

CIU

TODAY

FALL 2026



CIU Answering the Call:

HEALTHCARE WORKER CRISIS

CIU **TODAY**

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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.

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Artist renderings of the future
CIU Health Sciences and Nursing Center

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The Guiding Rail: Planning Today to Impact Tomorrow

#5 in a Series “Keeping CIU ‘On Track’”

As we look toward the future of Columbia International University, one truth remains constant: organizations that faithfully fulfill their mission do not arrive there by accident. They do so through prayerful planning and wise stewardship. At CIU, our Strategic Plan and Budget are not merely administrative exercises. They are expressions of our commitment to the mission God has entrusted to us.

To further illustrate, as in previous editions of CIU Today, we return to our train drawing, this time focusing on the importance of staying “on track” for the future. Last time we discussed the Guarding Rail which includes five core values and three corporate behaviors.

But just as one rail does not make a complete train track, so the Guarding Rail alone will not keep us moving forward. That’s why we have the Guiding Rail — our Strategic Plan and Budget.

Our Strategic Plan is built around **FOCUS** — a commitment to strengthening CIU **Financially, Organizationally, Culturally and Scholastically**. These four areas provide the framework for every major decision we make and every resource we allocate.

Financially, we are committed to strengthening fundraising, building our endowment, maintaining healthy operating margins, and exercising wise stewardship of every dollar entrusted to us.

Organizationally, we are positioning the university for the future through thoughtful restructuring, addressing infrastructure needs, and advancing important projects such as a new 38,000 square-foot Health Sciences and Nursing Center and our sixth apartment building, this one being four floors. **Culturally**, we seek to strengthen every department, invest in leadership development, and prepare the next generation of servant leaders. **Scholastically**, we continue to develop new academic programs, strengthen global outreach through the Kepha Institute in Mainland China, and pursue



Read the full
series here:
ciu.edu/focus

excellence in accreditation and academic quality.

The budget is where these priorities become reality. Every investment in scholarships, faculty, facilities, technology, and student services reflects our desire to prepare professional ministers and ministering professionals.

Our mission is to educate students from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ. Our strategic plan — and the budget that supports it — provides the pathway to get there. Our financial decisions are never separate from our mission. They are tools that enable it.

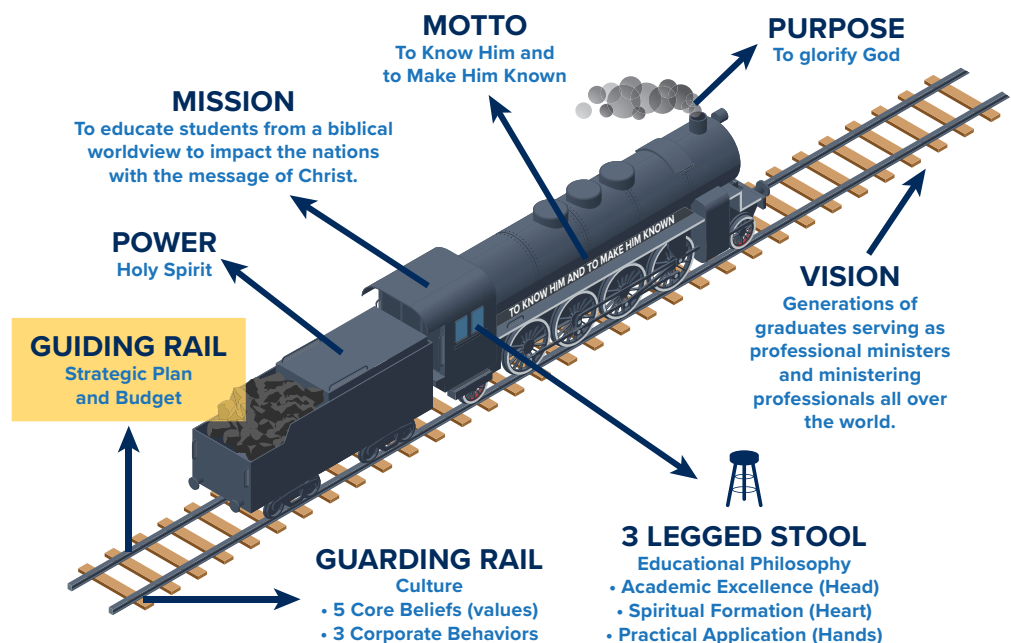
Thank you for your faithful prayers, encouragement and generosity. Together, we are not simply funding an institution; we are investing in generations of graduates who will carry the hope of Christ to the world.



For His glory,

Bill Jones

Bill Jones
President





Increasing Enrollment Leads to Groundbreaking Ceremony

Faculty and staff celebrated a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the on-campus Pine View Apartments, where construction of the sixth Pine View Apartment building began late last spring.

Increased living space is needed as CIU welcomed its largest incoming class for the 2026-2027 school year with nearly 300 freshman and transfer students, surpassing 285 new students last fall. Overall enrollment to date is 3,360 undergraduate and graduate students studying on campus and/or online, which is a record for total enrollment.



Much of CIU's growth is attributed to new health and science programs. Nearly 30% of the incoming class declared Health Science majors that include Nursing, Exercise Science & Kinesiology, and Biology. (See Page 18.) ■

New Doctor of Global Leadership Designed for those on the Field

If you serve in leadership within a mission agency, church, denomination, or nonprofit organization, CIU's new Doctor of Global Leadership program is designed to come alongside you in your calling. This program equips experienced leaders to think biblically and theologically about mission while navigating the complex cultural, organizational, and worldview dynamics shaping global ministry today.

You will engage some of the most pressing issues facing mission and nonprofit organizations as you reflect on best practices, deepen your theological foundation for leadership, and grow as a strategic, missional leader.

The program culminates in a final project designed to address a challenge facing your team or organization. ■



**Learn more about
CIU's Doctor of
Global Leadership
program:**
[ciu.edu/program/
doctor-global-
leadership](https://ciu.edu/program/doctor-global-leadership)



Dr. Bill Jones poses with former South Carolina Gov. David Beasley.

CIU President Dr. Bill Jones Participates in SC Prayer Breakfast

CIU President Dr. Bill Jones offered prayer on behalf of higher education in South Carolina at the 64th annual South Carolina Prayer Breakfast in April.

Jones shared the dais at the Breakfast with South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster and Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette among other state leaders. The keynote speaker was former South Carolina Gov. David Beasley.

Speaking to the media, Jones emphasized the importance of the event.

"We're putting first things first," Jones said. "Laws will not change a state. Changed hearts change a state. And hearts can't be changed by anything else or anyone else other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

The CIU Ambassador Choir provided sacred music at the Breakfast. ■

Dr. Bill Jones was interviewed by WIS TV at the SC Prayer Breakfast. Scan the QR code to see the report.



New Faces on Campus

After 15 years of excellent academic leadership, CIU will be saying **farewell to Provost Dr. James Lanpher** as he retires at the end of this calendar year.

President Dr. Bill Jones says Lanpher “will be deeply missed.” Under Lanpher’s guidance, CIU has grown to add multiple academic programs including expansion of the Cook School of Business, the addition of the School of Nursing, and the rapid growth of new science programs.

Stepping into the provost position will be Dr. Gary Weier who is CIU’s current associate provost. Weier has more than 30 years of experience in Christian higher education, serving as a faculty member, department chair, administrator, senior executive, and board member.

Jones says Weier is deeply committed to the mission of Christian higher education and supporting the faculty and staff who carry out that mission.

“Dr. Weier is a highly qualified academic leader,” Jones said. “We have found someone whose values and calling are deeply aligned with CIU’s mission. He is not merely filling a position; he is helping us fulfill our vision for the future.”



The **new dean of students** has nearly two decades of experience in Christian higher education leadership.

Dr. Joseph Allotta has served in the areas of student development, pastoral ministry, and educational leadership. His most recent position was as an education associate with the South Carolina Department of Education’s Charter School Program while also teaching as a CIU adjunct professor.

Prior to that, he served for 10 years at Trinity College of Florida in a variety of leadership roles.

CIU Senior Vice President Dr. Michael Johnson says Allotta’s experience in leading student development initiatives and his ability to collaborate across campus will serve CIU well.

“Throughout his career, Dr. Allotta has consistently demonstrated a heart for equipping students to grow as disciples of Christ while creating environments where they can flourish in a Christ-centered community,” Johnson said.



CIU welcomes **Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson** as its **inaugural Visiting Research Professor**, marking a major milestone for the College of Arts and Sciences and CIU’s growing investment in science and healthcare education.

Jeanson, a Harvard-trained molecular biologist and bestselling author, uses DNA research to explore questions surrounding human origins, ancient migration, and the natural history of the earth through the lens of Scripture. His arrival signals expanding opportunities for students interested in biology, healthcare, nursing, medicine or scientific research.

“Dr. Jeanson’s work gives our students an opportunity to see how rigorous scientific research can be carried out within a biblical framework,” said Dr. David DeWitt, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “His example strengthens our commitment to teaching science in a way that is both academically credible and firmly grounded in Scripture.” ■



Grateful Students

THANK SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

As Financial Aid Director Patty Hix surveyed the large crowd of luncheon guests, she called it “a magical moment.”

Hix was addressing the annual CIU Donor Appreciation Luncheon where CIU scholarship recipients share a meal with the donors who are making their education possible.

“Donors, you are transforming lives,” Hix said. “You really are making a way for students to go out and share the gospel of Christ to the nations. It’s your giving that helps them focus on what they’re here for.”

Each of the students took turns at a microphone to offer their personal thanks to the donors and discussed their future after they graduate. One noted that “CIU has had a great impact on my spiritual growth.” Another who is headed to the mission field said, “thanks to all of you for what you have done to make our dreams and our passions come true.” A third student quoted Eph. 3:19 and said, “wherever I go, anywhere I am, I want others to know the love of Christ.” ■



▲ Maddie Keran shares a light moment on the meal kit assembly line.

RAMServe 2026

GOES BEYOND THE MIDLANDS TO HELP FEED THE WORLD

In the sixth year of CIU's annual RAMServe community outreach, nothing like this has been attempted.

The RAM in RAMServe is the school mascot, but it also stands for Renewal Around the Midlands (of South Carolina). But this time, the effort reached across the globe as nearly 100 CIU students, including the baseball team, formed a food assembly line preparing 13,000 meal kits to be distributed to needy areas around the world by the ministry Rise Against Hunger.

Among those students was CIU senior Meg Johnson who helped make sure things ran smoothly. She explained that a dozen people would form a team in three stations to complete the work which included measuring, bagging and sealing each meal.

"It's a beautiful opportunity — being able to serve, to know that you are doing it for God's kingdom and being able to share that love and light with others. And to pray over this whole situation. It was very sweet," said Johnson.

Meanwhile, students also served just down the road from CIU where the ladies of the CIU softball team exchanged their ball gloves for garden gloves, as they prepared a community garden for spring planting. And across town, CIU students helped improve housing for Reconciliation Ministry's addictions recovery program. ■

FORBES ADVISOR:

CIU's DBA Ranks Fourth in the Nation

CIU's Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) is listed as fourth among the 10-best in the nation by Forbes Advisor. Forbes Advisor is a global platform dedicated to helping consumers make the best financial choices for their individual lives.

Offered entirely online, CIU's DBA is a comprehensive 27-month program designed for professionals seeking to enhance their expertise and stand out in the global marketplace. It combines academic theory with practical experience, integrating an ethical worldview into the curriculum to prepare graduates to navigate complex business environments with integrity.

Forbes Insider awarded CIU's DBA "Best for Experiential Online Learning" noting the uniqueness of the program: "CIU separates itself from the other top-ranked schools with its applied doctoral project experience, built-in hands-on training that starts early in the program. Learners also benefit from a low student-to-faculty ratio and personalized mentorship for one of the most immersive learning experiences available." ■



Learn more about CIU's Doctor of Business Administration program:
ciu.edu/program/doctor-business-administration

Students "Pie a Prof," Support Pro-Life Cause

On an unusually balmy day in March, the esteemed professors of Columbia International University patiently waited outside the cafeteria for students to smash plates of whipped cream on their faces. Their whipped cream-coated hair and faces were a contrast to the black plastic used to protect their clothes, as they waited for the next incoming pie.

The Pie-a-Prof diaper drive was organized by Rams for Life with proceeds from the event benefiting a local pro-life organization that assists expectant mothers.

Old Testament Seminary Professor Dr. Ben Noonan received the most pies to the face and raised the most money. ■

Dr. Ben Noonan getting pied by colleague and fellow Old Testament Professor Dr. Michael Lyons, while Dr. Chris Jones waits his turn.





▲ A surprise greeting for Sharon Hanna from her third-grade class at American Leadership Academy. (Source: News 19 WLTX)

Columbia TV Station Selects CIU Alumna as Teacher of the Week

CIU alumna Sharon Hanna ('87) got a big surprise when she entered her third-grade classroom at American Leadership Academy (ALA) in Lexington, South Carolina. Her students were in on a secret — Hanna was named the News 19 WLTX Teacher of the Week.

Hanna, who graduated from CIU in 1987 with a degree in Bible Teaching, taught third grade years ago before homeschooling her own children for 20 years. She says her love for teaching started as a child when she would play school with her sisters.

"I used to pretend to play school all the time and I was always the teacher, and I was always teaching them," Hanna told WLTX. ■

The Retirement of Three Professors = 88 Years of Service

As five male students locked arms in a semi-circle around Dr. David Olshine, he reminded them that despite being one of the honored guests at the retirement reception, he'll still be around teaching part time. But that didn't stop them from teasing their beloved Youth Ministry professor who has served at CIU for 33 years.

"It's very encouraging. It makes me feel honored and loved and affirmed," Olshine said. "I'm here for the students. That's my mission."

Olshine was joined at the reception by two other retiring professors; Dr. Rod Lewis and Dr. Ken Rife as they were honored by students, faculty and staff who came to say goodbye to the professors whose combined service to CIU equals 88 years.

The Music Man

Lewis, who served as a music professor and more recently as director of the music program had been with CIU 36 years. And of course, an accomplished musician never stops being a musician in retirement.

"I plan to do a lot of making music and writing music," Lewis said. "I'll write some prose and poetry too, I hope. But I'm going to make a lot of music."

The Video Producer

Dr. Ken Rife, director of Communication programs, will continue to work with CIU-related video production in retirement, including "The Chet Bitterman Story." Bitterman, a 1974 CIU alumnus and Wycliffe Bible translator, was kidnapped and later executed by terrorists in Colombia, South America in 1981.

Rife has mixed feelings about retiring after 19 years at CIU.

"I've got so many friends here, it's just hard to leave this community — it has been almost a sense of protection here with God's blessing on the University. I'm going to miss that aspect of it." ■





Invest in the Next Generation

CIU OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS THAT MAKE CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE.

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LEGACY**

**ALUMNI
REFERRAL**

**\$500 VISIT
SCHOLARSHIP**

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- ✓ **Know a future student in your community?**
Share this with them.
- ✓ **Together, we can make CIU more accessible to prepare leaders for impact.**

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and explore
financial aid**



Thank You, CIU

Well, how do I sum up 34 years? Let me try.

After over three decades of my mouth behind a microphone or my fingers on a keyboard, I'm fully retiring from Columbia International University.

I've served under five of CIU's eight presidents and personally known six of them. I had been around long enough that in 2023, I had the privilege of coauthoring CIU's 100th anniversary history book, "A Century of God's Faithfulness."

I'll miss passing the students in the hallways and chatting with professors and staff outside our offices. As the senior writer, I've been the supervisor for dozens of talented student writers and photographers who did a lot of leg work in the publication of website news articles and CIU Today magazine features. I remember meeting the mom of one of my writers after a commencement. Her son graduated with a science degree, but she was just as thrilled to have seen her son's byline online at ciu.edu/news.

I've had several supervisors, all of whom gave me a lot of latitude — far from any micromanagement. They even trusted me with my own page in this magazine!

Some of my most rewarding days were my first 12 and a half years under the CIU ministry umbrella reporting news at WMHK Radio, then owned by CIU. The memories from there are many.

My live phone interview with then presidential candidate George W. Bush was picked up by various news outlets including Time magazine only because I asked him a very direct question: "Would an openly known homosexual be a part of a Bush administration?" (I did not like beating around "the Bush.")

One of the most unusual moments on the radio was during our extensive election night coverage. Longtime South Carolina U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond had just won

reelection for the umpteenth time. Our correspondent at Thurmond's celebration called in to say he had a special guest for his next live report. James Brown. THE James Brown? The 1960s Soul music singer from Augusta, Georgia? I took a chance.

"My family and the Thurmond family have been friends a long time," I remember Brown saying.

Oh! Didn't know that. I think we broke a news story that night.

But whatever position I've held at CIU, this has been a great place to work. As CIU President Dr. Bill Jones emphasizes on this campus, *Attitude, Relationships and Excellence all matter*. That is who we ARE.

But it is the students for which we are here. While my interaction with them is far from the daily interaction professors have with them, I guess I've had a bit of influence on a few of them. I'll never forget after a commencement, I heard a voice on The Quad trying to get my attention.

A young lady, clutching her bachelor's degree, asked me to pose with her for a photo. I don't even remember her name, but I do remember she was a fellow staff member's student worker, and as I passed her desk each day, I would simply say hello and ask her about class and student life. It must have meant something to her.

I could be in her family photo book, and she probably can't remember my name.

But that's OK. You never know. It's often the little things that make a difference in people's lives.

Thank you CIU for 34 years of employment. What a blessing to be a part of such a renowned institution. May it never waver from its mission of "educating students from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ." Amen. ■

Bob Holmes
Senior Writer



"Whatever position I've held at CIU, this has been a great place to work. As CIU President Dr. Bill Jones emphasizes on this campus, Attitude, Relationships and Excellence all matter. That is who we ARE."

—BOB HOLMES

Faithful Throughout Five **GENERATIONS**

By Jamie Bowers (Class of '99)



“Katelyn is the fifth generation in a direct line of our family’s involvement with Columbia International University.”

—JAMIE BOWERS (CLASS OF ‘99)

The Great-Granddaughter of CIU's First President is a Freshman

In August, my oldest daughter, Katelyn, moved into her dorm at CIU and politely endured a bit of reminiscing by her parents. Where we first met in the Choir Room. Where the entrance to the library used to be. How this food looks better than the “beef fingers” we were served.

But Katelyn will also pass the place where her grandparents courted. And enjoy air conditioning advocated by her great-grandmother in a long-ago alumni meeting. And sing worship songs accompanied by a piano given in honor of her great-great-grandmother. That's because Katelyn is the fifth generation in a direct line of our family's involvement with Columbia International University.

The story begins not with triumph, but with setback. In 1918, Katelyn's great-great grandparents, Robert and Marguerite McQuilkin, were less than a day away from sailing to Africa and a career in missions when their ship sank in the harbor. This set in motion a series of events which eventually led to McQuilkin becoming the first president of CIU in 1923.

Katelyn's great-grandmother, Virginia McQuilkin Bowers, graduated in 1935 and spent more than three decades partnering with her husband, Lou, in trailblazing evangelism deep in

the jungles of Liberia. While these missionary endeavors led to her being named a Distinguished Alumna, I've always thought CIU students should hold a special remembrance each year in thanksgiving for her swatting away opposition to installing air conditioning in the dorms in the early 1990s. Columbia, in the summer, with no AC? No, thank you.

Katelyn's grandfather, Tom Bowers, graduated from Ben Lippen, then a boarding school for missionary kids located near Asheville, North Carolina, in 1967 and arrived at CIU a few years later to serve as public relations director. His office was close to the switchboard, and he quickly discovered that the switchboard operator, Cathie McElroy, was gorgeous. I am grateful that automatic switchboards did not exist in the early 1970s. I imagine my dad frequently checked to see if he had any messages.

That brings our story to me, Jamie Bowers, who arrived at CIU in the fall of 1995 as the very first student to officially commit to the new Communication major. Studying under now retired CIU Communication Program Director Dr. Dan Delozier and attending classes with current CIU Division Chair of Liberal Arts Dr. Jonathan Reibseman (apparently something good can come from Memorial 3 Dorm), I also had the privilege of working and learning at 89.7 WMHK, which at the time was owned by CIU and operated from the ground floor of Ridderhof.

Ah yes, the ground floor of Ridderhof. Just around the corner from WMHK, on the first day of Ambassador Choir my junior year, I was introduced to an astonishingly beautiful freshman soprano seated right in front of me. She was impressed that I had heard of her hometown. I was impressed with her. I still am. Lolly (Gardner, CIU 2001) and I celebrated our

25th anniversary earlier this year.

Lolly has dedicated her life to raising our five children, pouring herself into homeschooling, Scripture memorization, nature study, and a love of books. Our oldest, Sam, will graduate in the spring from Cedarville University following internships with both the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse. Katelyn arrived at CIU with a 4.0 and two years of college credit thanks to dual enrollment. All our kids love the Lord.

I've spent the past 27 years working in local TV news, serving as senior advisor to a member of Congress, directing communications for a pro-life think tank during the Dobbs case, and serving as a communications consultant to ministry leaders. I am fulfilling my calling, but I'm cognizant that Lolly's calling will pay longer-term dividends. Did I mention I'm still impressed with her?

Thinking back more than 100 years to the setback that ultimately led to five generations of involvement at CIU, I am reminded of Ephesians 2:10 *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (ESV).*

Good works ...
Which God prepared beforehand ...
That we should walk in them.

Not always what we expect. But placed before us to walk in them.

And because of the faithfulness of Robert and Marguerite McQuilkin walking (not sitting) in unexpected circumstances, the words of CIU's alma mater take on special significance for our family this fall:

*Of rare and costly marble
Thy walls were never reared
But **sons and daughters faithful**
To whom His grace appeared
Shall ever be thy bulwark
Thy rare adornment too*

Editor's Note: While working as WMHK Radio news director in the 1990s, CIU Today Senior Writer Bob Holmes taught Jamie Bowers much of what he knows about news broadcasting and news writing. Jamie taught Bob much of what he knows about patience. ■



◀ Katelyn Bowers as a baby in the lap of her great-grandmother Virginia McQuilkin Bowers. Katelyn is now a CIU freshman.



COUNSELING SPORTS GAMBLING AND OTHER ADDICTIONS

CIU Clinical Counseling Now Offers Addictions Elective

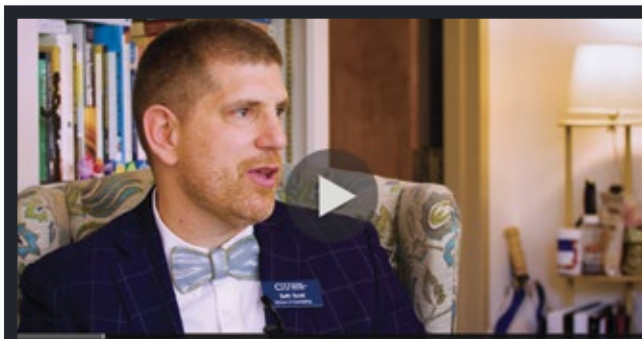
Hot topics these days in American culture include online sports betting, especially since 2018. That's when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states could allow such gambling. Now 38 states do so, leading to concerns about an increase in gambling addiction.

In a recent YouTube interview, CIU Today Senior Writer Bob Holmes discussed gambling and other addictions, with Dr. Seth Scott, director of CIU's Graduate Counseling division and assistant dean of the Seminary & School of Counseling. Here is a transcript of a portion of that interview, edited for print space and clarity.

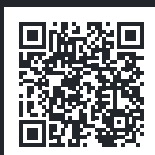
Q: ARE YOU SEEING AN INCREASE IN CLIENTS BECAUSE OF LEGALIZED SPORTS BETTING?

While sports betting and gambling are often a root issue it's not going to be the problem that causes people to come to counseling. It's life falling apart all around that becomes the symptoms that bring people in and you have to dig to get to what's actually going on.

I think with any addiction or even good things, dopamine is involved ... that is the brain chemical that helps us to return to previously enjoyable behaviors. Dopamine floods our brains in prediction of what we will anticipate to be good and so when we experience something beneficial like good food or good relationships or winning a bet, our brain produces dopamine like a time stamp to say do this thing again ... it floods our brain in anticipation of good things happening which is where gambling and addiction come in because we are chasing the high of that good event.



Watch
the entire
interview with
Dr. Seth Scott.



“Gambling is this hope or expectation in chance or luck ... So, it’s not gambling necessarily that’s the problem. It’s where we’re placing our desire and our hope.”

—DR. SETH SCOTT

Assistant Dean of the Seminary & School of Counseling

Q: THERE IS AN OLD SAYING REGARDING LAS VEGAS: THE HOUSE ALWAYS WINS. IS IT THE SAME WITH ONLINE SPORTS BETTING?

The one-armed bandit or traditional gambling methods are most effective when they’re intermittent. So, if you win every time, you’ll get bored. If you lose every time you give up. It’s that intermittent response — it’s really close or you win that keeps you hooked and so one of the things that the sports betting apps do is give you money upfront and often let you win the first few times. There are all kinds of algorithms that feed this process and so if you can win the first few times, you’re going to keep doing it. If you lose immediately, you’ll give up. So the addiction process is this almost expectation or anticipation of winning, keeping you engaged.

Q: AT WHAT POINT IS THE ADDICTED GAMBLER COMING FOR COUNSELING?

The most likely reason someone will come in is because their marriage is falling apart, because they are starting to hide things. They’re hiding their spending, they’re hiding behaviors because they’re ashamed of what they’re doing ... We see people come in because they’ve spent all of their kids’ college money or they’ve used up their 401k or they’ve foreclosed on their house. They come in because the bottom has fallen out and they finally have to face what’s happening.

Q: MANY STATES HAVE A LOTTERY WHILE OTHERS HAVE HORSE RACING OR CASINOS. IF COUNSELOR SETH SCOTT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK BEFORE A HEARING OF LEGISLATORS ON STATE-SPONSORED GAMBLING, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THEM?

We’re dangling dreams in front of people that aren’t real dreams and so as a society we have historically protected people from their own impulses to provide them with a narrative or story of what is good collectively and not just what is good individually. I think there needs to be

opportunity for recreation but not destruction ... We need a way to protect people from themselves and that’s the role of government as “loco parentis” that historic Latin concept ... that it’s the government’s responsibility to serve and protect people with the assumption that we are basically sinful and depraved and so we protect people from themselves. So that would be part of my argument. Who is being served with these resources, and does it contribute to a flourishing society?

Q: HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO PEOPLE WHO SAY THAT THE BIBLE IS SILENT ON GAMBLING?

Where are you placing your hope and trust? (Am I) placing my hope and trust in comfort now and in the treasure of earthly blessings? A biblical worldview actually needs to address what is the point of life and why are we here. It’s to reflect being made in the image of God as caring for and stewarding creation and relationships ... We need to steward our resources, time and money. Gambling is this hope or expectation in chance or luck ... It’s not gambling necessarily that’s the problem. It’s where we’re placing our desire and our hope.

Q: AN ADDICTIONS COURSE IS NOW AN ELECTIVE IN THE CLINICAL COUNSELING PROGRAM. WHAT DOES IT ADDRESS?

The students will understand classic substance addictions which are in the diagnostic statistic manual of mental disorders, the DSM, but also process addictions. So, things like pornography addiction, sexual addiction, gambling, eating, all of those things actually that aren’t in the DSM but are still impacting people. We touch on these different topics.

Throughout our program we acknowledge that sin has fractured and broken us and we are seeking comfort in wholeness in ways outside of the gospel. We’re made for wholeness through the gospel through being seen and fully valued and loved by God so that we can be seen and fully valued and loved by others. That’s wholeness. ■



CIU Solidified My Call to Teach and Mentor

By Dr. Debbie Moore

M *y initial calling
was to teach.*

Through reading and studying God's word, the call to serve others through teaching became clear, and so did the institution where the training for service would begin. While at teaching conventions, CIU seminars were a highlight filled with insights into academic, but also spiritual formation. And this became my passion. Hearing about a university that would prepare me to continue this work filled me with hope and excitement, and I enrolled.

***“God has helped
me accomplish
the passions that
brought me to
CIU where I now
train the next
generation of
faculty.”***

—DR. DEBBIE MOORE

Dr. Debbie Moore graduated with her Ph.D. in December 2011. She began as a faculty member in 2013 and currently serves as the MED/PhD Program Director.

After I began online doctoral studies at CIU, I was required to come to campus during the summers and in the spring for weeklong intensives. During this time, I experienced CIU's mission, “To educate students from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ.”

It was during these visits that I interacted with faculty. Many alumni will remember Drs. Connie Mitchell, Gordon Brown, Milt Uecker, Elaine Lindsey and Jim Watson. Faculty members who were intentional in their conversations (mentoring), training, and modeling as I saw them praying and fasting for the university.

In chapel, I heard Dr. Bill Jones pause and give thanks to the Lord for all He had done. I was encouraged in my walk with the Lord and the passion of serving others grew through textbooks, interactions and modeling.

One of my peers, Dr. Amy Roedding and I went to the prayer towers and prayed for each other's ministries. Amy went on to serve the Christian and Missionary Alliance as a trainer and recruiter and taught Spiritual Formation as a professor at Crown College. What fond memories of my time as a student!



Graduation Arrived!

Graduation day, December 2011. Now what? CIU had a faculty opening for a Master of Education Director. The exact position for which I had been trained as I desired to mentor teachers in biblical integration. Here is my second calling!

What does ministry as a faculty member look like?

First, this position called for integration of a biblical worldview throughout the content. As a CIU student, I was required to study Scripture and see through the lens of God's word. So, I am grateful for the training that prepared me for this work.

Second, to have a program to train students with the skills needed for the roles God had called them to, whether in public, international or Christian schools. What a privilege to be a part of their training! Many of our students are following their calling to be a light and messenger of God as they desire to follow CIU's motto "Know Him and to Make Him Known."

Third, to provide on-campus interactions. That included chapels, fellowships, and even a memorable fun time called Aloha Friday when we dressed in a Hawaiian theme and celebrated our accomplishments with a sendoff "graduation ceremony."

Impacting the Nations

As a faculty member, CIU has provided many opportunities for continued growth — even around the world.

When invited by CIU alumnus Dr. Frew Tamrat, president of Evangelical Theological College (ETC) in Ethiopia to teach a supervision class at his school, I doubted my ability. Frew reminded me to teach what I had learned at CIU, and God brought to mind 2 Timothy 2:1-2, "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ

Jesus. And the things you heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."

Both the students and I grew from the experience. One of these students, Danait Assefa, enrolled in CIU's Ph.D. program and now serves as deputy director of research for the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA).

CIU's Kepha Program has provided my strongest and most rewarding opportunity. Kepha offers the Master of Education (MED) online in Mandarin. We initially had several setbacks. Seeking the Lord, He provided the verse, 2 Corinthians 4:1, "Therefore, since having this ministry through God's mercy we do not lose heart." God provided the translators, time, and wisdom so that now all 16 courses are translated into Mandarin. Highlights have included several trips to Asia to teach face-to-face through translators. There are over 600 graduates of the program!

The Next Generation

From being mentored by CIU faculty to becoming a CIU mentor, God has helped me accomplish the passions that brought me to CIU where I now train the next generation of faculty. As the Ph.D. director, I have had the privilege of mentoring numerous students to serve as adjunct faculty members. As we co-taught classes, I was able to model biblical integration and student interaction.

My life verse is Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

After 40 years in education, a work God began through the CIU faculty, courses, and students, it is still a continued work. Why CIU? The motto and mission are not words on paper. They are modeled and mentored in each relationship as we "educate from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ." ■



◀ From Debbie Moore's photo album (top to bottom):
 (1-2) Teaching in Asia
 (3) In Ethiopia with CIU alumnus Dr. Frew Tamrat (2013)
 (4) Teaching in Ethiopia
 (5) With former classmate Dr. Amy Roedding (2013)
 (6) Aloha Friday



Is God calling you to education?

Check out CIU's College of Education programs:

ciu.edu/academics/education



When “God Shows Up” **CHAPLAINCY** **The Ministry of Presence**

By Bob Holmes, Senior Writer

While serving as a Navy chaplain, Dr. Mike Langston once had a ship’s captain refer to him as God.

“Captain, I’m not God. You can’t refer to me as God,” Langston responded. “And he told me, ‘Well, I’m the captain of the ship. I can do whatever I want.’”

“I said, ‘Yes, sir, but you don’t want to engage the wrath of God.’”

“Good point,” the captain responded.

Problem solved. The captain never called him God again.

Today Langston serves as Professor of Chaplaincy & Practical Theology in CIU’s Seminary & School of Counseling. And with 26 years of experience as a chaplain, and 15 years as a CIU professor, you could say he wrote the book on chaplaincy. And he did. He is the coauthor of “Chaplaincy: A Comprehensive Introduction” which

covers 10 areas of chaplaincy from prison chaplaincy to sports chaplaincy. But Langston says what they all have in common is how people view the role of chaplain. He calls it the Ministry of Presence.

“When the chaplain shows up, many times God has shown up,” Langston said from his CIU office surrounded by Navy mementos. “Now, from a Christian perspective, we understand that God has always been there. But God’s calling of the chaplain is to the ordained ministry. So, we put chaplains right alongside pastors, right alongside missionaries. Instead of the chaplain going to a foreign field, they go to the workplace where people spend 30 to 40% of their life and engages them.”

Enrolling at CIU: “An Easy Decision”

CIU alumnus Chaplain Tony Hipszer (2016) engages the corporate workplace. He is the founder of Community Chaplains Outreach. Based in Columbia, it includes 12 chaplains ministering in 18 businesses scattered

throughout South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia, touching the lives of as many as 2,000 employees. He agrees with Langston that when the chaplain shows up, “the atmosphere in the room changes.”

“It has nothing to do with us. It’s Who we bring with us. It is the Holy Spirit in us,” Hipszer said in a phone interview from his car while on his way to a minister to a business in Atlanta. “We’re the calm in the storm no matter what’s going on because there is a bond and a trust. They know we represent a safe place for them.”

Hipszer credits Langston with helping him solidify his call to chaplaincy. Hipszer, a native of the greater Philadelphia area, was ministering among marginalized communities when he visited CIU and met Langston.

“You’re a chaplain. You’re already doing the work of a chaplain. We’ll just polish you up and send you in the right direction,” Langston told Hipszer who says that made enrolling at CIU “An easy decision. It was a no-brainer,” adding that it was “his warmth, his wisdom, his genuineness,” that would also make Langston his mentor.

“I would go ask Mike what I thought would be a five- or ten-minute question, and an hour later I would be walking out of his office. That’s how he was and how our relationship was.”

Grateful for Dr. Langston’s Encouragement

CIU alumna Jennifer Crouse (2018) is a healthcare chaplain at Hospice Maui in Hawaii. She has also served in a hospital and more recently added volunteer chaplain to the Maui Police Department to her ministry.

But early in life, she didn’t plan on becoming a chaplain. She had a 10-year professional basketball career playing in Spain, Australia, Greece and Germany. She also worked as a personal trainer, group exercise instructor as well as a tour manager. But after reading a book on chaplaincy, it sparked her interest. In an email exchange with CIU Today, Crouse says it was Mike Langston who solidified her ministry decision.

“He was my mentor. Most of all, he believed in me and who God called me to be more than I



Chaplain Tony Hipszer prays & talks with employee Eugene Brown at Advance Video Group in Irmo, SC.



Healthcare Chaplain Jennifer Crouse served during Covid and Hawaii’s devastating fires.



Jennifer Crouse with her mentor Dr. Mike Langston.

Is God calling you to chaplaincy?

Check out CIU’s Master of Divinity in Chaplaincy:

ciu.edu/program/mdiv-chaplaincy



did some days,” Crouse wrote. “I am grateful for his encouragement and reminder, ‘Go and be who God called you to be.’”

She says the CIU Chaplaincy program opened her eyes to the possibilities.

“I am truly grateful for the exposure to all the different types of chaplaincies that exist,” Crouse wrote. “It has made me aware and given me the opportunity to serve as a chaplain in different settings and capacities because of the knowledge gained while at CIU.

“Dr. Langston had us write our theology of chaplaincy and it has become the backbone to my ministry. I have deep gratitude that he asked us to think, write and engage in our theology. It has been so helpful to me.”

Crouse also found her chaplaincy skills needed at the American Red Cross (ARC) when devastating fires swept through Maui in 2023.

“I would offer my time to ARC and serve in various roles giving me the opportunity to walk alongside individuals who were affected by the fires,” Crouse wrote. “I have found my chaplaincy skills to be helpful in most situations (and) people need to be genuinely heard.”

The Need is Booming

Meanwhile, Mike Langston, the man who wrote the book on chaplaincy, says the need for chaplains in all functional areas is booming, especially corporate chaplaincy.

“(Chaplaincy) is a benefit that companies are using to entice people to come to work for them,” Langston said. “(They’re saying) ‘Our chaplain is going to take care of you.’”

On a hot South Carolina morning in July, Chaplain Hipszer checks in at the warehouse of communications company Advanced Video Group Inc. in Irmo. There he chats with the crew and has a moment of prayer with employee Eugene Brown who appreciates the visits from Hipszer and his fellow chaplains.

“We love these guys,” Brown said. “That was one of the biggest things when I got hired was the fact that we have a chaplain that comes in every Monday, somebody you can contact ... you can call our chaplains. It’s a blessing.” ■



CIU Answering the Call:

Future HEALTH SCIENCES & NURSING CENTER

to Train More Healthcare Workers



Healthcare systems around the world are facing **a growing shortage** of skilled professionals.



SC ranks in the top 4 of states with severe health-care workforce shortages



Projected SC shortfall: 12,000 nurses and 3,000 physicians in the next decade



Caregivers who can deliver both technical competence and whole-person care are in demand

But Columbia International University is doing something about it.

Construction begins this fall on a 38,000 square foot state-of-the-art Health Sciences & Nursing Center that brings CIU closer to its vision of becoming a leader in Christian healthcare education. Expanded labs and simulation space will prepare more highly qualified caregivers — without sacrificing the individualized training and academic rigor that define CIU's programs.

This isn't just a building project. It's a call to impact the nations — equipping students to bring healing, hope, and the message of Christ wherever God leads them.

"CIU cares about your faith first and foremost so that you can take it into the workforce," said Elizabeth Furnett, a 2025 graduate of the nursing

program. "Whether it's on the mission field, nursing, healthcare, teaching -- they really care about your desire to make Christ known to the world."

The future Health Sciences and Nursing Center will expand hands-on training space that will increase capacity while maintaining small cohorts and offer the latest in innovative equipment. The increased space will also support CIU's newest programs such as Exercise Science & Kinesiology.

Angela Conder, dean of the School of Nursing says sharing the training space with other science programs is important.

"Instead of being competitive, we wanted to be in a collaborative environment," Conder explained. "Everything in healthcare is a team. Just like Jesus teaches that every single part of the body is essential, so is every single component in the healthcare team."

Joshua Neath, a 2026 graduate of the biology program, says CIU health



Future Nursing Skills Center

Training for Clinical Excellence. Grounded in Christian Compassion.

and science professors were more than instructors in his life.

“They have been mentors to me, both in my education and in my pursuits, also in the faith of my personal life,” Neath said.

CIU’s Nursing program, the first CIU science major, has been leading the way since offering its first classes

So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

“Learning how to love and care for your patients, is how they see Jesus through you,” said Kelcey Mangum, a 2026 graduate of the Nursing program. “So, the professors actually showed me how to share the gospel in a hospital setting.”

of physics and chemistry says that in his years of teaching, he has seen Christian universities that are strong in the sciences but weak in theology and vice versa.

“CIU does both very well,” said Jones.

Dr. David DeWitt, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences has been at the forefront of expanding the sciences at CIU.

The new Health Sciences & Nursing Center will expand hands-on training space that will increase capacity while maintaining small cohorts and offer the latest in innovative equipment.

in January of 2022. Since then, two consecutive graduating classes have had a 100% NCLEX pass rate. The NCLEX-RN, which stands for the National Council Licensure Examination [for] Registered Nurses (RN), is required for nursing graduates to successfully pass to be licensed as a Registered Nurse in the United States. But CIU goes beyond the academics when it comes to health science. Its guiding Scripture verse is Luke 9:6.

Meanwhile, Conder says she is getting positive feedback from the healthcare facilities in the Columbia area where the nursing students are getting clinical experience.

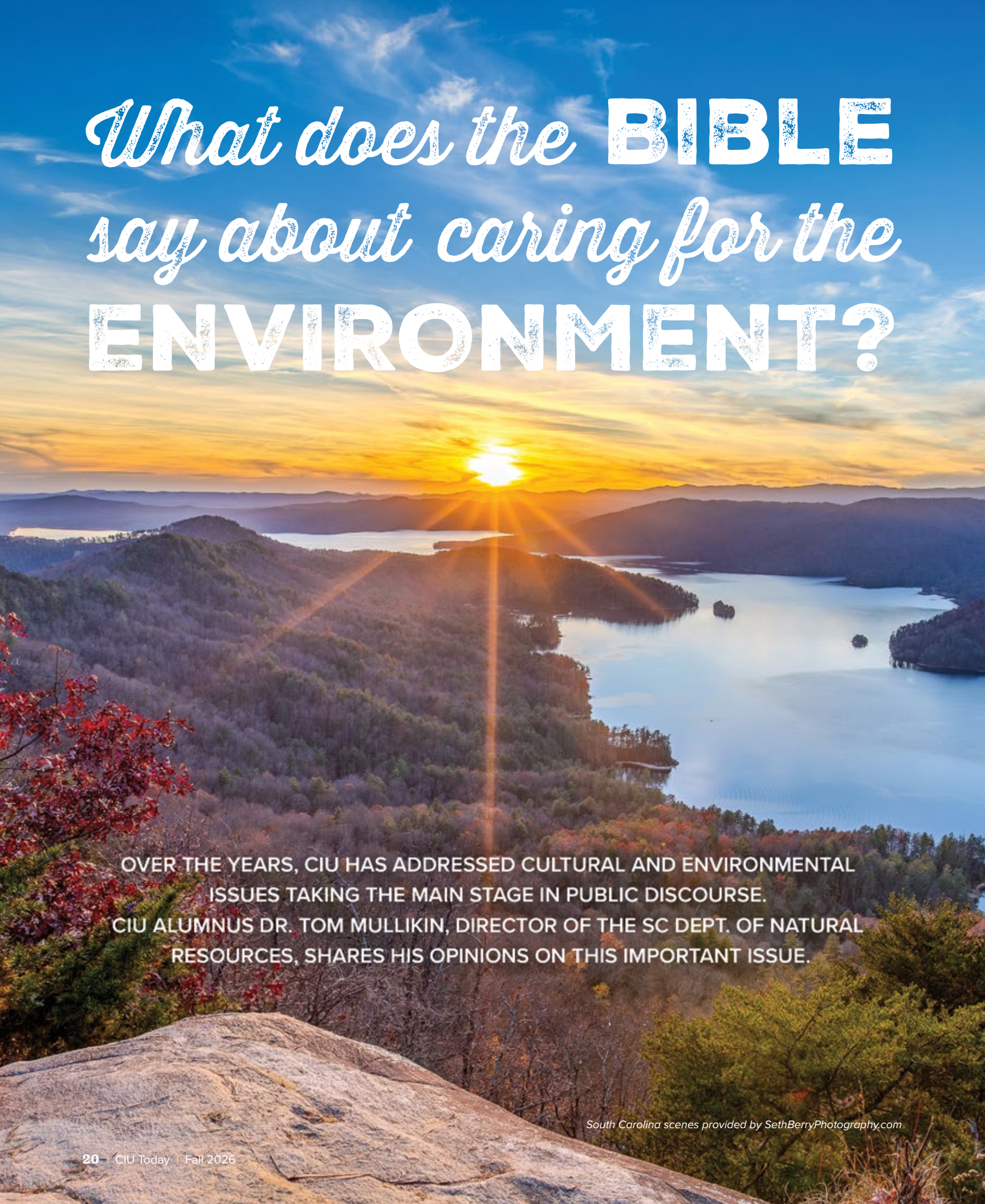
“CIU nursing students are different. They have an amazing work ethic. They’re compassionate, which ultimately improves patient outcomes,” Conder said.

Dr. Christopher Jones, CIU professor

“Four years ago, we did not even have a beaker on the CIU campus,” DeWitt said. “Now we have multiple growing nursing and health sciences programs. The new building represents the fulfillment of a dream to train students who will proclaim the gospel and heal people everywhere.” ■



Find out more about the **Health Sciences & Nursing Center** and how you can financially support:
ciu.edu/healthcenter



What does the **BIBLE** *say about caring for the* **ENVIRONMENT?**

OVER THE YEARS, CIU HAS ADDRESSED CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TAKING THE MAIN STAGE IN PUBLIC DISCOURSE. CIU ALUMNUS DR. TOM MULLIKIN, DIRECTOR OF THE SC DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES, SHARES HIS OPINIONS ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.

South Carolina scenes provided by SethBerryPhotography.com



By Dr. Tom Mullikin (Class of 2021)

Dr. Thomas Stowe Mullikin earned his Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership from CIU and is now the Director of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

The opening pages of Scripture tell a story that modern Christians know so well they may miss one of the most salient points. God created the Heavens and the earth. He called them “good.” And He placed humanity within that creation with an explicit charge. Before sin entered the world, before redemption became necessary, before the Church existed, God tasked humanity to “work the garden and to keep it.”

That mandate has never been revoked. In recent decades, conversations about environmental care have often been framed as political, ideological, or even suspiciously secular. As a result, many Christians have grown hesitant to engage the subject at all. Yet the biblical witness is unambiguous: Care for the earth is not a modern concern imposed upon Scripture; it is a biblical responsibility woven from the beginning into the story of creation, redemption, and restoration. From Genesis through Revelation, Scripture consistently affirms that the world belongs to God and that humanity is accountable for how it is treated.

The Bible opens with a declaration of ownership: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). Creation is not self-originating, nor is it humanity’s possession. It belongs to God. After forming the world, God pronounces it “very good” (Gen. 1:31), revealing not only functional adequacy but moral value.

Humanity is then created in the image of God and placed within His good creation. Genesis 2:15 provides the clearest articulation of humanity’s role: “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” The language here is significant. The Hebrew verbs imply service, protection, and responsibility — not exploitation

or neglect. Humanity is entrusted with the care of something that ultimately belongs to Another.

Notably, this command is given before the Fall. Environmental stewardship is not a consequence of sin or a corrective measure for a broken world; it is part of God’s original design for human vocation. To care for creation is to live faithfully within the role God assigned from the beginning.

Some Christians have understood the command to “subdue” the earth (Gen. 1:28) as license for unrestricted use. Scripture itself corrects that reading. Biblical dominion is never autonomous power; it is delegated authority under God’s sovereignty. The earth remains the Lord’s, and human dominion is exercised as stewardship.

The Psalms repeatedly affirm this truth: “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it” (Ps. 24:1). Humanity’s role is derivative and accountable. When Scripture describes righteous leadership, it consistently portrays care for what has been entrusted. Proverbs teach that “the righteous care for the needs of their animals” (Prov. 12:10), linking moral character with attentiveness to creation.

The Law reinforces this ethic through commands that protect land, animals, and future generations. Sabbath rest is extended not only to people but to the land itself (Lev. 25). Even in warfare, Israel is prohibited from destroying fruit-bearing trees (Deut. 20:19). These laws reveal a responsible use of the resources God provides.

The prophets make explicit that Israel’s unfaithfulness had consequences that included environmental degradation as a result of moral failure. Hosea describes a land that “mourns” because of human unfaithfulness, where animals perish and the sea suffers (Hos. 4:1–3). Jeremiah laments a desolate land resulting from covenant violation (Jer. 12:4).

These passages do not suggest that every environmental hardship is a direct punishment for specific sins. Rather, they reveal a theological principle: Human rebellion disrupts not only relationships with God and neighbor, but also the created order itself. Creation is affected by how humanity lives within God’s covenant.

This biblical pattern challenges the notion that environmental care is peripheral to faith. Scripture treats the condition of the land as spiritually significant, intertwined with obedience, justice, and worship.

The New Testament does not retreat from this vision of creation’s value; it deepens it. Jesus’ ministry



The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it...

PSALM 21:1

is saturated with attention to the natural world. He teaches with images drawn from soil, seed, water, birds, weather, and trees — not as disposable metaphors, but as witnesses to God's care and provision. "Consider the lilies of the field," Jesus says, grounding trust in God's faithfulness to creation itself (Matt. 6:28–30).

Jesus' miracles frequently restore the physical world: calming storms, multiplying food, healing bodies. These acts are not merely demonstrations of divine power; they are signs of restoration. They reveal what God intends for creation when it is set right. The reign of God that Jesus proclaims is not abstract or disembodied — it touches land, water, bodies, and communities.

Paul echoes this vision in Romans 8, where he describes creation itself as "groaning" under the weight of human sin, awaiting liberation alongside humanity. Creation is not a disposable backdrop to salvation; it is a participant in God's redemptive plan.

The Bible's final book reinforces this accountability. Revelation 11:18 declares that God will judge "those who destroy the earth." While Revelation is highly symbolic, this statement implies that wanton destruction of creation is not neutral.

This passage challenges the assumption that the physical world is ultimately irrelevant because it will be replaced. Instead, Revelation culminates not in escape from the earth, but in its renewal: "Then I saw a new Heaven and a new earth" (Rev. 21:1). God's final act is restoration, not abandonment.

If God intends to redeem creation, then Christian neglect of it is not merely careless—it is contradictory to God's purposes.

Environmental stewardship is an expression of the biblical command to love one's neighbor. Pollution, environmental degradation, and resource depletion disproportionately affect the poor, the vulnerable, and future generations. To poison water, degrade land, or exhaust resources without regard for others is to violate the command to love. Creation

care is therefore not only about preserving beauty or biodiversity; it is about justice, compassion, and responsibility.

Christians do not believe the world can be saved by human effort alone. Ultimate restoration belongs to God. Yet Scripture has never used divine sovereignty as an excuse for human irresponsibility. Faithfulness has always meant obedience within the time and place God has given.

To care responsibly for creation is a part of the living out of the gospel. Stewardship reflects gratitude to the Creator, obedience to His commands, and hope in His promises. It is a witness that Christians take seriously the world God so loved.

From the garden of Eden to the new creation, Scripture presents a consistent vision: the earth is God's, humanity is entrusted with its care, and accountability accompanies that trust. Environmental stewardship is not a modern addition to Christian faith, nor a distraction from spiritual concerns. It is a faithful response to Scripture's call.

Protecting the Lord's garden is an act of worship. It honors the creator, serves our neighbors, and anticipates the day when God will make all things new.

South Carolina is deeply embedded in the Bible Belt, and Christian leaders have demonstrated these biblical principles while dispelling the popular narrative that one must choose between economic and environmental sustainability. South Carolina is growing fast and at a pace among the country's fastest-growing states. Christian leadership involves protecting the Lord's garden today and for future generations while strengthening communities without sacrificing the land, water, air, and coast.

Genesis 2:15 grounds environmental stewardship in the duality Hebrew mandate to 'ābad (serve) and shāmar (guard) the garden, establishing humanity's original vocation as one of cultivation and protection under God's authority — a command given before the Fall and never revoked.

This is real Christian leadership and one that will provide for the protection of the Lord's garden while also serving families, providing resources for their families. ■

SARA OSWALD ('26)

From Harvard to CIU

The Career Path of a Lifelong Learner

By Dr. Sandra Archer Young

Sara Oswald, a recent recipient of CIU's Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership, refuses to take the easy path.

While her degree from Harvard may be considered her most prestigious, Oswald, a non-traditional student, has earned a succession of degrees and certifications: a paralegal certificate from Midlands Technical College, certificates in farming from Clemson and Cornell Universities (her specialties are beekeeping and forestry), and a Master's in Education from Columbia College. A native of Blythewood, South Carolina, she farms 240 acres that were deeded to her circuit-riding Methodist family. One conversation with Oswald reveals a lifelong learner with a deep sense of rootedness in the land and in family.

Oswald is, in her own words, "a country gal." Her family arrived in the Carolinas in 1750 and "stayed at home, farmed and preached."

"I was the first to graduate from college, a first-generational college student," says Oswald. An academic scholarship awarded by Phi Theta Kappa, an international honors society, paid for her Harvard education, where she majored in the humanities.

"I honestly did not go to college thinking, 'What am I going to do for a job with this degree?'" recalls Oswald. "I wanted to expand my mind, meet new people, and learn new things."

After earning her master's degree, Oswald served as the Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Adviser at Midlands Technical College, where she trained students in soft skills, taught the society's servant leadership curriculum, and helped students develop a personal leadership philosophy. Then came the pandemic. When it lifted, Oswald prayed about her next step. The following day she applied to study at CIU.

"I knew there was 'something more' to the work I wanted to do, but before starting my doctorate at CIU I was not sure how to put into words what exactly was my calling," says Oswald.

After admission, she served on the Grad Life Council (GLC), where she kept the University's graduate students abreast of campus activities. According to GLC Adviser Dr. Ben Noonan, Oswald helped facilitate Town Hall meetings, assisted in hosting the GLC 50th Anniversary Celebration, and



promoted grad-student participation with undergraduates in its annual RAMServe. (See Page 6.)

"Sara is a natural-born leader with vision, creativity, enthusiasm, joy, and grace," says Noonan. "She was especially in a unique spot to help promote involvement among our online Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership students because this was her program and she had connections with them."

During her first semester, Oswald encountered the concept of steward leadership, which, she says, clarified her vision of "creating a lasting space for people to meet Jesus." Now that she's finished, her goal is to develop her farm into a nonprofit retreat area.

"As 'quiet' areas in my once-rural community continue to dwindle, I hope to leave behind a legacy where Christians can strengthen their relationships with Jesus, and where non-believers can learn about His gift of salvation in a unique outdoor environment with few distractions," says Oswald. ■

“

Sara is a natural-born leader with vision, creativity, enthusiasm, joy, and grace.”

—DR. BEN NOONAN, Grad Life Council Advisor

Meeting Human Needs with *Empathy and Compassion*

By Dr. Sandra Archer Young

Dr. Sarah Thomas teaches students how to serve.

Thomas is program director of the Human Services major at CIU, a major that provides opportunities for service in clinics, hospitals, group homes, correctional centers, social service agencies, and more. She brings to her students over 25 years of employment in the “helping professions” where she served as a counselor and administrator with South Carolina’s Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH). Under Thomas’ guidance, ministering professionals learn how to serve individuals and families with empathy and compassion.

That guidance is grounded in experience. While working for the state of South Carolina, Thomas helped revamp the state’s Foster Care Program, providing training and licensing for foster parents. She also developed programs to mentor children and young adults through Child and Family Services. According to Thomas, one of her primary goals as an administrator was to keep emotionally challenged youth at home instead of in treatment facilities. She also successfully secured partnerships and mentors to work with troubled youth, work that earned her numerous awards for outstanding service, commitment, and significant contributions to children and families.

According to Thomas, the popular phrase “servant leader” can be applied to students majoring in the Human Services program.



Dr. Sarah Thomas,
Associate Professor of
Human Services, meeting
with a student.

***“Because you lived, will the world be better off?
That’s what motivates me, to see that they are
helping to make this world a better place.”***

—DR. SARAH THOMAS

“Embodying God’s mercy and love in tangible ways.”

“Servant leaders in the Human Services field commit to putting their clients first and helping them to become the best version of themselves,” says Thomas. “Working in the Human Services field is about embodying God’s mercy and love in tangible ways.”

Thomas retired from state employment in 2016 but felt a pull to return to full-time work. CIU recruited Thomas to lead the program in 2019, tapping into another one of Thomas’ gifts: teaching, a skill she cultivated through adjunct positions at South Carolina State and Claflin Universities.

“Teaching is not a profession for me, it’s a calling. I want to see students grow and develop and do great things,” she says. “I want them to know they can be part of the solution and not the problem. I often ask them, ‘Because you lived, will the world be better off?’ That’s what motivates me, to see that they are helping to make this world a better place.”

Dr. David DeWitt, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, affirms this unique new degree program.

“The Human Services program equips students to see and serve people who are often overlooked,” says DeWitt. “By combining professional preparation with biblical commitment to ‘the least of these,’

our graduates become advocates, caregivers, and leaders who bring hope, dignity, and practical support to individuals, families, and communities in need.”

While Thomas teaches a number of courses at CIU, her favorite course is Introduction to Human Services, a course foundational to the degree program.

“Intro to Human Services prepares students to be advocates for vulnerable children and their families in the community,” says Thomas. “I tell students that the child should be better off once they meet you and have a better quality of life when you close their case.” She anchors the course in Matt. 20:28 where Jesus declares that He “did not come to be served, but to serve.”

“A desire to see her students learn and grow in their calling.”

Michaela Façanha, an international student from Ecuador, is pursuing a degree in Human Services.

“I came to CIU knowing little about the Human Services program. Yet my desire to work with people and passion to see and help others overcome their circumstances drew me in my decision to major in Human Services,” says Façanha. “Dr. Thomas’ passion for what she does is evident in her teaching. She exhibits a desire to see her students learn and grow in their calling.”

While Thomas brings extensive experience to CIU, she also brings a network of places where CIU students can be effectively trained. Her prior relationships with stakeholders and professionals in South Carolina help students secure valuable field experiences and internships. Students find themselves shadowing case managers, observing court proceedings, and sitting in on staff meetings. Often, interns are assigned real cases to study and manage. Before students begin these internships, Thomas uses class time to conduct essential role-playing exercises.

This second career at CIU supplied a welcome opportunity for Thomas, who enjoys her role of professor and mentor to Christian college students.

“What drew me to CIU is my Christian values,” says Thomas. “CIU encouraged me to be a mentor. We’re making disciples. What I like about the school is its motto: ‘To Know Him and to Make Him Known.’”

As Thomas begins her eighth year of teaching at CIU, what she hopes to accomplish through her teaching is simple:

“I hope to witness the growth and success of my students, knowing that I played a role,” says Thomas. “And I’m elated that God has given me the opportunity and the platform to help shape the future generation, equipping them and providing the knowledge and skills needed to help others overcome challenges.” ■



**Learn more about the
Bachelor of Science
in Human Services
program:**
[ciu.edu/program/
bs-human-services](https://ciu.edu/program/bs-human-services)



Peer Mentoring Services Encourage Academic Success

By Bob Holmes, Senior Writer

In college, sometimes it's the opportunities you engage outside the classroom that make a significant difference in your future.

Alumna Katie Mayberry (2023) credits her volunteer work as a mentor in CIU's Academic Success Center, a free service available to all students, for preparing her for her new teaching position at a boarding school in Kenya.

"I will be teaching at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya, which is a boarding school for children of families serving the Lord all over Africa,"

Mayberry wrote in an email interview as she prepared to leave for Africa last June. "Peer mentoring prepared me well to love and mentor the students in my classroom, as well as other middle school and high school students that are boarding on campus. The life-on-life approach of the (CIU) peer mentor program translates well into my new missions context."

Mayberry is one of dozens of CIU upperclassmen and alumni who have come alongside freshmen and transfer students, offering insights into balancing coursework, navigating university life, and succeeding at CIU. In fact, Mayberry was there from the beginning

when Academic Success Center Director Lisa Lanpher approached her in the library where Mayberry, then a freshman, was studying.

Guinea Pig

"(She) asked if I wanted to be her guinea pig for something," Mayberry recalled. "She explained that she had a vision for starting a mentoring program for students. As a dual enrollment student the year before, I relied much on the upperclassmen to navigate the adjustment to college-level classes ... to lean into their wisdom of how to be a successful college student — spiritually,



▲ Lisa Lanpher (left) and Katie Mayberry (right) are joined by CIU alumna Anne Wenger ('61). Wenger is a former missionary and is a mentor to Mayberry through Columbia First Presbyterian Church.

academically, mentally and physically! I was thrilled about the vision of a program that would connect incoming students with upperclassmen in an even more intentional way.”

What is Lanpher looking for in a mentor?

“As I recruit mentors, I’m looking for people who love Jesus, they’ve done well academically, and they want to pour into the lives of other students,” Lanpher said in an interview in her second-floor office of the library. “What I tell them is, you’re going to be a role model, a guide — a big brother, big sister. ‘I’ve been here, I’ve been successful, let me walk alongside you.’”

With a laugh, Lanpher makes sure it is understood that the mentoring program not a dating service (men are paired with men and women with women), and that it is not a tutoring program, but the mentors can assist in finding a tutor. The main job of the mentor is acclimating the new student to college life.

“Connections are super important,” said Lanpher. “We want the (new) students to feel like they belong here.

(A mentor) is going to be there for them. They’re excited they are here. They are going to pray for them. Check in with them. Encourage them.”

Lanpher lists some of the specifics the students hope to learn from a mentor. Such as how to stay accountable, advice on how to avoid procrastination, and time management.

“Things you don’t necessarily learn from your professor,” Lanpher added.

So, is the program growing?

“Absolutely,” Lanpher says with excitement.

In 2019, the program began with 31 mentees. In the fall of 2025, it more than doubled when 63 students signed up. Over the six-year period, more than 300 students have been mentored.

“Word got out,” Lanpher explained.

From Mentee to Mentor

One of those to whom “word got out” was Josiah Deegan, a junior English major. He was mentored, and then later became a mentee.

“We want the new students to feel like they belong here.”

—LISA LANPHER

Academic Success Center Director

“Coming to college, I had no idea what I was doing,” Deegan said in an interview in the Student Center. “I wanted to grow both academically and spiritually. And I thought the peer mentor program would be a great opportunity for both of those things.”

Deegan described his mentor, Caleb Schell, as very friendly and kind. They prayed together and met each week over breakfast.

“His love of the Lord pointed me to God and helped me grow spiritually,” Deegan said. (He) taught me good life skills for surviving college, as well as showing me it’s not quite as scary as it may seem, and that professors truly do care.

“And then I wanted to become a mentor because I wanted to do for someone else what he had done for me and help them grow and acclimate to this new beginning.”

“I value her wisdom”

Meanwhile, as Katie Mayberry begins her new life in Kenya, she is thankful for how Lisa Lanpher has been her mentor through Africa Inland Mission’s Equip pre-field preparation program.

“When it came time to find a mentor, there was no doubt who I would ask first” Mayberry wrote. “It was only fitting to end my chapter in America this way! I value her wisdom and have so much respect for her, and it is a lifelong relationship that will continue even while I am across the ocean, as we both carry on Christ’s call to mentorship in two different settings and on two different continents.” ■



Child Evangelism Fellowship sharing the gospel at Hoop for Hope.

Shooting Hoops; *Bringing Hope*

By Bob Holmes, Senior Writer

About three dozen 13- and 14-year-old boys seemed a little nervous and talked in low voices as they took their seats in CIU's Pamplin Auditorium, not quite sure what the next 20 minutes would bring. Most of the kids didn't seem to know many of their peers around them. So, the man at the front of the room decided to use the time constructively and instructively until the late comers arrived.

The man introduced himself as "Mr. Garrett" and asked the teens to get up, introduce themselves to each other as they shook hands. Garrett Hays Sr., who is with the local ministry "Strong Young Minds of Our Block," demonstrated to the youths that they can change the "energy" in a situation by the way they meet and treat people they don't know.

This was a breakout "station" that was a part of the weeklong annual "Hoop for Hope" event organized by the CIU Rams men's and women's basketball teams drawing nearly 100 youth, ages 9 to 14, from around the Columbia area. It features life lessons, Christian testimonies, Bible devotions, and of course basketball and other fun games.

Hays, who said he grew up "in the hood" went on to say some people are taught "The Love-Hate Thing."

"Love was in your house; hate was outside of your house," Garrett explained. "They can't identify love outside of the house, so they can't identify when someone is trying to show them genuine energy, and genuine love. And that's what we've got to start getting away from. (Instead), how will we respond? ...

"Don't let anybody fill you with hate for someone else of another color or another neighborhood because you're going to end up where you're not supposed to be."

One person who is hard to keep up with during Hoop for Hope week is the man who makes the event happen every year. That's Men's Head Basketball Coach Tony Stockman who is continually making

sure things are running smoothly and even arranging transportation for youth in lower-income neighborhoods. During a moment of rest, Stockman reflected on the seventh year of the program.

"A big reason why I came to CIU was because I knew I could have a bigger outreach. Basketball is my ministry," Stockman said. "The resources we have at CIU allows us to bring the kids here."

"We want these kids from the community to see successful young men who are going to college and playing a sport," Stockman continued. "Because sometimes in the neighborhood they are seeing a different kind of guy — selling drugs and things like that."

We want them to see positive role models and strong young Christian men and hopefully give them something to strive toward." ■



Xavier Moore, who attended Hoop for Hope as a child, is now a barber. He returned in 2026 to offer free haircuts to the campers.

CIU TRACK & FIELD FEATURES

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Indoor or outdoor. It didn't matter to the CIU Rams men's and women's track and field teams who excelled in both venues with national champions.

In February, the Rams closed out the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Indoor Track and Field Championships with two national champion throwers.

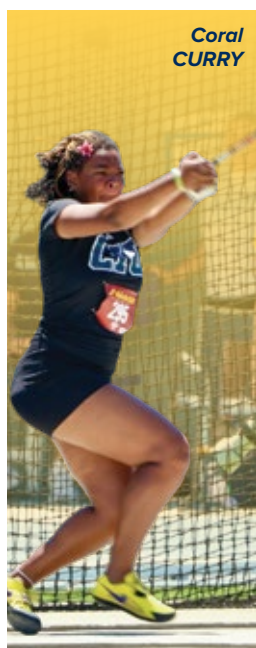
On the women's side, Coral Curry led the way with a national title in the weight throw, recording a winning mark of 14.26 meters. She also placed fourth in the shot put with a personal-record mark of 11.62 meters to cap a standout meet.

For the men, Cameron Montgomery delivered one of the top performances of the meet, winning the national championship in the shot put with an NAIA qualifying throw of 16.01 meters. He was also named NCCAA Men's Indoor Field Athlete of the Meet, adding the title to his runner-up finish in the weight throw earlier in the championships.

Meanwhile, in May, at the NCCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Montgomery brought home a national championship in the shot put with a throw of 17.00 meters. He also finished third in the hammer, picking up All-American honors.

The CIU women also claimed two national titles.

Curry captured a national championship in the hammer throw with a winning mark of 46.42 meters. And on the track, Arion Jefferson won the women's 200-meter dash in 25.58 and was the national runner-up in the 400 meters with a time of 57.64, leading to All-American honors. ■



Coral
CURRY



Cameron
MONTGOMERY



Arion
JEFFERSON

NOTABLE HONORS



Congratulations to women's softball coach **Sara Allen** who was named NCCAA South Region Coach of the Year after her team took home the NCCAA South Region Title in dramatic fashion with a walk-off home

run, earning the Rams a trip to the NCCAA World Series. Despite losing in the semifinals, the Rams rewrote the record books with multiple single-season and career marks broken and recording the first 40-win season in program history.



Kudos to CIU Rams assistant athletic director for communications **Gordie Frierson**. The CIU alum (2017/2022) is the Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC) 2025-2026 Willie Belcher Sports

Information Director of the Year. Frierson has played a key role in increasing the Rams' visibility at the local and national levels.

NEW COACHES



The new head coach of CIU women's basketball is no stranger to Rams athletics. **Cory Inman** will lead the women's program after seven seasons as an assistant men's basketball coach. Inman also served

as the women's interim head coach during the 2023-24 season. Inman replaces Mark Molder who resigned after two seasons to return to his former position as head women's coach at Oklahoma Wesleyan University.



The new head golf coach is **Major McWhorter**, who has been serving as interim head coach. A 2023 graduate of CIU, McWhorter was a four-year letter winner for the Rams golf program.



Prison Initiative Director Dr. Andre Melvin (left) chats with Cubby Culbertson

***“The impact we see
is that the gospel is
being spread.”***

—CUBBY CULBERTSON

Matching Commerce with Ministry

Cubby Culbertson and the CIU Prison Initiative

By Dr. Sandra Archer Young

At 6:30 a.m., multiple cars of businesspeople converge at the front gates of the South Carolina Department of Corrections on Broad River Road. For most of them, it is their first visit to a maximum-security state prison. Leaving behind phones, watches, keys, and wallets, they make their way into the Kirkland Correctional Institution, where staff directs them through a series of tunnels, locked corridors, gates, and the infamous “yard.” Each passageway is accompanied by the ominous sounds of clicks, buzzes, and metal doors banging.

And then they reach their destination, a second-floor “library” furnished with long tables, chairs, and a small number of books. It is a peaceful space. The guests are seated, and a chapel service begins with worship music, followed by a Bible study and testimonies from two student inmates.

These visitors make the trek to the state prison at the invitation of one common friend: Cubby Culbertson, a local businessman, who has supported CIU’s Prison Initiative (PI) since its inception in 2007. Culbertson is committed to making sure CIU’s Prison Initiative Program remains financially supported. Program costs are approximately \$5,000 per student per year.

“They limit us to eight people when we go in. So, my goal is to try to fill each one of those seats with people who have the financial capability to write a check,” explains Culbertson. The visit is always inspiring and humbling. “Everybody walks out with a wow factor that you can’t describe to anybody. I can explain the program, but when they see it and walk out, they say ‘I got it.’”

The History

CIU’s PI program is modeled after a theological education program operating at Louisiana State Prison, the largest prison in the country. It partners with local seminaries to educate converted inmates. John Ozmint, former director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections, and a friend of Culbertson, visited prisons across the country and believed it to be the most effective model. He presented the idea to CIU President Bill Jones and then invited Culbertson to visit the prison with him.



When they returned to South Carolina, Culbertson asked Ozmint a question: “What role would you want me to play?” Ozmint asked him to recruit businesspeople to support the program financially. Culbertson agreed.

Two cohorts, each with 12-15 student-inmates, participate in this unique program each year. Inmates who apply to be in the program are then vetted and interviewed by a panel of CIU administrators. The student-inmates earn a two-year associate of arts degree. CIU professors travel to the prison (on the other side of the Broad River from the CIU campus) to teach a variety of topics, including composition, literature, psychology, public speaking, Bible courses and Christian theology. After graduation from the program, inmates are commissioned and sent to minister to inmates throughout the state’s prison system as chaplain assistants.

To date, over 200 students have graduated from the program and serve at 21 South Carolina prisons. Fifty graduates have been released and have had an impressive success rate integrating back into society, far above the national average. Remarkably, over 25 have pursued higher degrees.

“A Gamechanger”

Culbertson has invested time and resources into the Prison Initiative for almost 20 years. Yet long before the PI was launched, Culbertson led a Bible study on death row for two years. Teaching these men had a profound impact on his life.

“It was a gamechanger for me on lots of fronts,” says Culbertson. “When I did the death row Bible study, one of my greatest awarenesses and fears when I got to know (the inmates) was how much they were just like me.”

His ministry to death row inmates ended when these prisoners were physically transferred out of the Columbia area. But a decade later, Culbertson found himself involved in prison ministry once more. This time, his role was not to teach

the Bible but to raise funds to educate future inmate chaplains.

Dr. Andre Melvin, who has directed the Prison Initiative for the past 15 years, has nothing but praise for Culbertson’s recruitment efforts.

“Cubby’s support has been exceptional,” said Melvin, noting donations have increased 38% from 2024 to 2025 and 22% from 2025 to 2026.”

Outside of businesspeople, other faithful donors include churches, parachurch organizations, and individuals. Some donors also volunteer as chapel speakers and mentors. Others provide food for special events and support the inmates’ annual commencement ceremony.

Cubby’s Challenge

At 9:00 a.m., the chapel concludes. Culbertson turns to his guests and utters a challenge.

“If you know of ministries outside of the prison that are having this impact on the kingdom, let me know, and I’ll give to it,” he says. “Most likely, your churches probably aren’t growing like this, or the ministries you’re involved with. But the impact that we see here is that the gospel is being spread.”

With this challenge, guests retrace their path through the yard, tunnels, security gates, and checkpoints. Prison staff members return driver’s licenses. As they exit the facility, guests silently ponder the gift of their own freedom and the tremendous opportunity to help inmates preach the gospel to those who are lost. ■



Learn more about supporting the CIU Prison Initiative:
ciu.edu/advancement/initiatives/prison-initiative

1 CHARLOTTE REES ('67) was inducted into the Marquis Who's Who in America for her research and writing. This is the same Who's Who that her missionary great grandfather was inducted into in the 1930s. ✉ cdjr@verizon.net

VICKI (HARKRIDER) BAGDASARIANZ ('76) celebrated her 80th birthday. She is especially rejoicing that the owner of the restaurant where she had her birthday dinner decided to follow Jesus. He generously offered the birthday dinner for 30 people free of charge. Vicki is very thankful for her family including four children and their spouses, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. ✉ freeinchrist@sunrise.ch

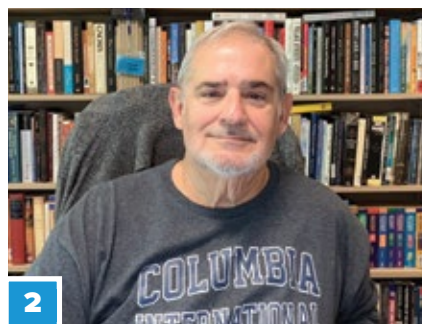
JOHN FRYE ('76) celebrated 34 years of ministry through leading worship music at Calvary Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He and his wife, **VICKI (BROWN) FRYE ('76)**, give all the praise and glory to God. John has served the Lord alongside CIU family including current Senior Pastor **DR. BEAU ECKERT ('02)**, **DR. BRAD MULLEN ('82)**, and the late **DR. JOHNNY MILLER**, a former Calvary senior pastor and the fourth president of CIU. ✉ jfrye@calvarychurch.org

2 DAVID GILLEPSIE ('76) is honored to have been appointed to the Anderson University Alumni Board of Directors in Anderson, South Carolina. He attended AU before transferring to CIU in 1972. He is also a volunteer instructor in Religious Studies at the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning at Furman University. ✉ scdrgillespie@gmail.com

3 TERRY ('76) and **SUE HAMMACK** officially retired in 2023 from Sudan Interior Mission after 47 years of service. They were in Nigeria for 39 years, and for eight years seconded to Global Frontier Missions in Richmond, Virginia. Terry and Sue transitioned to the SIM Retirement Village in Sebring, Florida in June 2026. ✉ terry.hammack@sim.org



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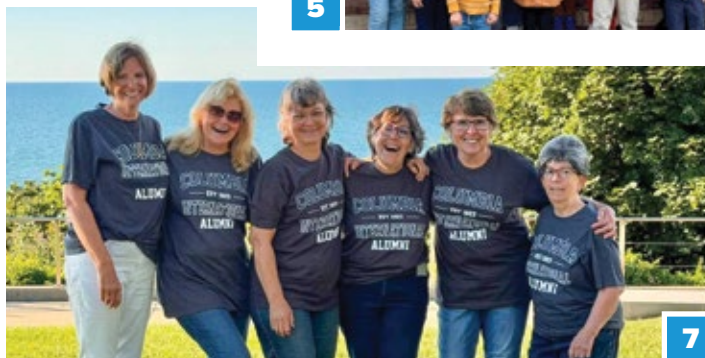
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4 JETER ('75) and **LAURA (DANIEL) ('76) LIVINGSTON** returned to Wheaton, Illinois in 2015 after serving for 34 years with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Côte d'Ivoire. Laura worked for Oasis International Publishing from 2015-2025. In 2021, they moved to Huntsville, Alabama. Laura is the care coordinator for Asbury Church in Madison, Alabama. Both are liturgists at the church. ✉ lauraclivingston@gmail.com

5 RICK and **BECKY (DUHAN) ('76) O'HARE** retired from Youth for Christ where they served from 1977-2022. After adopting a child with Downs Syndrome, they became involved with Mount Jubilee Ministries, providing Christ-centered day programs and a summer camp for adults with special needs in Reidsville and Greensboro, North Carolina. In 2018,

they co-founded A Special Blend, a nonprofit that opened two coffee shops that employ individuals with intellectual disabilities located in Greensboro and High Point, North Carolina. They have 16 grandchildren. ✉ beckyohare@gmail.com

6 RICHARD and **PAULA (FETTER) ('76) HAYNES** retired from teaching and are now involved with discipleship making movements across the world. ✉ paulahaynesmt@gmail.com

7 HAZEL (SUTHERLAND) SCHAEFFER, MARY (BROWNING) BECHTOLD, JANE (BAYUSZIK) HARTZLER, CANDY PRESTON, TINA HAYS and **SUE (CRIST) HARMON (CLASS OF 1977)** got together for three days in Cleveland. This was their fourth reunion. They get together every five years. ✉ donhazelschaeffer@gmail.com

8 JOEL ('79/'03) and MARGARET (ELIAS) ('96) DE HART are involved in Afghan diaspora ministry in Columbia, South Carolina. ✉ jdehart99@gmail.com

ROBERT "BOB" MUSSER ('80) retired in January 2026 after serving as a college faculty member, and most recently, as full-time chaplain at Saint Vincent Infirmary in Little Rock, Arkansas. He and his wife, Donna, are moving to Maryland later this year to be nearer family. They anticipate continuing in ministry in some role. ✉ bmusser25@gmail.com

9 JERRY ('86) and CHERYL (CHESTER) ('84) FREY. Jerry is the director of PFV (Pennsylvania, Florida, Vermont) Intentional Discipleship. They train in evangelism and discipleship, and provide respite for pastors, missionaries and church ministry leaders. ✉ jerryfrey1218@gmail.com

10 TIM CAMPBELL ('88) recently celebrated 11 years as the lead pastor of Grace Church in Lakeland, Florida. Tim and his wife Sherry came to Lakeland in 2014 after serving as executive pastor for Bethalto Church of God in Bethalto, Illinois. ✉ timcampbellsr@gmail.com

11 IAN ('89) and QUIRIEN ('89) BUCHANAN retired after many years working to strengthen UK church leadership through preaching, resources and tuition grants. CIU life and studies gave them a deep sense of meaning and purpose that has stayed with them for four decades. ✉ ianbuchanan48@gmail.com

12 JOHN ('90) and DONNA FOLKER have served with Deaf Global Empower Network for 48 years in seven states. They have three children. ✉ galaxycreator06@gmail.com

13 DAVID ('90) and EMILY (CALHOUN) STOVER ('90) David recently transitioned from pastoral ministry to join the Partnership Development team at Ecclesia Construction in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Ecclesia Construction's mission is to support eight missions around the world. David was recently certified as an evangelism trainer with Evangelize Today. ✉ david@ecclesiaconstruction.com

14 JOHN ('91) and JUDITH WILLIAMS retired in March 2026 after serving almost 44 years with Wycliffe/SIL Mexico and being involved in the Bible translation of two varieties of the Mixtec language, as well as serving as translation consultants. John will continue this work with Wycliffe as a retired volunteer. ✉ john.williams@sil.org

15 JEREMIAH GADO ('93) is the former president of Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), one of the largest denominations in Nigeria. He oversaw a large network of churches with over 15 million members, several seminaries and hospitals. ✉ rgado@hotmail.com

16 CHRIS and STEPH (THIESEN) ('05) VAN DALEN and their three children will be moving to Lithuania in 2027. Chris will be the pastor of a growing international Evangelical Reformed Church congregation in Kaunas. Steph looks forward to hospitality ministry, leading women's Bible studies and providing biblical lay counseling. ✉ cvandalen@worldwitness.org

17 SAM and CHRISTINA (HUBBARD) GUNN ('06) recently took a position as co-lead pastors at Union Grove Assembly of God in Hampton, Arkansas. They homeschool their boys Sam (12) and Moses (10). ✉ pastorchristinagunn@gmail.com

18 JEFF ('07) and RACHEL MILLER welcomed their first child, Lily Grace, on June 9, 2026. The Millers met while working for radio personality and financial advisor Dave Ramsey and live in Franklin, Tennessee. Today, Jeff is a financial advisor with Edward Jones and has traveled to over 70 countries. ✉ 2everytribe@gmail.com

19 JOACHIM "JOE" SCHMID ('12) has served for 13 years with his wife, Simone, and their three children as missionaries with Marburg Mission in Taiwan. After learning Chinese and earning a Ph.D. from London School of Theology, Joe teaches at China Lutheran Seminary, while Simone ministers to families and the local church community. ✉ jschmid@gmx.de



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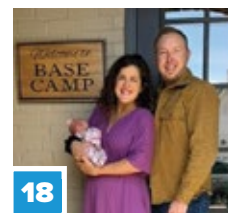
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20 JORDAN ('13) and **KATIE HARRIS** have made the move back to Columbia, South Carolina where Jordan serves as worship & creative pastor at GraceLife Church. Katie is a pediatric hematologist and oncologist at Novant Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina. They are three children richer: Ben, Holly, and Sam.

✉ jordantylerrharris@gmail.com

AMY MATTHEWS ('16) is a freelance writer of a variety of genres and a public speaker, primarily of biblical content, inspiring, encouraging, and admonishing others to live the victorious life in Christ.

✉ amy.matthews249@icloud.com

JARED COLLINS ('17) serves as the associate pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Opelika, Alabama. He and his wife Emily have four daughters.

✉ jaredrdcollins@gmail.com

21 SAMUEL NORRIS ('18) is the new head of Providence School of Tifton, Georgia, a private, Classical Christian school. He served as a teacher and dean of students for the past five years. Samuel and his wife, Sarah, have two sons, J.P. and Luke.

✉ snorris@providencetift.com

22 HOPE HALFACRE ('26) after earning her master's degree in educational leadership, Hope was appointed as assistant principal at Lake Murray Elementary School in Lexington (South Carolina) School District One. Proud parents are Randy (CIU community ambassador) and Angela Halfacre.

✉ hhalfacre86@gmail.com

23 SETH BERRY (Staff) and his wife Katie welcomed their first child, Gracie, into their family on March 6, 2026. Seth has been CIU's lead graphic designer for 17 years, and is now working remotely from Easley in South Carolina's Upstate. ✉ seth.berry@ciu.edu



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IN MEMORIAM

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GLENNIS YOUNG MCMILLAN ('50) – July 2026
JOHN PRICE ('51) – Nov. 2025
PAULINE DELEEUW TABER ('51) – Nov. 2024
BETTY VAIL HAUWILLER ('52) – Apr. 2026
EDWINA NORMAN YEATTS ('52) – Dec. 2025
PATRICIA PECK BLACK ('54) – May 2025
JAMES VARGO ('54) – May 2026
BETTY OVERCASH YOUNT ('55) – July 2026
VIOLA ADAY ('56) – June 2026
LETTY HILL HARDING ('56) – July 2024
VITULA HOOD LUNGREN ('56) – Aug. 2025
ALBERT MARTIN ('56) – Apr. 2026
CARMEN MUSCHETT ('56) – Aug. 2025
E. FAYE DUPREE HICKS ('57) – Mar. 2026
ROBERT PORCH ('57) – Jan. 2026
H. RENTZ BERRY ('58) – Feb. 2026
GALEN DUNBAR ('58) – Aug. 2025

KENNETH HOUTS ('58) – May 2026
PATRICIA GAMBLE ('59) – Jan. 2026
JOAN LUNDVALL HOLT ('60) – Feb. 2025
GARLAND BROCK ('60) – Jan. 2026
JUNE STEEDLY SOLOMON ('61) – July 2026
DONALD HATHAWAY ('62) – Feb. 2026
KENNETH ORR ('63) – Sept. 2025
GENE TINDALL ('63) – June 2026
BETSY ROSS PAULDING ('64) – Mar. 2026
LAWRENCE YOUNG ('64) – Feb. 2026
AUBREY MAY ('65) – May 2026
BETTY MALEY PHILLIPS ('65) – June 2026
JOSEPH WALLIS ('65) – May 2026
LINTON WHITTLES ('65) – Sept. 2025
ROBERT ABBOT ('66) – June 2025
SANDRA RICHARDS CAMPBELL ('67) – May 2026
CAROL SCHUIT LYONS ('67) – Feb. 2025
SHARON BUFFAM DONALDSON ('67) – Dec. 2025
STEVE FOWLER ('68) – June 2026
DONNA PHELPS COOK ('69) – Feb. 2026
VIRGINIA GORDANIER GAULDEN ('69) – Apr. 2026

PATRICIA BAILEY CHESTNUT ('73) – Jan. 2026
SARAH WATKINS MCCALL ('74) – July 2026
DAVID MELTON ('74) – Mar. 2024
ROBERT REED ('74) – Apr. 2026
CHERYL MOORE HEWITT ('75) – Aug. 2026
MARY MARSHALL ('75) – Dec. 2025
DOROTHY LYNCH ('77) – Feb. 2026
LESLIE NORDMAN ('77) – Dec. 2025
CORNELIA TILLER ('83) – May 2026
CARL WILSON ('84) – June 2026
BOB HICKS ('88) – July 2026
BRIAN KINGSMORE ('88) – May 2025
LINDA SIMPSON ROACH ('93) – Apr. 2026
RICHARD EDWARDS ('95) – Aug. 2026
BRENDA KLUTZ BLAKELY ('96) – Aug. 2025
EUNICE KNAPP SNOOK ('02) – May 2026
ALLAN VANCE ('08) – Feb. 2026
GLENDA SMITH HALTER ('23) – June 2026
BRIAN KINGSMORE (FORMER STAFF) – May 2025
CAROL SCOTT (FORMER STAFF) – Jan. 2025

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