

CIU

TODAY



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SUMMER 2016
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CIU TODAY

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Cover Photo

CIU Communication students pose at the Epcot Center in Orlando, Florida. They turned their spring break into a learning experience with a behind-the-scenes look at Disney World. *Story on page 16.*

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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Reflections on The First Amendment

For a fleeting moment it was like old times again.

I had before me a political figure that had dropped out of the race for President of the United States. Former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, who was in South Carolina endorsing Sen. Marco Rubio for president, had just spoken to a CIU assembly during the same week South Carolina was to hold the First in the South Republican Presidential Primary.

After the assembly, I was invited to a private luncheon being held for Jindal. He had no prepared remarks but instead fielded questions from the guests that included CIU faculty, staff and supporters.

Always the Journalist

As many of you know, I was the news director of CIU's former radio station WMHK for over 12 years. I used to love going to news conferences. So when Gov. Jindal asked at the luncheon if we had questions, the adrenaline began to rush just like in the old days. My hand was the first to be raised.

"Would you consider being Senator Rubio's running mate?"

It really didn't matter to me what his answer would be. I was just enjoying the moment. For the record, he said that he had had enough of public life for a while and his wife told him it was his turn to take the kids to soccer practice (something I guess a governor just doesn't have a lot of time to do)!

A Shared Experience

This experience not only reminds me of my days in broadcast journalism, but also of something even more fundamental to the experience: The First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Consider that at this moment, you are I are enjoying the benefits of The First Amendment. I was able to ask Gov. Jindal the question and write down what he said and tell you about it. You, by reading this magazine published by a biblical university, are enjoying Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press. The First Amendment reads:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

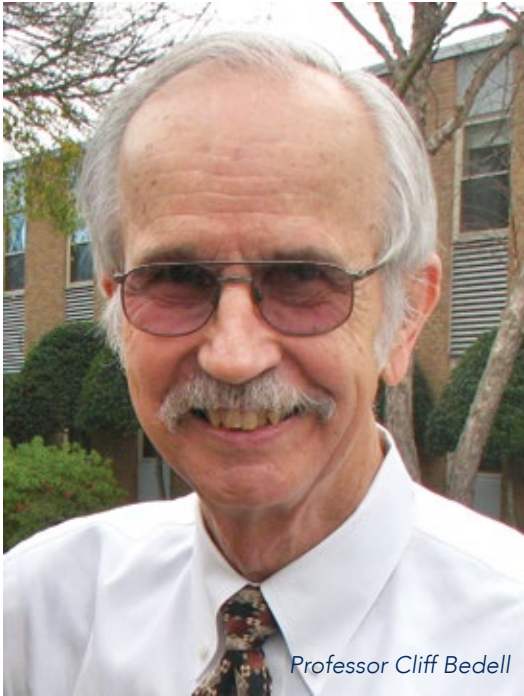
In a world history full of tyrants, dictators, and potentates, these words are quite exceptional. Let's hold these freedoms dear and use them to God's glory.

Bob Holmes
CIU Today
Editor-in-Chief



▲ Gov. Bobby Jindal meets with CIU leadership and guests at a luncheon following his address to a CIU student assembly.

CIU News



Professor Cliff Bedell

Remembering Professor Cliff Bedell

Columbia International University President Emeritus Robertson McQuilkin once called Cliff Bedell, “a lover of students.”

Bedell, a CIU Bible professor for 36 years, was remembered at a “Celebration of Life” following his death on Feb. 24. He was 85 years old.

The Celebration was held at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia where Bedell was a member. It was attended by former students, as well as dozens of current and former CIU faculty and staff who served with Bedell at various points during his years at CIU. He retired in 2009.

Among those who eulogized Bedell were his daughter Janet Ballew who said her father “felt humbled” to be a teacher, both in the Philippines where he served as a missionary for 16 years, and at CIU.

“He felt privileged ‘To Know Him and to Make Him Known,’” Ballew said quoting CIU’s motto and noting that her father “had been laid to rest in his CIU monogrammed dress shirt.”

With his missionary zeal and gift of teaching, Bedell said in the 1979 CIU Yearbook that he praised the Lord for “the opportunity of challenging our students to

consider a ministry in communicating the Good News cross-culturally.”

Among those around campus with memories of Cliff Bedell is current CIU professor Dr. Kevin McWilliams who knew Bedell as both a student and a colleague.

“He encouraged his students in an engaging and approachable manner to think deeply, carefully, and biblically about a wide range of issues,” McWilliams said of sitting under Bedell’s teaching.

McWilliams says when he became a faculty member 15 years later, Bedell treated him from the start “as a colleague and a peer.”

“He was a practical help, a source of wisdom, and a cheerleader,” McWilliams said.

When Bedell’s death was announced on CIU’s Facebook page, dozens of former students quickly took the opportunity to remember their beloved professor. Mark Pichaj commented that one of the many things Bedell taught him was the uniqueness of Christ and His two natures:

ME: “So...Jesus is both human and divine? Does that mean He is 50% God and 50% man?”

PROF. BEDELL: “Nope. Jesus is 100% God, and 100% man.”

ME: “But...but...that’s 200%!”

PROF. BEDELL: “Jesus is a 200% kind of guy!”

At the Celebration of Life, daughter Janet Ballew also recounted that her father was not much for small talk. She said he would go along with it for a while before getting to more important matters.

“Do you know my Savior?” he would ask. ■

**“He was a practical help,
a source of wisdom, and
a cheerleader.”**

*–Dr. Kevin McWilliams
CIU Professor*

CIU News

The CIU Ambassador Choir and the Allen University Choir combine their talents at the event held in CIU's Hoke Auditorium. ▼



Celebrating Reconciliation through Theological Education

Columbia International University and Allen University in Columbia celebrated the lives of two professors who worked toward reconciliation through theological education.

The February event on the CIU campus honored Dr. William "Bill" Larkin of CIU and Dr. Gregory Grooms of Allen University. The revered professors touched countless lives in their own spheres of influence, but also worked together for the good of the Kingdom of God beyond their institutions and denominations. Larkin died in 2014 and Grooms passed away in 2015. The widows of the two professors received plaques in honor of their husbands' ministries.

Allen University is a Christian liberal arts institution under the auspices of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. CIU students and alumni who are AME Church members joined with several CIU faculty members to plan the event.

The keynote speaker was former CIU Provost Dr. Junias Venugopal, who knew and worked with both Larkin and Grooms. Today, Venugopal is provost and dean of education at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. He challenged believers to carry on the professors' legacy and desire to see the church the way Jesus sees His Church: as one family. ■

Election Year Assembly: Former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal speaks at CIU

There's little doubt about it: former Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal believes in the American dream. It's that belief that led him to endorse Florida Senator Marco Rubio in the 2016 presidential election, and that brought him to speak in an assembly at Columbia International University two days before the South Carolina Republican Presidential Primary.

Jindal described his parents' immigration to America from India, and how their desire to work hard made them successful in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

"They came halfway across the world," Jindal said of his parents. "They weren't coming to a place, they were coming to an idea. They were coming to the idea of freedom and opportunity."

In addition to a political message, Jindal also addressed the need for spiritual revival in the United States, and took time to answer questions from his audience, which ranged from immigration reform to the federal debt.

While some CIU students didn't fully agree with Jindal's political opinions, many appreciated that CIU brought in a speaker to inform students about political issues. Former Texas governor Rick Perry also visited CIU in April 2015.



CIU Alumni Couple Celebrates 101st Birthdays

Columbia International University alumni Will and Colene Norton have reached milestones that few can match. Not only has the couple been married for 76 years, they are both turned 101 years old in February.

The Nortons met at CIU (then Columbia Bible College) in 1936. After graduating from CIU and getting married in 1939, they began a long career together of taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. ■



Gov. Bobby Jindal speaking to a CIU Assembly.

Graduate student David Craft says that even though some students are uncomfortable with the introduction of politically-oriented assemblies, "It has at the very least initiated a plethora of conversation."

"Either way, this ultimately serves as an opportunity for us to sharpen one another and pour back into our nation," Craft added. ■



▲ Coach Kara Farnsworth speaks to fellow coaches at an FCA breakfast at Brookland-Cayce High School

Farnsworth Addresses FCA on the “Messiness” of Athletics and Life

Columbia International University Women’s Soccer Coach Kara Farnsworth admits to having a “messy” team. It has nothing to do with the appearance of the locker room after practice. She’s talking about athletics and life, and how God saw her and the Lady Rams through the first women’s soccer season in CIU history.

Farnsworth made the comments to dozens of high school soccer coaches at a January breakfast sponsored by a Columbia-area chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

Farnsworth encouraged the coaches to continually make themselves available to God and to allow Him to work in their weaknesses.

“We, from the outside, all look white and shiny clean because that’s what we want the world to see,” Farnsworth said. She went on to list some of the successes of CIU’s inaugural women’s soccer season: a 7-7-1 record, receiving an at-large bid to the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) National Championship, and receiving a sportsmanship award for finishing the 2015 season without any red or yellow penalty cards.

However, for all of their successes, Farnsworth revealed that the season was full of pain and messiness, including injuries, family troubles, personal trauma, and more. However, in the pain, God still worked through them.

“[This team is] messy, and I looked at them, and thought, ‘How am I supposed to lead them when I’m messy too?’” Farnsworth said. “Every day, we were in survival mode. Can we get through today? Can we get through a practice without anyone crying?”

Farnsworth encouraged her fellow coaches to bring painful life situations to God, and to allow Him to work through their weaknesses.

“We aren’t asked to be successful,” she said. “We’re asked to show up. We’re asked to bring our strengths, weaknesses, and limitations, and step out of the way to let God do the rest.” ■

Spring Musical: Little Women

CIU Players presented the classic, “Little Women” in April featuring Kyle Neal as Professor Fritz Bhaer, Emily Calder as Jo March, and Bethany Stewart as Mrs. Kirk. ■



Women’s Cross Country Team Recognized for Scholarship

The Columbia International University women’s cross country team has been recognized as a National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Scholar Team.

The average GPA for team members for the 2015 fall semester was 3.69. The minimum requirement is a 3.4 average GPA, something only 30 teams across the NCCAA membership accomplished.

Alexis Zwilling, Raena Hannink, and Karina Andreas were honored at the national championships with individual NCCAA scholar-athlete awards, reserved for juniors and seniors who meet academic and participation requirements. It was the second such award for each lady, having also won as juniors. ■



Honorary Doctorate

A CIU delegation travelled to Jacksonville, Florida in April to confer an honorary doctorate on a longtime CIU friend. Raymond A. Ross Jr. was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters in recognition of his distinguished service as a Christian business leader and philanthropist for Christian ministries. Ross and his wife Jan co-founded a large weekly home Bible study for retired business and professional leaders and their wives. They also established the Ross Family Scholarship at CIU that enables qualified students from Florida to attend CIU. ■



PRAYING *for* AMERICA



CIU Students Join Franklin Graham in Praying for America

By Melissa McCutchan, CIU Student Writer

A little louder now, so we can hear it!" CIU student body president and junior Drew Lindman called out in a crowded church meeting room in downtown Columbia. "God is good ..."

"All the time!" responded his audience of over 100 CIU students, faculty, and staff.

That's how an off-campus CIU Prayer Day began on Feb. 9 designed to coincide with the South Carolina stop of the Decision America Tour with evangelist Franklin Graham, a statewide rally that called people to pray, vote, and engage in the political process.

Prayer days are celebrated throughout the school year as classes are cancelled to concentrate on CIU's core value of Prayer & Faith. A CIU student-led prayer group organized and facilitated the day that began with a time of corporate prayer at First Presbyterian Church featuring Scripture reading, individual and small group prayer, worship, and — affirmation that God is good all the time.

After the morning prayer time, CIU students braved 40 degree temperatures and 30 mile per

hour winds as they broke into groups to prayer walk from three different directions to the statehouse. There they met over 7,000 other people to join Franklin Graham leading South Carolinians in prayer for the United States.

"We're here today because we see that our nation is in trouble," said Graham, the son of evangelist Billy Graham. "It's in serious trouble. We're in trouble spiritually. We're in trouble racially, economically. We're in trouble politically. And no political party is going to be able to turn this system around."

Graham called on his listeners to confess the sins of the United States, and to confess their individual sins. He shared the gospel, and allowed people a time to ask Jesus Christ to come into their hearts. And finally, he called his listeners to engage in the political process.

"I believe God honors leaders in high places who honor Him," he said. "We need today men and women who will honor God in public office."

Emily Nichols, Kelsie Puttbach, Rachel Hust and Katie Perry at the South Carolina Statehouse



▲ *Marissa Martinez (left) and Alicia Heatherly in prayer for the nation.*



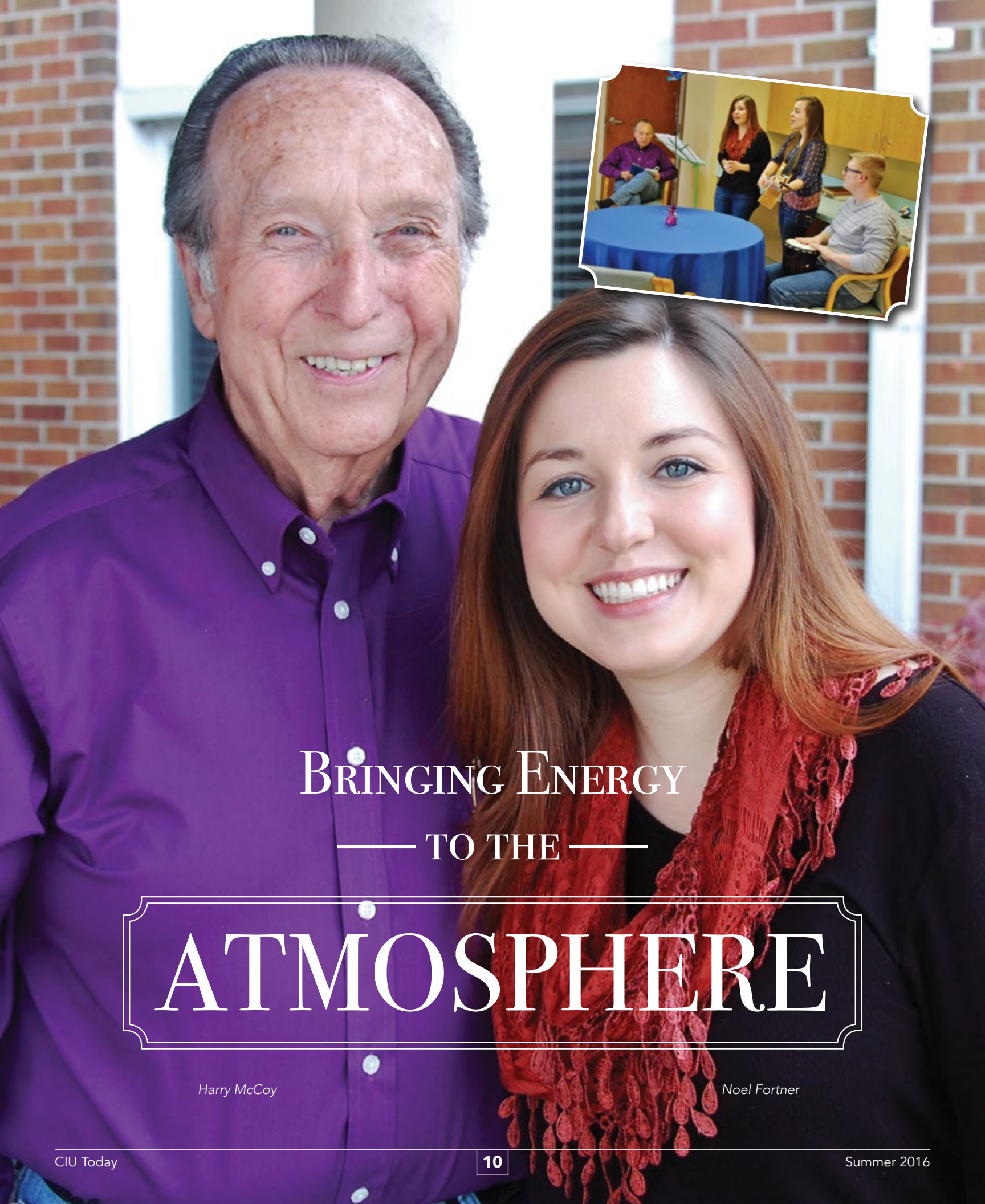
◀ *Student James Leschied meditates on the Word prior to the rally.*

CIU students appreciated a day to focus on God, and consider their role in the political process.

"[Our] prayer group got involved with planning the prayer day after the news of the prayer rally caused excitement in the group!" said Lindman, the student body president. "The chance to pray corporately as a city was something that we could not pass up. To hear the gospel preached on public property and to confess our sins as individuals, a city, and a nation was incredible!"

Sophomore Rachel Joung was moved by the events of the day.

"This prayer day showed me the beauty of unity within the body of believers, and I was reminded of the responsibility that Christians have to shine as lights within the community." ■



BRINGING ENERGY
— TO THE —

ATMOSPHERE

Harry McCoy

Noel Fortner

CIU Student Initiates Nursing Home Ministry

By Melissa McCutchan, CIU Student Writer

It's a quiet Wednesday afternoon in March when sophomore Caroline Crabtree picks at her guitar, finding the tune for Louisa Stead's "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus." As Crabtree starts to strum, others join with her in singing the beloved hymn. This is a common activity for Columbia International University students — except this time those joining in the singing are decades older than the students. They are 10 nursing home residents.

Some residents sing softly from their wheelchairs; others close their eyes and listen. This is their chance for weekly worship and fellowship, both with other residents and with CIU students.

CIU students have been volunteering in nursing homes around Columbia since 2013, when during her sophomore year, Noël Fortner felt the Lord moving her to minister to the elderly.

"Going into sophomore year, I felt led to start ministering in nursing homes," Fortner said. "I had no idea how it would work with my schedule or where I would serve, but I liked the idea of starting something [for CIU students]. Then in the beginning of sophomore year, God very clearly shut the door of the other ministry I was involved with. Right away I knew that I was meant to do nursing home ministry instead."

Fortner made a connection with Harry McCoy, who hosts weekly services for nursing home residents who can't leave the nursing home to go to church. McCoy had been praying for extra help for two years when Fortner contacted him.

"We met for coffee, he took me around to the different nursing homes, and the rest is history," Fortner said.

McCoy began this ministry in 1997 under the umbrella of North Trenholm Baptist Church in Columbia. He preaches at the services — sometimes as many as seven per week — and coordinates with Fortner to recruit and organize CIU volunteers.

"IT ALSO SEEMS THAT HAVING YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND BRINGS A LOT OF JOY AND ENERGY TO THE ATMOSPHERE, AND THAT MAY BE OUR BIGGEST CONTRIBUTION TO THE WHOLE ENDEAVOR." —NOËL FORTNER

"I find that the residents are in the autumn of their life's journey here on Earth," McCoy said in a letter about his ministry. "To be able to come and worship in a simple, meaningful, non-threatening gathering is very important to their continued walk with Christ."

With this vision in mind, Fortner began to attend services, where she occasionally led worship. She also started recruiting other student volunteers. She admits that this was a slow process, but the ministry is now thriving at CIU. About a dozen CIU students volunteer at the six weekly services, each of which happen at different nursing homes. Students lead worship, pray, build friendships with residents, and occasionally preach.

"Over time, we have built up trust and rapport with the residents," Fortner said. "They know that we love Jesus and we care about them. I think it encourages them to see that not all kids these days are punks — they really like us and treat us like grandchildren."

The student volunteers are in agreement: the relationships with residents make it all worth it.

"The community of believers (at the nursing homes) is so good about supporting each other and taking care of each other's needs," said Crabtree, the guitar player. "Going every week and getting the chance to pray with them and talk about their kids, grandkids, and life experiences is so refreshing for me and the rest of the CIU students that volunteer."

For many of the nursing home residents, these meetings are a vital part of their spiritual lives.

"Residents have commented on how much they love the authentic spiritual atmosphere of our services," Fortner said. "It is church for them and there is real fellowship taking place. It also seems that having young people around brings a lot of joy and energy to the atmosphere, and that may be our biggest contribution to the whole endeavor."

As a senior, one of Fortner's priorities was to pass on her ministry to younger students. She has a team of student leaders in place for next year, and she hopes that the nursing home ministry will continue for years to come.

"I am so grateful that God somehow blessed our ministry with some of the best student leaders at CIU, and that they are a true group of friends who work fantastically as a team," she said.

For CIU students, this ministry is not glamorous, but it is rewarding. Students find that they can come in to lead worship or pray with residents, and leave with a new friend or two.

It's a quiet Wednesday as sophomore Allison Wiiki prays over the various requests nursing home residents have shared. McCoy encourages residents to take heart, because soon Christ will make all things new. This truth certainly resonates with elderly residents; and until God calls them home, they will continue to worship alongside their friends from CIU. ■

Editor's note: After graduation in April, Noël Fortner landed a full-time position as an activities assistant at The Crossings in Columbia, an assisted living facility.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE LEARNING (CSL) FACTS

80 Hours students are required to volunteer at a local church or in the community before graduation.

10,000 Hours students volunteered in churches and in the community during 2014-15.

300 Hours students volunteered in nursing home/hospital ministry.

Top CSL Ministries

- Youth Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Church Ministry

Correctional Institutions

CIU Campus



Earning a Degree on Both Sides of the River

CIU Prison Initiative Graduate Now Studying on the Main Campus

By Bob Holmes

While a student in the **CIU Prison Initiative Jerry Chambers** kept a journal.

Sept. 27, 2009. This has been a blessed day for me. ... I have been studying for my (Psychology) exam on Monday all weekend. Therefore I am believing God will help me with this test. Amen. I thank God for the opportunity to go to college. What a blessing it will be on graduation day for my family to see me walk the floor and receive my degree.



It was indeed a blessed day when Chambers received his Associate of Arts degree at the 2010 Prison Initiative commencement. The ceremonies were held behind the walls of the Kirkland Correctional Institution just across the Broad River from CIU's main campus. And while the majority of graduates from the program continue on in ministry as chaplain's assistants throughout the South Carolina correctional system, God had different plans for Chambers.

These days, at age 38, he is a student on the CIU main campus working on a bachelor's degree in Psychology while he serves as associate minister at Temple Zion Baptist Church one mile from the CIU campus.

“Street Life”

Chambers says he was saved as an 11-year-old at what he called “a fire and brimstone revival.”

“I didn’t want to go to hell,” Chambers says bluntly.

But by the age of 13 he was involved in “street life,” selling drugs and drinking alcohol.

“I prayed a prayer in ‘94 to the Lord that when it was time for me to come back over to serve Him, and really serve Him, let me know,” Chambers recalls. “I didn’t believe in half-hearted.”

That prayer came after Chambers, as a 16-year-old, was convicted of murder in a shooting incident during a dispute over drugs.

“I believed that through this incident God wanted me to serve Him.”

A Call to Ministry while in Prison

Chambers received a 20 year life sentence and was content to serve God behind bars, especially after God impressed on him in 1997 a calling to preach and teach.

“And He told me to not worry about getting out (of prison), but be prepared when the time comes, (and to) look at prison as a training ground,” Chambers said.

Chambers would go on to establish a church inside one prison where there was no chaplain and also served seriously ill inmates who were under hospice care.

Having earned a GED in prison, Chambers later heard about the CIU Prison Initiative, and was encouraged to apply by a prison chaplain who said he needed formal ministry training. He was accepted on his second application.

“CIU was really challenging,” Chambers admits. “It was no cake walk.”

After earning his Prison Initiative degree, Chamber’s first chance to get out of prison was through a hearing with the

“(God) told me to not worry about getting out (of prison), but be prepared when the time comes, (and to) look at prison as a training ground.” –Jerry Chambers

parole board after the first 20 years of his sentence. He created a “parole package” explaining the various prison programs he had been involved in, as well as a five-year plan for after his release.

“I explained what my desire was and that my life was in their hands.”

The Parole Board set Chambers free in 2014. His ministry, and his education was to continue outside the walls.



Outside the Walls Again

Taking life outside prison slowly, Chambers lived in a transition house in Greenville, South Carolina before moving in with an aunt in Columbia and working in a convenience store. He began attending Temple Zion Baptist Church where the director of the CIU Prison Initiative, The Rev. Andre Melvin is pastor. By January of 2015, Chambers was hired as the church’s associate minister, which includes overseeing the church’s community outreach, The Nehemiah Project.

Melvin says Chambers’ leadership behind the prison walls is carrying over to his work at the church.

“I saw how God used him to organize ministry at the institution where he was serving, so he’s strong in leadership and has administrative ability,” Melvin said.

Additionally, Chambers is assisting

Melvin in developing a program for the 14 Prison Initiative alumni who have been released from prison, that will help them adjust to their new freedom.

Back to School

In fall 2015, Chambers enrolled once again at CIU to begin his bachelor’s degree in Psychology with a long-term goal of a master’s degree. He wants to be a licensed counselor specializing in marriage and family, and addictions.

“I realize that people need help,” Chambers said. “With my background of being in the streets, I understand a lot of the brokenness. I want to be equipped to help individuals as well as families.”

That attitude encourages Dr. Steve Farra, director of the CIU Psychology program. Farra has taught Chambers on both sides of the river.

“To think that someone in a maximum security prison could within a few years of having me in a Psychology course at the prison, then become a full-time student of mine on this side of the river is wonderful,” Farra said. “Jerry was a good student there, and he’s a good student here, with a very clear focus on his future ministries, using the skills we are helping him to develop.”

As Chambers is careful to balance ministry responsibilities and school at this point, he is looking forward to another CIU graduation ceremony, this time walking across the stage of Shortess Chapel.

“Since 2009 I have been waiting for the time to come,” Chambers said. “My family will be rejoicing to see me walk, understanding where God has brought me from. I can say that I continue to trust the Lord to complete the work which He has begun in me. Walking across the stage will bring hope and encouragement to many.” ■



CIU Cross Country Ministers Cross-Culturally (in the USA)

Runner Reflects on Spring Break Missions Trip

By Erica Williamson

Sometimes cross-cultural ministry is as close as your local inner city. The week of spring break when my cross country team ministered in inner city Detroit, I was challenged with some penetrating questions: Is my life focused around the gospel? Do I care more about serving God than making my life all about me?

My main impression of the trip was the power of the gospel in the lives of people that I observed. When our team visited an inner city school, I saw the power of the gospel at work in the teachers who sacrificed time, energy, and a better salary by choosing to work with children from one of the poorest and

most blighted neighborhoods in Detroit. When a drunk man stumbled into a church to get his dinner, I saw the gospel displayed in the life of the pastor who treated him like a good friend. When we shared the gospel at a local university, I saw the gospel's power in a Christian staff member who battled depression, yet trusted the Lord's goodness as she faithfully ministered to students. These individual's love for God motivated their love for people.

A man who spoke to our team about God's heart for the poor expressed the need for Christians to purposefully move into the inner city with the gospel. Honestly, the thought of living in a

dangerous, rundown, loud, and trashy neighborhood did not sound alluring. It struck me that that mission work involves sacrificing our own desires. The people who minister in Detroit clearly understand this. As God taught me to get my eyes off of myself, it freed me to love others. The opportunity to apply this lesson came right away. At an after-school program I met a little girl who was the rowdiest, loudest, and worst behaved girl of her age group. Like so many children, she craved attention. When I showed just a hint of interest in her life, she wanted to show me all her cheerleading moves, play catch with me, and tell me about herself. I saw the need for others-centered love again when

I learned that many of these children come from homes that are so unstable that they begged to stay at school at the end of the day.

Thinking about everything God taught me in Detroit, I have to ask myself if I am only interested in ministry that is glamorously risky, exciting, or with people that I naturally love. Sometimes I assume that mission work is more of an exotic adventure than sacrificial service. Although serving God is fulfilling, the personal implications of missions work is sobering. God showed me that my heart needs to be transformed by gospel truth for my priorities to fall in line. This means that if I get my satisfaction from people's approval, I will always want to make ministry big and showy, waiting for applause. However, if I find my satisfaction from Christ's love for me, I will be faithful to do the little things that go unnoticed.

If I think that I am entitled to a life that is catered to my wants and

needs, I will burn out when ministry gets hard. However, if I recognize that all I have is a result of God's grace, ministry will be more of a joy. If I only befriend people that I naturally like, I will selfishly neglect many of the people that Jesus loves and for whom He died. However, if I understand that Jesus loved me despite my complete unworthiness, I will love others out of that supernatural, unconditional love that He gave to me.

I was encouraged to see the hope that is blossoming in one of the most struggling cities in the nation, and how God is working through His children there. It is

my prayer that more of us will selflessly take up our crosses and follow Him as they do. ■

Erica Williamson is a sophomore from St. Cloud, Minnesota majoring in Teacher Education. Her career goal is to be a missionary or a teacher.

"Sometimes I assume that mission work is more of an exotic adventure than sacrificial service."



▲ Victor Jimenez and Erica Williamson serve food to the needy and the homeless at a Detroit church.



The cross country team made an attempt to stay in shape even in the Detroit conditions.



Fountain of Life

Juan Tomas Public School

Fountain of Life School

Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic

Juan Tomas, D.R.

**Spring
break**
take a trip,
earn credits.

Columbia International University students turned their March spring break into opportunities for hands-on experience and an up-close look at their career fields with trips to the Dominican Republic and Orlando, Florida. At the same time, students earned three class credits for the trips.

Students who visited the Dominican Republic were able to hone teaching skills in an international setting, while the trip to Orlando was more than an introduction to Mickey Mouse. There, students experienced the integration of various aspects of creativity utilized by Disney, as well as various ministries and media organizations based in Central Florida.

CIU Today asked a student on each trip to journal their thoughts and share their insights.



Dominican Republic

ABHE Headquarters



Dominican Republic



World Headquarters



Epcot, Disney World



Youth with a Mission

dominican republic



Serving God where He calls you
The thoughts of Caitlyn Thompson

After teaching at an international school in Indonesia for four years, Caitlyn Thompson enrolled at CIU to pursue a Master of Education degree in Instruction and Learning. She hopes to return overseas to teach again in the next few years.

central florida



Learning to Creatively Communicate

The thoughts of Devin Ruiz

CIU junior Devin Ruiz is a Columbia area native majoring in Communication with a minor in English. He is a learner who loves expressing myself with the written word, just waiting for God to use his skills in the future.

📍 dominican republic

The thoughts of Caitlyn Thompson



Teacher Education student Christy Lee at Logos Christian School.

“One of the most meaningful lessons that I learned on this trip is how much joy and peace comes from serving God where He calls you regardless of circumstances or location.”

days 6-7:

Logos Christian School, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Our next school was a larger Christian school that partners with Christian parents to train children to love and serve God. The teachers welcomed us into their classes; our team members taught English multiple times throughout our two days at Logos, covering topics such as the Easter story, household objects, geography, governments, and British literature. We were impressed by their commitment to biblical integration and strong academics. The staff at Logos is committed to influencing the next generation for service to Christ!

days 1-5:

Fountain of Life School, Juan Tomas, Dominican Republic

We began our trip at a small Christian school in a rural village on the outskirts of Santo Domingo. The staff works to serve their community by sharing the hope of Christ through Christian education, church services, and medical clinics hosted throughout the year. Our team of 10 CIU students had planned and prepared a variety of English lessons, but we weren't quite sure what it would look like when we arrived. The first night, our host, Argenis, told us that we would have the opportunity to teach in the local public school as well as at Fountain of Life. He challenged us to share Christ with everyone during our time in Dominican Republic! We were able to teach English classes, lead worship, speak in chapel, share in Bible classes, and help with Sunday school. God opened doors that we didn't even know were possible while we were in Juan Tomas!

days 8-9:

King's Christian School, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

The final school we visited was a large Christian school in Santo Domingo. Shortly after arriving, we were told that they had rearranged their chapel schedule so that we could address their middle and high school students — something for which we had not prepared! God's grace and provision were clear, though, as four team members shared short, personal messages that flowed seamlessly together in a way that only God could have orchestrated. We were also able to share the story of the Good Samaritan

in skit form for the elementary students. While we were at King's, a team from an international Christian school in Santiago came and shared about their school. We were so privileged to see the many different ways God is using Christian education to work among the people of the Dominican Republic. Each school was significantly different; one consistent feature at each school, though, was a staff made up of dedicated believers serving God to reach their community with the message of Jesus Christ!

One of the most meaningful lessons that I learned on this trip is how much joy and peace comes from serving God where He calls you regardless of circumstances or location. The teachers at each school we visited could have been working in higher-paying careers. Many had left jobs in law, architecture, and accounting because they felt that God had called them to teach. Despite the seeming disadvantages of their choice, each teacher exuded joy and contentment as they spoke of their confidence in being where God wanted them. They were willing to make sacrifices because they knew their work was making an eternal impact. I was challenged and encouraged to remember God's faithfulness to those who obey what He calls them to do! ■



Florida: Meeting CIU alumnus Steve Richardson (front, white shirt), the director of the missions agency Pioneers-USA

central florida

The thoughts of Devin Ruiz

entering disney:

As our bus rolled under the Welcome to Disney World gate, we realized that we were taking a ride through Walt Disney's personal dreamscape. Wheeling our way to our hotel, we could see the tallest attractions in the distance making all 15 of us giddy with excitement. It began to dawn on us that we were being put under an enchanting spell of magical inspiration and ingenious storytelling. We were little kids again, only with an important task; to get a peek into what our futures may look like.

advice and a saint:

Our first tour in Central Florida was at multimedia advertising agency GoConvergence where we met creative directors, artists, writers, and engineers. The company provides a strong focus on story and universal experience with each of their clients. Before we left, we were stopped by Gary Turchin, the president of the company, who gave us some insightful and heartfelt advice for our future, "Be Hungry." He was telling us that it is important to be ambitious in what we do; that we have to be hungry for it. Thank you, Gary.

We then visited missions agency I-TEC (Indigenous People's Technology and Education Center) which develops tools, technology and training systems for indigenous Christ-followers to reach their own people with the gospel of Christ. There we had the privilege of meeting I-TEC founder Steve Saint, the son of famous martyred missionary Nate Saint.

"We were little kids again, only with an important task; to get a peek into what our futures may look like."

the para-church tour:

On the third day of our trip we visited four para-church organizations. The first stop was Pioneers-USA, where we met director Steve Richardson, a CIU alumnus. Pioneers includes writers, editors, and filmmakers whose goal is to send out church planting teams that utilize storytelling to communicate the gospel.

We then dropped by the Association for Biblical Higher Educations (ABHE), an agency that provides accreditation to Christian institutions of higher education, including CIU. It is led by another CIU alumnus, Dr. Ralph Enlow. We were treated to an inside look their communications initiatives, including planning sessions, conference presentations, and workshops.

Wycliffe Bible Translators was our next stop where we toured their world museum of cultures.

Lastly we visited the discipleship training school of Youth with a Mission (YWAM). This 185 acre campus trains 300 students each year. Surrounded by acres of trees, hills and a vast lake, the school has a very unique vibe to it, with a heavy emphasis on training to live in a developing country.

backstage disney:

On the fourth day, we took a seven-hour tour of all four parks inside Disney World and ventured into places not seen by the tourists. This included Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Animal Kingdom, and Hollywood Studios. We ducked into the underground tunnel system that runs the length of the Magic Kingdom. At Epcot we went behind the scenes (literally) of the American Adventure show complete with elevating set pieces

and an animatronic Mark Twain and Benjamin Franklin. At Animal Kingdom, we were treated to the botanical garden character creations, and finally at Hollywood Studios we got an inside look at the designer workplace where we witnessed firsthand the creation of such costumes as Snow White, Minnie Mouse, and Spider-Man. We experienced the backstage chaos that includes many actors, engineers and designers that appears as pristine order to the Disney guests.

meeting the cru crew:

The last agency we visited was Cru, formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ. Famous for the Jesus Film Project, we learned how skilled communicators use the medium of film to spread the Good News around the world. We also toured writer's offices and sound booths, and met the staff that publishes the ministry's monthly magazine, Worldwide Challenge. We spoke with one of their journalists, the main photographer, and a video specialist. It was a perfect way to end our weeklong intensive study. It provided us with a look at how we could contribute to God's Great Commission through our communications skills.

leaving disney:

As we left Disney World behind, slowly transitioning back into the "real world," it was a perfect time for us to reflect on everything that we had seen over the course of our week. Visiting so many different missions agencies, ad agencies, and Disney World provided us with an experience none of us are likely to ever forget. Although each of the tours we experienced varied in many ways, there was one link to each of them: story. Story is everything. Everyone who spoke with us during the week revealed its importance. Stories are universal. This is a concept that God utilizes. He too uses narrative to push forth His plan. At the end of the day, as a student of the Communication program, I can say that my biggest take away from the entire experience was this: if you tell a story well, if you engage an emotion or a pathos, then you will always gain fruit. ■

ACADEMICS

Held in Honor – Wisdom for Your Marriage from Voices of the Past



▲ *Dr. Matthew Haste and his wife Cheyenne*

Columbia International University professor Dr. Matthew Haste points us to the early church fathers and contemporary authors who have written about the honorable nature of marriage and its importance to the culture. Haste is the co-author of the book, “Held in Honor – Wisdom for Your Marriage from Voices of the Past,” published by Christian Focus.

Haste, associate professor of Ministry Studies in CIU Seminary & School of Ministry, co-authored the book with Robert L. Plummer, professor

of New Testament Interpretation at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

CIU Today asked Haste about his book in this Q&A exchange:

What prompted you to write this book?

Rob Plummer recognized the value of surrounding one’s marriage with a cloud of witnesses that could testify to the struggles, joys, and complexities of married life. I was immediately drawn to the project because I enjoy searching the depths of church history to apply wisdom to contemporary issues and because marriage had been a focus of both my academic studies and my pastoral ministry.

How does wisdom on marriage dispensed by the early church fathers differ significantly from that of more contemporary church leaders?

Perhaps the most obvious is their position on divorce. Few of the church fathers or any Christian theologian prior to the Reformation recognized any lawful grounds for divorce. In the contemporary scene, this is now a minority position.

In addition, many theologians in the late Patristic period and throughout the Middle Ages tended to value celibacy over marriage. As a result, when you read through the sources, it can sound as if celibacy was the true path to faithfulness, whereas marriage was second-best. Not all of them intended a sharp distinction but that notion often comes through in the texts

they left behind. In many cases, we almost do the opposite in today’s church. Some of us may be guilty of focusing on the value of healthy families and God-honoring marriages to the point of alienating our single brothers and sisters.

Did anything surprise you in your research and writing?

The biggest surprise was probably the amount of material I uncovered that directly addressed marriage in so many different ways. In the book, we have snippets of sermons, poems, doctrinal writings, and private correspondence. The breadth of the material reminded me just how significant marriage is to the human experience.

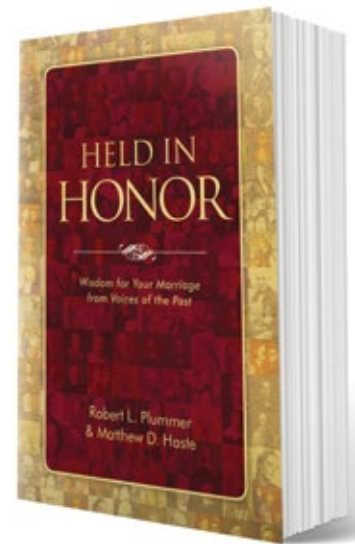
What is one of your favorite quotes in the book?

I really like the quote from G.K. Chesterton. It is both clever and true:

“To put the matter in one metaphor, the sexes are two stubborn pieces of iron; if they are to be welded together, it must be while they are red-hot. Every woman has to find out that her husband is a selfish beast, because every man is a selfish beast by the standard of a woman. But let her find out the beast while they are both still in the story of “Beauty and the Beast.” Every man has to find out that his wife is cross—that is to say, sensitive to the point of madness; for every woman is mad by the masculine standard. But let him find out that she is mad while her madness is more worth considering than anyone else’s sanity.”

What impact did the research and writing of this book have on your own marriage?

One can never think too often about the gravity that God gives to marriage when he calls it a picture of Christ and the church. Seeing that image affirmed over and over throughout the history of the church provided a regular reminder to me that the way I treat my wife says as much about God (accurately or otherwise) as it does about me. We do not live our life together in seclusion. Rather, a watching world is observing us and taking notes. That is enough to cause me to cry out for God’s help each day and that is surely good for me. ■





South Carolina Business Leader to Direct CIU Business Program

A Lexington, South Carolina businessman and attorney has been named the new director of the Business & Organizational Leadership program at Columbia International University.

Dr. Scott R. Adams has nearly three decades of experience in law and business management for major corporations including Dow Corning Corporation, Insignia Financial Group, Inc., Prysmian Group North America and most recently with TriolP Group, Inc. in Lexington.

Adams earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) degree from Brooklyn Law School in New York City and a bachelor's degree in Public Administration and Allied Legal Services (double major) from University of Central Florida in Orlando, the area where he grew up.

Adams has been very involved in community affairs in the Midlands of South Carolina, serving in key leadership positions with several civic organizations. He has also garnered several honors, including "South Carolina Ambassador for Economic Development" awarded by Gov. Nikki Haley and State Commerce Secretary Bobby Hitt in 2012. ■

CIU Counseling Program Strengthened with National Accreditation

Graduate students studying Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Columbia International University are now enrolled in a program that carries "the gold standard" in accreditation for their profession.

In February, Dr. John Harvey, dean of the program received word from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) that CIU's Clinical Counseling program meets their criteria for accreditation, the culmination of seven years of rigorous work by the professors and staff of the program.

"Increasingly, state licensing agencies are looking for counselors who are graduates of a CACREP-accredited program," Harvey said. "CACREP has become the 'gold standard' for students pursuing licensure."

CIU is one of only three higher education institutions in South Carolina offering a CACREP-accredited master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, as well as the only Christian higher education institution in the state to do so. Only a limited number of evangelical universities in the nation have the CACREP seal of approval, making CIU attractive to counseling students seeking a program based on a biblical worldview.

"Students are looking for Clinical Counseling, a biblical worldview, and CACREP accreditation," Harvey said. "We are now at the intersection of all three." ■



CIU Adds Undergraduate Philosophy Major, Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies

Two new programs will be offered in the 2016-2017 school year at Columbia International University.

A bachelor's degree in Philosophy has been added to the list of majors for undergraduate students while a Doctor of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies is now available at the graduate level.

The Philosophy major offers students a pre-law track, a pre-seminary track or preparation for graduate school, providing a foundation for careers ranging from law to ministry to business.

Meanwhile, the Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies prepares students to produce research in areas such as history and theology of mission, cultural anthropology, mission strategy, and Islamic Studies. The program is available in three-year and five-year formats.

Dr. Ed Smither, dean of the College of Intercultural Studies says the program is modeled after the European Ph.D. and can be pursued from anywhere in the world.

"It's a research degree without classes that focuses on a 100,000 word dissertation under the supervision of a qualified specialist," Smither said. "Instead of having students come to Columbia, we can take the Ph.D. to them on the field where they can do meaningful research in their own context." ■

ATHLETICS

Coaching to Biblical Manhood

Assistant basketball coach shepherding the "flock"
By Bob Holmes

Danny Reese wants the young men entrusted to him to walk in biblical manhood. That's a high calling for an assistant basketball coach. But Reese says he's more than a coach – he's a disciple maker for Jesus.

To Rams basketball fans, Reese is the guy with the clipboard on the Rams bench logging stats and leaning toward Head Coach Marshall Teague to offer advice. But to the players, he has been an available mentor, friend – and fellow classmate. At age 39, Reese crossed the stage of Shortess Chapel in April earning a bachelor's degree in Bible, ready to continue his ministry to young men.

"I'm concerned about how they're living their life and seeing how they grow in their devotion to Christ," Reese said.

Devotion to Christ was not Reese's priority when he was the age of those he is coaching and mentoring today. Reese grew up in the Columbia area playing basketball for Brookland-Cayce High School. But he said he made some "terrible choices" and was incarcerated for a time in the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. Still, he finished high school on time, and would go on to play college basketball at Wabash Valley Junior College in Illinois and Northeastern State University in Oklahoma.

It was at Northeastern State that he had a Christian teammate who "showered him with love."

"He would always pray with me, he was pouring the Word of God into me every chance he got," Reese recalls with a fondness in his voice. "God reminds me of all these people He would bring into my life.

"(But) all this time I was not in an abiding relationship with Christ," Reese continued. "I would call on Him whenever I had a need. But I was still wanting what I wanted in my life."

After his years at Northeastern State, his life took another spiral downward as he went through a period of depression, drug dealing and what he called "street life" that landed him in the county jail.

"I always fell short. I had no purpose of living. My life was identified by the game of basketball."

Danny Reese ▶
(right) offers
advice to CIU
Ram Ryan
Favor during
practice.



His sentence for the drug dealing was 12 years suspended with five years of probation – if he entered a Christian-oriented program called "U-Turn for Christ" hosted by Calvary Chapel in Lexington, South Carolina.

**"Coaching
is a part of
mentoring. It's
like shepherding.
Tending to your
flock."
–Danny Reese**

Reese made the U-Turn. The program taught him a disciplined, biblical life, and he grew in a relationship with Christ.

"I had enough of me," Reese said.

Reese found full-time employment and after a couple of years in the marketplace, he responded to what he describes as a "calling" to come to CIU as a student and basketball coach.

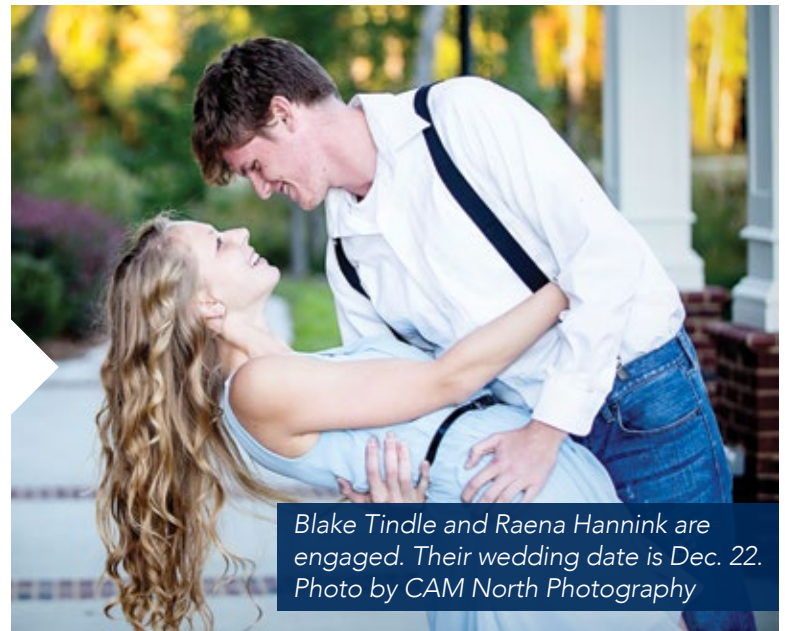
"My steps were ordered to be here."

Reese plans to continue on as a Rams assistant coach next season, helping to establish what he calls "a championship culture for Christ" in the young basketball program.

"(God) has given me the opportunity to impact young men," Reese explains. "Coaching is a part of mentoring. It's like shepherding. Tending to your flock. It's pointing them to the Word of God with Christ as our model." ■

Reese received his ▶
bachelor's degree
in Bible at April's
commencement.





Blake Tindle and Raena Hannink are engaged. Their wedding date is Dec. 22. Photo by CAM North Photography

Running Hard for the Lord

Couple makes CIU athletics history

As freshmen, Blake Tindle and Raena Hannink were at the "starting line" when cross country was introduced as one of the first intercollegiate sports at Columbia International University in 2012. Four years later the two reflect on their experience in the following exchange with CIU Today.

How does it feel to have "set the pace" for CIU cross country over the last four years?

Blake: It is an amazing feeling and an honor to have had the privilege to wear the uniform of CIU, to have had the opportunity to compete for the name of this school on courses all over the East Coast. It is humbling to think that we built this program and wherever it may go from here it started with us.

Raena: Being a four-year cross country athlete is the hardest and most rewarding thing I have ever done. It has not been easy to start a new program. I am so excited to see where the program will go next!

What is a memorable moment in your CIU cross country career?

Blake: In my junior year, we qualified for Nationals as a team. My goal that year had been to qualify with an individual time, but I had fallen short in the regular season. On race day at Houghton College in New York, it was 19 degrees with a winter weather advisory. The five-mile race was amazing for me because I went out faster than I had ever had before and was passing people for the first two miles. In the third mile, I was told that I was on pace to hit a personal record. I sped up the last two miles, and in the last 800 meter straightaway, huge wind gusts blew snow in my face, and white-out snow conditions blurred my surroundings – except for the finish line and the time clock. It showed 29:19 as I crossed the finish line, a personal best.

Raena: The most memorable moment was our Regional race at Southern Wesleyan this past season. It was my goal to race well enough to be an All-Region athlete, which means you finish in the top 15 for your region. During the race, Coach Jud Brooker would yelled out who I needed to pass at each point to move up the ranks. Instead of giving in to my fatigue, I remember trusting Coach, pushing through, and passing the right number of girls when he would tell me to. In the last 300 meters, Coach yelled out that I needed to pass three more girls to be All-Region. I was so exhausted, but as I looked ahead, the third girl in front of me was a runner who I had been trying to beat the previous season. With new motivation, I raced ahead to the finish, passed her in the last 10 feet of the race, and collapsed into the arms of my teammate Alexis Zwilling.

What has God taught you through your cross country experience?

Blake: Running is such a demanding sport, but it is a sport that is so relatable to life. This sport has taught me the skills of hard work, determination and the will to never give up and to push through anything that is placed before me. In addition, it has augmented my prayer life. When I would get to the back side of a course and there was no one there to yell encouragements or tell me how I was doing, the only thing I could do was turn to God and ask for help to make it through. When I feel like there is nothing in me left to give, I have seen that God will help me make it through, and I will hold on to that the rest of my life.

Raena: God has taught me over and over again about His faithfulness. He is the only one able to sustain me and give me strength and a purpose. He reminded me of His goodness with stunning sunrises to enjoy during our countless 6 a.m. practices. He taught me about strength and endurance through Him every time I wanted to give up on a workout or a race, usually by giving me a teammate or coach to help me through the hard times. He reminded me that He is capable of providing for me and pulling me through every time I collapsed during or after a run. He has shown me again and again that if I rely on Him to sustain me through my cross country training, I can then rely on Him to sustain me in all other parts of my life. ■

CAMPUS LIFE



◀ David Blanchard meets with RAs.

Welcome to your new "House"

Residence Life house system to encourage spiritual growth
By Melissa McCutchan, CIU Student Writer

"What are you leading your students toward?" For Director of Residence Life David Blanchard, this is a favorite question to ask his Residence Life staff. It's important to him that his staff of 26 upperclassmen has a driving vision to guide their ministry on CIU's residence halls.

It's this same desire for a forward-moving vision that led Blanchard, a 2009 CIU alumnus, to begin the Residence Life Strategic Initiative (RLSI), a new structure for CIU's residence halls that will begin with the 2016-2017 academic year.

In recent years, new CIU students lived together in one building, alongside a team of upperclassmen known as the Freshman Leadership Team (FLT). Each hall had two upperclassmen known as Freshman Community Coordinators (FCC) and one Resident Assistant (RA). For most freshmen, the hall was a vital part of a first-year university experience. Hall mates laughed together, prayed together, and went on late-night ice cream runs together. However, hall mates were often split up when they moved to upperclassmen halls the following year, and often the community on upperclassman halls wasn't as deep or intentional as it was on freshman halls.

"The way this started was looking at what needs to be adjusted from what we do now," Blanchard said. "Part of that was looking at the current freshman halls and figuring out, can we maximize that? Can we keep all the best parts of the freshman experience, because that's been a really positive thing, but

also address the 'sophomore slump' and the rest of what's happening on campus?"

Under the new system, freshmen will live with upperclassmen in a "house," associated with CIU's six existing residence halls. Commuter students and students living in Pine View Apartments will also be assigned to a house. Each house will be named for a virtue, have its own crest, Bible verse, and traditions. Students will have the option of being associated with the same House all four years at CIU.

"My hope is that by freshmen living alongside upperclassmen, there will be a trickle-down effect where some of the upperclassmen can set the tone for the freshmen, what it looks like to be at CIU," Blanchard said. "In order to make all that work, we wanted to build in this cultural component that would create some tradition for each house."

While traditions take time to build, Blanchard already has a few ideas; for example, fun competitions between houses and social events within the houses. The goal in all of this is spiritual development. He says that when students build positive relationships with one another through fun times, they'll be more likely to open up to one another about their spiritual lives.

"I really believe that education is more than just head knowledge or job skills," Blanchard said. "That's something really unique at CIU. There is this intentionality in developing the entire person."

“I really believe that education is more than just head knowledge or job skills. That’s something really unique at CIU. There is this intentionality in developing the entire person.”

–David Blanchard, Director of Residence Life

Many current students are optimistic about the new initiative. In fact, many of them were involved in developing it.

“I’ve tried to invite input,” Blanchard said. “We did a Q&A after we introduced [this system], and we set up several student focus groups. [We’ve had an] overwhelmingly positive response. I think a lot of students are really excited, which is great.”

The new system will involve some big changes for the Residence Life staff. The primary change will be the role of the FCC. They will have the new title of CLC — Campus Life Coordinator. Like FCCs, they’ll plan freshman chapels and events, but their primary job will be connecting freshmen with older students, especially those living in their house.

Sophomore McKenzie Sutton will serve as a CLC next year because she wants to assist the younger students, and she wants her college experience to be about more than the academics.

“I want to grow personally and be able to better love people after I leave CIU,” Sutton said. “I think that being a CLC will

help grow me in the areas I really need to grow in.”

Junior Rachel Joung, who will be an RA next year, is looking forward to being part of the new system, and help her housemates’ grow spiritually.

“I think this new system will encourage us to be more invested into relationships with the people we live with on the hall and in the house,” Joung said.

Meanwhile, Blanchard would like to assure alumni that this is a new way of approaching what’s been important at CIU all along: Christ-centered community.

“For me, as an alum, I feel a little protective of CIU because it was a formational place for me,” Blanchard said. “One thing that I would like alumni to know is that while this is new, it’s really trying to keep us at the heart of what CIU has always been about. At the end of the day, I think this is a way of getting students involved and engaged, but for the purpose of knowing God and making Him known.” ■



Beginning this fall, each residence hall or “house” will hang a crest symbolic of the virtue assigned to it. (The official names of the residence halls will not change.)

DEVELOPMENT

Thank You Donors!

CIU students thanked donors on April 14 at the 2016 Donor Appreciation Luncheon. Each of the students expressed their thanks for making their education possible.

I thank my God every time I remember you. (Philippians 1:3)

Photos by Justin Novello, a scholarship recipient. ■



▲ Lindsay Emo chats with Anne Priest ('52)



▲ Donors Gay ('57) and Bob Cable ('57) with student Hannah Lingenhoel



▲ Donor Lillian Sachs ('79) (left) with students Lydia Lorensen (center) and Whitney Spradley



▲ Donor Anita Brower is flanked by brothers Guillermo (left) and Augustin Arce-Ruiz



▲ Student Joy Law, donor Billy Bennett ('05), student Anna Knight, donor Ginny Brant ('77), donor Delaine Blackwell

CIU: Living by Prayer and Faith

You're Invited to Hear

CIU CHANCELLOR

Dr. George Murray ('67)

~ and ~

VICE PRESIDENT OF
ESTATE & GIFT PLANNING

Mr. Keith Marton ('79, '93)

as they present how CIU continues to live by its core values of Prayer & Faith.

WHEN:

Homecoming
Friday, November 4 / 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

WHERE:

McKey Dining Room

With over 50 years of combined CIU experience, George and Keith will bear witness to God's continued faithfulness to CIU, along with practical approaches on how you can leave an eternal legacy that will impact the nations with the message of Christ.

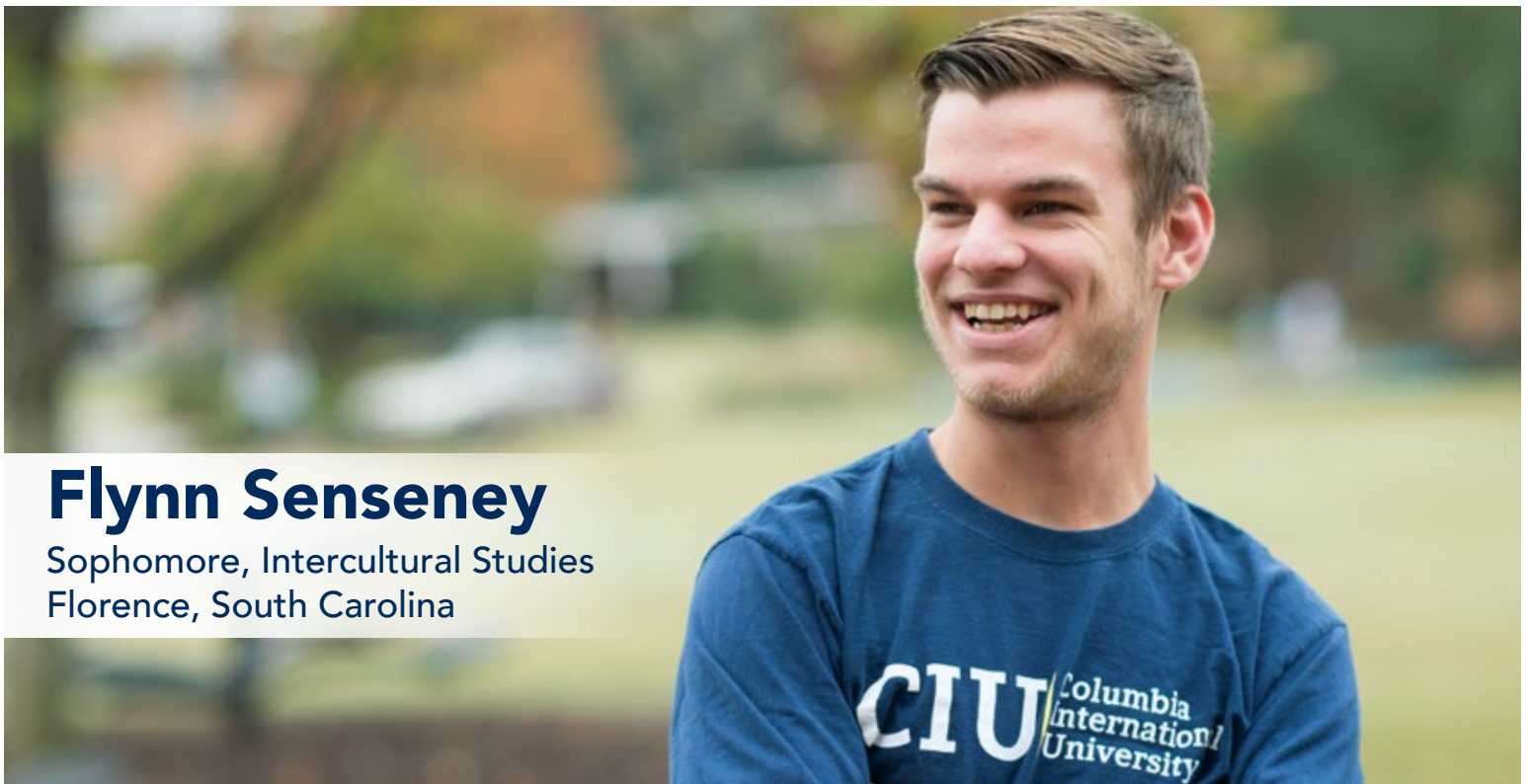
Admission is free, but seating is limited.

RESERVATIONS:

Online: ciu.edu/hc16

Email: development@ciu.edu

Phone: (803) 807-5500



Flynn Senseney

Sophomore, Intercultural Studies
Florence, South Carolina

Flynn Senseney grew up in a broken home. That was hard enough. But then his mother passed away in April, 2014. In July of 2015, Flynn, his two brothers and his father were traveling in a car on Interstate 26 in South Carolina, when they were involved in an accident. Flynn's father was killed and his brothers were seriously hurt.

He admits that life's hurdles could have blocked him from enrolling, and continuing at Columbia International University, but instead he says, "The Lord has guided me to CIU."

"We have had a financial burden on us because of my mom passing away and now my dad passing," he said. "Because money is tight and focused on my brothers' medical attention, scholarships have not only helped, but also been a source of encouragement. It has caused me to rely more on God."

**"To all the donors, I say
'many, many thanks.'"**
—Flynn Senseney

Flynn has a message for the scholarship donors that are helping him stay at CIU.

"To all the donors, I say 'many, many thanks.' I am greatly appreciative and will strive more and more to do better than I did before."

As for the future, Flynn's plans are to possibly go to seminary, with a goal of becoming a missionary pilot serving other missionaries, and most importantly, serving the Lord. ■

YOU CAN HELP

There are many CIU students just like Flynn who may need your assistance. Here are ways you can help them:

CIU Fund: Gifts to the CIU Fund are critical in making sure each student has an exceptional CIU experience. While tuition is the main source of CIU revenue, it only covers about 60 percent of what it actually costs to provide a CIU education, with the CIU Fund bridging the 40 percent gap.

Scholarships: Because over 90 percent of CIU students rely on financial assistance, your scholarship gift is a lifeline to a CIU education. Establish a new scholarship or contribute to an existing scholarship.

Estate Planning: Estate planning, which incorporates planned and deferred giving, provides opportunities that can result in tax savings for you and support for Columbia International University. This may include annuities, trusts, and insurance policies.

How to give:
Online: CIU.edu/giving
Phone: (803) 807-5500
Mail: CIU Development
P.O. Box 3122
Columbia, SC 29230



LIVING LIFE TOGETHER | RESIDENCE LIFE AT CIU

Eighteen guys lined the sides of my hallway last night. Seated with their backs against the cinderblocks, they passed cream sodas around and the pop of carbonated beverages filled the air. What followed was a series of thanks and praises as one-by-one these hallmates shared pieces of their hearts.

They told stories about late night trips to Cook Out and joked about the frivolous games they had played. They shared memories and laughed; but it didn't end there ...

WANT TO READ MORE?

 CIU.EDU/BLOG

BLUE & GOLD
The CIU Blog



Bob ('78) & Grace Prichard

It all Began with a Peach Pie

By Peggy Lee Manoogian
Assistant Director, Alumni Relations

Yes, they agree it all began with a peach pie. Bob ('78) and Grace Prichard, a former Ben Lippen School teacher, had just returned from their honeymoon in June 1977. Following the morning church service, they overheard that a visiting missionary couple had no plans for lunch. Having only a simple meal planned, but knowing that Grace had baked a peach pie, the missionaries were invited to the Prichard house for lunch. Hours later, when last crumbs were licked from the plates, Bob and Grace acknowledged the joy of playing host at their little apartment. In the decades that followed, they grew to love serving others through the gift of hospitality.

Always in the back of the Prichards' minds, however, was a constant reminder that although guests were most appreciative of a meal with the family or use of an extra bed, they really weren't afforded much privacy. Because the majority of the guests were missionaries, Bob and Grace grew to understand their visitors' specific needs to feel comforted, to have someone be a listening ear, or to have a place of quiet solitude.

An idea was born in their heart: "Let's build a place of respite where many have the opportunity to reflect on what God has done and is doing in their lives, and after being renewed in spirit, to return to that which God has called them."

So, in 2009, Whispering Willows Bed and Breakfast was completed. It's located on 23 wooded acres near Ridgeway, South Carolina, 30 minutes from downtown Columbia. Over the next several years, guests were able to come and go as their schedules allowed. Even though Grace had limited time for each visitor, she said it was a blessing to hear their comments such as: "It's so peaceful here. Thank you for listening to the prompting of God and providing this place of rest for us. I've spent time with the Lord; I feel renewed in spirit and ready to return to what God has for me."

By 2013, the Prichards formally opened Whispering Willows B and B as a business ministry. While Bob continues in his career as a microbiologist in Columbia, he is also the fix-it man at Whispering Willows, and Grace, retired from Ben Lippen, serves as manager and hostess.

"I stay here in the quaint town of Ridgeway, and God just brings the world to me," says Grace. "What a joy to meet believers in various ministries who have listened to God's call for their lives."

The Prichards are still connected to Ben Lippen School and CIU. Each of their children and their children's spouses are Ben Lippen alumni and their youngest also graduated from CIU. ■

November 4-5

Thursday

- Men's Soccer
CIU Rams vs. Bob Jones University

Friday

- Class Reunions
- Alumnus of the Year Chapel
- Student-Alumni Luncheon
- Attend a Class
- Video Showcase
Communication Program
- CIU: Living by Prayer
and Faith
- President's Banquet
- David Crowder in Concert

Saturday

- Breakfast with Paul Tripp
- Scones with Scholars
(meet the professors)
- Bouncy House and
Kite Flying for Children
- Picnic Lunch
- CIU Players Production
- Men's Basketball
CIU Rams vs. College of Faith
- CIU Bowl

David Crowder



CIU Homecoming 2016

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Dr. Paul Tripp ('72)

CUU

coming

2016

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Alumnus of the Year **PAUL TRIPP**

Paul David Tripp graduated from CIU in 1972, majoring in Bible and Christian Education. He went on to earn his Master of Divinity degree from the Reformed Episcopal Seminary (now Philadelphia Theological Seminary) and his Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Counseling from Westminster Theological Seminary.

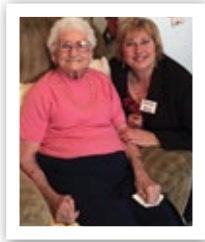
Today, Tripp is a pastor, author and conference speaker. He is also the president of Paul Tripp Ministries working to connect the transforming power of Jesus Christ to everyday life. He is also the founder and executive director of The Center for Pastoral Life and Care, transforming the power of the gospel to the heart, life, and ministry of the pastor.

In addition, Tripp has planted a church, founded a Christian school, written worship songs and toured with a Christian band. He has also served as a faculty member at the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation (CCEF), a lecturer in Biblical Counseling at Westminster Theological Seminary, a visiting professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a pastor at Tenth Presbyterian Church.

He lives in Philadelphia and is hopelessly in love with his wife, Luella ('72). They have four grown children.

ALUMNI Class Notes

Happy 105th Birthday to CIU's Oldest Alumna, Ottie Roberson



At age 105, **Ottie Roberson ('32)** is still sharp, vibrant, funny and spunky with a smile that will melt your heart. She lives in West Columbia, South Carolina, and recently chatted with Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, Peggy Lee Manoogian, recalling fond memories of her days at CIU, known then as Columbia Bible College.

In 1931, Ottie "followed" her boyfriend, Bob Roberson ('32), by enrolling at Columbia Bible College where he was a student. She had known him since childhood growing up in Lexington County, South Carolina and in her own words, "We were SO in love." But the Dean of Women, Mrs. Clara Walker, was strict and did not allow the students to date, hold hands, or go places unchaperoned. With a grin, Ottie said Bob would find a way to get close to her dorm.

"Bob worked in grounds keeping, and would make every opportunity to ride the lawn mower close to the Colonia Hotel where I would sneak out just to see him," Ottie said. "I don't remember too much about the classes, because Bob was in my class and I would just stare at him." Again she repeated, "We were SO in love."

Ottie and Bob were married by CBC Dean of Men, John Hehl ('26), in 1932, had four children, and served for over 50 years in South Carolina and Virginia. Bob was a pastor while

Ottie played the piano and organ, taught Sunday school and supported her husband in his ministry.

Ottie reflected on those responsible for making CIU what it is today. She knew one of CIU's founding Praying Ladies, Emily Dick and recalls that she was a serious person who took life very seriously.

She also remembers CIU's first president R.C. McQuilkin and his wife Marguerite. "They were fine people. I would look forward to hearing him in Chapel. He was such a great speaker." With tears in her eyes, she said, "Mrs. McQuilkin was so kind to me, she saw that I didn't have shoes fit to wear as a student, so she went and bought me shoes. I loved her very much."

When CIU's Alumni Office first telephoned Ottie for an interview, she was unavailable – away on a camping trip. Ottie beamed as she later explained that the Roberson family loved to camp and yes, she still goes camping, even at age 105.

Ottie's life verse is Romans 8:28.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

After 105 years, Ottie probably knows something about that. ■

Ed and Charlotte Lochstampfor ('53) ¹ The book, "While There's Still Time," is an account of Ed and Charlotte's journey to Upper Volta (Burkina Faso) and Guinea in West Africa when they served with SIM. The trip was one of challenges and struggles, but also filled with the joy of seeing God change lives. eloch@att.net

Dan Goldsmith ('57) was raised in a family that loved the Lord and loved to laugh. These two loves are evident in his latest book, "Jump Start Your Day." The format of the book incorporates humor with a devotional thought from Scripture. Dan and his wife Leona live in Canada. dgoldsmith@telus.net

Harty and Marjorie Harris ('60) Schmaehl sold their country inn in Southern California and have opened a new restaurant and inn in the small town of Kamiah, Idaho on the Nez Perce Indian reservation. The business provides employment for the area where they have had many opportunities to share God's love. They also serve on the advisory council for the governor of Idaho. harjie@camasnet.com

David ('76) and Mary Foster live in Raleigh, North Carolina. David retired from an engineering career in 2014, then began serious study of oil painting in 2004. He co-founded Waverly

Artists Group in 2011. They have two children; Kate and Christine. dbfoster@mac.com

Joe Fera ('77) ² lives in Poolesville, Maryland and has been a professional Christian clown for 25 years. For 10 years he and his clown friends ministered by singing hymns at nursing homes. For the past 15 years he has been doing birthday parties, balloon twisting, face painting and tattoos for children. joefera4@gmail.com

Paul Copan ('84) and **Robertson McQuilkin ('47)**, have joined together to update McQuilkin's 1989 book on ethics. The new book, "An Introduction to Biblical Ethics: Walking in the Way of Wisdom," offers a clear and compelling account of an evangelical Protestant understanding of biblical ethics. paul_copan@pba.edu

Mark ('87) and Tina ('86) Mast ³ live in Rainy River, Ontario and have served with One Hope Canada (formerly CSSM Ministries) for 29 years. They minister to the "otherwise unreached" through Bible camps, vacation Bible schools, wilderness canoe trips, discipleship/mentoring programs, preaching, short-term mission trips to Guatemala and much more. Mark also pastors two churches. masts@bell.net

Scott Wolfe ('87) is the executive director of InYou Ministries, providing churches with simple and tested curricula for retreats, Bible studies/Sunday school and camps. scott@inyou.org

Michael King ('93) is pastor at South Strand Community Church in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He and his wife Lisa have three children; Mary, Billy and Abby. mking10@sc.rr.com

Joe ('97) and Sherry Bradley live in Lexington, South Carolina. His book "Crossing All Boundaries" is about the trials in his life and how God was always there for him, no matter how bad life got, and the blessings after the storm. bradleyevan@gmail.com

Maria ('00) and John Lawrance serve hundreds of underprivileged children and their families in south Asia. They have one daughter, Jenita. Mariajohn0401@sbcglobal.net

Ben (Staff) and Susan Watson ('04/'08) Bryan **4** welcomed Micah James on April 5, 2016. Ben is director of Institutional Research and Assessment at CIU, and Susan has taught at Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary school in Columbia for seven years. bbryan@ciu.edu

Ian ('07) and Jessica Otto **5** welcomed Leonidas Elijah Otto (Leo) into their lives Jan. 11, 2016. Ian and Jessica own a pediatric practice in Jacksonville, Florida, while Ian also oversees Light the Dark, a nonprofit offering churches discipleship videos, including the men's study "Common Man|Uncommon Life." ian.otto@gmail.com

Priscilla Larkin Harris ('08) and her husband Trevor **6** serve a French-speaking Baptist church in the western suburbs of Paris. Trevor has been pastoring this congregation since its inception in 2008. They welcomed William Trevor Nathanael Harris into their family on Jan. 22, 2015. epe-garenne.org

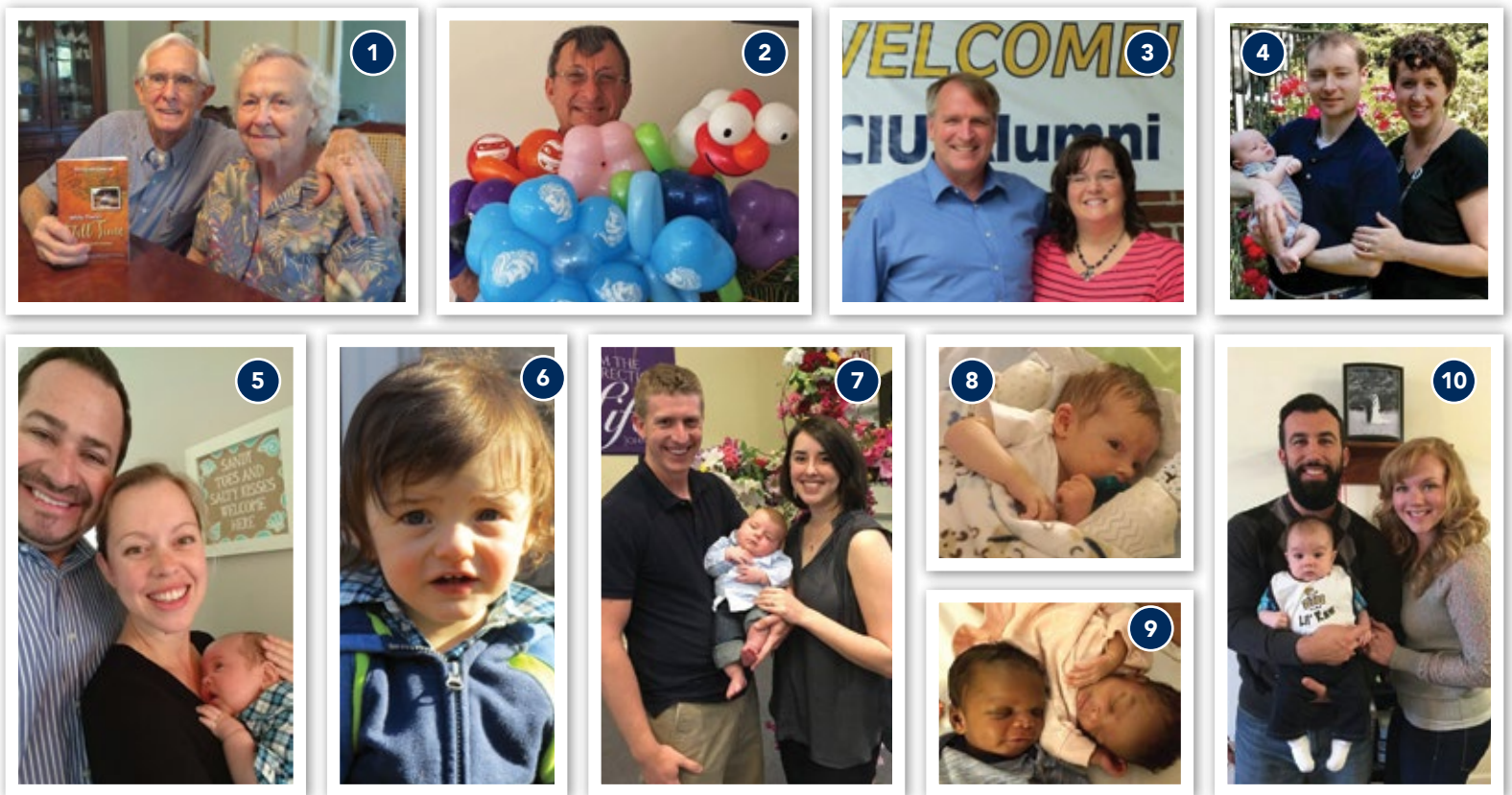
Andrew and Abby Castles ('13) Bruce **7** Abby is teaching piano lessons and staying home with their son, Richard Lucas, born Jan. 29, 2016. Andrew is the manager of his family's business, Bruce's Greenhouses, and the youth pastor at Fellowship Bible Church in Columbia, South Carolina. abbythebruce13@gmail.com

Frank ('14) and Jessica ('15) Brazell **8** welcomed Germain into their family in January 2016. They have moved to North Carolina. jessica.brazell@mailbox.ciu.edu

Bridget Deline ('15) was one of 14 women in Columbia, South Carolina who received the Richland County Council Distinguished Community Leadership Award on March 24, 2016 in honor of Women's History Month. bridget.deline@mailbox.ciu.edu

Jason ('15) and Shelby ('15) Rickey **9** welcomed Niya Rose and Ezekiel James into their family in February 2016. Congratulations! jrickey@ciu.edu

Margaret (former staff) and Matt ('16) Wheeland **10** welcomed Zachary Lucas on Jan. 8, 2016. Margaret was the office manager in the Marketing and Communications Department until December 2015. Matt teaches Bible at Ben Lippen School and graduated in April with a Master of Education degree. matt.wheeland@benlippen.com



ALUMNI *Class Notes*

Alumni Gatherings

In February, CIU Chancellor Dr. George Murray delivered several messages at French Camp Academy in Mississippi. French Camp provides an affordable Christian boarding school and home experience to young people needing a safe and stable place to learn and live. Many on staff are CIU or Ben Lippen (BL) alumni.



First row: **Margie Newman ('62)**, **Dr. George Murray ('67)**, **Mary Faith Phillips ('54)** Second row: **Todd Marion (BL '94)**, **Dennis Cox ('92)**, **Don Winter ('77)**, **Bruce Hosket ('85)**, **Alex Coblentz ('05)**, **Ed Maehlmann ('73)**, **Joy Martin ('08)**, **Randy Martin ('09)**, **Becky Lawson ('81)**, **Brooks Wadsworth ('02)**

CIU alumni gathered at the 2016 Intermissions Conference in Panajachel, Guatemala in February. Intermissions provides a weekend spiritual retreat for missionaries and their children.



Dr. George Murray ('67), **Joseph Bedford ('98)**, **David ('83/'11)** & **Diana ('76) Stoddard**, **Ann ('68)** & **Bob ('68/'74) Henriques**, **Elisa & Steve ('64) Sywulka**



Update your alumni profile
@ ciu.me/alumniprofile



Check out upcoming events
and speaking schedules of
President Bill Jones and
Chancellor George Murray
@ ciu.me/ciuevents

With The Lord

Catherine Walker '39 – January 2016
Ruth Nethercott Lackey '44 – March 2016
Ethelyn Watson '44 – March 2016
Marjorie Bancroft '48 – May 2016
William Neef '50 – December 2015
Betty Lou Basham '51 – January 2016
Delbert Carper '52 – February 2016
William Hancock '52 – February 2016
Virginia Penn Till '52 – January 2016
Dorothy Marsh Fariss '53 – March 2016
George Huestis '53 – February 2016
Carl Adolphson '55 – February 2016
Lyle Birkey '58 – March 2016
David Marcy – son of Paul and Becky Marcy '61
 – September 2015
Hans Abma '65 – May 2016
Judith Lamplugh Edmiston '62 – January 2016
Charles Stewart '64 – April 2016
Harold Von Nessen '65 – April 2016
Aziel Jones '68 – February 2016
Jeannie Lamb Tuggy '76 – January 2016
James Hamilton '02 – February 2016
Laura Wells Hiers '07 – January 2016
Joel Helms, husband of Kelly Grecian Helms '11
 – February 2016
Jeffrey Snodgrass '13 – February 2016
Cliff Bedell, former faculty – February 2016
Vivian Shupe, former staff – March 2016

They Reached the Century Mark

Dr. Catherine Walker '39 went to be with the Lord on Jan. 7, 2016 at the age of 100. She was the daughter of Clara Walker, the longtime dean of women at Columbia Bible College. Catherine served as a missionary in China and Indonesia for 34 years teaching the Bible and writing seminary textbooks. Her Bible Workbook, Volumes 1 and 2 have been in use for over 65 years. Catherine also founded Camp Miki for missionary children in Indonesia and the Philippines, and she later served as special assistant to the president for intercessory prayer at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Ethelyn Watson '44 went to be with the Lord on March 5, 2016 at the age of 101. She holds the distinction of being the first married woman with children to graduate from CIU — and did so cum laude, above average academic distinction. Ethelyn and her husband Joe ('44) served in India for 23 years working under the Reformed Episcopal Board of Foreign Missions, translating Christian literature into Hindi, as well as coordinating Christian teaching material for all of the 14 Indian provinces.

THE FINAL WORD

Vote Twice

God has blessed the United States of America unlike few other nations in history. We the people have the privilege of choosing who will represent and serve us at all levels of government, from local boards to the occupant of The White House. But as followers of Christ, we not only have the privilege, but a *vital responsibility* to vote in November.

This is no time for apathy, frustration or discouragement over campaign rhetoric that may cause you to want to stay home on Election Day. Too many important issues hang in the balance: the protection of the unborn, racial reconciliation, families struggling because of a prolonged, slow economy, and several college campuses offering neutral bathrooms and gender-neutral housing, where students claiming various genders room together. I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus:

*Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.
(Eph. 5:11-12)*

We have a responsibility to vote because while we proclaim the gospel with words, we also proclaim it with actions, safeguarding right and standing against wrong. As salt and light, we become the godly influence against moral compromise. Stay home on Election Day, and you let slip away a precious God-given opportunity to make a difference in our culture.

You also make a significant difference when you support Columbia International University students, educated from a biblical worldview to impact the nations — including the USA — with the message of Christ. This generation of students desires to rise up and take their place boldly within our culture. Together we can urge them on.

You likely received a recent message from CIU asking you to help our CIU Fund meet its annual goal by June 30. That need remains. By way of reminder, the CIU Fund provides scholarships for our students. Your gift enables CIU to send more students to be a godly influence in our country. By graduating without the burden of school debt, students have more options as to where they might serve our Lord, whether that place of service is the marketplace or the mission field.

Make your gift, large or small, online at www.ciu.edu/giving, or use the envelope enclosed with this magazine. For more information on giving, contact CIU's Development Office at development@ciu.edu or (803) 807-5500.

So, be sure to vote twice. Go to the polls and support the candidates whose policies best reflect what is right and good. And vote "YES!" to the CIU Fund *before the end of this month*.

Yours for His glory,



William H. Jones
President

As followers of Christ, we not only have the privilege, but a vital responsibility to vote in November.



CIU TODAY

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Crowder in Concert

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