

# PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## MAKING MUSIC *with* MEANING

by Mark Pomerville

FROM WEST AFRICA  
TO THE WEST COAST

2018  
FALL





# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

## IN CHRISTO OMNIA NOVA

In this issue of the Providence Magazine, you will find highlights of the growth in so many areas of our community: expanded details on the updated academic core curriculum and concentrations spearheaded by Dr. Corbin, athletic growth with varsity golf and more success in matches, and current students and alumni who are making impactful change as global citizens in Pasadena and beyond. We are thankful for all these incredible things that are happening and are trusting in God's plan for Providence Christian College and the students, faculty, and staff. As you may have already heard, we are taking a giant step south from our current campus and moving into the heart of Pasadena. We ask for your fervent prayers as we prepare for this leap of faith in January 2019. May the Lord direct our steps as we finalize plans and work out all the bumps along the way.

With such tremendous change, one might think that Providence would try to join the status quo...to accept more leniency or to loosen the mission or water down the education

in order to grow in numbers or meet cultural expectations. However, quite the opposite is happening here at Providence Christian College.

In my convocation address to the students this Fall, I charged the students to instead become "Well-Ordered Souls", desiring "*an ethical way to live that supports honesty, industriousness, marriage, and a religious way of life*" (article begins on page 16). At Providence, this community ethic is grounded in the transformative work of Jesus Christ, who is making all things new, including our desires to live and act with justice and goodness toward one another.

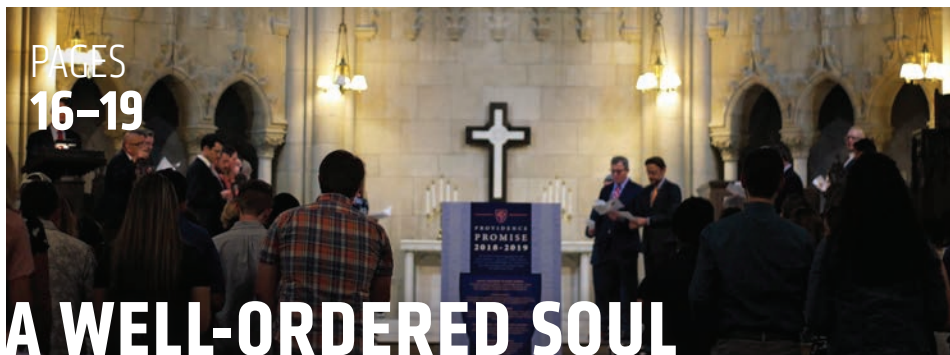
Even with the changes afoot, we're thankful to serve a God who does not change, but instead gives us new ways to live.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Belcher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Dr. Jim Belcher, President

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The mission of Providence Christian College as a Reformed Christian institution is to equip students to be firmly grounded in biblical truth, thoroughly educated in the liberal arts, and fully engaged in their church, their community, and the world for the glory of God and for service to humanity.

# BROADEN YOUR MIND



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## NEWS & EVENTS

### ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

The athletics department continues to take intentional steps of growth in its culture, facilities, and on the field/court. Volleyball and Men's and Women's Soccer



have moved to newer and better facilities for games and practices, and a new 24-Hour Fitness partnership has provided all students access to better workout equipment.

As a department, athletics has started Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) on campus, held blood drives, supported cancer awareness, and will be hosting its 2nd annual food drive this winter. Multiple teams have served the local community and over 40% of the spring 2018 Dean's List was comprised of student athletes.

On the field and court, the individual programs have played tougher opponents and have been more successful this season than ever before. Stay up to date with the latest news at [www.seabeggars.com](http://www.seabeggars.com)

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS**







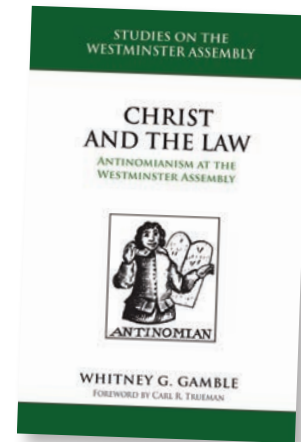
## CAMPUS ANNOUNCEMENT

Providence unveiled its decision to move three miles south to the historic Old Pasadena playhouse district beginning in the Spring 2019 semester. The new campus setting will incorporate apartment style housing, classroom space in various historic buildings and spaces, and partnerships for dining meal plans. To learn more about this exciting move, watch the video at [www.providencecc.edu/newcampus](http://www.providencecc.edu/newcampus).



## REFORMATION DAY CHAPEL

To celebrate the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, Dr. Michael S. Horton, President of The White Horse Inn radio program and Professor of Systematic Theology and Apologetics at Westminster Seminary California, spoke to Providence students during a special chapel session. The theme of his message was the recovery of salvation by grace through faith alone.



## BOOK HIGHLIGHT - CHRIST AND THE LAW: ANTINOMIANISM AT THE WESTMINSTER ASSEMBLY

*Product description. Available online at [heritagebooks.org](http://heritagebooks.org)*

Antinomianism was the primary theological concern addressed by the Westminster Assembly. Yet, until now, no monograph has taken up the specific concerns related to antinomianism and the famous assembly. In *Christ and the Law*, Whitney G. Gamble sketches the rise of English antinomianism in the early decades of the 1600s up to the assembly's first encounter with it in 1643, summarizing the main theological tenets of antinomianism and examining the assembly's work against it, both politically and theologically. Along the way, Gamble analyzes how the assembly's published documents addressed theological issues raised by antinomianism on matters of justification, faith, works, and the moral law. By detailing the assembly's perspective on antinomianism, Gamble's book helps further our understanding of the formation, nature, and growth of Reformed theology in seventeenth-century England.

# 2018 SPRING DEAN'S LIST

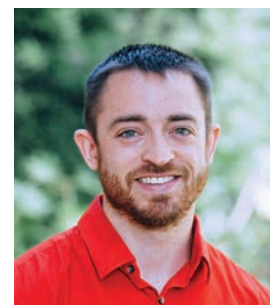
Students named to the Providence Christian College dean's list must be enrolled full-time and maintain a GPA of 3.50 or higher for the semester. The Spring 2018 dean's list includes:

Joel Aguilar	Hannah Mersch
Haley Aguirre	Courtney Osburn
Paige Baker	Lindsey Osburn
Melanie Balaban	Alyssa Roberts
Shane Becker	Matthew Rodriguez
Tyler Bulthuis	Adrian Saucedo
Rebecca Burney	Valerie Schelbauer
Enika Bushnell	Hannah Shenk
Rebecca Call	Grace Smith
Madison De Jager	Tina Snieder
Nicole Del Moral	Isaiah Spivey
Elisha Dunham	Danielle Stafford
Christine Eaton	Aaron Stamper
Samuel Fennema	Micah Summers
Aaron Gooch	Sydney Svendsen
Richard Greene	Fayth Thompson
Elizabeth Groenewold	Marika Tiessen
Amanda Heck	Sophia Van Zonneveld
Rebecca Hernandez	Josiah Vanderveen
Daniel Hicks	Nicole Veldink
Grace Kazarian	Zoé Vernier
Ian Kennedy	Collin Vis
Brennan Kiledjian	Matthew Walls
Kees Kiledjian	Dean Whitcher
Alexis Le Clech	Craig Whitt
Michael Lee	Morgan Zylstra
Julia Lodder	

## NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

### BRANDON ADDISON

Brandon Addison '09 has moved into a full-time role as Director of Instructional and Educational Technology after serving for three years in a part-time capacity. In his new role, Addison also serves as the Interim Coordinator for the Business, Economics, and Entrepreneurship Concentration. Prior to his new role at Providence, he worked for Blackboard, an educational technology company and also served as a bi-vocational pastor in the Pacific Presbytery. He received his bachelor's degree from Providence in 2009, before attending and graduating from Westminster Seminary California with his Master's of Divinity in 2012. He also holds a Master's in Business Administration from California State University Northridge, which he received in 2015. In his free time, Addison enjoys weight-lifting, reading personal finance, and reading Ante-Nicene Christian theology and history. Addison and his wife, Gina, are members at Pacific Crossroads Church and are expecting their first child, Luke, in November.



### DANIELLE ALSKY

Danielle Alsky '15 moves into a full-time role as Instructor of English and Writing Center Director after serving in a part-time capacity last year. Before working at Providence, she taught English at Veritas Christian Academy in Fullerton, California. Alsky is no stranger to the Providence community, as she received her bachelor's degree from Providence before receiving her M.A. in English Literature and Composition with an emphasis in 20th and 21st century literature from Cal State Long Beach. While a native to Southern California, Alsky enjoys traveling, and has been throughout Europe and parts of the original western world. Outside the classroom, she loves reading and writing, hiking, and spending time with her husband Travis, family, and dear friends. Alsky and her husband are members at First URC of Chino.



# FACULTY UPDATES

**DR. DAVID CORBIN**, vice president for academic affairs, co-presented *Influence of Religion on Government in Early America* on October 25th at a forum held at The Richard Nixon Library. The event discussed the ideas and beliefs that helped shaped the American political landscape, past and present.



**DR. WHITNEY GAMBLE**, associate professor of biblical & theological studies, participated in a podcast with Reformed Forum on October 12th discussing her new book *Christ and the Law: Antinomianism at the Westminster Assembly*.



**TIMOTHY R. SCHEUERS '10**, adjunct professor of history, presented his paper titled "Citizen's Oath and Confession of Faith in Reformation Geneva, 1536-1538: Necessary, indifferent, or a *tertium quid*?" at the Sixteenth Century Society Conference, November 1-4, in Albuquerque, NM.



**DR. SCOTT SWANSON**, professor of biblical and theological studies, published "The Instruction of the Spirit: The Wisdom Framework for Pauline Spirit Dependence" in the *Mid-America Journal of Theology*, Volume 29 (2018).



# DISCOVER YOUR CALLING



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# CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLLEGE

## *A Case for the New Providence Academic Core*

by Dr. David Corbin

**ANY COLLEGE YOU WILL READ ABOUT OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS** has drawn together all its artistic, marketing, and promotional powers hoping that the pictures shared – a beautiful green quad, shiny and wired classrooms, happy students, earnest and caring professors – will help cement them as a college choice for prospective students. Our magazine, filled with images, shows that we are, in part, no exception to the broadly-applied idiom that “A picture is worth a thousand words.”

Yet, there’s the rub that will require discernment when navigating through the college admissions process. While pictures and images, and other artifacts for that matter, can be worth a thousand (and sometime more) words, an image’s value depends upon the truth of the image itself.

If a college, through its pictures and images, promises more than it delivers, the picture or image is, in part, a lie. Here, colleges and universities act no different than any person who wants to present

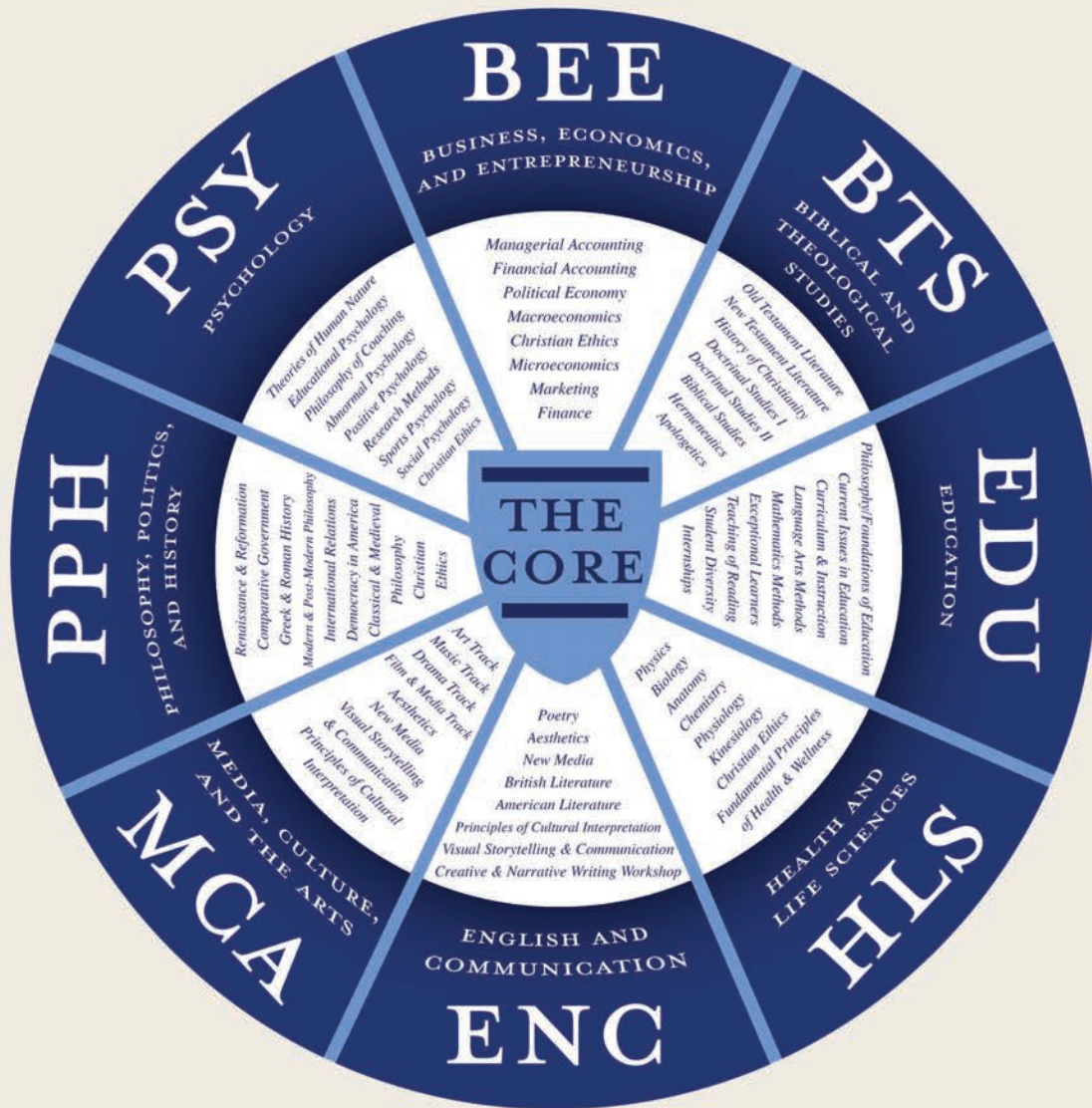
himself as something more than he is. Realizing that perception is perception and not reality is one of the hardest lessons we learn in life.

All colleges and universities promise that they will deliver, and you will receive an education. But what does it mean to “deliver” and to “receive” an education? A diploma? A credential? New found educational status? The reality is that more than two million Americans receive college diplomas each year and that more than 70 million Americans are in possession of a Bachelor’s degree. But does the reality of a greater number of degree holders mean that colleges have delivered on the promise of a more highly-educated and civil American society? I would argue that, if our inability as Americans to communicate with one another when we disagree is representative of how well educated we are, then, there is no correlation between degrees awarded and civility attained.

The unfortunate reality is that the problem of societal illiberality is in part a product

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 10** ►





# THE CORE

## YEAR 1

- NEW TESTAMENT 1
- WRITING COMPOSITION
- PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
- THE CHRISTIAN MIND
- PHILOSOPHICAL, POLITICAL, & ECONOMIC THOUGHT
- NEW TESTAMENT 2
- RESEARCH WRITING
- AMERICAN CIVILIZATION & CULTURE
- LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT
- PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF INNOVATION

## YEAR 2

- OLD TESTAMENT 1
- WORLD LITERATURE
- MODERN & POST-MODERN CIVILIZATION & CULTURE
- MATHEMATICS
- OLD TESTAMENT 2
- ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL CIVILIZATION & CULTURE
- INTRODUCTION TO FINE ART
- LAB SCIENCE

## YEAR 3

- PRINCIPLES OF MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND COMMUNICATION
- CHRIST, CULTURE, & CONTEXTUALIZATION

## YEAR 4

- CAPSTONE: E-PORTFOLIO AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT
- CAPSTONE: PAPER, PROJECT, AND PRESENTATION
- FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT\*

\* COURSES NOT REQUIRED IF FULFILLED IN HIGH SCHOOL

of a higher educational model that no longer emphasizes the principle of the common good debated within the parameters of a shared set of theological, philosophical, historical, literary, and political points of reference.

Human beings having opinions is part and parcel of being human. That our opinions sometimes differ is reflective of the fact that we are not automatons. The original promise of the American university was that it would serve as a place where ideational differences could be aired and exchanged under the superintendence of modesty, decorum, and competent judgment, and that public discourse would benefit as a result.

Civility can only be regained in American society if it is regained in how we teach young men and women. That will require colleges and universities to re-commit to an educational model that emphasizes across the curriculum that a thousand (or any number for that matter) excellent words are worth their price in gold.

This is where you as a parent, alum, donor, or prospective student, come into the picture. Returning to the gold standard of words (reading words, thinking about words, writing and speaking using words) and the academic standards that support words is difficult work. It requires more thought about what to teach. It requires more work from those who do the teaching. And it will require much more from you.

It will require all of us to take the time to read, to think, to write, and to speak with care and

precision. But all this hard work will be worth the effort because it will help inoculate you from the moral confusion that preys on so many others distracted and left powerless by their addiction to simplistic pictures, images, and symbols.

The curriculum visual you see on page 9 represents our effort to bring together the story of the best of what has been written, spoken, and done into a four-year intellectual and spiritual journey that will leave you better able to glorify God through your service to mankind.

At the center of Providence's curriculum is the truth of God's word and our place in His creation; namely, that He made us in His image and likeness, that we chose rebellion, and that He sent His son to atone for our sin. Drawn to Him, we can see His creation anew and become new in His image once again.

Our world and our country are in need of men and women drawn to this picture of reality explored within a liberal arts framework, which ultimately aims to liberate you from the poisonous ignorance and ideology that stamps out the virtues of liberality, charity, honesty, and humility so essential to human flourishing.

So there you have it. What I'm asking of you is not what you can do for yourself by asking LESS of yourself and feigning an understanding through pictures and symbols, but what you can do to glorify God in service to humanity by asking MORE of yourself. ■





# PLUGGED INTO THE LOCAL CHURCH

by Geoff Shaw

Studies indicate that as many as two-thirds of all incoming college students abandon their parents' faith during their first year of college. Clearly, college is a time when young Christians either choose to adopt their parents' faith as their own and grow in it, or they fall away from the Church altogether.

Of course, the Lord is gracious to preserve many wandering souls and bring them back to His Bride, but, knowing what is at stake—and believing that the Church is the dispensary for the ordinary means of grace—Providence takes a very intentional approach to connecting its students with local congregations.

This fall, representatives from six local bodies, Chino United Reformed Church, Pasadena United Reformed Church, Grace Pasadena, Prism Church, Pasadena Orthodox Presbyterian, and Los Angeles Reformed Presbyterian Church, joined Providence during chapel for a church fair, where they fielded questions of interest and encouraged our students to join them for worship.

Each of these congregations already include some Providence faculty, staff, and students who are able to extend invitations to other students. Many of these pastors are also given the opportunity to speak in chapel at other times throughout the year. Providence is intent on strengthening a partnership with these churches as they minister to the spiritual needs of our students.

A recent Providence survey revealed that the largest single spiritual influence for students is by far their parents, at a ratio of 5:1 over the local church. However, the Church will become more instrumental in the spiritual formation of students as they exit college, precisely because they are leaving their homes and their "alma mater". Indeed, their true alma mater is the Church. In the words of Augustine: "He cannot have God for his Father who will not have the Church for his mother." ■





# FROM WEST AFRICA TO THE WEST COAST

*by Mark Pomerville*

**All of us have a dream—an uncommon goal or exceptional ambition that defines who we are and shapes the person we will one day become.** Our dreams can take many different forms. For some, it is merely a childhood fantasy of one day becoming a professional athlete, a ballerina, or the president.

For others, it is the hope for a new life, far from the clutches of poverty and destitution.

For international student Reuben Wabare Sheneri '20, the ultimate dream was to receive a world-class education in the United States, an aspiration that



many of his fellow Nigerians claimed he would never achieve.

“Ever since I was seven years old, I would tell all my friends that I wanted to study at a school in America,” says Sheneni. “They would say, ‘America? But that’s so far! That’s a dead dream. That’s never going to happen.’”

A West-African native, Sheneni was born and raised in Jos, Plateau, a bustling city in the north central region of Nigeria, a country northwest of the Gulf of Guinea. With over 250 ethnic groups,<sup>[1]</sup> 300 tribes,<sup>[2]</sup> 520 different languages,<sup>[3]</sup> and 186 million inhabitants,<sup>[4]</sup> Nigeria is often referred to as, “The Giant of Africa”, as it boasts the continent’s largest population, and the world’s seventh highest population overall.<sup>[5]</sup>

Despite its booming populous, Nigeria is one of the poorest countries in the world, with approximately 87 million Nigerians—nearly half of the nation’s citizens, estimated to be living on less than \$1.90 per day.<sup>[6]</sup> In recent years, Nigeria’s extreme poverty has led to a lack of funding for schools, resulting in nationwide academic crises. To date, Nigeria has the largest number of children (nearly 10.5 million) who are not receiving a scholastic education.<sup>[7]</sup>

As a member of the Bassa Komu tribe, a people known for agriculture and farming, Sheneni grew up on a small patch of land in which he and his family cultivated vegetables and grains, such as millet and

cassava yams. Sheneni’s parents were missionaries, and, when they were not laboring over the farm crops, they were witnessing and teaching the Bible to the young, unsaved children in the nearby villages who did not have access to education.

“My father was a pastor and missionary,” says Sheneni. “As a pastor’s kid, we were always busy helping around the church and serving the spiritual, educational, and physical needs of the families who were less fortunate than us. Out of that, I grew a heart for the gospel and for sharing the love of Christ with others.”

Both Sheneni and his father shared a love for missions work. In May 2015, the same year Sheneni graduated from high school, his father did an online study program with William Carey International University, flew to Los Angeles, and lived for a week on the same campus in which Providence Christian College was housed.

While studying in the William Carey library, Sheneni’s father saw a copy of the Providence magazine, and, upon returning to Nigeria, informed his son of the unique, Reformed liberal arts education that Providence offered. Sheneni was immediately intrigued and contacted the admissions office to learn more.

“What really pushed me to want to study at Providence in America was the high

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14 ►

FROM WEST AFRICA TO THE WEST COAST, CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE  
▼ PHOTOS BELOW: SHENENI GROWING UP IN NIGERIA



standard of education that they upheld,” says Sheneni. “I wanted to be challenged—both academically and theologically. I wanted a place where I could learn as much as I could so that I could then return home and share my knowledge with the children of Nigeria. When I heard about Providence, I knew that all of my goals could be achieved.”

In early January 2017, Sheneni enrolled as a student at Providence, and his family saved up enough money for him to buy a ticket to fly to California. For the first time in his life, Sheneni boarded a plane, not knowing when he would return home.

“Flying to the U.S. was the most exciting moment of my life,” recalls Sheneni. “I remember looking outside my window as we descended into Los Angeles and thinking, ‘In a few minutes, I’ll be stepping on to American soil. The dream I had as a young child is about to fulfilled.’”

After being met by Providence’s staff at the terminal, Sheneni drove to the campus in

Pasadena and has remained in the U.S. ever since. While he misses his family, Sheneni has spent the last two years absorbing himself in American culture and adjusting to a new life as a student in the U.S.

“When I first came to Providence, the first couple of weeks were difficult for me because things were so different here than in Nigeria, especially when it came to food. I had never eaten a burger before, so some of the students took me to In-N-Out, and it was really good. I think there’s a video on Facebook of me online eating my first In-N-Out burger.”

From joining the Men’s Soccer team, participating in Cross Country track meets, and serving as a student life Resident Advisor (RA), Sheneni has become a vital member of the community and has taken full advantage of the unique opportunities that a Providence education has provided.

Academically, Sheneni has excelled in his classes, gaining both the respect of his professors, and the recognition of his





peers. He has also been honored on the Dean's List both in the Spring and Fall 2017 semesters.

"I've learned so much here," says Sheneni. "Providence's theology classes and professors have helped me gain a broader understanding of my theology, and a grander scope of how the world works. Everything I've learned at Providence will affect my missions work when I return home."

After completing his studies at Providence, Sheneni plans on starting a nonprofit that helps bring water and the gospel to poor villages in Nigeria. As Sheneni reflects on his time at Providence, he recognizes that God has given him a tremendous gift with an American liberal arts education.

"There are no dead dreams here at Providence," says Sheneni. "Every day that I've been in America is a day in which my dreams have become reality. If I have a goal, then my friends at Providence don't tell me that it's a dead dream. Instead,

they ask how they can help, and give me the encouragement to pursue every possibility."

<sup>[1]</sup> "Nigeria Fact Sheet". *United States Embassy in Nigeria*. Retrieved 23 September 2018.

<sup>[2]</sup> "Answer Africa". *Nigerian Tribes: List of Major Tribes in Nigeria*. Retrieved from <https://answersafrica.com/nigerian-tribes.html>

<sup>[3]</sup> "Nigeria". *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 2017-07-14.

<sup>[4]</sup> *The CIA World Fact Book 2014*. Skyhorse Publishing, Inc. 2013. ISBN978-1-62636-073-0.

<sup>[5]</sup> *Library of Congress – Federal Research Division (July 2008)*. "Country profile: Nigeria"(PDF): 9.

<sup>[6]</sup> Adebayo, B. (2018, June 26). *Nigeria overtakes India in extreme poverty ranking*. CNN, Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/26/africa/nigeria-overtakes-india-extreme-poverty-intl/index.html>

<sup>[7]</sup> *BBC World Service - BBC Minute*. "Why Nigeria's educational system is in crisis - and how to fix it". Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3RbFXDdBw3gOHQGOpyD0xF/why-nigerias-educational-system-is-in-crisis-and-how-to-fix-it>



# A WELL-ORDERED SOUL

## FALL 2018 CONVOCATION ADDRESS

by Dr. Jim Belcher

**SEA BEGGARS! WELCOME TO THE START OF THE 2018-19 ACADEMIC YEAR.** In the 1940 movie, *The Philadelphia Story*, Tracy (played by Audrey Hepburn) is unable to recall what happened between her and Mike (Jimmy Stewart) the night before because she had too much champagne and fell asleep. Thinking the worst happened, that her virtue and reputation were ruined forever, she is at first relieved to learn that Mike had carried her to her bed and departed. But then she asks, “Was I so unattractive, so distant, so forbidding, or something?” Mike replies absolutely NOT. But “you were also a little worse or better for the wear, and there are rules for that.”

According to Charles Murray, in his bestselling book *Losing Ground*, Mike was observing the Code. The Code specified a specific behavior that was taught to every American boy, that true manliness “is in harmony with gentleness, kindness and self-denial.”

But this Code of behavior, or virtue, or character is almost completely gone in America, says Murray. What is now preached in America by our cultural and political elite is a self-expressive freedom that says you have the liberty to do whatever you want if it makes you happy, particularly in the area of sexuality. All authority of God, the church, the family, and tradition are rejected. There is no Code—now, only the individual can decide what is right and wrong, and the guide is psychological or therapeutic—whatever helps you cope or get through the day is OK.

According to Murray, this has led to a “Schism in the Soul,” a phrase he takes from the historian Arnold Toynbee’s *A Study in History*. Toynbee said that countries collapse when this Code collapses, when the cultural elite turn their back on moral and ethical living and instead actively support and celebrate deviant behavior.

That is where we are now. Our “hollow elite”, as Murray calls them, no longer promote the Code, meaning an ethical way to live that supports honesty, industriousness, marriage, and a religious way of life. Rather, they attack all of these and celebrate deviancy. This schism in the soul erodes the moral foundation of life that is so important, not only to human flourishing and the glory of God but also to our democratic republic that depends on individual virtue.

As I have been sharing with the first year students, and as our professors will spell out in more detail over the course of your education here at Providence, our social and cultural and political life will not be renewed until we return to the older version of freedom, which is freedom within virtue. This is the view that freedom is not freedom from authority and God and family and tradition, but that true freedom comes when we learn self-control, when we learn to govern our own sinful impulses, when we internalize the Code. Only then can we freely choose the good, the beautiful, and the true and flourish as human beings and society. This is what the late



Russel Kirk meant when he said that ordered souls lead to ordered society, because without ordered souls, we have chaos.

And our founders knew and taught that this kind of freedom, this kind of virtue. This kind of code, what Alexis de Tocqueville called the habits of the heart, is best taught and learned in Christianity, in religious families and associations.

That means that we, at Providence, as one of these associations, have a unique role to play in recovering this Code, these habits of the heart. We have the secret to true freedom—it comes in Christ and the gospel of salvation. We have the secret to shaping people—through the Scriptures, the liberal arts, and community life—that helps order the souls of individuals. And by ordering the souls of individuals, we are modeling to the world what this code looks like, what true freedom and flourishing are.

Moreover, not only are we modeling it, but we are preparing you, our students, to take your ordered souls, who have internalized this Code, into our society, to replace the hollow elite who now govern us and to build strong families, healthy and vibrant organizations and businesses, create culture that trumpets truth beauty and goodness, and lead our political structures in a way that restores democracy and the habits of the heart.

But how will we do this? First by modeling it and creating a community that helps order the souls of individuals; one that teaches the Code.

But how can we do this when we ourselves are sinful individuals, so often tempted and succumbing in our own lives to the hollow culture around us and inside us? How can we do this when we ourselves are a product of the culture's view of expressive freedom that hates codes, rules of behavior, any outside authority? And yet if we don't find a way, I fear that our republic is doomed.

The only way we can begin this project of cultural and spiritual renewal is first by having our eyes opened, by repenting of our anti authority in our hearts and submitting to our Creator. This repentance is the first step in seeing our need for a Savior, someone who can give us a new heart. Because it's only when





we have a new heart, one that is NOT hollow but filled with the love and grace of Christ, that we will have a new desire to live gratefully to our Creator. Out of gratitude that God rescued us from our self-centeredness, we will want to live for him—we will want to obey him, not because we have to obey him, but because we know it is the only way to flourishing, the only way to an ordered soul, the only way to true freedom.

As we come together as Christians, our hearts renewed, in part, by the love and healing of Christ's grace, we will willingly submit to guidelines, to a code, a covenant, that will continue to shape us and our life together.

The idea of covenants, so central to our reformed understanding of the Scriptures, have been at the center of our relationship with God since the start of time. Over the centuries, this idea of covenant made its way into covenants between Christians both in the church and in the society.

From the medieval Magna Carta to the Mayflower Compact, to the 1641 Body of Liberties in Massachusetts Bay Colony to the U.S. Constitution, this idea of covenants has shaped our public life together. We are a people held together by Godly covenants that protect individual liberty and support communal benevolence.

With the Providence Promise, we join a long, august tradition of writing covenants for individual and communal flourishing.

As you sit now, gaze over at the Providence Promise: It is this covenant, this code, rooted

in the Scriptures, and spelled out in our handbook, which is now summarized in our new Providence Promise.

If you look at the five promises, they make clear that renewal starts with right worship—getting our hearts and minds right. The transforming of the mind as Paul says.

But then look at the other four—live dutifully, love thy neighbor, academic integrity, and honoring providence—

In each of these, we see that once a person and community has right worship—that is, we present our entire bodies as living sacrifices to God as our spiritual worship—we live differently—we live ethically and morally, we live for others, we exhibit character and virtue, we support the community and we learn self-control.

As you enter this experiment in community, we have an amazing opportunity to heal the schism in our own souls, which will be part of our spiritual worship to God, but it will begin the process of ordering our community and then our republic.

So first years, when you come forward this evening, this is not a hollow tradition; this is an act of covenant or Code renewal. It is one of the most significant things you can do. When you sign this important document, you are joining the names of the rest of the community, and you are participating in something magnificent, beautiful, and God glorifying. May you embrace this moment!

Christo Omnia Nova! Amen. ■



# PROVIDENCE PROMISE 2018-2019

*The Providence Promise encapsulates the spirit of the community we aspire to be. As those made new in Christ, we are accountable before the Lord and to each other while pursuing growth in all aspects of life.  
In Christo Omnia Nova!*

## **DEVOTE AFFECTIONS TO RIGHT WORSHIP**

We promise to devote our affections to God through worship in chapel and in church, and will maintain all our co-curricular pursuits with an enthusiastic but sensible perspective. (1 Timothy 4:8)

## **LIVE DUTIFULLY**

We promise to exemplify Biblical morality and ethics in all areas of our lives, recognizing that we are vessels of the Holy Spirit, and should thus pursue earthly pleasure in a God honoring manner. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

## **LOVE THY NEIGHBOR**

We promise to live in a Christ-like fashion, pursuing peace, civility, and unity in all that we say and do, confessing our sins to one another, changing our behavior when confronted, and treating others with compassion and grace. (Philippians 2:1-4)

## **PURSUE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE WITH INTEGRITY**

We promise to pursue knowledge and wisdom with integrity, guided by our faith, always making an effort to put forth our best work, and welcoming sound correction and guidance. (2 Timothy 2:15)

## **REPRESENT PROVIDENCE**

We promise to represent Providence with distinction and gratitude, understanding its mission and vision, pursuing wise choices that make the most of every opportunity, and supporting the well-being of Providence. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

## THE PROVIDENCE PROMISE

*by Geoff Shaw*

Many schools adopt an honor code, but most reduce it to the realm of academics. Providence is a special living and learning community where an emphasis is placed upon gaining godly wisdom rather than simple learning. At the beginning of this school year, Student Senate met with members of the Providence Administration to develop a code, which, in the words of its preamble, would “encapsulate the spirit of the community we aspire to be.”

Five categories were identified: Providence students promise to devote their affections to right worship, to live dutifully, to love their neighbor, to pursue academic excellence with integrity, and to represent Providence with distinction.

Generally speaking, the volume of written code governing a society has an inverse relationship to the uniformity of said society. Put another way, diverse populations beget increased legislation. Christian colleges are not exempt to the pressures of establishing an ever increasing number of rules. Students enrolled at Providence are required to abide by the guidelines spelled out in our Student Handbook—a lengthy document covering everything from plagiarism to public displays of affection. But something is lost if the answer to addressing affections of the heart is simply amplifying legal code. The Providence Promise is meant to serve as a remedy to this way of thinking.

Each year, the entire Providence community will be given the opportunity to re-pledge themselves to this Promise. During orientation, new students will learn how it shapes our identity and will be given the opportunity to join our community with their signatures. ■





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“*A liberal arts education affected how I construct my songwriting in ways I couldn't have imagined.*”

—MICAELA “KAYLA” BROWN '16

# MAKING MUSIC WITH MEANING

by Mark Pomerville

**WHEN MICAELA “KAYLA” BROWN ’16** was only six years old, her parents encouraged her to play a musical instrument. She was allowed to choose any instrument she wanted to learn. The only catch? Once Brown made a choice, she would have to stick with it until she graduated from high school.

Brown chose the piano, and, for the next 17 years, she committed herself to endless practicing and performing at countless recitals. As Brown’s talent for music increased, so did her desire to further pursue her craft and write her own music.

In August 2012, Brown began to research different colleges where she could major in music. Brown’s father, Reverend Michael Brown of Christ United Reformed Church (URC) in Santee, California, delivered the inaugural chapel address at Providence Christian College’s first retreat in 2005, so she was fully aware of Providence but never considered attending as they didn’t offer a specific degree in music.

However, despite her initial reservations, Brown was intrigued by the idea of a broad, liberal arts education and enrolled. For the next four years, she continued taking piano lessons from Music Professor Dr. Lawrence Mumford and singing during chapel worship. Brown found that her understanding of music grew far beyond simply playing notes on a page, and was challenged to examine the true meaning and beauty of art itself in relation to a sovereign Creator.

“A liberal arts education affected how I construct my songwriting in ways I couldn’t have imagined,” says Brown. “One of the best classes I ever took was Philosophy of Art with Art Instructor Bernard

Chadwick. The entire course was a conversation in which I was asked the big questions such as: ‘What is art?’ and ‘What is its purpose?’ I realized that when I write music for the world to hear, I have to ask myself: ‘What am I striving for?’ Is this song that I’m writing reflecting God’s truth?’ I’m always striving to convey the philosophy of beauty that I learned.”

In May 2016, Brown graduated with her liberal arts degree with an emphasis in Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts. Today, Brown is a singer and pianist in an alternative-pop musical duo entitled, Merch Girl, aptly named after she met her music colleague while selling merchandise at a concert in the summer of 2016.

Her duo has written several songs, two of which are available on Spotify and iTunes: “Are You There” and “Darling”. Additionally, Brown teaches piano lessons to young students at her private home studio.

In both instructing youth and writing music, Brown utilizes her Providence education to compose and inspire future musicians to find deeper meaning and examine their faith within the art they create.

“The very process of making music is challenging and difficult,” says Brown. “It is this complicated process of creativity that leads to the expressive, transcendent experience in which the musician gains a deeper understanding of God. The underlying theme to most of my songs is redemption. Liberal arts elevated my understanding of art as grace, and seeing that, no matter how tainted things are in a fallen world, God’s beauty can be found in every form of art, including the lyrics of a song.” ■



## FALL ATHLETICS SUMMIT

by Lindsey Osburn '19 On Monday, September 3rd, the Providence Christian College student-athletes, coaches, and department staff attended the 2nd Annual Student-Athlete Summit. The day included three sessions led by Providence staff and a fourth session led by Dr. Angela Robles, who is the founder and owner of the Forza Institute.

The final session, Clifton StrengthsFinder, was a favorite among student-athletes and coaches. Participants were led by Dr. Robles in an activity where they explored the results of their strengths assessments as a team. Student-athletes enjoyed learning about the 34 different strengths that they and their teammates possess while gaining a better understanding of their team dynamics. "I really thought that the strengths session was so helpful because I learned more



about myself and my strongest characteristics, as well as my teammates," said Brooke Hutchins '22, a member of the women's golf team. She went on to say, "knowing each other better, this experience will help our team grow."

After an informative, interactive day in the classroom, student-athletes and coaches went to Laser Island in Placentia, CA where they participated in a fun night of laser tag, mini golf, and pizza! ■

## FCA CHAPTER BEGINS

by Lindsey Osburn '19 On Monday night, September 24th, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) had their first school-wide huddle on the campus of Providence Christian College. All students were invited to explore the Gospel through a fun night of games, food, and socializing. The event was hosted by a leadership committee of athletes: Captain Danielle Stafford '19, Co-captain Becca Hernandez '20, Social Media Coordinator Sawyer Smith '22, Treasurer Kylee Ancheta '19, and Recruiting Coordinators Anthony Reynoso '19, Andrew Macias '22, and Keano Mestre '22. The night was a time for fellowship as student leaders reached out to students of all backgrounds, using sports as an avenue to worship God.

The featured guest speaker was Coach Chris Rix, who is the San Gabriel Valley FCA Representative.



Coach Rix shared his testimony and stayed long after the gathering to encourage Providence students to continue their growth in Christ.

- "I think our first huddle went amazing, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for Providence and our athletes this year!" - Kylee Ancheta

FCA huddles will be held every two weeks this fall, featuring a new speaker at each event, who will share their testimony, followed by a time of fellowship. ■

# ANNUAL REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2018

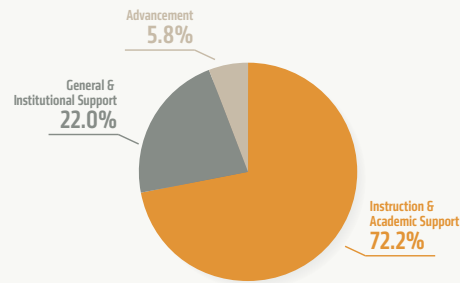
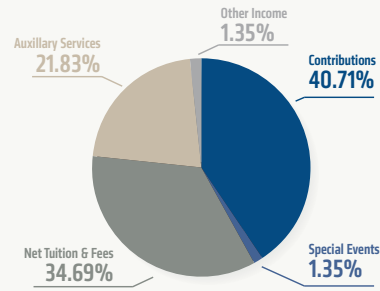
## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

### Income 2017-2018

Contributions*	\$2,297,109	40.71%
Special Events	\$76,218	1.35%
Net Tuition & Fees	\$1,957,603	34.69%
Auxillary Services	\$1,232,074	21.83%
Other Income	\$79,754	1.41%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,642,758</b>	

### Expenditures 2017-2018

Instruction & Academic Support	\$4,154,890	72.2%
General & Institutional Support	\$1,266,797	22.0%
Fundraising	\$336,360	5.8%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,758,047</b>	



\*\$363,000 in pledge payments were received but not reflected in contribution income because they were registered in the previous year's income. This is meaningful because it gives the appearance that expenditures outpaced income for the 2017-18 fiscal year. In reality, while the income was accounted to the previous fiscal year, the expenses they were pledged toward were incurred in 2017-18.

- Michael Kiledjian

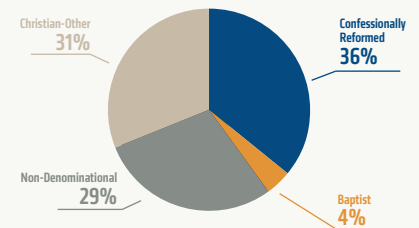
## FALL 2018 ENROLLMENT & ACADEMICS

### GENERAL ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Total Student Body	170
Percentage Gain (vs. '17)	2%
Residential Students	89%
Commuter Students	11%
Student/Faculty Ratio	14 to 1

### DENOMINATIONAL PROFILE

Confessionally Reformed	36%
Baptist	6%
Non-Denominational	29%
Christian Other	31%

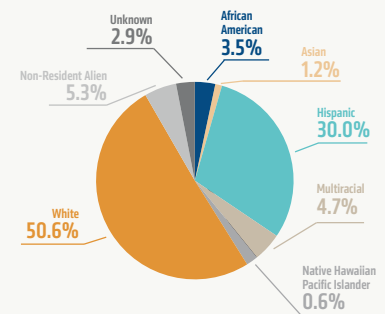


### GENDER

Male	55%
Female	45%

### RACE/ETHNICITY

African American	3.5%
Asian	1.2%
Hispanic	30%
Multiracial	4.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pac. Isl.	1.8%
White	50.6%
Non-Resident Alien	5.3%
Unknown	2.9%



### GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

U.S. (13 States, 75% from CA)	95%
International (4 countries)	4%

Complete enrollment and academic information is available on our website: [www.providencecc.edu/about-providence/at-a-glance](http://www.providencecc.edu/about-providence/at-a-glance)

## 2018-2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Ronald Verhoeven



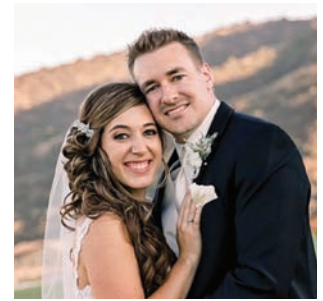
# ALUMNI UPDATES



**RUBY (SNIEDER) BLEEKER '09** and her husband, Justin, welcomed twins, Willem Charles and Juniper Grace, on April 25, 2018. Willem was born weighing 8 lbs., 11 oz., and Juniper was born weighing 7 lbs., 15 oz.



**KELLIE (HOLLY) LANGENHOP '10** began a new position as Ticket Operations Coordinator for the Seattle Mariners, processing event orders and supervising day-of-game ticket sales for the Mariners' stadium at Safeco Field. She and her husband, Joel, are expecting their first child in December.



**TIMOTHY '10** and **AMANDA (SCHELBAUER) SCHEUERS '18** were married on June 21, 2018 in Chino, CA. Amanda began teaching 5th grade students at Ontario Christian Schools, and Timothy began his new position as Associate Pastor at the First United Reformed Church in Chino, CA. Additionally, Timothy is an Adjunct Professor at Providence.



**EVELYN (VANE) KRUIS '13** began her new job as a Group Leader at Five Acres, a foster and adoption agency in West Covina, California. She oversees group counseling with foster youth who are undergoing the process of adoption.



**AUGUST (HERREMA) LIGTENBERG '13** and her husband, Dave, welcomed their second child, Opal Maryann, on June 3, 2018. Opal was born weighing 8lbs., 3 oz. She is adjusting to family life with the help of her big sister, Claire.



**BRYAN '13** and **DEBRA (GORTER) PUNTER '11** welcomed their second son, Augustine Jan, on March 11, 2018. Augustine was born weighing 9 lbs., 6 oz., and was measured 22" long. He joins his big brother, Julian, who is now 2 years old.



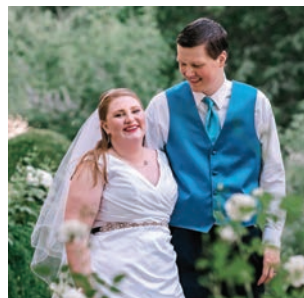
**MARISSA BRANSON '14** graduated with her Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing with an emphasis on fiction at California State University, Long Beach.



**MADISON "MADDI" VUJNOV '17** moved to Portland, Oregon this summer, and began working at Miss Carol's Good Friends, a family care home and preschool. Maddi is earning credentials to teach preschool, and plans to pursue a Master of Arts in Childhood Development & Education at Portland State University.



**SARAH BERGQUIST '18** began her new position as a Gallery Attendant at Pasadena's historic Norton Simon Museum in August 2018. Sarah is responsible for ensuring the safety of the various museum exhibits.



**AMY (MACARTHUR) CHAMBERLAIN '18** was married to Mitch Chamberlain on June 30, 2018 in Sacramento, CA.



**ROSS '17** and **TINA (SNIEDER) GUTIERREZ '18** were married on June 16, 2018 in San Diego, CA.



**BETHANY (SCHMIDT) WAGGONER '10** and her husband, John, welcomed their third child, Hazel Arlene, on April 18, 2018. Hazel was born weighing 8 lbs., 5 oz.



**GALEN '12 and LORAH (GLEASON) TUGGY '11** welcomed their second daughter, Sadie Joanne Tuggy, on November 20, 2017. Sadie was born weighing exactly 7 lbs.



**BRADLEY BOSCH '13** and his wife, Kimberly, welcomed their third child, Luke Joseph Bosch, on June 22, 2018. Luke was born at 32 weeks, weighing 4 lbs., 2 oz. After spending a month in the NICU, he is now at home, growing fast, and loving his siblings.



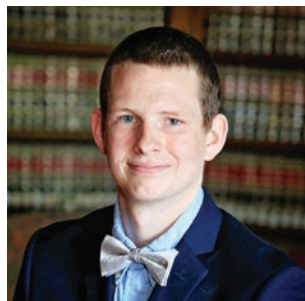
**MARK '13 and CHRISTINE (LEHART) HOGAN '13** welcomed their second son, Silas Hareton, on May 19, 2018. Silas was born weighing 7 lbs., 9 oz.



**EMILY (DE BOER) TIEMSTRA '14** was married to Kelvin Tiemstra on August 3, 2018. Emily teaches at Providence Christian Academy and Kelvin is a student at Mid-America Reformed Seminary.



**IAN HARRIMAN '15** was married to Brianna Lee on June 16, 2018 in Vanderwagen, NM. Along with marrying Brianna, Ian received a daughter, Neela, who is 3 years old.



**LUKE WALLS '16** is continuing his studies at Southwestern Law School, and hopes to begin a career as an entertainment attorney next year. Earlier this year, he began his new legal internship with CMG Worldwide, a management consulting services company in West Hollywood, California that specializes in licensing personality clearances of deceased celebrities.



**MADELEINE "MADDIE" SILVA '17** started working as an Executive Assistant at Cohen Gardner, LLP, a Beverly Hills based entertainment law firm. She plans to use this new position as a first step toward working in the entertainment industry.



**BETHANY LEWIS '18** launched her new Los Angeles based baking business, Too Sweet Bakerie, a boutique dessert company that specializes in creating decorated cookies, cakes, cupcakes, pies, and custom cake pops.



**JULIA LODDER '18** started her career in education as a 6th Grade Teacher at Providence Classical Christian School in Bothell, Washington. She teaches Bible, history, science, and math.



**FRANK "FRANKIE" MANRIQUEZ '18** completed his first level at Icon Collective, a music production school in Burbank. He is currently producing several original compositions, and anticipates releasing his music upon graduation in July 2019.



**IRIS POOLE '18** served as an Election Coordinator during the primary campaigns for local house districts in Nevada, Wisconsin, and New Hampshire. In early September, Iris began an internship with the Leadership Institute and Young Americans for Liberty in Washington D.C.





## A. MICHAEL KILEDJIAN

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

If you have questions about gift planning, I invite you to contact me at 626.696.4058 or [mkiledjian@providencecc.edu](mailto:mkiledjian@providencecc.edu), or reach out to the helpful professionals at **Barnabas Foundation** directly toll-free at **1.888.448.3040**.



Providence Christian College is a member of the Barnabas Foundation.

# 6 TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE YEAR-END GIVING

## Tax-Wise Ways to Maximize Your Impact

*Thank you for your support of Providence Christian College, which is making a difference in the lives of so many people! As you consider plans for year-end giving, here are a few tips to ensure your gifts are made properly and in the most tax-effective manner.*

### 1 Pay attention to the timing

To receive a tax deduction on this year's tax return for gifts of cash, be sure your gift is delivered in person or mailed in an envelope postmarked no later than **December 31**. For gifts of other assets, be sure documents transferring the gift are delivered and the gift is accepted by December 31.



////////////////////

### 2 Consider giving non-cash assets for maximum impact & tax benefits

You may be able to take advantage of significant tax benefits by giving non-cash assets, such as stocks, real estate, machinery, or commodities. For **appreciated assets** – such as publicly traded stock – receive a deduction for fair market value and bypass the capital gain that would have been due if you had sold the asset. **Real estate** that has increased in value is a particularly excellent asset to use for charitable giving. Many people give a portion of their real estate prior to a sale. By doing so, they can bypass the capital gain on that portion of the property and receive a charitable deduction for the portion gifted.



### 3 Take advantage of tax-free distributions from your IRA

If you are 70½ or older, you can take advantage of the **IRA Charitable Rollover**. This special provision allows you to make tax-free distributions from your individual retirement accounts to charity, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per year. Gifts made through the IRA Charitable Rollover count toward your annual required minimum distribution and none of the IRA distribution will be included in your adjusted gross income.



# MEMORIAL & HONORARY GIFTS

Gifts received through October 2018

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

**Margaret Blok**

from

Scott and Ellen Korthuis

**Mr. John Jansen, Sr.**

from

Ervin and Linda Arkema  
Helen Borduin and family  
Mr. and Mrs. W. Brouwer  
Michael and Kimberly Kiledjian  
JoAnn Meyer  
Hank and Shirley Veenendaal

**Mr. and Mrs.  
John and Margie Jansen**

from

Arthur Van Beek  
Douglas Van Beek  
Johanna Van Beek

*Providence welcomes honorary & memorial designated gifts. Donations and acknowledgements for the next publication should be sent by May 2019.*

## 4 Research your employer's matching gift programs

Check with your employer to see if they are one of the many corporations that offer matching gift programs as part of their philanthropic efforts. For every dollar given by an employee, the corporation will make a matching contribution, in some cases on a 2-for-1 basis.



## 5 Experience streamlined, flexible giving through a Stewards Fund account



If you support several ministries, you may be able to streamline your giving by setting up a **Stewards Fund** (donor-advised fund) account through Barnabas Foundation. Give your appreciated assets to Barnabas Foundation: they'll sell those assets, and then you choose how to distribute the proceeds to your favorite charities, including Providence Christian College. This also offers you more flexibility on end-of-year timing. So long as you deposit your gift into your Stewards Fund account by December 31, you can claim credit on this year's taxes, and then decide later how to best distribute the funds.

## 6 Collaborate with the trusted experts

Not sure which gifts are best for you to give? Feel free to contact our trusted partners at Barnabas Foundation for clear, easy-to-understand insight, all from a biblical perspective. They will help you explore the best giving options available to you, based on your personal and charitable goals. To talk with a planner, call 888.448.3040 or email [info@BarnabasFoundation.com](mailto:info@BarnabasFoundation.com).



*This resource provided to you as a courtesy of our trusted planned giving partner, Barnabas Foundation. 888.448.3040 | [BarnabasFoundation.com](http://BarnabasFoundation.com) | © 2018*







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