



Letter from the President

Double the December Celebration at CIU

December 2012

Dear friend of CIU,

Many of us associate graduations with the month of May. And of course, we associate December with Christmas. But December at Columbia International University means double the celebration. Along with the birth of Christ, we also celebrate our December commencement as we send out more graduates educated from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ.

Nearly 125 graduates crossed the stage of CIU's Shortess Chapel in December awarded Bible certificates, undergraduate degrees, master's degrees, and doctoral degrees.

I would like to introduce you to a few of the December graduates who represent many others prepared to make an impact here in the United States and around the world.

Peter Guinther

Peter, from Mechanicsburg, Pa., graduates with a Master of Divinity degree. He says he learned a greater dependence on the Lord while at CIU:

"The more you learn, the more you realize just how much you do not know. That's very humbling. So it is that the more you get to know the Lord, you realize how much more there is to knowing Him. My education at CIU has definitely addressed my head, heart and hands, and in each of these areas I realize I can know the Lord in a unique manner. My professors have lived this truth out before me both inside and outside the classroom."

When you consider that Peter's future goals include teaching Greek and New Testament at the collegiate level, he truly lives CIU's motto: "To know Him and to make Him known."

over, please



Dr. Bill Jones

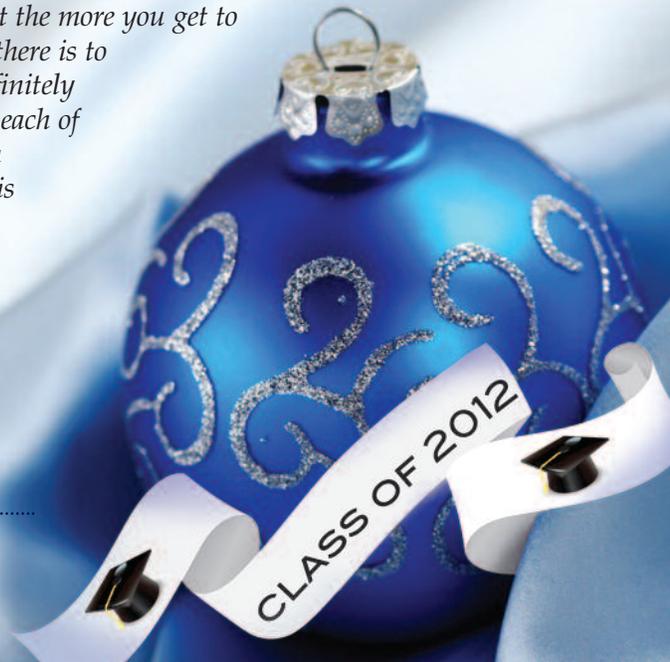
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Peter Guinther





Arthur Nyanfor

Arthur Nyanfor

Arthur is from Pleebo, Liberia in West Africa. He already earned a Master of Divinity degree from CIU, but adds a Master of Education degree in December. He plans to return to his home country and establish a Christian school:

“My hope is to build an institution, a shrine of wisdom, an intellectual establishment, and a ministry enterprise under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Programs will be designed to equip the heads, hearts and hands of young students with the message and love of Christ and the best of literature, and return them to their communities, nations and the world as servants for Christ.”

Note that both Peter and Arthur understand the application of CIU’s educational philosophy of “total life training” which engages the head, the heart and the hands.

Stephen Hancock

Stephen, from Greensboro, N.C., ran on CIU’s first intercollegiate cross country team. He graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, and desires to make an impact as a counselor:

“It is my heart’s desire to go overseas and work with people of other religions so that they can know the power of the gospel. CIU has given me a perspective on living missionally so that God will ultimately be glorified through my work as a psychologist.”

Let us thank our God for the equipping of graduates such as Peter, Arthur and Stephen, ready to follow Christ as He leads them on the next phase of their journey.

While students on CIU’s main campus celebrate their achievements, just across the Broad River at the Kirkland Correctional Institution, the CIU Prison Initiative graduates its fourth cohort of 15 CIU student-inmates who make an impact for Christ “behind the walls.”

They earned Associate of Arts degrees and join 135 CIU Prison Initiative alumni assigned to prisons across South Carolina as chaplain’s assistants, taking the gospel in word and deed to fellow inmates.

So, join me in a double celebration this December. Proclaim the One whose birth the angels declared “for all the people,” — the One who our graduates declare at home, in prison and around the world:

“... for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

*“Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.” (Luke 2:11-14)*

As 2012 draws to a close, my personal thanks to each of you who support this ministry through your prayers and financial gifts. What a wonderful partnership we share as together we continue to fulfill CIU’s purpose to educate people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ.

Yours for His glory,

William H. Jones
President



Stephen Hancock



Columbia International University

“To know Him and to make Him known”

