

# CORBAN WINTER 2023 CONNECTION

EDUCATING CHRISTIANS WHO WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD FOR JESUS CHRIST.

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friends,

I want to be the first to say, "Merry Christmas!"

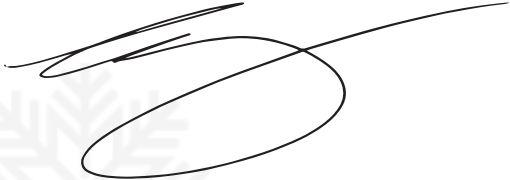
As our campus returns from Thanksgiving break, we have decorated the campus and even the President's home is illuminated in the glow of Christmas lights. The joy, wonder, and excitement of this time of year is palpable.

Like no one else, Christians have the amazing joy of celebrating real hope in a world that so desperately seems to have lost it. How incredible it is for us to celebrate the Incarnation of our Savior who entered the world through the miracle of the virgin birth with the purpose of bringing hope, life, and salvation to you and me. As church father Athanasius reminded the church in the 4th century, "For we were the purpose of his embodiment, and for our salvation he so loved human beings as to come and to be and appear in a human body." (Athanasius, "On the Incarnation," 1.4)

Friends, this truly is joy!

Our prayer is that you experience the joy of our salvation this Christmas season! May you and your family be truly blessed through the worship of the incarnate Son of God, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas!



John Mark Yeats, Ph.D.  
President

## CORBAN ALUM MANDY VANCE AWARDED TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR STATE OF OREGON



"Never stop being a student." These are the first words of advice from the Teacher of the Year for the state of Oregon. Dr. Mandy Vance ('08), a teacher in the Oregon Trail School District, was recently honored by the Oregon Department of Education as Teacher of the Year for the 2023/24 school year.

The presentation of this award was nearly a year in the making, following a rigorous, multi-stage nomination and selection process. As the recipient, Vance will receive a \$10,000 cash award and matching \$5,000 award for the Oregon Trail School District. She plans to use the money to help set up a scholarship fund for students who want to become teachers.

Over the past few weeks, Vance has had several opportunities to be honored by her peers, students

past and present, parents, and the community for her dedication to education. "It's a little bit like being at your own funeral," she laughs. "I can't express how encouraging the past few weeks have been. I've received so many emails from past students and parents reminding me of interactions and hearing about how that one conversation made a difference."

Vance is currently on special assignment at Cedar Ridge Middle School where she teaches creative science and STEM classes, after spending the previous 15 years at Boring Middle School, primarily teaching health, wellness, and leadership. For Vance, this special assignment marks the challenges and joys of the profession. "I feel challenged in a way I never have, but it's been so good," she says. "As sad as I was to leave my home, where I've been for the past 15 years, I am growing immensely. I would recommend it for all educators. I'm a first-year teacher again. It has humbled me and made me step up my game."

While this year's Teacher of the Year may feel like a first-year teacher, an irony she contributes to the ever-present need for personal growth and innovation in the profession, Vance has been a mainstay in her district for years. She was instrumental in revamping her school's advisory program to focus on social-emotional well-being rather than purely academic performance. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she spearheaded a light-hearted, teacher-run morning news show for her school to help encourage distance-learning students, and the sports management course she has developed, which values leadership over talent, is now taught district-wide.

Vance looks back on her time at Corban not only as a season of preparation, but a time for discovering the kind of calling and purpose that continues past the final bell. "There are not a lot of other professions that rival the opportunity we have to make a difference in the lives of students," she says. "It's such an amazing profession for giving back and making a difference in the world, which is what Corban prepares you to do. It's my ministry every single day, and I love it."

## GOD'S FAITHFULNESS THROUGH THE INCARNATION

by Dr. Tom Cornman, Senior Vice President & Provost

Many, if not most, of our students try to travel home for Christmas, which leaves our campus a little cold and lonely in their absence. Togetherness—belonging—feels like an essential part of any holiday celebration, doesn't it? For those of us who are far from family, there's often wistfulness and longing for fellowship with those who know, love, and understand us.

But more significant than being far from our physical home, consider the reality that without Jesus Christ as our Savior, we are far from God both in this life and in eternity. Yet the miracle of God's Son taking on human flesh demonstrated the Father's ultimate faithfulness to mankind! After the first instance of rebellion in the Garden, God promised

a Redeemer (Gen. 3:15), a pledge illustrated and echoed throughout the Old Testament, which came to pass two millennia ago in a dirty stable: "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:13, ESV).

Because of the Incarnation, we who were "far off" can belong both to Christ as His beloved children and to the great multitude who are His body, the Church. If you have you placed your faith in the Christ of Christmas who came to live a perfect life, carry your sins to the cross, and rise from the dead, you are not alone. You belong to Him now and in eternity! That, indeed, is the power of the Incarnation.

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- Alexis (Berdeaux) Galloway, '09** | Yakima, Washington  
“Visited Corban to relive college memories and share them with our five kids. Enjoyed lunch with Baker and Trammell while we were there.”
- Darlene (Sorstokke) Lunsford, '77** | Olympia, Washington  
“Winged Publications published four books that I’d written years ago but that had never been accepted for publication! It’s a lifelong dream—three inspirational romances and one mystery: ‘Land of Promise,’ ‘Moon Over Pender Harbor,’ ‘A Promise Kept,’ and ‘The Truth About Aunt Harriet.’ All available on Amazon!”
- Joshua Greenslade, '08** | Elk, Washington  
“We are in our 10th year of marriage and 11th year of full-time ministry. We are so grateful for the gospel, and so thankful for the ministry that God has entrusted to us. We both became certified biblical counselors through ACBC and are excited about the life change that the gospel brings.”
- Kaci (Larick) Niles, '18** | Salem, Oregon  
“I got married this summer!”

- Ruthie (Edwards) La Freniere, '67** | Keizer, Oregon  
“Now 80 years old, I have slowed down a bit. For the past ten years I have enjoyed teaching women’s Bible studies. I especially love volunteering at Simonka, the women’s shelter sponsored by UGM. Once a month I do a chapel service. It is thrilling to see how God is working in their lives.”
- Rene Bairos, '06** | Redding, California  
“I am a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (LMFT) and received a new promotion to Clinical Director at Dunamis Wellness in Redding, California.”
- Karla Lewis, '19** | Bremerton, Washington  
“I am now working with a homeless youth shelter. I am loving the job, and I cannot wait to see what the future brings.”
- Doug Merryman, '79** | Sparks, Nevada  
“Teri was promoted to heaven in 2021 from COVID-related complications. I am currently taking care of Teri’s mom, Inga Brown, here in Sparks, Nevada. We attend Calvary Baptist Church in Reno, where I lead the Community Small Groups Ministry. Mandy, Brittany, and Jeremy attended Corban as well.”

- Julie (Odorns) Kelley, '93** | Celina, Texas  
“My family and I live in Dallas, Texas, and I am a kindergarten teacher at Legacy Christian Academy. I loved my graduate year at Corban (Western Baptist back then!) and was blessed with many great relationships and godly counsel from my professors. I have many fond memories of my teacher program!”
- Davis Dyer, '75** | Keizer, Oregon  
“My wife, Mary (Milan, 1970-72 & 1974), was ushered into the presence of our Lord on December 10, 2022. She was 74. She is rejoicing in His presence. I am rejoicing for her.”
- Lyndell & Barbara (Emitte) Kuns, '57 & '55** | Surprise, Arizona  
“Enjoying retired life in Arizona. Lyndell retired in 2020 following 63 years of pastoral ministry.”

Let us know the special things that have been happening in your life! Scan the QR code to submit your major life updates.



## CORBAN ED DEPARTMENT HOSTS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL EDUCATOR'S CONFERENCE



This fall, the Corban Education Department hosted over 200 Christian school educators on campus for its first ever Corban Christian School Educator’s Conference. The conference was created in response to an expressed need from local Christian school leadership for professional development opportunities which have been limited in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. “There is such a strong collection of Christian schools within the Willamette Valley, and we wanted to do something that had a more local feel where people could connect with people who are doing Christian education within the same context and region,” said Dr. Aaron Imig, Dean of the School of Education at Corban University.

The conference was completely free for all attendees, with the University providing breakfast, and the Oregon Christian Education Coalition providing lunch. “All they had to do was get here,” said Imig.

“As educators, the fact that they could just show up, not having had to prepare anything, and just be ministered to was part of the reason for their excitement to be here.”

For the Corban Education Department, the driving ethos behind the first iteration of this conference was to strike an uncommon balance between content and connection, with a pace that facilitated space and conversation. “We wanted space for people to connect, to learn something about the craft of teaching that they could take back and try on Monday, and to get know others who are doing their same job,” Imig said.

For a majority of the attendees, this intentionality was immediately felt. “This one-day session, more than anything else, reminded me that I am not alone,” said Faith Gerber, Principal of nearby Riviera Christian School. “It’s easy to get so busy focusing on our own classes or our own schools that we forget that there are many others walking alongside us just out of our daily view—other educators who share the same burdens, grapple with the same challenges, and serve the same God.”

While Corban professors and leadership led workshops and sessions, the majority of the conference focused on breakout sessions where educators were placed into

smaller groups based on grade-level, content area, and position to facilitate close conversation and idea sharing.

As educators gathered, shared stories, swapped techniques, and brainstormed new ideas, the collaboration and commitment to a shared cause left a lasting impression. “I was encouraged by the number of schools that chose to participate,” said Christina Greene, Director of Student Success at Salem Academy. “This sent a strong message that Christian professional development is valuable and necessary as we grow as educators. And I appreciated the collective worship time. This was a beautiful reminder that we are all members of the body of Christ.”

The Education Department already has a date for next year’s conference on the calendar—October 11, 2024—with the hope of even more schools in attendance. “I would love to look back someday and see this as the 15th annual Corban Christian Educators Conference,” said Imig. “Corban can be a leader in Christian education here in the Willamette Valley. If we can take a day and help our Christian school partners grow, we need to take advantage of that.”

## ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

**20% OFF TUITION COSTS FOR YOUR CORBAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAM!**

Graduate students who have previously completed any undergraduate, licensure, or other graduate program at Corban University, Western Baptist College, or Northwest Baptist Seminary are eligible for the Alumni Scholarship.

## GRAD PROGRAMS

### ONE-YEAR ONLINE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Business Administration (MBA)
- Business Intelligence & Analytics
- Exercise & Fitness Management
- Public Administration (MPA)
- Public Safety Administration (MPSA)

### ADDITIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Christian Leadership
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Divinity (M.Div.)
- Education (M.S.Ed.)
- Graduate Teacher Licensure

## ALUMNI AWARDS

Do you know a fellow alum who is making a difference in the world for Jesus Christ in remarkable ways? **Nominate them for an Alumni Award!**



# FACULTY NATIVITY

by Dr. Colette Tennant, Professor of English



Gathered around the stable in Bethlehem, who would play the parts of that glorious scene?

Our own Becca Alburn would be Mary, with her sweet young face, and her father, a saint.

Allen Jones, who is so very well practiced at fatherhood now, would be Joseph.

The innkeeper would be Sam Baker because I've seen him find lodging for 30 students in Dublin even when our Irish bus driver got lost and couldn't find the hotel.

The midwife would be Sarah Comstock who has brought so many children into dazzling light.

And the shepherds watching over their flock that night – taking the lead would be John Scott of course who cares for God's creation, who knows by name the wildflowers on our campus, every tree here, every bird in the air.

And Bryce Bernard would be with him because he shepherds our athletes to be scholars too,

and Annette Harrison would be a shepherd too because she has herded students on mission fields all around the world,

and Greg Trull and Tim Anderson, who shepherd young ministers in faraway Africa,

and Evan Hedlund, gentleman farmer and nimble with numbers, so he would keep an accurate count of the flock.

And the Bethlehem Star would be lit by the smiles of those who came before – Anne Jeffers and Rich Meyers and David Miller and Nancy Martin and Richard Caulkins and Beth Bartruff and the rest of a great crowd of witnesses.

And wisemen would follow the light of the great star to the baby – Jim Hills would be first because he so generously gives handfuls of gold to all those who know him, and Ryan Stark, who came from afar to be our resident philosopher, and Leroy Goertzen and Gary Derickson, all suddenly (and surprisingly) silent before dear Jesus. And these shepherds and kings and wisemen would all kneel to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

And Mark Stanek would teach the angels that heavenly song, and the rest of us, we would gather around the stable and join the choir singing praises to our newborn King –

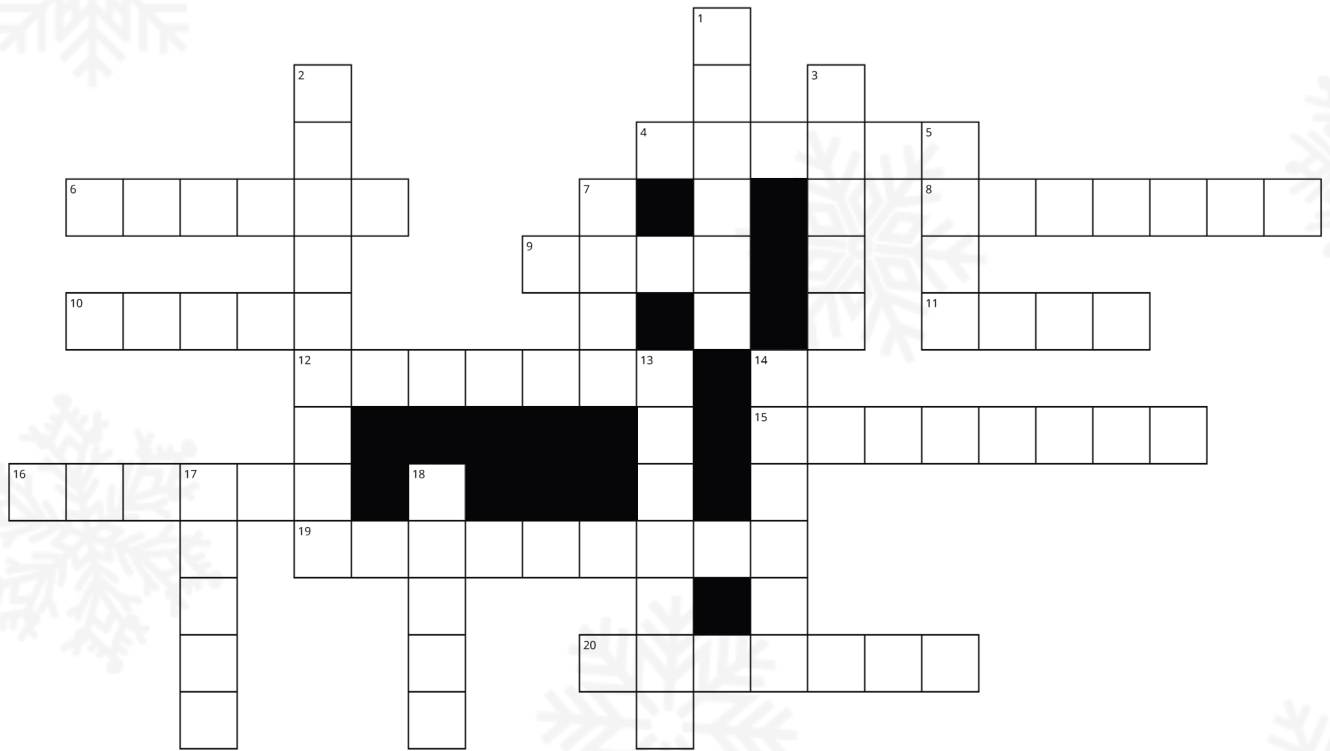
Oh come let us adore Him. Oh come let us adore Him. Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.



"Years ago, when I left the corporate world, I had essentially said that, 'Lord, wherever You send me, and whatever You ask me to do, I'm prepared to do it,'" says Jordan Wade. "As a soldier, that's pretty much the way that you live your life. You get orders and you go to where you're sent."

Jordan Wade is the newly appointed Vice President for Business and Chief Business Officer at Corban University. He uniquely combines 20 years of military service with corporate experience and a passion for church ministry. Prior to coming to Corban, Wade served as Vice President for Auxiliary

# CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



## DOWN

1. \_\_\_\_\_ WONDERLAND
2. ROASTING ON AN OPEN FIRE
3. PRINCE OF \_\_\_\_\_
5. WISEMEN'S GUIDE
7. PREPARED THE WAY
13. MESSENGER
14. POPULATION TALLY
17. MAGNIFICENCE
18. REASON FOR THE SEASON

## ACROSS

4. HEAVENLY CHOIR
6. MARY'S TRANSPORTATION
8. GOOD \_\_\_\_\_
9. ANTICIPATION
10. COUNTRY OF REFUGE
11. SLEIGH BELLS \_\_\_\_\_
12. HEROD'S FEAR (2 WORDS)
15. GOD WITH US
16. ALL IS CALM, ALL IS \_\_\_\_\_
19. FIRST VISITORS
20. LONG-AWAITED SAVIOR

For answers, see page 5.

# CHRISTMAS FOR SALE

by Dr. Bryce Bernard, Dean of the Hoff School of Business



On the day after Halloween, we stepped into the winter wonderland of Christmas at our local Home Depot. Christmas trees, inflatable Santas, and tools I didn't even know I needed greeted us at the door—a stark reminder that Christmas IS the most wonderful time of the year for retailers.

Merchants began to leverage Christmas in the early 1800s, premiered the first in-store Santa in 1846, and in 2023 expect to see retail sales in the United States exceed \$957 billion. How do we live as Christians at Christmas in a culture of commercialism?

Christmas began when God sent His Son, Emmanuel, to be with us. Christ entered our world with all its problems, brokenness, and issues, meeting us where we live, offering us salvation and a relationship with Him—a gift more satisfying than anything this world has to offer. God still meets us today in the midst of this culture of commercialism and calls us to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.

We can't reverse the path of culture, but because God is with us, we can live, in this culture, consumed with seeking the presence and character of God.

**Are we seeking what the current culture is selling or are we seeking the kingdom of God?**

# JORDAN WADE ASSUMES THE ROLE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS

Services and Operations at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri.

When the opportunity at Corban was first presented to him, three words immediately came to his mind: "Surprised, humbled, and then prayer," he says. With his wife and five children to consider, the decision to uproot and move across the country from Kansas City to the Pacific Northwest was not an easy one. "The Lord gave me so many points of validation along the way, that this was His will for us," Wade says. It was Corban's mission and purpose that solidified this new calling in Wade's mind. "I want to be about the business of equipping people to make a difference in the world for Jesus Christ," he says. "Locking arms with people that are serious about the work of discipleship is what got me excited."

In this new role, Jordan Wade sees a culmination of the many different skill sets he has inherited and cultivated throughout his life. "All of the giftings that God has placed within me, all of the experiences that I've had,

are being put to use here," he says. "Christian higher education represents the place where so many of the experiences that God has given me are being put to use for His glory."

Settling into a new position, new campus, and new place to call home, Wade is eager to focus his efforts on a people-first approach. "I look forward to hearing people's stories and figuring out how I can be an institutional asset, not just for staff, but for students too," he says. "I want to meet people and learn how I can begin serving them."

As he sets his focus to facilities management, external contracts, and the many duties his position entails, just like a soldier, armed with new orders, selfless service is what he considers to be the heart of all that he does. "If you come to campus and things work well, and you never know who I am, then I've done my job," he says. "I want to be a person that helps make this place hum, and to see His Kingdom work fulfilled."

## 2023 FALL SPORTS RECAP

### Volleyball

Once again, the Warriors secured a bid to the NAIA National Championship Tournament after finishing the season as the no. 7 team in the nation, boasting a 25-5 regular season record. Outside hitter, Rylee Troutman, was named back-to-back CCC Player of the Year, with five other Warriors earning all-conference recognition.

### Men's Cross Country

The men's cross country team has been the Cinderella story of the conference, seeing their highest-ever rank in school history, finishing the season as the nation's no. 17 team and earning the program's first ever at-large bid to the NAIA National Championship, held in Vancouver, Washington. Senior runner Robert Swoboda paced the Warriors all season, winning the CCC title, and was recognized as USTFCCCA's NAIA West Region's Male Athlete of the Year.

### Men's and Women's Soccer

Under the leadership of two first-year head coaches, both the men's and women's soccer teams battled their way into post-season play before early exits in the CCC Tournament. On the men's side, redshirt sophomore forward, Irwin Leon, was named to the all-conference second team, and for the women's team, Alysia Alvarado was named to the first team, and Fatima Jimenez earned a second-team nod.



Jairo Aguirre clears the ball on defense.



Rylee Troutman spikes the ball.



Hunter Bensman overtakes an opponent.



Chloe Beck advances the ball.

## COACH HARRIS PLACES DISCIPLESHIP AT THE HEART OF CORBAN WRESTLING

"Coaching for me has always been a mission field," says Head Men's Wrestling Coach, Nolan Harris. "Initially I thought high school was the primary place to really shape young men and show them the love of Christ, but when presented with this opportunity, I started to realize that my personal faith blossomed when I was in college."

The first-year head coach brings a decorated coaching resume from the high school level to the navy and gold. Most recently he coached at local 6A wrestling stalwart, Sprague High School, where he accumulated a 42-2 dual-meet record, 37 individual conference champions, and 11 state champions.

A decorated wrestler in his own right, Harris was a three-time NAIA all-American at Southern Oregon University before beginning his coaching journey. He credits his time as a college wrestler as one of the most pivotal points in his life. "Wrestling introduced me to Christian men that had personality traits like me," he says. "I loved the sport, but it was seeing those examples of Christ in men that were meek, but not weak. Their faith and how they used sport for the kingdom of God shaped me."

Intentional discipleship is a priority that Harris has placed at the heart of his new program. "I approach our program's emphasis on discipleship in the same way I approach the tactics of the sport," he says. "You can't over-preach the fundamentals. Admitting your sin, believing Christ died on the cross for you, and committing to following Him, those fundamentals



Head Men's Wrestling Coach, Nolan Harris, offers instruction during practice.

speak to every maturity level. The ultimate goal is not just to create all-American wrestlers, but all-American dads and all-American husbands who know how to serve their families in a godly way."

On the mat, Harris' brand of wrestling features high-effort and an emphasis on point-scoring—a style he believes will help to bring excitement and interest to what he considers a "hidden gem" of a sport. "People want to see a pin, and we seek those out," he says. "I love that we get to turn out the lights here. It gets a little rowdy, and we like to put on a show and put points on the board."

At the end of the day, after the final whistle blow, when the mats are rolled up and the gym is empty, it always comes back to something bigger for Harris and his Warriors. "We are always concerned with the legacy we leave behind," he says. "When our guys step out onto the mat, and eventually step out into the rest of their lives, no matter what happens, we want the effort you see in that first minute to look the same as the last. The Lord has blessed our athletes with the ability to wrestle, and put a passion in me to coach, and if we can use our talents to further His Kingdom, then I think that will be a job well done."

## DR. BRYCE BERNARD NAMED FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR BY NAIA



Dr. Bryce Bernard greets Corban runners.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) awarded Dr. Bryce Bernard the 2023 Wally Schwartz Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) of the Year. Dr. Bernard was selected out of a large group of qualified candidates from across the NAIA.

"Bryce has been a consistent servant leader and displayed unwavering commitment to Corban athletics throughout his years," said Director of Athletics, Bill Pilgeram. "He has impacted the lives of countless students, always available to mentor anyone in need. This much deserved national recognition speaks volumes to his value, not only at Corban, but to all student athletes participating in the NAIA."

This is not the first time that Dr. Bernard has received this distinction, having been named the award winner in 2015. "On behalf of the conference, we want to congratulate Dr. Bryce Bernard on being named the Faculty Athletics Representative of the Year," stated CCC commissioner Robert Cashell. "To know Bryce is to know how deep his commitment is to the student-athletes at Corban University, the CCC, and the entire NAIA, and we could not be any prouder to call him a treasured colleague."

# ATHLETIC PASS

Get your **ALUMNI ATHLETIC PASS** for free access to Warrior home games for every sport!

Scan the QR code to request your lifetime pass.

There is a one-time fee of \$6 to create your card.



# THE CORBAN FUND SUPPORTS STUDENTS AS THEY STRIVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Corban Fund isn't just about dollars and cents. It's about lives being changed. Through donor generosity, so many students are able to come here and experience a transformative community that is united by its love for Christ and committed to serving Him—students like accounting major, Emanuel Muange.

“When I first came to Corban I was looking for ways to serve because I didn't want to be complacent and only be a student,” Emanuel says. He was quickly introduced to Corban's partner ministry, Paid in Full, serving adults in custody within the prison system.

As a teaching assistant at Oregon State Correctional Institution, Emanuel is making a difference beyond Corban's campus. “I've learned so much about

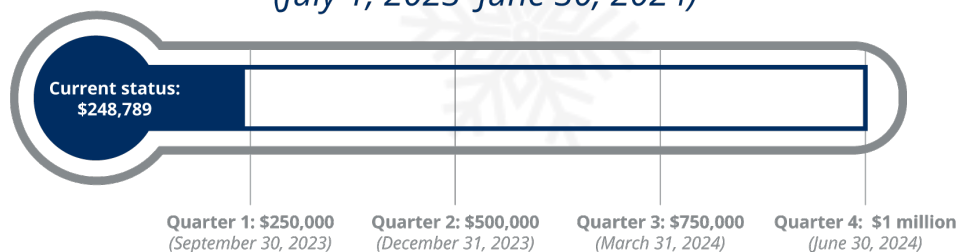
leadership, wisdom, patience, and spiritual growth from the men I get to serve and because of my time at Corban,” he says. “At Corban, we are all concerned about impacting our community, and not just our campus, but Salem as a whole.”

It is the generosity of faithful donors that allows students like Emanuel to flourish in service and prepare for the futures God has for them. “Thank you for what you do,” Emanuel says. “Through your donations, we've been

able to not only give opportunities to students on this campus, but to the student in prison who may have lost hope. Because of you, I am able to grow in God's love, extend that love, and bring them true hope.”

## FY2024 GOAL: \$1 MILLION

(July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024)



The Giving Crowd partners with Corban University to provide **free consultation services** to help you reduce taxes and increase the impact of your charitable giving and legacy.

Scan the code or email to start exploring your options today.

## DECREASE TAX BURDEN THROUGH CHARITABLE GIVING

Witnessing God's transformative work in the lives of students within our supportive, challenging, and biblically-focused environment is a privilege we cherish. There are various ways for you to actively engage in this work, and one impactful avenue is through planned giving. As we approach the end of the calendar year, we're offering several strategies that can amplify your impact while minimizing your tax liability:

- 1. IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs):** For those aged 70½ or older, take advantage of making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA. This enables you to transfer up to \$100,000 per year to Corban University without incurring income taxes.
- 2. Appreciated Assets:** Partnering with The Giving Crowd, we provide a solution for donors looking to eliminate taxes through charitable giving while considering selling appreciated assets.

- 3. Appreciated Securities:** If you've experienced gains in the financial markets, donating appreciated securities can be a tax-efficient way to support the University, allowing you to avoid paying capital gains taxes.
- 4. Annuities and Trusts:** Explore a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. Those aged 70 ½ or older are now eligible to make a one-time gift of up to \$50,000 from their IRA.
- 5. Donor-Advised Fund (DAF):** Set up a DAF to make a gift, receive an immediate tax benefit, and decide later which programs to support.

For inquiries about tax-efficient contributions, please reach out to Shannon Johnson at [sjohnson@corban.edu](mailto:sjohnson@corban.edu) or (503) 508-2870. Scan the QR code to access our giving page and explore more resources.



## EYES ON TRADITION: TURKEY TROT CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF FESTIVE FUN

With the first fall of autumn leaves scattering bright reds and gold across Corban's campus, students gathered in front of the Psalm Center at a makeshift starting line, drawn in chalk across the wet pavement, for an event that has been in existence for 50 years—the enduring, the infamous, the ridiculous Turkey Trot.

Every year, Corban students lace up their running shoes, many donning patchwork costumes, and run the across campus for the glory of the Turkey Trot title. “I think this tradition has endured for so long because, crazy as it is, it can be a time of reflection on all that God has given us, and a time to enjoy community,” says Student Body President, Ethan Shepherd, who ran the race in a full turkey costume this year. “It's a fun event where we can praise God together, be in fellowship, and encourage each other to keep persevering.”

The event first began in 1973 with only brief gaps in its celebration in 2020 and 2021. It is one of the University's most enduring traditions. Originally a race for the most diehard, the event has expanded over the years to include a section for walkers, allowing even more students, staff, and faculty to engage in the festive chaos and camaraderie that is Turkey Trot.



### CROSSWORD ANSWER KEY:

1. WINTER 2. CHESTNUTS 3. PEACE 4. ANGELS 5. STAR 6. DONKEY 7. JOHN 8. TIDINGS 9. HOPE 10. EGYPT 11. RING 12. NEW KING 13. GABRIEL 14. CENSUS 15. EMMANUEL 16. BRIGHT 17. GLORY 18. JESUS 19. SHEPHERDS 20. MESSIAH

## PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY RALLIES AROUND CORBAN STUDENTS FOR ANNUAL MOCK INTERVIEWS



Mock Interview Day first began with a small group of marketing students doing short, one-on-one interviews with a handful of local professionals. Now, the event has blossomed to include over 85 students, with a variety of interview types conducted by 70 interviewers from the professional community—nearly a third of whom are Corban alumni who once shared this same experience.

This year, the event expanded to include opportunities for media arts and criminal justice majors, inviting in industry professionals and interviewers from four real-world agencies, including the FBI and Oregon State PD.

“This all didn’t happen by accident,” says Assistant Professor of Business and Marketing, Kelli Gassman, who has spearheaded this event since its

inception. “Every year, God has added something new to the mix and brought in people who expand what we are doing.” For Gassman, the ultimate goal is that every student on campus will be involved in some element of career-development activity. “If we are not teaching our students how to market themselves for a job, we will have done them the greatest disservice ever,” she says.

For Corban students, the event offers the uncommon opportunity to interview in a real-world setting and receive constructive feedback. “I’m so grateful for everyone who was able to come here today,” says business major Aidan Bunn. “This is such a great event, and so helpful for all of us Corban students. Interviewing can be a stressful process, and having people give us feedback and a true interview experience is something that we are all so thankful for.”

For Bunn’s interviewer, Travis Noble (’13), the event marked a full-circle moment. “I love being able to give back to students in the same way that I was poured into when I was a student here,” he says. “I learned so much in my own interview process ten years ago that helped me land jobs right out of college. It’s so valuable for these students, and, on my end, the value is that I now get to hire some of these students and watch them grow.”

## YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

Opening to a sold-out crowd of elementary school children, the energy and enthusiasm of this show lifted any audience member’s spirits, regardless of their age or exposure to the original comic strip. Diehard “Peanuts” fans were greeted with familiar sights and sounds: Snoopy’s bright-red doghouse, Lucy’s psychiatric help stand (still only 5 cents), Schroeder’s two-inch-high piano, music inspired by the beloved Charlie Brown holiday TV specials of the 60s and 70s, the goofy dance moves to match, and yes, even the famous “wah, wah, wah” of the unseen adults.

On the stage, Corban’s cast of talented actors put the football right through the uprights, offering audiences the perfect mix of laughter, music, dancing, and inspiration. “What I have really enjoyed about this particular show is that it has enabled all of us to recapture that childlike enthusiasm, and reenter that completely different way of seeing the world,” says Corban Theatre Director, Tamara McGinnis. “It’s been a delight to just sing, dance, act out a few jokes together—it’s still a lot of work, but it’s fun work, and we have enjoyed ourselves.”



Noelle Prodan (Lucy) teases Ben Bennet (Charlie Brown)



(Left to right): Brycen Common, Tessa Doer, Alekai Faber

## BECOME A CORBAN UNIVERSITY PRAYER WARRIOR



**Pray that students** will continue to seek out mentoring and accountability relationships, invest in a local church, and develop personal practices of communion with the Lord.

**Pray for student leaders** currently in positions and for those applying for positions for next year.

**Pray for students** as they seek employment and internship positions, that these experiences would contribute to their continued growth.

**Pray for our nursing program:** for the request to start our program which goes before our regional accreditor, and for our February meeting with the Oregon State Board of Nursing as they evaluate our application. Pray that God will bring the right candidate to the position of Assistant Director.

## EVENTS



### CHRISTMAS AT CORBAN

December 9, 3:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with this special seasonal showcase of sacred music!

Corban's Music Department presents music for Christmas, featuring each of Corban's instrumental and choral ensembles. This free, public event is held in the Psalm Center on Corban's campus.



### HOLIDAY HOOPS

December 28–29

Whether you have a basketball lover or a child new to the game, they'll love building their fundamental basketball skills at Holiday Hoops Camp with contests, prizes, and awards each day. Camp is open to boys and girls in grades 3-6.



### HYMN FEST

February 9, 7:30 p.m. & February 10, 2:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for Hymn Fest, a time for the community to join with Corban's music ensembles to worship through prayer, the reading of psalms, and the singing of hymns. The event will be held on campus, in the Psalm Center, and is free and open to the public.



### SCIENCE SATURDAYS

February 24–March 16

Sign-ups are open now for the spring session of Science Saturdays. K–5th graders will explore science concepts and perform hands-on experiments...in a real science lab! Taught by Corban students, the session runs for four weeks, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. each Saturday morning.



### SUPPORT CORBAN

Our students and their commitment to Christ make us who we are, but our donors drive what we do. Join the cause with a gift today!

### REACH OUT TO US

Do you have something you would like to see featured in an upcoming issue? Let us know by email at [marcom@corban.edu](mailto:marcom@corban.edu), or by mail.