes and now have more than 400. From the beginning, Chad and I had to learn everything together. We figured things out as we went and grew together."

She gave special credit to Briscoe for setting the tone for the athletic department from the onset of their tenures. "Chad is such a godly man with an amazing heart for the students," she said. "He points people to God, and we can be honest with each other. He's the same person every day, which creates trust between us."

Briscoe was quick to recognize the unique traits that made Sharp a home run in her position.



GRACE
— LANCERS —



“Kelly daily displays servant leadership, integrity, humility, patience, and truly all of the fruit of the Spirit,” said Briscoe. “She consistently points people to Christ and has helped shape the culture of our department. From doing her daily work with excellence to being quick to offer an encouraging word, Kelly was the perfect fit at Grace at the perfect time.”

SWEET MEMORIES

In her role as office manager, Sharp is often one of the first interactions athletes have when they arrive on campus. She has become well-loved for her warm, infectious personality, providing a positive experience for visitors to Grace.

But Sharp has a secret weapon — a fully stocked candy jar. The offering

of free confectionery delights has brought countless people to her desk over the years. And while the candy jar was initially intended just for student-athletes, the jar has brought in professors, parents, fans, and alumni as well, coming as much for the chats as they do for the chocolate.

With Sharp having served for two decades, she now gets to enjoy a new crop of candy-eaters — young children from families of coaches and alumni. These future Lancers make “Kelly’s Candy Jar” the must-see attraction on any campus visit.

But filling a physical need for free sugar allows Sharp to connect with visitors on a deeper level. She has demonstrated an ability to quickly build rapport, and the result is often

heartfelt conversations about life, relationships, and the Lord.

“The candy jar lets students feel comfortable coming in,” said Sharp. “I always try to make eye contact and get them to talk. It’s amazing when you look eye to eye with someone. You can often see how they’re doing. Once you address the first need, then it can evolve into something deeper.”

One memorable interaction was with golfer Tyler Ham (BS 17), who played at Grace from 2014 to 2017. Ham didn’t grow up with the same religious upbringing as many of his peers. But Ham found a kind, listening ear in Sharp. Their daily conversations eventually deepened, allowing Ham to gradually ask questions and learn more about Christianity.

Toward the end of his career, Ham stopped by Sharp's candy jar again – this time with his own sweet surprise. Ham had professed his faith in Christ during a road trip with the golf team.

"Kelly was such a bright spot during my time at Grace, and she impacted my life for the better more than she will ever know," Ham said. "Kelly was always a shining light, showed interest in my life outside of sports, and allowed me to be my real self. She made me want to be like her because I wanted to treat people the way she did."

CLOSING TIME

Sharp has nearly two decades of experience with athletics. On campus, she has become the go-to source for essential daily operations, including the areas of insurance, eligibility, camps, and much more. She has even been recognized nationally as the recipient of the NCCAA Game Plan 4 LIFE Character Award.

Sliding into Sharp's chair will be Megan Lindsey (BS 17), who has had the perk of being trained shoulder-to-shoulder by Sharp over the past few months. Sharp said that her time training Lindsey has been very sweet. "She is extremely capable and will be a real asset to Grace for years to come," said Sharp.

But after 18 years, letting go has been bittersweet for Sharp. Her motivation lies in what's ahead — the freedom to spend more quality time with her family and a growing number of grandchildren.

"I've loved my time at Grace. I feel very blessed to have worked here for as long as I did," said Sharp. "I've always tried to be as much of an encouragement to the students as they have been to me. I will miss all the friendships and interactions I have had at Grace, but I look forward to what God has in store for me."



Kelly and her husband, Mark Sharp (BA 82, MDiv 88)

Sharp's candy jar has now been passed to a new owner. Her beaming smile will no longer greet students, parents, and fans in the office. But while her days behind the desk are complete, her impact will be felt for years to come.

Lancer Athletes Demonstrate Excellence in the Spring

At Grace College, pursuing excellence isn't just a goal — it's a way to worship the Lord. From classrooms to community service, the drive for excellence pulses through every aspect of campus life. The world of athletics showcases that pursuit of excellence vividly, whether it's on the court, field, or track.

Kylie Sauder (BS 25) of Grace's track and field team perhaps demonstrated the pursuit of excellence more than any other athlete this year.

Sauder will graduate in May as arguably the finest cross country/track and field athlete in school history. Before Sauder stepped on campus, Grace's women's program had two total NAIA All-American finishes for indoor and outdoor track. Sauder will leave campus with six NAIA All-American finishes for indoor track and six more for outdoor track.

One of Sauder's most memorable moments came during the 2025 NAIA Indoor National Championships.

During the mile finals, she won the championship race in breathtaking fashion, passing two runners in the final seconds. The race was so impressive, the clip on YouTube has become the most-watched video in school history, nearing 100,000 views to date.

But Sauder was far from the only Lancer to exude excellence during the spring semester.



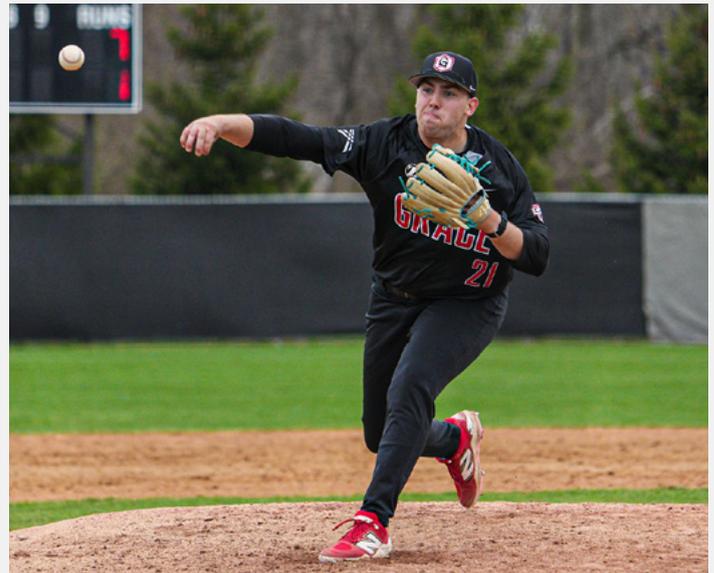
Kylie Sauder (BS 25) celebrates winning the 2025 NAIA mile final.



Ian Scott (BS 25) goes up for a dunk.



Peyton Murphy goes for a layup.



Evan Etchison pitches the ball to his opponent.

In men's basketball, Ian Scott (BS 25) blossomed into the 2025 NCCAA National Player of the Year. Additionally, he was named the Crossroads League Player of the Year and was an NAIA First Team All-American.

Peyton Murphy was chosen as an NCCAA Second Team All-American for Grace's women's basketball team, finishing in the top 10 in team history in assists, rebounds, blocks, and steals.

During the spring, Grace's baseball team rewrote the record books with a series of accomplishments. The Lancers won the most games during a season in program history, dating back to the team's debut in 1960. Individually, players set single-season records in numerous categories, including home runs/RBIs (Ryan Stark (BS 25)) and doubles (Jose Ayala). Evan Etchison also became the first player to record 300 strikeouts and win 20 games.

Grace's softball team had two players (Bree Gardinier (BS 25) and Sami Lemler) finish tied for second for the most home runs in a single campaign. At Grace College, the pursuit of excellence runs deeper than stats and scoreboards—it's displayed in the hearts of student-athletes who lead with character, compete with integrity, and serve others around them.



Kimberly Hope

SEMINARY STUDENT PROFILE Written by Rick Nier

Metamorphosis is defined as a change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one by

natural or supernatural means. This was the topic of conversation for Kimberly Hope and her mom as they drove from Massachusetts to Indiana. The subject was a timely one, defining Kimberly's past. Unbeknownst to her, it was a prophecy about her future.

In February 2024, Hope was on her way to Winona Lake for a campus visit at Grace Theological Seminary. Although she wasn't quite sure about the idea of seminary, conversations with her pastor had her considering it. She was months away from earning her undergraduate degree in biblical studies and felt a loss of direction. But her life was not without purpose. Working at Gandara Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, she was a success story in outpatient mental health. Gandara Center provides recovery services for those facing homelessness and those struggling with substance abuse. Like many nonprofits, it struggled to stay viable.

Hope was hired to help create a new program to assist those new to the recovery process. In just six months, Hope had built a multi-million-dollar program, helped Gandara's second location get out of debt, and now had 18 employees working for her to serve more than 400 patients.

Her success was born out of a personal understanding of their needs. Homelessness and substance abuse were all Hope knew for more than two decades. She understood feeling helpless, lacking solutions, and needing support to change her circumstances before she came to the saving knowledge of Jesus as her Lord and Savior — what she would call a "metamorphosis" experience.

"What Jesus did in me was a miracle," said Hope. "Anybody who saw me at the beginning of my recovery would not recognize me."

The day Hope and her mom met with Dr. Freddy Cardoza, vice president of Grace Theological Seminary, he also had metamorphosis on his mind and asked them if they knew what it meant. Having not told him of their discussion on the car ride, Hope knew exactly what it meant.

Later, in a class with Professor of Spiritual Formation and Women's Ministries, Dr. Christy Hill, also brought up metamorphosis in a class discussion. Hope was convinced that she needed to enroll at GTS.

To move from Massachusetts to Indiana was an easy decision, given the confirmations about her metamorphosis. But it still required bold faith and some help. This move

meant leaving behind her family, friends, and support system. Hope raised enough money to cover her rent and bills for the three-year program, with enough left over to cover furnishings and travel expenses.

In August 2024, Hope graduated with her bachelor's degree and moved to Winona Lake two weeks later.

More than completing the degree and earning a diploma, Hope is ready for the spiritual development through her Master of Divinity in Exegetical Studies. While unsure what the future holds for her, she knows she has a story to tell.

Are you being called into full-time ministry?
Learn more about our seminary programs at seminary.grace.edu.

"What Jesus did in me was a miracle. Anybody who saw me at the beginning of my recovery would not recognize me."



Jon & Keri Gill

ONLINE ALUMNI PROFILE Written by Madison Maxwell

Jon (BS 23) and Keri (BS 14) Gill have what many would call American success stories.

They started in the restaurant industry and moved up the ranks. As they worked, they took classes at Ivy Tech before earning their bachelor's degrees through Grace online. Now, in corporate leadership roles at thriving organizations, the Gills have been rewarded for their hard work.

The motivation behind their work sets Jon and Keri apart from the average success tales. They see the marketplace as a ministry. They're not after their own glory; they're intent on bringing glory to Christ.

Keri, of Bristol, Indiana, got her start at McDonald's. She worked her way up to general manager, but she knew it wasn't a forever job. She enrolled at Ivy Tech and earned a degree in accounting. At the end of her program, a Grace representative shared a discount opportunity for Ivy Tech graduates. Keri was interested, so she began her bachelor's of business administration through Grace online.

"My Grace degree helped me get into HR," said Keri. "My courses paired biblical principles with manager styles to equip us to share Jesus with people. If you maintain your integrity, people are naturally drawn to you and ask you questions. It's a great avenue to start a conversation."

After completing her degree, Keri worked for Interra Credit Union and then for Utilimaster. During that time, she earned her MBA before she began her favorite job yet: director of HR operations at the Boys and Girls Club of America in Atlanta. In her role, she oversees HR

technology, compensation analysis, data reporting, and analytics.

Like Keri, Jon entered the workforce immediately after high school. He worked as a general manager at Arby's in Mishawaka, Indiana, before transitioning to district manager in Fort Wayne. After less than two years in a training role, he returned to Northern Indiana to serve as

the regional director of operations for 47 Arby's restaurants. As he advanced in his career, he knew a bachelor's degree in business would serve him well. Nearly a decade after Keri completed her degree at Grace, it was Jon's turn.

"To watch her have an experience at Grace that aligns with our values and core beliefs was inspiring and made Grace College the obvious choice," Jon said.

After completing his degree, Jon transitioned from field operations to corporate support at Inspire Brands headquarters in Atlanta. Three promotions later, Jon oversees the strategic direction and operational performance across 1,000+ company-operated Arby's restaurants as senior vice president of operations.

"In my role, I have an opportunity to connect with team members and managers from across the United States," said Jon. "They all have different stories, and being able to connect with them and model Christlike behavior helps me stay grounded in what's important."

"To watch her have an experience at Grace that aligns with our values and core beliefs was inspiring and made Grace College the obvious choice."

**Interested in earning your degree online?
Learn more at www.grace.edu/online-admissions.**



Dr. Walter Brath

FACULTY PROFILE Written by Dr. Kim M. Reiff

It is a joy to be in the presence of Dr. Wally Brath, program director of worship arts and associate dean of the School of Arts & Humanities. We

recently sat down and reminisced on our first conversation in the spring of 2016. At that time, we had just expanded the art department to include visual and performing arts and house a new worship arts program. We were looking for a professor who could lead the creative vision for this initiative. As I talked with Wally, I was awe-inspired. Although I knew he was a gifted musician with extensive experience in worship arts, I recognized immediately that he would be the right faculty for this program, for Grace, and for the community.

Before he came to Grace, his journey with worship music was culturally multifaceted. While he had been involved in church planting in Minnesota, which required entrepreneurial thinking and execution, he also lived in a city with 80 documented languages. He was serving as a worship leader and professor and living out his passion for ethnomusicology.

These experiences uniquely equipped Wally for his role, and I've watched amazed as he fuses the lines between teaching, scholarship, and service, in order to equip students to think like theologians, labor like artists, and shepherd like pastors.

Wally came on board well aware of the wealth of arts within our local community, and he wanted to honor the legacy of what had already been. Upon his arrival, he began meeting with local musicians and worship leaders to share resources and ideas, encourage one another in ministry, and promote the legacy of Winona Lake. He has continued to nurture these connections by plugging students into the Festival of Music, Grace ensembles, Lancer Chorus, Symphony of the

Lakes, Grace traveling worship teams, and Go Encounter tours through Europe.

Having had the opportunity to co-teach with Wally, I have seen him model for students how theology and the creative arts are connected and guide discussions toward the source of beauty and creativity — our Creator. Pointing to Colossians 3:16, he shows his students that worship

teaches and admonishes, shaping how we think about God and respond to Him.

In his scholarship, Wally recently focused on integrating theology and music as he completed his sabbatical research on the Psalms, "The Swinging Psalter: Using Jazz and Improvisation to Expand the Emotional Range of Our Musical Language for Worship." He presented this research and performed his original Jazz Psalms album, "Connexion," at the 2025 Calvin Symposium on Worship.

Wally shares his passion for music with his family. He and his wife, Shana, met at the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. They have raised three musically gifted children: Graydon, a bass player; Karissa, a violinist; and Levi, a percussionist. When he's not pursuing music or spending time with his family, you'll likely find him on the mountain biking trails in Winona Lake.

I am thankful for Wally's friendship, leadership, and inspiration. When we sit together, I am often reminded of our first conversation and how grateful I am that the Lord led him to Grace. Our students, faculty, and community have been infinitely blessed by his presence.

Read Dr. Kim Reiff's full-length article on Dr. Wally Brath: www.grace.edu/drbrath.

"Wally came on board well aware of the wealth of arts within our local community, and he wanted to honor the legacy of what had already been."



Adrienne Daeger

STAFF PROFILE Written by Kelsi Roth

When Adrienne Daeger's name crossed my desk in December 2022 for the director of event services & camps role, it felt like God was arranging the pieces of a puzzle. This position was a unique combination of roles: We were looking for someone who could lead internal and external events and launch a strong academic camp program. Adrienne was the answer.

Adrienne, a Huntington University graduate, came to Grace in May of 2018 to work as the research program specialist for the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams. She paired her expertise in biology and environmental science with her people skills to lead a student research team that sampled more than 30 sites weekly. She led efforts to analyze, translate, and communicate the data. During her time at the Lilly Center, she was known as an enthusiastic communicator with the strong ability to explain technical information to a general audience. "Adrienne is a change agent," said Dr. Nate Bosch, director of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams. "She collaborates to find solutions and makes our community better as a result."

In 2021, God took Adrienne and her husband, Andrew, to Texas. They served at The Retreat at Balcones Springs, where Adrienne became the sales and event coordinator. This role prepared Adrienne to become our director of event services and camps when they returned to Indiana in 2022.

Her experience in Texas made her a perfect fit for this unique role. Her knowledge of Grace and our community was a bonus and a reminder that the Lord uses every step to equip us for what He has in store!

Adrienne's team is affectionately called the "A-Team" because they're that good (and have "A" names)! The event services and camps team is the front door for community members looking to host events on our campus. They ensure our guest hosts feel welcome on our campus, provide what they need to make their event successful, and help them have a great experience.

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Our academic camps will run again this summer with the mission to connect all kinds of kids to Grace's excellent people, expertise, and equipment so they can have fun, learn, and see new opportunities for themselves. If you bring a student to participate, Adrienne and her team are the ones to credit for ensuring everything runs smoothly and the students have a great time.

"Created for Community" is a core pillar of Grace's brand, and the Daegers have a heart for it, whether through their small group at church, their close-knit family, or their long-standing friendships (across many miles!).

But Adrienne also strives to cultivate the community we were created for on campus. One creative way is through "Plant Daycare." Over school breaks, students can leave their dorm plants with Adrienne and her team, who ensure the plants are watered and get plenty of sunlight. People like Adrienne, who live out this pillar personally and professionally, make Grace special.

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