

INSIDE ERSKINE

FALL • 18

NEGLECTED BOOKS

A JOURNEY BEGINS WITH DIGITAL DISCUSSION

TRIPLE THREAT

TRIPLE MAJOR SET TO ATTEND TOP-RANKED GRADUATE SCHOOL



ON THE COVER ▶

Julie Butler '18

Photo by Dr. Stephen Sniteman

Inside Erskine

Fall 2018

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Letters to the Editor

We welcome your feedback, thoughts on our stories, or ideas for stories. Submissions may be edited for style, length or clarity.

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September sunlight warms the Erskine Building as students head for class.

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ERSKINE CELEBRATES CLASS OF AT COMMENCEMENT CEREM

Erskine College and Theological Seminary recognized graduating students May 19 during a joint ceremony on the Erskine campus. This year's speaker was Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a recognized leader among American evangelicals. Mohler said people are often told, "Don't just stand there—do something," but stressed that it is essential to heed advice less frequently given: "Don't just do something—stand there."

Emphasizing the importance of "standing where we ought to stand" and "standing where Jesus would have us stand," Mohler noted some ways in which education at a Christian institution is distinctive.

Academic disciplines are addressed from "the comprehensiveness of a Christian

worldview" at Erskine and other Christian colleges, Mohler said. Citing Augustine of Hippo (354-430), he added that at Christian institutions the faculty's approach to teaching is characterized by "love of the subject matter, love of students, and love of God."

For the graduate of a Christian institution, then, the goal is never meant to be simply the obtaining of a job, but rather the following of a calling. "If you serve Christ, nothing you do will ever be lost," Mohler said. "If you serve Christ, nothing you do will ever be in vain."

Erskine President Dr. Robert E. Gustafson, Jr. welcomed family members and guests and Samuel S. James '07, chairman, brought greetings from the Board of Trustees.

The speaker was introduced by the college senior with the highest grade point average, *summa cum laude* graduate Daria Elizabeth Watkins of Fort Mill, S.C., who completed a major in chemistry and minors in biology and healthcare management.

Dr. Tom Hellams, Prospect, Ky., then vice president for denominational relations and chief of staff in the Office of the President at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, praised Mohler as a "great leader" and "a godly man."

College awards announced during the commencement exercises included the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Excellence in Teaching Award, given to Assistant Professor of English Dr. Christine Schott; the Younts Excellence in Teaching Award, given to Professor of History Dr. David Grier; the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, given to Justin Ray Shelton of Owenton, Ky., a double major in psychology and political science; the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award, given to Rebecca Ruth Reiter of Anderson, S.C., a *summa cum laude* graduate in chemistry with minors in chemistry, psychology, and Spanish; and the H.M. Young Ring, the highest honor for a member of the senior class, given to Molly Wilkes Graham of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., a *summa cum laude* graduate who completed a double major in political science and psychology.

Seminary awards included the Zondervan Publishing House Awards, given to Kyle Keesling in Biblical Greek, Russell Harless in Biblical Hebrew, and Dr. Robert Elsner in Theology; the Douglas Joel Culver Award in Hebrew, given to Rodney A.



2018 COMMONS



Johnson; the Ray A. King Church History Award, given to Timothy Northcutt; and the Bruce G. Pierce Award for Christian Leadership, given to Brandon Terry. The Erskine Seminary Presidential Scholarship was awarded to Kyle Keesling, a graduating senior at Erskine College.

Serving as faculty marshals were Dr. Loyd Melton, crucifer, and Dr. Howard Thomas, mace bearer. The Rev. Paul Patrick, chaplain, offered the invocation and benediction.

Angela Grooms '77, president of the Alumni Association, inducted the graduates into the association.

Dominique Choe of Columbia, S.C., president of the Erskine College Class of 2018, announced planned memorials on

campus for deceased classmates Daniel Arnold and Blake Holliday.

Brandon Terry, senior class representative of the Erskine Seminary Class of 2018, responded to Grooms on behalf of seminary graduates.

The Erskine College Choraleers, directed by Dr. Keith Timms, with Prof. Hannah Timms serving as soloist and accompanied by pianist Tobi Otekayi and the Scibelli String Quintet, offered special music. The Quintet also offered special music.

Erskine College Sinfonia, conducted by Prof. Kory Vrieze, played processional and recessional music. Graduating senior Lydia Clarke led the singing of the *Alma Mater*.





SUMMER BREAK FOR HISTORY PROFESSOR STARTS IN SPAIN

Assistant Professor of History Dr. John Harris, who began teaching at Erskine last year, traveled to Spain for an international conference on “The Transnational Networks of the Illegal Slave Trade in the Nineteenth Century” at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. Organized by Harvard University and Pompeu Fabra University, the meeting took place May 21-23.

The slave trade, which continued well after most nations had abolished slavery in the early 19th century, is the subject of Harris’s research. His focus is on the United States side of the transatlantic slave trade.

“The slave trade continued all the way to the 1860s, illegally, linking places as diverse as the United States, West Africa, Brazil, and Cuba,” Harris explained. “Recent estimates suggest that traffickers forced as many as 1.6 million enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean after abolition.”

Harris’s research requires some detective skills. “Researching this traffic is challenging, [because once the trade was illegal], slave

traders went to great lengths to hide their work,” he said. “For instance, they destroyed records of their voyages and even their ships, after voyages had been completed.”

The young professor welcomed the chance to work with other scholars at the conference. His own presentation highlighted “the shipboard experiences of African slaves and crews during illegal crossings,” exploring “how their experiences compared to those of captives and crews on legal voyages during previous years,” and drawing on records found in Cuba, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The conference in Spain was a follow-up to a meeting in Havana in 2016. “I was invited to that one, too,” Harris says. “Meeting Cuban historians and just experiencing Havana was definitely a highlight of my career so far.”

Harris called the Barcelona conference “an exciting opportunity for specialists in this area of research, who are normally so spread out geographically, to put our heads together for a few days.”



INAUGURATION OF THE 17TH PRESIDENT

Dr. Robert E. Gustafson, who describes himself as “a newcomer” who has “grown to love Erskine in a short time,” was inaugurated as 17th president of Erskine College and Theological Seminary in a service of worship Feb. 16, 2018, at the Due West ARP Church.

The opening procession included Erskine faculty members and administrators as well as delegates from other institutions. Greetings were offered by Student Body President Sarah Williamson, Young Professor of Chemistry and Faculty Chair Dr. Howard Thomas, and Acting Dean of the Seminary Dr. R.J. Gore, Jr.

Williamson explained why she came to Erskine. “I didn’t want to be a number—I wanted to be a name.”

Thomas said Erskine’s small size, small classes, and good teaching relationships with students, evident when he arrived in 1976, “continue to this day.” He noted developments since the beginning of his tenure, including greater stress on the integration of faith and learning and completion of two major academic facilities, the Daniel•Moultrie Science Center and the Moss Mathematics and Music Educational Facility.

Gore recalled comparisons Erskine Seminary students had drawn between their time at another seminary and their experience at Erskine. “They taught me what to say; Erskine taught me to think theologically,” one student said. Another asserted, “Their focus is on the faculty; Erskine’s focus is on the students.”

In his charge to the college and seminary, the Rev. Lee Shelnett, moderator of the ARP Synod, said the church “will encourage and affirm” and “come alongside” Erskine’s administration, faculty, and students. On behalf of the ARP Church, he urged Erskine as an institution to “Walk together with us.”

In his inaugural response, Gustafson called Erskine “a beautiful place in a bucolic setting” and described it as “a close-knit, relationally rich community.” At Erskine, both the college and the seminary are engaged in “seeking truth under the lordship of Christ,” he said.

Musicians included pianists Amy Gustafson—daughter of Dr. Robert Gustafson and his wife Marjorie Graham Gustafson—and Hyeyoung Song, both of Duo Azul; and the Erskine Choraleers, directed by Dr. Keith Timms and accompanied by Prof. Tobi Oteyayi.



**“ YOU ARE OUR
AMBASSADORS FOR ERSKINE.
YOU ARE THE ONES WHO CAN
TELL THE ERSKINE STORY. ”**

and Prettier Than Matt, a band featuring **Jessica Skinner '09**, presented a concert. A silent auction sponsored by FTK (For The Kids) raised approximately \$450 for the NICU at Greenville Children's Hospital.

An opening reception for an exhibit of works by local artist Brian Hibbard was the setting for an afternoon meet-and-greet in the Bowie Arts Center with some of Erskine's faculty and staff members, and a number of class meetings and dinners rounded out the day.



ALUMNI DAY

2018

Alumni and friends, along with their families, enjoyed perfect spring weather April 28 for Erskine's annual alumni celebration. Among them were members of the Erskine College Class of 1968, marking their 50th reunion this year. The day's events and activities included a meeting of the Alumni Association as well as individual class meetings, an outdoor lunch, a concert, a robotics demonstration, and inflatable games and other fun for children.

"You are our ambassadors for Erskine," Erskine President Dr. Robert Gustafson told the assembled alumni at their meeting in Lesesne Auditorium. "You are the ones who can tell the Erskine story."

Alumni Association President **Angie Grooms '77** recognized the Class of 1968, reminding the audience of significant historical events that year and recalling some of the most popular songs of the time. She also introduced Director of Advancement Mike Ervin, who spoke about "a passion for Erskine" as a thread running through the history of the institution.

Herb Jordan '68, president-elect of the Alumni Association, introduced **Andy Anderson '95**, who serves as coordinator of alumni affairs and communications. Anderson said his mother shared memories of her college years at Erskine as he was growing up. "I believe that Erskine is a special place," he said.

As alumni and friends gathered on the Erskine Mall for lunch, the award-winning Due West Robotics Club offered a demonstration



NEGLECTED BOOKS

A JOURNEY BEGINS WITH DIGITAL DISCUSSION, ENDS WITH REAL-LIFE TRAVEL

Richard Haldeman, who served from 1961-1995 as public relations director at Erskine, and his wife, Professor Emerita of Biology Dr. Janice Haldeman, traveled to Germany in the summer of 2016. For the Haldemans, both honorary alumni, their journey centered around the work of Richard's brother, novelist Charles Haldeman, who skipped his senior year at Pickens High School and spent his freshman year at Erskine College in 1948-49. Richard Haldeman's full account of the journey, which is also informed by Dr. Jan Haldeman's experience as the child of a U.S. Army Occupation officer in Germany just after World War II, is available at Erskine's news site. Here is a brief extract from "A Journey to the Past Leads to an Unforgettable Trip to Germany."

When I responded to a website, "Neglected Books," that discussed two novels by my late brother, Charles Haldeman, I could not realize this was to take me on a four-year internet and postal correspondence journey with German professor and author Dr. Martin Meyer or where this journey would lead us.

Our journey through correspondence became real when my wife Janice accompanied me on a three-week summer trip to Germany. We would visit three universities, speak to a German university class, examine the centuries-old archives of Heidelberg University, and meet

and enjoy the hospitality of university scholars, a university archivist, and a renowned sculptor-artist.

Our "journey" with Dr. Meyer began in 2012, when he read my entry on the "Neglected Books" website. His 1994 book on postwar occupied Germany as mirrored in the American novel had included a section on my brother's first novel, *The Sun's Attendant*, published in 1963. Dr. Meyer contacted me and inquired why this novel, set largely in postwar Germany, had never been translated into German. I proposed possible reasons indicated by Charles's correspondence.

My communications with Dr. Meyer did not end then, nor did their results. A German publisher shared Dr. Meyer's interest in *The Sun's Attendant*. He contacted me about securing publication rights from the original English publisher. The book was translated into German and published by Metrolit in 2015, with an excellent afterword by Martin Meyer.

Dr. Meyer's interest in Charles and his work did not end with *The Sun's Attendant*. He learned that I had preserved voluminous correspondence Charles had with his family from 1948, when he entered Erskine as a freshman, until his death in 1983 in Greece, where he had lived for 25 years.

He invited us to speak to his class at Martin Luther University in Halle. I spoke on "The Legacy of Charles Haldeman," and Janice



Dr. Martin Meyer, left, with the Haldemans

on living in Germany from 1946-49 as the daughter of a U.S. Army Occupation officer.

We cannot express enough gratitude to Martin Meyer. He brought about a renewal of interest in my brother's work and placement of his papers in the Heidelberg University Archives. He and others we met helped make our trip a rich and flawless experience.

FIND IDENTITY IN LIGHT OF GOD'S LOVE AND TRUTH, FIRST LADY SAYS

The women of the Erskine College Class of 2022 participated in the 95th annual Signing of the Book ceremony August 17 in the Bowie Arts Center, reciting the school's honor pledge and adding their signatures to those of generations of Erskine students.

This year's speaker for the traditional event was Beth Gustafson, wife of Erskine President Dr. Robert Gustafson. She asked the assembled students, "Do you know who you are?" and went on to reassure them—"If you're not sure, don't despair."

Erskine is a Christian college, providing a rich environment in which to study and "discuss

ideas with people you trust," she said, and the college years offer an opportunity to explore the question, "Who are you?"

Noting that the Protestant reformer John Calvin considered knowledge of self and knowledge of God "inextricably linked," she urged the women, "Discover who you are in the light of God's love and truth."

Participants in the program included Shaniqua Hunter, residence director for Carnegie Hall, who welcomed the students; senior Hayden Banks, who offered an opening prayer; Coordinator for Campus Life Rachel Brubaker, who introduced the speaker and gave a closing prayer; sophomore Courtney Teague, who led the honor pledge; sophomore Elizabeth Sims, who led singing of the *Alma*

Mater; and Susan Collins, pianist, who provided music for the evening.

Katey Powell of ARP Women's Ministries spoke about the Care Partner Program, in which members of ARP Women's Ministries pray for women students and offer them various forms of encouragement.





SGA PRESIDENT REFLECTS ON CHORALEERS' TRIP

The Erskine Choraleers traveled to Europe in June 2017 to participate in a Lithuanian-American choir, spending a week in the north of Lithuania just before the annual synod of the Lithuanian Reformed Church.

With the students were Director of Choral Activities Dr. Keith Timms and his wife Amy Rankin Timms; Prof. Tobi Otekayi, accompanist; and Robert and Paula Clark, parents of Choraleer Lydia Clarke.

Sarah Williamson, of Belton, S.C., now a senior and president of the Student Government Association, wrote some reflections on the Choraleers' trip. Here we share an abridged version of Sarah's reflections.

Going to Lithuania was probably one of the most exhilarating and humbling experiences in my entire lifetime. When Dr. Timms asked for students willing to go to Lithuania, he told us to put immense prayer and consideration into it before answering. I spent awhile asking the Lord to show me whether it was His will for me to serve. I learned a lot about the culture of the country itself, and while getting to know the Lithuanians my age, I felt a deep sense of God's sovereignty. I knew that's where I was supposed to be.

The most exciting element of the trip was our joint concert with the Lithuanians in the castle of Birzai. I've never experienced such grace and excitement from an audience. They gave us a standing ovation when we



effort was seeing how open some of the Lithuanians became with us. In Lithuanian, there is no word that means 'testimony,' so the concept is very strange to them. One of them explained that they have a saying that translates something like "keep it within the family." If they struggle, they don't tell anyone. We all were expected to be willing to share our testimonies. American Christians especially have no issue sharing how they came to faith in Christ Jesus. It allows us to connect on a deeper level and reinforces the sense of community.

entered, and I could see the hope on their faces. One [of the friends I made there] almost started crying because he felt the Lord's presence there. I did too. It was humbling.

The most encouraging aspect of the mission

On our last night, two Lithuanians decided to open up to us. Their stories were not as 'testimonial' as ours, more just walking us through the struggles of their lives. It was hard to hear. I could see that huge burdens fell from their shoulders as they realized someone cared enough to listen, to cry with them, to celebrate in the triumphs, and to hold them in the hard times. And really, if that's not the Gospel I don't know what is. Jesus Christ offers us grace and mercy amid our brokenness even when we don't deserve it. I think I gained a clearer picture of what eternity will be like when we sang our hymns that night: every tribe, every tongue.

Toward the end of the trip I started to see what the Lord was doing in their lives (and in ours). In third world countries, people need physical acts of love and service—running water, food, clothing. Lithuania is a developing nation; however, they have their physical needs met. What they need more than anything is love and support. They need someone to listen, to have faith for them when they can't have faith themselves, and remind them that God made the ultimate sacrifice and chose them as His people, and He says they are enough.

Among the Lithuanian students was a 25-year-old from a smaller village in Lithuania. He did not grow up in a city big enough to teach English in grade school, so he chose to start learning three weeks before we came just to communicate with us. I was humbled that he put forth the effort to learn English for us—we didn't make the effort to learn much Lithuanian. It reminded me of how prideful we can be as Americans, traveling around the world expecting everyone to speak English.

I became good friends with one of the girls who opened up to us about her home life. This was so hard for her to tell us about that I remember us all crying together. I remember in our last concert singing "Reap What You Sow" and making direct eye contact with her while trying not to sob. The Lord knit her together with such beauty and grace, and as He wove her life together, He included strength to fight through the toughest battles. I watched her throughout the week. At first, she had the idea that God sat up in the sky and wanted nothing to do with her, and I watched her vision shift to understanding that He created her and wants an intimate relationship with her.



Watching the faith of each person at the camp grow was so encouraging. I think overall, the greatest lesson the Lithuanians taught me was self-worth. It's something I've struggled with for years, and while we were there I opened up to some of the girls about it.

Leaving Lithuania was one of the hardest things I have ever done, but I know that the Lord used the Lithuanians we came to know to grow and prepare us for when we returned home, to keep faith and trust in Him, just as He used us to show our faith to them.



STUDENT-ATHLETES NAMED TO CONFERENCE HONOR ROLL

Erskine College student-athletes swelled the ranks of the Conference Carolinas Presidential Honor Roll, with 117 named to the list this spring. The Conference Carolinas Presidential Honor Roll is awarded twice each school year, recognizing the scholastic achievements of student-athletes who achieve a grade-point average of 3.2 or higher on a 4-point scale each semester. All student-athletes, including underclassmen, transfers, and those who play non-conference sponsored sports, are eligible for this recognition, provided they participated during the semester.

ERSKINE JOINS NCCAA, RETAINING MEMBERSHIP IN NCAA

The National Christian College Athletic Association announced May 24 that the organization had approved Erskine College for membership. Erskine will maintain its affiliation with NCAA as a Division II member but will be dually affiliated with the NCCAA.

The NCCAA is a Christian-based organization that functions as a national and international agency for the promotion of outreach and ministry, and for the maintenance, enhancement, and promotion of intercollegiate athletic competition with a Christian perspective.

Erskine joins Emmanuel College and Southern Wesleyan University as dual members of the NCCAA and Conference Carolinas.

Director of Athletics Mark Peeler believes NCCAA is a good fit for Erskine.

“Aligning ourselves with the NCCAA brings value to our mission because of the high-level competitiveness within the organization and the desire to honor Christ in everything we do,” he said. “We are excited about the opportunity to become affiliated with the NCCAA and its member institutions.”

THREE MEN’S BASKETBALL PLAYERS NAMED TO NABC HONORS COURT

Five student-athletes from Conference Carolinas were named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Honors Court this summer, and three of the five were from Erskine—Taylor Ferguson, Justin Shelton (Erskine’s Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award winner) and Wes Smith.

The Honors Court recognizes men’s basketball student-athletes who excelled in the classroom during the 2017-18 school year. Honorees must be juniors or seniors with a GPA of 3.2 or higher.

ERSKINE TO ADD THREE SPORTS FOR THE 2018-19 SEASON

Erskine College Director of Athletics Mark Peeler has announced the addition of Men’s and Women’s Track & Field and Acrobatics & Tumbling for the 2019-20 academic year.

Recruitment for all three new programs will begin immediately but official competition will not begin until 2019-20. The coaching search process is already under way with hiring expected to be completed by this summer.

“Track & Field and Acrobatics & Tumbling have emerged as prominent and successful sports in the NCAA and Conference Carolinas. We believe student-athletes in these programs will add value to the overall mission of the college and ‘The Fleet Way,’” Peeler said.

“We are excited about getting coaches hired and recruiting quality student-athletes into new programs that can expand the culture of Erskine athletics and the college as a whole.”

Peeler has also announced that Bass Fishing and Disc-Golf programs would be started at the club level in 2018-19, with the possibility of being added later to the athletic department umbrella.

With plans for the additional sport programs, Erskine anticipates fielding eighteen (18) intercollegiate athletics teams by 2019-20.

ERSKINE BRINGING BACK FOOTBALL FOR 2020 SEASON

Erskine College announced the reinstatement of intercollegiate football to the campus effective immediately. The program was discontinued after the 1951 season.

The program will begin competition in 2020. Plans are in process to hire a head coach and two assistant coaches to begin recruiting within the next few months. The coaches will recruit student-athletes to enroll in the fall of 2019 for a redshirt season. During that time, student-athletes will prepare to play at the college level and allow the coaching staff to implement a system for the inaugural 2020 season.

The athletics department is committed to Erskine’s mission of equipping students to flourish by providing an excellent liberal arts education in a Christ-centered environment where learning and biblical truth are integrated to develop the whole person. The installation of football at Erskine is based upon the foundation of the institutional mission.

“This is a dramatic step for the college, but one that opens doors in recruiting which allow us to expand our footprint in South Carolina and the Southeast Region,” Erskine Director of Athletics Mark Peeler said.

“The critical next step is to identify a head coach who will be thoroughly committed to our mission,” he added.

“We will not compromise the college’s mission or ‘The Fleet Way’ with the addition of football. We will integrate all aspects of this program with our core values—first and foremost we are Christ-centered. This is dramatic, but it is also a very exciting time for Erskine and the Due West community. We have much work to do,” Peeler said.





WE ARE
ERSKINE

WE ARE
INNOVATIVE

Erskine is proud of innovator **Caley Kropp '10**, a doctoral student in clinical health psychology at East Carolina University. He recently secured a grant from the Heart Rhythm Society to use smartphone electrocardiogram technology to screen residents for atrial fibrillation and stroke risk. "Even if we can prevent one stroke...the project will be worth it," Caley said.

**SUPPORT FUTURE INNOVATORS:
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HALL OF FAME

FLYING FLEET CLUB SALUTES FIVE

The Flying Fleet Club inducted **Kyle Bennett '09** (Men's Soccer), **Ashlee LaFontaine '08** (Softball), **Kevin Nichols** (Baseball Coach), **Valerie Warren '00** (Women's Basketball), and **Craig Williams '07** (Men's Basketball) into the Hall of Fame during Homecoming 2017.

Kyle Bennett, a *magna cum laude* graduate, came to Erskine from Lilburn, Ga., and became the anchor of the Flying Fleet defense, serving as captain each of his four years. Named All-Conference three times, he received Erskine's Jake Todd Award and CVAC's Murphy Osborne Award as top student-athlete.

"From the moment I met Kyle I knew I was in the presence of a leader," says Kyle's former head coach Ben Freakley. "He is a force multiplier in the sense that he makes everybody around him better."

Ashlee LaFontaine, a *cum laude* graduate from Augusta, Ga., hit .346 with 10 doubles, five home runs, and 21 RBI's as a freshman to help lead Erskine to a second-place finish in the conference regular season standings. Named Conference Freshman of the Year and also First Team All-Conference three times, she finished her career hitting .353 with six home runs, 11 doubles, and led the team with 41 RBI's to help Erskine to another second-place conference finish.

"Ashlee was a once-in-a-lifetime player who left her mark in every aspect of this program," Coach Alleen Hawkins says. "Truly an unforgettable person and player whom I was lucky to coach."

Kevin Nichols amassed 588 career wins in 18 seasons, making him the winningest coach in school history. His teams produced Erskine's first National Player of the Year, Casey Smith, and a second, Bryan

Fogle, with three players were drafted in the top 20 rounds of the Major League Baseball draft. His teams consistently ranked in the top 30 nationally, including Erskine's highest ranking at number two in 2015. In 2016 the Fleet won its first Conference Carolinas baseball championship. Nichols coached 102 All-Conference, 33 All-Region, and 12 All-American players. Three former players currently hold NCAA career records—Fogle, Chas Anthony, and Shelton Cisson.

Valerie Warren was a high-school standout from Greenwood, S.C. She was CVAC Freshman of the Year and won CVAC first-team All-Conference honors as a junior. She received an All-American nomination as a senior, and despite an injury, averaged 12.6 points per game, 6.6 rebounds and 2.2 assists, and 1.6 steals in 18 games. Finishing her career with 1,534 points, ranking her fifth All-Time in program history, she received the Jake Todd Award.

"It was an absolute pleasure to coach Val for four years and watch her add elements to her game each year...treat teammates and coaches with respect, excel in the classroom, be humble in her accomplishments, and be friends with everyone in her path," former coach Traci Westmoreland says.

Craig Williams, from Paris, Ky., was a dominant force inside for the Fleet. He earned first-team All-Conference honors as a sophomore, finishing 19th in the country in field goal percentage. He earned All-Conference selection as a junior and again finished 19th in field goal percentage, and earned All-Conference honors as a senior. He played in 108 games, scored 1,674 points, had 786 rebounds, 130 blocks, 165 assists, and 101 steals.

"Craig had outstanding timing that helped with rebounding and blocking shots," says Mark Peeler, head basketball coach at the time. "Craig was the centerpiece of our offense for four years and we wanted him to touch the ball on every possession. Good things happened when Craig Williams touched the ball."

TRIPLE MAJOR SET TO ATTEND TOP-RANKED GRADUATE SCHOOL

Like a number of other Erskine College seniors, Julie Butler of Bradley, S.C., spent time considering where to go to graduate school. She decided to attend Michigan State University, where she will pursue a Ph.D. in nuclear physics. Michigan State is ranked first by *U.S. News & World Report* among graduate schools for nuclear physics.

Young Professor of Chemistry Dr. Howard Thomas, Julie's academic advisor, calls her "a remarkable student," "superb academically" and "a great contributor to the college." In addition to completing chemistry, mathematics, and physics majors, she did research, on campus and off, during fall and spring semesters and in the summer. "She had one of the best backgrounds in research of all our students in recent years," Thomas says.

Julie worked one summer at the College of William and Mary, and another at the University of Notre Dame. Both opportunities were part of the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates program.

At William and Mary, she did data analysis on a nuclear physics experiment performed at Jefferson National Lab. At Notre Dame, she engaged in theoretical nuclear physics research. "These experiences allowed me to perform research in fields that I was not exposed to in my Erskine physics classes," she says.

On campus, Julie has done collaborative research, working with Professor of Chemistry Dr. Joel Boyd, her research advisor. "I was a member of Dr. Boyd's research group from the spring of my sophomore year,"

she explains. "One project involved modifying the photocatalyst titania with iron to improve its abilities to degrade antibiotics in water."

Boyd says the project Julie describes is one that she "developed from the beginning: literature work, experimental design, experimentation, data processing, and communication."

Julie started the project during the winter of 2017 and worked on it through the spring semester. Mikhayla Clothier, a homeschooled student from Honea Path, worked on it during the summer when Julie was doing research at Notre Dame. The two worked during the fall semester to tie up loose ends on the project and prepared a manuscript to submit to a peer-reviewed journal. Mikhayla was awarded a Presidential Scholarship and recently entered Erskine as a freshman.

"This work was my introduction to scientific research," Julie says. "It taught me about the ups and downs of research as well as the process of writing and publishing a manuscript. There were times when the project was challenging, when an experiment failed or an idea did not pan out, but that is a part of scientific research."

In mathematics, Julie has also spent time on research, working with Associate Professor of Mathematics Dr. Art Gorka in the area of optimization, "an applied science used not only in math but also in engineering, business, biology, medicine, and in many other industrial applications," Gorka says. Julie's role in the research required her to learn advanced calculus methods.

Asked how she kept up with her work, Julie says, "Most of the classes I took counted for at least two of my majors. There is no way I could have completed three majors in four years if they were unrelated."

Julie praises her academic advisor for his assistance. "Probably the person who helped me the most during my time at Erskine is Dr. Thomas. He was not only my academic advisor,

but advised me through the process of applying for summer research and for graduate school."

Amazingly, in addition to doing classwork, lab work, and research, plus serving as a Supplemental Instruction (S.I.) leader, Julie joined the Erskine chapter of the American Chemical Society and volunteered with the Due West Robotics Club. "She is not a one-dimensional person. She does a lot of helping others," Thomas says.

Julie did not get involved with any organizations during freshman year. "I believe that this was a wise choice [that] allowed me to focus on my classes and adjusting to college life without having to worry about other commitments."

As Julie begins graduate school, her Erskine experience—along with the enrichment of off-campus research and making presentations at scientific meetings—should serve her well. "Julie is an excellent scientist and did great work as an undergraduate," Boyd says.

Young Professor of Mathematics Dr. Kokou Abalo observes that in addition to intelligence, Julie possesses self-discipline. "It's been a joy and a blessing to teach Julie," he says. "Of all the students I've had, she stands out because of the rigor, precision, ease, and humility with which she does what she does. Julie is very special."

Associate Professor of Physics Dr. Ekaterina Michonova calls Julie "an outstanding student." In addition to her excellent performance in the classroom, Julie has served as a leader in the S.I. program for physics classes and as a lab assistant. "It is wonderful to know that she is on her career path for a Ph.D. in nuclear physics."

When Julie visited Michigan State in mid-February 2018, she returned "even more excited about the prospect" of going there. After that visit, joking about the weather she will have to endure as a grad student, she said, "It was not that cold, actually. There was a warm front moving through and the highs were in the upper 30s!"

TRIPLE THREAT



Julie Butler

Class of 2018

Triple Major in Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics

Where she is now: Michigan State University

What she is pursuing: Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics

FINDING THE SWE

GRADUATE GAINS CONFIDENCE, LEARNS HUMILITY

Like many Erskine graduates, Jordan Joseph Kennington, a member of the Class of 2017, praises mentors on the Due West campus who helped make her college career a success. But before she ever became an Erskine College student, Jordan received a preview of small-school attention and guidance when she participated in a gap-year program just after high school.

Thanks to the benefits of mentoring before and during her Erskine experience, Jordan's confidence in her faith, critical-thinking skills, and community-living savvy were nurtured and balanced by growth in humility and trust in God.

The varieties of gap-year experience

When Jordan Joseph signed up for the Impact 360 gap-year program in 2012, Erskine graduate Dr. John Basie—who served in 2017-18 as provost of Erskine College—was directing the program, perhaps even lending it a little Erskine flair.

“It is more than fair to say Erskine helped prepare me for my various leadership roles at the Impact 360 Institute,” Basie says.

Basie believes he would not have been as successful at Impact 360 or in other academic and professional roles had he not been “introduced to the question ‘What does it mean to be human?’ through the humanities and sciences at Erskine.”

At Impact 360, Jordan and 29 other students were taught by a different professor every week, focusing on subjects ranging from theology to leadership, from service to art, and these sessions made a real difference for her.

“During these weekly classes, I found my love for both theology and philosophy,” she says. “I learned how to think critically and come to defensible conclusions about any given subject.”

Jordan eventually completed a Bible and religion major as well as a major in philosophy at Erskine.

Her time with Impact 360 included living with other students, providing preparation for residential college life. So her gap-year experience not only sparked her enthusiasm for theology and philosophy and honed her critical-thinking skills, but also helped her gain experience that would ease the transition to college life.

“Through living with these 29 students, I learned practically about Christian community and what it looks like to live in fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ, pushing each other forward in every aspect of our lives,” she says.

Jordan's gap year, which ran from fall 2012 through spring 2013, included a trip to Brazil in January for community-based missions work, an experience she describes as “an extreme time of growth for me.” The mission trip was just one item in a set of gap-year lessons and experiences that encouraged her to “approach the world from a Christian mindset.”

Mentoring by full-time Impact 360 staff, as well as by some of the professors who came in weekly to teach students, continued throughout the fall and spring.

“Weekly teachers would come and often be willing to have lunch with students afterwards. It was during two of these lunchtimes that professors encouraged me to continue studying philosophy and theology,” Jordan recalls. “I was also mentored by our female resident life coordinator, who was often a listening ear for me when I had to ‘process through’ life or school or relationships.”

Near the end of Jordan's gap year, John Basie took a hand in the mentoring process, assisting her with “choosing colleges and life paths.”

The college try: coming to Erskine

Looking back at her four years as an Erskine student, Jordan says Impact 360 “prepared me to come into college with a strong foundation for what I actually believed.”

Having developed a faith that was “personal and not just something I'd been taught and accepted without much thought,” she was able to persevere in her faith through the college years.

She had also sharpened skills that helped her assess the knowledge she was gleaning in college. Thus she could “critically think through all my classes and how my faith was intertwined with the truths I was learning.”

Owing at least in part to living with students at Impact 360, she had some experience of “what a Christian community could look like” and sufficient insight to enable her “to make wise decisions with friends and my social life,” she says.

During Jordan's junior year, before Basie came to Erskine to serve as provost, he again became a mentor to Jordan, offering guidance through an online academic coaching program he founded and directed. Jordan and Basie “would talk on the phone weekly and discuss assignments he had given me to think through

Continued on page 18

EET SPOT



CONTINUED...

my passions and talents” as she tried to come to a clearer idea of her calling in life.

“The coaching process that Jordan completed was what is known as a life purpose and vocational discernment coaching process,” Basie explains. “Colleges and universities have begun to realize that there is something valuable in looking to certified executive coaches and certified life coaches in helping students think through God’s call on their lives and what comes post-college.”

There were some professors at Erskine who “probably unknowingly” served as mentors, Jordan says.

“The most important, Dr. [J. Brooks] Kuykendall, is an odd one because I am not a music major, but during my time at Erskine I ended up taking four of his classes, and they have had an impact on me for the better,” she says. “His intentional teaching style [helped] me as an individual to think more critically and to be okay with arriving at the answer ‘I don’t know.’”

Having professors take an interest in her as an individual, as Kuykendall did, “has made me become more confident in my passions and talents and striving to glorify God within my unique calling,” she says.

Finding community, finishing strong

Jordan cites Chaplain Paul Patrick, who leads Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Erskine, as another mentor during her college years.

Since her gap-year experience had given her “a longing to be involved in ministry the moment I stepped on campus,” she became involved with RUF right away and stuck with it.

Patrick observes that students who, like Jordan, come to the Erskine campus desiring the “friendship, fellowship, and community” offered by RUF can find it quickly, “while others can grow that appetite while here.”

For the chaplain, mentoring is simply a part of his gospel ministry. “I would note that the mentoring [referenced] is really just Christian discipleship,” he says. “Believers overlapping with believers in a healthy context where the scriptures are read and heard and practiced by fellow strugglers in the faith.”

“At Erskine, we do all that wrapped up in hospitality on Sunday nights at ‘The Barn’ and Wednesday nights on the patio,” Patrick adds, referring to the round of Bible study and worship opportunities offered by RUF at Erskine, often hosted by the Patricks at their home.

Crediting the campus chaplain with “a passion to see students excel, not only spiritually, but also academically, athletically, socially,” Jordan is grateful that Patrick took “an individual interest in my life and well-being” and “sought to grow me as a leader in RUF and on campus.”

Her gap-year preparation gave her confidence, a critical-thinking boost, and practical experience in community living. Once Jordan came to the Erskine campus, attention from professors as well as from the chaplain helped her to realize the limits of critical thinking and also encouraged her, as she describes it, to “take refuge in the work of Christ more and more every day.”

Jordan completed her double major, participated in RUF and other activities, and also served as vice president of the Student Christian Association during her senior year. She graduated in May 2017 and was married to former Erskine student Luke Kennington the next month at the barn on the Patricks’ property just outside Due West. They have been living in Lancaster, S.C.

“Luke is working as a mechanic at a local auto shop I have been working two awesome part-time jobs,” she explains. “I’m the youth intern at Unity ARP Church here in Lancaster and am also working part-time as a reading assistance teacher at Buford Elementary School.”

Jordan plans to take classes in Winthrop University’s graduate program in Counseling and Development, and hopes to complete a master’s degree in school counseling in May 2020.

Jordan Joseph Kennington is on the way to becoming a mentor for others.





COMMENCEMENT

2017

Erskine College and Theological Seminary honored graduating students May 20, 2017, during a joint ceremony featuring the Rev. Eric Manning, pastor of Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. Manning, an alumnus of Erskine Seminary, offered an endorsement of the power of love over hate entitled “Love Will Carry You.”

Manning referred to the love shown by members of Emanuel AME Church in the aftermath of the June 2015 shooting in which Pastor Clementa Pinckney and eight parishioners lost their lives.

“I have witnessed God’s love each and every day of my life, but I never saw it displayed as the families displayed it after the horrific act of June 17, 2015, when the ‘Emanuel Nine’ families and the survivors came to that place and began to say, one after another, ‘We forgive you, we’re praying for you.’”

Citing the witness of Chris Singleton, whose mother was killed in the Emanuel AME shooting, Manning recalled the bereaved son’s words, “You know, pastor, love is always stronger than hate.”

Stressing that love must be demonstrated, Manning said, “Those families continue to pray, continue to show love.”

Highlighting two of the Apostle Paul’s assertions in the 13th chapter of I Corinthians, Manning said “love is patient,” which means “it endures many things,” and “love never fails,” which means that “it endures forever.”

Manning told the graduates what he knows from his own experience. “The love of God will carry you through your darkest night, your deepest valley, and your longest storm.”

The speaker was introduced by the college senior with the highest grade point average, *summa cum laude* graduate Michael William Byrd of Charleston, S.C., a chemistry major who was SGA president.

College awards announced included the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Excellence in Teaching Award, given to Associate Professor of Chemistry and Physics Dr. Tiffany Hayden; the Younts Excellence in Teaching Award, given to Professor of Chemistry Dr. Joel Boyd; the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, given to Michael Byrd; the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award, given to Kristen Marie Craft of Anderson, S.C., a *magna cum laude* graduate in psychology; and the H.M. Young Ring, the highest honor for a senior, given to Autumn Grace Horne, Ware Shoals, S.C., a *summa cum laude* double major in psychology and English.

Seminary awards included the Zondervan Publishing House Awards in Hebrew and Greek, given to Andrew Di Iulio; the Douglas Joel Culver Award in Hebrew, given to Seth Skogen; the Ray A. King Church History Award, given to Skogen; and the Bruce G. Pierce Award for Christian Leadership, given to Di Iulio. Doctor of Ministry graduate Chaplain (Col.) Jeffrey D. Hawkins received a special presentation for “outstanding academic achievement.”

Serving as faculty marshals were Dr. Howard Thomas, crucifer, and Dr. Loyd Melton, mace bearer. The Rev. Paul Patrick, chaplain, offered the invocation and benediction.

Herb Jordan, president-elect of the Alumni Association, inducted the graduates into the association.

Kaitlyn Kerley of North Charleston, S.C., Erskine College Class of 2017 president, thanked Jordan and announced the class gift, a bench to be placed near Belk Hall with an inscription, “May you always see the beauty that surrounds you.”

Andrew Di Iulio, senior class representative of the Erskine Seminary Class of 2017, thanked Jordan and also paid tribute to a friend and classmate, the late Eric Scott Wenger.

GOING STRONG

STUDENT-LED MINISTRY STRENGTHENS FAITH



Ask senior athletic training major **A.J. Mealing** about FCA at Erskine, and you might learn a lot. A.J. became president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes last year, but he is quick to give credit to others for its success on campus. He also points to students who have influenced him along the way, including two 2017 graduates.



At the end of his freshman year, while on a Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) retreat, A.J., who is from Graniteville, S.C., accepted an invitation from **Ross McEwan '17**—a student from Scotland who was then on the FCA leadership team—to attend the Southeast Collegiate Camp at St. Simon's Island, Georgia.



During his time at the camp, A.J. was inspired to work on increasing FCA's impact on the Erskine campus. "I attended with **Fineto Lungwana, Nate Martin, Nicole Biles, and Brett Silas**. The camp was so good because it encouraged me to come back and lead FCA at Erskine and to represent Christ on our campus."



In his sophomore year, he became more involved with FCA leadership. He did not have a specific title, but he had a mentor—**Aaron Brown**, also a member of the Class of 2017, who served as FCA president and had also attended the Southeast

Collegiate Camp the year before—with Ross McEwan.

"Aaron told me that he wanted to hand the responsibility down to me and he began to disciple me in a way," A.J. recalls. "I wouldn't be half the leader I am now without Aaron gradually allowing me to organize things while he was still here so that I could fall back and evaluate things with him. I still go to him for advice!"

A.J. has stuck with FCA during some challenging times for the campus group. "So the year before I led FCA, we didn't have anyone to lead worship. As hard as it was, we did ministry without music," he says. This went on for most of the 2016-17 school year.

Then, the summer before he became FCA president, he prayed specifically "for God to send people to Erskine with genuine hearts to lead the campus in worship." That fall, three freshmen and a transfer student got together and formed a worship team.

"**Jenny Boylston, Stokes Brownlee, Evan Hughes, and Hope Peeler** are all extremely gifted and have used their musical gifts to glorify the Lord," A.J. is pleased to report.



Weekly meetings of the student-led ministry, called “huddles,” take place on Tuesday evenings in the Hangar and sometimes feature guest speakers from local churches. “We also have members of our leadership team share devotions and testimonies,” A.J. says. Erskine’s head baseball coach, **Mark Crocco**, serves as staff sponsor. “Other faculty and staff who have shared and are active with FCA are **Mario Thompson, Josh Chiles, Mark Peeler, and Shaq Hunter.**”

The FCA Leadership Team includes a number of named officers: senior political science major **Austin Hough** of Ninety Six, S.C., event coordinator; senior elementary education major **Brett Silas** of Graniteville, S.C., a member of the baseball team, who serves as a recruiter, along with junior business major and basketball player **Nate Martin** of Clinton, S.C.; junior special education major **Nicole Biles** of Columbia, S.C., softball player and cross country runner, treasurer; sophomore health science major **Heidi Elliot** of Greer, S.C., secretary; and senior athletic training major **Mikayla Austin** of Anderson, S.C., vice president.

Other members of the FCA Leadership Team are senior biology major **Raven Valentine**, Ridge Spring, S.C.; sophomore biology (pre-pharmacy) major **Jenny Boyslton**, Trenton, S.C.; sophomore English major **Hope Peeler**, Due West; sophomore business major and music minor **Evan Hughes**, Abbeville, S.C.; senior Bible and religion major, visual art minor, and soccer player **Hayden Banks**, Hiram, Ga.; sophomore biology major **Jazmin Gomez**, Ware Shoals, S.C.; senior accounting major **Rachel Berkey**, Myrtle Beach, S.C.; senior business major **Sarah Williamson**, Belton, S.C.; junior business major **Stokes Brownlee**, St. George, S.C.; and junior history major and baseball player **Josh Talton**, Lexington, S.C.

A.J., who describes his primary role as delegating roles to the other leaders and also works on scheduling and finding speakers, pays attention to FCA leaders as individuals, and values their contributions to the organization.

“We all strengthen each other through weekly meetings where we share a devotion, plan, and pray together.”

Whatever problems or needs may arise for the organization, “My motivation to keep leading and participating in FCA is to present Jesus Christ in a loving manner to our campus,” A.J. says. “In doing that, I have had the opportunity to assist in strengthening the faith of students at Erskine. Through this, I’ve seen my faith tested and strengthened and it encourages me that God hasn’t failed.”



OLYMPIC ATT

ERSKINE PREPARED ALUMNA FOR PRESTIGIOUS INTERNSHIP



Just after athletic training major Kristen Dodge graduated in May 2017, she began a USA Volleyball internship in Anaheim, California. It was a great opportunity for growth, made possible—and successful—in part by the quality of her Erskine experience. She hasn't really slowed down since that internship, which helped her to clarify her career aspirations.

At Erskine, Kristen enjoyed effective mentoring from the entire athletic training staff, and she makes special mention of Rebecca Magee and Ryan Kroskie, instructors, and Scott DeCiantis, assistant professor.

While she completed her major and finished a minor in health, she served as captain of the women's volleyball team when the Fleet won the 2014 and 2015 Conference Carolinas regular season and tournament championships under Coach Heather Vahjen.

"Kristen is one of the hardest working players I have ever coached," says Vahjen. "She has a passion for life that is evident to

anyone who gets the chance to be around her. She led our team, with her example, in every moment of her time here at Erskine, on and off the court."

Both athletics and athletic training loomed large in Kristen's world, and the USA Volleyball internship offered her an exciting chance "to treat and work with some of the world's best athletes and work with some of the world's best athletic trainers," she says.

The internship allowed her to clock some up-close time with admired athletes and professionals. "I worked firsthand with Olympic veterans, new USA Volleyball team members, strength coaches, USA national coaches, dietitians, and athletic trainers," she says.

"When I first started, they were beginning rehabilitation for the Olympic veterans, who had just returned from playing overseas. They conducted an analysis on each elite athlete and determined which of their joints needed rehabilitation."

At USA Volleyball, Kristen recalls, "The athletes practiced every weekday, for about three to four hours, and then, depending on which day it was, either lifted, conditioned, or performed yoga."

She observed that individual attention was the norm. "The athletic trainers work very closely with the strength coaches and the dietitians with every single athlete to make sure every athlete is reaching his or her full potential on the court."

Looking back on her two months with USA Volleyball, Kristen still marvels at what it meant for her. "It was absolutely amazing," she says. "This experience exposed me to the type of career I would love to have and the kind of athletic trainer I want to become."

Kristen believes she was able to make the most of the internship because of what she learned at Erskine.

"The Erskine College Athletic Training Program allowed me to be successful in an elite setting," she says. "Without the program, I would not have been given the chance to obtain the knowledge and the once-in-a-lifetime experience that I did. I would not have been able to learn what I did without having received the knowledge and hands-on experience that I got at Erskine."

One of Kristin's Erskine mentors notes that in addition to her capacity for hard work, she has other special gifts. "Kristen has always been a joy to be around. I think that helped her earn the opportunity to become an intern with USA Volleyball," says Scott DeCiantis.

"She has a positive demeanor and finds enjoyment in whatever task she is doing, and I think people quickly recognize this in her. In a way, she provides an example that we all need—find joy in whatever you may be doing."

Vahjen credits Kristen with helping to ensure the volleyball team's success. "Kristen's

ITUDE

dedication to excellence was one of the key ingredients to our team finishing the highest in program history,” she says.

After the internship, during the 2017-18 academic year, Kristen became an intern athletic trainer at Presbyterian College for the school’s volleyball and softball teams. She recently started working as a graduate assistant athletic trainer at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, where she is working on a master’s degree in sports administration—and doubtless spreading joy wherever she goes.

“I am so proud of her for dreaming big and pursuing such an invaluable experience as an intern with USA Volleyball and taking that experience with her to Liberty as she works to complete her master’s degree,” Vahjen says. “She is truly one of a kind.”



Kristen Dodge, right, with April Ross, a two-time medalist for beach volleyball



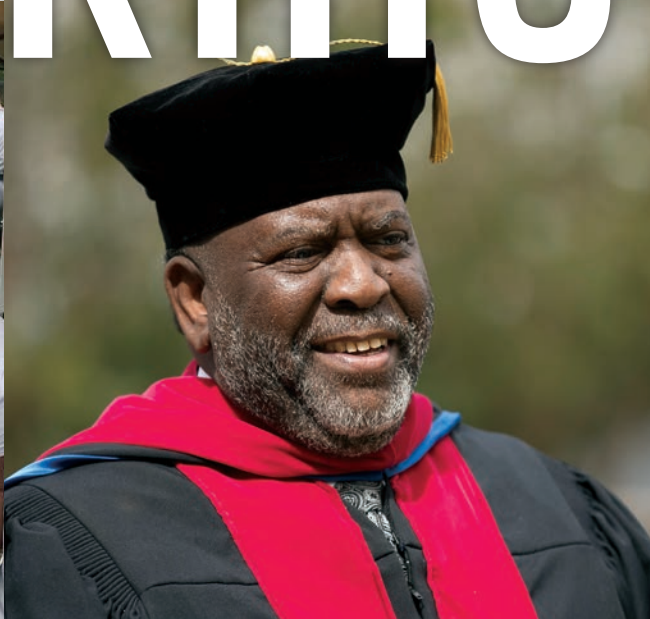
Kristen Dodge, center, with Jordan Larson, a two-time medalist outside hitter, left, and Foluke Akinradewo, a two-time medalist middle hitter, right.

***“SHE HAS A POSITIVE
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Erskine



SEMINARY ROLE DOVETAILS WITH C.S. LEWIS INSTITUTE WORK



Erskine Seminary co-sponsored *An Evening with C.S. Lewis* at the Logos Theatre in Taylors, S.C., Oct. 12-13, thanks in part to the efforts of the Rev. Matthew Miller, former pastor of Greenville ARP Church. Appointed director of Erskine Seminary's Greenville site last year and a seminary student himself, this husband and father of three has recently taken on an additional role: City Director for the C.S. Lewis Institute.

"Greenville, South Carolina is now the 13th city in the world to have a C.S. Lewis Institute," Miller says, noting that the other 12 cities are all quite large and include London, England, and Washington, D.C.

So how did Greenville get on such a list?

"A physician here in Greenville was familiar with the C.S. Lewis Institute in Washington, D.C., and approached Erskine Seminary about helping to launch an Institute here," Miller explains. "Although Greenville is a mid-sized city, the upstate of South Carolina—including Anderson and Spartanburg—has around 1.2 million people. The leadership in Washington, D.C. believed that was a large enough base to establish a C.S. Lewis Institute."

Miller's jobs with Erskine Seminary and the C.S. Lewis Institute are institutionally separate, but "they do dovetail quite nicely," he says.

As city director of the C.S. Lewis Institute in Greenville, Miller is "responsible for growing the C.S. Lewis Institute as a center for discipleship in order to strengthen area churches, local ministries, and individuals who are eager to grow to spiritual maturity in Christ."

His job description as seminary site director says, in part, that he is "responsible for providing a personal and sustained visible presence" for Erskine Seminary in the Greenville area, "building relationships with potential supporting partners of ETS, connecting in person with potential students in the Greenville area, and developing critical institutional supports...for an expanded Greenville campus."

Miller's two sets of responsibilities have proven quite compatible.

**"GREENVILLE,
SOUTH CAROLINA IS
NOW THE 13TH CITY
IN THE WORLD TO
HAVE A C.S. LEWIS
INSTITUTE."**

As it happens, the goals of the C.S. Lewis Institute are being advanced by three main initiatives, and Erskine Seminary has reached out to the Greenville community in connection with two of them so far.

Concerning the institute's Fellows Program, "a one-year discipleship program for adults," Miller reports that adults who complete the program "are eligible to receive advanced standing in Erskine Seminary's master's and certificate programs."

Another C.S. Lewis Institute initiative focuses on special events and conferences and

was launched with the recent theatrical event featuring British actor David Payne presenting in character the life of Lewis.

"The C.S. Lewis Institute prefers to pair with local churches and ministries for their various events, which is exactly what we [did] for *An Evening with C.S. Lewis*," Miller explains. "We also hope to feature Erskine Seminary faculty in some of our programs and events."

Meanwhile, Miller seems undaunted by the work he is undertaking for Erskine Theological Seminary and for the C.S. Lewis Institute. In addition, he is teaching a seminary class this fall and working on his Doctor of Ministry dissertation.

"The last year has been a great one for our family," Miller says of the shift from pastor to seminary site director and now city director for the C.S. Lewis Institute.

"While we miss our old congregation, we rejoice to see how well they are doing. We have also enjoyed the different schedule," he says.

Then he offers another assessment of the family situation. "My wife says, 'You're generally busier during the weekdays, but you're far more available during the weekday evenings and weekends.' For this season of life, with three-, five-, and seven-year-olds, we're trying to maximize that."

Matthew Miller received his bachelor of arts degree in Economics and Philosophy at Wake Forest University in 2000. He went on to earn the M.Div. at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte in 2004 and the Th.M. at Erskine Theological Seminary in 2015. He has done additional study at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, Harvard Divinity School, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, and Duke Divinity School. He and his wife Lindsay have three children. He is working on a Doctor of Ministry degree at Erskine Seminary.

CONFERENCE PROVIDES REJUVENATION FOR PASTORS

Greenville Spring Week, sponsored April 11-14 by Erskine Theological Seminary's Greenville site, welcomed its planned maximum of 50 attendees, 45 of whom were Associate Reformed Presbyterian (ARP) ministers. The Rev. Matthew Miller, director of the Greenville site and former senior pastor at Greenville ARP Church, declared the event a success and spoke about its segue into a two-session public conference drawing even more attendees.

"We enjoyed outstanding teaching each morning from Dr. Sinclair Ferguson, a world-renowned theologian, speaker, author, and former senior minister of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina," Miller said.

"Dr. Ferguson taught on the Reformation and revivals in Scotland, focusing on six main figures whom the Lord used in those renewals, with abundant applications for pastoral ministry today."

Erskine Chaplain Paul Patrick was unable to attend the entire conference, but was happy to

drive up for Ferguson's morning lectures on Wednesday and Thursday.

"Dr. Ferguson is always worth hearing as he embodies the heart of a pastor and the mind of a scholar," Patrick said, adding that "the spirit of fellowship among the group was rich." He hopes Greenville Spring Week will become an annual tradition.

In the evenings, pastors at the conference gathered for "dinners at excellent restaurants in Greenville, with all expenses covered by a generous and anonymous donor," Miller said. In addition, attendees enjoyed the home opener of the Greenville Drive baseball team Thursday evening.

On Friday evening and Saturday morning, Greenville Spring Week "transitioned into a public conference called 'Christ at the Center,'" Miller said. Ferguson was the featured speaker, and the event was co-hosted by Erskine Seminary and First Presbyterian Church in downtown Greenville.

Many attendees reported it was "the best conference they'd ever attended," and it's something we'll consider doing again," says Miller.



"...HEART OF A PASTOR... MIND OF A SCHOLAR."

DR. MICHAEL MILTON DELIVERS BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS



Graduating students and their families gathered in the Due West ARP Church May 18 for a worship service in preparation for the 2018 commencement ceremony of Erskine College and Seminary.

This year's baccalaureate speaker was Dr. Michael A. Milton, James Ragsdale Professor of Missions and Evangelism and director of the chaplain ministries emphasis in the Master of Divinity program at Erskine Theological Seminary. A recently retired U.S. Army Reserve Chaplain (Colonel), he was

presented with the Legion of Merit in April. Milton is the founder and director of the outreach ministry Faith for Living and serves as president and senior fellow of the D. James Kennedy Institute.

Milton's baccalaureate address was "Fools' Gold: The Discriminating Graduate's Guide to Getting Ahead." He warned the assembled seniors that people sometimes "seek fulfillment in things that look like treasure but end up being a trap," citing the example of John August Sutter, who attempted to "build an empire" in California in the 19th century but instead saw his business ventures fail during the California Gold Rush.

God's truth must be pursued in order to achieve sustainable success, Milton stressed. "God's word is true gold that will last through all eternity," he said. God's word, God's ways, and God's wealth will "build an empire that will never perish."

The Rev. Paul Patrick conducted the service; Erskine President Dr. Robert Gustafson introduced the speaker and offered a prayer of intercession for the graduates; Dr. Keith

Timms directed the Erskine College Choraleers; Rodney Cleveland served as organist; and Prof. Tobi Otekayi, pianist, accompanied the Choraleers.



Erskine President Dr. Robert Gustafson greets Dr. Michael Milton.



PILGRIMS EXPLORE

THEIR ROOTS

ARE YOU READY? GOD'S CHURCH IS WAITING FOR YOU.

Early in June, a group of 45 friends of Erskine Seminary boarded flights across the Atlantic, looking forward to exploring their Presbyterian history in the United Kingdom. Under the guidance of Provost Dr. Leslie Holmes and Professor of Church History Dr. Dale Johnson, with assistance from the Rev. John Paul Marr, these pilgrims traveled throughout England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Ireland in search of significant sites from the pages of church history. Along the way they gained a greater appreciation of the people, places, and events which shaped their present-day churches in America.

After arriving in London they went to Westminster Abbey, since 1066 the coronation site of all English and British monarchs. The greatest highlight at Westminster Abbey was being conducted into the Jerusalem Chamber, where, in 1611, scholars met to discuss translation work on what became known as the King James Bible, and where, in 1643, the Westminster Assembly of Divines met to formulate the Westminster Confession of Faith. The chamber is normally closed to the public, but permission was secured for a special visit. The group then traveled to Cambridge to visit the Round Church, where many Reformers worshipped during their studies at Cambridge University.

Next, the pilgrims traveled north to Edinburgh, visiting St. Giles Cathedral where John Knox preached and led efforts to revive Scotland and reform its national church. From there they made a stop at St Andrews, known around the world for its golf courses. In this area they made a special visit to the rural town of Gairneybridge Farm, the childhood home of Ebenezer and Ralph Erskine. Ebenezer, for whom Erskine College and Seminary is named, and his brother Ralph were instrumental in establishing the Secession Church in 1733. The monument at this site serves as a reminder of the impact of their ministry and the heritage of the ARP Church.

Continuing on their journey, the group prepared to ferry across the Irish Sea to Belfast. However, in God's providence their departure was postponed. This led them to search for a house of worship close to their port. Little did they know what awaited them in the village of Kilwinning. The only church with an early morning service was the Erskine Church, founded by none other than Ebenezer Erskine himself! This congregation, with an average attendance of 18, gladly hosted a group of 45 Americans with open arms, offering homemade shortbread and tea. After the service, all parties agreed that only God could have orchestrated the events of that morning at the Erskine Church.

The pilgrims boarded their ferry and traveled to Northern Ireland. They were served dinner at the Belfast

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CONTINUED...

Castle and each received an ancient Irish communion token from the Rev. John Batchelor of the Church of Ireland. Communion tokens, resembling small coins, were first suggested by John Calvin and were adopted by the early Scottish and Irish Reformed churches. The tokens were given to communicants after approval from local church elders for admission to the Lord's Supper.

During the same evening, Northern Irish author Billy Kennedy spoke of the influence Presbyterians from Northern Ireland have had on the history of the United States. In addition, Ian Crozier of the Ulster-Scots Agency presented an etching of the ship *Eagle Wing* to Erskine



Seminary. *Eagle Wing*, its name inspired by Exodus 19:4, was a ship built by two Northern Irish Presbyterian congregations in order to escape oppression for their Reformed faith. In 1636 the travelers on the *Eagle Wing* set sail across the Atlantic and planted Presbyterian congregations on the east coast of America.

After touring Belfast, the group traveled north along the scenic Antrim Coast, walked the walls of Londonderry, and visited the church where Cecil Frances Alexander penned hymns such as "Once in Royal David's City" and "There is a Green Hill Far Away." From there the group visited the community of Ramelton, birthplace of Francis Makemie, who in 1681 was ordained and commissioned as a church planter missionary to the American colonies. Because of his successful ministry he has been called "The Father of American Presbyterianism." The pilgrims continued through the west coast of Ireland, ending their journey in Dublin. There they visited Trinity College and spent time looking through the famous Book of Kells, a graphically brilliant presentation of the four Gospels created around the seventh and eighth centuries in Irish monasteries.

It was an exciting trip that many participants said brought them new understanding and appreciation for their Presbyterian heritage. Plans are under way for a 2019 tour from May 19 through June 2. We hope you will be able to join us!

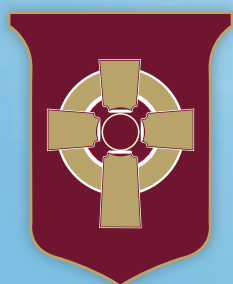


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Named in honor of a Scottish Christian missionary, physician, and scientist, the **David Livingstone Institute for Christianity, Medicine, and the Sciences** offers graduate certificate programs in Christian Worldview, Apologetics, and Biomedical Ethics in both online (distance education) and live course formats. Our courses are designed for practicing medical and scientific professionals and students in training in these areas. Graduate credits earned in certificate programs are transferable to a Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree at **Erskine Theological Seminary**.

Pre-registration is Nov. 5-20.
Register by Jan. 7 for Spring classes.

For more information contact Robin Broome, Director of Recruitment and Enrollment: broome@erskine.edu, 864-379-6571



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CLASS NOTES

CLASS OF 2018

Grant Dickey has been named head boys soccer coach at Emerald High School, Greenwood, S.C. A sport management major at Erskine, he will be teaching physical education at Emerald in addition to his coaching duties.

Sara Guyton '18 wed **Connor Miller '18** on June 2, 2018. (Photo #4)

Seth Gurley '18 wed Jillian Burchette on August 3, 2018 (Photo #7)

CLASS OF 2017

Cam Whitehurst is serving as a Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) intern at Southern Mississippi University. He recently assisted United Christian Ministries and Academy in Hattiesburg, Miss., using skills he honed as a math major. "Cam Whitehurst was one of those special Erskine students," Chaplain Paul Patrick says, recalling that Cam juggled his studies (he also earned a Bible and religion minor and a minor in business administration), sports (he played Fleet soccer), and spiritual life (he was active in RUF).

Clarissa Stiving '17 wed **Andrew LeGrand** Sept. 2, 2017 (Photo #14)

Timothy Nabholz '17 wed Grace Pratt on Feb. 17, 2018. (Photo #15)

A son, David Anthony Di Iulio, was born to **Andrew Di Iulio '17** and Kate DiIulio on August 8, 2018.

Autumn Horne '17 wed **Justin Van Riper '18** on July 28, 2018 (Photo #5)

CLASS OF 2016

Krysta Schaus of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, has been named assistant golf professional at the Toronto Golf Club in Ontario, Canada, the third oldest golf club in North America. The winner of the 2016 Ladies New Brunswick Amateur Golf Championship, she went on to earn an MBA at Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina, where she worked as a graduate assistant coach for the men's and women's golf teams. (Photo #22)

Elinor Griffin, a *magna cum laude* graduate, spoke at convocation in March 2017 and gave the Cardwell Lecture this year on April 5. She serves as Refugee Ministry Coordinator for Outreach North America, and shared the podium on both occasions with Kay Burklin, refugee liaison for Mission to the World (MTW). We are "called to mirror and live out tangibly in our careers and in our daily lives the mercy and grace and welcome that has been extended to us through Christ," she told students. (Photo #17)

Austin Gambrell '16 wed Katlyn Sommer on

May 5, 2018.

Alan Suchy '16 wed Christine Watson on June 2, 2018.

CLASS OF 2015

Christian Beamguard joined the staff of Pinecrest ARP Church, Flat Rock, N.C., in January 2018 as youth and children's ministries coordinator. He previously worked at Bonclarken Conference Center and served Providence Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island, S.C., as youth director. (Photo #23)

Caitlin Bullock has been named head women's volleyball coach at Lees-McRae College. She formerly served as assistant coach for the men's and women's volleyball programs at King University. She was a three-time All-Conference Carolinas volleyball player at Erskine.

Katherine McClure '15 wed William P. Ferguson '11 on Jan. 27, 2018.

Adrienne Haley Meredith '15 wed **Grant Dickey '18** on June 16, 2018.

Rachel Moore '15 wed **Connor Gibson '16** on June 14, 2018. (Photo #8)

Rachel Lynn Talbot '15 wed Matt Reihing on May 28, 2016.

Caroline Thomas '15 wed **Carlos UndaGalvan '17** on Sept. 17, 2017. (Photo #11)

A daughter, Abigail Shaver, was born to **Angela Johnson Shaver '15** and **Robert Shaver '15** on Feb. 21, 2018. (Photo #1)

CLASS OF 2014

Kendall Cole reports that after completing her degree in biology at Erskine in 2014, she attended Anderson University and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing, graduating in August 2015. She served as a critical care nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at AnMed Health in Anderson, S.C., for two years. "I am currently in graduate school at the Medical University of South Carolina, where I am obtaining a doctoral degree in nurse anesthesia," she says. (Photo #3)

Whitney Brown '14 wed Micah Kurtz on July 27, 2018.

Virginia Harmon '14 wed Logan Smith on March 18, 2017. (Photo #16)

Casey Hughes '14 wed Eric Spoelstra on June 30, 2018.

Amanda Richmond '14 wed **Brice Pruitt '13** on March 18, 2017. (Photo #12)

CLASS OF 2013

Larissa Shannon, who played softball at Erskine, has been named head coach for the Ashley Ridge High School "Swamp Fox" softball

team. She previously served the team as assistant coach.

Morgan Allison was selected by the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce to be a part of Leadership Charleston's Class of 2019.

Colleen Gardner '13 wed Blake Gregory on April 14, 2018.

Molly Harpe '13 wed **John Rutter '14** on April 22, 2017.

Ashlee Newman '13 wed Richard Hutto on Jan. 6, 2018. (Photo #9)

Kelsey Spurrier '13 wed **John Matthew Wantz '12** on June 1, 2018.

A son, August James Sanfilippo, was born to **Kaitlyn Overley Sanfilippo '13** and Dominic Sanfilippo on Feb. 7, 2018.

CLASS OF 2012

Elise Harbin '12 wed Mike Ludwig on Feb. 17, 2018.

Emily Harmon was named Outstanding Master's Student of the College and Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech in March 2018. She is studying history. (Photo #6)

Emily Wentzky '12 wed Dustin Williams on Dec. 8, 2017.

CLASS OF 2011

Mary Katherine Moore-Smith, who graduated from Clemson University in 2013 with a degree in Secondary Mathematics Education, was recently nominated as Teacher of the Year at Southside High School in Greenville, S.C. She is in her third year of teaching math at Southside.

Holly Campbell '11 wed Cody Fowler on August 6, 2017. (Photo #10)

Shawn Glover '11 wed Shere Drummond on June 16, 2018.

Katie Henderson '11 wed Bo Hart on June 24, 2017.

CLASS OF 2010

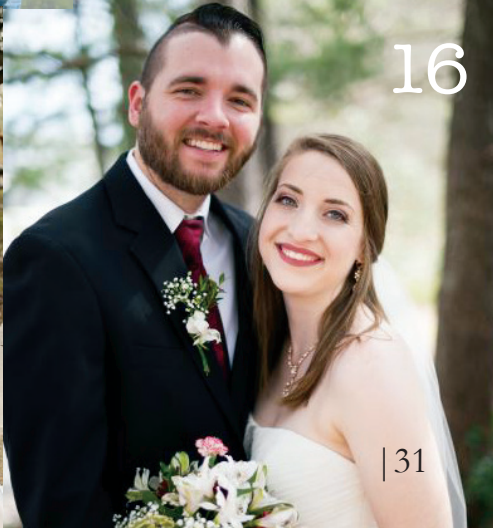
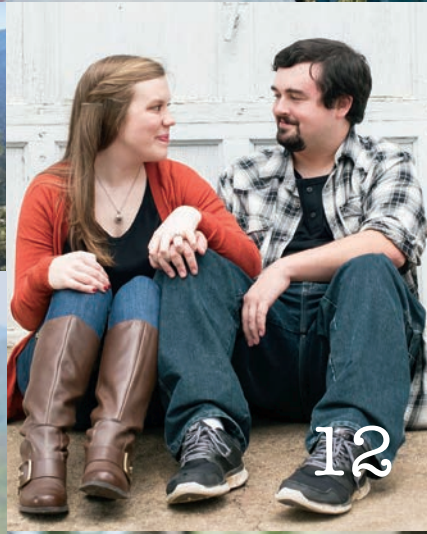
Keith Hill was named Middle School Teacher of the Year, South Carolina Association for Physical Education and Sports (SCAPES). He serves Spartanburg District One.

John Michael Leppert is working for OrthoMemphis and serves as Head Athletic Trainer at the Hutchinson School in Memphis, Tenn.

Aaron Gregory '10 wed Taylor Hays on May 19, 2018.

A son, David Kropp, was born to **Caley Kropp '10** and Katherine Kropp on May 8, 2018.

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CLASS NOTES



CLASS OF 2009

Karen Anger serves as varsity girls basketball coach at Stevenson High School in Livonia, Mich. She succeeds outgoing coach Tim Newman, who was coaching the Stevenson teams when Anger played against them for Churchill High School in Livonia during her high school career. She says that while sitting on the bench at Erskine following ACL injuries, she “asked a lot of questions and learned some things I probably wouldn’t have learned had I not been injured” and eventually developed “a passion for coaching.”

Walter Chachere Freeman '09 wed Easton Seyedein on Jan. 20, 2018. (*Photo #2*)

Bryant Allen Lawson received a Master of Arts in Professional Counseling from Liberty University in May 2016.

A son, Harrison Morgan, was born to **Marissa Mankin Morgan '09** and **David Morgan, Jr. '07** on April 7, 2018. (*Photo #25*)

CLASS OF 2008

Tracy J. Taylor, Jr. was named Southeast Region Manager of the Year with Compass Group North America/ Canteen.

CLASS OF 2007

Ed Joyce has been named women’s soccer head coach at Georgia State University. He previously served as men’s soccer assistant coach at Georgia State and then moved to Campbell University, where he served as assistant coach. He earned National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) South Atlantic Region assistant coach of the year honors in 2011. Joyce played four years with the Flying Fleet, serving as team captain for two seasons, and graduated with a degree in athletic training.

Kimberly Kanapeckas '07 wed Jeremy Michel Métris, May 18, 2018. (*Photo #13*)

Lisa Wheeler '07 wed Kevin Maxwell, Oct. 14, 2017. (*Photo #19*)

CLASS OF 2006

Dr. Michael Burris has been appointed to the Spartanburg Methodist College faculty as professor of Spanish. In addition to his bachelor’s degree in Spanish at Erskine, he received a master’s degree in Spanish at Auburn University in 2008 and a doctorate in Spanish literature at the University of Georgia in 2013.

William Bennett Tucker has been named one of 10 “Young Professionals 2 Follow” for 2018 by the *Aiken Standard*.

CLASS OF 2005 (SEMINARY)

The Rev. William Jeffrey Flowers, director of Pastoral Care at Augusta University Health, was named a 2017 Hospital Hero by the

Georgia Hospital Association. He is one of nine individuals statewide to receive the award. He was recognized for more than 20 years of compassionate counseling of patients, families, and health care colleagues, as well as for playing a leading role in the expansion of the Pastoral Care department at Augusta University Health. He is a member of the International Critical Incident Stress Management Foundation and a Certified Trauma Counselor. “Whether counseling a patient, a family member, or even one of our caregivers, Jeff has a caring heart and a compassionate spirit,” CEO of Augusta University Medical Center Lee Ann Liska says. “He really is a hero to the entire to the entire AU Health community.”

CLASS OF 2004

John Boetsch has been named men’s tennis coach at Clemson University. He coached at the University of Louisville for one season, then became assistant head coach at Clemson. He served as associate head coach for the last three years.

CLASS OF 2002

Robert “Robb” Brown has been named a “Rising Star” for the fourth consecutive year by Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters rating service that ranks outstanding lawyers in more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The Rising Stars lists are published nationwide in Super Lawyers magazines and in leading city and regional magazines across the country. He is an attorney in the Columbia office of Clawson and Staubes, LLC, which also has offices in Charleston, Charlotte, and Greenville. His practice focuses on civil litigation and personal injury. He and his wife Jenny are the parents of a daughter, Maggie.

CLASS OF 2001

Beth Burkett, an environmental education coordinator with the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) was recently named Marine Educator of the Year by the South Carolina Marine Educators Association (SCMEA), according to CRBJ Biz Wire. A biology major at Erskine, she has worked for CCPRC since 2000, teaching children about coastal ecosystems of all kinds. Although she works in various locations, she is currently based at the Caw Caw Interpretive Center in Ravenel. (*Photo #21*)

CLASS OF 2001 (SEMINARY)

Dr. Alice Ridgill has published a Christian self-help book entitled *Maximizing the Meantime*. She is the founding pastor of New Faith Presbyterian Church in Greenwood, S.C., and formerly served as pastor of Washington Street

Presbyterian Church in Abbeville, S.C. She was the first African-American campus pastor of Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, S.C. (*Photo #24*)

CLASS OF 1999

D. Scott Mitchell, Clerk of the Court of Criminal Appeals of Alabama, was appointed to the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks at the organizations 2016 meeting in Florida. His legal experience includes work in private practice, as staff attorney for the Court of Criminal Appeals, as staff attorney for Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb, and as Staff and Legislative Liaison for the chief justice.

Adam Weyer was named Assistant AD for Sports Medicine at Lander University in July 2017. He served a combined 10 years as head athletic trainer at Erskine and also worked as an athletic trainer in Major League Baseball’s Cincinnati Reds and Arizona Diamondbacks organizations. (*Photo #20*)

CLASS OF 1998

Ellie Brooke Wilson Clinton has been named president of the Chester County Chamber of Commerce. She has served as public information officer for Chester County Schools. After earning a bachelor’s degree in Spanish at Erskine, she went on to earn a master’s degree in mass communications at the University of South Carolina. She grew up in the Lowrys community in Chester County, where her family has farmed since colonial times. Her three-part agenda for the chamber will be “connect, educate, and advocate.” She and husband Matt Clinton, Rock Hill’s city forester, have three children, Thomas, Tucker, and Annie Rose. (*Photo #26*)

CLASS OF 1997

Becky Corbin has been named principal of Ninety Six Primary School in Ninety Six, S.C. She previously served as assistant principal of Clinton Elementary School. She spoke with Ariel Gilreath of the Greenwood *Index-Journal*. Although her role as an administrator differs a teacher’s role, she still treasures her time with students. “Those opportunities where you can interact with children that maybe are struggling, whether academically or behaviorally or both, and build a connection with them and see that turn-around point for them.... Those are the points and the moments that I hold on to.”

CLASS OF 1997 (SEMINARY)

Ron Caplette, a Korean War veteran who served eight years in the United States Marine Corps, is serving as a permanent deacon at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, N.C. He and his wife Louise have been married for 56 years and have five children, 17 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. Before receiving his Doctor of

CLASS NOTES

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Ministry degree, he earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from UNC Charlotte and an MBA in Business and Economics from Winthrop University. He was employed in the textile industry for 25 years and taught in the North Carolina Community College System until his retirement in 2001. He now serves as an adjunct faculty member at Catawba Valley Community College, teaching courses in Old Testament and New Testament.

CLASS OF 1996

Teresa Etters Thompson, supervisor in the Greenwood Genetic Center's Biochemical Genetics Laboratory, was recently invited, for the fourth consecutive time, to give a platform presentation at the Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT) meeting in Los Angeles. For her presentation in June 2016, she spoke about the Center's work on developing a test that diagnoses a group of rare metabolic disorders known as glycoprotein storage disorders. She has been employed at the Greenwood Genetic Center since 2000. (Photo #27)

CLASS OF 1993

H. Mikel Anderson, economic development manager for the Southern Carolina Regional Economic Alliance, was one of five members of the South Carolina Economic Developers' Association (SCEDA) recognized in 2017 for becoming South Carolina Certified Economic Developers (SCCED). Since the program began in 2001, only 45 members have earned SCCED certification.

CLASS OF 1992

Robert N. "Tripp" Boykin III has been named headmaster of Laurence Manning Academy in Manning, S.C. He previously served as high school principal at Manning. (Photo #28)

CLASS OF 1990

Dr. Chris Jones has been named dean of the James E. Hurley College of Science and Mathematics at Oklahoma Baptist University. He previously served as professor of chemistry at Shorter University in Rome, Ga., and as associate professor of chemistry/instructional technology specialist at Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Ga. After receiving his A.B. in physics at Erskine, he went on to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Texas in 1997. He and his wife Carol have been married for 25 years and have three children.

CLASS OF 1990 (SEMINARY)

The Rev. Dr. B. Mike Alexander, a minister at Belin United Methodist Church, Murrells Inlet, S.C., was honored by the Wofford Board

of Trustees when he retired from the board in May. A graduate of Wofford College and Candler School of Theology, he received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Erskine Theological Seminary.

CLASS OF 1989

Diana R. Palecek, an attorney with Smith Moore Leatherwood, was named one of the "50 Most Influential Women" for 2016 by The Mecklenburg Times. The award honors women in the Charlotte area who are working in the business, government, education, and non-profit fields. Palecek has practiced law for more than 20 years and has been recognized for her professional leadership and achievement. She was inducted into Erskine's Academic Hall of Fame in 2011.

CLASS OF 1988

Kathy Dickerson Hipp has been named superintendent of Anderson School District 3 in Anderson, S.C. She was chosen by a unanimous vote of the Anderson School District 3 Board. She previously served as assistant superintendent for instruction at Anderson School District 3 and has worked in the district since 1988, except for one year spent in Anderson District 5. As an educator in her hometown district, she has taught science, worked as a guidance counselor, served as an instructional specialist, and worked as director of support services.

CLASS OF 1985

Richard Ivey is chief human resources officer with ResCare Inc. and was interviewed by Bizjournals.com. He says "Serving other people" is what inspires him, and explains, "I have always felt like one of the best ways to impact organizational success is through people. I believe one of my greatest areas of value creation is in developing strategies and building systems focused on elevating employees and their capabilities."

CLASS OF 1980

Don Cribb led the Latta Vikings baseball team to the division 2A state championship in South Carolina.

CLASS OF 1979

Argyl Williams Brewton received the Pioneer Woman in Education Award during Women's History Month at Spartanburg Methodist College. She is the first African-American school principal in Spartanburg County School District 4. Under her leadership, her school received National Blue Ribbon recognition, was a finalist for Palmetto's Finest, and received four SC Academic Gold Performance Awards and four SC Closing the Achievement Gap Awards. She is married to former Erskine basketball standout **Melvin Brewton '79**. (Photo #29)

CLASS OF 1974

Tom Ervin received the National Eagle Scout Association's Outstanding Eagle Scout Award (NOESA) for 2017. The Award was presented Feb. 8 at the 2018 Blue Ridge Council Banquet in Greenville, S.C. (Photo #18)

CLASS OF 1970

Eugene Cochran, Jr. has retired after 36 years with the Duke Endowment, where he began his service as president in 2005. He oversaw construction of the endowment's first stand-alone headquarters in 2014. A recent recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, Cochran plans to travel with his wife Jean to Vancouver, Washington, where he will spend four months as a visiting scholar at the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, and then plans to work with programs in Charlotte, N.C. that focus on alleviating hunger.

CLASS OF 1962 (SEMINARY 1966)

The Rev. Conrad Cheatham of Elsberry ARP Church and Mt. Zion ARP Church was honored for his 50 years in the ministry Sept. 25, 2016, in Elsberry, Mo. He spoke to the Lincoln County *Journal* about his journey toward the ministry, which began while he was at Erskine College. He went to Columbia Seminary, Decatur, Ga., and transferred to Erskine Seminary after a year, beginning his work at Mount Zion ARP in Troy, Mo., July 1, 1966. After seven years, he left to pastor churches in Louisville, Ga., for five years and in Covington, Ga., for 20 years, returning to Missouri in 2000. About the ministry, Cheatham said, "It's a great way to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, but it's very difficult. You have to be willing to submit yourself, [be] humble, don't get in it for glory, or [to] see how to get the biggest salary."

CLASS OF 1960 (SEMINARY 1963)

The Rev. David Miller Bonner and his wife Virginia Kate Edwards Bonner celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 28, 2017. They met at a funeral in 1966 and were married in 1967. He is a retired Presbyterian USA minister and his wife is a retired first grade teacher. They have two daughters and one grandchild.

CLASS OF 1952

Dr. Rob Roy McGregor reports that his translation of a second volume of John Calvin's Sermons on Job (Chapters 15-31) was published in June 2016 in ebook format by Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh, Scotland.

CLASS OF 1939

Dr. Robert W. Miller was featured in the July 2018 issue of the *VIPScene Magazine*, Kingsport, Tenn.

“The Alpha Kathryn Shuler Smith Scholarship showed me a first glimpse of some of the benefits of going to a small school and gave me that last push I needed to confirm that I was going to Erskine.”



Daria Watkins of Fort Mill, S.C., this year's Erskine graduate with the highest grade point average, was once “on the fence,” she says, between Erskine and another college. Worried that Erskine might “feel too small” for her, Daria hesitated.

“Then I got a call from someone in the admissions office saying that they would really love it if I chose Erskine and that they were able to offer me one more scholarship.” The assistance she received was from the Alpha Kathryn Shuler Smith Scholarship, named for an Erskine College graduate and established by Smith's late husband in her honor.

“Although it wasn't a huge sum, it still helped me with the cost and showed me how much Erskine staff members invest in students,” Daria says. “I really appreciated how they went the extra mile to help me out.”

Daria went on to major in chemistry, with minors in biology and healthcare management, and graduated *summa cum laude*. That “extra mile” treatment she received from Erskine staff members continued for her with Erskine professors.

“So, the Alpha Kathryn Shuler Smith Scholarship showed me a first glimpse of some of the benefits of going to a small school and gave me that last push I needed to confirm that I was going to Erskine.”

Daria's story of gratitude doesn't end there. Alpha Smith, who lives in a retirement center in Due West, actually asked to meet with Daria, and a friendship was formed. “I would come visit for lunch and expect it to last

about an hour, but we would just keep on talking for three hours at a time,” Daria says. “She loved sharing about her life and her family and was always eager to learn about mine as well.”

In the course of their conversations, Daria gained some historical perspective on the school where she has had so much academic success. The 1948 graduate told her about “what it was like at Erskine decades ago and what the town of Due West used to be and look like, and that was always fascinating to hear about.”

Although unable to attend Daria's graduation, Alpha Smith wanted to meet her mother, and Daria was honored to comply with that request. The two still correspond. “I share my life updates with her,” Daria says.

Some of Daria's recent life updates include taking a year off after commencement to work as a pharmacy technician, applying to pharmacy school, and becoming engaged. She expects to start pharmacy school in the fall of 2019.

Thanks to the final push of an endowed scholarship, Erskine gained a standout student, and that student got a great Christian liberal arts college education. This story is repeated in the lives of many Erskine students—thanks to the generosity of Erskine alumni and friends.



IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Joseph M. Gettys '30, July 1, 2016.

Eva Brock Maloney '33, Sept. 27, 2016.

Joseph Wesley Starnes, Jr. '39, June 7, 2016.

The Rev. William Nale Falls '39, Nov. 27, 2016.

Jean Wood Todd '40, Aug. 30, 2016.

John Hamilton Miller '41, Feb. 6, 2018.

Winnie Morrison Phillips '41, April 22, 2018.

John Miller Grier '42, June 6, 2017.

John Morton Hunter '42, May 26, 2016.

Hazel Hemphill Long '42, Jan. 30, 2017.

Maxine Jackson Nesbitt '42, August 14, 2018.

Edwin Brown Parkinson '42, Dec. 30, 2017.

Paul Archibald Stroup, Jr. '42, Sept. 29, 2017.

Eloise Young Aultman '43 Oct. 27, 2016.

Margaret Dusenberry Beard '43, May 2, 2016.

Jean Edwards Jackson '43, Feb. 15, 2016.

Helen Henry Patrick Matthews '43, Jan. 5, 2017.

Mae Todd Moore '43, Jan. 27, 2016.

Mary Carmichael Faulkner '44, March 7, 2016.

Jean Todd Carlisle '45, June 1, 2018.

Margaret Louise Dale '45, May 15, 2016.

Anne Barron McArthur '45, Feb. 13, 2018.

Lucille McCleskey Parrish '45, Jan. 12, 2017.

Nancy Thomson McGill '46, Sept. 5, 2016.

Elizabeth Sloan Clarke '47, Dec. 31, 2017.

Ernest Council Williams '47, Jan. 3, 2018.

Charles L. Mitchell '48, Dec. 7, 2016.

Martha Bradley Moody '47, Feb. 9, 2017.

Benjamin DeLaney Wyse '47, Feb. 6, 2015

Elsie Baldwin Bentz '49, Feb. 11, 2018.

Sarah Ruth Grant Harris '49, Aug. 9, 2016.

Sarah Davison Howe '49, Feb. 23, 2018.

The Rev. George S. Lauderdale '49, March 6, 2017.

Earl Clifford Rice '49, March 2, 2017.

Virginia Neville White '49, Jan. 18, 2018.

David Strong Craig '50, April 17, 2018.

Sidney Moore Frank '50, April 25, 2018.

Buster Ruff Huggins '50, June 6, 2016.

James Warren Niell '50, July 23, 2016.

Vernon Glenn Seawright '50, March 1, 2016.

Sybil Mackorell Starnes '50, March 21, 2018.

James Elbert Adams, Sr. '51, May 22, 2016.

Wilbur W. Ashley '51, July 27, 2017.

Lois Alexander Bell '51, Aug. 1, 2016.

Louise Tribble Cerny '51, March 28, 2018.

Mary Conway Dickinson Kennedy '51, March 13, 2018.

Francis Anthony Salerno '51, June 17, 2016.

Selden Kennedy Smith '51, Feb. 12, 2018.

June Amanda Huffman Trotter '51, Jan. 15, 2018.

Mary Sue Finley Wise '51, June 24, 2016.

Alonso Donald Faulkner '52, August 25, 2017.

Norman Fuller McGill, Jr. '52, April 14, 2018.

William Frederick Austin '53, Sept. 8, 2016.

T. Dewey Goin, Jr. '53, Sept. 23, 2016.

Katherine Patricia Pearman McDonald '53, April 30, 2016.

James Henry Sprouse, Jr., M.D. '53, April 15, 2016.

Nancy Burnette Beard '54, April 2, 2018.

Lucian Ellis Leslie '54, Nov. 20, 2017.

Mary Tucker McPhail '54, Jan. 8, 2015.

Paul D. Nickel '54, Nov. 28, 2015.

Robert Calvin Brown '55, Oct. 24, 2016.

Nancy Purkerson Ferguson '55, March 3, 2016.

Lydia Ardrey Smoak '55, Aug. 21, 2016.

Harold E. Martin '56, June 10, 2015.

Joseph Julian Spears, Jr. '56, Dec. 28, 2016.

Jerry P. Alexander '57, Feb. 18, 2017.

Carolyn Griffith Allen '57, Sept. 2, 2016.

Hannah Ellis Flowe '57, August 29, 2016.

Vivian Jarvis Macaulay '57, May 26, 2016.

Franklin Carroll Taylor, Jr. '57, Nov. 10, 2017.

Toby McCutcheon Faith '58, June 12, 2016.

H. Dennis Watt '58, April 4, 2017.

Phyllis Greene DuBose '59, July 13, 2016.

Edward Hammond Keel, Jr. '59, August 14, 2018.

Bobby R. Smith '59, Feb. 25, 2016.

Patricia H. Thompson '59, Jan. 29, 2015.

Leave a Legacy

BEQUESTS • CHARITABLE LEAD TRUSTS • CHARITABLE REMAINDER ANNUITY TRUSTS • CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUSTS • ENDOWMENTS • LIFE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ASSETS • AND MORE

The **Legacy Circle** recognizes alumni and friends who have made a commitment to Erskine through a planned gift.

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Learn more about the **Legacy Circle** and Planned Giving at erskine.edu/legacycircle or call us at 864-379-8772.

IN MEMORIAM

Patricia H. Thompson '59, Jan. 29, 2015.

Doyt Gardner Brown '60, Jan. 20, 2018.

Robert Franklin Lane, Jr. '60, Feb. 10, 2018.

Philip Lynn Loftin '60, April 12, 2016.

John Robert Neill '60, Feb. 1, 2018.

John Densmore Smith '60, Feb. 7, 2018.

John Malcolm Welborn '60, Jan. 25, 2018.

James Boyce Caldwell, Jr. '61, Dec. 24, 2017.

Nancy Sutton Jeter Cash '61, June 4, 2016.

Annetta McConnell Ohlendorf '61, Feb. 18, 2018.

James Pressley Sherer '61, Feb. 1, 2018.

Mildred Jane Gaither Yelton '61, June 14, 2018.

Margie Flynn Richburg '62, Jan. 14, 2018.

Amelia Findley Meadors '63, Feb. 10, 2017.

Herbert A. Moskow '63, Dec. 19, 2016.

Thurman Hovey Porter, Jr. '63, March 11, 2018.

Judith Ann White Bear '64, April 28, 2018.

Jean M. Harkey '64, June 6, 2016.

Donnald Leslie '64, May 11, 2016.

Terry Wayne Tyler '64, Jan. 10, 2015.

Patricia Ann Collins Bolt '65, Jan. 16, 2017.

Stanley Bruce Creel '65, Feb. 4, 2017.

Victor M. Edwards, Jr. '65, March 27, 2016.

William E. Pooser '65, August 24, 2018.

Larry Randolph Edwards '66, Feb. 26, 2017.

James Dixon Lesslie III '66, June 17, 2016.

Carolyn Meeks Taylor '66, Nov. 14, 2016.

Roger David Burnett '67, Jan. 2, 2017.

Carolyn Bailey Evans '67, Feb. 6, 2017.

Maxey Harris Voyles '67, May 10, 2018.

Stephen Douglas Chandler '68, May 1, 2018.

Catherine Lee Clarke Cloninger '68, Jan. 6, 2018.

Edward Arnette Comer, Jr. '68, Feb. 28, 2018.

George Arthur Marcos '68, July 2, 2018.

William Douglas McGuirt '68, May 8, 2016.

Cynthia Smith Phinney '68, May 21, 2018.

Thomas Francis Simmonite, Jr. '68, Feb. 1, 2017.

William Frank Cotty '69, July 23, 2016.

James D. Glisson '69, June 29, 2016.

Lewis Bynum Long '69, August 10, 2016.

William Preston Adams '71, Oct. 25, 2017.

Fred S. Boyd III '71, April 20, 2016.

William Ellis Evans, Jr. '71, April 10, 2018.

Sara Josephine "Sej" Harman '71, May 29, 2017.

Hazel Bradley Welch '71, May 20, 2018.

Richard Lamar Bagnal '72, April 23, 2018.

James Bryant Harrill '73, Dec. 2, 2016.

Thomas Fuller Motes '74, Jan. 16, 2018.

Frances Toole Redmond '74, June 27, 2018.

Winnie Wilson Goree '75, April 22, 2016.

David Allen Robinson '75, April 14, 2017.

Virginia Goude-lock Cumbee '76, April 25, 2017.

Oliver Stephen Brisben '77, June 14, 2016.

Michael Dean Aiken '78, June 27, 2018.

William Quinn Seawright '80, July 30, 2018.

George Benjamin Frothingham II '81, July 3, 2016.

Donna Jean Slyce '82, June 14, 2016.

William Douglas Hall '83 (Sem.), April 3, 2016.

Caroline Mabry King '84, Sept. 27, 2016.

William Edwin Kirkpatrick '86 (Sem.), March 18, 2016.

Troy Lynn Pritt '90 (Sem.), July 8, 2018.

Rebecca Cooley Peden '97, April 8, 2017.

The Rev. Charles Benson '97 (Sem.), March 5, 2016.

Grayson Hunter Glur '11, Feb. 27, 2018.

Ray Mitchell Hunt '12, Dec. 10, 2015.

FRIENDS

Dr. Kimberly A.O. Pacheco (former faculty member) died May 25, 2016.

17.18

ANNUAL REPORT

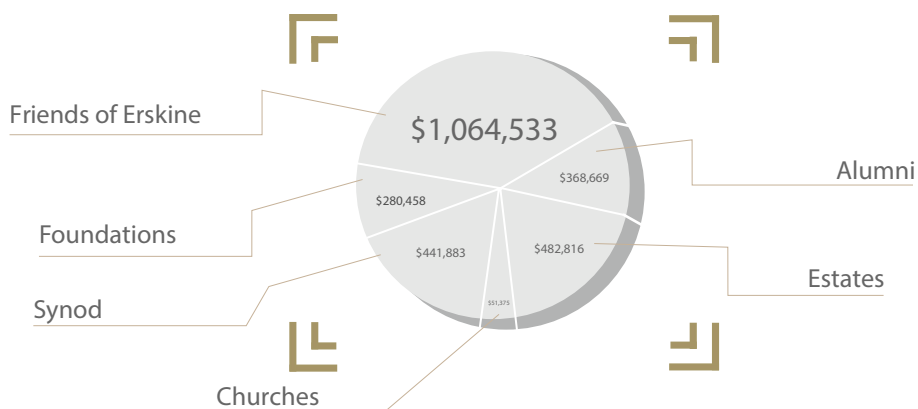
Givers

fiscal year 2017.18



Giving

fiscal year 2017.18



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