

THE MAGAZINE OF

gordon COLLEGE

Where Possibility Meets Purpose:

CEL Takes Entrepreneurship & Innovation Beyond the Classroom

PAGE 9

Summertime

An Excerpt From *Blind Sight: When Freedom Was Not Enough*

PAGE 14

The Treasures of Gordon's Vining Collection

PAGE 16



Up Front

with President Hammond

This fall marks the 31st year in Christian higher education for Jennifer and me. When we were first married, we were convinced that the formational work of God through Christian education could shape a college student for the rest of their lives, and we wanted to be a part of that good work.

Throughout these three decades, one text I have consistently shared with student leaders is a slim volume titled *In the Name of Jesus* by Henri Nouwen. Nearly every student leader I have worked with has read it, and I recently had the opportunity to walk through the book with a new cohort of Gordon College student leaders. While it can easily be read in a single sitting, its core principles continue to shape my own understanding of leadership.

Writing in the 1980s, Nouwen presented a prophetic view of “leadership in the future.” He deliberately argues against the leadership temptations to be relevant, spectacular, and powerful. Instead, pointing to the life of Jesus, Nouwen argued that true effectiveness requires something radically different:

“I am deeply convinced that the Christian leader of the future is called to be completely irrelevant and to stand in this world with nothing to offer but his or her own vulnerable self. That is the way Jesus came to reveal God’s love.”

This emphasis on vulnerability runs counter to mainstream leadership paradigms. As we step into leadership roles, we naturally promote our own popularity or brilliance, which can become defenses designed to guard our true selves. Yet Nouwen saw in Jesus a leadership example that brought vulnerability and sacrifice to the forefront.

Nouwen’s biblical framework finds a striking parallel in the secular business world. In his landmark study *Good to Great*, Jim Collins outlines what he terms “Level 5 Leadership,” the highest level of executive success. Collins discovered that the most effective leaders possess a paradoxical blend of two traits: “extreme personal humility with intense professional will.”

You can test this theory: the strong-willed leader who is driven by personal ambition quickly reveals arrogance. While a leader operating only with humility risks becoming passive or overly hesitant. But putting these together creates a balanced tension leading to extraordinary effectiveness.

The Level 5 leader succeeds precisely through that unique combination of strength and meekness. These leaders demonstrate an extraordinary ability to effectively lead complex organizations and bring them to remarkable levels of success. In many ways, Collins’s empirical findings draw us straight back to the servant model of Jesus that Nouwen promoted: true strength birthed in vulnerability.

This vision of self-giving leadership is the foundation Gordon College has sought to cultivate throughout our 138-year history. *Preparing the people of God for the work of God* has always required laying down our own agendas, selfishness, and arrogance so that the way of Christ might be elevated. As our mission statement reads:

“Gordon College strives to graduate men and women distinguished by intellectual maturity and Christian character, committed to lives of service, and prepared for leadership worldwide.”

Every student leader has an opportunity to be mentored and grow closer to that model of Jesus. And they put these lessons into practice on our campus, in our community, and around New England and the world, building habits and a mindset that shapes their ongoing life of service.

If Henri Nouwen were alive today, I often wonder what he would think of the callous nature of contemporary public leadership. Our world needs leaders who embrace vulnerability, service, and sacrifice. Leadership in the name of Jesus remains urgently needed in a world that interprets power as effectiveness and views compassion as failure.

Grace and Peace,



✉ president@gordon.edu

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Table of Contents



6

News: On The Grapevine

14

Summertime

An excerpt from *Blind Sight: When Freedom Was Not Enough* by Ivy George

16

The Treasures of Gordon's Vining Collection

By Damon Di Mauro

18

Jerusalem and Athens Forum | 2026 Essay Contest

20

Class Notes

A Gordon STILLPOINT

In February of 1980, I flew to Boston for the first time. My older sister was in her second year at Gordon, and I was not certain of where I wanted to go in the fall. It was cold and brisk when I first saw Coy Pond. Of course, the best view was from the dining hall at Lane where I sat with my sister and her friends looking at a large, flat block of ice surrounded by trees, trails, and the College.

After hiking around the pond, even skating on it, and conversations with my new friends, I realized that if I liked Gordon in February, I would be even happier when Coy Pond was not frozen. I flew to Boston again that fall.

I arrived with most of my worldly possessions in a footlocker and a duffel bag—including a recently acquired pair of hiking boots that would carry me around Coy Pond and many other places before they wore out.

For the next four years, Coy Pond was my escape. I would hike when I was happy, prayerful, sad, bored, lonely, or mad. The foliage colored the seasons. The tracks on the trails switched from shoes to skis each winter as the lilies disappeared. Spring rains then flooded the trails.

Coy is where I contemplated the endless stimulation of Gordon: classes, professors, dorm guys, sports, chapel talks, and chatter about that other half of the human race that I only came to understand after decades of marriage and having a daughter. My roommate and I would have late-night talks there about God, life, death, and eternity. Coy Pond was a fountain of graces for me: seeing, hearing, smelling, and walking around it worked out the agonies and ecstasies of growing up.

Gordon provided a community, even an “ecosystem,” in which I could wrestle with life’s hard facts. And Coy Pond, perpetually peaceful, yet located next to a place where human conflicts, failings, and graces were discussed in divine light, was my still point: “Except for the point, the still point, There would be no dance, and there is only the dance.”—T.S. Eliot

No one has ever accused me of being a great dancer, but I learned to dance at Gordon, sometimes mournfully and other times joyfully, while circling Coy Pond.

James B. Griffin, '84 is an attorney and teacher in Cullman, Alabama.



Submissions for A Gordon Stillpoint can be shared for future inclusion and consideration at gordon.edu/Magazine.

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Mission

The Magazine of Gordon College offers timely perspectives and impactful stories to engage, inspire, and keep you connected to the Gordon community.

Letters to the Editor

Feedback and story suggestions can be emailed to magazine@gordon.edu or mailed to: Editor, *The Magazine of Gordon College*, 255 Grapevine Road, Wenham, MA 01984

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News: On The Grapevine

CAMPUS NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

This year's commencement speaker was Rev. Dr. Nicole Martin, president and CEO of Christianity Today. Here is a portion of her inspiring address entitled "Faith That Won't Flinch."

Today, you stand at the end of something many people only dreamed about beginning. There were papers you thought you would never finish, exams you thought you would never pass, prayers you thought would never be answered, and moments when you questioned whether you belonged here at all.

But by the grace of God, through long nights, difficult seasons, supportive friendships, faithful professors, and perseverance you didn't even know you possessed—you made it!

You arrived here with faith. Faith in God. Faith in the calling placed on your life. Faith in yourself when doubt tried to convince you otherwise. And faith in one another to keep going.

And as significant as this moment is, graduation is not the destination. It is a doorway.

Beyond this stage is a world filled with opportunities previous generations never imagined, challenges no classroom could fully prepare you for, and moments that will demand courage beyond your current capacity. You are stepping into a frontier where technology changes daily, truth is constantly contested, suffering is unavoidable, and faith can easily become fragile.

But God brought you to this moment with faith, and today, God invites you into a new season of faith to tackle new opportunities you have never seen or experienced before.

The faith that brought you to graduation cannot be the same faith that carries you after graduation. While the faith that brought you to this point was critical, it will need to be refined, strengthened, and emboldened to take you from where you are now to where God is calling you to be.

You will need a faith that won't flinch.



Watch the entire address and full commencement ceremony at gordon.edu/Commencement



Students Travel to France Over the Summer

Our Global Honors scholars traveled to France, alongside **President Hammond**, exploring historic sites and reflecting on the country's history, culture, and Christian witness. From Paris to Normandy to Mont Saint-Michel and Saint-Lô, students considered the connection of beauty and justice by meeting with local leaders, worshipping with global Christians, and learning from humanitarian organizations.



Learn more about Gordon's Global Honors program.

New Classroom Spaces

A new **Fabrication Suite** has doubled the size of the College's previous machine shop and tripled our total engineering footprint for students in physics, engineering, and the applied sciences. Similarly, a new finance lab will serve students in the Gordon School of Business. Our own version of a stock exchange trading floor, the lab will allow students to study financial investments, work through management case studies in real time, and use the same technology found at major investment firms.



2026 Upcoming Events

October 2-3

Homecoming and Family Weekend

October 9

Archives Open House

October 13

Graduate Programs Fall Fest

October 23

Community Engagement's Harvest Festival

October 24

Saturday at Gordon with Admissions

October 29

Center for Faith and Inquiry (CFI)
Lecture by James K. A. Smith

October 30-November 8

Fall Play of *Not So Faust!*

October 31

Theatre Experience Day

November 7

Saturday at Gordon with Admissions

November 12

Center for Faith and Inquiry (CFI)
Lecture by Patricia Batten

November 14

Gordon Globes

November 18

Jazz Fall Concert

December 4-5

Christmas at Gordon
Christmas Gala
A Very Merry Open House
with Admissions



Explore Gordon's
full calendar of
events!

Adams Center for Music

In May, faculty, staff, students, trustees, and alumni gathered to celebrate a major milestone for the Adams Center for Music—its ceremonial groundbreaking. This transformative new facility will serve students, audiences, and the broader community.

“Today is more than the start of construction,” **President Hammond** said during the ceremony. “It represents vision, partnership, and progress.”



Scan to find out more about the special day.



Democracy Conference

Formulated to rethink the 250th anniversary of America, **Dr. Ruth Melkonian-Hoover** led the College’s hosting of “American Independence and Identity at 250: Examining Democracy in the United States and Globally.”

Over the course of the conference, participants engaged with a range of thought-provoking paper panels and sessions on covenantal pluralism, religious freedom and democracy, global democratic decline, virtues and practices that counter polarization, and the ideas that shape public life.



Read **Miriam Belli '28** and Dr. Melkonian-Hoover’s full conference reflections.



Best of North Shore—AGAIN!

La Vida was recognized with a Readers’ Choice Award in Northshore Magazine’s Best of the North Shore 2026. Since 1970, La Vida at Gordon College has been taking us outdoors—from day camps here in Wenham to teen and college trips in the Adirondacks.



Where Possibility Meets Purpose

CEL Takes Entrepreneurship & Innovation Beyond the Classroom

By Amber Joy Dempsey '13



Soaking in the sweeping view of the San Francisco Bay from the Marin Headlands, Miriam Belli '28 turned to Dr. Sheryl Sleeva and said, "Here, I just feel like everything is possible."

This was an especially fitting observation at the outset of the 2026 Spring Innovation Immersion trip to Silicon Valley through Gordon College's Falcone Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (CEL). Before visiting leading technology companies and meeting entrepreneurs and innovators, students began by experiencing the region itself—considering how its distinctive landscape, culture, and history helped make the Bay Area a place where generations of people have imagined what might come next.

The experience brought together students from a range of disciplines—including business, political science, communication arts, and music—and dropped them into the heart of innovation and technology, giving each an opportunity to see how new ideas can extend into any vocation.

And for Sleeva, that's exactly the kind of transformation CEL is designed to create.



Dr. Sheryl Sleeva is a professor in the practice of entrepreneurship and innovation and director of the Falcone Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

Throughout the trip, Gordon students visited the headquarters of leading technology business like Adobe and Google, as well as early stage AI and robotics ventures.

In the weeks following that prayer, she heard about the opening at Gordon.
“I knew I couldn’t ignore it . . . This is my third career, but my best.”



Bringing Entrepreneurship to Gordon

In 2024, Dr. Sheryl Sleeva joined Gordon College’s School of Business as a professor in the practice of entrepreneurship and innovation and soon proved instrumental in launching the College’s entrepreneurship and innovation major. She was also appointed director of the Falcone Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

“Before Gordon, I spent almost three decades leading strategy, innovation, and new venture development at Fortune 500 companies,” shares Sleeva.

Sleeva began teaching undergraduates at Iona University and quickly fell in love with it. “I started to feel this huge tug of my heart, and I said to the Lord, ‘If this is something you want me to do full time, I’m willing to lay down some things.’”

In the weeks following that prayer, she heard about the opening at Gordon. “I knew I couldn’t ignore it . . . This is my third career, but my best.”

Sleeva’s passion for innovation, young entrepreneurs, and connecting people is evident in the work she has done at Gordon, from helping launch the major to expanding experiential opportunities beyond the classroom.

When designing the entrepreneurship and innovation major, she wanted to ensure the College supported five primary career paths: starting or owning a small business, creating or joining a for-profit venture with the potential to scale, driving corporate innovation, pursuing nonprofit and ministry work, and launching social ventures where the mission is the primary focus rather than profit. Understanding the varying paths students might pursue has also helped Sleeva shape CEL as a resource for the broader Gordon community.

An Accelerant for CEL

CEL began in 2013 with a focus on nonprofit and social enterprise. From the beginning, it was designed as a co-curricular initiative—learning that happens beyond the classroom. Today, although housed within the School of Business, CEL remains interdisciplinary and offers speaker series, pitch competitions, and internship connections that are relevant to students pursuing all majors at Gordon.

Since coming on board as director, Sleeva’s vision has been for CEL to be both an active contributor to and participant in the entrepreneurial ecosystem surrounding Gordon—from Beverly to Salem to Boston.

“CEL is designed to support the micro entrepreneurial ecosystem here on campus, as well as engage Gordon College with the larger, macro ecosystems that we sit in.”

In practice, this means connecting Gordon students with entrepreneurs, innovators, mentors, alumni, and organizations beyond campus while also inviting those relationships and experiences into the Gordon community.

Innovation in Practice

As part of CEL’s focus on vocational experiential learning, the Center regularly offers faculty-led, academically driven immersion trips. “Our students aren’t just studying entrepreneurship, innovation, leadership, and business through textbooks,” shares Sleeva. “They’re engaging directly with the people, the organizations, and the ecosystems shaping those fields.”

Before a trip, students are assigned key readings, asked to research the companies they’re visiting, and tasked with exploring the backgrounds of the people they’ll meet. Throughout the trip, students are given both daily and ongoing assignments that help make room to pause and digest what they’re experiencing.





Belli, a political science major with minors in business management and innovation and social enterprise, had initially wondered how entrepreneurship could fit into her own vocational interests. A conversation with Sleevea helped her see the possibilities.

“I met with Dr. Sleevea and told her what I was interested in. She helped me see how entrepreneurship and innovation is something you can take everywhere and anywhere. And once I met with her, I made the plan to start my two minors and take Intro to Entrepreneurship last fall. I immediately loved it. It felt like I was actually exercising skills I didn’t really know that I had.”

That interdisciplinary mindset was reinforced throughout the 2026 California immersion trip. Students saw how innovation can shape not only new businesses but also the environments where people work and the ways organizations solve problems.

At Adobe’s headquarters, Belli saw firsthand how something as seemingly simple as color could be used to influence the workplace. The company uses “color theory” to distinguish coworking spaces, quiet workspaces, and recreational areas, demonstrating how thoughtful design can shape the employee experience.

At Apple and Google, Stephen Hincken '27, a double major in business management and entrepreneurship and innovation, observed something less tangible but equally influential: culture.

We believe there's a beauty in doing work. How can we glorify God in that?

"Our site visits included tours of Apple headquarters and Google headquarters. I really developed an understanding of their contrasting cultures. Google emphasized a fun, quirky, diverse culture that was open to creativity and marketing. Apple was much more rigid and structured—very intellectual and straight cut . . . I think that really affects the workplace culture." For Hincken, the experience also demonstrated that some of the most valuable lessons in entrepreneurship happen through relationships.

"One of the biggest highlights for me was the faith-driven entrepreneur network out there. We met the starting founder of Tektones, a Christian [toy building set] company, and the founder of Cadence AI, which is a workplace platform optimization tool . . . The Tektones founder shared one quote that stuck with me, 'God doesn't care about how successful we are. He cares about who we're becoming.'"

"Dr. Sleeva is a networking powerhouse," says Belli with a laugh. "We went to this kind of incubator accelerator called Playground where they host different startups. They had a mingling hour with all of these potentially very important people. Dr. Sleeva was like, 'Let's go talk to people,' and just walked off . . . From that, I think we all realized the benefit of asking people questions and just going up to people and making those connections."

After the event, several attendees complimented the Gordon group on their willingness to engage.



For Belli, those conversations opened another layer: the opportunity to wrestle with what innovation means for Christians.

"We had some incredible conversations, especially when visiting the AI and tech companies and wrestling with each other over lunch afterwards. Like what does it mean to steward creation well and to steward our time? We believe there's a beauty in doing work. How can we glorify God in that?"

Those questions became particularly significant as students encountered technologies that are rapidly reshaping the way people work and live.

Myla Glaser '29 shared on experiencing that future firsthand, from competitive virtual reality games to a ride in a driverless car. "In the virtual reality game, we laughed the entire time because you had avatars who didn't even look like

you. We also tried Waymo—completely driverless cars. They had cameras on the top and sides; they had cameras everywhere! You could see on the screen how it was sensing the cars around you, and you got to choose your own music."

Endless Possibilities

A sense of possibility became one of the most lasting takeaways from the trip. Students returned to Gordon not simply inspired by what they had seen, but increasingly confident that they could contribute to the work of innovation themselves.

"I think Christians working out in Silicon Valley or in Boston or New York or wherever they may be should care [about innovation]," shared Belli. "There's a lot of possibility and a lot of hopefulness in terms of what could be done redemptively in the world through technology."



Exploring creativity from different angles, students step inside an interactive exhibit that physically shifts their perspective.

“I have so many ideas and ideally want to work on them all. I would love to start one or multiple businesses. This trip affirmed I can,” reflected Glaser.

For Hincken, that possibility was connected to something larger than entrepreneurship itself. “This trip brought about a little community of CEL students and entrepreneurship students who have a similar mindset and goals—and a similar mission to want to use entrepreneurship to better and serve the world.”

And that, ultimately, is the heart of CEL’s experiential approach: giving students the opportunity to encounter new ideas, ask difficult questions, build relationships, and begin imagining what they might contribute.

Preparing the People of God

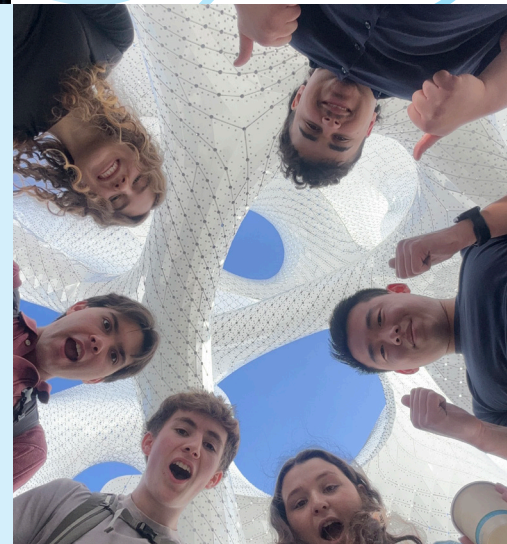
When asked about her reflection at the Marin Headlands, Belli said, “I really just felt like everything was possible. Like we could just do everything if we really applied ourselves to it. I think there was this sense of realizing that all of those people in Silicon Valley are people like I am.”

She continued, “We were really excited about bringing some of that energy and inspiration back to Gordon College. To think about developing innovators here and what that might do to Gordon and the North Shore and the Boston area and the East Coast. What might we do as we think about innovating to create a better environment for our students, our churches, and the other places we may go after Gordon.”

This inspired sense of wonder is exactly what Sleeva hopes for CEL and its students. “We want students who are passionate about problem solving and have a kingdom mindset,” she says.

Gordon’s School of Business and the Falcone Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership aren’t simply aimed at preparing students to succeed in the marketplace. They’re equipping students as the future workforce to consider how their gifts, ideas, and work can contribute to the flourishing of our world.

I have so many
ideas and ideally
want to work on
them all.



Clockwise, from top right: Kevin Tavares '28, Stephen Hincken '27, Miriam Belli '28, Shaw Freeman '29, Luke Jackson '28, and Cora Huot '26

Interested in becoming a **mentor**? Have a business problem you’d like Gordon students to **innovate for you**? Learn more and get involved with the **Falcone Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership** at gordon.edu/CEL

Summertime

An Excerpt From *Blind Sight: When Freedom Was Not Enough*



Dr. Ivy George teaches sociology at Gordon College. She grew up spending summers with her grandmother, Ammachi, in Kerala, India. She was trained at the University of Madras, Bryn Mawr, Brandeis, and Harvard. Her latest book, *Blind Sight: When Freedom Was Not Enough*, was published this September and is available for purchase on Amazon. For more information, visit ivygeorge.org.

The monsoon thrummed on Ammachi's tile roof, and the sky exploded with lightning and thunder just outside the window of my room. The rain was fierce, flooding the land instantly. The last screeches of birds settling down at dusk disappeared into a sudden silence in the rain. I'll never forget the sweet release of petrichor after the first monsoon.

On dry nights, we slept to the serenade of jackal howls, owl hoots, frog croaks, lizard clicks, and the thud of falling fruit nearby. This gave me great pleasure as I anticipated waking up at dawn to forage for mangoes, guavas, passion fruits, papayas, and cashew fruits with Ammachi. We had to beat the crows and the squirrels to it, she would say.

In Kerala, I saw, I felt, and I knew. There was a totality to life here. At school in Madras, I had to imagine much of what I read about. But here, Kerala's countryside told remarkable tales of life's persistence amid decay and of human resilience. Life here seemed audacious, churning itself out with an assertion and indifference known only to Nature—with God merely looking on.

Growth burst, passionately. The last smidgen of dust settled in the crannies of walls and roof tiles hosted a plant or shoots. It was all

so sensuous, immediate, full, and profligate. The land's perpetual fecundity mocked my life back in Madras, so removed in its modern progress. I knew that I was tap-rooted in two places, two homes, as I kept going back and forth between Madras and Kerala. My inheritance from the two worlds was my good fortune.

Our Return

I watched the slow drape of light and shadow as the train whizzed through the rain of fireflies and the night's darkness gathered. If our train stopped for railway construction or a passing train, I heard the hiss of the night critters, the croaks of the bullfrogs, the call of the owl, and the howls of wild dogs. The sounds and light of these rural spaces would not let go of me easily, I thought, scrunching further down into my bedsheet on the upper berth.

It seemed that only the other day Ammachi was waiting at the station to eagerly sweep us away. Now she'd accompanied us back, weeping as we awaited the train. "A year is too long to wait," she said.

While I learned to speak Malayalam fluently, I could not read or write it to communicate with Ammachi between summers. But we were held closely by our summer life



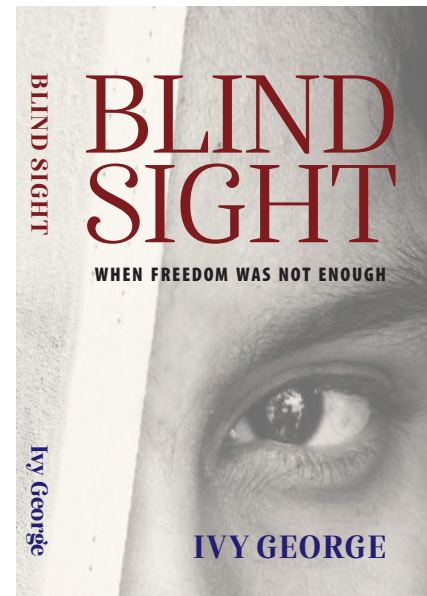


together. As the train got further and further away, I had the distinct feeling of leaving a bit of me behind, while bringing along fresh bits of me.

Steam engines now belong to an age of past inventions. They and their tracks were put together by the British to transport raw materials to the coast, where ships would take them for manufacture or consumption in Britain and its other colonies. These railways also heralded new worlds, holding out the promise of precarious fortunes and fragile hopes for many village migrants yearning to catch the spills of modernity. For me and my family and many other families, these railway journeys were part of a vast circulatory system for travel and preservation of bloodlines. For me, the train was a magic carpet taking me between my two worlds.

My India's Ghosts

On holiday years later, I lay in a camp bed near railway tracks in the Zimbabwe bush and was lucky enough to have the train's driver leave the engines idling close by. Listening to the nightjars and bush babies there, I remembered the dazzling glitter of fireflies and their nocturnal murmuration when our trains idled somewhere between Kerala and Madras in the late hours of nights mysteriously and fully alive. I heard the echoes of cine songs by youngsters who, for a few paisas, had boarded the train to entertain us. I felt that night that I had been left looking for my India's ghosts in the African bush. I imagined myself caught in a kaleidoscopic embrace: born in Madras, raised by Kerala, and launched into the world at large.



Read more of
Blind Sight

The Treasures

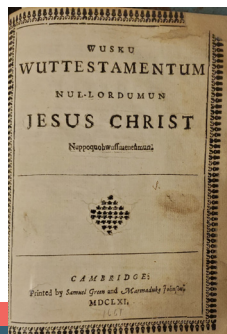
OF GORDON'S VINING COLLECTION

From St. Jerome's fourth-century Latin translation of the Bible to the English version commissioned by King James in the seventeenth century, putting the word of God into the languages that people speak at home has played a tremendous role in spreading the Gospel.

As Christians came into contact with unreached populations in distant parts of the world, translations of the Lord's Prayer, in particular, became a tradition in their own right. And fascinating examples of this tradition in print can be found among the rare treasures housed in Gordon College's Vining Collection, a remarkable collection of roughly 7,000 books and manuscripts held in the College Archives.

Given to Gordon in 1921 in honor of its original collector, Edward Payson Vining (1847–1920), the collection includes volumes that illuminate the history of faith, language, scholarship, and the spread of the Christian Scriptures.

This year, the Lord's Prayer in translation took center stage in a College Archives exhibit, offering a glimpse into the stories—and enduring influence—waiting to be discovered within Gordon's Vining Collection.



An American Treasure

The "Eliot Indian Bible" was given to Gordon as part of the Vining Collection and is a perfect example of the impact Bible translation had throughout the course of history.

Like many other Puritans facing persecution at the time, John Eliot emigrated from England to Massachusetts in 1631 and began a prolific career as minister and missionary. Eliot took an especially strong interest in learning the language of the Massachusett tribe so that he could preach to them in their native tongue.

By 1663, after decades of study, Eliot had become fluent enough to translate and publish *Mamusse Wunneetupanatamwe Up-Biblum God*—the very first Bible printed in America. An original copy of this Bible, one of only 1,000 printed in Cambridge nearly 400 years ago, lives among Gordon's fascinating collection of rare books.



Oratio Dominica

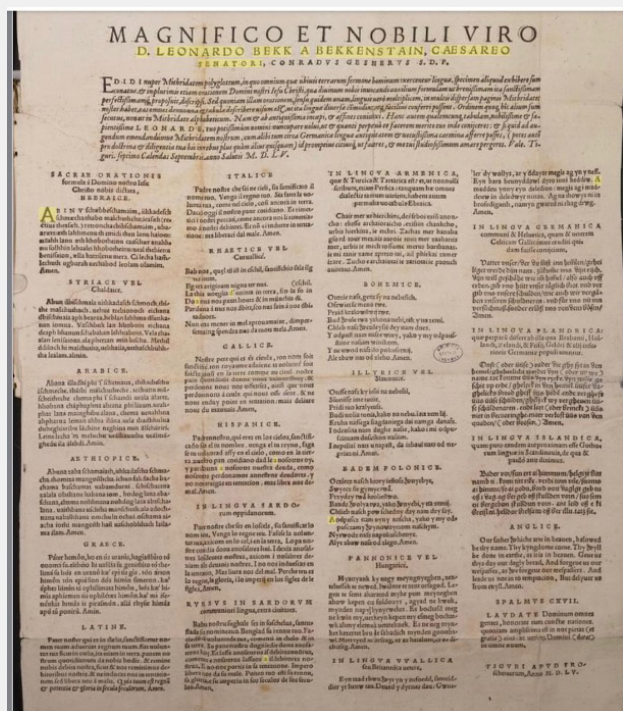
When explorers and missionaries came into contact with new groups and learned the rudiments of their languages, the first passage of Scripture they often translated was the Lord's Prayer.

Translated versions of the Oratio Dominica, as it was then called, were often reprinted in contemporary travel narratives, and since all of Christendom knew the Lord's Prayer by heart, these translations worked something like miniature versions of the Rosetta Stone, allowing readers to grasp native words and phrases.

Humanist scholars soon realized the value of these translations for the comparative study of languages, and Zurich native Conrad Gessner (1516–65) conceived the idea of collecting versions of the Lord's Prayer as a compendium of the world's languages

Published in 1555, Gessner's *Mithridates* featured the Lord's Prayer in 22 languages. The title paid tribute to the polyglot king of ancient Pontus who—in sharp contrast with his Roman rivals—learned the languages of all 22 nations he conquered, a choice that likely reflected Gessner's own Reformation-era ambition to disseminate Holy Writ in many vernaculars.

John Eliot's Bible is just one of the rare books found within Gordon College's Vining Collection.



Gordon College owns the scarce letterpress table from the original 1555 edition of *Mithridates*.

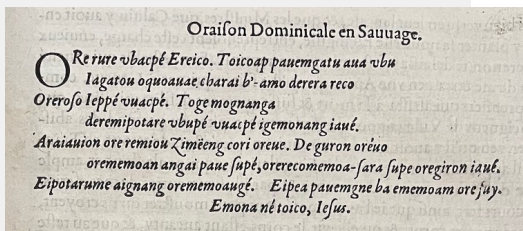
A scarce letterpress table from an original 1555 edition of *Mithridates* can be found in Gordon's Vining Collection and offers Romanized translations of the Lord's Prayer in Hebrew, Arabic, Icelandic, Celtic, English, Bohemian, Slavonic, Hungarian, and 14 other languages.

A Duel Between Printers

Following Gessner's work, multiple compilations of Lord's Prayer translations were published over the next two centuries, with several preserving the earliest known specimens of exotic or endangered languages.

By the nineteenth century, printers were even using the Lord's Prayer as a set piece to showcase their ability to cut new typeface, and they competed with one another to offer the most possible translations.

To mark Pope Pius VII's visit to France in 1804 for the coronation of Napoleon, for example, printer Jean-Joseph Marcel conceived of a special edition, *Oratio Dominica CL Linguis Versa*, featuring the Lord's Prayer in 150 languages. The volume was printed in 1805, using types that had been removed from Italy during Napoleon's 1796 incursion.



From André Thevet's *La Cosmographie Universelle* (1575). The eight-line "Oraison Dominicale en Sauvage" ("Lord's Prayer in Savage") is in Tupi, the sixteenth-century lingua franca of Brazil.

When the Pope returned home, he challenged a renowned Italian printer, Giambattista Bodoni, to surpass Marcel's tour de force. Bodoni took up the gauntlet, and in 1806 he published an *Oratio Dominica in CLV Linguis Versa*, edging out the Frenchman with 155 languages, including unusual tongues such as Greenlandic, Madagascarese, and Javanese!

The dueling compilations of Marcel and Bodoni are considered monuments in the history of printing, and our Vining Collection holds copies of both texts.

The Impact Continues

Scripture translation is, at its heart, an invitation: an invitation for people to encounter the Bible in the language of their own hearts and communities. The rare books in Gordon's Vining Collection reveal the centuries of scholarship, faith, and perseverance behind that invitation.

For our Gordon students, having access to these treasures offers more than a window into the past—it provides an opportunity to engage firsthand with the history of language, faith, and ideas that continues to shape our world today.



Damon Di Mauro, Ph.D. has taught foreign language at Gordon College for the past 25 years. He has co-curated ten other rare-book exhibits. He also recently published *Introduction to Theological French* (Wipf & Stock, 2025).

You can view the Gordon College Archives exhibit *Oratio Dominica: Five Centuries of the Lord's Prayer in Print* online here:



Interested in viewing the Vining Collection or learning more about Gordon College's Archives? Please visit gordon.edu/archives or email archives@gordon.edu.



Jerusalem and Athens Forum

Essay Contest

Zechariah 8:5



Elasia Gahagan '28 is an international affairs and history double major. This summer, she spent eight weeks as an international advocacy intern with Word Made Flesh Bolivia and their local partners.

This year's essay submissions responded to the theme of "On Beauty and Justice."

Honorable Mentions

"The Price of Beauty" by
Jonah Sparling '28

"Beauty and Stillness" by
Kate Coburn '27

Full versions of these essays are available at gordon.edu/jafessay



There's a massive mural in my neighborhood in uptown Manhattan.

It's a magnificent oak tree against a bright blue painted sky with books, letters, music notes, and birds scattered among its branches and smiling families at its roots. It's beautiful, and it's painted on the side of a harsh brick wall of government housing projects.

This mural soars over a playground with rosebushes and used needles in the public restroom. This mural brought beauty, but if the people who live in the building it adorns are not seen, if hope and justice are not tangibly brought about through beauty and rehabilitation, education, and professional development, that beauty is just nice to look at.

If justice is not worked for in this community, the rosebushes die, the mural chips away, and the playground grows silent.

I grew up going to this playground—bare feet on hot asphalt and cooled by sprinklers in the summer, finding the biggest sycamore leaves to crunch underfoot in the fall.

When I was in high school, I took the three foster kids I nannied to this playground on Monday and Wednesday afternoons (weather and attitudes permitting), and on Tuesdays and Thursdays, we went to behavioral therapy. The then-four-year-old and I practiced recognizing the alphabet on the mural as the then-eight and then-ten-year-olds swung or played soccer, and in tense moments, pointing out

the mural's colors and patterns served to calm meltdowns.

Our outside time was a break from the hurt and weight of visitations with underequipped social workers—therapy that felt like an unpleasant chore for everyone involved—and overcrowded after-school tutoring programs. Getting that break was beautiful.

The kids I love so dearly deserve that beautiful space, but they deserve excellent social workers, too. They deserve tutors and teachers who have the capacity to understand them and therapists adept at communicating with children who are not used to feeling safe enough to be honest.

These are structural community needs that cannot be addressed with new coats of neon paint on climbing structures or well-pruned rosebushes. The aesthetic care of a community must be accompanied by real systemic change.

I firmly believe in the power beauty holds to work change for the better, and I could wax poetic (and theological) about the sanctity of beauty in creation, in the church, and in human creativity for ages. But we know that beauty does not exist for its own sake.

It must be accompanied by, and often is preceded by, restoration and action. A beauty that stirs, that evokes response, is beauty fulfilling its purpose. This rings especially true in our contemporary Christian context.

We are called to “seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly” with our God—a God who creates, who is beautiful, and who brings restoration. We are in communion with this great and holy God; we are made in this loving God’s image. How much more pressing, then, is this call to create beautiful justice? To restore what has been broken, to heal what is wounded? Is this not a small picture of the ultimate restoration we have placed all of our earthly hope in?

My heart is stirred by the beauty of artwork, music, creation, and people. My veins sing with the beauty of the Father, and I am compelled to worship, to act.

I’m 227 miles away from those kids and that mural and those rosebushes, but I intend to seek justice, here. I intend to love mercy, here, at Gordon College.

I intend to walk humbly with my God toward a life of service, sacrifice, and systemic change, so that one day soon I can return to every flawed beautiful place in my community and participate in the restoration already taking place—materially and metaphysically.

I intend to never let the playground fall silent.



Class Notes

ALUMNI NEWS, STORIES, & UPDATES

1900s

'70s

After 32 years supporting information systems and technology at Rochester Institute of Technology, **Donna (Andrews) Cullen '71** has turned her energy toward mission work. She now volunteers and trains disaster response teams with UMCOR, serves on domestic and international mission teams, and supports Global Missions for the Upper New York UMC Conference. Donna teaches adult Sunday school, preaches occasionally, and chairs church fundraisers. She and her husband recently celebrated 53 years of marriage.

Jo-Ann (Goff) Garvin '73 and her husband **Jim '62**, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on February 18, 2027. Jim was a professor at Gordon for 20 years and will turn 92 on February 14, 2027. They live near their youngest daughter and her husband along with their youngest granddaughters. Jo-Ann says the Lord has blessed them more than they could ever earn or deserve!

Frank Cook '73 turned 75 this year and is in his 37th year of community service in Attleboro, MA. Today, he serves as a former nine-term councilor on the city's Board of Fire Commissioners, Council on Aging Board of Directors, and Global War on Terrorism Monument Committee for which he created the monument's design. In addition, Frank is a member of the Board of Managers/Directors of Sturdy Health Foundation and serves on their building and finance committees.

After retiring as the director of Gordon's Academic Support Center, **Ann (Lombard) Seavey '75**, married to **Paul '77**, says she enjoys spending time with her kids and grandkids, working for a nonprofit, serving at her church, and spending time with her closest friends. This group of women, all class of 1975, includes Kathy (Harmer) Favazza, Kathie (Seldon)

Sweeney, Jan (Rose) Chamberlain, Renie (VanNorman) Rich, and Amy (Divoll) Sheppard. Ann and Paul live in Rockport, MA.

After graduating from Gordon College, **Eric Feustel '76** married **Robin Cuniff '79** and managed a couple of franchised restaurants. He then moved into outside sales and sales management for about 20 years. Hearing God's call to ministry, Eric earned his master's degree from Boston University School of Theology and served as pastor of several Methodist churches in New Hampshire and one Baptist church in Vermont. He is presently serving as pastor at Hillsboro, NH.



Michael Gorman '77 has three new books to report: *Paul and John in Harmony* (Baker Academic, spring 2026); *Life Transfigured: A Contemporary Pauline Theology* (Eerdmans, fall

2026); and *Philippians: A Theological, Pastoral, and Missional Commentary* (Eerdmans, spring 2027). Mike holds the Raymond E. Brown Chair in Scripture and Theology at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore.



Steve '77 and Jeannie (Cain) '76 Pustell have four adult children and two grandchildren (so far). Steve is retired and spends his time leading a Bible study and small

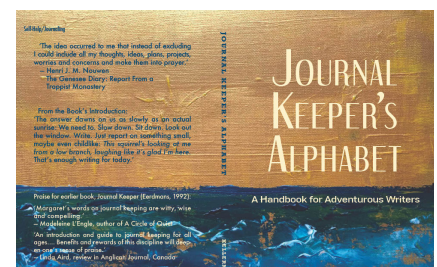
group at his church. He recently set off on a five-to-six-month cross-country camping ride on his recumbent trike handcycle (un-supported). Check out his blog for a map of his journey and to see if he's coming near you: crazyguyonabike.com/doc/MuffinTopMeltDown

Deborah "Beth" (Sheppard) Scott '78 retired in 2026 completing 46 years in education. After 20 years as a reading specialist, she earned her Ph.D. and taught literacy education at Penn State Harrisburg for the last 10 years of her career. She was married for 32 years to Dick Scott who passed away in 2020. Beth has one son who lives nearby. She enjoys reading and volunteering at a service dog organization.

Ben Barr '79 writes poetry under the pseudonym of William Garrett and has one poem in the anthology *Defiance* published through Dirigo Democracy Project. Three other poems will be published through the same publishers in the upcoming volume *Tyranny*. Also, he has become ordained through Universal Life Church while maintaining many hats, including a membership of the Diocesan Council with the Maine Episcopal Church.

'80s

Margaret (Smith) Kellermann '80 is the author of 10 books and is an arts workshop leader. Three of her books were published this year, both on Kindle and in paperback: *Annie California Book One* (updated); *Annie California and the Nectarine Grove*; and *Journal Keeper's Alphabet: A Handbook for Adventurous Writers*. This fall, Margaret will be leading journal keeping workshops at Mount Angel Abbey and online through Labyrinth. She is open to more workshop venues, particularly online.



Lois Elizabeth “LoisBeth” Kerr ’80 is retiring in the fall from the Gloucester Public Schools, Gloucester, MA, where she has been working for 30 years as a Title I Paraprofessional, teaching small group reading and math. She said it has been a blessing to work in a public school, and she will continue to pray for the students. LoisBeth plans to continue to teach Bible to adult women, to swim, and to enjoy photography (even working as the administrator of The Cape Ann Factor on Facebook). She has a personal page—LoisBeth Kerr—with only scripture and photography. LoisBeth is interested in reconnecting with fellow Gordon grads and may be contacted at loisbeth.kerr@gmail.com. Matthew 28:19-20.



Peter Spellman ’81 is a faculty member at Berklee College of Music where he teaches musicians how to build businesses around their brands. His latest book, *Sacred Threads: A Nonsectarian Handbook for a Thriving Spiritual Life*, explores the universal truths that connect us all.

Henry Boyer ’83B had a successful surgery (amputation) and during rehab was asked to start a Bible study. He began the study knowing three new Christians (one was a 100 year old lady) and feels as though he has a new journey in his life. He asks for prayer for his brother who has been sent to a mental health facility with no hope of leaving it. Henry says his faith has become stronger through all of his struggles and exhorts others to “stay strong.” He hopes to see his classmates at Homecoming.

Graduate school took **Alynn MacLean ’86** out of state early on, but she has been back in Massachusetts for 30 years. Since 2001, she has run a small

non-profit, Science with a Mission, which assembles and delivers rapid diagnostics to medical mission agencies around the world. Alynn LOVES her job!

Robin (Moore) Mann ’88, M’18 and her husband are currently living near Charlotte, NC to be near their daughter and three grandchildren. She is a second grade teacher at Arborbrook Christian Academy and a Wilson Reading practitioner. Robin has returned to Gordon and is currently in the inaugural cohort of the Doctor of Education in the Science of Learning program, set to graduate in 2029!

Glenn Deckert ’88 is now in his 35th year with the Gordon Police and so grateful to still be part of the Gordon campus community 38 years after graduating from Gordon! Of his nine kids, five have now graduated from Gordon and starting this fall. His wife, **Cheryl (Gill) ’89**, has spearheaded their journey into the world of foster care and adoption, which led to their youngest three kids joining the family over the last 10 years. It’s certainly an adventure having kids that range from age 6-35, but God is good!

’90s

Diane Biron ’90 is a Microbiologist for the US Food and Drug Administration. She said this is thanks to her excellent Gordon education!



Amy (Bertine) Vendt ’90 was excited to accept the position of Chief Executive Officer at the Bath Area Family YMCA in Bath, ME. She and husband, **Kevin Vendt ’91**, are enjoying life in Midcoastal Maine and are looking forward to their next traveling adventure.

Sharon (Brockhuizenhas) Locke ’90 has taken on legislative leadership with the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association (MRPA), advocating for parks and recreation as essential community infrastructure. This year, she brought that advocacy to Capitol Hill, in Washington, D.C., meeting with members of Congress to speak on behalf of initiatives and policies that expand healthy, active opportunities for children.

Chris Holinger ’91 and his wife, Deb, moved from Virginia Beach to Belgrade, ME this year to be closer to family. Chris retired from the Air Force in 2014 and attended Regent University School of Law. After a two-year clerkship, he entered private practice and will continue practicing law in Maine and Virginia.

In a tent in the Adirondacks in 1995, leading La Vida trips for her third summer, **Stacee (Cox) Smith ’95** could not have imagined how many people would have been influenced by her quiet, confident leadership 20 years later—most notably, her son **Finn Smith ’28**, as he sat in a tent in the Adirondacks leading La Vida trips for his second summer. Stacee lived a full and steady life pre- and post-cancer diagnosis, but with the diagnosis came a greater sense of intentionality and purpose. Most wouldn’t have known what she was going through despite seven years of traditional treatment and four of clinical trials. She passes her legacy and love for adventure and the outdoors on to her three boys, Jack, Ezra and his wife Rachel, and Alastair Finn. She was also the sister-in-law to **Eric Smith ’01** and wife to Ethan Smith who attended Gordon from 1993-1995.

Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski ’95 is now serving as the Kraft Family Professor and Director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College. He is also an Episcopal priest assisting at Christ Church in Cambridge, MA. In November 2026, his newest book, *Resisting Anti-Judaism: Practices of Christian Solidarity*, will be published by Fortress Press.

Christopher Ziegler '96 served as Director of Religious Affairs for the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa from August 2025 to May 2026 for the US Army. He and his wife, **Sharon (DiStaulo) '98**, live in Haverhill, MA, where Sharon serves as Director of Advancement at Bradford Christian Academy. Their daughter, Sophia, is a student at BCA. Chris has returned to his role as Lead Pastor of West Church.



2000s

'00s

Luke Ditewig '01 is a brother in the Society of St. John the Evangelist, a monastic community of men in the Episcopal Church by Harvard Square. He entered in 2009 and made his life commitment in 2016. They pray together about five times a day and teach others to pray their lives. Many join them in person and overnight in their guesthouse. They lead retreats, preach, and offer spiritual formation resources. www.SSJE.org

Sarah Anne Doksansky Gall '01, passed away July 28th. She is the beloved wife of Soren Gall, mother of Nolan (15) and Josephine (11), daughter of Florence and Alan Doksansky, daughter-in-law to Jean and Duane Gall, aunt, cousin, sister-in-law, and friend to so many. Her passion was giving of her spirit

and love to others especially children. Anyone who knew Sarah, knew her deep faith, strength, and unwavering love for her family. She was the kind of person who led with her heart and formed meaningful connections with everyone she met.

Abigail Sullivan '05 earned her doctorate from Northeastern University in Curriculum, Teaching, Leading, and Learning. She has worked in Gordon's graduate education department since 2010, teaching courses related to reading specialty. Abigail co-runs Gordon's Orton-Gillingham certification program, which is the practicum for reading specialists. In 2020, she opened Cohasset Learning Studio, which supports children ages 3rd through 8th grade in all developmental areas. The studio has over 40 teachers and therapists on staff, many who are graduates of Gordon's reading specialty program.

Cassandra McDonald '06 spent much of her career working with children who have developmental disabilities. After surviving stage four cancer, she needed a less demanding job and now works as an in-home care provider for the elderly and disabled. Cassandra has published a devotional and been featured in two volumes of a devotional series. She is currently working on a children's book series while also caring for a family.

Josh Allen '09 currently teaches high school French at Lexington Christian Academy in Lexington, MA. He and his wife, Acacia, have two daughters, Arielle (3) and Eden (1). After several years of serving as dorm parents for LCA's international student residence, they relocated to Massachusetts's North Shore. Before returning to New England, Josh lived in Texas from 2018-2023, where he earned

a master's degree in Spanish from Baylor University and met and married Acacia. He taught French and Spanish at Live Oak Classical School in Waco. Prior to that, he taught high school Spanish at Dalat International School in Penang, Malaysia (2014-2018). Earlier in his career, he lived in Beverly, MA (2010-2014), where, among other jobs, he worked in translation for a software company in North Andover.



Katie (Amico) Mieras '09 is the Development Director for Christian FM and is the Vice Chair of the Children's Services Advisory Committee,

overseeing the distribution of \$3 million annually. She is an avid pickleball player, recently winning a mixed doubles tournament. Katie regularly sees her La Vida pals: Hailey, Christine, Steph, Leah, and SB. She lives in Florida with her husband, Leif, and their two boys. Included is a photo of her La Vida girls who get together.

'10s



Kim Levinsky '10 is the founder of Sassquad Trail Running, a trail running and hiking community that hosts races throughout New York and New Jersey. Kim established the women's fastest known time for the 358-mile

NY Long Path from Albany to NYC. The 9.5-day run and her mission to expand access to mental health care are featured in the documentary *The Long Path: A Journey of Becoming*. www.thelongpathfilm.com

LEAVE YOUR legacy



Learn more at www.gordon.edu/legacy or email Dan.White@gordon.edu.



New Online Resource for Estate Planning

Gordon College's new planned giving website is a helpful tool for alumni, parents, friends, and staff looking to establish charitable bequests, trusts, and other deferred gift arrangements. Explore all the options for sharing your legacy of faithfulness through strategic, kingdom-directed estate planning.

As a music therapist, **MacKenzie (Gass) Peters '10** helps North Shore patients find their voice. Her husband, **Chris Peters '09**, helps mission-driven organizations find theirs. His video agency, Lightmark Creative, in its 10th year, has helped clients add over \$1.5 billion in sales and fundraising, and frequently hosts Gordon interns. They are raising three kids in Salem, MA, and are active in their church and local community. lightmarkcreative.com

Chelsea Willis '10 is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Registered Play Therapist supporting folks after the death of an important person. Her husband, **Jordan Willis '10**, is now an Actuarial Analyst at Liberty Mutual, after a decade of teaching high school math. They started a nonprofit organization in Massachusetts, Monarch Meadow Carefarm, that rescues farm animals and provides counseling/community-based care to traumatically bereaved youth, young adults, and families.

Colin Stapleton-Bradley '16, his wife, Molly, and daughter, Paige, welcomed a second child, Maximilian, this summer. Additionally, after completing a B.A. in economics/business administration at Gordon College, an M.B.A. in business analytics at the University of Delaware, and a J.D. at Widener University, Colin was sworn into the Pennsylvania Bar. He attends St. John Paul II Ordinariate Parish in Bethlehem, PA.

Aaron Ross '17 is currently serving as an Associate Rector (The Episcopal Church) at St. John the Evangelist in Duxbury, MA. He is also an Army Reserve Chaplain.

Drs. Abigail (Scott) '18 and Joshua Rawleigh '18 recently relocated to Nashville, TN, where Josh has started a new position as Assistant Professor of English at Belmont University after

receiving his Ph.D. from Indiana University. They welcomed Beatrice Poesy in May 2026 and are excited to get to know their new city as a family of three!

Jordan (Schan) Alaniz '19 is back at Gordon, where her husband is the Resident Director of Fulton Hall. They live on campus with their almost three-year-old daughter and are pregnant with their second! She is an adjunct professor, stay at home mom, and baker.

Rebekah (Stauffer) Cardarelli '19 married her husband, Andrew, in May 2026. They live in Chelmsford, MA, and she continues to work at KPMG as a tax manager in the technology department. Rebekah will celebrate seven years at the firm in October.

Erik Holvik '19 has spent his career at the intersection of energy and technology. He currently works in Corporate Development and Strategy at Schneider Electric, where he leads the storage vertical for Schneider's home business. Erik has had opportunities to speak at national conferences on battery storage diversification, appear on a couple of industry podcasts, and more. He and his wife, Grace, were married in August, and are now living in Boston. Erik says he is grateful for his years at Gordon and would love to stay connected with the community.

'20s



Ryan Locke '22 is pursuing his M.P.A. at Suffolk University, where he was selected this summer to represent the school at its DC Federal Bureaucracy Seminar. The experience provided a behind-the-

scenes look at the US Congress, executive agencies, and the federal policymaking process. Ryan got to meet with executive branch policy leaders and members of Congress.

Micah J. Marrapodi '22 earned his Master of Arts in English with a concentration in creative writing from Rhode Island College and accepted Bowling Green State University's offer of admission to the American Culture Studies Ph.D. program for fall 2026. He will pursue the critical studies in media, film, and culture track as a recipient of the Presidential Graduate Scholar Fellowship.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS



October 13, 2026 | 4-7 p.m.

Join Gordon College Graduate Programs for fall festivities, drinks, treats, games, and prizes. Learn more about Gordon's graduate programs and meet our program directors.



Families welcome!

Update your contact info and share Class Notes



The deadline for the Spring 2027 issue is December 16, 2026. Please submit your news at www.gordon.edu/magazine

Submission Guidelines

- ▶ Give graduation year (and maiden name, if applicable).
- ▶ Submissions to Class Notes must be contributed by the alum featured and written in the third person.
- ▶ Remembrances may be submitted by the surviving spouse, executor of the estate, or surviving parent or child in the absence of a surviving spouse. Unfortunately we cannot print obituaries received from other sources.
- ▶ Notes from individuals are intended only for sharing with the Gordon alumni community and do not suggest or represent an endorsement by the College. Gordon College reserves the right to edit or omit submissions.



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas at Gordon

DECEMBER 4-5



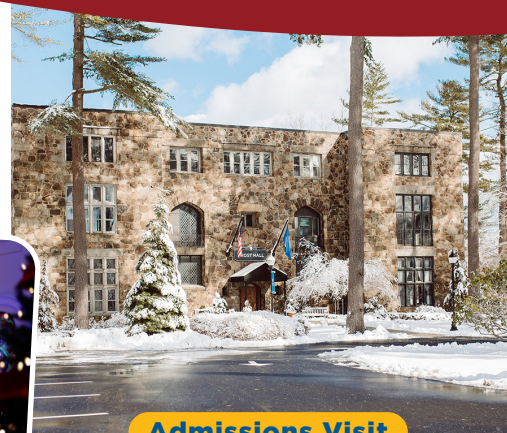
Campus Lighting & Christmas Marketplace

Friday, December 4 | 4-7 p.m.



Christmas Gala

Friday, December 4 and
Saturday, December 5 | 7:30 p.m.



Admissions Visit

A Very Merry Open House

Friday, December 4 | 1-5 p.m.

