

# CIU TODAY

## PLAY BALL!

*Former Major Leaguer Brings  
Baseball and Ministry to CIU*

+ *Freed from Turkey: Ben Lippen  
alumnus Andrew Brunson*

+ *Unique online Ph.D. in  
Biblical Studies offered*

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# CIU

## TODAY

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CIU Baseball Coach Jonathan Johnson

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**On this page:** Work progresses on the William H. Jones Global Business & IT Center at the CIU entrance, scheduled for completion this fall.

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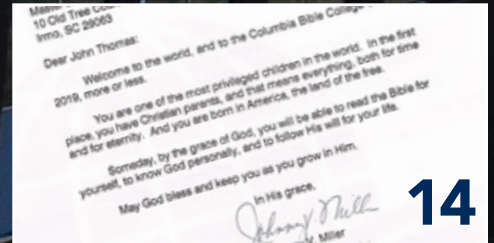
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**PLAY BALL! FORMER MAJOR LEAGUER BRINGS BASEBALL & MINISTRY TO CIU**



### A Long Ride in a Cadillac Reflections After 38 Years on the Faculty

For this edition of *CIU Today*, I've turned the *First Word* over to retiring *CIU* professor Dr. Terry Powell. For nearly four decades, Terry has been committed to his calling — and to Columbia International University. It has been a privilege to serve with him.

-Bob Holmes, Editor



Bob Holmes, Editor-in-Chief

During a conference for church education professors in 1989, eight of us sat around the dinner table. When I introduced myself, a wide-eyed colleague from a different university blurted, "Wow — you teach at the Cadillac of Bible colleges!"

Three decades later, as retirement looms for me, I still agree with his assessment. Here are two of the many reasons why.

#### GODLY LEADERSHIP

What memories or impressions do I associate with *CIU* presidents?

- \* I remember Robertson McQuilkin, his chin quivering, tears streaming down his cheeks, broken-hearted because so many unreached people had never heard of Christ.
- \* After broaching an issue concerning my family to Johnny Miller, he interceded for me and offered wise counsel. More than once, when he overheard a student compliment one of my classes, he delivered a handwritten note in which he passed along the encouraging remarks.
- \* George Murray's incisive chapel preaching, marked by clear exposition, strong application, and passionate delivery, fed my soul. His effectiveness wasn't only the result of God's grace-gift of teaching. He modeled diligence, averaging an hour in preparation for every minute in presentation.
- \* Bill Jones didn't just teach a course on personal evangelism — he consistently shared the gospel off campus, modeling what it means to be an opportunistic, winsome witness. When he's around people who don't know Christ, he can't not share the plan of salvation!
- \* I thank God for Mark Smith's expertise in enrollment, marketing and fundraising. What impresses me most, though, is how he exemplifies humility and daily dependence on God's sustaining grace. Dr. Smith experiences daily physical pain, the aftermath of an auto accident years ago. Yet he leads with an optimistic, exuberant spirit, a reminder that God's power is perfected in weakness.

Compassion for the lost. A pastoral heart. Penetrating preaching. Evangelism personified. Optimistic perseverance. *Who wouldn't count it a privilege to serve with leaders of this caliber?*

#### FACULTY/STAFF LONGEVITY

When I interviewed for my position in 1981, what left an indelible impression on me was how long people had worked here. Teachers, administrators and support staff had been serving 20, 25, even 30-plus years.

What accounted for it? Integrity of top leaders; a compelling sense of mission; clearly-communicated core values, and a hospitable work environment.

This phenomenon of long tenures still characterizes *CIU*. My mind sees a parade of current employees who've been here two or three decades: faculty members, administrative assistants, maintenance staff — even our nurse! The blend of long-term employees and newer, competent faculty/staff keeps us anchored in *CIU*'s traditional values, yet open to changes that don't compromise our mission or doctrine.

General Motors still turns out luxurious Cadillacs. *CIU* is as effective as ever in turning out students who impact the nations with the message of Christ.

After retirement, Dr. Terry Powell plans to serve *CIU* as an adjunct professor, and devote more time to writing. His blog on depression and faith is [penetratingthedarkness.com](http://penetratingthedarkness.com).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Holmes". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Bob Holmes**  
*CIU Today*  
Editor-in-Chief



One of my memories of Dr. Terry Powell will be passing by his office and seeing him diligently grading papers while sitting on this couch. He'll be missed. (Photo assistance from Sarah Cho.)



# Quality Education at an affordable cost earns CIU #1 ranking

Columbia International University is ranked #1 among colleges and universities in South Carolina by [BestColleges.com](http://BestColleges.com).

The website's rankings are intended to inform and guide prospective students toward institutions that provide a quality education and a meaningful learning experience at an affordable cost. The site's team of education experts apply rigorous methodology to the latest education data to rank more than 60 postsecondary schools in the state.

In addition to affordability, CIU earned the top spot on the survey for a 74 percent graduation rate and its 17:1 student-to-faculty ratio, offering students a unique familiarity with their professors.

The ranking comes as CIU experienced a dramatic 15 percent growth in enrollment in the fall and continues with facility expansion, renovations and revitalization of the Monticello Road corridor.

Meanwhile, CIU has received reaccreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and from the Association for Biblical Higher Education. ■



CIU President Dr. Mark Smith addresses news conference

## Monticello Road Revitalization Underway

### CIU Partnership with neighborhoods to spur economic development

A partnership between Columbia International University and neighborhood leaders in North Columbia has reached a milestone that will transform blighted, crime-attracting properties on Monticello Road into commercially viable properties that will enhance the area's appearance, reduce crime and attract significant economic activity.

CIU recently completed the last purchase of seven properties on Monticello Road from the I-20 exit along the gateway leading to the campus. Abandoned buildings have been demolished and cleanup of the sites has begun.

At a news conference on the CIU campus, CIU President Dr. Mark A. Smith announced he is talking with business owners who have expressed interest in the properties, bringing applause from the community leaders, elected officials and sheriff's deputies who joined him at the podium.

The idea for revitalization began about a year ago when Andre T. Melvin, pastor of Temple Zion Baptist Church, CIU professor Dr. Andre Rogers and community residents began meetings to discuss concerns about vacant buildings, trash, and public safety issues along Monticello Road.

"We are so glad to see what God has done in a year's time under the leadership of Dr. Smith and CIU, and we look forward to continuing our partnership, working on economic development and impacting families in these communities," Melvin said.

CIU is also poised to meet business and IT needs with the new William H. Jones Global Business & IT Center scheduled for completion this fall. One of the purposes of the Center is to provide a corporate training room for Columbia area business professionals to act as a catalyst for business development, especially along the Monticello Road corridor.

"We have a strong core value at CIU that we are to give back to our local community," Smith said. "As we take Christ to the nations, we must first start here at home. As president I commit to invest locally and be a part of our community." ■





*Shyann Miller, Meghann Miller and Tyler Davis of the CIU Rams track & field team at a winter workout on the new Mondo track.*

## CIU Rams hit the (Mondo)track

### \$1 Million Olympic-Style track now complete

Columbia International University Track & Field Coach Jud Brooker says it's "very exciting to see all the hard work come to fruition."

What started as a dream in 2017 became reality with the final touches to the \$1 million Mondo track in January.

"I definitely feel relieved," said Brooker. "The track,

equipment and entire facility looks outstanding."

Mondotrack supplies track surfaces for the Olympics and has a worldwide reputation for enhanced performance and decreasing the chance of injury. Mondo tracks are also unique for their durability and multicolored lanes and runways.

CIU shares the track with Ben Lippen School, CIU's Pre-K to 12th grade Christian school on the CIU campus. The eight-lane multicolored Mondo track makes Ben Lippen the only SCISA school with a Mondo track, and CIU among the few South Carolina colleges with one. ■

## Russian entrepreneurs glean business insight at CIU

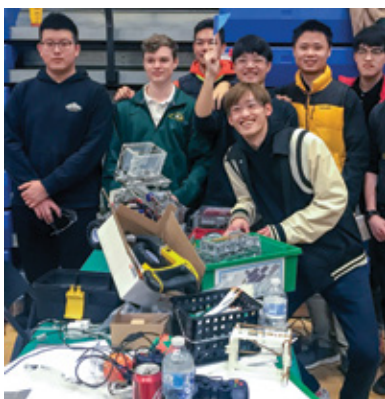
Columbia International University alumnus Matt Beyer and businessman Pavel Busygin have a lot in common. They both own coffee shops. About the only difference between their shops is the print on their menus. Beyer's is in English. Busygin's is in Russian.

Beyer owns Grace Coffee in Columbia. Busygin's five shops, Perfetto Café, are in Russia, near Moscow.

Beyer and Busygin were introduced to each other outside Beyer's Grace Coffee shop in CIU's Rossi Student Center where they exchanged bags of their specialty coffees. Busygin was in Columbia with five other Russian entrepreneurs as part of a U.S. State Department effort called the Open World Leadership Center, an exchange program that matches citizens of the former Soviet Union with their professional counterparts in the United States. They were hosted on the CIU campus by Professor Scott Adams, the dean of the School of Business & Professional Studies, where he discussed the CIU Business programs and the business climate in South Carolina.

Busygin said he has been impressed with what he calls "the positive thinking" of Americans and wants to know more.

"How do they think, how do they start a business, how is it different from us?" Busygin said. ■



*The Falcon Force: (left to right) Haotian "Nick" Zhang, John Windham, Yida "David" Wang, Hao "Brian" Yu (holding flag), Feng Zhuo "Ted" Shao, Wendi "Wendell" Cai, Zhuangyu "Eric" Tang*

## Ben Lippen School Robotics Team is #1

Ben Lippen's School's robotics team has a lot to celebrate! The Falcon Force earned first place against some of the top teams in the region at the Capital City League Meet 2 event for the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) competition.

At the FTC, teams made up of 7th to 12th graders program robots to perform specific tasks utilizing a reusable kit and a variety of coding languages.

The FTC competition is just one component of Ben Lippen's Advanced Robotics class.

The curriculum goes beyond what is required for competition and covers electronics, drafting, 3-D modeling, and 3-D printing. Students learn computer networking and programming for several different platforms as they create challenging and fun projects.

The Falcon Force Robotics team has ranked in the top three teams each year since winning the PTC Design Award in 2015, sponsored by Parametric Technology Corporation (PTC). PTC is the developer of computer-aided design software, an essential tool in manufacturing and product design businesses. ■



## CIU couple graduates with "help" from their fourth grader



The de Oliveira family and Professor Joe LeTexier.

For two years, Jairo de Oliveira and his wife Vania took most of their classes together at CIU as they both worked on a Master of Arts degree in Teaching English

as a Foreign Language (TEFL). They graduated together in December, but along the way, there was one big challenge. The Brazilian couple's classes were scheduled during the afternoon at the time their son Mateus was finishing his classes for the day at Ben Lippen School, CIU's Pre-K to 12th grade Christian school on the CIU campus.

"We considered this issue with our TEFL professors and discussed the possibility of keeping our son in class with us for an average of one hour every week," Jairo de Oliveira said. "They were very empathetic and allowed our son to sit in class with us. While in class with us, he would behave very well and spend most of his time reading or doing homework."

The family considered this teamwork and an achievement. So, the parents bought Mateus graduation regalia to wear on graduation day so he could feel he had significant participation in the process.

They also printed a certificate for him with the honor: "Master in Companionship, Patience, and Good Behavior."

Jairo de Oliveira joked with Professor Joe LeTexier that if Mateus enrolls at CIU in the future to work on an M.A. in TEFL, he would already have some school credits. ■



Dr. Mark Jobe

## CIU alumnus leads historic Bible institute

The new president of a revered and historic Bible institute is an alumnus of Columbia International University.

Dr. Mark Jobe is the 10th president of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Jobe earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies from CIU in 1986. He is the founding pastor of the 5,000-member New Life Community Church in Chicago with 27 locations throughout greater Chicago and eight cities internationally.

In addition to his pastoral ministry, Jobe founded New Life Centers, an organization that creates programs for underserved

communities in Chicago focusing on youth violence, gang violence, teen pregnancy, justice system involvement and unemployment. He is also author of the book, "Unstuck: Out of Your Cave into Your Call," and hosts the daily radio show "Straight Talk" on Moody Radio Chicago.

Jobe says he plans to lead Moody "with an unwavering commitment to the Word of God and with a compassionate heart to impact our world with the love of God."

Evangelist D.L. Moody founded Moody Bible Institute in 1886. ■



Ryan Chitwood

## CIU Prison Initiative graduates hear from an alumnus of the program

The Columbia International University Prison Initiative graduated its 10th cohort of student-inmates from the program that began in 2007. Since its inception, 157 men and women have graduated from the program with accredited Associate of Arts degrees and are now serving in over 20 institutions as chaplain's assistants.

"The Prison Initiative continues to have a very positive effect on many men and women in our institutions," said South Carolina Department of Corrections Director Bryan P. Stirling. "This collaboration with CIU is a vital part of our effort to reduce recidivism and make our prisons safer."

The 2018 Prison Initiative commencement exercises at the Kirkland Correctional Institution in Columbia was particularly special as Ryan Chitwood, one of the program's graduates who has since been released from prison, gave an impromptu address to let the graduates know "they are not forgotten." ■



# Alaska Education Commissioner shaped by a biblical worldview

## CIU alumnus Michael Johnson continues in top education role under new governor

By Bob Holmes

**D**r. Michael Johnson says he loves routine. “I like my toothbrush in the same place every day” is the way he states it.

But when you’re Alaska’s education commissioner, life is not always routine. Not only does Johnson, a CIU alumnus, supervise over 50 school districts serving about 131,000 students, the job also requires him to manage the State Museum and Archives.

And then there was the November 2018 earthquake in Anchorage where for a week he toured the most heavily damaged schools and huddled with local school officials to discuss how to move forward for the remainder of the school year.

“When you walk through some of the buildings and see some of the damage and realize that no one was killed or seriously injured, you just have to say that is the providence of God, and thank Him for that providence,” Johnson said.

Johnson also acknowledges God’s providence that led him into a career in education — a decision born out of a lunch conversation with the late CIU Professor Cliff Bedell. Early in his college career Johnson was studying for the ministry and had taken summer missions trips to Alaska where he became acquainted with many of the indigenous people. But he also had a growing interest in education.

“In his wisdom, Professor Cliff Bedell assured me that serving as an educator was entirely in keeping with God’s call to serve Him in ministry,” Johnson said.

Johnson would go on to earn two degrees from CIU; a bachelor’s degree in 1994, and

a Master of Arts in Teaching in 1997. Since then he earned his doctorate in education and intercultural studies from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Before becoming education commissioner, Johnson worked in Alaska as a principal, district superintendent, elementary teacher, and special education program assistant. He has served as education commissioner since 2016 and was retained by Alaska’s new governor Mike Dunleavy in November where together Johnson says they are working toward a “just education system for the kids in the state.” Among the challenges are cultural differences.

“Anchorage is one of the most diverse cities in the country with over 90 languages present in the school system,” Johnson explained. “Culture is a beautiful thing and we have indigenous cultures and we have dying languages that need to be revitalized.” So immersion schools in some of those languages have been established.

He also calls it “tragic” that Alaska is “dead last in reading in fourth grade” something he is determined to change. “We as Alaskans need to be so dissatisfied with that ... that we’ll do whatever it takes to change it.”

But he says just listing reasons for the problem is not where the discussion should begin.

**“IN ALL OF LIFE, CIU TAUGHT ME TO BE VERY INTENTIONAL AND COMMITTED TO A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW...”**







*Dr. Michael Johnson in 2016  
(Photo by Graelyn Brasher, courtesy of  
Alaska Public Media)*

“Students are souls, they are not widgets,” Johnson said quoting U.S. Senator and author Ben Sasse of Nebraska. “Souls are complicated, complex individuals so I think the challenges are as equally complex. I don’t think we value the wonder of a human life and soul when we try to reduce these problems to a few things.”

For Johnson, tackling the challenges are part of a calling that began at CIU with an education from a biblical worldview.

“In all of life, CIU taught me to be very intentional and committed to a biblical worldview, whether that be in the family, whether that be in my work

as a teacher,” Johnson said. “That really shaped who I am, even when I was in the classroom, I knew that I had to be intentional about my classroom philosophy and view of the world. I had to be very deliberate about it.”

Johnson calls his job “messy” at times. But he keeps things in perspective with one of his favorite Bible verses, 1 Chronicles 29:11, which concludes: “We adore you as the one who is over all things.”

“Part of the joy of that adoration is a sense of calling and purpose. This is such a privilege.” ■



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# ON TRACK WITH GOD

## FIRST TRACK & FIELD RECRUIT FINDS ENCOURAGEMENT AMONG FACULTY AND FRIENDS

*By Joseph Knight, CIU Student Writer*

**F**our years ago, Justin Belk boarded a Greyhound bus in Tallahassee, Florida and headed to Columbia, South Carolina to start his freshman year as the first-ever track and field recruit at Columbia International University. In December he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Communication, a minor in Sport Management, and a host of track achievements to his credit.



**"HE'S GONE FROM THE WOE-IS-ME (attitude) TO 'THIS IS HOW I AM GOING TO USE THIS TO GROW.'"**

**—CIU TRACK COACH JUD BROOKER**

But Belk's road from that bus ride to graduation on the stage of Shortess Chapel was bumpy at first. It included potholes, curves, and many unknowns. But most importantly, Belk's story is marked with road signs pointing to the redemptive grace of God.

Belk grew up in a rough neighborhood of Palm Beach, Florida with his mom and two sisters. His early life was not the easiest. His mom lost her job, and the family was forced to give up their home. He lived in transitional housing during his senior year of high school.

The move to college also had its challenges. Adjusting to the culture of a small Christian University was not an easy. Belk found connecting with fellow students difficult and felt isolated. His grades slipped and he fell hard. He thought he let down his coach, his family and God. He fell into depression.

During those first few months, running helped.

"If I didn't pick up running I wouldn't be here," Belk said. "Track was my escape. I could run and not really think about a lot."

But Belk discovered help all around him.

### THE LORD USES CHAPEL

As he sat in his room alone on a morning in October 2014, he seriously contemplated ending his life. But instead he went to Chapel. He doesn't remember specifically what the message was that day, but the Lord used it to begin a powerful work in his life.

By the spring semester, Belk began to see that the Lord's work in His life is not based on his actions, but on unconditional love. He was determined to improve. His grades rose dramatically and the Lord provided a community at CIU to give encouragement and support.

### THE LORD USES COMMUNITY

Belk looks back gratefully on relationships he established with a number of people at CIU beginning with Track Coach Jud Brooker and his wife Nicole; Communication Program Director Dr. Dan DeLozier; English professor Dr. Sandra Young, who taught him to be comfortable with his culture; Sport Management Program Director Dr. Wayne Rasmussen, who introduced him to sports broadcasting; and several close friends who displayed the love of Jesus.

Meanwhile, Belk helped build the new CIU track and field team, has repeatedly raced his way to nationals, and set multiple school records. He hopes to combine his interests in communications and sports into a sports broadcasting career. He already has experience — announcing the play-by-play of CIU athletic events streamed online.

Today Belk finds his confidence in a God who has sustained him through it all. He says that if the Lord can get him through the dark places he experienced that first semester, He will not fail him now.

"If you've got faith in the Lord, what can't you do?" Belk asks.



*Justin Belk competing in the NCCAA track and field finals his senior year.*

### THE LORD USES COACHES

Coach Brooker and his wife Nicole see Belk as something of an adopted son and have witnessed the Lord's work in his life from the very beginning of his CIU career.

"It was more important for me to be a father figure and mentor towards Justin than it was to be a coach," Brooker said. "Justin has learned to use his story to reach others. He's gone from the woe-is-me (attitude) to 'this is how I am going to use this to grow.'"

Now that the CIU chapter of Belk's life has closed, Brooker has one message for him: "I'm proud of you."

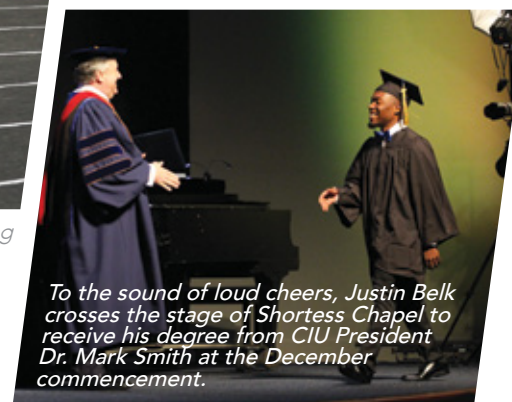
Meanwhile, back in Florida, Belk's mother, Sarah Belk, is grateful for what the Lord has done in her son's life through CIU.

"CIU, thank you for everything that you have done for my son," Sarah Belk said. "I thank you from the bottom of my heart in helping to mold him into the young man that he is becoming."

That is what CIU is about. Accepting those who desire to know the Lord and teaching them to make Him known. ■




*Coach Jud Brooker and Justin Belk at the Athletics Awards Banquet.*



*To the sound of loud cheers, Justin Belk crosses the stage of Shortess Chapel to receive his degree from CIU President Dr. Mark Smith at the December commencement.*





"THE TIMES WHEN I  
WOULD ASK GOD,  
'WHY ME?' THE LORD  
WOULD REVEAL TO  
ME THAT THERE IS  
AN OBJECTIVE HERE  
AND THE LORD HAS  
PUT HIS FAITH IN  
ME TO BE THE ONE  
TO DO IT."

**MEET**

JOHN  
JONES



# THE MINISTRY OF A CANCER PATIENT

FOR CIU STUDENT, DISEASE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON OTHERS

BY BEN RUTKOWSKI

John Jones walked back into his doctor's office in June 2015. He had joked around with the staff a half hour earlier. Now they gathered around the phone that they had used to call him back to the office to review the results of an MRI scan on his brain. The cheerfulness and joy that had been among the staff was gone. Jones knew he was the last patient of the day and they should all be getting ready to go home.

He took the phone to hear the doctor say the MRI showed a brain tumor, later diagnosed as Medulloblastoma, a cancerous tumor located in the base of his brain. Two days prior, he woke up to an unimaginably painful headache. He had experienced smaller headaches as he finished his first year at CIU, but this one was intense enough to seek out a doctor.

Surrounded by grim faces, and with his worried parents at his side, Jones listened to the doctor. He only recalls two short phrases: "Mass behind your head" and "go to the E.R.!"

## WHY ME?

"I struggled a lot understanding the reason why," Jones said. "Why does it have to be cancer? Why do I have to be out of school for a year? Why can I not see my friends? Why am I losing my hair? Why am I seen as this sick person walking around the hospital?"

Jones was asking questions that no friend, family member or doctor could answer; however, the Lord had plans for him.

"The times when I would ask God, 'Why Me?' the Lord would reveal to me that there is an objective here and the Lord has put His faith in me to be the one to do it."

A Christlike mindset grew in Jones that caused him to look at his sickness with new eyes.

"I'm so glad my sister is not sick." Jones said. "I'm so glad my mother or my father is not sick. I'm glad it's me that's suffering not my family members or my friends."

He was committed to find joy in his circumstances and allow God to use him. He found ways to serve his doctors and nurses. Jones' cancer was technically a pediatric cancer. His hospital's staff were weary from working with children

suffering from one disease or another and, as might be expected, the children did not usually carry an adult-level conversation.

"I could actually have a conversation with (the staff)," Jones smiled. "I'm very relational so conversation was the best medicine I could receive (and) the Lord was using the sickness in me to heal other people."

## GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES

He also found avenues to share the gospel, including with a psychologist.

"One day he said, 'I'm not a believer, but I'm interested to know why you're OK with all this?'" Jones recalled. "I was real with him saying, 'I'm not OK with this all the time, but when I see a friend of mine who says he's going to get his life right because I'm sick, I feel reenergized. If I die right now I know where I'm going, but for him, I have no idea. My prayer is that this cancer will bring life to somebody else.'"

Jones' treatment plan consisted of an initial operation to remove the mass from the base of his brain, six weeks of high-dose radiation, four months of high-dose chemotherapy, one bone marrow transplant, and three stem cell transplants. His last chemotherapy treatment was February 2017. Three weeks later there was no sign of the disease and he was declared a cancer survivor, returning to CIU in August 2017.



Jones holding his "Beads of Courage." Each bead represents a different medical treatment.

## A NEW DESIRE

"I came back to CIU with a new perspective," Jones said. "My freshman year I was kind of arrogant and prideful. I didn't really see how I fit into the student body. I'm from the inner city and most people from CIU are not."

He has a new desire to seek out friendships with people from different backgrounds and connect with them any way he can. He also applied to Residence Life and became an R.A. of Memorial Hall.

"I wanted to have one friend who's from the city and then another friend who grew up in Haiti working in an orphanage." Jones explained. "Res Life is a platform for me to preach this message of diversity and getting to know and love on people even if you have differences."

It may come as no surprise. After he graduates from CIU, John Jones plans to continue training to become a healthcare chaplain. ■





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Office of the President

March 27, 1997

Master John Thomas Dabeck  
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Dear John Thomas:

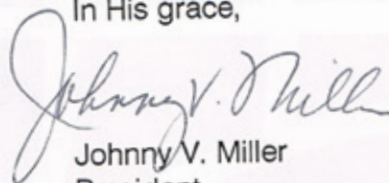
Welcome to the world, and to the Columbia Bible College class of 2019, more or less.

You are one of the most privileged children in the world. In the first place, you have Christian parents, and that means everything, both for time and for eternity. And you are born in America, the land of the free.

Someday, by the grace of God, you will be able to read the Bible for yourself, to know God personally, and to follow His will for your life.

May God bless and keep you as you grow in Him.

In His grace,



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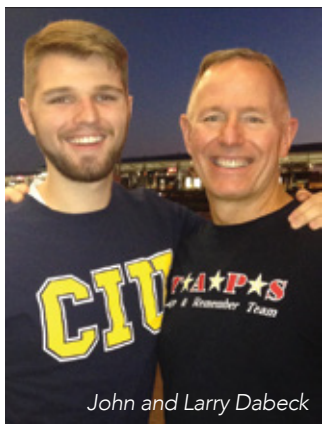


# The Power of an Encouraging Word

## Letter written by CIU president in 1997 impacts current student

By Bob Holmes

**W**hen he was a high school sophomore, Columbia International University student John Dabeck was thumbing through his baby book one day when a piece of paper fell out. He had seen it before, but previously paid no attention to it. The letter from the president of CIU was addressed to Dabeck, and dated the day he was born (*actual letter on left*).



John and Larry Dabeck

The letter was given to Dabeck's father Larry Dabeck ('89/'98), who at the time was a CIU student and staff member. Up until the moment he read the letter, the younger Dabeck was considering college at state schools and "the party atmosphere." However, after reading the letter, his first thought was, "Well, I might as well apply (to CIU)."

Now, 22 years later, John Dabeck recalls a visit to CIU that changed his life.

"The moment that my foot stepped out of the car, and hit pavement right in front of Memorial (residence hall), I could feel that God was in this place," Dabeck said. "I was convinced this is where I had to be. I didn't apply anywhere else."

In his letter, President Miller was spot-on with Dabeck's graduation year. While Dabeck had the credits to officially receive his undergraduate degree in December, he'll march with the class of 2019 at the May commencement and continue at CIU toward the completion of the five-year Master of Divinity program. The end goal is to follow in his father's footsteps and be an army chaplain defending the privileges of being born "in the land of the free," as Miller stated in the letter. And that's just fine with dad.

"I'm most encouraged that John loves the Lord and wants to follow Him, wherever that leads," said Colonel Larry Dabeck, chaplain for the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. "If there's any legacy my wife Cathy and I pray for John, it's that. We're delighted the Lord led him to CIU, and we're convinced CIU is still keeping Christ at the center of sending laborers into His harvest. If

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**"The moment that my foot stepped out of the car, and hit pavement right in front of Memorial (residence hall), I could feel that God was in this place."**

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the Lord continues to lead John to the Army chaplaincy, for me that's just icing on the cake."

As for that 1997 letter from Miller, Larry Dabeck says it came at a time when he really needed the encouragement.

"Cathy had a difficult pregnancy with John, who started coming at 20 weeks," Larry recalled. "Many at CIU had been praying for his safe arrival, which was an answer to prayer. Dr. Miller was kind enough to mail this letter to our home, welcoming John."

During his first year at CIU, John had the opportunity to meet the man who wrote the letter. He introduced himself to Miller who was attending a chapel service.

"It was a very brief handshake and hello, and I thanked him for the letter and what it had done for me in my life," Dabeck said. "He was happy to see that I'd come to CIU."

A university president can potentially sign his name to hundreds of important documents over a career. But also important to Miller were several letters honoring parents for their service to CIU and "to speak to the future of children's lives." When it was brought to his attention that this short letter lives on, Miller quoted Christian theologian and philosopher Francis Schaeffer, "There are no small things and no small people in God's service."

"I can only pray that all my service would live on as a sweet aroma to His glory," Miller added. "And that John's life will multiply a thousand times more to His glory." ■



A lot going on. John Dabeck has passed his physical screening for the Army and continues to prepare for Army chaplaincy in his CIU master's studies. He is also engaged to CIU student Claire Byrd, a Church Ministry major who graduates in May. An August wedding is in the works.



Ben Lippen School  
in Asheville, NC



Brunson (left) with  
teacher Peter Mehegan

**BEN LIPPEN SCHOOL ALUMNUS**

# Pastor Andrew Brunson

## FRIENDS RECALL THEIR DAYS TOGETHER AT ORIGINAL CAMPUS IN THE 1980S

BY MARGARET CHASE



Ford McArver (left) with  
Andrew Brunson

"I love Andrew like a brother. He's a very good and genuine man, even though he's not great at accepting compliments," said Ford McArver, summing up the selfless nature of his former roommate that has inspired the faith of many.

When Pastor Andrew Brunson was imprisoned in Turkey in late 2016 and charged with both espionage and terrorism, he found himself in the middle of United States-Turkey relations and dramatic headlines. McArver remembers thinking that his jailing was very surreal. He never thought his kind, gentle Ben Lippen School

and Wheaton College roommate, who planted churches in Turkey for 23 years, would become a global headline, even praying for President Donald Trump at the White House.

"I think it's fair to say that Andrew began a personal spiritual journey at Ben Lippen. I could see a growing shepherd's heart," McArver said of their days together when Ben Lippen was a boarding school in North Carolina. "He used to get up in the morning to study the Word before class. Seeds were clearly being laid for him to go from a Turkish prison to the Oval Office later on in his life."

At a personal level, McArver adds, "Andrew always encouraged me and said he was praying for me."

While a Ben Lippen student, Brunson developed a deep relationship with Drama and French teacher Peter Mehegan, who encouraged him in his studies and spiritual journey.

"Andrew is one of the most courageous, determined and ingenious men I have met," Mehegan said, recalling that his relationship with Brunson began after reprimanding him in the school hallway.

"It wasn't long before we started meeting together regularly for prayer over a pot of preset Mr. Coffee in the early morning hours with more guys from the dorm joining us, one by one. It often turned into a relationship builder for all."



Peter Mehegan (left)  
with Andrew Brunson

Both McArver and Mehegan immediately began raising awareness for Brunson's case when they heard of his imprisonment, and never gave up hope. McArver contacted the local officials in Brunson's home state of North Carolina and Washington, D.C.

"I was honored and happy to do what I could to get Andrew's case known and go to battle for him," McArver said. "It was a lot of prayer, when you're on your knees begging for protection for your friend and you don't know what the outcome is, that's all you can do."

Similarly, Mehegan began raising awareness for Brunson's situation.

"I heard of his arrest near the day it occurred, because his mother had



Brunson served in Turkey for 23 years

Andrew Brunson prays for President Donald Trump who worked for his release from prison in Turkey

# Freed from Turkey

contacted me via Facebook." Mehegan said. "I immediately went online and discovered that my U.S. Senator, Jeanne Shaheen, is on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I called her office that afternoon, and they contacted me the next day. Senator Shaheen latched on to the story, and faithfully pursued his release from the first day."

While Brunson's former roommate and teacher did what they could in the community to encourage his release, they also became prayer warriors for the cause.

"God gave me a taste of what Andrew was going through," McArver remembered. "God would wake me up at 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. and I would pray because I knew He was calling me. I also prayed for (his wife) Norrine and the children. All of their lives were dramatically affected – I just wanted him to get out and be reunited with his family."

Brunson met Norrine at Wheaton College, where he was again McArver's roommate during freshman and sophomore year. According to McArver, Norrine walked with and beside Andrew through the "whole thing," and "deserves as much validation as Andrew because they did everything as a unit."

Brunson came from a missionary family and McArver was raised in an upper-middle class household. These two Ben Lippen students represented two worlds colliding, as they first became roommates and unlikely friends. McArver recalls their relationship developing as a result of both differences and common ground. He described Brunson as a genuine and sincere deep thinker with a big heart.

After Brunson's release from prison, McArver talked with him on the phone. They expressed their Christian love for each other, and updated each other on their lives.

"Andrew asked to pray for me as a pastor and a friend," McArver said. "It is so evident that seeds were planted, fed, and watered at Ben Lippen.

We still seemed to have such a selfless, deep, abiding friendship even after a long time of separation."

McArver and Mehegan's continued prayers for Brunson include the ability to rest, reconnect with his family, ongoing healing, and that God will show him the next steps for his life.

"Andrew spent time in Turkey because he loves Turkey, but now he's forbidden to go back," McArver reflected. "It must be very sad for him."

Current Ben Lippen students and the greater community spent countless days praying for Brunson, and were overjoyed to hear of his release. Faculty members say it has been an incredible learning experience about the power of prayer for students and administrators alike.

"I know that his release was through the power of prayer," said McArver. "God really does care about and hear our prayers. It's still true today as it is when we read about it in the Bible. God is alive and active in small and grand ways. I'm very passionate and happy about it. Andrew's circumstances have truly encouraged my heart." ■

**"ANDREW IS ONE OF THE MOST COURAGEOUS, DETERMINED AND INGENUOUS MEN I HAVE MET."**

**— FORMER BEN LIPPEN TEACHER PETER MEHEGAN**



# PLAY BALL!

By Bob Holmes

## Former Major Leaguer Brings Baseball and Ministry to CIU



Former Major League pitcher Jonathan Johnson is looking for 30 baseball players who will make Columbia International University history as the school's first baseball team to take the field in spring 2020. But he's not recruiting just anyone.

Johnson, who played six seasons in the Big Leagues, prays that "God sends the right people."

"I could get 30 guys to come in here tomorrow and fill up jerseys," Johnson said in an interview in the Moore Fitness Center. "I'm praying that God sends the right 30 who are a good fit for the school, a good fit for the program, so we can put a quality team on the field, and be quality individuals off the field."

Johnson was selected in the first round, seventh overall, in the 1995 Major League Baseball Draft by the Texas Rangers. His career would include playing for the Houston Astros, San Diego Padres and in the Atlanta Braves system. Johnson's baseball career in college at Florida State University was full of honors topped off with induction into the Florida State Hall of Fame.

**COACH JONATHAN JOHNSON**

*"I think we have an opportunity to do some great things here at CIU."*



Coach Jonathan Johnson (top right) uses baseball to reach children in Cuba

Years later, fans still request that he autograph baseball cards for them. But the accolades don't compare with his desire for ministry. That is why he is at CIU.

"I'm just excited to be a head coach at a college that loves the Lord and is intentional about ministering, and doesn't just have a Christian name on their billboard, but actually does ministry and really sends people out and makes a difference for the Kingdom across the world," Johnson said. "That's what I'm about."

## HONORING THE FATHER MINISTRIES

Johnson is the founder of Honoring the Father Ministries, sharing the gospel in Latin America through various venues, including baseball in Cuba where the sport is popular. Johnson travels there with talented teams who compete with local teams and then share the gospel.

"If the players were just taking Bibles and tracts up and down the street, the Cubans wouldn't even hear them out," Johnson explains. "But the fact that they go out and compete with them, they get respect because they're showing them they are just like them."

Johnson says at the end of a game the teams gather at the pitcher's mound. The visitors share the gospel, invite the Cubans to a local church, and "give them a chance to accept Christ." Johnson reports over 30,000 salvations last year alone. The converts are disciplined at one of five training centers. A seminary has also been established.

"This has been fabulous!" Johnson adds with excitement.

## CHRIST-CENTERED CAMPS AND CLINICS

It is that kind of excitement that Johnson wants to bring to the Columbia area where he is already well known for coaching at the high school level for six years; first at Dutch Fork High School and then at Ben Lippen School, CIU's Pre-K to 12th grade Christian school. He was head coach for the summer collegiate team, the Lexington County Blowfish for five seasons. For three years, Johnson served as recreation minister at Riverland Hills Baptist Church.

With the popularity of baseball in the Columbia area, Johnson is looking forward to organizing Christ-centered camps and clinics on the CIU campus that focus on the fundamentals of baseball.

"If we can do that we'll have the opportunity to share Christ with so many high school players who are in a transitional time of life and encourage them," Johnson said. "I can bring in a lot of my buddies that were my teammates in the big leagues and love the Lord and can come in and share their

testimony and share Christ. I think we have an opportunity to do some great things here at CIU."

CIU President Dr. Mark Smith says that Johnson is a great fit for the university.

"As he has coached the last few years, he has helped place 33 players in the Major League Baseball Draft," Smith noted. "He is also leading a ministry that reaches several thousand Cubans for Christ each year. God has gifted us for this moment."

## PREPARED FOR THIS

And what young athlete would not want to be coached by a former Major League pitcher who has gleaned from Hall of Famers and has himself stared down some of the best on the diamond?

Johnson recalls his days with the San Diego Padres in 2002 and the passionate rivalry between the West Coast teams. "It's electric" is how Johnson describes it. He came out of the bullpen to protect a ninth-inning lead and finish a game against the

Los Angeles Dodgers who were fighting for a playoff spot. Even though the Padres were out of the playoff picture, Johnson and the Padres wanted to play spoiler. After getting two quick outs, Johnson faced two-time All-Star Shawn Green.

"Struck him out with a breaking ball down and in," Johnson reminisces with a smile. "I can remember that at-bat like it was yesterday."

That's just one moment in the life of a man who sounds more than ready to "Play Ball!" at CIU.

"There are so many things I've done for the last 20 years that have prepared me for this. I'm so excited I wish we could start games next week." ■



# JOIN THE TEAM

*Join the excitement as CIU is fundraising \$1 million for a new baseball field!*

Contact CIU Advancement at (803) 807-5000 for more information on how to play your part in CIU history when the Rams take the field for the first time.



# Unique fully online Ph.D. in Biblical Studies and Theological Studies coming to CIU

Plus other new undergraduate and graduate degrees offered

Columbia International University is leading the way in North America with a new and unique Ph.D. being offered in Columbia Biblical Seminary (CBS).

Beginning this fall, CBS will be the first seminary in the United States or Canada to offer a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies and Theological Studies using a fully-online modified European model that focuses on researching and writing a scholarly dissertation apart from extensive course work.

The degree is designed so that students can complete their work in their own context in three years of full-time study or five years of part-time study. It is accredited nationally by the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) and regionally by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Students will complete three initial semester-long seminars online as part of a cohort during their first year. During the third seminar, each candidate will be assigned to a qualified faculty mentor who will guide the candidate through the dissertation proposal, research, and writing stages. When the faculty mentor deems the dissertation to be ready for defense, the candidate will defend his/her dissertation before a committee of at least three faculty readers.

CBS Dean Dr. John Harvey says the program will emphasize CIU's core values of the Authority of Scripture and World Evangelization, aligning with CIU's mission.

"With its purpose of preparing graduates to teach nationally and internationally, the program aligns with CIU's emphasis on impacting the nations," Harvey said. "With its Old Testament and New Testament content areas, the program aligns with CIU's emphasis on the message of Christ."

The CBS program is unique because most North American seminaries and divinity schools — even those that offer the degree in online or hybrid modality — follow a model that includes at least two years of course work, followed by comprehensive exams and the dissertation process. The CBS program, therefore, will be more time- and cost-efficient than other U.S. or Canadian programs.

Other exciting programs being introduced this fall include:

### **Human Services (Fully Online)**

#### **Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Science**

These degrees train students for professional and paraprofessional jobs in such diverse settings as clinics, hospitals, group homes, correctional centers, government agencies, day treatment centers, extended care facilities, community-based living homes and social service agencies. Graduates will be equipped to help others overcome life obstacles and provide guidance to those in distress.

### **Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling (Fully Online)**

Adult ministering professionals employed in one of the "helping" professions will greatly benefit from this degree. It provides graduate-level knowledge and skills in human behavior that promote the spiritual and emotional well-being of those whom they serve.

### **Doctor of Ministerial Leadership (Available Fully Online)**

This new degree replaces the Doctor of Ministry degree in Columbia Biblical Seminary. It offers professional ministers the opportunity to grow in their own spiritual maturity, strengthen their personal and professional ethic, and develop a biblical approach to their practice of leadership.

### **Disaster Relief and Emergency Management (B.S. and Master's)**

When an emergency or disaster strikes, those affected need personnel on the scene who can provide for their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. That's why CIU is now offering a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Disaster Relief and Emergency Management. Students will learn how to manage a disaster response, identify trauma in those affected and how to build disaster resilient communities while demonstrating Christian compassion, service and witness.

Graduates will be prepared to work with government and faith-based disaster relief organizations, or to coordinate disaster relief through a local church, denomination, or mission organization. Many CIU students already have hands-on experience through CIU's minor in Disaster Relief.

The bachelor's degree is residential. The master's degree is fully online. ■



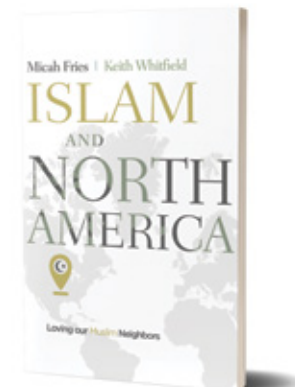


With Shirin Taber

## CIU student contributes chapter to new book “Islam and North America”

What is the best way to reach your Muslim neighbor? That’s one of the questions that Columbia International University student Shirin Taber discusses in her contribution to the new book, “Islam and North America — Loving our Muslim Neighbors,” published by B&H Publishing.

Taber, an Iranian-American who is enrolled in CIU’s M.A. in Muslim Studies program, is the founder and director of the Middle East Women’s Leadership Network and assists multiple organizations in faith-based initiatives, especially those involving women.



Her chapter in the new book is titled, “The Challenges Muslims Face in North America.” She discusses the topic in this Q&A:

### **Q:** How did it come about that you were asked to write a chapter in the book?

I have been working in writing and producing media for the Muslim world since the early 2000s. Since there are very few women from a Muslim heritage able to contribute, I was chosen to write a chapter for the “Islam and North America” book. I also authored the book titled “Muslims Next Door,” which thankfully received a lot of academic and media attention. I am grateful that my writing and media work have helped me to expand my visibility and platform as a thought-leader in this space.

### **Q:** Briefly, what are some of the challenges for Muslims in North America?

Since 9–11 many Muslims have faced challenges assimilating into mainstream America. The younger generation particularly have felt marginalized and discriminated against. Some have dug in their heels, aligning themselves with political Islam. Others have tried to operate under the radar. Others are working diligently to create platforms for peace building. It’s vital that Americans, and Christians in particular, continue to reach out to their Muslim neighbors with respect and dignity. We have an amazing opportunity to reach out to the nations and show them the best of American culture and the Christian faith.

### **Q:** What is the best way to engage Muslim neighbors?

The best way to engage Muslims is through genuine friendships. I encourage Christians to get in touch with their fears and prejudices before reaching out to their Muslim neighbors. It’s important to reach out with sincere love, hospitality and integrity. American Muslims want to feel included in everyday life experiences. Like most people, they want to be invited to holiday events, birthday parties, concerts, sporting events and neighborhood gatherings. Recognize that many Muslims have felt burned by the media’s representation of Islamic extremism. Most simply want to live quiet and peaceful lives in our country. Always start with an attitude of friendship rather than an agenda.

### **Q:** What sort of things are they curious about in the lives of North Americans and especially Christians?

Not surprisingly, most Muslims immigrate to the United States and expect Americans to be Christians. So this means that we don’t need to hide our Christian faith. In fact, most Muslims welcome us to express our faith with warmth and hospitality. Many Muslims are curious about Christian practices and traditions in America. This gives believers freedom to reach out and share their lives and faith genuinely.

### **Q:** What in your CIU studies has benefited you in authoring this chapter?

While I have had a lifetime of experience with Muslim people and culture, I am indebted to the CIU faculty for challenging me to go deeper in my study of the Quran, Islamic texts and scholars. My studies and relationships with the CIU faculty have developed in me even more compassion for Muslim people and a desire to represent them accurately. It has also awakened in me a desire to do Ph.D. research focused on the intersection of women’s rights and religious freedom in business economies in the Muslim world. My goal is to help expand women’s religious liberties so that individuals may experience more inclusivity, peace and freedom around the world. ■



# ATHLETICS



**JAKE MONTGOMERY**



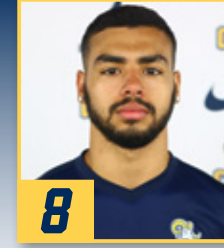
**BLAKE GUILLOZET**



**SOTIRIA TSILIONIS**



**ESTHER EDWARDS**



**MARCOS DA PAZ**



**ROMULO BARRETO**

## SIX ALL-AMERICANS

In the eight-year history of Columbia International University Athletics, no team has ever had an All-American. However, this school year four teams had at least one athlete receive the All-American recognition: Men's Golf, Men's Soccer, Men's Cross Country, and Women's Soccer. Men's and Women's Soccer had two from each of their respective teams receive the honor.

Jake Montgomery was the first Ram to receive the recognition as he finished in eighth place at the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Golf Championships. He also placed in the Top 10 in most of the invitational tournaments.

Blake Guillozet was the next Ram to make history as he finished ninth at the NCCAA Cross Country Championships. Guillozet was one of the top male cross-country runners in the country all year and lived up to that at the championships as he finished with a time of 26:40.

Sotiria Tsilionis and Esther Edwards were third team All-America selections as the Women's Soccer team had one of their best seasons in program history. Tsilionis led the Rams in goals and total points, while also scoring two game-winning goals. Edwards brought a consistency to the Ram's defense that allowed less than one goal per game.

In Men's Soccer, Marcos Da Paz and Romulo Barreto were second team All-America selections as the Rams advanced to the NCCAA National Championships for the first time. Barreto tied for third on the team in goals, game winning goals, and points and was second on the team in assists. Da Paz led the Rams in goals with 18 on the year and four game-winning goals.



*All-American Jake Montgomery with Golf Coach Matt Decker.*

## CIU Women Enter Two New Sports

More historic milestones in the history of Columbia International University athletics. In the fall, the Lady Rams played their first volleyball matches winning the first home match in convincing fashion by defeating cross-town rivals Columbia College 3-0.

Meanwhile, in February, the Rams women's softball team dropped two games in their first-ever intercollegiate match-up at College of Coastal Georgia, but came back the next day to take two games at Trinity Baptist College in Jacksonville, Florida.







▲ The men's basketball team has initiated a program called, "Books 'n Basketball" encouraging elementary school students in the community to read. (Facebook photo)

## Rams in the Community

The Columbia International University athletic teams continue to make an impact, not only on the playing field, but also off the field as they reach out to the community. It is a responsibility the athletes and coaches take seriously.

The 12 Rams teams, comprised of 170 athletes, reach a wide variety of people as they make Christ known in greater Columbia. The teams collaborate with organizations and groups of all sizes and ages, significantly increasing their community engagement in 2018.

Athletics Director James Whitaker says the significant jump in community engagement links to the Athletics Department motto this school year, "One Goal, One Team, Glorify God."

"The teams have really taken that to heart as the Rams have participated in over 100 hours of service," Whitaker said. "The activity in the community is directly aligned with the University's 'To Know and to Make Him Known' motto."

The Rams have participated in evangelistic sports camps and clinics, a community festival at nearby Temple Zion Baptist Church, trash cleanup, a mentorship program at a local public elementary school, volunteering at the Salvation Army and local food bank, and visiting the children's hospital, just to name a few activities. ■



▲ CIU athletes bag groceries at Harvest Hope Food Bank in Columbia.

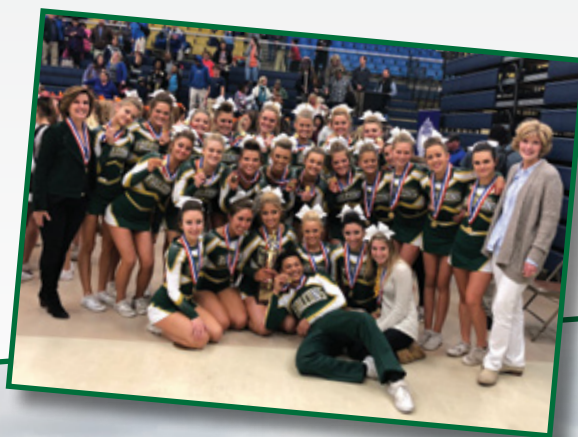
## Ben Lippen runners and cheer squad repeat championships

One of the rarest and toughest accomplishments in all of high school sport is winning a state championship. Even more difficult is winning them in back-to-back years. In the fall, Ben Lippen School had two athletic teams that accomplished this extremely rare feat: Boys Cross Country and Competitive Cheer.

In October, the Falcons' Boys Cross Country team dominated the SCISA 3A state championship meet with five runners placing in the top 10. The team was led by duo Camden Abrams and Samari Van Horn who both ran personal records of 17:09 to finish fourth and fifth respectively. John Davis outkicked a runner at the line to finish in seventh place with a time of 17:29. Senior and Team Captain Henry Long finished with a time of 17:34 to place ninth and junior Jacob Sark ran a personal best of 17:51 to take 10th place.

The following month, the Ben Lippen Competitive Cheer team won the 2018 SCISA Division II state cheer competition topping cross-town rival Hammond 251-229.

The goal of each of Ben Lippen's teams is to encourage athletes to use their talents and abilities to glorify God. ■





WE



CIU

## Kevin and Lainie McWilliams: "The students know us together"

CIU couple celebrates 40 years of marriage, 20 years at CIU



Kevin and Lainie McWilliams recall that DTR moment in their lives. It was April 4, 1977 when they sat on a bench at the spot that today overlooks the Pine View Apartments. They had been friends for nearly two years knowing each other as classmates and through church. Now it was time to Define The Relationship.

"We finally realized what had been going on in our hearts," Kevin said. "That's when we officially started dating. But we both knew that night we would end up getting married."

And they did.

They celebrated their 40th anniversary in 2018, with the last 20 years serving together at the school where they met. Kevin is a Bible Studies professor and Lainie is on staff in the Student Life Office. During an interview with the couple in the Rossi Student Center, both admitted they were the last to know that they would become a couple.

"A number of people saw this coming," Kevin and Lainie said with a laugh. Among them was revered CIU professor Buck Hatch. When Kevin and Lainie got up from that bench in 1977, the first thing they did was walk "Faculty Row," the road to The Pointe that used to be lined with the houses of several faculty members. They knocked on the door of the Hatch household.

When Mr. Hatch opened the door he knew something was up. "We were just giddy," Kevin admits. Lainie remembers Mr. Hatch calling to his wife: "Mittie start another one!" At that moment she was sewing a wedding present for another couple.

Professor Hatch was one of the people who "saw this coming."

Kevin left CIU for ministry work, but returned to marry Lainie after she graduated in May 1978. He would later finish his bachelor's degree and earn a master's degree from CIU.

Forty years later, CIU is the beneficiary of this couple's union. They realize that they are an example to the students, because as Lainie states it, "The students know us together."

"We prayed at the very beginning that our marriage would reflect Jesus and be a blessing and a challenge to others, and God has been gracious enough to allow that to happen," Kevin said.

They recalled that as they dated, Kevin would occasionally give three roses to Lainie, two red and one white, symbolizing Christ at the center of their relationship. It even "blossomed" into a song that Kevin wrote for their wedding titled "The Three of Us."

"The three of us will share His love, we'll walk hand-in-hand," Lainie recited from the chorus of the song. "And as the three of us are one, we pray the world will see and turn to the Son." ■

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**"We prayed at the very beginning that our marriage would reflect Jesus and be a blessing and a challenge to others..."**

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Above: Trash pickup along Monticello Road

Left: Grocery giveaway at the bottom of Monticello Road.

## Impacting the nations beginning in Columbia

"Is this for real? You sure this is free?"

This was the response of a Monticello Road resident who received one of 266 bags of groceries from CIU's Student Mission Connection (SMC) as the group reached out to the local community.

SMC set up a tent, table and a sign that said "free groceries" just down Monticello Road from CIU on property recently purchased by the university.

SMC President Jacob Lester said the goal was to love the community and show Christ through meeting a physical need.

"I was told, that close to 90 percent of the people on Monticello Road fall below the poverty line," Lester said. "We wanted to share the love of Christ and fulfill the need."

Columbia International University students are educated from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ. During the fall semester, that began literally down the street, just across the Broad River in the St. Andrews area and downtown at local ministries, charities and nonprofits.

A CIU Prayer Day began with a session of prayer and worship. But then the students put feet to their prayers when they fanned out across the Columbia area for a variety of service projects. Some didn't have to go far as they picked up trash along Monticello

Road, the gateway to the campus. Others volunteered at ministries such as the Salvation Army Family Store where they sorted donations and organized the store front.

"It's a huge responsibility to run a store like this but volunteers help us get things done and keep the costs down so we can donate the proceeds to people who need it in our community," said the store's Operations Manager Leslie Jones. "We enjoy having (CIU students) come volunteer."

Also during the semester, two community impact teams of Intercultural Studies majors partnered with existing ministries to bless refugees living in two apartment complexes not far from campus.

Senior Emma Grace Ballentine recounted how as she was being served a meal by her Malaysian hostess at the apartments, she sensed something was wrong.

"She was burning her hands (by) using a towel as she was serving us food," said Ballentine.

Ballentine realized the refugee was still getting settled in America — and gave her some potholders.

"In the little day-to-day things (the refugees) see Christ through you," Ballentine added. ■



# KINGDOM CURRENCY

You may be able to tell by this student's name that he comes from the country of Ukraine. He's Vladyslav Hruntkovskyi, better known around campus as Vlad.

The senior in the Business & Organizational Leadership program lives in a suburb of the capital city Kiev. His first connection with CIU was from a high school friend who was already studying here. After a few visits to campus, Vlad decided this is the place God wanted him. As his undergraduate studies near the end, Vlad says he has experienced deep, unprecedented spiritual growth. He says, "I have a story of learning about the depth of God's faithfulness."

His host family in Charlotte, North Carolina has been very supportive of his enrollment at CIU, and God even led them to help pay for his room and board. However, every year Vlad has also applied for donor scholarships to assist in the remaining costs.

"There is absolutely no way I would have been able to afford education in the States on my own" is Vlad's message to donors.

He adds that donors' impact "should be measured in 'Kingdom Currency.'"

"Your material sacrifices serve as spiritual and educational foundations for many students at CIU," Vlad said. "We learn the importance of discipleship, dedicating ourselves to sharing the knowledge and experience that we receive here, ensuring that this investment doesn't end with us."

In addition to great classroom education, Vlad says he has met his best friends at CIU and together, they are passionate about impacting the world for Christ.

"I hope that together we will spread the gospel and message of God's glory."

For the immediate future, Vlad is considering a few options: an MBA, serving with Operation Christmas Child or taking a ministry position at his church back home. Long term, he desires to serve the Lord in his home country or be involved with a ministry that serves there. ■



## Open doors of opportunity for future CIU Students. Here's how.



**PRAY:** Join the 1,000 Prayer Partners initiative. Sign up to receive monthly reminders of how you can regularly pray for CIU. [ciu.edu/prayer](http://ciu.edu/prayer)



**GIVE:** Give toward student aid, faculty/staff, William H. Jones Global Business & IT Center, or where needed most. Consider enrolling in our monthly giving program. [give.ciu.edu](http://give.ciu.edu)



**LEARN:** Stay informed on the latest at CIU through social media. Like, follow, and share on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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- [Twitter.com/DiscoverCIU](https://twitter.com/DiscoverCIU)
- [Instagram.com/ciurams](https://www.instagram.com/ciurams)



**SHARE:** Tell others about CIU and what it has meant to you. Vladyslav Hruntkovskyi enrolled at CIU after a friend recommended it to him. The student you refer may be eligible to receive the Legacy Grant or Alumni Referral Grant, a \$4,000 value. ■

## Make a GIFT, Make an IMPACT

- Give online at [give.ciu.edu](http://give.ciu.edu)
- Call us at (803) 807-5006
- Write to:  
**CIU Advancement Office**  
**Box 3122, Columbia, SC 29230**





**CIU Prison Initiative** has been educating select inmates since 2007 with an accredited Associate of Arts degree in Bible. Graduates are ministering in 23 institutions across South Carolina. Our students and graduates are committed to reaching men you and I cannot reach behind prison walls.

# The World Called Me Worthless

*Written by Steven R., a second-year student in the CIU Prison Initiative Program*

Recently God has shown me that I can be used in mighty ways through the truth of this Scripture:

*“What the world thinks is worthless, useless, and nothing at all is what God has used to destroy what the world considers important.” (1 Corinthians 1:28).*

The world called me worthless, God called me more precious than gold. The world called me useless, God chose me to be His worker. The world said I am just an inmate. God says I am a child of God.

Recently, I went to the Youthful Offender Act Reception and Evaluation dorm with two CIU brothers. The dorm was full of young, wild, and broken men ages 18-21 years old. After praying at the gate, a man greeted us who had obviously been fighting. He told us there had been incidents all day. The dorm sounded like a dog kennel full of starving pit bulls. We took turns telling our stories and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. That night 39 young men, mostly gangbangers, gave their lives to the Lord for the first time. All praise is to Him!

The CIU Prison Initiative to me means hope — not just for me, but also for the thousands of inmates that we are able to reach. The world calls them worthless. I’ve been sent to tell them they are precious to God.

## IN 2018:



**31,918**  
cell-to-cell visits



**886**  
first-time professions  
of faith



**1,124**  
rededications  
to the Lord

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*Johnny V. Miller*  
*Edith Parks*  
*Dr. Mark Smith*



## RETIREMENT: The Surprise of Accountability



**By Dr. Johnny V. Miller**  
 CIU's Fourth President  
 CIU 2019 Honorary Alumnus

*Dr. Johnny Miller celebrates being named honorary alumnus at Homecoming 2018. Beside him is his wife, Jeanne. Making the presentation are Alumni Association Leadership Council President Edith Parks and CIU President Dr. Mark Smith.*

A friend recently asked what surprises me about retirement. Pondering the question gave me renewed appreciation for CIU, and gratefulness to God for extended ministry life.

The **biggest surprise** of retirement has been my welcomed daily **freedom**, and the subsequent lack of accountability. I don't owe an explanation or itinerary to anyone but my wife, Jeanne. And even after 11 years of retirement, it still feels weird. After all, I was either in school or professional ministry well over 50 years. There was always a boss. And every day a schedule. So now if I find myself in Walmart at 10 a.m., I feel guilty. Shouldn't I be accomplishing something?

The **best surprise** of retirement has been the sense of **independence** that rides my lack of accountability. No **deadlines**. No hurry. No fuming at stop lights. No hustling to make meetings. I can read every word of Herman Melville's *Omoo* if I want. No skimming, no skipping. It's about as stress-free as we'll find this side of heaven.

The **biggest challenge** of retirement has been the temptation to **irresponsibility**, a twin to lack of accountability. I want to be as spiritually fruitful as possible as long as possible. But that won't happen without commitment and relationships. It means I have to sacrifice my selfish pursuit of comfort and freedom and put others first. If I'm not willing to live with stress, I won't be able to serve those under stress.

The **hardest challenge** of retirement has been my difficulty in **planning** borne from my lack of accountability. I used to capture stray hours weeks in advance, redeeming each opportunity for fruitfulness. Planning gave a false sense of control. Now no one asks for my strategic plan. I can do what I want, when I want. At least whatever my Parkinson's disease allows me to do, and who knows what that will be? I'm not in control of the future, and blessed to live in the "now." That's the limit of my accountability, making the most of my "nows."

So I am blessed to still be teaching at CIU, despite my lack of accountability. I was surprised when former president Dr. Bill Jones invited me back in 2011 to teach as much as I was able, as long as I was able after my retirement. I hadn't expected that. I told him about my disease, but he wasn't stymied: "As much as you're able, as long as you're able."

And I was humbly graced when our new president, Dr. Mark Smith, echoed Dr. Jones' words when he joined us in 2017. Some presidents, like some pastors, prefer to clean out the previous administration so they can start over fresh. Instead, these men and seminary dean Dr. John Harvey offered me a context where I can be as fruitful as possible, as long as possible. For someone with a lack of accountability, I have felt motivated, challenged, encouraged, and blessed. I had no idea 11 years ago that I would trade in accountability for retirement, and be privileged to serve again the dear school and godly people by whom I'm blessed. Ultimately, I'm reminded, my accountability is to God, from which I'll never retire. ■



RECAP

# Destination CIU

COLUMBIA

## HOMECOMING 2018



Alumnus of the Year  
Dr. Y. Armanious ('04) speaks



Recent Alumni Recognition Chapel



Armanious with his wife, Vicky, and CIU Presidents Bill Jones, Mark Smith, George Murray and Johnny Miller.



Disc Golf Tournament winners Micah McCoy, Brandon Eaves, Ryan Towler



Registration with Anne Wenger



TO KNOW HIM AND...



Recent Alumni Recognition Award Recipients



Class of 1958



Professors with Alumni



Class of 1988





Music Through the Ages



Anne McQuilkin Priest ('52)



Class of 1968



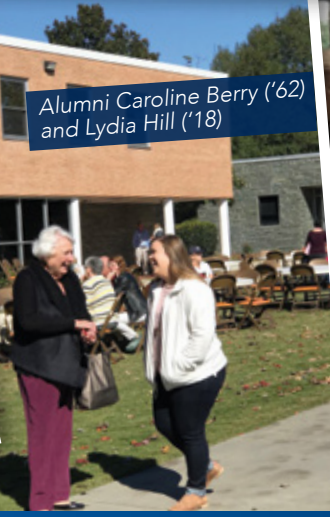
Students win CIU Bowl!



Class of 1978



Dr. Johnny Miller with wife, Jeanne, receiving the Honorary Alumnus Award



Alumni Caroline Berry ('62) and Lydia Hill ('18)



# Save the date for Homecoming 2019 / Nov. 1-2



## 2019 Alumni of the year: Doug Kracht ('67) and Alleene Petty Kracht ('68)

Doug and Alleene have been missionaries since 1972, initially serving with World Team, Inc., and later cooperatively with World Witness (ARP). They have also served on the faculty of Jamaica Bible College. Throughout their ministry, God has used Doug's audio-visual abilities, and Alleene's gift of teaching to spread the gospel in a variety of ways including church planting, educating students with learning differences, and producing evangelistic materials in digital and printed formats. Their work has made an impact throughout much of Latin America, including Cuba, as well as in Spain.



# RECENT ALUMNI

## Recognition Award



Each year Columbia International University recognizes 12 recent alumni who are serving on the mission field, in the marketplace or in church ministry and are faithful examples of CIU's five core values. Read about them at [ciu.edu/RARA](http://ciu.edu/RARA).

### Is there someone you would like to nominate?

Contact the Alumni Office at (803) 807-5500 or [alumni@ciu.edu](mailto:alumni@ciu.edu)

## 2019 Recipients



### David ('08) & Dylia Sasso Haron ('08)

David and Dylia are full-time missionaries in Italy working with refugees and ministering to Muslims. Prior to that, they served for seven years at Theos Place in Costa Rica specializing in youth programs, a missions branch, and launching satellite church campuses. They met at CIU and married in 2009. They have two children: Sara, 5 and Isaac, 4.



### Betsy Killins ('09)

Betsy is the emerging leader women's director and women's global coordinator at Downline Ministries in Memphis, Tennessee. Her responsibilities include mentoring, coaching, discipleship, and teaching courses on biblical womanhood. Betsy also travels on three to four international trips each year, training and equipping teams to teach discipleship around the world.



### Dustin Ventura ('09)

Dustin taught in public schools for several years. In 2011, he became the director of Child Evangelism Fellowship of the Greater Pee Dee area of South Carolina. His leadership has had a profound impact for the kingdom through evangelizing children. He is married to Leslie and they have three children: Carlee 4, Bennett 2, and newborn Allie.



### Crystal Hughes ('09)

Crystal is a fourth grade teacher at Sandhills Classical Christian School in North Carolina. After graduating from CIU, Crystal earned a Master of Arts in Human Services, and while working at Automatic Data Processing (ADP), earned her second Master of Arts in Middle Grades Education. Her favorite subjects to teach are Bible and History, using song, recitation/memorization and movement to help her students learn.



### Timmy Dahlstrom ('08)

Timmy works as a professional counselor and chaplain with the Air Force Reserve at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma, Washington. He also works part time with Teachbeyond, as a professional counselor providing care to missionaries globally. After graduating from CIU, Timmy served in Germany as a missionary with Teachbeyond at Black Forest Academy from 2008-2018. In 2018, Timmy and his wife, Kristi returned to the United States with their two children: Luci, 3 and newborn Ellie.



### Erin Elizabeth Austin ('08)

Erin is the founder of Broken but Priceless Ministries, an interdenominational, nonprofit Christian ministry that seeks to encourage individuals suffering with a chronic illness. She also works part time at Connie Maxwell Children's Home in North Carolina. ■



# ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

**Beulah Case ('38)** is enjoying life to its fullest at the “young” age of 98, and thanks God every day. She likes the retirement home where she is living, including taking tours to places of interest, and is grateful for local ministers who hold Sunday services and weekly Bible studies. Her late husband, **Milton ('41)** served in Korea and was among the last of the American troops to cross into Seoul.

**Henry ('48) and Pauline ('48) Musick** have been married 70 years and have 8 children, 16 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Henry served as a pastor in small churches, and then planted two churches, including one that is vibrantly winning the lost. He saw the need in the schools and served as teacher, principal and education superintendent, all the while still serving as a pastor.

**Charlotte Crotts Lochstampfor ('53)** lost her precious husband of 65 years, **Ed ('53)** unexpectedly in November. She is supported by her loving children, Matt, Tom, **Susan ('82)**, Michael and **Beth ('87)**.

**Bob ('68) and Ann Watson ('68) Henriques** have been full-time missionaries in Central America for the past 50 years; two years in Panama and 48 years in Guatemala. They have participated in all types of ministry, mainly mentoring servant leaders among seminary students. They have four children and eight grandchildren. ✉ [bobhenriques@gmail.com](mailto:bobhenriques@gmail.com)

**Evan Palmer ('75)** served as pastor and teacher in Palau for five years, then taught on a Navajo Reservation for three years. After that, he taught in Mexico at a mission school for deaf students for over 30 years. At the age of 95, he retired and lives in the Veteran's Home in Chula Vista, California.

**1 / Vicki Harkrider Bagdasaranz ('76)** has been ministering at a “Discipleship Camp” for youth and college-age adults near Odessa, Ukraine. ✉ [freeinchrist@sunrise.ch](mailto:freeinchrist@sunrise.ch)

**Rod Culbertson ('80)** recently published “As The Father Has Sent Me” – a book that summarizes **James “Buck” Hatch's ('39)** “Progress of Redemption.” The book helps the reader discover the unity of God's story for the world. ✉ [rculbertson@rts.edu](mailto:rculbertson@rts.edu)

**John ('78/'82) and Shari Thompson ('81) Thomas** have planted churches in the United States and abroad. They also founded Parakaleo, helping wives thrive in church-planting ministries. [www.parakaleo.us](http://www.parakaleo.us)

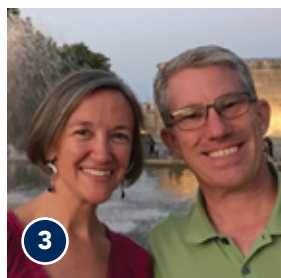


**2 / Michael and Rachel Whisnant ('92, '94) Humphries** married on Sept. 15, 2018 and are living in Florida. ✉ [rachelatemail@gmail.com](mailto:rachelatemail@gmail.com)



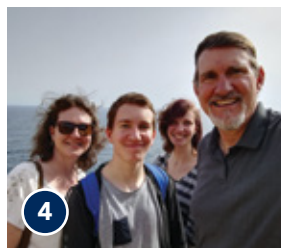
**3 / Allen ('93) and Elizabeth Dyck** have been living in Madrid, Spain since 2010. They moved to Europe in 1997 as missionaries serving with Communitas International (formerly Christian Associates International). Allen has been the director of Staff Care and Development since 2012. ✉ [aldyck64@me.com](mailto:aldyck64@me.com)

**Robbie ('94/'07) and Criss McAlister** are mobilizing people to engage the diaspora around the world, focusing primarily on unreached people groups. ✉ [robbiecriss@yahoo.com](mailto:robbiecriss@yahoo.com)



**4 / Roy ('95) and Jennifer Nagelkirk ('95)** serve as missionaries with Greater Europe Mission in France. ✉ [roy.nagelkirk@gemission.org](mailto:roy.nagelkirk@gemission.org)

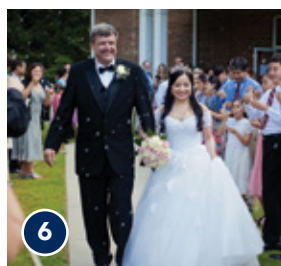
**5 / Jeffrey ('95) and Emmy Ort** look forward to expanding their camping ministry for people with special needs. A new facility will provide more weeks of summer camp and conferences for families. They have seven beautiful children: Keith, Jacob, Orion, Kara, Simon, Ian and Grace. ✉ [camppromise@bigskybiblecamp.org](mailto:camppromise@bigskybiblecamp.org)



**6 / Mark Peter ('96) and Li Xiao Hong** married in 2017 at the Chinese Christian Church of Columbia, South Carolina. Several CIU classmates and professors attended. They are now back in East Asia teaching English to university students. Xiao Hong also has her own private English School. ✉ [mark.peter@pinnacleteaching.com](mailto:mark.peter@pinnacleteaching.com)



**Anne Marie Gosnell ('98)** has just published her fourth book for children: “Mateo's Choice: Basic Discipleship for Children Ages 5 to 8.” As a Bible teacher, Anne Marie has helped thousands of people teach engaging Bible lessons with creative resources. ✉ [futureflyingsaucers@klopex.com](mailto:futureflyingsaucers@klopex.com)



**Matthew ('99) and Karyn Eusey** are in their fifth year of serving on the Hawaiian island of Oahu. In addition to pastoring Trinity Church Central Oahu (PCA), Matt serves as the director of Grace Partnership Hawaii, the church planting and college ministry network of the PCA on the Hawaiian Islands. They have four children: Dorothy, Genevieve, Luther and Matthew. ✉ [matt@tccoahu.org](mailto:matt@tccoahu.org)

**Chris Hill ('02)** was elected judge in Collin County, Texas, having previously served for five years as a Collin County commissioner. Chris is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA), and Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). ✉ [christopher@ehill.net](mailto:christopher@ehill.net)





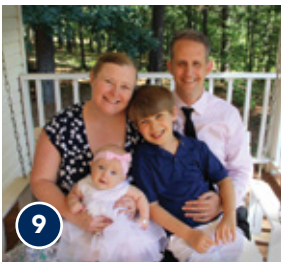
7

**7 / Casey Shaw ('02)** is the new pastor of First Baptist Church of Swainsboro, Georgia. He and Angie have been married for 21 years and have four children: Rachel (15), Levi (14), Andrew (11), and Lily (5). ✉ [ifollowjesus@gmail.com](mailto:ifollowjesus@gmail.com)



8

**8 / Sean and Mary Somerville ('03) McAfee** along with Ian (5) and Audrey (3) welcomed Collin Israel to their family on Oct. 30, 2018. ✉ [macfeeville@gmail.com](mailto:macfeeville@gmail.com)



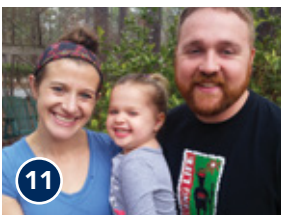
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**9 / Marc Shaduk ('06)** has published "Hope in the Darkness: A Healing Journey." The book is based on personal experiences and demonstrates the hope that is present in a variety of life's struggles. He and his wife, Holly, have two beautiful children. ✉ [shaduk1@hotmail.com](mailto:shaduk1@hotmail.com)



10

**Stephen and Kate Brown ('07) Cahill** moved to Irmo, South Carolina in February 2016. After graduating from CIU, Kate moved back home to Connecticut where she met her husband, Stephen, and worked as a public school teacher. There, she also earned her master's degree in Remedial Reading. Now back in South Carolina with her family, and new son, Gabriel, Kate and her family love the Columbia area and are excited to be near her alma mater. Kate considers the public school her mission field, and is teaching third grade. ✉ [cuteacher22@gmail.com](mailto:cuteacher22@gmail.com)



11

**Tim and Stephanie ('08) Singley** opened FPC (Personal Financial Consultants) of Palm Coast, Florida. FPC of Palm Coast specializes in placing operations, supply chain and continuous process improvement professionals within the manufacturing sector. Stephanie has an extensive background in training, program/curriculum development, administration, education and charity fundraising. She is focusing on recruiting top talent in supply chain management. ✉ [stephanies@fpcpalmcoast.com](mailto:stephanies@fpcpalmcoast.com)

**10 / Wendy Stapleton ('09)** Boca Raton Christian School in Florida is excited to announce the appointment of Wendy as head of school. She brings great energy and enthusiasm to her new role as she leads the school with a new vision, continuing to build on a foundation of over four decades of excellence. ✉ [stapletonw@bocachristian.org](mailto:stapletonw@bocachristian.org)



12

**11 / Zack ('10) and Carly Brady**, along with daughter Ellie Jo, have moved to Malawi, Africa to minister with Young Life. Carly will be on the front line of emergency medicine in a developing country, while Zach has a team of local Young Life staff, reaching students in a country where the population is mostly young people under the age of 24. ✉ [zbrady471@gmail.com](mailto:zbrady471@gmail.com)

**12 / Alex Seidel ('10)** grew up in Stuttgart, Germany, and is now living with his family in South Hungary. In 2010, he graduated from CIU with a Master of Arts in Educational Ministries degree. Currently, he is enrolled CIU's Ph.D. in Educational

Leadership program. He works as a program manager of a competence center for banking-IT experts at the Erste Bank Group. Alex also loves to preach the gospel and to give speeches all over Europe. ✉ [a.seidel@ubas.de](mailto:a.seidel@ubas.de)

**Jennifer Workman ('10)** is the founder of Simply Victorious Ministries. Her latest book, "Simply Victorious For Life," compassionately addresses questions relating to prayer, faith, spirituality, and relationship with God. [jyworkman.wix.com/jennifer](http://jyworkman.wix.com/jennifer)

**Brianna McLeod ('11)** serves as dean of women and teaches seventh grade English at Ben Lippen School. In July 2017, she released her first album, "Sing My Soul: A Worship EP." ✉ [brianna.mcleod@benlippen.com](mailto:brianna.mcleod@benlippen.com)



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## In Memoriam

- Warren Johnson ('41)** – October 2018
- Helen Madeira Cox ('42)** – January 2019
- Julius Reichert ('45)** – August 2018
- Florence Birchfield Beebe ('46)** – February 2019
- Lillian "Lee" Jeffcoat Jackson ('46)** – January 2019
- Marie Duerksen Kleinsasser ('46)** – October 2018
- Paul Leber ('46)** – November 2018
- Howard Price Sr. ('46)** – January 2019
- Tommye Adcox Varney ('48)** – December 2018
- Marlytte Bub Borman ('49)** – August 2018
- Mamie Gehman ('49)** – May 2018
- May Hersey ('49)** – January 2018
- Clifton Duvall ('50)** – August 2018
- Kate Callaway Carter ('51)** – September 2018
- Edward Seiford ('52)** – October 2018
- Edgar Lochstampfor ('53)** – November 2018
- Barbara Woolen Alexander ('54)** – July 2018
- Ruth Wilson Bolyard ('54)** – January 2018
- Bill Caldwell ('56)** – April 2018
- Charles Gibbs ('57)** – December 2018
- Stanley Jackson ('57)** – August 2018
- Vera Edwards Salstrom ('57)** – February 2018
- Ruth Spangenberg ('57)** – August 2018
- W. Thomas Alexander ('58)** – August 2018
- Rachel Hutchinson Anderson ('59)** – January 2018
- Thomas Johnson ('59)** – January 2018
- Kermit Lamb ('63)** – April 2018
- Helen Schnell Braun ('67)** – September 2018
- Clifford Gross ('68)** – August 2018
- Robert "Butch" Hammond ('68)** – February 2019
- Jeannette Young Morgan ('68)** – November 2018
- Richard Ray Martin ('70)** – November 2018
- Darrell Wood ('71)** – February 2018
- Larry McEntire ('74)** – July 2018
- Bobby Hutto ('76)** – January 2019
- Jeffrey Barnes ('77)** – September 2018
- Thomas Campbell ('79)** – February 2019
- Allen Bratcher ('80)** – March 2018
- Lee Martin Queen ('84)** – August 2018
- Keila Brown Gutierrez Marshall ('97)** – February 2018
- Ann Zimmerman ('03)** – February 2019
- Helmuth Eggelkraut** (Former Korntal Professor)  
– November 2018



## A Life Well Lived

On a recent weekend I was privileged to see the impact of two lives totally surrendered to Christ. First I met with one of my heroes, 97-year-old Dr. Melvin Maxwell, the father of influential leadership expert Dr. John Maxwell.



President Smith visits with Melvin Maxwell

The elder Maxwell recently had a stroke and struggles to get a complete sentence together, but he has the presence of the Holy Spirit exuding from his life. I sensed it as I entered his room. Dr. Melvin pastored, was a church denominational leader, served as a Bible college president for 17 years and has had a powerful impact on the Kingdom.

At age 80, he moved to a trailer park in Florida and began Park Ministries, resulting in the planting of 43 trailer park ministries to lead people to Christ. At age 95, he moved to assisted living and shared with me that he named himself Chaplain of the facility “because these people are old and need Jesus and I am their last chance.” Wow what a life!

After that visit, I attended the celebration of life memorial service for Dr. Don Richardson, father of CIU alumnus Steve Richardson ('84/'85), the president of the missions agency Pioneers, married to CIU alumna Arlene Richardson ('84).

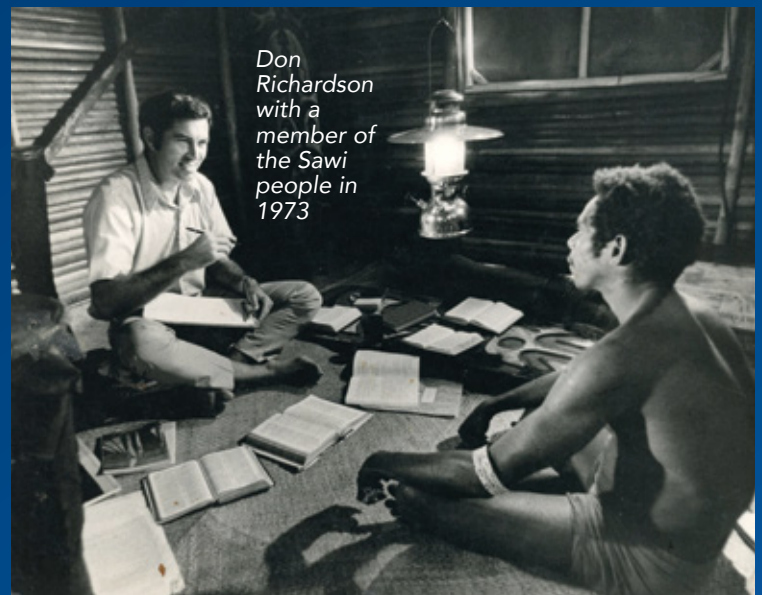
Don Richardson is a famous missionary and the author of the popular mission book “Peace Child,” – the story of how he and his wife Carol lived among, and shared the gospel with, the Sawi people of Indonesia – a tribe of headhunting cannibals. They translated the New Testament into the Sawi’s native tongue, and in time, many of the Sawi came to Christ, bringing about a cultural shift as the Sawi became people of peace and good will. Wow what a life!

After that weekend, I was deeply enriched, yet challenged to share these examples with today’s CIU students. I believe God is still raising up ministers and missionaries who are surrendered to the lordship of Christ. I believe this generation will be used as never before to share the gospel in ways we never dreamed.

One of the most powerful tools being used today is sports ministry. CIU coaches are using it for God’s glory. For example, new Baseball Coach Jonathon Johnson is reaching thousands in Latin America through his Honoring the Father baseball ministry (Page 18). Basketball Coach Tony Stockman is coordinating athletes to read to students in our community, and there’s more (Page 23).

As I left the celebration service, I further committed myself to do all within my strength through the Holy Spirit’s anointing to raise up this generation. Will you join me in prayer and giving to pour fuel on this passion and fire? This is our day. We must succeed.

Dr. Mark A. Smith  
President



Don Richardson with a member of the Sawi people in 1973





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