

# CIU

## TODAY

### Getting the Gospel to the Neighborhood and the Least Reached

- + *CIU Commencement in Asia*
- + *Worldwide Impact Through Athletics*
- + *CIU Legacy at Bethel Christian Camp*

FALL 2019  
CIU.edu  
#DiscoverCIU

# CIU

## TODAY

**CIU Today** is published as a service to CIU alumni and friends by the Office of University Communications at Columbia International University.

Columbia International University admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs and complies with Title IX regulations.

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Bob Holmes

**Designer**  
Seth Berry

**Alumni Editor**  
Danny Arabis

**Contributing Photographers**  
Bob Holmes, Caleb Pringle,  
Ben Rutkowski, Kierston Smith,  
Seth Berry

**Contributing Writers**  
Naomi Balk, Bob Holmes,  
Ireland Kost, Dr. James Lanpher,  
Jennifer Pilpe, Dr. Shirl Schiffman,  
Dr. Ed Smither

**Direct all inquiries to:**  
CIU Today magazine  
7435 Monticello Road  
Columbia, SC 29203  
(803) 807-5535  
publicrelations@ciu.edu

**CIU**  
Columbia  
International  
University



#DiscoverCIU

## FEATURES

- 10** The Principal and Her “Babies”
- 12** Bethel Christian Camp: A Part of CIU’s Legacy
- 14** Reaching Kids at the Ranch
- 15** BLS Students “Going Forth to Tell of Jesus”
- 16** CIU Commencement in Asia
- 17** CIU Students Continue Ministry to Puerto Rico
- 18** Boldly Going Into Creative Access Areas

## DEPARTMENTS

- 20** **ACADEMICS**  
Text Books + Toddlers + QVC = Flexible MBA
- 22** **ATHLETICS**  
Track and Field: Ben Lippen champions;  
CIU Hosts First Home Meet in School History;  
Hoop for Hope; A Summer of Worldwide Impact
- 24** **CAMPUS LIFE**  
A Hub for Great Food and Fellowship  
– The Renovated CIU Dining Hall
- 26** **ADVANCEMENT**  
Global Scholars Fund; Your Gifts, His Mission
- 29** **ALUMNI**  
Alumni of the Year 2019: Douglas and Alleene Petty Kracht; Homecoming 2019 Info; Class Notes

## To Him Who Sits on the Throne

The reading of Revelation chapters 4 and 5 sent a chill down my spine. It was not first time I was hearing them. It's just that this time I was the one reading them aloud in front of the congregation with my own voice echoing back at me. I recited in an intentionally loud voice, the worship of the angels in Rev. 5:11-12

*<sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>saying with a loud voice,*

*"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."*

While I tried to maintain my concentration to continue the reading without stumbling, my mind was saying, "Wow that is powerful."

It was my privilege to be asked to do the reading for our 2019 Missions Festival with the theme, "Is He Worthy?" Afterward fellow church members thanked me for the reading. My response was, "To think what it's going to be like around the throne! It's one thing to read it to yourself, but when your recite it aloud — Wow!"

The impact was even more dramatic when one of our Festival speakers named Scott, a CIU alumnus who serves in a closed country in Asia, had our entire congregation also read Rev. 5:13-14 aloud with LOUD voices.

*<sup>13</sup>And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,*

*"To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."*

*<sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.*

A double "Wow!" moment. More chills.

Our second Festival speaker was another CIU alumnus also named Scott, who ministers in Eurasia to refugees from a closed Central Asian country. He reminded us from Mark 1 that followers of Christ are all fishers of men and we must not delay in the task.

*<sup>16</sup>As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."*

But what is the motivation for the fishing? The theme of the Festival lingered, "Is He worthy?"

The answer from those two CIU alums came back with a resounding, "Yes," He who sits on the throne is indeed worthy. As pastor and author John Piper stated in his book, "Let the Nations be Glad!"



Bob Holmes, Editor-in-Chief

*"Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more."*

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



## CIU Celebrates Explosive Growth, New Facilities

At the start of the 2019/2020 school year, the Columbia International University campus was full of excitement — and just plain full! Enrollment is up to over 1,550 students, an increase over the previous year's count of 1,270. The residence halls are full which has moved more students to the Pine View Apartments on campus.

During Welcome Week, some new students and their parents indicated they chose CIU because of the new and upgraded facilities. Two important projects were completed over the summer; The \$20 million William H. Jones Global Business & IT Center, and a \$4 million renovation of the Dining Hall.

It was May 2018 when a ceremonial groundbreaking at the entrance to CIU signaled the beginning of the Business & IT Center named for CIU Chancellor Dr. "Bill" Jones who also served as CIU's sixth president. The Center is a training ground for best business practices at home and abroad; for business as mission; and a hub for Monticello Road community business development.

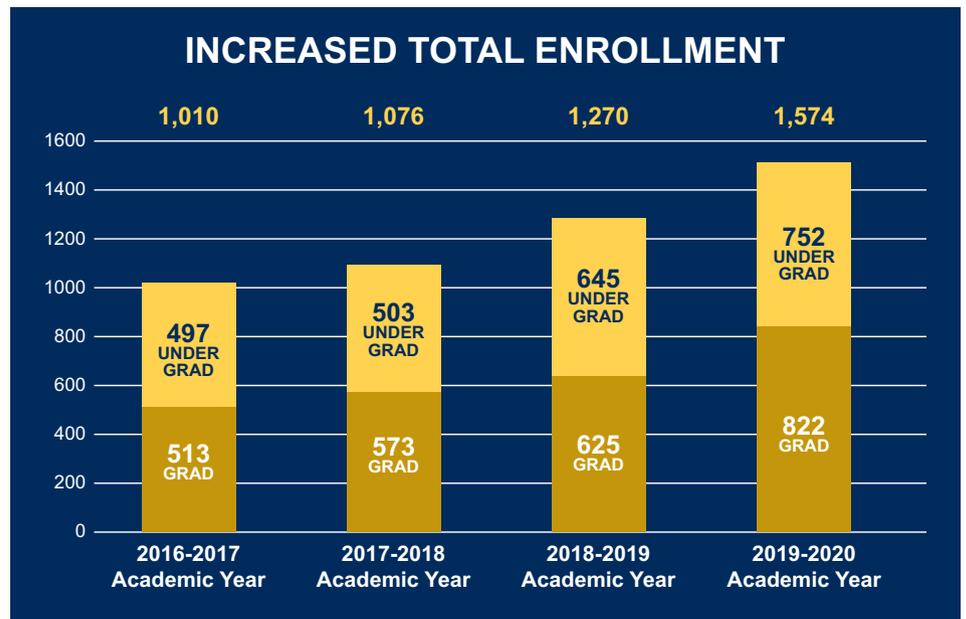
"At first I didn't think it would get done on time, but it's beautiful," sophomore Mackenzie Sanchez said about the building as she waited for her Introduction to Business class to begin. Sanchez and the other 50 students in her class could look out floor-to-ceiling windows and view a neatly landscaped hillside leading up to Monticello Road. Overhead and just behind Professor Amy Dubois was a huge media screen.

The CIU IT Department is also located in the building, enhancing campus IT functionality and infrastructure for all staff and students. It also offers the potential for IT academic programs in the future.

Meanwhile, students were wide-eyed as they entered the renovated Dining Hall for the first time.

"I was expecting something cool, but this is mind-blowing," said Student Body President Andrew McNeill. "All the food and the details feel gourmet. It feels like everything a much larger university would have."

(See page 24 for more details on the Dining Hall.) ■



## Celebrating a new Arts and Science Center at Ben Lippen School

Ben Lippen's recently completed Arts and Science Center was abuzz with excitement as students and parents explored the new \$5.5 million building on the first day of classes.

"We are excited to see what God is doing here," said Ben Lippen School Headmaster Tony Fajardo. "We want to give our students the opportunity to grow and really expand their talents and abilities."

The 13,000 square footage of inspirational learning space includes STEM, robotics, math, physics, chemistry, technology and fine arts classrooms where students can expand their God-given talents. The new building also offers an art gallery to display students' creative side.

Seventh grader Gabi Brannon said math is one of her favorite subjects and with the new classrooms, she and her peers have a better learning space.

"It looks so different. I like it!" smiled Brannon.

Combined with a 15 percent enrollment increase at Ben Lippen, Fine Arts Director Taylor Nelson said the new building sparks a new chapter for the school.

"Not only is this building a memorial of the Lord's faithfulness, it also [sets it apart as a] top Christian school in Columbia," Nelson said. ■



## Ben Lippen Enrollment Rises

**Ben Lippen School enrollment is 835 students, the highest since 2004.** That includes 225 new students and, for the first time ever, over 100 new families.



## Monticello Road Revitalization to Welcome DQ/Convenience Store

It will soon be time to "Grill & Chill" on Monticello Road at the local Dairy Queen.

Columbia International University has entered into an agreement with Jones Petroleum of Georgia for a Dairy Queen restaurant/convenience store combination, the first business establishment to become a part of CIU's revitalization efforts along Monticello Road, the corridor to the CIU campus.



Department will move into an existing building that is being transformed into a substation.

"We're funding the construction of (the substation) to make the community safer," said CIU President Dr. Mark Smith. "It's a gift to the community."

Smith says once Jones Petroleum begins building, the company hopes to complete the project in six to eight months.

"You're looking at 50 to 75 employees that will be hired, and that's going to be a real plus for this community," Smith said.

Smith adds that negotiations continue with other businesses who are considering Monticello Road an excellent location for growth. ■

CIU has purchased seven properties transforming the formerly blighted area into a commercially-viable district. The DQ/convenience store combo will be situated on three lots at the corner of Monticello Road and Peeples Street just off Interstate 20. CIU cleared the properties of vacant buildings and a barroom earlier this year.

Additionally, across the street from the new Dairy Queen, the Richland County Sheriff's

## CIU Welcomes New VP

Dr. Rick Christman has joined CIU as the executive vice president of Student Services and Online Services. He comes to Columbia from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee. Christman calls it an honor to join the CIU team.

"In this role, it will be my goal and deliberate intent to serve students on their educational journey, preparing and empowering them to fulfill the Great Commission in whatever field they serve," Christman said. ■



Dr. Rick Christman



## CIU Students Ready to Make an Impact in Government

Nearly 50 Columbia International University students learned to make an impact in the Nation's Capital, as well as at home at the Faith and Freedom Coalition's Road to Majority Conference in Washington, D.C. June 27-29.

The students heard from the nation's top government leaders including President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and a number of senators, congressional representatives and cabinet members. They also attended breakout sessions featuring panelists who discussed how to engage the culture and political process.

"It was a great networking opportunity to meet new people from different backgrounds, states, businesses, and political positions who are impacting the kingdom of God in whichever arena they are in," said rising junior Joy Jones.

After the conference, graduate student Christina Alexander said she was still "trying to process everything" and called it "an amazing opportunity to have attended." Each student attended at no cost through

a scholarship provided by the Faith and Freedom Coalition.

Alexander was especially excited to hear Vice President Pence address the conference, noting that his speech was filled with emotion.

"(He) even thanked the people for allowing him to be the people's vice president and serve the nation and people of America," Alexander said.

CIU international student Tryphene Dewanou, who is from the African nation of Benin, called the experience "awesome" and "an honor." She echoed a familiar theme among others who attended that they need to more carefully scrutinize what is reported by the news media.

"I learned a lot about the Christian's role in politics and how to be mindful and willing to do the research before believing anything from the news," Dewanou said.

As a part of their trip package, the CIU students also received free admission to the new Museum of the Bible in Washington. ■

## Talented Director to Lead Dynamic 100-voice Choir

A new 100-voice Ambassador Choir is in development at Columbia International University led by a talented and experienced chorale director.



Bryce Thompson comes to CIU from Lake Orion High School in Lake Orion, Michigan where he built a choir program that emphasizes music literacy and high-level musicianship. His choirs have performed before large audiences in churches and cathedrals. They also performed the National Anthem before a Detroit Tigers baseball game and provided the halftime entertainment for the NBA's Detroit Pistons.

CIU President Dr. Mark Smith says he has been praying for this day.

"Bryce will be building a choir presence that will represent CIU on national as well as international tours," Smith said. "This will increase the quality of our music program, enrollment and spiritual impact."

Thompson has nearly a dozen years of experience directing, conducting and teaching music at the high school, middle school and grade school level. He received one-on-one training from Dr. Todd Guy, the choral director at Indiana Wesleyan University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education with an emphasis on choral and instrumental music. He earned a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University.

Thompson says he's looking forward to being a part of the CIU family.

"My passion is to teach others how to pursue excellence in their own lives as an act of worship," Thompson said. "I believe that the difference between average and excellence is detail and I bring that to every area of my life. I am excited to make Him known through our work together!"

A CIU donor has provided \$1.5 million to build and market the Ambassador Choir over the next five years. ■



## John Maxwell Returns to CIU

Dr. John Maxwell, one of the most influential leadership experts in the world, returned to CIU for a second year in a row, to speak at a community event in Shortess Chapel. He engaged Christians in the audience with advice on how to add value to people and be salt and light in a dark world.

"The salt makes things better and the light makes things brighter." Maxwell said. "Hang out with non-believers. Change comes from the inside out and from the upside down. Make people thirsty and hungry for God." ■

## CIU Chancellor Sworn in to the SC State Guard

In a unique Chapel service, South Carolina State Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Leon Lott swore in a new recruit: Dr. Bill Jones. Jones is the chancellor of CIU. Lott also serves as Richland County Sheriff.

The ceremony included the presentation of new CIU bachelor's and master's degrees in Disaster Relief and Emergency Management. The degrees fit with the mission of the S.C. State Guard "to quickly respond to protect people and property and to help communities recover" during a natural or man-made disaster in South Carolina. ■



## SC Lt. Gov. Visits CIU Twice to Discuss Important Issues

South Carolina Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette visited the CIU campus twice, once in the spring to discuss state criminal justice reforms and again in August to encourage a focus on the needs of the aging. The first event was a "Lunch and Learn" in March hosted by the CIU School of Business & Professional Studies and the South Carolina Faith and Freedom Coalition. A panel discussion followed that included Bryan Stirling, director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Recognized at the event was the role of the CIU Prison Initiative in prison reform.

In August, Evette addressed a church-community partnership symposium also hosted by the CIU School of Business & Professional Studies and the South Carolina Department on Aging. ■

## Former Congresswoman Fires Up CIU Graduates: "You are God's handiwork!"

Former Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann delivered a passionate commencement address to graduate and undergraduate students in two separate ceremonies. Her message centered on the truth in Ephesians 2:10.

"You are God's masterpiece. You were created in Christ Jesus to do good works, good works which God prepared in advance for you to do," Bachmann said with fiery emphasis. "Now go do it!"

CIU honored Bachmann with the school's first Global Impact Award for leading the Jerusalem Project that calls on nations to pray for Israel. The CIU Global Impact Award recognizes a public figure who reflects the core values of CIU and has made outstanding achievements for God's Kingdom. ■



# A Summer of Worldwide Impact Through Athletics

Columbia International University softball, volleyball, women's soccer and baseball made an impact with the message of Christ in three different parts of the world over the summer as they teamed-up with local sports ministries and missionaries.



## SOFTBALL

**Coach Sara Allen** and members of her team were in the Middle East for two weeks holding clinics for about 75 youth, women and men, many of whom play on their national teams.

"It was really eye-opening to experience how important it is, especially in Middle Eastern culture, to build genuine relationships with people and to let our stories with Christ flow naturally into those relationships," Allen said. "We had incredibly deep and fruitful conversations with many of the softball players we worked with, and were able to share the gospel after one practice toward the end of our trip as a result of the great energy we had established on the field."



## WOMEN'S SOCCER

**Coach Kara Farnsworth** was on a ministry trip to Asia supporting and encouraging a missionary family in a nation where persecution of the church has increased. But Farnsworth says the door was open for her to play soccer and spend time with the local residents opening the door for the missionaries to "build relationships and share the love of Christ."

While Farnsworth does not speak the local language, she says, "we were able to communicate with one another through playing the game we both love. There is an understanding of one another through the game where we learn more about each other's preferences and how we face success and failure."



## VOLLEYBALL

**Coach Amber Haver** and five members of her team were in the Catalonia region of Spain assisting at a sports camp, when a camper made a comment about Americans having a lot of power. Haver asked her to clarify what she meant. Through broken English the camper explained that the CIU team is always smiling and happy. Haver paused for just a second and explained it's not an American thing, but that the joy comes from Jesus and the team's faith in Him.

"She allowed us to pray with her and for her," Haver said. "This is huge, because as we learned in training, the Catalan people are very resistant to prayer and anything having to do with God or religion."



## BASEBALL

Meanwhile, **Baseball Coach Jonathan Johnson** was in Honduras with his multifaceted ministry, "Honoring the Father" spreading the gospel while meeting needs in agriculture and education. ■

## High School Musical

Theatre productions at CIU are almost entirely student led. So a lot of work and a large cast presented the spring production of High School Musical. The cast worked tirelessly to bring the vibrant show to the Hoke Auditorium stage.

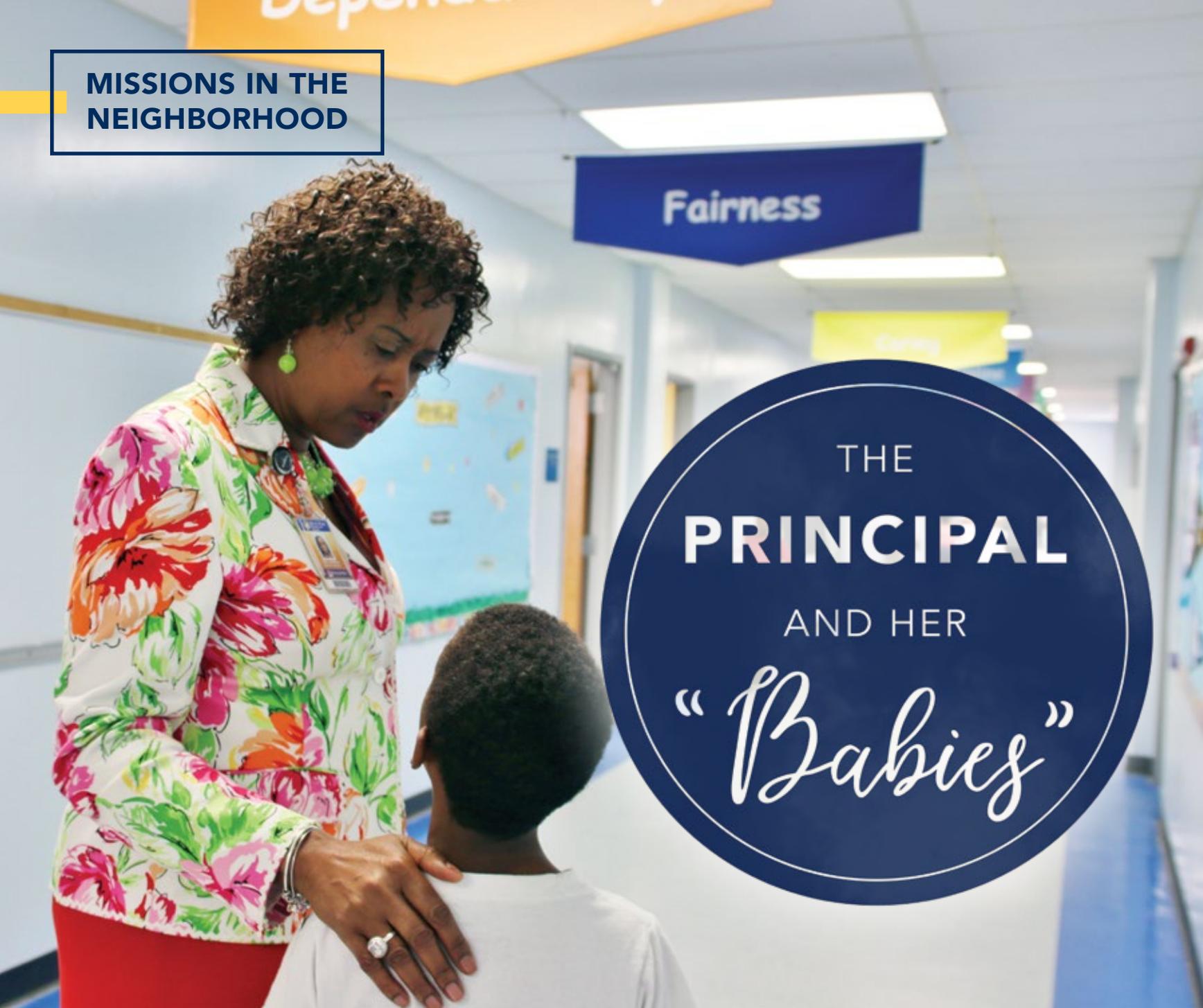


## "Candyland" Awarded Blue Ribbon

Congratulations to Ben Lippen School eighth grader Lucia Kirkland. She took first place in her age group in an art competition for her creation "Candyland." She was competing against 30 schools and over 500 artworks at the SCISA (South Carolina Independent School Association) Art Show in Lake City, South Carolina in February. She is pictured with Ben Lippen Upper School Art Teacher Jack Branney.



**Stay abreast of CIU News.**  
 Sign up for alumni E-News at [ciu.edu/email](http://ciu.edu/email)



THE  
**PRINCIPAL**  
AND HER  
*“Babies”*

## CIU Alumna “Embraces” Children Who May Need a Hug

By Bob Holmes

**A**s I waited for the principal of Hyatt Park Elementary School to meet me in the reception area, a few students were arriving late after the opening bell. When **Principal Dr. Dell Brabham** walked in, one of the students, a girl of about third grade, immediately hugged Brabham around the legs, which was as high as she could reach. But Brabham stooped down to give the little girl what she really wanted — a return good morning hug — an everyday occurrence at the school.

“It’s humbling, because ‘my babies’ know that I love them,” explained Brabham a 1995 graduate of Columbia International University’s Master of Arts in Teaching program. “People say you don’t touch kids — yes you do, because for some of ‘our babies,’ that’s the only hug they might get all day long.”

Brabham, very naturally refers to the students as “my babies” and “our babies.”

“They’re children, and what I know about children is that they need structure, they need love, and they need nurturing,” Brabham explained.

Hyatt Park Elementary School is located just off North Main Street in Columbia, less than five miles from the CIU campus. It is in a low-income community where crime is a concern and 50 percent of the students live in a public housing project just down the street. She describes family situations where students' fathers died a violent death or were seriously wounded by gunfire.

**"It's humbling, because 'my babies' know that I love them."**

**– Dr. Dell Brabham**

"They need us to provide the love and attention that they need in order to survive," Brabham said of her "babies." "When you walk in that door, this is a safe, nurturing environment because they need that."

## "My Mission Field"

Brabham, a native of South Carolina's Lowcountry, is #6 in a family of 12 children. Now in her 24th year as an educator, the last three years at Hyatt Park, she has also served as a teacher, instructional technology specialist and assistant principal. Education is actually her second career. With an undergraduate degree in business, she first worked in advertising.

But during a time of soul-searching with her husband in the early 1990s, she made the decision to change careers, and enroll in CIU's MAT program to make an impact through education. She fondly remembers Education professors such as Anne Scott and Ted Moon and a sense of a peace that came over her as she pulled onto campus each day.

"I knew I was going to be in a spiritual place, and being in the company of believers," Brabham said. "I felt that CIU had not only prepared us, I felt that my faith was so strong while I was there. That was the strongest, most spiritual time of my life."

She says she when she graduated, "I knew that the public school is my mission field."

As I toured Hyatt Park Elementary with Brabham, she encouraged every student she encountered, and each child was respectful and excited to tell their principal about what they were learning or what was going on in their personal lives.



## "His Eyes are on the Sparrow"

Brabham says when she arrived at Hyatt Park, she was warned that the school needed improvement. As she made changes, there was some resistance and stress, but her Christian faith pulled her through.

"I think about that His eyes are on the sparrow, and if He's watching them, He's watching me," Brabham said. "I can sleep at night because I know I'm doing what is in the best interest of children."

She adds that she prays "a lot," and says there are "prayer warriors" among the community who pray for the school at least twice each week.

"I feel covered because I'm not praying alone," Brabham said. "I'm not in this by myself. There are others who believe in what we're doing in public education."

She is not shy about telling others she is there because her "steps are ordered by God Almighty."

"If we say we are believers, then we have to believe it is God's plan, and not our plan," Brabham said.

## "Lives We Touch"

When it comes to her faculty and staff, she looks for those who "have a heart to reach and teach our kids." She also interacts with parents.

"Many of our kids come to school wounded, so we have to be that culture of hope for them and to help them realize 'you're going to do great things,'" Brabham said. "Inspiring them and telling their parents, 'Don't give up on your kids. They are going to do great things, but you have to help.'"

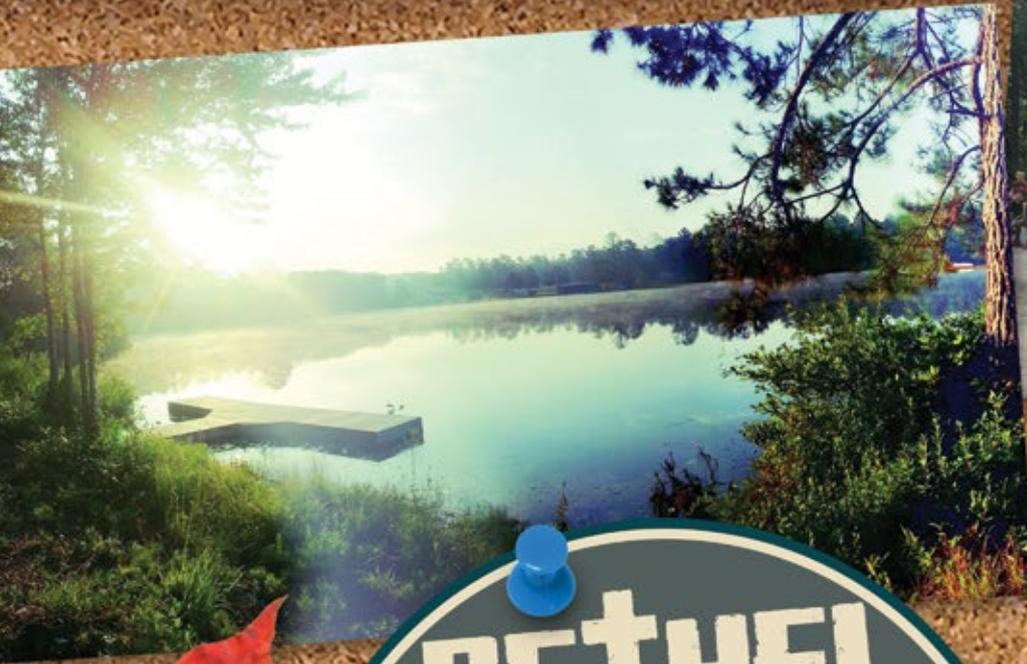
She calls the impact educators have on students as well as adults "bigger than life itself."

"It's amazing how many lives we touch."

She finds it especially rewarding to cross paths with former students. At a school event a parent asked, "Miss Brabham, do you remember me?" He was in her class when she was a student teacher over two decades ago at another school. Now he is the parent of one her Hyatt Park "babies."

"You never know what lives we touch," Brabham noted. "I can't imagine doing anything else. This is a great time to be an educator." ■

MISSIONS  
AT THE CAMP



Bethel Rally 1978



Bethel Lake Fun



Marguerite McQuilkin poses with campers in the early days of the Bethel camp.



## Bethel Christian Camp: Part of CIU's Legacy

By Dr. Shirl Schiffman

When Columbia International University's first president Robert C. McQuilkin came from Philadelphia to lead what was then called the Southern Bible Institute, he came with a wife as passionate about ministry as he was. Both longed to serve Christ overseas and were disappointed when that door closed, but followed gladly when God led them to Columbia in answer to the prayers of the CIU's founders known as "The Praying Women."

While Mr. McQuilkin plunged into starting the new school, his wife Marguerite cared for their five children. When the youngest was in school, Mrs. McQuilkin began teaching Bible in Columbia's segregated public schools of the 1930s. Bible teachers then used prizes to motivate kids to memorize hundreds of verses. A sought-after prize was a week at a Christian camp, and soon many of her African American students won their week. But there was a problem. There were Christian camps nearby for white children, but black children were not admitted. And there was no camp for black children.

Mrs. McQuilkin went to work. Just as her husband helped establish the first Bible college in the South, she founded the first Christian camp for black children in the Columbia area, originally named Bethel Bible Camp. Beginning in 1941, she rented facilities for 10 years, transporting supplies and children each summer. Campers studied the Bible, heard missionary speakers, sang camp songs (a favorite was "Bethel for Jesus"), and had a lot of fun! Bethel has never officially been connected to CIU, but the ties between them have been substantial. Over the years, many camp counselors and other volunteers have been CIU students, faculty or staff members.

In the late 1940s, an African American businessman donated property for the camp in Northeast Columbia. Cabins were donated from another camp that closed. A Quonset hut for a chapel and other military surplus materials were procured with CIU assistance, and Bethel's first season on the new property was 1952.

Mrs. McQuilkin stepped down as director around the same time, but the CIU connections continued:

CIU professor Charles Wenzel served as director for many years. Professor Frank Sells paid for a swimming pool. Other CIU-ers at Bethel in the 1950s through the 1970s were Sarah Midyette, James Moore, Bob and Mary Alice Williams, and Henry and Mary Ann Hennagan. Longtime CIU administrator Bob Kallgren was an influential board member for decades, and Lillie A. Burgess also served on the board.

Current board chair Raz Bradley is a CIU alumnus. Other board members include John Wenzel, who grew up at Bethel; and Youth,

Family, and Culture professors Dr. Karen Grant and Dr. Sam Rubinson. Bethel's Executive Director Jarl Hill, Associate Director Tom O'Brien, and Head Girl's Counselor Elease "Skippy" Anderson all have ties to CIU.



**Dr. Shirl Schiffman** is a former Bethel Christian camp board chairman and CIU professor emeritus of Ministry Studies

In 2000, Bethel purchased a former Boy Scout camp in Lexington County where the ministry has flourished. There are now eight weeks each summer with 80 children per week and waiting lists. A prayer goal is to have 100 campers per week in the future. One week of Camp Angel Tree is held each summer in conjunction with the ministry Prison Fellowship, just for children with incarcerated parents.

Today's campers are a beautiful mix of ethnicities and backgrounds, a powerful part of the Bethel experience for the children and youth who attend. That has left a lasting impression on Debbie LaGeorge. She is a former Bethel camper, current Bethel board member, and a former CIU staff member.

"I was a little kid whose community was almost entirely just a black community, so I got to come to camp and actually see black people and white people working together to do things," LaGeorge said. "That completely changed the way I thought about the way people got along together. Because I knew it could happen at camp, I knew it could happen outside of camp."

The camp curriculum still provides a safe, fun, Bible-based and Christ-centered experience. Some children are saved and many grow to be stronger disciples of Jesus each season. Honoring its heritage, Bethel has never turned a child away due to lack of finances. Costs are kept as low as possible and scholarship money is raised for families needing assistance. (As many as 50% of Bethel campers attend on scholarship.)

Mrs. McQuilkin might be surprised at the lake, beautiful cabins, and challenging activities such as archery, riflery, kayaking, canoeing, climbing towers, zip-line, and "the giant blob"—a trampoline-type experience assisting swimmers in making a big splash in the lake. But she would find the heart of the camp as she left it.

**For more information on Bethel's ministries, including youth and adult retreat opportunities throughout the year, see [www.bethelchristiancamp.org](http://www.bethelchristiancamp.org).**

## MISSIONS AT THE RANCH

## MINISTRY IN THE MOUNTAINS

Columbia International University alumna **Erica Williamson (2018)** was tucking-in seven-year-old Katie one night at Wears Valley Ranch after a day where Katie was trying to learn to do the right thing.

"You need to put your faith in Jesus ... He died and rose from the grave," Williamson said as she began to explain the gospel.

But Katie stopped her with a loud gasp, and exclaimed, "He did what? He rose from the grave?"

"She had heard that Jesus died, but didn't know He had risen," Williamson said as she discussed her work at the ranch. Wears Valley in Tennessee is a safe place for children who come from difficult family situations such as a single-parent household, homes with parents who struggle with addictions or even homes where there is neglect, physical abuse or sexual abuse.

Williamson, who majored in Teacher Education at CIU, is in the second year of a two-year commitment at the ranch located just outside the Great Smokey Mountains National Park near Sevierville. She is considered a mentor to the children, living in a house with nine resident girls, a co-mentor and two house parents. In many ways, Williamson resembles a home school mom to two of the girls in her house, a seven- and ten-year-old, teaching four hours each day and living life with them. Williamson, who was herself home schooled, was attracted to the position when she learned about it during her senior year at CIU.

"I love kids, and I love teaching — I was praying for something, but I didn't exactly know what I was praying for," Williamson explained. "Some kind of unconventional teaching opportunity where I could freely share Jesus with the kids, where I could be outside, where I could work one-on-one with the kids."

She describes living in a family environment where the child residents experience what it's like to live in a biblical family model and taught solid theology.

"I love the biblical counseling, how they teach the kids straight from Scripture," Williamson said.

She adds that CIU prepared her "so much" for the position, both inside and outside the classroom.

"It gave me such a solid foundation scripturally, and my relationship with God grew by learning more about Him — I think particularly of my Psalms class — how to pray honestly and candidly to the Lord," Williamson said. "The missions focus drew me to a job that gives me the opportunity for full-time ministry," she added.

Plus, she says being an R.A. her last two years, gave her a love for residential ministry.

"I learned so much through the tight community at CIU — close friendships and learning to be vulnerable with other people."

Meanwhile, Williamson says Katie is "blossoming." On a day that there were relational challenges among the girls, Williamson explained to Katie that the Bible tells us "to love our enemies and pray for those who are mean to us."

Soon after Katie was overheard speaking to her friends on the playground: "Do you know we're to love our enemies? Do you love everybody?"

"A little evangelist," Williamson concluded. "I'm so thankful to the Lord for providing this job for me." ■

HE  
DID  
WHAT?  
HE  
ROSE  
FROM  
THE  
GRAVE?

## MISSIONS AT BEN LIPPEN WINTERIM



*Going forth to tell of Jesus  
To souls who've never heard;  
Bringing light to those in darkness  
Through His glorious Word.  
-Ben Lippen Alma Mater*

**Ben Lippen students "going forth to tell of Jesus"**

**Winterim sessions used to bring "light to those in darkness"**

– By Jennifer Pilpe, *Upper School Director of Academics and Faculty, High School English Teacher*

**"Over the past 10 years our students have served in Ecuador, Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Haiti, Belize, and within the United States."**

I've heard it said that short-term missions has a greater impact on those who go than on those receiving the ministry. Though I'm not sure that's accurate, I can attest to the impact such trips have had on my students during the Winterim program. The weeklong Winterim offers unique and exciting experiences that go beyond the classroom. Students choose from a variety of options that include serving others, discovering a new hobby, and experiencing other cultures. Ben Lippen's Winterim program has greatly strengthened our community because it initiates, builds, and deepens relationships while providing a wide variety of educational enrichment and service learning experiences outside the traditional classroom setting. That includes serving as the hands and feet of Jesus through short-term missions.

programs, and ministered to the deaf as well as orphaned children with special needs.

I've watched our students graciously eat things that were served to them (even when it resulted in food poisoning!). I've witnessed their love and care for inner city children when they could only communicate through hugs and play. They have worshipped in other languages (Spanish, French, Mayan and Embera), and have prayed with and over missionaries. I've also wept with my students brought to repentance by the Holy Spirit as they shared their questions and doubts.

I recently encountered a graduate from the class of 2011 who went on a Winterim trip with me to Ecuador. She shared that, from her own experience, Ben Lippen students who participate in a Winterim mission trip can expect to be forever changed as they live out their faith in an environment where they have to rely on the Lord in ways they never have before.

As a school, we are responsible to educate our students, but Christian education is so much more than that. We seek to train up young men and women who will impact the nations with the message of Christ and Winterim mission trips are a powerful means of accomplishing that goal. ■



Cameron Caulk, Danielle Croteau and Elissa DeTellis lead a Vacation Bible School in Belize.

When we first started the Winterim program a decade ago, I was excited to provide my students with the opportunity to see the church in another culture and language and to serve alongside them. Over the past 10 years our students have served in Ecuador, Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Haiti, Belize, and within the United States. Our students have hosted VBS, taught English classes, built houses and churches, shared at local church services and community centers, assisted with feeding

## CIU COMMENCEMENT IN ASIA

### Master of Education degrees awarded

By CIU Provost Dr. James Lanpher

**W**hat a joy it is to see the impact CIU is making in Asia! At a commencement service we held in May, 11 graduates traveled great distances to receive their Master of Education degrees.

One of the highlights for me was the speech given by one of the graduates. She said that she had been praying about how she could be involved in Christian education and when she heard about the CIU program actually offered in her language, her response was "Praise the Lord!" She felt that God had provided an answer to her prayers through CIU. Then as she studied in the program what she appreciated most was that the topics in education were approached from a specifically Christian perspective. While in the United States we may take for granted that there are institutions that will integrate Christian faith into the disciplines they study, this is extremely rare in her country. So for her to be studying an area of vital importance in her own language and from a biblical worldview, really was something she had never expected apart from God making it possible. As this graduate continued to speak about her education and the impact it had on her, I could hear echoes of CIU in her words. The very language she was using and the approach to education she was describing reflected CIU's core values and heart.

We also wanted our graduates in Asia to feel a part of the worldwide CIU community. We did this by being present with them at a graduation and we also did it through video. We had asked faculty and staff at CIU to send greetings and congratulations to our students in Asia, producing a short video with these greetings. We deeply want our Asian graduates to feel a part of the CIU family and as the video was played and I observed tearful graduates as they watched, it became very clear to me that these graduates feel fully a part of CIU.

I had an experience in another city in the same country which also reinforced the importance of what CIU is doing. After an informational meeting in a house church, one of those present

---

*We also wanted our graduates in Asia to feel a part of the worldwide CIU community.*

---



Director of CIU Asia Initiative  
Dr. Zhiqiu Xu (right) assists CIU President  
Dr. Mark Smith with translation.

was eager for me to see their school. So we hopped in a car to drive a few blocks to see one of their classes, which was being held in another house church location. There were about seven students in the class working hard, and I had a brief meeting with the head of the school, an elder of the church and two teachers. Both of the teachers had completed the CIU Master of Education program! They were putting into practice every day what they had learned and they were hungry for more! At least one of them is fervently hoping to come to CIU for doctoral work.

These two and our other graduates there are the pioneers of Christian education in their country. They are learning, they are applying what they learn to their cultural context, and they are blazing a new path. They have the call of God on their lives and in their hearts, and CIU is giving them the tools to follow that call. And through them, CIU's impact will be multiplied over and over in the lives of their students. What an honor it is to have a part in what God is doing! ■

## Expanding the "Asia Initiative"

CIU occupies a unique position for making a significant impact in Asia. Expansion under consideration includes:

1. **A College-Preparatory Education.** This could include translating Ben Lippen School courses into a bilingual format and making them available online.
2. **Undergraduate Education.** In partnership with several large churches, the first two years of an undergraduate education would be completed online or in conjunction with a designated partner, and the last two years completed on the CIU campus.
3. **Master-Level Education.** This could include M.A. programs in the Seminary & School of Ministry. Students graduating from these programs could make an impact in both the churches and the general society in Asia.
4. **Ph.D.-Level Education.** Possible programs would include Christian Education, Leadership, Intercultural Studies, Biblical Studies and Theological Studies leading to the establishment of seminaries and mission training centers in Asia.



## Nearly two years after Hurricane Maria, CIU students continue ministry to Puerto Rico

Columbia International University students made their third missions trip to Puerto Rico since deadly and devastating Category 5 Hurricane Maria hit the U.S. territory in September 2017. The July journey was part of an ongoing effort led by Dr. Michelle Raven, director of CIU's International Community Development Program to help the local residents rebuild their communities.

**James S. Mickens Jr.**, a junior and Business major, was among three students on the trip. He shares his thoughts.

*Going on the mission trip to Puerto Rico in July was a great experience. It made me want to step out of my comfort zone and do more.*

*I was able to work on the landscaping for a church so we can reroute the pipes for water. The goal is to get the church to the point that we can stay in it during future trips to Puerto Rico.*

*I also spent time in the community praying, talking and playing basketball with the young adults. I plan on learning Spanish, so when I go back, I can have more conversations with everyone that I meet. It's funny how fast someone can get close to a group of people in a week. Moving from stranger to family in a blink of an eye. I'm pretty sure, praying together and sharing personal devotionals plays a huge part in that. Either way I see it all as a blessing. I'm so happy the Lord gave me an opportunity to meet another wonderful and loving group of people. I hope he blesses me with another trip to Puerto Rico in the future.* ■

# Boldly Going

INTO  
CREATIVE  
ACCESS  
AREAS

## CIU ALUMNI ARE GETTING THE GOSPEL TO THE LEAST REACHED

**A**mong CIU's 150,000 graduates serving in 149 countries around the world, many labor in what we call creative access areas. In these countries, local Christians are often not allowed to worship freely, visas for international missionaries and pastors are denied, and sharing the gospel can be prohibited by law. Of course, our Lord commanded us to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:18-20) — including those that don't welcome missionary activity. When Peter and the apostles were ordered by the Sanhedrin to stop proclaiming Christ, they replied, "we must obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29).

Dr. Ed Smither, dean of the College of Intercultural Studies, recently interviewed two CIU alumni about their work in restricted countries. "John Paul" (J.P.) served for 14 years as a church planter in West Asia until he had to flee the country because of political pressure. "David Lewis," (D.L.) has served for 10 years as a Christian medical professional in two countries in the Middle East.

### What was it that first drew you to work in a part of the world that has restrictions on evangelism and church planting?

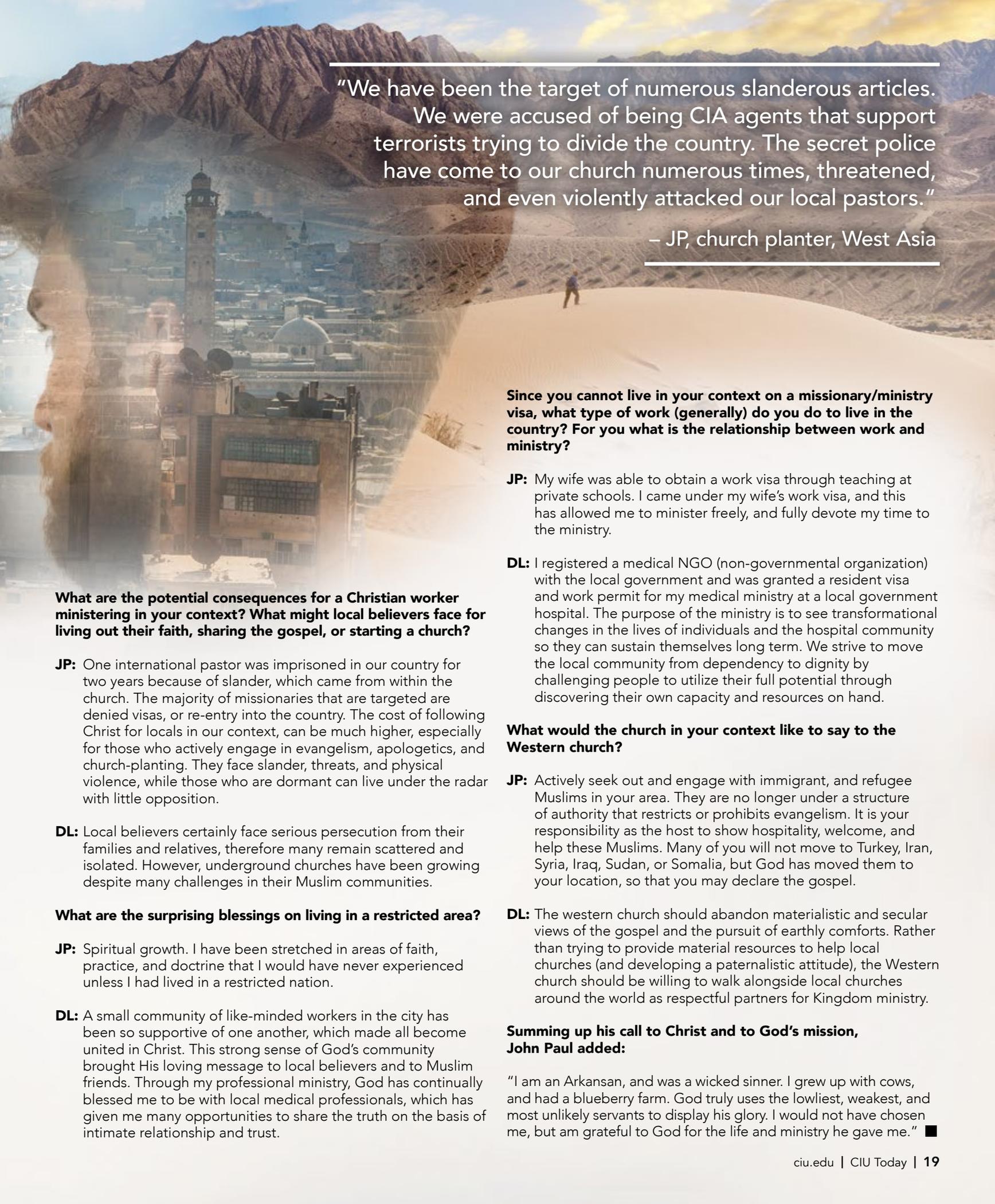
**JP:** When I was 18 years old I read Romans 6:13, and I realized I needed to fully yield myself to God. It was soon after this God called me to this part of the world through prayer, information (via reading Operation World), and previous connections I had in the country. I wept as I prayed for the unreached, and God broke my heart for the people of this restricted nation.

**DL:** Because medical professionals were still welcomed in these countries, I believed that there would be many opportunities to share our faith in holistic ways when I served people with my medical profession. I ministered to and influenced people with Christian values while working as a doctor at a government (Islamic secular) hospital, which was a very important and effective ministry in this context.

### In your context, what are the great barriers to ministry?

**JP:** We have been the target of numerous slanderous articles. We were accused of being CIA agents that support terrorists trying to divide the country. The secret police have come to our church numerous times, threatened, and even violently attacked our local pastors.

**DL:** The great barriers are certainly differences in language and culture. As there are ongoing turmoils and wars in the region, security and safety issues are also one of the greatest barriers to ministry. Sometimes foreign medical missions are perceived as competitors or intruders to local medical professionals rather than supporters or assistants, which may be a barrier to establishing intimate relationships with local people in my context.



---

“We have been the target of numerous slanderous articles. We were accused of being CIA agents that support terrorists trying to divide the country. The secret police have come to our church numerous times, threatened, and even violently attacked our local pastors.”

– JP, church planter, West Asia

---

**Since you cannot live in your context on a missionary/ministry visa, what type of work (generally) do you do to live in the country? For you what is the relationship between work and ministry?**

**JP:** My wife was able to obtain a work visa through teaching at private schools. I came under my wife’s work visa, and this has allowed me to minister freely, and fully devote my time to the ministry.

**DL:** I registered a medical NGO (non-governmental organization) with the local government and was granted a resident visa and work permit for my medical ministry at a local government hospital. The purpose of the ministry is to see transformational changes in the lives of individuals and the hospital community so they can sustain themselves long term. We strive to move the local community from dependency to dignity by challenging people to utilize their full potential through discovering their own capacity and resources on hand.

**What would the church in your context like to say to the Western church?**

**JP:** Actively seek out and engage with immigrant, and refugee Muslims in your area. They are no longer under a structure of authority that restricts or prohibits evangelism. It is your responsibility as the host to show hospitality, welcome, and help these Muslims. Many of you will not move to Turkey, Iran, Syria, Iraq, Sudan, or Somalia, but God has moved them to your location, so that you may declare the gospel.

**DL:** The western church should abandon materialistic and secular views of the gospel and the pursuit of earthly comforts. Rather than trying to provide material resources to help local churches (and developing a paternalistic attitude), the Western church should be willing to walk alongside local churches around the world as respectful partners for Kingdom ministry.

**Summing up his call to Christ and to God’s mission, John Paul added:**

“I am an Arkansan, and was a wicked sinner. I grew up with cows, and had a blueberry farm. God truly uses the lowliest, weakest, and most unlikely servants to display his glory. I would not have chosen me, but am grateful to God for the life and ministry he gave me.” ■

**What are the potential consequences for a Christian worker ministering in your context? What might local believers face for living out their faith, sharing the gospel, or starting a church?**

**JP:** One international pastor was imprisoned in our country for two years because of slander, which came from within the church. The majority of missionaries that are targeted are denied visas, or re-entry into the country. The cost of following Christ for locals in our context, can be much higher, especially for those who actively engage in evangelism, apologetics, and church-planting. They face slander, threats, and physical violence, while those who are dormant can live under the radar with little opposition.

**DL:** Local believers certainly face serious persecution from their families and relatives, therefore many remain scattered and isolated. However, underground churches have been growing despite many challenges in their Muslim communities.

**What are the surprising blessings on living in a restricted area?**

**JP:** Spiritual growth. I have been stretched in areas of faith, practice, and doctrine that I would have never experienced unless I had lived in a restricted nation.

**DL:** A small community of like-minded workers in the city has been so supportive of one another, which made all become united in Christ. This strong sense of God’s community brought His loving message to local believers and to Muslim friends. Through my professional ministry, God has continually blessed me to be with local medical professionals, which has given me many opportunities to share the truth on the basis of intimate relationship and trust.



## Text Books + Toddlers + QVC = Flexible MBA

MBA graduates in business and ministry earn degree on their schedule

### An MBA for Business



**Michael Lyerly**  
Senior operations manager  
at QVC in Florence, S.C.

**Michael Lyerly** says as he studied for his MBA, he could go right from the textbook to the warehouse he manages and immediately apply what he was learning. That is one of the advantages of earning an online MBA from Columbia International University.

Lyerly, 34, is one of nine graduates who are the first to earn an online MBA from CIU. He is the senior operations manager at a Florence, South Carolina distribution center of QVC, a home shopping television network based in Pennsylvania. He is the second in

command at the warehouse overseeing business decisions, hiring, staffing and organizing.

After reading in one of his MBA textbooks about how Toyota's production process eliminated waste, he asked himself a few questions.

"I go down to the warehouse floor and I'm looking at how can I keep (the employees) productive," Lyerly explained. "Am I overstaffed? What can I do to streamline the processes?"

Lyerly, who oversees 350-400 employees, says the leadership courses in the MBA program have been his favorites.

"It's something I personally gravitate toward. What can I do to become a better leader?" said Lyerly, who before going into business was

studying to be a pastor. "As a Christian in a secular business, it gives me better tools for servant leadership."

As a dad with three small children, Lyerly says the flexibility of the online MBA was his only route to a degree as he works about 60 hours per week. He took a two-month break from the program for family time before completing the program by summer's end.

"Making sure I bring my children up right is very important to me," Lyerly added. "I personally don't work on school while they are awake. That way it doesn't have an impact on my interaction on my kids — that way I still get a hundred percent of them. I do all (my studies) at night."

### An MBA for Ministry

Being able to maintain family priorities were also important for Elizabeth McDowell, 34, as she worked through her online MBA degree. McDowell and her husband Jeff direct the Columbia office of Teen Challenge, an addiction recovery program. Mr. McDowell completed a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from CIU in 2018.

With the sounds of her firstborn, Faylee, cooing and laughing in the background during a phone interview, McDowell said that she became pregnant while in the 18-month MBA program. However, because of the program's flexibility, she was able to continue without a break. Before Faylee was born McDowell studied at night, and "pretty much when (Faylee) was sleeping" after she was born.



**Liz McDowell**  
Serving with  
Teen Challenge

The first graduates of the Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies pose after the May commencement at CIU. (Left to right): Victor Cuartas, Dae Young Lee, Stephen Davis, Steve Miller, ICS Dean Ed Smither, Steve Kern, John Clayton, Michelle Raven, Mathew Weathers (Not pictured: Jacob Pursley)

## Over 100 students in New Ph.D in Organizational Leadership Program

CIU's new Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership is proving to be a very popular program. In just its first semester, 66 students enrolled for study of the online degree. The program equips leaders for roles in such diverse career fields as colleges and universities, hospitals, clinics, K-12 schools, small businesses, mid-sized to large corporations, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, churches and para church organizations. The 48-credit-hour degree takes just 27 months to complete. Get more information at [ciu.edu/online-degrees](http://ciu.edu/online-degrees) or call (800) 777-2227, ext. 5024.

"My husband was a big help, too," McDowell added. "He had already finished his program so he was able to help out."

Just like Michael Lyerly, McDowell says she was able to apply what she was learning to her roles in the Teen Challenge ministry immediately.

"Right now I do a lot of the administration and finance — a lot of the behind-the-scenes work," McDowell said. "I was able to apply the finance-related courses and the strategy-related courses to what I'm doing."

McDowell says she really enjoyed her peers that were a part of the first CIU MBA online cohort. She became acquainted with them through discussion boards and weekly devotionals that she calls, "really great, because we got to discuss the devotionals with each other and got to know each other."

As for the future, McDowell says the MBA is an asset that has made her well-rounded for ministry.

"My undergraduate degree was more about the relational aspect, but now I have more of a business foundation," McDowell said. "Hopefully in the future we can develop new programs to help more people who struggle with addictions."

Now that both Elizabeth and Jeff McDowell have master's degrees from CIU, they can use their new knowledge and training together.

"My husband with the theology background and me with the business and administration side, we'll make a great team!" Mrs. McDowell concluded. ■



## First Graduates of Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies Program Celebrate

For some, it was their first time on the CIU campus. The first graduates of the Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies (ICS) program crossed the stage at the May commencement, coming from places near and far. One is from South Korea. Three from South Carolina.

The online program is modeled after the European Ph.D. and can be pursued from anywhere in the world. It prepares students to produce research in areas such as history and theology of mission, cultural anthropology, mission strategy, and Islamic Studies.

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

Smither says the program is also affordable, costing a fraction of what many American and European Ph.D. programs charge. ■

## Immigrant from Ethiopia is Lausanne Scholar

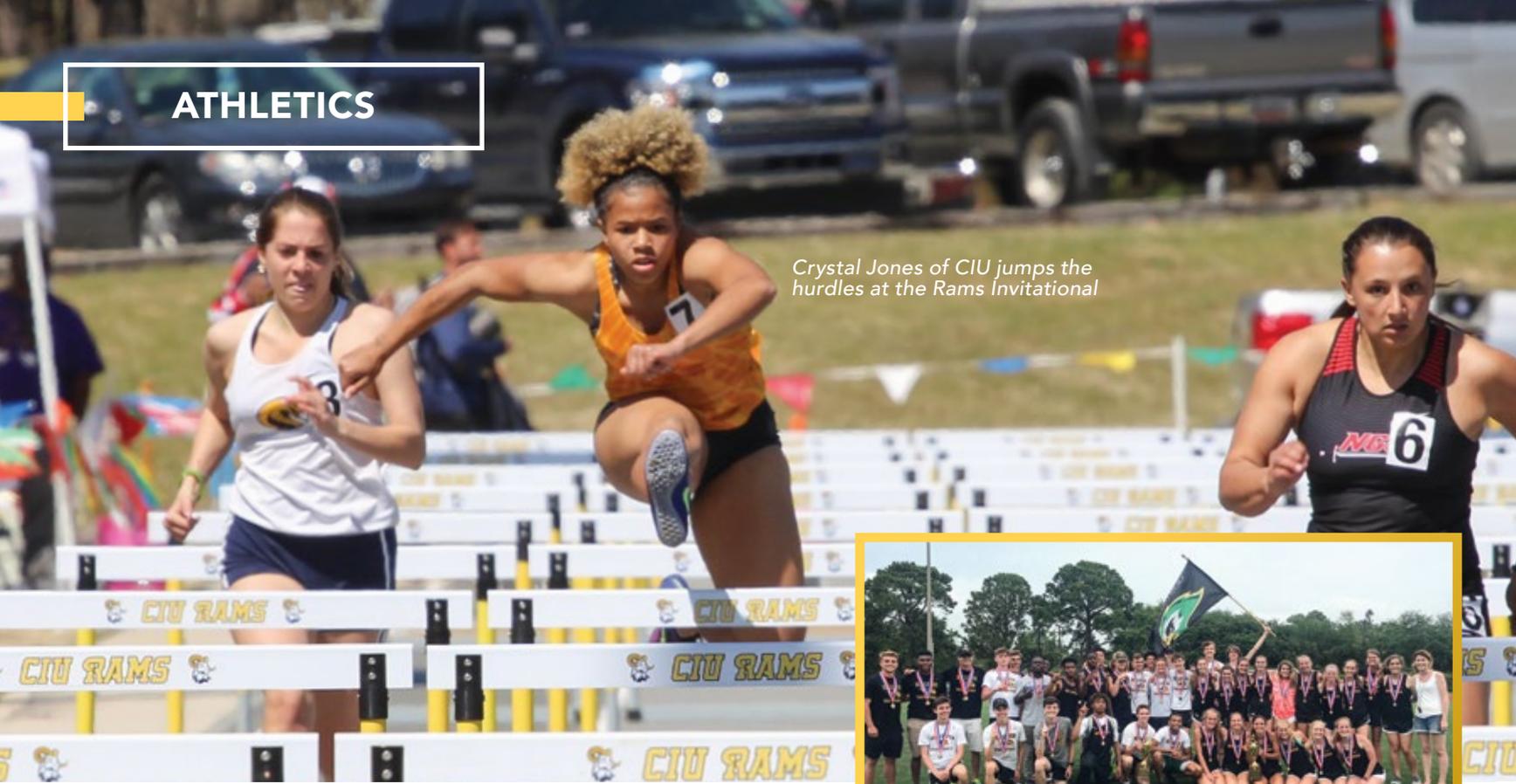


Congratulations to Mehari Korcho, named CIU's 2019 Billy Graham Lausanne Scholar. He receives a full-tuition scholarship as he pursues the fully-online Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies. Korcho is an immigrant from Ethiopia who lives in Denver. He already holds a Master of Arts degree in Global Studies from CIU, and works with the missions organization Near Frontiers as mission strategist for diaspora churches. The scholarship is awarded to a student with the academic abilities to complete a CIU graduate or doctoral program and was established in partnership with the Lausanne Younger Leaders Network. ■

## Good Reads

A new **commentary on Romans written by the Dr. John Harvey**, dean of the CIU Seminary & School of Ministry, offers up-to-date scholarship and concrete application for preachers and lay teachers. The commentary is the latest volume in the Kregel Exegetical Library, providing a thorough explanation of every verse of Romans followed by theological insights and hands-on takeaways.

Education **Professor Emeritus Dr. Milt Uecker** shares his life's passion and calling in a new book. "**Distinctively Christian**" focuses on Early Childhood spiritual development in children ages two to eight, and will primarily be used by Christian school teachers and program directors. ■



Crystal Jones of CIU jumps the hurdles at the Rams Invitational



## Ben Lippen Boys and Girls Win Track and Field Championships

Victory was double sweet for Ben Lippen track and field last spring as both the boys and girls teams took home state championships. The day was historic for the girls — it was the first time in school history a girls’ track team has won the title. For the boys it was their first state championship since 1998.

The boys’ team finished with 89 points, edging second place Cardinal Newman by three points. The girls’ team finished with 92 points, 14 more than second-place Wilson Hall.

The boys were led by a strong performance from Camden Abrams who won the 1600 and 3200 meter races. Additionally, the boy’s 4x800m relay team of Wesley Gilliam, Jacob Sark, Jackson McCrudden, and John Davis took home first place.

The girls were led by the senior trio of Erin Taylor, Caroline Christensen, and Lily Meetze. Taylor won the long jump and set a state record, Christensen won the 100 hurdles, and Meetze won the 400 hurdles.

“Our athletes worked hard all season and were rewarded with a championship,” said Ben Lippen Head Track and Field Coach Thomas Fisher. “They were selfless and laid it on the line for their teammates. I am so proud of these athletes and cannot wait to see what is in store for next season.”

## CIU Hosts First Home Track and Field Meet in School History

By Ireland Kost, CIU Student Writer

The CIU Rams Invitational, Columbia International University’s first home track and field meet in school history, embodied dedication, new beginnings and progress for CIU and its athletes. Athletes from 16 colleges and universities from around South and North Carolina traveled to Columbia March 23 for the historic event. For the competitors, a highlight was running on the new Olympic-style Mondotrack, designed to minimize injuries and increase athletic performance.

It was truly a momentous day for the Rams. Distance runner Janna Imes from Greenville, South Carolina was excited to be a part of something new.

“We are thankful for the top-of-the-line track and even more thankful for the encouraging community around us,” Imes said. “Being on the track team is truly a blessing all around.”



Blake Guillozet of CIU (left) leads the pack at the Rams Invitational

During an opening ceremony, CIU Track and Field Head Coach Jud Brooker said he is thrilled at how his team helped to make the day possible.

“They’ve been fundamental in getting this track built and by helping with fundraising for equipment and also by being a huge part of helping to build the track and field program,” Brooker said. Turning to his team, he added: “We’re so proud of each one of you.”



## 200 Columbia-Area Youth Hear the Gospel at Hoop for Hope Camp

CIU Rams learn to “coach” youth on basketball and life

Columbia International University Assistant Athletics Director Kim Abbott says this was the plan for CIU athletics from Day 1.

As Abbott stood on the steps overlooking the CIU basketball court where groups of nearly 200 Columbia-area youth were shooting hoops at CIU’s Hoop for Hope camp, she reminisced on the day she was hired. In 2010 she was tapped to organize CIU’s first-ever intercollegiate athletics program, with the intention that athletics would be a platform for sharing the gospel.

“This is really our ministry — bringing kids to CIU for camp,” Abbott said. “This is a major purpose as to why we started athletics.”

The Hoop for Hope camp is an initiative by the CIU men’s and women’s basketball programs to engage with the youth in Columbia. The name of the camp comes from Jeremiah 29:11 “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘Plans to give you HOPE and a future..’” with the purpose of sharing the hope that comes with having a relationship with Jesus.

Buses were dispatched to neighborhoods for four days in July to pick up the 6 to 16 year-old boys and girls and bring them to CIU’s Moore Fitness Center where they were placed into “teams” and “coached” by CIU Rams basketball players who guided them through “stations” that included basketball games, basketball drills, team-building exercises and Bible devotionals.

CIU Rams basketball player Corey Benton, a junior with the goal of being a basketball coach one day, said he enjoys being around the youth to teach them about basketball and the Bible.

“I asked God to help me be a leader and teach these kids as much as I can and be as helpful and useful as possible, and give me the strength and courage to do that,” Benton said. “The kids asked me many questions and are learning new things about the Lord and that’s the most important thing in this world.”

CIU Men’s Basketball Coach, Tony Stockman is the camp director and CIU Women’s Basketball Coach, Temple Elmore is the assistant camp director.

Abbott noted that Hoop for Hope provided each child with their own copy of the New Testament — to carry with them throughout the four-day camp, and beyond.

“We tell them, ‘take your Bible everywhere.’ That’s a philosophy we want them to leave with.”

**Want to learn to minister through your sport?  
Discover more at [ciurams.com](http://ciurams.com).** ■



## Students “Absolutely Blown Away” Over Renovated Dining Hall

The students arrived at CIU for the fall semester and were “Wowed” with their first meal in the renovated \$4 million CIU Dining Hall.

“All my expectations are absolutely blown away,” said CIU Student Body President Andrew McNeill as he sat at a long table with several excited friends.

Both returning students and new students were wide-eyed as they took in the new surroundings and the delicious variety of food choices provided by Hallmark Dining Services. Everyone ate for free at the grand opening.

“I was expecting something cool, but this is mind-blowing,” added McNeill. “All the food and the details feel gourmet. It feels like everything a much larger university would have.”

Guests are greeted with a multi-station elliptical that has expanded nutritional options to meet the diverse culinary needs of local and international students. There were a variety of freshly prepared pizzas — a new pie coming out of the oven every few minutes. A local Carolina favorite — Perlow — a rice and sausage mix, was available as well as other popular choices such as popcorn chicken and a large salad bar that student Gloria Book enjoyed.

“It had so many things on it, and I couldn’t get anything else — I was so overwhelmed with choices,” Book shouted. She washed it down with Tropi-cicle Chiller — fresh pineapple and orange juice whipped together with sweet cream.





**"I was expecting something cool, but this is mind-blowing!"**  
*– Andrew McNeill, Student Body President*

Students also enjoy new seating, including a variety of upholstered banquettes and high-top community tables. New Dining Hall hours are 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. assisting those students with busy schedules. Modernized meeting rooms are still available.

Meanwhile, faculty and staff are impressed with the food options. Two professors were overheard exiting the dining

hall. One said to the other while pointing to his own stomach, "You know that weight I lost over the summer...?" The second replied, "We're getting the 'Freshman 15!'" referring to the old joke about new college students gaining weight their first year on campus. ■





## Dreams Become Reality with Global Scholars Fund

By Dr. Ed Smither, Dean of the College of Intercultural Studies

In 2016, we saw a dream become reality at CIU when the Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies program was launched. Intended to train global scholars — those serving in global theological education, and mission and church leadership — the program has quickly grown to 60 students. During the Spring 2019 commencement, we celebrated as our first nine graduates walked across the stage of Shortess Chapel (see page 21). One of the biggest obstacles facing our students, especially international students, is finances. Internationals make up one-fourth of the program. To address this, in November 2018, a group of CIU faculty and staff initiated the Global Scholars Fund. Within a few days, we had raised \$2,000.



With those resources, we've helped students such as **Christiane Boehlhoff-Martin from Germany** who is writing on the history, theology, and goals of Korean missions from the diaspora in Germany. She writes, "I was awarded the Global Scholars Fund for the current semester . . . it has been a blessing."

We've also helped **Ecuadorian pastor Victor Carrera**, who noted: "In Ecuador . . . most church leaders have limited seminary education. So graduate education is needed to elevate the quality of our ministry." Victor's research explores the intersection of the arts, mission, and

education in his city of Quito, Ecuador.



Scholarship funding is vital to the majority of CIU students allowing them to get a biblical education and reduce or eliminate the need for loans. Please consider supporting CIU students as they pursue God's plan for their lives. To support scholarship funding contact Frank Bedell at (803) 807-5001 or frank.bedell@ciu.edu. ■

You can 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 to student aid, faculty/staff, 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.

- [Facebook.com/ColumbianInternationalUniversity](https://Facebook.com/ColumbianInternationalUniversity)
- [Twitter.com/DiscoverCIU](https://Twitter.com/DiscoverCIU)
- [Instagram.com/ciurams](https://Instagram.com/ciurams)



**SHARE:** Students 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

# Your Gifts. His Mission.

## CIU Fund Goal Met!

Our hearts are grateful for alumni, friends and parents who graciously gave to help us meet our **\$3 million CIU Fund goal for fiscal year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019.**

## Donors Meet Scholars

David and Diane Wolfe called the Scholarship Donor Luncheon a highlight of the year for them.



CIU students (left to right) Joseph Knight, Romulo Barreto and Thomas Izaguirre meet scholarship donor H.L. Allen.

*"This event gives me hope and refreshment for our future to sit across from young people who love Jesus and love their neighbor as much as they love themselves,"* said David Wolfe. *"We made a connection and we feel like, oh, we want to invest in these kids even more!"* added his wife Diane.

## Thank You Sponsors

It takes support of all kinds to help fulfill the motto of CIU, "To Know Him and to Make Him Known." Along with gifts of cash, stock, IRA distributions and end-of-life disbursements, sponsorships also make a huge impact for CIU students. **Special thanks to our 2019 Sponsors!**






# Master of Business Administration

100% Online

Complete your degree in 15 months for \$15,000

## Why CIU Online?

- Regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools [sacscoc.org](https://sacscoc.org)
- Online classes can be accessed anytime, 24/7
- Highly engaged professors who are practitioners of the subjects they teach
- Award-Winning online classes
- Get your degree from a nonprofit university
- Eligible for federal financial aid and employer reimbursement plans

## Concentrations

Finance  
Healthcare

**CIU** | Columbia  
International  
University

**APPLY TODAY!**

**CIU.EDU/APPLY | (800) 777-2227**

Columbia International University admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin and complies with Title IX regulations.

## Douglas ('67) and D. Alleene Petty ('68) Kracht – Alumni of the Year, 2019

### “Direct Answer to Prayer”

Oct. 1, many years ago, at a time when neonatal units did not exist, a little girl born prematurely lay gasping for breath, her lungs not developed enough to sustain life. The doctors feared the worst. First president, Robert C. McQuilkin, and the Columbia Bible College family (now CIU) stepped in and prayed earnestly for God to spare her life. That little girl is Alumna of the year, Dorothy Alleene Petty Kracht, or “Direct Answer to Prayer” – as McQuilkin called her.

Alleene and CIU are both a “Direct Answer to Prayer.” In 1921, six young women called the Praying Ladies gathered to urgently ask the Lord to give Columbia a Bible school. Two years later, the Lord did just that when Columbia Bible School opened with six students in rented downtown rooms. Alleene and CIU even share the same birthday, Oct. 1 (but not the same year).

Alleene’s connections to CIU are even more remarkable. Her father is Tom Petty who started CBC/CIU’s Christian Service outreach. Her mother, Nell Petty, was the school hostess for years, her aunt, Sara Petty, was dean of women, her uncle, David Petty, was on the board of trustees, and Petty Memorial Hall is named in honor of her grandmother Ruth Worth Petty, who was a devoted friend and prayer warrior for CIU.

In 1964, Alleene came to CBC/CIU as a student. She met Doug Kracht in 1965, a transfer student from Colorado State University. Doug, a new Christian, found his time at CBC/CIU to be transformative, laying the foundation for his life as a missionary.

Doug and Alleene married in 1970. In 1972, they joined the staff of the Jamaica Bible College. Doug taught while Alleene was the dean of women. Their two children, Saranell and Jeremy were born there. Doug discovered he had artistic gifts and was drawn to multimedia work. He pioneered coursework for the school and created numerous multi-media presentations for the school, World Team and for fellow missionaries. He also partnered with CIU to produce the video series “God’s Blue Print for Biblical Marriage,” available in the Buck Hatch Library on the CIU alumni website ([alumni.ciu.edu/resources](http://alumni.ciu.edu/resources)).



*Alleene giving a gift to President R.C. McQuilkin at CIU’s 25th anniversary celebration.*

In 1984, Doug and Alleene followed a call to Spain where Alleene taught at the Evangelical Christian Academy and Doug worked with the World Team Institute for Church Planting. Since leaving Spain in 1995, the Krachts have continued their mission to make discipleship tools for the Latin world. Doug visits Cuba regularly to encourage Cuban pastors and church planters in their work.

Alleene has now come full circle. She is one of CIU’s Praying Ladies, a pivotal and historic group that meets monthly to intercede for students, alumni, faculty and staff. She is still seeking “Direct Answers to Prayer” on CIU’s behalf at the throne of Grace. ■

*Don’t miss meeting Doug and Alleene in person at Homecoming 2019, Nov. 1-2. Check the Homecoming website [ciu.edu/homecoming](http://ciu.edu/homecoming) for details.*



# CIU HOMECOMING NOVEMBER 1-2



Join us for Homecoming 2019 – Don't miss out on connecting with classmates, faculty, staff and friends!

### CLASS REUNIONS



### STUDENT/ALUMNI LUNCH:

Chat with students and compare notes



**ALUMNI OF THE YEAR**  
Doug ('67) and Alleene Petty ('68) Kracht



## MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES

Ambassador Choir and  
Cola Worships



**FIREWORKS,  
BLUEGRASS & BONFIRE**  
at The Pointe

## CAMPUS TOURS

See renovations  
and the new  
Business &  
IT Center



**PRESIDENT'S  
BANQUET**



**STUDENT &  
ALUMNI GLOBAL  
NETWORKING  
EVENT**



**ATTEND A CLASS**

## RAMS VOLLEYBALL MATCHES



- FUN FAMILY ACTIVITIES
- BOUNCY HOUSE
- PICNIC LUNCH
- HOME RUN DERBY
- DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT
- CIU BOWL  
*and more!*

Register at [ciu.edu/hc19](http://ciu.edu/hc19) or call (803) 807-5500

# RECENT ALUMNI

## Recognition Award



## 2019 Recipients

### Lindsey (Seawell) LeDuc ('09)

Lindsey serves as the area manager for Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) in Columbia, South Carolina, overseeing programs that provide services to refugees in the Columbia area. She coordinates volunteer support with churches and community partners and supervises the direct care staff who assist in the resettlement of refugees to American life, including employment, school enrollment and managing culture shock. Lindsey is married to Paul and they have one son, three-year-old Malachi.



### The Rev. Julian Dangerfield ('11)

Julian is the executive director of Shalom Outreach, Inc. in Northern Virginia. Formerly a software engineer, today Julian and his team train and equip pastors, medical doctors, teachers, social workers, and young people for missionary travel into the continents of Africa and South America. He also devised strategies with African United Nations ambassadors to confront the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to confront the social ills within their nations. Julian is married to Lisa Dangerfield.



### Ben Bacheller ('09)

Ben is the creation care specialist for The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), developing gospel-centered, culturally-appropriate, and locally-sourced solutions to environmental degradation. He equips missionaries around the world to take on gospel-centered creation care projects, such as reforestation, urban gardening, well drilling, aquaponics and sustainable agriculture. Ben is married to Rebekah and they have four children: Caleb (11), Samuel (9), David (7), and Lillianna (5).

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



### Amy (Marion) Watkins ('07)

Amy has served as the director of Clinical Services at a mental health and substance abuse counseling center in Camden, South Carolina. Recently, she began the transition to private practice providing similar counseling in the Columbia, South Carolina area. She is married to Dustin and has a stepdaughter, Tennyson (7).



### Clinton "Chip" Yoder Jr. ('07)

After graduating from CIU, Chip taught at Ben Lippen School from 2006-2013 before becoming a classroom instructor at the National Guard Youth Challenge Academy Training Center. In 2015, he joined the Air National Guard where he serves part time. He also teaches sixth grade ancient history and seventh grade world history at Northside Middle School in Lexington, South Carolina. He is married to Susan ('05).

**Is there someone you would like to nominate?**  
Contact the Alumni Office at (803) 807-5500 or [alumni@ciu.edu](mailto:alumni@ciu.edu)



### Dr. Amy Roedding ('13)

Amy serves as the director of International Placement for the Christian and Missionary Alliance. She is responsible for recruiting and directing the next generation of Alliance workers, including pastors, children and youth workers, and missionaries.

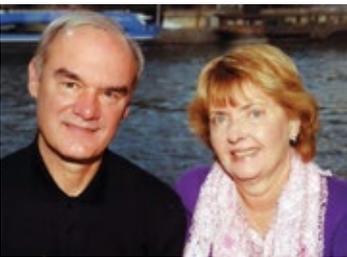
## ALUMNI CLASS NOTES



**Eugene Siemer ('53)**, at 93 years young, continues to teach Sunday school and has a strong passion to spread the gospel, posting a Bible verse each week in his local newspaper. He loves to visit his family and friends, and see the beautiful sights of Colorado, New Mexico and surrounding area.

**David ('64) and Barbara (Honan) ('64) Cross** served as church planters in Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom. They "retired" in 2011 but remain very active at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Barbara teaches Bible studies, children's Sunday school and leads women's retreats. David serves as chairman of the church planting committee and is a guest preacher.  
✉ [d.cross1942@gmail.com](mailto:d.cross1942@gmail.com)

**David ('63) and Elouise (Renich) ('64) Fraser** live in Pennsylvania. David co-founded Development Associates International. Now retired, he is writing a history of Christian ethics. ✉ [davidallenfraser@gmail.com](mailto:davidallenfraser@gmail.com)



**Greg ('69) and Sue (Light) ('68) Stowers** recently retired from Greater Europe Mission after serving in France, and have settled in Pennsylvania. Greg has published a memoir, "To Minister: The Journey of a Church Planter" to encourage young church planters to persevere in their ministries.  
✉ [gregandsuestowers@gmail.com](mailto:gregandsuestowers@gmail.com)

**Diane Holmes ('72)** retired from the home office of Walmart Stores, Inc. in 2012 after 21 years of service. She now lives in independent housing at The Ozarks Methodist Manor in Marionville, Missouri where she also volunteers. ✉ [dianeholmes777@gmail.com](mailto:dianeholmes777@gmail.com)

**Jane Neal ('75)** has been directing Christian education and youth ministries at the Marion Alliance church in North Carolina since October 2012. ✉ [nealjane8@gmail.com](mailto:nealjane8@gmail.com)

**Barb Hartwig ('78)** published "Assignment: Trusting God, Memoirs from Africa," about her journey in serving God as a nurse in Liberia, Ghana, Ethiopia and South Sudan. Barb desires that her experiences during 30 years of gospel ministry will inspire others to keep on trusting God no matter what. ✉ [barbhart13@gmail.com](mailto:barbhart13@gmail.com)

**Rusty Rabon ('83)** published "Do All to the Glory of God: A Lenten Journey through First Corinthians," focusing on the Apostle Paul's central message: "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." ✉ [rustyrabon@gmail.com](mailto:rustyrabon@gmail.com)



**Lawrence Ford ('84)** has served in various ministry roles since 1981, including missionary, pastor, and ministry executive in Christian publishing and broadcast media organizations. He and his wife, Vivian, live in Chapin, South Carolina and have six children and six grandchildren.  
✉ [fordhilton15@gmail.com](mailto:fordhilton15@gmail.com)

**Kevin ('87) and Laura Robbins** recently celebrated 20 years of ministry at Lockport Alliance Church (C&MA) in Lockport, New York near Buffalo. Kevin serves as senior pastor and Laura serves as coordinator of Congregational Care. They previously ministered for 11 years in Frederick County, Maryland. Their three young adult daughters live near Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and Chicago.  
✉ [kevinrobbins1957@gmail.com](mailto:kevinrobbins1957@gmail.com)

**Stephen ('89, '92) and Shirley (Schneider) Scully** married on July 14, 2018 at the Botanical Gardens in Asheville, North Carolina. **Jimmy Sadler ('94)** officiated the ceremony. ✉ [sscullyfni@gmail.com](mailto:sscullyfni@gmail.com)



**Paul and Julie (Bateman) ('89) Rhoads** live in Racine, Wisconsin where Julie teaches middle school at Kenosha Christian Life School. In 2011, they planted Harbor Rock Tabernacle in Racine, purchasing a building in 2017. They have three children: Jacob, Annie and Matthew.  
✉ [julierhoads@hotmail.com](mailto:julierhoads@hotmail.com)

**Tim ('92) and Anna Deming** celebrated their first wedding anniversary on June 8, 2019. They give praise and thanks for the gift of their beautiful baby girl, Aria Corlyn Deming, who was born on May 16, 2019. ✉ [ptymn@protonmail.com](mailto:ptymn@protonmail.com)



Harrison, Townley, Parker

**Mitch Townley ('96)** co-authored the song "This Side of Sunday" with Scott Parker, receiving the 2018 Inspirational Country Song of the Year award from The Inspirational Country Music Association. The song was recorded by Brent Harrison. Mitch lives in Knoxville, Tennessee where he has served as the children's pastor for 23 years at West Hills Presbyterian Church (PCA). ✉ [townleymitch@gmail.com](mailto:townleymitch@gmail.com)

**Marion ('97) and Julie Weaver** celebrate 30 years of marriage this year. Marion is the IT director for the South Carolina Secretary of State and Julie is a medical equipment specialist for Hawthorne Pharmacy in Columbia, South Carolina. Their daughter DeAnn is a student at CIU; Thomas and Natalie are high school juniors. They attend Church of the Apostles in Columbia. ✉ [mrweaver@gmail.com](mailto:mrweaver@gmail.com)

**Scottie ('03) and Ava ('03) Dean** graduated from CIU with degrees in Master of Arts in Leadership for Evangelism and Discipleship. While at CIU they traveled to Kenya, New York and Texas ministering through preaching, counseling and teaching. God has blessed them with two sons, Joshua and Jonathan. ✉ [scottiedean1@hotmail.com](mailto:scottiedean1@hotmail.com)



## ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

**Peggie (Ethereedge) Johnson ('03, '11)** has published an anthology collaboration with award-winning and multi-publishing author Cheryl Polote-Williamson, "Soulful Prayers: The Power of Intentional Communication with God." ✉ [peggie.johnson@ciu.edu](mailto:peggie.johnson@ciu.edu)



**Russ ('06) and Lauren Clemmer** live in Alpharetta, Georgia with their four children, Hobie, Johnny, Caroline and Beau. Russ is the president of Legacy Advisory Partners in Atlanta, a faith-based business advisory firm helping business owners with transition, financial and legacy planning, growth strategies, capital management, and leadership development. They attend First Baptist Church Alpharetta.

✉ [rclemmer@legacyadvisorypartners.com](mailto:rclemmer@legacyadvisorypartners.com)

**Rusty McKie ('06)** serves as the lead pastor of Sojourn Community Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. His new book, "Sabbaticals," is a guide for implementing Sabbath principles into a sabbatical as well as into the ebb and flow of our busy lives. He has been married to **Rachel Bedell McKie (BLS '02)** for 13 years. They have two children.

✉ [rusty@sojournchattanooga.com](mailto:rusty@sojournchattanooga.com)

**Amelia McNeilly ('08)** Her book, "My Life, A Little Off-Balance: Living and Dying with Cerebral Palsy," is a compilation of her raw thoughts and feelings about singleness, suffering, laughter, disabilities, life and death. Amelia passed away July 2018.

**Dawn (Pruitt) White ('10)** is a Registered Play Therapist at Palmetto Family Medicine Counseling. ✉ [sdlwhite@mac.com](mailto:sdlwhite@mac.com)

**Daniel ('18) and Jane Jorgenson** live in Blythewood, South Carolina where Daniel serves as pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

✉ [drjorgens@gmail.com](mailto:drjorgens@gmail.com)



**Billy ('05, '15, '19) and Teresa Fisher** have transitioned back to the United States after four years in Seoul, South Korea. Billy is the assistant middle and high school principal at First Baptist Academy in Naples, Florida. Their daughter Carolina was born Jan. 25, 2019.

✉ [mrbillyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:mrbillyfisher@gmail.com)



### French Camp Academy Alumni Reunion

French Camp Academy is an interdenominational Christian boarding home and academy in French Camp, Mississippi, serving young people who need a fresh start to overcome difficulties in their home or school lives. Many CIU students have served there as student teachers, and CIU faculty and staff have also worked there in various capacities.

#### Left to Right

Front row: **Margie (Culley) Newman ('62), Becky (Wilcoxon) Lawson ('81), Mary Faith Phillips ('54/'60), Abbie Heinzel ('19), Joy (Woodward) Martin ('08), Randy Martin ('05/'09)**

Back row: **Dennis Cox ('92), Cindy Cox, Cindy Thompson ('08), Mike Thompson ('89/'01), Dr. George Murray ('67/'81), Don Winter ('77).**

Not pictured: **Bruce Hosket ('85) and Alex Coblenz ('05).**



Update your alumni profile  
@ [ciu.edu/alumniupdate](http://ciu.edu/alumniupdate)

## In Memoriam

**Blanche Day Carper ('43)** – August 2019

**Robert Hawkins ('44)** – April 2019

**John O. Reed ('45)** – August 2019

**Iris Mood ('46)** – January 2019

**Clinton Phelps ('48)** – February 2019

**George Hash ('49)** – April 2019

**William Gyatt ('52)** – June 2019

**Winford Headrick ('52)** – February 2019

**Jackie Houston Kreimann ('54)** – June 2019

**Dorothy Fowler Thomas ('54)** – July 2019

**Richard Wilson ('55)** – June 2019

**Richard "Dick" Alderman ('56)** – July 2019

**Joan Anderson ('56)** – April 2019

**Doris French Lloret ('56)** – July 2019

**Jimmy Peck ('56)** – April 2019

**Charlotte Tuttle Syson ('57)** – May 2019

**Edward Aldrich ('58)** – July 2019

**Margaret Ingalls ('58)** – January 2019

**Ross Fair ('61)** – March 2019

**Robert "Bob" Williams ('62)** – August 2019

**Edward Friedman ('63)** – May 2019

**Ronald Long ('64)** – June 2019

**Robert Durand ('65)** – April 2019

**Wilma Hollberg ('65)** – August 2019

**Linda Fox Sabatini ('67)** – May 2019

**Lillian Ennis ('68)** – February 2019

**J. Frank Johnson ('68)** – May 2019

**Karen Burnett Frost ('69)** – August 2019

**Carl Goff ('72)** – July 2019

**Frank Scurry ('73)** – September 2019

**Deborah Walden ('74)** – December 2018

**Edgar "Butch" Pittman ('76)** – September 2018

**Mary Jo Livingston ('78)** – August 2019

**W. Joel Bradley ('79)** – February 2019

**Carolyn Morris Springer ('79)** – March 2019

**Charlotte Tuttle Syson ('79)** – May 2019

**Thomas Zaprzalka ('79)** – May 2019

**Peggi Therrien Simmons ('80)** – August 2019

**Paul Abeyta ('85)** – November 2018

**Jack Cochise ('84)** – January 2019

**Kathryn Van Buren ('95)** – July 2019

**Rebecca Fisher ('02)** – June 2019

**Christopher McCutchan ('05)** – May 2019

**Joyce Wiese Cape (former staff)** – January 2019

**Bob Endicott (former staff)** – June 2019

**Marcia Smith (former staff)** – June 2019

## THE FINAL WORD

### Living the Motto

To Know Him and to Make Him Known — that's a motto that I have lived by for the last 30 years!

Columbia International University's motto became especially dear to me over the spring and summer with awesome reminders of why I enjoy CIU so much.

1. First, I watched as students crossed the stage at commencement and prayed over them that God would raise up the next Hudson Taylor or the next Lottie Moon to impact China. Oh God would you raise up another Billy Graham who will impact the nations? Lord, will you do it today?
2. I traveled to the Alaska and preached among the natives and visited villages and cities. The poverty I saw gripped my heart, but even worse, I wept over the dearth of biblical insight and spiritual freedom.
3. I traveled to Asia and visited CIU alumni who are taking the gospel throughout the most dark and most populous regions of the earth. My heart wept as I experienced darkness as never before. My soul was emotionally overwhelmed, as I understood with unwavering commitment why God has called me to CIU. We must take Christ to the nations. We must make Him known. There is no other plan. We are the plan for sharing the good news of the glorious gospel. We must be faithful.

To numerous groups in both Asia and Alaska, I spoke about Matthew 16:18 where Christ tells Peter that upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

I reminded fellow believers from this passage:

1. The church is built on a firm foundation — Jesus Christ
2. The plan is for believers to build the church by sharing the gospel
3. The strength and power comes from the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

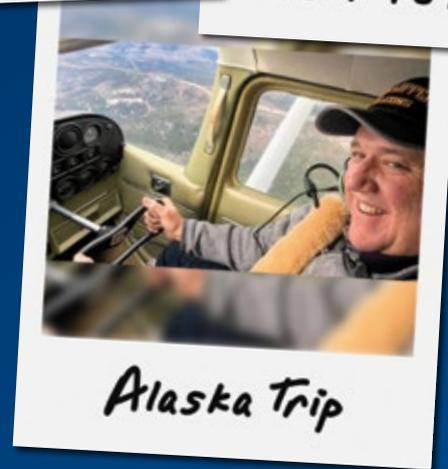


I am inspired and challenged by the story of Robert C. McQuilkin, "Always in Triumph." He was on his way to serve cross-culturally when God intervened and redirected his path to Columbia, South Carolina to become the first president of our university. God used him to send thousands of missionaries into thousands of communities to reach hundreds of thousands with the message of Christ. This is still the heartbeat of CIU. Yes, CIU is needed more than ever before as we live out our motto, "To Know Him and to Make Him Known."

Would you consider partnering with us? Your prayers and support of CIU assist us.

**Will you join us?**

Dr. Mark A. Smith  
President



**CIU** TODAY



Our thanks to generous sponsors such as Christian Healthcare Ministries who made the John Maxwell Leadership Forum possible!

For a complete list of sponsors please see page 27.



**2019**



**CIU**  
**HOMECOMING**  
**NOVEMBER 1-2**

