Alumni
GORDON CONWELL

Alumni Spotlight: Erin Williams (MDiv ’19)

Current title: Academic Advisor at Jacksonville University

Family: Husband: David Williams

Favorite professor: Dr. Justin Holcomb & Dr. Sarah Lebhar Hall

Favorite class: Old Testament Survey

Please tell us more about your role as Academic Advisor at Jacksonville University.

I assist online nursing students from admittance to graduation. My duties range in assisting with their onboarding, academic progression, final practicum preparation, and programmatic development.

How did God weave together your Gordon-Conwell education with other life events to bring you to where you are now?

During my time at Gordon-Conwell, I have a lot of memories of being in Jeanne Higgins’ office, my Registrar. I always loved stopping by and looking over my schedule, seeing how I was progressing and what classes I needed to take next. She was really helpful to me as I navigated the program. Looking back, I can see how God was using those small interactions with Jeanne to prepare me for my current role.

What are some things you love about your position there at Jacksonville?

I love working with my students. I can feel God use me the most when a student is experiencing external hardships while pursuing their degree. I love being a kind and encouraging voice as they pursue their degree with all their responsibilities and hardships. As I can relate, life just doesn’t stop while you are in school.

What has been Gordon-Conwell’s biggest impact/influence in your current role, or the way you engage in your role?

Towards the end of my program, I took a workplace theology course, and around the same time I was working on my final biblical theology paper. In my biblical theology course, I was exploring creation and eschatology. I found a deeper understanding that God is renewing heaven *and* earth, including all the good things humanity has created. This gave me a renewed perspective that I could find meaning outside of

vocational ministry. That the work of my hands is not in vain, rather my work could be eternal, only rid of sin when Christ returns.

I have always found a lot of purpose and meaning in higher education. My study at Gordon-Conwell formed me into the person I am today. It was an invaluable experience not only for my faith in Christ, but also for my personal development. This resulted in the desire to combine my love for working one-on-one with people (which I discovered through vocational ministry) with my appreciation for higher education, which lead me to pursue academic advising.