

theGēDUNK

GROVE CITY COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Fall 2018



A BETTER WAY

College embraces trend toward redemptive entrepreneurship

PROJECT FOR RURAL
MINISTRY LAUNCHED

STUDENT UPRISING
OF 1968

PROF'S WORK BASIS FOR
REAGAN BIOPIC

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE REDEMPTIVE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

When Yvonne (Korloch '97) English, executive director of the Center for Entrepreneurship + Innovation and assistant professor of Entrepreneurship, encouraged me last spring to attend the Praxis Redemptive Imagination Summit, I was initially reluctant. The timing wasn't great. It was the weekend before Commencement and a Board of Trustees meeting. And to be honest, I'm not a big fan of conferences, having shuffled around to hundreds of plenaries, breakouts, workshops, roundtables, and panel discussions over the decades. Still, it seemed intriguing. The topic was "a central gathering place for an emerging community of practice focused on redemptive entrepreneurship." I'm a sucker for anything with the adjective "redemptive" in front of it.

I also knew that Grove City College's partnership with Praxis was important to our Entrepreneurship program. Praxis describes its mission as the belief "that Christian entrepreneurs who are spiritually serious, culturally astute, and in community have a unique ability to build a better society and demonstrate the beauty and goodness of the gospel across all of life." The College's vision is to develop leaders ready to fulfill this inspiring mission. To that end, our students have been participating in the Praxis Academy, a week-long summer program designed to encourage the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators through mentoring and interaction with startup founders.

Needless to say, I thoroughly enjoyed the conference. I met many impressive young entrepreneurs and experienced investors. I was challenged by some outstanding presentations on redemptive entrepreneurship, which was defined as the work of joining God in creative restoration through sacrifice by way of venture building and innovation. Not unlike the ideas developing in our own Center for Entrepreneurship + Innovation, many of the startups I learned about were focused on specific needs or challenges in the world. In addition, a significant number of other new businesses are distinguished by the way they treat their employees and the value of their products and services. In sum, the business initiatives featured at the summit were intentional about serving the common good.

You'll be hearing a lot more about redemptive entrepreneurship at GCC in the days ahead. At the core of the College's mission is a calling to prepare students to look at the brokenness of the world through a redemptive lens. As acclaimed speaker and writer Andy Crouch explained at the Praxis Academy summit, biblical redemption had an economic connotation for the early church. A slave could be ransomed – set free from bondage – through a sacrifice or offering. Those who have been set free from the bondage of sin and death through Christ's shed blood are called to develop a "redemptive imagination." They must envision wholeness where there is brokenness, prosperity where there is poverty, and human flourishing where there is despair and hopelessness.

Grove City College has a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit. Hundreds of students participate annually in our various business competitions. Connecting this energy and creativity to a needy world is our business. Please enjoy learning more about what is happening in this exciting area in the pages ahead. We welcome the fruits of your own redemption imagination, so don't hesitate to contact the Entrepreneurship Department or me. Also, please consider an offering of your financial support to the Center for Entrepreneurship + Innovation. There is no limit to the collective good we can accomplish together with your generous support.



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