ENDURANCE
Peter Ripmaster ’06 and His Dramatic Journey Through the Alaskan Winter
+Page 5
FEATURES

5  Endurance
Peter Ripmaster ’06 and His Dramatic Journey Through the Alaskan Winter
By Adam Caress

11  The Perseverance of Christian Higher Education
An Interview with Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) President Shirley Hoogstra

17  Education and Endurance
Life Lessons from Montreat College Alumna Myra Rowell ’00, ’09, ’14
By Jessica Evans

21  Grit and Excellence
Exploring the Concept of Grit in Education and Beyond
By Dr. Paul Gratton and Dr. Brad Faircloth

DEPARTMENTS

4  Letter from the President

25  Faculty Book Review

27  College News

29  Faculty News

31  Class Notes
Reflection magazine is published twice a year by the Montreat College Marketing and Communications Office and is mailed to alumni and friends of the college. Reflection publishes articles, news, and information which seek to further Montreat College’s missional values of intellectual inquiry, spiritual formation, and preparation for calling and career.

Please contact the editor with story ideas or items of interest at communications@montreat.edu. Letters are welcome.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT


These are qualities that we as Christians are called to exhibit throughout the New Testament as a way to build character and preserve our hope in Christ. In the letter to the Hebrews, the author calls us to, “Run with endurance the race that is set before us.” And in Paul’s letter to the Romans he writes, “We know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character hope.” The Epistle of James asks us to, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”

But what do these qualities look like in the lives of some everyday Christians? We explore that question in this issue of Reflection magazine.

Our cover story chronicles Peter Ripmaster’s ’06 dramatic journey through Alaska on his way to winning the 2018 Iditarod Trail Invitational. I have found Peter’s courage and endurance—both in competition and in life—to be inspirational, and I hope you do, too.

We also talk with Shirley Hoogstra, president of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, which has provided much needed support and leadership for Christian higher education during challenging times. We catch up with Myra Rowell ’00, ’09, ’14, who persevered as she earned her associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees from Montreat College on her path towards executive leadership. And we learn about the concept of “grit” from professors Paul Gratton and Brad Faircloth.

Montreat College continues to move forward towards our vision of becoming a leader in Christ-centered education regionally, nationally, and globally. Please continue to pray for us, for endurance, perseverance, and grit, as we press on.

With gratitude,

Paul J. Maurer, Ph.D.
In March of 2018, Peter Ripmaster won the Iditarod Trail Invitational (ITI) 1000, which organizers bill as “the world’s longest and toughest winter race.” Their claim is not an empty one. The Iditarod dog sled race may be more famous, but the ITI is more grueling. Competitors must travel 1,000 miles alone through the Alaskan wilderness, from Anchorage to Nome, pulling their gear behind them on a sled through the brutal Alaskan winter. There are two ITI 1000 competition categories, a bike race and a foot race, and Peter won the latter category this year, overcoming sub-zero temperatures, a daunting mountain course, and a field of seasoned competitors that included defending champion and course record-holder Tim Hewitt.

It was Peter’s third attempt at the ITI 1000, having failed to finish the previous two years, but this time he was on a mission. He was over 500 miles into the race when he got an unexpected call. “My friend and I were tied for second when we got the call that Tim [Hewitt] had dropped out,” he recalls. “We looked at each other knowing this was a big opportunity for one of us. I’m dropped out, and we knew no one behind us was catching up. I didn’t want to talk about it too much because talk is cheap, but I thought to myself, ‘I’m not losing this. I’m going to win this Iditarod.’”

Over the last few hundred miles, Peter battled frigid temperatures that dipped to negative 35 degrees and a debilitating case of Giardia, a stomach parasite. “At that point I wasn’t letting anything stop me, and I wasn’t coming home again thinking that it’s going to be another year. I knew that if I came home without doing it this year I might never have another chance.”

Peter completed the race in 26 days, 13 hours, and 44 minutes, just over 12 hours ahead of his friend, Beat Jegerlehner. They were the only foot-racers to complete the 2018 ITI 1000 course.
Ultra-marathoners are a rare breed, and the competitors who venture into the Alaskan wilderness to compete in the Iditarod Trail Invitational are rarer still. What is it that drives them to leave the comfort of their homes and their families to compete in a life-threatening race which offers no prize money, no expectant crowd of admirers awaiting them at the finish line? Their accomplishments are certainly heroic testaments to the human will, but who in their right mind would attempt such an endeavor in the first place?

Peter Ripmaster did not always dream of conquering the Alaskan wilderness. He had been a stand-out athlete in high-school, but he was sidetracked by personal struggles that included depression and alcohol abuse. “I have always been an athlete, from the day I was born,” he says. “My dad was a grandpa played football at Michigan State. It wasn’t until he was in his mid-thirties during some of those tough times.”

I Had My Wife Drop Me Off on the Parkway at a Mile Marker and Then I Started Running Towards Mt. Pisgah.

In 2007, Peter was working as a 6th Grade teacher at Asheville Christian Academy. Then one day, after dropping some family off at the airport, Peter turned to his wife Kristen, and said, out of the blue, “I’m thinking about running a marathon today.” It took some time to convince his wife he was serious, but she eventually agreed to drive him to the Blue Ridge Parkway. “It had mile markers, so I could track my distance,” he says. “That was the only thing I was thinking.”

“I had my wife drop me off on the parkway at a mile marker and then I started running towards Mt. Pisgah,” he recalls. “Little did I know that I was just going straight up a dang mountain. It was crazy. Who does that? My body didn’t know what I was doing to it. But I finished, right? I just about passed out. I fell on my back, and I was hot and cold and had chill bumps. I was feeling sick, I felt like I was wasting a lot.”

So he was off, running 30 or more marathons a year, flying to different states and coming back in time to teach class on Monday morning. He finished all 50 states in less than five years, raising $62,000 for cancer research along the way. “It never mattered what my time was,” he says, laughing. “All that mattered was that I was active and outside and I was always doing something that affected other people in a positive way. It was also really good for my depression. It’s probably the best anti-depressant that you could ever come up with.”

Soon, Peter was looking for a new challenge. He had run over 100 marathons at this point and had finished all of them. “I was really determined to find something that would punch back, you know? I started trying these 50-mile races and did that. Then I thought, maybe a 100-mile race, so I did that and that went well. Then I got invited to the Tahoe 200, a 200-mile circumnavigation of Lake Tahoe which took me 86 hours, but I finished that too. And then I’m thinking, ‘Okay, that’s 200 miles. What’s next?’”

At that point, it was only a matter of time before Peter found the Iditarod Trail Invitational. “I eventually heard about this 1,000-mile race in Alaska where you pull all your gear behind you, and I was like, ‘What?!” I wrote the ITI race director—like you’d write your local race director to see if you can sign up for the local 10k. But this was upper echelon, the who’s who of adventurers, I knew I was a little bit out of my league, but I said, ‘Hey, you’ve gotta have me up there because I’ve done all these other races and I’ve finished all of them.’”

Due to the danger of the course, the ITI 1000 organizers screen their participants very carefully. And suddenly, all of Peter’s marathon and ultra-marathon experience didn’t look quite as impressive. “The funny thing about it is that they looked at my experience like, ‘Oh, you think that’s enough for you to come up to Alaska to run the Iditarod? All these little city marathons you’ve run with the aid stations and the people cheering for you and the slower waiting for you when you get done?’ It made me realize that this was a whole other thing that I was getting myself into.”

As a prerequisite for participating in the ITI 1000, competitors must first complete the ITI 350, a shorter event in the same conditions. In February of 2014, Peter Ripmaster headed north to compete in his first Iditarod. “A lot of times in my life I’ve felt like I wanted a lot of opportunities,” he says wistfully. “I truly feel like if I had stuck with baseball I would be playing major league baseball. I could have done a lot of things, but there I was at this middle-age point and those opportunities were gone. I wasn’t going to be the guy in the Dynasty.
movie that goes and tries out at age 36. I needed to find something that was a thing for me. And I saw this race as being the cornerstone of my athletic life. I wasn’t able to play in the World Series or catch a touchdown pass in the Super Bowl because I had made other decisions. But this was bigger than those have ever been to me.”

The match between Peter and the Iditarod was a unique convergence. Yes, the course was the logical extension of the ultra-marathons he’d been competing in, but it went beyond that. “I was a little kid reading Balto stories and reading Jack London,” he says, smiling. “And after I lost my mom, I moved up to Alaska and ran sled dogs for a couple of years. So I had been up there before. You know, no one will ever be able to know how comfortable I am in the wilderness, without me there with nobody else around. That’s where I feel my strength. That’s where I feel the most comfortable in a lot of ways. So the Iditarod didn’t sound crazy to me. It was a natural progression.”

But Peter didn’t experience immediate success at the Iditarod. “I went up that first year and absolutely got my butt handed to me,” he says, laughing. “I finished in last place. But I was learning. The next year I finished third in the 350 and felt ready to go for the 1000.”

In 2016, Peter was 200 miles into the ITI 1000 when disaster struck. While crossing a frozen river, the ice broke beneath him and suddenly he was plunged into the freezing arctic water. He managed to scramble to the shore, and he was determined not to quit. “I went 300 more miles after I fell through the ice. I was thinking, ‘I got through it. I’m gonna dry my gear. Nothing’s hurt and I can keep going.’ But mentally I was spent. I got to the Yukon River, which is the halfway point, and I knew I didn’t have what it takes to go another 300 miles. That year I just said, ‘I’m safe. I want to get home to my girls.’ So I quit. And, in case you can’t tell, with someone like me, quitting is the worst thing in the world, going back home and having to wait another year before you go up to try and redeem yourself.”

But Peter’s second attempt at the ITI 1000 also ended in disappointment. Temperatures plunged to 60 degrees below zero and only four of the 20 competitors who had started the race made it to the 350-mile checkpoint, and at that point, the remaining racers all decided to pack it in. “It was friends almost lose fingers and toes that year from frostbite, so it was a really challenging year,” he says. “But at the same time, I made it through okay. I took a button on my SAT phone and just be done. But then something way down deep inside you say, ‘Nope, this is all part of it, and you have to get up this mountain if you’re gonna get to Nome.’ I got into this mode where I wasn’t worried about was today, if you had asked me how far I had come on the overall route I wouldn’t have known. If you had asked me how much farther I had to go I wouldn’t have known. Each day I had a goal and that daily goal was my everything.”

Then came the call that leader Tim Hewitt had dropped out of the race, the final stretch battling Garida and dehydration, collapsing at the finish line without any fanfare, the flight home, the reunion with his wife and two daughters. “I do wish that my parents were alive to see, to see what their boy…” he begins to tear up. “But they aren’t, and that’s okay with me. My wife would say—they’d say—I care, I’m still and congratulating me. People interviewing me and stuff, that doesn’t matter. I am still the exact same person.”

The endurance that Peter exhibits out on the trail isn’t just his own. “Someone asked me, ‘How is it to be out on the Iditarod trail 30 miles from anyone else? How does it feel to be that alone out there?’ And I tell them that I wouldn’t know. I don’t know because I have never once felt alone out there. Some of my most intense spiritual moments have been out in the middle of nowhere. I’m not literally talking to God. I’m having conversations with Him because He’s right there with me.”

Even in the midst of some of his most difficult moments, Peter feels that God has been with him. “When I got through that ice incident, I felt Him with me. If it was my time, He would have let me go to me to under the water and not be able to get out and that’s brutal. But I crawled out and I was like—Okay, here I care. But I knew what it takes to get through it.

There were no disasters in 2018, no falls through the ice, no prohibitive temperatures. There was just the dew, everyday grind. “There wasn’t any one moment I remember being the most difficult,” Peter says. “It was many moments, where it would be three in the morning and be minus 25. You have just climbed up a huge mountain and down a huge mountain and now you’re at the base of another mountain. And you look up that mountain and you look at the route that you’re supposed to take and you think, ‘I don’t think I can do this.’ There were times when I would cry, tears just exploding out of myself, wanting to press the emergency button on my SAT phone and just be done. But then something way down deep inside you say, ‘Nope, this is all part of it, and you have to get up this mountain if you’re gonna get to Nome.’ I got into this mode where I wasn’t worried about was today, if you had asked me how far I had come on the overall route I wouldn’t have known. If you had asked me how much farther I had to go I wouldn’t have known. Each day I had a goal and that daily goal was my everything.”

But Peter isn’t the only one who connects people and inspires people—especially people who feel like they can’t do things, having things happen to you that would usually make most people quit, and finding a way to keep putting one foot in front of the other. Endurance is Peter’s faith in God. “I don’t think I’d be sitting here with the faith that I have.”

Peter’s faith has influenced his definition of endurance. “I don’t think the endurance I’m looking for is always going further and further and further. Endurance to me is confronting things, having things happen to you that would usually make most people quit, and finding a way to keep putting one foot in front of the other. Endurance is the Lemmon that I had my mom’s hand when she passes away, or getting a phone call telling you that your dad has driven off a cliff. Those were more formational for me than the Iditarod experiences and the marathon experiences combined, because those things taught me to have the courage to keep going, especially with my faith.”

Is there another Iditarod in Peter Rimpfner’s future? “This was my last time going to Nome without a doubt. That is miserable,” he insists. “Nome was my goal, so for me to finish and win—finish and win—there is nothing that tops that for me. So I look at it as kind of the end to a long, long chapter in my life. I still want to get my fix, so I might do shorter races. But I miss my goal too much to be gone from them for a month again.”

Peter is ready for the next chapter in his life. “I want to share my story via public speaking,” he says. “I love sharing my story. I love when people come up to me after a talk and say, ‘I appreciate you talking about depression,’ or ‘I lost my mother, and your talk really connected with me.’ I want to be someone who connects people and inspires people, especially people who feel like they are too far past or too far gone from their dreams and goals. I can’t,” he says. “But I can. Yes, you can.”

For more information about Peter Rimpfner, visit: peterrimpfner.com

Adam Cares is the director of communications for Montreat College.
For our readers who are not familiar with the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU), can you tell us a bit about what the CCCU is and what you do as an organization?

The Council for Christian Colleges & Universities is a higher education association of more than 180 Christian institutions around the world. Our mission is to advance the cause of Christ-centered higher education and to help our institutions transform lives by faithfully relating scholarship and service to biblical truth. To fulfill this mission and meet our institutions’ needs, we provide unique services for administrators, faculty, students, and friends of Christian higher education in three areas of strategic focus.
The first is public advocacy. As an effective and respected advocate for Christ-centered higher education both in the U.S. and around the world, we highlight the contributions of our institutions to the common good and advocate for the right of each CCCU institution to practice its sincerely held religious beliefs and to participate fully in the public square without penalty.

The second is professional development. We host numerous conferences for administrators to develop their skills, build connections with peer leaders, and equip them in their work to provide a holistic Christian-centered educational experience for their students. We also invest in faculty development and scholarship through institutes and grants intended to help faculty excel in their scholarship and integrate faith into their discipline.

Third is experiential education. We offer nine unique off-campus, faith-integrated study programs in three U.S. cities and six foreign countries that expand students’ academic educational experience, provide unique internship opportunities, and develop and deepen their spiritual lives.

The past couple of decades have been an increasingly difficult time for small, private, liberal arts colleges. What challenges have you seen in the marketplace for smaller colleges? What conditions do you think have led to these challenges?

Smaller colleges face more competition, as there are new ways of delivering education that fit the new market for the way people live and work today, such as fully online models, cohort models, and other non-traditional approaches to the college experience. Smaller colleges also have a changing customer—no longer are students fitting neatly into the 18-22-year-old age range, nor are they singularly fitting into a single demographic type. There are changing technology platforms and changing beliefs regarding the value of certain types of education. None of these are inherently bad nor unexpected—they reflect the changes we are seeing in the U.S. overall—but together they can feel at times overwhelming or threatening because of the rapid rate of change.

In addition to these challenges, Christian colleges and universities face an additional set of challenges. What have you seen as the biggest challenges for Christian higher education in recent years? What do you see as the biggest challenges in the near future? What resources does the CCCU provide for colleges looking to navigate this difficult terrain?

One of the greatest challenges to higher education broadly is sustainability in regards to cost and affordability for students. This is a great concern to Christian higher education as well, but Christian colleges and universities also face the challenge of government regulations potentially affecting their ability to live out their religious missions.

How do you see the future of Christian higher education in America unfolding over the next ten or twenty years?

The future for Christian higher education is bright. All of the challenges we’ve discussed have caused institutions to become creative and make needed changes so they can continue to thrive. These changes are led by brilliant, dedicated faculty, staff, and leadership, who are committed to the missions of their institutions and to training the next generation of Christian leaders.

How do you see the future of Christian higher education in America unfolding over the next ten or twenty years?

The future for Christian higher education is bright. All of the challenges we’ve discussed have caused institutions to become creative and make needed changes so they can continue to thrive. These changes are led by brilliant, dedicated faculty, staff, and leadership, who are committed to the missions of their institutions and to training the next generation of Christian leaders.

We can also go into the future in confidence knowing God is on our side. God is present wherever the Gospel is proclaimed, and we do that through the platform of education, preparing Christians for their calling in the world.
Save the Date
Tuesday, Nov. 27

Giving Tuesday is an international day of giving to support the non-profit causes you are most passionate about. At Montreat College, our cause is to educate students through intellectual inquiry, spiritual formation, and preparation for calling and career. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Nov. 27, and help us meet our goal of raising $150,000 in 24 hours.

Visit montreat.edu/givingtuesday to learn more, or call 828.669.8012 ext. 3710

I would like to thank the donors of Montreat College for making it possible for me to afford a Christ-centered education. With your support, I am able to pursue excellence academically and athletically. Throughout my time at Montreat, I have learned what it means to have Christ as the foundation with everything built around Him. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend Montreat College and the experiences that I have had thus far.

RYLAN HINCHER 19
Exercise Science

Is your correct email address on file?
Throughout the year, Montreat College shares important email updates, including special video messages highlighting our students. You don’t want to miss out on these messages! Please visit montreat.edu/newsletter to ensure we have your correct email address on file.
Myra Rowell has a long relationship with Montreat College’s School of Adult and Graduate Studies. She earned her associate degree from Montreat in 2000, her Bachelor of Science in Management degree from Montreat in 2009, and her Master of Business Administration from Montreat in 2014. She completed all of these degrees while maintaining a full-time job and other responsibilities, steadily working her way towards her current position as a senior vice president for cybersecurity at Bank of America in Charlotte, N.C.

Myra had started a degree in computer science at another school before setting her education aside to do consulting. But eventually her professional goals led her back to the classroom. “I decided I needed to finish my degree and that’s where Montreat College came in,” she recalls. “They had a Charlotte campus and, because I’d already started my career, I didn’t really want to go back to a traditional college environment. With Montreat Adult and Graduate Studies, everyone is already in their career, and it seemed like the right fit.”
Myra credits the community she shared with fellow Montreat students for giving her the focus and endurance to complete her education. “Building relationships allowed me to power through and stay on track with the curriculum in the MBA program,” she says. “Because we work in groups and teams, that allows you to understand how teams work best and it allows you to have real live experience in leading teams and being on teams.”

One strength she recognized in the teams she was a part of in the MBA program at Montreat College was their diversity. “The MBA program is how I gained experience and knowledge about how important diversity and inclusion are,” she says. “Diversity and inclusion are a number one priority; you have to have experience and knowledge about how important diversity and inclusion are.”

The vision of diversity the Myra aspires to also extends to a diversity of ideas and approaches. “Some people on a team want to go 24/7 the first few days, then they burn out,” she explains. “And others are there for the long haul and they are more consistent over time. You have some that lead the conversations; you have some that observe the conversations. You have to have all of those to meet the objectives that you need to meet.”

Myra believes diversity lends itself to long-term sustainability, but diversity isn’t the only factor for enduring success. Myra says that endurance also requires tenacity and flexibility. “Tenacity is important because you have to want it, whether you are going for a first degree or a second degree or whether you are in your career and you are looking to advance. Whether the advancement you’re looking for is vertical or lateral, you’ve got to have tenacity. You have got to be determined and believe that you are going to accomplish your goals,” But Myra says it’s also important to be flexible. “If you trust in who God is and what He has for you, then you can adjust your attitude and stance to better serve the team or community that you are in. “God has a plan for everybody and you have to work your plan and not somebody else’s,” she says.

Perhaps above all, Myra appreciates Montreat College’s focus on ethics and character. “Character and ethics is the culture of Montreat,” she says. “As soon as you walk in, you know the bar is being raised and that’s what is expected.” It’s a standard that has served Myra well in her career path. “Montreat College definitely builds the right kind of character, and character and ethics are extremely important in all businesses or in life in general,” she says. “I think that, in the corporate environment, your character shows... People see it and they understand it and they know what it is. And that’s important.”

Jessica Evans ’19 is an environmental science major at Montreat College.
GRIT AND EXCELLENCE
Exploring the Concept of Grit in Education and Beyond
By Dr. Paul Gratton and Dr. Brad Faircloth

Why can some people press on through difficult situations, while others give up? Are some people born with “grit,” while others are not? How does grit contribute to excellence? Researcher Angela Duckworth taught seventh grade math for several years, and during that time she began to notice that the amount of effort students were willing to put towards learning made a big difference in their ability to be successful in the classroom. Duckworth went on to study the characteristics of people who are willing to work harder and longer than others, which led to her definition and development of grit as a measure of individual differences.

Since her time as a middle school teacher, Duckworth has published multiple scholarly articles on grit, a New York Times best-selling book entitled Grit: the Power of Passion and Perseverance, and she has made several presentations on grit, including a TED talk. Duckworth’s research has shown that grit, defined as perseverance and passion for long-term goals, can be increased over time, and that having grit is essential for accomplishing long-term goals and achieving success in life. “The gritty individual approaches achievement as a marathon,” she writes. “[H]er advantage is stamina. Whereas disappointment or boredom signals to others that it is time to change trajectory and cut losses, the gritty individual stays the course.”

Consider two siblings—one sibling is of higher intelligence, but the other sibling has more grit. Which do you think is more likely to achieve greater success in school and in their career over their life? Surprisingly, the answer is the second sibling, the one with more grit.
Grit is related to many established psychological constructs. Those with higher grit scores tend to have higher levels of perseverance and tenacious focus toward their goals. One story that is of explorer Ernest Shackleton, whose goal was to become the first person to cross Antarctica.

After many previous expeditions were thwarted by the harsh environment, Shackleton departed Buenos Aires September 27, 1914, with a crew of 28 men. Entering the Antarctic coast, his ship, The Endurance, became trapped and crushed in the ice. As his ship sank, Shackleton’s goal shifted from crossing the Antarctic continent, to leading his entire crew to safety. Despite being stranded on ice floes hundreds of miles from the nearest habitation, Shackleton did not lose heart. He encouraged and buoyed the spirits of his crew for months as they dragged their lifeboats across the ice and searched for land. Eventually, the crew risked a five-day open sea journey, navigating their way to South Georgia whaling station on May 20, 1916.

Shackleton immediately organized a rescue for his crew on Elephant Island, only to have his efforts cut short, three times, by sea ice. The fourth rescue effort was finally successful, and on August 30, 1916, the remaining crew on Elephant Island were saved. Against all odds, Shackleton achieved his goal—every single one of his original 28 crew members survived the ordeal.

While Shackleton’s story is an extraordinary example of grit, it highlights the kind of self-efficacy, growth mentality, and goal-directed attitude that we can all employ. Even though you have not had to deal with your ship sinking in Antarctic waters, you have likely faced setbacks and trials that seem insurmountable at the time. Each of us faces our own challenges, and the grit exhibited by Shackleton and his men looks different than someone who is employing grit to overcome generational poverty, abuse, or a learning disability.

Conclusion

Grit is the common factor that differentiates those who succumb from those who overcome their circumstances.

Growing and Encouraging Grit

So how can we as teachers, parents, or managers, support others in growing their grit? First, model a growth mindset to them. None of us have “arrived.” We can all grow, no matter our age and circumstance. Be willing to explore new ideas with your students, children, or employees. Show them how to dive into a subject with excitement rather than the fear of not knowing. Share with them the joy of learning. Second, praise others for their effort and growth rather than their fixed attributes. Rather than saying, “You are smart and talented; good job,” encourage others by saying, “Well done!” You put forth a lot of effort. I can see you are growing in your abilities. Keep it up!” Remember, growing in grit does not take natural ability; people of varying abilities and personality types can develop grit and become more successful contributors. Third, provide clear and timely feedback to those you are encouraging. Feedback is one of the key tools available for motivating and encouraging growth. Both providing encouragement and constructive critique, encourage others in a way that allows everyone to receive a perspective on where they need to improve.

But what about developing grit in yourself? Duckworth recommends employing a cycle of deliberate practice. This cycle consists of setting a goal, then giving 10 percent focus to achieving the goal, getting constructive feedback on your performance, reflecting on and refining what you are doing, and then setting a new goal. This cycle of deliberate practice is intended to produce smart and effective growth. Additionally, spending time with gritty people will rub off on you.

When individual spends time with a group, the individual will often adopt the group’s views and viewpoints. Therefore, find and participate in activities with people who exhibit positive behaviors and mindsets, such as grit, that you would like to develop in yourself.

Conclusion

Be willing to explore new ideas with your students, children, or employers. Show them how to dive into a subject with excitement rather than the fear of not knowing. Share with them the joy of learning. Encourage others by saying, “You put forth great effort and growth rather than their fixed attributes. Rather than saying, “You are smart and talented; good job,” encourage others by saying, “Well done!” You put forth a lot of effort. I can see you are growing in your abilities. Keep it up!” Remember, growing in grit does not take natural ability; people of varying abilities and personality types can develop grit and become more successful contributors. Third, provide clear and timely feedback to those you are encouraging. Feedback is one of the key tools available for motivating and encouraging growth. Both providing encouragement and constructive critique, encourage others in a way that allows everyone to receive a perspective on where they need to improve.

But what about developing grit in yourself? Duckworth recommends employing a cycle of deliberate practice. This cycle consists of setting a goal, then giving 10 percent focus to achieving the goal, getting constructive feedback on your performance, reflecting on and refining what you are doing, and then setting a new goal. This cycle of deliberate practice is intended to produce smart and effective growth. Additionally, spending time with gritty people will rub off on you.

When individual spends time with a group, the individual will often adopt the group’s views and viewpoints. Therefore, find and participate in activities with people who exhibit positive behaviors and mindsets, such as grit, that you would like to develop in yourself.

Conclusion

Whether you are an educator, student, parent, entrepreneur, athlete, or minimum wage employer, developing skills to remain focused and purposeful in the face of adversity and challenge will increase the likelihood that goals will be achieved and successes will come your way. In a day and age where challenges are often resisted and avoided, we can all stand to be a little grittier.
The Impatience of Job
George W. Rutler
Sherwood Sadeghian
LaSalle, IL, 1981
Reviewed by Associate Professor of Communication Dr. Joseph Martin

The Book of Job is supposed to answer the question of why bad things happen to good people. And even though it contains the longest soliloquy attributed to God in all of the Bible, most people who manage to wade through its winding stanzas of conversation still can’t find an answer. Pope Gregory the Great, incredibly, wrote a 35-volume commentary on the book in the Middle Ages. What may seem more accessible to some, however, is a more recent 124-page paperback by George W. Rutler entitled The Impatience of Job.

Rutler begins by commenting on some dour verses: “He flees like a shadow, and continues not. (Job 14:1-2) He comes forth like a flower, and withers; and full of trouble. Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.” Rutler begins by commenting on some dour verses: “He flees like a shadow, and continues not. (Job 14:1-2) He comes forth like a flower, and withers; and full of trouble. Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.” Rutler entitled The Impatience of Job however, is a more recent 124-page paperback by George W. Rutler entitled The Impatience of Job in the Gregorian University in Rome as well as Oxford and Dartmouth. Yet he’s also been a hospital chaplain and pastor to detainees of both Wall Street and Hell’s Kitchen. He was as a priest on the ground in New York City in the aftermath of 9/11. That combination of experiences makes him a one-of-a-kind tour guide whose rapid-fire mind whirs along so fast at points you may just decide to lean in and enjoy the ride versus trying to keep up with him. This is a writer who throws down words in a manner reminiscent of William F. Buckley. Rutler’s rhetoric is so seamlessly readable (Dartmouth’s alumni magazine sampled of his punchy prose is as persuasive as any imprimatur.

But fear is no match for faith in Rutler’s extended exposition, which excels at marshaling paradoxes to frame life as a journey, consistently smiling, polite, gallant, mannered, and sincere.” But fear is no match for faith in Rutler’s extended exposition, which excels at marshaling paradoxes to frame life as a journey, consistently smiling, polite, gallant, mannered, and sincere.”

“On the last day of a recent year, I buried a woman on what felt like the coldest day of that year, on the top of a hill in a country cemetery overlooking the Delaware River,” Rutler begins. “There the couple of children and I stood in about a foot of snow, my black cloak acting like a sail against the wind and it seemed to me that the last thing I wanted to read was Job’s sorry lines, so I moved on to the alternate reading. At that moment a particularly strong gust of wind blew the two bunches of forlorn flowers off the grave and down the side of the hill and our little group stood still and black against the snow. So Job will always manage to be heard: he comes forth like a flower, and withers.”

From that starting point, Rutler moves through the touchstones of Man, God, and the Devil in relation to the jarring paradoxes of life. His voice is an accomplished one, having studied at the Gregorian University in Rome as well as Oxford and Dartmouth. Yet he’s also been a hospital chaplain and pastor to detainees of both Wall Street and Hell’s Kitchen. He was as a priest on the ground in New York City in the aftermath of 9/11. That combination of experiences makes him a one-of-a-kind tour guide whose rapid-fire mind whirs along so fast at points you may just decide to lean in and enjoy the ride versus trying to keep up with him. This is a writer who throws down words in a manner reminiscent of William F. Buckley. Rutler’s rhetoric is so seamlessly readable (Dartmouth’s alumni magazine sampled of his punchy prose is as persuasive as any imprimatur.

The Devil, of course, is an unavoidable character in Job. And despite modern intellectual discomfort with the concept of personified evil in the spiritual world, Rutler doesn’t hesitate to give him more credence than the latest Avengers villain: “God asks, ‘Where have you been,’ and Satan replies, ‘Roaming about. . . .’ It is not an evasive reply. Indeed, its precision is ‘endurance.’ That variety helps explain how Rutler can present Rutler entitled The Impatience of Job Rutler entitled The Impatience of Job “The Impatience of Job” was a phrase that sprang from the King James Bible’s rendering of James 5:11. But later versions also translated the Greek word ἀχριστός as “perseverance” or “endurance.” That variety helps explain how Rutler can present the Hebrew patriarch as one both impatient and yet very patient man. Much of what the Christian publishing juggernaut serves up these days as devotional fare doesn’t demonstrate such staying power. The Impatience of Job, combining scriptural substance with stylistic elegance, has it in spades. Since it’s wrongly gone out of print, Rutler’s little book may prompt a double-take or re-reading. But as a pastor as well as an academic, Rutler manages to pull application from the theological reflection and philosophical musings. A concluding chapter calls Job “Food for the Fed-Up.” There he observes, “The wrestling match between heavenly Father and earthly son is the vigor of true religion. The whole practice of the prayer life is called ascetics, which comes from the Greek word meaning athlete, and whenever pious writers speak of the school of the soul we should expect to think of the gymnasium discipline and exhilaration. This is where sweat comes in. Jesus is not just a memory. He has a voice and it coaxes fruit from fruitless trees, fish from empty nets, and patience from impatience.”

"The patience of Job" was a phrase that sprang from the King James Bible’s rendering of James 5:11. But later versions also translated the Greek word ἀχριστός as “perseverance” or “endurance.” That variety helps explain how Rutler can present the Hebrew patriarch as one both impatient and yet very patient man. Much of what the Christian publishing juggernaut serves up these days as devotional fare doesn’t demonstrate much staying power. The Impatience of Job, combining scriptural substance with stylistic elegance, has it in spades. Since it’s wrongly gone out of print, Rutler’s little book may prompt a double-take or re-reading. But as a pastor as well as an academic, Rutler manages to pull application from the theological reflection and philosophical musings. A concluding chapter calls Job “Food for the Fed-Up.” There he observes, “The wrestling match between heavenly Father and earthly son is the vigor of true religion. The whole practice of the prayer life is called ascetics, which comes from the Greek word meaning athlete, and whenever pious writers speak of the school of the soul we should expect to think of the gymnasium discipline and exhilaration. This is where sweat comes in... Jesus is not just a memory. He has a voice and it coaxes fruit from fruitless trees, fish from empty nets, and patience from impatience."
April 3, 2018
Montreat College announced that it had received a $10,000 grant from The Cannon Foundation towards the renovation of Howerton Residence Hall. Howerton houses 112 men, roughly 20 percent of the students on Montreat College’s traditional campus. The residence hall received a new roof in 2016. Further renovations include re-painting water damage to eight second and third-floor rooms, remodeling of additional rooms, switching to high efficiency water heaters, switching to electric LED lights, and more. The Cannon Foundation, Inc. is part of the philanthropic legacy of Charles A. Cannon, an industrialist and humanitarian who was president and chairman of Cannon Mills Company for more than half a century. The Foundation continues Mr. Cannon’s philanthropy through funding in healthcare, higher education, human services, and community, predominantly in North Carolina.

April 5, 2018
Montreat College announced that its School of Adult and Graduate Studies is re-launching a completely redesigned MBA degree program and launching new undergraduate business degrees in marketing and human resource management. All of the new degrees are offered in Charlotte, Asheville, and online. Montreat College’s redesigned MBA degree can be completed in just 30 credit hours—under two years for most students. Optional concentrations in cybersecurity management or innovation and entrepreneurship add nine credit hours.

April 12, 2018
On Thursday, April 12, Montreat College hosted its annual Keystone Scholarship Dinner at the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove. The event raised $347,450 for the Keystone Scholarship Fund, which provides need- and merit-based scholarships for students who desire an education from Montreat College. In addition to student and alumni performances and testimonials, the event featured remarks from Montreat College Board Chair Dr. David Bruce and Montreat College President Dr. Paul J. Maurer. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Stan Gaber, president of the Christian College Consortium.

April 17, 2018
Montreat College hosted a special “Meet Montreat” event in Charlotte, N.C., focused on cybersecurity. The event featured a panel of Charlotte-based cybersecurity professionals and introduced Montreat College’s rapidly-expanding cybersecurity program. Panelist for the event included Queen Associates President Robin Pugh ’03, FBI Special Agent Brian Cyprian, Cybersecurity Professional Akira Shavers ’16, and Montreat College cybersecurity student Raygan Dunlap ’19. President Paul J. Maurer also outlined how Montreat College is responding to the exponentially growing demand for cyber professionals who can solve today’s cybersecurity problems through an ethical, Christ-centered framework.

April 19, 2018
Montreat College announced that two students, Ben Jakobowski ’20 and Jessica Evans ’19, were awarded Ledford Scholarships by the Appalachian College Association (ACA). The award funded their summer research project with Environmental Science faculty member Joshua Holbrook. The project investigated reptiles and amphibians in a specific region of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, filling a significant gap in the understanding of this ecosystem. The Ledford Scholarship, named for Colonel Lee B. Ledford, offers financial assistance for summer research by ACA students in the fields of laboratory and field work, interviews, analyzing special collections, and participant observation.

April 19, 2018
On Thursday, April 19, Montreat College held its 39th Annual Cavalier Court of Excellence Banquet to showcase and honor the most exceptional, academic student athletes who pursued excellence in personal character, spiritual growth, and athletic competition for the 2017–18 academic year. Over 140 students, faculty, administrators, and trustees attended the banquet. Senior Brien Lancaster ’18 earned the Cavalier Award of Excellence—the highest honor a Cavalier can earn at Montreat College. In addition to Lancaster (Track & Field and Cross Country), the court also honored Montreat College athletes Tori Klose ’19 (Soccer), Jesse Daniel Collins ’18 (Baseball), Derrick Casano ’19 (Basketball), Dazh LeWalt ’19 (Basketball), Jessica Evans ’19 (Volleyball), Sara Guerrill ’19 (Golf), Alona Kosenko ’18 (Track & Field and Cross Country), Aubrey Slader ’18 (Softball), and Miguel Tudon ’18 (Soccer). The event also featured addresses from 1996 Heisman Trophy winner Danny Wuerffel and Asheville Christian Academy Director of Athletics Joe Johnson.

April 20, 2018
Montreat College hosted the inaugural Gala Music Festival on April 20, 2018 overlooking the beautiful Montreat Cove. The festival featured critically-acclaimed Asheville-based acts Floating Action and Tyler Ramsey (of Band of Horses) as co-headliners, along with supporting bands Dice Aquatic, MYFEVER, and God Bless Relative. In addition to the college’s standard Arawak food service, food trucks from Foothills Meats and The Hop Ice Cream were on-site. The event was planned and executed by students in Montreat’s Music Business program, and was made possible by sponsorships from local businesses.

April 26, 2018
Montreat College hosted the second annual #BetterStrong 5K Run/Walk on the college’s Black Mountain campus. The event attracted over 140 runners and raised over $5,000. All proceeds from the event went towards medical expenses for Montreat College Assistant Track & Field Coach Britten Olinger, who was severely injured in an auto accident in February 2017. The event was organized by faculty and students in the college’s Exercise Science Department.

April 28, 2018
Montreat College hosted its annual Pops Concert in Montreat’s Anderson Auditorium. The concert included classical pieces, selected patriotic songs, film scores, a medley of George Gershwin tunes, and much more. “Some Enchanted Evening” from the musical South Pacific featured soloist Timothy Wilds, and highlights from Elgar’s Cello Concerto featured soloist Dr. Benjamin Smith. The concert also included a musical tribute to local songwriter Billy Edd Wheeler, whose songs have sold over 57 million copies and have been recorded by over 150 artists, including Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Kenny Rogers, Neil Young, Jefferson Airplane, Glen Campbell, and more recently Florence and the Machine.

May 12, 2018
Montreat College celebrated Spring Commencement exercises in Montreat’s Anderson Auditorium. The college welcomed Dr. Chadwick, senior pastor of Charlotte-based Forest Hill Church and host of the popular radio program “The David Chadwick Show,” as the keynote speaker for commencement. Dr. Chadwick was also honored with an honorary doctorate. Montreat awarded diplomas to 113 students who had completed associate, undergraduate, and graduate degrees. Warren Campbell ’18, School of Adult and Graduate Studies graduate, and Emily Berry Lancaster ’18, School of Arts and Sciences graduate, gave addresses to their class.
December 2017
- Associate Professor of Accounting/Finance Dr. Stephen Dukas completed his Masters in Accountancy from Western Carolina University in December.

January 2018
- Professor of Business Dr. Hub Powell was granted a research sabbatical for the Spring 2018 term during which he gathered 400 survey participants—with help from students at Montreat College, UNC-Ashville, Mars Hill College, Brevard College, Warren Wilson College, and Western Carolina University—for a study that will examine Generation Z’s perceptions of effective leadership. He hopes to conclude this project and have it ready for conference submission and publication by the conclusion of the Fall 2018 academic term.

March 2018
- Adjunct Professor of Bible and Ministry Dr. Stephen Woodworth published the article “How Can Pastors Reclaim the Role of Father?” in the Spring 2018 edition of Christianity Today: Pastors. He also taught a New Testament survey course in Albania in February (pictured) and a hermeneutics course in Siberia in March.

April 2018
- Adjunct Professor of Math and Science Jack Howard spent 10 days in Chile as part of the Astronomy in Chile Educator Ambassador Program of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. He is also currently editing an astronomy supplement for publication by Bedford, Freeman, and Worth.

April 2018
- On April 20, 2018, Professor of Biology and Environmental Science Dr. Mark Lassiter gave the Asheville Buncombe Technical College Spring 2018 STEM Presentations and hosted an afternoon workshop: “Measuring Stress Indicators and Role of Esterases—From Tires to Alzheimer’s.” He was also selected to co-author the 11th edition of Beran’s Laboratory Manual for Principles of General Chemistry (Wiley and Sons) with Dr. Jo Beran.

June 2018
- On June 16, 2018, Isaac Owolabi was installed as the 92nd district governor of Rotary International for Western North Carolina District 7670 at the District Governor Installation at Cascade Resort, Hendersonville, N.C. As governor, Dr. Owolabi will be responsible for the management and direction of the 48 regional Rotary Clubs with approximately 2,200 members for Fiscal Year 2018-19. Rotary International is a community of 1.2 million men and women from all continents, cultures, professions, and experiences who connect through 35,000 global clubs. Rotary Clubs in Western North Carolina have worked with MANNA Food Bank, local area schools, and many other charities to address problems locally as well as internationally.

July 2018
- Assistant Professor of Business Dr. Paul Gratton published the article “Organization Development and Strategic Planning for Non-Profit Organizations” in the Organization Development Journal (Volume 36, Issue 2).

August 2018
- Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Brad Faircloth published the article “The Effect of an Outdoor Program on Participants’ Biophilic Expressions” in the Journal of Outdoor and Environmental Education with co-authors Dr. Andrew Bobilya, Dr. Nathan Meltzer, Dr. Denise Mitten, and Dr. Resa Chandler.

October 2018
- Adjunct Professor of Natural Sciences Dr. Sam DeMent has been invited to lecture for the 30th consecutive year at the Regional Hematopathology Conference at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, to be held in October 2018.
Mary Lou Gray Snead '56
Mary Lou is married to Dr. George Snead. They have four children, 11 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. They have lived in Danville, Va., for almost 60 years.

Joan Schrenk '56
Joan still lives in Waynesville, N.C. Most of her time is spent with activities at First Presbyterian Church. She is an elder with the oversight of Christian education. She is also active with Presbyterian Women. As a part of their crafters guild, she helps with making knitted items for their Fall Festival. This is a great fundraising activity for many local agencies who care for people who have so many needs. It also includes their overseas mission programs.

Annette Jordan '64
Annette is a retired customer service representative living in Villa Hills, Ky. She has two grandchildren.

Brenda Orr Beatty '68
Brenda retired in 2012 after teaching physical education and health for 42 years. 39 of these years were at Seneca Middle School. Since retirement, she has done some part-time teaching in two local elementary schools and at Anderson University. She has been married to Jim Beatty for 46 years; they were married at Montreat. Much of Brenda’s time is now spent taking care of Jim, who has Parkinson’s disease. Brenda and Jim have two sons, Will (43) and Jake (40). Will is a minister at the First Baptist Church in Rock Hill, SC. He has two sons, Austin (6) and Collin (4). Jake is also a minister and helped start NewSpring Church in Anderson, S.C. He has four children, Peyton (15) and Lauren (13). Brenda enjoys her small group Bible study and Sunday school class at Clarks Creek Presbyterian Church. She also enjoys decorating cakes, working in her yard, watching her former students play ball in high school and college, and cheering for her Clemson Tigers. She even got to cheer for Clemson the last three years at the ACC Football Championship and at the National Football Championship in 2016.

Kathy Steggall '72
Kathy is a registered veterinary technician and medical laboratory technician. She holds a bachelor's degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. Her current hobbies include photography and visiting zoos and lighthouses.

Gordon Gartrell '74
Gordon and his wife, Dorothy, continue missionary work in Paraguay. His work in the city of Asuncion is with the Presbyterian Church of Brazil in partnership with the Presbyterian Church USA. They are just beginning their new term. They have been appointed through December 2021. This is the first time in over 25 years that Gordon and Dorothy have come back to the same town they were in prior to going to the States for six months to speak in churches about their mission work. Their daughter Amanda is a grandparent for the second time. They have a two-year-old granddaughter, and now she has a little brother born June 28. They have only seen him in photos because they returned to Brazil June 6.

Victoria (Vickie) Moore Hayes '76
Vickie and her husband, John, will be celebrating their 34th wedding anniversary in September. They are proud to say that their two daughters are both serving their country. Their daughter, Valerie, is a nurse in the Navy. Their daughter, Alinna, is a combat medic in the Army. Next summer, Vickie and John are planning to celebrate their 10th anniversary on a little easy by taking a British Isles cruise. It fulfills a dream of Vickie’s of many years. They hope to retire in the next couple of years and move from the hectic D.C. area to a quieter place with less traffic. Vickie will always be thankful to the Lord for the five and a half years she had at Montreat—so many precious friends in the Lord!

Charles A. Norwood, Jr. '78
Charles retired from a career in social work in 2014.

Rick Scholla '80
Rick worked for 12 years with the Adams Brines from 1987 until 1999 as a marketing representative, ticket sales manager, and customer service manager. He transferred to Phillips Arena when the building opened in 1999 thru 2016 as box office manager. Rick has been the box office manager at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center in Atlanta since March of 2018.

Shawn Stewart '85
Shawn is currently the coordinator of mobilization for World Outreach, the mission-sending arm of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). EPC World Outreach is establishing 10 church planting teams in countries in the 10/40 window. Lisa is a nurse working in the neo-natal intensive care unit at Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C.

Shawn Lombardia '90
Shawn graduated from Montreat in 2000 and can’t believe he is getting close to 20 years since his time at Montreat! He is pastor at Sunrise Baptist Church in Arcadia, Fl. He has been married to Stacey Lombardia for 19 years and they have a nine-year-old daughter, Peyton.

Robb Wells '00
Robb was recently named president & CEO of the Greater Beauport Port Royal Convention and Visitors Bureau. He and his wife, Candice, live in Beaufort, S.C., with their two daughters, Alyssa and Annie Grace.

Amy Tipton Bledsoe '03
Amy still resides in her hometown, Gate City, Va. She is beginning her 16th year teaching special education. She and her husband, Andy, will celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary in September. Their children, Luke (13), Landon (nine), and Laryn (three) are such blessing to their lives. Amy and Andy find themselves on a ball court, ball field, or a dance studio each week. They are busy but blessed!

Andrew Bauman '05
Andrew is an author and licensed mental health counselor. He holds a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from the Seattle School of Theology & Psychology and is currently working on his doctorate at Northeastern University. Andrew has written two books, The Psychology of Porn and A Bawd’s Lament, and will be releasing his third book, Something Touched H Holmes, with NavPress in Fall 2018. Andrew is married to Christie Bauman, who is also a therapist, and they have three beautiful children: Wilder, Selah, and River. You can follow Andrew’s work at andrewbauman.com.

Tiffany Jones '12
Tiffany graduated from Montreat College in 2012 with a double major in biology and environmental studies, and a minor in chemistry. She is currently in her 4th and final year of veterinary school. She will graduate with a DVM from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in May 2019. She is currently completing her clinical year at Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine. Tiffany recently had the wonderful opportunity to complete an externship in the Galapagos, Ecuador. After she graduates in May 2019, she will be looking to settle back down in her home state of South Carolina to practice veterinary medicine. She is very grateful for the path that God has led her on, and she is looking forward to the future.

Tanner Wilhoit ’17 Emily Wilhoit ’17
Tanner and Emily were married this past November in Ohio, N.C., and they recently moved to Swannanoa. Tanner recently celebrated his one-year anniversary working at the Bilmore Company, and Emily is working as the Montreat Volleyball graduate assistant coach while continuing to pursue her master's degree in animal health counseling at Montreat's Asheville campus.

Brien Lancaster ’18
Brien has recently moved to Colorado Springs to work in the Advancement Department at Colorado College.

Chris (who starts school with Montreat this fall, as well) is working on becoming a foster/ adoptive parents, running a heritage farm, and running 5ks on some weekends.

Joan Schrenk '56
Joan still lives in Waynesville, N.C. Most of her time is spent with activities at First Presbyterian Church. She is an elder with the oversight of Christian education. She is also active with Presbyterian Women. As a part of their crafters guild, she helps with making knitted items for their Fall Festival. This is a great fundraising activity for many local agencies who care for people who have so many needs. It also includes their overseas mission programs.

Annette Jordan '64
Annette is a retired customer service representative living in Villa Hills, Ky. She has two grandchildren.

Brenda Orr Beatty '68
Brenda retired in 2012 after teaching physical education and health for 42 years. 39 of these years were at Seneca Middle School. Since retirement, she has done some part-time teaching in two local elementary schools and at Anderson University. She has been married to Jim Beatty for 46 years; they were married at Montreat. Much of Brenda’s time is now spent taking care of Jim, who has Parkinson’s disease. Brenda and Jim have two sons, Will (43) and Jake (40). Will is a minister at the First Baptist Church in Rock Hill, S.C. He has two sons, Austin (6) and Collin (4). Jake is also a minister and helped start NewSpring Church in Anderson, S.C. He has four children, Peyton (15) and Lauren (13). Brenda enjoys her small group Bible study and Sunday school class at Clarks Creek Presbyterian Church. She also enjoys decorating cakes, working in her yard, watching her former students play ball in high school and college, and cheering for her Clemson Tigers. She even got to cheer for Clemson the last three years at the ACC Football Championship and at the National Football Championship in 2016.

Kathy Steggall '72
Kathy is a registered veterinary technician and medical laboratory technician. She holds a bachelor's degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. Her current hobbies include photography and visiting zoos and lighthouses.
Introducing Our Expanded President’s Circle Society

**LOYALTY SOCIETY**
Loyal donors who give year after year
Donors become part of the Loyalty Society when they have provided a gift of any size in each of the last three consecutive years.

**LEADERSHIP SOCIETY**
Those who show leadership in their support each year
Donors become part of the Leadership Society when they have given a total of $1,000 or more in a single year.

**GALAX SOCIETY**
Visionary donors whose legacy will build our future
Donors become part of the Galax Society when they include Montreat College in their estate plan.

**LIFETIME SOCIETY**
Donors who show significant lifetime financial commitment
Donors become part of the Lifetime Society when they have contributed $100,000 or more in their lifetime.

---

**SAVE THE DATE**

**THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS**
A Musical Celebration with Montreat College

**AND**
President’s Circle Reception

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1**
PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE RECEPTION BY INVITATION
CHRISTMAS CONCERT: 7:00 PM

ANDERSON AUDITORIUM
Lookout Road, Montreat, NC
Gift planning allows you to create a lasting legacy to provide for future generations of students. The Galax Society is a special group of Montreat friends and alumni of who choose to make a lasting investment in the college through planned giving.

For more information regarding planned giving, contact Joe Kirkland by phone at 828.419.2045 or by email at joe.kirkland@montreat.edu.