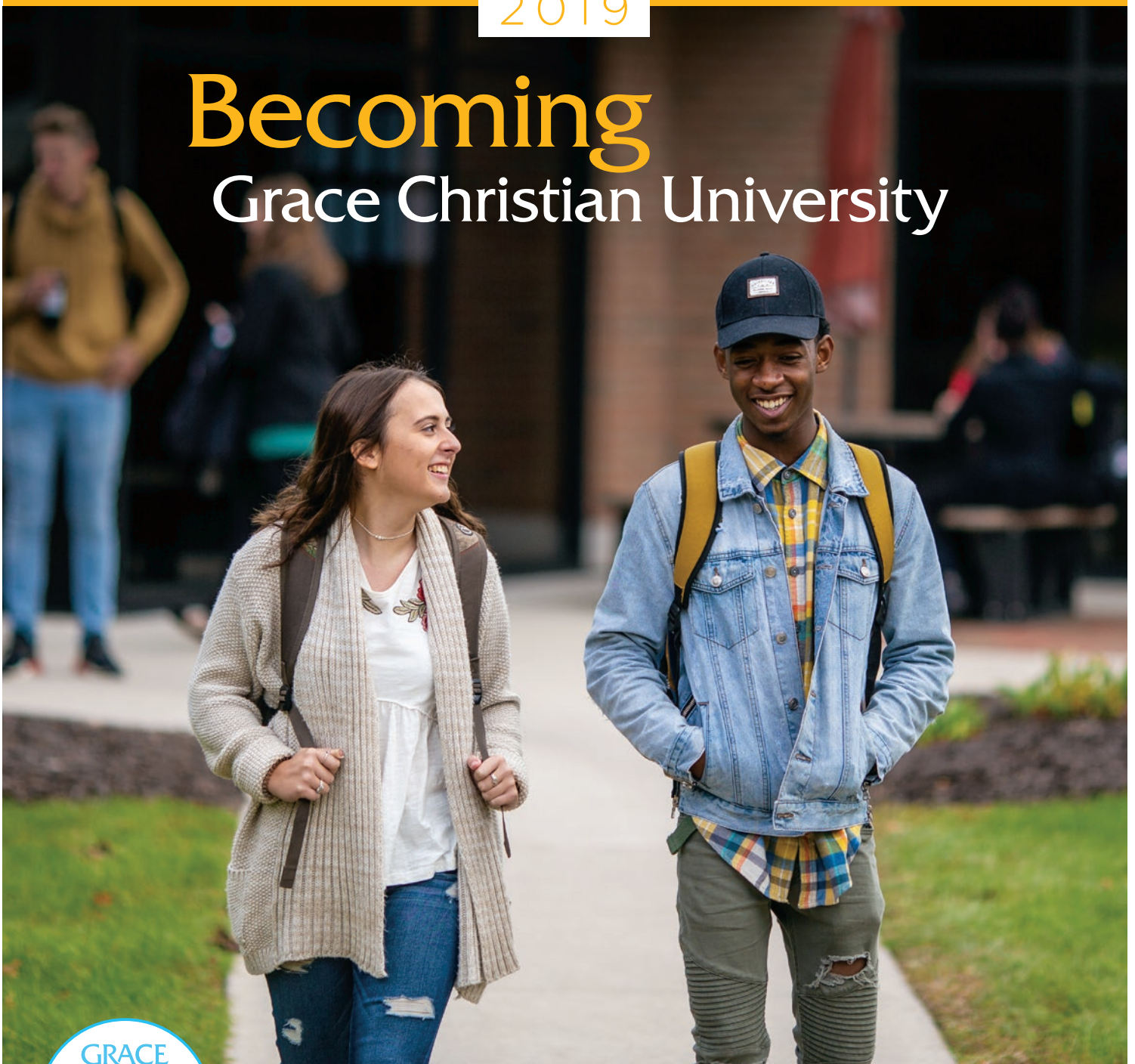


# The Journey

2019

## Becoming Grace Christian University



AN INSTITUTION COMMITTED TO OUR HISTORICAL  
VALUES AND EXPANDING INTO THE FUTURE

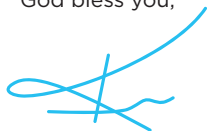
# from the PRESIDENT

Every day is another step or segment of our journey. Some days and segments seem more significant than others, and some appear to be “just another” day or year. This Grace Christian University *Journey* which you hold in your hands (or read online) is our best effort to document an amazing and significant year or segment of the life and history of the institution in this our 80th year of ministry.

I would imagine this year will be noted on most historical timelines of the institution. This is the year of the journey in which Grace Bible College became Grace Christian University. To us, it seems like it happened long ago as new signs, stationery, and webpages were unveiled along with a new, appropriate logo clearly centralizing Jesus Christ and the message of the cross to the world. But unlike the day in which one person comes to a saving knowledge of Christ and the old is necessarily made new, because the old is dying and lifeless, our institution was and still is vibrant and growing and our history is one of which we can be proud. Those of us who graduated from Grace Bible College should remain loyal and proud just as those of Milwaukee Bible Institute and later Milwaukee Bible College are.

This issue of the *Journey* shows just a limited picture of all God is doing in the lives of over 1200 students who took classes at Grace this past year, and over 200 faculty and staff who served the Lord in some way through the work and mission of Grace Christian University. Grab your favorite beverage and sit down and read some of the short articles and be encouraged to pray and partner in this life-changing mission.

God bless you,



Ken Bruce Kemper, PhD





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**LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOR**



# GRACE, SCHOLARSHIP, & JUSTICE

Jacob Rogers

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Back in July, Grace Bible College made the decision to look to the future and transition to Grace Christian University. This change represented a continuation of the commitment of this community to be ever-present within culture as an agent of transformation through education. Specifically, an agent that boldly proclaims the gospel of grace here in West Michigan, across the United States, and around the world. As a result, our institution's goals have matured and we have come to a position where we have begun to consider how the title of 'university' now affords us the opportunity to change the way we consider the means towards our vision.

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Particularly as faculty, we began to consider how our passion for scholarship might impact our local community. Professors Sherita Jahaziel and Dave Greydanus spearheaded a commission to develop a conference to address issues related to injustice from a biblical perspective. This Celebration of Justice developed into a two-part conference meeting in November 2018 and March 2019. Dr. Phil Long and I were invited to present alongside of Dr. Greydanus in November to present on the Biblical Perspectives pertaining to issues of Justice in the Old and New Testament along with the modern application of those principles. I gladly accepted and looked at issues pertaining to justice and poverty in the Old Testament. What follows are a few of my conclusions and observations.

“There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land” (Deut. 15:11). Two realities are presented by this text. First, inequality was a fact of life. Second, Israel was to be generous and compassionate in the face of that inequality. Social justice, as it is understood today, may have very different aims and goals than what we find in scripture. Most notably, the modern social justice movement is concerned with the redistribution of wealth and opportunity in order to achieve universal equity. Justice, as defined by the Old Testament, is not necessarily the quest for equity, but rather obedience to YHWH’s Law. This study will seek to demonstrate this idea of justice by assessing the situation of the poor in Israel through the prophetic tradition as a response to the failure of Israel/Judah’s response to poverty in accordance with God’s Law. This study will also provide meaningful principles which can be applied to the modern discussion of social justice in the church.

### PROPHETIC CRITIQUE OF THE FAILURE OF WISDOM AND INSTRUCTION

In Micah 6:8 the admonition is found from YHWH, “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” This is likely a direct criticism of the actions of King Ahaz who had “even burned his son as an offering” (1 Kings 16:3).<sup>1</sup> Instead of seeking the will of God, Ahaz seeks to manipulate the divine, in this case Molech, by means of sacrifice in order to find deliverance from his enemies. Micah points out that the king is unable to manipulate or sway YHWH through means of exorbitant sacrifice (Micah 6:6-8). Rather, YHWH’s only request is that man uphold justice, mercy and kindness, the very things that Ahaz had not done during his rule.

God calls his people to the court and prods them for an explanation of their actions. The indictment is one that is fueled by divine

compassion and justice. Compassion for those afflicted by the nation and justice to be served against those that have broken the covenant that God established with his people in order to govern safe, flourishing, and faithful communities. The repeated phrase “Hear!” is continually met with opposition by the religious and political elite of Israelite society. Instead of listening to the indictment of the LORD through his prophets, they tell the prophets “Do not preach—thus they preach—one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us” (Micah 2:6). Instead, they look for a man who goes about and utters lies and speaks of the good times that are coming to the nation (2:11). They preach peace when their bellies are full, yet declare war against those who do not provide food for them (3:5). These are the prophets they deserve (2:11)! Yet, there will come a day when these people will “Cry to the LORD and he will not answer them” (3:4,11b-12).

The prophetic rebuke is meant to serve as divine instruction for the nation of Judah as they appear to be walking down the same path as their sister nation, Israel (Micah 3:3). The hyperbolic nature of the cannibalistic language in chapter 3 seeks to portray the plight of the poor at the hand of their oppressors who are namely the rulers of the nation. The king as YHWH’s divine representative has failed and the consequence for that failure will result in the eventual destruction of the nation.

### A MODEST APPLICATION OF OLD TESTAMENT JUSTICE FOR TODAY

In order to bridge the gap between the historical context of justice in the Old Testament and how that might apply to the church or society today, it should be noted that there are some challenges. There are practical considerations to take in mind, namely, the vast political differences between our context and the context of Israel. In America, the nation is able to elect representatives to legislate and rule on behalf of the people for a specified amount of time, before the people decide to change the present leadership. In Israel, the people had no choice concerning who would represent them at the highest levels of government, nor did they have control over what laws or punishments might be handed down to them. A constitutional republic in the West has little in common with a theocratic monarchy in the Ancient Near East. These practical considerations should be taken to heart, but there are also theological reasons why we may not wish to identify too much with the nation of Israel. Paul spends much time in the New Testament arguing for a distinction between what was the people of Israel and what Christ has revealed to Paul to be a new creation, the Body of Christ (Eph. 2-3). However, there are elements of Old Testament theology that contain principles that are consistent with YHWH’s character that apply not only to Israel, but to all mankind, particularly the church.

<sup>1</sup> Kenneth L. Barker and D. Waylon Bailey, *Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*, The New American Commentary v. 20 (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999), 113.





“Unenforceable obligations are beyond the reach of the laws of society. They concern inner attitudes, genuine person-to-person reactions, and expressions of compassion that law books cannot regulate and jails cannot rectify. Such obligations are met by one’s commitment to an inner law, written on the heart. Man-made laws assure justice, but a higher law produces love.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s sermon entitled, *On Being a Good Neighbor* preaches on the ethics of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-27. Dr. King, when speaking of the Samaritan’s altruism, makes use of Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick’s language enforceable and unenforceable obligations as they relate culture. King writes,

Unenforceable obligations are beyond the reach of the laws of society. They concern inner attitudes, genuine person-to-person reactions, and expressions of compassion that law books cannot regulate and jails cannot rectify. Such obligations are met by one’s commitment to an inner law, written on the heart. Man-made laws assure justice, but a higher law produces love.<sup>2</sup>

King demonstrates the heart of the prophet Jeremiah. There will be no justice or peace for the nation of Israel until they circumcise their hearts and return to YHWH (Jer. 4:4). For Israel, they had the Law of the Lord, but they found ways to subvert that law to their own ends. The enforceable obligations meant nothing without a change of heart to motivate them to abide by unenforceable obligations. As a nation, America could create many laws that might curb injustice against the underprivileged or underserved in society, but without a change of heart, or a change of morality, it will mean nothing.

<sup>2</sup> King, *Strength to Love*, 28.

## CONCLUSION

The Old Testament provides the prime example of what God expects from a just society. Prophets such as Isaiah, Micah and Amos make clear YHWH’s concern for the proper treatment of the poor, the widow and the orphan. However, ultimately Israel failed to abide in the law, because their hearts had turned away from YHWH. The moral failing of Israel was demonstrated in their lack of concern for the poor in their society, which resulted in their exile from the land. However, the hope of the prophets is that Israel would one day return to YHWH with their hearts in order that they might be able to fulfill the perfect law. In this way, they would be able to cultivate a just society through obedience to YHWH by taking upon themselves his own character. If the church wishes to address the ills of societal injustice today, then we too must find ourselves looking beyond what we are required to do and push forward to looking out for the good of our fellow brothers and sisters. “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Phil. 2:3-4).

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Barker, Kenneth L., and D. Waylon Bailey. *Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. The New American Commentary v. 20. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999.

King, Martin Luther Jr. *Strength to Love*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.



# Centuries-old Torah Scroll Gifted to Grace University

Jeffrey Brodrick, Director of Library Services

**T**his story begins with the Origins of the Bible course that was offered at Grace in May 2018. I taught this class with the consummate assistance of Pat McGillicuddy.

The first two weeks involved discussion, lecture, and projects related to a chronological development of the Bible within the history of Christianity. The third week of the course was spent in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Princeton, New Jersey, and Washington DC, inspecting some of the best examples of the early manuscripts of the Bible as well as some of the oldest manuscripts in the US.

After we returned from our trip, I went to my niece's wedding the following afternoon. While at the reception, I was telling the pastor about the outstanding excursion I had with the students in the week before. He responded with, "The one who arranged many of the manuscripts for the Museum of the Bible in D.C. is at the table there across the room." Dr. Scott Carroll was at the reception! After being introduced, I think we spent the remaining time talking about old Bible texts. During our conversation he asked me if our University would be interested in being gifted one of these old manuscripts. The natural answer was, "Yes." After I returned home from the wedding, I texted my class about

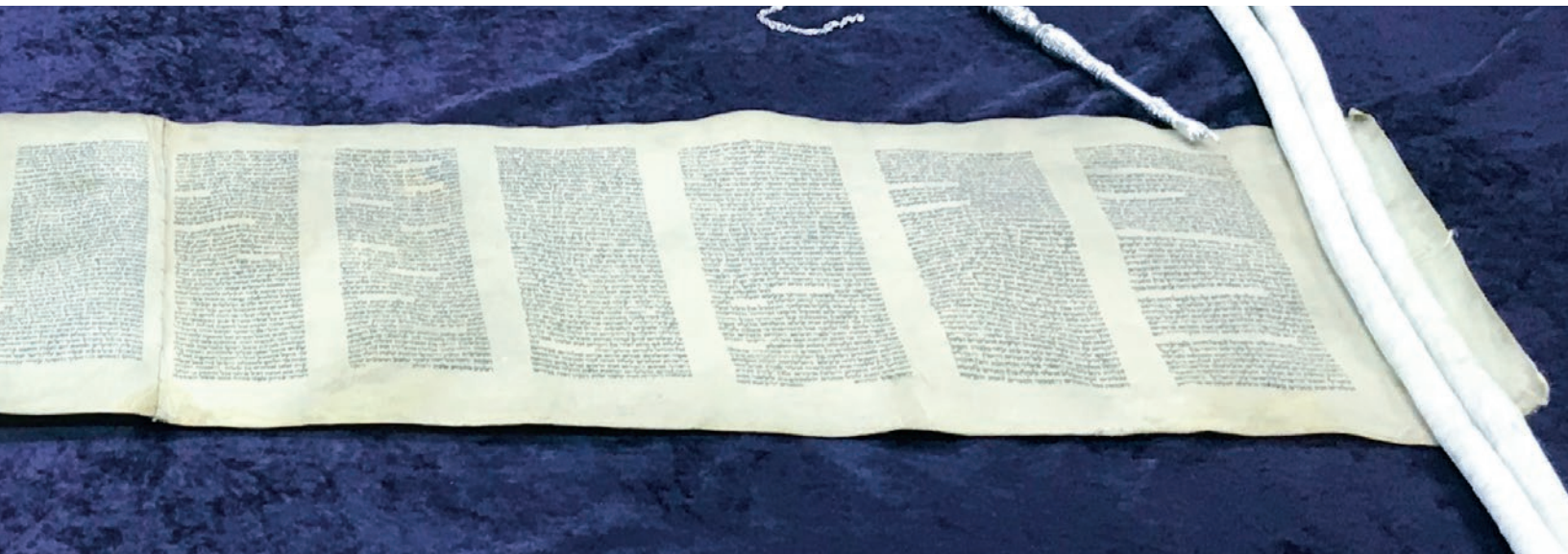
this providential meeting. They were genuinely excited about this prospect.

On September 11, 2018, Kenneth and Barbara Larson of God's Ancient Library gifted to Grace Christian University a Torah Scroll. The Torah is the first five books of the Bible in Hebrew. Torah literally means, "teaching."

Invited by the Larsons, President Kemper and I went to Chicago to receive this gift. It was donated for the use by the school for Bible study or reading. It is also an exquisite example of fine art. This nearly eighty-foot animal skin document was handwritten over the course of a year in the 18th century, around 1790, and originated from Eastern Europe.

Hitler, in his undertakings to control the world, ordered the destruction of countless Jewish people, their documents and Torah scrolls in communities throughout Europe. Because of the unspeakable death and destruction of millions of Jews, along with their possessions during the Second World War, this preserved manuscript is a survivor of the Holocaust. It likely survived since it is considered *pasul*. This means that it is no longer





kosher and not usable for service. A Torah scroll with a copy error that was not fixed, ink chipping or wearing off, or a letter that is not formed correctly can become unusable. When one of the aforementioned happens, the scroll is hidden away or sometimes buried. The Torah at Grace was likely hidden. It is estimated that before World War II there were nearly 40,000 Torah scrolls. After the war, only half remain.

Since there is a high regard for the authority of God's Word, this text is proof that the Word has been preserved. It is the most sacred object in Jewish life (Deuteronomy 33). The Torah at Grace is a copy of a copy, of a copy, etc., back to the original from Moses. The interesting features of all copies is that they match prior texts with textual nuances added, even those discovered among the Dead Sea scrolls which date before Christ.

It is an honor to have one of less than sixty in the world already gifted Torah scrolls from this foundation. A custom made acrylic cover and table hold the Torah scroll. It is on public display in the Jacob and Henrietta Molenkamp Reading Room in the first floor of Bultema Memorial Library.



*Dr. Scott Carroll points out nuances in the Torah Scroll Chicago, IL*



# Becoming Grace Christian University

Ken Bruce Kemper, PhD

**T**he transition at Grace over this past year has been exciting and a great challenge at the same time. I believe I have spent much of my time explaining and reassuring longtime friends of the institution regarding what has NOT changed and will continue to be preserved. This is such an important aspect of progress—your foundation as well as your history. Grace Christian University is not a NEW institution, rather, it is one with a rich eighty-year history of ministry brought into being by God through leaders like Charles Baker, T.R. Huston, J.C. O’Hair, and C.R. Stam.

## CONTINUITY OF THE PAST

I believe the motivation of those great leaders and others was to begin an institution of higher education to educate and prepare men and women to be effective ministers to their changing world. Milwaukee Bible Institute and later Grace Bible College has always sought and will always seek to hire faculty, staff, and leaders who treasure God’s Word, understand our world, and prepare more ministers for church and society through education and mentoring.

Grace has a distinctive theological perspective which we refer to as *Grace Theology*. It is from this perspective that all our Bible, theology, and ministry classes are taught to give a consistent mid-Acts dispensational perspective. **Grace Theology** is one of our core values, or “anchor points” which holds our mission firmly in place, true to our founding and purpose.

Grace also celebrates the fact that we are a **Bible-Centered**, Bible-permeated institution. We believe the Bible is the center of all higher education. The Bible speaks truth into every discipline and degree we offer. Each student takes a minimum of thirty hours of Bible and theology, and is encouraged to think biblically about each class and discipline. This is the second core value, or “anchor point” we celebrate and it keeps us aligned.

Our focus on ministry is the third core value. We are **Ministry Focused** throughout our institution because we believe ministry is the normal response of all believers to serve Christ and others. Therefore, we have ministry classes to instruct on evangelism, world outreach, and teaching the Bible required for all students, along with ministry requirements embedded within those classes. We regularly communicate that all our students are being prepared for ministry,



whether vocational or avocational as the normal expectation. As our third “anchor point,” being ministry focused keeps each degree and faculty member aligned to prepare students to impact others in their chosen fields with Christ and the Gospel.

Our final emphasis which cannot change is the core value of **Transformational Relationships**. We recognize that *it is always about people*. Jesus came to save the people of the world because God loves each one. We are a higher education institution that acknowledges that if people are important, we must engage in relationships. These relationships are between students and faculty (on-campus and online), staff, and other students. Normally, the depth of one’s real relationships will determine the depth of transformation in one’s life. We embrace relationships as God’s instrument in this present dispensation to work His transformational power as people reach people with love and the Truth of God.

I am a proud graduate of Grace Bible College. I received a wonderful education from godly instructors and my wife Kathy did as well. We both graduated and left for Africa in 1986 to go to six months of language training. In those times of training, we learned language and culture. However, we found ourselves again and again needing further understanding. We were blessed to serve the Lord in Tanzania for nearly seventeen years. During that time we adjusted – again and again – our methods of teaching and ministering so they were more contextually relevant and would produce more results. One of the highlights of our time in Tanzania was when my wife Kathy taught women who could not read. These women were not provided with educational opportunities as youth. They often struggled to see themselves as ministers or to be seen this way by their husbands because of their illiteracy. Kathy was aware of this context. She taught them how to memorize Scripture and explain the Gospel to others. Her methods were culturally sensitive. These same women learned how to perform skits and minister to others so that they could come to a saving knowledge of Christ. Additionally, I worked with the national leaders to develop a method of personal evangelism which is still used on the field. This method trains leaders to be “students” of the context of those needing the Gospel. They learned how to build rapport to provide a meaningful presentation of the Gospel, which the hearer could readily understand. The important point is that we understood the mere repetition of what and how we were taught was not adequate or even possible to use if we were to be effective ministers in the many different societal and cultural contexts we encountered.

## THE CHANGING WORLD

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There are breakneck societal changes and seismic shifts in values and demographics all around us. The awareness of such changes allows ministries and institutions to continue to be

effective in the fulfillment of their mission and purpose. Sadly, many well-intentioned churches which once had a vibrant ministry failed to go on, having to close their doors as one generation died off or because they failed to adjust their methodology to a new world. As an institution we are firmly committed to our core values and the Truth of God’s Word, but the students who come to us are not at all like those in the 1940’s in Milwaukee or in the 1980’s in Grand Rapids! We cannot use the same methods to train our students to be ministers to a world which no longer exists! It is painful to observe good Bible colleges go out of business as their enrollment declines and they serve a shrinking constituency which claims they are standing for the truth, when most of the time, their methodology and man-made limitations have doomed them for some time because they fail to learn and embrace more effective ministry methods.

The United States is no longer a Christian country in which biblical values are respected or valued. In fact, in the public arena a Christian who prays and believes in the authority of the Bible is mocked and laughed about by many in the media and public institutions, including our government and courts. This truly does and will impact every Christian, every church, and every truly Christian organization (like Grace) who will NOT bend to the pressure to abandon Biblical truth as the standard for practice.

Christian universities (and Bible colleges) like us find ourselves challenged and even targets of attack in regard to our legitimacy and value. In the last seven to eight years, skepticism and derision has grown to be the loud, predominant voice of public opinion regarding followers of Christ and institutions of faith such as Grace Christian University.

## A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

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What is this hostile environment, you ask?

A young college student at a public institution recently heard these words from his professor: “If you are a Christian or conservative, you might as well leave this class because your viewpoint is not welcome here.”

Humanists and liberals who control public education do not hesitate to silence Christian values and conservative ideas. They realize that the future of our nation depends upon these young people and their education today. Far too many colleges across America have “safe zones,” “tone-policing,” and “sexual orientation bias awareness,” all programs sanctioned and promoted by faculty and administration. These public institutions funded by our tax dollars blame Christians and moral conservatives for society’s problems! One professor was quoted as stating, “Conservative Christians champion racism, exploitation, and imperialist war.”

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A professor at Washington State University banned certain words in the classroom, including “illegal alien,” “male,” and “female,” because these words supposedly caused “racism” and “white heterosexual privilege.”

Closer to Grace Christian University, on the first day of class in a creative writing course, a Michigan State professor is quoted as stating, “Republicans have already raped this country.”

As I communicate with other Bible college friends and those in leadership of Christian universities like ours, there is awareness of the critical and condemnatory atmosphere with which we regularly deal. Especially in such a context and climate, I believe we must be firmly committed to our mission, believing society needs our graduates more than ever before! Just as white blood cells in our body rush to the point of infection, we, as the Body of Christ must join together as His followers to be strong, giving aid to students and pastors seeking to minister in this hostile

environment. This world is confused, like a small boat adrift with no paddle or motor. It is being blown wherever the wind carries it because it has no anchor for its values. At Grace Christian University we are Bible-centered and permeated. We have the answer for meaning and for life itself – the life changing Gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

## GOD’S WORK IN THE WORLD TODAY

From the beginning of time, God has been at work in this world. We read about this from Genesis to Revelation, in every dispensation. I am committed to what God is doing and has been doing in the world and partnering with Him in His work. I believe God is about three major works in the world:

1. Redeeming the lost and reconciling what is estranged
2. Transforming what is broken and incomplete
3. Bringing glory to God through Christ Jesus





As we observe the diversity of cultures in America and the background of our students, we realize that we are challenged to minister God's work in the lives of each student at Grace Christian University. Our services and methods as a University must include strong life-on-life mentoring and personal instruction about the Christian home and sexuality. These things were not part of our priorities a generation ago. When the Bible is not an influential part of culture, the humanists define gender and identity however they want. At Grace, we lovingly teach God's truth and hold our Christian university community to certain standards for attendance and employment, even though they are not popular in society. Our anchor point holds us to the authority of Scripture in both orthodoxy and orthopraxy (practice) of the truths contained in the Word. There is a need to redeem the lost with love and truth. Mankind is broken and needs transformation to be able to thrive as an image bearer of God. It is by the grace of God and power of the Holy Spirit that this takes place (1 Corinthians 15:10; and Romans 12:1, 2).

Changing our name was very simply a part of our ongoing commitment to be relevant and effective in what we have historically done. Our mission fulfillment is more important than our present or former name, but we trust it is better fulfilled in this new name and season of service. Grace Christian University seeks to hold to our anchor points yet understand the context of a confused world in order to effectively share in what God is doing in this world. This is not for the renown of the institution or for its leaders. It is about glory to God! All that we do must be for His glory and His alone (1 Corinthians 10:31). As we modify our methods from on campus, to online and graduate online, we seek to be effective in giving and training for godliness (2 Timothy 2:16, 17) so that students can be prepared for every good work. We are daily working to become Grace Christian University and will continue to adjust our methods and our reach to fulfill our mission to graduate godly individuals prepared to serve Christ in church and society. It is for the Lord and His work that we exist.





WHEN  
IS IT OK  
TO DREAM

# Big Dreams

Stephen Gowdy  
Vice-President of Advancement





A dear friend who is a former employee of the IBM Corporation reminded me that IBM used to have printed – on every wall and on every desk throughout the entire organization – the word THINK. Not long ago, this dear friend came into my office and gave me a plaque with THINK written on it. He also had printed off the word BIG and placed it next to the plaque. His wise words to me: “As Vice President of Advancement at one of the fastest growing universities in the nation, you, my friend, need to THINK BIG!”

It is in my nature to think big and dream big, and I believe we are in a period when the Lord is allowing the leadership, faculty, staff, and students of Grace Christian University to think big and dream big.

Overall student enrollment (including online) is higher than any previous year, and our entering freshman class is one of the largest we have seen. We have added new degree programs in business, psychology and criminal justice. The Lord has blessed and continues to bless the University and our efforts. Our cup is running over!

Through it all, we have remained faithful to our core values: Grace Theology, Bible-Centered Education, Ministry Focused and Transformational Relationships.

## I think it's time for all of us to start dreaming big.

Our Development Department been praying and meditating on Ephesians 3:20-21:

*Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

After months of praying, seeking the Lord's direction and being sensitive and yielding to His leading, we believe it is time to start a comprehensive capital campaign! Initial steps have been taken, including engaging a consultant, completing a feasibility study, and assembling the campaign cabinet and committee. As

a result of the feasibility study, the consultant found that, with the capital campaign and our normal giving combined, Grace donors could raise upwards of \$3.75 million over a three-year period. That amount is \$1.75 million more than we have ever raised in such a campaign! Based upon these results, and with humble hearts and full dependence upon the Lord's provision, the Grace Christian University Board made the decision to move forward in a bold step of faith with a \$4 million comprehensive capital campaign.

This three-year campaign will officially start on April 12, 2019 with a Kickoff Banquet. Our guest speaker will be NFL player Kirk Cousins who is originally from West Michigan and now plays for the Minnesota Vikings.

We believe the first need with our big dreams is to figure out where to house our students in a safe and attractive environment. In the past, our strategy for housing on-campus students has been to buy additional houses adjacent to our campus, converting them to dorm space. We currently house students in the two original dorms constructed in 1961, two seven-unit apartment buildings constructed in the 1970's, a leased four-plex, and eleven single-family homes we have purchased. All these units are full! We anticipate building new, long-lasting townhome-style dorms adjacent to our campus. These new dorms will enhance the University's presence, provide greater community, add parking spaces, and allow for convenient access and competitive recruiting.

In addition, we will update and remodel our present kitchen and dining room spaces, since they are constantly in use and are vital for the continued growth of the University. This will provide additional space for food preparation, reliable equipment, improved student traffic flow for meals, and allow for a more inviting community environment.

This campaign will also address the issue of student scholarships. Scholarships for Grace students allow our students to graduate with 20% less debt than the average college graduate, making them better prepared financially to make a larger impact in their world for Christ.

We have three fantastic leaders have agreed to lead the *Expanding Grace Capital Campaign*. Those co-chairs are Dale Day, Ami Walker and Randy Zandbergen.

Would you consider being a vital part of the *Expanding Grace Capital Campaign* over the next three years, and make a difference that will make an impact for years and into eternity?



# CHAIRMAN'S MUSINGS

DR. GRETCHEN JOHNSON, CHAIR, GRACE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

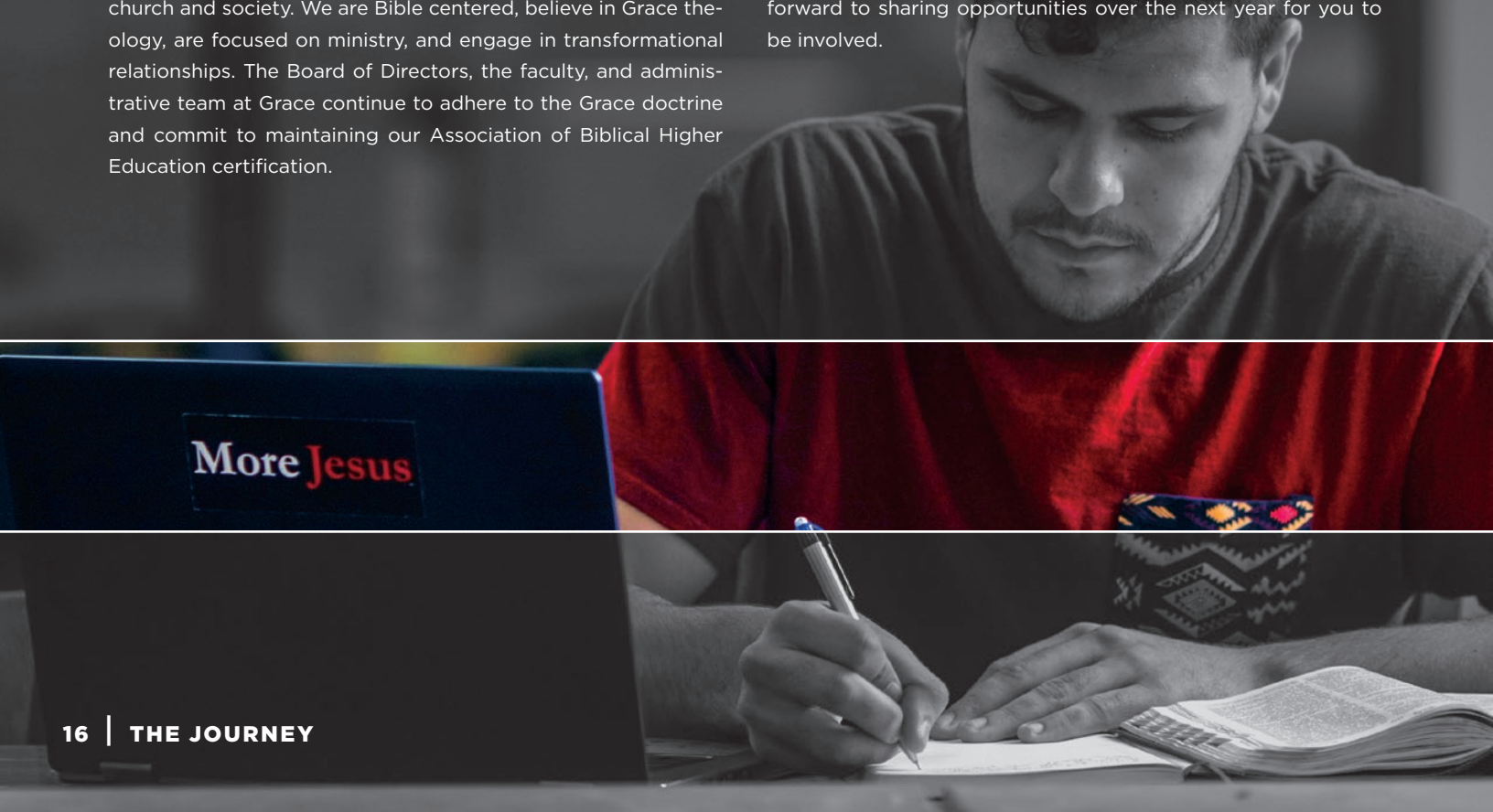
The passing of one year to the next is a natural time for reflection. The heart and mind charts the road traveled and ponders the missteps and the victories, wondering, perhaps, at the mystery of it all. We look back and maybe we start to see more clearly the Spirit moving in our lives and our world. It's also natural to turn from looking back to opening our eyes to the possibilities of the future. Goals and plans and hopes start to grow and take shape...

As a community that loves Grace (That's why you're reading *The Journey*, right?), let's reflect on a season of change for the university. This year, Grace went from a college to a university, changed names, and graduated more students than ever before. As the leadership of Grace first considered and then worked towards a name change, some shared a fear that Grace would lose its identity, that the Grace community would lose its connection with its heritage and ideals as it transformed into something new.

But, in this case, the new is firmly rooted in the past. So, we ask: Who are we now as Grace Christian University? Our mission, vision, values, and faith statement have not changed. Grace continues to graduate godly individuals prepared to serve Christ in church and society. We are Bible centered, believe in Grace theology, are focused on ministry, and engage in transformational relationships. The Board of Directors, the faculty, and administrative team at Grace continue to adhere to the Grace doctrine and commit to maintaining our Association of Biblical Higher Education certification.

Maintaining our identity is not about wearing our now vintage Grace Bible College t-shirts or refusing to call the school by the new name. Maintaining our identity means keeping our focus first on Christ, and our accountability to our mission, vision, and values-which have not changed. Our Board of Directors, faculty, and administration are committed to seeking direction from Christ and obedience to His Word.

Just as individuals shared their fears about change, we also heard from those who feared that nothing would change. Becoming Grace Christian University is not just about changing our logo, colors, and trying to sell new T-shirts. It's about pursuing academic excellence, updating our living and learning spaces on campus, ensuring our graduates are prepared to serve Christ in church and society, helping our graduates leave school without mounds of educational debt, and providing educational programs that are viable in today's marketplace. We are excited about where we are headed, and our work did not stop with changing names. As we pursue our vision of being a "vibrant university exalting Jesus Christ, preparing culturally intelligent students for diverse careers in the global marketplace," we still have much work to do. We need you to partner with us! We look forward to sharing opportunities over the next year for you to be involved.





# Memorial Gifts

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A lasting legacy remains when you honor a loved one or friend with a memorial gift. Your gift to Grace Christian University becomes a living tribute to their memory, and it will powerfully impact the next generation as they are learning how to transform their world for Jesus Christ. We praise God for the lasting legacy provided by these donors during 2018:

## **Pauline Anderson**

Mr and Mrs Ed Cecil  
Randall and Janet Cromer  
Kenneth and Karen Knievel  
Kathleen Koerwer  
Edward and Catherine Mahoney  
Mary Mann  
Beverly Sidebottom  
The Ted Magnuson Family Trust

## **Margie Bridgewater** **Phyllis Schoonover** **Beverly Sidebottom**

Patricia Banker

## **Joseph and Shirley Cereghino**

Kenneth and Helen Brouwer

## **Shirley Cereghino**

Frank and Carol Zeller

## **Frank and Joan Edwards**

Calvary Memorial Church of Oak Park  
David and April Edwards  
Grace Ministries International  
Richard Reiter  
Russell and Cherry Vinton

## **Roland Johnson**

James and Constance Boeske  
Byron Forest Condo Association  
Mr and Mrs Dan Chapin  
William and Sally Cole  
Mike and Bonnie Crump  
Almer and Roberta Dieterman  
Audrey Gezon  
Mary Holland  
Kenneth and Kathy Kemper  
Richard and Marian Marek  
Plante Moran Trust  
Michael and Karen Rozelle  
Samuel and Becky Vinton

## **Bruce Kemper**

Bob and Ruth Renberg

## **Gloria Koch**

Marlene DeVries  
Grace Ministries International  
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## **Donald McFadden**

David and April Edwards

## **Henrietta Molenkamp**

Jill Bacon  
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Jack and Sally Molenkamp  
James and Kathy Molenkamp  
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## **Betty Pompstra**

Marguerite Knoll

## **Grant and Eleanor Siler**

Linda K Siler

## **Kenneth Suerig**

Carroll and Marilyn Olm

## **Janet Strokosch**

Kenneth and Kathy Kemper  
Steven and Joyce Lacey  
Linda K Siler  
Brian and Carole Stefon  
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## **Richard Velting**

John Norton  
Beverly Wallace

## **Dick Walker**

Bryan and Ami Walker  
Beverly Wallace

# GRACE TIGERS

## A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Athletics has been an important part of Grace through our eighty year history. As Grace Bible College, our athletes contributed to the rich culture of Grace, demonstrating that the value of teamwork and competition was worth more than winning games or championships. As the Grace Christian University Tigers, our commitment to excellence remains the same. Please continue to lift up our student athletes in prayer as they compete and balance life's priorities, and for God's work in their lives.

## NEW SPORTS PROGRAMS!

In case you missed it, we have now officially implemented indoor and outdoor track and field, men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's bowling.

## THE TIGERS HAVE ALREADY ADDED TO THEIR RICH HISTORY IN A BIG WAY IN THE FALL OF 2018!

Junior cross country runner Kimberly Buskirk won our first ever NCCAA DII Individual National Championship last November, topping the leaderboard in Point Lookout, Missouri. Kimberly was also the first Tiger to receive the NCCAA's Ray Bullock Award, the highest honor given to a cross country runner for excellence in athletics, academics, and Christian service.



To stay up to date on Grace Athletics, please visit [gracetigers.com](http://gracetigers.com), and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram!







# NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Additionally, our women's soccer team brought home their first NCCAA DII National Championship banner last fall, defeating #1 seed Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. The championship game was won in dramatic fashion, with a penalty kick from junior Brandy Weaver that sealed the deal for the Tigers! Standout senior defender Stella Follett (pictured above) received NCCAA DII Player of the Year honors, as well as the NCCAA DII Tournament's Most Valuable Player Award - both firsts as well for Grace's women's soccer team.





# OPPORTUNITIES TO *serve*





We love it when our students pursue opportunities to serve Christ in church and society before they graduate. Each summer students serve throughout the United States and around the world in many ministry and secular settings. Two of our students, Taylor Wahl and Robert Kilgo, had exciting experiences and unusual opportunities to minister last summer.

We asked Taylor and Rob...

## WHAT LED YOU TO THIS OPPORTUNITY OR EXPERIENCE?

### TAYLOR

Ever since I was young, I wanted to go Africa and experience the culture and people. They always seemed to be so joyful and I wanted to be able to share the love of Jesus with those smiling faces. My friend Susan Lotz, who is like a second mom to me, started doing mission trips to Uganda twice a year. When she began doing this, I was too young - in her opinion - to go. Once my senior year of high school came, I attempted several times to go with her but each time, God closed the door. Although I did not understand at the time, I believe God wanted me to learn a lot more before I went there to serve him. This year, God opened the door for me to finally go with Susan.

### ROB

This past summer, I knew I wanted to do something to challenge myself. I also needed to deeply consider whether a life in politics is something I could do for the long run. I applied for two district office internships in my home state of Georgia, one for my congressman and another for a US Senator. Through extraordinary circumstances, I was able to get both internships and I served at each internship for two months.

## WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD MOVING IN THIS EXPERIENCE?

### TAYLOR

God started moving even before I left for Africa! God showed me daily that He was faithful and would provide. When I first felt God telling me that I needed to make feminine products as my ministry, I did not know how I could afford it. God is so good. Through meetings and encouragement from Jim Gamble, I decided to continue to fight to figure out how to do this. God provided the finances in full. When my friend, Annika Ward, heard what my dream was, God opened up a way for her to help me. (To put it in short). When I got to Uganda I was able to stay with two missionaries, Beckie and Ruudy Olupot. They recently started an incredible ministry called LoveWorld Foundation, and God is moving in Uganda through them. They are spreading the love of Christ throughout Uganda, but the majority of their ministry happens in their household. They have an open door policy for people and it was beautiful to see God's love fill their house.

### ROB

To be honest, it was a little tougher being intentional with my faith this summer. Due to both the political environment and the need for professionalism this was a challenge. However, through my work with my fellow interns I believe I was able to embody Christ in everything I did. I had the opportunity to deal with a lot of angry constituents, and I did my best to show grace to everyone (that was easier said than done a lot of the time though!).

## HOW HAS THIS EXPERIENCE HELPED YOU GROW INTO A GODLY INDIVIDUAL PREPARED TO SERVE CHRIST IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY?

### TAYLOR

This has helped me see that no dream is too small for God. My dream was to empower women to be able to go to school and be able to function in society, unhindered by the natural cycle that happens. God is faithful. I told God I wanted to fill a suitcase - and my suitcase was overflowing! Through the efforts of many people, 324 pads were made and we were able to provide four pairs of pads for 81 women! There were so many people who helped make this dream come true. I partnered with a quilting group at a church. They were able to help me make 100 pads in one day. It was exciting to find out that the quilting group decided to continue to make pads and send them out to the women. It was awesome to see how God used my passion to spur on others to continue to make a difference.

### ROB

My biggest takeaway from my internships was learning patience and kindness in every situation. At the offices, we had one saying: people don't call when they're happy; they call us to vent and yell, and we have to be ready to take that at all times. I think these experiences have helped me grow as a Christian and as an individual ready to handle society head-on.

# A GRADUATION FIRST AND LAST!

THE  
BEST IS  
YET TO  
COME



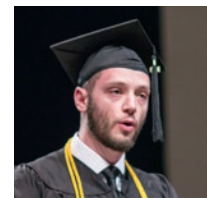
Graduation is always a special time of year for Grace. But this year it was even more significant for several reasons. Besides this being the largest graduating class in our eighty year history, it also included our first eight graduates to earn the M.Min. degree.

The Class of 2018 has another noteworthy distinction: it is the last class to graduate from Grace Bible College! All future graduates will receive their degrees from Grace Christian University.

On April 27, we began the graduation festivities with an enjoyable banquet at Watermark Country Club. This was a great evening of food, fellowship, testimonies, and fun for families and friends to enjoy with their special graduate.

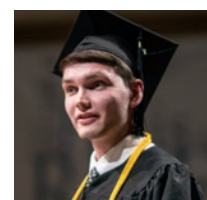
Rush Creek Bible Church was the venue for the commencement ceremony on April 28. Grace was blessed to recognize and celebrate 179 graduates! Students who graduated with Honor and High Honor were recognized by the Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Kim Pilieci. In addition, several special awards are given each year in honor of outstanding men of God who were connected with Grace Bible College. The C.F. Baker Biblical Studies Award and The H.B. Prince Homiletics Award were given to Sean Martin. The T.R. Huston Christian Service Award was awarded to David Schrock. Samuel Overman was presented with the Vernon H. Stromberg Worship Arts Award. The William L. Rigg Youth Ministry Award was given to Brenna Johnston and Moses VanKoevering.

Judah Pearl, Sean Martin, and James Shemaria delivered the commencement address. We are honored to include some highlights from their speeches. Complete transcripts are available on the Grace Christian University website.



### Judah Pearl

Perhaps my favorite verse written by the Apostle Paul reads, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9, KJV). In modern society this is difficult, given the fact that there are many things that vie for our attention and affection outside of what God intended – things which have the power to inflate our own confidence apart from Christ. So, pressing on can often make us question not only our commitment, but even our understanding of where we are. It can even leave us asking the question, “Is this where God really wants me?”



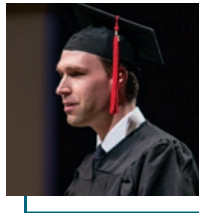
### Sean Martin

With every new experience in life, we will innately rise to learn what we can from it: the learning never ends. Never cease your exploration of knowledge, wisdom, and experience. For the moment we cease to learn is the moment we cease to fit our mission. The mission statement of Grace is “Graduating Godly Individuals Prepared to Serve Christ In Church and Society.” Our education has taught us information about our desired fields of service and has equipped us with the tools to engage in that service. But this education also teaches us something else. It teaches us how to learn. “Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16). If you do not learn this lesson that education teaches, you will not be prepared for the future that awaits you.



Congratulations to Grace’s First Master’s Graduates

CONTINUED >



## James Shemaria

I would like to share two stories with you. Once there were two brothers. One morning they found themselves going about their daily, predictable tasks without any inclination that they were about to become part of one of the most famous band of brothers in history. Peter and Andrew had presumably spent their lives to this point fishing with their father on the Sea of Galilee. This work was not only their way of making a living, but it was part of their identity. It was the family trade that provided for their needs while also representing the security and comfort of a known future. This is who they were, and up until this point, is likely all they hoped to be. But then, the compelling, irresistible, inspired voice of Jesus called them to leave their nets and learn to “fish for people.” With that, everything changed. In Mark’s gospel, Jesus’ word choice is specific as he compelled them to completely transform their lives by taking on a whole new identity and calling as his disciples. So these brothers left the comfort, stability and predictability of home to set out on a grand adventure of travel and excitement and unknown which altered the course of history.

Next, there was a man who was alone in a graveyard. Over the years, he had become infamous throughout the region of Gerasenes because of his suffering under the control of a legion of evil spirits. But then Jesus met this man and miraculously freed him from his tormentors by casting the spirits into a herd of pigs. As Jesus prepared to leave, the man fell to his knees begged Jesus to allow him to leave his home and join the traveling disciples. For those watching this take place, they likely assumed that Jesus would give a similar call to this man as he did to the fishermen brothers we met earlier. But surprisingly, Jesus didn’t. Rather than calling him to leave, Jesus implored this man to stay - to go back to his hometown and tell his family and neighbors what God had done in his life. So, this man didn’t step out on a grand adventure of travel and excitement and unknown, but instead obeyed the word of Jesus to simply be present in his place.

Two stories, two very different outcomes. In one, the call from Jesus was to step out in faith and leave, while the other was to remain faithfully present and stay.

We are gathered this morning on the doorstep of a new chapter in our lives. Whether you are in your twenties or your sixties, we are here because we’ve completed our task, earned our degree, and are looking over the edge towards what is next. But first, al-

low me to offer a couple thoughts before we embark. To begin, in moments like this our focus is often anchored to the big, the exciting, the mysterious frontier. We’ve been patiently here, and now it’s time go there. There is so much to be experienced, impacted, changed and revolutionized that it is easy to be swept away in the dream of leaving, going and changing. Friends, if this is what you are being called to, you must respond! Like the disciples stepping away from the security of their nets, you must go. Go in faith, committed to learning through the experience of your lives by seeing it all through the lens of God’s word and trusting in the God that does provide.

However, as we reflect on these stories, we must also be aware that it is very possible that your calling is not to leave, but to stay. Not going there, but being here. Perhaps for you, being faithful to God is simply being faithfully present where you are—in this place, this circumstance, this job, this church, this family. Though it may not be flashy, or lucrative, or prime material for an Instagram story, these narratives remind us that God is at work just as powerfully where you are right now as he is down road. Just as there are those who must set out and leave their nets, there are just as many who must embed in - who need to return to their villages to share what God has done, is doing, and will do. Perhaps for you, as you look over this edge, you see your home, your church, your job - you see your place. Friends, to be present here is not a secondary plan, but a primary way for you to faithfully respond to God.

So, while I can’t tell you where God is leading you, I’d like to end with one more story. In this one, we see Paul the prisoner; physically, emotionally, and spiritually stretched from years of traveling the Roman Empire preaching and teaching, being welcomed and being ridiculed, receiving honor and receiving beatings. While spending two years in Rome under house arrest, he had ample time to think back on his calling. So one day, while reflecting on what it had looked like for him to respond to God’s call, he was inspired to write a letter to his friends in Philippi. While recounting his years of patient obedience, Paul formulates what can only be described as the essence of faithfully following God. “Brothers and sisters” he wrote, “I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal” (Philippians 3:13-14). Paul’s focus was clear and simple. For him, it wasn’t adventure or predictability that mattered. Instead, his aim was simply to press on in following God - whether near or far. And so for us, brothers and sisters, as we step towards what’s next - whether it is leaving our nets or returning to our villages - may we too faithfully and obediently press on toward our goal: of responding to God both here or there. As we set out, or simply set in, may we do so with the grace, patience, and faith that is worthy of the One who called us and sustains us.



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 Estelle V Sooy, *Zeeland, MI*  
 Catherine E Stephens, *Oak Park, CA*  
 Lisa A Stephens, *Hamilton, OH*  
 Matthew J Stevenson, *Burleson, TX*  
 Timothy A Stover, *Adrian, MI*  
 Crystal A Street, *Anaheim, CA*  
 Jason C Taylor, *Winter Haven, FL*  
 Marianna M Taylor, *Winter Haven, FL*  
 Celeste Tejada, *Hazleton, PA*  
 Linda A Thames, *killeen, TX*  
 George D Thomas, *Hampton, VA*  
 Glenda D Thomas, *Ocala, FL*  
 Monica N Thomas, *Vale, NC*  
 Shanetta De D Thomas, *Mansfield, TX*  
 Sharon E Turrentine, *Detroit, MI*  
 Joshua D Twitty, *Kershaw, SC*  
 Angelia L Tyler, *Deridder, LA*  
 Haley M Vanduzen, *Marysville, OH*  
 Crystal L Wallace, *Fort Worth, TX*  
 Rachel L Wasson, *Virginia Beach, VA*  
 AbbyGayle L Watts, *Blairsville, GA*  
 Cedric L Weatherall, *Texarkana, TX*  
 Willie B Weaver, *Harvey, IL*  
 Norman Weber, *Baltimore, MD*  
 Molley H Weh Johnson, *Minneapolis, MN*  
 Jeanette M Wheeler, *Federal Way, WA*  
 Bryan A Whittinghill, *Hobart, IN*  
 Janice A Wilder, *Milton, FL*  
 Bill G Winchester, *Valley Falls, KS*  
 Catherine A Windle, *Arlington, WA*  
 Amy L Witbeck, *Kaukauna, WI*  
 Donna L Wright, *Muskegon, MI*  
 Caleb T Zahl, *Stanchfield, MN*

**ONLINE STUDENTS**

Jaime A. Alvarez, *Aurora, IL*  
 Tammy S. Armstrong, *Stanton, MI*



# ACADEMICS



**D**uring the transition from a college to a university, Provost Kim Pilioci and Associate Provost Dr. Tim Rumley have restructured Academics to meet the needs of our growing academic programs. Grace currently offers 18 programs within our five schools: School of Arts & Sciences; School of Biblical Studies; School of Business; School of Music, Worship and Technology; and School of Social Sciences and Human Services. Each specific School has a dean or chair as well as several program champions and faculty members. This structure has enabled us to expand our academic offerings including additional programs and concentrations. These five schools operate collaboratively within and across our three campuses: On Campus, Online, and Graduate Online.

Although campus-wide efforts have enabled us to become a university, this transition would not have been possible without our current faculty expertise. When Professor of Bible Emeritus Dr. Dale DeWitt visits Grace, he often comments about the impressive number of doctoral degrees listed on doors down the hall of faculty offices. Dr. DeWitt expresses his admiration saying, “Walking past faculty office doors and seeing all those doctoral degrees on the name plates makes me feel pleased and proud of my college and its growth. But I must say additionally that I was not the first with an earned Ph.D.; the one who led the way was Jack Dean for whom I continue to have great admiration and respect as an administrator and classroom teacher. He

took his Ph.D. in Counseling at Michigan State University in the 60’s. None of this would have been possible, however, without Charles Baker’s educational background.”

Grace currently employs 19 full-time faculty members, 10 of whom have earned doctoral degrees (52%). Seven of the nine faculty members with earned master’s degrees are in the process of earning their doctoral degrees. Having faculty with terminal degrees in their discipline as well as experience in their respective fields enables Grace to offer the highest quality education as we strive to graduate godly individuals prepared to serve Christ in church and society.

Deans and chairs were asked to reflect on changes observed during the transition from college to university and to explain what changes they plan to implement as a result. As the deans and chairs have expressed, Grace Christian University is a unique learning community where students are challenged to grow in their faith and in their knowledge, understanding, and application of God’s Word. Concurrently, they are challenged by faculty and staff to pursue their calling through academic preparation. Courses in their biblical core, general education, and professional studies, along with internships and experiential learning both on and off campus, empower Grace students to make an impact in the world for Christ now and for generations to come.

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**DR. PHIL LONG** writes, "The School of Biblical Studies will continue to refine our ministry classes to reflect a rapidly changing culture through new and creative internship opportunities. As the University grows, more students means more opportunities to expand our Bible and Theology course offerings. This includes specific topics such as classes on Romans, the Gospel of John and Apologetics, Jesus in a Cross Cultural Context, Theology of Economics and Biblical Justice. We are also developing a Missionary Journeys of Paul study trip to Turkey as well as other study abroad options."



**DR. SCOTT SHAW** writes, "I am excited to expand programs in the School of Social Sciences and Human Services that equip our graduates to serve and empower others, and be 'salt and light' in a fallen world. We have added Psychology and Criminal Justice majors this year, in addition to our longstanding Human Services major (available in both on campus and online formats). We have also added, and are developing optional concentrations that will help our graduates make a greater impact after graduation."



**DR. JASON WERKEMA** writes, "As Dean of the School of Music, Worship and Technology, I am thrilled with the recent advancements and pivotal changes taking place at Grace Christian Univer-

sity! From the Institution's name change to expanded concentrations across all our programs, to a new-found energy across campus ...Grace is moving forward at a pace unprecedented in our history! We are attracting a diverse group of students from all around the world who value the personal and meaningful learning opportunities we provide. Our students' educational experience is comprehensive in scope and designed to shape students academically, spiritually and relationally. I am witnessing record numbers of students attending Grace to grow in their character and their love for Jesus Christ. In the School of Music, Worship and Technology, our shared passion is to provide exceptional learning opportunities within first-rate facilities using the most current resources available. The goal is to transform students into creative, multi-faceted artists who excel in producing music, worship, and media for the glory of God!"



**PAM SHERSTAD**, Chair of the School of Arts and Sciences writes, "A recent volunteer opportunity with Grace students highlighted an enthusiasm for identifying with Grace Christian University. When students were asked to introduce themselves, they eagerly shared their programs and areas of interest at Grace Christian University. It is my prayer that more students will attend Grace Christian University and be part of our life-transforming education. As the Chair of the School of Arts and Sciences, I am eager to help build on the solid foundation of Milwaukee Bible Institute and Grace Bible College. God contin-





ues to bless Grace Christian University with students who have a thirst for knowledge. The School of Arts & Sciences is designed to provide students with a breadth of courses in communication, humanities, behavior sciences, and natural sciences. Soon, I see degree programs in Communication and English with other programs springing up from the School of Arts & Sciences. As Grace continues to grow, so too will degree options that prepare graduates to serve Christ in church and society.”



**WAYNE DOWNING**, Chair of Business writes, “As Jesus said, ‘with God all things are possible’ (Matthew 19:26). Students in the Business program are more career-focused than in previous years and they seem to be embracing the fact that they

are being prepared for their futures. God has a plan for each of them and in Him all things are possible. I’m looking forward to advancing the experiential learning and field experiences that we started a year ago. Taking students from the classroom to businesses has been a huge success—a valuable tool for the students to seek opportunities and develop interests in various fields of business.”



**MARK SOOY** writes, “As the Professor and Chair of Leadership and Ministry, I have observed many changes in our online program as we have transitioned to Grace Christian University. One of the most visible changes is that we refer to the online

program as ‘Grace Online.’ This change includes a recognition that the demographics of the typical online student is no longer simply working adults. We have men and women of all ages seeking degrees in the online program, and I have personally had students in classes in their early twenties, and others in their late sixties. It is exciting to see the interaction of multi-generational students in our Grace Online classes. From the perspective of quality initiatives that we feel would represent a University, we are initiating an improved Faculty Development process in 2019 for all Grace Online faculty which will include short training modules that will help them retain important aspects of quality online teaching. Teaching online is substantially different than teaching in a classroom, and we desire to see well-trained and prepared faculty members for the Grace Online program.”



**DR. TONY ADAMS** writes, “The faculty and staff of the Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership program are intent on helping students to increase in knowledge, skills, and abilities. This includes a genuine and intimate knowledge of the

Lord, His Word, and His will for their lives. In the MAOL program we are constantly striving to pursue ways to inform, equip, and enable our students to reach the top of their field and become all that God has destined for them to be.”



# NEW FACULTY

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Grace has been blessed to welcome three new faculty members to our outstanding undergraduate faculty. Each new faculty joins the Grace family with a genuine love for the Lord and a desire to serve Him in biblical higher education. Their earned doctoral degrees and years of teaching experience will be an asset to our passionate and highly credentialed faculty.



## DR. DAVE GREYDANUS

CHAIR AND FACULTY FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Dr. Greydanus was a trooper with the Michigan State Police for nearly 30 years where he served at various assignments throughout the state. During his career, he was also a command officer and instructor at the Michigan State Police academy where he taught criminal law and police procedure. While at the academy Dave wrote numerous articles and co-authored a book on Criminal Law and Police Procedure. After retiring from the state police, Dr. Greydanus continued to look for opportunities to use his degree to serve others. He continues to teach for police agencies, consortiums, colleges and universities throughout the state and provides legal advice on numerous issues. At one of his classes for police officers, he talked to Dr. Scott Shaw about opportunities at Grace and through that conversation was brought to the campus to develop the newly formed Criminal Justice degree program. Greydanus writes, "Being part of Grace is an awesome experience and I am so excited to be here. Both of my parents taught at Calvin College and to be part of a Christian academic community is truly a blessing. I am looking forward to helping prepare the newest members of the criminal justice community to impact the world for Christ."

Dr. Greydanus grew up in Saugatuck, Michigan and attended Holland Christian Schools. Through his parents and education, he developed a strong love for God and a passion to serve others. He received his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Toledo School of Law. Dr. Greydanus has been married to his wife Melissa for 25 years. Melissa is a nurse and together they have three children. Their son Luke is Michigan State Police trooper. Their son Matthew is in the process of becoming a police officer and their daughter Jessica is in seventh grade. They currently live in the Holland area. Besides teaching, Dr. Greydanus enjoys hiking, swimming, kayaking, farming and other outside activities. Dr. Greydanus is a volunteer with the West Michigan Land Conservancy and is involved in a Christian legal ministry through his church that provides legal guidance to low income individuals and families.

## HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT GRACE?

"I learned about Grace initially by teaching legal updates here for the Wyoming Police Department. The classes were held at Baker Chapel and it was an awesome place to teach a group of police officers. Last spring I was teaching updates again and met Dr. Scott Shaw. We talked about the new Criminal Justice degree he was working on and I asked him if he needed any help. He mentioned that he may have some opportunities and I sent him my resume and eventually was selected."

## WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO SERVE AT GRACE?

"Grace Christian University was exactly the type of academic institution I was looking for. I have taught at numerous colleges and universities and Grace provided me the positive, Christian environment I was looking to be part of. Too many places focus on the negative aspects of their work where the students and faculty at Grace focus on God's mission for their lives to impact the world for Christ. This is where I want to be."

## WHAT CHANGES HAVE YOU OBSERVED (IF ANY) AS WE HAVE TRANSITIONED FROM GRACE BIBLE COLLEGE TO GRACE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY OR WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR AS WE TRANSITION?

"My observations have been that both the students and faculty appear to see themselves as now having a bigger impact in the world. The name change helps us all to feel that this is not just west Michigan anymore but this is a school with national and international impact. I am sure that impact has been there before but with that mindset and drive in both the students and faculty, the impact can only increase."





## DR. TESS STOCKSLAGER

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Dr. Tess Stockslager has a Ph.D. in Literature and Criticism as well as a Master and Bachelor of Arts in English. She has eleven years of experience teaching English, Composition, and Literature and seven years of experience directing a writing center. Dr. Stockslager writes, “I think I was destined to be an English major when my parents named me after a Thomas Hardy novel. I’ve enjoyed teaching since childhood, when I was a bossy older sister who made my siblings play school with me. And I have known and loved Jesus since age 4 ½, when my mother presented the gospel to me as we sat at our dining room table. These three anecdotes represent three of the greatest influences in my life. In college, I majored in English from the start but went through a brief period of denial of wanting to be a teacher; during my sophomore year, a Missions Emphasis Week sermon about teaching as a mission field called my heart back to where it belonged. I have been teaching English in the college classroom since my master’s degree program. After several rewarding years as a writing and tutoring center administrator, I am happy to be back in the classroom full-time at Grace Christian University.”

### HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT GRACE?

“A colleague at my previous institution, who also attended my church, teaches online for Grace. This past May, he (Dr. Robert Talley) forwarded an email about the open English faculty position at Grace, and another colleague, who knew that I had been thinking for a while about making a change to a smaller school where I could teach full-time instead of doing administration, forwarded the email to me. And the rest is history!”

### WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO SERVE AT GRACE?

“From my very first contact, every interaction I had with Grace people was positive—from the Skype interview with Dr. Kim Pilieci and Sherea Lacy, to the doctrinal phone conversation with Brian Sherstad, to the campus tour I received from Linda Siler when I visited in July (and the fun Arnie’s lunch afterward with Linda and several other ladies). Grace’s mission appealed to me as soon as I saw it, and I was impressed with the quality of everything I read about the school in my research prior to applying, but it was the people who really made the decision for me.”

### WHAT CHANGES DO YOU ANTICIPATE OR HOPE FOR AS WE TRANSITION FROM GRACE BIBLE COLLEGE TO GRACE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY?

“I am excited to be able to provide a wider range of courses for the students to choose from since the students now have more flexibility in their core Arts and Sciences courses. Of course, I’m particularly excited about teaching some upper-level English courses, starting with a nineteenth-century British literature course this spring!”



## DR. BARRI SEIF

DIRECTOR OF ONLINE TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS  
AND LEADERSHIP & MINISTRY FACULTY

Barri Cae Seif is an educator, author, and theologian. Her experience has led her through opportunities in corporate sales, Sunday school education, travel, Bible college instruction, authoring, conference speaking and twice annual trips to Israel as president of a humanitarian organization, Sar Shalom Israel. In addition, she holds a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Trinity Theological Seminary, an MBA from Amberton University and a BA from Stephens College. Her published works include three devotionals. Her response to the love of Jesus is what guides her. She currently resides in Ovilla, Texas, with her husband, Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif and two kitty cats. Their favorite hobby is riding Harley Davidson motorcycles.

### HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT GRACE?

“I first learned about Grace in 2010, as one of the first online adjunct instructors. Before becoming the Director of Online Teaching Effectiveness, I loved teaching at Grace because of its strong stance for Jesus. One never has to be ashamed of living for Jesus and proclaiming Christ.”

### WHAT CHANGES DO YOU ANTICIPATE OR HOPE FOR AS WE TRANSITION FROM GRACE BIBLE COLLEGE TO GRACE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY?

“One of the most important changes that I have seen at Grace has been the emphasis on strong faith in Jesus and in general overall righteous personal growth. I hope and expect to see continued emphasis on scholarship. We at Grace are here to make a difference, both in the here and now, as well as for the kingdom of God.”

# NEW PROGRAMS





## CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

A new degree program starting at Grace this year is in the area of criminal justice. Criminal justice has been a concentration of the Human Services degree for the last five years and has consistently grown in student enrollment. Students pursuing a criminal justice degree are interested in careers in law enforcement, probation, parole, corrections, prison ministry, specialty courts, law, reentry programs and related fields. Careers in the criminal justice field are exploding and agencies are seeking employees who are problem solvers and willing to get engaged in help others. The criminal justice program at Grace is designed to give the students the foundation needed to pursue their careers to serve others while impacting the world for Christ.

Besides obtaining their core Bible classes and core Arts and Sciences classes, students will also receive specialized criminal justice classes. These classes include law enforcement, corrections, criminology, social deviance, juvenile delinquency, criminal law, criminal procedure, abnormal psychology and survival psychology. These classes are presented from a Christian perspective and focus on the truth that all individuals are created in the image of God and should be treated accordingly.

The criminal justice professors including Dr. Dave Greydanus, Dr. Scott Shaw and Cynthia Shyne, are very welcoming and the classes are hands-on. The professors invest numerous hours and tremendous amounts of effort to propel students to their positions of success. The leaders of the criminal justice program are fully trained within the realms of the subjects and have also worked in a variety of criminal justice fields. This experience allows the courses to be facilitated in a manner that prepares the students for the “real world” and the process to have a fulfilling career in the field of criminal justice upon graduation.

## SCHOOL OF MUSIC, WORSHIP AND TECHNOLOGY

The new School of Music, Worship and Technology (formerly Worship Arts) offers a unique degree that cannot be found anywhere else in the country. Blending music and media with a heart for ministry, it integrates all the essential skills to help students prepare for exciting careers in music recording and performance, worship leadership, and audio and video production, among other fields. The school offers brand new concentrations that explore specific areas of giftedness for students who want to use their talents to glorify God. Students receive a Bachelor of Music degree while they pursue a focused concentration in music, worship or technology.

The music concentration dives deep into music theory, ear training, voice and instrument lessons, ensembles, performance opportunities, recording studio experience and personal marketing. It prepares students for a variety of careers as professional

musicians and for further training in graduate school. Common careers include professional musician, studio recording artist, traveling musician, worship leader, worship pastor, music lesson instructor, music business owner, and band leader.

The worship concentration focuses on the skills required for leading corporate worship in a church. Students study music, worship planning, worship theology, directing rehearsals, and overseeing video, audio, and live sound production. It prepares students for a variety of careers as worship arts professionals, including worship leader, worship pastor, professional musician, worship recording artist, traveling worship leader, worship leader on the mission field, director of worship arts, and worship support personnel in a large church.

The technology concentration explores broad media skills such as photography, music technology, audio and video production, audio editing and mixing, and live sound. It prepares students for careers in diverse fields as media professionals, including live sound engineer, audio producer, recording studio owner, video editor/director, director of technology, videographer on mission field, professional videographer, and tv/radio production manager.

The school's goal is to raise up the next generation of musicians, worship leaders and technology experts who have a passion to worship God and lead others along the way. With a 20-station iMac computer lab, new video equipment, a music recording studio, and industry-standard software programs, students learn in a hands-on environment that fosters creativity. Most of the students also receive a generous scholarship to help them cover the rising costs of education. So, whether the calling is to hit the road with a band, manage a recording studio, or lead worship in a home church, the new School of Music, Worship and Technology is prepared to help make those dreams become a reality.

One of the graduates of the former School of Worship Arts reflects on his amazing experience as a student:

**“We are so thankful to Grace Christian University and all that it has done for us. Dr. Werkema, the Worship Arts program, and the entire college has changed my life and opened doors that I never dreamed of. And I think about this often.”**

-Tommee Proffitt  
(Alumnus & Award-winning Capital Records Producer)

# Homecoming

**LAST OCTOBER** we celebrated our first Homecoming as Grace Christian University! Many alumni enjoyed a weekend of bar-b-que, a concert by alumni Jonah and Briana Stacy, athletic games, a disc golf tournament, a scrumptious bake-off contest, as well as catching up with old friends and making new ones.

A professional disc golf course was recently added to campus. We held a tournament, and it was a great event for all ages with lots of laughing and vigorous exercise around the Grace campus.

Homecoming is a great time to be on campus when it's full of students and trees changing color. If you are not able to join us during Homecoming but would like to come for a visit, please email me at [jpriolo@gracechristian.edu](mailto:jpriolo@gracechristian.edu). I would love to take you out to lunch here on campus or show you what's new. We are so proud of our alumni and appreciate the impact they make in this world!









# COMING IN 2019!



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMAN SERVICES  
**CELEBRATION OF JUSTICE**  
CONFERENCE 2019  
MARCH 28 - 29



EXPANDING GRACE  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN  
**KICK-OFF**  
WITH KIRK COUSINS  
FRIDAY, APRIL 12



**April 29**  
Commencement Ceremony



**July 10**  
Whitecaps Fundraiser



**August 12**  
Grace Golf Classic



**October 11-12**  
Homecoming



**December 6**  
Gloria 2019