



# Letter from the President

## A Year of Growth; a Year of Impact

June 2012

Dear friend of CIU,

Long before the sun rose on Jan. 17, several dozen CIU students sleepily emerged from tents and sleeping bags outside the G. Allen Fleece Library. Overnight, they had camped out on the grassy area in front of the library in what they dubbed "Occupy Fleece," a parody of the "Occupy Wall Street" protests. They gathered to celebrate the reopening of the G. Allen Fleece library following a devastating fire 20 months earlier causing extensive damage to the interior of the building. These students wanted to be the first to use the new high tech library, one where the card catalog has been replaced by strategically-placed, free-standing iPads.

On the opposite side of the campus, construction continues at Pine View Apartments. Since the 222 beds in the four existing buildings have reached 97 percent occupancy, the construction of Phase II has begun, which will provide 20 more apartments with 48 bedrooms, as well as a separate community center for the students.

Nearby, workers apply finishing touches to the soccer field as the CIU Rams gear-up for our first-ever contest in inter-collegiate athletics. When we tested the lights one night, the brightness revealed a crowd of students on a nearby hill cheering the accomplishment. If you live in the Columbia area, mark Aug. 25 on your calendar. You can watch history made when the Rams play their first soccer match against Toccoa Falls College at 7 p.m. on the CIU campus.

Meanwhile, the number of CIU's new academic programs continues to increase. To meet the growing need for chaplains, CIU now offers master degrees in chaplaincy to equip students to minister in a variety of settings including military, institutional, corporate and crisis management. Professor of Chaplain Ministries, Dr. Michael Langston, served as a United States Navy chaplain for 23 years, including a tour



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Construction of Phase II of the Pine View Apartments.



CIU Soccer Coach James Whitaker watches the lights go up at the CIU soccer field.

*Projects, programs  
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of duty in the Iraq War, and ending his career as the commanding officer of the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C.

We also now have four online master degrees and an online undergraduate Bible Certificate. The online master degrees include: Master of Arts (Muslim Studies), Master of Arts (Intercultural Studies), and Master of Education with concentrations in Educational Administration and Curriculum Instruction. In addition, the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) approved CIU's Atlanta extension location as a complete degree site for CIU Seminary and School of Ministry.

But beyond the buildings and the programs, much of CIU's strength comes from the quality of our professors in the classroom. This year, CIU Provost Dr. James Lanpher appointed three retiring professors to professor emeritus status. Combined, these three men have nearly three quarters of a century of impact on CIU students. Dr. Warren Larson taught for 14 years at CIU and directed the Zwemer Center for Muslim Studies. Dr. Lindsey Hislop retires after 29 years of leading graduate classes in TEFL — Teaching English as a Foreign Language. Dr. Jack Layman taught for 29 years at CIU and served as a teacher and administrator at Ben Lippen School for 14 years. These men leave a legacy of commitment to CIU and the many students fortunate to sit under their teaching.

Also, this year two very capable administrators began their tenure in two critical areas. Dr. Bryan Beyer, who has served CIU in a number of capacities since 1985, was named dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Dr. Benjamin Dean was named director of the Business & Organizational Leadership program. Dean comes to CIU with extensive organizational leadership experience, most recently as an executive with the missions agency PIONEERS International. His experience also includes serving President George H.W. Bush as assistant counsel to the president, and in the U.S. Army, he achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel where he was assigned to the Pentagon and a multinational NATO unit in Europe.

Projects, programs and personnel. The growth continues at CIU.

In the midst of the celebration, we point to our God as the provider of all, and invite you to campus to witness His awesomeness. As the psalmist wrote:

Come and see the works of God,

Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men. (Psalm 66:5)

But the crowning event of any school year comes at commencement. In May, 245 CIU students became CIU alumni. Of the class of 2012, 46 percent plan to make an impact in cross-cultural work, 30 percent in ministry in their home country, and 24 percent in the marketplace.

Spreading the love and forgiveness of Christ through our graduates — that's our purpose at CIU:

*CIU educates people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ.*

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support of Columbia International University.

Yours for His glory,



William H. Jones  
President



**Columbia International University**

*"To know Him and to make Him known"*