Congratulations to our department’s 55 graduated seniors! The ECB faculty are thankful to God for your growth and accomplishments over the last four years, and together with your families we celebrate God’s faithfulness in your lives.

This newsletter offers some highlights of the past academic year—department events, student achievements, faculty activities—as well as alumni updates and opportunities to get involved next year. If you have an update or event you’d like to share, or if you know fellow alumni who would like to be added to the mailing list, we’d love to hear from you—please email me at kristen.cooper@gordon.edu.

In February, the Gordon College community joined together in 125 Hours of Prayer. On Day 3, Dr. Elaine Phillips of the Department of Biblical Studies and Christian Ministries shared a hymn with faculty, staff and students. It resonated deeply with me and I hope it may speak to your spirit as well. I share an excerpt below and you can read the full text online.

As thou, Lord, hast lived for others, so may we for others live;
Freely have thy gifts been granted, freely may thy servants give.
Thine the gold and thine the silver, thine the wealth of land and sea,
We but stewards of thy bounty held in solemn trust for thee.

“Son of God, eternal Savior”  Somerset Corry Lowry (1855–1932)

Please continue to pray for our community here on campus, as we also pray with thanksgiving and gladness for the members of our community who have left campus and commenced in the next step of their journeys!

Warm regards,
Prof. Kristen Cooper
Newsletter Editor
The Second Annual John Mason Lecture
Co-sponsored by the Center for Faith and Inquiry and the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership

Alumni welcome!
Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 4:30 P.M. | Ken Olsen Science Center
Kenneth G. Elzinga, the Robert C. Taylor Chair in Economics at the University of Virginia, will deliver a lecture entitled “Economics and Theology in Conversation: Intentions versus Consequences.” The annual John Mason Lecture honors the life and legacy of Professor Mason, who taught at Gordon College from 1968 until his retirement in 2007.

Economics & Business Organization Trips
The Economics & Business Organization (EBO), a GCSA-sponsored student group, will once again organize two networking trips, heading potentially to Boston, New York City, and Washington, D.C. The 2015–16 EBO officers will be Chan Yoon and Nathanael Lee; if you are a student who is interested in joining the EBO or an alumns who is willing to host an EBO group on a trip, contact them at ebo@gordon.edu.

Investment Club (New!) | David Giordano ’15
This past year a group of students founded the Gordon College Investment Club (GCIC) with the goal of promoting broader and more in-depth investing knowledge among the student body. The GCIC works to achieve this goal through interaction with finance concepts, and discussions among peers and with industry professionals. In the long-term, along with promoting financial literacy, club members hope to create a student-run investment portfolio to provide students with hands-on investment experience.

David Giordano and Udoka Obiora will lead the Investment Club during 2015–16. Any students or alumni interested in getting involved should feel free to contact them at david.giordano@gordon.edu or udoka.obiora@gordon.edu.

Happenings: Recap

Economics and the Environment | Dr. Douglas Puffert
Environmental economist Corey Lang spoke to several dozen ECB students and faculty February 23 on "Local Impacts of the Coming Energy Revolution.” Lang, a young faculty member at the University of Rhode Island, presented some of his research findings about how landowners and others respond to neighborhood wind turbines and natural gas “fracking” wells. Both energy sources bring significant “disamenities” as well as royalty payments for landowners. Lang explained how economists use data, combined with economic models and statistical techniques, to assess these local impacts, and he discussed how this research fits into a larger assessment of the benefits and costs of emerging energy sources. Lang also discussed how interested students might pursue a career in using economic and statistical analysis to address policy issues.
ENGAGE International Investment Education Symposium | Prof. Alice Tsang

In late March, James Ek and David Giordano, the current and future presidents of Gordon’s newly formed Investment Club, respectively, had the opportunity to visit Detroit with me to attend the ENGAGE International Investment Education Symposium, the world’s largest student investment conference. The conference boasted over 1,500 participants, featuring the President and CEO of the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank, and leaders from some of the world’s major financial institutions such as Ameritrade, Charles Schwab, Nuveen Asset Management, State Street Global Advisors, TIAA-CREF and other asset management firms. Gordon students heard from these well-regarded industry leaders who shared insights on macroeconomic factors influencing global markets, key drivers of asset performance, ethical issues afflicting the industry, and advice on career development. In addition, Gordon students observed how their peers from other universities presented their analyses of specific firms in a stock pitch contest sponsored by the CFA Institute. Many Gordon students are well-trained in making stock recommendations because such exercises have been incorporated in the College’s Investment Analysis classes for several years.

Berkshire Hathaway Shareholder Meeting | Prof. Alice Tsang

With final exams, papers and projects looming, travel in May seems like mission impossible to students and faculty alike. However, it was hard to pass up the opportunity to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Warren Buffett and his partner Charlie Munger at Berkshire Hathaway (BRK), a once-struggling textile firm based in New Bedford, MA. To the four Gordon students who went to Omaha with me to participate in this Woodstock of Capitalism, attending BRK’s annual shareholder meeting this year could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity given the ages of its leaders (Buffett 84, Munger 91). The Gordon team of five arrived at Omaha just early enough to attend BRK’s shareholder reception housed in several enormous tents.

On May 2, 40,000 participants filled a gigantic auditorium and several overflow ballrooms/conference rooms at a nearby hotel before 8 a.m. The atmosphere was festive and the crowd of various age groups enthusiastically applauded the arrival of BRK’s senior, wise-cracking leaders. After the usual humorous, celebrity-packed home-movie about the firm’s many subsidiaries (which included Warren Buffett training for a bout with Floyd Mayweather), Buffett and Munger were seated at a table full of candies, snacks and drinks to start their marathon Q & A session which ran from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a short break for lunch. The questions were chosen by a number of designated journalists/analysts from thousands submitted by BRK investors, some of whom were quite critical of BRK’s investment performance/philosophy. Buffett and Munger did not know the questions ahead of time but generally did a good job answering them. The Gordon students enjoyed their experience tremendously and learned a lot hearing from the Oracle of Omaha first hand.
Launch of the American Enterprise Institute Executive Council at Gordon

Current students from all departments welcome for next year | Austin Drukker ’15

This new student group is supported by the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), and aims to promote the “competition of ideas” on campus by encouraging students to build up a greater knowledge and understanding of public policy issues facing the American public. With the support of AEI scholars and other leading thinkers, the Executive Council seeks to inform the campus public policy debate, bringing new and innovative solutions to the forefront of the campus conversation. By bringing innovative leaders and thinkers to campus, the Executive Council hopes to challenge the way that students think about such ideas as free enterprise, entrepreneurship, poverty, education and globalization. The inaugural 2014–15 Executive Council consisted of Cassie Wetzell ’16, Dan Hurley ’15, Juliann Booth ’15, Hannah Scaer ’15 and Austin Drukker ’15, who led the group. The senior members of the Council were first introduced to AEI when they attended the Values & Capitalism Summer Conference last June with Professor of Economics, and long-time friend of AEI, Stephen Smith.

Their first plan of action as an Executive Council was to invite Peter Greer, President & CEO of HOPE International, to come and speak at Gordon. Mr. Greer came to campus on April 29, 2015; he spoke in morning chapel, and participated in an afternoon panel discussion, among other activities. The panel discussion was a big hit, drawing a crowd of nearly 60 students to hear the panelists discuss such topics as entrepreneurship for human flourishing, globalization, microfinancing and the Church’s role in promoting entrepreneurship. The panel featured, along with Mr. Greer, Gordon professors Stephen Smith and Carter Crockett, and Gordon alumna and trustee Judy Dean, who is a Professor of Economics at Brandeis University.

Cassie Wetzell ’16 will lead the Executive Council om 2015–16. If you are a current student interested in being a part of the 2015-16 AEI Executive Council, feel free to reach out to her at cassie.wetzell@gordon.edu for more information.

The Inaugural John Mason Lecture

Co-sponsored by the Center for Faith and Inquiry and the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership

In October 2014, Dr. J. David Richardson presented the Inaugural John Mason Lecture on “Social Entrepreneurship for the Sake of the Kingdom: Why Microeconomics Matters.” J. David Richardson is Emeritus Professor of Economics and International Relations at Syracuse University, former President of the Association of Christian Economists, and a Senior Fellow (emeritus) at the Peterson Institute of International Economics in Washington, D.C.

Above left: Dr. Carter Crocket, Director, CEL at Gordon; Dr. Joe McKinney, Professor of Economics at Baylor University; Nancy McKinney; Dr. Kenneth Elzinga, Robert C. Taylor Professor of Economics at UVA; Dr. J. David Richardson, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Syracuse University; Sherrie Mason, wife of John Mason; Dr. Thomas Albert (Tal) Howard, Director, CFI, and Professor of History at Gordon.

Above right: Richardson giving the inaugural John Mason lecture.
Economics of Global Poverty Conference

In January, Gordon College hosted an international conference on the Economics of Global Poverty. Organized by Prof. Stephen Smith and Prof. Christopher Barrett (Cornell University), and co-sponsored by the Association of Christian Economists and the Calvin Summer Seminars program, the program featured keynote addresses by David Beckman (President, Bread for the World) and Prof. Bruce Wydick (a prominent development scholar at the University of San Francisco, and Christianity Today contributor), and 15 to 20 scholarly presentations.

China Seminar | Patti Hanlon, College Communications

19 days. 22 students. Two professors.

And a country of superlatives: it has the world’s largest population, the most speakers of a single language (Mandarin), the fastest trains (268 miles per hour), and more major shipping ports than any other country in the world.

That was this summer’s China Seminar, an introduction to modern China and the remarkable economic, cultural and spiritual transformations underway there. Jointly-sponsored by Gordon College and Biola University, and led by professors Stephen Smith of Gordon (economics) and Lari Mobley of Biola (management), the seminar covered six major Chinese cities.

Students visited and learned about government agencies including the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Xi’an Hi-Tech Development Zone; they toured and spoke with leaders of large and small businesses including a state-owned steel firm, a major furniture supplier to “dotcom” retailers, and a major HVAC controls supplier. They heard from and talked with scholars and students at Shanghai University, Beijing University of International Business and Economics, Shaanxi Normal University, Shenzhen Universit, and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

The goal? To equip these students with a better understanding of modern China, including its recent economic policies and history, its business environment, its political system and culture. To cultivate students’ understanding of the challenges—both internal and external—China faces in attempting to achieve sustainable prosperity and international prominence. And finally, to deepen students’ understanding of the role of Christianity in China’s recent past and present, including the work of Christians in business.

Summer Programming at the American Enterprise Institute | Stephen Smith

ECB students participated in two programs in Washington, D.C., sponsored by AEI’s Values & Capitalism Project: the Student Summer Conference and the Honors Seminars. The Summer Conference, held Friday June 26 through Monday June 29, brought together 150 students and 40 faculty from U.S. colleges and universities to hear and learn about public policy issues from prominent scholars and elected officials, which also included a tour of the U.S. Capitol and discussion there with key staffers. India Boland, Paul Crookston, Austin Drukker, Chan Mi Kim, Nathanael Lee and Anna Obert attended. In the week after the Summer Conference, 50 students remained at AEI for the weeklong Honors Seminars in either the Morality of Democratic Capitalism (for which Prof. Stephen Smith led the first session), or in Public Policy. India Boland took part in the Morality of Democratic Capitalism seminar while Austin Drukker and Chan Mi Kim were in the Public Policy seminar. Rising juniors and seniors who are interested in participating next year should get in touch with Prof. Smith (stephen.smith@gordon.edu).
Christina Meneghini ’16

When doing the Gordon IN Boston program I had the privilege of interning at Jenzabar. There I worked as a Social Media Marketing intern for The Jenzabar Foundation. I was responsible for managing all social media accounts such as Twitter, Facebook, Google+ and Instagram. I was also put in charge of the website and blog site where I wrote weekly blogs and updates on what we were doing and promoted many non-profits and schools we supported. I had the wonderful opportunity to fly down to Boca Raton, Florida, where I represented The Jenzabar Foundation at the annual Millennium Campus Networks Conference. I was able to meet and work with nonprofits such as The Peace Corps and UNICEF, and their CEOs. Social media marketing is in high demand in this day and age, and the things I learned and the people I met interning at Jenzabar are invaluable.

Elsa Ketcham ’15

This spring I had the opportunity to work alongside a chiropractor in Beverly. I really enjoyed my internship experience this semester at Inner Source Family Chiropractic. My boss, Dr. Courtney Neill, is an example of a servant leader who always puts her patients first. She needed an office assistant, and as the weeks went by working for her, I got to learn so much of the behind the scenes to her chiropractic business. I mainly greeted patients, took payments, scheduled appointments and called insurance companies to get patient chiropractic coverage information. I also learned the billing system and helped with filing and lots of office work. Every day was a different experience, and I made so many connections with patients. It was nice to get to know the patients, and I loved working for Courtney because she really cared about each person that walked through the door. I have seen the behind the scenes of a small business, and have gained experience that puts what I have learned in the classroom into action. It has encouraged me so much; I feel that this experience has shown me that I can run a small business someday.

New Zero-credit Internship Option from Career Services

This year, Gordon College’s department of Career Services introduced a new program for student internships: the “zero-credit internship.”

This innovative option allows qualified students to complete a professional internship under the guidance of Career Services during the summer or a semester. The internship appears on the student’s transcript with course number COE425, but there is no tuition cost to the program since it is a zero-credit course! The option for students to complete a traditional internship for credit is still available as well.

Alumni, if you are aware of internship opportunities at your business or organization, please contact Stacey Phelps, the Internship Coordinator who joined the Career Services team this year. Your support in helping our students find their first internship or job opportunity is invaluable and much appreciated!

Current students, the zero-credit internship is a great way to be intentional about how your summer jobs and activities contribute to your professional development and to ensure, through a personalized Learning Plan, that your on-the-job experiences help with your academic and professional goals. To learn more, check out the program description online, stop by Career Services in Lane, and/or talk with your academic advisor. We would love to explore the possibilities with you!
What our alumni are doing

**Becca Berman ’14**

Becca majored in business administration with a concentration in international business and minor in Mandarin. Gordon's many global education opportunities allowed her to explore her passions and gain real world experience. She participated in the British Theatre Seminar, China Business Seminar and a semester language immersion at Peking University in Beijing, China.

While at Gordon, Becca co-founded Global Children's Vision, which is a legal nonprofit that strives to bring support to the more than sixty million left-behind children in rural China. Gordon's focus on entrepreneurial leadership fostered and cultivated her nonprofit work, which was catalyzed by opportunities such as the business major's business plan competition and the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership's social venture competition. The nonprofit continues to grow today and has opened its first communication resource center in Guizhou, China, which provides a safe place for children to connect with their migrant parents.

Becca currently works in Shanghai, China, as an international development associate at MDF Instruments (a manufacturer of high-end medical supplies to over eighty countries). Her role involves managing the company's eCommerce and serving as a communication liaison between the Shanghai and Los Angeles offices.

**Johnathan Clancy ’12**

While an accounting major at Gordon, Johnathan was involved in several activities across campus—as a member of the Economics and Business Club, peer tutor, student manager at the Bennett Center and player on the men's soccer team for four years. Gordon's rigorous liberal arts academic curriculum as well the strong emphasis placed on the spiritual aspects of business decisions gave Johnathan an outstanding education and preparation for the demands and issues encountered in the business world.

After graduating from Gordon in 2012, Johnathan joined Deloitte & Touche in the Chicago audit practice and also obtained his CPA License. He is developing expertise in the Emerging Growth Company practice specializing in guiding clients through the regulatory and reporting requirements during the IPO phase of the company’s life cycle. Currently, he is serving clients in the Chicagoland area in the manufacturing sector with plans to grow their business with the ultimate goal of going public. Johnathan looks forward applying the business lessons and spiritual principles learned at Gordon to everyday business in Chicago. He can be reached at clancyjohnathan@yahoo.com.

**W. Greg Thonsen ’10**

Greg is currently an Associate at Golub Capital, a credit asset manager based in New York City. He works on the Middle Market Lending team providing financing solutions to private-equity backed companies, primarily in the restaurant and retail space. Greg began his career at GE Capital in the Investment Analyst Program, a leadership development and credit training. He currently works and lives in New York City.

Greg graduated Gordon in 2010 with a double major in Finance and International Business and a Spanish minor. He also studied in Costa Rica as part of the Latin American Studies Program. He continues to be involved in the Gordon community as a member of the Career Services Advisory Board and assisting in development of the Greater NYC Gordon Alumni Network. Greg is also involved with two non-profits as a Board Member of New York Peace Institute and a member of the Young Professionals Committee of Futures + Options.

If you are a Gordon alum living in the greater NYC area, contact Greg at greg.thonsen@gmail.com for more information about alumni events.