ROVIDENCE RSTANCOLLECE

FROM CANADA TO CALIFORNIA: JOSIAH VANDERVEEN



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

IN CHRISTO OMNIA NOVA



"Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain."

- Philippians 2:14-16

On May 7, 2016, Providence Christian College graduated its eighth class. Over the past four years, our goal has been to involve these students in as many transforming experiences as possible—in the classroom, on the athletic fields, through our experiential learning programs, over a meal in the cafeteria, and through our chapel program. As they graduate, it is our hope and prayer that over the past four years they have been transformed through deep learning and have gained deeper wisdom.

Here's one recent example of the kind of transformative experience in which our seniors have been involved: in March, the Providence community focused on the habit of grumbling and how to turn this bad habit into the biblical habit of gratitude.

According to Guy Winch, author of *The Squeaky Wheel*, Americans love to complain; it has become a national pastime. But, ironically, they are terrible at it. Much of our complaining is ineffective and a total waste of our emotional energy. It is simply venting or whining. In fact, one study found that 95 percent of all consumer complaints never make it to the company responsible for the good or service complainers are unhappy about.

Because of the epidemic of complaining, Providence held its first Grumbling to Gratitude Week. Through chapel talks and daily video challenges, we learned that ineffective complaining is what the Bible calls grumbling (Phil. 2:14) and that the best antidote to grumbling is developing a heart of gratitude. So our daily video challenges helped us become aware of how we grumble during the day and to begin replacing this bad habit with the good habit of gratitude, rooted in God's fatherly care and provision for us.

It is only when we learn the habit of gratitude that we are then ready to learn how to effectively complain. Healthy and productive complaining is goal directed, builds up our learning community, and makes Providence stronger, healthier, and a more God-honoring community. We want all our students involved in making Providence the best Christian college possible.

Grumbling to Gratitude Week was just one of many transformative events that our recent graduates participated in while at Providence. Providence works hard to create these experiences so that all students will be equipped for a lifetime of loving God.

As we approach the end of our fiscal year, please continue to support Providence with increased prayer and financial contributions so that the vital work of Providence– equipping students to be grounded and engaged in their Christian faith and servant leaders in their community and the world–will continue in the years to come.

Blessings,

Jamos Beller

Dr. Jim Belcher, President

CONTENTS







- **04 / 05** NEWS AND EVENTS
- **06 / 07** FACULTY UPDATES NEW FACULTY AND STAFF DEAN'S LIST
- **08 / 09** ATHLETICS
 - **16** ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
- **18 / 19** A GRADUATE'S REFLECTION
 - **20** SEA BEGGAR SCRAMBLE
- 22 / 23 ALUMNI UPDATES

CONTRIBUTORS

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Max Belz Director of Experiential Learning

Dr. John Cunningham Director of the First Year Experience

Sam Mahtani Head Men's & Women's Soccer Coach

Mark Pomerville Development Assistant & Alumni Relations Manager

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Central Creative www.centralcreative.com

PHOTOGRAPHY

Samuel Mahtani www.samuelmahtani.com

Nathan Lewis '19

Mark Pomerville

COPY EDITOR Lynn Otto

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A. Michael Kiledjian Vice President for Advancement

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





ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

Renowned author, theologian, and political philosopher Dr. James Skillen served as keynote speaker for this year's Academic Conference. Skillen's lecture– *The World in Disarray: Will American Elections Make a Difference?*–offered students a unique perspective on how Christians should biblically interpret and respond to the electoral process.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

Residence halls were recently renovated and expanded with modern furniture and pool tables. In addition, new outdoor tables and chairs were placed throughout Pierce Hall courtyard. With even more campus improvements underway, Providence is continuing to create a positive educational atmosphere that promotes communal learning, student camaraderie, and Christ-honoring fellowship.



SPRING BANQUET

The Providence Chamber Singers performed at the college's spring banquet on March 19, 2016. The annual event offers Providence staff, faculty, and students an opportunity to personally thank local Southern California donors for their continued prayers and financial support. Providence's existence and sustenance has overwhelmingly been carried on the faithful shoulders of its local constituency, in addition to its supporters nationwide.



(I-r) Front: Billie Snieder, Andrew Bekkering, Timothy Veltkamp, Lauren Otto, Sterling Vander Ploeg, Camaren Leibitzke. Back: Stephen Lewis, Carrie Thibault, Noah Shepherd, Micaela Brown, Cody Walter, Jolene Ybema.

COMMENCEMENT 2016

On May 7, 2016, twelve students graduated from Providence Christian College. The commencement ceremony was held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, CA, just a few miles from the campus. Families gathered from throughout the United States and Canada to celebrate their student's walk across the stage, signifying a movement from college into the working world. Dr. Paul Otto, professor of history at George Fox University and father of senior Lauren Otto, delivered the commencement address, titled "Working in the Kingdom: Design, Construction, and Repair."

TWELVE

IN 2016 GRADUATING CLASS

2016-2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brandon Addison Dominic Aquila Duane Bulthuis Brad Burke Rev. David Crum Henry De Jager Charles De Groot Rev. William Godfrey Mary Ellen Godfrey Doreane Huizenga John Jansen John Kortenhoeven Ellen Korthuis Mark Mansour Dr. Lawrence McHargue Peter Nanninga Dr. Paul Otto Rev. Brannin Pitre Dr. Arnold Sikkema John Theisens Geoffrey Vanden Huevel Ronald Verhoeven

FACULTY UPDATES

First Year Experience director **DR. JOHN CUNNINGHAM**

presented a paper titled "Jonathan Edwards and an Aesthetics of Social Justice" at the Western Region of the American Academy of Religion in Tuscon, AZ, early this April.



DR. WHITNEY GAMBLE,

assistant professor of biblical and theological studies, wrote a post on "Meet the Puritans," a blog of the Alliance for Confessing Evangelicals.



DR. RUSS REEVES, professor

of history and humanities, will present a paper titled "Holy German Catholic Church: John Williamson Nevin's Pursuit of the Ideal Church in the Past and in Pennsylvania" at the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, in 2016.



DR. CHUCK RYOR, adjunct professor of communication, has been assisting Florida State University professor Dr. Davis Houck with a project examining the 1980 campaign rhetoric of Ronald Reagan. This semester, Dr. Ryor has spearheaded the



archival research portion of this work by spending time researching in the Reagan Presidential Library archives in Simi Valley, CA.

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

MARK POMERVILLE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS MANAGER

Mark Pomerville joins Providence after several years producing unscripted television programs, such as MTV's *Catfish: The TV Show*, ABC's *Extreme Weight Loss*,



and Game Show Network's *The American Bible Challenge.* Originally from Portland, Oregon, Pomerville studied film at the University of Southern California and earned his bachelor of arts in English at Washington State University. Having also served as program director at Shared Hope International in Washington, D.C., Pomerville is eager to use his nonprofit and media experience to help Providence's development department, as well as to nurture strong relationships with alumni. In his free time, he enjoys singing and voice-over acting.

JULIETTE DE SOTO ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Juliette De Soto moves into a fulltime role teaching English at Providence Christian College after serving part-time for about five years. She holds a master of arts



in English from California State University, Northridge, and a bachelor of arts in English from Biola University.

TREVOR DAVIDSON HEAD BASEBALL COACH

Please see the full story on page 9.



2015 FALL DEAN'S LIST

Students named to the Providence Christian College dean's list must be enrolled fulltime and maintain a GPA of 3.50 or higher for the semester. The Fall 2015 dean's list:

- Andrew Bekkering
- Sarah Bergquist
- Taylor Bredenhof
- Tyler Bulthuis
- Tweetie Campbell
- Nicole Dotinga
- Ruth Fleeman
- Elizabeth Groenewold
- Renee Haveman
- Kyle Huckins
- Amelia Jennings
- Brennan Kiledjian
- Katelyn Kunst
- Camaren Leibitzke
- Julia Lodder
- Raina Louwerse
- Catherine MacAdam
- Presence Massie
- Hannah Mersch
- Christopher Nagel
- April Otto
- Olufemi Oyerinde
- Amanda Schelbauer
- Noah Shepherd
- Madeleine Silva
- Billie Snieder
- Tina Snieder
- Charles Southard
- Aaron Stamper
- Carrie Thibault
- Sophia Van Zonneveld
- Josiah Vanderveen
- Heidi VanDriel
- Timothy Veltkamp
- Collin Vis
- Madison Vujnov
- Cody Walter
- Dean Whitcher
- Craig Whitt
- Jolene Ybema



CHUCK RYOR APPOINTED ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

by Max Belz

In January 2016, Dr. Chuck Ryor was hired as Providence Christian College's new athletic director. Ryor has been with Providence as an adjunct professor teaching communication classes since 2008, a role he will continue in addition to working in the athletics department.

Ryor brings years of experience in pastoral ministry and teaching to this new administrative position. He is currently the teaching pastor at Prism Church and has worked as a pastor to college students for almost 20 years. Chuck received his bachelor's in journalism from West Virginia University, his master's in theological studies from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, and his Ph. D. from Florida State University's College of Communication and Information.

"I love Providence because I have seen it play a critical role in my community life here in Pasadena," Ryor said. "In addition to my life as an adjunct professor, I have Providence students at Prism Church who have become part of our church community."

Athletics have also played a large role in Ryor's life. He played several sports in high school and is an enthusiastic college football fan, supporting the West Virginia University Mountaineers. In the Providence context, he is eager to see the school's mission amplified through athletics because of the opportunity to disciple the students during a critical time in life. "We want to hold them accountable and challenge them to grow in grace, teach them to have rigorous study habits, and to be involved socially," Ryor said.

Chuck and his wife, Carolyn, reside in Arcadia and have two children, Holly and Nick. Nick '19 will be a sophomore at Providence this Fall.

BASEBALL UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

by Sam Mahtani

Trevor Davidson has been announced as Providence Christian College's second head baseball coach. Davidson joins Providence after a few years on the Biola University baseball coaching staff. Prior to Biola, he enjoyed a professional career playing for the Victoria Seals (2010) and the Tucson Toros (2011). Davidson received his bachelor of arts in business from California Lutheran University and his associate degree in general studies from College of the Canyons, playing baseball at both schools as a student athlete.

President Jim Belcher is excited that Davidson is joining the Providence community, noting that "he brings tremendous baseball coaching skills, along with a commitment to discipleship and to the spiritual and academic mentoring of the young men at the college." Dr. Belcher deemed Davidson "a fantastic addition to our coaching staff," and said, "Along with the rest of the staff and faculty, I look forward to working with Trevor for years to come."

Davidson has been involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes baseball as an assistant coach for the SoCal Catch in the California Collegiate League. Davidson is an active



member of his church and previously served for four years as a leader in its special needs ministry.

"I'm excited to step into the Providence community, leading student athletes on and off the field," says Davidson. "Baseball presents an excellent opportunity to disciple and grow in Christ. I'm happy to work with a school that supports that vision."

For more information on the baseball program, visit www.providencecc.edu/athletics.

UPCOMING FALL TEAM SPORTS

by Max Belz Men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, and women's volleyball teams are preparing for the second season in the history of the college, a season which includes a full NAIA conference schedule in the California Pacific Conference. With the inaugural season accomplished and a core group in place from last season, the teams are excited as they get ready for the upcoming season. Stay up to date with team news and schedules online at www. providencecc.edu/athletics.

THE FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE: AN EXCITING NEW INITIATIVE

by John Cunningham, Ph.D.

We want our students to experience shalom–a thoroughgoing, God-drenched thriving–during their time here."

– JOHN CUNNINGHAM, PH.D.

DR. JOHN CUNNINGHAM is the director of the First Year Experience at Providence Christian College. Prior to working at Providence, he spent many years as a pastor and counselor and also worked for Fortune 500 companies. He has a B.F.A. in art from Bowling Green State University, an M.A. in biblical counseling from Colorado Christian University, an M.A.R. in philosophical theology and philosophy of religion from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in theology, ethics, and culture from the University of Virginia. In his current role, he is passionate about students flourishing in college by opening themselves to the wonder and delight of the life of the mind and preparing themselves to live out their callings. In addition to his work at Providence, Dr. Cunningham enjoys art, making sculpture and ceramics, watching films, riding his motorcycle, and hanging out with friends. John is married to Susan, a gifted poet and counselor. They have two delightful children, Evan and Elisabeth, and a golden retriever, Bono.

We at Providence Christian College are particularly excited about a new initiative designed to help incoming students flourish: the First Year Experience (FYE). The transition to college is a major life change, and while it is a joyful one for most students- a truly exhilarating time, full of new friends, new freedoms, and new opportunities—it's also a time of stress and challenge. The freshman year is a time away from the direct support of family and friends, and adjustment to the social and academic stressors can be significant. Study after study reveals that college students are more stressed-out than at any time in history. Nationally, many students say they were already stressed-from high school, the college admissions process, finances, and personal problems-before they even arrived at college. Furthermore, many incoming students feel personally unable to handle the difficulties of life. As the New York Times reported a few years ago, "The emotional health of college

freshmen . . . has declined to the lowest level since an annual survey of incoming students started collecting data 25 years ago"[1]. Another study found that "more than 28 percent said they frequently felt overwhelmed"[2]. Yet another national study found that 42 percent of college students often feel "down, depressed or hopeless"[3].

Don't get me wrong; I find Providence students to be remarkable young men and women, gifted and full of promise. However, my experience with first year students bears out the national trends. More students visit me in office hours for personal issues than they do for academic ones. Anxiety, depression, and social struggles top the list of what students want to talk about. While I am glad and honored that they do, this says to me that we at Providence Christian College must tend to the social, spiritual, and emotional needs of our students if we are to be successful in our mission. *CONTINUED ON PAGE* 12

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

This is not all we want to help incoming students with, however. Those who are admitted to Providence are bright and capable, but the level of academic challenge and expectation—especially at a rigorous school like ours—is a big step up from high school. Students must attain a much higher level of critical thinking, careful reading, and the ability to communicate effectively—both verbally and in writing. While some colleges a generation or so ago chose the sink-or-swim approach to this time of adjustment, we want to give students a leg up to the collegiate level of academic performance.

We are finding, then, that many entering freshmen need help in two areas: life skills (e.g., resilience, emotional health, selfknowledge, and social and relational skills) and academic skills, including productivity practices and time management. These needs are what the First Year Experience is designed to address.

THE AIM OF THE FYE:

HOLISTIC FLOURISHING AT PROVIDENCE Our hope and aim is that students not only "survive" college and earn their degree, but that they thrive and grow during their time here. Our model being Jesus, who "grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52), we seek to help our new students prosper academically (in wisdom), physically (in stature), spiritually (in favor with God), and socially (in favor with man). In other words, we have devised this program to address the holistic needs of our incoming students. I am writing this during spring semester—the second semester here for most of our freshmen. What a privilege and pleasure it is to witness the growth that happens in just one semester. Many, even most, of the students are becoming men and women whom I feel privileged to know and work with.

THE FYE IN THE CLASSROOM

The holistic strategy of our First Year Experience for serving our freshmen consists of experience both in the classroom and outside of it. In all we do, we seek to promote a deeper learning for greater wisdom. Inside the classroom we seek to coordinate and promote integrated learning objectives (such as instruction in effective academic writing) across all first year (100-level) courses. Two courses, however, directly advance the aims of the FYE: First Year Seminar and The Christian Mind.

In the fall semester, the First Year Seminar (FYS) introduces the concept of calling to first year students and helps orient them to their calling as students. FYS is designed to help initiate students into a rigorous academic learning community and to inculcate the values of a Christian liberal arts education. In addition to strengthening some of the collegelevel academic skills mentioned above, this course also emphasizes particular life skills and character virtues necessary to flourish both at Providence Christian College and in life. Special attention is paid to the findings of current research and established theology in the areas of relational and social skills, emotional regulation, stress management, and especially resilience. We stress that God has given each student a particular calling to bring God's

goodness and reign into the world. In other words, we stress that their lives matter. We also stress, however, that living out one's calling in a fallen and broken world requires resilience to overcome the difficulties, trouble, and setbacks with which we all must deal.

One assignment stands out to me. Each student gives a "hero presentation" in which they tell about someone they admire who overcame significant adversity in his or her life. While this assignment teaches skills such as public speaking and integrating research findings about resilience, it has also proved to be truly inspirational. More than once my eyes have brimmed with tears listening to a student talk about someone (often a family member) who overcame great odds to contribute good to the world.

In the second semester of the first year, new students take a course called The Christian Mind. This course, taught by Dr. Ryan McIlhenny, introduces students to rich categories of thought that mark the uniqueness of a Providence education. Students learn to think from a Christian worldview, drawing particularly from the weighty Reformed tradition. They learn to assess life and culture through the Biblical lens of creation, fall, and redemption. Furthermore, they learn to do this in a liberal arts context that teaches them to seek to draw on the breadth and depth of Western culture. More than one student has told me that "this class gave me the tools to think."

THE FYE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Of course, the college experience is so much more than academics. I work closely with our residence life team to ensure that our new students integrate and assimilate well into the Providence community. From Embark (our initial new student orientation at a beautiful mountain retreat facility) to ongoing social activities and other residence life programs developed especially for new students, as well as special "Faculty & Freshmen Forums" (opportunities to meet with professors in an informal setting), we hope to welcome and serve our new students throughout their first year at Providence.

In addition, all students participate in FYE Peer Mentoring Small Groups led by Providence upperclassmen and overseen by Sarah Rippetoe, graduate assistant for academic affairs. These groups allow students to process and integrate their first year experience in a safe, small setting. It also enables new students to get to know seven to nine other freshmen quickly in a structured environment. Our hope is that these groups not only foster learning at a deeper level, but also engender many lasting friendships.

OUR COMMITMENT TO NEW STUDENTS

We at Providence view our role in the formation of our students as a sacred charge. We want our students to experience shalom—a thoroughgoing, God-drenched thriving—during their time here. We believe that this all-encompassing intellectual, spiritual, and social flourishing is the aim of a Christian liberal arts education. It is our aspiration and prayer that the First Year Experience will serve that end for new students, enabling them to prosper throughout their time at Providence Christian College and beyond.

[1] http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/27/education/27colleges.html?_r=0

[2] http://www.cbsnews.com/news/20-facts-you-didnt-know-about-collegefreshmen/

[3] Recent AP/MTV survey. May 2009



FROM CANADA TO CALIFORNIA: JOSIAH VANDERVEEN

by Sam Mahtani

A COUPLE MONTHS BEFORE the fall 2015 semester, Josiah Bahnsen Vanderveen '19 was planning on attending a Christian college in Idaho. However, God had different plans for this Canadian from Langley, British Columbia. A few months later, he would be a freshman studying liberal arts with concentrations in business and fine arts at Providence Christian College. Josiah is the third of six children. His home church for the last 15 years has been Christ Covenant Church, where his father is the pastor. His mother, who homeschooled him and his siblings for a number of years, works as a fitness instructor and nutritionist.

After attending Credo Christian High School for grades 10-12 while working for a local construction company, Josiah's plans were all but settled. Then a close friend, Taylor Bredenhof '19, mentioned his interest in Providence and the men's soccer program, which led Josiah to research and find out more about Providence.

Now at Providence studying business and fine arts, Josiah had this to say regarding his experience: "I am thankful for the small class sizes that allow for intimate interaction between students and professors, the closely knit-community which fosters an environment of deep spiritual growth, and the school's hunger for truth that transforms students to become Christian culture-changers and life-long learners."

Speaking about his classes, Josiah said, "My favorite class thus far would be Hermeneutics, taught by Dr. Swanson. I have taken many Bible classes over the years, but have never had an opportunity to strictly study the methodology of proper exegesis of Scripture. This class has opened my mind to new horizons, and has challenged me to understand the entirety of the Bible as being a redemptivehistorical work of Christ."

In addition to classes, Josiah is excited about the outdoor adventures of California, including the beach and the city of Pasadena. On campus, he is involved with the men's soccer program, serves as a representative for student senate, plays percussion for chapel, and works for the admissions department making phone calls and writing emails to prospective students. Josiah also enjoys writing and recording music.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

by Mark Pomerville



CARYN VANDEN BERG CLASS OF **'09** From the moment she stepped on campus, Caryn Vanden Berg '09 was challenged in unexpected ways: "In every class my professors taught me how to think critically from a Biblical worldview about every life subject. I was taught how to analyze problems and approach dilemmas with a unique perspective and logical solution."

After graduating from Providence, Caryn moved back to her home in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and settled for a monotonous job working nights as a lab technician. However, she quickly realized that she wasn't unlocking her full potential. "I felt like I wasn't using my brain at all," said Caryn. So I thought to myself, "What's the most challenging thing I can do with what I learned at Providence? How can I honor the Lord with the gifts I've been given?" For Caryn, the answer was medical school.

"I had always been fascinated with how the human body works," she explained. "And I knew that if I pursued the medical field, God would give me opportunities to get out of my comfort zone and reach people who are in a really hard place in life."

On May 16, 2016, Caryn graduated from Wayne State University with her doctor of medicine degree. Throughout her schooling, Caryn has had many opportunities to assist other doctors and aid patients undergoing pain and suffering. "I try to show compassion to each patient that I meet. I see every opportunity to talk with someone who is sick or in need as a chance to offer them the hope of Christ."

In July 2016, Caryn will begin her postgraduate training as a pediatric resident physician with Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners, in affiliation with Helen DeVos Children's Hospital and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. Over the next three years, Caryn will undergo an intensive program to become board-certified. Ultimately, Caryn hopes to use her medical training in the mission field, both domestically and abroad.

When asked how her Providence education has influenced her life. Caryn said, "Providence made me think about some big life questions. As a doctor, I'm already using the critical thinking that I learned at Providence to aid me in my profession. Providence also helped me understand who I am in Christ-that I have an obligation to not only to serve my Savior, but to also serve those in my community. My plan is to be open to what God is calling me to do. Sometimes he calls us to do uncomfortable things, but I'm just focused on hearing God's call. By listening to the Lord, I've found that sometimes people need more than just medicine; they need the gospel."



AVODAH By Sam Mahtani

THE JEWISH CULTURAL AVODAH is one of the many Los Angeles experiences that Providence students are able to take advantage of. More specifically, it allows students to study Judaism in the historical context of the Bible as well as the tradition and culture of Jews in the 21st century.



For Hope Rhodes '19 from Tulsa, Oklahoma, this experience had special significance. Reflecting, she said, "The Jewish Cultural Avodah assisted with a practical application of learning the common ground between Christianity and Jewish beliefs that has strengthened my faith and helps me to

better understand issues in the world like the current Syrian refugee crisis."

This Avodah experience began with chapel talk by guest speaker Tuvya Zaretsky, director of staff development at Jews for Jesus, an organization focused on Jewish evangelism. Later that day, Dr. Swanson, professor of biblical and theological studies, led an introduction on Jews and Judaism for participating students and discussed how to think critically regarding biblical perspectives on Jews and Gentiles.

Dr. Swanson then led the group of students to the Pasadena Jewish temple, where they participated in a Friday evening Shabbat service, in which Jews celebrate the beginning of a day of rest. Included in the service was Kiddush, a recited celebration and blessing prior to a shared meal.

A few days later, Hope and the other participants toured University Synagogue and met Cantor Jay Frailich, who showed them a Torah scroll and talked with the group about the stained glass windows and the structure of the building, which is different from a church building. Cantor Frailich also recited a portion of the Torah called "Song of the Sea." The image on the Torah scroll is a picture of the story in Exodus of the Red Sea being parted into walls of water.

After the tour and lunch at a Jewish deli, the group took a guided tour of the Museum of Tolerance, where they learned more Jewish history. The tour included a presentation from a Holocaust survivor, who spoke of personal experiences during the reign of Hitler and the dehumanization of Jews during her life. Hope said this experience made history and oppression today very real. "As a Christian, what is our role in the Syrian refugee crisis?" she asked. "We don't want to get our hands dirty and we don't necessarily do something about it because it's seemingly a world away. We are not loving our neighbors in Syria."

Hope and her fellow students are regularly challenged to think critically and creatively about the problems we face in our society. An encouraging story from this Avodah experience came when Hope was home over spring break. She met with her cousin, who is currently developing a mentorship program for Jewish youth, and was introduced to a rabbi. Her experience allowed her to engage and understand the rabbi's concerns on a deeper level, she reported-something she would not have been able to do without this Avodah experience.

Providence has brought me greater understanding of God, myself, and my community".

-JOLENE YBEMA

A LOVE FOR LEARNING: A GRADUATE'S REELECTION

by Mark Pomerville

JOLENE YBEMA '16 always assumed her future would involve dairy farming. It was in her family's blood. Her grandpa had been a dairy farmer. Her father and mother were dairy farmers. And since childhood, it appeared that Jolene would also continue the time-honored Ybema tradition of milking Holstein cows.

After school each day, Jolene would rush home to her family's farm in Hopkins, Michigan, to tend over 350 cows with her brothers and sisters. She and her siblings spent many hours baling hay and feeding their livestock. Jolene's responsibilities on the farm were important in maintaining her family's business. But as the eldest of eight children, Jolene had an even greater obligation to be her siblings' mentor. "I was the 'big sister' in the family, and I found that I had to be a strong role model for my siblings," said Jolene in a recent interview. While she loved farming, Jolene discovered that she also possessed a gift for teaching. "In some ways I grew up as a teacher on the farm, always instructing my younger siblings on how to operate the machinery and take care of our animals."

So Jolene decided to pursue a career as an elementary teacher, rather than continue working on the family farm. As she was researching universities, Jolene stumbled upon Providence Christian College. "I knew that if I was going to be an elementary teacher, I needed a well-rounded knowledge of all subjects because I wasn't going



to just teach one subject to my future students," she explained. "I needed a liberal arts education so that I could have a broader focus and be able to give more to my pupils."

Over the next four years, her time at Providence proved to be invaluable. As she participated in the various components of her program, from language arts classes and experiential learning to unique internships and student teaching, Jolene strengthened her determination and love for educating. "The more classes I took at Providence, the more I learned how much passion I had for helping students learn. I also realized how much I love to learn, and how I never want to stop learning." On May 7, 2016, Jolene and 11 of her classmates graduated from Providence Christian College. With several professional teaching opportunities already in the works, Jolene is excited for what the future holds. Because of her shining example, Jolene's siblings are also pursuing higher education with the hopes of achieving their academic and professional goals.

"Providence has brought me greater understanding of God, myself, and my community," says Jolene. "When I get my first teaching job, I want to educate God's children for His glory and continue to glorify Him with my gift of teaching."



GOLF FUNDRAISER

by Sam Mahtani



On April 11, 2016, approximately 80 golfers gathered at Brookside Golf Course in Pasadena for the eighth annual Sea Beggar Scramble for Providence Christian College. The event, which raised about \$30,000 this year, is a fundraiser for the athletics department. This year, student athletes and coaches were heavily involved, golfing and connecting with supporters of the college.

Providentially, the forecasted rain was absent; the golfers enjoyed a beautiful sunny day. The event was a huge success, from the golfing rounds to the evening banquet and silent auction. At the evening banquet, Chuck Ryor, athletic director for the college, spoke about "Godly G.R.I.T." – focusing on athletes' opportunities for Growing spiritually, Rigorously studying, Involvement socially, and Team spirit. Golfers also heard from student athlete Morgan Zylstra '19, who spoke about her experience and growth in her studies, in her faith, and on the soccer field.

This year's Sea Beggar Scramble was won by the Providence Men's Soccer foursome made up of Josh Ault, Josiah Vanderveen '19, Alex Cabral '17, and Josh Granger (pictured above in lower left photo).

INVEST IN PROVIDENCE

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." - Psalm 20:7

Often God's leading in our lives takes the form of slow and subtle progress, whether it's our own personal sanctification or the fruition of our hopes and dreams. He asks us to remember his record of faithfulness and rest in him even through great adversity. This has certainly been the case at Providence Christian College.

As Providence enters its 11th year of operation, we reflect back over many moments of adversity and uncertainty, and we thank God, recalling his faithfulness. We rejoice that after several early years of disappointingly slow enrollment growth, we are now seeing consistent, exponential, and record enrollment growth.

While each year our financial needs have been met, God has often surprised us by moving in the hearts of supporters at critical moments to meet great challenges. We are grateful for every supporter investing in Providence.

An important marker of growth for a young enterprise like Providence is the need for recurrent investment. Like any business experiencing significant growth in the early years, a commitment of significant capital investment is necessary to ensure progress. Whether you've been supporting Providence steadfastly or have just recently been sparked with an interest in what the Lord is doing at Providence, I invite you to invest in the college. We face important near-term financial challenges that must be met to continue our forward momentum of growth.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER GIFT

One efficient way to support Providence is the IRA Charitable Rollover. After several years of one-year extensions, on December 18, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015. For our supporters who are age 70 ½ or older, the Act includes a permanent IRA Charitable Rollover extension, which provides a renewed opportunity to give from your traditional IRA or Roth IRA.

This may have special meaning for you or someone you know who is age 70 ½ or older. It means you can make charitable gifts directly from your IRA to Providence Christian College tax-free.

IRA CHARITABLE GIFT CONDITIONS:

- Gifts are tax-free up to \$100,000 per year.
- IRA holder must be age 70 ½ or older.
- This opportunity is now permanent.
- Gifts qualify for all or part of required minimum distributions (RMDs).
- Gifts must be made directly to a charity.
- Gifts may only be made from traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs.

If you have questions or would like to make a gift to Providence Christian College from your IRA, please give me a call at 626.696.4058 or e-mail me at mkiledjian@providencecc.edu. We appreciate your partnership and your important prayerful and financial support of Providence.



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**.



Providence Christian College is a member of the Barnabas Foundation.

ALUMNI UPDATES



TRACIE (VANDEN HEUVEL) BUSHNELL '09 and her husband, Robert, welcomed their second son, Joshua Martin, on November 5, 2015, in Tulare, CA.



AARON HODSON '09 and his wife, April, welcomed their fifth child, Emmalyn Faith. Emmalyn was born on March 6, 2016, and weighed 8 lbs.



JANA CRUM '12

was recently engaged to Aijalon Church. They were married in May 2016 and will move to Pennsylvania for Aijalon's last year at Westminster Theological Seminary.



GALEN TUGGY '12 and his wife, Lorah, welcomed their first child, Susan Juliett, on February 12, 2016. Susan weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz.



TIM VANDER MEULEN '12 is currently living in Kalaheo, Hawaii. In early fall 2016, Tim will move to Westminster, California, to begin his new job as a seventh and eighth grade teacher at Covenant Christian Academy.



CARISSA (KNOL) GARRETT '13 and her husband, WILL GARRETT '15 are excited to announce that Carissa graduated with her law school degree from UCLA on May 13, 2016. She will be taking the California bar exam at the end of July.



DANIELLE YETT '14 is currently in Toronto, Canada, and is completing her first year of her Master in Philosophy program at the Institute for Christian Studies.



DANIELLE DIRKSEN '15

is completing the first year of her English literature master's degree at California State University, Long Beach. She recently became engaged to Travis Alsky, and they will be getting married on August 6, 2016.



ELIJAH VILLAFAÑA '09 and CANDACE (JANZEN) VILLAFAÑA '13 were married on April 1, 2016.



BETHANY WAGGONER '10

and her husband, John, moved to Muscle Shoals, Alabama, where John is the lead physical therapist for two clinics. Bethany and John are expecting their second child in June 2016.



JUSTIN BOND '13

and his wife, Kiley, recently welcomed their first child, Lydia Elizabeth, on July 27, 2016. Lydia was born weighing 7 lbs., 6 oz.



ZOE HEBBARD '15

and his wife, Christine, were blessed with their first child, Judah Brent, on September 15, 2016. He was born weighing 7 lbs., 11 oz.



BRADLEY BOSCH '13

and his wife, Kimberly, welcomed twins on January 3, 2016. Quinn Lennette (4 lbs., 16 3/4 inches) and Brooks Bradley (4 lbs., 1 oz., 17 inches) were born two months early, at 32 weeks, and spent a month in the NICU. They are now home and doing well.



MARK HOGAN '15

is graduating with a Master of Divinity from Westminster Seminary in May 2016. Mark will also be starting a 10-month pastoral internship in Anchorage, Alaska, later this summer. He and his wife, **CHRISTINE HOGAN '15,** are expecting their first child in June 2016.



Gifts received through April 2016

IN HONOR OF:

Henrietta Vander Schaaf's 90th birthday from Nellie Vander Pol

IN MEMORY OF:

Cecil Gosliga from Bud and Laura Bosch Richard and Dorothy Docter Betty Greydanus Cornelia Vander Dussen Michael and Kimberly Kiledjian

Willis Mulder from Martin and Leona Verhoeven

Providence welcomes honorary e- memorial designated gifts. Donations and acknowledgments for the next publication should be sent by October 2016.



1539 E. Howard Street Pasadena, CA 91104 Toll Free: 866.323.0233 Phone: 626.696.4000 Fax: 626.696.4040

www.providencecc.edu

NONPROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** CLAREMONT, CA PERMIT #100

APPLY NOW PROVIDENCECC.EDU/APPLY

FREE APPLICATION CODE: SPRING16MAG

At Providence, we're committed to *Faith-Guided Learning*, believing that developing deep faith will best equip our students for greater learning.

UPCOMING CAMPUS VISIT DAYS

PROVIDENCECC.EDU/VISIT 9.16 10.7 11.11 12.2