



Letter from the President

Moving Forward at CIU

May 2010

Dear friend of CIU,

Columbia International University continues moving forward. Of the many changes taking place, consider two strategic changes.

Inside the classroom, we have officially launched three new colleges within the university: the College of Counseling, the College of Education and the College of Intercultural Studies. All three colleges will provide bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. The students in each will tap into the wealth of knowledge and wisdom offered by an experienced faculty. This structure uses the biblical university model to equip our students to serve in ministry, missions, and the marketplace.

To serve these new schools, we made the following appointments: Dr. Harvey Payne now serves as the associate dean of the College of Counseling, Dr. Milton Uecker as the associate dean of the College of Education and Dr. Michael Barnett as the associate dean of the College of Intercultural Studies. These men oversee a faculty with superior academic credentials and who stay active in their field of expertise. We want our students at all degree levels to benefit from what they have to offer.

Outside the classroom, we have entered the world of intercollegiate athletics. In July, Kim Abbott becomes CIU's first athletic director. Kim served as the athletic director at the University of South Carolina-Beaufort where she oversaw that school's entry into intercollegiate sports, making her uniquely qualified to get the CIU program off the ground.

Kim understands the positive influence of Christian coaches. Her father, John Erickson, served as the president of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) for 18

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Dr. Bill Jones

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years and is a 2002 inductee into FCA's Hall of Champions. The family tradition rubbed off on Kim. As she puts it: "I consider the athletic field to be my mission field."

Why spend the time and resources on athletics? After all, hasn't CIU done just fine without them for 87 years? And what do athletics have to do with CIU's purpose?

Actually, athletics have historically played a key role at CIU. From the school's earliest days, the faculty encouraged students to stay physically fit, including participation in intramural sports as well as playing in Columbia city leagues. As a matter of fact, in January, the CIU soccer team won their city league division with an undefeated record!

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Our athletics program will help fulfill in another way our mission to educate people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with message of Christ. We want to produce students who have Christlike character. The rigor of athletic competition develops such character.

Beyond the classroom, the 224 graduates from this month's commencement joined the other 17,000 CIU alumni currently serving in nearly 150 countries around the world. Please pray that these new graduates go forward into the world with a heart "To know Christ and to make Him known."

Zechariah 4:6,



William H. Jones
President

PS The ink had barely dried on this letter when I received word of a major fire in the CIU library. We thank God that no one was hurt, but the damage exceeds \$1.5 million. Please pray regarding the many decisions that need to be made. Financial gifts may be designated to "CIU Library Restoration."

Check the news section of our Web site www.ciu.edu for the latest on the fire.



*Kim Abbott, CIU's
first athletic director*



Columbia International University

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