

# CIU

TODAY

WIN OR LOSE, THEY ARE  
**MORE THAN  
TEAMMATES**

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New President**  
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SPRING 2017  
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#DiscoverCIU

# CIU TODAY

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#### Cover Photo

Women's soccer prayer huddle: (left to right) Angela McMaster, Janai Tedder, Mandi Shumate, Esther Edwards.

#### Photo on This Page

Cross country runners jog the perimeter of the CIU lake.

**CIU** | Columbia International University  
*Educating from a Biblical Worldview*





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# THE FIRST WORD



▲ That's me with CIU student Malcolm Campbell, a senior from Chicago and a fellow Cubs fan. Malcom shares the love of baseball with his mom, also a lifelong Cubs fan.

"It's always been a family thing," Malcolm said. "She sent me text messages during the playoffs, 'You watching the Cubs tonight?' She got out her Cubs gear and Sammy Sosa jersey. The Cubs logo is special because it represents where I am from, where my family is from, and is a big part of who I am.

"You got to root, root, root for the home team," Malcolm added, reciting the lyrics from "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

## The Importance of Family Tradition

During the month of October and into early November, I suppose I was one of the most identifiable people on campus. I wore my vintage Chicago Cubs jacket and cap every day. My Cubs were in the playoffs and then went on to win the World Series for the first time in over 100 years. One CIU student, Malcolm Campbell who is from Chicago, even made a special trip to my office just so we could revel in the good vibes together.

Oddly, last fall's baseball playoffs impressed on me the importance of something I've never put much stock in: family traditions.

I remember many years ago listening to a show about the family on Christian radio. The importance of developing family traditions was the topic. I thought, with all the challenges the American family faces, this is the best they can do for a topic?

Then came last fall. But let me back up a bit.

I grew up in Michigan City, Indiana, about 50 miles across Lake Michigan from Chicago. My four sisters and I were raised to be Chicago Cub fans. In those days WGN television and radio in Chicago aired every Cubs game. So, when the baseball season came, even my mother, a housewife, would substitute all her favorite TV game shows with Cubs baseball. When I coaxed my sisters, all older than me, to play whiffle ball in the back yard, I imagined I was Cub superstar Ron Santo.

In those days, the Cubs were losing — a lot. But that didn't matter.

"Stick with them Cubs," my dad would enthusiastically yell to the neighbors after a rare Cubs win.

Fast forward 50 years. Last October, my adult son Ryan, also a lifelong Cubs fan, though raised in the South, joined me and another

Cubs fan — a transplant from Iowa — to watch the playoffs and World Series. When Ryan was growing up, we made trips back to the Midwest giving him opportunity to cheer for the Cubs alongside father and grandfather in Wrigley Field, just like I did as a kid.

Throughout the playoffs, my sisters were calling my mobile phone and texting me. The family tradition and 21st century technology was uniting us again, though 850 miles apart.

Then came the dramatic Game 7 of the World Series. It was full of excitement and agony. My son nervously kept removing and putting back on a ratty-looking old Cubs cap. I was too involved with the game to ask where it came from. When that last out finally came making the Cubs world champions, we took a celebratory photo in front of the TV — and Ryan is wearing that old cap.

As we made our way to our cars in my friend's quiet neighborhood after 1 a.m. (I had to contain myself real hard not to yell, "Cubs, win. Cubs win") I finally joked with Ryan, "So you decided to wear the oldest Cubs cap you could find?"

"This belonged to Grandpa," he replied. "It was the only thing I wanted out of his house after he died." That was when Ryan was 12 years old. Dad lived to be 78, but of course, never saw a Cubs championship.

This was about more than baseball and the Cubs. It was about a family tradition. Just one of those little building blocks that makes, and helps keep a family — a family.

"Stick with them Cubs!" We did.

**Bob Holmes**  
CIU Today  
Editor-in-Chief

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**Oddly, last fall's  
baseball playoffs  
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# CIU News

## CIU Welcomes New President

By Bob Holmes

An experienced and respected Christian higher education administrator has been named the seventh president of Columbia International University. The announcement was made following a vote by the CIU Board of Trustees on February 2 to confirm Dr. Mark A. Smith as president beginning July 1, 2017.

Dr. Smith comes to CIU from Ohio Christian University (OCU) where he served as president for 11 years, increasing enrollment from 400 to approximately 4,600 students during his tenure. In addition, under Smith the university opened 14 sites in rural areas for student learning and began offering online educational programs. Smith also directed \$30 million in capital construction projects and the increase of university personnel from 50 to approximately 800 employees.

Prior to coming to OCU, Smith served as vice president for adult and graduate studies at Indiana Wesleyan University where he oversaw the doubling of enrollment from 5,000 to approximately 10,000 students in four years.



▲ CIU's new president, Dr. Mark A. Smith

Smith succeeds Dr. Bill Jones who has led CIU since 2007. Jones suggested to the CIU Board of Trustees that Smith be considered for president. At each board meeting for the past seven years, the board has requested Jones submit the names of potential candidates in case something ever happened to him. Jones says when he turned 60 years old, 18 months ago, he began to pray more intensely about who one day would replace him as president. Not long after that, he had a providential conversation with Smith at a conference the two were attending. Smith had a simple question: "Would there be a role for me to play at CIU?"

### Prayer and Conversation

"Over the next few months, Dr. Smith and I continued our conversation," Jones said. "Right away, I made an entry in my prayer book to pray over the opportunity on a regular basis."

At the May 2016 board meeting, Smith's name was introduced to the Executive Committee by Jones. CIU Board Chairman Doug Rutt says it was the board's "love and appreciation for Dr. Jones, as well as his leadership that caused us to be interested in learning more about Dr. Smith."

By the end of October, more CIU leadership was brought into the discussion and after Christmas, Smith visited CIU to meet key board members, administrators and faculty leaders. After many conversations and much prayer, Rutt and the board agreed to pursue the possibility of Smith as CIU's next president.

"As the Executive Committee interviewed Dr. Smith, and then as the entire board interviewed him, there was a very strong sense among us that God was providing a man who loves what we love at CIU and is uniquely gifted and experienced in ways that would benefit our institution greatly while being in step with us missionally," Rutt said.

### Confirmation, but more Prayer

Meanwhile, in God's providence, Dr. George Murray announced he was retiring as chancellor. The board and Smith asked Jones if he would serve alongside the president as chancellor for several years and continue the tremendous progress that God has given CIU.

In late January, faculty, staff and students were asked to pray for the board's decision, a process that was well received. Speaking for the board, Rutt told the CIU family: "We are as intent as ever to have a president who is committed to educate students from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ."

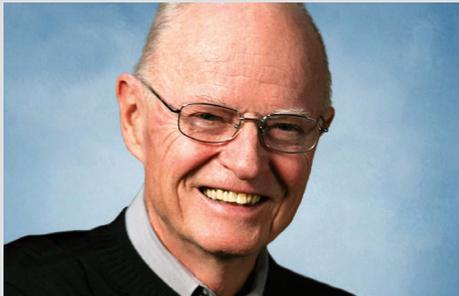
Rutt also asks alumni and friends of CIU to "please join us in continued prayer for Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones, as well as the rest of the CIU faculty and staff, as we ask God's guidance during this exciting time of transition." ■

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**More Memories of Robertson McQuilkin**

Before I even applied to CIU, I read Robertson McQuilkin's book, "Living by Vows," about Dr. McQuilkin keeping his wedding vows to Muriel. After reading it, I thought, "Now that's the school I want to go to if they have that kind of leadership." I remember him lecturing in Dr. Brad Mullen's Biblical Ethics class. He and Dr. Mullen had updated his biblical ethics book together. It is a great textbook filled with Scripture. Dr. McQuilkin uttered his famous saying, "It's easy to go to extremes, but you must stay in the center of biblical tension." Later I got a chance to borrow from the book while teaching an ethics Sunday school class at the Chinese Church of Columbia.

**Mark A. Peter, ('96) M.A. TEFL/ICS**  
West Columbia, South Carolina



Former CIU president Robertson McQuilkin passed away last June.

**Letters to the Editor are welcome.**

Correspondence must include your name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit for clarity and length. There is no guarantee your letter will be published, nor will letters be returned.

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# CIU News

## TV Reporter Touched by CIU Prison Initiative Commencement

The commencement exercises of the CIU Prison Initiative usually bring local media attention, but the most recent commencement in December touched the heart of one reporter. Shelli Adamczyk of WACH FOX 57 in Columbia took to Facebook to report to her social media followers:

*I had never been inside the heart of a prison before but after covering this story it made me see a different side to being behind bars. After experiencing all the extreme security getting into Kirkland Correctional Institution, I had no idea what to expect, but the second I got in I was pleasantly surprised and left feeling empowered.*



▲ Reporter Shelli Adamczyk and other reporters prepare to interview a CIU Prison Initiative graduate.

*Inmates getting a diploma from Columbia International University Friday. Most of them are in the South Carolina Department of Corrections system serving life sentences, but they're changing the way they will spend that time - and it's going above and beyond to help others.*

The most recent cohort of graduates included 12 student-inmates receiving Associate of Arts degrees, and one, a bachelor's degree. The graduates are assigned as chaplain's assistants throughout the South Carolina prison system, making an impact among their fellow inmates.

"The Prison Initiative continues to have a very positive effect on many men and women in our institutions," said Bryan P. Stirling, the director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections. "This collaboration with CIU is a vital part of our effort to reduce recidivism and make our prisons safer."

Since its inception, 136 men and women have graduated from the program, serving in over 20 correctional institutions. ■



CIU President Dr. Bill Jones had the privilege of swearing-in Richland County, South Carolina Sheriff Leon Lott to a new term in office during a ceremony in January. Lott takes part in a weekly Bible study group led by Jones who was introduced as "a very close friend" and "religious mentor" of the sheriff. ■

Correction: On page 26 of the Fall 2016 edition of CIU Today, the professional titles of William T. Cassels Jr. and Tobin Cassels were incorrect. William T. Cassels is the chairman of Southeastern Freight Lines. Tobin Cassels is the president.



▲ Elizabeth Sessions smiles to soccer fans during the dedication of Sessions Field.

## CIU Soccer Field Dedicated to Alumna

The Columbia International University soccer field now carries the name of a longtime CIU supporter.

The field was dedicated to CIU alumna Elizabeth Rikard Sessions on Nov. 3 during halftime of a CIU Lady Rams soccer match. Sessions graduated from CIU, then called Columbia Bible College, in 1943. She went on to assist in the founding of Rikard Nursing Homes in Lexington County, South Carolina where she served the elderly for 28 years. Sessions also served on CIU's board of trustees for 17 years, and received several honors from CIU including the dedication of Rikard Dining Room, Alumna of the Year in 1999, and an honorary doctorate in 2010.

In 2012, after Sessions heard of CIU's vision to begin its first athletics program, her financial generosity made the soccer field a reality. ■



▲ Damian Hurta of the Rams basketball squad gives his all during a workout in the newly upgraded weight room while teammate Jordan Dillingham assists.

## CIU Fitness Center Weight Room Expanded, Equipment Upgraded

If the grimace on the face of CIU basketball player Damian Hurta was any indication, the new weight room equipment in CIU's Moore Fitness Center is going to be an effective training tool for CIU athletes.

Hurta was doing some pretty heavy bench pressing on the new equipment during one of the basketball team's first practices at the start of the spring semester.

Over the Christmas break, the weight room in the Moore Fitness Center was moved to a larger room where nine half-squat racks were installed, replacing outdated weights and benches. The new \$18,000 equipment is not only available to the CIU Rams athletic teams, but all who use the fitness center: students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Moore Fitness Center Manager and Cross Country Coach Jud Brooker describes the new racks as "all-in-one weight lifting equipment for squats, bench press, with pull-up bar, and hooks for exercise bands." The squat racks and additional new free weights were part of a more extensive renovation totaling approximately \$25,000, most of which was funded through student activity fees. ■



(Photo: GoFlashWin.com)

## CIU Congratulates Ben Lippen Falcons on State Championship

Congratulations go out from Columbia International University to Ben Lippen School after the Falcons earned their first state title in football!

**Congratulations** also to Grace Lehman, the first to receive the new Ben Lippen School Headmaster's Award from Headmaster Chip Jones. She has served as a kindergarten teacher at Ben Lippen for over 25 years.



## In Memory

Bob Weeber went to be with the Lord on Feb. 8. A 1952 graduate of CIU, Weeber served at Ben Lippen School as a teacher and coach for 44 years.



Ben Lippen School is a Pre-K to 12th grade Christian school ministry of CIU. ■



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# CIU News

Vanessa Torres addresses the student body of Nursery Road Elementary School after winning the Milken Award. ▼

## And the “Oscar of Teaching” Award Goes to...

Columbia International University alumna Vanessa Torres is a 2016 winner of The Milken Educator Award, called the “Oscars of Teaching” by Teacher Magazine. The Spanish teacher was honored and received a \$25,000 prize at an assembly at her school, Nursery Road Elementary in Columbia, South Carolina. Torres earned a Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Foreign Language/Intercultural Studies (TEFL/ICS) from CIU in 2006.

CIU Today asked Torres about the award and the role CIU played in preparing her for her career.

### **Did you have any idea that you would be receiving the Milken Award?**

It was a complete surprise; in fact, I was thinking of another teacher when they were describing the recipient and was sure it was her! I was paralyzed when they called my name and had to be literally pushed by my colleague who was next to me. I still have no idea how or by whom I was nominated.

### **How did CIU and your TEFL/ICS degree prepare you for your teaching career?**

The TEFL program at CIU prepared me well for my career by giving me the most up-to-date, research-based approach to language teaching. Moreover, (the professors) taught us in the same way they expected us to teach our learners, and had us do immediate application of every skill. During my ESL internship through CIU, I really grew as a teacher, and after getting my degree, I immediately got a job teaching ESL in the English Programs for Internationals (EPI) at the University of South Carolina.

CIU (also) gave me spiritual preparation to enter into this amazing mission field of public education. During my time in class, chapel, and on a CIU mission trip to Indonesia, God developed in me a heart to love and serve others, by seeking first to understand their cultural worldview, make learning relevant to them, and persevere despite the many challenges.

### **What is the most rewarding aspect of teaching?**

Seeing students grow over the years in their fluency not only in another language, but another culture. I have seen magic happen through making Spanish relevant and fun by using games, songs, stories, etc. I have students who are able to retell entire stories in Spanish and even write their own, and that is beautiful!

It is also amazing to watch my students learn to love people from other cultures, and many tell me about new Hispanic friends they make in the community, and places they go where they get to use their Spanish outside of the classroom.

### **In what ways do you see God using you as a public school teacher?**

I believe that God has not only given me the gift of teaching, but also the gift of encouragement, and I am called to lift up broken students and colleagues to the Healer. I try to daily encourage others by writing them cards, sharing with them how I faced my hardest days in teaching, and praying for and with them.

I also believe that God has called me to help our children learn a healthy respect for authority and empathy for others, in a world where children are taught that they are the center of the universe. I try to employ heart-focused discipline and lead children to learn to turn from destructive habits and toward life-giving habits. ■



(Photos: Milken Family Foundation)



## Library Listens, Study Space Expands

Columbia International University students said they needed more space for quiet study. Library Director Cynthia Snell was listening. She responded with a comfortable, enlarged area for study in the G. Allen Fleece Library.

Snell used student surveys and focus groups to gauge library needs. So, as soon as Christmas break began, several stacks of books on the second floor were packed up and the shelving disassembled. Some books were moved to the first floor while others were donated to a CIU alumnus. In their place is cozy furniture, new cubicles, as well as new study carrels, each carrel equipped with individual lighting.

Snell said the need for the action became obvious during finals week of the fall semester.

"We had more people in here than we had chairs. We had people sitting on floors," Snell said. "It's amazing how many students use the library."

Snell says even though a large number of books were permanently removed from the library, that doesn't mean they are no longer available.

"We removed any book that wasn't being used that was published before the year 2000 that was available through PASCAL," Snell said.

PASCAL stands for Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries. It's a rapid book-delivery service enabling

students to request and receive books from academic libraries across the state.

"We created more study area the students were requesting, without them losing access to the resources we had," Snell added.

Plus, Snell notes that many of the books that were removed still had a smoky stench from a fire that caused extensive damage to the library in 2010.

The changes are driven by Snell's philosophy on overseeing a university library.

"We need to service the students and service the faculty because we have moved to a faculty-driven acquisition system," Snell said. "The librarians do not pick the resources. (The faculty) knows better when it comes to what their students need to be successful in their classes."

And when it comes to future student requests, Snell says she will evaluate them and see what she can do.

"Recently, we had students looking around, and they asked, 'Where are the beanbag chairs?'" Snell said.

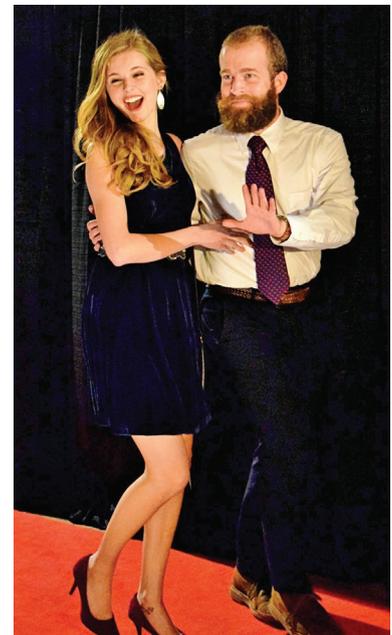
The old ones had lost their beans. Snell took note.

Beanbag chairs, at total of 10, are back. ■

## "African Descent" Missions Mobilizers Conference Hosted by CIU

Dozens of African-American missions mobilizers gathered on the campus of CIU for a one-day conference in October, challenging a new generation of African-American missionaries to spread the gospel to the unreached, particularly Muslims. Jointly sponsored by Urban Discovery Ministries (UDM) and the Zwemer Institute for Muslim Studies at CIU, the conference featured messages by UDM leader Dr. Michael Fariss, CIU President Dr. Bill Jones, and The Rev. Ed Thomas, a missionary to Muslims. From the perspective of an African-American, Thomas described his experience of bringing Muslims to Jesus where he ministers in Europe.

A national conference on African-American missions is scheduled for June 22-24 in Washington, D.C. ■



Sam Doster and Avika Bartlett take a walk on the red carpet at the CIU Winter Formal in December. Attendees made a Hollywood-type entrance complete with black backdrop, stage lights, and Paparazzi-style photographers. Everyone was a rock star for a night. ■

# CIU News

## Singing "Under the Sea"

*CIU Alumna Plays Little Mermaid*

To beat the heat over the summer, Columbia International University alumna Courtney Reasoner went under the sea, hooking the lead role of Ariel in the Disney musical "The Little Mermaid" at Columbia's Town Theater. It was her first major role in a theatrical performance since her days as a student with The CIU Players.

"I was really nervous going into it," said the 2016 CIU graduate, "especially because everybody knows the songs in 'Little Mermaid' and automatically have high expectations."

Some of Reasoner's other performances include "Les Miserables" and "Into the Woods." However, the role of Ariel is her all-time favorite, with the June production of "Little Mermaid" a success with every weekend show sold out.

Reasoner's collegiate introduction to the stage began under CIU music professors Dr. Rod Lewis and Alison Branham who challenged her to grow in all her talents and study of music.

"When I came to CIU, I just wanted to sing," Reasoner said. "But after studying under my professors, I realized that I needed to get a grasp of my instrument, I needed to work hard, to practice and stretch. They pushed me to become someone who always strives for excellence, even when it's difficult."

Reasoner looks back on her time at CIU as a place where she established what it means to be an entertainer and a Christian. When deciding what theatre production to pursue, she looks for Christian truth in the script, thinks critically about the message of the show, and considers the character she may perform. She also wants her family proud to see her name among the cast.



▲ Courtney Reasoner ('16) played Ariel and her brother Jeremy Reasoner ('15), played Sebastian in "The Little Mermaid." (Photo: Town Theatre)

"I feel like being a Christian and being an entertainer actually go hand in hand," Reasoner said. "The performances I'm in typically have a message that is true to Christianity. For example, the message of friendship is consistent with the Christian worldview and a performance like 'The Little Mermaid' makes it relatable to everyone."

"I wouldn't pick a show that I would be ashamed to be in," Reasoner continued, "I think that doing music and performances is all about communication and relationship with the audience and the people you're performing with. I want to make sure that I'm communicating truth to them. It'll look different in every show but it'll still be there."

As for the future, Reasoner continues to develop her musical abilities as she considers a future in performance or as a music teacher. She is open to either path.

"I like acting the most when it's combined with music, so musicals have the biggest draw for me," Reasoner said. "I really love to act, but music is my first passion."

So either way, by pursuing music, Reasoner is confident she is fulfilling God's call on her life and using the gifts He gave her.

"I'm not striving for excellence because I want to, I'm striving because I have to. This is what I've been made to do by God." ■



## The CIU Players Present "The Matchmaker"

"The Matchmaker," a classic Broadway comedy written by Thornton Wilder was performed over two weekends in November, including Homecoming weekend.

"Being in this play has been such a joy," said freshman Ireland Kost, who had a leading role as the character Ermengarde. "It's been great to use gifts God has given me to perform for other people." ■



# THE DISABLED & THE CHURCH



**By Dr. Johnny V. Miller**

*Professor Emeritus, CIU Seminary & School of Ministry, Fourth President of CIU*

If the worship leader starts by trumpeting, “Let’s all stand to worship God this morning,” I flinch. This worship service probably isn’t going to include me. Again.

That’s because I’m physically disabled. I’m unable to stand for long periods to sing, or pray, or greet visitors, or read Scripture. Just being in a crowd upsets my physical balance and emotions. And I know I’m not the only one. But I have rarely been to a worship service that clearly takes the disabled into account, and I’ve been to lots and lots of churches, as pastor, president, professor, and worshiper.

I didn’t become sensitized to the physically disabled until I became one. That gave me a new lens through which to view church ministry. In my last pastorate my church had interpretation for the deaf in the united worship service. A paraplegic sang in the choir. There were specialized classes and worship for the mentally disabled. We conformed to every federal and state recommendation regarding physical accessibility. But we never planned ordinary services with the disabled and elderly in mind.

It’s not just worship services that unintentionally exclude people like me, but actually most church ministries. The typical men’s ministry reaches out to guys who bowl or hike or bike. Overnight retreats are for the mobile and independent, golf outings for the hardy, discipleship classes for those who drive at night. These are great, essential outreaches for the physically active!

But without dropping those events, I’d suggest once or twice a year planning things deliberately to include the disabled: board games, TV sports, an evening of humor, morning coffee time. I’m encouraged when my church’s worship leader invites the congregation to join in worshipping God from the heart, “standing or sitting as suits you best.” A note in the order of worship that welcomes the disabled to join as they can from the heart recognizes our need. An elder’s offer to pray with me on Sundays I can’t leave home says I count. This isn’t political correctness but spiritual inclusiveness.

Before my crippling disease I had no idea how hard it is to be weak in a world that worships strength. And I had no idea how many of us disabled there are, and how many ways there are to be disabled — physically, emotionally, mentally. I don’t blame others for their insensitivity; I was one of them, completely oblivious.

The church has always been the center of my life, and of my family’s. That’s where I find biblical challenge, encouragement, service, spiritual and social community. I want to be vitally connected, not invisible and useless at this stage of life. And I want other disabled people also to find their home in Christ’s church.

*Editor’s Note: Dr. Miller’s disability stems from Parkinson’s disease. ■*



**THE DAY**

**PRAYER**



**CAME BACK**

**TO A**

**PUBLIC SCHOOL**



**By Dr. Sandra Young**  
*Program Director for the English Major*  
*Liberal Arts Division Chair, College of Arts and Sciences*

**S**pring is a season of new birth, warmer weather, and in America’s public schools, standardized testing.

Several springs ago I was a high school English teacher. The day arrived when all 10th graders across South Carolina would take the first of a series of tests called the HSAP (High School Assessment Program). At my high school where 99 percent of our student body was African-American and most of the students were eligible for free and reduced meals, this acronym spiked fear in students and teachers alike. We knew we were a low-performing school: our standardized tests scores for the past few years were extremely low. No one wants to belong to a low-performing school. They drag down the mean for a district’s more affluent schools and prompt district administrators to eye the principal, teachers, and students with suspicion and resentment.

I wasn’t teaching 10th grade that year but I had a 10th grade homeroom. I understood very well the pressure the test presented to all of us. We were prepared — administrators, teachers, and students had been planning and practicing for this test for months. We even partnered with Americorps that year and brought in 15 young college grads to help. We deployed them as one deploys members of the military, sending them to classes where they worked one-on-one with students needing extra attention in math, writing, and reading.

Test Day finally arrived.

“We need to pray, Mrs. Young,” announced Chaunte, the unofficial class leader. She was a petite, brown-skinned girl who nonetheless carried herself as if she were in command. “If we’re going to pass this test, we need all the help we can get.”

“Yeah,” piped in another student. “We should pray.” Their request made sense. They lived in Charleston, a large tourist-driven community, but often referred to as “The Holy City” due to its large number of churches. This was certainly the case in the area surrounding our high school. Representing several denominations, they faithfully served the least of these — the indigent, the elderly, and families who did not have the means to send their children to schools in better neighborhoods.

“Can you lead us in prayer?” Chaunte asked me. They knew I was a believer and that my husband was a local pastor.

I hesitated. I was employed by the State of South Carolina. As a state employee, I knew I was authorized to do a lot of things outside of teaching. I could comfort, console, and reprimand. I made phone calls home. I kept hand lotion (the good stuff) and Vaseline in my desk drawer and provided plenty of Kleenex during flu season. I stocked one of my cabinets with extra pencils, pens, and loose leaf paper for the forgetful student or the student who simply could not afford to purchase them. I even listened patiently when they nonchalantly recited the misfortunes of “so and so” in an effort to gain some advice for themselves. But I could not lead my students in prayer. That one action could cost me my job. “I can’t lead you in prayer,” I explained carefully. “If I do, I could get fired.” Their faces fell and I could see that they interpreted it as yet another blow, another rule that worked against them when they needed someone to cut them some slack. And then I added, “But nothing can stop you from praying for yourselves.”

Chaunte looked at me.

“OK,” she said, almost defiantly. “We’re going to pray.” The other students dutifully climbed out of their seats and formed a large circle in the front of the room. Without being prompted, they grasped the hand of the person beside them. One lone male sat stonily in his seat, refusing to move. Chaunte glared at him.

---

**“I marveled at how privileged I was to be able to teach students who didn’t come from the finest homes and weren’t headed for the coveted spot of valedictorian, yet nonetheless clearly understood that God existed and that He cared. ”**

– *Dr. Sandra Young*

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“Jarod, get over here right now!” she ordered. Jarod reluctantly got out of his seat and took the hand a student offered him.

They bowed their heads and repeated the Lord’s Prayer in unison. As I joined them

in reciting it aloud, I noted that many of them knew it by heart. And then they sat down quietly.

The proctor arrived and we began the test. As they sat in straight rows, number two pencils in hand, I marveled at how this group of young people had enough sense to realize that when the stakes are truly high, we should ask God for help. And then I marveled at how privileged I was to be able to teach students who didn’t come from the finest homes and weren’t headed for the coveted spot of valedictorian, yet nonetheless clearly understood that God existed and that He cared.

As they bubbled in their test booklets what they hoped were the right answers, I silently gave God thanks that prayer had come back to school. ■

# ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF



## CIU Alumnus Opens Roastery

By Bob Holmes



Beach Loveland with his wife Jessica, and children Ezra (being held by Jessica), Zoe (in the gray dress) and Shiloh (in the Red Dress)



**L**ook up the word roastery in the dictionary, and you won't find it. It's too new. That puts Columbia International University alumnus Beach Loveland on the cutting edge of the coffee roastery industry.

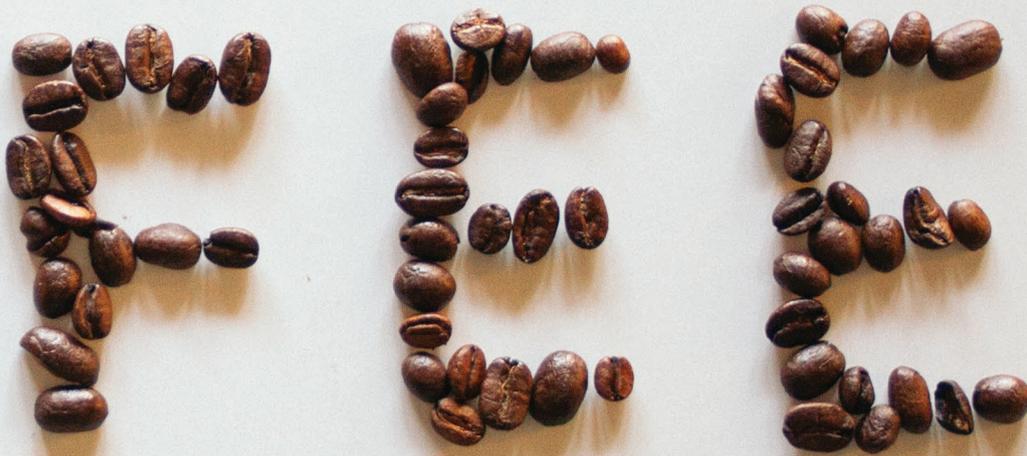
Loveland, a 2009 CIU alumnus, and his wife Jessica (Hughes) Loveland, a 2002 CIU graduate, founded Loveland Coffee with a drive-thru kiosk in Columbia's northwest suburb of Irmo in 2012. Business has been good, and now, the Loveland Coffee brand has expanded to include a roastery, where Loveland is able to control his brand beginning with the coffee beans that are fair-trade and organic.

"I get to control the whole process. I get to pass along that quality and assurance to my customers," Loveland said. "I know where this coffee came from, I roasted it. These are the steps

I've taken to make sure it is quality for you."

Loveland reaches into a burlap bag to display a handful of greenish colored coffee beans. The bags are stamped with names of countries such as Brazil and Peru, carefully selected by Loveland through a coffee broker. Loveland then funnels them into the hand-crafted roaster where he carefully masters the high-tech controls for 13 to 15 minutes of roasting.

"There are several key times during that period for adjusting air speed and the amount of gas pressure we're putting in for a batch size of 25 pounds," Loveland explains. "If I have Guatemalan (beans), I have a set profile that I roast for. I have a certain finish temperature that I'm shooting for (and) certain set points during the roast to bring out the best flavor nuances."



Once the beans cool, they are packaged for distribution. The roastery, the first in the Irmo area, is for now, a one-man operation out of a non-descript office/warehouse within a couple of miles of the Loveland Coffee drive-thru. But the Lovelands larger vision has always been for a coffee café, a venue where they could reach out the Irmo-Ballentine community of greater Columbia.

“We thought going forward toward that goal that (the roastery) would be a great next step,” Loveland said. “We thought this would be a great investment in ourselves to be able to control the quality of our products and get a cost savings.”

A devastating October 2015 flood in Columbia offered Loveland a unique opportunity to engage the community. At that time, because the Columbia water supply was potentially

contaminated, a cup of coffee was hard to come by. But Loveland says because the water he uses at the drive-thru is from a “secure source” he was able to fill the coffee fix for the community.

“People were paying it forward to others, (saying), ‘Here is \$100 (for others),’” Loveland said. “That’s a pretty regular thing at the drive-thru. People are paying it forward, buying a coffee and then buying three more.”

So how does Loveland explain the coffee phenomenon that has swept the land ever since Seattle-based Starbucks went nationwide in the mid-1980s?

“It’s a warm beverage that brings people together,” Loveland said. “It’s just magical. It’s here to stay.” ■



WIN OR LOSE, THEY ARE

# MORE THAN TEAMMATES





# **WIN OR LOSE, THEY ARE MORE THAN TEAMMATES**

By Janai Tedder, CIU Student Writer

**I**n one moment, everyone's heart sank. That was it. The season was over and the journey had ended. On Nov. 16, the 2016 season of Columbia International University's women's soccer team finished with a 3-4 loss to John Wesley University in overtime. The Lady Rams gathered in a huddle for the last time until next fall.

Despite the loss, there was no circumstance that could tear the bonds of friendship the season had formed.

"There is something about playing the game of soccer that creates a special bond," Alanna Battermann, a junior, said about her experience on the women's soccer team.

Through the ups and downs, the close calls and tough times, these women are not just teammates or friends, but something more.

"This team is something special," senior Naomi Reed said. "We are all human, a hot mess, and have so many different personalities. But we have one thing that bonds us so close together, that's so unique, and that's the love of Christ which causes us to love one another so dearly."

## **WE ARE FAMILIES**

One of the reasons the women's team is a tight-knit group, is the leadership style of Coach Kara Farnsworth. Beginning with the 2015 inaugural season, Farnsworth grouped the team into four "families," each with a leader voted on by the team. Instead of team captains, these leaders guide their individual families throughout the season.

The 2016 season family leaders were: seniors Esther Edwards, Naomi Reed, Mandi Shumate and junior Alanna Battermann.

Edwards believes her role as a leader is "to just be there for my teammates and be a person that my teammates feel like they can come to if they need anything." Similarly, Reed says she tries to "pour into and love on" her family to "see how they are doing spiritually."

Angela McMaster  
Mandi Shumate  
Janai Tedder  
Esther Edwards



**"I AM SIMPLY A HUMAN VESSEL FOR THE LORD TO WORK THROUGH."** – Mandi Shumate

The team views soccer as a platform for ministry and by dispersing leadership responsibilities, it enables the team to grow closer together as friends as they grow together spiritually.

"Having smaller groups within our team has allowed us to be more intentional about checking up on one another's walks with God and growing

in relationship with one another," Battermann said.

Though each family is serious about growing spiritually and in their friendships, the families have fun with creative family competitions, selecting a family name, a cheer, costumes and a dance performed for the coaches. The winning team is awarded points and bragging rights until next season.

"I have seen our team grow stronger together in a bond that is amazing," Reed said. "By having fun, I've seen (us) grow into a better soccer team. We've learned how to play better with one another and work together on the field."



**"THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT PLAYING THE GAME OF SOCCER THAT CREATES A SPECIAL BOND."**

– Alana Batterman

## **ABIDING IN CHRIST**

Through the leadership experience, the women have found how much they need to lean on the Lord.

"A verse I kept coming back to was John 15:5 which says, 'If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me, you can do nothing,'" Shumate quoted. "I am simply a human vessel for the Lord to work through. I will fail the girls in my human capability to love them. (But) I have been reminded time and time again that I must be filled with the Holy Spirit and His love and faithfulness before I can pour into the girls."

Battermann echoed a similar dependence on the Lord.

"Many times I've felt inadequate, and rightly so," Batterman said. "I've grown more deeply in relying on the Lord for His strength, for wisdom, and for His enabling to accomplish that which He has called me to."

Edwards says she has learned that leaders are called to bring out the best in those they oversee.

"The Lord has shown me that he uses anyone and everyone to speak through, no matter where they are in life,"

Edwards said. "The girls in my group have shown me Jesus by just living their lives and being who the Lord has made them."

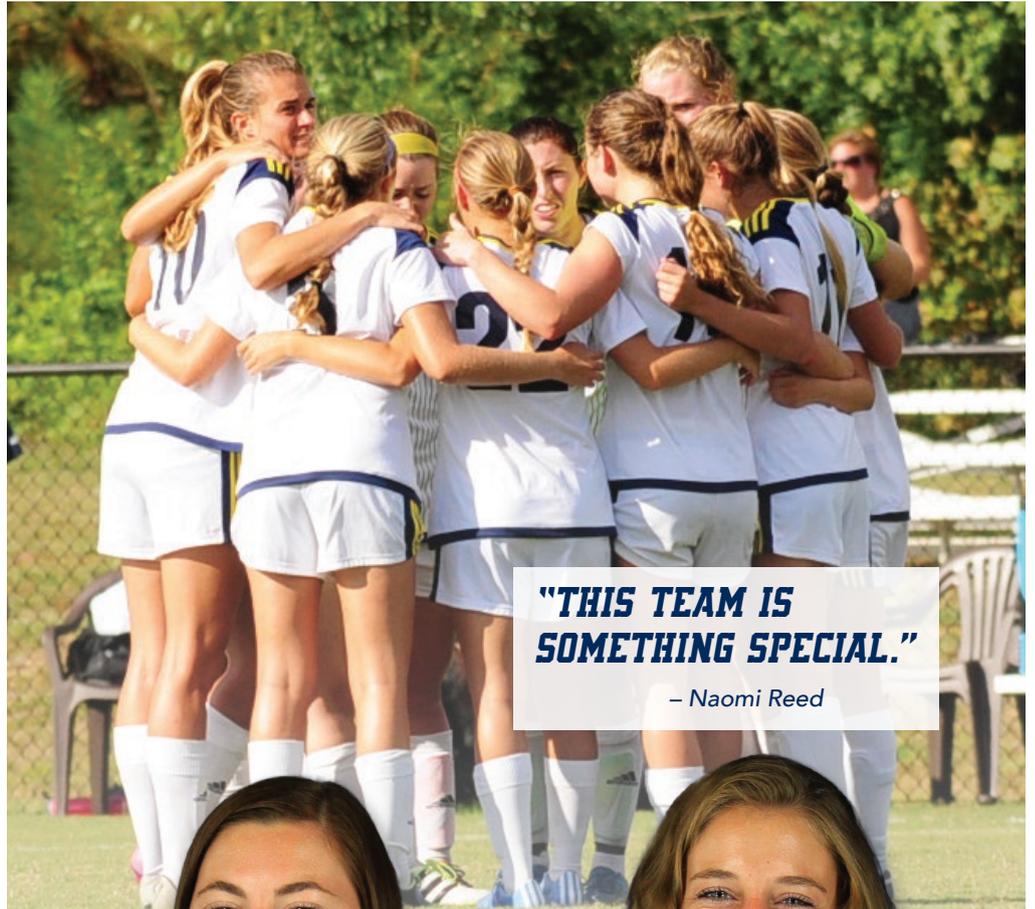
## **LEADING FROM THE SIDELINES - WITH A HEADACHE**

After suffering a concussion midway through the season, Shumate was further challenged as a team leader. Unable to attend practice or preside over family meetings, she found other ways to minister to her family members.

"I realized how hard it is to be involved from the sideline," Shumate said. "Thankfully, I was able to pray for the girls and be there for them through encouragement and other ways. It made me really appreciate the role (I have) when I (am able to) do everything."

With three of the four leaders eligible to return for the 2017 season, the chemistry is there for the team to grow closer to one another, and to the Lord, as they play soccer together.

"Over these last two seasons, I have seen our team grow in the way we love and care for one another," Edwards observed. "Our team loves in the way that we see Jesus love. We love each person wherever they are in their walk, and this translates onto the field." ■



**"THIS TEAM IS SOMETHING SPECIAL."**

– Naomi Reed



**"I HAVE SEEN OUR TEAM GROW IN THE WAY WE LOVE AND CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER."**

– Esther Edwards

# ACADEMICS

## CIU Senior Scores Soccer Internship in The Big Apple



Combining a passion for soccer with his chosen major made for an exciting internship for a Columbia International University senior. Agustin Arce-Ruiz, a member of the CIU men's soccer team, and a Business & Organizational Leadership major, served with the New York City Football Club (NYCFC) of Major League Soccer this past summer at the iconic Yankee Stadium in The Bronx.

CIU Sport Management Program Director Dr. Wayne Rasmussen, was instrumental in Arce-Ruiz landing the two-month internship with NYCFC. Arce-Ruiz worked in several areas of the organization to gain a better perspective on the business behind running a professional sports franchise. He discussed his experience in a Q&A with CIU Graduate Assistant Rico Hall:

### Hall: How did this opportunity come about?

**Arce-Ruiz:** I approached Dr. Rasmussen in the fall of 2015. I knew I wanted to work for a professional soccer club, so I asked him if he could help me. He immediately had me start the research process. After several months we were able to meet with NYCFC Sporting Director Claudio Reyna, who Dr. Rasmussen knew from their time together on the U.S. National Team. That led to further interviews with NYCFC, and eventually, the internship.

### Hall: What surprised you the most?

**Arce-Ruiz:** There is so much that happens behind the scenes with a professional team. Everyone has very specific roles and is expected to do those roles precisely. In this business it's all about the details. I was also pleasantly surprised by the culture and atmosphere. NYCFC is truly a team and a family, and they made me feel right at home from day one and throughout the experience.

*Agustin Arce-Ruiz (center) with NYCFC Director of Team Operations Sam Pugsley, (left) and Team Coordinator Nick True-Palmer.*

*"Agustin cares deeply about soccer and was very vested in the club as a whole." –Sam Pugsley*

### Hall: What did a typical day look like?

**Arce-Ruiz:** Work days varied depending on if we had a game or not. We usually started at nine o'clock in the morning and stayed until the job was done in the evening. It was fun work, and though it could be exhausting at times, it was always rewarding.

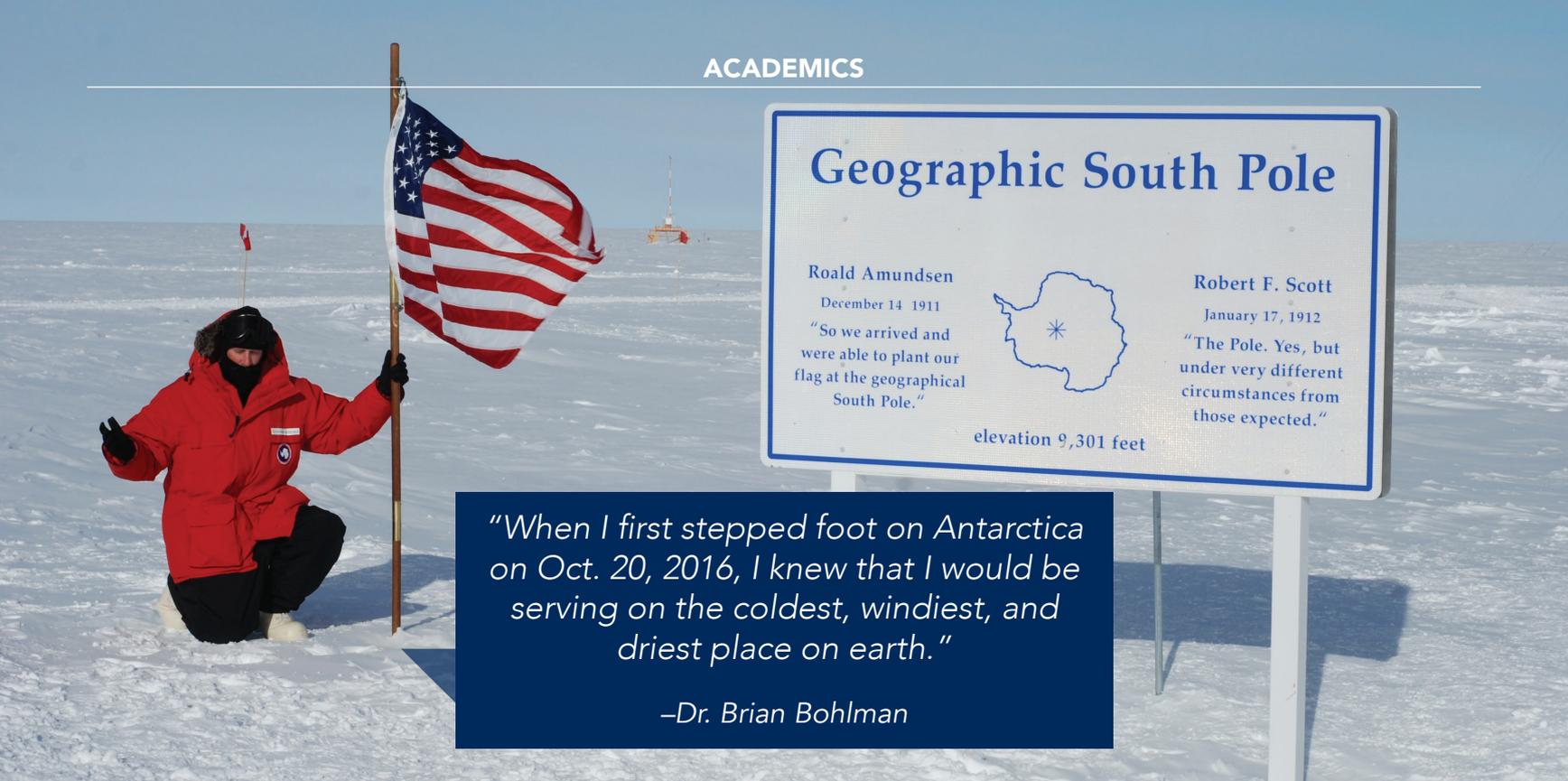
### Hall: What from your CIU academic experience prepared you for this assignment?

**Arce-Ruiz:** My International Business class in particular, as well as business classes such as accounting, proved helpful. Also, the biblical worldview perspective and ministry approach of CIU were valuable.

### Hall: What did you like most about this opportunity?

**Arce-Ruiz:** It gave me the chance to see what I like and don't like about the profession. I also have a better understanding of what I want to do when I graduate! ■





*"When I first stepped foot on Antarctica on Oct. 20, 2016, I knew that I would be serving on the coldest, windiest, and driest place on earth."*

*—Dr. Brian Bohlman*

## Discovering God at the Ends of the Earth

By Dr. Brian Bohlman, CIU Professor of Chaplaincy

As I reflect back on my four years as a Columbia International University seminary student, I will never forget the courses taught by the late Dr. Terry Hulbert, distinguished professor emeritus of Bible. As a skilled educator and frequent traveler to the Holy Land, Dr. Hulbert had a natural gift for teaching and using his travel experiences to help illustrate course content. He easily held the attention of first-year seminarians which instilled in me a desire to use my military chaplain experiences as a teaching tool when I became an educator.

Since 2014, I have served as an adjunct professor at CIU Seminary & School of Ministry and developed five new Chaplaincy courses to complement our seminary program. Along with retired Navy Chaplain, Dr. Michael Langston, I have designed and taught CIU Chaplaincy courses based on my years of service as a professional chaplain in a military and civilian setting.

In December 2016, I returned from Operation DEEP FREEZE where I served with the Air National Guard as a military chaplain on the continent of Antarctica. During my tour of duty, I was responsible for the emotional and spiritual well-being of approximately 1,250 civilian and military personnel serving at McMurdo Station, Scott Base, and the South Pole Station. I provided pastoral care, opportunities for religious observances, and advice to leadership through a ministry of presence, work site visitation, counseling, crisis intervention/response and worship services.

When I first stepped foot on Antarctica on Oct. 20, 2016, I knew

that I would be serving on the coldest, windiest, and driest place on earth. However, what I did not know was how I would discover God through people I served and at the amazing places I visited at the ends of the earth.

Like my other military experiences, I have a fresh well of illustrations to draw from when teaching. Among my unique experiences while serving in Antarctica, the following will be shared with my students:

- 1. Discover God as you build relationships with those outside of the church.** The hours I spent providing a ministry of presence *outside* of the Chapel of the Snows at McMurdo Station, gave me access to amazing people and research projects.
- 2. Discover God when you take a Sabbath from your smartphone.** The absence of cell phone service and Wi-Fi internet access in Antarctica allowed me to share meaningful and undistracted conversations with many people during meals. Being "disconnected" from my smartphone for two months was good for my soul.
- 3. Discover God in the beauty of creation.** Hiking the hills on Ross Island helped clear my mind and gave me a fresh perspective on my faith journey. Praying at the South Pole reminded me of Psalm 61:1-2 which says, "Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I." ■

# ATHLETICS

## CIU Bids Kim Abbott Godspeed



CIU's first Athletics Director Kim Abbott

Kim Abbott made her mark in the history of Columbia International University. And now CIU has said its goodbyes to the school's first athletics director.

Abbott resigned from CIU at the end of the fall semester to give more attention and care to her elderly parents in Oklahoma. A farewell reception was held for Abbott in

the Moore Fitness Center, a building that stood when Abbott was hired in 2010, but needed an athletics program to make it come alive. Two years later, under Abbott's leadership, the CIU Rams were playing intercollegiate men's soccer with a half dozen other sports added over the rest of her tenure.

"I know that it was hard work, but it's very rewarding," Abbott said in between hugs from CIU staff, faculty and student-athletes. "I've been given so much more than I've given. I love the coaches, I love the people. I love the kids. I think that's what CIU is all about. I've received so much."

James Whitaker is the new A.D., having served as CIU's assistant A.D. and men's soccer coach. At the reception, he stood nearby and as he watched students, faculty and staff give Abbott a final hug, he talked about what he learned from Abbott on how to be "a coach's A.D."

"Her door is always open," Whitaker said. "She makes the job of a coach a lot easier, coming alongside us and helping to manage all the little things that need to be done — a lot of the

things you don't see or hear about, but ultimately making our Athletics Department successful."

Abbott took a moment to look around the room and address the athletes who had come to bid her farewell.

"You know I love you," Abbott began. "You guys are special and on the right track. You've chosen to come to CIU. This is an amazing place. Hang in there. Don't give up. Be great athletes."

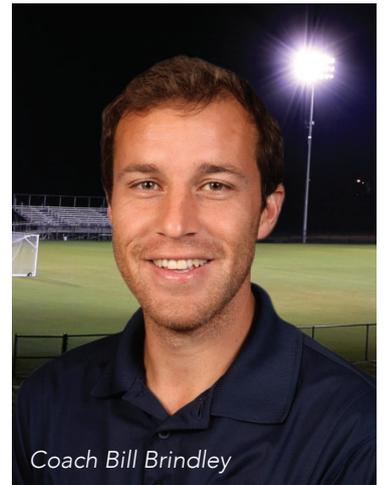
## Meanwhile...

James Whitaker's promotion to athletics director left the men's head soccer coach position vacant. That position was filled by Bill Brindley.

Brindley comes to CIU from Trinity Baptist College in Jacksonville, Florida where he built TBC's soccer program from scratch in 2012 to consecutive regional tournament championships, and the 2015 NCCAA D2 National Championship. Before becoming a coach, Brindley played professionally with USL teams Real Maryland and the Pittsburgh River Hounds. He was a collegiate standout at Tennessee Temple and Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Brindley says he was attracted to CIU because, "it was evident that CIU is filled with passionate people who believe in providing a Christ-centered environment for the student athlete."

"I am proud to join the Ram nation and look forward to helping our student athletes achieve success on the field, in the classroom and in the community," Brindley added. ■



Coach Bill Brindley



▲ Ryan Gibson, 1,000 points scorer, with Coach Marshall Tague

## CIU Athlete Achieves Milestone

Ryan Gibson is the first basketball player in CIU history to score 1,000 points. He achieved the milestone on Jan. 31 in a win against Warren Wilson College at Swannanoa, North Carolina. He would later be honored in front of the hometown crowd in the Moore Fitness Center on Feb. 2 prior to the Rams' contest against Johnson & Wales University. Gibson was introduced and presented with a basketball inscribed with his achievement. He immediately ran toward the stands with the basketball and presented it to his parents in the front row. ■

## Former Ram Becomes Semi-Pro

By Mitch Strauser, CIU Sports Information Director

In March 2016, Alonzo Green was ending his collegiate basketball career with the CIU Rams. A year later, he is ending his first season with the Carolina Cougars of Columbia, South Carolina, making Green the first CIU basketball player to play semi-pro basketball.

"It has been a fun experience being able to stay in Columbia to play basketball," Green said of his association with the ABA (American Basketball Association) team. "It might be a different gym, but the love for basketball that this city has is an awesome feeling."

In this, their inaugural season, the Cougars were ranked in the top 15 among ABA teams.

"The competition is really good and the game is a lot faster pace than in college," Green noted. "We have to come up with a lot of the decisions on our own out on the court, but that has stretched me to be a better player and teammate."

Green has been a standout for the Cougars, averaging 14 points and 9 assists per game, including two games where he scored 20 points. But his best game was when he came just three rebounds short of a triple-double, leading the way with points and assists.

The Cougars signed Green after he impressed the coaching staff during a workout audition.

"Alonzo is a great young man who has a work ethic that you look for," said Cougars Head Coach Marcus Reese. "He also has the attention to detail that gives him the ability to be a coach on the floor. Signing Alonzo was a no-brainer for us after seeing him work out. He was the perfect fit for the team."

CIU Head Basketball Coach Marshall Tague says Green is the type of player who inspires others.

"Playing with the Cougars has been a big step for him, but the impact that he can have on others through athletics is really something to be proud of," Tague said.

Green adds that his CIU experience prepared him for the journey.

"Athletics at CIU showed me how through the game of basketball, I can give God glory and also worship him," Green said. "The academics side showed me how to be a professional, but the spiritual side really gave me a way to see basketball as a ministry opportunity. I will be forever grateful for my time at CIU." ■



Former CIU Ram  
Alonzo Green

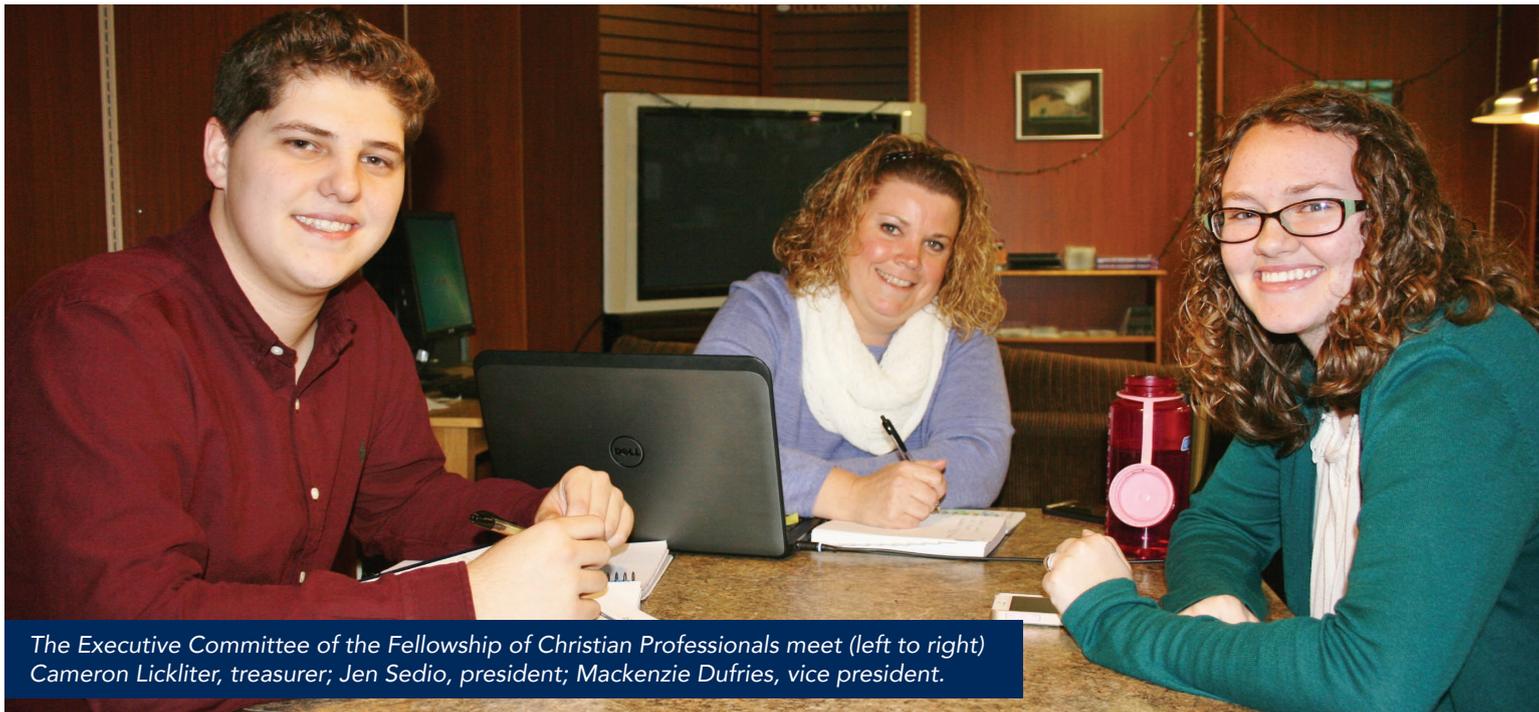
**"Alonzo is a great young man who has a work ethic that you look for."**

– Marcus Reese  
Carolina Cougars head coach



(Photos: Carolina Cougars)

# CAMPUS LIFE



The Executive Committee of the Fellowship of Christian Professionals meet (left to right) Cameron Licklitter, treasurer; Jen Sedio, president; Mackenzie Dufries, vice president.

## Fellowship of Christian Professionals Organizes

By Bob Holmes

A new group on campus is aiming to help CIU students make connections in the Columbia area business community. The Fellowship of Christian Professionals (FCP) was formed at the end of the Fall semester, mostly by students majoring in Business & Organizational Leadership, and is on the way to fulfilling its mission:

*To equip CIU students through business to advance the kingdom of God through education, innovation and connection.*

FCP President Jen Sedio, a senior, says the organization will help students network and make inroads into the business world before graduation “so they are equipped to take on a job or be confident to take on an internship in their major.”

The group has already made connections with the South Carolina Christian Chamber of Commerce and is moving toward involvement with Enactus, a national collaboration of students, academic and business leaders who use their entrepreneurial interests to create a better world.

Meanwhile, Sedio says short-term FCP goals include guest speaker luncheons, lining up business-oriented Chapel speakers and inviting alumni who can help students land that important first job, including how to prepare for a job interview.

“On top of building their resume, we want them skilled and

confident in doing interviews, what questions to be prepared for, how they should present themselves, what they should ask in an interview, (and) what they should investigate before an interview,” Sedio said.

Sedio is herself in a good position to assist students entering the business world. At age 39, she is twice the age of most of her classmates. The mother of two teenage boys is the sports director at a local YMCA and came to Columbia with her husband from Massachusetts where they owned a diner.

“I’ve always been in management and have always enjoyed being in management,” Sedio said. “Just being able to help others has always been my ultimate life goal in whatever aspect God has for me to do that ... looking at it as a leader with vision for my department as well as my staff and where they are going in life.”

That view fits with the Scripture that FCP has adopted as its guide from 1 Peter 4:8-12, which in part reads:

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace ...”

*Editor’s note: If you are a business professional or CIU alumnus who can assist the Fellowship of Christian Professionals, contact them at [jen.sedio@mailbox.ciu.edu](mailto:jen.sedio@mailbox.ciu.edu). ■*



## Having a Whole Lot of Fun at the "House"

*The Battle of the Houses brings out the creativity at CIU*

By Michael A. Lanier and Bob Holmes

The popular TV show ESPN College Game Day broadcast live from the Columbia International University soccer field on Sept. 24 – well, sort of.

A group of CIU guys from one residence hall went to great lengths to make it look like ESPN was on the scene for CIU men's and women's soccer matches against Montreat College. It was part of the "Battle of the Houses" featuring the six residence halls on campus. The Battle generates school spirit as part of the new House Collective concept instituted this year at CIU where freshmen now live alongside upperclassmen. Each residence hall or "House" is named for a virtue (in Latin) and has its own crest and Bible verse associated with its virtue, and is developing its own traditions. Friendly competitions such as the "Battle of the Houses" are being organized throughout the school year.

In the Battle of the Houses, members of each house created their own cheers, costumes, and wacky ornaments, all while cheering on the Rams soccer teams.

"There's a lot going on, and it's a lot of fun," said sophomore Brandon Brazell, of The House of Virtus.

"It's super-cool that people are bringing in their cheers and skills to help the House," added senior Madison Reke of The House of Veritas.

The demonstrations of spirit by the



▲ The House of Virtus celebrates their win in the "Battle of the Houses"

**"It's a cool opportunity to unify our campus and show some school spirit."**

– Senior Nathan Kyles

houses ranged from a chanting of "I believe that we will win" to a trash can drum corps and even more outlandish shows of support for the Rams, including one student who glued cotton balls to herself to imitate a ram.

"It's a cool opportunity to unify our campus and show some school spirit," said senior Nathan Kyles of The House of Justitia.

Under the House Collective, even faculty and staff have associated with a House.

"Great night! Fierce competition!" said Lainie McWilliams of the Student Life Office who associates herself with The House of Fidelitas.

"Fidelitas is the best!" echoed her husband, Professor Dr. Kevin McWilliams.

Throughout the night, a series of judges graded the houses on their displays of spirit. One of the judges was CIU Chancellor, Dr. George Murray.

"It's really hard to judge," said Murray, "because each group has their own unique strengths. It's wonderful to see

the enthusiasm – and hear it."

The winning House was The House of Virtus, the students who went all out with the mock ESPN studio, which included theme music to imitate ESPN's SportsCenter and reporters resembling the ESPN broadcast team. Members of the House received a steak dinner as their prize.

"The crazy frenetic energy is amazing!" said junior Max Harding of Sapientia, upon seeing Virtus' ESPN parody.

Meanwhile on the soccer field, the Rams split, with the women victorious in the first match and the men coming up short in the second.

But much of the night was about unity and school spirit.

"It's a cool way to get the campus together, and to get to know your House," said sophomore Michaela Warner of The House of Dignitas. ■



## Where Double Burden Becomes Double Blessing

Some of us are old enough to remember the commercial that promised we could "Double the pleasure, double the fun" if we chewed Doublemint Gum. But when it comes to double the number of students a family has in college, "pleasure and fun" don't exactly come to mind. But you can help.

For example, **Michael and Darilyn Batterman ('92 and '89)** minister in Kenya as two of their four children, Alanna and Doran, are enrolled on the other side of the world at CIU.

"We are grateful that CIU still has a missional focus, and since both Alanna and Doran have missionary hearts, we believe that CIU is an excellent place for them to pursue their higher education," the Battermans wrote from Africa. "We are also thankful for financial assistance so Alanna and Doran won't be burdened with college loans."

And then there are **the Senseney brothers**.

Sam Senseney is thankful that he is more than a name on a class roster. The freshman says his professors want to know him and "get deep."

And that is what Sam has needed from those around him at CIU after his back was broken in a traffic accident that took the life

of his father and injured his older brother Flynn, a senior at CIU. The accident came about a year after their mother's death.

Even though Sam has healed from his injuries, he still has had a lot of "why?" questions for God. But Sam is at CIU, where he is surrounded by the support of his professors, as well as the guys in his residence hall.

As for Flynn, life's hurdles could have blocked him from continuing at CIU, but instead he says, "The Lord has guided me to CIU."

"We have had a financial burden on us because of my mom passing away and now my dad passing," Flynn said. "It has caused me to rely more on God."

Both brothers are grateful for financial assistance from donors.

Here's where you can "Double the blessing" of other CIU students who may be feeling "Double the burden." Visit [doublethedonation.com/ciu](http://doublethedonation.com/ciu). There you may discover that your employer matches your charitable gifts to CIU.

And that's "something to chew on" that has an eternal impact. ■



### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Visit [doublethedonation.com/ciu](http://doublethedonation.com/ciu) to see if your employer matches charitable gifts. Any tax-deductible gift to CIU may be eligible for matching.



## Join the Rams Club, Support CIU Athletics

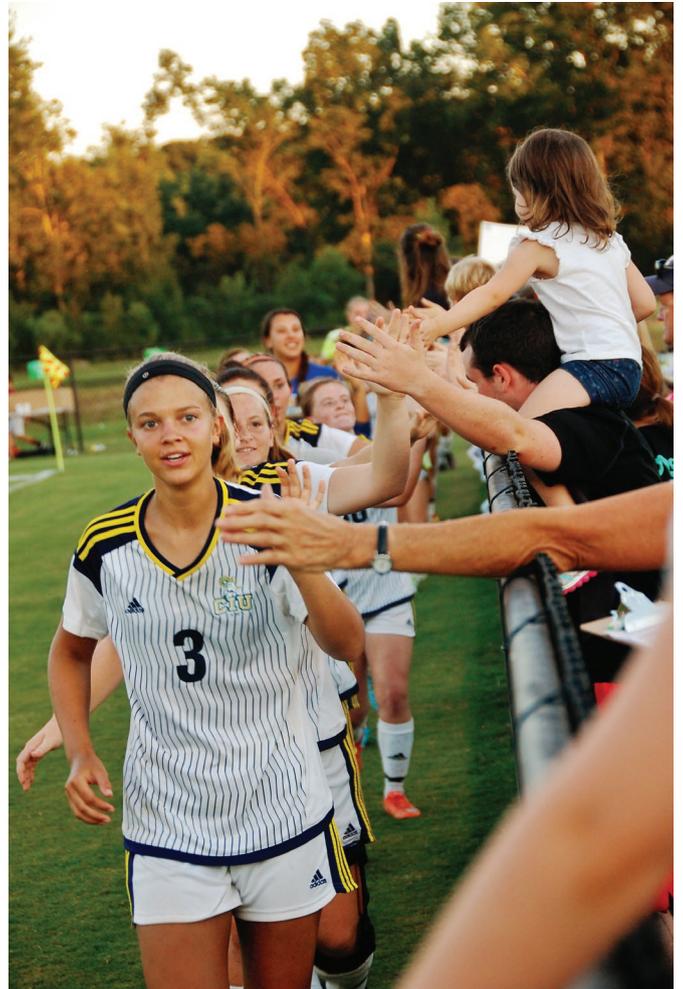
The CIU athletics program was established in 2010 because we believe that athletes serve as some of the most effective evangelists for this generation and the world. CIU is committed to training student athletes to compete with excellence while developing firm spiritual and academic foundations. As alumni, fans, and friends you are vital to both the short- and long-term growth and success of CIU athletics.

That's why there's Rams Club, the official fundraising arm of CIU athletics. It directly assists in the cost of athletic scholarships and provides financial support for athletic programs and facility improvements.

As a Rams Club member, you'll be eligible for exclusive Rams Club gear, special invitations to athletic events, and recognition as a partner with CIU in impacting the nations with the message of Christ through athletics.

For more information or to join Rams Club, visit [ciu.edu/ramsclub](http://ciu.edu/ramsclub), or contact Rams Club Coordinator Niki McIntosh at (803) 807-5508, [ramsclub@ciu.edu](mailto:ramsclub@ciu.edu).

Go Rams! ■



## Estate Planning Made Easy

Estate planning. It's really not complicated. In a nutshell, estate planning is what you want done with what you own. You can provide for the people and causes important to you by taking simple steps now. CIU can help make creating your plan for the future easy and even enjoyable.

Get your free guide on estate planning at [ciu.edu/willsguide](http://ciu.edu/willsguide) or call us at (803) 807-5500. ■

## Make a Gift, Make an Impact

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Call us at (803) 807-5006

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# Go Green, Get \$Green



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CIU wants to communicate with you more effectively. Make it happen in just 20 seconds when you visit [ciu.edu/email](http://ciu.edu/email). The \$100 gift card winner will be chosen on April 15.



All participants will receive a 4GB  
customized CIU USB flash drive.

# Meet Edith Parks ('91)

The New Alumni Leadership Council President

Rip and Edith Parks

## The Lord Directed Her Steps

As a six year old, Edith Parks ('91) knew that she wanted to be a teacher. In high school, she determined to remain single for life. After graduating from Clemson University, she thought that she would stay in Greenville, South Carolina and teach school until she retired.

When Parks thought those things she was not familiar with Proverbs 16:9 which says "The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps."

"How very well acquainted I am with that verse now," Parks said. "God took my plans and said, 'Watch this! This is far better than you could ever imagine.'"

After nearly a decade as a school teacher and a job at a bank, God began to work in her heart, giving her a desire to earn a graduate degree in Christian Education, preparing her to work in the church. So, at age 34, she followed God's call to attend what was then called Columbia Seminary and Graduate School of Missions, now CIU Seminary & School of Ministry.

While a student, she became reacquainted with a man she knew in high school, Rip Parks. He fell in love

with her on their first date. However it took her two years and a move to serve at a church in Jacksonville, Florida before she figured out that she was supposed to marry him.

Edith and Rip Parks began married life in Charlotte, North Carolina, but after five years, God presented the opportunity for them to move to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Knowing that life with God is always an adventure and being confident that God was leading them to the UAE, they stepped out in faith. Although Edith was prone to homesickness and never liked flying, she settled quickly into life in Abu Dhabi – volunteering, serving on their church's Women's Council, teaching Bible studies and the junior high Friday school class. Their church included people from over 30 countries. "It was a small picture of

what heaven is going to be like," she said.

Rip's work brought them back to the United States where they planned to settle in Charlotte again. However, God's directions took them to Richmond, Virginia for five years. Once again He was

preparing them for what was to come. Edith became involved in two ministries to women as well as an inner city ministry and also served on the church staff.

Six years ago, God called them back to Greenville, South Carolina. She says it was a hard move since she wanted to go back to Charlotte where her friends were. "Once again, I made my plans but God directed my steps."

Being in Greenville has allowed Edith and Rip to spend time with their families and to minister to them. In addition, Edith led the Women's Ministry at church for three years and is involved in an inner city school, teaches Sunday school and serves as the chair of the board of two Christian ministries. One of them is the Alumni Association Leadership Council at CIU.

"What a joy to be involved with CIU again," Edith said. "Some of the faces of faculty and staff have changed. Current students are now young enough to be my children. However, the motto of knowing God and making Him known is still the focus. It is what we all seek to do whether we serve in the church, or in missions, or work in our neighborhoods. As we make our plans at CIU to impact the world for the kingdom, we do so with prayer, wise counsel, and faith, knowing that God will show us His direction for us as we plan our steps." ■

**Is God calling you to graduate school?**

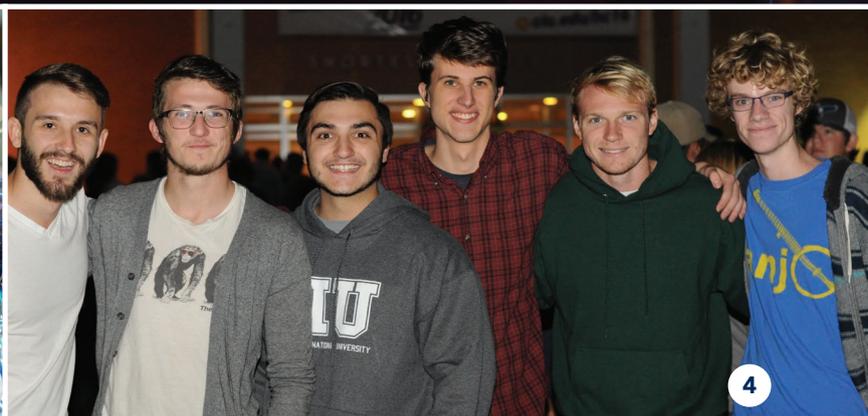
Learn more at: [ciu.edu/graduate](http://ciu.edu/graduate).

# Homecoming 2016

Homecoming 2016 was an amazing time! Over 1,000 alumni and guests enjoyed several exciting new events along with some favorites from prior years.

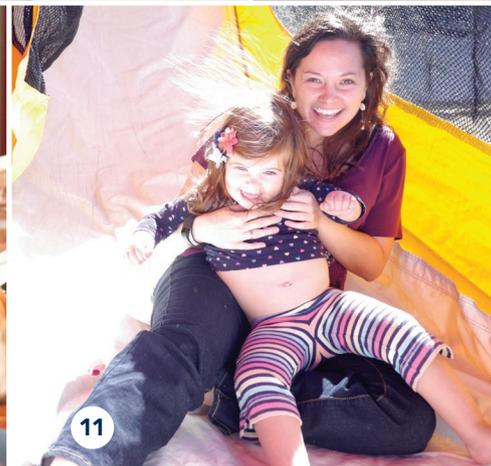
The Crowder concert, Scones with Scholars, President's Banquet, and the reunions were excellent times for alumni to reconnect with each other and their alma mater.

To see photos of the class reunions visit [ciu.me/reunions](http://ciu.me/reunions).



1) Crowder Concert in Shortess Chapel  
 2) Student Meng Thao with family at Rambunctious Run  
 3) Vicki Frye ('76) greets Vickie Jenkins ('75)  
 4) Students at the Crowder Concert

5) Deb McQuilkin ('82), wife of the late CIU President Robertson McQuilkin, addresses President's Banquet.  
 6) Alumnus of the Year, Paul Tripp ('72), with his wife Luella ('72).  
 7) Classmates from the Class of 2006



8) Peggy Lee Manoogian of Alumni Relations with Jack ('60) and Liz ('88) Layman

9) Luella Tripp ('72) speaking in Business class

10) Classmates reconnecting during Chapel

11) Lauren Marshall ('06) with Caroline Whisennant's ('06) daughter, Pepper

12) Kevin McWilliams ('83/'85) with alumni at Scones with Scholars

13) John and Pat Sellers with Carlyle and Judi Herring, classmates from 1972

(Homecoming photos by Chris Brink, Tim Brink, Zech Kramm)



## Be sure to mark your calendar for Homecoming 2017 November 3-4!

**You'll meet Dr. Ralph Enlow ('72/'82), the 2017 Alumnus of the Year.**

Dr. Enlow served for 28 years as an educational leader at CIU, including six years as senior vice president and provost. Today he serves as president of the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) which includes over 200 higher education institutions throughout North America. Dr. Enlow's involvement in theological higher education also includes service as a consultant, institutional self-study director, accreditation team chair, and chair of ABHE's Commission on Accreditation.

# Recent Alumni Honored by CIU

Each year, CIU identifies recent alumni for their distinguished accomplishments on the mission field, in the marketplace, or in church ministry. These individuals, who have graduated within the last 12 years, also exemplify CIU's five core values. You may know at least one of them:



## Nathan Aylestock ('03/'07)

Nathan graduated in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in Youth Ministry and a master's degree with a focus on education and counseling. He teaches Bible at Westminster Catawba Christian School in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

*"There are times when it's hard, but there are so many beautiful times I just know I'm at the center of His will. I get to spend every day teaching God's word, and it is so good and so fun."*



## Frew Tamrat ('13)

Frew graduated in 2013 with his Ph.D., and today serves as the vice president for academic affairs at Evangelical Theological College in Ethiopia.

*"Like the apostle Paul who passed on to his spiritual son Timothy what he received from the Lord, I feel honored by being able to pass on what the Lord has entrusted to me to the next generation and see its fruit in my lifetime."*



## Sarah Bedi ('07/'09)

Sarah graduated in 2009 with a Master of Divinity degree. She lives in Stockholm, Sweden, where she ministers to unreached

people groups and immigrants, while working with local churches to train leaders for new church plants.

*"I am absolutely convinced that this is where God desires to use me. It is amazing to be part of a bigger vision: Seeing the Swedes engage in finishing the Great Commission."*



## Dawn Baker ('05)

Dawn graduated in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in Communication. She teaches second to fifth graders who are deaf or have hearing difficulties at Mary McArthur Elementary School in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

*"It is very exciting to have kids come to my class with a huge deficit in their receptive and expressive language skills, leave my class ready for regular education classes either with some support or completely independent, and a new confidence in who they are and who they were created to be."*



## Vanessa Torres ('06)

Vanessa graduated in 2006 with a Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). She teaches Spanish at Nursery Road Elementary School in Columbia, South Carolina, and is a 2017 Milken Educator Award recipient, honoring top educators around the country (see page 8).

*"I want to give my students a love for the language and the culture. The love of God is a heart for all cultures. We need to love the people that are here with us, and learn to appreciate the diversity they bring to us."*



## Ryan Jorgenson ('10)

Ryan graduated in 2010 with a Master of Divinity degree. He is the founder and senior pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel (HBC) Des Moines and the director of Harvest Apologetics Training Center.

*"I am dead center in God's will for my life, planting and pastoring HBC Des Moines. I love to know that and to see the Spirit set people free through the gospel." ■*

**Is there someone you would like to nominate? Contact the Alumni Office at (803) 807-5500 or [alumni@ciu.edu](mailto:alumni@ciu.edu)**

Other distinguished recent alumni will be featured throughout the year in the Alumni E-news and on the alumni website at [ciu.edu/rara](http://ciu.edu/rara).

# ALUMNI Class Notes



**Naomi (Rikard) Cothran ('46)** worked as an administrator at Rikard Nursing Home, retiring in 1992. Her most treasured lesson from her time at Columbia Bible College (CBC) was the required daily Bible study. A favorite memory was Sunday afternoons when groups of students gathered to sing. She enjoys her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Emily (Ewbank) Mitchell ('46)** has many fond memories of her time at CBC including her professors who stressed the importance of living the Victorious Christian Life and being committed to the Lord. While a student, she said she would never teach school, but after she finished her degree, she taught for many years in West Virginia, until her retirement.



**CBC Class of 1956 James Aycock, Phyllis (Marshall) Barnes, Jean (Sharpe) Brueck, Carolynne (Moody) Cimbaro, and Gary Letchworth** had a wonderful reunion at Homecoming reminiscing and catching up on the last 60 years since they graduated.

**David ('63) and Elouise (Renich) ('65) Fraser** celebrated the 20th anniversary of Development Associates International (DAI), an organization co-founded by David. David has retired, but continues to volunteer for DAI and is additionally working on a history of Christian Ethics from Augustine to Karl Barth. [davidallenfraser@gmail.com](mailto:davidallenfraser@gmail.com)



**Charlotte Harris Rees ('67)** authored a new book, "Courage, Endurance, Sacrifice: The Lives and Faith of Three Generations of Missionaries." Missionaries or MKs will relate to the book, which discusses the phenomena of "third culture kids" and the problems and blessing of living abroad. [cdjr@verizon.net](mailto:cdjr@verizon.net)

**Jerry ('67) and Margaret (Lee) ('68) Cross** are retired and living in Nashville, Tennessee where they continue to do work at theological seminaries. Before retirement, they planted churches in Chile and Mexico City where they also founded a church planting training center. Jerry has also authored two books. [livinginrace@rocketmail.com](mailto:livinginrace@rocketmail.com)



**Michael Johnson ('69)** stepped down in June as international director of the mission People International. He and his wife, Diana, are now working with refugees in Europe where they report hundreds of Muslims are turning to Christ. [Jmichaeljohns@gmail.com](mailto:Jmichaeljohns@gmail.com)

**Phillip Baynes ('72)** married Cat Carpenter on Jan. 8, 2017. They live in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. [Phbaynes@gmail.com](mailto:Phbaynes@gmail.com)



**Beth (Gieser) Moe ('75)** and her husband Ron served with Wycliffe Bible Translators for 31 years, starting with a group of people in the Philippines. They moved to Kenya in 1992 where Ron was a linguistics consultant and they raised their children. [ronmoe7@gmail.com](mailto:ronmoe7@gmail.com)

**Rick Sessoms ('80)** published a book titled, "Leading with Story: Cultivating Christ-centered Leaders in a Storycentric Generation." The book offers unique solutions that will inspire and challenge those who want to be a Christ-centered leader or raise up Christ-centered leaders in our storycentric generation. [Rick@freedomtolead.net](mailto:Rick@freedomtolead.net)

**Thomas Campbell ('87)** moved to Germany after graduation where he met and married his wife Petra, a doctor, in 1990. He serves as an elder in their church, and their four daughters are actively involved in ministries either through their schools, community, or through organizations in other countries. [tomc@online.de](mailto:tomc@online.de)

**William (Bill) ('91) and Tammy Simpson** live in Wilmington, North Carolina, where Bill serves as the executive director of Pidea Alliance, Inc., a company he founded. Pidea helps integrate public school students in North Carolina with Released Time Bible Education classes. William recently published a book titled "How to Ask God: for What He Wants to Give You." [billsimpson@PideaAlliance.org](mailto:billsimpson@PideaAlliance.org)



**Eric ('90) and Deonna (Wechtel) ('92) Bundrick** serve God and country at Fort Bragg, North Carolina where Eric is an active-duty U.S. Army Chaplain. He was deployed to Afghanistan in 2010, but has been blessed to spend the last several years at home with his family. [thebundricks@gmail.com](mailto:thebundricks@gmail.com)



**Cherie Rempel ('92)** married Dave McDeavitt in January 2017 in Longview, Texas. [books.kiteb@gmail.com](mailto:books.kiteb@gmail.com)



**Anne ('98) and Eric Gosnell** and their three children live in Greer, South Carolina. After teaching in Christian and private schools for six years, Anne has been homeschooling her children for the past five years. She is also the Awana counsel time leader at a local church near their home. Anne writes a blog, [FutureFlyingSaucers.com](http://FutureFlyingSaucers.com), for parents and teachers, providing templates for teaching Bible lessons. She recently published a book for parents and teachers titled, "Walk This Way: Ethics and Sanctification Lessons for Kids." [klopex@klopex.com](mailto:klopex@klopex.com)

# ALUMNI Class Notes



**Jason ('02) and Stephanie Christofi** welcomed Jubilee Grace Christofi, 6 lbs. 4 oz., on May 21, 2016. They prayed for her for seven years before God graciously granted the desire of their hearts!  
jasonandstephanie2008@gmail.com

**David ('05) and Emily (Former Staff) Cetola** moved their family to Forli, Italy, where they serve the Lord alongside other co-workers in ministry.  
cetolafamily@gmail.com



**Nathan ('12) and Ho Su Ran Morris** and their two sons now live in Dublin, Georgia after living in Korea. Nathan serves as an adult literacy instructor with the Oconee Fall Line Technical College, helping adults earn their GED.  
nsmzed@gmail.com

**Cole Harper ('15)** married Tori Steyne on Sept. 10, 2016. Tori is the granddaughter of former CIU professor Phil Steyne.  
coleharper5@yahoo.com

**Dorothy "Dot" Strickland ('15)** is pursuing her dream of working full time in camp ministry. She lives in Cedarville, Michigan, where she serves as the marketing and programing manager for InterVarsity's Cedar Campus.  
camperdot@gmail.com

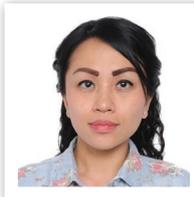


**Tim ('16) and Allie LaPointe** and their daughter Brooklyn moved to Monroe, North Carolina where Tim began a new position as a videographer with Chain Reaction Studios, an agency that offers video production, photography and web design. The company works with churches in the greater Charlotte area, promoting their ministries.  
tim.lapointe@mailbox.ciu.edu



**Landon ('16) and Emily (Thornhill) ('16) Nichols** welcomed their beautiful baby boy, Asa on Dec. 2, 2016.  
emily.nichols@mailbox.ciu.edu

**Toria Hedrick ('16)** graduated in December with her master's degree in TEFL. She lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, completing an ESL internship and planning a wedding for August.  
toria.hedrick@mailbox.ciu.edu



**Lince Tjhin ('16), her husband Soeharno Yap,** and their four children live in Jakarta, Indonesia where Lince works at IPEKA, a Christian School. Lince received her Ed.S. degree in December.  
Lince.tjhin@mailbox.ciu.edu

**Hathaway "Hap" Struthers (Former Faculty)** is now 88 and entering into semi-retirement from Faith Bible College in Norfolk, Virginia, a school he co-founded over 20 years ago. He has also served as a pastor, Navy chaplain, and CIU professor/dean.  
bevandhap@aol.com ■

## With The Lord

**Annie Kok Brady ('41)** – December 2016  
**Margaret Kent Matthews ('43)** – November 2016  
**Lorena Hall Garver ('44)** – December 2016  
**Sherwood Taylor ('45)** – December 2016  
**Kathryn Pierce ('46)** – November 2016  
**Mary Thompson Dick ('47)** – December 2016  
**Samuel Taylor ('51)** – October 2016  
**Martha Lipka ('52)** – October 2016  
**Wylie Rudolph ('52)** – October 2016  
**Roger Hunt ('52)** – January 2017  
**Bob Weeber ('52)** – February 2017  
**Leonard Allred ('53)** – December 2016  
**Alice Martin Waechter ('53)** – September 2016  
**Samuel Eisenback ('54)** – October 2016  
**Ann Vanderford ('54)** – December 2016  
**Virginia Knight Bonnette ('55)** – December 2016  
**Eleanor Sigg Hiles ('55)** – December 2016  
**John Chapin ('57)** – June 2016  
**Richard 'Dick' Sigg ('57)** – December 2016  
**Grace Hancox Brown ('59)** – February 2016  
**David Neff- Spouse of Judith Neff ('60)** – October 2016  
**Donna Smith ('61)** – January 2017  
**Betty Efird ('62)** – November 2016  
**Linda McLean White ('62)** – August 2016  
**Anne Liss ('64)** – January 2017  
**Donald Cox ('65)** – January 2017  
**James Morse ('72)** – November 2016  
**Donald Boren ('73)** – January 2017  
**William Abernathy ('77)** – November 2016  
**Bonny Graham Grasty ('77)** – September 2016  
**Henson Archibald ('78)** – December 2016  
**John Hosie ('78)** – July 2016  
**Debra Mellor ('93)** – December 2016  
**Brian Falter ('97)** – January 2017  
**Steven Von Fange ('16)** – January 2017  
**Tina Thomas ('16)** – February 2017  
**Al McCallister – Former faculty** – December 2016

Update your alumni profile @ [ciu.me/alumniprofile](http://ciu.me/alumniprofile)

Check out upcoming events and speaking schedules of President Bill Jones and Chancellor George Murray @ [ciu.me/ciuevents](http://ciu.me/ciuevents)

# THE FINAL WORD

## The President's Award

Laboring for the Lord alongside hard-working and dedicated employees has provided for me one of the great privileges of serving as president of Columbia International University these past 10 years. Across our campus, nearly 200 employees work daily to fulfill CIU's mission to educate people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ.

At our annual CIU Day meeting, which brings together the faculty and staff for a day of vision casting, I have had the honor each year of presenting The President's Award to one employee who exemplifies the mission and core values of CIU, as well as demonstrates that attitude matters, relationships matter and excellence matters.

This year I presented the award to Keith Marion, CIU vice president of estate and gift planning. In his nearly four decades of dedication to CIU and Ben Lippen School, our Pre-K to 12th grade Christian school, Keith has assisted in countless ways to make sure the CIU campus operates successfully.

Keith has served as accounting manager, business manager, director of stewardship, director of Ben Lippen School, director of development, and senior vice president for operations. He has implemented an important estate and gift design program for CIU and has taught estate seminars for other Christian organizations and churches.

Keith also understands CIU from the perspective of the students. He earned both his bachelor's and Master of Education degrees from CIU. In addition, Keith has held pastoral and other church staff positions in South Carolina as an ordained minister.

On a more personal note, Keith was one of the first people I met when I moved to Columbia and I have long considered him to be a dear friend. I have occasionally assigned him to oversee difficult tasks or situations and he handles them with integrity and grace, applying wisdom and discernment as he seeks guidance from the Lord.

Many aspects of CIU come together to make it a premier biblical university known globally for preparing students to make a powerful impact on the world through their professional calling. Through the work of our faculty and staff, however, people such as Keith Marion have made it an honor for me to serve as the president.

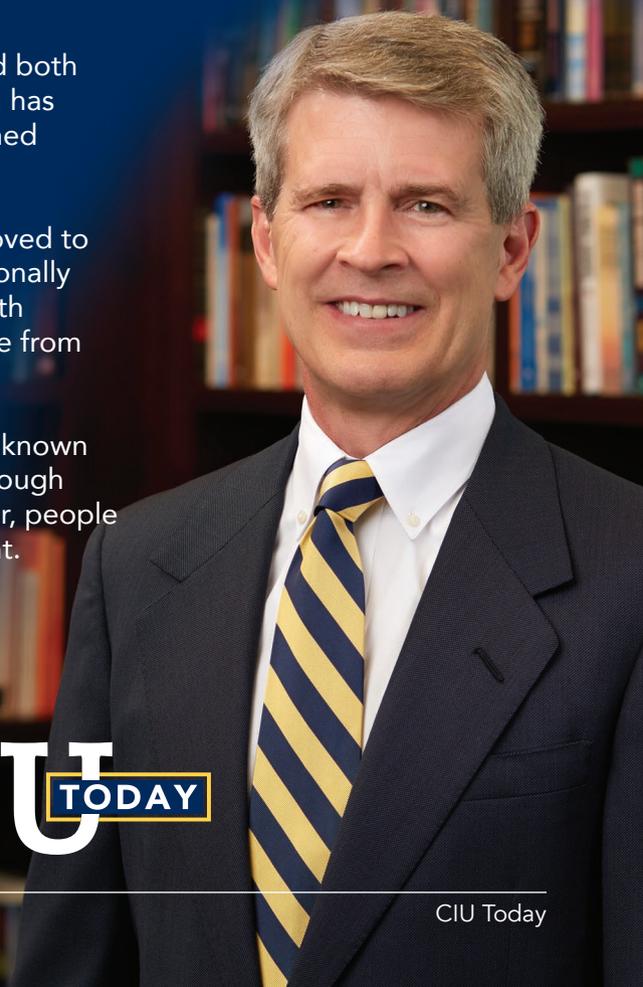
Yours for His glory,



William H. Jones  
President



▲ Keith Marion (79/93), CIU vice president of estate and gift planning



CIU TODAY



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