



Letter from the President

FORWARD Thinking at CIU

September 2010

Dear friend of CIU,

Excitement on our campus fills the air this time of year. As faculty and staff, we look forward to getting to know the new students. We also look forward to seeing the familiar faces of the returning students ready to learn and grow. This excitement translates into warm hugs and greetings as the students connect or reconnect with dear friends and beloved faculty.

Yet these days at CIU we also look FORWARD to seeing God grow and strengthen CIU so we can accomplish our mission more effectively. I capitalized FORWARD because it summarizes our current strategic plan. Let me briefly describe FORWARD:

Facility Enhancements

This includes construction of four to eight apartment units, the renovation of existing residence halls, the restoration of the fire-damaged library, and the building of athletic facilities.

We have already completed four buildings of the Pine View Apartments, renovated two of the six residence halls, and graded the groundwork for athletic fields. By moving FORWARD, our students will have 96 to 192 apartments from which to choose, renovated residence halls with modern amenities, and athletic fields for our intercollegiate teams (*see the Recreation Initiative below*).

Online Delivery

Looking FORWARD, we plan to make available online our Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies, Master of Education, Master of Arts in Muslim Studies, and an Undergraduate Bible Certificate within the next two years. These online programs will greatly benefit those serving Christ around the world who cannot come to Columbia to earn a degree.



Dr. Bill Jones

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The May 7 fire in the G. Allen Fleece Library.



The new Pine View Apartments are perfect for CIU's married students.

over, please

Recreation Initiative

Hiring Athletic Director Kim Abbott puts us well on our way to fulfilling this initiative. Kim has experience in starting an athletic program from scratch at the University of South Carolina-Beaufort. We look FORWARD to beginning five to seven athletic teams in the next few years. Imagine the outreach that many CIU athletes will have both at home and abroad. We believe athletes serve as some of the most effective evangelists for this generation.

Wiring Productivity

We look FORWARD to installing the latest digital technology that will increase our effectiveness at servicing our students administratively and teaching them in the classroom.

Academic Programs

We aim to strengthen our undergraduate “professional ministers” degrees, while expanding degrees for those who will become “ministering professionals”— working and sharing Christ in the marketplace. We look FORWARD to upgrading our Business & Leadership Development minor to a major and adding a master’s degree in chaplaincy. Looking FORWARD also includes establishing a Ben Lippen Academy that will offer CIU college-level courses to qualified high school students.

Recruitment Plans

Over the summer, four of our students and one alumna represented CIU on a unique recruiting event called the 1More Tour. They bicycled 1,800 miles up the East Coast from Florida to Maine looking each day for 1More new CIU student. With the help of several of our alumni, they had many opportunities to share about CIU at many churches and gatherings. As we look FORWARD, we will continue developing cutting-edge strategies making CIU better known around the world.

Development Growth

Despite the economy, we praise God for an increase in financial gifts in recent years. For us to accomplish our goals, we will continue to trust God and look FORWARD to how He graciously provides for our future needs.

I hope the vision of moving FORWARD resonates with you and excites you as much as it does the faculty and staff who daily see these initiatives become reality. As the FORWARD momentum builds, we want to thank you for your faithful giving. I remind our students that we would not have the Moore Fitness Center, the renovated residence halls, and the new apartments without the gracious gifts from our donors. Please pray that God will abundantly supply the resources we need to educate our students from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ.

Galatians 1:5,



Bill Jones
President



The 1More Tour Team: (left to right) Jeremy Rife, Matt Densky, Drew Williams, Tour Coordinator Michelle MacGregor, Grayson Markle and Izzy Markle.



Columbia International University

"To know Him and to make Him known"