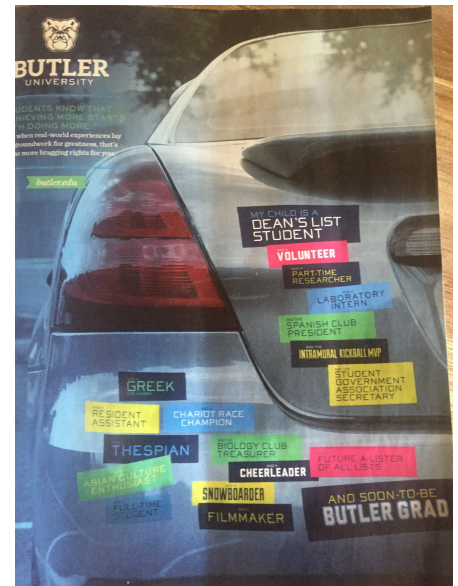


Picture this: you stop at a red light, look up from your phone, and see *that* car — the one with about forty bumper stickers! If you're like me, the judgmental thoughts start flying! (It's okay, it happens to all of us). Do you feel like a failure because you only have one honor roll kid, not four? Do you eventually tell yourself, "Geeez! I need to step it up!"? I usually drive away feeling emotionally exhausted after gazing at my neighbor's rear end.

This fall, roughly 1,000 freshmen will become part of the Butler campus community. Many of them rejected offers from great schools in favor of the Butler experience: small classrooms, liberal arts education, and the promise of a strong alumni network. What many of these bright-eyed teenagers don't know is the pressure to be an ideal Butler student will overwhelm them. We personally know Butler students who admit to being over-committed to clubs and activities, stressed beyond belief about grades, and dead-set on landing the perfect summer internship. The expectations seem to increase every year.

At the core of the Butler campus, and many college campuses across the U.S., is a deeply held — but flawed — belief that your identity hinges on what you can achieve and how good you look while doing it. On the contrary, at the core of the gospel is freedom from having to achieve. Jesus has already achieved everything for us through His obedience and humility to remedy our separation from God. That spiritual truth, when fully internalized, has the power to shift a person's identity in tectonic and wholistic ways.



magazine ad depicting and affirming the over-committed Butler student

Almost a year ago, in November 2014, a young man named Peter Kassing was killed by ISIS. His offense was giving humanitarian aid to refugees in need. He was just 21 years old and had attended Butler University during his only year of college. In the wake of his passing, Peter was seen by many as a model Butler student. He was esteemed as living out "The Butler Way." On the surface, this seems like a lofty ideal to strive towards. BUT the subtle danger lies in stacking our achievements and abilities up against another earthly person. We are led to desperate places when we don't measure up. We must tell ourselves, and others, that we are free from performance because Christ's righteousness is the wellspring of life and hope.



Peter, a former Butler student, helping refugees

An interesting part of Peter's story is that one of our Cru staff met with him during his freshman year to discuss the philosophy and theology of philanthropy. It was a good conversation, but it still left Peter asking the question, "What if you don't have an identity?" Our constant prayer is that God would use the Cru movement to bring life and hope through a new identity in Christ. **Would you pray with us as we start a new school year that the gospel would permeate the Butler campus? We believe the gospel will expose flawed beliefs and replace them with truth. Also, pray for energy of all kinds during the first six weeks of meeting new students! Thank you!**

Giving every student the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.