

# CIU

TODAY

## LEADERSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP

*Working on Capitol Hill and Loving It*

- + *Leadership Essentials for Women*
- + *Prison Initiative Alumnus Plays Key Role in Prison Hospice Training*
- + *"Pitching" a New Business*

+ *CIU Responds to Coronavirus*

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## TODAY

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CIU alumna Elizabeth Dews holds U.S. and French flags at a White House ceremony welcoming French President Emmanuel Macron to the United States. Dews works on Capitol Hill as a congressional aide.

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### PERSEVERANCE: What I learned from the CIU Rams Baseball Team



One of the things I like about baseball is that it is a game without a clock. Anything can happen until the final out. There is no giving up. Or at least there shouldn't be.

That's why I'm inspired by the CIU Rams and their first home baseball game in CIU school history. This young team, made up of mostly freshmen, persevered until the end to come away with a 7-6 extra-inning victory over USC-Salkehatchie on a beautiful February day in Columbia.

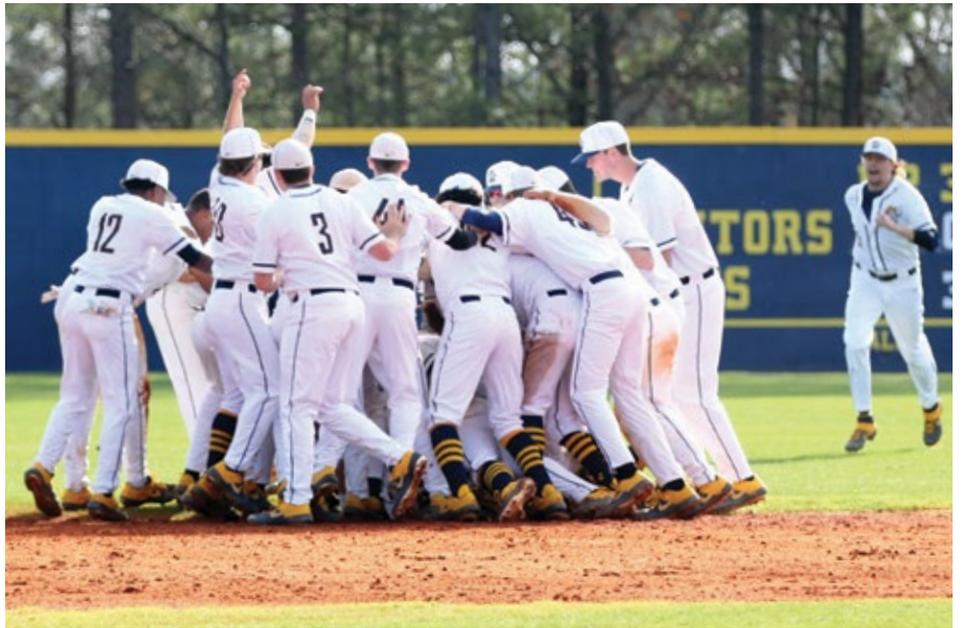
Even though they lost the lead through some momentary defensive sloppiness, that didn't deter them from persevering to the end — a biblical character trait we all need for leadership and scholarship — a theme to this month's magazine.

The Rams were down 6-5 with two outs in the bottom of the ninth. That's when Shane Hammonds sent a towering shot over the left field fence. Tie game!

Rams relief pitcher Joshua Hernandez persevered on the mound, striking out four batters in the 9th and 10th innings to give his team a chance at the win.

A lead-off triple from Rob Bell in the bottom of the 10th put him in scoring position for the Rams. One out later, freshman Trent Frye, who had been sitting on the bench all afternoon, was called on to pinch hit. He persevered. With two strikes, he fouled off a pitch before hitting a sharp grounder down the third base line that was too hot for the third baseman to handle, scoring Bell and giving the Rams the 7-6 victory.

After the game, Head Coach Jonathan Johnson



Put  
the ball  
in play.  
Make  
something  
happen.

commended his team for their perseverance.

"They keep fighting," Johnson said. "I always tell them, just give yourself a chance to win late and good things will happen in time."

And what was going through Trent Frye's mind when the pressure was on?

"Put the ball in play. Make something happen," he said after the game.

In the pages that follow in this edition of CIU Today, you'll read about leaders and scholars who have persevered or are persevering in various areas of achievement to the glory of God.

So what about you and me? Will we persevere to the end when the pressure is on?

We need to put the ball in play. Make something happen. I learned that from a freshman with a baseball bat.



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



An interview with Coach  
Jonathan Johnson



## CIU Continues Explosive Growth: Enrollment Up In Spring Semester

Columbia International University celebrated another great semester of enrollment. Total enrollment in the spring semester grew to **1,718 students; that's up 42% compared to a year ago.** More specifically the increase includes:

**744**  
**UNDERGRADUATE**  
**STUDENTS**  
*(includes online)* **30%**

**974**  
**GRADUATE**  
**STUDENTS**  
*(includes online)* **55%**

**ONLINE**  
**STUDENTS**  
**ALONE** **89%**

### Coronavirus: CIU Responds With Urgency, Prayer and Calm

#### All Classes Online, Virtual Commencement Planned

As soon as it became apparent that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was spreading, CIU formed a Coronavirus Response Team to stay ahead of developments. The team, headed by Provost Dr. James Lanpher, follows advice provided by the CDC and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and includes key CIU department heads. Lanpher made the theme of the meetings, "Stay Calm."

As spring break was ending, the CIU administration extended the break by one week, and later determined that online learning for all students was the wisest course of action for the remainder of the semester. Meanwhile, the CIU administration is developing a virtual commencement to take place online on May 2, the originally scheduled date for the event. In addition to the

virtual ceremony, graduates are encouraged to participate in December's on-campus commencement ceremony.

Ben Lippen School also suspended on-campus classes and seamlessly transitioned to online learning.

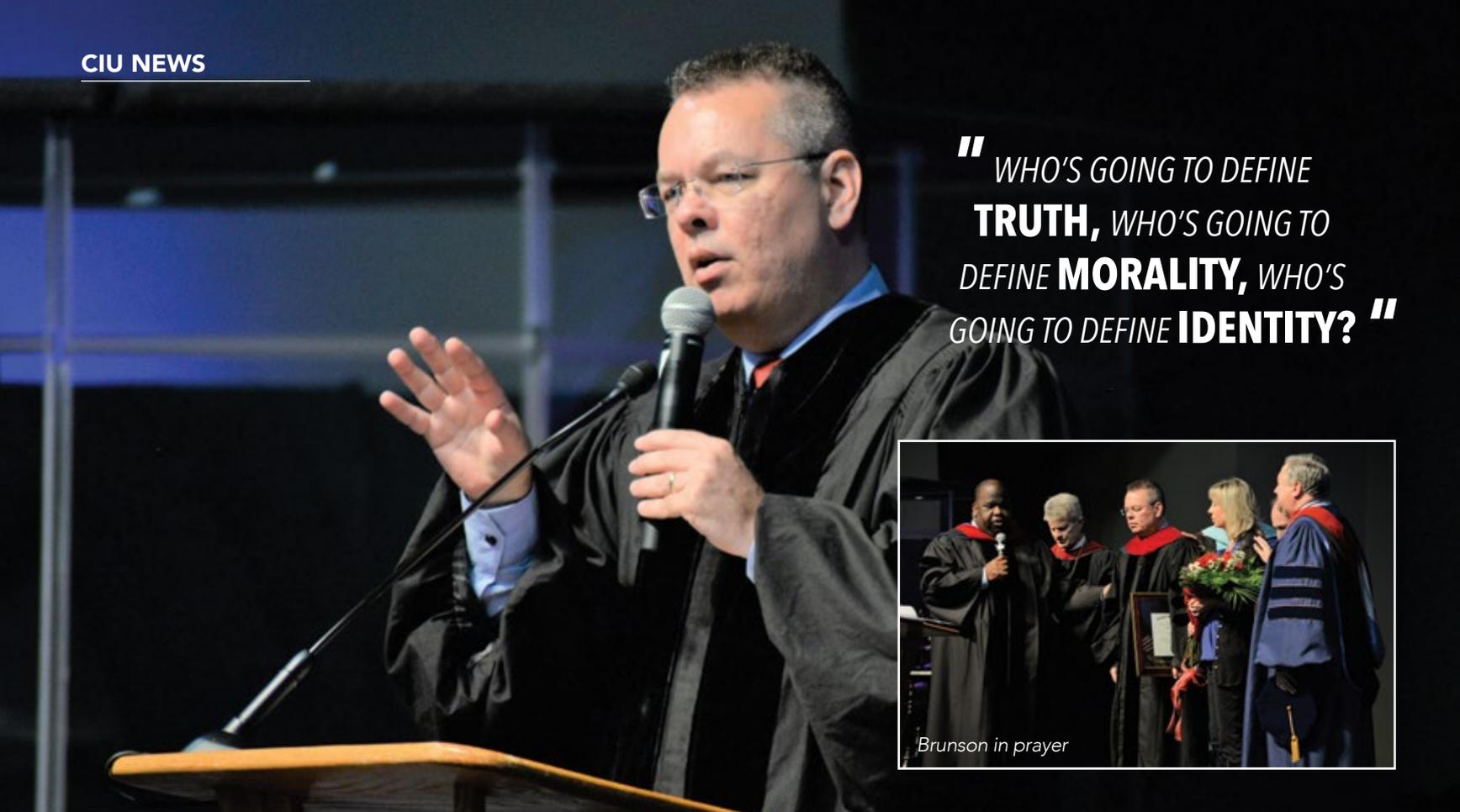
CIU senior, Naomi Balk, says that the pandemic has been "a reality check, exposing my presumptions and self-sufficiency." However, she adds, "These uncertain days are an opportunity to whole-heartedly commune with Jesus and trust in His sovereign plan."

She has followed the urging of CIU President Dr. Mark Smith for the CIU family to be in prayer.

"Colossians 4:2 has been an attitude map for me: 'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful,'" Balk said.

Find updated information on the CIU response at [ciu.edu/covid19](http://ciu.edu/covid19). ■

**“ WHO’S GOING TO DEFINE TRUTH, WHO’S GOING TO DEFINE MORALITY, WHO’S GOING TO DEFINE IDENTITY? ”**



*Brunson in prayer*

## Andrew Brunson Challenges CIU & Ben Lippen Students to Stand for Truth

*By Bob Holmes and Naomi Balk*

Pastor Andrew Brunson, a 1985 graduate of Ben Lippen School, is concerned that the younger generation of American Christians is not ready for a coming persecution — something very familiar to him.

That was the message Brunson had for middle and high school students from his alma mater, as he addressed them in Shortess Chapel. Ben Lippen, a ministry of CIU, is a Pre-K3 to 12th grade Christian school. He also addressed a CIU Chapel, offering much the same message.

Brunson, a missionary church planter and humanitarian worker for 23 years in Turkey, was held for two years in Turkish prisons after being falsely accused of terrorism in October

2016. Due to a worldwide prayer movement and significant political pressure from the U.S. government, he was finally sentenced to time served and released in October 2018.

“I have an urgency in my heart for your generation because I think there is persecution coming and your generation is not ready for it,” Brunson warned the students. “There is such hostility (toward Christianity) and I think many are not ready for what is coming.”

Brunson said they will be challenged in speaking the truth, especially in the areas of morality and the exclusivity of Jesus, and what He demands.

“There is a spiritual battle going on in the political and cultural realms of our day,” Brunson said. “Who’s going to define truth, who’s going to

define morality, who’s going to define identity? For those who stand for Jesus, for those who desire to live a godly life, it’s going to mean a loss of prestige sometimes, or a loss of a job or maybe worse than that. Are you prepared to stand when the Twitter mob attacks you?”

He reiterated that the time for the students to prepare is now, and not when they find themselves in the middle of these challenges and have to respond to them.

On behalf of CIU, President Dr. Mark Smith presented Brunson with an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree, “recognizing an individual’s unique and noble contributions furthering what CIU stands for — impacting the nations with the gospel of Jesus Christ,” Smith announced. ■



The governor poses with CIU students outside his office at the Statehouse.

## CIU Business Students Meet With SC Governor for Advice, Q&A

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster advised Columbia International University Business students to understand history, the Constitution and on how to be a leader.

McMaster held a personal 30-minute Q&A in his conference room at the Statehouse with 17 students from the Principles of Leadership and Management class.

As CIU sophomore Seth Moore pondered the meeting, he said he appreciated how McMaster described his approach to interpreting the Constitution for its original intent.

“The governor follows the law the way that Christians should follow the Bible — as it was written,” said Moore, a leader with the Fellowship of Christian Professionals at CIU. “He doesn’t try to over-interpret or insert his own meaning into it.”

A little final advice from the governor included kudos for CIU.

“Take advantage of where you are,” McMaster said.

“You’re in a great school. Everything I’ve heard about your school is terrific.” ■

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**“Take advantage of where you are. You’re in a great school. Everything I’ve heard about your school is terrific.”**

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– Gov. Henry McMaster



**Meanwhile, Ben Lippen Lower School music students** provided a Christmas performance at the Governor’s Mansion. Gov. McMaster and First Lady Peggy McMaster talked with the students before the performance. Additionally, the students toured the mansion and pet the governor’s English bulldog, Mac. ■



New Richland County Sheriff's Department Monticello Road substation

## CIU and Sheriff's Dept. Inaugurate New Monticello Road Substation

Several neighborhood associations gathered to celebrate the grand opening of a sheriff's department substation paid for and renovated by Columbia International University as part of CIU's Monticello Road revitalization plans.



**"We cannot thank CIU enough for their commitment to this community and what they've done."**

*– Sheriff Leon Lott*

CIU purchased seven properties transforming the formerly blighted area into a commercially-viable district. The substation now resides on one of those properties.

During a brief ceremony at the grand opening, CIU President Dr. Mark Smith said CIU has invested over \$1 million to buy the properties.

Engineering bids are under review and county authorizations sought before work begins on a convenience store/Dairy Queen combo on another of the Monticello Road properties.

Meanwhile, The North Columbia Business Association recognized CIU with the Community Impact Organization of the Year Award for the school's work on improving the Monticello Road corridor. ■



CIU President Dr. Mark Smith greets the children at Hyatt Park Elementary School.

## "Oh what fun!" CIU Brings Holiday Doughnut Party to Elementary School

"We're having a doughnut party!" shouted a kindergartner at Hyatt Park Elementary School.

The student was responding to the 30 dozen Krispy Kreme doughnuts delivered to the school by Columbia International University President Dr. Mark Smith and Santa's Helpers (also known as The President's Council). The holiday gesture, just a few days before Christmas, was part of CIU's continuing outreach to the community. ■

## Ben Lippen Students Selected for Bluegrass Scholarship

Ben Lippen School Bluegrass musicians Tripp Williams and Chloe Davis received the Bill Wells Memorial Scholarship for Youth in Bluegrass and Traditional Music.

The scholarship, sponsored by the South Carolina Bluegrass and Traditional Music Association, recognizes local students who demonstrate high competency in the understanding of Bluegrass music and high-level proficiency in its performance. ■



Tripp Williams and Chloe Davis pose with Louise Wells, wife of the late Bluegrass legend, Bill Wells.

## CIU Counseling Professor Named Board President of Prominent Institute

Dr. Steven A. Johnson, CIU assistant professor of Ministry Care is the new president of The Albert Ellis Institute Board of Directors in New York City. The Institute promotes emotional and behavioral health through research, practice, and training of mental health professionals in the use of Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT) as a comprehensive, evidence-based psychotherapy.

Johnson's affiliation with the Institute began in 1997, and he has served on the board of directors since 2014. He is a certified REBT supervisor and a diplomate in REBT.

Johnson says that REBT is more in-tune with the biblical principle of "so as a man thinks in his heart so is he," than



*Dr. Steve Johnson addresses a CIU Chapel*

some other therapies, embracing the power of right belief and right action to free us from being slaves to our past.

He adds that because he interacts with friends and colleagues who are the pre-eminent mental health researchers around the world, he is able to bring the outcomes of the latest research to CIU students. ■

## CIU Chancellor Bill Jones Honored at Jones Center Dedication

Over 200 guests and VIPs came together to celebrate the dedication of the William H. Jones Global Business & IT Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a luncheon. Built to train ministering professionals to impact nations with the message of Christ, the \$20 million, 44,000 square-foot building was named in honor of CIU's sixth president who currently serves as chancellor and whose life has been dedicated to spreading the message of Christ.

After the recognition of many people and organizations responsible for the building of the Jones Center, its namesake was surprised with a very special honor from the South Carolina Governor's Office: The Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor awarded to citizens of South Carolina for extraordinary lifetime service and achievements of national or statewide significance. ■



*Chancellor Dr. Bill Jones and President Dr. Mark Smith are surrounded by family and friends as they cut the ribbon at the Jones Center.*



*Bailey Harris*

## Championship High School Coach Now at Ben Lippen

A name synonymous with championships in South Carolina high school athletics is now the director of basketball operations and coach development at Ben Lippen School.

Bailey Harris comes to Ben Lippen from Lexington High School where he was the head boys basketball coach for 32 seasons. Under Harris, the Wildcats won 637 games, the sixth most in state history, and two state titles. As boys cross-country coach, he won four state championships. Harris is a member of the S.C. Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame and S.C. Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame. ■

# Working on "The Hill" and Loving It

## The Fast Pace of Capitol Hill is Just Fine with CIU Alumna

By Bob Holmes

**E**lizabeth Dews says, "It's fun to live in D.C." even though she works about 60 hours each week.

The CIU alumna (2015) serves as the deputy chief of staff for Congressman Ted Budd of North Carolina. When asked in a phone interview about her job description, her first response was to laugh, noting it's a complicated question.

"Making sure the congressman's calendar is up to date, making sure he knows where he is going to be going, organizing all the office meetings, all his district scheduling," the quick-speaking Dews begins. "I manage our office compliance — making sure everyone is up to date on ethics, workplace rights and responsibilities, and that their paperwork is filled out — I also work with our finance director ..."

The list continued for about another minute, as Dews never seemed to stop to take a breath. But that's Washington. And she loves it.

"Right now in political history it is such an interesting time to be here," Dews said. "It's exciting. It's fun. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

God has blessed her with some advantages when it comes to living the Christian life on The Hill.

"My boss is actually a very strong Christian and is very vocal about his faith," Dews said. "I've never felt the need to compromise what I believe — ever."

She notes that her CIU Communication major prepared her for her work, and extends kudos to the program's director.

"I absolutely love 'Dr. Dan' (Delozier). He was my favorite professor," Dews said. "I use my Communication major



Elizabeth Dews with her boss, Congressman Ted Budd

quite a bit to communicate with our constituents, and working with our communications director, or to send emails to set up various logistics and events. I learned to communicate clearly and concisely in an organized way."

She encourages current students to take advantage of internships. It was a summer with a different congressional representative that got her foot in the D.C. door.

"Take advantage of internship opportunities," she emphasizes. "That's the kind of experience people are going to be looking for here on The Hill."

Does she see herself on Capitol Hill long term?

"Maybe not. But it's such a great opportunity, and I absolutely love what I do, and who I work with. I wouldn't trade it for anything." ■

# Ben Lippen School Encourages Leadership Through Discipleship

By Chad Burnett, Ben Lippen Spiritual Life Director



**A**t Ben Lippen School (BLS), discipleship is our top priority and the heartbeat of our teachers and staff. The classroom, the athletic field, and the stage, each present relational opportunities for students to know Jesus and grow in Him. We define discipleship as personally following Jesus and intentionally helping others do the same. Our school assists the family and the church in this lifelong process in a number of ways.

Another way we seek to impact the spiritual culture at Ben Lippen is through our high school discipleship group focusing on what it means to follow Jesus and intentionally helping others do the same. We gather every Tuesday to read, eat, worship, pray, and share. We believe student leaders set the culture for a school, so our aim is to encourage and equip students to live unashamedly for Jesus and intentionally love others.

Students have daily Bible classes, spiritual formation retreats and events, teacher-led Bible studies, and weekly corporate chapels. This year, we have implemented an upper school chapel discussion every Wednesday. After hearing gospel-centered teaching on different passages and topics, students discuss the truth they heard in a small group setting. Teachers facilitate the discussions, giving students the opportunity to ask questions, process, and hear from each other. We want students to think critically about how to live biblically in a complicated and broken world.

The discipleship group went on a phenomenal retreat in the mountains of North Carolina. We “roughed it” without running water or electricity, went on hikes, shouted God’s praises from the mountaintop, conducted teaching sessions on discipleship with headlamps and lanterns, and laid out our vision for the year. We continue to ask God to use us as vessels for His glory as we seek to serve our school and make Him increasingly famous. We believe following Him is the best adventure this life has to offer. ■



Ben Lippen leadership retreat

*“We believe **FOLLOWING HIM** is the **BEST ADVENTURE** this life has to offer.”*

BLS is an accredited Christian, college preparatory school of over 700 students in grades Pre-K3 through 12. For information on enrollment call (803) 807-4000 or visit [benlippen.com](http://benlippen.com).



# CIU PROFESSOR CONTRIBUTES TO MAJOR DENOMINATIONAL PROJECT

By Bob Holmes

PROFESSOR DR. JOHN CRUTCHFIELD

**C**olumbia International University Professor Dr. John Crutchfield calls it “an act of worship to God and an act of love for His people.”

Crutchfield, the CIU Middle Eastern Studies program director and a professor of Bible, is one of a committee of three Hebrew scholars and a liturgist who revised the Coverdale Psalter of 1537 for inclusion in the new Book of Common Prayer (BCP) of 2019.

The new BCP is the standard prayer book for the Anglican Church in North America. The last revision of Coverdale’s Psalter included renowned Anglican authors T.S. Eliot and C.S. Lewis on the committee.

The mandate from the College of Bishops was to modernize the language and verify the accuracy of the original Coverdale Psalter, while preserving as much as possible the majesty and beauty of Coverdale’s original translation.

Crutchfield says he has never worked harder on a scholarly project since his doctoral dissertation.

“The project demanded the best of my academic training,” Crutchfield said. “The Hebrew poetry of the Psalms can be very tough, and we as a committee needed to bring all of our scholarship to bear on understanding clearly what the inspired poet was writing.”

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**“The project demanded the best of my academic training.”**

*– Dr. Crutchfield*

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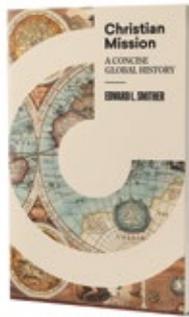
Crutchfield noted a collegial tone among the committee as they worked on the project.

“There were no big egos in the room, no infighting, no defensive turf-wars or anything of that nature,” Crutchfield said. “Just other scholars, gathered around the Hebrew text, wrestling with how to best render that text into beautiful English. That is a wonderful thing!”

The completed prayer book was presented to Archbishop Foley Beach at the Provincial Assembly in June. As part of that event, Crutchfield and the rest of the committee conducted a workshop explaining the history, scope, and method of their work. But those who worked on the project are officially anonymous.

“The longer I worked on this project, the more important this anonymity became for me, Crutchfield said. “This is not a personal publishing achievement. My name will never be officially attached to it or appear in the BCP as a member of the committee. This anonymity freed us to view our work together as an act of worship to God and an act of love for His people. Our scholarly effort was serving the Church, not the Academy. And to me, that is a beautiful thing.”

The Revised Coverdale Psalter is now available for purchase as part of the new BCP from Anglican Liturgy Press. ■



## Book by CIU Dean Makes Prestigious List

A book by the dean of the Columbia International University College of Intercultural Studies makes the list of Christianity Today's 2020 Book Awards.

“Christian Missions: A Concise Global History” by **Dr. Ed Smither** received the Award of Merit in the Missions/Global Church category. The Christianity Today editors refer to their picks as “the books most likely to shape evangelical life, thought, and culture.”

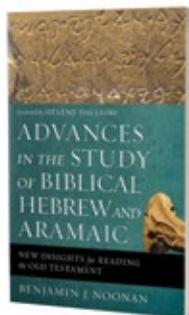
Meanwhile, the book, published by Lexham, is also on Outreach magazine's 28 Best Books of the Year in the category of Cross-Cultural and Missional. ■



## More Good Reads

A new book by Columbia International University Professor **Dr. David Croteau** surveys 40 of the most commonly misinterpreted passages in the Old Testament. “Urban Legends of the Old Testament” is designed

to help Christians avoid missteps in the interpretation of key biblical texts while modeling interpretive techniques that can also be applied to other Old Testament passages. The book, published by B& H Academic, is co-authored with Dr. Gary Yates of Liberty University. It's a follow-up to Croteau's 2015 book “Urban Legends of the New Testament.”



**Dr. Ben Noonan**, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, has written “Advances in the Study of Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic,” published by Zondervan. In the book's preface, Noonan thanks his CIU students for encouraging him to continue to grow in his understanding of biblical Hebrew and biblical Aramaic. ■

# "PITCHING" A NEW BUSINESS

By Bob Holmes



## CIU RAM REAGAN COX TEAMS UP WITH HER MOM TO CREATE BODY CHEK SPORTS ESSENTIALS

**C**IU Business major and freshman Reagan Cox, and her mom Christy, recall the day a couple years ago when a business idea developed between innings as Reagan pitched in a softball tournament in hot and humid South Carolina weather.

Reagan, who played high school softball for the Ben Lippen School Falcons, had an urgent need for a Band-Aid. The next inning she needed sunscreen. The next inning she needed eye black — that grease athletes apply under their eyes to reduce glare.

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## “WHY NOT DREAM BIG?”

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– REAGAN COX

Christy says athletes and coaches are also learning about the business at the Body Chek website and through product displays at sports tournaments and conventions, such as a recent South Carolina gathering of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

As in any business partnership, mom and daughter admit that they do occasionally butt heads; however, Reagan said they have “a trusting relationship,” before smiling at mom and asking with a laugh, “What is it like working with your daughter?”

“We disagree more about softball,” Christy responded with a laugh.

Christy explains that she is doing the “heavy lifting” in the business as Reagan works on her education and plays softball, but adds, “I just want her to sit in class and be excited to think she has a business,” and can immediately apply what she is learning to the business.

Meanwhile, the women’s faith has been a part of the business from the beginning.

“We promised we were going to give to something greater than ourselves,” Christy said, noting that Body Chek supports Compassion International and sponsors underprivileged youth teams.

As for long-term dreams, Reagan says she would like Body Chek to branch out into clothing and shoes and be “like Nike.”

“Why not dream big? It doesn’t hurt,” she added.

Mom takes a more pragmatic approach, saying God is teaching them to be patient.

“When God is ready to grow the business, He will — when He thinks we’re ready for it,” Christy added with emphasis. ■

As an assistant coach, Christy often had these necessities in the dugout, but as she explained, packing them wasn’t pretty. She says she “felt like a pack rat” because, “I’d have this gross bag that would have Chick-fil-A sandwiches at the bottom of it, and nasty old sunscreen that was out of date.”

Then it dawned on both of them. Why not have an organized kit that offers all the essentials for game day? That’s when a daughter/mom business was born: Body Chek Sports Essentials. From sunscreen to nail clippers to lip balm. From Biofreeze to insect repellent to hand-warmers for late autumn games, it’s all in one neat package.

“It’s such a simple thing, but it just works — putting a few simple things in a bag,” Christy said during an interview with the women in CIU’s Moore Fitness Center. “It’s everything that you actually really need on the field. It’s so smartly packed. And every single day we are out on the field, we use that bag.”

It had been a childhood dream for Reagan to be a businesswoman, and she is combining her love of sports — especially softball — with the new endeavor.

“It’s a product that once you have it, you are so grateful that you have it, and you wonder why you didn’t have it in the first place,” said Reagan who now plays for the CIU Rams softball team.

As they began to lay the groundwork for their business, the women sought wise counsel from one of Reagan’s CIU Business professors, Amy Dubois.

“She was amazing. She was so good to us,” Christy said. “She literally laid hands on us and prayed for us and gave us some really good direction when we started out.”

For example, Dubois advised them on inventory, to “have faith in the process,” and to “give themselves time to grow.” She also encouraged use of social media for advertising.



Reagan (left) and Christy Cox show off their product.

# Expanding Opportunities *with* Women's Leadership Essentials

## Recent Alumna Checks Out New Class for Women

*By Ireland E. K. McNeill*  
*Class of 2019*



**C**olumbia International University is helping women blossom in leadership essentials. That's what I learned when I explored a new CIU course designed just for women and met the motivated individual behind it.

Carol Kirkland, who has over five years of experience as a women's ministry leader, was searching to develop her God-given gifts. She researched various institutions, seeking a certification that would develop both her professional ministry life and

personal spiritual life. However, after investigating, she found there was no program that fit her needs or vision.

Kirkland organized the topics she was looking for in such a study; a class rooted in discovering biblical knowledge, cultivating spiritual disciplines, and supporting the women around her. She presented her vision to CIU President Dr. Mark Smith who was thrilled with the idea and with Carol's blueprints for it; quite to her surprise, he asked her to create it!



"We find there are a lot of woman who still feel underutilized, so we've designed a creative opportunity in a unique setting that offers solid, biblical training blended with strategic leadership skills to immediately empower women to impact individuals and communities," said Kirkland who now leads the Women's Leadership Essentials Class.

The women enrolled in the three-credit hour class meet one evening each week, covering three topics. By the end of the course, the students have deeply explored the Scriptures and gained application practices from the texts to use in their own lives and in the lives of others.

### Sitting in On Class

I was fortunate enough to sit in one evening of the program before finishing my undergraduate degree in December. After getting to know Carol Kirkland, and meeting the other

students and the instructors, I left feeling I had met over a dozen, long-lost sisters in Christ. I felt I was truly fellowshiping with a family of female leaders! I'm bursting with excitement that CIU is hearing the urgent need to support the brilliant minds of female leaders who have hearts surrendered to Christ. Here's a simple painting of what I saw that evening.

During the first hour, Old Testament/Hebrew instructor Dr. Jennifer Noonan led a study in Genesis, explaining Abrahamic sacrifices and their relationship to the blood of Christ in the New Testament.

The second hour was a discussion of spiritual retreats and Sabbath practices led by CIU Professor Emeritus Dr. Shirl Schiffman.



CIU Provost Dr. James Lanpher congratulates the women who completed the Women's Leadership course.

Finally, counselor Elizabeth Jackson offered practical wisdom on interacting with those who come to you for help.

Leaving the class that evening, I reflected on what I'd learned. I could see why Carol Kirkland was over-the-moon ecstatic about this one-of-a-kind program for women. However, there was more.

### "Graduation"

In early November, I watched as the women who completed this first Leadership Essentials

course celebrated with a graduation ceremony conducted by Provost Dr. James Lanpher and Seminary Dean Dr. John Harvey.

As graduate Annette Halter posed for celebratory photos with loved ones, she called the class "a phenomenal experience" for her spiritual walk.

"I learned things about the Word that I never knew," Halter said. ■

"We find there are a lot of woman who still feel underutilized, so we've designed a creative opportunity in a unique setting that offers solid, biblical training blended with strategic leadership skills to **immediately empower women to impact individuals and communities.**"

—Carol Kirkland

**The Women's Leadership Essentials is now a diploma.**

For more information, contact Women's Leadership Program Director Carol Kirkland at [carol.kirkland@ciu.edu](mailto:carol.kirkland@ciu.edu) or (803) 730-0278.



**CIU** | PRISON  
INITIATIVE

# TRAINING *FROM WITHIN* THE WALLS

## CIU PRISON INITIATIVE HOSPICE MANUAL IMPLEMENTED AT PRISONS STATEWIDE

*By Dr. Lindsay Hislop and Bob Holmes*

 Josh\* estimated the man in the prison infirmary bed was about 60 years old. His tattoos testified to a life of hate, racism and godlessness. Josh introduced himself and sat down at the man's bedside. Soon he learned the patient was dying from cancer.

Josh asked the man if he knew the Lord.

"Yes, I know the Lord," the patient replied. "A black lady who visited me three weeks ago led me to the Lord."

For the next few months, Josh prayed for the man and visited him regularly, encouraging

him to overcome his depression. The patient was an inmate at Kirkland Correctional Institution in Columbia, but so was Josh.

Josh was enrolled in the CIU Prison Initiative, earning an Associate of Arts degree and learning to minister to fellow inmates.

Assisting the sick and dying in the infirmary is one example of the many opportunities for ministry that CIU student-inmates have behind the walls of the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

But before they take on hospice ministry,



the inmates attend 20 hours of classroom teaching and 20 hours of practical training in the infirmary, becoming infirmary/hospice volunteers. This training has been going on for a number of years, but since 2012, it has been provided by CIU as a non-credit course and taught, in part, by David, a Prison Initiative alumnus, CIU teaching assistant, and Kirkland inmate.

Under David's teaching, almost 140 men have gone through the training. Over these years, David has further developed the course materials, and now, an updated manual is used by the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) throughout the prison system.

## KUDOS FROM A NURSE

Among those benefiting from David's 2018 edition of the "Caregiver's Handbook to Hospice and Palliative Care," is Julia Hess, an RN and the geriatric program manager for SCDC whose responsibilities include hospice training. Hess has nothing but praise for David's work, calling him "an amazing human being and friend."

"He's very respectful, and a very smart and sharp individual," Hess said in a phone interview. "David is a perfectionist. He's going to do things perfectly or at least to the best of his ability."

Hess especially notes David's guidance on infection control, detailing protection to caregivers from the dangers of blood-borne and air-borne diseases.

"That's certainly important, because when you are in an incarcerated population, you are so close to other people, and you don't know what they have," Hess said. "You have to pretend like everybody you know has everything you can get. I've really taken that and run with it."

As for David, he's rather humble about his contribution, calling hospice work "a special ministry that requires someone's heart to be in it."

"It is not a job some can be assigned to fill," David wrote from Kirkland Correctional Institution in Columbia. "Hospice teaches compassion which you learn from feeding, bathing, and cleaning someone who cannot do it themselves."

He notes that when such a patient passes away there is "the sense of loss and this deeply affects you."

Most importantly, David says that by attending to someone's physical needs, you open the door to address spiritual needs.

## SUFFERING AND SURRENDER

And that brings us back to Josh who got to know the patient with cancer well enough to call him "friend."

"At the time I was struggling with the goodness of God, but God showed me that through this man's temporary suffering, his eternity had been sealed," Josh said. "I began to encourage him, telling him that God knows our breaking point and sometimes we must suffer in order to realize our need to surrender."

Josh adds that we cannot always understand God's ways, but we can rest in the security of His perfect goodness.

"I believe (that man) now sits with God because his suffering led him to surrender his life to Jesus."

*\* (South Carolina Department of Corrections policy allows use of only the first names of inmates.) ■*

➤ **Discover how you can support the CIU Prison Initiative at [advancement.ciu.edu/initiatives](http://advancement.ciu.edu/initiatives).**



### A “Life-Changing” Experience at the Academic Success Center

Lisa Lanpher says she gets “a lot of satisfaction” when she sees students “blossom and grow.”

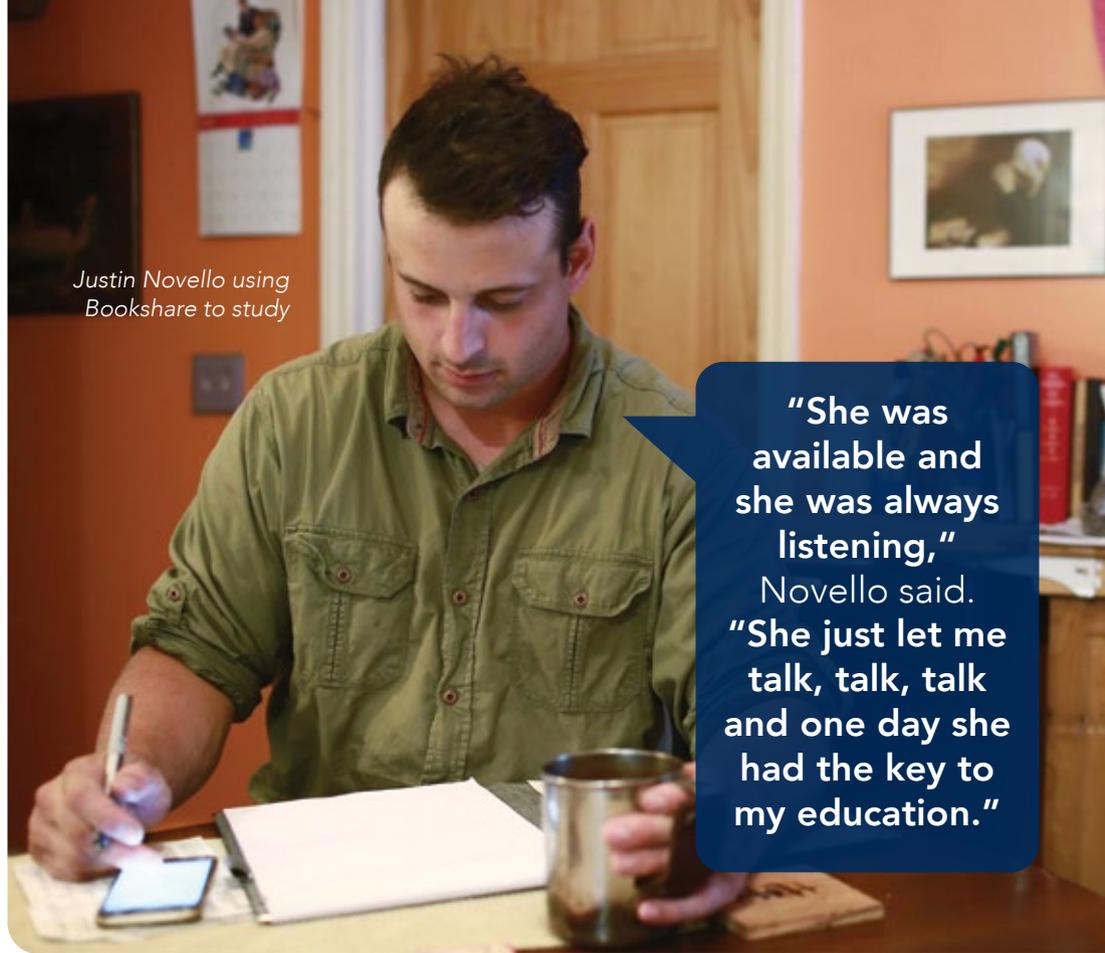
Lanpher is director of the Academic Success Center (ASC) at CIU, with a mission to meet “the unique needs of every CIU student — from freshmen to seminary students.” The Center offers a variety of tools to assist students in their studies from discussion groups to private tutoring. In addition, federal law mandates the center offer accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Students often thank Lanpher for providing just what they needed to get through hermeneutics or psychology class. However, one CIU alumnus calls what Lanpher did for him “life-changing.”

Due to learning disabilities and ADHD, Justin Novello just couldn’t read, which educators through high school found difficult to accept because he scored high on intelligence tests. By the time Novello enrolled at CIU, textbook assignments were just too much for him to handle, and his grades were seriously suffering.

“In my last semester, I just dropped out of college,” Novello said. “I just couldn’t do the reading. I just couldn’t do the work.”

Then a couple of things happened. Novello was prescribed a proper medication for his ADHD and he had an important conversation with Lisa Lanpher, a moment that he still finds difficult to discuss. He told her about his inability to complete multiple reading assignments.



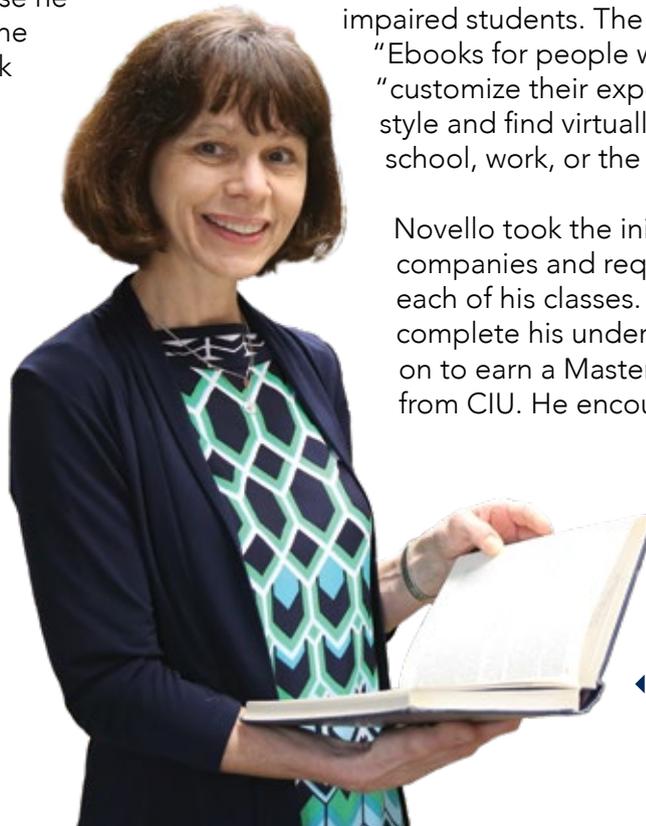
Justin Novello using Bookshare to study

“She was available and she was always listening,” Novello said. “She just let me talk, talk, talk and one day she had the key to my education.”

“It was difficult for me to admit to anyone that I had a hard time reading,” Novello said. “There is a lot of shame around that. I didn’t want to tell Lisa that I couldn’t read. So one day I just told her, ‘I don’t know how to read. I just don’t know what’s going on.’”

Lanpher simply encouraged Novello to try Bookshare, a tool that she had been recommending to visually-impaired students. The online resource bills itself as “Ebooks for people with reading barriers” who can “customize their experience to suit their learning style and find virtually any book they need for school, work, or the joy of reading.”

Novello took the initiative to contact the textbook companies and request audio textbooks for each of his classes. Not only did he go on to complete his undergraduate degree, he went on to earn a Master of Education degree from CIU. He encourages others with reading disabilities to take control of their situation, the basis for his master’s thesis, “Accommodating Students In Online Higher Education.”



◀ Lisa Lanpher, director of CIU’s Academic Success Center



"If this is my problem, then I need to own it and do everything I can, and not rely on other people," Novello said. "I need to be completely independent."

But at the same time, Novello says he is grateful for the person who took the time to discern his need — Lisa Lanpher.

"She was available and she was always listening," Novello said. "She just let me talk, talk, talk and one day she had the key to my education."

Lanpher is humbled by such praise, and as a veteran educator, says that directing the ASC is right where she needs to be.

"I'm finding that sweet spot and I feel like every day I've got an important job to do making a difference in students' lives."

Meanwhile, Novello encourages those with reading difficulties to overcome their fears and academic struggles by being honest about it and seeking out people such as Lisa Lanpher. ■

➤ **More information on the Academic Success Center is at [ciu.edu/campus-life](http://ciu.edu/campus-life).**

## CIU Adds Master of Arts in Global Migration Studies

In 2019, the Christian nonprofit International Association for Refugees estimated that nearly 71 million people fled their homes because of persecution, conflict and/or human rights violations. This is the highest number ever recorded. For perspective, just 10 years ago, 42 million people were forcibly displaced from their homeland.

This kind of reality has led CIU to develop a Master of Arts in Global Migration Studies providing students with an understanding of the cultural, economic and spiritual impact global migration has on people.



"Our vision in the College of Intercultural Studies is to equip students for 21st century missions," said Dr. Ed Smither, dean of the college. "How can we ignore a world where 1 in 113 people on the planet are internally displaced in their own country or externally displaced and have crossed boundaries and sought refuge in other places?"

Smither points to Matthew 25 and the final judgment when Jesus discusses welcoming "the least of these" and welcoming the stranger.

"We have a biblical mandate," Smither said. "It's a global opportunity we can't ignore."

Smither is quick to add that people who are on the move are not just refugees, but some are willingly uprooting; that could include students studying abroad, or those looking for employment not available at home.

The 36-credit hour program can be completed in one to two years, and because it is completely online, it is ideal for those already in ministry. They'll be equipped to work as

- International student ministers
- Faith-based non-governmental organization (NGO) workers
- Refugee resettlement specialists
- Missionaries among refugees, immigrants & international students.

"Jesus was a refugee. Joseph fled with Mary and Jesus into Egypt because a political leader was carrying out genocide against two-year-old boys," Smither noted. "We find that the Bible is a story about people on the move. God scatters at Babel, but God gathers at Pentecost, and then God sends those people back out at Pentecost for the world to be evangelized." ■

➤ **More information about the Master of Arts in Global Migration Studies is at [ciu.edu/graduate](http://ciu.edu/graduate) or (800) 777-2227, ext. 5024.**

## Rams Challenge Gamecocks in Historic Exhibition Game

The Rams men's basketball team traveled across town to Colonial Life Arena to take on the University of South Carolina Gamecocks. Despite only being a few miles from each other, it was the first meeting between the two schools. While CIU's entire athletic program is just eight years old, the Rams held their own against the much larger established school losing 87-50. ■

## Congratulations Coach!

Basketball Coach Tony Stockman was named National Christian College Athletic Association South Region Coach of the Year.

The Rams were also South Region champions. ■



## CIU Athletics Recognized as Champions of Character

The CIU Rams not only play like champions, they are Five Star Champions of Character. The Rams earned the designation from The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).



NAIA member schools earn points for the designation in a variety of ways, including community outreach, which is a hallmark of CIU Athletics. For example, last summer, 200 Columbia-Area youth heard the gospel at the Hoop for Hope camp led by the men and women's basketball teams. Meanwhile, the softball, volleyball, women's soccer, and baseball teams made an impact in four different parts of the world over the summer with mission trips to the Middle East, Southern Asia, Spain and Honduras. ■



## John Hunter James Vaults to NAIA Championship

Columbia International University freshman John Hunter James of Irmo, South Carolina is the NAIA National Champion in men's pole vaulting with a CIU record of 5.20m (17.06 feet). James made the leap on March 7 at the NAIA meet in Brookings, South Dakota.

James earned NAIA All-American status, becoming the first CIU athlete to achieve NAIA All-American recognition for any sport. ■



## Exciting Finish! First Home Baseball Game in School History is a Win

It took 10 innings, but the first home baseball game in school history was an exciting 7-6, Rams' victory over the USC-Salkehatchie Indians. The Rams trailed 6-5 with two outs in the bottom of the ninth when Shane Hammonds hit a towering home run over the left field wall to tie the game. After Robert Bell tripled in the bottom of the ninth, pinch hitter Trent Frye hit a sharp grounder down the third base line that was too hot for the third baseman to handle, as Bell crossed the plate.

Not only did Bell score the winning run, he goes down in the record book as hitting the first home run in school history, a two-run shot over the right field wall. ■

## New CIU Golf Coach

The new CIU men's golf coach is a South Carolina native with a wealth of experience as a player and golf instructor.

Tucker MacDonald, who grew up in Greer and played golf in college at North Greenville University (NGU), takes over the CIU Rams' program from Interim Golf Coach Evan Brouwer who held the position during the 2019 fall season.

MacDonald toured for two years as a professional golfer before becoming golf camp director for TGA Premier Golf in Orlando, Florida. ■



## Ben Lippen Boys Repeat as State Cross-Country Champions

The Ben Lippen boys cross-country team continues its dominance. The Falcons won their third straight SCISA Class 3A boys crown in November. Ben Lippen finished with 33 points and five runners in the top 10. The championship came under new Head Coach Eric Hamner. ■



## A Look Back: Ben Lippen Champions Not New

Ben Lippen School has been producing championship teams for decades, even before the school moved to Columbia in 1988. An article in the Asheville Citizens Times in May 1981 notes that the Ben Lippen girls track & field team captured the NCISAA state girls championship for the second year in a row, breaking records for discus throw, long jump and 800-meter relay. Ben Lippen alumna Sarah Woodring, a member of those teams, notes that the girls went on to be state champions the next two years, as well.

"Although I can no longer run a sub-six-minute mile, I can still wear the (championship) shirts!" Woodring wrote to CIU Today. ■



Sarah Woodring

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Students will use the knowledge as outreach to the community.



## CIU Students Encouraging Fire Safety in the Community

### Partnership with State Fire Marshal Begins

By Naomi Balk, Student Writer

Seeing fire in a CIU parking lot is normally a cause for concern. But when two fires were intentionally set, it was a time to learn.

Much of the on-campus student body witnessed the fires as part of an instructional program in a partnership with the State Fire Marshal's Office as they work together to improve community fire readiness.

Josh Fulbright, Section Chief of South Carolina's Fire Safe Community Risk Reduction Program, reviewed the do's and don'ts of fire safety in an address in Shortess Chapel followed by the real flame demonstration of two living rooms set on fire. Students walked away wowed after seeing how simply closing your door, listening to the smoke alarm and installing a sprinkler system could be the difference between life and death.

Students will use the knowledge as outreach to the community. Chandler Carlisle has already accompanied state and local fire officials in Fairfield County, just north of the CIU campus, where he helped install smoke alarms in homes.

▲ Fire demonstration: The results of a living room fire with no sprinkler.

"I learned a lot about where I should put alarms and how to make sure it catches the smoke," Carlisle said.

During the parking lot demonstration, in a room without sprinklers, the room temperature rose to a sizzling 1,400 degrees, scorching the furniture and a teddy bear in only three minutes.

Meanwhile, Fulbright said that he is "thrilled" about the partnership with CIU. The South Carolina Fire Academy is just up the highway from CIU on Monticello Road, and the firefighters eat lunch nearly every day in the CIU Dining Hall.

"It's like CIU is in our back yard," Fulbright said.

"Developing this relationship to be able to serve the greater South Carolina community is huge." ■



CIU student Chandler Carlisle chats with the media about assisting fire officials with smoke alarm installations.

## CIU Students Engaging the Community Through Food Drive

By Naomi Balk, Student Writer

"Thank you, Jesus!" exclaimed a resident of Heyward Brockington Road as she heard CIU students were handing out groceries at the Temple Zion Baptist Church parking lot, just a mile from campus.

As she rolled up in her blue minivan, the resident received one of the 89 bags that CIU's Student Mission Connection (SMC) had prepared for needy residents of CIU's neighborhood. But more than just a bag of free groceries, the students also offered to pray with the residents and give them a New Testament Bible.

"Thank you! I need prayer! We have prayer warriors in the house today," the resident added enthusiastically after receiving prayer for a difficult relational situation and her job.

"I hope people received not only free groceries but also the knowledge that there are people who care about them and pray for them," said SMC President Jennifer Plymale, "Hopefully, if they don't know Jesus, it got them curious."



Chandler Sims offers a smile and a bag of groceries to a local resident.

Andre Melvin, senior pastor of Temple Zion Baptist Church sees this as an opportunity to build bridges with the community, show the tangible love of Christ and have a gospel impact.

"Jesus had an incarnational ministry. We must follow the same model," said Melvin who is also a CIU adjunct professor and liaison to the neighborhoods along Monticello Road leading to the CIU campus. "This community needs unity and needs the gospel to be shared through tangible acts of love," he added. ■



Juliano Maglio makes the catch with Aslan Irizarry, Morgan Carlson and Nandy Conrod on the run.

## Ultimate Frisbee = Ultimate Fun and Community at CIU

President Dr. Mark Smith made the ceremonial first pull of CIU's Intramural Ultimate Frisbee season on a sunny afternoon in early February. Dr. Bryan Beyer, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences blew the shofar, and friends and staff gathered to cheer on the two teams playing the opening round – The Friskies vs. The Glazed Lemon Loafs.

Throughout the season, five teams play on a rotation every Tuesday and Thursday to determine who will win the championship.

"It's really fun to see such a new club on campus having so much energy and enthusiasm on the first day of the season," said graduate student Abigail Cotton who is in her fifth season of Intramural Ultimate Frisbee. "Ultimate Frisbee is significant because it brings everyone together." ■



Nandy Conrod and Brycen Holdman in competition.



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## Our God Who Comforts and Provides

By Frank Bedell, CIU Advancement Officer

As I left my office late in the afternoon, my supervisor shared that she was praying for my upcoming visit with a CIU alumni family. As I drove to the CIU Pine View Apartments the sun had already set. I walked the flight of stairs, stood in the dark hallway and gently knocked on the door. A man with sad eyes opened the door, and two small children peeked curiously out from behind him.

I reflected on April 2013 when my son died due to circumstances still difficult to talk about. I braced myself and silently prayed that God would allow me to express my personal and CIU's condolences without breaking into tears, much less complete a few sentences of comfort. In my hands, I held an envelope with a gift for this family who had recently lost a child. Besides coping with inconsolable grief, many families face certain and overwhelming expenses with the death of a loved one.

I extended my hand with the gift to this international alumnus. At first, he did not accept it. I looked into his eyes, and I said, "My name is Frank Bedell. The CIU family is praying for you. I am here as a representative, and I offer you this gift to use entirely how you see fit." Although still looking reluctant, he accepted the gift.

Endowment funds like this quietly and effectively assist the CIU family with seemingly insurmountable financial needs. Most CIU endowments assist students with their tuition. Other CIU endowments provide operating funds including professor salaries. We are grateful for each of the endowments as they make a significant impact on CIU's mission.

CIU is impacting the nations with the message of Jesus Christ through endowed scholarships. Opportunities exist at numerous giving levels. Call me to explore your options at (803) 807-5001. ■

Endowment funds like this quietly and effectively assist the CIU family with seemingly insurmountable financial needs.

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# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

— **Robbie McAlister (M.Div. '94, D.Min. '07)**

## World Evangelization: Shaping and Guiding a Career

Robbie McAlister loves to introduce others to Columbia International University through the Alumni Referral Grant Program ([ciu.edu/referral](http://ciu.edu/referral)).

"CIU changed my life, the trajectory of my career, and my involvement in God's Kingdom," said McAlister (M.Div. '94 and D.Min. '07), when asked why he refers so many students. "I love it when I can introduce others to that opportunity for their life!"

McAlister's life has been an adventure. Accepting Christ as a 23-year-old senior engineering student at Clemson University, Robbie and a few others came to the Columbia area to plant a church. Out of their efforts came Riverbend Community Church, still active and vibrant in the town of Lexington. McAlister completed his Master of Divinity at CIU while working as Riverbend's full-time pastor. He remembers his professors as not just excellent theologians, but also accomplished practitioners in the fields they were teaching.

Riverbend sent McAlister and his family to Ukraine as missionaries in the 1990s. He calls this period a "Kairos moment" where "God sovereignly creates an opportunity to share the gospel." Shortly after the fall of the Soviet

Union people were "ripe for the gospel," he recounts. His team planted churches and established a training center.

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**"CIU changed my life, the trajectory of my career, and my involvement in God's Kingdom."**

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Today, McAlister works with the global diaspora of displaced people groups around the world — what he calls "a new Kairos moment." Based in South Carolina, he leads groups on short-term mission trips to refugee camps on the Greek islands off the coast of Turkey. He also travels nationally as the voice of the Evangelical Immigration Table, a consortium of evangelical groups seeking a compassionate, bi-partisan solution to the immigration and refugee crisis in the United States. Locally, he connects South Carolina

Southern Baptist churches to ethnic community groups in their neighborhoods.

McAlister credits CIU's core value of World Evangelization with shaping and guiding his career path. He is thankful that God has allowed him to be part of the CIU community as a student, and as a current member of CIU's Alumni Association Leadership Council (AALC), connecting CIU alumni to their alma mater.

*For more information on Robbie McAlister's work among refugees, contact him at [RobertMcalister57@gmail.com](mailto:RobertMcalister57@gmail.com). ■*

# HOMECOMING 2019 RECAP

# WE



Watch the video recap and see more pictures at [ciu.edu/hc19](https://ciu.edu/hc19).

# CIU

## SAVE THE DATE

### HOMEcoming 2020

Friends and Family Weekend  
November 6-7



**Danny McCain ('74)**  
Alumnus of the Year, November 2020  
Missionary, professor, preacher, author

Dr. Danny McCain founded the world renowned International Institute for Christians Studies (now Global Scholars) which initiates Christian studies projects, and recruits and equips Christian academics in public universities internationally.

He took the ministry to Nigeria and now serves as a New Testament professor at the University of Jos. Dr. McCain has worked extensively with the Nigerian ministry of education, developing materials and training programs for public school teachers of Christian Religious Education. He has also developed a Christian-Muslim faith-based HIV/AIDS curriculum for public schools.

For complete bio visit [ciu.edu/familyweekend](http://ciu.edu/familyweekend).

COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# RECENT ALUMNI

## Recognition Award

Each year CIU recognizes recent alumni serving on the mission field, in the marketplace, or in ministry. They are faithful examples of CIU's five core values. Featured here are three of the six 2020 recipients. Read more at [ciu.edu/RARA](http://ciu.edu/RARA).



**MATT SIMMONS ('01)**  
Executive Director, Soccer Shots Columbia

Matt graduated from CIU with his BA in Intercultural Studies and became the franchise owner of Soccer Shots Columbia in 2009. Soccer Shots exists to teach kids ages 2-8 the fundamentals of soccer with a strong focus on character development.

*"Soccer has been a passion for me for as long as I can remember. My father played soccer in college and passed along his love of the game to my brother, sister and me. Growing up in Peru, soccer was a part of everyday life. Through soccer, I learned the importance of teamwork, respect, discipline and the need for living a healthy and active lifestyle. I love Soccer Shots because it gives me and my coaching staff a platform to pass on these important principles to every child and family we serve."*



**ANNIE GALLAGHER ('16)**  
Founder, Transformed PD

Annie completed a doctoral degree in Curricular and Instructional Leadership through CIU in spring of 2016. As a direct result of her doctoral research at CIU, Annie began a consulting and teacher-training business called Transformed PD. Based on Romans 12:2, the mission of Transformed PD is to "renew minds through relational professional development."

*"The doctoral program has prepared me well to view education through a biblical lens. I am often astounded at the level of expertise I have gained compared to others in similar programs. I am so very grateful to the Lord for leading me to CIU and appreciate the quality of teaching I experienced there."*



**CAREY SCHLIEKER ('10)**  
Nurse/Long-Term Missions

Carey graduated from CIU with her master's degree in Intercultural Studies. Today she serves in West Africa as a nurse at a Christian and Missionary Alliance Hospital.

*"In the last three years, my colleagues and I have trained over 300 local believers in telling Bible stories and how to use the Bible story method to share God's Word in an oral culture. We also train local pastors and believers to use Bible stories in church planting and discipleship of new believers. It's thrilling to see pastors get excited about a new method that works in their context. I'm thankful for the role CIU played in my preparation for long-term service!"*

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

Contact Niki McIntosh in the Alumni Office at (803) 807-5508 or [niki.mcintosh@ciu.edu](mailto:niki.mcintosh@ciu.edu)

## ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

**1** A very special **Class of 1949** reunion took place in November at Homecoming 2019. **Harvey Johnson, Sarah (Overstreet) Midyett, Ella (Sanders) Craig, Marjory (Goldfinch) Ward and Ida (Barnes) Lockridge** shared many wonderful stories of their time at CBC with laughter and great humor. It truly was a very special evening.

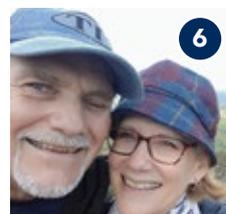
**2** **Al Boesenberg ('59)** keeps very active in pulpit supply, teaching Sunday school, leading prayer meetings, and going on short-term mission trips to Senegal and to the Ivory Coast. That's where he and his late wife, Betty, served for over 30 years. ✉ [al.boesenberg@gmail.com](mailto:al.boesenberg@gmail.com)

**3** **Eunice (Strabel) Starck ('64)** lives in Nebraska and plays the organ or piano for several churches and sings with a group at nursing homes. She married her husband Roger in 2017 after their spouses passed away. ✉ [musicstuart@gmail.com](mailto:musicstuart@gmail.com)

**4** **Ronald Cobb ('77)** has been professor of Pastoral Ministry and Biblical Counseling for 20 years at Luther Rice Seminary. He and his wife, Sandra, live near Atlanta and have two children, Mallory and Darcy. ✉ [ron.cobb@lutherrice.edu](mailto:ron.cobb@lutherrice.edu)

**5** **Bob Deckard ('77)** Lt. Col., U.S. Army, Retired was bestowed the title of Honorary Kentucky Colonel by Gov. Matt Bevin in recognition of his public service in the Commonwealth. He and his wife Lola have served with the U.S. Army ROTC chaplains at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. ✉ [rwdeckard@gmail.com](mailto:rwdeckard@gmail.com)

**6** **Chuck ('79) and Denise (Talley) Wall ('80)** live in Statesville, North Carolina where Chuck has been pastoring a Christian and Missionary Alliance church for the last 30 years. ✉ [cwall57@bellsouth.net](mailto:cwall57@bellsouth.net)



**7** **Several CIU alumni** joined over 300 others at the Presbyterian Church in America Mission to the World Asia/Pacific Area Retreat in Bali, Indonesia in August.

Seated from left: **Glenda (Weatherly) Moore ('75), Rich Greete ('81), Chrissy (Caldwell) Greete ('82)**  
Standing front row: **Archie Moore ('75), Beth (Lodge) Baxley ('82), Alice (Hawkins) Hatch ('66), Lois(Coombs) Watanabe ('80), Gary Watanabe ('80)**  
Back row: **Terry Baxley ('82), Joe Lyle ('87), Ann Lyle ('07)**

**8** **Nancy (Fausnaught) Reimers ('83)** is in her seventh year as a high school special education teacher at Agora Cyber Charter School in Pennsylvania. Several of her CIU classmates joined her for a reunion at the CIU guest rooms in June. ✉ [nancyreimers@live.com](mailto:nancyreimers@live.com)

(L to R) **Nancy (Fausnaught) Reimers ('83), Debbie (Nale) Blendermann ('82), Linda Wasilchick ('83), Barb (Guidi) Lewis ('82), and Edna (McFadden) London ('81)**

**Darlene (Bogers) Richardson ('84)**, husband Ron, and their six children live in Rock Hill, South Carolina where Ron is the pastor of Catawba Baptist Church. ✉ [rdarleneb@yahoo.com](mailto:rdarleneb@yahoo.com)

**Susan (Bennett) Grant ('86)** is a former Bible teacher in the public schools of North Carolina. She has written for devotional magazines and other publications. ✉ [Susan-grant.com@outlook.com](mailto:Susan-grant.com@outlook.com)

**Stan Guthrie ('90)** has published the book, "Victorious: Corrie ten Boom and The Hiding Place" as the first volume in a new series called Stories of Great Books. ✉ [guthsc@att.net](mailto:guthsc@att.net)

**9** **Richard Wilson ('98)**, his wife Masako and their two daughters live in Tokyo, Japan. He is pursuing an acting career, primarily in the United States. He teaches and tutors English online. ✉ [randm88@hotmail.com](mailto:randm88@hotmail.com)

**10 Richard ('98/ '04) and Simone (former CIU faculty) Moore** and their three children Ana, Lydia and Caleb have been serving as missionaries with TeachBeyond in Germany for the last five years. ✉ [rmoore@teachbeyond.org](mailto:rmoore@teachbeyond.org)

**11 Jason ('04) and Lisa (North) ('04) Rudy** were married on Dec. 28, 2019. ✉ [Jlrudy92@gmail.com](mailto:Jlrudy92@gmail.com)

**12 Ben (former staff) and Susan (Watson) ('04/'08) Bryan** along with son, Micah, welcomed Gracelynn to their family on Feb. 3, 2020. Grandparents are **James (faculty) and Lynn Watson**. ✉ [bbryan10@gmail.com](mailto:bbryan10@gmail.com)

**13 Rusty ('06) and Rachel (Bedell BLS '02) McKie** along with Justus and Haven, welcomed Atlas Sage to the family on Jan. 23, 2020. **Frank ('80) and Marti (Cosper) ('80) Bedell** are grandparents. ✉ [rusty@sojournchattanooga.com](mailto:rusty@sojournchattanooga.com)

**Rieppe ('06) and Cherith (Kubacz) ('08) Moore** welcomed their first child, Elizabeth Joy Burnette Moore, into their family Jan. 1, 2020. ✉ [spellrieppe@yahoo.com](mailto:spellrieppe@yahoo.com)

**14 Jonathan and Aimee (Tipton) Reeves ('07)** reside in northeast Indiana where they have lived for the past six years. They have two children, Serenity and Zander. ✉ [aimersreeves@gmail.com](mailto:aimersreeves@gmail.com)

**David ('11) and Courtney ('13) Fain** welcomed Isaiah David Fain to their family on Feb. 8, 2020. ✉ [fains0804@gmail.com](mailto:fains0804@gmail.com)

**15 Hannah Tinkey ('17)** now serves at First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, South Carolina as junior high female student ministry coordinator. ✉ [htinkey@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:htinkey@firstpresgreenville.org)

**Hastin McGill ('19)** is the new assistant men's soccer coach at Cape Fear Community College in North Carolina. ✉ [Hastin.mcgill@mailbox.ciu.edu](mailto:Hastin.mcgill@mailbox.ciu.edu)



## In Memoriam

- Joy Turner Tuggy ('43)** – November 2019
- Thelma Woody ('43)** – October 2019
- Velda Rodamer ('44)** – April 2019
- Jean Bolinder ('45)** – December 2018
- Martha Hall ('45)** – October 2019
- Olive Downey ('47)** – January 2020
- Pauline Johnston Musick ('48)** – February 2020
- Vivian Miller Lott ('51)** – May 2019
- Patricia Gumm Bicker ('55)** – November 2019
- Richard Loving ('56)** – April 2019
- James Wood ('56)** – May 2019
- Theodore "Ted" Shelling ('57/'89)** – March 2020
- T. Gerald Wheatley ('58)** – August 2019
- Harry Morris ('60)** – February 2020
- Larry McKay ('62)** – August 2019
- J. William Shaw ('63)** – November 2019
- Robert Gardner Jr. ('64)** – January 2019
- Neil Jaeger ('64)** – September 2019
- Pete Hofer ('65)** – May 2019
- David Martin Jr. ('66)** – September 2019
- Edith Mogg ('67)** – January 2020
- Robert Morey ('67)** – January 2019
- David Matthews ('72)** – March 2020
- Judith Ann Smith ('72)** – November 2019
- Katrina Polvinen Morgan ('76)** – November 2019
- Christopher Law ('80)** – January 2020
- Sylvia Smith Frazier ('81)** – November 2019
- Kathy Millsap Cain ('83)** – February 2020
- Betty Prinzing Morgan ('84)** – September 2019
- Esther Christensen ('85)** – November 2019
- David Steinberg ('04)** – February 2020
- Tyrone Fogle ('12)** – July 2019
- Kirsten Richardson-Pearce ('12)** – November 2019
- Stephanie Kimble ('17)** – October 2019
- Ruth Hakes (Former Staff)** – November 2019
- George Martin (Former Staff)** – September 2019

**Peter Spencer ('65)** – February 2020  
When Peter Spencer enrolled at Columbia Bible College (CBC) in 1963, he made history. Spencer was black. His admission to CBC, now Columbia International University, made CIU the first institution of higher education in South Carolina to admit a black student voluntarily.

Spencer, who was from Jamaica, would go on to become a pastor and missionary statesman in his home country for over 50 years. In 2013, he received the Kingdom Impact Award from CIU. Spencer died at his home in Jamaica on Feb. 9 after a short battle with cancer. He was 80 years old.

**Dr. Richard Belcher (Former Faculty)** – January 2020  
Dr. Richard Belcher taught at CIU for 29 years. He authored several books, including his best-known "Journey in Grace." He went on numerous mission trips to India, Africa, and other parts of the world. He was also pastor of Covenant Baptist Church in Columbia in the years before his retirement from teaching in 2005.



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### **"A Dead Man Walking" and the Power of the Gospel**

**Let me tell you about "a dead man walking."** He is a friend of mine who had the lure of the world draw him away from the things of God. He embraced a sinful life of partying and drinking. He drank so much that eventually he could down a fifth of vodka without being drunk.

He had plenty of money and was a worldly success. How could he miss? By his own admission, he worked at the auto dealership he owned 80 to 100 hours a week for 25 years.

His marriage was short-lived. He had a daughter he loved dearly, but instead of spending time with her, he thought showing love was buying her a red BMW when she was only 16.

He was too busy even for his parents, ignoring his mother's phone calls. His father would drive 30 minutes each day to the auto dealership just to make sure he was OK, lovingly telling him that he could not continue to live his destructive lifestyle.

His father was right. My friend had two strokes, one of them temporarily paralyzing him.

After both of his parents died, he lost any sense of right or wrong. Things only got worse when he lost his business and after breaking his hip, doctors discovered alcohol caused a serious bone disease.

**Now, let me tell you about the power of the gospel.** When my friend finally reached bottom, he cried out to the Lord, and instantly, God delivered him from 30 years of alcohol addiction!

I know this man's story because we grew up together, attending the same church. Over the years, I would frequently call him at the Holy Spirit's prompting, encouraging him to repent and turn his life over to the Lord. I did not give up on him because I know what the power of the gospel can do to save anyone.

My friend has been clean and sober for over a year, and today, he is an online CIU student studying for his degree in addiction counseling. What a transformation!



There is so much more to this thrilling testimony, representing just one of our over 1,700 CIU students. Read this powerful story in its entirety on The President's Page at [ciu.edu/president](http://ciu.edu/president), where you will find other regular communication from me, and news from around campus.

Will you join me in giving to CIU as God uses our team to raise up a new generation of disciplined believers?

For His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Mark A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Mark A. Smith  
President

*"I remember being months sober but almost at the breaking point, and Mark (Smith) telling me that he needed me to come down to Columbia. He spent time with me and helped me get a job. His love was what probably saved my life because from that moment on, I have felt like I have been in a safe place. Every day of my life I get up and ask God to take my will and give me His, and I will follow."*

*- From the full testimony at [ciu.edu/president](http://ciu.edu/president)*

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