RICHMOND GRADUATE UNIVERSITY PROVIDES CHRIST-CENTERED
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH THAT ADVANCES GOD’S WORK OF
HEALING, RESTORATION, AND TRANSFORMATION IN THE
LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS, CHURCHES, AND COMMUNITIES.
2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

- AVERAGE STUDENT AGE: 38
- AVERAGE GPA OF INCOMING STUDENTS: 3.5
- OF STUDENTS PASSED THE NATIONAL COUNSELOR EXAM: 98%
- RESEARCH QUESTIONS FIELDED BY THE LIBRARY: 12,183
- COUNSELING SESSIONS PROVIDED TO RESIDENTS LIVING NEAR A RICHMONT CAMPUS: 24,000+
For more than 80 years, Richmont has served in Chattanooga, Tennessee and Atlanta, Georgia, as an academic institution and Christian counseling service provider. Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), Richmont is the nation’s third oldest faith-based counseling program and enjoys a diverse student body of individuals who feel a divine calling to walk alongside others in times of great need.

Today, we have a well-respected national presence providing master’s degrees in Professional Counseling, Christian Psychological Studies, and Marriage and Family Therapy and Ministry. This platform allows us to partner with diverse organizations to strengthen individuals and families by bringing hope and healing to communities. In an effort to serve the communities where we have campuses, Richmont hosts a Southeastern network of nine Community Counseling Centers that provide access to reduced-fee counseling services. Currently, these Centers are reducing the number of individuals who enter hospitals by serving children, adults and families who are experiencing trauma, thoughts of self harm, loss of a loved one, child abuse/neglect, bullying, depression, anxiety, marital strife, substance abuse, and other adverse life experiences.

Richmont believes training counselors and ministers produces enormous social returns. In fact, it is estimated that a professional counselor positively impacts over 8,000 individuals over the course of their career. Based on our average class size of 70 students, we annually certify a new group of professional counselors who will serve approximately 480,000 clients over the course of their careers! This is a staggering marker of our Kingdom impact and contribution to the health of area residents!

Richmont Graduate University equips men and women to be transformative forces in culture by facilitating psychological health and relational healing from a Christ-centered perspective.

Formalized in 2000, Richmont is a product of the Chattanooga Bible Institute (CBI, est. 1933) merging with the Psychological Studies Institute (PSI, est. 1973). Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), Richmont equips men and women to facilitate psychological health and relational healing from a biblical perspective. The university is therefore providing professional training and local counseling services that address current mental health needs evidenced by children, adults and families in distress throughout the Southeast.
Over the years, Richmont has meant so many things to so many people. For our alumni, it is the place where they arrived on campus with a holy sense of calling and excitement to become well-trained counselors and ministers. They chose to come to Richmont because it was the place they could learn from the brightest minds in counselor education, psychology and ministry in preparation to one day “do life” with people as they walk through life's challenges.

For our current students, Richmont is the place they are building community. Sure, it’s the place they are paying tuition, wading through tough material, taking tests and learning to balance many commitments, but Richmont is simultaneously where they are discovering new things about God, themselves and others. It is a place that offers the opportunity to engage the process of personal refinement – to become a person who reflects the goodness of Jesus and the freedom of the cross through healing, restoration and transformation.

For our friends, Richmont is a place that changes lives and communities. It is where they can readily access counseling services, refer their friends, and invest in the next generation of Christian counselors and ministers. It is a place where they can sow into the metanarrative of “life together” in order to help others restore meaningful relationships, grow in leadership, and impact generations for years to come.

Throughout this annual “Perspective,” you will get a detailed glimpse at how the Lord has been ever present, faithfully guiding our administrative steps, speaking through our faculty members, and encouraging our students as they answer His call on their life. We could not be more humbled and grateful for His many generous blessings. Like Acts 13:36, Richmont seeks to serve the purposes of God in this generation. Stewarding the aspirations of our students, engaging high quality faculty, supporting our alumni, and helping our friends to meaningfully connect is the beginning of this journey of faithfulness.

Why do we exist? Why do we serve? Why do we seek to grow? Because we believe that we are called to diligently participate with the Lord in what He wants to do in this generation.

Thank you for reading and learning more about Richmont! Thank you also for your prayers and ongoing financial support. We are grateful for each of you and know God gets so much glory in answering above and beyond what we could ever imagine.

Joyfully,

Robert G. “Bob” Rodgers
President

The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations

PSALM 33:11
SCHOOLS OF COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGY

The Schools of Counseling and Psychology experienced an exciting year of increased new student enrollment, fantastic national test scores, growth in institutional research endeavors, and wonderful community partnerships. The faculty and staff are nothing short of an exceptional bunch, helping students convert knowledge into love that heals.

In the spring, 50 of Richmont’s graduating students took the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE) and achieved an exceptionally high passing rate of 98% for the second year in a row. Overall, Richmont's mean scores on the NCE for the Atlanta and Chattanooga campuses surpassed the mean scores of CACREP accredited and non-CACREP accredited institutions in every CACREP and Counselor Work Behavior subject area.

SCHOOLS OF COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGY DATA

SCHOOL OF COUNSELING STUDENT SPECIALIZATIONS

- CHRISTIAN SEX THERAPY: 33%
- TRAUMA COUNSELING: 27%
- ADDICTIONS: 11%
- CHILD / ADOLESCENT: 21%
- SPIRITUALITY & COUNSELING: 8%

NEW STUDENTS BY DEGREE PROGRAM

- MASTER OF ARTS IN PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING: 47%
- MASTER OF ARTS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY: 50%
- NON-DEGREE SEEKING: 3%

RICHMONTGRADUATES
CONTINUE TO EXCEL
ON THE NATIONAL COUNSELOR EXAM

The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary.
ISAISH 50:4
In April, more than 20 Richmont faculty members, current students and alumni presented at the Christian Association for Psychological Studies (CAPS) annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference, brought clinicians, students, pastors, and researchers together to discuss the integration of Christian faith and behavioral science. The three-day conference also offered plenary sessions and workshops that spanned a wide range of psychological conversations. At a number of these sessions, individuals affiliated with Richmont offered presentations and poster sessions.

Additionally, several Richmont faculty members served in conference leadership positions and as track coordinators. Specifically, Drs. Dan Sartor and Mary Plisco served as the Assistant Conference Coordinator and the Volunteer Coordinator, respectively. Similarly, Drs. Tim Sisemore, Keny Felix, Jim Siwy, and DeAnne Terrell served as coordinators for the Academic/Research, Clinical Practice and Cross-Cultural/International Tracks.

Left: Drs. Plisco, Felix and White presenting at the CAPS conference.

REUBEN LAWRENCE

The son of an international evangelist and the grandson of a pastor, Reuben’s introduction to adolescent ministry began in New York City as a college freshman. After 25 years working in communities, churches, faith-based and civic organizations, Reuben and his wife are both working professionals and students at Richmont!

READ MORE ABOUT THEIR DREAM TO CREATE RESOURCES FOR UNDERSERVED FAMILIES AT: RICHMONT.EDU/STORIES2014
The partnership with Richmont Graduate University has brought us thoughtful, creative and innovative interns who share our Christian worldview while at the same time valuing strong clinical counseling skills. When we host a Richmont intern we are confident that they have the academic preparation to engage our clients in meaningful and effective ways. When recruiting interns for our recovery program, RGU is our school of choice."

Center Point has been receiving at least one Richmont intern every year for many, many years. We have a very competitive program for interns and so it is an honor for Richmont to be represented on our counseling team each year. In my experience, Richmont’s counseling students are biblically and clinically sound and are adept at using what they’ve learned in the classroom in therapeutic situations. They distinctly evaluate client situations, are mature, easy to work with, personable and passionate. They get the job done well – especially when working with at-risk individuals who often end up in public mental health situations. It is not uncommon for me to hear our community saying, ‘we have the best interns!’”

In March, Sylvain Panu, a student at Richmont, presented his thesis research via a poster session at the Southeastern Psychological Association’s (SEPA) annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Panu’s thesis is titled: *The Effects of Traditional Martial Arts on Mindfulness and Psychological Well-Being*. His research combines his passions of psychology and martial arts and he hopes that, one day, his research will support martial arts as an effective intervention in therapy.

The Richmont Psychotherapy Outcomes Project (RPOP) has provided students, counselors, and faculty the opportunity to improve client services while conducting research together. Clients complete survey forms each visit that gives feedback to counselors as to progress in symptoms and the therapeutic relationship. Data is uploaded to a system allowing counselors to track progress over time, spot trends, and improve counseling based on that information. This is also reviewed with supervisors. For the current year, five Richmont students are doing theses based on this, and have submitted a research symposium to a major natural conference based on RPOP. Moreover, the design allows researchers to track changes in unhealthy ways faith may be used to cope with life’s challenges.
# M.A. Professional Counseling

## Core Counseling Curriculum
- Introduction to Counseling
- Interpersonal Skills in Helping Relationships
- Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders
- Clinical Appraisal and Diagnostic Evaluation in Counseling
- Addictions Counseling: An Integrative Approach to Assessment and Treatment
- Human Growth and Development
- Group Counseling Theory and Practice
- Theodicy and Trauma Counseling
- Vocational Counseling
- Counseling and Spirituality
- Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling
- Methods of Research

## Clinical Intervention Curriculum
- Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital and Family Counseling
- Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
- Professional Seminar in Marriage and Family Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling

## Integration Curriculum
- Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling
- Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling
- Hermeneutics and Application
- Integrative Theology for Counselors
- Counseling and Spirituality Integration Elective

## Clinical Training Curriculum
- Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling
- Counseling Practicum
- Counseling Internship I
- Counseling Internship II

# M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy

## Core Counseling Curriculum
- Introduction to Counseling
- Interpersonal Skills in Helping Relationships
- Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders
- Clinical Appraisal and Diagnostic Evaluation in Counseling
- Addictions Counseling: An Integrative Approach to Assessment and Treatment
- Group Counseling Theory and Practice
- Theodicy and Trauma Counseling
- Vocational Counseling
- Counseling and Spirituality

## Professional Identity and Ethics
- Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital and Family Counseling
- Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
- Professional Seminar in Marriage and Family Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling

## Individual Development and Family Relations
- Human Sexuality: A Therapeutic Integration
- Human Growth and Development
- Marriage and Family Therapy: Theoretical Knowledge
- Counseling Systems and Interventions
- Healthy Family Functioning

## Marriage and Family Therapy: Clinical Knowledge
- Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital & Family Counseling
- Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
- Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling
- Brief, Solution-Focused, Communication Approaches to MFT
- Structural and Behavioral Marriage and Family Therapy
- Contextual, Narrative and Interpersonal Models of Counseling
- Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling

## Research
- Methods of Research

## Integration Curriculum
- Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling
- Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling
- Hermeneutics and Application
- Integrative Theology for Counselors
- Counseling and Spirituality Integration Elective

## Clinical Training Curriculum: Supervised Clinical Experience
- Applied Practicum and Treatment Planning Lab in Counseling
- Counseling Practicum
- Counseling Internship I
- Counseling Internship II

# M.S. Christian Psychological Studies

## Core Integration Curriculum
- Models of Relating Christianity and Counseling
- Counseling and Spirituality Integration Elective
- Personal and Spiritual Life of the Counselor
- Hermeneutics and Application
- Christian Traditions with Implications for Counseling
- Integrative Theology for Counselors

## Professional Identity and Ethics
- Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders
- Psychodynamic Theories and Counseling
- Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
- Counseling Systems and Interventions
- Structural and Behavioral Marriage & Family Therapy
- Clinical Assessment in Individual, Marital and Family Counseling
For the past four years the counseling center at Southern Polytechnic State University has utilized interns from Richmont. The interns we receive are always exceptionally well prepared compared to other schools, and show an ability and willingness to tackle the diverse population we serve. This makes training and supervision run very smoothly plus the year-long internship fits well with our school calendar. Working with Richmont’s schedules, staff and interns takes away a lot of stress for me as a supervisor and for that I am grateful!”
After 10 years in the graphic design field, Ben was no longer passionate about what he was doing. So he decided to shake things up and took a year to do international missions work full time. Having been affirmed by peers and mentors that he was a trustworthy confidant and had good insight, Ben wanted to invest in developing skills to help and serve those in need. Without a background in Psychology, Ben experienced some unique challenges; however, he felt so affirmed by his professors and fellow students that he is now finishing his master’s in Professional Counseling.

READ MORE ABOUT BEN’S PURSUIT OF A SECOND CAREER AT:
RICHMONT.EDU/STORIES2014

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-20

Kat Dennis

A vibrant, up-and-coming technology executive, Kat Dennis pursued a career in technology yet volunteered wherever she could serve people in challenging life situations. A science minded student, Kat had an “uncommon wisdom” that engendered trust and curiosity from her superiors, yet left her feeling forced into an image that wasn’t fully consistent with how the Lord uniquely created her. After a career switch from technology to ministry, Kat couldn’t push aside her interest in counseling and psychology which led her to Richmont.

READ MORE OF KAT’S STORY AT:
RICHMONT.EDU/STORIES2014

Ben Horner

READ MORE ABOUT BEN’S PURSUIT OF A SECOND CAREER AT:
RICHMONT.EDU/STORIES2014
This past year was full of growth, milestones and seeking the Lord’s direction for next steps with the School of Ministry. As the school prepares for what will likely be a year of unprecedented growth, the year held the following notable highlights and accomplishments:

**MASTER OF MINISTRY NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**

In February, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) approved Richmont’s proposal to offer the Master of Arts in Ministry degree in a fully online format. This will be the university’s first master’s degree program to be offered online. This degree is uniquely designed to equip those who are called into ministry whether in churches or faith based organizations. It is also designed for those who want to be better prepared to serve God within the marketplace.

**FIRST GRADUATING CLASS!**

May 10, 2014 was the university’s spring graduation ceremony. This group marked the first graduates from the School of Ministry! On the whole, the day was an incredibly special time to celebrate each student and their years of diligent work. It was also a wonderful time of acknowledging the Lord’s faithfulness and hand of provision at work in the lives of each student as well as the friendships that had been formed at Richmont.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION LAUNCHED**

The school also launched the Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction with a full cohort of 20 students. This four semester program teaches students to help others discern the active presence of the Triune God and perceive the Holy Spirit’s movement in ordinary life. In order to facilitate student convenience while preserving a sense of community, coursework is offered predominantly online as well as in weekend intensive settings.

**RENOVED AUTHOR AND SPEAKER, JOHN ORTBERG, JR.**

The School of Ministry welcomed internationally renowned author and speaker, John Ortberg, Jr., in May to present: Knowing Christ—Experiencing Up Here... Down There: Life in the Kingdom. In this two-day conference, Ortberg partnered with Richmont to train local ministry leaders in the critical area of spiritual formation. As cultural changes accelerate, a new type of leader, one who is prepared to generate ministry strategies that are contextually relevant and theologically sound, is needed more than ever. It was an incredible opportunity to host John and equip students and local ministry leaders to think critically and act creatively to communicate the gospel in our contemporary and diverse world.
With a calling to the pastorate on his life, there simply seemed to be too many issues prohibiting Brian from pursuing formalized, non-seminary ministry training. Where was the right place to take classes? How would he afford it? Did he really have time to study? Were a few of the questions running through Brian’s mind. A recent graduate of Richmont’s School of Ministry, Brian took a new job in ministry and is grateful to have found a ministry program that follows through on its promises.

**BRIAN BARTON**

READ MORE ABOUT HOW BRIAN OVERCAME HIS OBSTACLES AT: RICHMONT.EDU/STORIES2014

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SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

The excitement and progress of the past year reflects the importance and effectiveness of this degree program. Stewarding the aspirations of our students, the School of Ministry trains students, grows the local church, and so much more. We believe that we are called to be faithful in participating with the Lord for what he wants to do in this generation.

WELCOME NEW DEAN
DR. MIKE STEWART

At the end of the 2013-2014 fiscal year, Dr. Mike Stewart was officially welcomed as the new Dean of the School of Ministry. Previously the President of Emmanuel College, Stewart led the college in an unprecedented nine-year season of growth. For those who knew Dr. Stewart at Emmanuel College, his presidency was characterized by courage, authenticity and breakthroughs. Richmont will only benefit by having someone who lives by the values embedded in the School of Ministry such as integration of faith and learning, integrity, and innovation.

The Founding Dean of Richmont’s School of Ministry, Dr. Leland Eliason, graciously took a sabbatical from retirement to commit five years to establishing the School and the certificate programs. The university could not be more grateful for his tenure and for all he has given to lay a foundation for the School of Ministry. We are also grateful that he continues to provide leadership and academic support, particularly by teaching the Foundations of Authentic Leadership course.

SAMPLE COURSES

BIBLE HISTORY AND THEOLOGY

Hermeneutics and Exegesis
Historical Theology: The Great Questions Addressed by the Christian Faith
Church History: The Great Traditions of Christian Faith
Understanding the Bible through Its Uniting Themes
The Trinity: God Revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
God in the Midst of Thinking, Being and Doing

MINISTRY SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP

Foundations of Authentic Leadership
Interpersonal Skills – Pastoral Care
Practical Aspects of the Life of the Minister
Ministry to Children and Families
Communication in Ministry

MENTORED TRAINING

Internship: Mentored Growth and Development

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Spiritual Formation I: Dynamics of the Person and the Kingdom of God
Spiritual Formation II: Living in the Divine Conversation and Character
Spiritual Formation Retreat Seminar: Theological and Self Understanding
Spiritual Formation III: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith through Scripture, Literature, and Praxis
Spiritual Formation IV: Living as an Apprentice to Jesus
Culminating Project: Final Integrative Seminar
We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

COLOSSIANS 1:28

“I’ve always known I wanted to live a life of ministry and hopefully do mission work somewhere around the world. I know that God is guiding my every step and I know that he guided me here to Richmont. I heard about the ministry program through a mentor, but I knew that this is where I wanted to attend after the staff prayed for us at preview day. It didn’t feel like school. It felt like I was joining a family that was going to help me grow closer to God.”

ROXANA ISPAS, 1ST YEAR MINISTRY STUDENT

“I chose Richmont to further my education for a number of reasons. I’d always heard great things about Richmont’s professors and students and of their reputation for caring about people. It was the Spiritual Formation track of the Master of Ministry that attracted me most. Over the past two years of study I have realized what I sought after, being personally challenged to deeper formation in Christ while learning practical application of good leadership principles and how to accurately study the Word. Richmont is an excellent learning environment for anyone who wishes to grow in ministry and helping others.”

GREGORY CLARK, 2ND YEAR MINISTRY STUDENT

In the School of Ministry there is no gender bias, no racial bias, and no age bias... it is a marvelous taste of what the body of Christ is supposed to be like. Richmont provides a wonderful learning environment that is enhanced by professors who love teaching and are sincere believers, well educated, and extremely intelligent. There is mutual respect and friendship in the classroom that enhances the learning experience and helps each of us to become a better version of our self in Christ. We are not transformed by books alone, we need community and Richmont fosters such transformational community. As a woman, Richmont has been a safe place to discover my voice and reconsider my beliefs in a welcoming and Biblically sound environment. The more I learn at Richmont the more intelligent of a choice being a Christian has become and I look forward to sharing what I have learned.”

ELESA BENTSEN, 2ND YEAR MINISTRY STUDENT

FREDDYE JAMES

Freddye had a thriving career as an Environmental Chemist when she realized she was doing just as much encouraging and listening to the problems and concerns of co-workers as she was analytical chemistry. Then, very suddenly, Freddye experienced a debilitating illness that forced her to leave her job of 18 years and utilize disability. At Richmont, Freddye found genuine support and went on to complete two master’s degrees!

READ MORE ABOUT FREDDYE’S EXPERIENCE IN THE COUNSELING AND MINISTRY PROGRAMS AT: RICHMONT.EDU/STORIES2014
The libraries at Richmont play a crucial role by building and maintaining collections, providing reference and instruction services, and participating in scholarly and service oriented activities.

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT
The libraries continued to build the print collections for the counseling and ministry programs. The Chattanooga library resources were also evaluated for relevance and space and a large number of monographic and DVD resources were added.

LIBRARY CIRCULATION
The libraries noticed a slight drop in circulation from the previous year due to shifts in information usage trends. Online resources saw noticeable growth. Total print and A/V resources circulated amounted to 14,092 for the year.

DATABASE SEARCHES
More than 423,008 index searches and full-text article searches were conducted via the university’s three psychological databases: PsycInfo, PsycArticles, and the Psychological and Behavioral Sciences set.

REFERENCE SERVICES
The libraries fielded 12,183 reference questions and lengthier consultations during the year. These included face-to-face conversations, telephone, email and web form conversations.

LIBRARIANS IN THE CLASSROOM AND COMMUNITY CLASSROOM
A total of eight Library Instruction sessions were performed by library faculty. Session topics included: Introduction to Graduate Writing and a lecture in Christian Traditions. Two of Richmont’s librarians, Alison Mead and John Hughes, presented on utilizing APA style citations.

John Hughes, Director of Libraries, presented on Mindfulness and Centering Prayer and conducted centering prayer groups. He also co-supervised a student’s thesis in conjunction with faculty member, Dr. Mary Plisco. The thesis resulted in a poster presentation.

LIBRARY USAGE

REFERENCE SERVICE INTERACTIONS

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LIBRARY CIRCULATION

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In 2014, we continued to look for ways to cultivate connections with the Latino community. Through our partnership with La Paz, a major Chattanooga resource for Latino families, our staff counselor, Ani Hernandez-Johnson, was able to further develop our relationship with them. La Paz received a grant that allowed Ani to provide five hours of contract services per week at their office to clients in need of counseling. This opportunity served as another way we were able to familiarize the Latino community to bilingual counseling. Additionally, the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga (CFGC) generously provided a $20,000 grant to help Ani continue spending approximately half of her time serving that community. We are grateful for their history of generous giving to the RCCC.

As a part of CFGC’s generous gift, we were able to transition from paper files to a secure, electronic health records system. Although there has been a learning curve, this system has streamlined client files and allows therapists to have easier access to information. We are hopeful that this will allow interns and staff to spend more time planning for client sessions and seeing additional clients. In addition to CFGC’s gift, we were also allotted a grant from Memorial Health Care Systems to our general budget. We are grateful for their financial investment as well!

Toward the end of the year, Ani Hernandez-Johnson transitioned to another position at Henegar/CBI Counseling Center. We welcomed Rebeca (Becky) Durand, our new bilingual therapist, to the RCCC team. She has continued the mission of serving the Latino community through groups, individual, family, and marital therapy.

Overall, we were able to provide nearly 2,000 counseling sessions throughout the year. Over half of those sessions were serving individuals without insurance and about half had an income under $15,000.

In preparation for the New Year, we continue to see God’s provision for us. We are grateful for those who willingly sacrifice to invest personally and financially in our mission and pray for others to join us in serving those who are hurting. We are grateful for each person and organization that contributes to the RCCC whether through referrals, donations, or prayer!
Students offered education to the community as they presented topics relevant to mental health and spiritual well-being to churches and agencies throughout the area. Each year, they continue to provide prayer support on site for attendees of the business prayer breakfasts offered at Cobb Galleria. They also gathered in the fall to pray for attendees at the High Tech Ministry (HTM) breakfast. The follow up report from this event shared the comment card results with students: 276 people are interested in attending Discovery Kickoff; 13 people began a relationship with Jesus Christ; 105 people asked someone from HTM to contact them.

A Richmont student wrote:

Dear Dr. Hanshew, Just wanted to write you and tell you what a blessing the prayer breakfast was: it was so much more than I think any of us imagined. We prayed heartily for those presenting and those attending, and then the ladies (facilitators) prayed for and anointed each and every one of us. It was deeply moving and impacting and such a privilege to serve in that capacity.

These activities are evidence of Richmont’s continuing commitment to serve the body of Christ and the world that God so loves.

HOPE COUNSELING CENTERS

As an extension of Richmont’s graduate education programs in professional counseling and marriage and family therapy, the university operates a network of seven Hope Counseling Centers in the metropolitan Atlanta area. This ministry enables students to hone their clinical skills while providing the community access to high-quality, low-cost counseling from a Christian perspective.

HOPE CENTER DATA

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ISSUES TREATED

- Alcohol/Substance Abuse
- Co-Dependency
- Grief & Loss
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Career
- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity
- Marriage, Family & Parenting
- Self-Esteem
- Sexual Abuse/Addiction
- Eating Disorders

HOPE COUNSELING CENTERS LOCATIONS

- CASCADE: 4245 Cascade Road SW, Atlanta
- CENTERVILLE: 3835 Laurel Falls Drive, Snellville
- MT. PARAN: 4200 Northside Parkway, Atlanta
- MT. ZION: 7102 Mt. Zion Boulevard, Jonesboro
- RIVERSIDE AT SIX FLAGS: 212 Riverside Parkway SW, Austell
- WEST COBB: 1245 Villa Rica Road SW, Marietta
- WEST RIDGE: 3522 Hiram Acworth Hwy, Dallas
The Henegar/CBI Counseling (HCBI) experienced 2014 as a year of growth in numerous ways. The staff grew to meet demands as the center received 1,875 referrals for counseling services during the year, translating to 16,311 sessions which is a record high. New staff additions included Heather Dryden, Lorrie Slater, Laura Ward, Ani Hernandez-Johnson and Kellie Currin, which brought the number of licensed professionals and therapists to 18. The five interns, who are all students at Richmont Graduate University, provided 947 sessions over the course of the year. All of the doctoral level therapists also served as clinical faculty, teaching a wide array of classes at Richmont and exposing students to a diversity of perspectives.

For HCBI, providing high-quality care for counselees is core to the mission, and referral sources have broadened. From doctor's offices and schools to local churches, HCBI serves individuals from all over the greater Chattanooga/North Georgia area. This reputation has been built by providing ethical and professional care from a distinctively faith-based perspective.

HCBI provides services to all ages, and across the spectrum of diagnoses in addition to life transition issues and spiritual problems. These services are available for individuals, couples and families. There are also several groups for varying issues from adolescent struggles to addictions offered at HCBI. A number of HCBI psychologists provide both personality and educational evaluations. Overall, there has been much intentionality in developing a staff that varies in therapeutic approach and Christian tradition so that they retain flexibility in meeting the individual needs of clients. In fact, many referrals indeed come from recommendations of clients that have already been to HCBI.

Over the course of the year, HCBI began to develop more of a presence in the local media. Staff members participated in an eight part radio series on Talk Radio 102.3 with local broadcaster Jed Mescon. Topics from addiction to dealing with grief and loss were addressed during this series, which historically has been an award winning presentation. Several therapists have been invited to do television spots coming out of this series, and plans are being constructed for ongoing television and radio exposure in the Chattanooga market.

Overall, we saw growth in HCBI, as well as increased opportunities for the center to impact the Chattanooga/North Georgia area. The Lord has used each counselor to enter into the pain of countless lives in a humbling fashion. We pray that the Lord continues to use HCBI in the coming year in mighty ways to bring healing to individuals, families and groups.
It was a great pleasure to host internationally renowned author and speaker, John Ortberg, Jr., to present: “Knowing Christ — Experiencing Up Here… Down There: Life in the Kingdom.” This two-day conference in May was hosted at Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, Georgia and was attended by pastors, parachurch organization leaders, and students. Teaching on spiritual formation and the role that the church can play, Ortberg equipped attendees to utilize ministry strategies that are contextually relevant and theologically sound in order to communicate the gospel in our contemporary and diverse world. Visit the Richmont YouTube Channel: richmont.edu/youtube to view a conference video.

In May, Richmont Graduate University was listed by Charisma Magazine as one of the “Best Graduate Schools, Seminaries and Online Education” providers. This marked the university’s first time being featured on this list as well as a growing relationship with the magazine.

Starting with a list of 205 schools that offer master’s and doctoral degrees, Charisma Magazine created a comprehensive list to aid potential graduate students in their search for the best advanced degree program in their area of interest. This year’s list featured Richmont alongside institutions such as Liberty University, Asbury Theological Seminary, Oral Roberts University and Fuller Theological Seminary. Additionally, Richmont’s President composed an article called: “A Wisdom-Based Formula for Success: Why advancing your education isn’t just about traditional ROI.” The full article was featured online (see http://bit.ly/1HTdWUU) and in print.

In September, Dr. Jana Pressley presented “Sacred Dissonance: Attending to Client Spirituality and Religiosity in Complex Trauma Treatment” at the fall alumni reunion. This year was the 10 year reunion for the class of 2004 and more than 150 alumni were in attendance. The evening workshop was extremely well attended and Pressley’s presentation helped counselors and educators understand the manner in which developmental trauma can impact or be impacted by spirituality. Participants also had the opportunity to earn three hours of NBCC approved continuing education credit.

Dr. Vanessa Snyder, Assistant Professor of Counseling, partnered with Hope for Justice in Moldova to conduct research and provide training on the “heart trauma model” for staff working with victims of sex trafficking.

Dr. Sonja Sutherland, Assistant Professor of Counseling, partnered with Regent University to teach master’s level courses to counselors and therapists through Uganda Christian University. Approximately 100 Ugandan therapists were trained on assessment, counseling as a science, and counselor supervision.

Richmont proudly sent a team of four racers and two volunteers to participate in the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga’s “GeoCASH Adventure” race. The race celebrated the Foundation’s 50th Anniversary and required the racers to find hidden objects by means of GPS coordinates.
GRADUATION
2014

In May, 75 students participated in the Richmont’s spring graduation ceremony. The university awarded degrees in Marriage and Family Therapy, Christian Psychological Studies and Professional Counseling. This year also marked the first class to graduate from Richmont’s School of Ministry with their Master of Arts in Ministry.

In addition to honoring this year’s graduates, several administrators and one alumna were honored. This year, Richmont named Dr. Kenyon Knapp as 2014’s Distinguished Alumnus. A 2005 graduate, Knapp is a tenured Associate Professor of Counseling at Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he teaches master’s and doctoral level courses. Similarly, Ronald Bunger, Richmont’s Chattanooga campus librarian, received this year’s Peterson Award for the commitment and service he has shown to the university that has consistently exceeded his job demands and institutional expectations. Dr. DeAnne Terrell was also honored for 15 years of service as the Dean of Students. She transitioned at the end of the academic year to begin teaching at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

The university was also pleased to welcome Dr. Gary Moon, Executive Director of the Martin Institute for Christianity and Culture and the Dallas Willard Center for Christian Spiritual Formation at Westmont College and the Executive Director of the Renovaré International Institute for Christian Spiritual Formation, as this year’s commencement speaker. A licensed psychologist, Moon has been connected to Richmont for many years as a faculty member and former president.

OTHER CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

- Jeff Ashby, Ph.D., ABPP presented “Making Professional Ethics Practical”
- Cara Cochran, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT presented “Foundations of Supervision”
- Jana Pressley, Psy.D. presented “Trauma in the Developmental Context”
- Joseph Spinazzola, Ph.D. presented “Adult Trauma Intervention”
- Erin Rayburn, MAMFT presented an “Equine Therapy Demonstration”
- William Doverspike, Ph.D. presented “DSM-5 for Counselors”
- Jon Ebert, Psy.D. presented “Child Trauma Intervention”
- Wendy D’Andrea, Ph.D. presented “Trauma and Biology”
“I am so appreciative of the Board’s commitment to Richmont. Besides substantial financial resources, these men and women dedicate their business, intellectual, and social skills to every aspect of my alma mater. As trustees, we are granted a unique opportunity to impact thousands of lives by participating in educating the brightest Christian scholars who change the world one life at a time. What could be a greater or more satisfying blessing?”

DR. DAVID AYCOCK, VICE CHAIR ELECT

“I don’t know of any other organization that better prepares people to do more impactful work in people’s lives than Richmont. Since the smallest building block in society is the family, where better to impact multiple generations through helping even just one family member? Our graduates meet people right where they are in their pain and suffering. Because of Richmont’s integration of the gospel and counseling, the work done in clients’ lives is not just temporal, but eternal. Whether spoken explicitly or “living Jesus” for their clients, our graduates bring the Healer into the counseling environment every day. More generational impact for good can be made by a Richmont graduate than virtually anything else.”

TALLEY CLOWER, BOARD CHAIR ELECT
FACULTY AND STAFF

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY
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EMERITUS FACULTY
David G. Benner, Ph.D., C.Psych.

LIBRARY FACULTY AND STAFF
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Gladys Edwards
John Hughes, M.S.L.S., M.S.
Alison Breeze Mead, M.Ed., M.L.I.S., M.S.

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Novell Blain, M.A.
Darwin Blandon
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Larry Crow
Adam Dark
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Keny Felix, Ph.D.*
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Mary Plisco, Ph.D.
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Catherine Robbins, M.B.A., CPA
Robert Rodgers*
Joannah Sadler, M.A.
Thomas Sanders
Roxanne Shellabarger, M.A.
Timothy Sisemore, Ph.D.
Lorrie Slater, Ph.D., ABD
Cheryl Sneed
Autumn Stephenson, M.A.
Michael Stewart, D.Min.*

DeAnne Terrell, Ph.D.*
Glenda Thompson
Travis Young, M.A.
Liza Wright, M.A.

RICHLAND COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER CLINICAL STAFF
Rebecca Durand, M.A.
Michelle Shelley, M.A.

HENEGAR/CBI COUNSELING CENTER CLINICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Jessica Bond
Stephen Bradshaw, Ph.D.
Kellie Currin, M.A.
Edward Doreau, M.A.
Heather Dryden, M.A.
Jeffrey Eckert, Psy.D.
Rhonda Easparam
Dottie Hines
Ani Hernandez-Johnson, M.A.
Katherine Jonas, M.A.
William McGee, Ed.D.
Pauline McLemore, M.S., Ed.S.
Jane Neall, M.A.
Timothy Sisemore, Ph.D.
Lorrie Slater, Ph.D., ABD
Erica Skidmore, Psy.D.
M. Gaye Stone, Ph.D.
Ryan Thompson, Psy.D.

CLINICAL FACULTY
Stephen Bradshaw, Ph.D.
Jeffrey Eckert, Psy.D.
Marty Goehring, Ph.D.
D. Jason Hayes, Psy.D.
William McGee, Ed.D.
Erica Skidmore, Psy.D.
M. Gaye Stone, Ph.D.
Ryan Thompson, Psy.D.

ADJUNCT FACULTY
Charles Allen, Psy.D.
Staci Bolton, Psy.D.
Dottie Brock, Ph.D.

FULL-TIME INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY
Amanda Blackburn, Psy.D.*
Leland Eliason, D.Min.*
Keny Felix, Ph.D.*
Evalin Rhodes Hanshew, Ph.D.*
Mary Plisco, Ph.D.
Daniel Sartor, Ph.D.
Timothy Sisemore, Ph.D.
Lorrie Slater, Ph.D., ABD
Vanessa Snyder, Ph.D.
Sonja Sutherland, Ph.D.
DeAnne Terrell, Ph.D.*
Jama White, Psy.D.

SCHOOLS OF COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGY

SCHOOLS OF COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGY

ADJUNCT FACULTY
Charles Ayars, D.Min.
Christopher Boyd, Ph.D.
Jeannine Brown, Ph.D.
David Cooper, D.Min.
Leland Eliason, Th.D.*
Anne-Marie Finsaas, D.Min.
Marty Goehring, Ph.D.
Timothy Harbin, D.Min.
Scott Harrower, Ph.D.

Gary Moon, Ph.D.
Lyn Nixon, Ph.D.
Sharon Rowland, D.Min.
Daniel Sartor, Ph.D.
James D. Smith, III, Th.D.
Michael Stewart, D.Min.*
Peter Vogt, Ph.D.
Rev. Bill Willits, M.Div.
Rev. Courtney Wright
RICHMONT FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS
(July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014)

AMANDA BLACKBURN, PSY.D.

PEARL BROWN, 2015 M.A. CANDIDATE

JEANNINE BROWN, PH.D.

DAVID COOPER, D.MIN.

ASHLEY DILLON, 2015 M.A. CANDIDATE
Dillon, A. R. & Sisemore, T. A. (2014). Adopting parents’ view of grace and report of behavior and mood of biological children without an adopted sibling, anticipating an adopted sibling, and those who already have adopted siblings [Master’s thesis]. Richmont Graduate University, Chattanooga, TN. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies. Atlanta, GA.

WILLIAM DOVERSPIKE, PH.D.

Diversity Among Blacks: Implications for Counseling. Presented at the 26th Annual Convention and Regional Conference of the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia. Atlanta, GA.

Highlights

- *Conversations* was pleased to welcome six new advertisers in 2014. By way of promoting and solidifying the connection of our newest feature column, “As for Me and My House,” *Conversations* partnered with publishers that produce resources and books on spiritual formation for children.

- Various promotions and give-aways took place monthly via the website and through the journal’s Facebook group. Social media continues to be beneficial for the publication with a very involved community of participants and forum for discussion.

- The annual editors meeting took place in May in Atlanta, Georgia. Alan Fadling was introduced as the newest Section Editor for the “Life Together” section. The team discussed future themes, new writers, and fundraising for improvements to the digital issue.

Visit conversationsjournal.com

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**SARAH FISCHER, PH.D.**


**TRENT GILBERT**


**JERRY GLADSON, PH.D.**


**EVALIN RHODES HANSHEW, PH.D.**


**SCOTT HARROWER, PH.D.**


**TEQUILLA HILL, PH.D.**


**JOHN HUGHES, M.L.S., M.S.**

GARY MOON, PH.D.
Moon, G. W. (2014). Integration of Psychology and Theology: The Next 50 Years. Presented at Fuller Theological Seminary in celebration of the first 50 years of the Founding of the Graduate School of Psychology. Pasadena, CA.
Moon, G. W. (2014). Richmont Graduate University Commencement Address. Atlanta, GA.

SYLVAIN PANU, 2015 M.A. CANDIDATE

DIANE PEARCE, PH.D.

JANA PRESSLEY, PSY.D.

MARY PLISCO, PH.D.

JENNA RIEMERSMA, 2014 M.A. CANDIDATE

DOUGLAS ROSENAU, ED.D.


**SHARON ROWLAND, PH.D.**


Rowland, Sharon. (2014). *Spiritual Formation as Apprenticeship to Jesus*. Doctor of Ministry course designed for Ashland Theological Seminary. Ashland, OH.

**DAN SARTOR, PH.D.**


Sartor, D. C. (2014). *Responding to Pornography Addiction and Sexual Compulsions: Identifying, Understanding, and Facilitating Recovery in Mental Health Care*. Continuing Education workshop presented for mental health professionals sponsored by The True Intimacy Project and Richmont Graduate University. Atlanta, GA.

**TIM SISEMORE, PH.D.**


Dillon, A. R. & Sisemore, T. A. (2014). *Adopting parents’ view of grace and report of behavior and mood of biological children without an adopted sibling, anticipating an adopted sibling, and those who already have adopted siblings* (Master’s thesis). Richmont Graduate University, Chattanooga, TN. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies. Atlanta, GA.

**ERICA SKIDMORE, PH.D.**


**REV. JAMES D. SMITH, III, TH.D.**


Smith, III, J. (2014). *How The Far West Was Won*. This 10 public lecture series was conducted at Bethel Seminary. San Diego, CA.


*In addition to teaching at La Jolla Christian Fellowship and College Avenue Baptist Church, Dr. Smith serves as Professor of Church History at Bethel Seminary in San Diego, California.

**VANESSA SNYDER, PH.D.**


Snyder, V. (2014). *Complex Trauma in Human Trafficking: Research in Treatment*. Presented at the Christian Association for Psychological Studies Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA.

**JOSEPH SPINNAZOLA, PH.D.**


**MICHAEL SYT SMA, PH.D.**


**SI A NG-Y ANG T AN, PH.D.**


Tan, S. Y. (2013). Invited Roundtable Lecture on Integration and beyond: Principled, professional, and personal, at the Center for Christian Thought, Biola University. La Mirada, CA.


Tan, S. Y. (2013). Invited Roundtable Lecture on Integration and beyond: Principled, professional, and personal, at the Center for Christian Thought, Biola University. La Mirada, CA.


Clinical Professor and Richmont’s President Pen Advent Devotional

Clinical faculty member, Dr. Dan Sartor, and Richmont’s president, Bob Rodgers, co-authored a new book titled *God is With Us*. Offering daily reflections from the gospels of Matthew and Luke, *God is With Us* seeks to help individuals and families scripturally prepare their minds and hearts during the advent season as the church awaits the celebration of Christ’s birth.

A Richmont Professor, Staff member and Alumna co-publish chapter in new InterVarsity Press book

Dr. Amanda M. Blackburn (Dean of Students & Richmont Faculty member), Christine Weisgerber (Richmont alumna) and Michelle Shelley (Director of the Richmont Community Counseling Center) co-wrote and published the 10th chapter in the groundbreaking *Christianity and Development Psychopathology* book. Published by InterVarsity Press, their chapter was titled “Behavioral Approaches to Treatment” and discussed theoretical and evidence-based approaches to working with children and adolescents through the frameworks of developmental psychopathology and a Christian worldview.

Two Richmont Alumnae Publish Books

Jennifer Hand, a Professional Counseling graduate of Richmont, released her first book *31 Days to Coming Alive*. Quickly, the book found itself on Amazon’s list of bestselling devotionals! The impetus for the book first came to Hand while studying at Richmont and today it helps readers easily connect their hearts with Christ in order to come alive in their daily lives. Each daily devotional is written to connect scripture to reader’s hearts using life stories and topics such as: coming alive in confidence, coming alive in prayer, coming alive in courage, and coming alive in community.

Lois Bushong, a graduate of the Psychological Studies Institute (now Richmont), published her first book titled: *Belonging Everywhere & Nowhere: Insights into Counseling the Globally Mobile*. A licensed marriage and family therapist, Bushong’s book focuses on counseling the “globally mobile” or Third Culture Kids (TCK) and Third Culture Adults (TCA). Her book is the first of its kind on how to effectively counsel clients raised outside of their parents’ home culture. Additionally, with the rapid growth amidst the expat community, Bushong’s book provides incredibly helpful and timely insights for counselors who are working with the unique circumstances faced by TCK and TCA populations.
Richmont Graduate University ended the 2013-2014 fiscal year in strong financial health. The university is especially proud of the following: its continued ability to collect receivables in a timely manner, sustain a strong current ratio of assets to liabilities, maintain a restricted endowment in support of student scholarships, and pursue a significant level of independent charitable contributions.

Each year, the university engages an independent accounting firm to conduct a full audit of its financial records according to generally accepted accounting principles. Richmont again received a clean audit opinion for the financial results of the 2014 fiscal year. The annual audit includes a report on compliance with requirements of major federal loan programs (Title IV student loans). This report found that the university complied with all current requirements of Government Auditing Standards for the program.

As a whole, the faculty, staff and students of Richmont Graduate University are grateful for every partner who financially invests in the university’s mission and vision to provide Christ-centered education and research that advances God’s work of healing, restoration, and transformation in the lives of individuals, churches, and communities.

**FINANCIALS**

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**ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Assets</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,887,901</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,007,856</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Assets</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land held for investment</td>
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<td>$112,273</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable (net)</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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<td>Property and Equipment (net)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>$35,975</td>
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<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,748,849</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,043,764</strong></td>
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**TOTAL ASSETS**

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<tr>
<th>2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7,636,750</td>
<td>$6,051,620</td>
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**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

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<th>Current Liabilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Payroll</td>
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<td>Deferred Income</td>
<td>$436,567</td>
<td>$403,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Vacation</td>
<td>$8,531</td>
<td>$9,223</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$786,980</strong></td>
<td><strong>$751,173</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Assets</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$5,503,420</td>
<td>$4,080,625</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>$1,209,931</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
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<td>$134,419</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,849,770</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,300,447</strong></td>
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7,636,750</td>
<td>$6,051,620</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Through various types of bequests to Richmont Graduate University, you may secure a charitable estate-tax deduction for the value of the gift. Planned gifts are a wonderful way to fulfill your philanthropic goals and generously support the University’s mission for years to come. A planned gift can provide for your family, guarantee you income and protect your assets.

You can even make an impact through a gift that costs nothing in your lifetime (a charitable bequest under your will). To learn more about making a planned gift contact Richmont’s President, Bob Rodgers, at: 404-835-6132 | brodgers@richmont.edu.

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State Authorization / Richmont Graduate University is authorized by the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Committee and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. This authorization is renewed annually based on an evaluation of minimum standards concerning the quality of education, ethical business practices, health and safety, and fiscal responsibility.

Regional Accreditation / Richmont Graduate University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award master’s degrees. SACSCOC is one of the six regional accrediting agencies recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Accreditation is a voluntary process of internal and peer reviews for the improvement of academic quality and demonstration of accountability.