



# Letter from the President



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## A Year of Great Blessing

June 2008

Dear friend of CIU,

**M**y first year as president of Columbia International University will soon come to a close. As I reflect on the past 12 months, I rejoice at the privilege of serving with such a gifted team of faculty and staff. They make all the difference. I am privileged to work daily with men and women who have committed themselves to the university's purpose: educating people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ.

God has blessed their efforts in so many specific ways this school year. Let me offer a few examples.

First of all, the CIU class of 2008 joins the other 15,000 CIU alumni who serve in 130 countries. In a new CIU commencement tradition that began two years ago, each 2008 graduate received a diploma *and* a bag of seed. This symbol encourages our graduates to sow the seed of the gospel wherever the Lord leads them. An old saying states that you can count the number of seeds in an

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apple, but you can't count the number of apples in a seed. Imagine how much "Kingdom" fruit will result from the CIU class of 2008 sowing the seed of God's Word.

Other exciting events on campus include the \$1.4 million renovation of Memorial Residence Hall. We should finish renovating the facility in time for returning students to occupy this fall.



Updated amenities include microwave/refrigerator combos and wireless Internet service. The Fleece Library also experienced a much-needed upgrade. We installed an integrated library system this spring allowing us to process books much more efficiently, as well as making over nine million volumes available to our students through an integrated borrowing system with other colleges and universities in South Carolina.

God continues to bless CIU financially, and the 2007-2008 school year was no exception. Final funding for the Moore Fitness Center assures students, faculty, staff and alumni that they will have a well-equipped center for physical fitness for years to come. We also thank God for six new scholarships and other significant financial gifts that will allow us to offer more student financial aid.

But you can imagine the financial obligations of a university that educates over 1,000 students, ranging from salaries to the electric bill. As a matter of fact, we need \$586,220 by June 30 to meet our 2007/08 budget; a goal made possible through people such as you. Will you please consider a generous gift to CIU at this time? Also, would you please put us on your prayer list? Since CIU was established in 1923, God has used the faithful prayers of people such as you to guide us in carrying on our work.

It doesn't matter how many ambitious plans we put on the drawing board for the future of CIU; if not accompanied by prayer, they won't amount to much. I recall the words of my mentor, CIU President Emeritus Robertson McQuilkin at my inauguration: "So go for it, Mr. President, but I charge you to bathe every proposal in prayer."

Please join me in that charge. Thank you in advance for your prayers and for your partnership with us.

Psalm 67:1-2

William H. Jones  
President



**Columbia International University**

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