

CIU

TODAY

FALL 2023



*A Celebration of
God's Faithfulness*

CIU **TODAY**

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

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
& SENIOR WRITER**

Bob Holmes

ALUMNI EDITOR

Danny Arabis

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Peggy Lee Manoogian, Joanna Mower,
Dr. David Croteau, Dr. Rick Christman,
Dr. Sandra Young, Victoria Nelson

DESIGNER

Seth Berry

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Kierston Smith, Alexis Deason,
Seth Berry, Bob Holmes, Noah Allard

Direct all inquiries to:

CIU Today magazine
7435 Monticello Road
Columbia, SC 29203
(803) 807-5535
publicrelations@ciu.edu

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On the cover: CIU students Jada Stroud, Caroline Gates, Richie White and Beltran Portugues Huertas celebrate in The Quad.



Follow CIU



CIU students, faculty and staff gathered on Sessions Field to form the number 100 in celebration of CIU's anniversary.

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Time to Hand Off the EDITOR'S RED PEN

I'm kind of surprised I was hired for this position I've held for the last 19 years. Because I remember the job interview. I took the head seat at a conference table where four marketing/communications staff members were sitting. I looked at them and said, "I guess you're wondering why I called this meeting."

I got three of them to laugh. The fourth never acknowledged the goofball comment. That was the Marketing Director Matt Daugherty who hired me anyway. Thanks, Matt wherever you are these two decades later, for taking a chance on a former rock 'n roll disc jockey, turned radio journalist, turned magazine editor.

Truth is, I was comfortable in that meeting as I was familiar to most everyone on campus, having already served for over 12 years as news director at WMHK Radio, then owned by CIU.

So, here I am 31 years since my first WMHK newscast to bring you the latest CIU Today news for *the last time* as the magazine's editor-in-chief. There have been a lot of rumors around campus over the past year and a half about my retirement — most of them started by me — mostly because I keep changing my mind on the subject.

I guess I'm going into what you would call semi-retirement. I'm handing off the editor's red pen to my boss, Greta Clinton, director of University Communications. But I'll still be around part time to assist in writing about the events and people who will shape CIU's next 100 years.

First though, we must celebrate the first 100 years! I got to thinking

one day that I've actually been around this campus for about a third of CIU's life. I've personally known five of CIU's seven presidents and served under four of them.

I have been blessed to be around some of the giants of evangelical Christianity on this campus. Their lives have challenged me in areas of humility and godly living. And I've always kept my office door open, giving me an opportunity to eavesdrop on classrooms and hear biblical lectures from very scholarly professors. For that, I should ask the registrar for honorary academic credits!

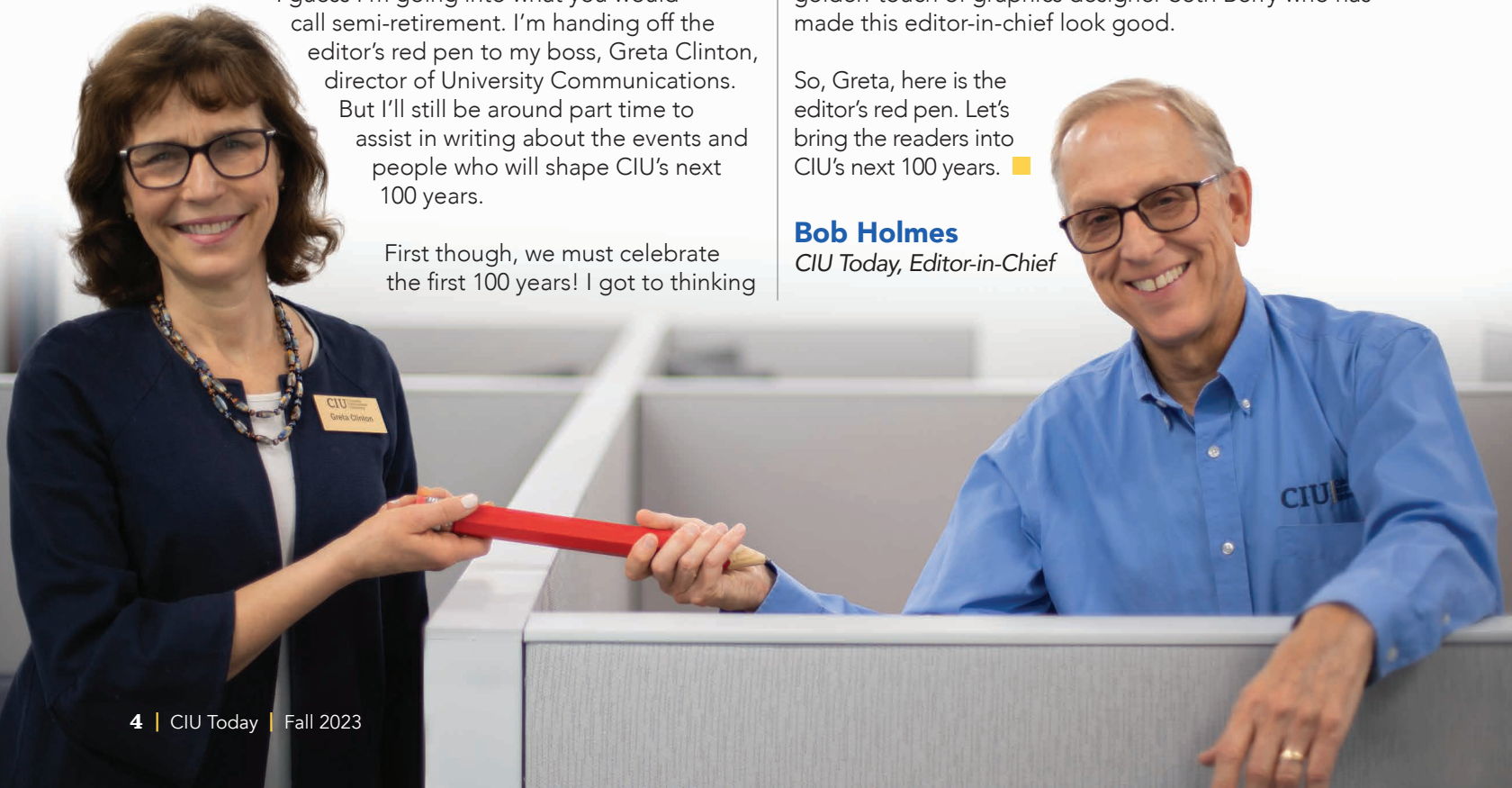
But my favorite memories will always be the days behind the microphone in the WMHK Radio newsroom where I was blessed to be a part of an award-winning station, and picking up a few personal awards for news reporting.

My newscasts were a part of a morning show that included some very gifted on-air talent through the years including Rusty Rabon, Judy Labreque, Hannah Deaton and Mike Weston. I describe that live show as "genuine" as much of it was not pre-planned or "canned." We were allowed to have our collective personalities guide each morning's program.

As far as the future of this magazine is concerned, it may take on a bit of a new look, but its design will still have the golden-touch of graphics designer Seth Berry who has made this editor-in-chief look good.

So, Greta, here is the editor's red pen. Let's bring the readers into CIU's next 100 years. ■

Bob Holmes
CIU Today, Editor-in-Chief



Presidential Update

SEARCH FOR NEW CIU PRESIDENT UNDERWAY

A Presidential Search Committee comprised of key CIU faculty, staff and administrators is meeting regularly to discuss who will lead CIU into the future. This follows the resignation of CIU's seventh president Dr. Mark A. Smith who left the office in February due to ongoing health concerns. Dr. Rick Christman, who had been serving as CIU's executive vice president, has since been serving as interim president.

Meanwhile, the board of trustees has hired The Dingman Company to assist in narrowing the search for qualified presidential candidates. The Dingman Company primarily serves evangelical nonprofit organizations, including universities, in their search for upper level management positions. They have been in the executive recruitment business for over 30 years.

A decision on a new president is not expected until 2024. ■



CIU students build a new porch for a military veteran who lives just down the street from the CIU campus.

RAMServe

HUGE COMMUNITY EFFORT BRINGS "RENEWAL AROUND THE MIDLANDS"

For the third year in a row, Columbia International University students spanned out across greater Columbia for an ambitious day of service.

The CIU students were joined by students of Benedict College and Columbia College for RAMServe on April 5. The Ram is the CIU mascot, but in this case, RAM stands for "Renewal Around the Midlands."

In addition, students from CIU's Christian school Ben Lippen, and local public schools joined in.

After an opening rally at Benedict College's football stadium featuring Columbia Mayor Daniel Rickenmann and other local dignitaries, about 1,000 students and community volunteers disbursed for clean-up or maintenance tasks.

CIU Men's Soccer Coach Bill Brindley was alongside his team as they picked up roadside trash in a neighborhood. He was asked how the service day fits in with coaching at CIU.

"I think it's huge for the guys to give back," Brindley said. "It's big for the Columbia area to see CIU out and about and serving. This is what Christ would do, right?"

About a half mile away from the CIU campus, Mary Hockenberry was among several CIU students helping to rebuild the porch of a military veteran.

"Being a Christian university, we study a lot about the Bible and trying to become like Jesus, and be a reflection of everything He lived for and taught us," Hockenberry told a local TV reporter. "And so RAMServe is a practical way to do that and get out in the community." ■



It's the CIU Today Survey

We want to hear from you!
What do you like — or not like — about CIU Today?



Scan this QR code for a brief five-question survey.



Hoop for Hope ANNUAL BASKETBALL CAMP DRAWS RECORD NUMBER OF CAMPERS

Columbia International University Head Basketball Coach Tony Stockman had a grin on this face as he stood at the top of the stairway overlooking the gym floor in the Moore Fitness Center. Below, several of the boys and girls attending the fourth annual Hoop for Hope basketball camp were not shooting hoops, but playing other games.

"They're playing Duck, Duck, Goose, but they're having fun," said Stockman. "We want them to enjoy themselves and have fun."

Of course, other portions of the day were dedicated to basketball drills, but more importantly, the over 200, 10- to 16-year-old campers, a record number, were exposed to God's Word during the four-day event.

Just outside the fitness center, about a dozen eight to ten-year-old boys were seated at a table with Bibles in front of them learning about God's love from volunteer teacher Faye Gowins.

"The Word of God tells us in First John, chapter 4 verse 7, 'let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God,'" said Gowins, then asking, "Where does love come from?"

"From God!" came the shouted group response.

At the end of the lesson Gowins gave each of the boys a band to wear on the wrist as a reminder to "go

love." And she added with emphasis, "If you see one of your teammates and they are not showing love, you remind them, you tug on this."

Gowins, who attends Word of God Church in Columbia, said that when she heard about Hoop for Hope, "I just knew I had to plug in."

"I enjoy working with children," Gowins added. "I enjoy seeing them get excited about the Word of God. I enjoy seeing that light bulb go off that says, 'I get it.'"

Not only was the overall attendance of Hoop for Hope a record, there was a record number of girls taking part — over 50 of them. And that pleases former CIU Ram, Hannah Trawick, one of several current and former CIU players responsible for guiding the campers through the week. She is now studying for an MBA at CIU.

"Some of the kids are returners, so you get to see them grow," said Trawick during an interview on the gym floor, dodging errant basketballs as the campers shot hoops. One of the younger campers apparently thought it was snack time and interrupted, asking Trawick for a fruit-rollup.

"They're really sweet," Trawick said of the kids. "To be a light for Christ ... it may not be effective now, but as (Coach Tony) Stockman has said, years down the road they may remember this."

Teaming up with CIU for this year's Hoop for Hope was the local ministry 4Runners4Christ and their director Sinclair Salters who helped make sure the kids, especially those from the inner-city had transportation to CIU.

"Our goal is to provide kids hope in Jesus who may have never heard about Him and what He did on the cross," said Stockman. "Basketball is a great platform to share this message. I want to thank Sinclair for making this camp happen because he is a huge part of what we do." ■

You Rock!

CIU JOINS WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS TO CELEBRATE PICKLEBALL

"Thanks to Special Olympics in South Carolina. You rock!" Shouted a Special Olympics athlete after learning a new sport in CIU's Moore Fitness Center — pickleball.

To celebrate National Pickleball Month in April, CIU hosted the pickleball clinic for Special Olympic athletes. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in America, described as a combination of tennis and ping pong, using small paddles and a Whiffle ball, and played on what is similar to a miniature tennis court.

A dozen Special Olympic athletes joined with CIU student volunteers who coached the athletes on the sport.

"We're trying to find ways that our students in the Sport Management major can get involved with Special Olympics because what they do is so awesome," said Sport Management Program Director Dr. James Whitaker. "It brings so much joy to everybody."

Sport Management major Lauren Baker, a senior, was among the CIU students who assisted.

"I actually enjoyed it too," Baker told ABC Columbia News. "I learned a lot of the rules. So, it's definitely something I want to do moving forward."



Providing much of the instruction was the nonprofit Adaptive Pickleball from Greenville, South Carolina. Founder Sandy Halkett says the goal is to travel South Carolina introducing Pickleball to Special Olympic athletes.

"We're going to grow this into a Special Olympic sport and take it as far as they will let us take it," Halkett said. ■

New Horizons

CIU NURSING "EXPLORES" AFRICA FOR FUTURE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



◀ Nursing student Vanessa Smith holds a baby just minutes after birth in Zambia. (Facebook: Karen Buckner)

The Columbia International University nursing program embarked on its first international trip this summer, described as part mission trip, part exploratory, as the program considers future clinical opportunities for nursing students.

A group traveled to Livingstone, Zambia and stayed with Ken and Karen Buckner, missionary founders of the ministry "Come, Go With Us." Participants on the trip included Adjunct Professor Debi Lammert, Program Manager Emily Woodard, rising junior Vanessa Smith, and rising sophomores Katie Haase and Bethany Rymer.

The group learned about healthcare in the Zambian context through hospital tours in both Livingstone, and rural Zimba, the location of Zimba Mission Hospital, a ministry of the Wesleyan Church. They also performed light medical mission work alongside the Buckners who have numerous relationships with local orphanages, schools and communities. They learned to identify and treat common scalp fungus, and observed a class of girls who were learning about personal hygiene and biblical purity. Additionally, they assisted elderly residents with hygiene needs at what is locally called the "Old Peoples Home." ■



Dr. Michael Johnson



Dr. Annie Gallagher



Dr. Todd Marrah



Dr. Milt Uecker



Jeremy Kingsley



Dr. Rick Christman

A Passion To Teach

CHARACTERIZES EDUCATORS AT CIU-SPONSORED VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Nearly 500 educators from around the world met online for the Distinctive Teaching and Learning Conference hosted by Columbia International University's College of Education, Aug. 2-4. The event is a part of CIU's 100th anniversary celebration this year.

The Conference included six keynote speakers and 24 breakout session speakers. Among the keynote speakers:

- **Dr. Michael Johnson**, Dean of the CIU College of Education and former Commissioner for the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
- **Dr. Annie Gallagher**, CIU Alumna and Founder of TransformedPD
- **Dr. Todd Marrah**, CIU Alumnus and Superintendent of Tree of Life Christian Schools in Ohio
- CIU Professor Emeritus **Dr. Milt Uecker**
- **Jeremy Kingsley**, CIU alumnus and Motivational Speaker
- **Dr. Rick Christman**, CIU Interim President

Christman, whose doctorate degree is in Education, spoke on a topic that is dear to him. He discussed what he referred to as "life's purpose" or "life's calling." He encourages college students to consider a personal mission in life, based on their passions — something they are willing to give their lives for. He says many school teachers discovered that passion despite being in a lower-paying job.

"But teachers have a passion to teach and to impact the lives of students," Christman told the virtual audience of educators from his office on the CIU campus. "That's what I'm talking about — giving my life to something regardless of the investment, regardless of the time or what it's going to cost me personally, I'm going to do that. That's what I mean by passion."

The message apparently resonated with attendees. On a live chat box several of them articulated their passions:

"Leading students to become lifelong learners by encouraging a curiosity to discover truth."

"To advance God's Kingdom through teaching, training and mentoring Christian families and Christian teachers in China."

"To equip each individual child with good potential. To leave no one hungry physically or spiritually. To enable each one we serve with the ability to serve someone else in need."

After Christman's message, conference co-host and CIU Professor Emeritus Dr. Milt Uecker noted that he encourages high school educators to focus their students on "calling prep" over "college prep."

Also, in honor of CIU's 100th anniversary, the College of Education (COE) faculty has posted a series of articles about the Christian educators who shaped the college's educational philosophy, courses and degree programs. Follow this series on Facebook: facebook.com/ciu.coe. ■

BEN LIPPEN FALCONS LEARN TO FLY



Taj Troy of Propel Aviation teaches aviation from a Christian perspective.

Ben Lippen School desires to see its students fly high in pursuit of their God-given passions by preparing them for all kinds of careers — including aviation.

Partnering with Propel Aviation, Ben Lippen has launched an aeronautics program, offering high school students the opportunity to learn about aviation and potentially earn a private pilot's license by the time they graduate high school.

"Aviation is a unique profession that connects you internationally with different cultures, ethnicities, and faiths," said Taj Troy, founder and owner of Propel Aviation. "As examples of Christ, pilots have the ability to share God's love locally and globally."

Propel's FAA-certified pilots teach the ground instruction on Ben Lippen's campus during the program's first semester. During the second semester, students may use the scheduled time to work on their flight hours.

"We desire to offer our students various types of opportunities to develop their passions for their future," said Assistant Head of School of Academics, Dr. Monica Remer.

Ben Lippen School is a Pre-K-3 to 12th grade Christian school and is a ministry of CIU. ■



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A REWARDING CAREER



as a COUNSELOR

By Bob Holmes

Photos by LaShay Price, used with permission



Violette Adams wanted to be a counselor since she was a child and was considering where she could study for a graduate degree in clinical counseling. Her answer came electronically — with a holiday greeting.

“I actually don’t know how this happened — to this day I have no idea — I got an email on Christmas Day from CIU that said, ‘Merry Christmas from CIU,’” Adams recalled in a phone interview. “And that is what led me to look at the (CIU) website to see if they offered the (counseling) program.”

Adams enrolled, graduated with her master’s degree in clinical counseling in 2019, and today is a licensed professional counselor at Everyday Wellness in downtown Columbia, a group that includes a number of Christian counselors.

Adams says CIU’s clinical counseling within a biblical worldview was important to her as she contrasted it to secular programs offered by state schools, plus the CIU community also won her over and helped her succeed.

“I really aligned with Dr. (Larry) Wagner when I was there, and he did a really, really wonderful job of allowing me to come to him with my insecurities and fears,” Adams said. “I was also fortunate in my cohort, that I had a really strong group of friendships that developed quickly, all of whom I am still very close to.”

She also credits an internship with a local school district’s intervention services.

“I left my internship feeling so confident ... because that internship was so hands-on,” Adams said. “I left feeling I could do it.”

“I think hands-down, this is my favorite part, seeing what can come when someone is truly invested in their growth — when someone truly wants to feel better and be the best version of themselves,” Adams said. “Getting to see that ... it’s just so powerful.”

And now, Adams is ready to take the next step in her career. She has enrolled in CIU’s new Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision. The program prepares graduates to work as counselor educators, supervisors, researchers, and practitioners in academic and clinical settings with professional excellence and from a contextualized biblical worldview.

“I want to be able to move to a more supervisory type of role to build up new clinicians. But I also want to be able to teach future clinicians,” Adams said. “I want to speak with a group of students the way Dr. Wagner and Dr. (Glenda) Nanna were able to do for me. I really want to move to a place like CIU to teach.” ■

“*When someone truly wants to feel better and be the best version of themselves...getting to see that...it’s just so powerful.*”

—VIOLETTE ADAMS
2019 Counseling graduate, now enrolled in the Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision program.

“It’s just so powerful”

And indeed, she is doing it. Her webpage says she enjoys working with children, adolescents, adults, and families, walking alongside them in their journey toward self-improvement and personal growth.

As an example, she notes a client who would isolate “for days at a time” whenever the smallest difficulties entered her life. But now, even with a cancer diagnosis in her family, she continues to go to work, take care of herself and cope in healthy ways.



Check out CIU’s **Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision** program



Check out CIU’s **Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling** program

Glorifying God

THROUGH *the* BEAUTIFUL AVENUE *of* MUSIC

By Bryce Thompson, Ambassador Choir Director

*Now night will give where fear is reigning. | The people who walk in the dark will see a great light. Over those who live in the dark the Light is shining. | Alleluia! –Isaiah 9:2 (Sköld)**

Dwarfed by the marble grandeur of the cathedral, I remember attempting to keep a calm and steady tempo while being utterly moved as the words of Isaiah were sung over me. This powerful text alluding to the coming Messiah was paired with music brilliantly crafted by a composer born halfway around the world. What started as a hushed statement of assurance immediately swelled into a full and dissonant pentatonic scale being sung simultaneously. A burst of color. A kaleidoscope of sound. The announcement of the King's arrival through finely composed harmony reverberating off of the room's smooth surfaces.

However excellently the music was composed, or however tirelessly the performers prepared it, it was the juxtaposition of this with my students' faces that sent chills down my spine. These young singers relish the opportunity to minister in Jesus' name. The students of the CIU Ambassador Choir personally know the One about whom they sing and are passionate about making Him known. I could see the conviction on their faces and sense the intensity through their detailed work. How striking it is to see a group of collegiate people sing with conviction and to hear them declare the most

redemptive story ever written. They work together to articulate the truth; a light shining in an increasingly darkening world.

Teaching and directing the CIU Ambassador Choir is a humbling place to be and I am honored by the opportunity. I get to work with them each day and see these musical disciplines translate to spiritual disciplines in their lives. Collectively, it is our desire to reflect the legacy of Bill Supplee, David Osterlund, Rod Lewis, Becky Kilgus and the singers who have joined them over the decades. To proclaim what the previous iterations of this choir knew to be true: that Jesus conquered sin, made a way for us to commune with Him and that He is coming again. May God continue to be glorified through us, not only through the beautiful avenue of music, but in the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts. ■



Under the direction of **Bryce Thompson**, the CIU Ambassador Choir has toured and performed in North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Pennsylvania, New York, Washington, D.C. and South Carolina in the past few years. If you would like to have them sing in your community, please contact Bryce Thompson at bryce.thompson@ciu.edu.

*Sköld, Agneta, composer. Hodie Christus natus est. 2007. Walton Music, 2007. Score.

Ambassador Choir Memories

Many alumni have fond memories of their years in the Ambassador Choir under Bill Supplee from 1949 to 1989. His wife Joyce is also remembered for adding her voice to the harmonies and for overseeing the administration of the Choir. Later alumni remember singing under the direction of Dr. David Osterlund affectionately known as Doc. O, who in retirement, became the first director of the CIU Prison Initiative, while also organizing a prison band.

The word that comes to mind when I think of the Ambassador Choir is "Family." As you practice together, travel together, laugh together and even cry together you become like family. Doc O (Director Dr. David Osterlund) became like a dad to me. The sweetness of our voices together was unforgettable as well. I have wonderful memories of all of us in the choir room working to get the harmonies just right and what joy it was to hear when we finally got it right.

TAMMY ARROWSMITH BROWN (Early 1990s)

It was life-changing as we began our longest and best life relationship as a couple during fall tour in 1980, under the encouragement and teasing of Mr. Supplee. (We've now been married 41 years.) Mr. Supplee instilled in us a deeper love for worshiping our Savior. Watching him lead worship was one of the highlights of our college experience. His mentoring through small groups strengthened our walk with the Lord and blessed us with deep friendships. Over 40 years later we can still recall choir songs we learned.

CRISSY & RICH GREETE (1980-82)

The thing that has remained with me most profoundly from my year in the Ambassador Choir is the worshipful expression on Mr. Supplee's face as he directed us. No matter how many times he directed those songs, the truths were always fresh to him. So many of those songs have remained with me through the years: "All the Way My Savior Leads Me," "Blessed Be God" and "How Firm a Foundation" to name a few. About a year ago I discovered a cassette tape recording of one of our concerts. It is the most requested music by my six-year-old granddaughter. I'm thrilled for those songs to be loved by another generation.

DENISE TALLEY WALL (1977-78)

I have many wonderful memories from my time in Ambassador Choir under the leadership of Dr. Osterlund. Probably the best memories are during our choir tour to the country of Estonia. We sang at small churches and public spaces like schools and museums. The songs that Dr. Osterlund chose for us to sing will stay with me forever. We stayed in the homes of believers there and that was an opportunity for us to get to know the people of Estonia. It was my first trip abroad and it helped me to realize there are believers everywhere, not just in America.

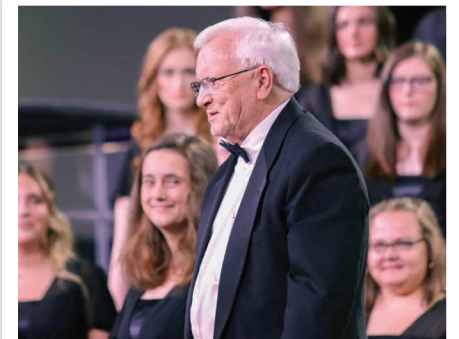
MISTY HARLEY (1994-2001)

My junior year I was choir secretary and learned firsthand that not only was Mr. Supplee an incredibly trained musician who knew how to "take you to the throne" while you were singing, he also was a stickler for details – a bit of a perfectionist! We lined up differently every time based on height, vocals, and attendance (the choir was so large we could not all go to each performance). He meticulously studied and rearranged us for every performance. One time I checked the wrong person as present, and he had to redo the entire line up. Oops!

BARB BELLEFEUILLE (1973-75)

We loved Bill and Joyce Supplee. Their wonderful, peaceful guidance and leadership was so special. Because Joyce sang in the choir and was active in scheduling, we got to see them both together more than other faculty members. They were truly role models for us. The Ambassador Choir felt like a place where we belonged.

–From the Jones family: **MORGAN JONES (1974); MICHAEL JONES (1971); NANCY (JONES) THOMPSON (1968)**



▲ Dr. David Osterlund (Doc. O)



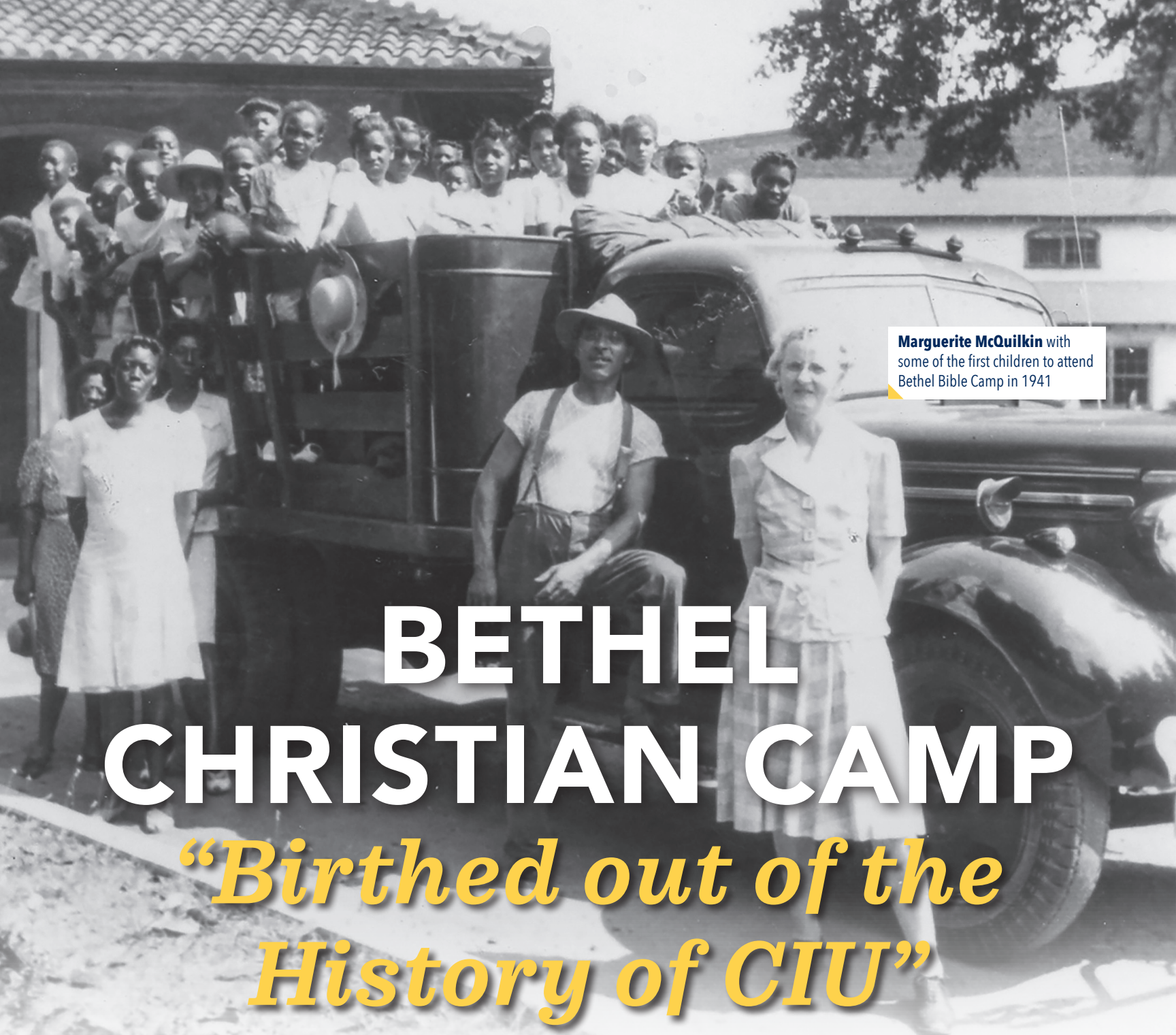
▲ Ambassador Choir with Bill Supplee in 1973



▲ President Eisenhower and Ambassador Choir 1958 Augusta, Georgia



▲ Ambassador Choir on South Carolina Statehouse Steps in 1950



Marguerite McQuilkin with some of the first children to attend Bethel Bible Camp in 1941

BETHEL CHRISTIAN CAMP

“Birthed out of the History of CIU”

FOUNDED IN 1941 FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHILDREN BY CIU’S FIRST LADY

There are likely few people still around who knew Marguerite McQuilkin, the wife of Columbia International University’s first president Robert C. McQuilkin.

But 93-year-old Ruth Butler Sims of Columbia is one of them. And she knew her for something very special — Bethel Bible Camp — founded by Mrs. McQuilkin in 1941 for African-American children, during an era when there were no summer camps for Black children. Sims was among the 39 children at the first camp, which is still going strong today under the name Bethel Christian Camp, with a focus on all underserved youth.

“She was just beautiful,” Sims said of McQuilkin at a fundraiser for the camp. “She was so sincere. She was interested in Blacks as well as Whites. And she was determined that this camp would be for the underprivileged.”



(Photo courtesy of Shirl Schiffman)

“*She was so sincere. She was interested in Blacks as well as Whites. And she was determined that this camp would be for the underprivileged.*”

—RUTH BULTER SIMS one of the first to attend Bethel Bible Camp, describing Marguerite McQuilkin



It was through the camp that Sims was led to Christ.

“We would have these cabin meetings at night,” Sims recalled. “It was a concentrated time ... the counselors would come and talk to us and that was when I was saved.”

Those camp counselors were often students from Columbia Bible College, now Columbia International University.

Marguerite McQuilkin had no experience in setting up such an endeavor, but at that time she told *The Columbia Record* newspaper that she wanted Bethel to be a place where kids could sing camp songs and play games, where they could hear and learn the gospel and where at least for a moment, skin color didn’t matter.

“We hope to build Christian character and develop an interest in missions in the young people who come and to teach them to understand the Christian message,” McQuilkin told the newspaper.

The vice chair of today’s Bethel Christian Camp Board of Directors is Dr. Karen Grant, who is also a CIU Youth Ministry professor. As CIU celebrates its 100th anniversary, Grant sees God’s faithfulness through the years to CIU and Bethel, describing Bethel as “birthed out of the history of CIU.”

“If we were to look at the impact CIU has had over 100 years, whether that’s Bethel Christian Camp or individuals on the mission field, I don’t think this side of heaven we’ll get to see the true impact CIU has had over many, many years,” Grant said.

Over eight decades later, many of the Bethel Christian Camp counselors are still CIU students, and one CIU alumna has been on staff since graduating in 2003.

“I wanted to take the values I learned from my professors at CIU — investing in, discipling and reaching the next generation for Christ,” Elise “Skippy” Anderson told those gathered at the Bethel fundraiser. “Bethel offers many opportunities for our campers and staff to hear the gospel ... our campers hear about the love of Christ and the difference He can make in our daily lives.”

Bethel Executive Director Jarl Hill marvels at the CIU connection and says Marguerite McQuilkin’s work put her and CIU ahead of the culture in 1941.

“(CIU) was a part of the Civil Rights Movement without even knowing that’s what they were doing ... How cool is that?” said Hill.

There was one criterion that Marguerite McQuilkin had for the children to attend Bethel in 1941. They had to memorize and recite Bible verses. Ruth Butler Simms remembers them 82 years later.



“Though I speak with the tongue of men and angels and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass,” Simms

recited from 1 Corinthians 13, and in the same breath, launched into Psalm 34. “O magnify the LORD with me, let us exalt his name together.” ■



Emily Dick

CIU's founding began with one woman's ministry to mill workers and her group of **"PRAYING WOMEN"**

One hundred years ago, the textile mill towns of South Carolina were a place of rampant poverty, epidemic illiteracy, poor sanitation and lawless streets. Emily Dick adopted these communities as her mission field. The founding of Columbia International University always points back to her.

With Spirit-fueled energy, she visited mill village homes, offering instruction in sewing, cooking, health, and recreation classes. She shared the gospel and taught Bible lessons at every opportunity.

As people turned to the Lord under her ministry, their lives changed. When the mill companies noticed, Emily was asked to start similar programs throughout the Southeast. To better equip herself, she enrolled in a four-month course at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. That experience made a deep impact on Emily, and as early as 1918 she envisioned a similar school in Columbia where her coworkers and converts could study. Gathering with her mother and a core group of friends, they began to pray for a Bible school in the South, and today they are recognized as "The Praying Women." Their prayers came to fruition in 1923 as Columbia Bible School, later renamed Columbia Bible College, and today is Columbia International University.

Emily was born in New York City in 1889. Her family moved to Columbia and were members of First Presbyterian Church where her mother was superintendent of the church's Sabbath Schools Primary Department. Emily's 1962 obituary from The State newspaper read:

"She attended schools in Columbia and graduated from the College for Women in Columbia and later of the Moody Bible School in Chicago. She taught piano in the Virgil Clavier Piano school in Columbia, and in the old Columbia Theological Seminary plant at Blanding and Pickens streets. She organized the Fair Haven home for daughters of missionary parents. In the same period she headed the religious work of the Columbia Y. M. C. A."

But Emily did not stay in Columbia. There was ministry for her in Virginia and Florida:

"In recent years, Miss Dick called Norfolk her home, and she was active in religious work there. Besides the Norfolk Bible school, she conducted Bible classes for Navy wives, and she conducted a religious program of Child Evangelism in Miami and Norfolk, as well as numerous Bible classes in homes and churches of Norfolk."

While ministry took her elsewhere, the obituary notes: "The Columbia Bible College, it has been said, was born in Miss Dick's heart ... She worked zealously for the College all of her life." Just two years before her death, CIU moved from downtown Columbia to north of the city, with Emily still manifesting "intense interest in the new plant of the Bible college on Monticello road."

Emily died at Lakeside Rest Home in Lexington, South Carolina on Sunday Aug. 26, 1962 at 7:30 p.m. She is buried next to her parents in Columbia's Elmwood Cemetery. ■



A gift from the hand of a TWO-YEAR OLD lives on in CIU history

The 1948 photo of a man in a suit being handed something by a small child is dark and grainy with a crease near the bottom. But the warmth of that captured moment still comes through.

The man is R.C. McQuilkin, the first president of Columbia International University, then known as Columbia Bible College (CBC). The girl is two-year-old Alleene Petty, the daughter of longtime CBC administrator Tom Petty. She is handing McQuilkin a donation of a silver dollar, one of 25 silver dollars the Petty family donated, celebrating CIU's Silver Anniversary — 25 years after its founding in 1923. The silver dollar would become a CIU tradition.

In 1972, at CIU's 50th anniversary, a letter from CIU's third president, Robertson McQuilkin, thanks Alleene for "the tremendous gift of silver dollars." Fifty silver dollars to be exact. But the letter is addressed to Mrs. Alleene Kracht. By this time, she was a CBC alumna married to fellow CBC alumnus Doug Kracht.

At CIU's 75th anniversary celebration in 1998, Alleene made a presentation of 75 silver dollars to CIU President Dr. Johnny Miller.

Dr. Miller was honored to accept this special gift and deeply appreciated the tradition being maintained throughout Alleene's lifetime. "God encouraged us in numerous ways while I was serving at CIU. Alleene's anniversary gifts were unique and memorable as we thanked the Lord for her support."

The tradition is expected to continue as CIU celebrates 100 years of God's faithfulness in 2023. The Petty family and other donors are providing a gift of — you guessed it — 100 silver dollars!

As for Alleene and Doug Kracht, they ministered for many years in Jamaica, Cuba and Spain, and were named CIU Alumni of the Year in 2019. Alleene passed away in 2020 at age 74. But the endearing photo of two-year-old Alleene, and subsequent thank you letter to her from R.C. McQuilkin lives on in CIU's history.

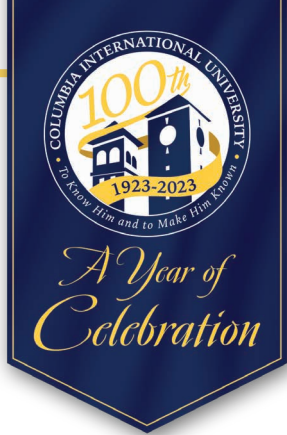
In the letter, McQuilkin quips that he hopes "our picture turns out all right," and notes that Oct. 1, CBC's birthday when first classes were held, is the same day as Alleene's birthday.

"I shall always remember this gift on October 1 from Alleene Petty," McQuilkin wrote. "I am sure there will be no other gift like that. We will pray that all of the October 1sts will be very happy days because we live for Jesus." ■



Two-year-old Alleene Petty hands CIU's first president R.C. McQuilkin a silver dollar in 1948 on the school's 25th anniversary.

The tradition will continue in 2023



The 100th Anniversary GRAND FINALE CELEBRATION

**NOVEMBER 2-4
REGISTER NOW!**

We're putting the finishing touches on a huge Grand Finale for the 100th Anniversary Celebration on Nov. 2-4. Alumni and friends of CIU will be joining with current students, faculty and staff - the culmination of a yearlong commemoration of a century of answered prayers.

Special events include three CIU alumni: Hear singer/songwriter Laura Story in concert with the CIU Ambassador Choir, have breakfast with best-selling author Rob Morgan, and be encouraged by pastor, speaker and award-winning author Paul Tripp.

Among the exciting activities are CIU Roots Tours that include a visit to the historic Robert Mills House, a part of CIU's downtown campus prior to 1960. Other Roots Tour locations focus on CIU's heritage and importance to South Carolina's capital city.

Celebrate CIU's mission to the world at the international flag parade on CIU's International Boulevard led by 50-year alumni. There will also be class reunions, and be sure to stay for fireworks!

The highlight of the weekend is a 100th Anniversary Gala and Hall of Faith induction. *(Registration required for Gala/Hall of Faith induction.)*



Register for the Grand Finale and 100th Celebration at ciu.edu/celebration

HALL OF FAITH

In celebration of CIU's 100th Anniversary, CIU will be honoring the first inductees into the new CIU Hall of Faith. These individuals have demonstrated significant Kingdom impact, a commitment to CIU's motto, "To Know Him and To Make Him Known," and have embodied CIU's core values. The inductees are:

The Praying Women who gathered regularly in the early 20th century to specifically ask God for a Bible school in Columbia.

Joy Ridderhof, one of the first graduates of CIU in 1925, founded Gospel Recordings using creative means to deliver the gospel to undereducated and underdeveloped regions of the world.

James M. "Buck" Hatch a 1939 CIU graduate who later served the school as teacher, counselor and administrator for more than 40 years.

Cliff Bedell a former missionary to the Philippines who came to CIU to teach New Testament, Cultural Anthropology and his well-known Romans class for 36 years before retiring in 2009.

Dr. Kevin McWilliams earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from CIU before becoming a missionary to the West Indies. He became a CIU professor in 1996 and continues in that role today.

100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CHAPEL

A special 100th Anniversary Chapel is scheduled for Nov. 3 at 11:00 a.m. and begins with an international flag parade on International Boulevard leading to Shortess Chapel. The Chapel ceremony will include:

- The Ambassador Choir
- A presentation of 100 silver dollars donated to CIU — a tradition dating back to 1948
- Introduction of Ruth Butler Sims, a 1941 Bethel Bible Camp participant *(See Page 14)*
- A message on CIU's history from former CIU board member Delaine Blackwell



Ruth Butler Sims



Delaine Blackwell

The public is invited to attend!

What are your fondest memories of CIU?

College days are filled with moments to remember. Join with fellow classmates and faculty from your past at the 100th Anniversary Celebration as you reminisce on your fondest memories. What are yours?

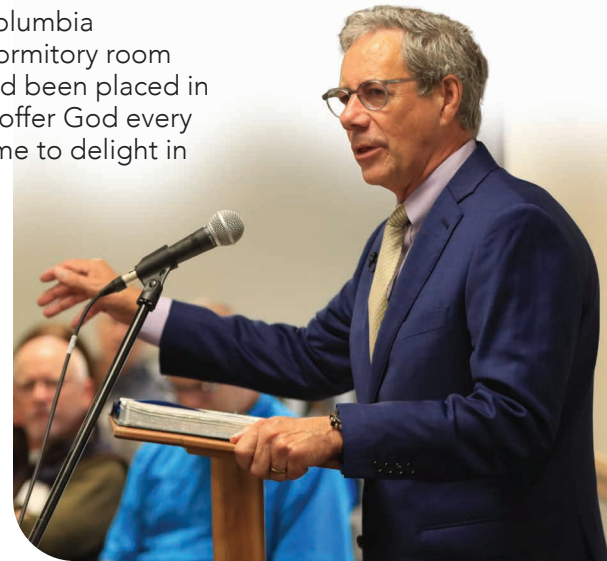
We asked that question to our Grand Finale special guests. Here is what they shared with us.

Rob Morgan remembers:

One evening when I was 18, I had a distinct impression I should enroll in Columbia International University in South Carolina. On Sept. 2, 1971, I walked into my dormitory room and presently two roommates showed up, Don Morgan and Bill McCoy. We had been placed in our rooms alphabetically. Bill, full of zeal, wasted no time in challenging me to offer God every part of my life as best I could. He told me God had a plan for me and wanted me to delight in His nearness every day. The Holy Spirit, Bill said, longed to flow through me. Bill picked up his guitar and starting singing, "Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea."

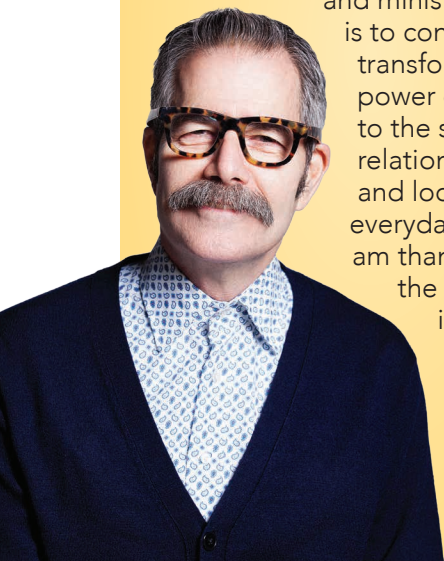
Something clicked that night, and I knew that was what I wanted — a closer walk with God. The next evening, I knelt by an old sofa and asked the Lord to take control of my life. Whatever He wanted. Wherever He sent. That night God flipped a switch of adrenaline inside me that has never shut off. I began learning how to live in God's presence, to enjoy His company, and, with His help, to walk with Him. In the half-century since, I've had ups and downs. Life has been harder and heavier than I expected, and I've had ongoing battles with anxiety. I'm appalled at mistakes I've made along the way. But that "closer walk with Thee" is my lifeline.

Rob Morgan shares a devotional with CIU alumni at Homecoming 2022



Paul Tripp remembers:

My fondest memory of my time at CBC (now CIU) is not an event or a person, but something that was there everywhere all of the time. It was the emphasis on the centrality of the Word of God in every area of life, in every field of thought and in every human endeavor. This emphasis so influenced and captured me that it launched everything I have done in my life and ministry. My life and ministry goal is to connect the transforming power of Scripture to the situations, relationships and locations of everyday life. I am thankful that the spark that ignited at CBC still burns in me today.



Laura Story remembers:

I transferred to CIU my sophomore year of college after a fairly tough freshman year at another school. It had been my first time away from home and my decision making had not represented the faith my parents had instilled in me growing up. The summer prior to me transferring, I had gone on a mission trip to Mongolia, and through sharing the gospel with nomads, as they heard about the grace of God for the first time, I began to hear it again for the first time. By the end of the trip, I knew I was willing to follow Jesus anywhere.

It was on that trip that CIU alumnus, Adrian Despres told me about CIU. I will never forget my first chapel, stepping into the large auditorium and seeing so many other students worshipping. The speaker that morning was (CIU's fifth president) George Murray, and he offered to pray for anyone needing prayer. As I sheepishly walked forward, I remember feeling so overwhelmed, so insecure, and wondering how I could ever be good enough for ministry.

"My appetite for sin feels far greater than my appetite for God," I shared. "Well, then," he responded, "we will pray that God will use this place to grow your appetite for Him." God used CIU to show me a bigger picture of Him, to develop in my heart a greater love for His church and showed me how I might play a small part in furthering His Kingdom. And for that, I am forever grateful.



Laura Story sings with Ambassador Choir

It's **WAY MORE THAN** *just a phone*



CIU Alumnus Equips Missionaries and Nonprofits How to Tell Stories through their Phones

The YouTube video begins with CIU alumnus Adam Erickson, a 2007 graduate of the Communication program, looking into the camera from his production studio in South Carolina's Lowcountry. Dressed in a black t-shirt and baseball cap, his engaging, folksy delivery introduces his new YouTube channel:

"Stories matter. They change lives, they inspire action, and they entertain. We've all got stories that are worth telling. I just really wish there was a camera that we all had that is in our pocket at all times that we could use to tell these stories."

That's when the bearded filmmaker notices the smartphone he has been holding in his hand as if he has made some new discovery.

Welcome to Smartphone Storytellers. The website is Erickson's way of helping your ministry or nonprofit tell your story with that device you've been using as an alarm clock, GPS and maybe even a telephone.

"We live in a world where everyone has an amazing filmmaking tool in their pocket, they just need to know how to use it," Erickson said in an email interview.

At Smartphone Storytellers, Erickson posts weekly videos that teach all the aspects of storytelling. Erickson operates his own business, Adam C. Erickson Productions, and is in his 12th year as a filmmaker and live director at Seacoast Church in Charleston, South Carolina. His heart is to equip

Erickson teaching the basics of storytelling on a July trip to Brazil. ▼



missionaries and nonprofits to use the phone they already have to tell stories of the life change their organizations are seeing.

“Stories give people a chance to see the work that is happening and become emotionally involved,” Erickson said. “They’re also able to share these stories with their friends and invite them to become involved. There have been numerous times where I’ve become involved in a cause after someone shared a video.”

What kind of topics will you find on Smartphone Storytellers?

“I cover everything from the technical details to the techniques and tricks needed to craft a story,” Erickson said. “How do you light your shot? How do I improve my audio? What should go into my script? What should I keep in mind as I edit? I try to keep my focus on the gear people are most likely going to have around them, and show that you don’t need high-end gear to tell a powerful story.”

His goal is to cover the full process — preproduction to shooting to final edit — in a single resource that will walk the storyteller through everything they need to create a story.

Erickson’s heart for ministry, combined with his videography skills goes back to his days as a CIU student. He originally enrolled to study student ministry, but throughout his college career, he found himself making videos. He made so many videos that he was the only student outside the Communication program with permission to use the Communication cameras.

One day a fellow student invited Erickson to sit in on a video production class. As the professor passed out tapes for an upcoming assignment, he handed a few to Erickson who reminded the professor he was not enrolled in the class.

Erickson remembers the professor responding, “Yeah, but you always make videos so I figured they’d be useful.”

It was then that Erickson realized that he loved making videos and could make a career of it.

“Over the summer I prayed about it, and when I returned I switched majors to Communication,” Erickson said.

Erickson points back to his CIU education as an asset to every part of his career, including the idea for Smartphone Storytellers.

“CIU gave me the exposure and connection with missionaries around the world — including marrying a missionary kid,” Erickson quips. “I’ve been able to support my friends in missions in the roles that God has called them to... but it also gave me a heart to serve them by sharing my skills and knowledge.” ■



Get tips for your next smartphone shoot from Adam Erickson. Checkout Smartphone Storytellers at youtube.com/SmartphoneStorytellers



Fast-Growing Ph.D.

TRAINING STUDENTS FOR LEADERSHIP AROUND THE WORLD

As members of the Class of '23 were celebrating in The Quad after the graduate commencement in May, it was the first time some of them had set foot on campus. They earned their degree online.

Among them was Luke Lundstedt from Santiago, Chile, who is now Dr. Luke Lundstedt, having earned a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership (POL), one of CIU's fastest growing programs.

Lundstedt will be helping the Far East Broadcasting Company bring the gospel into countries that are difficult to access by using various media including radio, mp3, podcasts and streaming. He says what he learned through the POL is essential to the work.

"I'll be helping to facilitate partnerships across Central and Pacific Asia and East Africa," Lundstedt said. "So, I'll be doing a lot of partnership development and strategy development."

POL was developed by Dr. Brian Simmons, the vice president of CIU Global, the university's online school. He developed the program by asking a series of important questions.

- How can I build a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership degree program with intentionality to guide students to know Him (God) and make Him known?
- How can I build a doctoral program that would intentionally educate students from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ?
- How can I design an academically rigorous, practical doctoral degree program that would build on CIU's core value of the Authority of Scripture?

▼ Dr. Luke Lundstedt with his POL mentor, CIU Interim President Dr. Rick Christman



“

***You have to be biblically-centered,
Christ-centered to lead in an
effective way.***

”

—DR. STEPHANIE CARTER-GREEN / PH.D. in Organizational Leadership

- How can I design a degree program that would go beyond biblical integration to biblical immersion recognizing that all truth in every academic discipline including the field of organizational leadership is God’s truth?
- How can I best meet the needs of adult students?

The answer to those questions resonated with graduate Dr. Stephanie Carter-Green from New Jersey who has a leadership background in law enforcement.

“This program allowed me to deepen my faith in the Lord because He is the ultimate leader,” Carter-Green said in *The Quad* with her degree in hand. “You have to be biblically-centered, Christ-centered to lead in an effective way.”

For two decades Simmons has focused his attention on Christian higher education and more specifically online graduate Christian education. As he developed the POL, he asked a few additional questions.

- What hurdles do doctoral students face?
- Why do many students get hung up as “ABD” (all but dissertation)?
- How can we change the traditional doctoral program paradigm of content courses, followed by portfolios, comprehensive examinations and finally the writing of the dissertation that can sometimes get bogged down and can stretch out over six years or more?

Simmons says a significant answer to those questions is a unique aspect of the POL — the pairing of students with mentors who walk with them from the beginning to the end of their academic journey. These mentors also serve as the chairs of the students’ dissertation committees.



▲ POL graduate Dr. Stephanie Carter-Green

For Lundstedt, his mentor was Dr. Rick Christman who would become CIU’s interim president by the time Lundstedt completed his doctorate.

“He was helpful, very helpful,” Lundstedt said. “He helped me across the finish line.”

Why does CIU’s POL focus on the preparation of organizational leaders?

“Because as leaders are transformed they can transform the organizations they lead,” answers Simmons. “CIU’s POL prepares effective leaders who put service over self-interest like Jesus did. We encourage these leaders to seek God’s purposes for all He has so graciously entrusted to their care, including the people and organizations they lead, with the understanding that we love and serve God by loving and serving others.” ■

Check out CIU’s **Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership** program



This is the fifth of five CIU Today articles highlighting CIU's five core values.

EVANGELICAL UNITY

MAKING IT UNDERSTOOD

By Dr. David A. Croteau
Dean of CIU Seminary and School of Counseling

Evangelical Unity

is one of CIU's five core values along with Authority of Scripture, Victorious Christian Living, World Evangelism, and Prayer & Faith. Evangelical unity as defined at CIU means accepting other Christians of evangelical conviction, regardless of denominational or theological affinity, for purposes of fellowship, encouragement, edification, and ministry. But we need to further clarify a couple of terms.

The Meaning of Evangelical

Evangelicals are a subset of Christians. The way CIU uses the word has nothing to do with politics or ethnicity. No definition of evangelical has been universally accepted. But the quadrilateral from Baylor University history professor Dr. David Bebbington is a good place to begin. To a certain extent, all four of the following concepts are under attack today.

Centrality of the Bible: The Bible alone is the authority for all truth. Many evangelicals would also insist on including terms like inerrancy and verbal, plenary inspiration. This is in line with CIU's core value of the authority of Scripture. The centrality of the Bible must be the first concept in defining evangelicalism because at their core, evangelicals must submit all their beliefs to the Bible.

Centrality of the cross: Evangelicals place a strong focus on the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross and the necessity of his penal substitutionary atonement for sinners. This concept gets to the heart of the gospel, how God designed a way to reconcile sinners to the Father through the Son.



Every theological truth is important, but not all have the same level of importance.

Importance of conversion: Sinners need to be born again or converted and the required response to the gospel is belief and repentance.

Activism: The gospel needs to be expressed in effort. An evangelical's belief in God should be expressed in good works and evangelism. The word "evangelical" finds its origin in the Greek word for the gospel, the good news. If someone does not believe in or does not practice evangelism, then they are not truly evangelical.

The Meaning of Unity

Every theological truth is important, but not all have the same level of importance. This reality should help evangelicals unite around core or central doctrines and allow us to disagree on less important doctrines without being divisive. For example, while the doctrine of baptism is important, evangelicals have disagreed on what the Bible says about baptism. At CIU, we respect these differences and unite around more important doctrines. While Christ's work on the cross has positionally united all Christians (see Ephesians 2:15), this creates the obligation to live out this unity. Ephesians 4:2 explains what it looks like to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called: "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love" (ESV).

Conclusion

As someone with specialized training in exegesis and theology, it would be easy for me to have strong opinions that could cause division between myself and other evangelicals. I try to remember the distinction between essentials and other doctrines. I attempt to have a charitable spirit as we discuss our differences, always hoping to stay in the center of biblical tension. ■

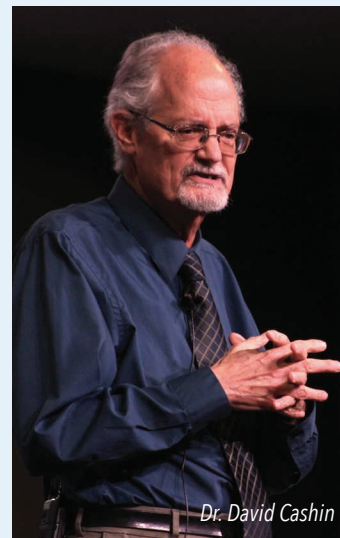


Watch **Dr. David Croteau's Chapel message** on this topic

BELOVED PROFESSOR DELIVERS LAST CHAPEL MESSAGE DURING EVANGELICAL UNITY WEEK

While Evangelical Unity at CIU is defined as "accepting other Christians of evangelical conviction, regardless of denominational or theological affinity, for purposes of fellowship, encouragement, edification and ministry," a popular CIU professor discussed unity in marriage during CIU's Evangelical Unity Week.

Longtime Intercultural Studies Professor Dr. David Cashin, who was delivering his last Chapel message before retiring, addressed unity in marriage. He discussed how the marriage covenant



Dr. David Cashin

that a man and a woman make in their vows, is reflective of Jesus Christ and his bride, the Church.

Cashin tenderly reflected on his bride Margareta, and the 35 years they have shared. He then challenged the students to reflect on the vows they will make on their wedding day. Noting that brides and grooms are too distracted on their wedding day to pay

attention to the vows they make, he even had the student body recite the traditional wedding vows in unison; first the men, then the women.

Additionally, he pointed out that the Bible begins with a wedding (Adam and Eve) and ends with another wedding (the marriage supper of the Lamb), and how this demonstrates the importance of healthy relationships between husbands and wives.

CIU junior Joey Christensen appreciated that Cashin "gave so much practical advice about marriage, and conveyed the importance of what we say when we make those vows." ■

Unity

ON THE BEACH

By Dr. Sandra Archer Young

**Names have been changed*

When I reflect on that day, I jokingly refer to it as “The trans-denominational Atlantic baptism.” One sunny Sunday afternoon, a white Southern Baptist congregation and an African Methodist Episcopal (AME) congregation, each located directly across the street from one another, jointly celebrated one of Christianity’s most holy sacraments on a South Carolina beach. For me that day continues to represent a tangible expression and reminder of the unity we can experience in Christ.

At 3:00 p.m., members from both churches began to arrive at the location, a clean, public beachfront. Sunbathers dotted the sea line below the area designated for the baptism. The candidates for baptism from the Baptist church came dressed in shorts, tee shirts and flip flops. The candidates from the AME church arrived dressed in thin white cotton robes; women wore a white head wrap. That is their tradition. The Rev. Peters*, the Baptist pastor, arrived dressed casually, just like his members while the Rev. Wright, the AME pastor, wore black pants and a white shirt; over his shirt he wore a short, white choir tunic.

The two pastors shook hands, and the service began. One of the church officers joined Wright and they strode into the water together. About five yards away, Peters and his assistant took their positions in the sea. A young mother of four, waded timidly into the water toward Wright. He and the officer carefully placed their hands behind her back. She confessed Christ as her Savior. Then came the declaration:

“I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Serious words accompanying

the testimony of a good conscience. They pulled her backward gently into the sea. She sprang forward, laughing and crying at the same time. Everyone on the shore cheered.

We waited as Peters prepared to baptize one of his parishioners. A young teenaged girl went down and popped back up with a shout. We cheered. Wright baptized another member, a middle-aged retail executive. Peters in turn baptized another one of his members.

And then something unexpected happened. A member of the Baptist church, a young man, walked slowly through the waves towards Wright to be baptized. They waved him over, exchanged words with him, and then positioned their hands behind his back.

“I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,” Wright shouted above the waves. The young man went down and came back up. We cheered and clapped, strangely moved. And then one of our members walked over to Peters to be baptized. One by one, the scene was repeated: the walk, the dip, the shouts of praise. A crowd of persons from both churches joyfully documented the event with camera clicks and cellphone videos.

And then we noticed that it wasn’t only church members applauding. Onlookers and individuals passing by were cheering, too. I wondered what was odder — grown men and women dressed in white robes on a warm Sunday afternoon being baptized in the cool ocean waters, or an African American and a white pastor baptizing persons of another race.

A woman in the crowd approached me, her two



preschoolers following close behind. Her blond hair blew wildly beneath her wide, floppy hat. She touched my arm.

"We're from the North," she said. "And I have never seen anything like this."

The North, I thought. As opposed to the *South*.

"Thank you," I said. She, like the rest of us recognized that something extraordinary was happening and all we could do was gaze, captivated by what we knew to be a sacred moment, even with the cultural clash of shorts, tee shirts, and white robes.

Another stranger, an elderly lady, walked up to me. I turned as she spoke softly.

"It was great, wasn't it?" she asked. It sounded more like an observation than a question. I nodded. "Yes," I responded, "This is a great day, a day to remember." What did the Bible say? In my mind I hunted for a Scripture and then I remembered the familiar passage from Psalm 133: "How good and pleasant it is when

God's people live together in unity."

The final candidate went down and came back up. The crowd cheered and I heard myself cheering loudly with them.

"Hallelujah!" we shouted. "Praise the Lord!" How fitting these phrases felt that day! God had done more than receive these ritualistic acts of obedience. He had offered to friends and strangers, saints and sinners, an authentic picture of healing, fellowship and reconciliation. Look, He seemed to whisper, through the back and forth wash of the sea, this is what authentic faith looks like.

I've witnessed many baptisms in church baptistries, borrowed swimming pools, and porcelain tubs. That afternoon, however, is undoubtedly one of the highlights. Making it happen didn't require a vote or anyone's approval. It just made sense. ■



About the Author: Dr. Sandra Young is the CIU Liberal Arts Division Chair, English Program Director and Professor of English

CIU RAMS ATHLETICS



CONGRATULATIONS TO AD DARREN RICHIE

CIU Athletics Director Darren Richie was inducted into the National Christian College Athletics Association (NCCAA) Hall of Fame in June.

In his 12 years as director of athletics at NCCAA institutions, Richie is noted for encouraging spiritual growth among athletes, better moral conduct, and buy-in to each school's Christian mission. While athletic departments under his leadership have seen much success, his commitment to using athletics as a platform to share Christ has had immeasurable Kingdom impact.

Richie served for nine years at Colorado Christian University (CCU) and has been the AD at CIU for three years. Over those 12 years, his programs have appeared in over 30 NCCAA national championships while winning six national titles. That success has also extended outside of the NCCAA with 13 conference championship titles, 12 NCAA Division II championship appearances, nine NAIA championship appearances, and two NAIA national titles.

While at CIU, Richie has initiated a Bible study for coaches, an athletics retreat, requires team chaplains and supported the addition of Fellowship of Christian Athletes on campus. Additionally, teams have had the opportunity to learn, grow and serve on mission trips to Central America. ■



▲ Darren Richie

CIU FRESHMAN EXCELS AT NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP

Columbia International University freshman Cierra White made an impressive showing at the USA Archery National Collegiate Championship held at Georgia Southern University in May. While representing CIU, White competed against some of the nation's largest schools such as Michigan State, Pitt, Texas A&M and other top athletic schools.

While other schools travelled with entire teams and tour buses, CIU was still there being proudly represented by White who shot a personal high score during qualifications and finished ranked #38 out of 62 in the recurve competition.

While CIU has no archery team, kudos to Cierra White for her commitment to her sport and a desire to represent CIU with excellence at the national level. ■

CIU ATHLETE IS AWARD WINNER AND INSPIRATION TO THE TEAM

Lauren Baker was born legally blind in her left eye and told she would never be able to play sports. Later in life she had a near drowning experience while being attacked by a dog that resulted in five plastic surgeries. The series of challenging health issues continued when she learned of a rare heart condition that resulted in open heart surgery, followed by ACL surgery and multiple other health conditions.

But Baker persevered through adversity and as she graduated from Columbia International University last spring with a Bachelor of Science in Sport Management, the shortstop for the CIU Rams softball team was recognized as the 2023 Deb Thompson Award recipient for softball by the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA).

In her senior year, Baker led the team with a .402 batting average, three home runs, nine stolen bases, and a team low in strikeouts with four across the season. In 2022, after leading her team to a runner-up finish at the NCCAA

Softball World Series, Baker was named to the All-Tournament team.

In academics, Baker graduated summa cum laude with a 3.9 GPA, was named to the Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC) All-Academic team and was an NCCAA Scholar-Athlete. She also served as one of the team's Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) huddle leaders. ■



Lauren Baker



▼ Cierra White

THREE NEW HEAD COACHES ARE LEADING CIU TEAMS THIS FALL

Jake Montgomery is the new head men’s golf coach. If his name is familiar it’s because Montgomery competed for the Rams from 2018-2021 and is the most decorated men’s golfer in the history of the program as a three-time NCCAA All-American and All-Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC) performer.

The CIU Rams new head volleyball coach knows what it takes to win. **Katie Weiss** comes to CIU after six years as the head women’s volleyball coach at Bethel University (Ind.), where she took a team that went 14-21 in 2017 to a 25-8 record, NAIA National Championship Tournament bid, and an NCCAA Women’s Volleyball National Championship in 2020. Weiss was named the 2020 Crossroads League Coach of the Year and the 2020 NCCAA National Coach of the Year.

The new CIU Rams head women’s basketball coach brings 30 years of international coaching experience to Columbia. He is **Mike Fitzpatrick** who comes to CIU after an extensive search. Fitzpatrick has coached basketball at the amateur and professional levels in Europe and Asia. In Japan he founded his own basketball academy. His most recent coaching position was in Kaiserslautern, Germany, coaching a regional women’s team. ■



BEN LIPPEN FALCONS ATHLETICS

BEN LIPPEN EQUESTRIANS ARE STATE CHAMPIONS FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

The team, coached by Jane Reese, beat cross-town rival Hammond for the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) 2023 Western State championship. They join the Ben Lippen wrestling team as 2023 “three-peats.”

Ben Lippen athletics has a WIN philosophy: Winning on the scoreboard, winning in life, and winning in eternity.

“Both wrestling and equestrian (teams) have accomplished an amazing feat of winning three consecutive state titles and have been a great representation of our WIN philosophy,” said Assistant Athletic Director Brian Larsen. “We continue to strive to allow our performances on the field to be used as a platform to point others to the cross.”

Ben Lippen School is a Pre-K3 to 12th grade Christian school and is a ministry of CIU. ■





Students Express Their Thanks

Over 200 people attended CIU's annual partner appreciation luncheon — the highest attendance on record. Donors and the students they financially support were mutually blessed to meet face-to-face and see the evidence of God's provision and blessing.

Anna, a student majoring in Intercultural Studies and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) called the event, "Wonderful."



Anna

wants to use her degree to be a missionary.

"It's just such an answer to prayer that I'm here, and the Lord has provided financially through these people," Anna said. "It's a joy to get to meet them and put a face with a name."

Anna's donors said they were excited to meet her.

"It was nice to see how the Lord has blessed us and laid it on our hearts to share with others and actually see the reality of that in a real live person who is being used of God," added Anna's donors.

Deandre, an international student from Jamaica, met with his scholarship donor as well as other donors with whom he shared a table during the lunch.

"It was like family," Deandre said. "One felt like my mom, one felt like my aunt. I am happy that God has people to build up others for the furtherance of His kingdom." ■



Deandre

plans to be an evangelist.

CIU | 1923 | 2023 | 100th

Immeasurably More

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us... —Ephesians 3:20



Diane Mull
VP Institutional
Advancement

Every Gift Matters

The hearts of CIU's alumni and friends are beating strong as you have recruited students, volunteered and invested financially! The past four editions of CIU Today magazine included the 100th Anniversary Campaign initiatives, so we want to share with you that EVERY gift given during this 100th celebration brings joy to our hearts and praise to our God. He has provided Immeasurably More funds, exceeding

our \$35 million goal. **Truly, He is our supplier and does so through you, our alumni and friends! Thank You!**

What is an Endowed Scholarship?

A donation given to a college or university where the gift portion is invested, and a percentage of earnings is awarded each year.

DID YOU KNOW?

- CIU's oldest established endowed scholarship is around 36 years old. **New endowed scholarships are "born" every year.**
- Many CIU endowed scholarships are established with a large gift after the death of a loved one. **Some endowed scholarships honor a family name, living friend or relative and are contributed to on a regular basis.**
- An endowed scholarship can award between \$1,000 and \$57,000 per academic year, depending on the value of each fund. **Approximately 145 CIU students are helped each semester by one or more endowed scholarships.**

Every endowed scholarship impacts a CIU student.

GIVE: To establish an endowed scholarship, please contact **Frank Bedell** at (803) 807-5001 or frank.bedell@ciu.edu.

You can make a difference



PRAY

Join the 1,000 Prayer Partners!

- ciu.edu/prayer



GIVE

Impact our Students!

- One time or monthly
- Online: ciu.edu/give
- Call: (803) 807-5006
- Mail: CIU Advancement Office
PO Box 3122
Columbia, SC 29230



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Stay informed.

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- [Facebook.com/Columbia International University](https://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaInternationalUniversity)
- ciuclassics.org



SHARE

Refer students for Legacy or Alumni Referral Grant. (\$4,000 value)



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- Stocks, bonds, IRAs
- Name CIU as beneficiary
- Wills, bequests & estate plans
- Charitable gift annuity
- Call: (803) 807-5001
- Email: frank.bedell@ciu.edu
- Visit: ciu.edu/plannedgiving

Alumni CLASS NOTES

1 BERNITA (SKELTON) PRESTON ('53) and her late husband Charles, served with TEAM in Dutch New Guinea, now Papua Indonesia, for 41 years. She lives with her daughter, Candy Preston ('77), in Florida. ✉ candlelyte@hotmail.com

2 J. ALLEN THOMPSON ('55), now in his 80s, has returned to Cuba to participate in a 10-year focus of gospel renewal. He joined a team of teaching pastors from the denomination his father founded. Hundreds of Bibles, books and manuals were printed and distributed free. ✉ jallenth5@gmail.com

LARRY MCCULLOUGH ('65) After serving as president of four Christian universities, Larry, now in retirement, serves as an accreditation evaluator for the Distance Education Accrediting Commission, a premier accreditor of online distance education. Larry with his wife, Ruth, reside in Nashville. ✉ ldmccullough37@yahoo.com

JOHN HARMON ('70) After serving as a pilot-mechanic with JAARS in Brazil, John now is now the CFO of Missionary Air Group. ✉ jc9harmon@gmail.com

KATHIE GIBBS ('71) lives with her sister in central New York state, near fellow alumnus and brother **LARRY GIBBS ('74)**. She spends as much time as possible with dozens of nieces and nephews in person or via any electronic means available. ✉ kathbartos@gmail.com

3 JOEL MCCALL ('72) is an associate pastor at Christ Covenant Church (PCA) in Knoxville, Tennessee, and full time with Equipping Leaders International, training pastors in Rwanda, Uganda, and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He and his wife Sarah have been married 51 years. ✉ wmjoelmccall@gmail.com

4 NORMAN ('75/'07) & CINDY (EASON) ('75) ROGERS. Norman retired after 40 years in pastoral ministry. He presently serves as an elder at Wellspring Baptist Church in Dublin, Georgia. ✉ snormanrogers@gmail.com

DAVID BANKS ('77) is the president pro tempore of the newly formed North Carolina Provisional Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church. His service as pastor of Garber Methodist Church ended in June so he could serve full time in his new position. ✉ dabanks.gmc@gmail.com

5 WAYNE ('78/'85) & JOYCE ('78) RAYCHARD served in Africa for over three decades as high school teachers with the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society (CBFMS) and with Africa Inland Mission in Kenya and Tanzania. They retired in 2017. ✉ wjraychard@aimit.org

6 SHARON (KUPFERSCHMID) WINGO ('78), AMY (CHAMBERS) DAUGAARD ('78) & CAROL (DUVALL) RINGWALT ('78) had a wonderful time together with a small class reunion in Cloudland Canyon State Park in Georgia. ✉ Sharon.wingo@ciu.edu

7 JUNE (LELAND) WIEGERT ('81) serves in a part-time role as pastor of Formation and Groups at South Fellowship Church in Littleton, Colorado, as well as operating Centered Soul Care, a part-time practice that includes spiritual direction and emotional trauma healing. ✉ juneliz59@gmail.com

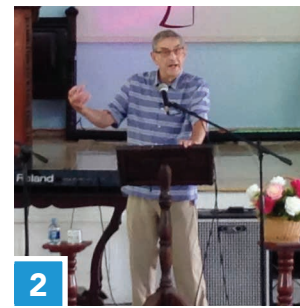
SCOTT CARPENTER ('83) is a Medical Service Corps Officer (Search and Rescue Aviator plus Hospital Logistics and Facility Director). He and his wife, Sonya, have one daughter. ✉ extramile6@hotmail.com

8 ROBERT ('85) & KAREN (GERALD) ('84) BARNES. After 20 years in Mozambique and Tanzania, they are back in Karen's hometown of Christiansburg, Virginia working in international student ministry through their church. Robert drives a bus on the campus of Virginia Tech and in Blacksburg, where he meets many internationals. ✉ nyumbabarnes@gmail.com

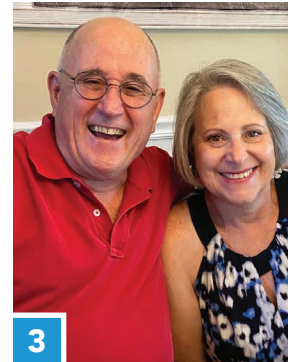
BETH GRANT SONDERGAARD ('91) and her husband Bob have moved to the Villages Of Florida to be closer to his mother. Beth continues to fulfill her



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calling in human services by working as a business office manager at an assisted living facility.

✉ moparbobnbeth@gmail.com

9 VERNON ('93) & JANELLE ('92)

SALTER served for over 27 years in military ministry and clinical care with the Navigators. Janel is now the executive assistant for the Navigators' International Executive Team. Vernon is the new director of Care and Special Projects for Mission Training International (MTI).

✉ vsalter@MTI.org

SCOTT HILL ('92) and his wife Ruth have been serving with Mission to the World (PCA) as church planters among the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians since May 2013. Scott also served as pastor of two PCA churches in South Carolina from 1992-2013.

✉ revscotthill1@gmail.com

DON SARAZEN ('92) retired from public school teaching in 2021 and is now teaching fifth grade Bible and math at Ben Lippen School.

✉ don.sarazen@gmail.com

10 KIM (HECHT) BOX ('93) was a church planter with Pioneers in Europe for 24 years. During a 2017 sabbatical in South Carolina, Ben Box, a widower, proposed to her. They married in August 2018 and are members of Three Rivers Baptist Church in Irmo, South Carolina. They serve in children's ministry and musical worship.

✉ matchedboxset@gmail.com

KATHI SMALL ('96) has served with TEAM since 1992. She is currently living in Guatemala City and teaches at the Central American Theological Seminary.

✉ kjsmallperu@gmail.com

11 KEITH CLAYTON ('97). His daughter, **KARIS JOHNSON ('23)**, just graduated with her master's degree in Counseling from CIU. He and his wife Crystal are extremely proud of her as she is the first in the family to obtain a master's degree. And now, she and Keith are both CIU alumni!

✉ dotpainting@aol.com

JONATHAN OTTO ('98) has served in Christian school education since 1978. He is currently a middle school Bible teacher at St. Petersburg Christian School in Florida. He lost his precious wife of 46 years, Elizabeth, in March 2021.

✉ prov423jotto@gmail.com

12 TIM ('07) & LAUREL (BROWN) ('10)

JAMES welcomed Josiah Nathan James in June of 2022. While Tim works remotely from home for a financial company, Laurel is busy being a full-time mom of two children.

✉ timothyjesames@gmail.com

13 JAYAKUMAR ('08) RAMACHANDRAN is raising church planting movement leaders in South Asian countries and contributing to missiological academia. He lost his precious wife, Prema, in May 2020.

✉ jkbbcm@gmail.com

14 ERICA BELTON ('08) graduated from CIU with the Bible teaching degree and has since also earned an MBA and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), and is currently enrolled in a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. She works as an RN and has three children.

✉ ericabelton46@gmail.com

COLLIN CORNELL ('09) is now an assistant professor of Bible and Mission at Fuller Theological Seminary.

✉ collincornell@fuller.edu

15 EMILY (HALL) JOHNSON ('10) married Clint Johnson on May 13, 2023. Proud parents are **KIRK ('88) & KONNIE ('88) HALL**.

✉ emilyghall@gmail.com

16 SCOTT ('12) & CRYSTAL MILLER. Scott is bi-vocational as a church planter and leading a carpentry business in Morgantown, West Virginia. Scott and Crystal have four children and recently welcomed Havalah Gail Miller into their family.

✉ scottlamarmiller@gmail.com

17 CHRISTIAN ('13) & ALEX (DUGAS) ('13) MARKLE, along with Simon and Melody, welcomed Poppy to their family in March 2023. Christian works with the children's charity Healthy Learners and Alex works part time as a counselor in private practice.

✉ alexmarkle7@gmail.com



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UPDATE YOUR ALUMNI PROFILE
ciu.edu/alumniupdate

Alumni CLASS NOTES

18 JOEL ('13) & MICHELLE MORAN, along with Haven and Barrett, welcomed Riley David to their family in June 2023. ✉ meeshandmango@gmail.com

19 LAUREN (PIMENTAL) ('13) WARD married William Ward IV on June 24, 2023.

20 JASON HARMS ('14) recently accepted the call to a lead pastor position at the Evangelical Free Church in Albert City, Iowa. He and his wife, Emma (Rae) ('10/'12), look forward to ministering in this rural community as part of a vibrant, gospel-centered church. ✉ jasonmharms@gmail.com

21 JOSEPH ('15) & GRACE BALDING have three children. Joseph completed a year with Lockheed Martin in Greenville, South Carolina as part of the F-16 aircraft program. He is also in his fourth year of serving in the Air Force Reserve in Charleston. His goal is to continue to be of service in the aviation industry as a faithful witness for Christ. ✉ josephbalding@gmail.com

22 STEVEN ('14) & KELLY (RICHARDSON) WHEELER ('15) welcomed Arlene Patience into their family in June 2023. She was named after her grandmother **ARLENE RICHARDSON ('84)**. ✉ kellyruthwheeler@gmail.com

DREW LINDMAN ('17) serves as ministry coordinator at the Kentucky Race Track Chaplaincy. ✉ lindmandrew@gmail.com



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23 STEVEN PACE ('17) is senior pastor at Decatur Bible Church in Michigan. He, along with his wife Merritt and son Samuel, relocated to Michigan in 2022. ✉ sfpace74@gmail.com

24 SHANE ('17) & VICTORIA (RICHARDSON) VELDHIJZEN ('17) along with Finley and Liliias, welcomed Robin Heath to their family in May 2023. Proud grandparents are Steve ('84) and Arlene ('84) Richardson. ✉ shane.veldhuizen@gmail.com

MATT ('20) & ALYSSA ELMORE. Matt is the senior pastor of Swansea First Baptist Church in South Carolina. Matt and Alyssa were married on Nov. 12, 2022. ✉ matt.elmore@swanseafbc.com

KATRINA JAMES ('21) welcomed her first grandson, Noah, in December 2022 and has been named principal of Hartsville Middle School in South Carolina. ✉ rkljames@yahoo.com

25 ANNABELLE (CLINTON) ('23) BLEDSOE married Evan Bledsoe in June 2023. Proud parents are Greta (Staff) and Jack Clinton.

26 RYAN & KARA (FARNSWORTH) LAIL (STAFF), along with big brother Austin, welcomed Parker in June 2023. ✉ kara.farnsworth@ciu.edu



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IN MEMORIAM

ALBERT ERVINE ('40) - September 2022
MILDRED CAMPBELL LEACH ('45) - October 2022
EULA BULLARD ('48) - November 2022
F. MARION MARTIN ('49) - June 2023
SARAH OVERSTREET MIDYETT ('49) - May 2023
LEONA ADELMAN BARNES ('51) - March 2023
NANCY BROWN DARE ('51) - March 2023
PEGGY REYBURN RUMLEY ('53) - February 2023
CAROL KRETZLER CANNON ('56) - January 2023
ARTHUR GUALTIERI ('56) - February 2023
IRENE PAYNE EVANS ('57) - March 2023
EMILIE "JEAN" CRANE BOWMAN ('59) - March 2023
MARILOU WAITE ('59) - January 2023
ERNEST HICKMAN ('58) - May 2023
ODESSA LEWIS RAMSEY ('59) - May 2022
FRANCES MAXWELL ('60) - April 2023
ROBERT LEE ('63) - July 2023
ARNOLD OLVER ('63) - May 2023
STEWART GEORGIA ('64) - May 2023
JAMES PAUL POYNOR III ('66) - July 2023
ALMA CORDLE THIESSEN ('66) - July 2023
STEVEN BRADFORD ('67) - April 2023
LEON "LEE" BAXTER ('69) - June 2023
BARBARA TRASHER WISBY ('69) - May 2022
ESTHER FISHER PRINT ('71) - March 2023
DOROTHY MAINHOOD ('72) - February 2022
WILLIAM SMITH ('72) - March 2023
MARK SISTEK ('75) - April 2023
LARRY HANSLEY ('77) - June 2023
JONATHAN OLFORD ('77) - March 2023
ROBERT EVANS ('78) - December 2021
RONALD HIGGINBOTHAM ('78) - November 2022
BARBARA LESTER ('80) - March 2023
RONALD THIESSEN ('82) - May 2023
MITCHELL GREGORY ('85) - February 2023
DONAL SCEARCE ('89) - June 2023
DEBORAH WEATHERFORD WARD ('89) - July 2023
IMMANUEL SCHARRER ('90) - January 2023
KATHERINE KRIGLINE GRUDIER ('91) - August 2023
PATRICK V. DYE ('93) - May 2023
DAVID CONGDON ('96) - August 2023
STEVEN EDWARDS ('09) - March 2023
JOHN-HUNTER JAMES ('23) - March 2023
MICHAEL BLACKWELL (Former Staff) - August 2023

WILLIAM "BILL" BARNETT ('37) - August 2023
 At age 106, Bill Barnett was CIU's oldest alumnus. He served as a missionary surgeon in several hospitals in Tanzania, Kenya and the Comoro Islands. He received the Alumnus of the Year honor in 1996.

MARTHA HOKE (Former Board Member) - June 2023
 Alumna Martha C. Hoke passed away on June 4 at Shell Point Village in Florida. Serious illness prevented her from graduating with her original class of '43, but she kept working at her degree until she walked with the class of '76. She co-ministered with her husband Don, an assistant to CIU's first president R.C. McQuilkin. Don and Martha planted churches in Illinois, South Carolina, Japan and Switzerland. They served as TEAM missionaries in Tokyo for 22 years before transitioning to Switzerland where Don directed the 1974 Lausanne Congress for World Evangelization, and then became the founding director of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton. Hoke Auditorium on the CIU campus is named for Don and Martha.

Embracing Evangelical Unity

As the campus of Columbia International University focuses on our 100th anniversary celebration this fall, we are reminded of our five core values displayed around campus, etched on five strategically placed stones; Authority of Scripture, Victorious Christian Living, World Evangelism, Prayer & Faith, and Evangelical Unity.

These etched core values stand to remind those who stop to read that this University was built on a distinct foundation. One such stone, placed just outside the Rossi Student Center, presents the following core value: Evangelical Unity. As campus documents reveal, “Evangelical unity is the attitude and practice of accepting other Christians of evangelical conviction, regardless of denominational or theological affinity, for purposes of fellowship, encouragement, edification and ministry.”

When I came to CIU in early 2019, I was provided the necessary documents and training that reinforces a clear articulation of our core values. Stating “Evangelical Unity” as a core value is quite impressive, but it is not fully realized until you spend time with faculty, staff, students, and alumni who truly embody this core value across campus, throughout our community, and around the world. This is not simply a cliché or words chiseled into a stone for passing reflection; it is truly a part of campus life.

A passing reader or guest might question why Evangelical Unity is so important as to be a part of the CIU culture and a stated core value, but by engaging with campus life you will quickly realize that Evangelical Unity is truly a CIU distinctive.

We read in John 13:35, Jesus offering this admonition. “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (NIV). In no way would I suggest that in order for Evangelical Unity to be achieved on our campus, everyone agrees on all issues doctrinally. In my opinion, this would not allow Evangelical Unity to thrive. It is in our theological differences that we unite. It helps produce an understanding of others from various evangelical backgrounds and an appreciation for our fellow laborers in the faith.

As we are in a new semester, I would invite you to be our guest at one of our weekly chapels, or one of the many events celebrating our 100th anniversary and experience this unity on our campus. We worship together, we pray together, and we fellowship together; a portion of the body of Christ actively learning and growing together in our faith, seeking to know Him, that we might go and make Him known.

Dr. Rick A. Christman

Dr. Rick Christman
CIU Interim President

**“We
worship
together,
we pray
together,
and we
fellowship
together.”**

Dr. Rick Christman was named interim president in February.



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