

Great Lakes Christian College

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Volume 63 No. 1 Fall 2016

Discover GLCC... Our People





Great Lakes Christian College has always been blessed with a wonderful faculty. As I talk with alumni about their college days they invariably share the experiences they had with our professors. The relationships they had with Keith Keeran, Jim Girdwood, Bob Hargrave, Myron Williams, Doc Doty, Walt Zorn, Ron Fisher, Shockley Flick, Paul Kissling, Jim Estep, Mark Christian, Greg Linton,

Alvin Kuest, and others, were seminal in helping them to shape their spiritual and ministerial lives.

The importance of relationships continues to be the hallmark of one's experience here. Each year I engage our graduating seniors in exit interviews where I ask them a variety of questions regarding their time here at GLCC. The first question I asked is, "What has been your most positive experience at GLCC?" About 90% of the students reply, "It's being able to develop a personal relationship with the professors." And then they go on to talk about how their favorite professor touched their lives in meaningful ways.

When I think of our professors I think of Lloyd Knowles and his commitment to his students. Yes, his focus is on teaching history as HIS story, but his passion is the students. I think about George Brown and the many times he has opened his house to the students. I think about his provocative teaching style – no, not provocative in being controversial, but in provoking his students to think and to process. I think of Dan Cameron and his servant's heart. His classes are geared to help each student understand what they believe in and why. I think of Esther Hetrick and her commitment to excellence. The

students who have been blessed by her teaching understand that they glorify God in worship when they are prepared to do their best. I think of John Nugent and his ability to combine Scripture with new and creative ways to do church. I think of his ministry with our alumni and the local church. His theology isn't "ivory tower" but lived out in the real world of flesh and blood people. I think of Ron Peters and his love of the Bible and the original languages in which it was written. He wants to "rightly divide" God's Word and encourage his students to do the same. I think of Mike Harrison who brings so much real world experience to our classrooms. His instruction in leadership and communication is not based solely on textbooks or what he has learned in the classroom, but what he has learned in actual ministry. I think of Matt Allison and how ably he communicates with students in the classroom. But even more than that, it is the many hours he spends with the students outside the classroom that shows the intent of his heart. And by living on campus he has been able to exemplify what it means to be a loving husband and father. I think of Ryan Apple and his ability to use his giftedness to bring others closer to God. And this past year he has been an incredible example of what it means to live through pain and loss and turn it into a reason to praise God.

We are blessed to have such a talented and dedicated faculty serve as teachers and mentors to our students. Yes, all of us who work here at GLCC play an integral part in making this College the special place that it is. But, at the heart of it all is our professors. This issue of the KEY will introduce you to these wonderful professors and the desires of their hearts. I urge you to Discover GLCC and her people.

– Larry Carter
President

State of the College Announcement

Great Lakes Christian College announces a partnership with The Solomon Foundation that will blaze a new trail of hope for our ministry and college. The GLCC Board of Trustees made the decision on October 28, 2016 to accept the gift/leaseback proposal from The Solomon Foundation which results in the College gifting our property to The Solomon Foundation and, in return, they pay off our mortgage obligations and provide a generous grant that will be used for operations. The assets that we gift and the future lease payments we make are used to fund loans provided to churches for expansion and growth by The Solomon Foundation. It is The Solomon Foundation's purpose to serve churches by lending money so they can build and expand their ministries.

God continues to answer prayer and to provide and release His resources to ensure we have a College in Michigan that will grow in its effectiveness of training students for Christian leadership in the church and in the world. We believe this to be one huge positive step forward in what we will accomplish for the cause of Christ in Christian higher education.

We will continue to anticipate your faithful support and your students attending GLCC. The Solomon Foundation is a major blessing and provides relief financially but we must work hard to see more students attend Great Lakes so we can fulfill our mission of training servant leaders for the church and world. Rejoice with us in this decision and work with us to fulfill our noble task. – Larry Carter

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

COMMITTED & VALUED PROFESSORS

**Dr. Matt Allison – Professor of Psychology/Counseling****Serving since 2011**

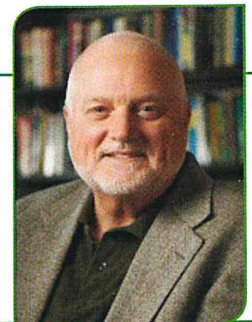
It is such a blessing for me to be teaching at Great Lakes. I teach and oversee the Psychology/Counseling and Family Life Education majors. I believe that counseling is at the very heart of ministry. To come alongside another, to comfort in a time of grief, to listen in a time of tragedy, to be a support and guide through the trials of life, I believe that this is what it means to really love another as we are loved by Christ. Counseling creates a relationship in which true ministry can happen. I am particularly passionate about caring for the mental and emotional needs of ministers and their families and providing counseling services to this often overlooked population.

**Prof. Ryan Apple – Professor of Music and Registrar****Serving since 2006**

There's no job I'd rather have than teaching music at GLCC. For the past 10 years, I have had the privilege of training scores (no pun intended!) of young men and women in music theory, music history, and guitar. Besides teaching in subjects I am passionate about, I am extremely grateful for the learning environment at Great Lakes. Here, students are fellow disciples along with professors, as we all seek to develop our unique gifts in order to build up the body of Christ. Music is a special gift from God—the most abstract of all the arts, yet able to elicit powerful and palpable human response.

**Prof. George Brown – Professor of English****Serving since 1978**

At Great Lakes I teach courses in Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Western Literature, English Literature, American Literature, Shakespeare, and Contemporary Literature. These courses are not merely academic. It is my conviction that there is no such thing as Art for Art's sake. Rather, the literature of man demonstrates the needs, the aspirations, and the questions for which Christ only is the Answer. We study literature so that we might better understand mankind so that we might better communicate God's Grace. In addition to teaching, it has been my pleasure to preach the Gospel in interim roles in the tri-state area for the last twenty-six years.

**Dr. Dan Cameron – Professor of Theology and Ministry****Serving 1988-90 and 1999 on**

I see myself filling two roles here at GLCC as Professor of Theology and Ministry. A significant part of my mission here at GLCC is to model biblical fidelity to Scripture. Students need to see what a Bible-believing handling of Scripture looks like. In addition, I want to model for the students what ministry looks like and what ministerial commitments and attitudes should be. I love both theology and ministry and am pleased to have the high calling of being able to do both in my role here.

GLCC's faculty are not only prepared academically but also have years of ministry experience and are all involved in being servant-leaders in the church and world. Every week they serve as part-time ministers, interim ministers, elders, worship leaders, and teachers in churches. They care about our students and desire to see each grow in their faith in their ministry calling.



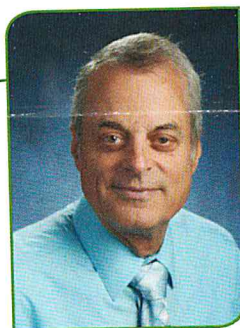
Prof. Mike Harrison – Professor of Interpersonal and Organizational Communication
Serving since 2010

I am privileged to teach courses in leadership and communication. We offer the most up to date studies from the field and connect with biblical truth. After serving four churches, two of which were church plants, I am blessed to return to my alma mater to teach. It is a joy to interact with students in the classroom and on campus. My hope is to help them understand their God-given calling and purpose and give them skills and tools that will help them serve God in the church and the world.



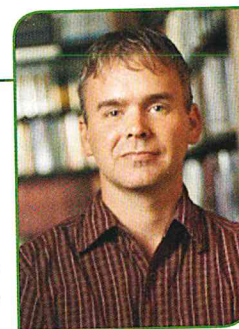
Dr. Esther Hetrick – Professor of Music
Serving since 1989

I love music, but my greater passion is utilizing music as a participatory, engaging action of worship in the local church. Music and worship styles change; I want students to know the purposes behind what happens in worship, so they can hold fast to the “whys” of worship and can navigate and develop the “hows” of their ministry within a specific context. I also love encouraging the next generation of worship leaders and the experiences, ideas and questions they bring. My involvement as a volunteer musician in the local church adds to the conversation with students about life, music and worship in the church.



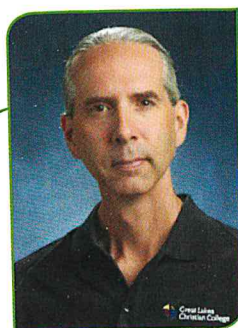
Dr. Lloyd Knowles – Professor of History
Serving since 1970

When I graduated from Milligan College 48 years ago as a certified secondary school teacher, I spent months pondering the question, “Why am I teaching?” I came across this addendum to Milligan’s motto: “Christian Education – the Hope of the World, Character Building First of All.” It emphasized Alexander Campbell’s educational philosophy of educating, not just the mind, but the heart (morality) of each student. This is why I teach. My goal is to reveal the positive examples and negative warnings from the past, not just to cover the whos, whats, and where – but more significantly, the hows, whys, and the relevance of history to us as Christians.



Dr. John Nugent – Professor of Old Testament
Serving since 2004

I have two passions that are closely related: the centrality of Scripture and God’s mission for his Church. I have been blessed to share these passions with GLCC students and alumni for nearly 15 years. I am proud to be part of the Restoration Movement—a global family of churches that still believes that God’s people can and must center our lives upon Scripture’s vision. We do so faithfully when the Gospel serves as the rudder that guides all that we say and do. I look forward to sharing these passions with GLCC’s constituents for at least 15 more years.



Dr. Ron Peters – Professor of New Testament and VP of Academic Affairs
Serving since 2004

I chose to become a Bible professor because of my passion for scripture, both as a student and as a teacher of God’s Word. My desire is, first and foremost, to train men and women to be students of the Bible. Once they have learned the best practices for the study of scripture, they can then move on to teaching others. At GLCC, our goal is that our graduates will be, as Paul wrote, people approved by God, workers who have no need to be ashamed, who rightly explain the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15).

A Collaborative Agreement between Cornerstone University and Great Lakes Christian College

Great Lakes Christian College announces the collaborative agreement with Cornerstone University whereby students of GLCC will graduate from Great Lakes with a Bachelor of Science degree from Cornerstone University with a degree in the Teacher Education program. This agreement is the result of an effort to more fully serve the academic development of our students, utilize the expertise of the respective faculties, and expand the educational options for students enrolled at Great Lakes Christian College.

This agreement goes into effect immediately. Any student desiring to pursue this option can call 800-YES-GLCC.

Minister's Children Scholarship

Starting in the fall of 2017 there will be a new scholarship offered that children of ordained ministers may receive. This is a tuition-paid scholarship for a full-time student who lives on campus and whose parent is a full-time, ordained or church-approved minister. The minister needs to submit a letter of reference from the church certifying their full-time approved status. The scholarship will be awarded after free Federal Aid and State Aid has been applied. The Scholarship Committee will make the final determination for the rewarding of this scholarship. The scholarship is to begin in the fall of 2017. For more information on this scholarship and other scholarships contact our Admissions Department at 800-YES-GLCC or admissions@glcc.edu.

A new look to our Ministry Major

Full-time ministry in today's church means employing a variety of skills and information to effectively teach and lead. Ministry staff will teach lessons, design curriculum, manage conflict, evangelize, and mentor the members of their churches in a multitude of settings and roles. Because of the increasingly diverse nature of ministry, students in the Ministry Major will complete a unified core curriculum that touches on many of the key areas of ministry development. Students will then select a concentration to further develop their skills in the ministry area that best aligns with their interests and skills. Those ministry concentrations include: Children's Ministry, Christian Education, Church Planting, Cross-Cultural Ministry, Pastoral Ministry, and Youth Ministry.

All Ministry students will:

- Employ current research tools for discovery of truth as it applies to the contemporary church;
- Develop skills and various styles of teaching that are requisite for the discovery and transmission of truth;
- Effectively interpret and communicate the Word of God;
- Articulate a biblical philosophy of the servant-leader's role in God's mission to the world.

Ministry Concentrations

- Children's Ministry
- Christian Education
- Church Planting
- Cross-Culture Ministry
- Pastoral Ministry
- Youth Ministry

Adult Learning

Associate of Arts Programs

Adult learning programs are designed for anyone, twenty-five years of age or older, who desires training for professional or volunteer ministry. The programs offer Biblical and practical studies and assumes an academic or vocational background that contributes to effectiveness in ministry. The student may choose one of the following seven A.A. Programs: Christian Education, Counseling Ministry, Cross-Cultural Ministry, Family Life Education, Pastoral Ministry, Worship Ministry, or Youth Ministry.

Welcome Devin Bagley

The GLCC Athletics Department was excited to welcome Devin Bagley to Great Lakes Christian College in the Fall of 2016. He graduated in 2015 from Central A&M High School in Assumption, Illinois. Devin has enjoyed sports for many years as he participated in track, cross country, basketball, soccer, and even tee-ball at a young age. He decided to attend GLCC after hearing about the 65th Anniversary Scholarship and has truly taken advantage of the campus community since enrolling in August. A large part of that community for him has been his teammates both in soccer and basketball. Devin says, "Athletics are important because it gets students to work together toward a common goal." He sees this as important for kingdom work within the church. Devin is studying Interpersonal and Organizational Communication and anticipates graduating from GLCC.



EVENTS

Great Lakes Christian College Presents
CHRISTMAS ON CAMPUS

A Cup of Good Cheer

Friday & Saturday
December 9-10 at 7:00 p.m.

Ticket Price: \$10
You may go online at iTickets.com and search for Christmas on Campus to purchase your tickets, or call 800-965-9324 to reserve tickets.
Ticket sales will be handled through iTickets.com.

Great Lakes Christian College

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PROMISE

MUSIC CAMP JUNE 18-30, 2017

Great Lakes Christian College

"It's the highlight of my year every year. For me it's about all of us growing together, sharing our experiences, digging deeper, and spreading the message of God's love to everyone we meet!"

- Jaelynn Vert (2015-2016)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Restoration Appreciation Week Online

To watch the Tuesday and Friday presentations of the Restoration Appreciation Week that took place November 1 & 4 by Dr. Lloyd Knowles and Dr. John Nugent, search youtube.com for GLCC Restoration Appreciation Week.

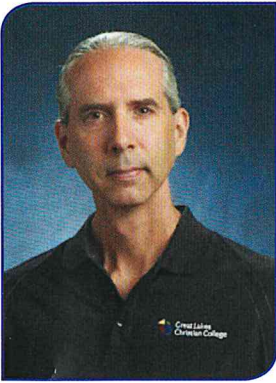
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Java Jam - March 10, 2017

Open House - April 12, 2017

Women's Spring Celebration - April 28, 2017

Commencement - May 20, 2017



A Case for the Small College

Dr. Ron Peters – Professor of New Testament and VP of Academic Affairs
B.R.E., Great Lakes Christian College
M.A., Cincinnati Bible Seminary
Ph.D., McMaster Divinity College

Across the board, times are tough in the world of higher education. As a regular reader of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, I routinely see articles about the struggles that all colleges, irrespective of size, face

these days. To some observers, it may seem that small colleges face the greater challenge. However, I think the observations of one author in this regard are quite accurate:

In reality, the pressures on small colleges are broadly identical to those on large colleges. However, the tolerance for institutional error and institutional crisis is exponentially miniscule at the small, tuition-driven, the experimental, the curricularly focused, and the relatively new.¹

While we at GLCC face the same pressures as larger institutions by virtue of our small scale, we are more acutely aware of the pressures and feel their effects more intensely. Some may conclude that this puts us at a disadvantage. However, I would argue the opposite. Our sensitivity to pressure actually makes us stronger in several key areas, which I will outline below.

First, the larger an institution becomes, the more inclined it becomes toward waste and inefficiency. Many Americans are aware that the larger a city, a business, a college, even (or perhaps especially) the government grows, the more inefficient it becomes. I once read an article by the poet Wendell Berry in which he observed that larger farms were characterized by greater waste, while smaller farms wasted less.² As a small college, we are acutely aware of how our resources, especially finances, are allocated. This means that we are highly motivated to run lean. A leaner budget is a healthier budget. As a small college we are far more vigilant in this regard, and so we are far more likely to direct our resources into the most fruitful areas.

Second, and in conjunction with the previous observation, is our ability to respond to challenges, to shifts, and make the necessary changes. Our greater sensitivity to not only crisis, but changes of all sort, means that we are often aware of them before larger institutions. Since being small requires greater vigilance, we are quicker to identify both external and internal changes. Whereas a larger institution may take years to identify programs that have lost their utility or ceased to bear fruit, for us

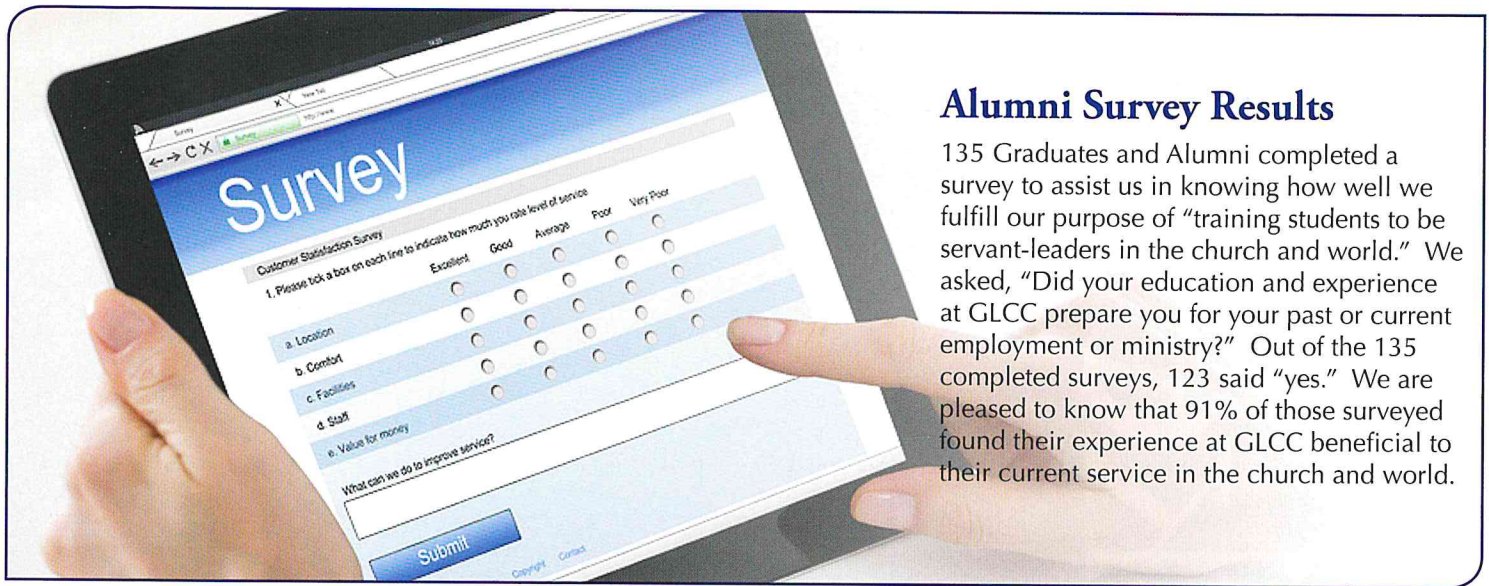
it more immediately obvious. Being small gives us the ability to change direction more quickly and easily in response to these realities. Such changes will be realized in a variety of ways. While there are sometimes cuts, other times it's a modification or change in direction, or even an addition. It is the healthy, lean organization that has the greater capacity to adapt, and even thrive.

This brings me to the third benefit. Our greater sensitivity results in better service. In terms of academics and student services, our vigilance produces higher quality. Because there is less waste and a focus on directing our resources into those channels that bear the most fruit, we produce a better product. Once upon a time, America was a mass-production society. Success was a matter of producing more for less. Now, there is a focus on quality over quantity. More and more Americans are looking toward the small, the independent, because they have found that even though they pay a little more, the quality is worth the investment.

As a health and fitness enthusiast, I have learned a lot about what it takes to achieve my goals (and am still learning, my journey is far from complete). When I am healthy, lean, and strong (I'm still working to get there), my physiological resources become an asset for success rather than a liability that undermines success. Likewise, I believe that, institutionally, we are far better situated for success when we are characterized by such qualities. Just as a body that is healthy, lean and strong has greater potential to produce high quality results, so too an institution that is characterized by those traits has the greater potential for success. Of course, whether it's a body or an institution, health does not guarantee success or quality results. It is a means to an end, not an end itself. We must harness that potential and put it to work. We must understand God's purposes and goals for his kingdom and how they speak to the needs and challenges of the present time so that we invest our strength into fulfilling his purposes. By doing so, we will produce results that benefit our students, our churches, and God's kingdom as a whole.

Endnotes

1. Will Wootton, "The Real Reason Small Colleges Fail," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 62.39 (June 24, 2016), A48.
2. Unfortunately, I don't have a copy of the book; I was reading a borrowed copy. I cannot, therefore, provide a reference. My apologies.



Alumni Survey Results

135 Graduates and Alumni completed a survey to assist us in knowing how well we fulfill our purpose of “training students to be servant-leaders in the church and world.” We asked, “Did your education and experience at GLCC prepare you for your past or current employment or ministry?” Out of the 135 completed surveys, 123 said “yes.” We are pleased to know that 91% of those surveyed found their experience at GLCC beneficial to their current service in the church and world.

Join the Alumni Association Today

The Alumni Association has established four strategic areas of alumni development:

- To recruit future students to attend GLCC
- To develop future alumni through student activities
- To connect current alumni
- To encourage giving back to GLCC

Send your alumni news to alumni@glcc.edu

Did You Know?

Did you know that of the 110 churches in Michigan 70 (65%) of those churches have at least one alumni employed on staff? That's a total of 84 graduates in those churches. GLCC was established in 1949 to provide leadership for Michigan churches. It has now expanded into Indiana, Ohio, and across the country.

Do you order from Amazon? Be sure to order through [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and designate GLCC as your charity of choice.

Restoration Appreciation Week

GLCC hosted the Restoration Appreciation Week on November 1 and 4 with Dr. Lloyd Knowles and Dr. John Nugent speaking. Dr. Knowles shared about “What’s So Great about the Restoration Movement.” And Dr. Nugent spoke on the topic, “Why We Need a New Wave of Restorationism.” Here are excerpts from that presentation:

“If the Restoration Movement wants to get moving again and retain its momentum, it needs a clear sense of identity.”

“We have the Bible, like everyone else; but only we have the Bible and nothing else. For this very reason, we lean heavily on the Bible. It is the source and the center of our existence.” “If we are to remain viable as a restoration movement, we need a strong sense of identity to ground us and a strong sense of local connectedness to stabilize us.” “If we don’t center ourselves on the Scriptures and fortify ourselves with voluntary networks of kingdom partners, we will indeed cease to be a restoration movement. Without a sense of connectedness to other churches through fellowship and structures of unity, we become self-contained institutions.”

“If we truly want the Restoration Movement to be great, we need to stop comparing what God has given us to what God has given others. We need to start receiving what God has given us as a precious gift that we are privileged to love and to cherish. I suspect that if enough Restoration folk start making God’s Word our center and begin truly loving and prioritizing brothers and sisters, churches and institutions who are committed to doing the same – then the almighty God of boundless resources just might have a reason to make the Restoration Movement great again.”

[Excerpts from Dr. John Nugent, Restoration Appreciation Week presentation, November 4, 2016]

Visit our website for the full text of this presentation and for the video presentations of Dr. Lloyd Knowles (November 1) and Dr. John Nugent (November 4.)

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Great Lakes Christian College, an institution of higher education affiliated with Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, seeks to glorify God by preparing students to be servant-leaders in the church and world.

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Our Mailing address is

Great Lakes Bible College AKA
Great Lakes Christian College
6211 West Willow Highway

Lansing, MI 48917

Phone 517.321.0242

Fax 517.321.5902

key@glcc.edu

www.glcc.edu

KEY Staff:

Phil Beavers and Sarah Hall

Great Lakes Christian College
6211 W. Willow Highway
Lansing, MI 48917-1231

Great Lakes
Christian College

