

Columbia International University

Preparing World Christians To Know Him And To Make Him Known



Courses With Flexibility!

January 2005

Dear friends of CIU,

What do Tim Osborne, a geologist in Louisiana, Walter Pfohl, a business owner in New York, Richard Stitche, a medical doctor in the process of moving to Ecuador, Jim Hines, a pastor in Florida, and Fred Eichelman, a missionary in Spain *all* have in common? All of them have earned or are in the process of earning a degree at Columbia International University, *yet not one of them has had to move* to our campus in Columbia, South Carolina. Isn't that exciting? Through a variety of non-traditional means, these CIU students, and hundreds more like them, are studying God's Word, preparing for effective ministry, and earning an academic degree without having to pull up roots and leave home.

“Our 1,200 traditional students are away for winter break, but our campus is active with other students...”

It's January, and our 1,200 traditional semester students are away for winter break but our campus is still active with other students whom we see each January and at other select times throughout the year. For example, the Advancement in Ministry (AIM) program in our Seminary provides short modular courses throughout the year that are designed to help business executives transition into ministry without leaving their careers, to assist pastors in adding to their ministerial expertise without leaving their churches, and to help missionaries upgrade their training without having to leave their fields for an extended period of time. I'll say it again: isn't this exciting?!

We currently have nearly 200 students who are working toward a Master's degree through CIU's AIM program. Today as you read this letter, business people and Christian workers throughout North America, and missionaries in Japan, Turkey, Bolivia, Alaska, Ecuador and Belgium are taking advantage of the flexible distance learning that CIU offers!

Our CIU Distance Education Center is another way we train people in a non-traditional way. By way of the Internet, videotaped lectures and e-mail, CIU's Distance Education Center currently offers 16 undergraduate courses and 37 graduate courses in an independent distance learning format. In the 2003-04 academic year, over 600 students from 38 states and 22 foreign countries were enrolled in distance education courses! Instead of those students coming to CIU to study, we send CIU to them! ▶

President's Letter

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School teachers and administrators can earn a Master's degree (M.Ed.) or a Doctoral degree (Ed.D.) through a flexible format of modular courses that CIU offers every summer. One of the highlights of our summer programs is the International Institute for Christian School Educators when 170 educators from 25 states and 15 foreign countries gather for five days of intensive training. And this training can be applied to the earning of an education degree.

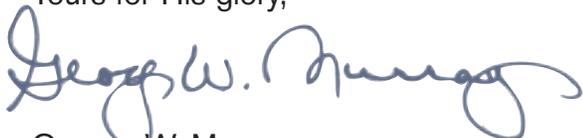
We currently have 54 students earning a Doctor of Ministry degree through a program that is entirely modular, offering one-week intensive courses at select times in the winter and summer when students can take time away from their work or ministry.

Listen to what Fred has to say: "I'm a missionary serving in Spain. I could never think about completing a M.Div. degree in Spain in a regular program. But with CIU's AIM program, I can take courses by correspondence or in intensive two-week sessions, during furlough or even while still on the field. Because of this flexible format, I can get trained on the job, when I most need it, in bite sized chunks that don't break my bank account!"

While we continue to give careful attention to our traditional on-campus programs, we also seek to respond to the changing needs and challenges of our students, here in North America and around the world. We continue to design flexible and creative ways to inspire, develop and equip Great Commission Christians! Learning outside the classroom at CIU is a growing reality made possible through online and independent learning like AIM and our Distance Education Center.

Your prayers and gifts are making it possible for us to be flexible and truly international, both because students come to CIU to study from various countries around the world, and because CIU goes to students in many places around the world. Thank you for your partnership with us!

Yours for His glory,



George W. Murray
President



In Their Own Words...

"As a businessperson with a wife and three children, I was looking for a way to get a top quality education while maintaining my business and home life. Columbia's AIM program was by far the most well developed program available. But the news got even better when I realized that CIU is also one of the foremost seminaries in the country." – *Tim Osborne, a geologist in Louisiana heading to the mission field and new church staff person*

"The AIM track has allowed me to pursue my studies without having to uproot my family or to leave the church that I attend and serve. One of the highlights of this program is the on-campus intensives. Gathering with a group of people who want to reach the world for Christ is just plain exciting." – *Walter Pfohl, a business owner in New York*

"The AIM program is one of the most effective educational tools available to people who are involved in full-time ministry. As an AIM student I was able to develop relationships with other people who gave me encouragement and challenged me in my studies and in my walk with Christ. AIM is the perfect option for people like me who cannot leave their current ministry position and yet desire to pursue a degree." – *Jim Hines, a full-time pastor in Florida*

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