

# CORBAN SPRING 2026 CONNECTION

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Champions!

It's a word we love to see.

Every championship is born out of hard work, dedication, and discipline. For an athlete, it's showing up in the gym before the sun comes up. For leaders, it's found in a thousand personal choices that no one ever sees that drive them toward excellence.

In this edition of the *Corban Connection*, you'll find out about our amazing and historic season of championships in basketball, wrestling, and track and field. You'll also see the winners of this year's alumni awards, highlighting the men and women who are out there making a difference for the Kingdom of God.

Corban is experiencing an amazing season of winning by God's grace. From increasing enrollment, improvements on campus, increasing alumni engagement, and new fundraising records broken, God has brought to Corban a great team putting in the work to win.

Through Christ, we are, together with you, champions pursuing His mission to educate Christians who will make a difference in the world for Jesus Christ!

Let's win together!

John Mark Yeats, Ph.D.  
President



## TWIN TITLES: CORBAN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL BOTH CROWNED CCC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

For the first time in school history, the Corban University men's and women's basketball programs are both Cascade Collegiate Conference Tournament Champions in the same season, and both are headed to the NAIA National Tournament.

The historic double championship capped remarkable postseason runs for the Warriors. The women, who had already secured the regular-season CCC title, left no doubt in the tournament final, dominating Lewis & Clark State College 57-38 on their home floor, securing the program's first CCC tournament championship in nearly 20 years. "I just could not be prouder of this team," said head coach Kylie Frizell. "When the offense wasn't flowing like we wanted it to, they stepped up on the defensive end and held LC to under forty points, thanks to their tenacity. We knew this was a chance to leave no doubt as to who the best team in the conference is."

While the women celebrated in Salem, the men were preparing for their own championship battle in Idaho, and their path to the title was anything but easy.

Entering the tournament as the No. 7 seed, the Warriors battled through the bracket with three consecutive road victories. Their run culminated in an 87-84 overtime thriller against Lewis & Clark State in Lewiston, a back-and-forth contest that featured 18 lead changes before Corban pulled away in the extra period to clinch the program's third CCC tournament title in the past decade. "The team tonight was prepared, focused, and ready to do whatever needed to be done to put themselves in a position to win," said head coach Wayne Mendezona. "I couldn't be prouder of every single player. They had the heart of a champion all season long."

Both teams now turn their attention to the national stage. The women earned a No. 3 seed and will face No. 14 seed Texas A&M University-San Antonio in Wichita, Kansas. The men claimed the No. 15 seed and will travel to Arizona to face No. 2 seed Arizona Christian University, looking to avenge an early-season loss to the Firestorm.

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## COACH BERNEY RECEIVES HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD



With nearly six decades of coaching experience, including a litany of local, regional, and national awards, championship teams, all-Americans, induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame—the list goes on—it's safe to say that Coach Norm Berney is a fixture in the athletic community. But coaching was never the plan, only the calling. "Everywhere I've been, I've tried to use coaching to reach people," he says. "It's not really coaching to me; it's discipling. It's all His work."

In 2003, Coach Berney took the helm as the first coach of Corban's new cross country program and got to work doing what he does best: recruiting and inspiring young men and

women to push for greatness. Only one year later, he launched the track and field program, building both fledgling programs from the ground up.

By 2006, he was named the Cascade Collegiate Conference Cross Country Coach of the Year. His programs would grow to become some of the University's largest athletic programs, producing conference titles, numerous all-Americans, and the first individual national champions in school history.

This year, Coach Berney is being recognized as the University's Honorary Alumni Award recipient in recognition of his nearly two decades of outstanding service to Corban, its students, and the surrounding community. "I've been blessed to be able to receive a lot of awards in my time as a coach," he says. "But this one really means a lot. To be recognized by a Christian university that is as enduringly faithful to God and His work as Corban is means you were doing something that made an eternal impact. I couldn't wish for anything more than that."

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## CREATING A PLACE TO BELONG: EMMY ARANA NAMED CORBAN ALUM OF THE YEAR



“God has given me a heart for teenagers and adolescents,” says Corban alumna Emmy Arana, recipient of Corban University’s 2026 Distinguished Alumni Award.

For years, Arana served as a middle school teacher, where she found herself drawn to students carrying the heaviest burdens. In the classroom, she discovered that the most meaningful way to support them was through consistent and genuine connection.

That conviction, combined with Arana’s love of horses and her own journey

through hardship, eventually grew into the vision for Acres of Hope Youth Ranch. Located just outside Salem, the ranch pairs struggling youth with mentors and horses, creating an environment where young people can experience belonging, stability, and healing.

Arana’s work goes far beyond riding lessons. Instead, students learn the full practice of horsemanship, from caring for the animals to leading them with confidence. “When you take a horse out of its herd, it needs someone to be a leader, and they actually find security in good leadership,” she says. “When our kids come to Acres of Hope, they are very much looking for the same thing. We get to teach them a different definition of what leaders look like. It doesn’t require words or a stage or a microphone. It’s body language. It’s all nonverbal. They learn to lead their horses.”

Arana’s own servant leadership and impact have not gone unnoticed within the Corban community. Corban Director of Agriculture Science, Dr. Susie Nelson, has witnessed firsthand the care and intentionality Arana brings to both people and animals. “Emmy has been a supporter of the agriculture program at Corban University since our very beginning,” Nelson says. “She was our first confirmed ‘hands on’ field trip for the Introduction to Animal Science class. She truly exemplifies caring for God’s creation through the gracious care of her animals and the people God leads to her doors.”

For Arana, her work at Acres of Hope embodies Corban’s mission and is rooted in a calling greater than herself. “Acres of Hope was a gift that God gave us,” she says. “This property is not ours; it’s His. And it’s for everyone.”

## CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AWARD: DR. JAMES GLEASON ('88)



Dr. James Gleason, Executive Director of Church Venture Northwest, has been named the recipient of Corban’s 2026 Christian Ministry Award, honoring a lifetime of faithful service to the Church. Gleason has served

in ministry for nearly four decades, including 25 years as senior pastor of Sunrise Church in Hillsboro, Oregon, and now supports and equips churches across the Northwest in their mission to make disciples.

Reflecting on the recognition, Gleason credits Corban with shaping both his faith and leadership. “So many of my professional accomplishments are tied to the formation that God brought into my life through Corban’s faculty and staff,” he said. “I am humbled to be honored in this way.”

## DISTINGUISHED YOUNG ALUM: DR. MELODY MORRISON ('16)



Dr. Melody Morrison is receiving Corban University’s 2026 Distinguished Young Alumni Award, recognizing her impact in music education, research, and performance. A pianist, educator, and scholar,

Morrison recently completed her Ph.D. in Piano Pedagogy at Florida State University and has published and presented research at conferences across North America. She is a member of the faculty at Middle Georgia State University while maintaining an active performance and teaching career.

Associate Professor of Music, Dr. Mark Stanek reflected on her influence: “Wherever she goes, Melody brings creativity, humility, humor, and the light of Christ.”

## OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD: JUSTIN WHITE ('14)



Justin White is this year’s Outstanding Service Award recipient, recognizing his Christ-centered leadership and ongoing service to the Corban community. A Christian artist and songwriter signed with

Alpha Records, White has spent more than 15 years using music to serve his community.

Reflecting on the honor, White said the recognition is deeply meaningful as a Corban graduate. “This award means a great deal to me,” he said. “My time at Corban equipped me to pursue excellence in my work while teaching me to live and lead in a Christ-like manner. The friendships, mentorship, and community I found there continue to encourage me as I strive to glorify God in everything I do, from my work to my music.”

## CORBAN ALUMNI RICHI AND MARIAH SEDE SERVE IMMIGRANT FAMILIES IN CRISIS



When Richi Sede ('21) sits across from a client, fear and anxiety are common emotions. But it is rare to hear so many people point to the same source.

Sede owns and operates Sede Counseling alongside his wife, Mariah, a fellow Corban alum ('21). Their practice specializes in culturally and linguistically specific counseling. “About 97% of my caseload are Latino immigrants,” Sede says. “My clients kept telling me stories of how much stress and fear they’re carrying

in relation to immigration-induced trauma and how it’s affecting their daily lives.”

For many families, that fear rarely announces itself in dramatic moments. Instead, it settles quietly into everyday life, hushed conversations in public, children chastised for speaking their native language, parents afraid to drive to the grocery store. What struck Sede most was that fear didn’t stop with immigration status. Even individuals with legal documentation were feeling the same pressure.

Sede knew he needed to act. He began reaching out to and connecting with local groups and organizations. From those early conversations, a broader effort started to grow. Through a developing initiative called the Sanar Network, Sede and other counselors are working to support those most affected. The work often requires

flexibility and sacrifice, with counselors working unconventional hours and taking on most cases pro-bono. “It can’t be the traditional model where someone sits in an office for an hour,” Sede explains. “We have to meet people where they are.”

But for Sede, the work is more than professional. It’s deeply personal. Originally from the Dominican Republic, he first came to the United States through baseball. It was at Corban that he found the support, resources, and encouragement he needed in his own immigration journey, as well as the spiritual mentorship that helped shape the work he does today. Powered by his own experience and a heart to meet the marginalized, Sede looks not to politics or even the tools of his profession to address the growing needs in the community, but to Christ. “I often ask, what would Jesus do if He were living with us in this season?” he says. “Where would He be, who would He be meeting with, and what would He be doing in the midst of this current reality that we’re living in this world? Beyond any political beliefs, I think that’s what drives me.”

When Sede sits across from clients, he hears their fears, and he responds with love. That is his calling—to serve, to care, and to meet people in their moments of fear. “It’s the same as Corban’s mission,” he says. “Every day, we are trying to make a difference in the world for Jesus Christ.”

If you are interested in helping, visit: [www.sanarnetwork.com/donate](http://www.sanarnetwork.com/donate)



## GOLDEN GRAD REUNION

WESTERN BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE CLASS OF 1976  
APRIL 23–25, 2026

Reunion Dinner • Coffee Reception • Chapel • Campus Tours  
Spring Choir Concert \* Saturday Brunch

All registration will be done via email. Deadline to register is **April 1, 2026**.  
Alumni friends of the class of 1976 are also invited to attend portions of the event.  
Email [alumni@corban.edu](mailto:alumni@corban.edu) to arrange details.



Through our new “With the Lord” submission form, any authorized family member can let us know of alum who have graduated to heaven.

Find the form at: [engage.corban.edu/register/withthelord](http://engage.corban.edu/register/withthelord)

# CORBAN FUND UPDATE

**FY2025 GOAL: \$1 MILLION**  
(July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026)



# JOIN OUR DAY OF GIVING

On April 16, Corban alumni, friends, students and staff will come together to pray for and support the work God is doing at Corban. Join us in supporting the programs, academic initiatives, Christ-centered mission trips, and athletic programs that shape the Corban experience. We hope you'll join us in supporting Corban students who are being educated to make a difference in the world for Jesus Christ.

**Your gift means more than just dollars and cents.** You can make it possible for students to thrive in a Christ-centered community that will prepare them to be difference makers in our communities and in the world for Jesus Christ.

[Donate to Corban University](#)



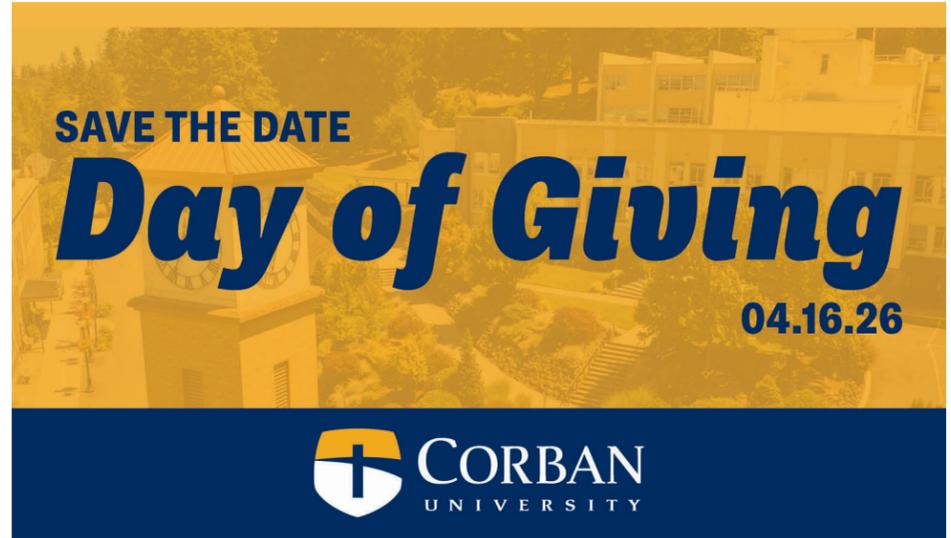
## SUPPORT MISSION TEAMS

This summer, Corban students and faculty will serve in:

- Thailand
- Honduras
- Uganda
- Türkiye

These mission trips shape students' faith, leadership, and global perspective, and many could not go without support. Would you prayerfully consider helping send a student?

Donate: [go.corban.edu/missiontrips](https://go.corban.edu/missiontrips)



# SCHOLARSHIP DINNER RAISES \$175,000 FOR STUDENTS



Student panel pictured left to right: Luke Harkey, Camille Pinheiro, Lizette Duarte, Lydia Schellenberger.

On February 23, hundreds of community members gathered at the Willamette Heritage Center for Corban's annual Scholarship Dinner to celebrate and reflect on the work God continues to do at Corban.

More than \$175,000 was raised to support Corban students and the University's mission of educating Christians who will make a difference in the world for Jesus Christ. The evening was filled with laughter, food and fellowship, powerful student-led worship, and a time for students to share their Corban stories.

Corban President, Dr. John Mark Yeats, hosted a panel discussion with four students who shared the role scholarships have played in making their education possible. The students represented a variety of backgrounds but each shared a unified message of the lasting impact that being a part of a Christian community that is committed to the truth of God's Word has made on their lives and their futures.

The evening's keynote speaker was Collin Box, Corban's Distinguished Young Alumni Award winner for 2025. Box, a former ministry major at Corban, now serves as Executive Director of Capital Futbol Club, an organization that serves more than 7,000 students and focuses on developing soccer players and responsible citizens through the sport.

Live and silent auctions followed the program, featuring items donated by local businesses, including Northern Lights Theatre, Miller's BBQ, Mavericks League, and KSLM Radio. One hot-ticket item was a special dinner with Dr. Yeats and his wife, Angie, at a restaurant of the winners' choice.

All funds raised during the evening will go toward providing scholarships that help make the dream of a gospel-centered, Corban education possible for so many more students.

## Scholarships for Online & Graduate Programs

### 25% TUITION DISCOUNT

- Non-Profit & Ministry Employees

### 20% TUITION DISCOUNT

- Members of Venture Church Network Churches
- Members of GARBC Churches
- Parents of Corban Students or Alumni
- Military Service Members & Veterans

Learn more:

[go.corban.edu/onlinediscount](https://go.corban.edu/onlinediscount)



# HONOR OUR WARRIORS' HISTORIC VICTORIES BY HELPING SEND THEM TO NATIONALS



For the first time in program history, both Corban basketball teams are conference tournament champions, and now they're headed to the NAIA National Tournament. It's a historic moment for the student-athletes who have worked all season for the opportunity to compete on the national stage. To help make this journey possible, Corban is raising \$45,000 to cover postseason travel expenses.

You can help send the Warriors to nationals by sponsoring a portion of the trip, whether it's a team travel sponsorship, a flight for a student-athlete, a hotel night, or even hydration and recovery support.

Every gift helps ensure these championship teams can represent Corban with excellence at the national tournament.

[www.corban.edu/give/postseason](http://www.corban.edu/give/postseason)



## FROM INJURY TO IDENTITY: HOW LEVI MARTINEZ FOUND PURPOSE BEYOND BASEBALL

"My foot never moved from the turf," Levi Martinez says.

It was the second practice of the year. He had just hit a double off the wall and was feeling confident at second base. Levi's eye was on stealing third when the pitcher made a sudden pickoff move. He heard the pop before he felt it. His knee buckled. He fell backward as his teammates rushed to surround him.

The diagnosis confirmed what he feared: a torn ACL. Surgery in June. A full year of recovery. No games this season. For a collegiate second baseman who describes himself as "super independent" and deeply active, the physical pain was only the beginning.

"My brother had to help me get ready every day and help me go to class, carry my backpack, get up from class," Levi says. "I don't like relying on people." Back home after surgery, the dependence deepened. His dad helped him shower. His parents drove him to physical therapy. He refused opioids and endured the pain, fueled by "Tylenol and prayer."

Worse than the physical pain was the loss of identity. "Lying on the couch all through recovery did something to me mentally because it's just not who I am," he says. "It felt like a large part of who I was had been ripped out of me." Levi began to realize just how much of his life had been built around baseball. What little time he spent off the diamond used to be taken up by hiking and daily prayer walks. Now even those were impossible.

"It was a pretty lonely experience," he recalls. "The only person I had left was God." In the stillness, Levi began to reflect. In the busyness of spring season, church attendance had slipped. Faith had become secondary to performance and progress. Recovery

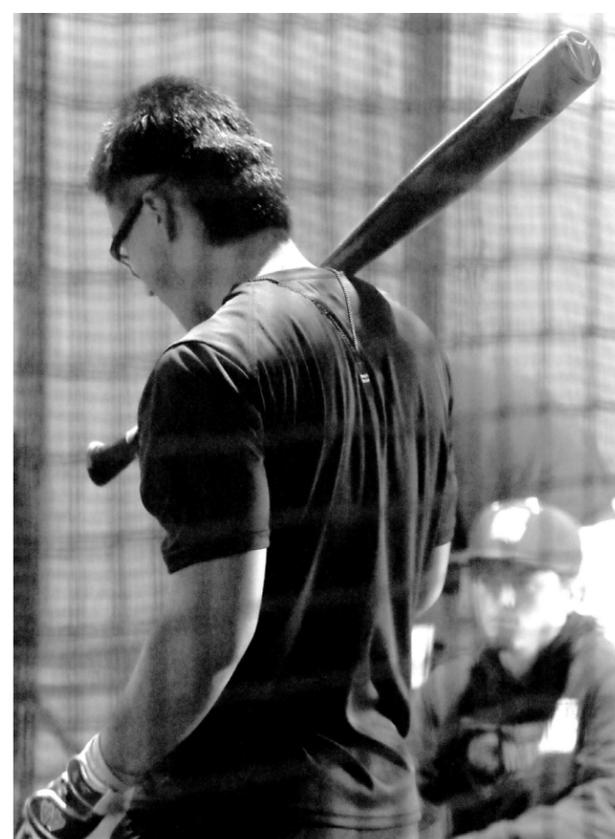
forced him to reconsider. "When you're stuck on your back, in the middle of recovery, it forces you to look up and to listen," he says. "All I had left was God. It was at my lowest point that I realized I didn't need more independence. I needed to hold onto Him even tighter."

That grip changed him. "It made me realize how prideful I could be," he admitted. "God showed me that my own desire for independence, to do everything myself, also impacted the way I viewed others."

The experience reshaped his relationships. It even changed the way he saw and related to his family, especially his grandmother, who has lived in a wheelchair for years. "It gave me more compassion for her and her situation because I was living it."

When fall semester began, Levi returned not just as an athlete in recovery but as a resident assistant and FCA leader. Instead of competing for position, he found himself competing for impact. His church attendance skyrocketed. Mentorship through his RA team and deeper involvement in FCA helped him anchor that growth. "Following God became the most crucial and consistent part of my recovery," he says. "I realized God had blessed me with an incredible community. I wasn't just an athlete. I could be built up by others and I could also help build up those around me."

So, Levi started to share his struggles, embrace his weaknesses, and accept help. His vulnerability opened doors for others. Teammates felt safe sharing their own struggles. "Being available with teammates, and being comfortable enough to share my story with other people, to help give them encouragement, has given me a purpose I never would've discovered without this injury," he says.



Today, eight months post-surgery, Levi has been cleared to throw, lift, and hit. He still can't run, so stealing third will have to wait. But his perspective has shifted. "I'm just enjoying what God has given me in this season." For Levi, that pop might have marked the beginning of a major loss, but it also marked the beginning of something deeper—an identity not rooted in performance, but in purpose.

And next year, when he finally steals third, he knows exactly who will get the glory.



## SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Each summer, Corban University offers a variety of youth sports camps for elementary through high school students to build their skills and have fun with a favorite sport.

Registration is now open for our summer volleyball camps!

**Junior High Volleyball Camp** | Open to girls entering grades 6–8 in Fall 2026  
July 27–28, 2026 | 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**High School Volleyball Camp** | Open to girls entering grades 9–12 in Fall 2026  
July 29–30, 2026 | 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$190

Camp registrations for basketball and wrestling will open later this spring.

Visit our Youth Events page ([www.corban.edu/events/youth-events/](http://www.corban.edu/events/youth-events/)) for more information and to register.



## NANCY & NORM BERNEY CLASSIC

Annual Corban Track & Field Meet

April 24 | 10:00 a.m.

Corban Outdoor Athletic Complex

Alumni compete free or come cheer on the Warriors!

Contact Coach Todd Bos: [tbos@corban.edu](mailto:tbos@corban.edu)



## FROM JAPAN TO CORBAN AND BACK AGAIN: HOW MAINA'S FAITH BECAME A MISSION



When Maina Koike arrived in Oregon as an exchange student from Japan, she expected culture shock, a radically different school experience, and hopefully a few new friends. What she didn't expect was to meet Jesus and to have her entire future redirected by Him.

Maina came to faith while attending Salem Academy, stepping into Christianity with almost no background. "I didn't know Jesus at all beforehand, and I'd never even read the Bible," she said. But while her salvation story began there, God's calling began at Corban University. There, Maina found so many who were willing to walk with her, answer questions, and build her up in faith. "My friends in my dorm,

in class, my professors, they're all willing to pray for me," she said. "I had never felt something so generous and kind. In them, I saw Christ."

In a community that prioritized the gospel lived out, she began to grow not just inwardly, but turned the love she felt for Christ outward. An intercultural studies major, Maina was afforded opportunities to engage in real-world missions. On a trip to Bulgaria, she served the Roma people, partnering with relief ministries, running children's camps, and engaging in street evangelism. She saw a level of physical need she had never encountered, but also an insatiable hunger for the gospel. "Because of their hunger for God, I was convicted to share the gospel in my everyday life," she said. It was a conviction that she did not leave overseas. Returning to Salem, she joined her Corban friends for street evangelism downtown.

Those experiences, Bulgaria and Salem, became stepping stones that led her heart for evangelism back home. "God has privileged me to already know the language and the culture," she said. "So many people in Japan have never even heard the name of Jesus."

When she returned for visits to Japan, Maina didn't just bring the gospel back to her home country. She

brought it into her physical home. While away at Corban, she had started praying with her mother through texts. Her mother began asking questions about the Bible, about creation, about Jesus. During a return trip, Maina summoned the courage to ask her mother directly if she believed there is a God. Her mother admitted there has to be a God. Maina asked if she believed Jesus died for her sins. To her surprise, her mother said yes. That day, Maina led her mother to Christ. "I still can't describe the feeling," she said. "It's just amazing that God truly does save people."

Looking ahead, Maina hopes to return to Japan and pursue ministry full-time, sharing Christ in a culture where His name is hardly spoken. "I want to start just by opening up my home and inviting people for a meal," she said. "In Japan, our culture can be very private, and it is very important to build a relationship first."

Relationships, after all, are what first built Maina's faith. "I have received so much peace and joy from being in an environment like this with people who love Jesus," she said. "Looking back, I can see what God was preparing me for all along. I'm just excited to embrace it."

## Q&A WITH NEW DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIFE AND SPIRITUAL ENGAGEMENT JASON SMARR



**Question:** What's something your students might be surprised to learn about you?

**Answer:** I'm ambidextrous. It makes golfing challenging sometimes. And I'm also a huge Seattle sports fan. I've been

to three Seahawks NFC Championship games and they've won every one I've attended. So I'm currently 3-0. You can thank me later.

**Q:** What's your philosophy when it comes to student life and student engagement?

**A:** I want students to have so many opportunities to engage in the community that they almost have to choose not to get involved. That means offering diverse events and programs where students can connect, whether they live in the residence halls or

commute. At the same time, students should be able to form smaller "micro-communities" where they really feel known.

**Q:** What challenges do today's students face that previous generations didn't?

**A:** Connection. A lot of students missed important developmental years because of COVID. Many of them learned to default to technology instead of interaction. You walk into a room now and people immediately go to their phones instead of talking with someone nearby. So part of our job is helping rebuild that sense of community and engagement.

**Q:** What was freshman-year Jason Smarr like?

**A:** Honestly? I had no idea what I was doing. I started at Clark Community College, barely graduated high school with a 3.0, and just wanted to keep playing basketball. I even failed a sub-100 level math class my freshman year. But my English classes started to change things for me—especially writing about issues that mattered to me, like supporting students with ADHD. That eventually became my master's thesis.

**Q:** How does that influence your work with students today?

**A:** It helps me see students differently. Every student is uniquely created in the image of God, and many learn or process things differently. My goal is to help them feel known, loved, and seen, and to help them understand that a tough semester or a failure doesn't define them.

**Q:** When students graduate from Corban, what do you hope they take with them?

**A:** I hope they know how to build and live within Christian community. I want them to leave confident in who they are as people made in the image of God, able to engage with others, make mistakes, grow, and live with integrity wherever they go.

**Q:** Unfair question: favorite student event?

**A:** Lumberjack Games. I'm biased—maybe it's the beard—but students show up for it and engage really well. It's a great example of community happening in a fun way.

## CORBAN THEATRE'S *THE HIDING PLACE* BRINGS THE STORY OF CORRIE TEN BOOM TO LIFE



Elise Johnston and Neleah Watkins embody the roles of Betsie and Corrie ten Boom.

Corban University Theatre's production of *The Hiding Place*, written by Bradley Winkler and running through March 15 at the Psalm Performing Arts Center, brings Corrie ten Boom's story of human struggle and divine grace to the stage with powerful relevance for today.

Adapted from John and Elizabeth Sherrill's book of the same title and based on real events, *The Hiding Place* follows the ten Boom family's courageous effort to shelter and save Jewish people in Nazi-occupied Holland. What Corban's talented actors deliver is not a pleasant production—it is essential.

Directed by Tamara McGinnis, *The Hiding Place* asks its audience to wrestle with serious topics such as the problem of pain and God's goodness in times of trouble. Thoughtful staging and meaningful performances by the cast ground these themes in a way that resists drawing the curtain on the harsh realities of human suffering while also shining a light on the transforming power of faith, hope, and love. "The ten Boom women weren't superheroes. They were

ordinary people," McGinnis

says. "They remind us that you can make a real difference simply by making small choices every day."

At every turn, Corrie and her sister Betsie, played by Neleah Watkins and Elise Johnston, are presented with challenges: joining an underground resistance, hiding the unhideable, suffering through prison, isolation, and concentration camps, unrelenting grief and immeasurable loss. But it is not these events that give the play its legs. It's in the small human moments, watching two sisters turn pain into purpose, that *The Hiding Place* begins to shine.

"These stories are inspiring, but they are also disturbingly real," Watkins says. "The show has given me perspective and a deeper love for the God who is present in both the family meals and the concentration camps. I want the audience to be able to experience the ugly parts of the ten Boom's story and be all the more amazed by God's grace."

The cast's faithful treatment of these real human characters allows us to wonder alongside Corrie, "What good could come from a place like this?" And what good could God possibly bring from a flea? What results is a drama that is as instructive as it is artful. Heavy with symbolism and challenging ethical scenarios that carry real moral and spiritual weight, *The Hiding Place* does not shy away from real pain and real challenge. Instead, it offers its audience a chance to learn and grow.

*The Hiding Place* may not be a lighthearted play. But it is filled with light and full of heart—a powerful experience for any audience. "I think love is the main message," says Elise Johnston. "In the end, as Betsie says, 'there is no pit so deep' that the love of Christ cannot penetrate."

In the midst of a hurting and divided world, McGinnis and Corban's cast believe audiences will glean hope from this production and from the enduring words of Corrie ten Boom herself: "If people can be taught to hate, they can be taught to love."

## CORBAN STUDENT ATTENDS ADF JOURNALISM ACADEMY



When Corban junior Desiree Flaming applied to the Alliance Defending Freedom's (ADF) Journalism Academy at the urging of her professors, she wasn't entirely convinced she belonged there. "I

really didn't think I stood a chance," Flaming said. "I was sure there were a lot of more qualified people."

A week later, an email arrived with unexpected news: she had been accepted. Even more importantly, she had been awarded substantial scholarship assistance to attend.

The academy, taking place in Virginia and hosted by ADF, a Christian advocacy organization dedicated to protecting religious freedom and free speech while keeping the "door open to the gospel," is a prestigious and highly selective program that accepts

only about 30 participants nationwide. Her time there served to strengthen her conviction in the power of storytelling. "I think we're really limited by our own experiences and our own worldview," she said. "When we hear other people's stories and put ourselves in their shoes, it opens up our world and gives us a better perspective which can serve as a bridge to compassion, grace, and ultimately sharing the love of Christ more effectively."

She credits Corban's faculty for preparing her and pushing her to apply, even when the opportunity seemed out of reach.

As Desiree looks ahead to her senior year and eventual graduation, she hopes to continue using communication to encourage others. "I want to break down ideas about theology and philosophy and make them really accessible to people who maybe haven't had a university training," she said. "I want to come alongside people and encourage them to run the race God has called them to."

## CORBAN ADDS MASTER'S PROGRAM IN KINESIOLOGY



Corban University is expanding its graduate offerings with the Fall 2026 launch of a new Master of Science in Kinesiology (MSK) program designed to

prepare professionals to lead in the growing fields of health, performance, and human movement science.

The program builds on Corban's strong science foundation and responds to increasing interest in preventive health, athletic performance, and evidence-based approaches to movement and wellness. Delivered fully online and designed to be completed in as little as 12 months, the program provides flexibility for working professionals seeking advanced training in kinesiology.

"It is exciting for Corban and our science department to launch this program," said Dr. Aaron Imig, Vice President for Academic Administration. "It provides more opportunities for students to continue their studies in kinesiology and better equip graduates for their chosen career paths. This program will prepare students with rigorous course requirements through the lens of a biblical foundation for God's amazing creation of the human body and how it works."

Through advanced coursework and applied learning, students will study areas such as biomechanics, strength and conditioning, performance assessment, and corrective exercise. These experiences help students evaluate movement, design effective training strategies, and build the professional credibility needed to lead in health, fitness, and performance settings.

"Kinesiology is increasingly vital in today's evolving health, performance, and wellness landscape," said Paul Carter, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology. "With rising rates of preventable chronic disease, growing public interest in health and human performance, and an abundance of information available, there is a clear need for practitioners who can apply scientific, evidence-based approaches. Corban's MS in Kinesiology equips students with advanced knowledge and applied competency to coach, rehabilitate, teach, and design effective interventions while growing as leaders in their professions."

Rooted in Corban's Christ-centered mission, the program prepares graduates to serve others through careers in health, fitness, performance, and wellness.

Visit [go.corban.edu/msk](http://go.corban.edu/msk) to learn more about the MSK program.

## BE A PRAYER WARRIOR



As the end to another school year is on the horizon, we need prayer warriors who commit to consistently and continually praying for Corban University.

Please join us in praying for the following:

**Pray for our upcoming graduates:** Please pray for our students who will be graduating this May, that they will have the strength and peace to finish strong, and that they will continue to rely on God and His Word as He leads them into their futures.

**Pray for our leaders:** Please pray for wisdom for our leadership and for God's protection and provision as the University navigates the continued challenges of changing government regulations.

**Pray for expanded connections:** Please pray that God will continue to bring new connections and friends of the University into our network, expanding the reach of Corban's mission and our educational opportunities.

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## EVENTS



### SPRING PLAY: THE HIDING PLACE

March 13, 14, & 15, 2026

"There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still." — Corrie ten Boom

Hope survives even in the shadows. Set in Nazi-occupied Holland during WWII, Corban Theatre brings to life the ten Boom family's moving story of love, courage, and forgiveness. *The Hiding Place* shows how everyday actions by ordinary people can have eternal impact. Recommended for ages 12+.

Get Tickets: [our.show/thehidingplace](http://our.show/thehidingplace)

### REFRESH CONFERENCE

"Healthy Ministry Identity"  
Thursday, April 16, 2026

Join fellow ministry leaders and keynote speaker Dr. James Gleason for a time of fellowship and refreshment on core ministry topics.

Register Now: [www.corban.edu/event/refresh-conference/](http://www.corban.edu/event/refresh-conference/)



Corban University's music ensembles present a variety from their spring repertoires. These events, held in the Psalm Center, are free and open to the public.

**Band and Orchestra Concert**  
Friday, April 17, 2026 | 7:00 p.m.

**Choir Concert**  
Friday, April 24, 2026 | 7:00 p.m.

### FAITHFUL LEADERS CONFERENCE

"Empowered by Faith, Driven by Vision"

Friday, May 8, 2026

A one-day leadership experience hosted by the Hoff School of Business to inspire and equip emerging and evolving leaders. Learn from keynotes by business experts, workshops and breakout sessions, and a panel discussion.

Register: [www.corban.edu/event/faithful-leaders-conference/](http://www.corban.edu/event/faithful-leaders-conference/)



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### 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 [advancement@corban.edu](mailto:advancement@corban.edu), or by mail.