

FALL 2017

THE MAGAZINE OF GORDON COLLEGE

STILLPOINT

DIFFERENCE MAKERS

How Gordon alumni promote peace
and care for the hurting PAGE 16

Hats off to the grads



On Saturday, May 20, 2017, at Gordon College's

125th Commencement ceremony,

385 undergraduates and 81 graduate students received degrees.

Honorary doctorates were conferred upon Shirley Hoogstra, president

of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities; Bob Lappin,

strong advocate for interfaith outreach and president of the Lappin

Foundation; and Don Stephens, founder and president of Mercy Ships.

Congratulations, Class of 2017!



Thank you, **GORDON ALUMNI!**

An aerial photograph of the Gordon College campus during autumn. The image shows several large, multi-story brick buildings with white accents and large windows. A prominent white steeple rises from one of the buildings. The campus is surrounded by a dense forest with trees in various shades of orange, yellow, and green. A body of water is visible in the foreground, reflecting the sky and the surrounding landscape. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

This spring, more than 1,500 of you shared your passions and honest feedback in a comprehensive survey conducted in partnership between the Alumni Office and an outside consultant, Graham-Pelton. Gordon heard from alumni in every age and stage, and far exceeded Graham-Pelton's average response rate. One of the most encouraging takeaways from the survey results is that Gordon alumni care—**you care about each other, your communities, causes close to your hearts (a few of which you'll read about in this magazine) and the future of Gordon.** And because you care, you also gave us honest insight into the work we must do moving forward. The results of the survey have been shared with key decision makers at all levels of the College. We take your input very seriously and will keep you apprised of changes and improvements. Thank you for sharing, and for helping us better understand alumni perspectives, concerns and how we can connect with you in the future. We hope to see you at Homecoming later this month!

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ON THE COVER James Taylor '02, co-founder and co-director of the Balkans Semester for the Study of War and Peace, engages students in discussions about justice in front of Zagreb's Strossmayer Gallery of Old Masters in Croatia.

Cover Photo Mark Spooner '14

UP FRONT with President Lindsay



“Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God.”
—Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision

Over the last year, I traveled twice to Africa. Once was to see firsthand the important work that World Vision is doing in places like Zambia, and to lay groundwork for experiential internships that students in our new flagship Global Honors Scholars program will soon complete with this international ministry. The other was to see the work that Mercy Ships (on whose board I serve) is doing in the small West African country of Benin. I visited their floating hospital, docked in the capital city of Cotonou, and caught a glimpse of the hope and healing they're bringing to some of the poorest people in the world.

Like many successful humanitarian organizations, Mercy Ships began with one person's response to a heartbreaking situation. In 1964,

19-year-old Don Stephens was on a mission trip in the Bahamas. A devastating hurricane swept through the islands, and Don asked himself the question: Wouldn't a ship offering medical care after disasters be a wonderful, practical form of Christian ministry? That vision gained traction over the years that followed, but the catalyst was the birth of his and his wife, Deyon's, severely disabled third son, John Paul. Learning to care for John Paul's overwhelming needs was the final push that led to the founding of Mercy Ships, which has, to date, helped 2.5 million people receive desperately needed medical care.

In this issue of STILLPOINT you'll read the story of another young person whose vocation was forged in

a crucible. Petra Belkovic Taylor '03 was only 11 when the Croatian War of Independence broke out in her home country of Yugoslavia. It's hard for me, as the father of three young girls, to imagine what it was like for Petra and her family as they fled from their home and were refugees for four years. Petra recalls those years as “a time of searching and stumbling: *Who am I when all I know has been lost?*”

Today Petra and her husband, James '02 (pictured on the cover), direct Gordon's Balkans Semester for the Study of War and Peace, which uses Croatia and the Balkan states as a matrix for exploring themes of peace, violence, justice and reconciliation. The program was launched in 2014, with the support of several Gordon faculty

INSPIRATION

members who were formative during the Taylors' time as students.

So many of our alumni have followed a vision into lifelong service to the needy, and we profile a few more of them in this issue. There's Rick Klein '93, who serves as senior vice president of development and sustainability for CURE International, a nonprofit operating children's hospitals and programs in 29 countries worldwide. Calista Pearce Burpee '06 works for the Nonviolent Peaceforce in South Sudan, which fosters dialogue among warring factions and protects civilians. Closer to home, Sarah Dooley Sotelo '05 is director of communications and marketing for Open Door Immigration Services, a ministry of High Rock North Shore, where many Gordon grads are also involved. Mark Panjwani '91 is a police officer/EMT who works toward justice on Boston's North Shore, and goes on medical mission trips. These are just a handful of the thousands of Gordon alumni making a difference.

The world's needs are overwhelming, but I am grateful that Gordon has always attracted young people eager to serve those needs. I'm also grateful that the College is a great place for such vocations to be nurtured. By the grace of God, we will continue to send out young men and women who follow Christ's example of sacrificial service. God bless you in your respective places of service.

D. Michael Lindsay



D. Michael Lindsay is the eighth president of Gordon College and professor of sociology. When he's not traveling on behalf of Gordon, you can find him cheering for the Fighting Scots and spending time with his wife, Rebecca (pictured with him in Zambia), and three daughters.

Helping Students (and Campus) Bloom

Alton Bynum, Superintendent of Grounds

If you've stopped to smell the roses at Gordon any time in the past 27 years, you have Alton Bynum to thank—though he'd credit his team at Physical Plant for the work. Working side-by-side with them, beautifying and maintaining the campus, the superintendent of grounds also makes an effort to transform his staff into a team.

This second-generation Gordon employee has a few claims to fame: at Gordon, it's Hawaiian shirts; in the town of Hamilton, it's extravagant hay creations in his yard every fall. But among his staff, Alton is known as a dear figure who imparts valuable lessons—from safety to mowing lawns neatly to job interview tips. Managing a group of student workers is Alton's favorite part of the job, and he takes it seriously.

Every day provides another opportunity to equip students with life skills. Keeping grounds with Alton isn't just about using leaf blowers—it's about being considerate and punctual. In return, they teach him too—about anything from economics to horses. One student even shared her struggle with depression, and Alton was able to direct her to the proper resources.

Alton's lifelong love of and regard for nature is a gift to the community, evidenced by Gordon's neat and vibrantly landscaped campus. Early on in his Gordon career, he made it a goal to ensure that the flowers at Gordon would always be bright and visible from far away.

Why? The students.

"Everything has been geared toward the students," he says. "Most of the trees and shrubs bloom when they're on campus. I want every day to have an impact."

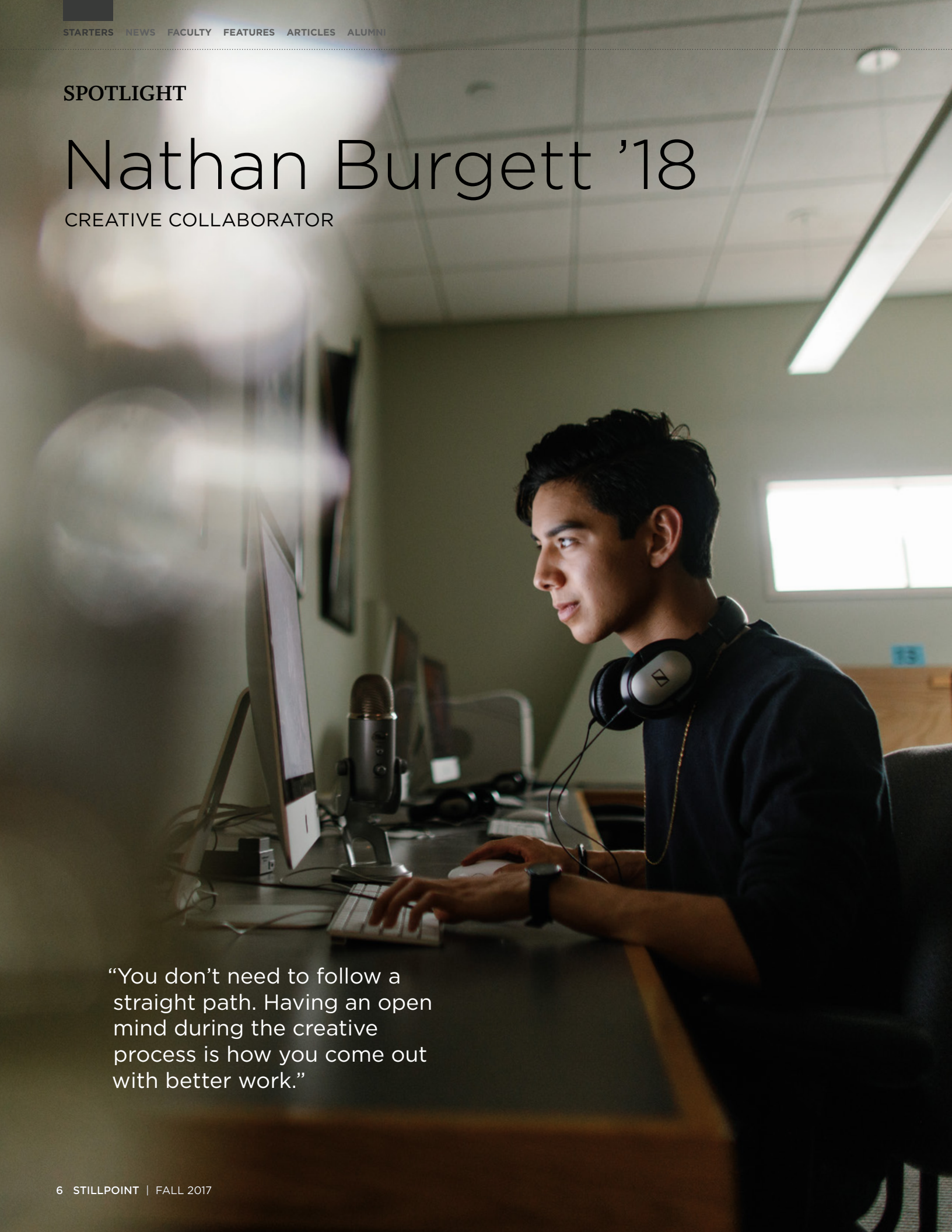
Photo Mark Spooner '14



SPOTLIGHT

Nathan Burgett '18

CREATIVE COLLABORATOR

A photograph of Nathan Burgett '18, a young man with dark hair, wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and large black headphones. He is sitting at a desk in a dimly lit room, looking at a computer monitor. His hands are on a keyboard and mouse. A professional microphone is on the desk. The background shows a window and some office equipment.

“You don’t need to follow a straight path. Having an open mind during the creative process is how you come out with better work.”

NATHAN BURGETT '18 IS THE SORT OF PERSON WHO WEARS MANY HATS. AND IN SOME CASES, COSTUMES TOO. A THEATRE ARTIST AND FILMMAKER WHO MOONLIGHTS AS A MUSICIAN AND DANCER, NATE FINDS HIS PASSION IN THE WIDE WORLD OF EXPRESSIVE ART.

“Up until the second semester of my first year, I had always seen myself as more of an actor,” Nate says. But his brother Vic’s dabbling in film combined with his own documentary assignment for class led him to a new artistic medium—and he discovered a knack. “Vic was really good at the camera work, and I was really good at directing and working with people,” Nate explains. “We call ourselves the Burgett Brothers.”

Artistic diversity is the name of the game for the Burgetts. “Video creation is an expression of yourself,” Nate says. “We’ve created a large spectrum of genres because we’re interested in a lot of different things.” Comedic films for Exit 17, abstract films for Gordon Globes, documentaries for class and even a K-pop music video for Golden Goose—their topics may be vast, but “if there’s any root to every single video,” Nate says, “it’s collaboration.”

The concept of collaboration came into a whole new light over the summer, as Nate completed a media internship for Dominion Television in Accra, Ghana, where he helped create fresh content for their audience of five million people across Western and Southern Africa.

A double major in communication arts and theatre arts, Nate says, “I don’t see myself as exclusively in the theatre world or in the film world. I just love to create and I love to collaborate with people—to bring people on a project and see how that can help them express themselves in different ways and find fullness in the process.”

And while the finished product is important, for Nate success lies in the journey. “If the process was amazing and we learned a lot and went through trials, then it was worth it.” In theatre, film, dance and music, Nate’s passion is for creation and collaboration—helping others discover their best and shine.

NEWS: ON THE GRAPEVINE

CAMPUS NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



SPECIAL EVENT

Founder's Weekend Celebrates Gordon's History

In celebration of founder A. J. Gordon's birthday, and in honor of all who have paved the way at Gordon over the years, the College hosted its annual Founder's Weekend in April. The event kicked off with the Social Venture Challenge, and continued with two talks by 2016–17 Distinguished Visiting Scholar Dr. Os Guinness, two Gospel Experience concerts and Scottish- and Earth Day-themed kids' activities to boot. Tom and Lyn Shields were awarded the Founder's Medal in honor of their gracious hospitality and support for Gordon and its community.

Sparking Undergraduate Research Interest

In the TED Talk-style Spark 2.0 event, three students presented research funded by the Undergraduate Research Council. Kayla Kroning '18 (chemistry) discussed the lung surfactant of infants who suffer from Respiratory Distress Syndrome. Shalomita Maleachi '17 (philosophy) showcased a portion of her Scholar's Semester in Oxford thesis on humanness. And Julia Webster '17 (social work) shared her work on harm reduction with Durbar, a sex workers' rights advocacy group in the largest of Kolkata, India's, seven red-light districts—Sonagachi.



The Gospel Experience Turns Five

During the annual Founder's Weekend, the Gordon College Gospel Experience celebrated its fifth anniversary, performing a concert themed "One Name." Under the leadership of conductor Craig Ramsey '13, who established God's Chosen Gospel Choir during his junior year, the choir has steadily gained momentum and influence on campus. Ramsey works as a financial advisor at New York Life Insurance Company in Boston.



Sophomore Calling and Career Conference

At the start of the spring semester, Gordon hosted its first-ever two-day Sophomore Calling and Career Conference, designed to help students gain professional skills early in their college careers. Keynote speaker Dr. Kenneth Barnes, director of the Mockler Center for Faith & Ethics in the Workplace at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, guided students toward a better understanding of what “finding your calling” means. Students developed their résumés, learned from alumni panels and honed skills in interviewing, networking and dining etiquette.

You don’t need to wait until STILLPOINT arrives to get the latest on Gordon. News and stories are published all year long on the College blog, *The Bell* (named for the iconic structure that sits just outside the A. J. Gordon Memorial Chapel).

stories.gordon.edu

SPEAKER

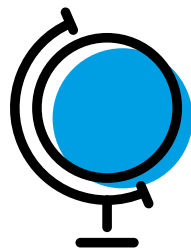
Os Guinness on the Importance of Following a Covenant

This year’s speaker for the annual Richard F. Gross Lecture was award-winning author and social critic Os Guinness, one of Gordon’s visiting distinguished scholars for the 2016–17 academic year. Speaking on the topic of “Let My People Go! The Covenant as the Missing Key to the American Crisis,” Guinness discussed the importance of a covenant, and the benefits of following one. “The great strength of a covenantal society,” he said, “is the restoration of faith and freedom in a responsible way.”

SPEAKER

Ian Hutchinson Talks Fusing Faith with Science

2016–17 Distinguished Visiting Scholar Dr. Ian Hutchinson, professor of nuclear science and engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spoke on the integration of faith and science during the annual Tak Yan Lee Lecture. “I believe my Christian faith is fully compatible with science,” he concluded. “It has enriched my career and made me a better scientist. Like many historical figures, I think science leads to God.”



SPEAKER

Joseph McKinney Delivers John D. Mason Lecture

In honor of his close friend, the late Dr. John Mason (economics and business), Dr. Joseph McKinney of Baylor University delivered a talk harkening to one of Mason’s key interests—how economics can alleviate poverty around the world. “As Christians,” he said, “we can join international advocacy groups such as International Justice Mission, working to minimize activity like trafficking and inequality,” but “Christians should [also] be heavily involved in encouraging through the political process policies that protect the poor.”

SPEAKER

Tal Howard Delivers Symposium Keynote Address

Dr. Tal Howard, professor of humanities and history and Phyllis and Richard Duisenberg Chair in Christian Ethics at Valparaiso University, returned to Gordon to deliver the Symposium address, “500 Years of Protestantism, 1517–2017—Now What?” “I’m persuaded that 500 years after the Reformation, evangelicals cannot simply yawn and walk away from Christ’s command that we all be one,” he said. “The evangelical and the ecumenical imperative remain joined at the hip, as Christ himself testifies in the Gospel of John. They stand or fall together.”





The Changing Landscape of Global Christianity

Gordon's annual Global Missions Week focused on "The Changing Landscape of Global Christianity" and included talks by Dr. Scott Sunquist, dean at the School of Intercultural Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary, and Jervis Fisher, director of LOL Ministry in Belize, as well as a screening and discussion of *Mama Rwanda* with film director Laura Waters Hinson, Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Director Carter Crockett and Vice President for Student Life Jennifer Jukanovich.



A Taste of Italy in Massachusetts

The beloved chef-in-residence for Gordon IN Orvieto made her inaugural trip stateside. Alumni traveled from as far as Pennsylvania and Mississippi to once again experience Maria Battistini's one-of-a-kind character and cuisine during a reunion at Shields House. Maria offered cooking lessons for Gordon trustees and reunited with her former diners over a display of authentic Italian antipasti made with Umbrian-quality tomatoes from North Shore Italian specialty shops.

Bon Appétit and Tupper Hall Bring New Food Options

Over the next year, Gordon will expand the variety and quality of food products through a partnership with Bon Appétit Management Company, supported by a generous gift from longtime Gordon supporter Sherry Tupper. Changes include new all-you-care-to-eat dining plans in addition to the traditional cash options, updated and improved food court and serving areas in Lane Student Center, and a new food outlet in the Bennett Athletic Center. Bon Appétit shares Gordon's commitment to and passion for sustainability, fresh and locally sourced food, and nutrition and wellness. Tupper Hall will be dedicated in conjunction with the Celebration of Faithful Leadership on October 19.

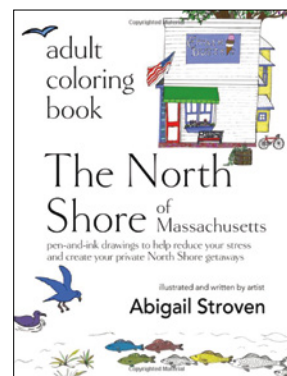
Gordon Welcomes Home Former Star as New Men's Soccer Coach

Gordon Athletics named Matt Horth '11 new head coach for the Men's Soccer team. Horth has played professionally with several organizations including the Atlanta Silverbacks of the North American Soccer League (NASL), Rochester Rhinos of the United Soccer League (USL), the New England Revolution of Major League Soccer (MLS), and internationally with the Icelandic club Leiknir Reykjavík of 1. Deild Karla.



La Vida's Abby Stroven Colors the North Shore

During time spent in the Adirondacks with La Vida, Adventure Pursuits Director Abby Stroven began recording the scenery with pen and ink landscape sketches. Her humble beginnings selling illustrated notecards on Etsy led to the publishing of a North Shore coloring book. Stroven's local coloring book became one of Green Frog Publishing's best-sellers after being released last fall.



FACULTY WORK: AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



In the News



Greg Keller (biology) has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for the Arctic Initiative for spring and summer 2018. The Arctic Initiative is a collaborative effort among researchers from North American and European Arctic nations to connect public policy and scientific research. Working across borders on critical research, these Arctic Initiative Fulbright Scholars demonstrate a multilateral interdisciplinary approach to solving global challenges. In Keller's research, entitled "Conservation Biology of Songbirds in Fragmented Iceland Landscapes," he will focus on the habitat use, breeding behavior and parasite load of birds in woodland patches, with an emphasis on landscape-level patterns. In addition, he will work with colleagues at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik teaching a class on conservation biology at the university's Department of Biology in the Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences. In April, *The Daily News* interviewed Keller about the Scholarship and his research.

Sharon Ketcham (biblical studies and Christian ministries) was interviewed by *Christian Broadcast News*, following the January release of the Pew Research Center's Religious Landscape Study. The interview was broadcast on *Christian Broadcast News* outlets.

In March, **Ketcham** discussed with *Education News* major takeaways from a research study that examined whether parental priorities on safety are shared by youth pastors and leaders.

A feature story on **Bruce Herman's** (art) unconventional path to success was featured in two Michigan dailies: *The Daily Tribune* and *The Oakland Press*. The February articles stem from a November 2016 feature story published by the Associated Press.

In the spring, **Val Gin** (kinesiology) was interviewed on the "Christians in Sport" podcast with Graham Daniels.

Grants

John Sarrouf (communication arts), **Margie DeWeese-Boyd** (social work) and **Ian DeWeese-Boyd** (philosophy) are partnering with the University of Connecticut's Humanities Institute on a project entitled "The Dialogic Classroom: Teaching for Humility and Civic Engagement." The project was recently funded by the John Templeton Foundation, and they will collaborate with fellow faculty at Tufts University, Southern Methodist University and Bridgewater College.

The **Department of Music** received a \$25,000 grant from the Plansoen Foundation to fund two concerts, student scholarships, the commissioning of a new work and the Music Mania program, in addition to a grant from an anonymous organization to fund the String Chamber Tour.

Priscilla Nelson and **Janet Arndt** (education) received a \$35,000 grant from the E. Leslie Peter Foundation to "enhance programming for Gordon College pre-service teachers and elementary students in partnership districts that are at-risk and high poverty."

Michael Veatch (mathematics) received one of five grants from the CCCU—Networking Grants program. His project, "Informed compassion: how faith shapes decisions in Christian relief," will examine the role that Christian values have in the decisions made by faith-based organizations as they allocate resources when responding to a particular disaster.

Publications



Chad Stutz (English language and literature) published a version of his integration paper, “Wisława Szymborska, Adolf Hitler, and Boredom in the Classroom; or, How Yawning Leads to Genocide,” in the winter edition of *Christian Scholar’s Review*.

Peter Iltis’s (kinesiology) publication, “Movements of the Glottis During Horn Performance,” appeared in *Medical Problems of Performing Artists*, in March. Over the summer, Iltis traveled to Germany to use real-time MRI technology for his embouchure dystonia research.

Susan Bobb (psychology) had a book chapter, “Words on the Brain: The Bilingual Mental Lexicon,” accepted in March for publication in the John Benjamins series, *Studies in Bilingualism*, tracing the processing dynamics for

different language learners in different contexts across the lifespan.

Karl-Dieter Krisman’s (mathematics) article, “Representation theory of the symmetric group in voting theory and game theory,” was published in a volume of the American Mathematical Society’s conference proceedings in March.

Personality and Individual Differences published a paper by **Jonathan Gerber** (psychology) in March titled “Construct validity of Williams’ Ostracism Needs Threat Scale.” The paper was co-authored with Si-Hua Chang ’16 and Hannah Reimel ’17.

In the spring, **Ellen Ballock** (education) co-authored an article entitled “An Exploration of Professional Knowledge Needed for Reading and Responding to

Student Writing” in the *Journal of Teacher Education*.

In May, **Bert Hodges** (psychology) published “Carrying, caring, and conversing: Social and ecological constraints on the emergence of conformity, cooperation, and language” in *Interaction Studies: Social Behaviour and Communication in Biological and Artificial Systems*.

Mark Cannister and **Sharon Ketcham** (biblical studies and Christian ministries) contributed chapters to *Adoptive Youth Ministry* (Baker Academic) and *Teaching the Next Generations* (Baker Academic).

David Goss (history) completed his third book for Greenwood Press/Praeger/ABC-CLIO, Inc., entitled *The Documents of the Salem Witch Trials*, with a projected release in December of this year.

Beyond the Books



In March, more than a decade after **Irv Levy** (chemistry) and some of his students worked with Hamilton-Wenham High School students to develop a laboratory method to assess relative hazards of different road salts, their work has contributed to a kit available from Flinn Scientific.

David Goss’ (history) band, The Second South Carolina String Band, was featured in May on the soundtrack of Oren Moverman’s new film, *The Dinner*. The Second South Carolina String Band released its seventh album, *Ain’t Dead Yet!*, in June.



Awards and Recognitions



Irv Levy (chemistry) has been named to the 2017 Class of American Chemical Society Fellows for his significant contributions in advancing the field of green chemistry education, including expanding the community of green chemists, contributing scientific communications and increasing student engagement as well as his excellence in service to the Division of Chemical Education. Levy brought in new cross-divisional programming and introduced relevant green chemistry programming.

Levy is one of four scientists in Massachusetts to receive this significant honor, which is given to one or two percent of members who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in chemistry and have made important contributions to the American Chemical Society (ACS)—the world's largest scientific society. Levy was one of 65 ACS Fellows honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., during ACS' 254th National Meeting and Exposition in August.

"I am humbled and honored to be recognized by ACS, an organization that I first joined as an undergraduate student back in the 1970s," said Levy. "I love bringing our students to ACS conferences, watching the amazing work of Gordon's ACS student chapter, and wondering if some of my students will still be involved with this great organization 40 years from now. I hope so!"

Levy has served Gordon students and his colleagues across two academic departments since 1985. His interests in chemistry are primarily related to the development of educational resources for green chemistry—chemistry that is inherently safer for human health and the environment. Levy is often praised in higher education scientific circles as a leader of a growing revolution in green chemistry practices and education.

Early this year, the president and chair of the board of ACS appointed Levy to the Society Committee on Education.

Otonye Braide-Moncoeur

(chemistry) completed a three-year term on the Committee for Inclusion and Diversity and was renewed for another term in the 61st Annual Biophysical Society.

Dan Darko (biblical studies and Christian ministries) received the Junior Distinguished Faculty Award at Commencement. He came to Gordon in 2011, and teaches courses in New Testament, Pauline epistles, biblical hermeneutics and Christian theology. Darko holds a visiting professorship at Regent University College of Science and Technology (Ghana), and is president of Africa Potential, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to empowering Africans for the service of Africa.

Greg Keller (biology) received the Senior Distinguished Faculty Award at Commencement. He joined the Biology Department in 2007, and served as chair from 2014 to 2016. Keller has a number of ongoing projects, including research on habitat fragmentation and songbird migration in eastern Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and was instrumental in the creation of the Gordon College Museum of Natural History and the foundation of a Sigma Xi chapter.

The 2017 Academic Support Center Bookmark Award went to **Margaret Niehaus** (economics and business) for her willingness to work with students' unique needs, and to collaborate with the ASC in helping students succeed in the short term and grow as lifelong learners.

Sabbatical Stories



Last spring, two Gordon professors exercised their aptitude for scholarly research with time off from the classroom.

Besides playing lots of piano, **Graeme Bird** (linguistics), pictured above, began his sabbatical in January teaching in Orvieto, Italy, for the winter Jerusalem and Athens Forum course. He then completed a chapter for a book on the performance of Homer titled “Homer as Improviser?” (Oxford University Press, to be released in late 2017 or early 2018), and worked on writing four mini-entries for the upcoming *Cambridge Homer Encyclopedia*: “Dialects,” “Meter,” “Hospitality” and “Ring Composition.”

In June, Bird gave a presentation in Oxford, touching on his work transcribing the first edition of an ancient Greek papyrus manuscript of Homer’s *Iliad*. The presentation included a discussion of “Homer as Improviser?” so naturally, Bird played jazz piano to relate jazz improvisation to Homeric poetry.

Bird also traveled to New Zealand to see family and visit the sites of Gordon’s Creation Care Program. On a lighter note, whale-watching was a highlight of the New Zealand trip, where Bird saw a sperm whale and several albatrosses and dolphins.

Scientific research took **Greg Keller** (biology) to Iceland during his spring sabbatical. There, he made collaborative connections for the work he will continue under his Fulbright Scholarship (see pg. 12). He will be working at the University of Iceland to understand how redwings and common redpolls distinguish between native birch woodlands (which are highly fragmented and relatively rare) compared to plantations of non-native Norway spruce. He’ll also investigate whether migratory birds differ from resident birds in their habitat use, nest timing and parasite load.

Keller also finished his Belize-based research on habitat use by wintering migrant birds. He looked at rainforest areas with natural openings (in the form of hurricane damage or river corridors) compared to anthropogenic openings, such as orange groves and residential development. Keller and a student are also completing landscape analysis using geographic information system technology in an effort to compare how human activities affect bird habitat compared to natural processes.

New Faculty Emeriti

At Commencement, former professors Paul Borgman (English) and Roger Green (biblical studies and Christian ministries) were named professors emeriti. This status recognizes and honors retirees who held a faculty appointment at the College for at least 10 years, and who have served the College through supporting Gordon’s mission.

Paul Borgman joined Gordon’s faculty in 1981 after teaching at Northwestern College. His teaching and scholarship revolved around biblical literature. In addition to numerous articles in scholarly and popular publications, he has published three books: *Genesis: The Story We Haven’t Heard* (IVP Academic, 2001); *The Way According to Luke: Hearing the Whole Story of Luke-Acts* (Eerdmans, 2006); and *David, Saul, and God: Rediscovering an Ancient Story* (Oxford University Press, 2008). Borgman retired from Gordon in 2015.

Roger Green, who retired in 2016, first began teaching at Barrington College in 1970, and came to Gordon in the 1985 Barrington-Gordon merger. The chair of the Department of Biblical Studies and Christian Ministries from 1988 to 2015, Green taught the New Testament Core course as well as several courses in theology. He is a layperson in the Salvation Army, and has written three books and several articles on both the theology and the biography of William Booth and Catherine Booth, the founders of that movement.

FEATURES

DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Lessons from the Margins
♦
At Work for the World
♦
Giving Peace a Chance



Lessons from the Margins

How a war survivor's experience inspires students to practice peace and engage with the excluded

Photos Mark Spooner '14

"My family came across a barricade on the road near our hometown as we were returning from our summer vacation on the Croatian coast. Two men with guns stopped us and wanted to take away my dad. My mom refused to let them do this and protested that if they take him, they will have to take us all. After a long discussion, they let us go with the message that we will starve in our town, which was now surrounded by Serbian military."

Petra Belkovic Taylor '03 recalls the summer of 1991, when the Croatian War of Independence broke out. At age 11, it was her first encounter with war.







Prior to that, in her small hometown of Slunj, set in the mountainous region of central Croatia and famous for its mills and waterfalls, “Serbs and Croats shared their lives without much attention to ethnic differences,” her husband, James ’02 shares. “They ate barbecue together; they watched each other’s children; like any group of neighbors or friends, they knew all about each other and formed a tight community.”

But in the span of a few years, he says, ethnic tensions began to rise. “Neighbors—Serbs and Croats—began to become suspicious of one another. This suspicion gave rise to fear, and this fear gave rise to enmity and violence. This violence forever changed Petra’s life and the life of her family.”

REFUGE AND STRENGTH

That summer, in what was once an idyllic home, “We lived for about three months without any supplies and with constant bombing around and later in the town. My mom, dad, five-year-old brother and I fled the town a week before Serbian forces entered it.”

Suddenly displaced, the Belkovic family proceeded on an arduous day-long journey south through Bosnia and eastern Croatia. Eventually they found refuge with relatives in Zagreb, where the war was less severe.

“My parents led us through this uncertain journey by faith and prayer,” says Petra. “We got stopped by various militaries and militias all along our travel. The miracle was that no one took us off the road. Many

people along this road ended up in prisons and concentration camps.”

They remained refugees for four years—in Porec and then back in Zagreb—forced to exchange a life of normalcy and comfort for “a number of macro and micro rejections that all people at the bottom of society face,” Petra says. Her grades were lowered, and she was refused a spot in the school choir because of her status.

It was a time of searching and stumbling: *Who am I when all I know has been lost?* She grappled not only with her identity as a refugee but also with the fact that woven together in her own DNA were the very two strands at war with one another. Her father was a Croat, and her mother, a Serb. “In Yugoslavia, as far as I understood, we were all Yugoslavian,” she says. But

Previous spread: The quintessential orange roofs climb to Zagreb’s oldest area of Upper Town and central square of Ban Jelacic.



“THROUGH STUDYING AND LIVING WITH THE SAME GROUP OF PEOPLE I HAVE LEARNED HOW IMPORTANT PEACE IS, EVEN IN THE SMALLEST OF INTERACTIONS. THERE IS ALWAYS A CHOICE BEING MADE BETWEEN VIOLENCE AND PEACE.”

—EUNJI CHEH '19 (POLITICAL SCIENCE)

“in a climate that forced people to divide along ethnic lines, there was suddenly no common ground to stand on.”

As they waited in lines for food and clothing, worried about the safety of family members who were still in war zones and faced marginalization, the Belkovics clung not to their Croatian or Serbian heritage but to their identity in God. “In their Christian conviction,” Petra says, “my parents stayed firmly together” even as the country around them—and the many mixed marriages that once existed—crumbled.

IN PURSUIT OF PEACE

How was it possible for neighbors who trusted each other with their children and welcomed them into their lives daily, to

turn against one another and be willing to use violence against one another? Why were people so willing to abandon peace for war?

The questions that haunted James and Petra for years gave rise to what is now Gordon’s Balkans Semester for the Study of War and Peace. “Although these questions took shape around the specific example of Petra’s own life in Slunj, they are relevant to all of us,” James says. “We fashioned the program not simply to learn about conflict in the Balkans—although we do that—but to use Croatia and the Balkan states as a backdrop for exploring issues of universal significance. Students are confronted in tangible ways with the challenge of reconciliation and the cost of exclusion.”

In 2014—after more than a decade since the idea began to take root, marinating in the backs of their minds as they taught and earned Ph.D.s at Boston College (James) and Harvard University (Petra)—the Taylors launched the Balkans Semester, with the support of several Gordon faculty members who were formative during their time as students.

This past spring, 15 students in the program’s fifth cohort set out for a semester of grappling with themes of peace, violence, justice and reconciliation—the very themes the Taylors had wrestled through during their time at Gordon, as Petra sought to process the trauma of the war she survived and James sought to understand its deep impact on her life.

Above: As part of their immersive experience, students are mentored by James and Petra. Here, Petra takes three Gordon students on a nature walk above the village of Komiza on the island of Vis.

**“THE BALKANS SEMESTER BROUGHT THE
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL WARS CLOSE
TO HOME; IT REVEALED THE WAYS THAT
BIG-PICTURE CONFLICTS START WITH MY OWN
JUDGMENTS AND INSECURITIES.”**

—ISABELLE SKILLEN '18 (SOCIOLOGY)

**INTENSIVE LEARNING,
IMMERSIVE LIVING**

Against the backdrop of historical Austro-Hungarian architecture, café-lined streets and vivid orange roofs of Zagreb, the cohort meets daily at the European Center for the Study of War and Peace (the Croatia-based nonprofit, founded and run by the Taylors, that encompasses Gordon's Balkans Semester). They take courses taught by James and Petra, regularly hear from local speakers who share their own unique experiences, and enjoy intensive electives from Gordon faculty who make three-week treks to teach from their disciplines.

“Zagreb is really a lovely city,” says Petra. The region has changed considerably since the war, and now “it's safe and user-friendly, and we want students to have that experience.”

In modern-day comfort and safety, the cohorts discuss dense and difficult topics. “Violence is too ubiquitous and peace too tenuous to think that we can make headway without engaging in a robust and prismatic study of these issues through political science, sociology, peace and conflict studies, literature, history, theology and philosophy,” James says. “You begin to see that we need each other in this process.”

This multidisciplinary, multifaceted approach feeds into all aspects of the program. Students gain firsthand

experience through required internships—from sustainable development and farming to working for government watchdog groups, refugee services and women's rights organizations. Cross-cultural communication workshops and language practice (with guest speaker Mila, the bilingual five-year-old daughter of James and Petra) help students navigate their work in an unfamiliar culture and place.

With Zagreb as their home base, the cohort also sojourns to areas that were ravaged by and are still recovering from the most recent war. “Being here in a region that has been constantly embattled by war and that still suffers from ethnic divisions allows for the experience and threat of violence, and the challenge of reconciliation to be much more palpable,” James says.

On the border of Serbia and Croatia, in Vukovar, students see where the brunt of the conflict was endured and where segregation still runs deep. In Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, they hear the other side of the war story. They interact with the predominantly Muslim community and connect with organizations promoting peace and reconciliation in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, which was under siege for four years during the war.

Violence hits home as students visit Srebrenica, Bosnia, the site of the largest genocide committed in the Balkans during

the 1990s. And in Slunj, Petra's parents share their stories as Christians who refused to be separated by ethnic wars. The intensive learning and immersive living experience culminates in final presentations at a professional conference, followed by a time of unwinding and debriefing in Vis, an island in the Adriatic Sea.

As students return and reintegrate into their own communities and homes, the main takeaway, say James and Petra, is that conflict cannot be ignored. “I can't just sit back any longer because I've seen what happens,” they often hear. The result is a new way of seeing humanity.

“I learned a very important lesson as to what it means to be excluded, powerless, marginalized and dismissed before being heard,” Petra says. “We hope our program allows students to engage with these themes and consider creative and empowering responses to practices of exclusion.”

The Balkans Semester has been made possible in part by invested faculty who have been instrumental in launching and developing the program: Paul Brink (political science), Mark Gedney (philosophy), Cliff Hersey (communication arts), Daniel Johnson (sociology), Ruth Melkonian-Hoover (international affairs), John Sarrouf (peace and conflict studies) and John Skillen (global education).

www.gordon.edu/balkans



Pictured (top, clockwise): Dr. Paul Brink (political science) teaches a class on justice during an excursion to the island of Vis; Balkans Semester alum Jordan Heres and his wife, Ingrid (not pictured), are program RDs and first responders to disaster relief through Samaritan's Purse; trams run down Zagreb's main artery street, Ilica, where many students' apartments are located; Isabelle Skillen '18 and Mikaela Ryan (Westmont) explore the palace of Roman emperor Diocletian in the coastal city of Split; a Franciscan monastery, built in the 16th century, sits at the mouth of the Vis harbor.

At Work for the World

Gordon alumni have dedicated their lives to leading and serving for the betterment of others. Here are a few of their stories.



1 Nonviolent Peacebuilding in South Sudan

It was a scorching hot day in South Sudan as **Calista Pearce Burpee '06** marched through a war-torn village alongside a group of South Sudanese women. They walked past the aftermath of tribal conflicts in the South Sudan Civil

War—the burned marketplace and what remained of their homes. Dead bodies still lay out on the street. The walking women carried white flags, seeking peace and an audience with the governor.

This mission was part of Calista's work in Nonviolent Peaceforce, a nonprofit that builds relationships and understanding to reduce violence and protect civilians

through unarmed strategies. In this case, the support she had helped provide to these women equipped them to be powerful voices for peace. "It felt so empowering for these women, and it was empowering to help them," Calista says.

For three years, she served at field sites in South Sudan, where the civil war, tribal conflicts and domestic unrest plague

the innocent. “There’s no amount of intellectual understanding that compares to seeing people suffer,” she says.

While at Gordon in a class with former professor Dr. Stephen Smith (economics and business), Calista became intrigued by the question of how to do international development work without yielding to broken systems. In a class with Dr. Ivy George (sociology), she realized she wanted to do development work herself, and the studies exposed her to scholars asking the same questions she was. “I just felt this pull at my heart, and knew this is what I wanted to do.”

“I can’t say enough good things about Nonviolent Peaceforce and the work it’s doing,” Calista says. “It really opened my eyes to how much we don’t explore nonviolent conflict resolution, and it opened my eyes, being on the ground there, to see the consequences of war and violence.”

2 Serving and Supporting the Immigrant Community

“How do we reach our neighbors?”

Sarah Dooley Sotelo ’05 and her pastor, Brynn Harrington ’06, brainstormed how their church, Highrock North Shore in Salem, Massachusetts, could serve the city’s Hispanic community.

It’s a topic Sarah became passionate about while participating in Gordon’s Latin American Studies Program. “Immigration is a huge problem that our country has—not a problem in terms of people, but in terms of the legal side of things, like lack of opportunity to avenues to apply for legal citizenship,” she says.

With the support of Highrock’s denomination, the Evangelical Covenant

Church, Sarah and a team from the church started Open Door Immigration Services (ODIS) in 2014. Sarah now directs communications and marketing for ODIS, which became an official 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in 2016, and received full accreditation from the Department of Justice this past summer. ODIS is now able to provide legal immigration services in the community, such as legal counsel to immigrants regarding their options within current immigration law and even potentially representing them in federal court.

And it doesn’t end in Salem—once established, Sarah and the ODIS team will be the model for other churches nationwide who want to provide these services.

“It’s been a very scary time for the immigrant community,” Sarah says, “where it’s probably a lot easier to just be introspective and not reach out to the greater community because of a legitimate fear that they will be deported, even just for asking questions.”

Understanding the reality of immigration is an important aspect of ODIS’s work, as they educate the community about its intricacies, and advocate for Salem to become a sanctuary city. And with each political decision, the scene shifts.

“We do have hope that one day there’s going to be comprehensive immigration reform,” Sarah says, “and until it’s there, we are standing with folks to let them know they are loved no matter what.”

3 Hope and Healing

For **Rick Klein ’93**, it all comes back to Luke 9:2: proclaim the Kingdom of God and heal the sick.

That, and an economic development class with Dr. Stephen Smith. An extensive report on Africa “absolutely informed the way I look at the problems, needs and potential solutions for many countries in Africa”—including Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Uganda and Zambia, where CURE International operates hospitals for physically disabled children.

When the opportunity came for Rick to join CURE in 2004, he felt called. “It was meeting a need, sharing the gospel and doing economic development,” he says. “We’re improving communities—both by treating the disabled but also by becoming employers to many people in the area by training medical professionals.”

The more than 30,000 children CURE treats around the world each year are often ostracized by their communities because of their disabilities. The physical healing that they receive through surgery—for conditions like club foot and cleft lip—often has social and spiritual implications, too. “It’s by God’s grace that they end up in our hospitals,” Rick says, “and perhaps for the first time, someone has held the child and loved them and considered their condition.”

As senior vice president of development and sustainability at CURE, Rick says, “We raise support in America so our brothers and sisters (patients and their families) around the world can receive healing and hear the gospel message.” In his 13 years, he’s seen CURE grow from operating four hospitals in four countries to now being in 29 countries.

“It’s the image in my head of a mother or father walking or riding on the back of a motorcycle to get to one of our hospitals to look for help for their child,” Rick says. “Knowing they’re going to be loved and maybe experience Christ for the first time—that’s a great motivator.”

4

From Beverly to Bangladesh

“I came to Gordon to be a doctor and ended up in law enforcement,” says **Mark Panjwani ’91**. He studied biology (pre-med) and worked as an EMT to gain experience in the medical field, but soon found a new passion: responding on-call to emergencies.

He’s worked as a medic ever since, and expanded his service by joining the police force. For 21 years, he’s served in the Beverly Police Department, and this past May was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

In all his responsibilities, Panjwani’s faith is integral. “I’ve seen horrible things in both my jobs,” he says, “but I would say without doubt that faith—having an outlook in life that there’s more to it, that God really is in control even amongst this chaos—that’s what makes these calls a lot easier for me.”

That helps Panjwani serve in his jobs and as a volunteer around the world—from an orphanage in Kumasi, Ghana, to two mission trips to Bangladesh with his church, First Presbyterian Church, North Shore, to Family Promise, “an organization that provides weekly housing for homeless families in various locations, mostly churches,” he explains.

Panjwani is married to Rebecca (Nies) ’96, and they have four children ages 17, 15, 12 and 9. He has traveled to Myanmar and Ecuador as a paramedic with Medical Missions Outreach, which conducts weeklong medical clinics to assist underserved populations in those areas. Those trips have embodied the full integration of faith with daily life, a concept Panjwani says he saw at Gordon in the way his professors showed that science and faith belong together.

5

A Multi-dimensional Understanding of Social Justice: What Does it Mean for the Church?

By Kara Dry ’17

As I reflect on God’s work throughout my undergraduate education, I realize that often the experiences that did not seem to make much sense had the most influence in my life. My internship at the Center for Public Justice (CPJ) in Washington, D.C., was no exception.

As a double major in business administration and psychology, I had little to no background in public policy, yet I felt drawn to the opportunity to co-author a policy report with Gordon alumna Katie Thompson ’12, editor of *Shared Justice* at CPJ. The report, “What Justice Requires: Protecting Families from Payday Lending,” discusses the harmful effects of payday lending primarily on low-income families.

I could go on to discuss all that I learned about predatory lending including the psychological, emotional and social impacts of financial distress, and policies that could perhaps alleviate some of these burdens. However, the underlying message is perhaps more important.

Often social justice issues are viewed through a unilateral lens. For example, in the case of predatory lending, the discussion largely focuses on *economic* causes and repercussions. While this is obviously an important component, a one-sided perspective tends to limit the solutions. Rather, when looking at any issue of social justice it is crucial to consider the economic as well as the *political and social* components. This means positive solutions rely on the cooperation of policy makers, businesses, nonprofits, the Church and families operating within their reach in order to meet an entire need.

Employing this framework is much easier said than done. Before each institution begins to act, they must be aware of their role and must acknowledge their co-dependency. The Church is no exception.

Growing up as the daughter of a pastor and attending a Christian college, the idea of the Church acting as the hands and feet of Christ was not a novel concept. But as I began to examine the role of the Church in predatory lending, a multitude of questions arose: What does it look like for the Church to have a voice in policy discussions? How can the Church partner with other institutions that operate according to the understanding that each has been ordained by God in order to promote justice? And perhaps most importantly, is the Church in America fully operating according to its intended purpose?

As I spent the summer and subsequent year wrestling with these questions, I began to see that the work of the Church and matters of social justice cannot be independent. So, Church, let’s continue wrestling through these questions and actively engaging in this important work so that we may fulfill our roles as ambassadors for Christ through a ministry of reconciliation that includes the pursuit of social justice.

Kara is passionate about discovering the role of the Church in matters of social justice, exploring new places on her bike and playing any and all yard games. Another article by Kara, “What Justice Requires: Protecting Families from Payday Lending,” was published in the spring 2017 issue of *CCCU Advance* magazine.

Giving Peace a Chance

After graduating, several alumni are opting for an unconventional post-graduate experience by serving in the Peace Corps—from Madagascar to Micronesia to Moldova.

Emma Barclay '16 is in **Madagascar**, where she teaches English to students in elementary, middle and high school; speaks both Malagasy and French; and enjoys living in a very diverse, yet unified culture. “Every day my community gives me so much,” and she’s seen how that can build up individual efforts to learn and serve in and out of the classroom.

Alex Bostian '16 is teaching English to high school students in **Moldova**. He engages students in discussion and political discourse and has started a Model United Nations conference, through which he teaches students about international affairs, emphasizing “thoughtful, conscientious public engagement.”

Roland Griggs '15 is serving as an agricultural volunteer in northern **Ghana**, where he teaches farm management practices and helps groups of farmers form mutually-beneficial partnerships. The Peace Corps is providing his community with needed resources, and “demonstrations and lessons I’ve led have sparked interest in agricultural practices that can improve people’s crop and animal production.”

Steve Guertler '14 is in **Micronesia** helping build capacity in a small elementary school of grades 1–8, where he teaches alongside several locals. They collaborate to share ideas and resources, and to further education in their island community.

Marina Lavender '15 is an agriculture extension agent in the central highlands of **Madagascar**, where she has farmed an example garden and worked with a technical training school to farm a large plot. Marina is working with farming and animal husbandry associations, schools and silk weaving associations to improve current techniques and expand business opportunities.

Ryan Wilkens '15 is in **Costa Rica** teaching English to elementary school students and helping local English learners, including his co-teachers, improve their language skills. He’s learned that service is about “realizing you don’t need to lead by force, but rather by being an initiator. Helping people realize their own skills is a certain way of leading.”



Jerusalem and Athens Forum Essay Contest

The Church's One Foundation: United as One Body or By Schism Rent Asunder?

At Gordon and in Christian communities around the world, the tenets of Christianity are recited communally in the Apostles' Creed. The line "I believe in . . . the holy catholic church" inspired Samuel Stone's 1886 hymn "The Church's One Foundation." The hymn declares that we are part of the same body—the Body of Christ—yet acknowledges that this Body is "by schisms rent asunder." This spring, JAF students explored the discrepancy.



Winning essay Church, History and Blood Ecumenism: The Potent Desire for Union in Times of Peril

1934 Germany: tensions rose between church and state. Receiving Nazi support, a Protestant group named the Deutsche Christen addressed mainline Protestant churches, advocating for the abandonment of the Old Testament and the inclusion of an "Aryan paragraph." The paragraph would essentially weed out any Jewish-sympathetic congregants or clergymen. Churches resisted, and the Deutsche Christen cause fell. This did not cease the government from desiring churches to adopt Nazi principles, though. Potent Nazi pressures pushed Church leaders and theologians together to ask the question, "What is the Church, anyway?" And so, the Barmen Confession on the Identity of the Church was formed.

In the face of tyranny, the Confession authors wrote, "We reject the false teaching, that the Church could and should acknowledge any other events and powers, figures and truths, as God's revelation, or as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God." Christ is the ultimate authority. The Christian Church—not just the Protestant Church—is a band of "brothers and sisters," they claim, where Christ "acts presently as the Lord in Word and sacrament, through the Holy Spirit."

If this is a true account of what the Church is—Christ working in and through a "family" of believers—then why do schisms occur? How is it that one group of Christians, one type of church, claim they know the *real* gospel and others don't—while the rest all say the same? Why do doctrinal spats splinter congregations? Surely, Christ is not in the words of the vehement; surely, the idea of one Church is an illusion, a nice story we can tell ourselves. Perhaps the dire situation from which the Barmen Confession springs inspired a rosy depiction of the Church.

It could be that many Christians agree with the Confession, that Christ is indeed the authority, glue and driving force of churches, but they find that how that authority actually plays out is highly dependent on interpretation. Moreover, what feeds an interpretation significantly ranges from personal, familial, sociological and cultural narratives. These factors coalesce in an individual's and church's theological perspective, in addition to Church tradition, the heritage of doctrinal assertions and leadership. These divergences in belief, in other words, keep "the Church" from being whole.



Story Madeline Linnell '17, Davis Metzger '19
and Morgan Clayton '19

Read the full essays at
www.gordon.edu/jafessay

Do they?

The Protestant-friendly branch theory renders the view that there does exist one, true Christian Church, but it is something of an invisible adhesive absorbing all churches. Different churches—Anglican, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and so on—are branches to the singular tree-Church. Many Protestants contrive branch theory to be a condition to ecumenical efforts, yet the Catholic Church, which denies branch theory and asserts itself as the one, true Church, is a proponent for the ecumenical movement. Pope Francis presses the need for “blood ecumenism” in the face of persecution: “When terrorists or world powers persecute Christian minorities or Christians, when they do this, they don’t ask: ‘But are you Lutheran? Are you Orthodox? Are you Catholic? Are you a Reformed Christian? Are you a Pentecostal?’ No! ‘You are a Christian!’ They only recognize one of them: the Christian. The enemy never makes a mistake and knows very well how to recognize where Jesus is. This is ecumenism of the blood.”

In the face of adversity, then, similar to the circumstances of the Barmen Confession, churches tend to define themselves by what unites them rather than what separates them. The admission to their shared faith in Jesus Christ prompts individual churches to stand together as *the* Church. This is not to diminish the convictions unique to each sect, or to overlook the turbulence of schism, not at all. For, how dismal is it to say that unification is most palpable in moments of chaos? When communities lie riven from violence, and hope is near unrecognizable?

I pray that this does not need to be the case for unification, but when such trials do occur, as they are happening today, may Christians together fulfill the call to bear witness to Christ’s enduring power, love and forgiveness. May the 1934 Confession not be made in vain: “As the church of forgiven sinners, it has to bear witness in the midst of a sinful world, with both its faith and its obedience, with its proclamation as well as its order, that it is the possession of him alone, and that it lives and wills to live only from his comfort and his guidance in the expectation of his appearance.”



Madeline Linnell (English language and literature) enjoyed working as managing editor of Gordon’s student newspaper, *The Tartan*, and launching the online magazine *Mustard*, a publication made for and by Christian college students nationwide. She is currently an intern for International Justice Mission in South Asia.

Honorable Mention | excerpt **Time Heals All Wounds**

... One thing is clear: we are all Christians. We hold to the ecumenical creeds, we worship one God who is three in one, we acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and we all look for the resurrection of the dead.

I do not mean to be reductionist. The differences in doctrine and dogma among these branches are still of significance and merit continued study and dialogue. It is, however, a misrepresentation and a misunderstanding to look at the Christian faith and claim that the faith has been “rent asunder.” It is tragic that the Church is not as united as she once was, but we have come a long way . . . All Christians may confidently claim the same God, the same salvation and the same hope in Jesus Christ.



Davis Metzger is a political science major from San Antonio, Texas. He spent this past summer working for the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., and this year is serving as student body president at Gordon. He aims to attend law school in the future.

Honorable Mention | excerpt **The Church, Guardian of Truth—Wait, What Church?**

I’ve long struggled to reconcile two realities: that the Church is the guardian of truth, and that its members do not agree about many details of truth.

The Church is the guardian of truth, since she has received ultimate Truth in the person of Jesus and in Scripture. The Church keeps truth against the vicissitudes of all other standards of reality. . . . But wait—what is the Church that holds this truth? The second reality I’m considering requires little explanation. Empirical evidence is enough to show that Christians are not even united in our understanding of *how* united we should be: some view differences in ecclesiastical and liturgical structure as evidence of healthy diversity, whereas others see them as the continuation of tragic schism.



Morgan Clayton is a history major with a concentration in early Christianity and an unpursued interest in oceanography. She is spending her junior year abroad at Oxford, where she’s studying Anglo-Saxon archaeology and secretly hoping to discover a long-lost site or manuscript.

70 Years of the Princemere Estate

Seven things you might not know about the Prince family and their estate



The estate on which Gordon is now located was acquired by the Prince family in the 1880s as a summer home. Frederick H. Prince had become a wealthy stockbroker and investment banker, and was also in the stockyard business and the meatpacking industry. In 1911, he built the mansion now called Frost Hall for his wife, Abigail, and their two sons, Norman and Frederick Henry Jr. In 1947, Gordon acquired the property, and three years later the campus moved from Boston to its new Wenham location.

Throughout its lifetime, the wooded estate has collected many interesting stories and details that add intrigue and character to Gordon's picturesque setting.

1. **Many of the architectural and decorative features of what is now Frost Hall came from Europe.** The pillars in the lobby were constructed of marble from France—the same marble that was used for columns at the Boston Public Library. Much of the interior paneling, windows, wrought iron and tapestries also came from France. The red damask tapestries on the walls of the salon, now Gordon's Admissions Office, originally came from Spanish churches. Bethel Chapel, a tucked-away prayer room, contained rare stained-glass windows from a French church built before 1400.

2. **The quad** was once a polo field, and **President Teddy Roosevelt played there.** Frederick H. Prince, known in the 1920s as “Mr. Polo,” was a founding member of the Myopia Hunt

Club in neighboring South Hamilton, Massachusetts, and owned many polo horses. Roosevelt frequently accepted Prince's invitation to play polo at his Wenham estate. Another notable attendee was the Prince of Wales, the notoriously fun-loving and indulgent royal who ascended the English throne as King Edward VIII in 1936 and abdicated shortly thereafter to marry an American socialite. A clay slab was constructed on the field a century or more ago to support the weight of polo horses during matches; it still lies under the quad today.

3. Before the estate was sold to Gordon, **Princemere was offered to the United Nations** for its headquarters. In 1945, Frederick H. Prince also offered the estate to Harvard.



Story Morgan Clayton '19



6



4. Gordon acquired Princemere after Jim Higginbotham, a young divinity student, approached Frederick H. Prince about purchasing the estate. On Sundays Higginbotham preached at a local Baptist church, where several Princemere staff were members and which the Princes occasionally attended. Higginbotham was a hard-working student and basketball athlete who worked his way through college. Prince said, "If Gordon produces men like young Higginbotham, then it must be a pretty good place." He sold the estate for the low price of \$150,000 and, in memory of his wife, contributed money towards the building of the Prince Memorial Chapel.

5. The lobby of what is now Frost Hall once contained the first indoor heated swimming pool in the United

States. The pool was later filled in, but polished marble tiles distinct from the surrounding ones mark its former location in the center of the lobby. At its peak, the mansion housed 50 staff members. The third floor included a recreation room with a billiard table, and a room that housed the Prince boys' pet parrot.

6. Frost Hall is a replica of an Irish castle, and the granite stones on its exterior came from a quarry in nearby Gloucester, a fishing town where the movie *The Perfect Storm* was filmed. The stones were transported to Wenhams by railroad and horse-drawn wagons. At the back of the mansion is an unfinished section, intended as a library wing, which was not completed after the stonemason tragically fell to his death.

7. The woods and ponds around the estate were once the site of thriving hotel businesses. On nearby Chebacco Lake were two 19th-century hotels, three ice companies and a railroad line. Prince bought one of the hotels, Chebacco House, renamed it "Villa Veranda," and used it for entertaining. When Gordon acquired Prince's property, the house was used as a residence hall. Villa Veranda is no longer standing, but the miles of bridle paths which Prince had made still surround the lake and local ponds. ■

Alumni Awardees

This year's Homecoming festivities will kick off on Friday, September 29, with a ceremony to honor seven Gordon alumni for their diverse and significant contributions in their fields.



Providing Relief for Global Seafarers

A. J. GORDON SERVICE AWARD | Stephen '82 and Sharon '83 Cushing

Seafarers navigate rough international waters for months at a time, often working for weeks without a day off, all to make a living, support their families and keep world markets afloat. “If seafarers serve the world, who serves them?” This is a question that the New England Seafarers Mission (NESM) asks, and Stephen '82 and Sharon '83 Cushing seek to solve.

Stephen is executive director and senior chaplain, and Sharon is assistant for programs and development for the 137-year-old maritime mission. NESM provides relief for hardworking crew members who come ashore in South Boston after the seemingly endless “mind-numbing” work, Stephen says.

That provision comes in many forms—volunteers from the Evangelical Covenant

Church assist NESM to offer services like a commissary, an Internet café to reconnect with family and MoneyGram to send money home. Oftentimes, the crews simply want time off-ship.

Sometimes, serving seafarers is more dramatic. Stephen and his fellow chaplains serve communion onboard when the crew is shaken from storms or if a member has died in an accident. Some need medical assistance, from tuberculosis to major injury. Last year, a Filipino worker was hit by a forklift on the job and crushed his foot. He suffered devastating injury; over the course of four months, he underwent six surgeries, losing two toes. His wife flew to Boston from the Philippines in order to be with him, leaving their three children at home. During that time, Stephen and Sharon

kept the couples' spirits up, prayed for them and acted as advocates between him and his employer and the hospitals.

NESM is a workplace that requires a lot of listening and a lot of heart, the couple says. After they both graduated from Gordon with English language and literature degrees, Stephen worked in small business, and then attended Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Sharon was a writer, nursing assistant and mother. But when the interim chaplain position was offered to Stephen 19 years ago, he fell in love with NESM. It all clicked during his job interview, when he was taken aboard a ship and a crewmember's face seemed to say, “Oh thank you, good Lord; help is here,” Stephen recounts. “At that moment I said, ‘This is what I want to do.’”

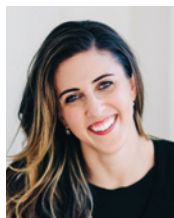
Sharon says the nurturing environment at Gordon prepared her heart for outreach. As a student, her mother was diagnosed with cancer, and the support of the Gordon community changed her life. “The way the faculty and all of my Christian friends reached out to me, set me up for a life in some sort of ministry where you're reaching out and helping others,” she says. “Gordon just has that way of developing people who have a heart for Christ.”

For Stephen, Gordon taught him how to live out faith in the workplace. “Yes, you're at Gordon to get an education that's rooted in the faith we believe, but we also recognize that we have to carry that faith with us in the workplace,” Stephen says. “That really is what our ministry here is all about. We bring faith into a very secular marketplace, and remind men and women that they're not forgotten by God.” ■


**GORDON YOUNG
ALUMNI AWARD**
Jessie Saintcyr '02

*CAO and Assistant
Secretary of Human
Resources, MassDOT
and MBTA*

At the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), Jessie Saintcyr oversees workforce policy, operations, compliance and communications. She takes her talents and knowledge into policy sectors that impact people on the macro-level of the legal system and government. She was a member of the former Career Services Advisory Board at Gordon and currently serves as a volunteer for the Professional and External Relations Advisory Council.


**ALUMNI
ENTREPRENEUR
OF THE YEAR**
**Kaitlyn
Trabucco '07**

*COO & Co-founder,
Educents*

Through Kaitlyn Trabucco's creative confidence and grit, thousands of students are accessing educational tools they wouldn't have otherwise. After graduating from Gordon, Kaitlyn created Educents, an online marketplace for parent-inspired educational materials. Along the way, Educents has become a role model among a growing number of female-led startups seeking venture capital from the "big boys" in Silicon Valley.


**JACK GOOD
COMMUNITY
SERVICE AWARD**
Mark Emblidge '75

*Executive Director,
Virginia Literacy
Foundation*

Mark Emblidge has secured prestigious grants and established opportunities for research and development projects in literacy, and worked with U.S. Senator Mark Warner and former U.S. Senator George Allen to found and direct Communities in Schools of Virginia, which helps prevent at-risk students from dropping out of high school. Mark has served as the Democratic party national finance director (1982-83) and as a member of President Obama's transition team (2008-09). He is also a U.S. Department of State Franklin Fellow, serving as a special education advisor in the Office of the United States Special Envoy to Sudan.


**WINIFRED
CURRIE AWARD
IN EDUCATION**
Mina Deckert '87

*Director of Middle
and Upper School,
The Master's School*

As director of the middle and upper school, student life advisor and overseer of the National Honor Society at The Master's School, Mina Deckert transforms the lives of young men and women through learning. She is invested in helping students think critically, personally and meaningfully through her work in the classroom, encouraging their transformation into mature adults and responsible Christians.


GORDON ALUMNI AWARD
Ted Lucas '89

*Head of Systematic Strategies and
ETFs, Hartford Funds*

Ted Lucas took his Gordon education and applied the knowledge and skills gained in a number of influential positions, largely in investment and management—in 2007, Ted founded Lattice Strategies, where he is now a managing partner.

He makes an effort to influence and invest in the lives of local business leaders by organizing a weekly meeting for faith-based and non-faith-based leaders to talk and socialize.

Ted takes leadership seriously and seeks to be a good steward, helping people to flourish. This is especially evident in his involvement with the San Francisco City Academy, serving youth in districts where crime, drug use and violence are high.

"Watching people grow and do things they didn't think they could accomplish—and experience a resulting sense of joy and purpose," Ted says, "is a really beautiful thing to participate in."



Join us for the Homecoming Awards Ceremony

Friday, September 29, 7:30 P.M. | Ken Olsen Science Center

www.gordon.edu/homecoming



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