

PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

■ THE FEATURE STORY

LIFELONG LEARNERS

by MARK POMERVILLE

THE STORY OF THE
REFORMATION
MOVEMENT

by DR. WHITNEY GAMBLE

2017
FALL

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

IN CHRISTO OMNIA NOVA



DEVELOPING LIFELONG LEARNERS

Here at Providence, we talk a lot about lifelong learning. It's in our founding documents and our learning outcomes. We teach it in our classrooms; we model and practice it outside the classroom walls, and we work on skills to carry the habit into the rest of our lives. Most importantly, we attempt to inspire students to a lifelong pursuit of learning, hoping they will find learning contagious; a way of honoring the creator who makes us curious beings, and hoping they see that learning is imperative to their own success and human flourishing.

I recently came across a Harvard Business Review article that backs up our commitment to lifelong learning. In the article, the author contends that lifelong learning is good for your health, your wallet, and your social life. John Coleman makes the case that lifelong learners, who are highly motivated and self directed people with the daily habit of pursuing knowledge and growth, tend to be healthier in body and mind, more successful professionally, and personally more interesting and socially capable people. Being curious, learning daily, and pursuing new knowledge and understanding is just good for us, he says. But then Coleman writes something that I did not expect to see in a business journal. "Our capacity for learning," he writes, "is a cornerstone of human flourishing and

motivation. We are uniquely endowed with the capacity for learning, creation and intellectual advancement."

As Christians at a liberal arts college, we could not agree more. We believe God has endowed us with the ability and desire to learn, seeking understanding and wisdom—about Him, ourselves, and the world around us—in order to "glorify Him and enjoy him forever." In order to understand how to do this daily, how to understand our callings and best pursue them, it is imperative we are lifelong, curious, motivated, joy-filled learners. We intuitively know that, when we become lifelong learners, we somehow become more of how God has made us to be. We experience more of Him, more satisfaction and more flourishing. We become who we are supposed to be—learners, creators, leaders and worshippers.

As you are going to see in the pages ahead, Providence students are on the journey to being lifelong learners. I hope their stories motivate and inspire you. I hope their stories dramatically show you how unique our learning community is, and I hope you see how important places like Providence are.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Belcher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Jim Belcher, President

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The mission of Providence Christian College as a Reformed Christian institution is to equip students to be firmly grounded in biblical truth, thoroughly educated in the liberal arts, and fully engaged in their church, their community, and the world for the glory of God and for service to humanity.

DEEPEN
YOUR FAITH



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NEWS & EVENTS



REFORMATION DAY CELEBRATION

In honor of the 500th Reformation Day anniversary, Dr. R. Scott Clark, author of *Recovering the Reformed Confession: Our Theology, Piety, and Practice* and world-renowned Professor of Church History and Historical Theology at Westminster Seminary California, spoke to Providence students during a special Homecoming weekend chapel session.



WRITING CENTER

This Fall, Providence has added the Writing Center. The Center seeks to serve students by offering one-on-one appointment sessions with Danielle Alsky, the Writing Center Coordinator, where students may receive assistance tailored to their needs, whether it be a review of paper already written, research and paper formatting assistance, or simply brainstorming ideas to get a paper started.



HEALTH SCIENCE UNVEILING CEREMONY

Recently, Providence Christian College announced the launch of a Health Science Program. The birth of this new concentration was made possible by a grant from the Marilyn De Groot Charitable Trust. To celebrate this pivotal milestone, an unveiling ceremony was held in honor of Ms. Marilyn De Groot. We were honored to have friends and family of Ms. De Groot join us to commemorate the occasion. (Pictured from left to right: George R. Phillips, Jr., Kirk Templeman, Janice Templeman, Carol De Groot, Doreane Huizenga, Paul Huizenga, and Dr. Jim Belcher).



ROBERT C. DOLL VISITS PROVIDENCE

Robert C. Doll, Managing Director, Senior Portfolio Manager, and Chief Equity Strategist at Nuveen Asset Management, spoke in chapel this fall. As a nationally recognized business leader and devout Christian, Doll addressed the topic of faith and vocation, an important Reformation theme. Additionally, Doll led a salon gathering at the president's home. Business students and members of the Providence community enjoyed an engaging and informative evening of dialogue on the economy and financial markets.

2017 SPRING DEAN'S LIST

Students named to the Providence Christian College dean's list must be enrolled full-time and maintain a GPA of 3.50 or higher for the semester. The Spring 2017 dean's list includes:

Haley Aguirre	Julia Lodder
Joshua Ault	Presence Massie
Paige Baker	Hannah Mersch
Sarah Bergquist	Christopher Nagel
Dane Beveridge	Avery O'Neal
Iris Blanche Pon	Lindsey Osburn
Haakon Box	Adrina Palacios
Taylor Bredenhof	Melissa Paramo
Tyler Bulthuis	Alyssa Roberts
Rebecca Call	Pascha Ross
Hannah Clark	Amanda Schelbauer
Madison De Jager	Reuben Sheneni
Nicole Del Moral	Grace Smith
Nicole Dotinga	Tina Snieder
Elisha Dunham	Danielle Stafford
Andrea Edwards	Sydney Svendsen
Samuel Fennema	Sophia Van Zonneveld
Ruth Fleeman	Josiah Vanderveen
Josiah Grimes	Zoé Vernier
Elizabeth Groenewold	Collin Vis
Renee Haveman	Madison Vujnov
Amanda Heck	Matthew Walls
Daniel Hicks	Dean Whitcher
Kyle Huckins	Craig Whitt
Amelia Jennings	Kyle Whitt
Ian Kennedy	Steven Zermeno
Brennan Kiledjian	Charlotte Zuidhof
Melissa Kruis	
Nathan Lewis	

FACULTY UPDATES

DR. WHITNEY GAMBLE, was promoted to Associate Professor in July 2017. From July - August 2017, Gamble co-hosted five radio broadcasts with White Horse Inn and, in June 2017, presented at the History of Scottish Theology Symposium in New College, University of Edinburgh, UK, with the paper titled "The Causes and Formation of the Theology of the Westminster Confession."



DR. LAWRENCE MUMFORD, adjunct professor of music, celebrated his 10th year of teaching at Providence. His vocal composition, "On Ships that Sail," was performed by the Chamber Singers as a recessional, with brass trio, piano, and organ at the Providence Convocation in August. It was also performed twice more in two different versions at a national composers conference held in Fresno in October. His woodwind quintet, "His Deep Love," and vocal piece, "Not Too Much to Ask," were also performed at the conference. Additionally in October, the last movement of his "Symphony No. 3" was premiered by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ECLA) Orchestra of greater Los Angeles.



DR. JOHN CUNNINGHAM, assistant professor of philosophy, spoke at a conference at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, VA, on October 28-29, on the topic of "Church Reformed: 500 years after the divide."



DR. LAUREN J. KIM, interim assistant professor of history, joined Southeast Asia Partnership (SEAP) as their theological education coordinator. She will help Mission to the World (MTW) missionaries find theological instructors to teach courses for short-term missions in Southeast Asia. This past summer, Dr. Kim taught contemporary theology in Phenom Penh, Cambodia to undergraduates from Saigon Presbyterian Bible School.



NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

JACI SCHORK

**STUDENT SUCCESS COORDINATOR/
ASSISTANT WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
COACH/RESIDENT DIRECTOR/
AFFILIATE PROFESSOR**

Jaci Schork moves into a multi-faceted full-time position at Providence, although she is no stranger to the Providence community. She has dipped her feet into various roles at Providence over the last year, as an Assistant Coach for the Women's Volleyball Program, as a Resident Director overseeing the growth of students on campus, and teaching Physical Education courses. This year, Schork has also added the title of Student Success Coordinator, in which she works alongside students for academic and life success as they prepare to transition out of college. Schork received her master's in Kinesiology from California State University, Fullerton and her bachelor's in Kinesiology from Biola University. She is also a Certified Personal Trainer and Strength and Conditioning Specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA). In her free time, Schork enjoys exercising, reading, hiking, cooking, and spending time with friends and community.



GEOFF SHAW

DEAN OF STUDENT LIFE

Geoff Shaw moved into the role of Dean of Student Life after previously serving Providence as an Admissions Counselor. Shaw is a graduate of Calvin College and Covenant Theological Seminary, and has served as a youth pastor, senior pastor, and campus minister (with Reformed University Fellowship) in Southern California. He and his wife Breanne have five children: Avery, Adam, Tatum, Johnny, and Darcy.



CHRIS STUTZMAN

ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR

Chris Stutzman joins the Providence community as an Admissions Counselor. Prior to his hire, he was blessed to work with Fortune 500 companies, small start-ups, and institutions of higher education, including serving as the Assistant Swim Coach at Biola University. Stutzman lives in Pasadena with his wife Sofia and son Oliver. He holds a bachelor's degree in Cinema and Media Arts from Biola University and enjoys the sunny Southern California Mediterranean weather, hiking, movies, traveling, reading, photography, and writing screenplays and poetry.



PHILIP WORRALL

ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR

Philip Worrall has been named to the position of Admissions Counselor after graduating with a master's in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary this past June. Prior to attending Fuller, he worked in various church settings and non-governmental organizations, including CURE International. Originally from Pennsylvania, Worrall received his bachelor's degree from Cedarville University in Ohio, before moving to California. When he's not out recruiting new students, you can find him playing basketball, working out, or writing and reading.



■ **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

**ANNIKA
(HARGREAVES)
ST. JOHN**
'10
CLASS OF

by Mark Pomerville



Ever since high school, Annika (Hargreaves) St. John '10 was certain that she wanted to use her gifts to help people, specifically in the area of social work. While attending Providence, her teachers and peers encouraged her to follow God's calling.

"Providence shaped me heavily," says St. John. "Not only did I learn a great deal about a variety of subjects, but I also made friendships with my classmates and professors that had such a profound impact on me. Everyone cared about each other, and they inspired me to seek the Lord in whatever career I chose to pursue."

In May 2010, St. John graduated from Providence and began to search for opportunities to serve others. Wanting to be certain that social work was truly God's calling, she began working as an Early Intervention Tutor at Behavior & Education Strategies & Training (B.E.S.T.) in Salida, CA.

Part of St. John's duties included performing behavioral therapy with kids who were recently diagnosed with autism, utilizing the principles of applied behavior analysis to help children of all ages improve their coping skills with sensory overstimulation.

"My goal was to make kids feel like they belonged because sometimes they struggled to connect with others," reflects St. John. "I did my best to help them through their loneliness and frustration by communicating in positive ways. I look back fondly at my time in college and know that because of the friendships and connections I made at Providence, I was able to show these kids the same care and personal connection that my professors and peers had shown me. After serving so many kids, I knew that social work was truly where the Lord wanted me to be."

After serving at B.E.S.T. for a year, St. John began to pursue higher education in the hopes of earning her Master's degree in Social work. Graduate school proved rigorous and demanding, requiring strong commitment and determination, but St. John was up for the challenge.

"The first quarter of graduate school was intense," says St. John. "However, Providence prepared me for anything. I had written so many papers during my time at Providence that my graduate studies didn't seem as difficult."

In June 2016, St. John earned her master's in social work and began several advanced internships.

Today, St. John is a Hospice Social Worker for St. Joseph's Medical Center through CHI Franciscan Health System in Tacoma, Washington, one of the top healthcare service providers in the nation.

Every week, St. John visits various homes and health facilities with terminally ill patients, many of whom only have six months left to live. From offering proper healthcare advocacy, as well as assessing patients' financial needs, she offers resources and emotional support to those who have been neglected due to their critical condition.

"There is never a day when I don't love coming to work," says St. John. "As a social worker, I'll meet people in the worst situations that they can go through. Many of the families I see are going to lose someone they love. Some days are harder than others, but I know that God has brought me here to be a light to the people I meet."

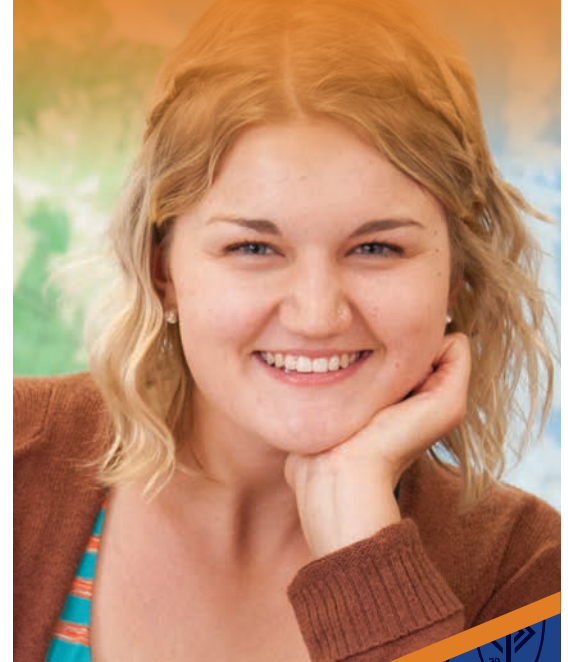
While St. John's empathy and kindness have brought joy to many of her patients, she meets some people who face death with little hope of where they will spend eternity.

"For Christians, there is hope in death because we know that we will be in heaven with our Father," says St. John. "However, some of the patients I see don't have that hope. Fortunately, Providence not only prepared me for the world, academically, but also grew me spiritually. The Lord has given me opportunities to pray with my patients, and I truly believe that through having a solid Reformed Biblical foundation, God has equipped me and called me to serve and glorify Him through my work."

As St. John continues to fulfill her calling, she remembers how Providence equipped her to care for others in ways she never expected.

"It seems like every step of the way, the Lord used my Providence education to help open doors for me," states St. John. "I'm so happy I studied liberal arts because I was exposed to a variety of subjects. I became well-rounded, and I am now able to effectively relate to people and offer compassion to them no matter where they are in life." ■

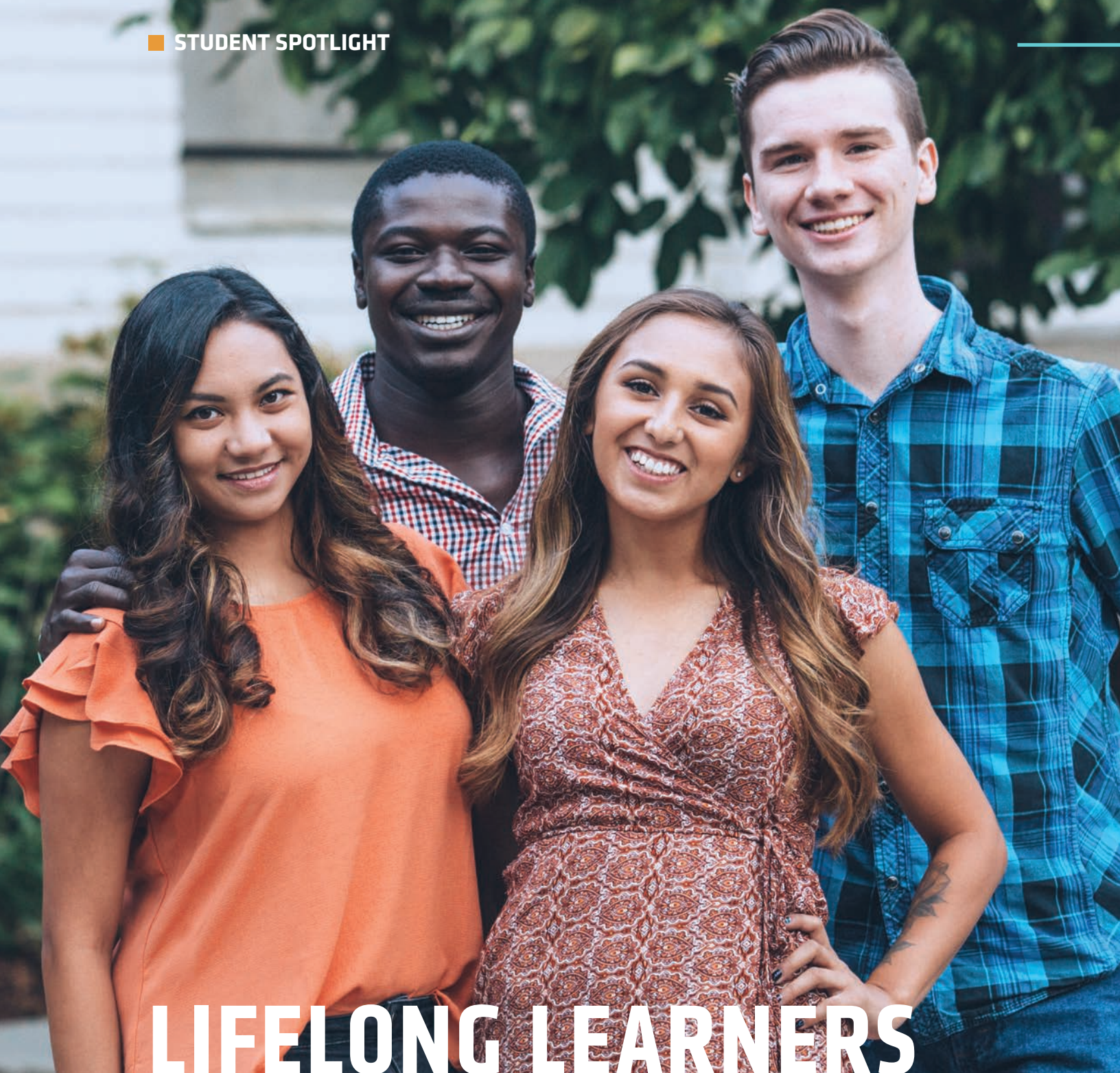
**BROADEN
YOUR MIND**



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by Mark Pomerville

Providence Christian College is committed to lifelong learning. It's a sentiment shared by our faculty and staff; an approach within our academic rigor that produces students and graduates who enter the world excited about continuing to learn long after their time in a classroom. Students at Providence are inspired to pursue the calling of learning as a way to honor our creator, flourish in life, and succeed in whatever career they choose. In this issue of the Providence Magazine, we seek to highlight just a few examples of students who have experienced this — and become lifelong learners.

IN 2005, SETH AWUAH '18 FACED A TURNING POINT IN HIS LIFE.

While at a soccer scrimmage with his friends, Awuah was tackled by another player. His ankle was instantly fractured. After being rushed to the hospital, Awuah was greeted by a radiologist, a medical expert that specializes in diagnosing medical problems with muscles and bone structure. "He was so kind to me," states Awuah. "I was just a kid at the time. He gave me a lollipop, pulled up all the x-ray scans and showed me all the areas of my ankle that had been damaged. As a young boy, I thought it was so cool."

Within three months, Awuah was back on the soccer field. While the recovery process was quick, Awuah couldn't forget the x-ray scans that he had seen in the doctor's office. His fascination with bones and muscles eventually turned into a passion for a career in the medical field.

"I realized that if I wanted to work in that field, I needed more than just medical knowledge. I had to learn how to relate to others on a personal level."

In August 2015, Awuah was granted the opportunity to play soccer at Providence and transferred in from junior college and began to study various facets of the liberal arts.

"My culture stresses the importance of exploring and understanding other societies and their beliefs. The humanities and social

science courses at Providence taught me so much about embracing western cultures and how to reflect the character of Christ."

In January 2018, after he finishes his classes at Providence, Awuah will begin his first job as an Orthopedic Surgical Sales Representative at Stryker, a global Fortune 500 medical corporation. While at Stryker, he will train under skilled medical professionals to offer aid to patients in need of orthopedic treatment.

"I've been a patient before," said Awuah. "I've gone through the pain and fear that patients go through. With what I've learned at Providence, I've gained the interpersonal skills and ability to empathize with them just as that radiologist did for me."

REFLECTING THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST



SETH AWUAH '18

Peoria, AZ

Concentration: Humanities and Social Science

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 12** ►



THE OBJECT OF MY FAITH

AS A TEENAGER, IRIS BLANCHE '20 HAD A PASSIVE APPROACH TO EDUCATION. Originally from Chino Hills, California, she was determined to pass her high school classes and graduate without truly understanding the material she was studying.

“Before coming to Providence, the only thing that mattered, relating to academics, was the end result, not the learning process,” says Blanche. “I just wanted to get good grades without truly examining all facets of the subjects I was exploring.”

In March 2016, Blanche attended a campus visit day at Providence Christian College, and she quickly realized that it stood apart from the other learning institutions she had seen.

“I knew I wanted to study Biblical theology after high school,” says Blanche. “So, I began looking at Christian colleges. None of them stood out as much as Providence. There was something about the humbleness of the campus and the faculty’s passion for scripture and deeper learning that made this

IRIS BLANCHE '20

Chino Hills, California

Concentration: *Communications*

place give off a rich, educational environment.”

In August 2016, Blanche enrolled as a freshman at Providence. While she has been positively influenced by the instruction she has received from her professors, it was Dr. Scott Swanson, professor of biblical and theological studies, who made a statement that truly impacted Blanche’s life.

“Dr. Swanson once said, ‘It doesn’t matter about the strength of your faith, but the strength of the *object* in which you put your faith.’ When he said this, it changed me, forever,” recalls Blanche. “Before attending Providence, I thought that the Bible was just a collection of historical stories. But now, I understand that God reveals Himself in His word, as well as all facets of His creation. Through deepening my understanding of all subjects, I’ve discovered that the true object of my faith is Him.”

Blanche anticipates graduating in May 2020 and hopes to pursue a career in public relations or church ministry. While she is uncertain of her specific vocation, she is confident that Providence has prepared her both academically and spiritually for whatever the Lord has in store for her.

“I have yet to know what God’s calling for me is,” says Blanche. “But Providence has revealed to me, as of this moment, that my calling is to be a student. I have full confidence and trust in God that, when my senior year comes, He will lead me to a career choice where I will ultimately bring glory to Him.”

**AS AN ATHLETE, ADRINA PALACIOS '19
YEARNED FOR A CHRIST-CENTERED
EDUCATION, NOT JUST IN A CLASSROOM, BUT
ALSO ON THE SOCCER FIELD.**

Originally from Ventura, California, Palacios first attended a secular university near her home where she was awarded Ventura County's second team award in 2013 and first team prize in 2014.

While she was thankful for the sports recognition and opportunities, she was weary of how the gospel was absent in both her academic studies and athletic endeavors.

"Spiritually, I felt alone," says Palacios. "On my soccer team, there were twenty girls, and only five of them would pray with me before a game. It was difficult because very few of my classmates ever talked about Christ or even wanted to think about the deeper issues of life. I wanted something more than just a superficial college experience."

After transferring to Providence's Women's Soccer team in August 2016, Palacios recognized a stark contrast between her old college and the new learning community in which she found herself.

"From the moment I came to Providence, everything that I was being taught—whether it was art or philosophy—was intricately centered around Christ and His word. It was as if a new foundation of truth was being built that would change me as a student and as a Christian."

Over the last two years, Palacios has excelled at Providence and was awarded the 2016 National Christian College Athletics Association (NCCAA) West Region Player of the Year. Additionally, Providence has helped Palacios discover her calling as a teacher. In May 2018, she plans to graduate and begin a career as an elementary school instructor and soccer coach.

"I think it's important for a child's development to educate them both scholastically and spiritually," says Palacios. "I want to train kids to not only be good students and strong soccer players, but also teach them the tools for critical thinking that I learned during my time at Providence."

As Palacios looks back on the last two years, she is reminded how the Lord has used Providence Christian College to pave the way for her future as an educator and lifelong learner.

"Providence has taught me that you can never know too much," says Palacios. "I've determined that we should never be complacent with what we have learned because there is always the opportunity to explore every aspect of God's world with deeper meaning and wisdom."

ADRINA PALACIOS '19

Ventura, California

Concentration: Education and Art

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14 ►

DEEPER MEANING



DEAN WHITCHER '19 LONGED FOR A LEARNING COMMUNITY WITH LIKE-MINDED BELIEVERS.

Having grown up in a Christian homeschool community, Whitcher wanted to pursue a higher education that would help him think critically and seek a deeper relationship with the Lord.

"I desired a place where I could be challenged in my classes, as well as grow in my knowledge of my Savior," says Whitcher. "So many young people my age leave their home, attend secular universities, and fall away from their walk with Christ. I needed a college that would broaden my mind and blossom my faith."

While Whitcher was in middle school, he and his parents learned about Providence Christian College through a local home school convention and were impressed with its devotion to faith-guided learning.

In Fall 2015, Whitcher enrolled as a freshman and immediately integrated himself into the student life at Providence. From singing in the choir, to helping lead worship in chapel and running on the men's cross-country team, Whitcher quickly found that Providence was a place where he could expand his knowledge of God, the world, and himself in any area of study.

"Whether reading Socratic philosophy, composing music for student films, or exploring central California with my science class, my educational experience here has presented me with a deeper understanding of all aspects of culture in ways I couldn't even have imagined," says Whitcher. "It has been truly eye-opening for me to listen and learn from professors and peers who have come from different backgrounds and experiences, yet share the same faith and worship the same living and true God."

As he prepares for his senior year, Whitcher reflects on how Providence has fulfilled the longing he had not only for a living, learning community, but also a place where the foundation of his faith is strengthened by his brothers and sisters in Christ.

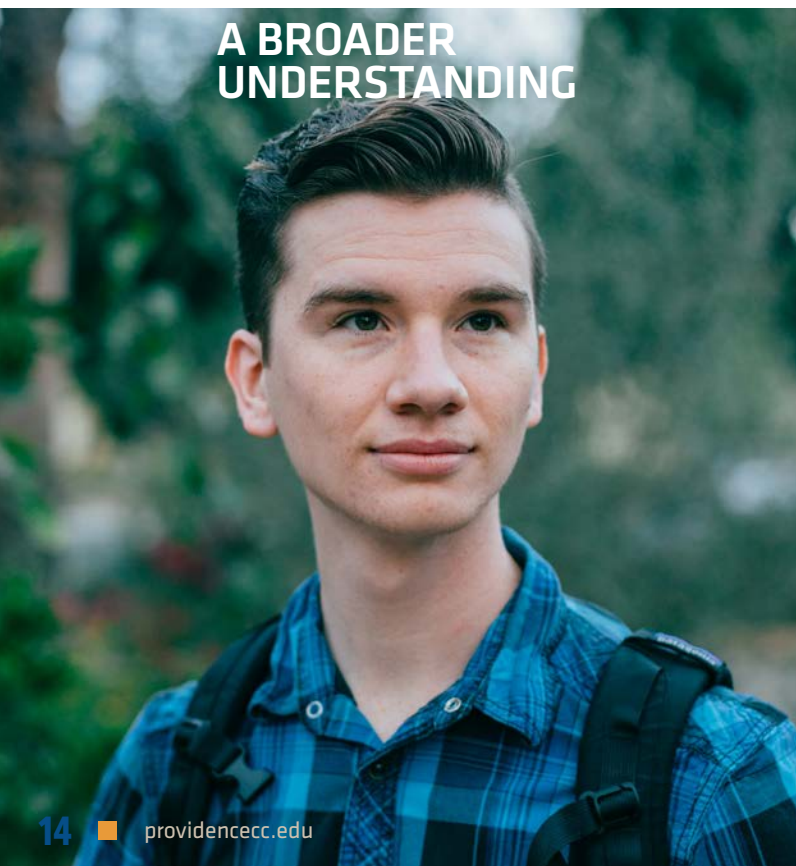
"In coming to Providence, my faith has come alive through the incredible friendships and relationships I've made, as well as the amazing opportunities to serve in this beautiful community," says Whitcher. "Over the past two years, I've discovered that my educational journey at Providence has not just been an individual endeavor but a communal one; a body of Christ where we are to run the race of faith and pursue education together." ■

DEAN WHITCHER '19

Oceanside, California

Concentration: *Business, Economics & Society, Liberal Studies, Visual and Performing Arts*

A BROADER UNDERSTANDING



ATHLETICS

SEA BEGGAR'S BEGIN NEW VOYAGE

This Fall, the Providence Sea Beggars started anew in many areas, with Brian DeHaan, director of athletics, at the helm. Since DeHaan's arrival in July, the Athletic Department has continued its growth of resources with a 47-passenger coach bus, Men's and Women's Golf as a club sport, additional storage for athletic needs, a new Hi-Pod camera for higher quality video streaming of games, and a new home facility for the volleyball team.

The appearance of the Sea Beggars continues to be unified, with a department move over to Under Armor apparel. While these additions are tangible, much growth has come with DeHaan's leadership in forming a department vision for the future and continued oneness of athletics.

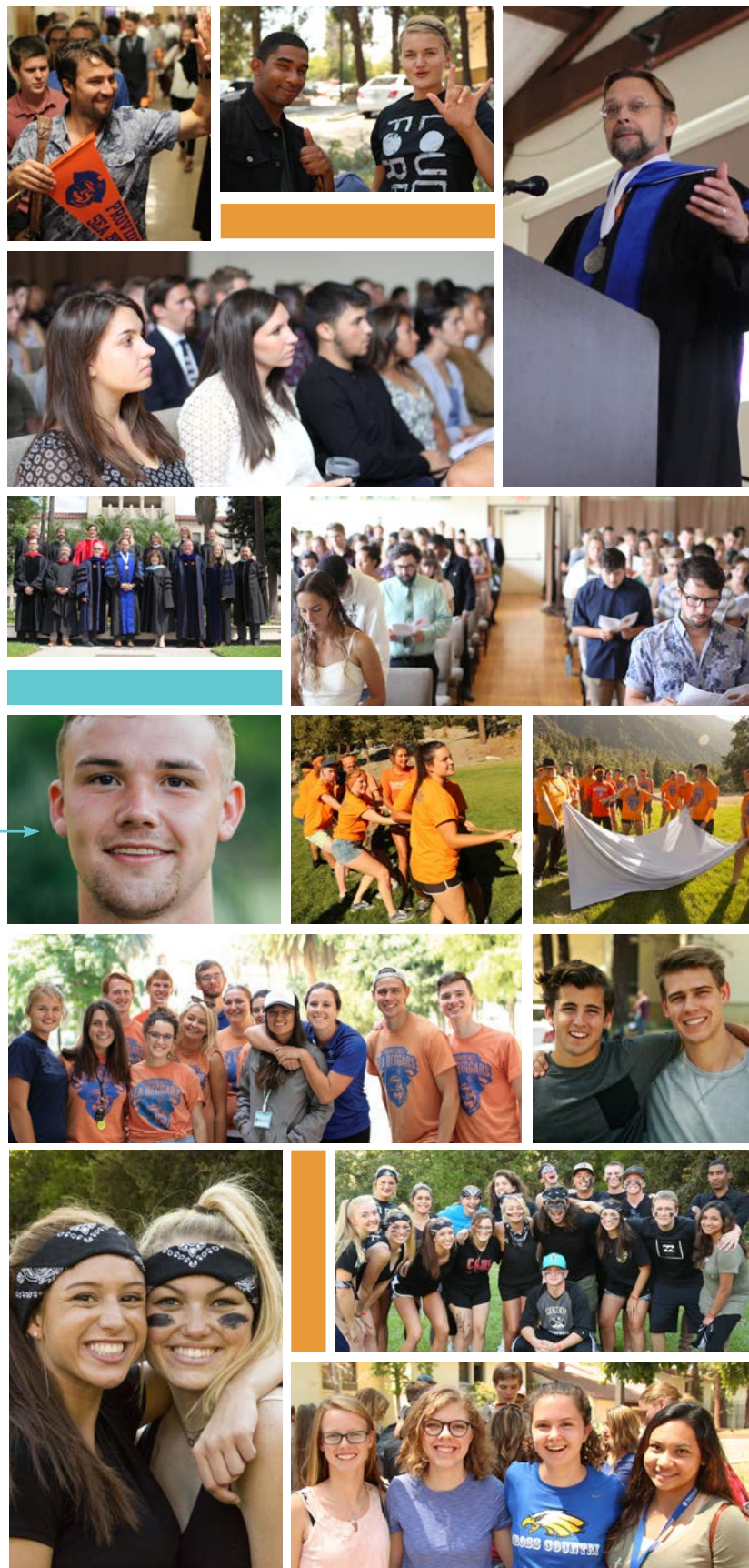
On the playing field this fall, Men's Soccer had the most successful season in its history, with junior Cobi Black winning Player of the Week in the California Pacific Conference. Additionally, Cross Country competed in its first ever CalPac Championship meet on October 30th. Women's volleyball and women's soccer continue to experience successes on and off the field, and continue to build a foundation for future years. Baseball has been working diligently this fall, with a core group of returners and the addition of new athletes; they are primed for a new and exciting season in spring 2018. ■

CHECK OUT OUR NEWEST VIDEO FEATURING THE HISTORY OF OUR MASCOT, THE SEA BEGGAR!



www.youtube.com/providencechristiancollege

SEMESTER SPOTLIGHTS





■ CELEBRATING OCTOBER 31, 1517

THE STORY OF THE REFORMATION MOVEMENT

by Dr. Whitney Gamble

OCTOBER 31, 1517 DAWNED JUST LIKE ANY OTHER IN WITTENBERG, GERMANY

– townspeople waking up that morning could hardly have suspected it would be a day unlike any other. And yet, 500 years later, we join with thousands around the world to celebrate the events of that day. We commemorate the actions of a young theology professor named Martin Luther. Luther nailed ninety-five points of protest, known as the Ninety-five Theses, to the door of the town church, and in doing so, he galvanized a worldwide movement, now known as the Protestant Reformation.

What is sometimes missed in Reformation celebrations is that Luther's Ninety-five Theses were not about defending the so-called five solas of the Reformation; *sola scriptura*, *sola fide*, *sola gratia*, *solus Christus*, and *solus deo Gloria*, a summary of reformed teaching on scripture, faith, grace, Christ, and God. While these are essential aspects of Reformed theology and were important to Luther, they were not what he had in mind when he nailed his Ninety-five points to the door. Instead, Luther wrote with a specific and narrow focus: to invite dialogue over a church practice that he found extremely troubling, namely, the sale of indulgences. Authorities in the

church had taken to selling pieces of paper that, if bought, guaranteed remittance of punishment due to sin. A little rhyme became written that summarized the practice: "As soon as a coin in the coffer rings, a soul from purgatory springs." Men and women in Luther's city began spending all their money on indulgences so that their sins could be forgiven. Men stopped providing for their families, so they could instead buy indulgences. Luther observed this and was outraged. He composed the Theses out of pastoral concern, wanting to stop the abuse of his people by church leaders.

A careful look at the text of the Theses shows that concern played out in Luther's love for the truth of God's word, his passion for the gospel, and his tender desire that his people know the beauty of Christ. The Theses open with the claim that they were written "out of the love of truth and the desire to elucidate it." As Luther studied the Bible, day in and day out, he came to the conclusion that a repentant sinner received forgiveness of sin by God's grace, not by purchasing indulgences. He wrote in Thesis Thirty-six that: "any true Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without indulgence letters." This

was a bold claim considering that the Pope himself guaranteed the efficacy of the indulgences to forgive sin. Luther stated in Thesis Fifty-two: “it is vain to trust in salvation by indulgence letters, even though the indulgence commissary, or even the pope, were to offer his soul as security.”

The reason Luther made such an audacious statement concerning the Pope’s soul was because he believed that preaching about indulgences, seriously violated God’s word. Thesis Fifty-four stated: “Injury is done to the Word of God when, in the same sermon, an equal or larger amount of time is devoted to indulgences than to the Word.” Preachers had been using sermon time to recommend buying indulgences, which, in Luther’s mind, caused great harm to the pure proclamation of the gospel. Thesis Fifty-five continued: “It is certainly the pope’s sentiment that if indulgences, which are a very insignificant thing, are celebrated with one bell, one procession, and one ceremony, then the gospel, which is the very greatest thing, should be preached with a hundred bells, a hundred processions, a hundred ceremonies.” For Luther, indulgences had supplanted the gospel, and that was a problem.

Luther had strong words for preachers who ignored preaching the gospel in favor of promoting indulgences, calling them “enemies of Christ” who deserved to be anathematized and accursed. For Luther, the reason their action was so horrible was that the common people in the pews were being deceived and led astray. The true teachings of the word of God concerning the forgiveness of sin was purposely

being hidden from them, and the beauty of the gospel was veiled. There was nothing more disgraceful and abhorrent than this for the passionate theologian, and he was courageous enough to challenge the Pope, the supreme head of the church.

Luther’s protest against the selling of indulgences on October 31, 1517 made him a figure of instant controversy and notoriety. His increasingly public appeals for church reform in the area of indulgences eventually led to serious theological debate centered around basic biblical principles, such as the nature of forgiveness, sin, and God’s grace, how salvation is gained, and the nature of justification. One little act of protesting the abuse suffered at the hands of church leaders eventually led to a complete reformation of the church’s teachings. The Reformation spread from Germany to Europe and, eventually, to the whole world, driven by the same pastoral concern Luther had in 1517.

Luther and the Reformers after him demonstrated a love for the truth of God’s word, a passion for the gospel, and a tender concern that men and women know the beauty of Christ. At Providence, we are a Reformed college – the heartfelt fervency of the Reformers for these things forms the foundation of what we do today: we train men and women to love the truth of God’s word, love the gospel, and truly know what it means to have the mind of Christ in all areas of life. 500 years after Luther, we celebrate his stand for truth, and we continue his legacy by training the next generation of leaders. ■



CHINESE CULTURE

AVODAH

By Sam Mahtani **CALIFORNIA IS HOME TO OVER 250,000 CHINESE**, many of which are immigrants in the Los Angeles area. In an effort to understand this unique culture, earlier this semester nearly 20 Providence students took a trip to the San Gabriel Valley in Southern California, an area sprawling with various Chinese businesses, supermarkets, shops, and restaurants.

The students had the opportunity to experience Chinese culture and explore its unique cuisine by visiting San Gabriel Square. Additionally, students interacted

with the authentic supermarket and food stalls, followed by a meal at New Capital Seafood restaurant.

Lindsey Osburn '19, had this to say about her experience: "I felt like I was in a different country," said Osburn "We were the only people in the restaurant that weren't of Chinese descent, so it felt like we were immersed in a new culture."

This Avodah excursion also focused on learning more about Chinese-American religion. Providence students first visited the Hsi Lai Buddhist temple, an



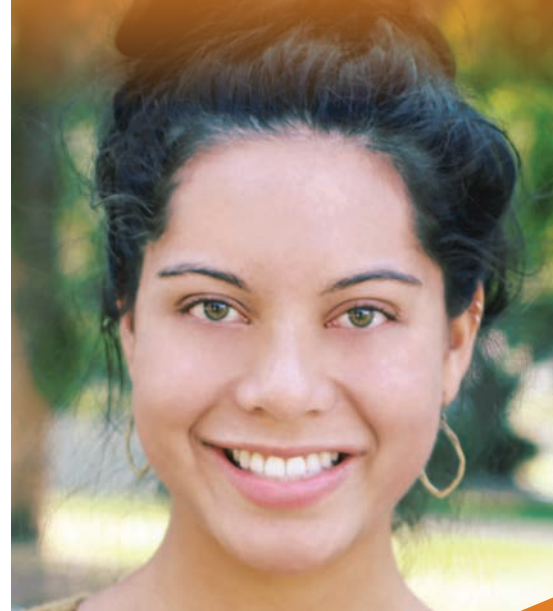
Avodah photos by Lindsey Osburn '19

influential religious center that is one of the largest Buddhist temples in the western hemisphere.

“It was very interesting to learn about how similar Buddhism is to Christianity,” said Osburn. “Like Christianity, Chinese religion has meditation, prayer, and a virgin birth of a deity that they believe will return one day to ‘share his teachings.’ My faith was also strengthened as I saw the difference in how Buddhism points to achievement through personal effort instead of a Savior who redeems us through grace.”

“I took a sociology of religion course last year, in which we explored a new religion each week,” said Osburn. “Going on this trip was an incredible way to see a new culture and religion, and experience firsthand what I learned in my class.” ■

EXPLORE YOUR WORLD



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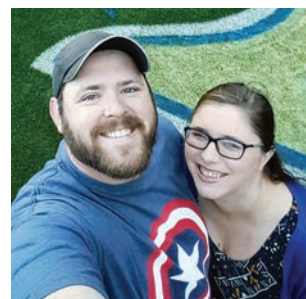
ALUMNI UPDATES



ELIJAH VILLAFANÍA '09 and **CANDACE (JANZEN) VILLAFANÍA '13** are excited to announce that Candace began her new career as a 5th grade elementary school teacher at Foothill Christian School in Glendora, CA. She teaches Bible, History, and Math.



ADRIAN CRUM '10 and **RACHEL (FLEEMAN) CRUM '11** are excited to announce that Adrian began his new position as an Associate Pastor at Reformation Fellowship OPC in Roseville, CA.



KELLIE (HOLLY) LANGENHOP '10 spent the summer working in ticket sales and customer service in the box office at the Seattle Mariners stadium, fulfilling a lifelong dream of working for her favorite American League West team.



SARA HEITMANN '12 began her Master of Arts degree in Historical Theology at Westminster Seminary California this fall.



DANIELLE (DIRKSEN) ALSKY '15 was honored to have her recent paper, "Subtle Subversion: An Exploration of Gender Identity Construction and Performativity in J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*," published in the California State University, Long Beach scholarly journal, *Watermark* volume 11.



IAN HARRIMAN '15 recently started teaching 4th grade students at Hilltop Christian School in Tse Bonito, New Mexico on the Navajo Nation U.S. Indian Reservation.



MARK HOGAN '15 and **CHRISTINE (LEHART) HOGAN '15** welcomed their first child, Judah, on June 13, 2017. Judah was born weighing 7 lbs., 13 oz. Additionally, Mark was called to plant Pilgrims Reformed Baptist Church in Valley City, ND.



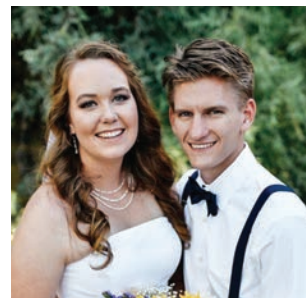
KYLE KORTENHOEVEN '17 began his Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership at Colorado Christian University. He serves on the Campus Activities Board and works as a Campus Activities Graduate Assistant at the university fitness center.



TYLER MARONA '17 began his career as a Digital Broadcaster and Video Content Producer for Podcast One's Carolla Digital, the most downloaded daily podcast program in the world.



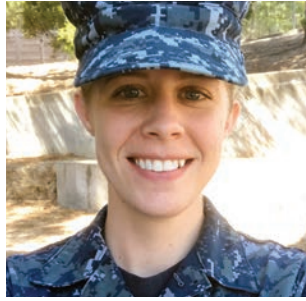
PRESENCE MASSIE '17 began her paraprofessional education training, serving as a History and Music Teacher's Assistant and Personal Tutor for students at Veritas Christian Community School in Sierra Vista, Arizona.



CHRISTOPHER NAGEL '17 and **MELISSA (KRUIS) NAGEL '17** were married on June 30, 2017 in Tucson, AZ..



TIMOTHY SCHEUERS '10 was engaged to Amanda Schelbauer on May 20, 2017. They will be married on June 21, 2018 in Chino, CA.



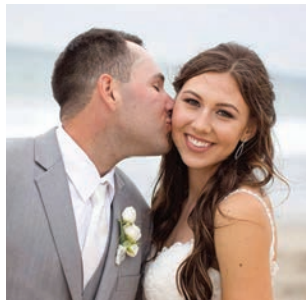
CAITLYN VANDENBERG '11 completed her Navy basic training at the Great Lakes Recruit Training Command. In January 2017, she moved to Monterey, CA to be trained as a linguist for Navy Intelligence warfare.



JANA (CRUM) CHURCH '12 and her husband, Aijalon, welcomed their first child, Elional Benjamin, on September 28, 2017. He was born weighing 7 lbs., 8 oz.



BILLIE SNIEDER '16 moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan to pursue her teaching career. She is currently teaching Jr. High language arts and science, as well as High School language arts and Bible at Reformed Heritage Christian School.



CODY WALTER '16 and Carissa (Berger) Walter were married on July 29, 2017 at Imperial Beach in San Diego, CA.



RENEE HAVEMAN '17 moved to San Diego, California to pursue her Master's of Science degree in Accounting at San Diego State University. She is currently working at TGG Accounting as a Staff Assistant.



MELISSA PARAMO '17 began her new position as a Bilingual Institutional Aid and 7th grade Physical Education Teacher at Gabrielle Charter School in Los Angeles, CA. She assists both students and instructors in the classroom and utilizes her soccer experience at Providence to mentor youth in her community through athletics.



NICHOLAS SALDIVIA '17 began working as a Graduate Assistant Coach at Greenville University, Illinois, where he began assisting the Panthers Men's Soccer team while pursuing his Master's Degree in Coaching.



STEVEN ZERMEÑO '17 began his new position as a Management Trainee at Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Pasadena, California. His new job has allowed him to gain the customer service skills necessary to successfully pursue his goal of owning his own rental car branch.

MEMORIAL & HONORARY GIFTS

Gifts received through October 2017

IN MEMORY OF:

Evelyn Byer
from

John and Lorraine Kortenhoeven

Herman Haringa
from

Rudy Haringa and Haringa Farms
Michael and Kimberly Kiledjian
Bernie and Carol Gabrielse

Lynne McHargue
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Michael and Kimberly Kiledjian
Henrietta Vander Schaaf
Geoffrey and Darlene Vanden Heuvel
Martin and Leona Verhoeven

Providence welcomes honorary & memorial designated gifts. Donations and acknowledgments for the next publication should be sent by May 2018.



A. MICHAEL KILEDJIAN

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

If you have questions about gift planning, I invite you to contact me at 626.696.4058 or mkiledjian@providencecc.edu, or reach out to the helpful professionals at

Barnabas Foundation

directly toll-free at
1.888.448.3040.



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WISE COUNSEL, PEACE OF MIND AND GOOD STEWARDSHIP

"Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed."

– **Proverbs 15:22 (NASB).**

We're all familiar with the tale about the husband who refused to ask for directions when he was lost on the road. Nobody gets in a car without at least believing they know how to get to their intended destination. Yet sometimes, we get lost on the way and would do well to ask for directions. While driving directions are a small matter, I am often surprised to discover that some of the important financial and business decisions of life are made without seeking expert counsel. A recent exchange reminded of how important it is to seek counsel.

A friend and business owner who is in the midst of a major transition in life and business informed me that he had recently received a consultation that provided him great relief in solving a significant portion of his challenges. He was undoubtedly joyful and surprised by the solutions that were mapped out for him by wise counsel. Three things stood out for me from this exchange. First, my friend was surprised that such a solution could exist to rescue him from his complex dilemma. Second, he had waited

very late in life to plan for the transitions that lay ahead for him. He was unaware of the possibilities available for him! Finally, he would not have missed some valuable advantages had he sought counsel sooner. This true story illustrates three important insights regarding business decisions, retirement, estate and financial planning.

1–It's never too late to seek counsel.

2–Don't assume that consultation could not possibly apply to your situation.

3–Don't delay seeking counsel with matters of business and financial planning.

This is why I recommend and feature the trustworthy professionals at Barnabas Foundation to our supporters. Do you own a closely held business or farm, or a highly appreciated asset? Are you nearing a major transition in life? Do you need to think about establishing or reviewing an estate plan (which is advisable to review every 4-5 years)? Contact the Barnabas Foundation at 888.448.3040. Their professionals can help advise you on the best path to steward your life's work and accomplish the most for both your own future and the kingdom causes you wish to support. It is better to ask than to assume help couldn't possibly apply to you.

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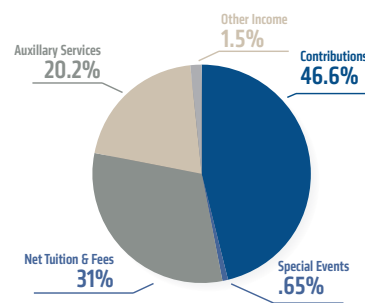
ANNUAL REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2017

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

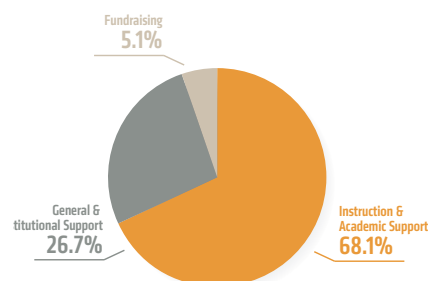
Income 2016-2017

Contributions*	\$2,897,737	46.63%
Special Events	\$40,105	0.65%
Net Tuition & Fees	\$1,928,780	31.04%
Auxiliary Services	\$1,255,582	20.20%
Other Income	\$92,194	1.48%
Total Income	\$6,214,398	



Expenses 2016-2017

Instruction & Academic Support	\$3,932,668	68.1%
General & Institutional Support	\$1,542,741	26.7%
Fundraising	\$296,178	5.1%
Total Expenses	\$5,771,587	



*Includes \$850,000 outstanding Health Science Pledge, Net Contribution income is 38.2%.

Friends, as you review our most recent summary annual report, I'd like to highlight a few items. Providence is blessed with the abundant counsel of a devoted and active Board of Trustees that continues to exercise prudent financial controls as they seek to be wise stewards of the gifts you've entrusted to them and our executive leadership. The income summary may seem distorted because of the \$1.1 million Health Science gift, of which \$850k is pledged for payment over the next four years. We are required to report it as income. Taking this into account and subtracting it from the contribution (donation income), our net contribution income for the fiscal year is actually 39% of the total operating budget. This should be very encouraging news for all. It demonstrates that the college is continuing to move in the right direction financially. This is the second consecutive year that our reliance on donation income as a percentage of the total operating

budget is below 50% and decreasing. Last year was 44.5%, the first year we dropped below 50%. Additionally, our overall fundraising expenses moved down from 6.2% last year to 5.1% of total expenditures. It was a difficult year for enrollment, growing only by a modest 2%. There are many reasons for this and we are actively making improvements to regain the high enrollment growth we have enjoyed in the past three years, which has more than tripled our enrollment. In some sense, a plateau is to be expected following a significant growth cycle. We are prepared and expect the next growth cycle in enrollment this year, especially with the launch of the Health Science Program. We are grateful for your continued investment in Providence, and we value your financial support for this coming current fiscal year and your prayers for enrollment and academic progress.

— Michael Kiledjian

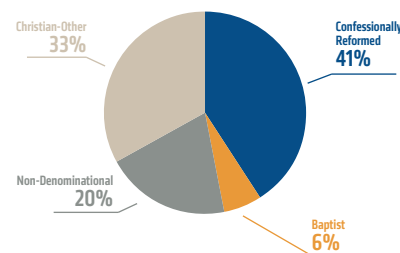
FALL 2016 ENROLLMENT & ACADEMICS

GENERAL ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Total Student Body	167
Percentage Gain (vs. '15)	2%
Residential Students	90%
Commuter Students	10%
Student/Faculty Ratio	13.3 to 1

DENOMINATIONAL PROFILE

Confessionally Reformed	41%
Baptist	6%
Non-Denominational	20%
Christian Other	33%

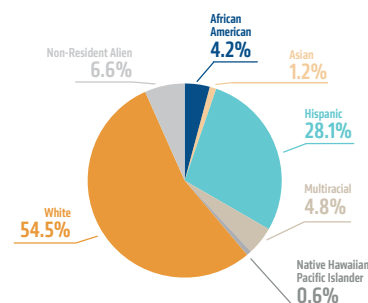


GENDER

Male	53%
Female	47%

RACE/ETHNICITY

African American	4.2%
Asian	1.2%
Hispanic	28.1%
Multiracial	4.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pac. Isl.	0.6%
White	54.5%
Non-Resident Alien	6.7%



GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

U.S. (19 States, 65% from CA)	94%
International (4 countries)	6%

Complete enrollment and academic information is available on our website: www.providencecc.edu/about-providence/at-a-glance



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