

# ANNUAL REPORT

2019 - 2020



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# HEALING. RESTORATION. TRANSFORMATION.

These principles have been pillars of Richmond Graduate University for nearly a century, and with the 2019-2020 academic year just behind us, these ideas are strikingly relevant.

From our inception, the aim of Richmond has been to provide a Christ-centered educational experience to graduate students with a desire to help: students who will step into the complicated world of faith, students who seek to bring reconciliation to broken relationships and students who long to see healing in situations of tragedy and trauma.

This year's Richmond experience looked different than we could have ever imagined. We were challenged to embrace distance learning, telemedicine, and virtual ministry. But Richmond students, faculty and staff proved that now more than ever, we were up to the challenge.

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic will never be forgotten for the extraordinary impact it had on all aspects of life. Ours is the first generation to live through a lethal global pandemic in over a century, since the Spanish influenza of 1918.

Although the virus originated abroad, it reached our shores and soon after the country's interior in the early months of 2020. For our University, the tipping point occurred in March when public health conditions impelled educational institutions to close their doors to in-person instruction. Richmond Graduate University was no exception.

From the time of my announcement on March 16th that the University would make a mid-semester shift to online operations, our prime concern had been the well-being of everyone in our academic community. With that aim, the University adopted a position of preemptive prevention. In pivoting to distance learning, we safeguarded the physical health of students, faculty, and staff. This approach clearly paid dividends in that we did not have a single confirmed case of COVID-19 throughout our community from the time we closed campus in spring through the time of this writing at the start of August.

Although both the School of Counseling's and the School of Ministry's curricula strongly rely on interpersonal engagement to learn, neither our collective spirit nor the quality of our activities diminished as a result of this shift. To the contrary, the transition to online instructional, administrative, and clinical operations went remarkably smoothly.

This success stemmed from weeks of advance planning by the University's leadership who embraced the technology and provided the training to ensure it. A survey of students done a month into this new modality revealed an overwhelming number of respondents reporting satisfaction with Richmond's decision to move online as well as their own experiences in the virtual classroom.

As you can see on the accompanying timeline, while the form of University life had to change, our personal commitment to students did not wane. We found many and sundry ways to keep the connection between us strong academically, spiritually, and interpersonally. And though circumstances required us to postpone the Commencement ceremony, Richmond's leadership created a unique and still highly personal path to celebrate this year's exiting class through "Graduation in a Box."

We praise God for the privilege of serving our students, faculty, and staff during these challenging times. We also thank Him for keeping the University strong in its faith, interpersonal connections, and financial foundation. Through constant prayer, we are confident that better days are just ahead.

**Timothy Quinnan, Ph.D.**  
*President*





# COVID-19 TIMELINE

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

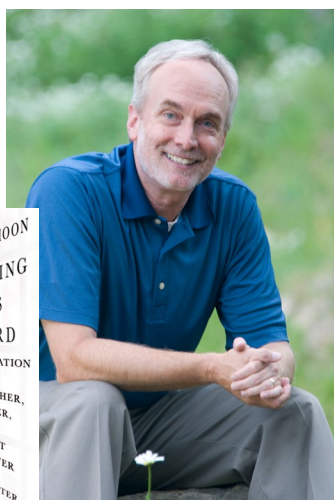
- |                 |   |                    |  |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|--|
| <b>March 10</b> | First communication to Richmond students, faculty, and staff concerning the possibility of closing campus and planning to continue University activities remotely | <b>April 22</b>    | CARES Act grant in amount of \$62,716 to provide immediate financial support to students received  |
| <b>March 13</b> | Announcement from President to Richmond community closing campuses. Shift to virtual instructional, administrative, and clinical counseling activities.           | <b>May 13</b>      | “Graduation in a Box” delivered to all graduating students in lieu of Commencement ceremony  |
| <b>March 16</b> | Atlanta and Chattanooga campuses closed for in-person operations  | <b>May 16</b>      | Graduating students receive email of congratulations from President and a link to “graduation congratulations” video at richmont.edu (Congratulation messages from administration and faculty) |
| <b>March 31</b> | First of “We Are in This Together” weekly virtual prayer meetings   | <b>May 27</b>      | Private donor gift of \$100,000 received to support student emergency assistance fund  |
| <b>April 1</b>  | One-hundred percent (100%) of student interns are telemental-health capable after University provided training  | <b>June 10</b>     | Phase 1 of gradual reopening begins with vice-presidents and deans returning to offices  |
| <b>April 2</b>  | “Faculty Check-In” meetings begin and continue weekly for the rest of spring semester   | <b>June 15</b>     | The Trauma Center in Atlanta and Henegar Counseling Center in Chattanooga restart limited in-person counseling   |
| <b>April 6</b>  | Campus Reopening Committee established to plan for phased resumption of in-person operations during the summer. Begins bi-weekly meetings.                        | <b>End of June</b> | All staff return on a staggered schedule, with limited hours of operation, and CDC recommended health checks required to enter building  |
| <b>April 16</b> | President convenes student forum online to share update and listen to concerns  |                    |  |

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

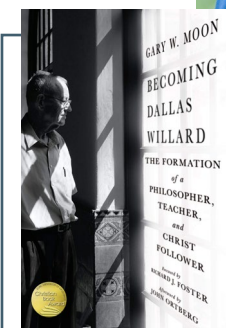
# UNIVERSITY MILESTONES

- Richmond's Child Play Therapy laboratory receives national certification
- First-ever "Statement on Diversity" is published
- University receives \$902,300 loan from the Paycheck Protection Program to provide financial support for staff who absorbed income loss during COVID-19 lockdowns
- Richmond nimbly and effectively shifted in one week's time from in-person to exclusively online instruction, administration, and counseling center operations during mid-spring semester
- Richmond recognized by LendEDU for one of the lowest student loan default rates in the United States

## AWARD WINNING PROFESSOR



**Dr. Gary W. Moon**  
awarded the  
2019 ECPA Christian Book  
Award® for Biography





# 214

NEW STUDENT  
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED



# 332

STUDENTS ENROLLED



# 35

CONTINUING EDUCATION  
EVENTS OFFERED



# 634

CONTINUING EDUCATION  
PARTICIPANTS





# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

# SCHOOL OF COUNSELING

*Proverbs 28:26 declares that “He who walks in wisdom will be delivered.”* Whether for a season of transition, relational difficulties, or an arduous personal journey, sound Christian counseling can be a catalyst toward healing and personal transformation.

Since its founding in 1973 (then named the Psychological Studies Institute) Richmond’s School of Counseling has sought to train counselors to integrate the best practices of clinical psychology with sound Biblical teaching. Humans are dynamic creatures, and a counseling approach that addresses the heart, mind, and soul has set Richmond-trained mental health professionals apart for decades.

**In the 2019-20 academic year, the school added to its robust offerings with the inclusion of a fully online delivery mechanism to the CACREP accredited Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. The three-year program of study requires an on-campus residency of 15 days, allowing online students to have the same opportunity to be observed by faculty as their peers.**

## PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

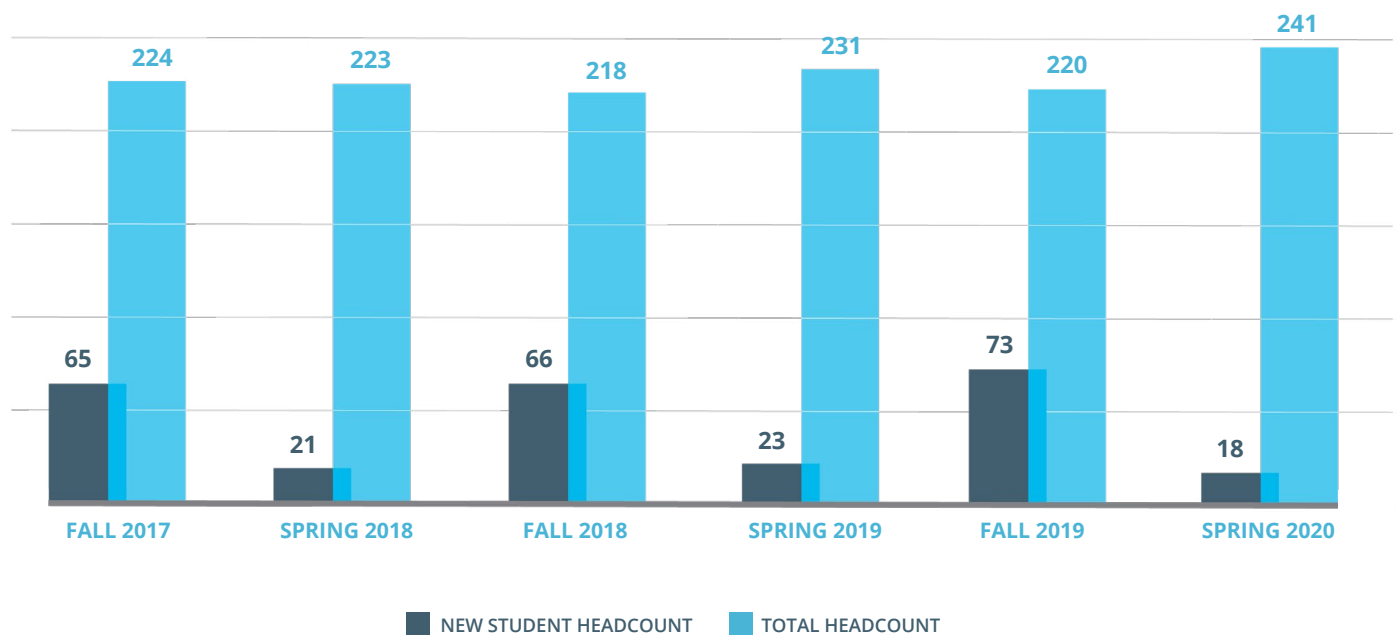
- **The Child and Adolescent Counseling Certificate** has been expanded to include a play therapy component complete with the ability to obtain hours towards certification as a play therapist by the Association for Play Therapy Practitioners
- Richmond’s recent partnership with Evergreen Certifications allows students to apply for and become a Certified Trauma Professional (CTP).

**EVERGREEN**  
CERTIFICATIONS





## SCHOOL OF COUNSELING HEADCOUNT





# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

# SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

When the Chattanooga Bible Institute began in 1933, it was with the goal to provide training, counseling, library resources and support for clergy and laity of all denominations. Nearly a century later, Richmond's School of Ministry is continuing this tradition.

Across two campuses and the new online programs, the School of Ministry offers three Masters programs:

- Master of Arts in Ministry
- Master of Arts in Ministry: Anglican Studies Concentration
- Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Direction

In 2020, we started an online option for our Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction through a partnership with the **Renovaré Institute**.

In addition, the School of Ministry embarked on a partnership with **Portland Theological Seminary** which allows Richmond students to receive a Master of Divinity equivalency.



**Renovaré Institute**  
FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL FORMATION



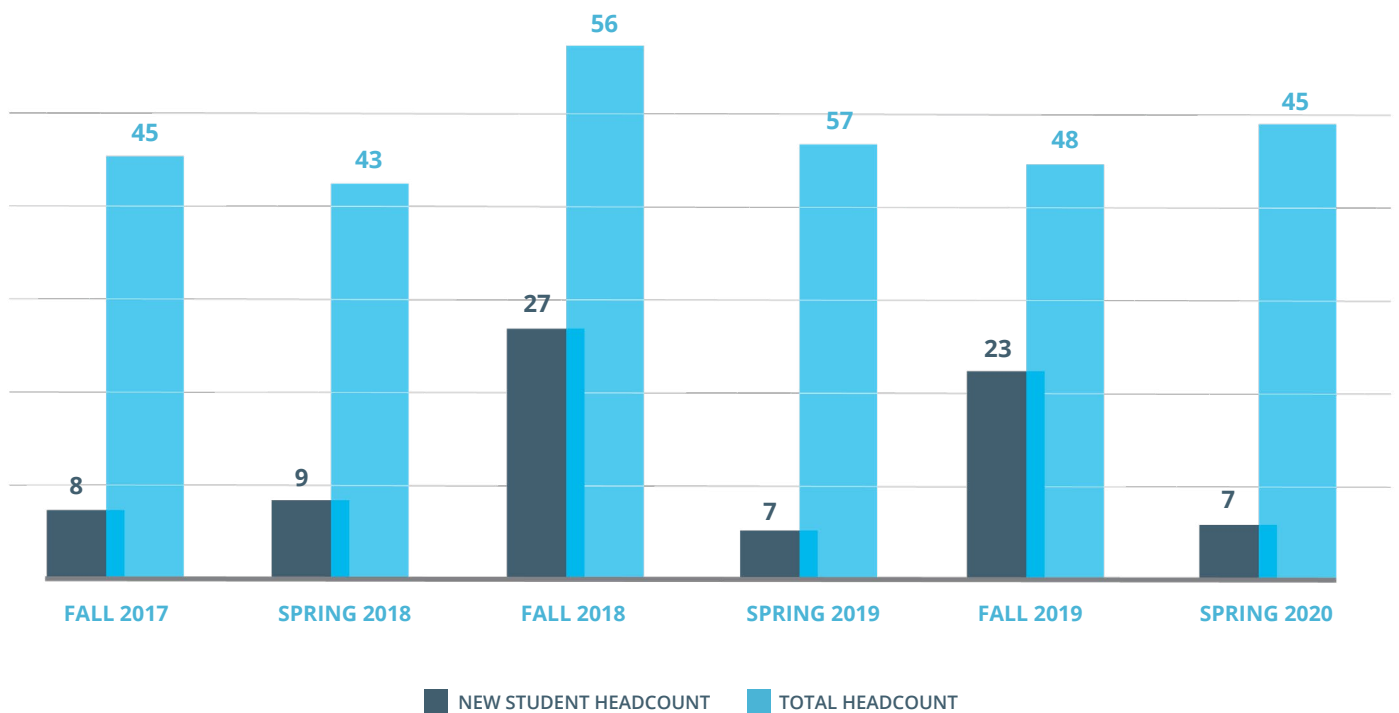
**PORTLAND  
SEMINARY**  
George Fox University







## SCHOOL OF MINISTRY HEADCOUNT





## RICHMONT ONLINE PROGRAM OVERVIEW (2019-2020)

The School of Counseling developed an online delivery format for the Master of Arts in Clinical and Mental Health Counseling. Students will now have the option to complete their entire degree through distance-learning and a series of in-person residencies.

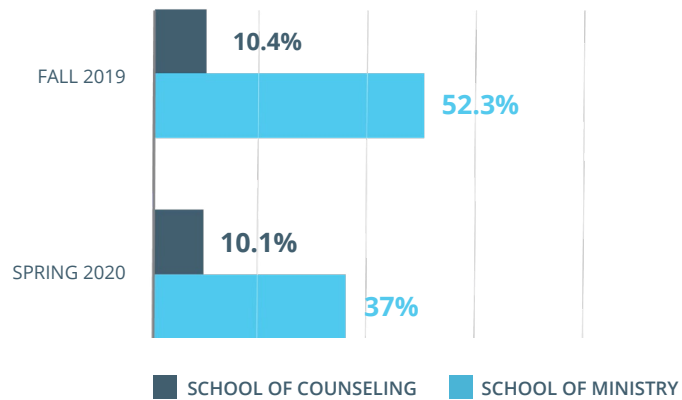
With input from the faculty, the curriculum and academic affairs committees developed and approved a program of study that is equivalent to that of the traditional program. The online delivery format launched at the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year.



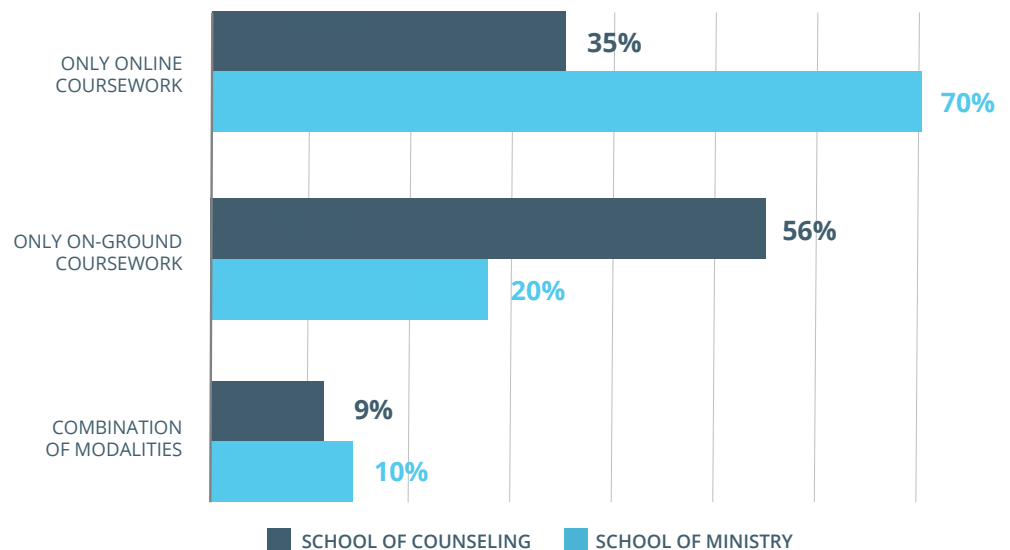
# COURSE OFFERINGS

ANNUAL  
REPORT 2020

## CREDIT HOURS TAKEN ONLINE



## PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS TAKING CLASSES BY MODALITY





# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

# COUNSELING SERVICES

## RICHMONT INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA & RECOVERY

Richmont's Institute of Trauma and Recovery (RITR) offers training and resources to professionals seeking specialized training in trauma, clinicians and first responders experiencing compassion fatigue, and help for individuals who have been victims of traumatization. The RITR offers a Graduate Certificate in Trauma through Richmont Graduate University and also offers training and certification through the Green Cross Academy of Traumatology. Richmont Trauma Response Teams are trained and available to meet acute trauma disasters locally, nationally, and globally.



## OUR IMPACT

### Hope Counseling Centers

- 3,863 sessions
- 394 individuals served

### Henegar Counseling Center

- 20,442 sessions
- 2,235 individuals served

### Trauma Center

- 5,489 sessions
- 222 individuals served

# PARTNERSHIPS AND TRAINING

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

This year, the RITR embarked on new partnerships with **Camiola Resources, Alliance Residential Company, Telehealth Certification Institute, Evergreen Certifications, and Havens and Homes** and continued its partnerships with Walton Communities, City of Refuge, Uncaged, Chattanooga Preparatory School, Cleveland Fire Department, and Street Grace. These partnerships have allowed the RITR to provide trauma-informed training across local, national, and international audiences.



WALTON COMMUNITIES  
*APARTMENT HOMES*

## 2019-2020 TRAININGS

### TRAFFICKING TRAININGS

- Neurobiology of Trauma (Wellspring Living Atlanta)
- Trauma Informed Care (Uncaged Romania)

### ORGANIZATIONAL TRAUMA AND COMPASSION FATIGUE TRAININGS

- Navigating Stressful Situations (Alliance Residential)
- Coping During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Alliance Residential)
- Identifying and Alleviating Secondary Trauma Stress, Compassion Fatigue, and Burnout Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic (Telemental Health Virtual Summit)

### GREEN CROSS TRAININGS

- Compassion Stress Management
- Compassion Fatigue Therapist
- Disaster Trauma
- Child and Adolescent Trauma
- Treating Traumatized Families
- Grief and Loss
- Assessment and Treatment of PTSD

### TRAUMA INFORMED SCHOOL TRAININGS

- Trauma Informed Classrooms (Chattanooga Preparatory School)
- Trauma Informed Education 101 and 102 (Chattanooga Preparatory School)

*Richmont is committed to the intentional creation of an environment of belonging that celebrates the uniqueness and diversity of our students, faculty, and staff, with the goal of advancing God's healing, restoration, and transformation in the lives of individuals, families, churches, and communities.*

In 2019-2020, Richmont launched our Office of Diversity & Inclusion. As an established leader in Christ-centered counseling and ministry education, and a university of first-choice for top talent, creating a diverse and inclusive environment is not only key to our success as an institution, but an integral part of our witness.

This office exists to guide the Richmont community in matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion. When Civil Rights protests broke out in the Spring of 2020, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion responded quickly: hosting virtual town hall meetings to encourage the Richmont family to face injustice through social advocacy.



**Sonja Sutherland, Ph.D.**  
Office of Diversity and  
Inclusion Director

*“Our statement represents the university’s ongoing and intentional pursuit of excellence. In our commitment to embracing diversity and cultivating an environment of safety and inclusion, we seek to create a sense of “home” for all our faculty, staff, students, and alumni. I am confident and excited about the strides Richmont will continue to make in meeting the diversity and inclusion needs within the institution and the community at large.”*





## COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

**This is just the beginning. For true change to occur in our Richmond community, we are committing to:**

- Ongoing diversity education for faculty, staff, and students
- Cultural conversations across the university
- Immersion with others who have different life experiences
- Meaningful action in our Atlanta and Chattanooga communities

Toward this end, beginning fall 2020, the Office of Diversity & Inclusion will provide ongoing opportunities for courageous conversations on topics such as (but not limited to) diversity, racial injustice, cultural humility, racism, and the church and its role in social change, and other related areas of focus through the hosting of Courageous Conversation reading groups and “watch and discuss” events, introductory and advanced cultural competency training workshops, and Courageous Activation opportunities for social justice engagement.

# 2020 AWARD WINNERS

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD



KRIS  
MCDANIEL

## PETERSON AWARD



ROXANNE  
SHELLABARGER

## HANSHEW CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

### ATLANTA:



HELEN  
CELESTE  
CALVERT



ANNA  
VARGHESE

### CHATTANOOGA:



AMELIA  
WARD



CELESTA  
PALMER



# 2020 GRADUATES

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Richmont's Office of Student Affairs and Records Office partnered this year to celebrate and honor the hard work of our 2020 graduates. We were unable to host our annual Commencement ceremony as planned on May 16, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead, the University sent each graduate a "Graduation in a Box" which included their diploma, regalia, a graduation gift, a confetti popper, and a custom shortbread cookie. As a personal touch, each graduate also received a pre-recorded graduation greeting from faculty and administration. Each graduate was asked to take a "selfie" wearing his or her regalia and submit it to the University.

**We are so proud of our graduates!**







## SCHOOL OF COUNSELING

### Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Stephen Barber	Johanna Jordan
Hannah Boos	Logan Kafer
Laura Boothe	Melissa Knight
Mary Alice Bradshaw	Lee Maclellan
Edward Breedlove	Caroline Mason
Mary Anna Brown	Leah Mosshart
Helen Celeste Calvert	Jacob Mundy
Savannah Chavez	Allison Oliver
Caroline Codington	Ufuoma Oyibo
Jessica Conklin	Celesta Palmer
Pamela Cunningham	Moriah Pender
John Davidson	Megan Rainey
Alison Dillon	Jamie Regan
Mary Drake	Mary Scott
Charlotte Drennen	Ashley Sharp
Amy Dyer	Kelsey Stout
Amanda Fairbanks	Carolyn Tinker
Nicole Gannaway	Cody Towe
Meredith Garreau	Kelly Towe
Jenae Herrington	Anna Varghese
Katharin Hilbert	Anna Verwey
Stevie Hockett	Amelia Ward
Abby Horton	Emily Ziobro
Johanna Jordan	
Logan Kafer	

# 2020 GRADUATES

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020



### SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

#### Master of Arts in Ministry

Adolfo Gomez  
Travis Hall  
David Mobley  
Troy Shaw

#### Master of Arts in Ministry: Anglican Studies

Bradley Gibson  
Josiah Newport  
Peyton Pearman  
Shaun Weldon

#### Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Direction

Christopher Allen  
Judith Lewis



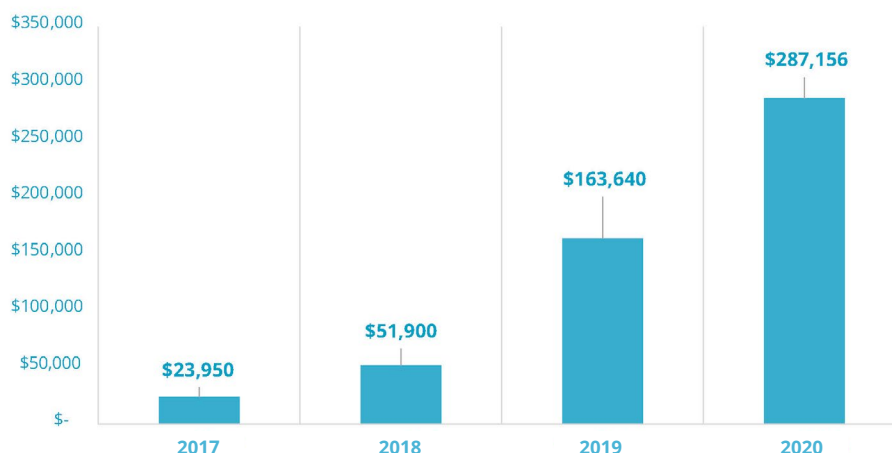
# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

# DEVELOPMENT

Richmont owes our 87-year-old legacy to God's faithfulness and the generosity of donors who are committed to equipping the next generation of ministers and mental health professionals. Corporate partners, private foundations, and dedicated individuals have fueled the success of this institution and our mission of healing, restoration, and transformation.

## 2019-2020 MILESTONES

### GRANTS



### 2020 GRANTORS

**Maclellan Foundation**  
**Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church**  
**Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church**  
**The Chatlos Foundation**  
**The Generosity Trust – Weldon Osborne Fund**  
**Betty & Davis Fitzgerald Foundation**

**John & Polly Sparks Foundation**  
**Jesse Parker Williams Foundation**  
**Catholic Health Initiatives**  
**One Hundred Shares**  
**US Department of Education**  
**Anonymous**

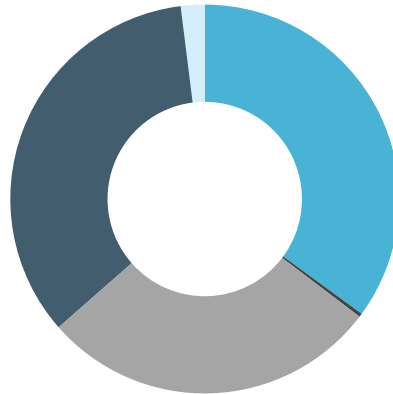


# FINANCIALS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

### EXPENSES

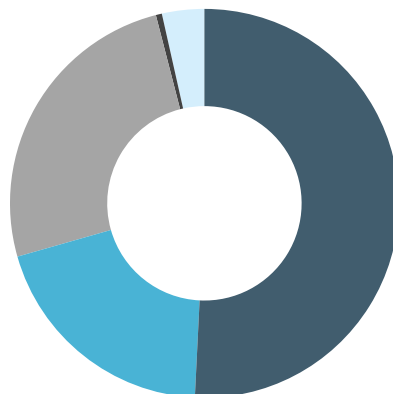
- Instruction
- Research
- Public Service
- General And Administrative
- Fundraising



Instruction	2,483,376.29
Research	20,720.07
Public Service	1,996,820.82
General And Administrative	2,443,153.10
Fundraising	140,512.74
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,084,583.02</b>

### REVENUE

- Tuition and Fees
- Contributions
- Counseling Support and Revenue
- Investment Income
- Other Income



Tuition and Fees	3,963,590.02
Contributions	1,545,176.21
Counseling Support and Revenue	1,982,653.36
Investment Income	39,081.36
Gain/Loss on sale of assets	109,523.81
Other Income	274,578.05
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>7,695,555.19</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$610,972.17</b>

Richmont is a member in good standing with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), and we commission an independent auditor to conduct a thorough annual audit. In addition, our Board of Trustees meets routinely to regulate University management and performance.

*\*financials pending official audit*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

# FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

## PRESENTATIONS

Blackburn, A.M., Plisco, M.K., & White, J.L. (March, 2020). Breaking through common barriers to self-care for counselors-in-training: The facilitation of self-compassion. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Christian Association of Psychological Studies (Counselor Education track). Atlanta, GA.

Blackburn, A., Sartor, D. C., Plisco, M., & White, J. (March, 2020) Space for grace: Pilot study findings for a spiritually-oriented intervention for spiritual well-being and the experience of grace with mental health counseling interns. Paper presented at the International Conference of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies in Atlanta, GA.

Cochran, C. & Garreau, M. (2020, March 12). *To tweet or not to tweet: Social media, online presence, and professional ethics*. Christian Association for Psychological Studies International Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

Doverspike, W. F. (2020). "Professional ethics and clinical practice: Common case scenarios." Ethics workshop presented to Espyr® Network and Provider Relations Department and Georgia EAPA to network providers [via live webinar due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions], Marietta, Georgia, May 29, 2020.

Doverspike, W. F. (2020). "Professional ethics and clinical practice: Common case scenarios." Ethics workshop presented at Ridgeview Institute, Smyrna, Georgia, March 6, 2020.

Myers, K. J., Slater, L., & Norris, E. (2020). *Professional identity: A return to the foundation*. Christian Association for Psychological Studies (CAPS) 2020 Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Sartor, D. C., Felix, K., Maclin, V., Kennedy, J., Woods, G., Sutherland, (March, 2020). Response panel to Sutherland invited address: Our mandate for influencing character and civility in an increasingly uncivil world. Invited panelist at the International Conference of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies in Atlanta, GA.

Sartor, D. C., Sutherland, S., Bielman, A., Ziobro, E., & Bridgeman, P. (March, 2020). Compassion fatigue and compassion satisfaction: Exploring multicultural and faith-informed pathways toward resilience in helping professionals. Paper presented at the International Conference of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies in Atlanta, GA.

Snyder, V. (March 2020). Traumatized Clients, The Drama Triangle, and The Person of the Therapist: The Journey Through Organizational Trauma. Presented at the Christian Association for Psychological Studies Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA.

Snyder, V. & Sartor, D. C. (May, 2020). Identifying and alleviating secondary trauma stress, compassion fatigue, and burnout amid the COVID pandemic. Three-hour continuing education (NBCC- and APA-approved) workshop presented at Telehealth Institute's 2020 virtual conference.

Wheelus, A., & Wheelus, C. (2020, January). *Using Clinical Supervision Models in Practice*. Concurrent session at the annual conference of the Georgia College Counseling Association, St. Simons, GA.

Wheelus, C., & Wheelus, A. (2020, January). *Clinical Supervision: What have we learned and where do we go next?* Concurrent session at the annual conference of the Georgia College Counseling Association, St. Simons, GA.

## PUBLICATIONS

Myers, K. J., & Lane, W. D. (2020) Counseling veterans: A practical guide. San Diego, CA: Cognella Academic Press.

Myers, K. J. & Norris, E. (2020). The counselor's call to wellness: Domains of wellness, part II. Counseling Today, 62, 18-19.

Myers, K. J. & Norris, E. (2020). The counselor's call to wellness: Domains of wellness, part I. Counseling Today, 62, 16-17.

Wheelus, C. (2020, April). When career development leads to danger. LPC Connection, 12-13.

## PROMOTIONS



**Keith Myers, Ph.D.**  
Dean of Clinical Affairs



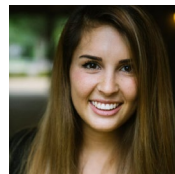
**Travis Young**  
Assistant Dean, School of Ministry



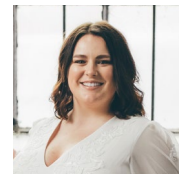
**Michelle West**  
Assistant Director of Admissions



**Laura Lillard**  
Director of Financial Aid



**Kelsey Carrasquillo**  
Admissions Counselor



**Kaleigh Newby**  
Administrative Assistant  
Richmont Institute of Trauma & Recovery

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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Co-Founder, Therapist  
Nashville Center for Trauma and Psychotherapy  
Nashville, TN

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Governance Chair  
Richmont Class of 2013  
Therapist, East-West Psychotherapy  
Powder Springs, GA

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Finance and Capital Projects Chair  
Principal, Decosimo Corporate Finance  
Signal Mountain, TN

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Richmont Class of 1979  
Owner, A New Start Counseling Center  
Fayetteville, GA

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Co-founder, ICU Recovery Center,  
Vanderbilt University  
Research Associate Professor,  
School of Medicine  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN

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of State Mental Health Program  
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Richmont Class of 2013  
Therapist, Entrepreneur, Philanthropist  
Trillium Springs Counseling &  
Shallow Water  
Blackout Prevention  
Atlanta, GA

## TRUSTEES EMERITI

**LEA "TALLEY" CLOWER**

Signal Mountain, TN

**NANCY M. MILLS**

Signal Mountain, TN

**ANDREA T. SEXTON**

Richmont Class of 1999  
Lookout Mountain, TN

\* = Member of the Executive Committee

**TOP (LEFT TO RIGHT)**

Timothy Quinnan (President), Talley Clower, Clark Miller, Don Nelms

**BOTTOM (LEFT TO RIGHT)**

Jane W. McNabb, Rhonda Milner, Mary Ann Sokolowski, Ann R. Keller,  
J. Thomas Decosimo, Tim Knettlar

**NOT PICTURED**

David W. Aycock, James Jackson, Karen S. Loritts, Jane H. Steward





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ATLANTA GA 30339



**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, and the U.S. Department of Education. Accreditation is a voluntary process of internal and peer reviews for the improvement of academic quality and demonstration of accountability.

**richmont.edu**

**ATLANTA | CHATTANOOGA | ONLINE**





 RICHMONT  
GRADUATE UNIVERSITY



SHARE  
THE  
ROAD





**HEALING.  
RESTORATION.  
TRANSFORMATION.**