





## Letter from the **President**



he type of education Montreat College offers is the best form of education available to humanity. While other forms of higher education do many individual things very well, the Christian liberal arts integrates a unique mixture of intellectual inquiry, reflection, and experience designed to foster the formation of the whole person. Montreat students grapple with the meaning of life in the context of a Christ-centered worldview, they are held to rigorous academic standards of study and learning, and they are equipped for a wide array of post-graduate callings and careers (and as an added bonus, they get to do all of these things in one of the most breathtakingly beautiful natural settings on earth). I realize that it's impossible to distill the totality of the Montreat College experience into print, but I hope that this handful of personal stories from current students and recent alums will help you "Meet Montreat" and give you a glimpse of the unique collegiate experience that Montreat has to offer. And I hope to meet you soon!

Yours in Christ,

Paul J. Maurer, PhD Montreat College President

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# Yale or Montreat?



Mary Willis Bertram CLASS OF 2016

### "People tend to be surprised when I tell them I chose Montreat over Yale,"

#### HOMETOWN Pensacola, FL

MAJOR English

#### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Honors Program, Alpha Chi Honors Society, Honors Program Teacher Assistant, Anderson Hall Resident Assistant, Oxford Summer Trip, Editorial Assistant to Dr. Don King says Montreat student Mary Willis Bertram. "But the truth is that Montreat offers a lot of things Ivy League schools can't." For Mary Willis, the Montreat College Honors Program's integration of a Great Books education with a traditional major is an example of the unique experience Montreat offers. "You're reading what Plato is saying about your Business major. Or what Erasmus is saying about your Outdoor Education major. As far as I know, no other college offers this kind of mix. And I looked everywhere for it."

Eventually, Mary Willis decided that Montreat would provide the best combination of intellectual, spiritual, and personal formation. "The Residence Life Program is so strong, providing an opportunity to embrace what it means to be a woman within the context of a Christian community, and that's something you can't get in a co-ed dorm on a secular campus."

Mary Willis also appreciates the personal mentoring opportunities unique to Montreat. "I've had the opportunity to work closely with my advisor Dr. Don King [editor of the Christian Scholar's Review and a leading C.S. Lewis scholar], helping edit his books and traveling with him to Oxford over the summer. The first time we met, we had coffee and talked about medieval cosmology for two hours, and he's been really important in my life ever since." SNAPSHOT:

Honors Program

Fostering intellectual inquiry is central to Montreat College's mission. As a member of the Honors Program, you will have an opportunity to:

- Read classic works from a rotating "Great Books" curriculum that has included Plato, Augustine, Martin Luther, Frederick Douglass, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Flannery O'Connor, and C.S. Lewis
- Be a part of a community of scholars seeking to discern truth, goodness, and beauty
- Develop your critical thinking abilities through reading, writing, reflection, and discussion
- Engage in a mentoring relationship with an Honors Program faculty member
- Take part in exclusive discussions with distinguished visiting speakers to the college

montreat.edu/honorsprogram

## Cybersecurity as a Christian Mission.



Akira Shavers CLASS OF 2016

### For Akira Shavers, Montreat College's cutting edge Cybersecurity Program provided a unique opportunity.

#### HOMETOWN Okinawa, Japan

MAJOR Cybersecurity MINOR

#### Business Management

#### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SGA Vice President, Wilson Scholar, Track and Field, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Davis Hall Resident Assistant, Harris Corporation Cybersecurity Internship "The cybersecurity field is really expanding," he says. "In the job market, only 40 percent of the available cybersecurity positions are currently filled." Akira saw this need as a call to use his skills for the greater good. "I have a passion for serving, and my dad's a pastor, so I was thinking maybe I should go the Bible and Religion route, but I always had an interest in computers. And my main motivation for getting into cybersecurity was to help others, to provide security, a secure network, for those who cannot provide for themselves. What really motivated me was Matthew 9, where Jesus says, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."

While at Montreat, Akira has already taken advantage of the unique opportunities in cybersecurity. He's a member of Montreat's award-winning cybersecurity team, which competes in both the Southeastern Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition and the National Cyber League. He's also gained hands-on experience through a coveted summer internship with the Harris Corporation, an international leader in communications and information technology. "I had no idea what to expect because there were interns from MIT, Georgia Tech, Purdue, University of Florida, all these big schools. I was in the security command center with three other interns, but I was the only one invited back for a second summer, meaning there's already the real possibility of a job offer once I finish school, and that's huge."



SNAPSHOT: ..... Cybersecurity Program

Montreat College's cutting-edge Cybersecurity Program is a trendsetter in many ways:

- Montreat College is the only school in the 120-member Council for Christian Colleges & Universities to offer a Cybersecurity major
- The Cybersecurity program addresses a critical need in the job market for Cybersecurity professionals; only 40% of available Cybersecurity jobs are currently filled
- Montreat's program was launched by Dr. Jeff Teo, a recognized leader in the Cybersecurity field
- Montreat's award-winning Cybersecurity team was recently upgraded from "Bronze" to "Silver" in the National Cyber League
- Montreat College recently opened a Cybersecurity Lab on campus to support the Cybersecurity Program



## Finding Your Calling Through Off-Campus Programs.



Ashley Craig CLASS OF 2009

## Ashley Craig found her calling through one of Montreat's many off-campus program.

#### HOMETOWN

Guntersville, Alabama MAJOR Communications

#### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Student Government President, American Studies Program in Washington, D.C., Department of Homeland Security Internship

#### POST-GRADUATE DEGREES

Master's in internet marketing at Full Sail University

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Campaign Advisor for Dan Quiggle State Senate Race, Studio Assistant for the National Republican Congressional Committee, Digital Media Specialist at PJTV "I've always loved politics, and being in D.C. at the American Studies Program really convinced me that was where I wanted to be," she says. "I learned about how Christians can effect the government and should effect their government. It brought my faith and professional interests together and it had a huge impact on my life."

Ashley's vocational call was reinforced by her experience on Montreat's campus. "Montreat really prepares you as a student for how to be a Christian in today's world and what that looks like. And they give you practical experience. When I was applying for a job with the National Republican Congressional Committee, I was the only one to have ever worked with a professional grade camera before. It really helped me stand out above the other applicants. I wouldn't have gotten that job without the real world experience that I got working behind the scenes with a camera for a class I took at Montreat."

Ashley also appreciates the personal mentorship she gained at Montreat. "Students mean so much to the professors. And that's a great thing that most colleges can't say they have. A lot of my friends at big universities were taught by TAs; they only saw their professors once or twice the whole semester. Whereas professors like Jim and Carol Shores and Callan White-Hinman were really important personal and professional influences for me." TTTTTTT

SNAPSHOT: ..... Off-Campus Programs

Montreat College offers numerous opportunities to stretch your limits by stepping out into the larger world through Christ-centered service, adventure, and study:

- American Studies Program in Washington, D.C.
- Australia Studies Centre in Carindale, Australia
- China Studies Program in Fujian, China
- Contemporary Music Center in Nashville, Tennessee
- EduVenture Program in Fiji or Indonesia
- Film Studies Program in Los Angeles, California
- Focus on the Family Institute in Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Irish-American Scholar Program in Northern Ireland
- India Studies Program in Coimbatore, India
- Korean Studies Program in Daejeon, South Korea
- Latin American Studies Program in San Jose, Costa Rica
- Middle East Studies Program in Jerusalem, Israel
- Outdoor Education Immersion Semester
- Oxford Scholars' Semester in Oxford, England
- Study Program in Contemporary Europe in Zwolle, Netherlands
- Uganda Studies Program in Mukono, Uganda
- montreat.edu/offcampusprograms



### Intellectual Inquiry and Outdoor Ministry.



Joshua Kilgo CLASS OF 2016

## "This semester has been really challenging," says Montreat junior Joshua Kilgo.

#### HOMETOWN

Mineral Springs, North Carolina

#### MAJOR Outdoor Ministry

#### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Davis Hall Assistant Resident Director, Cross Country, Track and Field, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Honors Program, Wilson Scholar, Higher Ground Australia Internship "My Cultural Anthropology class with Dr. John Ellington and my Worldviews class with Dr. Brad Daniels have challenged me to wrestle with my own cultural background and figure out why I believe what I believe. What parts of my faith are from my culture and might not actually be biblical? Why do I stand where I stand? I don't think we ask these questions enough." As someone interested in post-graduate ministry, these have been particularly important questions for Josh. "It's one of those things that can be challenging on one level, but then it's kind of freeing on another level because it helps you. It can help you leave behind bad habits or bad patterns of thought. It helps you see the Gospel in a new light."

Josh has also taken advantage of the numerous ministry opportunities available at Montreat. "My freshman year, I got to attend the Urbana missions conference, and it really made me realize the need in missions and made me want to do it. Montreat also had a connection with Higher Ground Australia, so I was able to go participate in an outdoor ministry in Australia last summer. And it's been awesome to interact with Montreat alum Jim Wood [founder of Wears Valley Ranch, a Christian home and school for children in crisis]. His program is exactly like something I'd want to do in the future. He said to me, 'Don't forget, when you graduate, give me a call.' The opportunities for ministry connections at Montreat have been phenomenal."

#### SNAPSHOT: ..... Outdoor Majors

Located in the heart of an internationally renowned destination for outdoor enthusiasts and adventure seekers, Montreat College offers two outdoor majors—Outdoor Education and Outdoor Ministry—through which you can:

- Learn from outdoor professionals and seasoned faculty members
- Develop outdoor living skills
- Gain valuable certifications in the outdoor field
- Lead a variety of wilderness trips
- Take advanced programming classes in canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing
- Learn how to use the outdoor environment as a classroom
- Obtain a vast knowledge of the environmental theories on education and leadership
- Learn to point others to Christ through the environment
- Live and study within miles of four major wilderness areas
- Learn how to design, implement, and administer outdoor education programs that are safe, challenging, and enjoyable
  - montreat.edu/outdooreducation

## Once in a Lifetime Community.



Alicia Henson CLASS OF 2012

### When 2012 grad Alicia Henson looks back on her time at Montreat, it's the unique community that stands out for her.

### HOMETOWN

Mount Airy, North Carolina

#### MAJOR Psychology and Human Services

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Wilson Scholar, Alpha Chi Honors Society, Basketball

#### **POST-GRADUATE** DEGREES

currently completing Master's in school counseling at Wake Forest

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Admissions counselor at Montreat College. School Counselor at Mt. Airy High School

"The whole four years were just huge creative growth for me; growth mentally, academically, and spiritually," she says. "The relationships that you're able to build while you're there with classmates, professors, coaches, mentors—it's a priceless experience. I don't think I will ever get anything like that ever again."

For Alicia, Montreat's close-knit community was the perfect environment for learning. "The small class size allows the professors to do more than just lecture you; they get to know you on a personal level. Dr. Gregg Blanton really inspired me to go into the counseling field specifically, and Dr. Brad Faircloth was a big influence, relating psychology to the Christian worldview in a really interesting way. I really appreciated that." And Montreat's supportive community extended beyond the professors. "I also had mentors who were coaches and other staff members. The willingness for people in the Montreat community to reach out give you whatever you need was amazing."

The education and mentorship she gained at Montreat has been invaluable for Alicia's post-graduate study at Wake Forest. "I've definitely felt like I've been ahead of the game, especially when we first started with the basic theoretical courses. A lot of what I've done so far in grad school has been things that I learned at Montreat, just more detail, more specific context. Montreat really prepared me well for grad school."

SNAPSHOT

. . . . . . . Psychology & Human Services

Psychology and human services is one of the most popular majors at Montreat, thanks in part to the wide variety of career and postgraduate study opportunities available to graduates, including:

#### **Career Opportunities**

- Case management
- Marriage counseling
- Social services
- Substance abuse counseling
- School counseling
- Juvenile services
- Parole and probation
- Senior centers
- Mental health services
- Christian ministry

#### Post-graduate Study Opportunities

- Clinical psychology
- Counseling psychology
- Forensic psychology
- Health psychology
- Industrial/organizational psychology
- Sports psychology
- Educational psychology
- Social work
- School counseling
- School psychology



## Green Solutions for God's Creation.



Hunt Briggs CLASS OF 1998

### "Jesus's message of love and care for others aligns with the core principles of eco-justice,

#### HOMETOWN

Asheville, North Carolina MAJOR

Environmental Studies

#### ACTIVITIES Student Government

President

#### POST-GRADUATE DEGREES

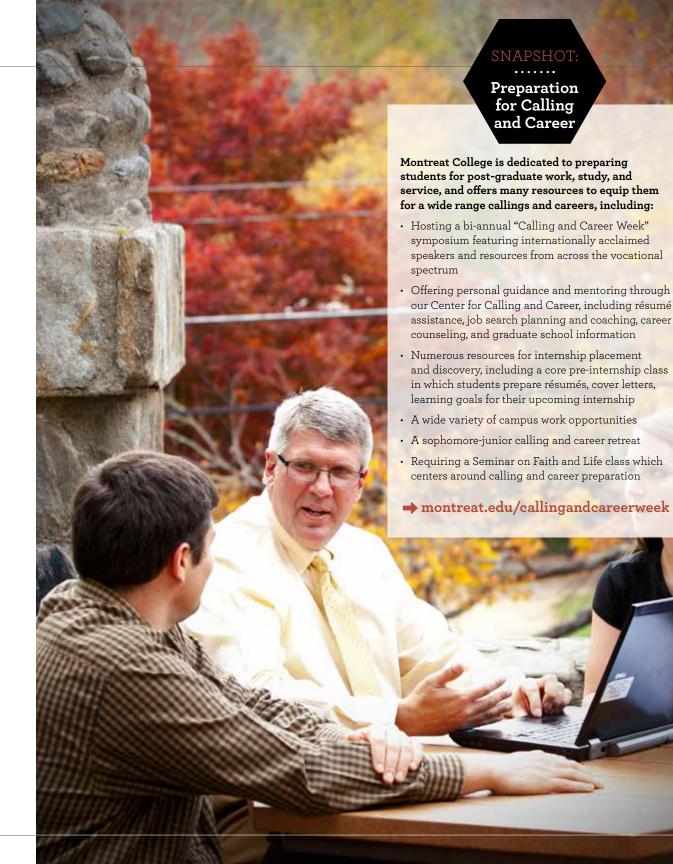
Master's in entrepreneurship at Western Carolina University, Master's in environmental science and business administration from University of Michigan

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultant for Environmental Defense Fund at Biltmore Farms, founded ReGenerate Solutions. and many environmental problems could be avoided if everyone shared the Christian ethic of stewardship for all of creation," says Montreat grad Hunt Briggs—and he knows what he's talking about. Hunt is co-Founder and Director of Finance and Marketing for ReGenerate Solutions, a green-friendly company responsible for developing the award-winning "Compact Organic Waste Station" (COWS), a revolutionary system that transforms waste from supermarkets and cafeterias into renewable energy and organic compost.

Hunt's passion for the environment was fired by the hands-on experience he gained at Montreat. "The wilderness became the classroom," he says. "We learned about the origins of the Appalachians by scrambling up Table Rock. Dr. Brad Daniel took us up Black Balsam so we could touch metamorphic rock, and taught us the 'leave no trace' ethic of backcountry travel."

During his time at Montreat, Hunt cultivated the interests that have guided his post-graduate vocation. "Montreat opened my eyes to the concept of an 'ecological footprint,' how everything from our food and transportation choices, to energy production and our built environment affects the world around us." And his lab experiments with Dr. Mark Lassiter—particularly one which sought to generate bio-fuel from household paper—inspired his curiosity about new and innovative ways today's waste could be turned into tomorrow's resources. "Dr. Lassiter was a very influential mentor. He always encouraged me and really inspired my vision for finding innovative, sustainable solutions."



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## The Gift of Faculty Mentoring.



Gabi Cho CLASS OF 2014

### When recent grad Gabi Cho transferred to Montreat College prior to her junior year, she appreciated the differences immediately.

#### HOMETOWN

Gunsan, South Korea

- MAJOR
- Biology

#### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Alpha Chi Honors Society, Biology Lab Teacher Assistant

#### POST-GRADUATE DEGREES Currently completing PhD in Microbiology at the University of Georgia

"I had started college at the University of Rochester, and even though it was a private college, I wasn't able to get the attention from the professors that I was able to get at Montreat. I think that was the biggest difference."

Through the personal attention Gabi received, she was able build relationships with her professors. "Dr. Mark Lassiter was my advisor and I worked closely with him. I was Dr. Maggie Ray's lab assistant, and she was really friendly; she gave me advice. Also, Dr. Jim Shores and Dr. Brian Joyce. They were all good mentors." And when it came time to think about grad schools, Gabi realized just how valuable those relationships were. "They wrote recommendation letters for me, and Dr. Lassiter helped me a lot in figuring out what research to do. I didn't have lots of research experience, but I was able to do my own research project under Dr. Lassiter. I think that was highly thought of by grad schools." In the end, Gabi was accepted by eight prestigious grad schools, eventually choosing the PhD program in microbiology at the University of Georgia.

Gabi is also quick to point out how important Montreat's Christcenteredness was to her. "Just to be surrounded by God-fearing people was really helpful. And my professors, whenever I had trouble, I went to them and they prayed for me. I really appreciated their presence there."



### SNAPSHOT Natural Sciences

Montreat College offers two Natural Sciences majors, Biology and Environmental Science, which offer a wide array of unique opportunities for research and study through personalized concentrations, including:

- Pre-professional concentrations for medical school, veterinary school, dental school, physical therapy programs, professional programs, and graduate school, applied technology (environmental consulting), biochemistry, ecological research, genetics, environmental science, medicine or medical research, nursing, ecophysiology, toxicology, and veterinary science
- Environmental biology concentrations in biology, ecology, and botany
- Field studies in environmental education, outdoor interpretation, and ecological research.
- montreat.edu/biology

## This Is What I'm Made For.



Anthony Rodriguez CLASS OF 2006

### "I didn't realize before I came here how much I would love class, how much I would love reading, how much I would love writing papers,"

#### HOMETOWN Marietta, GA

MAJOR Bible and Religion

### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Howerton Hall Resident Assistant, Intramural Sports

#### POST-GRADUATE DEGREES

Master's in Christian thought from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teen Center Director for Asheville Boys and Girls Club, Adjunct Bible and Religion instructor at Montreat College, Senior Pastor at iSight Church in Black Mountain, NC says Montreat grad and iSight Church Senior Pastor Anthony Rodriguez. "When I got into the classroom here, I immediately felt 'This is what I'm made for.' I loved reading theology, reflecting on the Bible, studying history—all of these things were waiting inside me, but when I got to Montreat it was like I heard the starting gun and could go for the first time."

While at Montreat, Anthony's call to the pastorate was nudged along by then-Chaplain Steve Woodworth. "He saw things in me that other people weren't seeing. Steve intentionally pursued me and asked questions of me and encouraged me. I needed that so badly. To be formed spiritually, sometimes you need someone to tell you to keep going."

In addition to his pastoral duties, Anthony is also an adjunct instructor in Montreat's Bible and Religion Program. "I've loved doing for students what someone did for me," he says. "I know, for many of them, the most significant moments of their lives are either happening right now or are right around the corner. And I want to push them to think about the Bible in ways they've never done before. I want them to push themselves and question what they're thinking and make sure that what they believe is their own, and to invite them into the biblical story, which I think is the best story on the planet."



### SNAPSHOT

Spiritual Formation

At Montreat College, our Christ-centered mission informs everything we do. Here are just a few of the many ways Montreat College fosters spiritual formation:

- A full curriculum of Bible and Religion courses, including required courses in Old and New Testament, as well as required Freshmen and Senior seminars on Faith and Learning
- Chapel and Convocation services every Monday and Wednesday featuring Chaplain David Taylor and a wide variety of renowned Christian speakers from around the world
- Personal mentoring and spiritual guidance through the Office of the Dean of Spiritual Formation
- Christ-centered residence life directed by our team of dedicated RAs and RDs
- Opportunities for Christian community through organizations such as Young Life, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Montreat's Service Learning Team

➡ montreat.edu/chaplainsoffice

#### MONTREAT AUDIO PRODUCTION PROGRAM

The Montreat College Music Business Program has partnered with Asheville's Echo Mountain Recording Studios—the region's leader in audio recording and production—in order to offer students handson audio production training and education in a world-class studio environment with professional recording engineers and recording artists as part of an accredited Bachelor of Science program.

- Study with professional recording engineers
- Gain hands-on experience in a working, worldclass studio
- Learn both state of the art digital production and 24-track full analog
- Earn credit towards your bachelor's degree

#### ➡ www.montreat.edu/mapp



Montreat College is a member of the Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC) within the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and fields 17 teams dedicated to building Christian character and community through athletic competition:

Men's and Women's Soccer
Men's and Women's Basketball
Men's and Women's Golf
Men's and Women's Cross Country
Men's and Women's Track and Field
Men's and Women's Lacrosse
Men's and Women's Tennis
Softball
Baseball
Volleyball

➡ www.montreatcavaliers.com





## **Vital Stats**





miles of hiking a biking trails in t Monreat Cove



of full-time faculty hold terminal degree in their field

## One of the most beautiful college campuses in the world.

Montreat College is nestled in the Heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains outside Asheville, North Carolina, an internationally renowned destination for outdoor enthusiasts and adventure seekers of all kinds. In fact, Montreat College was named the 6th most beautiful Christian college in the world by Christian Universities Online.





study abroad programs availa



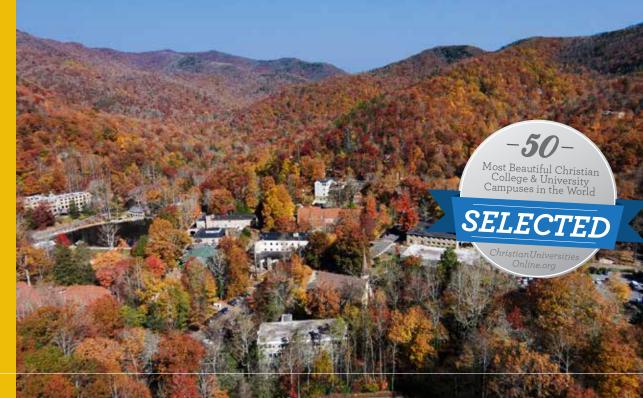
aculty to student ratio



40 AAC All-academic athletes in 2014-14



Champion of Character athletic teams







### Academic Programs

American Studies	
Bible and Religion	
Biology	
Business Administration	
Communication	
Cybersecurity	
English	
Environmental Studies	
Exercise Science	
History	
Interdisciplinary Studies	
Music Business	
Outdoor Education	
Outdoor Ministry	
Psychology and Human Services	
Theatre	
Worship Arts	
Associate in Arts	
Associate in Science	
ww.montreat.edu/appl	y 🛄

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or call 1 800 622 6968



