

# GRACE

— S T O R Y —

VOLUME 44 | ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2024



*Moments of  
Significance*

[WWW.GRACE.EDU](http://WWW.GRACE.EDU)



Congratulations!  
I'm so excited to get to know  
you over the next few years  
Here at Grace  
Welcome to the  
Community!  
Katie Baker

Congratulations!  
I'm so excited to get to know  
you over the next few years  
Here at Grace  
Welcome to the  
Community!



Early in my presidency, I was unsure how to interact with students well. My professional background was in fundraising and working with donors and alumni, so this part of the job was new to me. I quickly found that students are amazing encouragers. I could share countless stories of ways students have encouraged me, from thank you notes, to getting “banana-breaded,” to rocks with smiley faces and so much more.

One specific moment that stands out occurred after the hubbub of the inauguration. In the midst of the celebration, Kiersten Martin (BS 24, MHE 24), the student body president at the time, handed me a notebook. She had organized a student note-writing campaign to welcome me into my new position, and the result was a notebook filled with notes from students. Some of them knew me, some I had never met. In the quiet of my office, reading note after note, I realized students don’t just benefit from being at Grace; they make this place what it is. They are integral, valued contributors to this community.

That moment shaped my perspective on what we are accomplishing at Grace. I now think about building a Christ-centered community not only for our students but with our students. They are my co-laborers in knowing Christ and making Him known.

That single experience provided a connection, understanding and vision I did not have before.

The college years are full of significant moments like this — moments of humbling encounters, innovative ideas and illuminating conversations. When alumni think about their time at Grace, it doesn’t take long for them to recall a moment that has stuck with them. It might be when they met a lifelong friend, realized a vocational calling or understood a theological truth for the first time. Some students have experienced the most impactful revelation of their lives right here on campus.

Grace’s history is strewn with untold stories of such moments, and in this issue of Grace Story, we bring some of them to light.



*Drew Flamm*

Drew Flamm, Ph.D.  
President

**INSTITUTIONAL MISSION**

We are a Christ-centered community of higher education applying biblical values in strengthening character, sharpening competence, and preparing for service.

**GRACE COLLEGE & SEMINARY ADMINISTRATION**

**President:**

Dr. Drew Flamm

**Vice President of Advancement:**

Dr. Nathan Harris

**Director of Alumni Engagement:**

Olivia Kmiecik (BA 18, MBA 20)

**GRACE STORY CREATIVE TEAM**

**Managing Editor:**

Madison Cowman (BA 18, MS 21)

**Art Director:**

Vincent Sell (BS 13)

**Contributing Writers:**

Dr. Christy Hill, Kent Denlinger (BS 83, MA 86, CERT 87, MDiv 90), Jacknesis Bilodeau (BA 20), Ron Minton (BA 75, MDiv 79, ThM 80), Tannan Peters (BS 13, S 14), Alix Underwood (BA 16), Abbi Hawkins (BA 22), Penny Miller (Puls BA 71), Natalee Riggins (BA 23, MA 23), Grant Cook (BS 22), Maria Ignas, Kelsi Griffith (BS 11, MS 16), Dr. Kelly Arney, Dr. Don DeYoung (MDiv 83), Dawn (Dilling BS 93) Halbakken, Sue (Dilling BA 69) Gray

**Photographers:**

Jeff Nycz, Chinges Sabol (BA 14), Averie Rulli (BS 20), Madison Cowman (BA 18, MS 21)

**Copy Editors:**

Collette (Lehman BS 90) Olson, Mary (McNally BS 78) Polston, Maria Ignas, Anna Kezar, Elisa (Stump BS 16) Wise

Comments may be sent to: [gracestory@grace.edu](mailto:gracestory@grace.edu). Opinions expressed by individuals in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Grace College & Seminary. Grace College & Seminary reserves the right to edit alum note submissions.

© 2024 by Grace College & Seminary  
All rights reserved.



15



# REFLECT

Enjoy alumni reflections on significant moments that transpired on the Grace campus, and don't miss Dr. Christy Hill's thoughtful devotional on Acts 9.

## IN THIS SECTION

FACULTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE 7

ALUMNI REFLECTIONS PAGE 9

# DISCOVER

Discover the inspiring stories of alumni Dr. Adam Dell (BS 06, MA 08), Kimberly (Withrow BS 92, MA 19) Baldwin and Amy Collett (BS 15), and catch up on the latest Grace news.

## IN THIS SECTION

ENCOUNTERING THE ONLY GOD WITH SCARS PAGE 15

POINTING A NATION TOWARD HOPE PAGE 21

ONE OF US PAGE 27

NEWS PAGE 31



# CONNECT

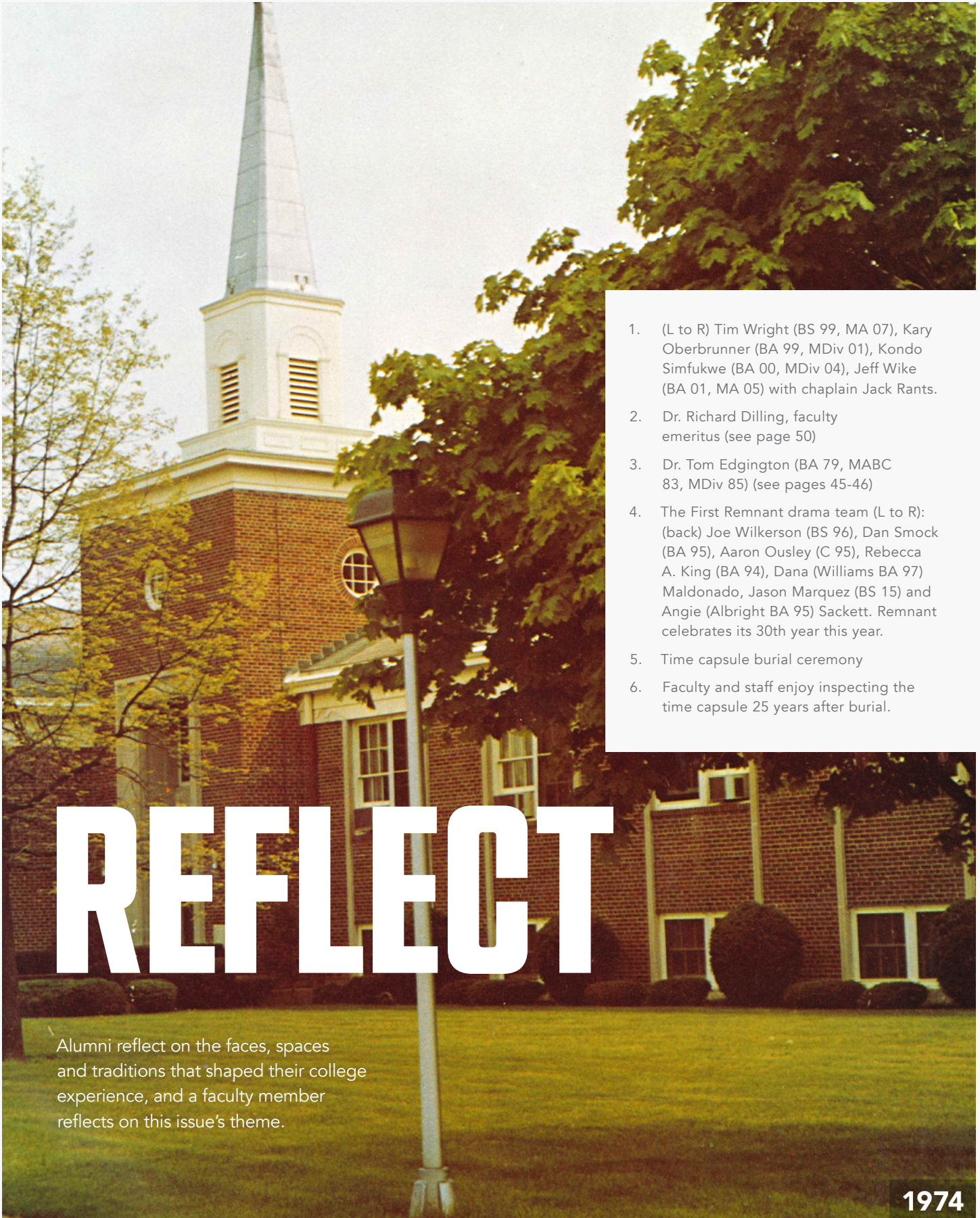
Get to know Abi Roth (BA 24), Olivia Kmiecik (BA 18, MBA 20) and Dr. Tom Edgington (BA 79, MABC 83, MDiv 85), and check the Alum Notes to see what your former classmates are up to.

## IN THIS SECTION

PROFILES PAGE 41

ALUM NOTES PAGE 47

IN MEMORIAMS PAGE 49



1. (L to R) Tim Wright (BS 99, MA 07), Kary Oberbrunner (BA 99, MDiv 01), Kondo Simfukwe (BA 00, MDiv 04), Jeff Wike (BA 01, MA 05) with chaplain Jack Rants.
2. Dr. Richard Dilling, faculty emeritus (see page 50)
3. Dr. Tom Edgington (BA 79, MABC 83, MDiv 85) (see pages 45-46)
4. The First Remnant drama team (L to R): (back) Joe Wilkerson (BS 96), Dan Smock (BA 95), Aaron Ousley (C 95), Rebecca A. King (BA 94), Dana (Williams BA 97) Maldonado, Jason Marquez (BS 15) and Angie (Albright BA 95) Sackett. Remnant celebrates its 30th year this year.
5. Time capsule burial ceremony
6. Faculty and staff enjoy inspecting the time capsule 25 years after burial.

# REFLECT

Alumni reflect on the faces, spaces and traditions that shaped their college experience, and a faculty member reflects on this issue's theme.

1974



1

1999



2

1971



3

1998



4

1994



5

1973



6

1998



# *AHA MOMENTS*

WRITTEN BY DR. CHRISTY HILL



**We've all had them — times when something new clicks in our head or heart, and we see things differently.** These moments are transformational because they impact our worldview. We see and understand what once was out of reach, hidden or just plain confusing. We are meaning-making creatures, so “aha moments” are paradigm shifts that bring new interpretive lenses to the journey of life and usually involve dissonance or disequilibrium. When everything fits our preconceived categories, there's no openness for change and no need to search for bigger boxes to make meaning out of life's experiences. But when we encounter new places, people and circumstances, we are poised for mental paradigm shifts, “aha moments.”

One “aha moment” in the Bible is in Acts 9. Saul, the Pharisee, was stridently defending his legalistic Jewish faith, even to the point of throwing converts to Christianity in jail, when he encountered the risen Christ. Jesus asked, “Saul, why are you persecuting me?” (Acts 9:4). It's interesting to note that Saul was not directly persecuting Jesus; yet, by persecuting Christians, Jesus felt each stinging assault Himself. In God's economy, Christians are one with Christ, so what was being done to Christians was being done to Jesus Himself.

Saul was struck with physical blindness to inaugurate the most important journey of his life, the journey toward true spiritual sight. So deep was this encounter that it took Saul off his destructive course and into a place of helplessness, needing not only his fellow travelers but, most importantly, God. For three days, “he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank” (9:9). Quite a paradigm shift!

In the meantime, another paradigm shift was taking place in the heart of a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called him to go and minister to the “man of Tarsus named Saul” (9:11). As you can imagine, the prospect of going directly

to the man from whom others were fleeing did not seem like the best plan for self-preservation. God's command, though, was clear: “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name” (9:15-16). When Ananias arrived, he greeted the feared persecutor of the church as “Brother Saul” (9:17). Again, quite a paradigm shift!

Some points of encouragement that might bring some “aha moments” to us from this story include:

- We will never suffer alone. Jesus feels the pain and takes it personally. He is not detached from our pain.
- When we are blindsided by circumstances that don't make sense, we should allow the confusion to bring us to our knees so that we no longer rest on our own strength, but on Christ's sufficiency.
- When God calls us to do things that don't make sense, we must follow God's leading and trust that He has bigger plans for our lives than living comfortably as a Christian.

The rest of the story of Saul of Tarsus, who was later called the Apostle Paul, is told in the book of Acts and in many of the other New Testament letters. While not every conversion to Christ is this dramatic, the “aha moments” and paradigm shifts are deeply profound and life-changing. We go from being enemies of God to being reconciled to Him as our Abba, Father (Romans 8:6-17). We go from being slaves to the fear of death to having Jesus as our brother, who provides eternal life (Hebrews 2:10-18). We go from being orphans to having the Holy Spirit dwell in us so that we will never be alone (John 15:15-18). These are the “aha moments” that every Christ follower can enjoy.



**CHRISTY HILL, PH.D.**

Professor of Spiritual Formation and Women's Ministry

Dr. Christy Hill has a passion for facilitating the holistic development of men and women into mature disciples of Jesus Christ, who are transformed by the experience of God's love and truth. She has taught for Grace Theological Seminary and the Grace College School of Ministry Studies for 18 years.

An aerial photograph of a campus during autumn. The central focus is a large, multi-story brick building with a prominent white steeple. The building has a dark roof and several windows. To the left of the building is a parking lot filled with cars. The surrounding area is lush with trees in various shades of green, yellow, and orange. In the background, there are more campus buildings and a road. The top portion of the image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red banner containing the title text.

# *Alumni Reflections*

Grace's education is more than just head knowledge. One could even say it is heart knowledge. The stories of our alumni are evidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in the hearts of our students. Enjoy this small collection of the many deep revelations our alumni have had right here on Grace's campus.

## *The Greatest Game*

One of my moments happened in the old Lancer gym. I played for the Lancer basketball program from 1979 to 1983. Following an incredible game in which we won, defeating Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan) there was a euphoric celebration on the floor. It was the greatest game in which I had ever participated. After several minutes of celebrating with fellow students, I realized I needed to make my way to the locker room, which happened to be at the east end of the gymnasium, and down a small flight of stairs.

No one was around as I made my descent. But on the second step, I was stopped. I recall the phrase that ran across the ticker of my mind: "Is this all there is?" I loved the game, the practices and even the travel with teammates. I had given my life to basketball, and here I was at the pinnacle of what we practice for, and yet, standing on the steps for a brief few minutes, I felt an emptiness. "Is this all there is?" were the words that awakened me to a thirst in my soul for God, for more with God.

I had given my life to Christ as a young boy, but this was a paradigm-shifting moment where I considered that perhaps there was more to a relationship with the Lord. Coach Kessler, Coach Taylor and others, including teammates, had created a conducive environment in which God's Spirit could speak to us through athletics. At that moment, God spoke to me and set my life on a different trajectory. I gained an understanding that God longs for more with His children, more than simply being pretty good people who do pretty good things. And He is willing to go to great lengths, in surprising moments, to awaken us to our desire for more.



**DR. KENT DENLINGER**  
(BS 83, MA 86, CERT 87, MDiv 90)

## *In the Right Place*

I arrived at Grace in 2018 very shy and scared. I had just moved to the U.S. from Puerto Rico, and I knew no one. It was hard to adjust to the new environment and routine. Grace not only provided a safe space, but it gave me friends that helped me settle into a new environment. I clearly remember the day I went to Professor Benjamin Navarro's office to talk to him about a project.

He made me feel so welcome, and we ended up talking about home and the transition to Grace from the university back in Puerto Rico. We talked for quite a while, and it gave me peace of mind knowing there was someone with whom I could talk about my big move. He understood the challenges that came with moving from the island. Not only did he help me structure my project that day, but he assured me I was in the right place. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities, education and experiences I was afforded as a student at Grace.



**JACKNESIS BILODEAU** (BA 20)

## *From Diagramming to Understanding*

In my class on the Greek Exegesis of James, we had to diagram the entire book of James in Greek. After I finished that assignment, I was amazed at how well I understood what was being said in the book and that I could explain its meaning in detail. Through that class activity, I realized I could understand and deliver the Word of God accurately to challenge people for Christ and build people in the faith. Since then, by the wonderful grace of Jesus, I have served 30 years as a Navy chaplain and am in my 20th year as a missionary in Ukraine.



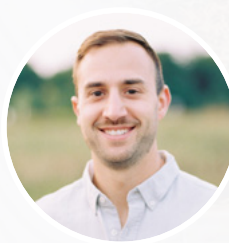
**RON MINTON**  
(BA 75, MDiv 79, ThM 80)

## *Honoring God, Dirt and All*

My senior year at Grace, I was blessed to be the student body chaplain. I was a member of the basketball team, and I was engaged. I have to admit, I didn't realize it then, but a lot of things were working in my favor. People saw me walking around campus and knew who I was, and I found a great deal of satisfaction in that. After I graduated, I worked part time for a small church in Elkhart, Indiana, while attending seminary. A year later, my wife and I found out we were pregnant with our son, and I quickly realized that I needed to get another full-time job.

I ended up working for a sewer and drain cleaning company in Warsaw. I was cleaning porta-potties, septic tanks and sewer lines. At times, I was literally walking in other people's poop. Two months into the job, I got my assignment for the day, and my heart sank. It said "Grace College." Instantly, fear and anxiety began welling up in my heart. What if I see someone I know? I had been a leader on campus. And now, I'm coming back to pump the sewer lines. What are they going to think? I pulled my work van right outside of McClain, and I recall literally slinking my 6'6" body around the truck. I was trying to weasel my

way around to do this job so that people would not see me. Soon after, I saw a professor I knew walking down the sidewalk. I left the line going, went around to the back of the van and hid. As I was crouching down, the Spirit of God broke my heart with conviction. And the message that I began processing after that experience was, "If you cannot learn to humble yourself and joyfully glorify God pumping sewer lines, then you will be unqualified to wisely deal with the crap of people's lives as a pastor. If you cannot find joy in Me and cannot honor Me in this, then you will never be able to honor Me in the things you actually want to do." I was a work in progress, and over the last ten years, God has softened and shaped my heart and put me into a position to lead our church in south Elkhart (Grace Community Elkhart). But God used that moment on Grace's campus to teach me that true Gospel redemption should produce humble, joyful and purposeful service to the Lord, whether that means cleaning sewer lines or preaching a sermon.



**TANNAN PETERS** (BS 13, S 14)

## *Environmental Ethics Epiphany*

On my first visit to Grace, I was uncertain that my interest in environmental biology aligned with Grace's environmental program. The volleyball coach at the time suggested I look into the Lilly Center's applied research — and as soon as I did, I was hooked. I loved putting on chest waders and going out and getting samples, and the coworkers were great, too. I spent all four years working with the field research team. But the turning point in my education was taking an environmental ethics class.

During a class discussion about animal rights, I began to tear up. I recognized it was a problem, and I could do something about it. That spurred me to action. I dove into researching the topic, and my research eventually led me to become a vegetarian. The lesson I learned through that

was I can decide that I don't like the way something is, and I can make a personal change. It was empowering to know that I can change my life and take a stance on something.

After graduation, I spent two years with the Peace Corps in Panama, earned a master's degree in global affairs at the University of Notre Dame, participated in a capstone project in Guatemala and much more. Today I am a research analyst at the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, D.C. And I can trace all of it back to the epiphany I had in my environmental ethics course that I can affect the change I want to see.



**ALIX UNDERWOOD** (BA 16)

## *A Significant Circle*

I studied worship arts under Dr. Wally Brath and so many other wonderful staff and faculty. There were many moments throughout those three years that impacted me deeply and are still forming me. As I worked through my schooling, I was also working through my faith and my understanding of the Church. Dr. Brath and the rest of the worship arts faculty are so knowledgeable and passionate about the history and practice of the Church's many branches, which opened up a love for the Church that I had not yet understood.

In Dr. Brath's class, "History of Christian Worship," I remember sitting in a circle with just a handful of other students, all of whom came from different backgrounds, and feeling my heart tug toward the global Church. I'm so grateful for that moment and many others that have led me to the path I am now pursuing in ministry. In the fall, I plan on continuing my theological education, and it may just be at Grace Theological Seminary!



**ABBI HAWKINS** (BA 22)

## *Two Friends in a Lobby*

It was a long time ago, sometime in the late '60s. My friend and I were talking in the Alpha Hall lobby. He had been telling me for several weeks that there were guys in his dorm who wanted to date me, but it never worked out. This evening, he told me there was another guy who wanted a date. "Who?" I asked. "Me!" He answered. I knew that this would change our relationship, and it surely did! We dated for two years and were married for forty-seven years before Dan Miller (BA 70, MDiv 74) went to heaven. It was a memorable moment. I am thankful for Grace College.



**PENNY MILLER** (Puls BA 71)

## **TELL US YOUR STORY**

If you're a Grace graduate, completed a certification or attended classes, we want to hear from you. Tell us about your career history, accomplishments, how Grace influenced you, what you are doing with your college or seminary education today and/or how God is using you for His purposes. If you have a former classmate or alum you know who has a story you think Grace Story should feature, go ahead and share his/her story! Visit [www.grace.edu/gracestory](http://www.grace.edu/gracestory).





# DISCOVER

Explore the latest at Grace, and discover how Grace alumni are impacting lives all over the globe.



# *Encountering the Only God with Scars*

WRITTEN BY MADISON COWMAN





**"It was a moonlit evening in the spring semester of my junior year.**

During weeks of heartache, reeling at the loss of an idolatrous relationship, I would customarily seek solitude by walking and gazing into the immense cosmos. Some evenings, my heart quickened at an unexpected encounter with a deer, and other nights, I wondered if the mystery of a shooting star burned with meaning I could not comprehend. But this night

was different. This night, alone and weeping on the lawn of the Morgan Library, I meditated upon the incomprehensible loneliness and suffering Christ endured.

Since I was a boy, my life was marked by sexual trauma. I sought healing in a human relationship and came to Grace College clinging desperately to this inadequate remedy for the deep malady of my heart. I fixed both my identity and worth to the relationship

and desperately longed for it to fill a void in my heart. Abruptly, the relationship was stripped away. An existential ache entered my young life, unlike anything I previously experienced.

Broken-hearted, gazing through teary eyes into the cosmos and kneeling in the grass that spring evening, everything changed for me when I encountered the only God with scars."

## THE HOPE OF HEALING

Dr. Adam Dell (BS 06, MA 08) grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He and his family attended a Grace Brethren church there, and he participated in Operation Barnabas, a high school ministry training through CE National (now Momentum Ministry Partners). Through CE, he learned about the opportunity to compete for Grace College scholarships at the Brethren National Youth Conference. Despite a low GPA in high school, Dell possessed raw skills as a speaker.

"I remember being in awe of this young man's strength, humility, innate leadership potential and desire to impact others," said Collette (Lehman BS 90) Olson, a member of the scholarship interview committee in 2002. "While there were numerous outstanding applicants, the decision to select Adam for the full-tuition scholarship was unanimous."

Looking back now, Dell's perception of the scholarship is quite different. "There was almost no chance I would have gone to college if it weren't for that scholarship," said Dell. "I was not deserving of it, but I believe that the Lord used the panelists' compassion to pave the way for me to go to Grace. Contrasted with other finalists, my selection seemed illogical — but it seems to reflect the scandalous love of God."

Dell began his education at Grace as a double major in youth ministry and special education, as scholarship recipients were expected to train for vocational ministry. However, Dell admits he begrudgingly endured chapel services and theological classes, fundamentally opposed to their teachings. The trauma he

endured as a boy rendered him skeptical of faith and people of faith despite a growing knowledge of theology.

"I was frankly such a mess as an undergrad that I was eventually required to meet with Dr. David Plaster (BA 71, MDiv 74, ThM 84) weekly because I would get in regular verbal and even physical altercations with guys in Beta after decrying the hypocrisy of their faith," said Dell. "I was miserable, conflict-seeking, still clinging to my own idols and desperate to point out the specks in my brothers' eyes. Dr. Plaster knew my internal turmoil and granted me permission to pivot away from a ministry degree. However, he often warmly affirmed I had a shepherd's heart."

Everything changed for Dell after his encounter on the Morgan Library lawn.

After that night, Dell found the courage to schedule a counseling appointment with Carol (Fern BS 00, MA 02) Yauger through Grace's counseling services. It marked a heart-deep turning point at Grace.

"I was finally less concerned with censorious fault-finding for others and more concerned with the plank in my own eye," said Dell.

In his first session, Dell recalls pouring everything out for 50 minutes, so filled with shame he did not dare make eye contact with Yauger.

"When I finally looked up, Carol had tears rolling down her cheeks," said Dell. "It was another upward gaze away from myself and towards hope.

In her wordless, tearful response, I felt heard, validated and loved in a way I never had before, and I knew it had something to do with this outrageous love of Jesus — the only God with scars. I don't recall a single word she said to me in that appointment, yet I will never forget the way she accompanied me and embodied the tears of God."

Additional therapy sessions with Yauger propelled him toward a counseling degree. As his faith became increasingly important, he knew he wanted to understand psychology through a theological lens.

"Throughout the Gospels, Jesus talks about the human heart in profound ways, and I was eager to study behavioral science to gain insight," said Dell. "It was a unique privilege to learn from the lives and teachings of Christian professors."

Dell credits Dr. Tammy Schultz, Dr. Kevin Roberts (BS 93, MA 96), Dr. Tom Edgington (BA 79, MABC 83, MDiv 85) and the late Dr. Mike Grill (BA 67) with teaching him what it looks like to come alongside other broken people while bringing the hope of healing.

## 'UNEQUIVOCALLY, YES!'

As Dell's love for Christ grew as an upperclassman, he knew his time at Grace was not yet complete. After graduation, he applied and was selected as an assistant resident director of Indiana Hall and enrolled in Grace Theological Seminary.

On the eve of Welcome Weekend, Dell was consumed with being underqualified as an ARD. He asked

God for a sign he was in the right role — that someone would approach him on move-in day and ask him about Christ.

The following day, he met hundreds of freshmen and family members. Not a single person approached him in this way. That evening, after all the welcome activities concluded, Dell took another tearful walk under a starry night. Alone on a park bench, he cried to God in prayer and song.

“With my eyes closed, I must have jumped a foot off that bench when a man unexpectedly touched my shoulder,” Dell reflected. “He said he heard me singing to Jesus in the darkness, and he shared about some recent suffering in his life. He asked me about Christ, and he asked for prayer.”

Once again, Dell prayed and wept to the only God with scars; but this time, he wasn’t alone. Two lost men were found under the stars that evening.

During his season as an ARD, God continued to send the right people into Dell’s life. He recounts the impact of Kondo Simfukwe (BA 00, MDiv 04) and James Joiner (BS 98, MA 04), who modeled deep thoughtfulness and compassionate hearts. Dell also began working at the Bowen Center Inpatient Unit, where he witnessed the burden of mental illness and various forms of treatment. He eventually transitioned from seminary classes to graduate counseling courses and earned an MA in interpersonal relationships at Grace.

During this time, he met Janine (Champoux MA 07). Dell says of all the unexpected doors God opened



Front row (L to R): (front) Heather (Butler) Rollefson, Amanda (Wolfert BA 97) Smith, Deb (Musser BA 89, MA 00) McEvoy, Andrea Pancoast, (back) Rob Knight, Dr. Aaron Crabtree (BA 99), Dr. Adam Dell (BS 06, MA 08), Janine (Champoux MA 07) Dell

in this world, he was least deserving of the door to Janine’s heart. The two were married in 2007, and she became the resident director of Alpha Hall.

After eating in Alpha Dining for seven consecutive years and making Grace College home, Dell was ready to further his education. As he prepared for the transition, several questions occupied his mind.

“Am I really prepared? Will my training measure up? Will I be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with people who attended Ivy League and state schools?”

“And I will tell you now, by the grace of God and based on the spiritual formation and academic foundation from my years at Grace College: Unequivocally, yes!”

### **HUMBLE AND HUNGRY**

In his search for a doctoral degree, Dell came across a doctoral program

in psychology at Indiana State University (ISU). He met with Roberts and Schultz to review the program’s courses.

“I was ignorant about what constituted a ‘good program,’” Dell confessed. But both advisors agreed — this program was high caliber in training and clinical opportunities.

So Dell donned a poor-fitting suit and tie and drove to ISU. He recalls sitting in the room with dozens of other people competing for one of the ten spots in the program. Dell quickly realized he was an outlier, as this was his one and only interview.

“As I sat there, I reflected on the many ways God provided a way for me when there seemed no possible way,” said Dell. “My entire higher-ed trajectory was a signpost to His grace.”

A few weeks later, he received a call from ISU’s clinical director.

She let him know that all of the primary selections had been made, but he would be kept on a list of alternates should a first-choice student decline the offer.

"I wasn't surprised, yet I was disappointed," Dell recalled.

A few weeks later, Dell received a second phone call from the director; there was a spot open for him if he wanted it. He felt as though God had allowed him to win the lottery.

Dell began the program in the fall of 2009 and made it his mission to honor the Lord and prove he belonged there — to remain "humble and hungry."

Dell was not only the first in his ISU cohort to finish his dissertation, but he also landed a top-tier internship at the nation's largest clinical psychology residency program at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. The opportunity offered unrivaled training in clinical health psychology and empirically supported treatments.

In the internship, Dell's peers came from institutions like The Ohio State University and the University of Texas. Neither peers nor supervisors were familiar with Grace College.

Even so, the Lackland faculty named Dell the chief resident. He graduated with the earned respect of his peers by channeling the constructs he recalls hearing Grace President Dr. Ron Manahan (MDiv 70, ThM 77, ThD 82) preach from the chapel stage: character, competence and service.

Dell served in the Air Force for nearly seven years, including one overseas

deployment to the Middle East. In 2016, he was named the U.S. Air Force Psychologist of the Year.

### NEW LIFE AND NEW POSSIBILITIES

In 2019, after a decade-long struggle with infertility, during which time physicians told the Dells the likelihood of pregnancy was "as close to 0% as possible," Janine became pregnant and gave birth to Adelyn Grace.

"We both agreed the costs associated with future deployments and military

service were too great as we prepared to step into the sacred privilege of being Adelyn's parents," said Dell.

Dell left the U.S. Air Force later that year and returned to Indiana. He became the Director of Emotional Wellbeing at the University of Notre Dame, where he still serves today. In his position, Dell leads a multidisciplinary department that provides clinical interventions for the institution's faculty and staff. As a board-certified clinical psychologist, Dell serves many at Notre Dame:



Captain Dell atop a F-15 Strike Eagle while deployed.



Dell's daughters: Adelyn Grace (4) and Amelia Joy (1).

librarians and landscapers, deans and dining hall staff, police officers and priests.

Since returning to Indiana, the Dells had another miraculous pregnancy, and Janine gave birth to a second daughter, Amelia Joy, in 2023. Dell also channeled his passion for teaching. Since 2010, he has served as a part-time faculty member at five institutions and currently teaches with Schultz for Wheaton College's Trauma Certificate program.

Dell launched a speaking career in 2023, providing seminars for businesses, hospitals, schools and faith communities, including several speaking engagements at Grace. His visits to campus reassure Dell that the path that led him to Winona Lake was no mistake.

"My life changed forever after I became transfixed with a suffering Savior who alone can relate to our brokenness. Due to the healing

influence of so many at Grace, I seek to emulate Carol Yauger's example as a clinician — to be a signpost to authentic compassion and hope as I bear witness to the hell of people's histories and point them to hope."

It all began when one spring night, the scandalous love of God found a broken and traumatized young man and set him loose for the work of the Kingdom.

**ADAM DELL, Psy. D.**

Director of Emotional Wellbeing  
Notre Dame Wellness Center

Follow Dell on Instagram  
@dr.adamdell or visit his  
website at [dradamdell.com](http://dradamdell.com)  
to learn more.

**Your gifts to the Grace Fund directly impact the lives of students like Adam. Every dollar given to the Grace Fund is a dollar our students don't have to pay for an excellent Christian education.**

**Make your gift today at [grace.edu/give](http://grace.edu/give).**





---

# Pointing a Nation Toward Hope

**Grace Theological Seminary Helps  
Launch Akademija Teoloških  
Nauka — Serbia's Only Accredited  
Evangelical Seminary**

WRITTEN BY NATALEE RIGGINS (BS 23, MA 23)



**Life without Christ is a truly hopeless experience.** The past is haunting, the present feels rocky at best and the future is not secure. On a personal level, this can be isolating and anxiety-inducing. But what about at a national level? What if most people in a country place their hope in corrupt leaders, rote religious practices and worldly systems of success? The result is emptiness, futility and hopelessness. This is Serbia.

In fact, one national taxi driver in Belgrade, Serbia, expressed, “If I had to describe Serbia in one word, it would be ‘hopeless.’”

So how does the light of Christ penetrate a place like this? A place where less than .1% of people are evangelical Christians? Often, it just takes one person — or in this case, a married couple — with a Spirit-driven desire to help people encounter the hope of Jesus Christ.

### **The Gift of Infertility**

Shortly after graduating from Grace with a degree in elementary education, Kimberly (Withrow BS 92, MA 19) Baldwin met Dwayne Baldwin at a church in Owensboro, Kentucky. Both wanted a large family and were excited to become parents, but starting a family didn’t go according to their plans.

“God gave us what we now like to call the gift of infertility,” shared Kimberly. “We ended up adopting two children from Romania and two from Ukraine. God used those opportunities and travels to give us a heart for Eastern Europe and the people there.”



Kimberly (Withrow BS 92, MA 19) Baldwin and Dwayne Baldwin stand in front of the ATN building — evidence of the Lord’s blessing.

Over time, the Baldwins sensed the Lord calling them to missions. In 2011, Kimberly, Dwayne and their sons went to Romania to give living abroad a test run. To their great assurance, they all loved Romania and felt that God would have them move there, but God closed that door and called them to Serbia.

“At the time, I had a business background, so I wondered how this could possibly fit into missions,” Dwayne said. “I was working with a teaching missions organization in

Romania, and one day they received a request from the Union of Baptist Churches in Serbia. They needed someone to help restart the Baptist Theological School (BTS). I would soon discover that my business background was necessary for this work.”

After the Baldwins moved to Serbia in 2013, they worked on reviving and redesigning BTS, an undergraduate evangelical Bible college that had experienced many problems — closing multiple times since its





Students Zoran, Riste, Raša and Miro convene in the student dorms.

founding in 1939 and permanently closing in 2007. The only remnant was a deteriorated building with broken windows and a parking lot where cars were abandoned and drugs were used. They were tasked with repairing the building, finding students and building an academic structure from the ground up.

“I worked on designing the school on paper for a year and a half,” Dwayne recalled. “After an intense revision, BTS opened again in September 2015 as a four-year bachelor’s program. Currently, we have about 45 students, and our class sizes continue to grow.”

Kimberly noticed female students were also growing in number at BTS. “As more students were attending, including female students, I wanted to be able to help in a deeper, more influential way,” said Kimberly. “I had already received an education degree

from Grace, but I wanted to learn more about theology.”

After a disappointing response from another seminary, Kimberly decided to see what Grace Theological Seminary had to offer. She found the Master of Arts in Ministry Studies and enrolled with a concentration in women’s leadership studies. She graduated in 2019 and received the Outstanding Student Award for the program. In 2023, she and Dwayne earned their Ph.D.s in theology.

### Deploying a Seminary

While the BTS student population was growing, so was the number of alumni who wanted to be better prepared for church leadership in the Balkans. Kimberly and Dwayne began to investigate their options for offering a more advanced theological education. “We started contacting schools in America,” said Dwayne.

“We were mostly ignored because we were so small, but from the beginning, Grace Theological Seminary was respectful and gracious to engage with us.”

Conversations surrounding a partnership with Deploy, Grace’s competency-based theological education program, began in 2020. The Baldwins worked with Dr. Freddy Cardoza, dean of Grace Theological Seminary, and Gabe Tribbett (MDiv 10, MBA 20, DMin ABD), director of Deploy, to take the existing Deploy program and tailor it to the Serbian context and needs.

“We were very excited by the initial discussions and the alignment of values,” said Tribbett. “Grace Seminary had already been seeking opportunities for international partnerships, so when the Baldwins reached out, we knew this was the avenue we wanted to go down.”



Top: Deploy's first Serbian cohort meets in a classroom at ATN.

Left: Riste, a student at ATN, presents to the class.

Right: (L to R) ATN students Zoran, Miro, Riste and Raša gather with Kimberly Baldwin, Dwayne Baldwin and Michael Emadi, an academic proctor.

Once the partnership was established, the Baldwins could focus on finding a location, recruiting students and securing monetary resources for the seminary.

In 2021, Dwayne began keeping a planning sheet for opening the seminary. "I wrote, 'raise \$500,000 for a new building,' mentioned it to some people from church and promptly forgot about it," he said.

A sweet surprise came about six months later when Dwayne and Kimberly received notice that a benefactor from their church wanted to donate \$500,000 toward a building. The Baldwins began looking at buildings and settled on one, but before they could secure the building with a down payment, the benefactor's finances fell through.

"When the original building fell through, we gave up," Kimberly reflected. "But one of our supporters encouraged us to ask for funds again."

Despite a discouraging situation, God's faithfulness prevailed beyond their wildest dreams. After sending a request for donations to everyone they knew, the Baldwins were surprised when HeartCry Missionary Society reached out to them, offering to cover 50% of the funds for a new building. The donation renewed the Baldwins' hope, and they continued to receive donation pledges from church members and the surrounding community.

"The Lord really encouraged us through that," recalled Kimberly. "It was like a rollercoaster every week — we would get discouraged and then receive another pledge. It

showed us that we were not doing it; the Lord was bringing people to us."

As the Baldwins searched for another building, they found an even better location for less money. This three-story building had a large kitchen, dormitory space, commercial bathrooms, classrooms and additional land for building expansion.

"God knew we needed a building to make a statement that this school is legitimate and the education we offer is important," said Kimberly.

### **The Hope of a Nation**

On Friday, August 21, 2023, Akademija Teoloških Nauka (ATN), or the Academy of Theological Sciences, officially opened with an all-day orientation for its first cohort of six students. Cardoza and Tribbett virtually welcomed the students to Deploy's first international branch and Serbia's only accredited evangelical seminary.

"Seeing actual faces and interacting with students on the other side of the Atlantic was surreal," said Tribbett.

"My goal was to make them feel like they truly are Grace students. They're not second tier; they are a part of us."

Dwayne still reflects on that first day with awe, calling it the best initial day he could have imagined.

Now, with a full academic year nearing completion, ATN is looking forward to new growth, new students and a continued partnership with Grace Seminary. True to the U.S. Deploy model, students are mentored by various ministry practitioners, or "proctors," and spend the majority of their time

applying their learning at their local churches. But ATN includes a Serbian-inspired twist. The program is conducted in a cohort, allowing students to review content, provide encouragement and discuss their questions in person.

"I am thankful that Grace agreed to do something like this across the ocean," said ATN student Boban Ivaškovic. "This is the only program like this in the Balkans, so it bears a great burden, and it is hard to emphasize how great this is. Grace may never see the results, but we are very grateful."

Looking forward, Dwayne and Kimberly are excited to see where God takes ATN and the students at the seminary.

"We would love to see ATN graduates become BTS professors and leaders," said the Baldwins. "We want to have confidence in the people we are training, knowing that they will be able to carry on this work of God — to be discerning and humble."

But more than anything, the Baldwins are praying for the hope of the nation.

"Ultimately, we pray that through the partnership of ATN and Deploy, Serbia will become a country known for its hope in Christ Jesus."

**Do you want to partner with us in Deploy's global impact? Contact [gabe.tribbett@grace.edu](mailto:gabe.tribbett@grace.edu) to find out how you can get involved.**



# One of Us

WRITTEN BY MADISON COWMAN

**After five years in my position at Grace, I have interviewed dozens of alumni.**

Usually, this takes place virtually. So I consider it a special treat to meet someone over a locally roasted cup of coffee. But this interview was in a category of its own. My interview with Amy Collett (BS 15) transpired over many days and in many settings in Mtsiliza Village in Malawi, Africa. This “interview” was a string of conversations and observations over a two-and-a-half-week mission trip.

I witnessed Collett’s 4:30 a.m. coffee and reading in the quiet of the morning. I watched her rock her neighbor’s newborn baby before work. I heard the voices of children shouting her name, “Em-ee-lay! Em-ee-lay!” as her SUV clunked down the village streets each day on her way to the school. I observed Collett’s playful, effortless banter with vendors in the market in Chichewa, their native language. I noted the string of children who named her as their role model. I saw the normal, everyday, unseen and unnoted moments of Collett’s life.

The sentiment that surfaced again and again was the idea that Collett is one of them. She is not the expat missionary who surrounds herself with other English speakers, lives in an upscale neighborhood and drinks bottled water. She speaks better Chichewa than some who have lived there for life. Most of her community consists of native Malawians. She eats zigege, a fried potato dish sold on the streets, and drinks water from the wells. She embraces the slow, laid-back culture in Malawi and holds to the conviction that people are more important than getting things done.

Ask her pastor, language teacher, neighbors, co-workers and students — they will tell you, “Amy is one of us.”

**AN INTERNATIONAL ITCH**

Before college, Collett had been immersed in cross-cultural relationships and experiences. Collett’s mom, Carol (Williams C 87) Collett has traveled the world, and her family has hosted dozens of exchange students over the last 25 years.

*“With my travel experiences and cross-cultural intrigue, I knew I wanted to do something overseas.”*

“With my travel experiences and cross-cultural intrigue, I knew I wanted to do something overseas,” said Collett.

Collett started at Grace in 2012 as an education major, but the fast-paced program did not fit her laid-back personality. She transitioned to studying educational ministries with a minor in intercultural studies. She wasn’t overly concerned about finding what she would do after college, but she knew when an opportunity presented itself, she would take it.

During Conference on Mission week her final year at Grace, Collett connected with Go Core, a mission board helping to reach remote villages with the Gospel of Christ. She and a friend attended the group’s meeting that night.

“Eastern Africa always intrigued me with the frequent wars in the region,” said Collett. “After the meeting, I looked on Go Core’s website and found ‘There is Hope,’ an organization working with refugees from all over East Africa.”

The organization was seeking someone to teach English at Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Malawi, Africa, home to nearly 50,000 refugees.

“I just thought, ‘Eh, we will see what happens,’” said Collett. “So I applied and went through the interview process. Eventually, they offered me a position.”

Prior to this, Collett had never heard of Malawi. She knew of Uganda and Rwanda, but the sub-Saharan landlocked country known as “The Warm Heart of Africa” had never crossed her radar. As citizens of one of the poorest countries in the world, more than half of Malawi’s population lives on less than \$1 per day. However, the Malawians’ deep-seated joy in spite of their hardships is why Collett packed her bags for Malawi at the young age of 22 and hasn’t looked back.

**GRACE OF GOD**

Collett began teaching English at Dzaleka in 2015. While the organization wasn’t the best fit, Collett fell in love with the Malawian culture. Her two-year visa came

and went quickly, and as its expiration date approached, Collett knew she wasn't ready to say goodbye to the "Warm Heart of Africa."

"I didn't want to go back to the States," said Collett. "I didn't feel a sense of closure here."

Collett's coworker, Shupi Tatenda, knew Collett was looking for a reason to return. So before Collett departed for the States, Shupi and her husband, Titu, invited Collett to visit Grace of God Orphanage in Mtsiliza Village, a faith-based organization the couple launched in 2012.

At the time, the government enforced that orphanages send children to live with their living relatives. This meant the orphanage had to restructure to provide education and healthcare for these children in vulnerable circumstances. Shupi and Titu described their vision to relieve the burden for kids living with step-parents, a situation that often turns abusive. They would fund the children's public education, provide supplemental English and Bible curriculum and ensure they had clothes to keep warm in the winter months.

The couple asked Collett to return and help develop the new education framework. "I knew that it would be something I would really enjoy — both working with Titu and Shupi and being a part of that team — but also developing an educational system for the children's benefit," said Collett.

After a hard year of reverse culture shock in the States waiting for another visa, Collett eagerly returned to Malawi.

Within two weeks, she began taking Chichewa lessons. She quickly realized during her first two years in Malawi that she wouldn't be able to form genuine friendships, understand the culture and be seen as one of them if she didn't know the language. Sure, she could teach others her heart language — but she couldn't meet others in theirs. So Collett prioritized this in her second term.

Now fluent in the language, Collett serves as the school's education coordinator, which means she oversees the teachers, the curriculum and the fundraising for the school of 50+ children. Collett relies heavily on the support of those at her home church in North Manchester, Indiana,

to keep developing the school and securing sponsors for the children.

Despite the teachers' efforts, Collett says children still fall through the cracks of the education system. "It happens," said Collett. "You can't force someone to want school, especially when their surroundings go against it."

### POWER OVER POVERTY

Collett does not sugarcoat the realities of the country she loves. Last year alone, the country suffered incalculable loss from a series of tragedies. On the cusp of COVID-19 came Cyclone Freddy, the longest-lasting and highest-ACE-producing tropical cyclone ever recorded worldwide. The cyclone wiped out two million farmers' crops and 1.4 million livestock. This was shortly followed by the deadliest cholera outbreak in the country's history, resulting in 1,500 deaths.

"Life is hard here," says Collett. "I give people a lot of credit who go through it all and don't turn to drinking and drugs."

*"Most people come to Malawi for the first time with fresh eyes and only see poverty. After living here for several years, I don't see it that way. I see some of the most powerful, strong and resilient people I have ever met."*



Noel, a student in standard seven, smiles in front of his home before his 25-minute walk to Muzu school.

Amidst the suffering and pain, Collett still sees the goodness of God.

“I used to have a pretty narrow view of God,” Collett confessed. “The more you know about different ways of life and different sufferings around the world, the more you know — deeply know — and rely on Him as Healer, Comforter and Provider.”

And I saw it too.

I witnessed the ministry of Amess Nthala, a mom of three kids who was widowed at age 26, who has helped more than 400 widows persevere and trust God. I watched Mia B, a stalwart of selflessness, joyfully prepare nsima, soy and okra for the kids at Grace, often their only meal of the day. I heard the voices of passionate praise reverberate off the tin roof of the church in Dzaleka Refugee Camp. I observed Shupi and Amy’s deep care as they met on the dirt floor of a young girl’s home to confront her accumulating school absences and offer her grace to correct her course. I noted Noel’s determination as an orphaned grade schooler who strives to be ranked first in his class and improve his English every day in hopes of becoming a pilot. I saw radical hospitality — tables so full that there was no room to set a plate.

The truth is, this American woman would need far longer than two and a half weeks to know what it is like to be one of them.

As time passes and my trip to Malawi becomes a distant memory, I still remember the words Amy shared with me as the sun was peeking over the horizon on our way to Mtsiliza Village.

“Most people come to Malawi for the first time with fresh eyes and only see poverty. After living here for several years, I don’t see it that way. I see some of the most powerful, strong and resilient people I have ever met.

When suffering happens, they don’t sit around and feel sorry for themselves. They find a way to move on after hard things. Where people see poverty, I see power.”



Amy Collett (BS 15) gets her hair braided at the end of a tutoring session.



Mia B (right), Collett (middle) and another woman from Mtsiliza Village draw water from the well to prepare a meal for the kids at Grace of God Orphanage.



## Grace Seminary's 'Proclamation Project' Receives \$1,250,000 Grant

**Grace College has received a \$1,250,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help Grace Theological Seminary establish The Proclamation Project, which will help prepare aspiring and active preachers to proclaim the Gospel to diverse audiences.**

The effort is being funded through Lilly Endowment's Compelling Preaching Initiative. The initiative aims to foster and support preaching that inspires, encourages and guides people to come to know and love God and to live out their Christian faith more fully. Grace Theological Seminary is one of 142 organizations receiving grants through the Compelling Preaching Initiative.

"Grace Theological Seminary was founded in 1937 to train pastors to proclaim the Gospel to their congregations and to the whole world," said Dr. Freddy Cardoza,

vice president of Grace Theological Seminary. "While much has changed over the last eight decades, the desire to see the Gospel proclaimed by Spirit-anointed preachers has not. Romans 10:14-17 is a good reminder of why we train pastors to preach. It explains that faith comes from hearing the word of God; therefore, we want to train pastors to preach in a variety of contexts and to a diverse constituency, all for the glory of Christ."

Grace Theological Seminary hopes to increase the number and vitality of preachers who passionately and proficiently preach the Gospel in ways that captivate and subsequently transform listeners. This includes seeing churchgoers inspired to know and love God and more fully live out their faith as well as seeing nonchurchgoers take steps to learn more about following Jesus.

Grace will accomplish this goal through a wide range of initiatives, including new academic programs and microlearning courses, regional preaching workshops, seminars and an annual preaching conference. The Proclamation Project will also institute preaching cohorts connected to academic programs, which will expose preachers to preaching coaches and cultivate a growing community of active and aspiring preachers. The seminary also intends to invest in a state-of-the-art preaching simulator.

Grant funds will be spent on program staff, program research, marketing, technology, course development and resource development needed to accomplish these goals over the next five years.



# Grace to Host Youth Academic Summer Camps

**Grace College is pleased to announce its 2024 summer camp schedule.** The school is offering six camps for students of various ages and interests: visual arts, exercise science, engineering, creative writing and mediation.

“We are thrilled to offer these camps for a second year in a row,” said Adrienne Daeger, director of event services and camps at Grace.

Campers interested in attending the visual art camp will take their artistic interests and abilities to the next level, developing creative skills in drawing, painting and visual design. The camp includes a trip to the Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo and the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

The exercise science camp will be led by sports professionals and will give students the opportunity to complete a traditional athletic combine event, including a 40-yard dash, vertical jump and more.

For students looking for hands-on design experience, the engineering camp will give campers the opportunity to visit local engineering companies; learn computer-aided design (CAD) and use it to design a race car; and utilize 3D printers, robotics and virtual reality.

The creative writing summer camp introduces high school campers to poetry, stories and essays through creative prompts and local nature explorations. Students will participate in writing workshops, learn about

publishing their work and perform a public reading.

For high school students interested in law or debate, the mediation camp educates campers about mediation, a growing peaceful alternative to litigation in courts. With Grace’s mediation team as their guides, campers will practice developing win-win solutions to complex conflicts.

Each camp includes snacks and lunch. If camp costs are a barrier for a student to attend, need-based scholarships are available upon application.

**For specific prices and dates, visit [www.grace.edu/camps](http://www.grace.edu/camps)**





## Grace College Delegation Visits Partner Institution in Budapest, Hungary

**In February, five Grace College faculty and staff members visited the school's partner institution, Károli Gáspár University, located in Budapest, Hungary.** The visit allowed representatives from both schools to reconnect, discuss general education course exchange and brainstorm additional opportunities for partnership.

"At Grace, we open the door to international education both on our campus and around the world," said Dr. Lindsey Richter, director of the Institute of Global Studies at Grace. "The partnership between Grace and Károli Gáspár, one of the largest Christian universities in Hungary, has provided rich cultural learning experiences through exchange semesters and short-term trips. As our partnership grows, we are excited for additional opportunities to welcome Károli students and faculty on our campus and to explore new summer programming for Grace

students in the beautiful city of Budapest."

Richter was joined on the visit by Dr. Pat Loeb, professor of communication, who spent a semester teaching at Károli in the fall of 2019, and Dr. Jared Burkholder, professor of American and world history.

Also participating was Deborah Wilhite, program coordinator of the Institute for Global Studies, and Dr. Ryan Johnson, director of general education. While Wilhite connected with her Hungarian counterparts to streamline cultural exchange opportunities, Johnson began developing a number of humanities core course equivalencies, making transferability between the two institutions much easier.

Since the partnership between Grace and Károli was established in 2017, 10 Grace students have chosen to study

at Károli for a semester. Grace has also hosted several students from Károli Gáspár on its campus.

"Our time in Hungary was encouraging," said Richter. "We are thankful for the relationships we have at Károli Gáspár and the opportunities the partnership offers for students from both institutions. We are committed to advancing this partnership for the glory of God."

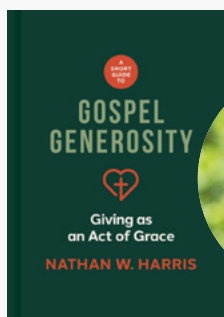
**To learn more about Grace's Global Institute, visit [www.grace.edu/academics/undergraduate/study-abroad](http://www.grace.edu/academics/undergraduate/study-abroad), and to learn more about Károli Gáspár University, go to [english.kre.hu](http://english.kre.hu).**



For more recent Grace headlines, scan here!

# Recent Published Works

In addition to their daily duties of teaching, fundraising and mentoring students, our faculty and staff have been busy researching and writing. Here are four books authored by our own faculty and staff in the 2023-24 academic year, all of which can be purchased on Amazon.



## “A Short Guide to Gospel Generosity: Giving as an Act of Grace”

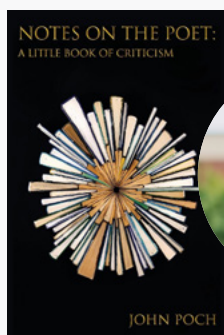
B&H Publishing, March 2024

Dr. Nathan Harris, vice president of advancement, discusses deep, theological truths of Scripture while applying those truths with great simplicity to how we as Christians should be joyfully generous with a Kingdom focus.

## “Finding Freedom and Grace in a Broken World: A Journey in the Purposes and Providence of God”

Wipf & Stock Publishing, Feb. 2024

Dr. Thomas M. Stallter, professor of intercultural studies, seeks to help Christians grow in knowing God and trusting His grace, purposes and providence on their journeys.



## “Notes on the Poet: A Little Book of Criticism”

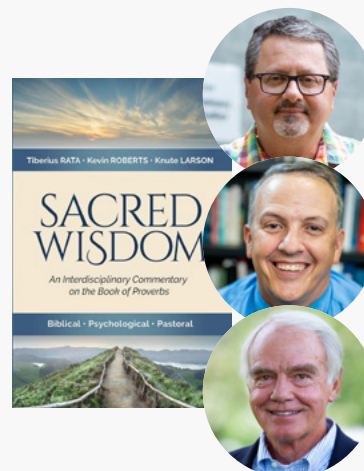
Measure Press Inc., Sept. 2023

Dr. John Poch, professor of English and creative writing, grapples with long-held beliefs about poetry, gleaning truth from common wisdom and rejecting misleading assumptions about what it means to engage with poetry.

## “Sacred Wisdom: An Interdisciplinary Commentary on the Book of Proverbs”

Brethren Mission Herald Co., July 2023

Dr. Tiberius Rata, Grace Seminary associate dean and Old Testament studies professor; Dr. Kevin Roberts (BS 93, MA 96), provost and behavioral science professor; and Dr. Knute Larson (BA 62, BDiv 66), a pastor of 43 years, bring unique expertise, providing readers with biblical insight, psychological perspective and pastoral wisdom on all 31 chapters of Proverbs.



# Grace Volleyball Claims the 2023 NCCAA Crown



Grace's volleyball team completed a week to remember at the College of the Ozarks. The Lancers defeated Mid-America Christian University 3-1 to win the 2023 NCCAA national championship.

24 wins this year are the most since 2014.

The Lancers have a bright future, returning the majority of their squad for next season.

Grace only dropped two sets across five matches in the NCCAA national championships, finishing the season with a 24-11 record under head coach Katie Hill. Hill was chosen as the NCCAA National Coach of the Year after leading Grace to the title.

Alisha Leffring and Katie Swanson were named to the NCCAA All-Tournament Team after their strong play. Jadyn Ross (11 kills, 18 digs) and Morgan Syoen (27 assists, 12 digs) posted crucial double-doubles in Grace's gritty victory.

This was the Lancers' second volleyball national title after claiming the NCCAA crown in 1995. Grace's



(L to R) Jadyn Ross, Livia Tate and Katie Swanson celebrate a point during the national championship game.



# GRACE

LANCERS

# Grace Pens Perfect Ending as NCCAA National Champions



A sweeter script could not have been penned than the one that played out on the hardwood of the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center in late March. Grace's women's basketball team capped off a thrilling season by being crowned the 2024 NCCAA national champions.

Grace topped Carolina 65-51 in the championship game that was played in front of a raucous crowd that spilled onto the floor at the final buzzer to celebrate the Lancers' historic championship victory.

"I am just so overcome with emotion for what this moment represents," said Grace head coach Dan Davis following the victory. "So many men and women have come before me to help lay the foundation for what was accomplished today. I could not be more thankful to President Dr. Drew Flamm, former President Dr. Bill Katip (BA 74) and Athletic Director Chad Briscoe for allowing me to lead this program." The Lancers' national title was

the first in program history. The championship was poetic as the final game of Grace's 15-year run hosting the NCCAA national championships. Grace has hosted the tournament since 2009, and the Lancers cut down their home nets for the first time as national champions.

Grace was coming off a dramatic, buzzer-beating victory in the semifinals, which was highlighted nationally on ESPN's "Top 10 Plays" that evening. But Grace showed no signs of an emotional letdown in the championship bout. At the final horn, the Lancers were the national champions.

"These ladies showed so much grit and determination this week," Davis said.

"They have stayed the course over the past 12 months, and they truly loved and invested in each other. They saw the result of their commitment today."

Peyton Murphy and Maddie Ryman were named to the NCCAA All-

Tournament Team, and Ryman was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. Ryman was named NCCAA Second Team All-American to conclude her remarkable career. Davis was named the NCCAA National Coach of the Year after Grace's net-cutting season.



Women's basketball celebrates Kensie Ryman's buzzer-beater against Oakland City that sent them to the NCCAA national championship game. Scan the QR code to watch the shot!



# Grace Duo Earns NAIA National Coach and Player of the Year



An unprecedented season for Grace's men's basketball team ended with a pair of crowning awards.

Scott Moore (BS 08) was named the NABC-NAIA National Coach of the Year, and Elijah Malone was named the NABC-NAIA National Player of the Year. The duo were also selected as the NCCAA National Coach and National Player of the Year.

Additionally, Malone was honored as the prestigious Bevo Francis Award winner, honoring the top player among all NCAA Div. II, III, NAIA and junior colleges.

Malone is the first Lancer to be named the NAIA Player of the Year in school history. The senior center graduated

from Grace with four-year totals of 1,953 career points and 1,017 career rebounds. He also finished his career ranked No. 1 in career blocks (308), No. 9 in career rebounds (1,017) and No. 9 in career points (1,953). Malone has the best field goal percentage in Grace history (65 percent), bettering the longtime mark held by Jim Kessler (BS 70) from 1967-70 (62.6 percent).

Malone was the 2024 Crossroads League Player of the Year and was also named to the 2024 NAIA All-Tournament Team. He is Grace's first player since 2013 to be named NAIA First Team All-American (Bruce Grimm Jr. (BS 13)).

Moore joins Jim Kessler (1992) as the first two coaches to be named NAIA

National Coach of the Year. Moore guided the Lancers to a record-breaking season in 2023-24, finishing the year with a 34-2 record and 17-1 in the Crossroads League.

Grace set a program record for best start (24-0) and longest winning streak (24) to begin the campaign. Grace was awarded with the NAIA tournament's overall No. 1 seed (for the first time) and marched all the way to the NAIA Fab Four.

The Lancers were ranked No. 1 in the NAIA Top 25 Coaches' Poll for most of the season, another first accomplishment in Grace's NAIA Division I era.

# Grace Selects Brian Dewey as Head Cross Country Coach



Grace College's athletic department is pleased to announce Brian Dewey as the school's next head cross country coach. Dewey comes to Grace with decades of coaching experience, most recently at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Dewey coached the Wildcats since 2021, assisting in all facets of distance training as well as serving as a lead on the team's recruiting efforts. The men's team was ranked No. 1 in the NAIA for much of this fall, and the women's team was in the top-15 of the nation. At IWU, he helped coach 10 NAIA All-Americans in cross country and 14 in track distance events.

"The running program at Grace has been rapidly advancing over the last few years," said Dewey. "There will be a lot of work and a lot of joy as we explore the gifts that God has given these athletes."

Prior to coaching at IWU, Dewey served for over a decade at the Christian Academy of Louisville as a Bible teacher and cross country/track coach. He directed his athletes to 26 All-State finishes for cross country, including three state champions. Dewey was a two-time Kentucky High School Coach of the Year.

He held a similar role at Norfolk Christian Schools in Virginia from

2002-08, garnering four top-10 team finishes at the state level.

"We are excited for Brian to join our family at Grace," said Grace Director of Athletics Chad Briscoe. "He has a strong passion to disciple athletes and help them grow in their walk with Christ through their athletic experience."

The Lancers have enjoyed sustained success over the past several years. Grace has won three consecutive NCCAA national championships in cross country for both the men and women. The track program has won an NCCAA national championship in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

# CONNECT

Connection matters to us! Read this section to find points of connection with former classmates, faculty, staff and Grace as an institution.

Spring is colored with the excitement of seniors like Bam Kiatkamonmal who are ready to take on the world with their hard-earned degree.





- 1 We inducted 23 students into the Alpha Chi Honor Society this year.
- 2 Jamall Smith (BS 24) shakes President Flamm's hand at commencement.
- 3 Spring Go Encounter trips were a hit! Students connected with new cultures all over the world.
- 4 Lancers showed up and broke records at Supermarket Sweep 2024!
- 5 Students Daniel Strother and Ian Raasch followed in the footsteps

- of their fathers, Zack Strother (BS 00) and Mike Raasch (BA 99, MDiv 01), who formed a friendship at Grace 26 years ago.
- 6 Students enjoy the sunshine as campus thaws in the spring.
- 7 We loved getting the chance to meet great future students at Bethesda Christian while watching the eclipse in totality!

- 8 Campus welcomes hundreds of visitors every spring. Those who can't make it to campus can always tour campus online.

So much is happening on campus. You can keep up with the excitement on our social media platforms.

  @GRACECOLLEGE



Scan the QR code to read Roth's full story on the Grace blog!

---

# Abigail Roth

## STUDENT PROFILE Written by Maria Ignas

**Y**ou know an epiphany when you feel it. When that undeniable sense of awe fills you, you realize that although you've always been looking, you're just now seeing. Abi Roth (BA 24) could tell you all about her very own epiphany. As a freshman, she arrived at Grace College unsure whether she would ever have the kind of faith the other Christians on campus seemed to hold so effortlessly. Despite being raised in a family of devout believers, Abi never fully developed her own beliefs. Her mother's cancer diagnosis during her senior year only hardened her heart toward the possibility of a loving, benevolent God. "From my perspective, my mom had been a faithful and devout Christian, a light for God," said Abi. "This is how He repays her?"

Yet that same steadfast Father guided Abi to Grace, where she officially met her roommate, Shelby Huiner, with whom she cultivated a deep relationship virtually over the summer. Abi and Huiner attended the first Friday chapel service of the school year. During the service, Chaplain Brent Mencarelli (MDiv 13) delivered a message about the 2021-22 chapel theme, "Follow Me," a study through the book of Matthew that challenged students to obey Christ's command to take up one's cross and follow Him, no matter the circumstances.

"You belong on this campus," said Mencarelli. "God brought you here for a reason." His words shattered Abi's perspective on her life, coloring her supposedly meaningless sufferings with hope. God's sovereignty and goodness, lofty topics for a theologian, became as real as Abi's own heartbeat. She needed only to look at her own life.

Abi reflected on her story, tracing the merciful Hand behind her mother's unexplainable peace throughout her cancer, others' outrageous generosity in the family's suffering and Abi's instant, profound friendship with Huiner. It all pointed to a Man who had given up His life for her. Only one question remained: Would she follow Him?

*"I'm not a Christian, but I want to be."*

After chapel, Abi sought out her growth group leader. "I'm not a Christian, but I want to be," she told her. In that moment, Abi gave her life to Christ — an epiphany of the highest order. That day, she realized she had always been looking at her Father. Now that she could see, she'd never look away.

"I was very much a glass-half-empty person before I came to Grace, but now I've shifted how I talk about everything," she said. "Especially when things aren't going well." Abi embraced this hope as a chapel

singer at Grace, praising His name amidst the highs and lows of college life.

She eagerly anticipates living out her faith after college. Abi, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in digital communication, now works as a college admissions recruiter at Northwest State Community College. "I got the best of both worlds with my degree," she said. "I've learned traditional subjects, such as communication and rhetoric, but I've also learned media-related skills, such as media production and web design."

Abi cherishes the school's significance in her life. Grace is the place where Abi not only prepared for her vocation but where she encountered the One who hand-crafted it. The One who gave her sight.



Dutton, Olivia's golden retriever, is her pride and joy!

# Olivia Kmiecziak

## STAFF PROFILE Written by Kelsi Griffith (BS 11, MS 16)

“**C**reating spaces where people can feel welcomed and build connections” is one of Olivia Kmiecziak’s (BA 18, MBA 20) life mottos, so it’s only fitting that she first heard about **Grace at a party she threw!** Well, it was actually a college fair at her high school, but for Olivia, events and parties are synonymous. Olivia was the first to come to Grace as a student from her Christian high school near Chicago, and at last count, ten other students have followed, including her brother Will (BS 23, MBA 23).

I first met Olivia when she joined the alumni engagement office in 2018 as the coordinator, serving alongside previous director Denny Duncan (BS 80). Olivia was young, having only finished her undergraduate degree earlier that year, but she proved to be wise beyond her years. Olivia stood out immediately as one of those people you invest in and receive dividends triple-fold. She quickly won the affection of our team and the alumni she interacted with at events.

In 2019, Olivia took charge of our events department in addition to her alumni duties. During this season, I had the privilege of really getting to know Olivia and watching her thrive. During events such as Homecoming Week, when many of us would be overwhelmed with the details — Olivia was in her element! She would even put together balloon displays in her “free time” to take the decor to the next level. At her core, Olivia wants people to walk into an event and feel welcomed. She wants events to be purposeful for the point of connection. While Olivia is a natural event planner, taking on special events brought a fair amount of challenges, including the onset of COVID-19,

which significantly impacted her work. During this season, I saw Olivia step up to recreate events virtually, gift her time to other departments who needed extra help and wade through the challenges with grace and poise.

As I’ve gotten to know Olivia better, I’ve noticed that welcoming people and hosting events is one of many ways

she seeks to make Christ known in her life. She also mentors young girls and teaches third-grade Sunday school. She is a regular at Bible study and book club. She hosts countless gatherings in her home, with game nights with her fiancé, Nathan, at the top of the list. She’s a glowing example of what it looks like to live out your calling at work, at home, in the church and in the community.

Olivia currently serves as our director of alumni engagement. When she returned in the fall of

2023, it was a full-circle moment. Having previously served as the coordinator of alumni engagement and then at another institution, it was time for Olivia to come home to Grace. As she’s led these past 10 months, it’s clear to see how God has prepared her for such a time as this and how Olivia, with her PowerSheets and Simplified Planner in hand, makes Grace better.

Alumni, if you haven’t met Olivia yet, let me introduce you to one of my closest and dearest friends. Trust me, you’ll love her, and you won’t want to miss her events. We’ll see you there!

**Olivia is getting married on July 13, 2024, and her last name will be changing to Targgart. You can reach her at [alumni@grace.edu](mailto:alumni@grace.edu).**

*“At her core, Olivia wants people to walk into an event and feel welcomed. She wants events to be purposeful for the point of connection.”*



---

# Dr. Tom Edgington

## FACULTY PROFILE Written by Dr. Kelly Arney

**N**ine years ago, I first met Dr. Tom Edgington (BA 79, MABC 83, MDiv 85) as I was being interviewed for a faculty position. I remember thinking he was intense as he peppered me with questions about biblical integration within the context of behavioral sciences. Dean Edgington seemed very intimidating to me, but how wrong that first impression was. Since that time, I have come to know Tom as a professional mentor, brilliant colleague, man of faith, momentum starter and trusted friend.

Tom has served at Grace for 40 years this spring. While many know him as a professor, department chair or dean, few know just how instrumental he has been in developing the dynamic counseling programs we have today. In 1992, he started the counseling center on campus, and in 1995, he launched the graduate counseling program. Tom's enduring contributions to Grace can be traced back to one campus visit to see his older brother, Allen Edgington (MDiv 79), who attended the seminary. He loved Grace's campus, so when he was offered a scholarship to play basketball at Grace, he was sold.

The late Dr. Mike Grill (BA 67), chair of the Department of Behavioral Science at the time, offered Tom the opportunity to teach part time in 1981 while he was working on his M.Div. Tom's excellence in the classroom was evident, and he was encouraged to earn a doctoral degree to become a full-time professor. Forty-plus years later, Tom continues to teach undergraduate and graduate-level courses at Grace.

In the classroom, Tom stands out. Students appreciate his teaching style, and his course evaluations reflect this.

His deep compassion for people and the Word of God is evident in all that he does. He incorporates a beautiful blend of the theological knowledge he learned in his M.Div. and the clinical wisdom he gained in the field at his private practice — embracing what it truly means to be a counselor. Tom's passion for Scripture is apparent in all of his classes, but it really shines in Biblical Psychology, for which he developed and wrote the course textbook.

He applies his deep knowledge of Scripture to his work outside of the classroom as well. Tom and his wife, Rhonda (Raber) Edgington, are currently teaching a marriage class at Winona Lake Grace Church. I have benefited greatly from his deep understanding of Scripture and his example of faithfully following Christ.

But perhaps what has impacted me most is Tom's heart for service. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone who is more willing to help out his colleagues or students. Tom

is our go-to guy if we need input on biblical integration in the course redesign process. In fact, he and Dr. Christy Hill are currently leading Grace's faith integration initiative. Personally, he has walked me through several difficult criminal justice and research topics and helped me guide the classroom into a productive and biblically sound conversation. And, despite my early impression of him, he undoubtedly will find a way to slide a few unexpected jokes in as well.

Thank you, Tom, for 40 years of service to Grace College and our Lord!

*“Students appreciate his teaching style and his course evaluations reflect this. His deep compassion for people and the Word of God is evident in all that he does.”*

# Alum Notes

## Connecting With Our Family of Friends

1964

**1** The Terry White Lifetime Achievement Award has been established in honor of longtime EPA (Evangelical Press Association) member, **Dr. Terry White** (BME 64), who was in attendance for his 50th convention in the past 55 years. Dubbed “Mr. EPA,” White has participated in countless ways of service to the EPA since attending his first convention in 1968. (l-r): Terry White, Lamar Keener (executive director of EPA), Joyce Ellis (a recipient of Terry’s award).

1967

**Dr. Gilbert B. Weaver** (ThD 67) and wife Sally celebrated 70 years of marriage on Aug. 26, 2023. For 59 of their 70 years of marriage, the Weavers have made their home in Siloam Springs, Ark.

1969

**2** **Dr. D. Brent Sandy** (BA 69, MDiv 73) recently published “Hear Ye The Word of the Lord” with InterVarsity Press. Sandy’s book has garnered much attention, including a three-page review on “Christianity Today” and a podcast interview with Saddleback Church.

1982

**Dawn (Maiellano BS 82) Crocco** is the owner of Dawn Crocco Counseling in Downingtown, Pa., where she also serves as a therapist. dawncroccocounseling@gmail.com

**3** **Mark D. Weinstein** (BS 82), executive director of public relations at Cedarville University, was presented the 2023 Communications Professional of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award by the Public Relations Society of America.

1984

**Coach Lane K. Lewallen** (BS 84) was recently inducted into the Class of 2023 Kankakee Valley High School (KVHS) Athletic Hall of Fame as head coach of the 2008 KVHS Girls’ Cross Country squad. Lewallen resides in Wheatfield, Ind.

1986

**William J. Hofto** (ThM 86, MA 88, MDiv 88) has been president of William J. Hofto, CPA, PC, since November 2003. He has also served as pastor at Basalt Bible Church and The Church in the Valley as well as an expert witness in Colorado’s 9th Judicial District. Bill and his wife Patricia reside in Grand Junction, Colo. bill@hoftopca.com

1987

**4** **Dr. Jim F. Coakley** (MDiv 87) completed his 25th year on faculty at Moody Bible Institute/Moody Theological Seminary as a professor of Bible. His recent book “14 Fresh Ways to Enjoy the Bible” published by Moody Publishers, won a 2024 “Christianity Today” award for best book in the Bible and Devotional category. He and his wife Gayle live in La Grange, Ill. jcoakley@moody.edu

1989

**5** Michael J. and **Dr. Deb S. (Musser BA 89, MA 00) McEvoy**: Married Sept. 3, 2022. Deb has served at Grace since June 1994 and is currently the director of Grace’s health and counseling services. deb.mcevoy@grace.edu

1990

**6** **Barry Brigham** (BS 90) has served as president of Cornerstone Counseling Center since July 2009. He and his wife Kerry reside in Kalamazoo, Mich. barryb320@yahoo.com

2007

**7** **Eric** (BA 07) and **Deborah (Burkett BME 10) Bradley**: Hannah Dorothy, Aug. 17, 2023. Hannah joins brothers Neil (14), Luke (4) and Paul (2) at their home in Goshen, Ind.

2010

**8** Ty and **Heidi Kristen (Class BS 10) Henry**: Married April 15, 2023. The newlyweds call Winona Lake, Ind., home.

2012

**9** **Jonathan** (BA 12) and **Danielle (Goodman BA 13) Allan**: Joshua Issachar, March 13, 2023. allan.danielle13@gmail.com

2013

**10** **Will** (BA 13) and **Elizabeth (Bennett BA 13) Gross**: Peter William IV, May 7, 2022. Peter joined Caroline (5) and Adelaide (3) at their home in Columbia City, Ind. Elizabeth has served as executive assistant with Language Matters, LLC, since July 2022. willandelizabeth8.9@gmail.com

**11** David and **Tami (Veach BS 13) Hughes**: Married June 24, 2023. Tami owns Ready Set Go Children’s Academy where she also teaches. The couple resides in Flora, Ind. tami.veach@gmail.com

2014

**Emily Koontz** (BA 14) began serving as the program outreach coordinator at Shiloh Adventures (Oklahoma City, Okla.), a faith-based summer camp ministry for under-resourced youth, in Sept. 2023.

**12** Nicholas and **Madisson (Heinl BA 14, MSHE 17) Younglove**: Married June 3, 2023. Madisson has served as communications manager at the University of Chicago since Dec. 2020.

2015

**13** **Kyle** (BA 16) and **Sarah** (Johns BS 15) **Condon**: Elizabeth Mae, March 21, 2023. Sister Lillian (3) welcomed Elizabeth to their home in Kokomo, Ind. Sarah will be joining Kyle on staff with Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) part-time. Kyle recently began a new role as area director over eight counties in Mid Central Indiana. kcondon@fca.org

**14** Ben and **Katy (Marshall BS 15) Durfee**: Joshua, April 11, 2023. Joshua joined sister Alice (3) at their home in Chittenango, N.Y. katy.durfee@gmail.com

**15** Charles and **Meredith (Michalski BS 15) Hinders**: Married March 9, 2024. Charles is currently working on his B.S. in business administration through the Grace online degree completion program. The couple resides in Colorado Springs, Colo., where they serve in ministry at Bear Trap Ranch.

The P family—Ben, **Kate** (BA 15) and two children—relocated to South Asia in 2023 where they serve with a non-profit. They welcome the prayers of fellow alumni over their ministry and life transition.

2018

**16** **Jacob** (BS 18) and **Dr. Aleena (Sallot BS 18) Brown**: Caroline June, Dec. 20, 2023. Sister Charlotte (2) welcomed Caroline to their home in Granger, Ind. Aleena earned her doctor of medicine at the University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences in 2022 and will finish her residency at Saint Joseph Family Medicine Center (Mishawaka, Ind.) in June 2025. She plans to practice in Northeastern Indiana as a family medicine physician with obstetrics care. aleenadbrown@gmail.com

**17** Nicholas and **Cindi Christine (Trier BA 18, MDiv 23, MA 23) Grysen**: Married June 11, 2023. The newlyweds call Warsaw, Ind., home. chri.grysen@gmail.com

**18** **Zach** (BS 20, S 23) and **J. Mischelle (Murillo BA 18) Hill**: James Dean, Oct. 24, 2023. James was welcomed by sister Elena (2) at their Warsaw, Ind., home.

2019

**Jon Opiela** (BS 19) recently joined the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) as assistant director of strategic communications after spending time at New Mexico State University (Las Cruces, N.M.).

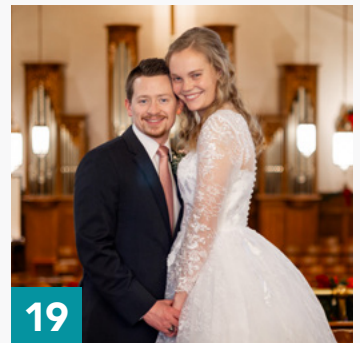
2020

**19** David and **Erin (Lawhon BS 20, MBA 21) Giffin**: Married Dec. 9, 2023. The Griffins call Kettering, Ohio, home.

2021

**Kierstyn Worthem** (BA 21) began serving as associate director of diversity, inclusion and belonging at Illinois College in July 2023.





**WHAT'S NEW?**  
Submit an Alum Note.  
Submit your own alum note at  
[www.grace.edu/alumnotes](http://www.grace.edu/alumnotes)

**ALUM NOTES IS MOVING**  
This will be our last Grace Story issue featuring alum notes. Future notes will be published online.

# In Memoriam

## ALUMNI

1955

**1 Rev. Bill H. Snell** (BA 55, MDiv 58)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 08/25/23  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Duncansville, Pa.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/William-Snell-6](http://rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/William-Snell-6)

1957

**2 Rev. Charles H. Winter** (BA 57, S 59)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 03/21/23  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Sunnyside, Wash.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [funeralhomesmith.com/obituary/Charles-Winter](http://funeralhomesmith.com/obituary/Charles-Winter)

1958

**3 Rev. Larry K. Gegner** (BDiv 58)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 09/09/23  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Martinsburg, W.Va.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [brownfuneralhomeswv.com/memorials/larry-gegner/5269679](http://brownfuneralhomeswv.com/memorials/larry-gegner/5269679)

**4 Rev. Loran Bill Veith, Jr.** (MDiv 58)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 04/15/23  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Casselberry, Fla.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [legacy.com/us/obituaries/butlereagle/name/loran-veith-obituary?id=51689755](http://legacy.com/us/obituaries/butlereagle/name/loran-veith-obituary?id=51689755)

1959

**5 Amos C. Good** (BA 59)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 09/16/23  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Ashburn, Va.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [colonialfuneralhome.com/obituaries/print?o\\_id=8684342](http://colonialfuneralhome.com/obituaries/print?o_id=8684342)

1962

**6 Dr. Dick L. Kelley** (BA 62, S 63)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 03/17/23  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Charlottesville, Va.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [hillandwood.com/obituaries/Richard-Loran-Kelley?obId=27560256](http://hillandwood.com/obituaries/Richard-Loran-Kelley?obId=27560256)

1965

**7 Dr. Larry W. Poland** (BDiv 65)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 05/03/23  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Carol Stream, Ill.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [hultgrenfh.com/obituary/larry-poland](http://hultgrenfh.com/obituary/larry-poland)

1966

**8 Dr. Robert G. Gromacki** (ThD 66)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 03/29/23  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Seminole, Fla.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [littletonandruce.com/obituaries/Robert-Glenn-Gromacki?obId=27629993](http://littletonandruce.com/obituaries/Robert-Glenn-Gromacki?obId=27629993)

1969

**9 Dr. Marvin W. Royse** (MRE 66)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 02/15/24  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Pineland, Fla.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/cape-coral-fl/marvin-royse-11669825](http://dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/cape-coral-fl/marvin-royse-11669825)

1971

**10 Dr. Bruce A. Pickell** (MDiv 71, ThM 80)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 12/05/23  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Westfield, Ind.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [echovita.com/us/obituaries/in/indianapolis/bruce-allen-pickell-17314964](http://echovita.com/us/obituaries/in/indianapolis/bruce-allen-pickell-17314964)

1974

**11 Rick M. Brundage** (BA 74, MA 77)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 03/17/23  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Winona Lake, Ind.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [redpathfruthfuneralhome.com/obituary/RichardRick-Brundage](http://redpathfruthfuneralhome.com/obituary/RichardRick-Brundage)

1980

**Rev. Dan C. Younger** (DipTh 80)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 09/22/23  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Richardson, Texas  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/dan-younger-obituary?id=53189689](http://legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/dan-younger-obituary?id=53189689)

1989

**Michele M. (Gragg BA 89, CERT 08) Goss**  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 01/14/24  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Warsaw, Ind.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [redpathfruthfuneralhome.com/obituary/Michele-Goss](http://redpathfruthfuneralhome.com/obituary/Michele-Goss)

1999

**12 Bethany M. Fluke** (C 99)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 02/24/24  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Winona Lake, Ind.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [redpathfruthfuneralhome.com/obituary/Michele-Goss](http://redpathfruthfuneralhome.com/obituary/Michele-Goss)

## FRIENDS OF GRACE

**Rev. Eldred Johnnie Gillis, Jr.**  
 (former Grace trustee, 1980-1983)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 03/03/24  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Winchester, Va.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [ompsfuneralhome.com/obituary/eldred-john-gillis-jr/](http://ompsfuneralhome.com/obituary/eldred-john-gillis-jr/)

**Mr. Gordon Stover**  
 (former Grace trustee, 1991-2006)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 01/24/24  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Yakima, Wash.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [obituaries.yakimaherald.com/obituary/gordon-stover-1089359826](http://obituaries.yakimaherald.com/obituary/gordon-stover-1089359826)

**Rev. Larry M. Weber**  
 (former Grace regional director of development, 2014-2016)  
**DATE OF PASSING:** 01/10/24  
**RECENT HOMETOWN:** Hagerstown, Md.  
**FULL OBITUARY:** [therecordherald.com/obituaries/psom0688771](http://therecordherald.com/obituaries/psom0688771)





# In Memory of Dr. Richard Dilling

"Most people called him 'Dr. Dilling,' 'Professor Dilling' or 'Richard,' but to my siblings and me, he was just 'Dick.' The six of us grew up in rural Pennsylvania in a close-knit family and were taught to love the Lord and each other. He was always dedicated to learning and was the first sibling to go into teaching, followed by Joe, Tom and me. He was my big brother, my high school physics teacher, my mentor, my golf buddy and my friend."

~ Sue (Dilling BA 69) Gray

"One of the coolest things about my dad is that he was a man of science and a man of God. My dad contributed early on to the STEM majors at Grace. He worked to bridge the stereotyped perceived gap between academia and a biblical worldview. Having received a Ph.D. in Physics from Purdue University, but also working toward a degree from Grace Seminary, he was respected from both viewpoints. The main thing his students remember is his prayers at the beginning of class, as they knew he was speaking to the God of the Universe."

~ Dawn (Dilling BS 93) Halbakken

"Dick and I were colleagues for over five decades. We often shared office space, team teaching and conference travel. Teaching brought peaks and valleys through the years, but in both extremes, Dick always displayed a positive outlook and faith, which impacts me still. It was an honor to know him as a friend and colleague."

~ Dr. Don DeYoung (MDiv 83)

Dr. Richard Dilling passed away August 30, 2023. He served as a full-time faculty member at Grace College from September 1968 to May 2013. In August 2018, Dilling was honored with faculty emeritus status for his noteworthy contributions and accomplishments at Grace.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF THESE ALUMNI WHO ALSO RECENTLY PASSED AWAY:

**Dr. Rolland N. Hein** (BDiv 57)  
**Rev. Alva W. Steffler** (BA 57, BDiv 59)  
**David E. Leapline** (BA 58)  
**Rev. Lewellyn "Lew" D. Ingwaldson** (BA 60, S 67)  
**Dr. Luke E. Kauffman** (BA 63, BDiv 66)  
**Patricia (Patterson BA 64) Ott**  
**Dr. Richard "Dick" C. Woodring** (BA 66, MDiv 70)  
**Lois Ann Beeson** (BS 67)  
**Judy Jordan** (BA 67)  
**Dr. Kathryn A. (Hess BS 69) Bailey**  
**Edward A. Doornbos** (BA 69)

**Robert M. Braham** (C 70)  
**Dianne F. (Williams BA 70) Hayden**  
**Rev. Michael Ostrander** (MDiv 70)  
**Barbara (Flint C 71) Allen**  
**Douglas L. Plice** (BS 71)  
**Rev. Rodney E. Wetzig** (MDiv 71)  
**Joyce (Brenneman C 72) LeMasters**  
**Timothy E. Metcalf** (BS 72)  
**Dennis D. Goble** (BS 73)  
**Christine (Sandberg C 73) M. Jackson**  
**Dr. J. David Schmid** (MDiv 73, ThM 74)  
**Joan (Funderburg Wagoner BS 74) Beall**  
**Steve B. Wilson** (BS 74)

**Cynthia "Cindi" (Marrow C 74) Collins**  
**Stig Tony Ahlenius** (S 80)  
**Randall "Randy" S. Reneker** (C 80)  
**Rev. Albert Duane Jones** (DipTh 83, MDiv 89)  
**Rev. Lyle L. Sweeney** (MDiv 86)  
**Ralph A. Justiniano** (MA 91)  
**Rae (Alejado BS 96) Kaleohano**  
**Dr. Rick K. Blackwood** (DMin 97)  
**Rev. Dr. Douglas R. Magin** (DMin 02)  
**Bryan Mitch Gooldy** (AS 09, BS 11)  
**Patrick "Pat" Schwenk** (MA 14)

**GRACE**  
COLLEGE &  
SEMINARY

Address Service Requested

**Grace College & Seminary**  
1 Lancer Way  
Winona Lake, IN 46590

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
GRACE COLLEGE

If you are receiving Grace Story in error or if you are receiving duplicate copies, please contact the advancement office at [advancement@grace.edu](mailto:advancement@grace.edu). Thank you!



# *Save the Date*

**HOMECOMING OCT. 4-5, 2024**