

Building up the Body of Christ

CALVARY TODAY

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Summer 2024



“Live a purpose-driven life with passion...”

Mark Alford, Missouri Congressman, addressed the graduating class of 2024 during the Commencement Ceremony on May 4.

Calvary University recently celebrated its 63rd Annual Commencement Exercises, a culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and spiritual growth for its graduating students. The events began with the Baccalaureate service on May 3rd, followed by the Alumni Induction and Awards Banquet later that same evening. The final event took place on May 4th at South Haven Baptist Church, where

Commencement was graciously hosted.

The Baccalaureate service, a time-honored tradition at Calvary, provided a poignant moment for reflection and spiritual guidance. Danny McCubbin, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Belton and father of graduating senior Noah McCubbin, delivered an inspiring message. He encouraged the graduates to embrace God's call for

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Griffin Schnetz (CU24) completed a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with highest honors.

their lives. McCubbin's challenge to the graduates was to "say 'yes' to God whenever he asks you to do the extraordinary thing that's right before you. Get ready for the ride of your life and don't shrink back."

The following day, the Awards and Alumni Induction Banquet honored the achievements and contributions of outstanding students and alumni. It was a time to celebrate not only academic

excellence but also the profound impact that Calvary graduates have made and will continue to make in their communities and beyond.

Finally, the Commencement ceremony itself was filled with anticipation and hope for the future. Mark Alford, United States Representative, delivered a stirring address to the graduates, emphasizing the importance of living a purpose-driven life, trusting in God's plan, and remaining steadfast in faith. Alford exhorted the graduates, saying, "As you go from here today on a new course, a new direction, a new turning point in your life, setting a course for success, live a purpose-driven life with passion: putting on the full armor of God, trusting and obeying his will, praying without ceasing, and giving thanks in all circumstances."

The class of 2024 consisted of 52 graduates, including 9 individuals

who earned master's degrees. As these graduates embark on their respective paths, they are poised to make an impact in their communities, workplaces, and beyond, spreading God's love and sharing the hope found in Christ. The class of 2024 stands ready to embrace the extraordinary opportunities that lie ahead, knowing that God will equip them for every challenge and every triumph along the way. ■



Our mission is to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and the world according to the biblical worldview.

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To subscribe to *Calvary Today*, provide alumni updates, or offer feedback, please visit calvary.edu/alumni.

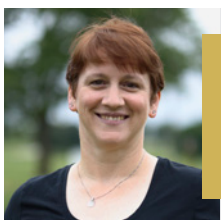
Staff Updates



Matt Sanders will begin serving as **Athletic Director** this July. Since coming to Calvary in 2016 as the Men's Basketball Coach and Assistant Athletic Director, he has connected well with the students and had a major impact on campus. He and his wife, April, and their son, AJ, live in Raymore, Missouri. ■



Ron Sharp has recently joined the Calvary team as **Dean of Students**, bringing with him a wealth of experience and a deep-rooted faith. With a B.A. from Southeastern Louisiana University and an M.A.T.S. and an M.R.E. from Liberty University, Ron has a passion for discipleship and has served as an advisor and mentor at various institutions. ■



Tasha Young has stepped into a new role as **Chief Financial Officer**. Having served in the Finance Department at Calvary for twenty years, she is excited to take on this new role and use her experience to support the institution. ■



Jillian Nipple, freshman, sets the volleyball.

A Season of Triumph and Growth

The 2023-2024 season for the Calvary University Warriors was marked by significant achievements and spiritual growth, reflecting their commitment to excellence and faith.

Women's Volleyball

Under Coach Jojo Wilkes, the volleyball team had an exciting season, achieving an 18-12 record, clinching second place in both the conference and regional tournaments, and earning the At-Large bid to the National Tournament for the first time in Calvary's history. Leah Grady and Alli Edwards earned All-Region honors, and along with Jillian Nipple, All-Conference honors. Grady, Basia Nesbett-Tucker, and Miriam McCubbin also received the All-American Scholar Award for maintaining a 3.5 GPA or higher.

"Throughout the season, our strong bond off the court helped us trust each other on the court and become successful," said Alli Edwards.

Men's Basketball

Despite early challenges, including injuries and roster changes, Coach Matt Sanders led the men's basketball team to showcase resilience. Their season record was 7-20, highlighted by a standout victory against the second-ranked Spurgeon College. Jonah Murr earned All-Conference and All-Region recognitions, and along with Demetrius White-Thomas, received the All-American Scholar Award.

"This basketball season was one like none other for us," said Coach Sanders. "We had a very rocky start but gained momentum and were able to secure the win against the second-ranked team in the country."

Women's Basketball

Under Coach Robby Bollinger, who was recognized as Coach of the Year, the women's basketball team achieved a 16-10 record, securing second place in the conference and winning the Regional Championship. They also made their first appearance at the NCCAA National Tournament. Individual accolades went to Ruthie Dougherty, Kimberlee Fowler, Ty Garcia, and Kaitlyn Zamora, with Fowler also making the All-American 2nd Team. The team received the Team Sportsmanship Award, and Katie McGee, Katelyn Roach, and Kaitlyn Zamora were honored for



Senior Kim Fowler dribbles down the court.



Sophomore Jaylon Armstrong prepares to make a pass.

academic excellence.

"Our accomplishments stem from keeping God first in all our hard work and dedication to basketball and caring for one another," said Ruthie Dougherty. Coach Bollinger added, "Amazing what you can achieve as a team when you seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness!"

Growing in Gratitude

Athletic Director Tressa Barnes commended the collective effort of coaches and players, emphasizing the role of faith and unity. "It was such a pleasure being a part of such an incredible year of growth and success," Barnes said. "God worked through so many hearts and lives, and watching coaches and players alike trusting and putting their identity in Christ instead of success was inspiring."

Senior Leah Grady reflected on her personal and athletic growth. "I came in prideful, thinking I had it all together. Through relationships, conversations, and trials, the Lord worked in my life. As I reflect on this last year, I'm so grateful for what He has done through Calvary Athletics."

As the season concludes, the Calvary University Warriors celebrate a year defined by triumphs, milestones, and resilience. "We all grew as athletes, leaders, and in our relationships with others and the Lord, which is the most important thing," Coach Wilkes concluded. ■



Why is Calvary University Needed?

Part 3: The Answer

In the prior two publications, I spoke about how a shift took place in American higher education and explored how utility, research, and science became weapons trained on Christian institutions. Education changed. Instead of being about the mind and character, it became about a job. Intellectual examination of the Bible began to deny the Bible rather than to understand it, and gradually the Bible became completely sectioned off from the whole of education. As a result, we Americans often struggle to see how education, the Bible, and our intellectual pursuits really come together, for our culture essentially teaches that they do not.

Society has accepted that we can split intellectual pursuits and education from Scripture. However, this goes against what the Bible teaches. Christians should desire to be educated because of what they believe about their Creator. There is no sacred or secular (1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 11:36). We treat the pursuit of education as an act of worship that

honors and glorifies God (Rom. 12:1-2). Christian higher education affirms the education of the total person: the intellectual, physical, affective, social, moral, aesthetic, and spiritual.

True Christian higher education is grounded upon the Word. It is the ultimate source of knowledge, which pervades every area of life. That is why keeping Adam real is important in our curriculum. It not only affirms the authority of Scripture, it stands against the secular desire to mythologize those “lies in the garden”. Secular education argues that man can obtain knowledge apart from divine revelation. Man can replace God. They thereby repeat the serpent’s lie. As a result, society believes that education can solve all the problems to its own demise. Affirming the historicity of Adam becomes important for shaping the way we understand education and its purposes. It provides the true solution to the world’s problems in the gospel. It is what makes our education distinctively Christian.

True Christian higher education

can never segregate the authority and wisdom of Scripture from the rest of education and intellectual pursuits. Its role will never be limited simply to offering Bible courses. Christian higher education seeks to provide for students a Christ-centered educational experience. The primary and overarching purpose of Christian higher education is to expand students’ awareness of the glory of God. This goal gives Christian educators a different starting point and framework for their teaching, namely, a Christian worldview. An idea that follows from this worldview is the extreme importance of providing for students an educational environment that will

True Christian higher education can never segregate the authority of Scripture from the rest of education.

build up their faith and their ability to engage in serious scholarship. Christian higher education imparts specialized training and education for promoting the Christian message and nurturing Christian communities.

This is why Calvary University is needed. It is here that we stand firm on true biblical education. It is here where we integrate Scripture into every class and examine course content from a biblical worldview.

It is here where we disciple our students, not simply to study the Bible, but to apply it, and to apply it to every intellectual endeavor. It is here where we provide the tools to think and act as Christian disciples and servants in our increasingly complex world.¹ ■

Alexander Granados

Alexander Granados
President



¹ Earle Edwin Cairns, "A Blueprint for Christian Higher Education," Faculty Bulletin of Wheaton College 16, no. 3 (1953): 41-63.

The Steward's Pen



"But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name"

John 20:31 (NASB95)

This edition of Calvary Today is both looking back at what God has done and looking forward with anticipation to what is to come. We've celebrated 52 new graduates, considered again why biblical Higher

Education is so important and heard reports about the work of God in various Alumni across the globe in this edition.

We look forward to the Fall semester and the beginning of the 2024-2025 Academic year. As we do so we are praying for God's blessing of an enrollment that exceeds 300 students in the fall.

Preparing for the year, the on-campus students will have as a focus in the residential life study groups the study of the book 'The Gospel According to John'. The primary theme will revolve around the question "who do you say that I am?" In John 20:31 the theme of the book points us to the answer — **"that Jesus is the Christ, the Son**

of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

We look forward with anticipation to focusing on this verse throughout our communications and events in the coming year. Will you pray with us that God will bless these efforts to grow both the student body toward Christ and our own mindset as stewards to living lives that reflect this theme. ■

John McGee
Chief Development Officer



Alumni Association Award **Vernon & Martha Tannahill**



Vernon Tannahill's journey began in St. Louis, but at the age of two, his family moved to Cedine Bible Camp, where he grew up as a missionary kid. Martha, born and raised in Northwest Iowa as a pastor's daughter, crossed paths with Vernon at Calvary Bible College in 1976. Their shared dedication to Christian service blossomed into a partnership both in life and ministry. They married in 1979 and graduated together in 1980, Vernon with a degree in Camp Education and Martha with a degree in Christian Education.



President Granados presented the 2024 Alumni Association Award to Vernon and Martha Tannahill during Calvary's Commencement ceremony.



The Tannahills' years of ministry have included many Backyard Bible Clubs and other community ministries, in addition to their time with Cedine Ministries.

After graduation, Vernon and Martha dedicated their lives to Cedine Bible Mission, a ministry with deep historical roots dating back to 1946. Paul Zimmerman initially started Cedine as an outreach to segregated schools in southeastern Tennessee, and by 1947, the mission expanded to include a summer camp. Over the decades, Cedine Bible Mission has grown, adding a Bible Institute in 1966 and later developing into a year-round Conference and Retreat Center in 1988.

For the first eighteen years of their ministry, Vernon and Martha served as community missionaries, leading five-day clubs and working in local churches, all while contributing to the summer camp. They took on numerous roles over the years, including Program Director, Assistant Camp Director, and Camp Director. In 2001, Vernon was appointed General

Director, becoming only the third person to hold this position in Cedine Ministries' 60-year history. In his current role, Vernon continues to live out the mission's motto: "Not just decisions, but disciples for Christ."

Vernon and Martha Tannahill have grown both personally and professionally over their 44 years of service. They are celebrated for their humility, integrity, and unwavering dedication to putting others first. Their service is marked by a selfless attitude, consistently esteeming others higher than themselves. The leadership of the staff shares that they are above reproach, easy to work with, and always willing to follow where God leads them.

Calvary University is honored to recognize Vernon and Martha Tannahill for their exceptional contributions and faithful service. Their lives are a testament to the university's mission of producing graduates who impact the world for Christ. We celebrate their legacy and are grateful for their example of humble, dedicated ministry. ■

**"Not just decisions,
but disciples for
Christ."**

- Cedine Ministries Motto

Calendar of Events

JULY

1-5 Summer Break (Offices Closed)

AUGUST

19 Fall Semester Begins
26-30 Spiritual Emphasis Week

SEPTEMBER

11 **Practical Christian Ministry Fair**
26 **President’s Dinner**

OCTOBER

3-6 **Fall Theatre Production**
14-18 Fall Break
25 Fall Student Social
30 Day of Prayer

NOVEMBER

27-29 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

6 **Christmas Concert**
7 **Winter Theatre Recital**
14 **Evening Lecture Series**
16 Fall Semester Ends

JANUARY

13 Spring Semester Begins
27-29 **Conference on Global Engagement**

For more details, visit calvary.edu/calendar

Alumni Updates

BIRTHS

■ Sophia LeeAnne (March 22, 2022) and Elijah James (June 4, 2023) to **DYLAN (CU20*)** and **ABIGAIL (CU20*) DUTOIT**

MARRIAGES

■ Justin Skaggs and **HANNAH LePAGE (CU23)**, March 30, 2024

DEATHS

■ **STAN MYERS (CA81)**, January 9, 2024 (age 70)
■ **LOU PRIOLO (CA82)**, November 28, 2023 (age 68)
■ **VERNA SHIPE (Scholes MB50)**, December 7, 2023 (age 95)

1980s

■ **DARREN MCMANNIS (CBC86)**, coordinates and teaches Sunday School at Garden Community Church in Moundridge, Kansas, and serves on the boards of Source of Light Kansas, The Disciples Institute, and You Matter Ministries.

1990s

■ **DEBBIE CHASE (CBC91)**, serves at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas, disciples students there, and serves in nursery, worship, and the missions committee at her church.

2000s

■ **JAMES BRADEN (CBC02)**, serves as a chaplain to veterans and chief of staff at Michigan Veterans Ministries.

Do you have updates to share? Please visit calvary.edu/alumni and use the contact form to let us know what God has been doing in your life!

Memorial Gifts

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD (CA90*) & THELMA (CA90*) GRIMM

Wes & Julie Shoemaker

IN MEMORY OF ELAINE GRUBBS (KUDRIKOFF CA73)

Richard Grubbs (CA69)

IN MEMORY OF MARION NASH (CA75)

Paul (CA72) and Sharon (Joling CA71, 80) Wieduwilt

IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR NILSON (CA62)

Temple Church

IN MEMORY OF JAMES VAN VELDHUIZEN (CA75)

Jeanette Van Veldhuizen (Russell CA74*)

IN MEMORY OF ROSIE WONG

Betty Gee

*Non-degree-holding

Save the date!

President's Dinner 2024

Thursday, September 26 at 6:30pm

Marriott
10800 Metcalf Avenue
Overland Park, KS
66210

Featuring Guest Speaker
Dan Smith
Eleos Coffee House & Ministries



CONFERENCE on GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT
January 27-29, 2025



TRANSFORMED

Knowing Christ; Impacting the World



Burnham Center
for Global Engagement
CALVARY UNIVERSITY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Dave Deets
*Vice President, Institute
of Biblical Leadership*

Registrations opens
November 1, 2024