PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

FEATURE STORY

EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS BY SHELLI LUNDGREN '13

A PASSION FOR LOST CIVILIZATIONS



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MISSION STATEMENT

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.

IN CHRISTO OMNIA NOVA

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR



Colleges love to feature something we call "outcomes." Outcomes are facts, often displayed statistically, that demonstrate how well graduates are doing in the professional world. They help colleges assess the effectiveness of their programs and persuade parents and prospective students to choose a college for its

success in preparing graduates for careers and advanced education.

Providence was founded in 2005. We have a little more than a dozen years of graduates with our largest classes only graduating in the most recent years. Outcomes present a peculiar challenge for Providence. We don't yet have 50 years of history and 20,000 alumni all over the world to fully demonstrate mature statistical outcomes.

Yet despite our relative youthfulness, Providence has enjoyed seeing some tremendous results in our outcomes. Many of our graduates have successfully navigated forward to obtain post graduate degrees and career advancements across many fields.

One of our most successful programs has been our education program. For a college of our limited history, I would dare boast that we have had a disproportionately great measure of success in producing educators – excellent educators! In this issue, we are proud to feature "Educating the Educators" – a view into the history, the people, and the graduates that so beautifully demonstrate the outcomes Providence continues to achieve.

Education is not the only place we're seeing great results in our academic programs. We're also proud of the spiritual and intangible outcomes. A great example of maturing faith and career development is the story of recent graduate, Adrian Saucedo. I hope you'll take a few moments to read his story.

We are proud of our programs and the alumni furthering their education and achieving great professional success for the glory of God and service to humanity. Thank you for supporting Providence. We continue to marvel and give thanks for the growth and rich provisions of God's blessings on our young and faithful institution.

Soli Deo Gloria, A. Michael Kiledjian, Executive Editor Vice President for Advancement

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CONTRIBUTORS

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Eddie Arnett Assistant Director of Athletics

Ashley Becker Executive Assistant to the VP for Advancement & Alumni Relations Manager

Natillie Bos Class of 2022

Shelli Lundgren Class of 2013

Flora Krook Assistant Professor of English and Literature & Writing Center Director

Mark Pomerville Advancement & Digital Media Manager

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Central Creative www.centralcreative.com

COPY EDITOR

Flora Krook Assistant Professor of English and Literature & Writing Center Director

PHOTOGRAPHY

Mark Pomerville Advancement & Digital Media Manager

Additional Submissions

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A. Michael Kiledjian Vice President for Advancement

Fall 2022 New Students

In August 2022, Providence Christian College welcomed its fourth largest incoming group of new students. While 70 percent of students originate from California, others come from across the United States, including Oregon, Colorado, Washington, Texas, Arizona, Vermont, and South Carolina. Half of the student population is culturally diverse, and in the spirit of a true liberal arts education in community, over 90 percent of students live on campus.



Commencement Speaker -David L. Bahnsen

Our May 2022 commencement speaker was David L. Bahnsen, author, Chief Investment Officer, and founder of The Bahnsen Group. In his message, "A Truly Human Moment", Bahnsen implored Providence Christian College graduates to work unto the Lord, and not merely to men. "You do not need to think about your work as drudgery," said Bahnsen. "You can see it for what it is: A daily vehicle for living in faithful obedience to your Creator who made you to, like Him, be creative and productive."





Fall Convocation

Providence Christian College held its annual Convocation Ceremony. Following an address from Academic Dean, Dr. David E. Alexander, and Dean of Student Life, Brian DeHaan, students, staff, and faculty collectively signed the Providence Promise, pledging to hold one another accountable before the Lord through devoting one's affections to right worship, living dutifully, and loving others.

Church Fair

Earlier this semester, Providence Christian College hosted a Church Fair, which featured pastors from confessionally Reformed Christian churches in the greater Pasadena area who encouraged Providence students to become members of a local body, as the weekly gathering of believers is vital to a growing, maturing faith in Christ.





Providence Launches New Podcast

In late fall, Providence Christian College launched a new podcast program entitled, *The Virtuous Mind.* Hosted by Dr. David E. Alexander, Dean of Academics, this podcast features Providence faculty interviews on a variety of academic topics, exploring all facets of the human experience and the liberal arts from a biblical worldview. You can listen to *The Virtuous Mind* on **SoundCloud** and **YouTube**. To learn more, visit *www.providencecc.edu/thevirtuousmind*.

DEAN'S LIST

Spring 2022

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 2022 dean's list includes:*

Liam Arque Natillie Bos Rebecca Brach Andrew Brown Alyssan Burgess Jakob Cronkhite Mark Eaton Melanie Evangelista Hannah Fenton Amme Finton Joseph Forslund Valeria Garcia Adria Hosmer Landin Hurley Elizabeth Jung Trey Kirschner Denise Litonjua Janelle Lopez Cameron Martin Samuel Meadows Kyle Melvin Sidney Mestre Amelia Mitchell David Moelker Benjamin Moelker Alyssa Molen Leland Oliver Savannah Page Sage Puente Philip Revnoso Kaitlyn Robinson **Bailey Rogers** Cassidy Sanchez Tyler Stauffer Thomas Stemberger Lauren Taylor Celeste Vargas Nicholas Zielomski

FACULTY UPDATES

DR. DAVID E.

ALEXANDER, Dean of Academics and Associate Professor of Philosophy, gave the keynote address "Winning and Sinning"



at the StoaUSA Speech and Debate Tournament. He gave a talk on the nature of worship at the Worship Night at Bethel CRC in Manhattan, MT, and gave a series of talks at Calvin Christian School in Escondido, CA. He also had the privilege of giving the convocation address at Providence.

FLORA KROOK, Assistant Professor of English and Literature and Writing Center Director, will be presenting a paper

entitled "Unregenerate



Generation: Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* and the Attempt at Reintegration Through Religion" at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association conference at UCLA, November 11-13.

DR. SCOTT SWANSON,

Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies, will be attending the Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting



in Denver, and moderating a session on Psalms and Hebrew Poetry.

DR. ISAIAH LIN, Assistant Professor of Philosophy,

gave the inaugural Faculty Scholarship Series lecture on "A New Theory of Time." He also



had a paper titled "Meinongianism, Ontological Pluralism, and the Growing Block" accepted for presentation at the APA Eastern Division meeting, and is scheduled to give an upcoming lecture for computer science majors at Biola University titled "Robots, AI, and Moral Decision-Making."

DR. LAWRENCE MUMFORD, Visiting

Lecturer in Music, recently composed an orchestral piece entitled *Hope and a Future*. This was the



second of his pieces to be recorded by the Czech Republic's Janáček Philharmonic. Along with last year's *Of Times and Seasons*, it is available on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music, and CD. The latter has also been played several times on the largest classical radio stations in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and other cities.

Ashley Q. Becker

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS MANAGER

Ashley Becker joins the Advancement Department at Providence as the Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Advancement & Alumni Relations Manager. She received a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management from California Polytechnic University Pomona in 2021. Becker



is grateful to work for an organization with such an honorable mission and is excited to use her management experience to help support the college. She loves her hometown of Pasadena and enjoys rock climbing, golfing, guitar, and reading theology.

Lorraine Ruiz

STAFF ACCOUNTANT AND STUDENT ACCOUNT MANAGER

Lorraine Ruiz joins Providence as the Staff Accountant and Students Account Manager. She comes to Providence with a wealth of experience in the business operations of schools, most recently at Maranatha High School in Pasadena. She feels very blessed to be part of the Providence family and looks



forward to interacting with the staff, faculty, and students. Lorraine is an active member of San Gabriel Community Church. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, cycling, listening to music, watching movies, and eating out at new restaurants with friends.

Patrick Faus

ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR

Patrick Faus joins the Providence community as an Admissions Counselor. He received a Bachelors in Ministry Leadership with an emphasis in Teaching from Moody Bible Institute. As a father of five, he is passionate about this upcoming generation of Believers being equipped for the good works



God has prepared for them through a classical, liberal arts education. In his free time he enjoys time with his wife and children, reading, watching movies and sports, and good conversations. He is thrilled that God has brought him to Providence College and looks forward to getting to know the faculty, staff, and students better in the days ahead.

Madelyn Smith

LECTURER IN MUSIC

Madelyn Smith is officially joining the faculty at Providence as Lecturer in Music and Choir Director, after serving as the chapel worship leader last year. She received her Bachelor of Arts in music from The Master's University and owns a private music education business in the Santa Clarita Valley, where



she teaches piano and music lessons to students of all ages. Smith is a passionate educator with a desire to unite the study of music with worship of our Creator, and is thrilled to be a part of a community at Providence that shares the desire to honor the Lord through music education.

Educating the Educators

BY SHELLI LUNDGREN '13

PROVIDENCE'S STUDENTS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES RETURNING TO THE CLASSROOM THIS FALL. Around the world, Providence graduates are furthering

the college's mission as redemptive educators, engaging culture, and reaching student's hearts with a Reformed, biblical worldview in their respective corners of God's kingdom.

BY THE NUMBERS - PROVIDENCE'S MISSION IN ACTION

Though it is a young institution, from its very beginning Providence Christian College has been making an impact on the world through education. From the first teacher produced in the first graduating class of 2009 (still teaching her own children a decade later) to now, Providence has sent over 60 students from the Education concentration out into the world. At least 50 of these are still actively teaching in classrooms across the country and around the world. Significantly, this means that 25% of the total graduates from the college either studied education directly, or their studies in other areas equipped them for teaching positions. These graduates serve as far afield as China, and as close as down the street in Pasadena, California. In at least four countries and eight different states, these Providence alumni are putting the mission of the college into action, demonstrating the best of what Reformed Christian education has to offer. They are changing hearts and minds for Christ and teaching students to analyze culture from a biblical lens. They are helping students find their gifts, and providing them with a foundation to go out into the world to glorify God. They are helping students find meaning

in every square inch of the creation. Each of these educators were uniquely prepared for their positions by Providence's world-class educational program.

A COUNTER-CULTURAL PROGRAM

So why is the Education department at Providence producing such impressive results and such high numbers, when nationally, education is trending in the opposite direction? Traditionally, 40% of students enrolling in colleges or state universities were pursuing education degrees, but now that number is closer to 10% on average. While Providence is not completely exempt from the trends away from education, there is one factor that makes a big difference: Education 101 is part of the core curriculum. Professor Jan Van Spronsen explains, "The benefit of having it in the core at Providence is that many get to discover it, or consider for the first time after being here, whether it might be their calling after all." She is able to point to several students who came to Providence to pursue different areas of study, but after taking EDU 101, they realized their giftings in that area, and decided to follow a different path after graduation. Students also realize that education is a field that offers an especially meaningful career option post-graduation. "It is an attractive concentration because it offers such a clear path of service to God and to others," reflects Professor Julie Bykerk.

SUCCESS STORIES

There are certainly many Providence alumni who followed that path of service, and many of

them are eager to share how their education at Providence prepared them and led them to their current classroom ministries. Sam Fennema (2019) is one student who found his calling during Education 101. He cites the way Professor Van Spronsen connects faith and work, and states, "For the first time, I was able to see that I had skills and could contribute. Her classes taught me more than what education was, but that I had the skills to be an educator." He goes on to explain how this affected him when he says, "She didn't just teach me the theory of teaching, but my identity as a teacher. This still stands as one of the greatest gifts I have ever received." Fennema says Van Spronsen modeled how a Christian can live a life that was designed by God with a clear purpose, and how to seek that out through teaching and relationship. He recounts, "Only in that combination could I have found education as a 'calling' instead of a 'job'." By the time he graduated, his mind was made up to follow this calling to the other side of the world, as he currently serves God in a classroom in China, while simultaneously seeking his graduate degree from Covenant Christian College.

Back in the states, Providence's biblical perspective on teaching continues to carry influence. Jolene (Ybema) Westendorp (2016), spent six years teaching in 4th-8th grade classrooms in Michigan. Now at home with her family, Westendorp feels that her preparation at Providence has affected her life not only in the classroom, but in other ways as well. She explains, "If there's anything I've learned as a teacher it's that everything is always changing. In education, you need to roll with the punches and be flexible." She continues, "Providence prepared me well to be flexible by inspiring me to be a lifelong learner...to continue to learn



Shelli (Cammenga) Lundgren '13 is grateful for the preparation she received at Providence.

how to best teach the students the Lord has providentially placed in my classroom. This skill will continue to assist me as I raise and train my daughter."

Shelli (Cammenga) Lundgren (2013) is equally grateful for the preparation she received at Providence. Now in her tenth year teaching English in a secondary classroom in Escondido, California, Lundgren credits her time at Providence as equipping her for the variety of roles she has been able to fulfill. She states, "Because we were able to be involved in so many different parts of the Providence community, I was prepared for the wide range of skills needed at the school God called me to..." She goes on to explain, "I was not only able to teach, but direct drama productions, design the

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ADRIAN SAUCEDO '21

Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

SAUCEDO

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THROUGHOUT HIS ADOLESCENT YEARS, Adrian Saucedo's life was unpredictable and he never truly felt like he had a place to call home. His father passed away when Adrian was young, and his mother was in and out of his life due to addiction. At different times, he moved around to stay with extended family, friends' families, even his cross country coach at one point. But his Grandmother, Alma, and his Aunt Elsa and Uncle Fausto, all played a key role in keeping him and his sisters out of the foster care system. It was while living with them from 5th grade to Sophomore year, that they first instilled in him obedience, structure and respect. Although Saucedo had many hardships, he looks back on the brokenness with a secure understanding of God's hand over his life leading him to Providence and his current career. He describes how his childhood shaped him, "Who knows who I would have become if I didn't go through anything tough. But honestly, if my story tells you anything it's that I got taken care of at a lot of different points in my life."

After attending public school for elementary and middle school, he went on to attend Ontario Christian High School with his cousins. During his senior year, he and his friend were recruited by Providence to play soccer. Adrian reflects on a significant heart change that took place after getting immersed in the college: "Soccer was my main focus at the time, but that went away really quickly, as other things became more important to me."

The friendships, the faculty, and the excellent teaching of theology shifted his focus and reoriented his priorities. Saucedo remarked, "If it wasn't for Providence I don't know when I would ever be introduced to Reformed Theology. It was a really big point that significantly molded me." Adrian was also particularly struck by the bond of friendship that he shared with many mature and godly men during his college years. "Seeing the way they acted and talked, the accountability they had and their knowledge about faith.. It challenged me to think deeper. I really fell in love with that bond between Reformed brothers." Saucedo elaborated that these bonds "had more substance to it as opposed to someone with loose theology. Reformed theology teaches and forces you to love in a different way; it's not as demanding to love your brother. I got to experience that, and I knew I wanted that."

Not only did Saucedo see God's hand at work in finding a supportive community and growing deeper in his faith at Providence, but he also saw the Lord's guidance toward his career path during his college years. From the time he was in the 5th grade and did a career project, Saucedo said he wanted to be a Police Officer. He remarked, "It's something I always wanted to do. Part of it has to do with seeing all the bad things around me: good people going down wrong paths, how drugs, alcohol and bad choices can rip a family apart... That made me want to help and protect people from certain things I went through. Being a Police Officer was just a matter of 'when' for me." During his time at the college, he made connections within the broader Pasadena community that turned out to be rather providential. While working at a coffee shop in Sierra Madre, he met a

woman named Marilyn Diaz. Although now retired, she was the first woman to be on patrol in Pasadena and eventually the first woman to become Chief of Police in Los Angeles County. Diaz became a mentor to him during and after college as he was making decisions to pursue law enforcement. When Adrian's wife, Lindsey, was accepted into graduate school in a different state, Diaz collected recommendations for departments that Adrian could apply to near their new home. Within a few weeks, Adrian's prayers were answered. Saucedo was sworn in as a Police Officer on September 30th, 2022.

As Adrian reflects on his journey at Providence and where he is at now, he is grateful to the faculty, staff and friends that supported and encouraged him to pursue his dreams. He recalls the significant lessons that were impressed upon him during his college years: "Providence taught me how to think deeply. Instead of seeing things only in black and white, it taught me to be open to see different perspectives. Nothing is really quite as it seems. The obvious answer isn't always correct; there's usually more to it. Thinking critically was one of the most significant things I learned at Providence." Adrian is excited to start this new chapter of his life and to apply the skills and principles that Providence so deeply instilled in him. He reflects, "Everything leading up to college forced me in a certain direction. Statistically, the odds were stacked against me. But everything that happened was important and put me where I needed to be to get to Providence."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: REBECCA BRACH ('23)

A Passion for Lost Civilizations

SINCE CHILDHOOD, REBECCA BRACH ('23) HAS HAD A PASSION FOR LEARNING ABOUT LOST CIVILIZATIONS.

While most kids dream of being an astronaut or a veterinarian, Brach would spend her early days reading about the pyramids of Egypt, or studying the Mayan ruins of El Salvador, hoping that one day she would explore these ancient cultures for herself, and discover the mysteries that surround their disappearance and decay.

"I like puzzles," says Brach. "I like asking questions and finding answers. I think that's what drew me to anthropology and archeology when I was young— I love discovering the truth." It was this love for the truth that attracted Brach to attend Providence Christian College. In August 2020, Brach enrolled in Providence's Philosophy, Politics, and History (PPH) concentration, which provided humanities courses that further deepened her understanding of mankind and her love for learning.

"Providence has taught me how to think critically and ask deeper, more meaningful questions about the world," says Brach. "The professors have encouraged me to seek as complete an understanding about God and humanity as possible." As her love for anthropology has grown, Brach was given a rare chance to further her passion for solving history's great mysteries.

In June 2022, during the summer hiatus from her studies at Providence, Brach, along with 15 other students from across the nation, were selected from nearly one hundred candidates to embark on a six-week archeological excavation located in the Sandia Mountains near Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The purpose of the dig, facilitated by New Mexico State University (NMSU) through a Spanish land grant, was to uncover the remnants of an historic plaza, which was the home of 17 Spaniard families who abandoned their settlement after an attack from an indigenous tribe in 1770.

What did these Spanish families take with them when they abandoned their homes? Did the settlers leave any significant artifacts after they departed? Did they keep their dwellings intact? Or, did they destroy them so that the attackers wouldn't be able to reside in their homes after they left?

These were just some of the questions that Brach and her team attempted to answer during their excavation.

The demands of such a project proved to be monumental for Brach. While on the site, she would awake at 4:30 AM, clear the site of natural debris, lay out units for measuring, dig for artifacts, sort and wash antiquities, and journal her findings, which would later be included in a formal report of the excavation.

Despite the demanding work, the field course fulfilled a childhood dream for Brach, offering

her an unprecedented opportunity to traverse the remnants of a pivotal moment in New Mexican history. As part of her findings, Brach uncovered pieces of animal bones, leftover food from the colonists, and portions of the settlers' dwellings— all crucial elements to piecing together a lost moment in time.

"I loved the excitement of the entire process and the feeling of discovery." says Brach. "While we didn't get answers to all of our questions, we learned so much about the individuals of this settlement, their habits, and their personalities. It was an incredible learning experience."

For Brach, the learning will continue. Upon graduating from Providence in May 2023, She hopes to embark on a new anthropological excavation in the Pacific Islands of Hawaii. Following the completion of this dig, Brach plans to participate in other field school opportunities, gaining the excavating and surveying experience necessary to pursue archeology professionally.

As Brach reflects upon her time at Providence Christian College, she acknowledges how a Reformed Christian Liberal Arts education equipped her not only for anthropological exploration, but also prepared her for a life of seeking God for the answers.

"Providence has prepared me to ask the hard questions about mankind. The more I dig, the more I learn about our sovereign Creator. Everything in this world is broken by sin, but we can still see the beauty of God's creation, and in the people from the past, who were made in His image."

FALL 2022 SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS







































DISORDERED LOVE: *Examining Pursuits of Affection in the Works of Dante and Augustine*

BY PROFESSOR FLORA KROOK

The following article is a transcript from **The Virtuous Mind**, a new podcast from Providence Christian College that explores and discusses all facets of the human experience from a biblical worldview. Listen to the full episode online: www.providencecc.edu/thevirtuousmind.

THIS PAST SEMESTER, I assigned a few sections of *The Confessions* by Augustine, to the English 102 class (Logic, Rhetoric and Research) at Providence. The first part of this work contains the beautiful and familiar phrase, "you have made us and drawn us to yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you" (3). In the text, Augustine examines the way in which his heart was seeking something that would bring him the peace that is only found in the love of God.

Reading a few passages from The Confessions made for wonderful discussion in class, and simultaneously, we had a small group of faculty and students reading The Confessions informally before chapel. That alone would have been a wonderful exploration of how language and literature can help us reflect on our Christian lives. However, at the same time, a few students and I were doing an informal study of Dante's Divine Comedy. The way in which the ideas and concepts from the two texts reflected and informed each other made the reading of each a much richer experience. This should not surprise us, as Augustine and Dante both examine the sins of disordered love, and the way in which love that is oriented towards God leads to salvation and rest.

While Augustine examines his own life, Dante leads us on an imaginative journey from hell (*Inferno*) to paradise (*Paradiso*). Both texts illustrate the dissatisfaction of pursuit of imperfect love. Augustine illustrates how "love" for worldly things, whether fame, sex, knowledge, or even (with the pears) a love of sin itself, ultimately leave him empty and still searching. As he recounts these situations, he praises God that he was saved from the cycle of wrongly oriented love.

Dante's sinners in *Inferno* are eternally stuck in their sin and "contrapasso" (literally "to suffer the opposite"). As the sinners suffer in hell, they are regenerated to suffer again, but for them, there is no hope of change or end. They are forever caught up in the misplaced love that led to their damnation.

Dante's poem reads like an embodied picture of the observations Augustine makes in *The Confessions*. In Book III, Augustine, speaking metaphorically, describes his sin as an itching, inflamed, festering wound (39). Comparatively, Dante's sinners in Canto XXIX are constantly scratching at their scabs, never obtaining relief (269). "Scratching" at sin does not satisfy the itch. There can be no satisfaction in the pursuit of wrong love.

All sinners tend towards disordered love, but both Augustine and Dante reassure us that as our desires are aligned toward God, we have a clear direction for our lives and can pursue a good, pure love that is only found in God himself. Augustine says to God, "it is on you that I want to gaze with eyes that see purely and find satiety in never being sated. With you is rest and tranquil life" (36).

Augustine knows that there is peace, not just in salvation itself, but peace in pursuing God. Dante, too, as he beholds the Empyrean at the end of *Paradiso*, says, "but my desire and will were moved already – like / a wheel revolving uniformly – by / the Love that moves the sun and the other stars" (303). Augustine returns again and again to his praise of God and the knowledge that it was God directing his ways so that he could find rest in God; Dante uses images of stars and navigation throughout the poem to illustrate that the pursuit of God alone can bring salvation.

In a world where there is often a lack of direction in our lives, and when we as individuals so often love the wrong things, we can be grateful that God uses these timeless texts to remind us to correctly order our loves. As we study different aspects of the liberal arts here at Providence, we can



appreciate again and again the way in which different areas of learning overlap to point us back to the Creator and remind us not only of who we are, but more importantly, who God is and the rest and peace that are found only in a pursuit of him.

CITATIONS:

- Alighieri, Dante. The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri, Inferno: A Verse Translation. Translated by Allen Mandelbaum, Bantam Books, 2004.
- ---. The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri, Paradiso: A Verse Translation. Translated by Allen Mandelbaum, Bantam Books, 2004.
- Augustine. *The Confessions.* Translated by Maria Boulding, Vintage Books, 2009.

New Coaches

The start of the Fall 2022 athletic year brought the addition of new faces to the Providence Christian College Athletic Department.



Baseball welcomed veteran coach **KEVIN SMITH (SMITTY)** as the next Providence Christian College Head Baseball Coach. Coach Smith comes with an impressive resume

that includes ten years of collegiate coaching experience as well as forty-five years of high school coaching experience. He has won six California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) titles in his coaching career (two with baseball and four with football), and has had the distinct privilege of coaching over twenty young men that have gone on to be drafted by Major League Baseball. With such a rich pedigree, there is no doubt that his leadership will help propel the Providence baseball program well into the future. When asked about taking over the baseball program, Coach Smith said, "I'm so blessed to be at Providence, and I feel like this is where God has led me."



Men's and Women's Golf welcomed **ROBERT GURULE** to the Sea Beggar family as our new Head Golf Coach. Throughout his career in coaching and leadership,

Gurule has demonstrated a strong skill set and reputation for building programs and implementing strategic plans. He was one of the two founding coaches of the Maranatha High School golf program, and he found great joy building that and helping establish its strong foundation, which still reaps the fruit of his labors today. When asked about the opportunity to take over the Providence golf program, Coach Gurule said, "I am honored for this opportunity to coach at Providence Christiain College. I believe wholeheartedly that the timing of this opportunity has been meticulously orchestrated by our Lord."



Women's volleyball welcomed LAURYN ANDREW as the new head women's volleyball coach. Coach Andrew has spent the past 15 years coaching club, high

school, and college volleyball, as well as teaching, lecturing, and working in support roles from the university level all the way down to the K-12 district level. Coach Andrew has deep roots in the club volleyball world, and will use those connections to continue the growth of Providence Volleyball. Coach Andrew says, "This opportunity marks the culmination of years of prayer for my passion for coaching and my faith to align. I am grateful to have the foundation Chris Chown laid for this program and seek to continue his legacy in leading these young women through the core values of excellence, ownership, humility, and heart."



BY EDDIE ARNETT

At Providence, the journeys we embark on together are remarkable catalysts for memories, and they have the potential to bring friends and families closer together. In the world of college athletics, the eventual destination is what each team strives for, but all the experiences and life lessons along the way are what create memories, grow bonds, and develop character. The mere accomplishment of reaching a goal only brings lasting gratification when the entire process produces maturation and growth. Quite often in the moment, the trials associated with reaching our goals leave us wanting, but we also understand that the trials lead us to our most meaningful destinations. Men's head soccer coach Franklyn Joseph said, "By focusing on the process of the journey, we experience a deeper understanding of ourselves, our teammates and others. Rather than just looking at the result as the main aim, looking at the journey as the main part further helps us to obtain a deeper experience of the process. By focusing on the journey/process, we choose to focus on personal growth- which to us, is the most important value." The beauty that the trip affords along the way, provides the meaning.

The journey of a team and an athletic department can be an arduous adventure, but Christ's work in us and through us remain the landmarks of true success. These journeys can leave people feeling different ways; one teammate may be on an

extreme high while another is on an extreme low, possibly in the same set of circumstances. This dichotomy makes our individual journeys even more exceptional. The beauty is found when we understand that God has ordained our journeys and cares deeply for the experiences in each of our lives. Psalm 37:23-24 says, "The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand." The Providence Christian College coaches are entrusted to lead their teams through unique journeys each year. They are expected to push each student-athlete to overcome obstacles while encouraging them to persevere in the face of adversity. They also rejoice in the many areas of success and accomplishment as young men and women learn what it means to honor the Lord through their pursuit of athletic excellence.

Our athletic journey leads to wins and losses and, most importantly, a deeper understanding of who God is and who He is calling us to be. No matter where you are on your journey, we encourage you to take a moment to stop and appreciate all the places God has brought you to and through. Our journey as the Providence athletic department continues as we compete in our ninth year of collegiate athletics and we thank you for joining us through your prayer and support.

MEMORIAL & HONORARY GIFTS

Gifts received through September 2022

In Loving Memory Of:

Frank Leyendekker

from Geoffrey and Darlene Vanden Heuval Michael and Kimberly Kiledjian Leona Verhoeven Scott and Ellen Korthuis

Dale Struiksma

from Ron and Bev Verhoeven Michael and Kimberly Kiledjian Mark and Dawn Dirksen Scott and Ellen Korthuis

Adrianna Leyendekker from Michael and Kimberly Kiledjian Scott and Ellen Korthuis

William Lock from Michael and Kimberly Kiledjian Scott and Ellen Korthuis

William Villafana from Michael and Kimberly Kiledjian Mark and Dawn Dirksen Scott and Ellen Korthuis

Alice Spoelstra Dirksen

Mark and Dawn Dirksen

Leslie (Les) DeVries from Mark and Dawn Dirksen

Mari Anne MacVey from William Godfrey

Natalie (Feenstra) Hogan from Scott and Ellen Korthuis

Providence welcomes honorary & memorial designated gifts. Donations and acknowledgements for the next publication should be sent by September 2023.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT



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**.



BARNABAS

FOUNDATION

growing generosity

annual report fiscal year 2021-22: Summary and Highlights

DEAR FRIENDS: I'm delighted to report that we finished fiscal 2021-22 and have started this new fiscal 2022-23 year with Providence firing strong on all cylinders. It's taken a couple years to get settled and find our footing in old town Pasadena. Certainly, Covid did not help. It is wonderful to see growth again! We are now in our second consecutive year of seeing strong enrollment growth—up 10.6% this fall. The historic church building (Witherspoon Hall) we've master leased has gotten some much needed renovation on the inside and is looking beautiful, charming, and academically inspiring. We finished the fiscal year in the black, thanks in great part to the generosity of our supporters who valiantly helped us finish the Spring Campaign strong. We were also helped by leasing nearly all our excess housing, capacity-boosting our rental income and helping offset our housing lease expense. We received the final round of PPP government grant support, nearly a third of which was directly passed on to students. This new fiscal year ahead will pose significant new financial challenges, especially as we continue to grow and invest in the future. Please continue to remember Providence in your prayers and in your charitable kingdom giving plans.

On a final note, this year's shift in macro-economics and interest rates may provide an advantageous opportunity to consider creative ways to establish Life Income Gifts. I invite you to read below.

GIVE AND RECEIVE INCOME FOR LIFE!

Support Providence Christian College in a major way and receive steady income payments for life!

Sound too good to be true?

A growing number of our supporters can confirm what they've already discovered. Life income gifts are a wonderful, nocatch solution for those who want to give more, but are concerned about having enough income. A life income gift can be established by giving cash,

or you can give non-cash assets that you no longer need or care to manage (such as rental property or a vacation home).

You'll receive an immediate tax deduction at the time of your gift, and then steady payments for a lifetime (or a designated number of years). The remainder of your gift will further the important mission of Providence!

Ready to learn more? Discover whether life income gifts are the right solution for you. Contact Michael Kiledjian by email at mkiledjian@providencecc.edu or call (626) 696-4058. You may also contact our friends at Barnabas Foundation directly at (800) 448-3040. ANNUAL REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 - DRAFT Financials

6.2%

\$453,854

\$7,350,238

(Fiscal year ending June 30, 2022)

INCOME 2021-2022

Contributions	\$2,339,763	31.17%
Special Events	\$62,442	0.83%
Net Tuition & Fees	\$1,516,208	20.20%
Auxillary Services (room & board)	\$1,103,962	14.71%
Gov't Grants & Contracts	\$1,432,514	19.09%
Rental Income	\$674,373	8.98%
Property Tax Credit	\$313,781	4.18%
Athletics Revenue	\$28,667	0.38%
Other Income	\$33,842	.45%
Total Income	\$7,505,552	
XPENDITURES 2020-2021		
Direct	\$556,680	7.6%
Personnel	\$3,122,615	42.5%
Occupancy	\$2,560,555	34.8%
Professional Fees	\$156,704	2.1%
Administrative Expenses	\$223,577	3.0%
Grant Award Expenses	\$276,252	3.8%





Fall 2022 Enrollment & Academics

57% 43%

100%

12.8%

8.2%

44.9%

34.1%

2.2%

2.2%

41.9%

5.9%

0.1% 0.0%

45.6%

0.0% 1.5%

0%

GENERAL ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

General and Administrative Expenses

Total Student Body	136
Percentage Gain (vs. '18)	10.6%
Residential Students	90%
Study Abroad Students	0%
Commuter Students	10%
Student/Faculty Ratio	11 to 1

GENDER

Total Expenses

Male		
Female		

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

U.S. (15 States, 77% from CA)
International (0 countries)	

DENOMINATIONAL PROFILE

Confessionally Reformed
Baptist
Non-Denominational
Christian Other

RACE/ETHNICITY

African American
Asian
Hispanic
Multi-Race
Native American/Alaskan
Native Hwn/Pas Isl.
White
Non-Resident Alien
unknown



Data summerized in this Annual Report are highlights from our 10-day report and audited financial statement.

An independent audit determined our financials to be in full accord with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S.

A copy of our audited financials is available upon request.

ALUMNI UPDATES



KEVIN MEEKS '10 was engaged to Katie Zeeb in May of 2022. Their wedding date is March 2, 2023, in Corona, CA.



JAMES ROOSMA '11 AND JENI (ELLIS) ROOSMA '11 welcomed their son, Isaiah Keith, on April 14, 2021. He was 6lbs 5oz.



STEPHEN LEWIS '16 AND SARAH (GRIMES) LEWIS '15 welcomed their first child, Joan Taylor, on June 15, 2021. She weighed 8 lbs 5 oz.



MADDIE SILVA-DOCTOR '17 was married to Robert Doctor in June, 2022.



SAM FENNEMA '19 was married to Britta Tsai in May of 2022. He is still teaching in China for another two years, and has started a Masters in Education summer program at Covenant College.



BRENNAN KILEDJIAN '19 was licensed to exhort in the URCNA in May of 2021. He is pursuing an MDiv degree at Westminster Seminary California.



NATHAN LEWIS '19 received a promotion at Ernst & Young in the Fall of 2021. He also has two cute dogs.



JAVIER BESWICK SCOTT '19 was married to Raven Symone in June of 2020. Javier completed his MBA from California Intercontinental University in Fall 2022.



BEN MOELKER '22 AND COURTNEY (OSBURN) '21 MOELKER were married in June of 2022. They are both enjoying being full-time substitute teachers in California.



HOPE RHODES '21 was married to Brian Medina in April of 2020. They had a Zoom wedding in Santa Ana, CA, officiated by Peter Uwarow. Now they live in Indianapolis with their 9 chickens and 12 yo cat, Stanley. Hope is currently working as a Research Analyst at Purdue for Life Foundation.



ISAIAH SPIVEY '21 was accepted to Greenville Presbyterian Seminary to start in Fall 2022. He is pursuing an MDiv program.



REUBEN SHENENI '21 started a new position as a Pastoral Intern at Woodruff Road Presbyterian Church in August 2022, while continuing to pursue an MDiv at Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.



STEVEN ZERMEÑO '17 received an MBA from Louisiana State University in 2021. He is currently a field consultant for 7-Eleven.



AARON STAMPER '18 and his wife Sarah welcomed their daughter, Miriam Elizabeth, on October 14, 2021.



AMANDA MARIE (HECK) KEYS '18 married Tyler Keys on October 22, 2021. Amanda started her first full-time teaching job at Western Christian High School.



LINDSEY (OBURN) BRITTAIN '19 was married to Bradley Brittain in April, 2021. She started a new job in January 2021 as an Office Assistant II, in San Bernardino County.



JOSIAH VANDERVEEN '19 and his wife, Braelyn, welcomed their second child, Alethia Jean, in July 2022. She weighed 6 lbs 15 oz.



COLLIN VIS'19 AND REBECCA (CALL) VIS'20 welcomed their second child, Elizabeth, in November of 2021. Collin started working as a high school social science teacher at Southwest Christian Schools in Edgerton, MN, in July of 2021.



GRACE (SMITH) DIAZ '20 and her husband Michael Diaz are expecting their first child due in October of 2022.



MADISON (DE JAGER) SINGH '20 was married to Yuvraj Singh in June of 2021. She is currently a Student Nurse Extern at Good Samaritan Hospital.



LEOCCIANO CALLAO '22 is working as the Program Assistant for the McCandlish Phillips Journalism Institute at The King's College in New York. He is also a freelance contributor for Fansided.

We love to stay connected with our Alumni!

It's a joy to witness how the Lord continues to bless you all. If you have any life updates please connect with ASHLEY BECKER over email or Providence social media. We would love to hear from you! ashley.becker@providencecc.edu

FEATURED STORY, CONT'D

EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS



Above: Dinner out with Dr. Kortenhoeven and Dr. Hoekstra with early class of Education Majors. **Below:** Education majors and Dr Hoekstra.



school yearbook, help with student events... all things that made a difference to many students." Providence was a vital part of her training for her vocation, and she says with confidence, "I never could have had such a variety of experiences elsewhere; I have no question that God provided exactly what I needed through my Providence preparation."

The exponential difference made by the early alumni of Providence continues to be felt as they impact the next generations of students. Jamie Tyler (2011) has been teaching in Arizona for many years in kindergarten and 3rd grade classrooms, and says that she still uses the things she received at Providence. She states, "I learned to integrate the gospel into my lessons, shepherd the children in my classroom, and pray for my kids and their families everyday. I'm so thankful for my schooling. It's the reason I'm doing what feels like the most rewarding job in the world!"

A RICH TRADITION

From the beginning, God shaped the success of the education concentration at Providence through the professors and opportunities He provided, creating something that has already served His kingdom and will continue to have a ripple effect on generations to come. Even before students were on the first campus in Ontario, California, Dr. Steve Krotenhoeven and Dr. Lynn Hoekstra had answered God's call to their "next new thing" and they were hard at work forming plans for how Providence would approach educating educators.

Dr. Kortenhoeven had found his way to the project through his interest in Reformed higher Christian education and through his relationship to Jim Den Ouden, the college's first president (and Kortenhoeven's first principal). Dr. Hoekstra found her way to Providence through her husband Jack's role in the early development of the school. Together, Kortenhoeven and Hoekstra set high goals for the vision of the program, emphasizing the imperative balance of philosophy and practice. As Kortenhoeven explains, "From the first class we wanted students in classrooms, doing observations and really exploring the good work teachers are doing in the community." He also spoke of one of their distinctive goals: they wanted to do justice to the rich history and contributions of Reformed thinkers and philosophers in Christian education as part of their foundation of learning. Though graduates would leave prepared to

teach wherever God sent them, Dr. Hoekstra emphasized the desire that the graduates would truly teach Christianly in every aspect, from how they developed curriculum, to their methods of pedagogy, to their personality in the classroom. She states, "It's who we are as believers that needs to make a difference in students' lives."

It was a hard road to make this dream a reality, and took the special gift of being able to see challenges as opportunities to build from the ground up. Both Kortenhoeven and Hoekstra recalled the difficulties in being an unknown entity, introducing themselves to schools in the area and negotiating to get students into the classroom, but God has his hand on them from the beginning. "The size helped," Dr. Hoekstra remembers. "We could take field trips and get a class into a classroom because we weren't too big yet." Another blessing of the small size was the opportunity they had to build personal relationships with the students and truly mentor them. Dr. Hoekstra explains, "They'd come back from their day teaching, and we could talk about it and work it out in real time." The results were worth it. Dr. Kortenhoeven fondly recalls, "The best part was seeing students in classrooms light up and envision themselves as teachers in the future." From the beginning, they found the benefits of being a small school and capitalized on them, as Providence continues to do to this day. Despite the challenges posed by the college's initial move to Pasadena, by their respective doctoral work, and the demands of making an indelible mark on the lives of hundreds or students, they still have fond memories of this time. "When you are fulfilling God's call in your life, it puts it all in perspective," explains Dr. Hoekstra. She notes that she has stayed in touch with many Providence alumni from this period, and says, "Providence connections are special...they last!"

Eventually, God called both Korthenhoeven and Hoekstra to their "next things" once again. Dr. Korthenhoeven became principal of Denver Christian School, and Dr. Hoekstra became the director of the undergraduate teacher education program at Columbia International University. But even as things were changing, God had prepared the way for the program to continue to move forward.

Professor Julie Bykerk was already established as an adjunct professor and was Student Teaching Supervisor, while simultaneously teaching at Ontario Christian School. She was joined by Professor Jan Van Spronsen, who had also been teaching as an adjunct professor and contributed a wealth of history and experience. Together, they helped Providence move to a new location within Pasadena, and helped to mold the Education major into the EDU concentration, according to Providence's liberal arts model. Van Spronsen cherished the opportunity to grow the program she inherited. "What I loved about the program that was established when I came was it did not create pedagogs, but thinking educators who really considered and understood what it was to teach a human person created in the image of God." She goes on to say, "The Reformed perspective is so helpful in its ability to help us educate people as God created them, and approach them as God would." Professor Bykerk agrees that the early design of the program was a treasure trove. She says of the existing classes, "They were clearly designed to equip our students to teach from a distinctly Christian perspective. The bones, the structure and the purpose of the education program have remained the same over the years."

From this foundation, Van Spronsen and Bykerk continued to work and refine the course CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 >

EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

offerings at Providence, finally increasing the number of methodology courses offered and fleshing out the Technology in Education, Current Issues in Education, Student Diversity, and Teaching of Reading courses. The final course offerings are designed to facilitate the credentialing process for students, while maintaining a distinctly Reformed and Christian perspective. They also determined it was crucial to retain their distinctive 120 hours of in-school internships. "It's an incredible asset." Van Spronsen says of the amount of time Providence students spend in real classrooms with real teachers. "They put the theory to the test. They are not just academics, they apply!" Providence also continues to make student teaching available at the undergraduate level based on the incredible testimonials from the students who benefitted from it, whether they went into fifth year programs, master's degree programs, or directly into the classroom upon graduation. As the result of years of research and development, Van Spronsen says of the concentration, "It's a strong list of courses, and I'd put it against any program."

The feedback for the current concentration has been overwhelmingly positive. Van Spronsen testifies, "Our graduates feel over-prepared for the masters programs." Those who have sought a California credential have found they already have much of the knowledge they need to succeed, even though the original design of the program does not require credentialing in an effort to open more opportunities. Regarding the original emphasis, Kortenhoeven explains, "We are not beholden to the restrictions of the 5th year program; it's freeing. It lets us stay true to mission and shape the curriculum with the right perspective." While they hope to someday offer a Christ-centered credentialing program, Providence students are in no way held back from a myriad of callings. Bykerk raves, "I love hearing the continuous stories of teachers making an impact, and graduates excelling in their credentialing and master's programs." Many students go directly into teaching in schools overseas or schools that do not require a credential. Others pursue further education or gain their credential while under contract. Van Spronsen says, "We open doors to as many possibilities as we can. Providence provides the roots and core for wherever God takes our graduates."

ANSWERING THE CALL

God has brought the dream of bringing highly gualified Christian teachers to the West Coast to fruition in ways Providence's founders could only have dreamed of. Over time, the emphasis has not changed. "There is not a single class where the thinking and integration of biblical thought is not at the core of what we are doing, and I think that makes it a very strong program," Van Spronsen explains. "We want graduates to leave with the skills they need for classroom management, engagement, assessment... but if they can't think clearly about the role of education and their roles as teachers in education, none of that other stuff matters." She goes on to say, "As a principal, I had many teachers come in not thinking as Christian teachers; had I hired students from Providence, I would not have had this issue."

Other principals have echoed this sentiment. Though it is still a relatively young institution, Providence has already developed a reputation for producing excellent educators. "As a school, we are on the lookout for Providence Students," says David Illman. "By employing their graduates, Calvin Christian School has greatly benefitted from the education that Providence Christian College provides. I am thoroughly impressed by how Providence equips their students with biblical truth, an enthusiasm for God's world, and a love of learning that naturally permeates through our whole faculty and student culture." Illman is not alone in his appreciation for Providence graduates. Dave Vander Meer, former principal of Reformed Heritage Christian School, also looks to Providence in the hiring process: "I have had the privilege of hiring multiple graduates of Providence Christian College. They have been well-grounded in how to think biblically, and well-rounded that they could adapt to teaching many subjects. My experience with Providence graduates has been positive, and I would recommend that employers seek them out."

THE CALL CONTINUES

The field of education has had its fair share of headlines lately, from the national teacher shortage, to what topics should be taught in the classroom, and even whether or not schools should ban books. It is clear that this is an area deeply in need of what Providence has to offer. The need for excellent educators is a call raised across the board: by public schools, by parents who are considering homeschooling, by private or charter schools seeking to increase opportunities for school choice, and by Christian school administrators prayerfully trying to fill the positions they need in order to minister to their unique communities in the coming years.

For the Christian, the form and nature of education is especially close to home, continuing in the footsteps of the Reformers who believed it paramount to train believers to read the Bible for themselves apart from outside influences and use it as the solid foundation to sift through the chaos of every new ideology. Providence not only produces graduates who can walk across the stage fully grounded in God's word, but are



Above: Shelli (Cammenga) Lundgren '13 and Laura Fobar '13 in their first year at Reformed Heritage Christian School in Michigan. **Below:** Shelli Lundgren and the cast of "Our Town".



also able to fearlessly engage society and be a vessel of God's redemptive work. The educational field is at the heart of the fight for understanding of how the world works, who we are, and why we are here.

We thank God for the work He has done and continues to do, using this small Reformed college on the West Coast to answer the enormous call to meet the deep needs of those desiring to raise the next generation of thoughtful believers well, and to make an eternal difference.



464 E. Walnut St. Pasadena, CA 91101 Toll Free: 866.323.0233 Phone: 626.696.4000 Fax: 626.696.4040

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