

Alumni Spotlight: Matt Vaselkiv (MAR '20)



Current title: Enablement Partner

Family: Bailey, spouse

Favorite professors: Tom Pfenmaier, Rodney Cooper, and Ken Barnes

Favorite memory: I started my coursework at the Hamilton Campus but did the back half of my degree at CUME and in Charlotte. I loved switching from going through courses with full time students to folks in full time ministry. I loved the real world context that was embedded in every class with the switch in demographic of the students.

What have you been doing since you left Gordon-Conwell and what are you doing now?

I have been working at a software company since graduating. I started as an account manager, and now I'm in a role that's a hybrid of corporate learning and people development. My job is focused on ensuring our front line people managers and account managers have the proper skills to execute against our company goals and objectives.

What do you love about your work?

I love that my work is so people focused. At its core, I believe my job is to design programs that allow others to flourish at work. As a believer in a corporate setting, I feel incredibly fortunate that my work is focused on helping others be the best version of themselves at work. It is so fun to be in the marketplace in a role that directly involves loving my neighbor.

What are the joys and challenges of serving in the business world in general and your specific context?

I consider it both a joy and challenge to be working in technology, as the tech sector plays such a pivotal role in the growth of our economy in the 21st century. There are very few things in our lives that are detached from technology/software, and I love the opportunity to work in such an influential space.

That said, the pressure of working for a hyper growth tech company can be really challenging. We report our company earnings to Wall Street monthly, and there's a constant pressure for growth to drive up our valuation. That creates a high pressure work environment that is incredibly results driven. I step in this high pressure culture for 50 hours a week, and I know it's disciplining me. As someone who has always struggled with finding my identity in my work, that push to perform and deliver



results is certainly a pressure point in my life that I am in constant dialogue with the Lord and my community on. I don't think I could do the work I do today without the habits and rhythms my spiritual formation coursework helped me develop during my time at GCTS.

How has God woven together your Gordon-Conwell education with other life events to bring you to where you are now and your current work?

I started my career in education, and ironically it was my time at Gordon-Conwell that led me out of full-time ministry. Both of my parents had successful careers in the marketplace and had steered me away from a similar path due to the stress it placed on their lives. In light of that, I was intimidated to work in the marketplace because of the pressure/pulls I imagined it would put on my faith. Through the Mockler Center and spiritual formation courses, I felt the Lord calling me out of education or ministry and to the marketplace. I realized I was letting fear motivate my decision to do "for-profit" work. I also realized at Gordon-Conwell that marketplace work was also ministry and no less in God's eyes than doing full-time ministry. While my work is really challenging, I do feel like I am where I am supposed to be, and I'm grateful that my seminary education helped me figure that out.

What has been Gordon-Conwell's biggest impact/influence on the work you do now or the way you do your work?

I've already spoken to this, but the Mockler Center and courses on spiritual formation had the largest impact on my life and work. The Mockler Center gave me a vision for Faith and Work and helped me see that a vocation in the marketplace can be just as impactful and valuable to the Kingdom as vocational ministry. I feel like those courses were the affirmation I needed to step out of professional ministry and into the ministry I now do every day in the tech space.

Coursework in spiritual formation helped me develop a rule of life, which included learning how to listen to God's voice and setting up habits and rhythms that have helped me continue to lean more of the weight of my life on Christ. I had a very intellectual faith through my early twenties, and being introduced to spiritual formation at GCTS helped me develop a holistic faith that incorporates all of who I am, and not just my mind. I'm really grateful for both of these influences, and they are foundational to how I understand the Lord and engage the world today.

What piece of advice would you give to young alumni who are considering serving in the business world?

I would tell Gordon-Conwell students considering serving in the business world to take the risk, step outside their comfort zone, and do it! I wish more seminary students would consider working in the business world. I really think God's vision for advancing his Kingdom is centered on Christians showing up and being faithful in every sector of society. If we limit our vision of ministry to vocational ministry, we will miss out on God's vision for how he wants to bring his Kingdom to fruition here on earth.

Do you have any publications or links to share?

You can [view my LinkedIn profile](#) for more context of my professional journey, and feel free to reach out if you're curious about marketplace ministry!