

PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

■ THE FEATURE STORY

THIS IS LIVING WATER

by DAVID CORBIN, PH.D.

LAW AND ORDER:
EXPLORING THE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM

2018
SPRING



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

IN CHRISTO OMNIA NOVA

A few weeks ago, we celebrated the largest graduating class at Providence, with 27 students walking across the stage to receive their Liberal Arts degree. We expect that figure to almost double next year. This milestone is one of the many stepping-stones the College has experienced over the past 12 years, and it marks the evolving nature of growing a liberal arts college in the 21st century. Over this semester, I have spoken in various chapels about the ways we are so similar to Harvard University when it opened its doors in 1636. Sadly, Harvard today has completely lost track of its original mission and vision as a God-glorifying university. In contrast to the Harvard of today, Providence, as a “New Harvard,” steadfastly recognizes the longer-term mission and vision of our founding fathers, and seeks to make the necessary changes to continue that mission into the years to come.

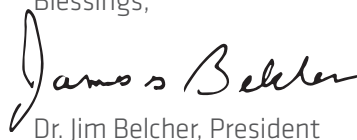
Some of those changes have taken place over the past year, some are currently in progress, while others are coming in the next few years. Featured on the cover of this issue of the Providence Magazine, you’ll meet our newly appointed Vice President for

Academic Affairs, Dr. David Corbin. This appointment represents the College’s continued mission to “...equip students to be firmly grounded in biblical truth, thoroughly educated in the liberal arts...”. We also had a very successful visit from the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WCUSC), enhancements to our academic concentrations, and growth in our athletic programs: splitting men’s and women’s soccer and making men’s and women’s golf a varsity sport for Fall 2018.

As you read through this issue, reflect on the ways that God has continued to meet our needs over the years, in ways both big and small. Share your stories with us both as encouragement and so we can consider highlighting some of them for an upcoming issue of our magazine!

E-mail your story to development@providencecc.edu and you may see it in an upcoming newsletter or Magazine!

Blessings,

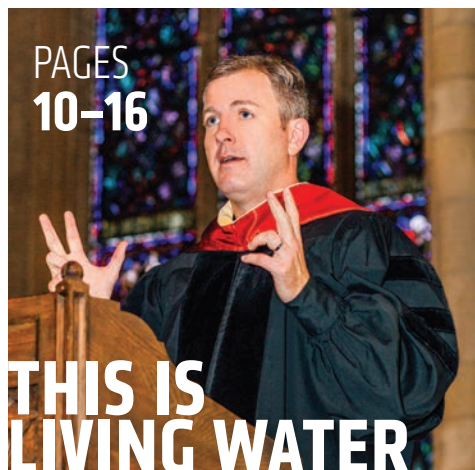

Dr. Jim Belcher, President

2018-2019

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INVEST IN PROVIDENCE

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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.

NEWS & EVENTS



WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES REVIEW

On March 7-9, 2018, Providence hosted a team of four individuals for a reaffirmation of accreditation visit by our regional accrediting agency, WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). The team visited with various groups on campus in order to understand the progress that has been made over the past five years and to look for areas that they can recommend for focused attention over the new accreditation period. We are grateful for the commitment and dedication of the entire Providence community and praise God for his continued care and guidance.



ENHANCED ACADEMIC CONCENTRATIONS

Providence unveiled academic changes that will go into effect Fall 2018. Providence students will now have the opportunity to choose from one of the following eight career concentrations: Biblical Theological Studies/Biblical Languages (BTS-BL), Business, Economics, and Entrepreneurship (BEE), Education (EDU), English and Communications (E & C), Health and Life Sciences (HLS), Media, Culture, and the Arts (MCA), Philosophy, Politics, and History (PPH), and Psychology (PSY).

Moreover, as part of the college's commitment and vision to build upon past and continue to pursue excellence in offering the finest Reformed liberal arts education possible, we have enhanced our liberal arts core by (a) creating a four-course Humanities sequence ("Philosophical, Political, and Economic Thought," "Classical and Medieval Civilization and Culture," "Modern Civilization and Culture," and "American Civilization and Culture"), and (b) adding three courses ("Principles and Practice of Innovation," "Principles of Management, Organization and Communication," and "Christ, Culture, and Contextualization") to the core. While these new courses will be available to all Providence students, they will become part of the required curriculum starting with the 2018-19 first-year cohort.

Both of these developments will help consolidate and build depth within the core and the concentrations, and will be a springboard to producing a curriculum that is as outstanding as it is sustainable. Returning students will continue to be offered the "two-concentration" academic program model. Current students will also have an opportunity to change to the new program.

Dr. David Corbin has weighed in substantially on these curricular developments, and is excited to come on board. He will be teaching the new four-course Humanities sequence, and plans in the future to be very involved in teaching Politics and International Affairs courses within the new Philosophy, Politics, and History (PPH) concentration.



INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION

In January 2018, Providence Christian College hosted a delegation from Calvin University, a Presbyterian university from Seoul, South Korea. The executive team from Providence and Calvin signed an agreement to work towards the development of an English language instruction and semester abroad program between the two institutions. The Korean delegation included Calvin University's President, Dr. Keun Soo Kim, and Board of Trustees Director, Dr. Jin Ung Kim.



ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

Author, historian, and political studies professor Dr. Gregg L. Frazer served as keynote speaker for this year's Academic Conference. Frazer's lectures, "The Religious Beliefs of Key American Founders" and "Examining the Evidence for a Christian America," offered students unique insights into the religious beliefs of our nation's founding fathers, as well as how American exceptionalism has positively influenced the world.

BROADEN YOUR MIND



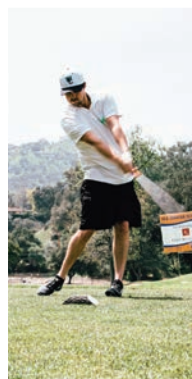
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SEA BEGGAR SCRAMBLE



by Sam Mahtani



Friday, April 6th, marked the 10th Sea Beggar Scramble for Providence Christian College, held annually at Brookside Golf course in Pasadena, California. The fundraiser, which specifically supports the athletic programs at the College, was a huge success this year, bringing in 120 golfers, the largest participation to date, and raising over \$40,000 net. A number of changes went into the added success this year, including the tournament moving from a Monday to a Friday, a live auction during the banquet, and a time to recognize and highlight scholar athletes within the athletic programs.

The following scholar athletes were recognized for the highest grade point average in their sport, as well as the highest GPA within the athletic programs:

Baseball - **Aaron Gooch**: 3.8 GPA
 Men's Cross Country - **Collin Vis**: 4.0 GPA
 Women's Cross Country - **Ruth Fleeman**: 3.93 GPA
 Men's Soccer - **Josiah Vanderveen**: 3.95 GPA
 Women's Soccer - **Danielle Stafford**: 3.88 GPA
 Women's Volleyball - **Alexis Le Clech**: 3.93 GPA

Brian DeHaan, director of athletics, had this to say regarding the event: "The golf tournament was an incredible testament to the commitment and faithfulness we have from those who support the ministry of the Providence Christian athletic department. It was very energizing to see donors increase their giving in 2018, and the record turnout brought a significant amount of excitement. We are looking forward to the continued growth of the department, which is made possible through events like the golf tournament and the support of our constituents." Thanks to all those who supported the tournament this year, and we look forward to your support once again next year! Stay up to date with the athletic programs on twitter at @seabeggarnation and visit www.seabeggars.com for complete stories and schedules. ■



ATHLETICS



ATHLETICS REVIEW

by Sam Mahtani



The athletic programs continue to improve in a number of ways this spring, with Cross Country competing in the NAIA California Pacific Conference Championship for the first time. Other highlights include Melanie Balaban '19 being named to 2nd team All-Conference, and Abigayl Doiron '21 and Avery O'Neal '20 named as Honorable mentions in Women's Volleyball. In Baseball, Matthew Upton '20 won the center field Gold Glove for the CalPac, which is awarded to the top fielder in each position. Nicholas Ojinaga '21 was recognized as the CalPac Pitcher of the Week, the first time in Baseball program history, helping the team also record the largest number of wins in conference games.

Looking ahead to the fall, Men's and Women's Golf begin as a varsity sport, and Walker Haynes has been appointed Interim Head Men's Soccer Coach, a position formerly filled by Sam Mahtani, who coached both the men's

and women's soccer teams. Coach Mahtani moves into the role of Head Women's Soccer Coach. The athletic department, which continues to grow in both staff and students, will also begin a chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) in the Fall, a sports ministry focused on impacting coaches, students, and communities for Christ. ■



DISCOVER YOUR CALLING



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FACULTY UPDATES

DR. WHITNEY GAMBLE, associate professor of biblical & theological studies, released the book *Christ and the Law: Antinomianism at the Westminster Assembly* (Reformation Heritage Books) in May 2018. On January 3, 2018, her interview was aired on Pilgrim radio with the title "The Story of the Reformation Movement; The Westminster Assembly; Why Women Should Study Theology."



DR. LARRY MC HARGUE, adjunct professor of biology, was interviewed by WLIE, 540 AM on the program "A Visit to the Pastor's Study" on March 17th, where he discussed his views on Neo-Darwinism from a Christian perspective.



DR. LAWRENCE MUMFORD, adjunct professor of music, had two of his original compositions receive recognition in The American Prize: *Quietem* (Hidden Source of Calm), which was premiered by the Providence Chamber Singers and was named a semifinalist; and the second movement of his Symphony No. 3, *Santa Cruz Island*, was named a finalist.



NEW FACULTY AND STAFF



DR. DAVID CORBIN

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. David Corbin has been appointed to the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs, beginning July 1, 2018. Corbin comes to Providence after serving at The King's College in New York City, as the Dean of their school of Politics, Philosophy, and Economics. Throughout his 20+ year tenure in academia, he has taught political philosophy, American politics, international relations and politics & literature at the University of New Hampshire, Boston University, and Kings College. Dr. Corbin is a published author and has appeared in the *Investor's Business Daily*, *The New York Times*, and numerous other nationwide publications. Corbin received his PhD in Political Science from Boston University in 2005, his MA in Political Science from the University of New Hampshire in 1995, and his BA in Political Science from the University of New Hampshire in 1993. As a published author, speaker, and educator, "Dr. David Corbin is the right person to ensure that, as Providence grows, it remains academically strong, mission-focused, and Christ-centered," said President Jim Belcher. Read Corbin's Commencement address "This Is Living Water" on page 10.

2017 FALL 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 fall 2017 dean's list includes:

Haley Aguirre	Connor Lane
Kylee Ancheta	Alexis Le Clech
Paige Baker	Esther Lewis
Melanie Balaban	Nathan Lewis
Shane Becker	Catherine MacAdam
Sarah Bergquist	Hannah Mersch
Javier Beswick Scott	Avery O'Neal
Iris Blanche Pon	Lindsey Osburn
Haakon Box	Olufemi Oyerinde
Joshua Burns	Alyssa Pigao
Enika Bushnell	Alyssa Roberts
Alejandro Cabral	Walter Roberts
Rebecca Call	Matthew Rodriguez
Nicholas Chavez	Amanda Schelbauer
Haily Chute	Valerie Schelbauer
Hannah Clark	Reuben Sheneni
Madison De Jager	Hannah Shenk
Nicole Del Moral	Grace Smith
Rebekah Dirksen	Isaiah Spivey
Elisha Dunham	Danielle Stafford
Christine Eaton	Megan Stewart
Marlene Escamilla	Micah Summers
Samuel Fennema	Sydney Svendsen
Ruth Fleeman	Marika Tiessen
Aaron Gooch	Stephen Truxal
Richard Greene	Sophia Van Zonneveld
Seth Grimes	Josiah Vanderveen
Elizabeth Groenewold	Adam Vargas
Amanda Heck	Alexis Vasquez
Rebecca Hernandez	Nicole Veldink
Daniel Hicks	Zoé Vernier
Kyle Huckins	Collin Vis
Grace Kazarian	Matthew Walls
Ian Kennedy	Dean Whitcher
Brennan Kiledjian	Darren Zylstra
Kees Kiledjian	Morgan Zylstra

THIS IS LIVING WATER

Dr. David Corbin's commencement address to the Class of 2018

On an overcast day twenty-five years ago on the campus of the University of New Hampshire, Pulitzer Prize winning

historian David McCullough delivered a commencement address to over 2,000 graduates. A member of that 1993 graduating class, I was not in attendance.

My choice would have been otherwise unnoteworthy had it not been to the great frustration of my father who, when I relayed my plans not to attend the ceremony the night before, replied:

"How could you do this to your family, David? Don't you realize how important this is to us?"

His were not the complaints of a parent angered because I was the first in my family to graduate from college. My father was upset because I had come from a family of college graduates.

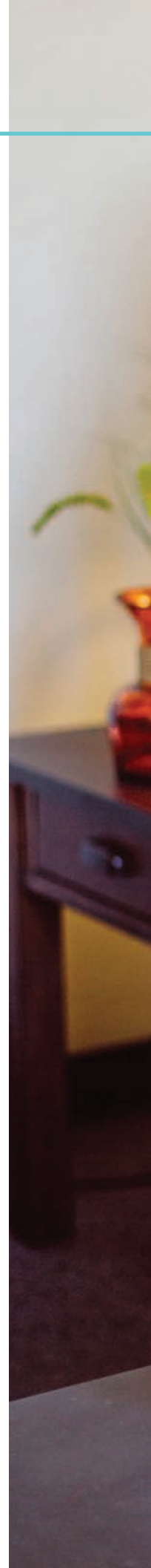
As a family, we had never been wealthy, prominent, or influential. Yet, he explained that we took things like commencement


ceremonies seriously because they represented the only consistent markers of accomplishment for a family that had otherwise achieved very little.

But I didn't budge. I didn't go the next day. He attended in my place, grabbed an extra program that he gruffly gave me weeks later, still angered by my uncaring decision not to attend. I'm not sure if he was ever more upset with me than that weekend. Of all the interactions that produced intense regret when years later, he passed away unexpectedly, that was the interaction that played over and over again in my head.

Regret doesn't flow easily at 21, if at all. Not because I thought David McCullough had nothing important to say. But because I reasoned that the whole fuss associated with ceremonies was of little value, that what was truly important in college was what took place in the classroom or in the library when no one was looking. I still in part carry this idea with me, and never quite have enjoyed commencement

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 ►



A man with short, graying hair, wearing a dark blue suit, a light blue shirt, and a striped tie, is sitting on a light-colored sofa. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. His hands are clasped in his lap. In the background, there is a lamp with a large, textured base and a beige shade, a vase with green plants, and a framed picture on the wall. In the foreground, on a dark wooden table, there is a white mug with the Providence Christian College logo and a book titled "STABLE FINANCIAL INVESTING".

“My hope and prayer for you in the years ahead is that your Providence education will have taught you to draw from His well daily...”

—DAVID CORBIN, PH.D.

ceremonies for that reason, never mind that they always seem to fall on warm days in May on my wife's birthday, the academic garb weighs a ton, and I tend to perspire easily.

Yet, at the time, I was certain that my bias against ceremony amounted to a solid indictment against appearances for the sake of appearances. An aspiring Shakespeare scholar, I could cite Henry V's famous critique of ceremony before the Battle of Agincourt to give my position that much more intellectual heft:

"And what have kings,
that privates have not too,
Save ceremony,
save general ceremony?
And what art thou,
thou idle ceremony?
What kind of god art thou,
that suffer'st more
Of mortal griefs than
do thy worshippers?"
(*Henry V*, Act IV, Scene i)

Here, King Henry ponders fame the night before he famously leads an overmatched army of Englishmen into France to do battle. What makes his speech so striking is that it is delivered by a man who had made an art form of employing appearances as a young prince to make his own life a spectacle, picturing himself as a sun that he would purposefully allow to be smothered by clouds, only so his radiant reappearance would bedazzle onlookers.

King Henry learnt only later in life that a life lived to gain recognition from others is an unhappy life, not worth the sleepless nights and restless days.

And therein is the rub. So much of what we do in this age of images tends to turn on gaining the recognition of others. I was right as a young man to notice this and to skeptically reject idle ceremony as a foolish idol.

But I applied this judgment improperly in the case of my college commencement as I assumed the impersonal setting (sitting in a crowd of over 10,000 people) of the celebration signified that the whole affair was impersonal. It wasn't impersonal to my father. And your ceremony is not impersonal to you and your friends and family this morning.

Yet, had I gone to my own ceremony, I would have had to sit through a number of speeches that I thought had nothing to do with me. And given that I was the most important person to me that day, and most other days for that matter, I didn't want to attend an event where I was lost in the crowd, even if it meant upsetting those close to me.

Perhaps one of the hardest things to learn in life is to gain joy from another's enjoyment, especially when you believe that this costs something to you, whether it's lack of attention when it's showered on the other person, sacrifices we make

that we think have gone unnoticed by others, the suspicious feeling that others are all take and no give, or simply the nagging question, “why you and not me?,” “why them and not us?,” in a sentence, our human tendency to view the seeming happiness that comes from importance as a zero-sum game.

Which brings me back to David McCullough. Fortunately for me, Mr. McCullough continued to make many commencement addresses over the years. So many that, last year, he put some of his best into an anthology titled, *The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For*.

I imagine had I been in the audience 25 years ago willing to listen to what McCullough had to say, I would have heard some of the many excellent admonitions that fill the pages of this volume. Some of the most memorable include the precepts that “History is human. It is about people, and they speak to us across the years,” “Nothing happens in isolation,” and “Everything that happens has consequences.”

Had I been there, I might have heard Mr. McCullough bring these precepts together in his praise of Dr. Benjamin Rush, a lesser known Founding Father, of whom John Adams once wrote: “I know of no character living or dead who has done more real good in America.”

In an excerpt that captures this sentiment perfectly, McCullough reads the diary of a Philadelphia woman named Elizabeth Drinker, a Quaker wife and mother whose large household included two free black children, boys aged seven and eleven, who to her alarm had taken severely ill.

Mrs. Drinker notes:
“Dr. Rush called,” she recorded April 8, 1794. “Dr. Rush here in forenoon. . . [despite] roads being so very bad” reads here entry for April 9. Dr. Rush called again on April 12, April 14, April 15, 17, 22, and 27, and on into the first week in May. . . He made fifteen house calls on those two boys by the time they were out of the woods.

Here, McCullough takes a set of dates, people, and places that easily could have been forgotten as numbers and letters on a page - just like “Providence Christian College,” “May 5, 2018” and “Pasadena, California” and reminds us that history is a human story; that these people were real; that they faced challenges, and during some of those challenges, they rose to the occasion and showed humanity at its best.

In the best scenarios, heroes, like Benjamin Rush and Elizabeth Drinker, live not to gain recognition or to make history, but to live well.

At this point I may be risking crossing the line into the boilerplate address. Self-deprecation, check. Altruistic

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Dr. Corbin pictured with his wife Catherine, and children Eliza and Jack.

THIS IS LIVING WATER, CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

corrective, check. Perhaps all that is needed is a salute to all of you for your accomplishments and a call to arms as you move forward in life. Well, I'm not going to make it that easy because you and I know that it isn't that easy.

There is still the elephant in the room . . . us. In other words, why can't we get this thing right?

Perhaps the most celebrated recent commencement address, David Foster Wallace's 2005 Kenyon College speech titled "This is Water," takes up this question poignantly. Wallace begins his speech by telling a "parable-ish story."

There are these two young fish swimming along and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at

them and says, "Morning, boys. How's the water?" And the two young fish swim on for a bit, and then eventually one of them looks over at the other and goes, "What the hell is water?"

Wallace relates that because if we don't think about water ["day in-day out" existence] the right way if at all, we end up self-centered, close-minded, bored, annoyed with others and unaware of what is real and essential: "capital-T Truth is about life before death."

Closing his address with the words "this is water," "this is water," he wishes the young graduates "way more than luck."

Tragically, Wallace would take his own life two years later.

In an autobiographical moment in his last published work, *The Pale King*, Wallace describes the struggle of a person who knows the difference between right and wrong and cares about the world he lives in, yet cannot face an existence he finds meaningless in the context of a “capital-T truth” that accounts for life both before and after death; the haunting feeling in Wallace’s words:

“That everything is on fire, slow fire, and we’re all less than a million breaths away from an oblivion more total than we can bring ourselves to even try to imagine.”

Here Wallace gives us a picture of water [or existence] that is a living hell.

While Wallace bravely tried to encourage others in his literary career to account for their existence, perhaps he showed that the increasingly greatest challenge in life in the modern world is not overcoming one’s self-centeredness, or loving one’s neighbor, but struggling with doubt about why we’re here and whether we matter.

In other words, contemporary living is often like inhabiting a house divided against itself as we’ve been so trained to think of our existence in material terms that we doubt whether anything other than our material existence matters. And all along our soul longs for an eternal reality that seems beyond our reach.

This may not be you today. But you will have days like this in the future when you thirst for more than what this world with all of its material enjoyments has to offer you; when no matter how hard you try to be cognizant about your own shortcomings or forgive the shortcomings of others, life will feel like a dry and desolate wilderness.

Feeling divided and getting lost in such a wilderness begs an answer to the map of history Lincoln famously introduces in his “House Divided” speech. “If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it.”

“Where we are?” is a matter of knowing who God is and who we are. Consider the parable of the Samaritan woman in John’s gospel in our scripture reading for this morning:

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” (His disciples had gone into town to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he

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THIS IS LIVING WATER, CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

would have given you living water. (John 4: 7-10)

Jesus teaches the Samaritan woman and us who He is, who we are, and what we can ask of Him; that the living water received by those who believe in Him will produce a spring of water that wells up in our souls and replenishes and nourishes us eternally.

“Whither we tend?” is the story of His creation, our rebellion, His love, and our hoped-for redemption and eternal salvation.

“What to do and how to do it” certainly will be made difficult by our own self-centeredness. It will be hindered by human dysfunction. It will be challenged by living in an age where His nature and ours is denied. In a sentence, you will be tempted into believing, on the one hand, the lie that you are greater than Him and, on the other hand, the lie that you mean nothing to Him.

Yet, having attended Providence Christian, a college whose mission is “to equip [you] to remain firmly grounded in biblical truth; thoroughly educated in the liberal arts; and fully engaged in [your] church, [your] community, and the world for the glory of God and for service to humanity,” you

will be better enabled to see these lies for what they are and to know that His is living water.

My hope and prayer for you in the years ahead is that your Providence education will have taught you to draw from His well daily, that it would have encouraged you to let rivers of His water flow within you, and that your story will amount to His water being poured out from you onto others for His everlasting glory. ■



■ ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

KIMBERLY
POSTMA
CLASS OF '11

AN UNEXPECTED CALLING

by Mark Pomerville
Photos by Emily Moelker

KIMBERLY POSTMA '11 never could have imagined that she would become a teacher.

A Kansas City native from a Reformed household, Postma had a natural gift and passion for mentoring young people—traits that both her friends and family recognized as essential qualities for a strong teacher. Yet, as a teenager, Postma was decisively opposed to the idea of becoming a professional educator.

“Before coming to Providence, I wasn’t interested in pursuing education at all,” says Postma. “Everyone would tell me that I would be an excellent teacher, but I would say, ‘No, I would hate to be a teacher!’ At the time, I loved animals and had my heart set on becoming a veterinarian.”

However, in August 2007, after enrolling at Providence, Postma soon discovered that the science classes, while stimulating, would not

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 18** ►

“

I've reached a point where I am learning to be content with God's direction, and I know that I will continue to find joy wherever He places me."

—KIM POSTMA

AN UNEXPECTED CALLING, CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

hold her interest for four years, and Postma's ideals for becoming a vet quickly began to fade.

Unsure of which career to pursue, Postma became a History major and was immediately riveted by the Providence instructors' unique biblical insight into the world. Postma also enrolled in an education course, studying a variety of international children's books, some of which included Manga graphic novels, a popular form of young adult literature in Japan.

"I became absolutely fascinated with Japanese writing and culture," says Postma. "As a Christian, I found it intriguing how Japan, despite being a predominantly godless nation, had such powerful Christian elements interwoven throughout their novels. These stories had deep, rich ideas such as redemption, truth, and sacrificial love—themes that are at the very core of the Christian worldview."

As her love for Japanese literature grew, so did Postma's love for the Japanese people.

"I began to pray for Japan every day because I could see through their literature that, even though we had our similarities, they were dying spiritually. They were very moralistic and didn't see any need for Christ in their life."

On March 11, 2011, shortly before graduating from Providence, Postma witnessed the devastating news coverage of the earthquake in northeastern Japan that spawned a ravaging tsunami, causing thousands of deaths, as well as unimaginable destruction throughout the greater Tōhoku region.

Overwhelmed with compassion, Postma sought to join a disaster relief team after her graduation in May. In August of the same year, she joined an Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) group and spent 10 days providing aid with their cleanup crews—an experience that had a profound impact not only on the lives of the local residents, but also her own life.

"The devastation of the tsunami opened up doors for witnessing in Japan. There were so many families in the streets that were left alone without anyone to help them. When they saw us offering aid, it provided opportunities to share the love of Christ that wasn't there before."

After returning home, Postma felt God calling her to a career that would combine both her love for literature and other cultures: teaching.

"I wanted to return to Japan, but I also wanted to sustain myself," says Postma. "So, I looked at various possibilities, and one of the

greatest needs they had was for English teachers. That's when it finally clicked. I thought, 'Okay, Lord, if going back to Japan means that I need to become a teacher, then I will become a teacher.'"

Postma began the exhaustive year-and-a-half long process of becoming an English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor. Finally, in August 2014, Postma moved to Tokyo, taught for three months at an international pre-school, and then was offered a teaching position through Interac, a private ESL education program in Yokohama City.

Postma served as an English tutor to over 800 Japanese middle school students, an experience in which God used her to be a light for Him in the lives of countless unsaved children.

After living in Japan for one year, Postma returned to the United States to continue her career in education. Today, she is an ESL Coach at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan, offering writing instruction to foreign students from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

As Postma reflects on her educational journey, she recognizes that she is far removed from the young woman who didn't want to become a teacher. Yet, she has found fulfillment in using her God-given gifts to edify others and glorify Him.

"Because His sovereign hand is in every culture, I've discovered that I love teaching English as a second language," says Postma. "I've reached a point where I am learning to be content with God's direction, and I know that I will continue to find joy wherever He places me." ■



LAW & ORDER

AN AVODAH

by Sam Mahtani

In the criminal justice system....most of our understanding is based on what we see on television or in movies. This spring, Providence students were given the opportunity to move beyond the screen and learn what actually happens in the Los Angeles court system.

On April 9th, 21 students had the opportunity to meet with and hear from Deputy District Attorney Dayan Mathai and Detective Sean O'Rourke at the LA County Hall of Justice, the central location of the Justice Department in Los Angeles. Mathai and O'Rourke walked the students through the Operation Moneybags Case which centered on the East Coast Crips committing burglaries east of the 110 highway, a natural divider in LA between the west and east side. Students gained insight into the specifics of how the crimes were committed, but also an in depth understanding of how the crimes were

targeted, and how the law system processes the crimes based on various factors.

Paige Baker '20, from La Crescenta, California, "was able to gain insight into the role of a detective. I feel that there is a stigma around detectives that they do not do a lot of intellectual work, but are the brawn and not the brains. By participating in this Avodah, it became clear that detectives have to do a lot of hard work behind the scenes."

Detective O'Rourke, who was a main detective on the case, spoke to students about the process of what it takes to get a warrant, the administrative tasks and timeline to get a wiretap, and how the gangs planned and carried out these burglaries. The result of his years of work has culminated with a large number of indictments and multiple people facing prosecution.



Aren Hoogerdijk '21, from Perth, Australia, was able to draw some real-life application from the experience. "Detective O'Rourke reminded me of Special Agent Booth from the TV show *Bones*. From his time in the Marines to the black suit and funky guitar socks, it was like seeing my childhood hero. As someone who is interested in writing fictional stories, this Avodah experience puts a new and realistic perspective on how I might write about a detective or a criminal."

From an academic perspective, Max Belz, director of experiential learning, added that this experience helped "students gain an understanding of what these careers actually look like. Most surprising is the amount of writing investigators are expected to do. Detective O'Rourke shared that his report in total was 700 pages. It continues to confirm value of a liberal arts education to teach students to write well and synthesize huge amounts of information into a cohesive narrative." ■

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COMMENCEMENT 2018



“*There are a lot of Christians who want to stay isolated in the church and don’t serve the world around them. But I can’t divorce doctrine from practice. Providence has trained me to live out my theology.*”

—SARAH BERGQUIST

LIVING OUT MY THEOLOGY

by Mark Pomerville

ON MAY 5, 2018, Sarah Bergquist '18 and her classmates proudly walked across the stage at Commencement and concluded their studies at Providence Christian College. This year’s senior class featured 27 students—the largest assembly of degree candidates in Providence’s history.

Dr. David Corbin, vice president for academic affairs, delivered this year’s commencement address, *This is Living Water*, which was a call to action for every senior to remember that their faith in Christ is like water, which will replenish them daily as they begin a new chapter of their lives.

“My hope and prayer for you is that you will draw from His well daily,” Corbin told the graduates. “May His water flow within

you so that His good news will pour out onto others for His glory.”

For Bergquist, Corbin’s speech was particularly poignant, as she embarks on an exciting new career that will undoubtedly involve putting Corbin’s charge for biblical stewardship into action.

Originally from San Marcos, California, Bergquist received her Liberal Arts degree with an emphasis in Humanities and Biblical and Theological Studies, and she hopes to pursue a career in youth ministry, a field for which she has a passion and God-given calling.

Before attending Providence, Bergquist served at several middle school winter camps, and discovered that she had a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ►



Bergquist pictured with parents and siblings at Commencement

natural gift for encouraging young people. However, one of her pastors advised her that, if she wanted to truly make an impact on the lives of adolescents, she should consider studying scripture and theology as a foundation for working with youth.

In August 2014, Bergquist enrolled and actively absorbed herself in various college activities, serving as a Resident Assistant and Vice President of the Food Club, an on-campus ministry that cooked culinary meals for students and held fellowship events to serve the study body.

As her involvement in student life solidified her passion for fellowship with the body of Christ, her study of scripture deepened her love for the Lord even more.

“Dr. Swanson and Dr. Gamble, my Bible professors, conveyed the gospel to me in a cogent, clear, and personally transforming way,” says Bergquist. “They gave me the tools to understand scripture and how to let God’s word construct and guide every aspect of my life so that I can become a more well-rounded, holistic person.”

While Bergquist is thankful for the biblically rich education she has received, she is most grateful

for her instructors’ encouragement to practically apply her learning to serve her community for the glory of God, and hopes to administer her knowledge in her prospective field.

“My professors have taught me that theological orthodoxy is meaningless without loving obedience,” says Bergquist. “There are a lot of Christians who want to stay isolated in the church and don’t serve the world around them. But I can’t divorce doctrine from practice. Providence has trained me to live out my theology.”

In May 2018, Bergquist began her first job in teen ministry, working in childcare services at Refuge LA. This fall, she hopes to become a Program Assistant at an after-school program and, eventually, a Christian mentor in Los Angeles’ urban neighborhoods.

Bergquist isn’t alone in pursuing God’s calling in life. Many of her fellow graduates will serve the Lord in a variety of vocations—some in politics and public service, while others will further their education through graduate school. For every personal endeavor, Providence has prepared its students to live out their faith as they embark on God’s purpose in their lives. ■

FROM LOS ANGELES TO OXFORD: A SEMESTER ABROAD

by Mark Pomerville

Each year, Providence's top academic performing students are given the rare opportunity to study abroad for 15 weeks through the Scholarship & Christianity in Oxford (SCIO) program, an educational institute that allows Christian colleges from around the nation to study the humanities from Oxford's leading professors.

For Craig Whitt '18, the possibility of traveling overseas and attending one of the world's leading research universities was intriguing. As a business and social sciences concentration, Whitt found an interest in exploring political science in Oxford.

On September 1, 2017, after being admitted by SCIO, Whitt traveled to the streets of London, drove by bus to Oxford, and settled into his new dorm at The Vines on top of Headington Hill, about a 10-minute bike ride from the center of the university.

During his semester abroad, Whitt enrolled in two primary classes or "tutorials." The first was entitled, "Theories of the State", in which Whitt and over 200 other Oxford students examined the secular philosophies of Aristotle, Machiavelli, Rousseau, and Marx.

The second course, "Theory of Politics", offered Whitt a philosophical overview of political structures such as egalitarianism, libertarianism, and perfectionism.

Over the next two months, Whitt studied tirelessly, writing essays, attending lectures, and spending a minimum of five hours a day in the Bodleian Library, at which over 12 million books were at his disposal.

While Whitt learned a great deal during his time abroad, he observed that Oxford, despite its rich theological heritage, lacked the Christ-centered educational worldview upon which it was founded.

"Oxford was clearly a secular institution, not rooted in any biblical framework," says Whitt. "Even though their school motto is 'The Lord is my Light,' you just don't see any Christian perspectives anymore."

Despite the abandonment of its theological heritage, Whitt sees the value in having explored all facets of culture at Oxford—both sacred and secular.

"At Providence, I've learned that, as Christians, we shouldn't be afraid of being exposed to thinkers with whom we disagree," says Whitt. "As followers of Christ, we should study all aspects of our world because, in the end, we are called to be salt and light, even in the secular corners of education." ■

MEMORIAL & HONORARY GIFTS

Gifts received through May 2018

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

ALUMNI UPDATES

SUBMIT YOUR ALUMNI UPDATE to alumni@providencecc.edu by October 1 to be considered for the next issue of the Providence Magazine



ANDREW FISHER '10 and **AMANDA (PADGETT) FISHER '09** celebrated Andrew's 6th year at the educational organization, Chess4Life, where he currently serves as the Regional Operations Manager. Additionally, Mandy began utilizing her Elementary Education degree from Providence to homeschool their youngest son, Ephraim.



JUSTIN KAY '11 and his wife, Destinee, welcomed their first child, Noah David Robert Kay, on March 9, 2017. Noah was born weighing 8 lbs., 15oz. Justin is also celebrating his 10th year working at In-N-Out and is now Manager of a Central Valley California location.



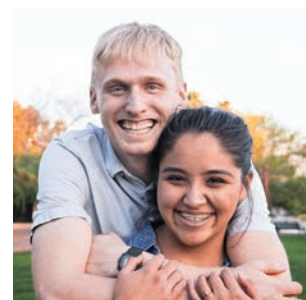
ELLEN AVANTS '13 moved to Orange County, California and began her Master's Degree in Spiritual Formation at Biola University's Institute of Spiritual Formation. She hopes to use her degree to become a Spiritual Director.



JUSTIN BOND '13 began his position as a Videographer and Assistant Director to Visual Storytelling at High Desert Church in Victorville, CA. Additionally, he and his wife, Kiley, recently celebrated the 2nd birthday of their daughter, Lydia.



EVELYN (VANE) KRUIS '13 graduated with her Master of Arts in Family Education and Counseling from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. She hopes to use her degree to work with high school or college students.



IAN HARRIMAN '15 was engaged to Brianna Lee on March 3, 2018. They will be married on June 16th in Vanderwagen, NM.

INVEST IN PROVIDENCE

Being the advancement officer has its ups and downs. When I call on constituents, they know I'm likely to solicit financial support. This may mean that occasionally I'm unwelcome. Conversely, since everyone knows my calling is to solicit support, I'm often graciously received with knowing expectation. Ultimately, it is my hope that as we strive together for kingdom service, we are nurturing biblical stewardship as outlined below.

A MATTER OF THE HEART

Most people immediately think of money when they hear the word "stewardship." But stewardship is so much bigger than finances. It's really a heart issue – a longing to offer everything we are and have to Him. Consider these truths from the Word of God as you prayerfully ask the Lord to make your heart more in tune with His.

THANKFULNESS

"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). A steward's heart is a thankful heart – but how can we be thankful in everything? It begins with an attitude of gratitude – thanking God for the big and small blessings in our life and resting on His promises during the difficult times.

THOUGHTS

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have..." (Hebrews 13:5). Most people think if they had just a little more money, they'd be happier. But contentment isn't "getting what you want – it's a mindset of wanting what you have." Contentment comes when we tune out our culture's relentless pursuit for more and fix our thoughts and eyes on God who promised to supply all of our needs.

TRUST

"Instruct those who are rich in this present world not . . . to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17). Our trust can easily move from God to our bank accounts and abilities. But the only path to peace is to put our trust in God, yielding to His plan and timing for our lives.

TALK

"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 6: 6-7). Our children may fail to listen, but we know that they seldom fail to imitate us.

TALENTS

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10). Highly effective stewards see their time and talents as precious gifts from God and use those gifts to bless others and advance the kingdom of God in their homes, communities, and around the world.

TREASURE

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops" (Proverbs 3:9). When we give, we are demonstrating the depth of our loyalty to Christ and understanding of His grace in our lives. We serve a giving God, and when He lives in our hearts, our love for Him grows, overflowing in generous, sacrificial, and joyful giving to the things He cares about.



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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