

CIT

TODAY



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TODAY

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Cover Photo

Junior Abe Vazquez shares the gospel after a soccer match during a CIU men's soccer mission trip to Guatemala in January. *Read more on page 18.*

CIU | Columbia
International
University

Educating from a Biblical Worldview



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



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THE FIRST WORD



Bob Holmes, Editor-in-Chief

Letters to the Editor are welcome. Correspondence must include your name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit for clarity and length. There is no guarantee your letter will be published, nor will letters be returned. Write to:

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From the Editor

I'll have to admit that when "CIU Today" designer Seth Berry told me late last year that he entered the premier edition of this magazine in the Collegiate Advertising Awards contest, I was doubtful we would win anything. In recent months, Seth and I reviewed a number of collegiate magazines and I was impressed with both the content of the articles and the graphic design of each publication. I knew that the "CIU Today" staff had put their best into that first October 2013 edition of the magazine, and we were pleased with the results — but could it win an award?

Then, in late January, Seth was beaming as he walked down the hallway to my office with the news that we had won "Gold" in the single magazine category for Faith-Based Colleges and Universities. Wow! And this is no small thing.

The Collegiate Advertising Awards recognize marketing professionals for outstanding excellence in all forms of advertising, marketing and promotion specific to higher education products and services. Entries are reviewed by a panel of experienced design and education marketing professionals, and are judged on: Creativity, Layout/Design, Typography, Production, Quality & Overall Effectiveness.

So kudos go out to those who work hard to make this magazine happen. That of course includes Seth Berry, as well as Alumni Editor Peggy Lee Manoogian who keeps up with what's going on among our 18,000 alumni in 150 countries. And as I have mentioned in the past, I have a great staff of students who assist me, including writers Melissa McCutchan and Brittany Bradley and photographers Christine Benz and Emily Regan. All four of them strive to contribute professional-level work.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that "CIU Today" is the brainchild of former CIU Marketing Director Polly Shoemaker who saw the possibilities of a quality magazine representing CIU that combines two former CIU publications: the in-depth features of "Connection" and the alumni updates of "Upward." Polly now shares her leadership skills as director of advancement at her high school alma mater, Worthington Christian Schools in Ohio. Thank you, Polly for guiding us toward this award.

But most of all, this award is about Who we ultimately serve. I'm reminded of 1 Cor. 10:31.

*Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the **glory of God.***

May we all live to that end.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Bob Holmes
CIU Today
Editor-in-Chief



CIU News

Gov. Rick Perry Visits CIU

By Melissa McCutchan, CIU Student Writer

Former Texas governor Rick Perry paid a visit to Columbia International University on April 7 to address students, faculty, and staff in a special assembly. He discussed his personal journey of faith, and how God led him to ministry in politics — even though politics were never part of his plan.

“If you want to make God laugh, just tell him your plans, right?” he joked.

Perry described how his training in the Air Force led him to pursue a career as a missionary aviator with Wycliffe Bible Translators. When God closed the door on that ministry, Perry admitted he felt a deep brokenness.

“God dealt with me [then], and he dealt with me in a pretty harsh way,” Perry said. “God dealt with me by wadding me up into a really uncomfortable ball, and blowing that chaff away, and asking me if I was really ready to follow Him. That started a journey for me.”

Through a series of other events, he pursued a career in politics, which led to him becoming the governor of Texas — a position which he held for 15 years, making him the longest-serving governor in Texas history.

“God meant for me to have a ministry,” he said. “I just never knew it was going to be as big as it is. Don’t ever limit in any way what God is going to do in your life.”

Perry challenged CIU students to help other people get a second chance in life. As a personal example he noted his support of Texas legislation that he says rehabilitates nonviolent drug offenders instead of sentencing them to long-term prison sentences, which has led to the closing of three prisons in Texas.

CIU students were encouraged by the message and challenged in their own ministries.

“It was cool thinking that someone who could become the president cared enough to come to our college,” freshman Addie Allen said. “It seemed pretty significant [that he was here].”

Perry also met with several CIU student leaders before he gave his message.

“He was very relational with each person he met, and ... he showed a lot of interest in them as a person,” said junior Anni Jackson, who met with Perry beforehand. “He seemed down-to-earth.”

Though Perry had to leave CIU’s campus quickly to make other appointments, he left a lasting mark on CIU students.

“I enjoyed hearing his heart about God working in his life and changing him,” Jackson said. “It was refreshing to hear someone with so much power and influence talk about being broken before the Lord [and] moved deeply by Him.” ■



Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaking in Shortess Chapel.



CIU News

CIU Ranked #6 for Best Value

Columbia International University is ranked #6 in the Southeast for the best value for your money.

The rankings are in the new book, "The Other College Guide: A Roadmap for the Right School for You" published by Washington Monthly magazine, which is known for its annual "Best Bang for the Buck" rankings among universities and colleges. The book uses criteria such as how successful each school is in graduating the students they admit and whether those students go on to earn at least enough to pay off their loans. ■

\$20-K Scholarship Winner

Keli Bradley, a homeschooler from Florence, South Carolina who would like to be a recording artist, is the winner of the \$20,000 89.7 WMHK Scholarship competition to attend Columbia International University. The scholarship is awarded to a high school senior who has demonstrated a desire to make Christ known and will use a CIU degree to make an impact for Christ in the marketplace.



Keli Bradley

Keli says she "loves to sing, especially praise and worship music," and leads worship at Sandhurst Church in Florence where she attends. She also says she will major in Communication because she has a secondary goal to be involved in public relations.

"I would have a lot of face time with clients and begin to build relationships with them because I have this really big passion for people," Keli said.

The 89.7 WMHK Scholarship is open to South Carolina and North Carolina high school seniors who have a 2.5 GPA or greater and a marketplace career focus. The candidates must also submit a three-minute video describing how they have made Christ known in their community, what their dream job would be, and how they would make Christ known in the workplace.

The competition also offers two additional \$10,000 scholarships. The runners-up include Ashton Collum of Warrenton, South Carolina who plans on majoring in Psychology and become a counselor to at-risk youth. The other runner-up is Vlad Hruntkovskyi who currently lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. He desires to major in Business & Organizational Leadership and return to his home country of Ukraine after graduation to be involved in government.

The scholarship is named for Columbia Christian radio station WMHK, launched by CIU in 1976 and now operated by the K-LOVE radio network. ■

CIU Board Member Honored

A member of the Columbia International University Board of Trustees has received one of South Carolina's highest honors. The Order of the Palmetto was presented to Dr. Marshall (Sonny) White Jr. by South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. The award is the state's highest civilian honor given to those exhibiting extraordinary lifetime achievement and service to the state.

White was recognized for his work as president of Midlands Technical College, a position he held for nearly nine years before retiring in early 2015. White has also served as chair of the South Carolina Technical Education System's Presidents' Council. A native of South Carolina, White's extensive background includes work in business and industry, and a commitment to community service. ■



A Special Thanks

CIU President Emeritus Robertson McQuilkin joined faculty, staff and students at a reception honoring CIU Board of Trustees member Marvin Schuster. Schuster retired from the Board in May after 28 years of service. The Schuster Building on the CIU campus is named for Mr. Schuster and his wife Ruth. ■

Student Attends White House Briefing

Columbia International University student Bridget Deline attended the African American Faith Leader’s Briefing hosted in September by the White House Office of Public Engagement.

Held at The White House, Deline heard from officials representing The White House as well as the departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, Labor, and the Small Business Administration.

Deline, who lives in Columbia, is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Intercultural Studies with a certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). She has also developed the Family Empowerment Program, a faith-based non-profit organization designed to meet the needs of single parents living in low-income housing in Columbia.

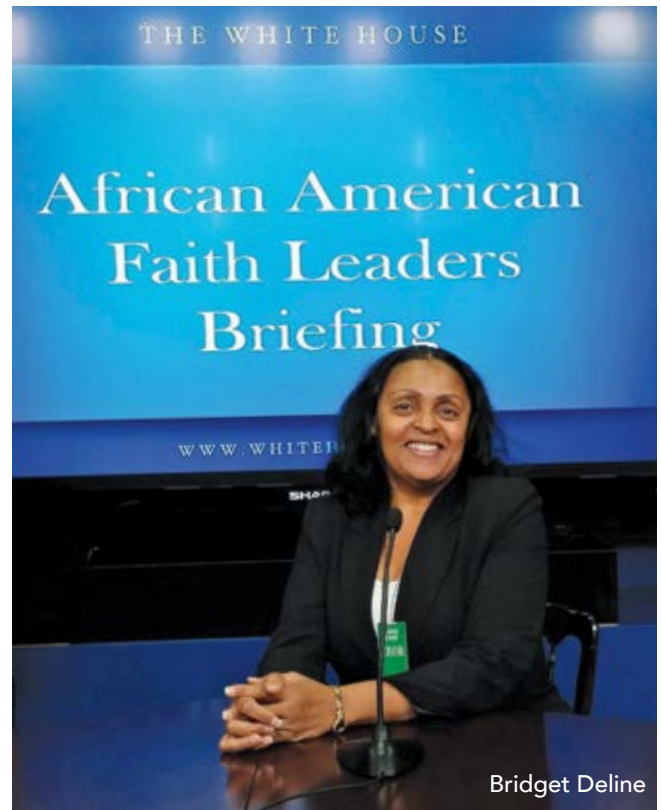
She says she was “ecstatic” to have been among faith leaders from across the country invited to Washington to discuss ways to partner with the White House to make a difference in American communities. She says she is especially interested in President Barak Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) initiative.

“I asked for the Lord’s guidance and was led to partner with the president’s initiative and local municipalities in the Columbia area to meet the MBK Community Challenge,” Deline said. “In collaboration with President Obama, I will help to ensure that all youth, particularly boys and young men of color, have opportunities to improve their life outcomes and overcome barriers to success.”

Deline says she developed the idea for her Family Empowerment Program years ago, but it was “birthed” while conducting an ethnographic study for her Understanding Culture and Worldviews course, taught by CIU Intercultural Studies professor Dr. David Cashin.

In addition to the White House invitation, in October, Deline attended a Faith Leadership Breakfast with Vice President Joe Biden in Columbia.

After graduation, Deline plans to “lovingly evangelize” international students in the United States as she continues building the Family Empowerment Program. ■



Bridget Deline



Mockingbird: Relevant Message

The stage in Hoke Auditorium was transformed into a 1935 small Southern town as the CIU Players performed Harper Lee’s “To Kill a Mockingbird” from April 17-19.

“To Kill a Mockingbird” tells the story of racial tensions in fictional Maycomb, Alabama.

While the CIU Players have stuck to more lighthearted plays and musicals in recent years, junior Bethany Stewart and senior Jacob Calder, who co-directed the play, wanted to try a production with more serious overtones.

“We felt that ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ carried a message that was still relevant today, both within the culture and within the church,” Stewart said. ■

◀ Courtroom scene as attorney Atticus Finch played by junior Nik Ellison makes his case in “To Kill a Mockingbird.”



MANAGING MOE'S *and* *a* MASTER'S

CIU Student Finds God Faithful as
he Juggles Tacos and Theology

By Bob Holmes

Mat Saxon has not taken an easy route to a seminary degree.

Four years ago the Columbia, South Carolina native was a manager for a Moe's Southwest Grill in Columbia and with his wife Nicolette was starting a family. On Sundays he was a Sunday school teacher at Shandon Baptist Church, and sometimes wondered if he should be preparing more Bible studies and fewer burritos. In other words, he was sensing the call to ministry.

"I very much enjoyed (teaching), and thought it would be great if I could pursue that."

But pursuing that would require a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree, and Saxon didn't even have a bachelor's degree; not to mention the challenges that come with already having a full-time job and, at that point, two children. But CIU alumnus and former CIU staff member Jeff Miller, who was one of Saxon's Sunday school students at the 6,000-member Shandon Baptist Church, saw the ministry potential in Saxon.

"He had so much background and so much context and understanding (of the Bible)," Miller said. "It was just very obvious that he had invested the time outside of formal education to develop those skills. He was even teaching his youngest daughter the Hebrew alphabet. There was always this internal motivation and a desire and a hunger for the Word of God."

So, Miller recommended Saxon check out CIU, and apply directly to CIU Seminary & School of Ministry without first earning a bachelor's degree. That takes a little doing. Accreditation standards limit the number of non-baccalaureate students to the seminary and the candidate must prove the ability to withstand the rigors of graduate-level work by writing a lengthy essay on a theological topic.

But seminary dean Dr. John Harvey also saw the potential in Saxon. In an email with "CIU Today," Harvey said he is impressed with Saxon for a

number of reasons: maturity beyond his years, ability to do graduate-level work without a bachelor's degree, juggling full-time employment and school, and for preaching skills that earned him the annual Vance Havner scholarship, awarded to a student on recommendation from the faculty.

"It is fairly common to be able to write one or two of these comments about many of our students," Harvey noted. "But it is rare to be able to write all of them about one student."

So, how has Saxon gone about managing Moe's and a Master of Divinity degree?

"Not watching a whole lot of television," Saxon says with a laugh. "I guess time management is a pretty decent strength of mine."

He describes the first couple of semesters when his wife was working a night job and he would, "Race home after work and she would hand the baby off ... at 8:15 I would put the baby down and get the Hebrew book out."

Saxon deflects praise of his academic abilities, and instead credits a supportive and "excellent" wife and points to two components of CIU that helped him make it through. One of those components is the flexibility of the M.Div. program.

Master of Divinity degrees are available both on campus and online, which became especially crucial for Saxon when Moe's promoted him to district manager. That meant moving to Charlotte, North Carolina around the same time his third child was born.

"You could keep having children, change jobs and change cities and keep moving forward at the same pace," Saxon said.

Saxon also credits the guidance of caring CIU professors.



Mat Saxon hands out prayer guides at Shandon Baptist Church where he is the minister of young adults and prayer.

"CIU is strong both academically and spiritually," Saxon said. "I've seen professors make themselves available."

Saxon was especially touched by the late Dr. Bill Larkin who passed away in 2014. Larkin taught a couple of Saxon's online courses, and Saxon remembers seeing the well-known professor on campus as Larkin was battling pancreatic cancer just months before his death.

"Larkin had a note on his door that said, 'If you have any questions you can call me' and it had his phone number," Saxon remembers. "Good grief, I don't know if I'd do that."

If all goes according to plan, Saxon will have earned his degree by the end of this summer. But unlike some graduates, Saxon is already in full-time ministry at the place where the call to serve began. In the fall of 2013 he resigned from Moe's and became the minister of young adults and prayer at Shandon Baptist where he shepherds over 300 members, trains lay teachers, develops leaders and organizes various venues for prayer.

Looking back over the last four years, Saxon says God has been faithful to complete what He began.

"Waiting on the Lord can sometimes seem unreasonably long, but when He shows up, it sure is worth it." ■

A Theologian takes STAND UP Comedy lessons



Larry Dixon, Ph.D.
Professor of Theology
CIU Seminary & School of Ministry

C'mon, Dad. It'll be fun!" This was my son's invitation to take a stand-up comedy class from the Comedy Zone in Charlotte, North Carolina, just a short drive up the interstate from Columbia. I agreed. And the rest is history. Fairly humorous history.

The dozen students came from a wide variety of backgrounds; only one of them identified himself as a Jesus follower. The two instructors explained the type of comedy they were looking for as we developed over six weekly sessions our three-minute "sets" which we performed at our "graduation showcase" the seventh week.

The experience was quite educative for me. I learned a lot about this kind of comedy (not easy to do). "GTF" was often used by the instructors – "Get To The Funny!" The material presented by most of the other students made me cringe. Their topics ranged from multiple divorces to sex education at Planned Parenthood to...well, you get the idea. My set focused on my getting older, exercise (or lack thereof), and dieting. For example:

My wife said to me the other day, "Honey, it just dawned on me that there are 70 pounds of you that I'm not legally married to..." (Insert laughter.)

One student asked me in the men's room after class, "Is it really true you and your wife have been married for 44 years?!" I said, yes. He asked, "What's your secret?" I said, "Well, it takes three to make a solid marriage – the Lord right in the center."

At the first session, one of our exercises was to introduce ourselves. One Harvard-educated student made clear that she is an atheist. So I made clear that I am a theist — and then had to explain it to the class!

“This sub-culture isn’t being reached by the church.”

—Larry Dixon, Ph.D.

This sub-culture isn’t being reached by the church. Just so you know, I’m not particularly tempted to resort to comedy material that would strip the stain off a nun’s desk. But these folk need the Lord, and His forgiveness, and His cleansing!

I’m not planning on retiring from teaching, but there may be opportunities for me to do clean comedy for Christian audiences, senior citizens’ cruises to Alaska, perhaps even a performance for organizations like AARP.

There’s a lot of funny in our world. Let’s not leave it to the gross, the perverse, and the lost. We were once there (Titus 3:3- “foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.”) — but now we have a lot to laugh about!

If you’re interested in seeing the set I performed, you may find it on the March 1 entry at my blog: www.larrydixon.wordpress.com. ■



▲ Larry Dixon (right) with his son Brian Dixon, a 2001 graduate of CIU, who convinced dad to take a stand-up comedy class.



CIU Staff Member on “Family Feud”

Tirrell Howell says he “had fun” but was “exhausted” after the taping of an episode of “Family Feud” that was recorded last summer and aired in February. Howell, who serves as corporate coordinator of Information Technology Services at CIU, was asked by his Aunt Angela Wigfall to audition with other family members for the show.

“She told me I pretty much didn’t have a choice,” Howell said with a laugh a few days after the show aired.

Howell says that playing “Family Feud” is a family tradition at Thanksgiving and Christmas get-togethers in the small town of Cross (population 3,974) in South Carolina’s Lowcountry where he has his roots. But even though the family has had plenty of practice, in the end they came just short of winning a prize.

“I think we had clean fun in our particular recording, and we were kind of disappointed that we didn’t win,” Howell said. “But in reflection, we can say, ‘We actually did this thing; we actually did this as a family’ and that’s an experience that we will take with us the rest of our lives. But for me, I just went on the show because my aunt asked me to.” ■



MAY COMMENCEMENT

A Time for Joy, a Time for Tears *By Melissa McCutchan, CIU Student Writer*

For nearly 200 Columbia International University graduates, May 16 was a day for celebration and bittersweet goodbyes. As graduates crossed the stage in Shortess Chapel, they celebrated both the fruit of their hard work, and many said goodbye to the friends and professors who had made CIU feel like home.

"I loved that I was able to celebrate with family and friends," said Charron Conley, who received a Master's of Arts degree in Bible Teaching. "The difficult part was knowing that graduation was the last weekend for a long time to be with such great friends."

CIU conducted two commencement ceremonies, the first for seminary and graduate students, and the second for undergraduates. South Carolina State Senator Darrell Jackson, a CIU alumnus who also pastors Bible Way Church of Atlas Road in Columbia, addressed graduates in both ceremonies. His message, "The Blessings of Knowing," challenged graduates to take their biblical knowledge to those who need it.

"Quite frankly, over the years I've learned that God isn't so impressed with degrees, but He is impressed with what you do with those degrees," Jackson said.

The undergraduate ceremony also included the tearful remembrance of Keturah Washington, a beloved CIU undergraduate student who passed away in February. The CIU faculty posthumously awarded her diploma for bachelor's degrees in Communication and Bible with Washington's parents receiving the diploma on her behalf. As their gift to CIU, the Class of 2015 also established an annual scholarship in Washington's name.

"There are three things we know about Keturah: she loved life, she loved learning, and she loved her Lord," said Dr. Dan DeLozier, who was Washington's academic advisor.

With tassels turned and diplomas in hand, CIU President Dr. Bill Jones addressed the graduates for the last time, encouraging them to use their degrees to make an impact for Christ.

"I wonder how many thousands of people will come to know Christ through your lives, whether [you are] a professional minister or a ministering professional," Jones said. "May you go out and make a difference in thousands and thousands of peoples' hearts." ■



▲ South Carolina State Senator and CIU alumnus Darrell Jackson addresses graduates as President Bill Jones looks on.

FORECAST: BRIGHT FUTURE FOR WEATHERMAN

Meteorologist Graduates from Seminary

By Bob Holmes

A former Columbia TV meteorologist returned to South Carolina for his graduation from Columbia International University.

Jonathan Oh, who grew up in the Columbia area, was a weatherman for three TV stations (WIS, WACH and WOLO) over a seven-year period, and during most of that time was also a student in CIU Seminary & School of Ministry. Oh, who currently works as a TV meteorologist in Japan, graduated with a Master of Divinity degree.

Oh says that juggling the TV career while also taking seminary-level classes, was “far from easy,” especially considering he had to get up in the wee hours of the morning when he helped launch an early morning news show.

“I had to shoe-horn my studies in during the times when I was not at work,” Oh said. “I didn’t really sleep very much because I was working and studying all the time. Time management was extremely critical. I had to be disciplined in order to make all of the deadlines and complete the work that lay ahead of me.”

But Oh says he would not have earned his degree without employers who were flexible, and encouragement from his parents, natives of South Korea.

“I am grateful to my parents, who were of great support and comfort during the time when managing the work was quite difficult.”

Oh’s father, Thomas Oh, is a 1999 CIU graduate and serves as senior pastor of Sandol Presbyterian Church in Columbia.



Jonathan Oh (center) has some fun with his parents Thomas and Yung Oh after the graduation ceremonies.

I am grateful to my parents, who were of great support and comfort during the time when managing the work was quite difficult.

Oh’s last year of studies had to be completed through online courses when he moved to Tokyo to work for NHK World, an international English broadcast channel produced by Japan’s public broadcaster. He also saw ministry opportunities.

“I moved there knowing that there is a great need for sharing the gospel, and I wanted to be there to be used by God,” Oh said. “I am in the process of licensure and ordination as a pastor, and Lord willing, I will be able to serve in a pastoral role in Tokyo in the coming years, but I do

plan to work on the air for a while too.”

As for CIU, Oh says he will always remember his professors, classmates and the God he learned to serve.

“The Lord really allowed me to learn and grow from the people I met, and I know that the people I have met are the people I will be able to stay in touch with for years to come,” Oh said. “(I) thank the Lord for His continual presence because it would have been impossible without Him!” ■



Student entrepreneurs ►
at the Ram Shack.
(Left to right) Cousins
Suzanna Mitchell
and Sarah Bateman
display their BALMble
Bee Lip Balm while
Ram Shack Manager
Kathy Weathersby
and Christy Rutt hold
samples of Rutt's "Tiny
Tells" messages. Both
products are available
at the Ram Shack, the
on-campus CIU store.

ENTREPRENEURS AMONG US

Entrepreneur: a person who organizes and manages any enterprise, especially business, usually with considerable initiative and risk. – Dictionary.com

Step up to the counter at the Ram Shack, the CIU student store and coffee house, and you'll notice professional displays of various products including lip balm and colorful note cards. You have to actually be in the know to realize the lip balm and note cards were not placed there by national vendors. They are produced and marketed by ambitious CIU students who not only keep up their grades, but have created businesses on the side.

"CIU Today" got to know the young ladies behind Tiny Tells and ShoShana Natural, as well as a student who has a business meeting your heating and air condition needs.

Meet the entrepreneurs among us at CIU.



Words of Encouragement Brings “Bundles” of Business

“Tiny Tells” Takes Off

By Melissa McCutchan, CIU Student Writer

As 2014 came to a close, Jackie Rutt of Jacksonville, Florida asked her children if they had any resolutions for 2015. Her daughter Christi, a senior and a Communication major at CIU had to think before responding. She told her mother that she wanted to do a better job of following through on the “impulses” she had to write encouraging notes to the people around her. She would often think about writing a friend a note with a word of encouragement, but she would rarely sit down to do it.

Little did Christi Rutt know that her resolution would be the birth of her own small business. Tiny Tells, as she named it, is a line of small note cards which feature encouraging sayings and space for someone to write a brief note to a friend.

“I thought, ‘How could I create something that would encourage me and encourage others to follow through on those impulses?’” Rutt said. “I think a big card is kind of daunting. I wanted something you could carry around with you, and when you get that impulse you could actually follow through with it. So I thought, ‘tiny cards.’”

With the help of her sister Abbey, Rutt used her artistic talents and her

knowledge of graphic design to make the 2.5”x4” note cards featuring a variety of greetings, such as “Love You Lots” and “In Christ You Are Redeemed.”

Tiny Tells launched just before the beginning of the spring semester at CIU, and after news about the cards spread around campus through word-of-mouth and over social media, business is booming.

“I love [this business],” Rutt said. “It’s so fun to me, every aspect of it from designing to figuring out how to market it ... It’s been hard at times, but I make time for it because I really do love it.”

Tiny Tells cards are sold in bundles of 25, and most bundles have eight unique designs. The product is sold from an account on etsy.com and in CIU’s new on-campus store, the Ram Shack. However, most of the marketing is done through social media. An Instagram account and Facebook page alert people to new products, giveaways and promotions.

“The funniest thing for me is to have people catch the vision of encouraging [others], and when people post on Instagram how they were encouraged,” Rutt said. “[I’ve enjoyed] seeing people using them for what they were made for.”

CIU sophomore Emily Thornhill is among the satisfied customers.

“I love writing notes to people, and Tiny Tells was a really cute way to do that,” Thornhill said. “Small businesses are an incredible opportunity to support people, and I know Christi had something worth supporting.”

As the business grows, Rutt is learning more about what it takes to keep a business going. That includes drives to Office Depot where the cards are printed, and a lot of time developing new ideas for cards and marketing through social media.

“It has given me a lot of experience,” Rutt said. “I’m really learning as I go.”

As Rutt reflected on the first months of Tiny Tells, she noted that she had learned a lot about herself, and a lot about God.

“It’s stretching me to persevere when things get really hard or frustrating,” she said. “I’ll have days where I’m super excited, and days where I want to quit. It’s teaching me to trust the Lord, because I believe He’s calling me [to this] now.” ■

A Natural Thing

Going into Business "a Cool Experience" for Cousins

By Melissa McCutchan, CIU Student Writer

CIU senior Suzanna Mitchell was never a fan of beauty products that use lots of chemicals. Since most store-bought beauty and hygiene products contain unpronounceable chemical ingredients, she decided to make her own versions of these products using all-natural ingredients.

With the help of her cousin, CIU senior Sarah Bateman, Mitchell decided to sell her products so that others could benefit from them, too. Her all-natural lip balm, "BALMble Bee," is part of the business she calls ShoShana Natural. (The name shoshana comes from the Hebrew word for "lily.")

"I started getting into natural things and started making my own makeup, my own shampoos, my own everything," Mitchell explained. "[Lip balm] was one of the things, and I figured, 'Why not sell it while I'm at it?'"

Their first product, BALMble Bee lip balm, is made from only seven ingredients, as opposed to more than 20 ingredients found in a comparable mass-produced lip balm. It comes in three flavors: Lavender/Orange, Peppermint and Grapefruit.

"I think [natural products] can be just as good as or better than products that have a lot of chemicals in them," Bateman said.

Mitchell and Bateman mix the lip balm, package it, and ship it to those who order at their online store at [etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com), and sell it in CIU's new on-campus store, the Ram Shack.

"We want students to know that we're promoting other students and their work," Ram Shack manager Kathy Weathersby said. "We're not in it to profit the store; it's just a promotion of the students."

Fellow students give the lip balm a thumbs-up. Freshman Seth Hall compares BALMble Bee to well-known brands and gives it a 7 out of 10 saying, "Most of all I have enjoyed the unique grapefruit flavor." Junior Mylea Hardy called the grapefruit flavor "wonderful" and added, "It had a refreshing fragrance (and) was smooth." Seminary student Rachel Weaver, says of the peppermint flavor, "The scent was nice, not too overpowering, and I liked the cooling effect on the lips."

Though ShoShana Natural is limited to lip balm at the



moment, Mitchell and Bateman hope to expand the business in the future to include more products. They have discussed selling headbands and face masks and they note that there are plenty of other possibilities in the future.

"The options are endless of things we can make and put on etsy," Mitchell said.

As both women prepare for life after graduation and future ministry, they say ShoShana Natural is valuable experience for them as they pursue missions and other creative ministries.

"I feel like it's preparing me because if I ever work in an orphanage, I want it to be self-sustainable," Bateman said. "It's helpful to learn how to make your own products and sell them so that [you] can be self-sustaining."

Though running ShoShana Natural does take time, both women say that starting a business wasn't as complicated as they thought it would be.

"I think it's a cool experience, just seeing how a business can be started," Bateman said. "It's kind of cool to see how anybody can do it. It doesn't have to be a big corporation, but anyone can start a business if they want to." ■

Building a Business Model Foundation: People

HVAC Man Enters CIU Business Program to Build Existing Business

By Bob Holmes

Peter Yeh considers his skills at fixing your heating and air conditioning system a “blessing from God” plus he “loves serving people.”

With that as a starting point, Yeh is developing a business model for Peter Yeh, LLC, an HVAC, plumbing and construction company he founded in 2011. Further clarification of the model is being developed as he also works on a bachelor’s degree in Business & Organizational Leadership (BOL) at CIU.

Yeh is not the typical undergraduate student. He is 37 years old, married with three small children, and in addition to building his own business and working on a degree, he is a full-time employee of CIU’s Physical Plant. He emphasizes that family comes first, and that’s why right now he only works his business a couple of nights each week and only takes a couple of classes each semester. Yeh’s training in HVAC began with an associate degree from Midlands Technical College in Columbia, and 15 years of experience with two local HVAC companies before being hired at CIU.

“Being here at CIU is a ministry,” Yeh said in an interview over lunch in the CIU Dining Room, which given his schedule, was the only time he had to chat. “You have to come here with a heart for people (and) serve and minister as much as you can. That’s why I love it here. Coming out of the secular world, it has been a blessing being here.”

Meanwhile, Yeh saw a great educational opportunity that could help him with his company when CIU introduced the BOL major in 2012.

“Running a business on the fly, I realized how little I really understood about business,” Yeh said.



“How can I show God’s love through the work that I do? My business model has to revolve around that.”

—Peter Yeh

Yeh set aside his lunch plate of rice topped with a generous serving of jalapenos to better focus on his words as he made some important points about the BOL’s program director Dr. Benjamin Dean.

“Dr. Dean is my mentor,” Yeh said. “I see him as a very humble man who doesn’t talk about himself. He is more interested in learning who you are.”

Yeh admits to being a person who doesn’t naturally look to the future and make plans. But because of the BOL program and Dr. Dean, that is changing.

“The program on the whole has taught me that you’ve got to keep moving, you’ve got to have purpose,” Yeh said. “I feel that being in the program, being under Dr. Dean has taught me that.”

So would Yeh like to build up his business to the point of being on his own?



Unusual Internship: The Student Learns from the Student

Internships are an important aspect of degree programs at CIU. But it’s untypical for a student to do an internship under the guidance of another student. However, that’s what happened last summer when senior Brett Ballentine did his internship at Peter Yeh, LLC.

Ballentine served as Yeh’s project manager, researching and developing business strategies, assisting Yeh in record keeping and billing, including figuring out what Yeh’s rates should be.

“I was clueless and he has such a brain for that ... a natural knack for understanding that,” Yeh said. “He (also) helped me finalize my decisions on my business model.”

So, did Ballentine feel a little odd doing his internship under a fellow student?

“Not at all,” Ballentine said. “By discussing the classes that we had shared, we learned how each other think and found strengths and weaknesses that we could use to maximize our teamwork.”

“God has given me this business, (and) I need to be a good steward running my business,” Yeh said. “God brought me to the campus when they opened up the (BOL) program – to me it’s much more than a coincidence. I have a deep desire to want to learn more about business, so I can be successful in what God has given me.”

And for Yeh, that means developing his business model’s foundation — people.

“How can I serve my customers? How can I show God’s love through the work that I do? My business model has to revolve around that.” ■



SOCCER GOAL:

Spread the Gospel in Guatemala

By Brittany Bradley, CIU Student Writer

From its beginning, the heartbeat of Columbia International University has been “To Know Him and to Make Him Known.” The motto is embraced not only in the classroom, but also on the soccer field and beyond. In January, 18 members of the CIU Rams men’s soccer team and three coaches, traveled to Guatemala to make the Lord known through soccer, service and evangelism.

Before departing, each team member raised his own support for the eight-day, Christmas break mission trip. While there, the team conducted soccer clinics for kids, played soccer matches, ministered in local churches and partnered with local organization “Building Houses Building Lives” to construct two houses for needy families.

For some players, one of the most memorable moments of ministry was

visiting terminally ill children at a cancer hospital called UNOP (Unidad De Oncologia Pediatrica).

“We served them dinner and shared the gospel which then led to a time of prayer and worship, junior Ethan Chandler said. “During the time of prayer it was amazing to see people be truly touched by the Holy Spirit, being met and comforted by God in their grief and brokenness.”

The team also worked closely with Casa Aleluya, a children’s home in Guatemala that cares for 400 orphaned, abused, and mistreated children. The team shared the gospel with the children using J316 balls. J316 balls are colorful, wordless evangelism tools that serve as conversation starters and visual aids.

“We purchased 100 balls to take into the communities where we ministered,”

Head Coach James Whitaker said. “We left them pretty much everywhere we went but we left a bag of balls at each of the places we did a soccer clinic since a soccer ball is such a precious commodity over there!”

Despite language and cultural barriers, soccer was a common ground on which the team could relate to many of those they encountered. The team was also blessed with two bilingual players who helped with translation, junior Abe Vasquez and freshman Paul Grandacarpio.

“At the beginning I was really nervous because I had never done something like that before and I knew it was a great responsibility,” Vasquez said. “Once we got there and started translating, it was actually really good. I wasn’t nervous anymore but I was really excited to be able to help my



“It was cool to see how something so fun could end up in someone crossing from death to life.”

—Sophomore Luke Brooks

teammates translate the message of the gospel whenever it was required. It was a great blessing, and seeing the people smile while translating was priceless!”

On the field, the Rams played professional teams, sharpening their skills and building relationships with the opposing players. Team members took turns writing updates on the CIU athletics website www.ciuathletics.com.

Chandler wrote: “Our first full day here in Guatemala was an awesome experience. In the morning, we traveled to Guatemala City and had the incredible experience of playing USAC, a first division professional team here in Guatemala. USAC has several

international players on their roster, including guys who have played for their national teams and in the English Premier League! We held our own for a while and played a really good match against this great team. After the match, Tyler Smith shared the gospel with all the guys on the team, and we also heard a testimony from USAC player Tyson who has played for his national team in Honduras.”

The team also made time for fun. They rented horses and rode steep slopes to the top of a volcano. The sun set while they were enjoying the scenery and they had to make the treacherous trip down in the dark. Still, the team didn’t pass up the opportunity to share the gospel with

two Guatemalans who accompanied them, leading the men to trust in Jesus.

“It was cool to see how something so fun could end up in someone crossing from death to life,” sophomore Luke Brooks said.

The team also took advantage of opportunities to share what the Lord was doing in their hearts and lives.

“While there were many highlights of the trip, probably the part that I enjoyed the most was when we would gather at the end of the day and talk about what we had experienced that day,” Coach Whitaker said. “It was awesome to hear our players talk about what they had seen, what God had done, and how He was working in their own lives through the experiences on the trip.” ■

ACADEMICS

CIU SSM Launches Five-Year M.Div. Program

By Dr. John Harvey
Dean of CIU Seminary & School of Ministry

Students who sense a call to the role of senior or solo pastor can now enroll in a Master of Divinity program that equips them for ministry in just five years.

The program being launched this summer by Columbia International University Seminary & School of Ministry (SSM) is designed for qualified high school graduates who have a clear sense of calling to vocational Christian ministry. They complete a Bachelor of Arts degree (B.A.) with a major in Advanced Biblical and Theological Studies and a Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.) with a concentration in Bible Exposition.

Here's how it Works

During their first two years, students complete the majority of the standard undergraduate core of Bible/Theology, general education, and leadership development, including designated electives in philosophy, logic, and world religions. During their third year, they begin courses in their major, which adds depth in biblical languages, theology, and worldview.

Students also apply to the Master of Divinity degree during their third year of study. If they are accepted, the fourth year is a "bridge" year in which they complete the requirements for their B.A. and begin their course work for the M.Div. A Senior Seminar integrates their biblical-theological understanding and aids the transition to graduate-level study.

Students graduate with their B.A. in the spring of their fourth year, and engage in intensive 12-week paid internships during the summer before their final year. Those internships include being mentored by experienced pastors whose primary focus is preaching. They complete their graduate-level requirements during their fifth year and graduate with their M.Div. at the end of that year.

Mentors and Coaches

Students will be assigned faculty mentors to guide them through the five years of their program of study, providing individualized academic advising, spiritual support, and ministry coaching. In addition, SSM will call on a wealth of special guest speakers and coaches to contribute to the program, including CIU Chancellor Dr. George Murray, former CIU president Dr. Johnny Miller, and author and pastor Rob Morgan, the 2011 Alumnus of the Year.

Our goal is to create the most efficient avenue to answering God's call to pastoral ministry.

—Dr. John Harvey

The quality of these individuals create the opportunity to assemble a "blue ribbon" stakeholder group that can meet regularly to provide input on the effectiveness of the program, monitor the quality of students in the program, and provide guidance to graduates as they seek placement in ministry.

Breadth and Depth

The end product is a program that is time- and cost-efficient. Concerns over time and expense often lead students to choose shorter graduate-level degrees that lack the breadth and depth of ministry preparation provided by a Master of Divinity degree. With the Five-Year Master of Divinity program, though, students obtain a broadly-based undergraduate education that is the foundation for the graduate-level knowledge and skills needed to understand, apply, and communicate the Scriptures effectively in a local church context — without added post-graduation debt — allowing them to minister more effectively right after graduation. Our goal is to create the most efficient avenue to answering God's call to pastoral ministry.

CIU is grateful to The Kern Family Foundation for their \$500,000 grant that helps make the initiation of the program possible.

For more information on the five-year Master of Divinity program visit: www.ciu.edu/5yrmdiv. ■



◀ Dr. John Harvey (left) discusses the Five-Year M.Div. with student Cam Duecker.



CIU students listen as local business leaders share how they live out their faith in the marketplace.

Connexus

New Initiative Connects Students With Business Leaders
By Bob Holmes

It may have been a bit intimidating. One evening last April, nine Columbia International University students dressed “smart casual” and headed to downtown Columbia to meet with a trio of local business leaders at an exclusive dinner club.

CIU Intercultural Studies professor Dr. Mike Barnett says the Marketplace Mentors Dinner, held once each semester, is part of larger initiative called “Connexus” designed to “connect our students with real-world Christ-followers who live, work, and serve in the marketplace.” The participating students are majoring in Global Business Development, International Community Development or Global Media Communication. Also attending the dinner were CIU Business & Organizational Leadership Program Director Dr. Benjamin Dean, and CIU Chief Financial Officer Keith Stokeld.

Barnett says the challenge to provide mentors from the marketplace came from Bill Short, a prominent attorney in downtown Columbia and an active member of a downtown businessmen Bible study that was co-founded by CIU President Dr. Bill Jones.

Short, who attended the April dinner meeting, says there is an abundance of downtown believing professionals with a wide variety of ministries who can share their experiences with the students.

“We passed along our experiences on being relational, on how to share your faith, on how to approach leading others to Christ, on how to live an abundant Christian life in your workplace,” Short said. “These efforts are mostly non-denominational and thus strengthen the local churches and ministries.”

That resonated with CIU freshman Andrew White, who attended the dinner.

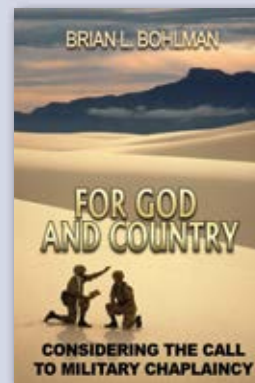


“I met businessmen who integrate their faith into their business, so I was reassured that integrating faith in the contemporary American marketplace is possible,” White said. “In fact, the relational aspect of the business world is an excellent opportunity to reach people for the glory of God.”

White, who grew up in Kenya, also says meeting local businessmen offers him an opportunity to “begin networking with influential personalities in the business world, gaining knowledge of how the business world practically operates, or simply receiving encouragement from people wiser than me.” ■

RESOURCES

New Books by CIU Professors



For God and Country

By Dr. Brian Bohlman
Adjunct Professor of Chaplaincy

Considering the call to ministry can be a difficult process, and sometimes even more difficult when that call is outside the traditional church setting, such as military chaplaincy. Dr. Brian Bohlman writes from a Christian perspective and holds the premise that the vocation of military chaplaincy is a high and honorable calling from God. Published by Chaplain Resource Center.

ATHLETICS

CIU Athletics Moves “Fore!”ward with Men’s Golf

First Coach is Well-Known Columbia Coaching Pro
By Bob Holmes

Columbia International University’s first men’s golf coach never played golf until the summer between high school graduation and his freshman year at the University of South Carolina (USC). But teeing up for the first time was the *first life-changing* event in his life.

“I was head over heels in love with the game,” said Coach George Bryan. “I was addicted.

“I would literally sleep four, five hours a night, maybe six, and I would be at the golf course before the sun would come up practicing under the lights, not lights that you flip on, but street lights, so I was practicing in the dark,” Bryan added.

The commitment paid off. Bryan made the USC Gamecocks men’s golf squad as a walk-on freshman, and golf would become his vocation.

After college, Bryan pursued a professional golf career personally teaching and coaching hundreds of professionals and amateurs, and implementing golf-related entrepreneurial and educational endeavors for over 25 years.

Bryan created the Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission Golf Program in suburban Columbia and was instrumental in various golf initiatives in South Carolina schools through the South Carolina Junior Golf Association (SCJGA). He also created the George Bryan Golf Academy located at various golf courses throughout the Columbia area helping juniors and adults improve their game.

Soft-spoken with graying hair, a warm smile, and a face slightly weathered by decades on sunny southern golf courses, the 53-year-old downplays his score as “below par” and says he has “had the privilege of competing at times at the highest levels.” Major golf events on his resume include the PGA Championship at Medina Country Club near Chicago in 1999 and at Harbour Town on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina in 2004.

About the only thing Bryan did not have on his golf resume was college coach. That brings us to the *second life-changing* event in his life.

“October 1, 2013, spiritually, I came alive,” Bryan begins his Christian testimony.

Bryan says before that date he was a church goer, but “a very

CIU FAST FACTS

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The number of CIU student-athletes competing in 2014-15.

selfish individual, and really good at it.” He attended a meeting that day for church members who desired to serve in the church.

While Bryan doesn’t remember much of what was said in the meeting, he says “apparently the Holy Spirit came in and did His thing in my mind and in my soul.”

Since that day Bryan has wanted “to serve and glorify God.”

“I walked out of the meeting with a new perspective on life, and that included business,” Bryan said. “It is my prayer to learn to serve Him as an individual and in my vocation.”

Enter an old acquaintance: CIU Athletics Director Kim Abbott, a former University of South Carolina golf coach, who Bryan had known since the early 1990s. He had once tried to recruit Abbott to join him in his golf programs as an instructor. She turned him down to instead focus on motherhood at the time. In 2014, the tables were turned. She sought his advice about starting a men’s golf program at CIU, eventually encouraging him to apply for the coaching job.

Bryan struggled with the decision when the position was offered to him. But his wife of 29 years, Valerie, encouraged him to join her in prayer about the offer.

“The more we prayed about it, the more it sounded like a great idea,” Bryan said. He told his wife, “I think the Lord wants me to do this. I don’t think this is something that I came up with.”

Bryan is now in rapid recruiting mode, needing to field a team of at least six golfers by August, but would like to have twice that many if possible. He is also using his contacts around the Columbia area to line up golf courses for home matches.

Bryan says coaching at CIU is what he has been looking for since that second, and most important life-changing event. He wants to use golf as a tool to spread the gospel, and he is learning from the coaches of the other CIU sports and observing how they interact with their athletes.

“I take the challenge very seriously,” Bryan said. “Where can the game of golf go into this world to make it a better place? Wherever that is, it’s going to be pretty special.”

Meanwhile, Athletics Director Abbott says Bryan not only has the knowledge and passion for golf, but “his love of the Lord and his desire to create a CIU team that will serve God through the game of golf, make him a perfect fit for CIU and its mission.” ■



Rams Sports Briefs



Men's Basketball

Marshall Tague was named the new head coach in May. Tague comes to CIU from Lancaster Bible College in Pennsylvania where as head coach he led the Chargers to the 2015 National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Division 2 National Championship and a regular season record of 28-3. Tague played collegiate basketball at Southwestern College (now Arizona Christian University) where he played in two NCCAA National Championships. Tague replaces Kyle Mendenhall.

Women's Basketball

The women finished the 2014-2015 season with a record of 14-14. New players are being added to next season's roster including Moriah Siemens, an All Conference standout from Asheville Christian Academy in North Carolina. She is the younger sister of current team member Abigail Siemens.

Men's & Women's Cross Country and Track

Sprinter CJ Jones finished fifth in the 100 meter dash at the NCCAA track championships with a time of 10.91. It's the first time Jones has run the race in under 11 seconds.

Men's Soccer

The Rams ended the 2014 season with a record of 11-5-2. In January, the team ministered for nine days in Guatemala. (See page 18.) Next season, CIU will host the NCCAA South Region Soccer Tournament, Nov. 18-21.

Women's Soccer

Coach Kara Farnsworth has been busy recruiting for the inaugural season this fall. The first home game for the Lady Rams is Aug. 29.

"Where can the game of golf go into this world to make it a better place? Wherever that is, it's going to be pretty special."

– Men's Golf Coach George Bryan

CAMPUS LIFE

Lance Kaminer meets: Senator Tim Scott (left) and Lt. Col. Kelly Martin (right).

Learning to Lead (through love)

By Lance Kaminer, Rising Sophomore, Business & Organizational Leadership Major

Editor's Note: In January, CIU sent six student leaders to the South Carolina Student Leadership Forum (SCSLF) held in Greenville, South Carolina. The SCSLF website says college students attending the Forum from around the state, are not asked whether they will change the world, but, rather how they will change the world. It's an opportunity for leaders of diverse cultures and religious backgrounds to dialogue about the opportunities they face in positions of leadership. In addition, the website states, "Believing that Jesus of Nazareth is one of the greatest leaders in history, His principles are the basis for much of the discussion."

Attending the South Carolina Student Leadership Forum was an outstanding experience. Over 100 other college students from around South Carolina attended, each of us gleaning leadership qualities found in Jesus Christ from today's leaders, such as South Carolina U.S. Senator Tim Scott, and Lt. Col. Kelly Martin, a senior military fellow at the Center for a New American Security.

"Successful leaders love."

At the forum, I took away several crucial lessons I believe will positively impact my life and the shape of my future. For one, successful leaders love. When looking at the life of Jesus, we see that no matter where He went, He loved. Senator Scott defined love beyond an emotion we feel — love equals commitment. If Jesus had loved out of emotion, He would not have loved us when crucified. Since God is love, everything flowing out of Jesus expressed love; whether He healed the sick or threw the money exchangers out of the temple. In various situations, Jesus showed us how to walk in love.

Successful leaders also do not fear vulnerability. Jesus surrounded Himself with 12 apostles and in addition, made three of them close friends: Peter, James, and John. To experience this firsthand during the forum, we met in small groups, and as a result, I made new relationships with other college students. In our small group, we realized the value in sharing our life stories with each other. This experience taught me the importance of having a close group of people around me in which I can be open and vulnerable.

For my immediate situation, these lessons will serve me well during my tenure at CIU. As Lt. Col. Martin stressed, we are



called to love all people we serve as well as those we lead. I felt the forum challenged to love and respect every person I meet, and to "be real" as I seek out relationships with other people. Both of these lessons will aid in my growth as a man and leader, as well as a follower of Jesus. ■

Godspeed to Frank and Flor

Frank and Flor Oamil served Columbia International University for a combined 25 years; Flor as cataloging librarian for 16 years in the G. Allen Fleece Library, and Frank for nine years as a maintenance technician in the Physical Plant.

They retired in February to be closer to their grandchildren in Florida, and also to be more involved with Ben Lippen School. Not the Pre-K to 12th grade Ben Lippen School on the CIU campus, but the Ben Lippen Christian Learning School that Frank and Flor helped found in 2008 in their native country of the Philippines. Flor says they named it after Ben Lippen at CIU "because we know Ben Lippen School is considered a first-class Christian school in America, and because of our connection with CIU."

Ben Lippen Christian Learning School started as a preschool, but has added first and second grades, with plans to expand to the sixth grade.



"We are sad to leave CIU because of our wonderful friends and colleagues," Flor said. "However, we are happy to be finished with this chapter of our lives and very excited to start new adventures while leaving behind good memories." ■



Open Mic Night at the Ram Shack

By Melissa McCutchan, CIU Student Writer

Standing off-stage at CIU's coffee house, the Ram Shack, senior Jonathan Shuffler tapped on a microphone. Known around CIU's campus for his creative writing and knack for video games, he decided to surprise his audience with a hidden talent: he took the stage and rapped a song he had written.

Shuffler was participating in February's Open Mic Night hosted by the senior class. Students performed guitar solos, read poetry, and sang, displaying their creative talents for their peers who squeezed onto couches and sipped coffee.

"I performed because I liked the open opportunity it provided for creative expression," Shuffler said. "I enjoyed the company, the way it was organized, and the reception of the crowd."

The senior class hosted the event as a way for students to display their talents and enjoy their classmates' performances.

"Our goal was to provide an opportunity for students to take some time off on a Friday night and enjoy good coffee, a variety of talents, and a casual atmosphere," senior class president Niki McIntosh said.

The coffee house feel of the Ram Shack has made the former

bookstore a favorite on-campus gathering place.

"Ram Shack manager Kathy Weathersby and others have also done a great job over the past couple semesters in turning the Ram Shack into a place students want to hang out, and we wanted to take advantage of that," McIntosh said.

Open Mic Night also featured graduate student Jack Lewis on the fiddle, and freshman Michael Lanier plucking out tunes on a banjo and a chorded zither.

"The banjo started us off, followed by poetry, rap, the violin, piano, guitar, and vocals," McIntosh said. "The night wasn't about measuring the talent, it was about enjoying it."

Other students performed a combination of guitar and vocal music, and sophomore Mitch Gebell had the audience laughing with a comedic magic trick.

"We were most excited about the turnout of students and the constant lineup of talent," McIntosh said at the end of the night. ■

RAMS CLUB UPDATE

Mission Quality – On and Off the Field

Ever since CIU began competing in intercollegiate athletics in 2012, transformation has been taking place on campus with 79 athletes added to the student body and athletic facilities constructed and/or renovated. The Moore Fitness Center is now the “Home of the Rams” for basketball, a collegiate soccer field was constructed, and cross country paths cut through the 400-acre campus. Women’s soccer and men’s golf are scheduled to start this fall, with softball soon to follow. Meanwhile, the old recreation field is being improved this year and will be used for intramural athletics and other activities. Campus life has a school spirit about it with encouragement and support at its foundation. But there’s more; things you may not see.

One of the goals of CIU Athletics is for each team to be a “mission team.” In January, we saw that vision become reality for the first time. The men’s soccer team, led by Coach James Whittaker, ministered in Guatemala, sharing the gospel with a variety of people including professional soccer players they met in competition. (See page 18.)

“The score definitely didn’t turn out in our favor, but it was a blessing to be able to gather with those guys [afterward] and share our testimonies with them,” Whittaker said.

Not only did the Rams play three exhibition games, they also hosted soccer clinics for children, visited terminally ill children at a cancer hospital, ministered to people who live in a community built on a trash dump, and even did a little construction work — all the while sharing the gospel wherever they went.

“We were able to love on a lot of kids who don’t have a lot of love in their lives,” junior Ethan Chandler said.

But in the mystery of ministry, not only were lives of



One of the goals of CIU Athletics is for each team to be a “mission team.”

Guatemalans changed, so were the lives of the members of the CIU soccer team.

“The amazing thing is that we were the ones who ended up being blessed,” Coach Whittaker added. “I think God used this trip to make a profound impact on each one of us. For me the highlight was recapping each day and hearing what God was doing in the lives of each of these guys.”

These student-athletes are admirable representatives of CIU on the field and in the classroom. God is equipping each of them to impact the nations with the message of Christ, whether it is in sports, in ministry, in the marketplace or as in the case of the soccer team, on the mission field.

Athletics contributes not only to the growth of CIU’s enrollment but has created a new component to campus life, with students proudly wearing their “Rams Army” shirts as they cheer from the stands.

And **you** can be a part of the excitement.

Check out the athletics schedule and support the Rams on the CIU campus, or when they compete near your home. Go to www.ciuathletics.com.


While you’re at our website, consider becoming a member of the Rams Club. When you join the Rams Club, you are more than an athletic booster. You are assisting CIU athletes who are being educated from a biblical worldview, and impacting the nations with the message of Christ. ■



CIU FAST FACTS

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The number of athletes on the men’s soccer team mission trip (18 players, 3 coaches).



Development Director Frank Bedell (right) demonstrates the leverage of a scholarship donor with CIU seminary student Sarah Cramer. Bedell represents the donor and Cramer's backpack represents her tuition.

THE PHYSICS OF GIVING

By Jeff Wheeler
Sr. Vice President for Institutional Advancement

I recently attended a CIU Chapel led by one of our development directors, Frank Bedell, and came away with a new appreciation for the connection between our donors and students. Frank has a wonderful heritage and has been an employee for 30 years. Prior to that he graduated from Ben Lippen School and received his degree from CIU. Given that long history, Frank has seen both changes, but also consistency of mission.

Frank used a visual tool in his chapel presentation – he actually had CIU's Physical Plant build a giant see-saw to demonstrate leverage, or as he put it, "the physics of giving." He emphasized that dollars from donors are leverage that provide financial aid for students to help them carry the burden of the cost of their education. It brought to mind the three areas, Financial Aid, Operations, and Special Projects where donor gifts actually work together – not in competition, but in connection.

The first topic of Frank's presentation was **Financial Aid**. The dollars that are contributed to CIU for Financial Aid create an obligation of stewardship on our part. Those dollars are either given to one-time scholarships and are awarded fully as the gift is received or, the gifts can be placed in an endowment earning interest, and that interest is what is awarded for student Financial Aid. To be effective, there must be both. President Bill Jones said that "in the future there will be two types of private Christian institutions – those that are endowed and those that are extinct." At the same time, however, there are students who need a one-time scholarship to complete their education.

Second and equally important are CIU's day-to-day **Operations** including faculty and staff salaries, utility bills, health insurance, and academic and athletic program support. The increasing cost of providing an education for students has been well documented. And while costs have risen at CIU, a CIU education is still a great value due to the stewardship of our team. We have leveraged our resources to create real value for our students. As a matter of fact, CIU is ranked #6 among colleges and universities in the Southeast for having the "Best Bang for the Buck." (See page 6.) The generosity of our donors plus CIU's integrity equals the best education for the lowest possible price.

The third application of donor gifts is **Special Projects**, each one making an impact on the University both in attracting new students and engaging those students in a vital campus community. I think of the Fisher building where many alumni had their classes, Shortess Chapel, the Schuster Building, and most recently our athletic fields.

So indeed, CIU donors are the leverage expanding resources so CIU can attract quality faculty and students, as well as improving our campus community life. Strengthening the fulcrum to CIU's priorities of Financial Aid, Operations, and Special Projects creates the optimum balanced motion and energy – "The Physics of Giving." ■

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ALUMNI



A Special University

Still Indebted after 70 Years

By Stan French ('57)

Editor's note: Stan French originally wrote the following post on his blog. It is used with his permission. French lives in Ormond Beach, Florida.

I arrived on the campus of Columbia International University (then called Columbia Bible College) in September 1946 to begin my college career. My parents, who drove me down from our home in Brooklyn, New York, were not impressed with the massive pile of coal in front of the men's dormitory to which I was assigned. The coal was needed for the open fireplaces in the 100-year-old dormitories.

I also was taken back a little with that ugly pile of coal, but I had become a Christian the year before, and the fact that this was a Bible college was what drew me to campus. I quickly forgot all about the pile of coal. I wanted to learn more about the Book of Books. CIU met my needs pressed down, shaken together and running over.

I took classes under Robert C. McQuilkin, the school's first president, and also sat under renowned professors Frank Sells and James Hatch, men who lived exemplary Christian lives and had God-given teaching talents that left deep and lasting impressions. For recreation, I played on an intramural football team with Robertson McQuilkin, the son of the first president, who later became CIU's third president.



CIU not only provided me with a life-shaping education but also with a girl who shared the same goals.

I left early in January 1949 to go into Bible teaching in the United States and later in Japan. I returned to CIU in 1956 to finish my degree, and there I met a young lady named Dorothy Scott who shared my goals. We were married in 1957 and celebrated our 58th wedding anniversary on this past Feb. 2, Ground Hogs Day. We could have waited for a more romantic day to be married such as Valentine's Day on Feb. 14, but that seemed too long to wait.

CIU not only provided me with a life-shaping education but also with a girl who shared the same goals. How much can you ask from any university?

Dorothy and I have come to realize what a difference CIU has meant to us individually and to our marriage. Also, both of my sisters and their spouses were impacted for life by CIU. We often reminisce at get-togethers.

In later years I enrolled in master's and doctoral programs in history and Hebrew culture at New York University, but the time I spent at CIU shaped my entire life in a way that nothing else has ever matched. I taught for 15 years at what is now King's College in New York City, which had the same goals as CIU, and tried in that way among others, to repay all that I had received.

As I look back over almost 70 years since first arriving on campus, I realize how much I am indebted to those faithful Christian men and women who shaped my entire life. I am even more in debt to a God who blessed me greatly by leading me to CIU. ■

ALUMNI *Class Notes*

1940s

Wallace and Eleanor (Holderman) ('45) Turnbull ¹ returned to Haiti where they have served most of the last 70 years of their life. eleantort@Tbull.com

Sherwood '45 and Muriel (Yates) ('46) Taylor ² ministered to congregations for 34 years with the West Brazil Mission of the Presbyterian Church. After returning to the United States, Sherwood was pastor of a small church in Alabama, before they retired in Georgia where they teach Sunday school and Bible studies. They have fond memories of their years at CIU (Columbia Bible College at that time), and hope that at least one of their 15 grandchildren or their two great-grandchildren will be led by God to study at CIU. mursherty@gmail.com

Sarah Overstreet Midyett ('49) praises the Lord for the publication of the book about her late husband, **JT Midyett ('49)**. "JT Another Mighty Midyett" is a moving tribute by nephew, Randy Somers. It depicts the sacrifices and challenges JT faced in war and on the mission field, but also recalls his awareness that God was always at the forefront, leading his path. somidyett@sc.rr.com

1950s

Ed ('51) and Mary Lee (Fry) ('52) Walker served in Haiti for 23 years, equipping national leaders and building a vibrant radio ministry. After returning to the United States, Ed served as World Team's U.S. director for seven years, before

continuing his research and writing on missionary issues. In his memoir, "Astonishing Grace: A Mentor's Ministry in Haiti and Beyond," Ed presents the story of the way the Lord met him throughout his life. The book is a great read for missionaries and mission committees, as well as pastors, church/ministry leaders, and theology students. edwinwalker@earthlink.net

Juanita Elwood ('55) ³ has served in Switzerland and France with l'Abri Fellowship for 30 years. She now lives six months of the year in a small Alpine village in France where she shares Christ with neighbors and friends, and the other six months in Ithaca, New York. Juanita.elwood@gmail.com

1960s

Barbara (Ardis) Coker '62 ⁴ lives in Sumter, South Carolina where she is active in her home church, Faith Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Barbara prepares the worship bulletins and serves as substitute pianist/organist barbaracoker@ftc-i.net

Gordon ('69) and Andrea (Steelman) ('69) Simms ⁵ serve with Interim Pastor Ministries where Gordon is director of coaching. Gordon is also interim pastor at Windhaven Church in Mt. Jackson, Virginia. He and Andrea have three children and have their permanent residence in Factoryville, Pennsylvania. gdsimms@live.com



1970s

John ('76) and Linn (Dillard) Crowe ('76) met at CIU. John pastored a CMA church in Charlotte, North Carolina for six years before serving in Portugal for 12 years with Bible Christian Union (BCU) and The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), and then in Cairo, Egypt for six and a half years. They founded MRCofNC (www.MRCofNC.org) two years ago, which connects missionaries to the resources they need, such as use of a car, counselors, places of respite, debriefs, etc. The great bonus is that they are located in Raleigh, North Carolina, where their two daughters, Ashley Martindale ('00) and Julie Hayes ('04) live with their four and two kiddos respectively!

Jim ('78) and Sue ('77) Ness ⁶ praise the Lord that after 30 years of working with Wycliffe on the Daasanach Bible Translation and Literacy project in Kenya, the Daasanach New Testament is complete. The dedication took place in northern Kenya in September 2014. jrness08@yahoo.com

Jean (Nelson) Werner ('78) served with Pioneers abroad. She now lives stateside, promoting interaction between Americans and incoming international graduate students. jnwerner2001@yahoo.com

1980s

Grady Enlow ('82) ⁷ has been appointed as the new vice president for Institutional Advancement at Thomas University. Dr. Enlow will supervise personnel in the areas of fundraising, alumni relations, foundation relations and communication. He received his Doctor of Education degree in higher education this past December from Florida State University. genlow@thomasu.edu

Chuck ('83) and Michael (Minigell) ('83) Bailey served for 11 years in Burkina Faso, West Africa with SIM. They now live in Levant, Maine, just outside of Bangor. For the last 15 years, Chuck has worked for his brother-in-law developing a U-pick farm www.treworgyorchards.com. Michael has worked for the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service as a 4-H activities coordinator for the past eight years. They are very involved in a local church, Harvest Chapel, and support Intervarsity Christian Fellowship projects, such as ServeUp New Orleans. chuck@treworgyorchards.com

Sue Thomas ('84), an internationally recognized speaker, reaches out to break barriers with diverse audiences. Her humor is contagious and her stories compelling. From a bullied deaf kid, to a lip-reader for the FBI, Sue's journey has had many highs and lows. Since her diagnosis with Multiple Sclerosis in 2001, Sue has served as National Ambassador for the National MS Society. She also has appeared on several news shows and is also known for her award-winning TV series, "Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye." thomasspeaks@comcast.net

Pam Hagen Lacy ('86) has published a devotional book titled "Noteworthy," urging readers to involve God in their daily trials, struggles and victories. Pam presents an honest and raw exploration of how God has kept her moving forward and how He can do the same for you. phagen01@msn.com

Michael Staples ('89) is national director of Scripture Union. He is passionate about seeing churches in the United States connect to God through Scripture and develop a passion and heart to reach their communities, especially children. He looks forward to working with various ministry partners to achieve that mission. He and his wife, Joan, live in Springfield, Missouri. Josh_staples2000@yahoo.com

1990s

Greg ('92) and Emily Bryan ⁸, along with their children, were featured on the hit HGTV show "Hawaii Life" as the family was making the move to Oahu from Ohio to restart a campus ministry at the University of Hawaii. gregbryan@gmail.com

Denise Posie ('99) is founder of Daily Living with Purpose Ministries. Her recently published book, "Consider a Greater Purpose: Vashti, Esther and the Courageous Women Who Followed," compares the lives of prominent women in history with queens Vashti and Esther to provide inspiration for others to recognize and move in their God-timed assignments. dposie@sbcglobal.net

Matthew ('99) and Karyn Eusey and their three children, moved to the island of Oahu in Hawaii where he serves as pastor at Trinity Church Central Oahu (PCA). matt@trinitycentraloahu.org



Mike ('99) and Beth Matheson and their two girls are moving to Papua New Guinea with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Mike will be ministering as a youth pastor to over 100 teenage missionary kids who live on a large mission base in the highlands. You can learn more about their ministry at www.mkyyouthpastor.com.

2000s

Matt ('00) and Joanne Cole live in College Station, Texas where Matt works as chief litigation counsel for Sexing Technologies, a world leader in livestock reproductive services. He advises his clients on matters related to risk management, compliance, and growth opportunities. He received his law degree from Baylor. They have three children: Kaleb (16), Belle (13) and Emma (11). mattgcole@gmail.com

Tim ('01) and Jenita ('01) Pace ⁹ and their son Carter (age 10), live in Etowah, North Carolina where Tim is a pastoral intern at Grace Community Church. He completed his Master of Theological Studies at CIU in May. Jenita is a counselor at Brevard High School. tarheelpace@gmail.com

Kevin ('03/'11) and Tara (Direnzo) ('03) Figgins ¹⁰ will celebrate 13 years of marriage this year. They have four children, Ashtyn (11), Jada (9), Ellie (6), and Malachi (4). They recently moved back to the Columbia area to work as church planters-in-residence at Columbia Presbyterian Church in downtown Columbia with the hope of planting a church in Lexington, South Carolina in January of 2016. www.ctklexington.org

Claudio and Amy (Donell) ('05) Molina ¹¹ have two daughters, Jillian and Olivia, and are in pastoral training. Before moving to the United States two years ago, they lived in Argentina. Amy worked as an ESL teacher and Claudio as pastor of a church in Villa Carlos Paz. They hope to return to Argentina in 2018. amydonellmolina@gmail.com

Robert Donald ('05) ¹² is the owner of Donald Electric and works as an electrical contractor. He and his wife Yvonne live in Irmo, South Carolina. robdonaldjr@att.net

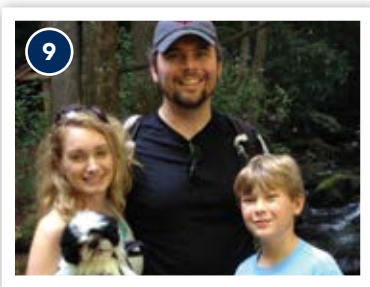
Dan ('06) and Christina ('02) Griffin relocated to Jackson, Tennessee where Dan was appointed vice president for enrollment management at Union University. He will oversee the university's office of undergraduate admissions and student financial planning. dan.griffin.mo@gmail.com

Luke ('06) and Becca ('06) Perkins ¹³ are based in Dallas, Texas while they prepare to transition to full-time ministry in Haiti as disciple-makers with Crossworld. In Haiti they will join the team at STEP seminary where Luke will serve as a professor. They just welcomed their third child, Joshua to the family in June 2014. You can connect with them at www.PerkinsInHaiti.com.

2010s

Gregory ('14) and Rachel Vrugink ¹⁴ have four children and live in Grand Rapids, Michigan where Greg is working on a Master of Theology degree at Calvin Theological Seminary. He is employed as an online writing instructor and theological researcher. gregvruggink@gmail.com

Philip Thompson ('14) is a husband and new father who serves as a lay teacher at Suber Road Baptist Church in Greer, South Carolina. He holds a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and a Master of Divinity from Columbia International University. He wrote an article titled, "5 Ways to Prepare for Vocational Ministry" published on the website of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood www.cbmw.org. ■





Will Norton Sr. ('39), celebrated his 100th birthday on Feb. 14, 2015, Valentine's Day at Go Ye Village, a retirement home in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. With him was Colene ('39), his wife of nearly 76 years. Colene celebrated her 100th birthday on May 19, 2014. The couple met at CIU (then Columbia Bible College), married after graduation, and began a long career together of taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. In 2012,

Will Norton was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from CIU for his ministry in the Belgian Congo and Nigeria where he founded a seminary and Bible institute. Dr. Norton was also instrumental in the founding of the triennial Urbana Missionary Conference that challenges thousands of young people to enter missionary service.



CIU alumnus **David Moreland ('67)** received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers, Florida where he has served as vice president of sales and marketing for 31 years. Moreland and his wife Shirley Hunt Moreland ('71) met at CIU where they continue to have a significant impact. David is a member of the CIU Board of Trustees and Shirley is a former

president of the Alumni Council. They have twin sons; David and Jonathan ('98) and four grandchildren.



While speaking at a Christian Medical & Dental Associations (CMDA) Conference in Chang Mai, Thailand in March, Chancellor George Murray and his wife, Annette, met at Grace International School with a group of CIU alumni and friends who live in the region. Murray said "it was wonderful to meet all the different folks who came, and to hear of their ministries in various places."

George Murray ('67), Annette Murray ('68), Scott Dysart, Dawn Fain ('85), Christa Dysart ('00), Peter Scott ('87), John Fain ('85), Wendy Scott, Jackie Scott ('86), Dan Scott ('86), Christine Dill ('88), Philipp Dill ('88), Uk Chong ('09), Meg Fraiser ('88), Doug Fraiser ('88), Wanjai Choi Park ('04), David Park ('03), Ajarn Chumsaeng, Stephen Keefer ('06), Kristin Froelich ('87), Rhoda Keefer, Eric Froelich ('88). ■

With The Lord

Gertrude Addis Tharpe ('38) – November 2014
Helen Norwood Pritchard ('47) – June 2014
Mildred Larson ('50) – April 2014
Dorothy Thorsby ('50) – February 2015
Dorothy Thiers Brown ('51) – January 2015
James Cail Sr. ('51) – March 2015
Elsie (Hare) Thornton ('51) – February 2014
Frank Cole ('52) – March 2015
Betty Patterson ('52) – February 2015
Fred Tenney ('52) – February 2015
Warren Hathaway ('55) – March 2015
John Hurlburt ('56) – February 2015
Larry Clark ('61) – June 2014
William Lambright ('66) – March 2015
Shirley Baker Linden ('66) – February 2015
Keturah Washington ('17) current student – February 2015
Andres Kaups - Former Staff – March 2015



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***The Celebration of
Dr. David Chow's Honor***

*at Homecoming
November 6, 2015*



Dr. David T. Chow ('75)
2015 Alumnus of the Year

Pastor, Leader, Evangelist Dr. David Chow ('75) is the president of Ambassadors for Christ, Inc. (AFC) continuing the work that his father, Moses Chow ('58) started. His heart is to see the Chinese churches and the Chinese be a force for God's kingdom. Through AFC's mission of reaching Chinese intellectuals and their partnership with Chinese churches to advocate for missions and discipleship, David embodies CIU's core values of World Evangelization and Evangelical Unity. He and his wife Karen have four children: Dalen, Daniel, Dennis ('12) and Karissa. David's sister and brother-in-law Joyce and Patrick Liao graduated from CIU in 1975.

THE FINAL WORD

Our Religious Freedom Restoration – in Christ

We've heard much in the news recently about several states passing bills with names such as The Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Those of us who follow Christ can certainly appreciate any legislative body that desires to codify further the religious freedom stated in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...

Such freedom remains exceptional in the annals of world history.

More important than the religious freedom granted by the Constitution or by state laws, however, has always been the freedom we have in Christ. Regardless of the nation or culture in which we live, we have freedom that extends far beyond the exercise of our personal religion. We live both free from sin and free to love and serve others through the One who liberated us by His death and resurrection.

Jesus declares: *"If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free"* (John 8:31b-32). A few verses later He makes it clear this describes freedom from sin. That freedom alone changes everything for us.

Our freedom in Christ, though, also has implications for the way we relate to others, even when they try to cause us harm. Peter writes, *For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God* (1 Peter 2:15-16).

A bondsman of God has his Master's interests at heart, and we know that Jesus said of Himself, *"...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"* (Matthew 20:27).

So, we should use our freedom to love and serve others, even those who may show contempt toward us and our beliefs. As Paul reminds us, *For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."* (Gal. 5:13-14).

For Americans, protecting our religious freedom remains precious. For all believers, though, far more precious in the sight of God continues to be a freedom in Christ that serves others and shows them how they can be set free from sin.

So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed (John 8:36).

Yours for His glory,



William H. Jones
President

So if the Son
makes you
free, you
will be free
indeed.
– John 8:36



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