



# THE HEART BEAT

THE NEWSLETTER OF GATHER 4 HIM CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Fall  
2020



## WE'RE STILL HERE!

Our world has changed, at least for the near future. In March we were forced to close for a short time due to Covid-19 protection requirements from the Governor and the local health district. We successfully reopened two weeks later with all of our courses converted to online. We continued that way through the end of the semester and again through the summer semester.

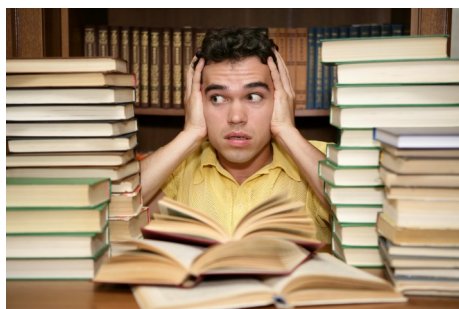
We had hoped to reopen fully in September but had to convert to a "hybrid" instructional format. Some classes are entirely online while others are a hybrid where instruction is in person for those who choose it while it is also streamed live and recorded for those who join remotely and those who cannot be part of a class at that time. In essence, we are learning and innovating as we go.

All of our recorded classes are uploaded to YouTube on the G4HCC Channel for 24/7 access.

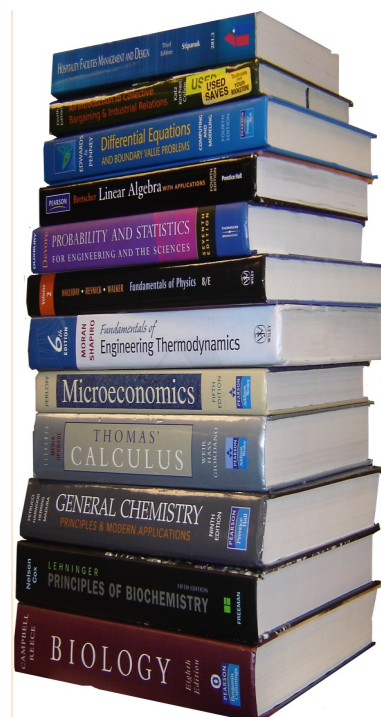
At the same time, we are in the push for final accreditation! We achieved candidate status in October 2018 and we are shooting for final accreditation in April 2021.

But we have been hit hard by Covid-19. Like most colleges across the country, we have lost about 30% of our students. This places a financial strain on the college that we had not anticipated.

See inside for details on how you can help!



*To Motivate and Equip College Students for Christ-centered Service in the Church and Community*



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## Where Do Our Graduates Go?

G4HCC currently has Direct Transfer Agreements with seven universities: Eastern Washington, Eastern Oregon, Northwest, Northwest Nazarene, Corban, Lewis & Clark, and Heritage.

These agreements allow our graduates to directly transfer into these universities with Junior status. Other universities consider each student on a case-by-case basis.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT—ROBERT N. NASH



It has been said that insanity is continuing to do the same things while expecting the results to change. Well, we are not doing the same things! We have had to innovate in every area. Flexibility and imagination are required to create preventative hygiene and safety requirements while learning how to create effective videos for online learning. We have had to think in new ways as the entire world seems to have shifted. What ends up in the dustbin of history and what innovations are yet to come remain to be seen.

Fortunately, we have access to the best research for successful online teaching and learning. We are refin-

-ing new ways to assess student learning and have instituted challenging but achievable student learning objectives at the college, program and individual course levels.

**We have instituted challenging but achievable student learning objectives at the college, program and individual course levels**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have a problem in common with almost every other college nationwide—a substantial loss of enrollment and with it a large loss of income.

I know that many of you have been hurt financially by the pandemic but I am asking you to support us by signing up for an automatic pledge deduction every month. Every contribution helps!

### On the Watchlist

#### UPDATE!!!!

Last spring we reported on a lawsuit filed by a former Fuller student against Fuller Theological Seminary, claiming that it had expelled her because she was in a same-sex marriage. Her lawsuit alleged that Fuller, a nondenominational, evangelical Christian seminary located in Pasadena, Calif., violated Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. It argues that no institution receiving Federal funds may discriminate for religious reasons against students engaged in legal activity.

*In an order dated October 7, 2020, Federal Judge Consuelo Marshall dismissed the lawsuit against Fuller in its entirety but “without prejudice,” meaning the case may be re-filed in California courts under California state law.*

### Meet Kelli Templeton!

Kelli joined us in June of 2020 as Director of Admissions and Student Life. She comes to G4H after 17 years at Bethel Church where she served as Director of Ministry Development, which involved building multiple teams of volunteers.

Kelli has an impressive academic background and a wealth of knowledge:

B.S., Biology, Washington State University

M.S., Environmental Science, Washington State University

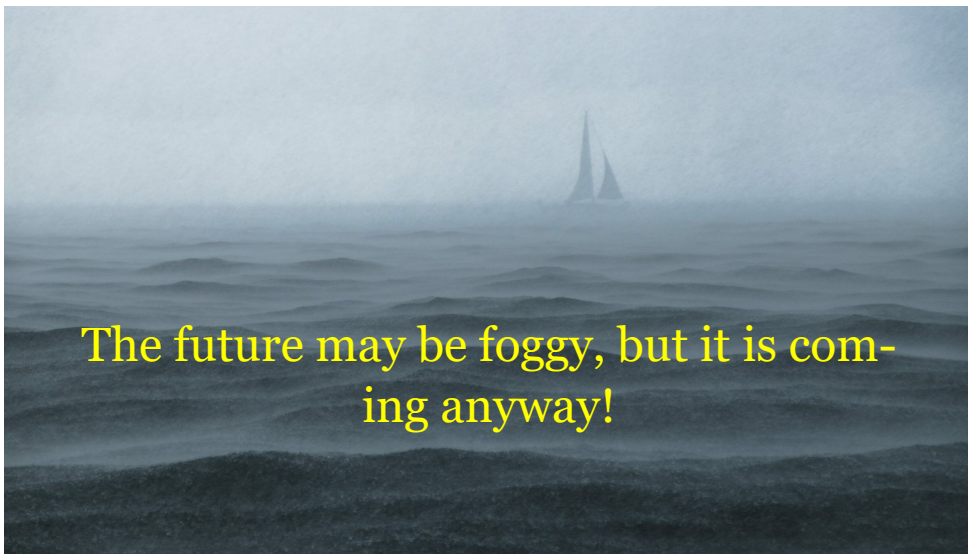
M.A., Specialized Ministry, Western Seminary



Kelli hit the floor running and has not slowed down as she works with all of us to create a winning experience for staff and students.

### Welcome Kelli!





The future may be foggy, but it is coming anyway!

*"Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody else expects of you. Never excuse yourself. Never pity yourself. Be a hard master to yourself-and be lenient to everybody else."*  
— Henry Ward Beecher

### Current Challenges for Higher Education

The four top challenges for higher education identified by members of EduCause:

- Student success specifically encompassed persistence, retention and completion, as well as student engagement and overall outcomes.
- Financial health was tied to shrinking enrollment, rising costs, a lack of traditional forms of funding and "natural disasters," which are "negatively impacting the higher education experience."
- Reputation and relevance: In a "turbulent" political climate, the concept of higher education is being targeted for affordability; and the relevance of its academic programs and services is being questioned.
- External competition: Colleges and universities are facing an onslaught of alternative credentialing, various forms of employer-based learning and competition from schools in other parts of the world, wooing international students to their campuses.

"For higher education to meet these challenges, nothing less than transformative change will do," the organization stated in its latest Educause Review, which examines the top IT issues in detail. According to the Review, digital transformation (Dx) "is the mechanism for such change," defined by the report as a "series of deep and coordinated culture, workforce and technology shifts that enable new educational and operating models and transform an institution's operations, strategic directions and value proposition."

"The journey will be long and unpredictable, the report asserted. "It begins with shoring up existing foundations via simplification and sustainability. It picks up speed with innovation. The integrative CIO (Chief Information Officer) will help ensure a smooth ride to the right destination."

**Diane Schiffhauser, Educause, January 2020**

### College in the Time of Coronavirus

July 2020

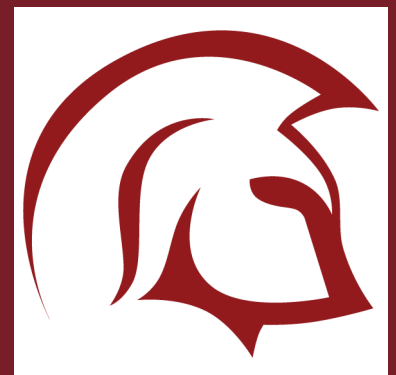
Adapted from: Andrew Kelly, Rooney Columbus (American Enterprise Institute).

Nearly all colleges and universities moved online in spring 2020 because of COVID-19. The shift upended the routines of students, faculty, and staff alike. Many observers have speculated about the future of American higher education after the pandemic in light of the fundamental challenge it poses for institutions that were originally designed to bring large groups of people together for teaching, learning, researching, and socializing.

COVID-19 constrains colleges and universities in their ability to offer core services while ensuring the safety of students, faculty, staff, and surrounding communities. These impediments in turn seriously threaten their financial health. The looming fiscal fallout has already prompted colleges to reduce staff, cut salaries, and shutter academic programs and departments.

Many colleges are struggling to maintain enrollments. Institutions that wish to reopen in the fall have to incorporate all the requisite public health measures, create sufficient flexibility in calendars and delivery modes to accommodate various scenarios and needs, and convince faculty, staff, and students that necessary precautions are in place.

This will be a difficult year for students, faculty, parents, support staff and administrators. The one thing that appears to be a constant challenge is being ready to change quickly as conditions warrant, which is something tradition-bound higher education is not noted for.



## FROM THE DEAN

### Dr. Darrell Puls, Dean of Academic Affairs



I have been asked more than once if I would have accepted the job of Dean if I had known how much work it would be. You see, some people judge the job by the work it involves and not on the effect it has on the final product, which in this case is our students.

The work of a small college Dean can be challenging, tedious,

satisfying, and even heartbreaking. But, then, isn't that true of all of life?

Changing our mode of instruction from in-person to a hybrid of in-person and online classes has been incredibly challenging. We created a public YouTube channel where we upload all of our lectures, sorted by class designations. We are working hard to make them interesting because the brain does not pay attention to boring. You can watch the lectures for free. Just open YouTube and search G4HCC Channel.

Compiling all of the reports, assessments, and other documents for accreditation is tedious but necessary.

Satisfying is when the lights come on in student eyes when they suddenly understand a concept they have been struggling with. It's that "I get it!" moment.

Heartbreaking is notifying a student that they are being dismissed because of continued academic failure.

So, to answer the question: Would I have taken the job?

**YES!**

## ACCREDITATION

Gather 4 Him Christian College is in Candidate, Category 1 accreditation status with:

Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools  
15935 Forest Road  
Forest, Virginia 24551  
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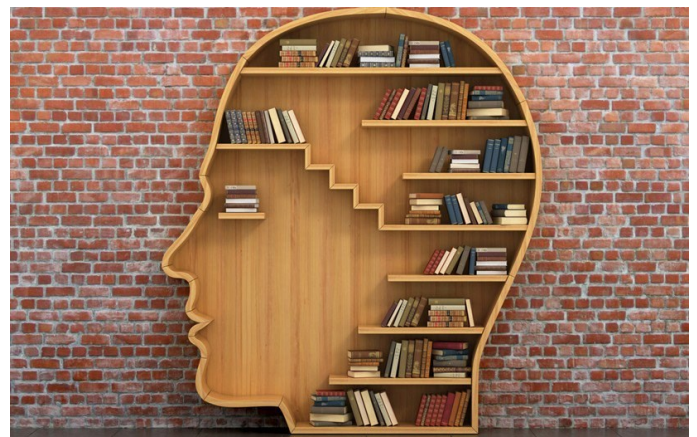
## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT G4HCC

First, we need your continued prayers and encouragement. Accreditation is a daunting process. We have achieved candidate status but, as poet Robert Frost put it, "We have promises to keep and miles to go before we sleep." Most of the miles are behind us and we are keeping our promises.

Second, we need your financial support. Please consider becoming a financial supporter through automatic monthly giving. Please call us at (509) 420-4545 or visit our website at: [college.gather4him.net/donate](http://college.gather4him.net/donate) to set up your monthly contribution.

**"All you need is the plan, the road map, and the courage to press on to your destination."**

**—Earl Nightingale**



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Kelsey Hawk Invited to Arizona as Guest Lecturer!

Faculty member and Registrar Kelsey Hawk has accepted an invitation to teach an intensive seminar at the Phoenix Seminary in January. The course is an elective in the Master's degree program---"Mending the Soul: Understanding and Healing Abuse."

From the course description:

*In this course we will offer an integrated understanding of physical, sexual, and other forms of abuse trauma based on biblical/theological and social science research. We will then develop a model for abuse trauma healing. This course is recommended for pastors, counselors, and lay leaders who desire to minister to those impacted by abuse.*

Kelsey is a licensed mental health professional and has been in therapeutic practice for several years, including time with Kaiser Permanente in the Seattle area. She is also actively pursuing a doctoral degree in forensic psychology. Her research into healing the effects of trauma on child soldiers in Africa promises to break new ground for other researchers to follow. Prior to coming to G4HCC, Kelsey specialized in working with at-risk teens and adults in multiple settings.

**Congratulations, Kelsey!**

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***Persistence and resilience only come from having been given the chance to work through difficult problems.***  
*~Gever Tully*

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## Reimagining What Community Looks Like After Fundamental Disruption.

There are three hallmarks to a liberal-arts education: breadth, creativity, and community. Everything we do in a Christian liberal-arts college is based on the idea that human connection is key to generating and testing knowledge, unleashing creativity, fostering the emergence of a new generation of thinkers and problem solvers, and making God real to a wandering generation.

In 2020, almost everything was disrupted down to the roots. Now we must reimagine what community looks like after fundamental disruption. Late August brought the tough decision to come as close to evacuating our campus as we responsibly could. While some students remain, many more departed. Some are now online students, but many seem to be simply gone. G4HCC looks ahead, we will be called to create community anew, for every single student, staff, or faculty member, whether scattered around the globe or right here, right now.



Yet, we restart community each year, with every new class of students that arrives on our campus. And social media was already blurring some of the distance between past, present, and future students.

The abrupt dislocation that started mid-March brings what was once a shift at the edges into the very center of our intellectual existence. I have confidence that the breadth and depth of a true Christian liberal-arts education will equip us to adapt and innovate.

What ingenious solutions will our faculty members devise to challenge their classes? What students will come up with new ways of finding friends and taking care of one another? How will staff members inspire one another to keep focused on our commitments and find new ways to fulfill them?

How will we nurture one another? Those are challenges I know we're ready to meet. We've got tough days coming. Families will have their livelihoods threatened; people will become ill; we will experience loss.

But I can tell you this: American higher education will be essential not only in the immediate challenge of stopping the coronavirus but also to larger questions of finding new ways to learn, teach, form communities, and solve the world's next wave of problems. However events move around us, we will keep moving, too.

We must!

*Chronicle of Higher Education*, April 10, 2020.

Adapted from G. Gabrielle Starr, President of Pomona College by Darrell Puls .