



Letter from the President

The Summer of Renovation

September 2011

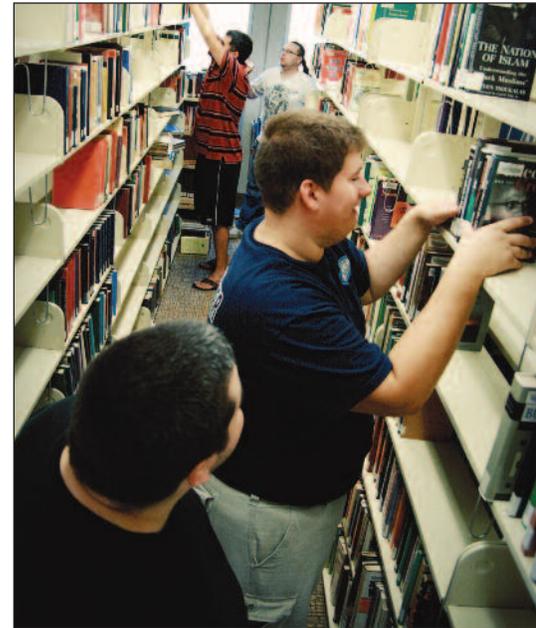
Dear friend of CIU,

In May of 2010, I answered an early morning phone call and received a message that no university president wants to hear — the library was on fire.

But out of the ashes of that \$2.5 million blaze comes this school year's blessing — the completely renovated G. Allen Fleece Library.

The library features the latest in information technology, special seating for collaborative learning, coffee nooks, an elevator, a copier alcove and of course — over 80,000 books that escaped damage. The most noticeable exterior change features the remodeled entrance highlighting the same open Bible relief sculpture has stood above the doorway since the library was first dedicated in 1968. Across the open Bible remains John 17:17, "Thy Word is Truth." A minor setback caused by a torrential downpour in August delayed the opening of the library, but Lord willing, students will study in this new learning environment very soon.

Other exciting progress over the summer includes a "total makeover" of West Residence Hall, creating an atmosphere a little more like home. Each remodeled room resembles work recently performed in Memorial and East Residence Halls, and features new amenities such as a microwave, fridge, and movable furniture. Meanwhile, all of the residence halls next to the library received new furniture, plus a "face-lift" with new roofs, windows and other exterior improvements.



Dr. Bill Jones

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Also, the development of new athletic fields located next to CIU's Pine View Apartments continues as the CIU Rams gear up for the inauguration of intercollegiate athletics one year from now. As heavy machinery levels the ground, you can see a baseball, softball and soccer field taking shape. The plan includes a central press box, concessions stand, restroom and scoreboards. Other sports in CIU's five-year athletic plan include basketball, cross country and golf.



The development creates quite a buzz around campus as the new school year begins:

"I think the residence life facilities have become very conducive to a good study environment. The changes have benefited my study habits. The residence halls are comfortable — it's much easier to do schoolwork in my room or one of the residence hall study rooms because it does not feel like I am in a stark college dorm, but rather like I am at home enjoying a familiar area." — Olivia Reibold, Senior, Communication

"I have always believed a university's library is one of the best reflections of its academic priorities. It was one of the things that attracted me to CIU. So I am very excited about the library renovation! The library is a valuable place to study, read, or relax, and the new library will have so much to offer students, as well as alumni." — Lenae Simpson, Graduate Student, Master of Arts in Bible Teaching

Modern learning centers and comfortable housing point us to our unwavering purpose of "educating people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ." Every step we take leads in that direction, including our athletic program. The mission of our CIU Rams, who will play in the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA), clearly states:

"To use athletic competition as an integral component of education, evangelism and encouragement."

We rejoice over the construction projects God allowed us to build this summer. He used your faithful prayers and generous financial support to make it possible. If you haven't visited the campus recently, I invite you to stop by and take a look around. You'll be amazed at what God is doing.

Yours for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive.

William H. Jones
President

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Columbia International University

"To know Him and to make Him known"