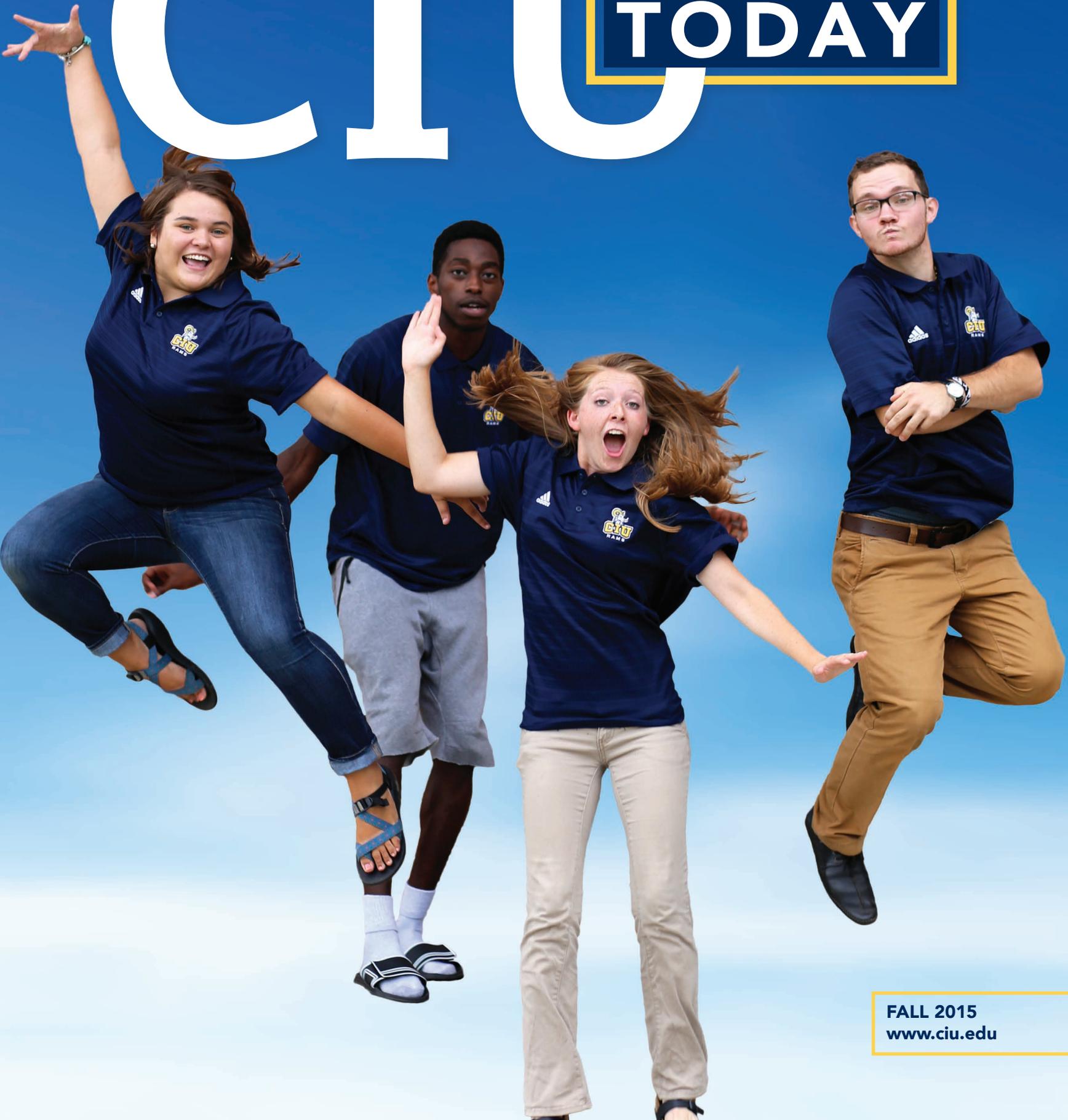


CIU

TODAY



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CIU

TODAY

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The sky is the limit for the class of 2019: Jennifer Craven, Javen McNeil, Emily Losey, Joseph Knight. *Read more on page 14.*

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Educating from a Biblical Worldview



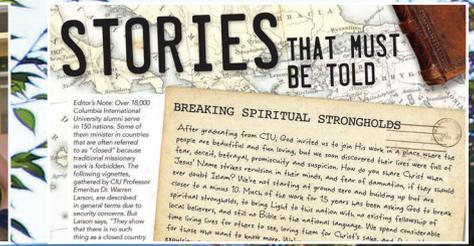
*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



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THE FIRST WORD



Bob Holmes, Editor-in-Chief

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. Write to:

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Kudos to Kara

I remember when I first met CIU women's soccer coach Kara Farnsworth shortly she was hired in 2014. She looked as young as the players she would have to recruit to build a brand new program within a year.

It was a daunting task for the 24-year-old who came to CIU from Colorado Christian University where she was an assistant soccer coach. She told me in an interview that she is a soccer coach, but quickly added, "I am (also) in full-time ministry. I do that through the avenue of soccer." When she told me that, I knew she had her priorities in order, and despite the mountain she had to climb, she would be OK.

Every once in a while I would drop by her office to ask how recruiting was going. I could tell some days she was wondering where players for a brand new program were going to come from. Other days she seemed more upbeat. Either way, she always managed a smile. Like she said, for her this is ministry.

One day I noticed a white board in her office with names of players; current students who were prospects and now playing on a club team. Things were looking up.

When a Christian college in Florida suddenly closed its doors at the end of the last school year, Kara picked up a couple of seasoned players from that school's soccer team.

As we go to press with this edition of CIU Today, Kara Farnsworth's first ever CIU women's soccer team has a winning record, with victories in their first four matches. That includes a win over cross-town rivals, the Columbia College Koalas, a seasoned team that plays in a competitive division.

But even if the Lady Rams had stuttered at the start, that would not have changed the focus of Coach Farnsworth or her team.

I stood by as a local reporter interviewed Kara and a couple of the Lady Rams after their historic first home match, a 2-0 win.

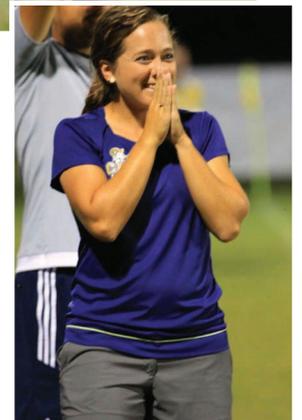
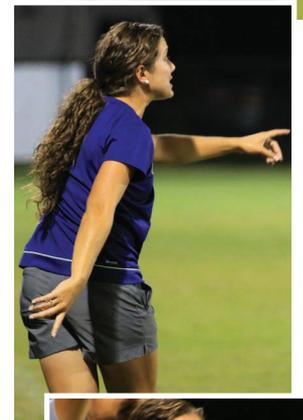
When asked about setting the standard for the new program, senior Kayla Swails told Cola Daily, "It's both intimidating but also an incredible opportunity. We have a chance to set the tone for the women's soccer program," she said. "I think all of us are humbled by it but really blessed by it as well."

Sophomore Alanna Batterman chimed in, "It's really exciting and honestly all glory goes to God."

Good job, Kara. Sounds like your recruits are in ministry too.

Bob Holmes
CIU Today
Editor-in-Chief

The many faces of Coach Kara Farnsworth. ▼



CIU News



Professor Mike Barnett with the Lord

The mood was somber the morning of Aug. 10 on the campus of CIU, when it was learned that Dr. Mike Barnett, professor of Intercultural and Historical Studies suddenly passed away early that morning. He served at CIU for 11 years and was 62 years old. He is survived by his wife Cindy and adult children Cole Barnett and Michelle (Barnett) Morris.

A memorial service for Dr. Barnett was held at CIU, followed by a funeral in Dr. Barnett's home state of Texas where he was buried.

Prior to coming to CIU, Dr. Barnett and his wife Cindy served 12 years with the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention ministering in the 10/40 window, and also in the local church in the areas of missions and church planting.

In addition to teaching at CIU, Dr. Barnett served on the board of directors of Baptist Global Response and was the executive vice president of the Evangelical Missiological Society. He was also a strategy consultant for the IMB and for LifeShape, the nonprofit foundation of Chick-Fil-A. Early in his career, Dr. Barnett worked in international business as president of a forge and machine company and in business development with a bank.

His Objective

Dr. Barnett's objective was: "To glorify God by equipping, connecting, and enabling students to be on mission with Him among all people."

"Dr. Barnett believed in those that he led and mentored and empowered them to live out their calling," said Dr. Ed Smither, dean of the College

of Intercultural Studies. "Having worked in business, in local church ministry, as an international missionary, and as a college and seminary professor, his life was dedicated to participating in the mission of God."

Intercultural Studies professor Dr. David Cashin remembered Barnett as the founding dean of the College of Intercultural Studies.

"Whether engaged in business, missions or teaching, and often a combination of all three, Mike was a leader." Cashin said. "He took the reins of the CIU Intercultural Studies program and built it into the College of Intercultural Studies. He left his imprint not only on the institution but on all who worked with him."

Danise Stokeld, the educational assistant for the College of Intercultural Studies, remembers her former supervisor as a family man.

"He always said he wasn't sentimental, but when we got him talking about Cindy or his kids, he melted," Stokeld said. "He loved (his son) Cole and (his daughter) Michelle and could always be counted on for a great picture of the grandkids. Working with him the past five years has been so rewarding, he will be deeply missed." ■

Memorials

Memorial gifts may be made to the Michael C. Barnett Mission of God Scholarship providing aid to students pursuing degrees in CIU's College of Intercultural Studies. *For more information on the scholarship see page 27.*

CIU News

CIU Moves Up in U.S. News & World Report Rankings

Columbia International University climbed to #35 among Best Regional Universities in the South in the 2016 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings. CIU ranked #37 in last year's survey.

Many prospective students and their parents use the rankings as a guide to one of the most important investments they will ever make. Among the criteria for the rankings are the freshman retention rate, the graduation rate, and the student to faculty ratio.

CIU also ranked high in the "Best Colleges for Veterans" category at #30 in the South. This ranking provides military veterans and active-duty service members with data on which top-ranked schools offer benefits that can help them make pursuing a college education more affordable.

CIU President Dr. Bill Jones says CIU has risen in the rankings in recent years due to small class sizes and faculty to student ratios, as well as the expansion of professional majors such as Business & Organizational Leadership, Sports Management, and a five-year Master of Divinity degree.

"At CIU we're committed to raising up professional ministers, but also ministering professionals," Jones said. "These are students who want their lives to make a difference, so that when they graduate they are not just making an income, but an impact."

The U.S. News & World Report rankings come on the heels of CIU scoring high in two other recent surveys. CIU is #3 on the website The 50 Best Christian Colleges and Universities 2015 and for the second year in a row, CIU is ranked #6 in the Southeast in the annual "Best Bang for the Buck" survey published by Washington Monthly magazine. ■



International military chaplains pose at CIU.

International Military Chaplains Visit CIU

Military chaplains from six nations visited Columbia International University on Aug. 14 to learn about CIU's Chaplaincy program and to tour the campus. The chaplains represented Suriname, Paraguay, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic. The group was in Columbia attending "Subject Matter Expert," an event at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson that encourages intense and meaningful discussions about the chaplain's role in military operations.

CIU Chaplaincy professors Dr. Michael Langston and Lt. Col. Brian Bohlman hosted the chaplains on campus. Langston is a former U.S. Navy chaplain and Bohlman is a chaplain with the U.S. Air National Guard. ■

Abbott Honored for Character

CIU Athletics Director Kim Abbott was recognized for her Christian character by the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA). Abbott was awarded the Game Plan 4 LIFE Female Athletic Staff Character Award at the NCCAA Hall of Fame Banquet held during the NCCAA's national convention in May. CIU is a member of the NCCAA.

The Character Award goes to student-athletes and athletics staff "who epitomize the Christian character qualities of love, integrity, faith and excellence."

Abbott says she is "humbled" to have been nominated for the award by her staff of coaches.

"We are a team, we work well as a team, and we support each other," Abbott said. "I can't tell you how much I appreciate that they feel I am worthy to be nominated. And then on top of that, the NCCAA selected me! What an honor!" ■



▲ CIU Athletics Director Kim Abbott holds the Game Plan 4 LIFE Award.

CIU Freshmen “Feeding Children Everywhere”

It was only their second day of orientation, but already CIU freshmen and transfer students were engaging in Christian community service. They joined early-arriving CIU athletes on an “assembly line” set up on the Rams home basketball court, to package 15,000 lentil casseroles for needy people around the corner and around the world.

The event was organized by the charity “Feeding Children Everywhere” whose mission is “to provide people with the opportunity to make a tangible impact in the lives of not only children, but the people most affected by hunger.”

The approximately 100 students donned green hairnets and were divided into groups of 10 at 10 tables where some dipped the ingredients (lentils, rice, dehydrated vegetables, pink Himalayan salt) into small plastic bags, others weighed the bag, and another duo sealed the bags while the final two students boxed the bags with half destined for a Columbia area food bank



and the remainder for other parts of the world.

CIU Dean of Students Rick Swift says this was a good community service project to start the school year because the ministry could be performed on campus and helped new students get to know one another.

“They start working together and connecting with more than the two or three friends they made right off the bat, and begin to interact with other students and get those friendships going,” Swift said. “And then they’re doing something to serve the community and serve the world.” ■

“Doc O” Leads Prison Band

(Contributed by Clark Newsom, internal communications director, South Carolina Department of Corrections)

Former CIU music professor Dr. David “Doc O” Osterlund is the founder and director of what is possibly the only concert prison band in the nation. The Broad River Correctional Institution (BRCI) Concert Band at the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) in Columbia held its first concert May 29 in the BRCI Chapel following a year of organization and practices.

Osterlund proudly led 46 inmates in musical numbers played on the recorder, guitar and violin, and by the full concert band. Solos were also sung by inmates from the group. They performed for inmates, staff and their family members. Most of the group had little to no musical training, just a love of music and a desire to learn.

Osterlund said the band members worked hard every day to improve their individual and group performances.

“(The inmates) tell me that being a part of a musical group like this is enjoyable, therapeutic, and mentally and physically uplifting,” Osterlund said.

Osterlund is also the co-director of the CIU Prison Initiative that offers an Associate of Arts degree from CIU to qualified inmates who become prison chaplain assistants. ■



▲ The Broad River Correctional Institution Concert Band (photo: SCDC)



AN URBAN SOLUTION

CIU's First African-American Ed.D. Graduate Shares Her Dream

By Bob Holmes

I checked into the office at Conder Elementary Arts Integrated Magnet School on Columbia's near east side, announcing to the receptionist that teacher Tara Smith, a CIU alumna, was expecting me. Her eyes brightened as she picked up the phone and dialed the second grade classroom: "Dr. Smith, Mr. Holmes to see you."

"Wow, calling her doctor already?" I said to the receptionist.

"We're pretty proud of that," she replied.

Less than two weeks had passed since Smith became the first African-American to earn a Doctor of Education degree at CIU, an achievement not lost on those at Conder, including her class of 19 second grade boys. They were also already calling their teacher, "Dr. Smith."

"At first they thought I was going to do surgery," Smith laughed as we chatted in her classroom during a break. "They started calling me (Dr. Smith). They said, 'Well, that's your name now.' That made me feel good," Smith said.

Her Heart

Smith, a Columbia native, also feels good about teaching at a school such as Conder, featuring the integration of the arts and single-gender education. But she also has a heart for the urban school. She says over 80 percent of the Conder students are eligible for free/reduced lunch and only two of the children in her class come from a two-parent home.

"This is a high-poverty school," Smith said. "But that's what drew me here. That's where my heart is."

Sitting in on her class of rambunctious boys, it quickly becomes apparent that she loves her job. And the boys are excited to learn. On this day, science class was about animal species, their habitats and life cycles. Sitting on the floor in front of a white board, the students shout out the list of species. "Fish," is the answer one student gives.

Another student high-fives him for being correct.

"Thank you for congratulating him," Smith commends the second student.

The kids are having fun as they learn, but Smith has command of the excitement. When several students want to answer at the same time, or argue about whose answer is correct, Smith reins them in.

"Voices off," Smith announces.

Some students respond, "Yes ma'am." Others keep talking.

"Voices off," she says in a louder voice.

"Yes, ma'am," they all respond.

"Eyes on me," Smith continues.

"Eyes on you!" All the students shout.

Order has been restored in a loving way, a microcosm of what Smith would like to see on a larger scale.

"I think the urban community is really falling apart," Smith told me during the break. "It also affects the greater good, the bigger community, and the kids are affected by it. So for me (teaching) ends up being a ministry."

Her Dream

Smith shares her faith as appropriate in a public school setting, such as praying with students over lunch and telling her students why she goes to church during the holidays. But she says "the part that is missing" at Conder is the spiritual aspect of education, centered around "resilience," the core of her CIU doctoral dissertation.

"That's really important because the spiritual building up of a person builds resilience ... you can rely on the Holy Spirit, it's going to build resilience in you that a non-believer wouldn't have," Smith explained.

"Students who live in poverty come with a lot of lack," she continued, "so

resilience is the ability to be successful in spite of the adversity you are going through. These students come with a lot of adversity, things are against them, they are already labeled in some cases, and resilience-building for them is the support we provide educationally that they lack at home."

So her dream is to open an urban Christian school, combining some of the best that has already been implemented at a magnet school such as Conder, with Christianity.

"I've always wanted to be a leader in



Tara Smith (right) and her twin sister Tamara S. Riley listen as Tara is presented her doctoral degree during the May commencement at CIU. Tamara received a Master of Education degree at CIU in 2000.

"God planted (a vision) in me about five years ago, for a (Christian) residential school because of the situations these students come from." –Dr. Tara Smith

education," Smith said, who at age 39, is a third generation educator in her family. "God planted (a vision) in me about five years ago, for a (Christian) residential school because of the situations these students come from."

Smith explains that a residential school will minister to the whole family as parents work on stabilizing themselves in careers or education, while knowing their children are in a safe place with Christian house parents. She is praying about whether the school would be a private school, which most parents would have difficulty paying for, or a charter school.

"What would make my school unique is the fact that I'm building resilience, and that's the blessing that came out of my (doctoral) dissertation," Smith said.

Her Passion

Smith has 15 years of teaching experience and was named the school district's Teacher of the Year for 2007-2008. If there is a down side to her dream, it is going from the classroom to an administrator's position.

"I love to see growth when (the students) make connections because of the learning I gave them. Ah! It's awesome," Smith said excitedly just thinking about it.

"That is going to be the hardest thing in leaving the classroom. I think God is leading me into leadership, but I have to see little faces." ■

STORIES THAT MUST BE TOLD

Editor's Note: Over 18,000 Columbia International University alumni serve in 150 nations. Some of them minister in countries that are often referred to as "closed" because traditional missionary work is forbidden. The following vignettes, gathered by CIU Professor Emeritus Dr. Warren Larson, are described in general terms, and without names, due to security concerns. But Larson says, "They show that there is no such thing as a closed country and no place on earth where God is not at work."

BREAKING SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS

After graduating from CIU, God invited us to join His work in a place where the people are beautiful and fun loving, but we soon discovered their lives were full of fear, deceit, betrayal, promiscuity and suspicion. How do you share Christ when Jesus' Name strikes revulsion in their minds, and fear of damnation, if they should ever doubt Islam? We're not starting at ground zero and building up but are closer to a minus 10. Much of the work for 15 years has been asking God to break spiritual strongholds, to bring Light to this nation with no existing fellowship of local believers, and still no Bible in the national language. We spend considerable time living lives for others to see, loving them for Christ's sake, and flying His flag for those who want to know more. We've endured ridicule, slander, theft, betrayal, expulsion and death threats, but the Kingdom of Righteousness is powerful, and like yeast, continues to grow. Whether we see many or few come to faith, we rejoice in God's sovereignty, and count it a privilege to represent Him here.

THE PROFESSOR IS "IN"

Our family lives in a Muslim-majority country where I teach at a college. Many students come from an area of the country that has experienced turmoil, and is generally not accessible to Westerners, so it's a wonderful opportunity. If the professor is in, students regularly knock on the office door to chat about matters they hesitate to mention openly. "Do you find the existentialist explanation for life's meaning satisfactory?" ... "Can I borrow that book by John Stott?" ... "This is the first time I am sitting in a classroom with girls, and that's why I am too shy to say anything." ... "Sir, where I come from people do not want to be part of this country, we want to be free." ... "You foreigners are the cause of injustice and extremism in this country!" Other opportunities arise as well. Recently a teacher at a small community college sent me an intriguing e-mail: "What does your prophet say about politics?" We have started meeting regularly to delve into precisely that question! These are the people, and the questions, that we came for. Pray we would have the wisdom and the words to adequately address them.

MORE THAN ENGLISH

My husband and I teach English in a very conservative country that forbids proselytism, but being teachers clearly identifies us with a position in society, and is a natural way to connect. Education is viewed as a way to overcome oppressive poverty and shame. Many have said we taught them much more than English and this is what we want! Our highly-motivated students show up for early-morning classes before going to university or work. They are not free to ask many questions or come across as seekers, yet some ask about our faith, and some have found helpful websites on their own, and shared them with fellow students. The Good Book is available to download in their language and we can talk about our faith in a general way when discussing Christian holidays. Just being here is a witness. We routinely get asked why we left our homeland to come here, and that sacrifice speaks to them. Someone once asked, "You don't beat your wife, do you?" Our lives are an open book and read on a daily basis.

WOMEN (& CHILDREN) IN PRISON

In the women's prison where we minister, most inmates are incarcerated for "moral reasons." They have been convicted of prostitution, adultery, deserting their husband, or failure to obey/submit. Some are serving a sentence in the place of their husbands and others have been convicted of murdering their husbands. Such women are outcasts in society and most will not be welcome at home even when released. Their children can stay with them in prison through age six, if not wanted by relatives. They share the food on their mother's plate, and all they see is the inside of a prison cell. We try to meet basic physical needs and focus on hygiene materials and the necessities of newborns. Just recently, we were able to provide hygiene materials for mothers and logistics for healthy lunches during the winter. Handing each mother a bag, I prayed a blessing over her in the name of Jesus. All responded gratefully and looked me in the eye, as if to say, "really?" After we gave out the gifts, other women came up to us, sharing their needs, and although I had nothing more to hand them, I was able to pray over one of the ladies and lift up her request.

"Suzy" was sentenced to prison for killing the man who raped her. She arrived at the prison with her two children and is now being trained in tailoring and microfinance, allowing her to sew projects for money while still at the prison. It has given her hope. When released, she will be able to open a tailoring shop of her own to support her family. The opportunity to bring living water to thirsty souls is thrilling!



THE HEART of Community Development

By Bob Holmes

“So, we were all placed in this rugged, intimate atmosphere and had to learn not only how to live around each other, but how to work well as a unit. This is a skill set that I believe all missionaries should learn before entering their field.”
—Lindsay Emo, senior

Talk about practical experience. Lindsay Emo and other Columbia International University students who major in International Community Development (ICD) learn what it's like to live, or perhaps survive, in a needy society.

In addition to studying what the Bible teaches about God's mission to reach the nations through the church, ICD majors live for a semester in a simulated Third World village learning problem solving and coping skills that prepare them for life in a developing country without most of the tools, amenities and communication devices of the modern world.

The hands-on training takes place at the HEART (Hunger, Education, and Resource Training) Institute in Lake Wales, Florida. Areas of training include Sustainable Agriculture, Spiritual Development, Small Animal Husbandry, Food Technology, Appropriate Technology, Primary Health and Cross-Cultural Communication & Community Development.

The following are the HEART projects and experiences of Emo and two of her classmates.



Agroforestry

For Emo, who attended HEART during the spring semester, agriculture is not new. Her home is a farm outside the small town of Avoca, New York. But farming at HEART wasn't quite the same. At HEART she learned agroforestry.

Each student takes on a project, and to describe Emo's agroforestry requires a long explanation, but to put it simply she says the agroforestry "mimics what you see in a natural forest."

"You don't see people sweating to pull weeds and maintain a natural forest, yet it bursts with tender green and other vibrant colors all on its own," Emo said. "The multi-tiered plants all work together in mutually benefiting ways." In the end she harvested sweet potatoes, tropical pumpkins and cassava, "providing a massive amount of food in a year's time." And that was just on one portion of the plot she farmed.

But perhaps just as important as growing plants is that personal growth that comes with getting along with classmates in a Third-World environment.

"Most of us did not know each other very well before attending HEART." Emo said. "At HEART, I was most stretched in ways of learning how to build and maintain a solid team."

Emo says her HEART experience was "a very good introduction" to her internship in the African nation of Cameroon over the summer.

"If I had not attended HEART before coming (to Cameroon), I would have been

much less useful to the missionaries," Emo said.

Organic Art

Victoria Richardson says she switched her major to ICD so she could get the HEART semester experience, "and the additional practical skills I wanted to learn that could potentially be useful overseas."

The junior, who has lived in Indonesia and the United States, choose creating organic art materials for her HEART project.

"My project required that I think creatively in order to utilize resources available in the nearby environment," Richardson said.

That included constructing an art easel out of bamboo and scrap wood, sewing sketchbooks and an artist apron, making paper for canvases, concocting paints from organic materials such as ash, pumpkin, coffee and flowers and making paint brushes out of goat hair and pine needles.

"My project emphasizes the importance of sustainability," Richardson explained. "Acrylic paints, leather-bound sketchbooks, and metal art easels are rare luxuries in a majority of the Third World and the skill of creatively utilizing nature's gifts is essential."

So why focus on art in countries where some people are just trying to survive?

"Some form of art is present in every culture and missionaries can use it as a creative means to communicate the redemptive story of the gospel," Richardson said. "My project idea was founded on the idea that God is the ultimate creator and we, because we are fashioned in His likeness, are also creators."

Richardson says HEART stretched her personally because modern communication with loved ones was limited to once-a-week letters.

"Although it took some adjustment initially, this proved to be a reprieve from the usual noise of our society, a world drunk on noise and distraction," Richardson said. "I was given time to

listen quietly for God's voice and invest myself into the people in my immediate surroundings."

The Treadle Pump

David Druin II, a senior, developed a mechanism at HEART that future students will find valuable to their own projects. Druin designed and built a treadle pump; a human-powered water pump for irrigating fields.

"The treadle design takes advantage of leg-power instead of hand-power to increase power generated while minimizing operator exertion," Druin explained. "The treadle pump will now allow future students to pump water to the storage tank, which distributes water to the rest of the heart village."

Druin says the HEART experience expanded his view of stewardship.

"It provides practical tools that allow you to be a good steward of God's earth." Druin said. "It challenges you to be creative in your problem solving."



Meanwhile, on a personal level, Druin says HEART changed his view of work.

"I learned that work is not only an opportunity to display the creativity and excellence of God, but also an opportunity to express care and love for others," Druin said. "Instead of simply working for myself, work has become an expression of worship whereby I work for others. When I work I feel the joy and presence of God. It is now something I savor, something I cherish." ■

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT



▲ Jennifer Craven

▶ Javen McNeil

▲ Joseph Knight

◀ Emily Losey

MEET THE CLASS OF 2019

Written by Melissa McCutchan | Photos by Christine Benz

Each year Beloit College in Wisconsin publishes a list of cultural facts unique to the newest class of American college freshmen. So what has the Class of 2019 experienced (or not experienced) in their first 18 years of life?

Believe it or not, among those who have never been in their lifetime are Princess Diana, Mother Teresa, rapper Notorious B.I.G. and underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau.

Joining them in the world the year they were born were Dolly the sheep and The McCaughey septuplets.

Since the Class of 2019 has been on the planet:

- Google has always been there.
- They have never licked a postage stamp.
- They have grown up treating Wi-Fi as an entitlement.
- Charlton Heston is recognized for waving a rifle over his head as much as for waving his staff over the Red Sea.
- If you say “around the turn of the century,” they may ask you, “which one?”
- When they were born, cell phone usage was so expensive that families only used their large phone, usually in cars, for emergencies. (Remember those “bag phones?”)
- They had no idea how fortunate they were to enjoy the final four years of federal budget surpluses.

That’s the world they grew up in. But what about the future? And what about the CIU Class of 2019? While the culture may have tried to shape and mold them, their priorities are not established in the shifting sands of the world, but on The Rock. For them, the sky is the limit. Here are four examples. ■

Learning to Minister Through Tough Times

JENNIFER CRAVEN



In the weeks leading up to her first day of classes at CIU, freshman Jennifer Craven was ministering in Thailand through education and community development. She enjoyed teaching English to children, including leading them in “Old McDonald,” and helping to build fish cages for an impoverished community so they could generate a source of income.

Since eighth grade, Craven has had a call to missionary work. A Lexington, South Carolina native, she traveled on two mission trips to Thailand with her church, and now feels led to long-term ministry in South Sudan.

“About five years ago, South Sudan was a very consistent area that the Lord was leading me toward,” she said. “Time and time again, He would remind me of missions and He made it so evident that I couldn’t say no.”

Craven is majoring in Teacher Education, looking for practical instruction and spiritual guidance to help her teach children overseas on the mission field. She says God has already been preparing her through tough times in her life; times when she has drawn close to Him.

“On [my] first day of high school, my youth pastor died,” Craven said. “That really wrecked me, because I was so close with him, and

he had a lot of influence on my life.”

As she grieved, she also grew stronger in her faith. She learned to lean on God even when circumstances didn’t make sense.

“I learned that I have to trust the Lord, because He knew what He was doing,” Craven said. “Our youth group grew so much stronger. I wouldn’t be where I am spiritually if (my youth pastor) hadn’t died.”

Throughout high school, Craven also taught Sunday school, provided child care for weeknight ministries, and served in student ministry.

“I would say that I was really active in the student ministry,” Craven said. “I served on our sound team, and I served on the leadership team, and I was doing small groups.”

Though she has a close community at her church, Craven has quickly formed a community around her at CIU as well.

“Everyone’s really friendly, and I’m really surprised at how fast I have built a community and a tight group of friends,” she said.

She looks forward to the next four years as a chance to grow socially, spiritually, and academically.

“I think it’s going to be a challenge, but I think I can do it,” she said. “I [look forward] to building a community here.” ■

CIU FAST FACTS

CLASS OF 2019 TOP 3 MAJORS

1. Psychology
2. Youth Ministry, Family, & Culture
3. Business & Organizational Leadership

Business & Basketball

When it comes to talent, Javen McNeill could be called a “jack of all trades.” He plays multiple instruments, draws, dances, and even composes his own music. In high school, he competed in track, football, and basketball.

He is continuing his athletic career as a CIU student, where he is playing for the Rams men’s basketball team. The native of West End, North Carolina is majoring in Business & Organizational Leadership.

For all his talent, McNeill also has a humble demeanor from his personal relationship with God. A minister’s son, he came to know the Lord when he was nine years old.

“[Before I became a Christian], I thought if you were a good person, you went to heaven,” McNeill said. “One of my cousins told me that’s not the case, so I asked my mom about it. My mom’s a minister, and she told me you need to become a Christian to be saved. I became a Christian the next day, and ever since I’ve been walking with the Lord.”

As McNeill begins his first year at CIU, he’s looking forward to being a part of the men’s basketball program. Under the guidance of head coach Marshall Tague, he is learning more about being a strong athlete and a responsible student.

“Coach Tague is really taking full control of the program and putting his foot down, saying we have rules to abide by,” McNeill said. “He’s training us to become a championship team, and I like that.”

After he earns his undergraduate degree, McNeill plans on studying visual arts at the graduate level, and use what he learned from both degrees to design and market a line of shoes.

“I’m kind of artistic, so I like to draw,”

McNeill said. “I used to get in contests when I was little, and people used to ask me to draw stuff for them. I started designing shirts, that kind of stuff for whatever organization I was a part of.”

As for his immediate future at CIU, McNeill wants to build community with other believers, while focusing on God, academics and athletics.

“I hope to grow, to earn my degree, of course, and gain all the knowledge I can in my field,” McNeill said. “I hope to make this basketball program into a powerhouse, [and] grow in my walk with the Lord.” ■

JAVEN MCNEIL

CIU FAST FACTS

What was important to the Class of 2019 when selecting a college?

1. Christian character of students and faculty.
2. Opportunity for in-depth Bible study.
3. Ability to find desirable employment upon graduation.



EMILY LOSEY

A Desire to Return to the Muslim World

Emily Losey didn't have a typical American childhood. As a missionary kid (MK) in Pakistan, she fondly remembers afternoons playing cricket with her siblings and her friends, swimming in rivers on warm days, and sledding down glaciers in northern Pakistan.

"My parents were doing literacy work in Pakistan," Losey explained. "They ran schools for nomadic kids, so I kind of grew up as part of this tribe in the mountains."

Throughout her childhood, Losey knew several CIU alumni who were serving as missionaries near her family. When CIU Chancellor Dr. George Murray came to speak at a conference she was attending, she felt the Lord leading her to CIU.

"Ever since [the conference] it's kind of been my plan to come here," Losey said. "I just always felt like God was leading me here since then."

Though Losey loves Pakistan, her time there was not without difficulty. In October 2005, a terrible earthquake in northern Pakistan killed many of the people she knew. While her family helped with relief work, God was doing a mighty work in Losey's heart.

"That was when I first met God, was seeing how he could be good even when things were so horrible," she said. "My faith was first built on that foundation, having to lean on Him when

everything was unsteady around me."

Years later, Losey's world was rocked again: her brother's heart was failing, and he needed immediate medical attention. The family moved back to the United States within 24 hours of receiving the news. Her brother was quickly stabilized, but the family was unable to return to Pakistan.

"I kind of felt like my life was over at that point, and there was nothing left that I wanted to be part of," Losey said.

Losey attended her last two years of high school in Denver. Though her life there was much different than what she was used to, God helped fill the void in her life with high school soccer.

"[I saw] God's faithfulness in the next two years and how he still watched out for me. It's been amazing."

Now Losey plays midfielder for the CIU Lady Rams soccer team.

"I haven't been playing very long, and I'm pretty far behind where the other girls are at [on the CIU team], but everyone is really accepting and really encouraging on the team," Losey said.

Losey is majoring in Intercultural Studies with hopes of returning to the Muslim world to do ministry there. As she begins her time at CIU, she looks forward to learning more about God's Word, making new friends, and being trained for future ministry.

"It's inspiring to talk to people here," she said. "That's what I'm most excited about, finding those people who will be lifetime friends." ■

From Kentucky to Columbia (by way of Kenya)

Like other CIU students, freshman Joseph Knight hadn't always had CIU as his top choice for the college he wanted to attend. Though his older sister, Anna, was studying at CIU, he hoped to study at a school closer to their home in Manitou, Kentucky. Little did he know that God would bring him to study on another continent, before leading him to CIU.

As his high school graduation approached, Knight felt a clear call from God to attend a discipleship training school in Kenya. The program, called HELD (Holistic Engagement for Life and Discipleship), was an eight-month journey that taught him more about God, ministry, and crossing cultures.

"I was the only white person among 48 students," he recalled. "That was a big growing experience for me, a big maturing experience."

During his time in Kenya, Knight says he felt a strong calling to study business at CIU.

"I went to [Kenya] to find a direction," he said. "I asked God, 'What major? What school?' I felt a leading from the Lord to come to CIU."

Knight will admit that he resisted the call at first: he wanted to be closer to home. But a passage in Scripture changed his heart.

"I was reading in [the gospels] and the passage was about Jesus calling his disciples," he said. "Jesus was calling one of the brothers to leave their boat and their nets behind to follow Him. And I felt like God was calling me from my area to CIU."

Circumstances at home prevented Knight from beginning at CIU immediately after his time in Kenya, but on Aug. 24, he began study as a member of the Class of

2019. A self-professed "people-person," he quickly found friends and community that make CIU feel like home.

"Being on a campus, surrounded by people in the dorms and in classes, is awesome for me because I really like people," he said.

Knight has decided to major in Business & Organizational Leadership. He hopes to use his degree to impact people in the United States and overseas, and that four years at CIU will help him learn more about business and make lasting friendships.

"I like CIU, I like their standards and their focus on missions," he said. "I'm getting a business degree to do missions through business. I'm using that business degree to impact the nations." ■

JOSEPH KNIGHT



CIU FAST FACTS

58.5% of the Class of 2019 plan to pursue Christian ministry.

ACADEMICS

Dr. Alex Luc Retires, But His Influence in China Continues

By Bob Holmes

In retirement, Dr. Alex Luc plans on writing two books – in Chinese.

Luc's retirement was announced at the end of last spring after 32 years at CIU. Sitting in his CIU office over the summer, surrounded by shelves of books written in English and Chinese, Luc hardly looked retired.

He noted that he will still be active, teaching a couple of classes each year, but much of his emphasis will be on ministry to China - a country he has never visited.

"The Chinese church is growing so rapidly, there is a great need for (the books)," Luc said explaining his reason for writing a book on Old Testament theology another about biblical perspectives on suffering.

"A lot of people have asked me to write on (suffering), the Chinese church has asked about that topic quite often," Luc said. "I've already written four books in Chinese, that's why the Chinese church knows my name."

Luc grew up trained in Chinese by Chinese parents, but they lived in South Vietnam. As an adult, Luc was principal of a Christian school and later pastor of a church in South Vietnam for two years before coming to the United States on a full scholarship to Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois. While he was there, South Vietnam fell to communist North Vietnam and Luc was given refugee status in the United States, becoming a U.S. citizen in 1980.

So will Luc finally visit China now that is "retired?"

"I want to go with my wife, it's in the plan, God willing," Luc said. Because of the popularity of his books he adds, "My contact with the Chinese church has been very strong."

He emphasizes, that Chinese interest for his work from this side of the ocean is the grace of God.

"Nothing else can explain that," Luc adds.

Over the last four years, Luc's influence in China expanded when, in addition to teaching Old Testament studies, he was tapped by CIU to lead in the development of the CIU Chinese Initiative that offers Bible and theology courses over the Internet to pastors and church leaders in China.



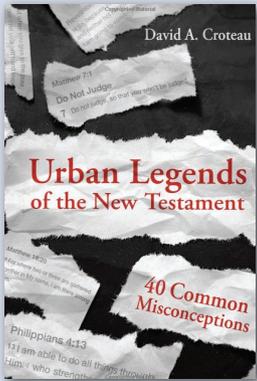
Luc laughs as recalls his schedule at that time and then makes the understatement: "It was a busy time for me."

And even in "retirement," Luc will likely stay busy. His name is so well known in the Chinese church, that recently a representative for a large group of Chinese pastors came to CIU looking for a way to connect with the Chinese Initiative. When asked why he sought out CIU in particular, he said he was familiar with Luc's book on hermeneutics in Chinese, and was acquainted with one of Luc's former students.

"That motivates me to write more," Luc said with a smile. ■

RESOURCES

New Books by CIU Professors



Urban Legends of the New Testament

By Dr. David Croteau, Professor of New Testament and Greek

Was Jesus born in a stable? Was the “Eye of a Needle” a gate in Jerusalem? Did Jesus sweat drops of blood?

Dr. David Croteau, CIU professor of New Testament and Greek surveys 40 of the most commonly misinterpreted passages in the New Testament in a new book titled “Urban Legends of the New Testament.” Croteau says these “urban legends” often arise because interpreters neglect a passage’s context, misuse historical background information, or misunderstand the Greek language.

The book is published by B&H Publishing.

Sports Management Major Added

Columbia International University added an undergraduate bachelor’s degree in Sports Management this fall. The program blends an academically challenging curriculum with valuable practical experience, preparing students to serve in professional sports, collegiate athletics, sports venue development, and event management.

CIU’s dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Bryan Beyer says the university has been laying the foundation for the new major for the last few years.

“It’s another great fit for CIU,” Beyer said. “As the world changes, CIU needs to continue to send out graduates equipped for life and service to meet the demands.”

The program is led by new CIU faculty member Dr. Wayne Rasmussen, who has extensive education and experience in athletic administration and coaching including collegiate, professional, Olympic and national team sports.

Following an undergraduate degree in Education from Messiah College in Pennsylvania, Rasmussen earned a master’s degree in Physical Education from Southern Methodist University and a Doctor of Education degree in Sports Management from Temple University.

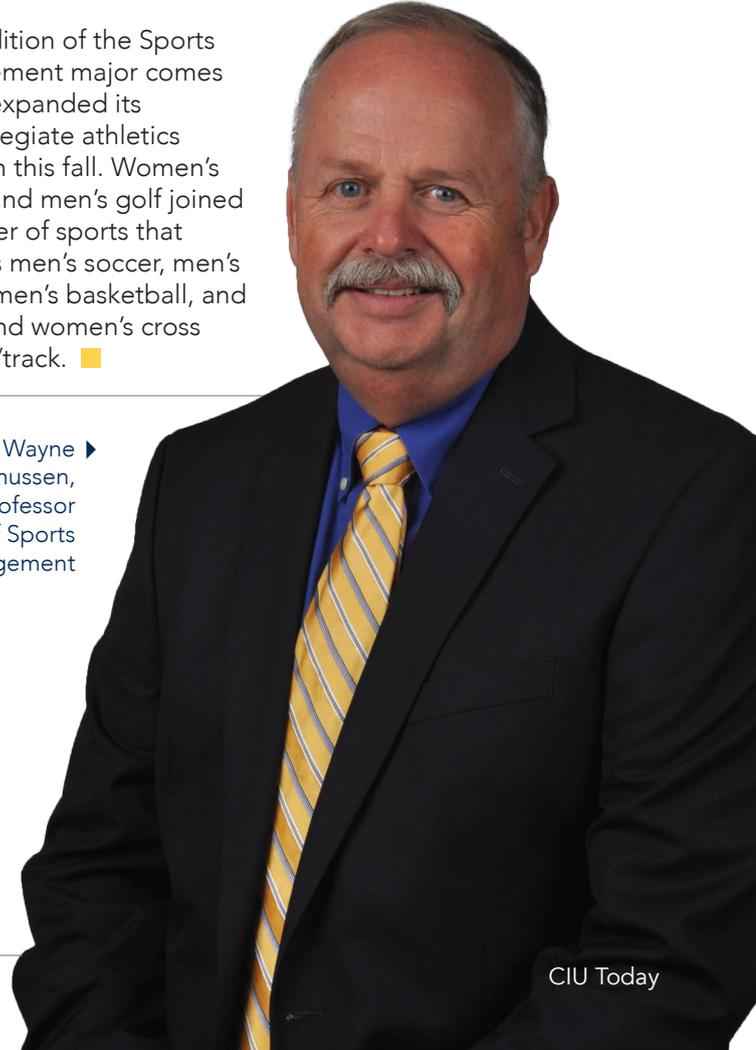
Rasmussen has served as a head soccer coach at the professional and collegiate level, on the administrative staff of the U.S. Men’s Olympic Soccer Team, in professional soccer player development and scouting, as a trip director for multiple cycling tours and as a director for wilderness adventure trips including canoeing and whitewater rafting.

Beyer says Rasmussen’s background made him a great fit for CIU and the new Sports Management program.

“Dr. Rasmussen brings a breadth and depth of experience to the role, and it seems clear God has prepared him well.”

The addition of the Sports Management major comes as CIU expanded its intercollegiate athletics program this fall. Women’s soccer and men’s golf joined the roster of sports that includes men’s soccer, men’s and women’s basketball, and men’s and women’s cross country/track. ■

Dr. Wayne ▶
Rasmussen,
professor
of Sports
Management



ATHLETICS

Lady Rams Win First Ever Home Soccer Match

By Melissa McCutchan,
CIU Student Writer

Players, coaches, and fans were full of energy on Aug. 29, as the Columbia International University women's soccer team played their first home game in the program's history, defeating Wake Technical Community College from Raleigh, North Carolina 2-0.



Elizabeth Sessions from the Class of 1943, ushered the Lady Rams on to the field in a golf cart driven by CIU Athletics Director Kim Abbott.

To commemorate the first home game, the CIU Rams were led onto the field by CIU alumna Elizabeth Sessions ('43), who served on CIU's Board of Trustees for 17 years.

Coming off a 1-0 victory over Toccoa Falls College two days before, the women played a strong offensive game to secure a 2-0 victory. Sophomore Angela McMaster scored in the first half, and junior Esther Edwards scored a second goal in the second half, with four minutes left on the clock.

"The girls played well," Head Coach Kara Farnsworth said. "They fought to the end."

Fans were full of energy as the evening also featured the second annual "Battle of the Halls," as students representing their residence halls showed their school spirit by dressing in creative costumes and leading creative cheers in competition for a steak dinner.

At halftime, Athletics Director Kim Abbott declared East 3, a men's residence hall, to be the winner. The East 3 men rushed the field in their hand decorated T-shirts and face paint to lead the fans in another cheer.

"Our fans are amazing," midfielder and senior Kayla Swails said. "They get us pumped."

At press time for CIU Today, the Lady Rams had a winning record, including a 2-1 upset win over cross-town rival Columbia College, and were looking forward to more chances to improve as the players bond as a team.

"It's really exciting [to win], and all glory goes to God," forward and sophomore Alanna Battermann said. ■



◀ Angela McMaster (22) gets a high five from Kayla Collins after scoring the first goal of the game. McMaster also scored the first goal in CIU women's soccer history in a 1-0 win at Toccoa Falls College two days earlier.



▲ The men from East 3 celebrate their victory in "The Battle of the Halls."

Men's Golf Tees Off for First Time

The Columbia International University men's golf program got underway this fall. At the Cutter Creek Invitational hosted by Barton College in Wilson, North Carolina, CIU freshman Ben McLochlin carded a +12 with a pair of 78s to tie for 16th place, 11 strokes off the leader, in the 33-player field. The tournament was held over the Labor Day weekend. ■



Meet Marshall Tague: Basketball Coach and Mentor

By Bob Holmes

From a young age, Columbia International University's new head basketball coach had a goal: "To never have to work."

Marshall Tague (pronounced: TAYG) is quick to explain his statement.

"What I mean is that I always wanted to enjoy what I do," Tague continues, "and if I enjoy what I do, it is not necessarily work."

And for Tague, coaching falls in line with that goal.

Tague came to CIU from Lancaster Bible College (LBC) in Pennsylvania where he coached the Chargers to the 2015 National Christian College Athletic Association Division 2 National Championship, ending the regular season with a 28-3 record. He took over the Lancaster program in 2012-2013 with a record of 5-21 and over three years improved the overall record to 55-33.

He says he turned the program around by emphasizing strength conditioning, but more importantly, changing the culture of the team by recruiting players who were a fit for the program.

"Are they likable guys? Do they have the same intentions and purposes of the school?" are questions Tague would ask. In other words, he said he was looking for players with godly priorities, "Being Christians first, being men of God first, and having that permeate throughout every aspect of their lives."

Tague says God was preparing him to be a coach as far back as his collegiate playing days at Southwestern College (now Arizona Christian University). At 5'10" Tague is short by basketball standards which put him at the position of point guard, the team leader on the court.

"You have to think the game a little bit more, you have to understand what the coach wants and what the team needs," Tague said describing the role of the point guard. "I think that's something that prepared me to be a coach."

But Tague actually considers himself more than a coach. He is a mentor to his players.

"The basketball is a part of it," Tague begins the explanation. "The X's and O's, the

practices, the workouts." He says he wants to "come alongside (the players) and help them grow up spiritually and help them academically. Help them to be men of God, help them prepare to be fathers, husbands, businesspeople, whatever their vocation may be."

Tague's proven track record excites CIU Athletics Director Kim Abbott, but she says he brings even more to the two-year-old CIU basketball program.

"Marshall Tague's personal qualities and coaching skills will lend to a very successful and unified team," Abbott said. "He has proven that he can create a positive culture and turn a team around by what he has done at other schools."

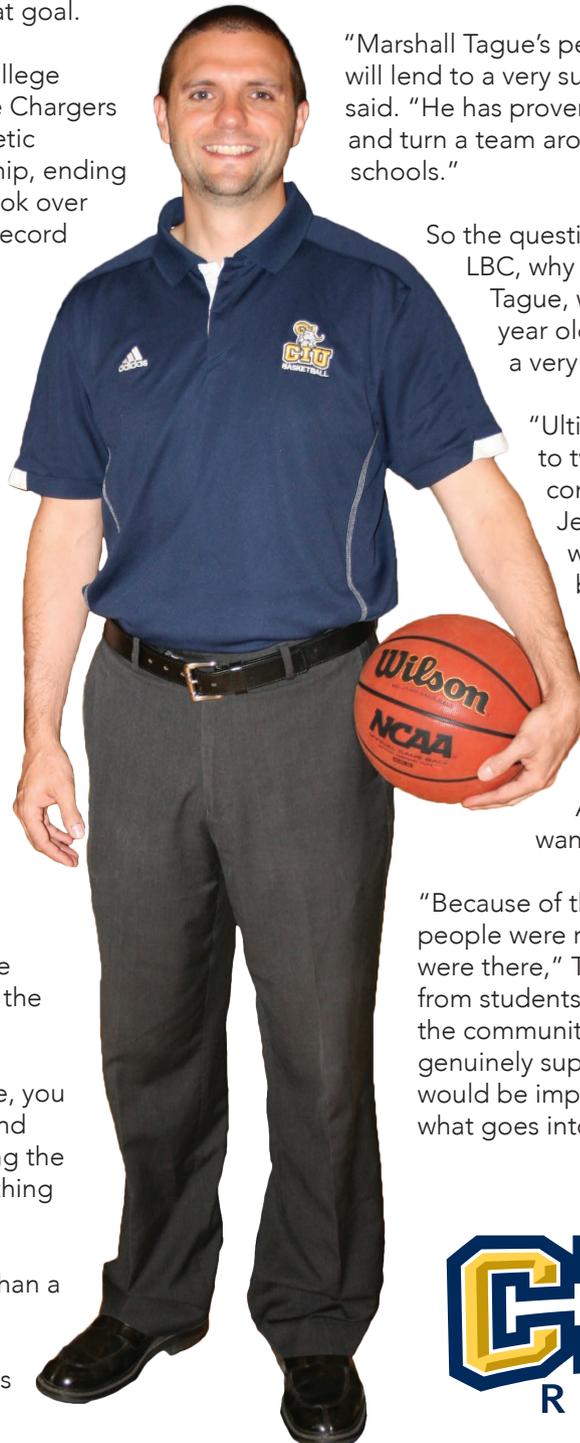
So the question lingers. After so much success at LBC, why would Tague make the move to CIU?

Tague, who is married and father to a three year old and a nine month old, says it "was a very difficult decision."

"Ultimately the decision came down to two things," Tague said about the conclusions he came to with this wife, Jessica. "Where did we feel the Lord was calling us and what we felt was best for our growing family. Still, the decision was hard and the last thing I wanted to do was leave behind the players. We had built very strong relationships through the worst of times and the best of times."

And that's the kind of program Tague wants to build at CIU.

"Because of the culture that was built (at LBC), people were really proud of the group of guys that were there," Tague said. "We saw the support from students, faculty, staff, the administration, the community, the media, from alumni, they were genuinely supportive of us and rooting for us. That would be important for me (at CIU), and I know what goes into that." ■



CAMPUS LIFE

Introducing David Blanchard

David Blanchard, a 2009 graduate of Columbia International University, is the new director of Residence Life at CIU. Blanchard comes to CIU from Lifeshape Foundation which "facilitates the holistic development of young women and men who have a passionate walk and authentic personal relationship with Christ." Blanchard tells us about himself and offers his thoughts on his new position in this Q&A.

Where are you originally from?

I was born right outside Chicago, but I grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina and would consider that home. I have also spent some time living in the Atlanta area, in South Korea, and most recently, in Brazil.

What is it like to be working back at your alma mater?

I feel really privileged to be back at CIU. I learned so much during my time here and was significantly influenced, not only by my classes, but by the men and women who served here and invested in me. I think it is an exciting time to be at CIU, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to invest both in the lives of current students and in the future of the university.

Describe how you perceive your role as director of residence life.

One of the things I really appreciate about CIU is the fact that Residence Life has always been about much more than just housing placements. The residence halls are a place where spiritual formation takes place and real life ministry happens, where students learn how to live in community with one another and how to love one another well. As director of Residence Life, I see my role as being primarily about serving those students, developing the teams that shepherd them, and staying open and attentive to what the Lord desires to do here. Ultimately, this is a role about making disciples.

What aspect of the job are you most looking forward to?

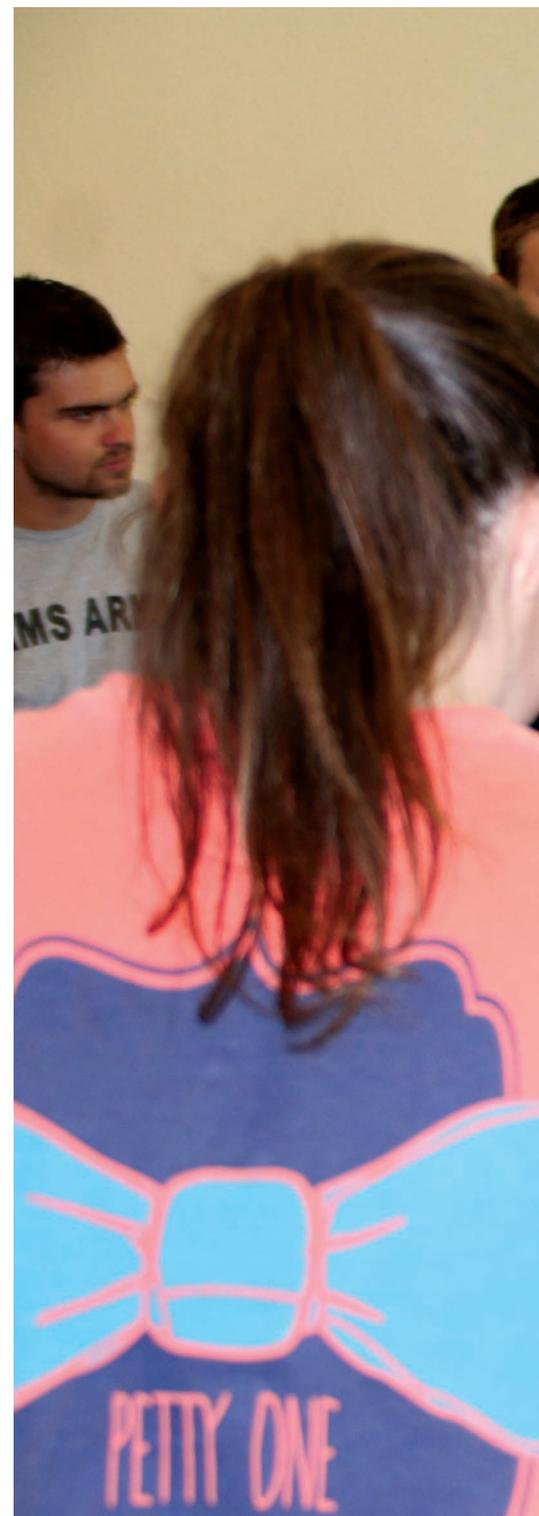
I am really passionate about leadership development, and I love working with teams. So one thing I am looking forward to is the time I will get to spend with the resident assistants and the Freshman Leadership Team. I am also excited to be a part of the broader Student Life Team and to work with them on developing creative strategies for serving students and cultivating community on campus.

How has your background with Lifeshape Foundation equipped you for this new role?

During that time, I had the privilege of working with some incredible people, and learned so much about things like leveraging influence, the importance of a compelling vision, characteristics of a healthy organization, and what true servant-leadership looks like. Most importantly though, I think the Lord used my time with Lifeshape to stretch me into some new maturities as a young leader and to develop my love for the gospel in new ways.

What is the most important life lesson God has been teaching you since your graduation from CIU?

I remember being a student, listening to former professor Cliff Bedell speak in Chapel about the way Moses' face shone after having been in the Lord's presence, and comparing that with the radiance that should be present in the life of the believer who has God's Spirit dwelling in them. That thought has continued to stir in my heart and mind over the years, and I have begun to see so clearly that God's presence always transforms. What's amazing to me is that, as disciples of Jesus, we have been given His Spirit, and instructed to carry His presence into all



David Blanchard meets with RAs for a training session prior to the beginning of the fall semester. ▶



the world. He has given us this incredible title as “temples of the Holy Spirit” and set it up in such a way that people might encounter, and be changed by His presence through our lives. And that’s incredible to me, because it means that whether I am at my best or my most broken doesn’t change the fact that the true substance and power of my life and ministry come from His presence. I believe that if we are being filled by Him and are

willing to open our lives up to those around us, His presence will not fail to transform.

Editor’s Note: Blanchard replaces Mike Thompson who served at CIU for 14 years and is now on the pastoral staff at Christian Family Chapel in Jacksonville, Florida. ■

Extraordinary Impact; Ordinary Lives

God uses generous individuals, each from a different age and stage of life

The following vignettes represent alumni and friends who join over a thousand others who are showing their support for CIU in significant ways. They are ordinary people making an extraordinary and eternal impact. Be encouraged as you read how they are making a difference. CIU's alumni and friends inspire faculty, staff, and students to fulfill CIU's mission.

To learn more about establishing a scholarship, giving to the CIU Fund, or estate planning, please visit www.ciu.edu/support. You may also contact Director of Alumni and Development, Diane Mull, at (803) 807-5502 or dmull@ciu.edu.



Senior class president Niki McIntosh discusses the Keturah Washington Scholarship Fund at the May 2015 commencement.

A Recent Graduate

Niki McIntosh ('15) knew she would have college debt. She also knew that a biblical education is a powerful tool in today's world. While she didn't realize the full blessing of scholarships while in school, today she understands the impact someone else's gift had on her education. She says "I can't imagine the financial burden I would have to carry long term coming out of college had someone not given gifts toward my education."

So, McIntosh gave to the Keturah Washington Scholarship Fund, named for a CIU senior who passed away last year, and created by Washington's Class of 2015. The seniors desired to leave a lasting legacy and opportunity to impact future students at CIU.

McIntosh says she didn't donate much by worldly standards, and the act of giving to the scholarship fund didn't change her life. But with the combined efforts of the Class of 2015, someone's life will be changed. McIntosh looks forward to continuing to give and bless future CIU students the same way others gave so she would be blessed by their gift.



In Memory of Mother

The year was 1983. **Ralph and Pat Sims** of Camden, South Carolina were on the precipice of making a life-changing decision that would have an impact on them and so many others for the rest of their lives. They wanted to honor the memory of both of their mothers in a meaningful way that would leave a legacy. As friends of CIU, then called Columbia Bible College, they valued the school's mission and vision. Their decision began with a letter to CIU President Robertson McQuilkin, informing him they had \$250 they wanted to invest in the school.

Thus began the Mollie L. Sims and Alberta J. Barfield Memorial Scholarship. They wrote a \$250 check that year and a \$500 check the next year, together with matching gifts from Ralph's employer. Through the years, they contributed to the scholarship, knowing that CIU stayed on mission, and today their scholarship remains strong.

Pat says, "We always come away from our visits at CIU energized by the worship

experience in Chapel and the positive discussion with students. We have had a heart for CIU for many years.”

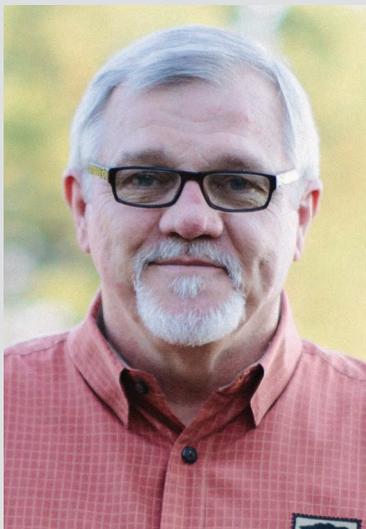
Over \$60,000 has been awarded from the scholarship to deserving students entering the ministry. The total balance exceeds \$100,000. Ralph and Pat continue to bless CIU with their generosity, preparing students to be educated from a biblical worldview, to impact the nations with the message of Christ.

Ties to the Fisher Building

The desire to give financially to CIU is a direct reflection of CIU’s impact on this late blooming couple, **Marilyn (Pilgrim) ('96) and Kirby Player**.

Marilyn’s life directly and Kirby’s indirectly, have been influenced by Marilyn’s CIU experience. At the ages of 47, after 22 years of friendship/courtship/co-laboring, they married. This was 12 years after Marilyn’s training for the mission field at CIU in the mid-1990s. After graduating from CIU, Marilyn served five years in Turkey teaching missionary children at an international school. Health issues brought Marilyn back to South Carolina and God united the couple in marriage.

When CIU’s “Forward in Faith” Campaign was announced, Kirby, who has a professional career in alumni and development, knew immediately God was calling the couple to pray about giving. The vision God communicated through CIU President Bill Jones, resonates with the Player’s core values of reaching the generations with the gospel. God’s call to give led to an unrestricted gift in the couple’s estate plan. However, when President Jones sitting in the well-worn classroom seats of the Fisher Building appeared in a video distributed to CIU alumni and friends, the couple could not resist being a part of facilities renovation. The project is dear to their hearts because Marilyn sat under the teaching of Dr. Jones in the Fisher Building during her time at CIU. In faith, they both gave \$1,000 to the building renovation project believing God is calling CIU’s alumni and friends “Forward in Faith” so CIU may remain relevant in developing leaders, young and old, to impact the nations with the message of Christ. ■



MIKE BARNETT SCHOLARSHIP

What is the mission of God? A blessing for all peoples. This was the simple truth that CIU professor Dr. Mike Barnett communicated to students and intercultural workers for over two decades, until his death last August. (See page 5) He was a professor of church planting, business as mission, ministry teams, and history of global Christianity. But he also consulted business owners, nonprofit organizations, and mission organizations — all with the mission of God as his central driving passion.

Barnett was the founding dean of CIU’s College of Intercultural Studies (ICS) whose vision is to “equip students for missional life, work, and ministry in a culturally diverse world.” That’s why The Mike Barnett Mission of God Scholarship was created, as an investment in the future — helping to fund the education of the next generation of intercultural workers in mission, full-time ministry, or the marketplace, who will make disciples of all peoples.

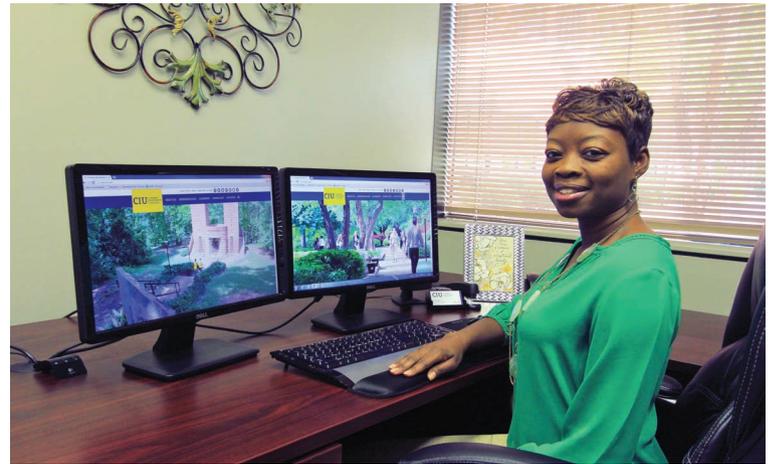
To give to the Mike Barnett Mission of God Scholarship, please visit: fund.ciu.edu. Click on the list of funds to support.

THE INSIDE WORD

Check Out the New CIU.edu

Have you been to the new CIU website? Over the summer, CIU launched a major renovation of the website, with an attractive design, easy navigation and a home page video that makes you feel like you're right on campus. There is also easier access to CIU social media sites and compatibility with mobile and tablet devices.

A key person in making the new website a reality is Chaunté McClure, the Web communications strategist in CIU's Marketing and Communications Office. McClure came to CIU after eight years as the website project coordinator with the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism where she had assisted in launching a new website.



▲ Chaunté McClure, Web communications strategist in CIU's Marketing and Communications Office.

McClure says the planning process for the new CIU website began about a year before she was hired at CIU in late 2014, but within a month after her start date, she was busy approving site architecture and approving design concepts.

"The process continued until we officially launched in June," McClure said. "Of course we are still tweaking various elements to get the site just right. Having been involved in a Web design process before, making post-launch updates is common."

There is an old saying about only having one chance to make a good first impression. McClure says that is especially true when it comes to a website and higher education.

"The website is really the front door to CIU," McClure explains. "Before a prospective student or parent put their feet on our campus, they likely get a first look at who we are on our website."

Another words, that website has to look good.

"I think a site that is visually appealing draws visitors in, and functionality, as well as the look, will determine how long they'll stay," McClure said.

So, how does McClure feel now that the website is up and running? Well, a little having given birth.

"We had a staff member on the Marketing team who was pregnant during the project and we were anticipating the baby's birth," McClure said. "I started referring to the website as my baby and was looking forward to birthing it."

"The closer it got to my due date – my launch date – it seemed the more challenging things became. I was ready to push, but the site was not ready to be exposed to the world because there was still some developing to be done. When the site was finally born, it was rewarding to see a project that God entrusted me with, and that I worked so hard on, come to fruition."

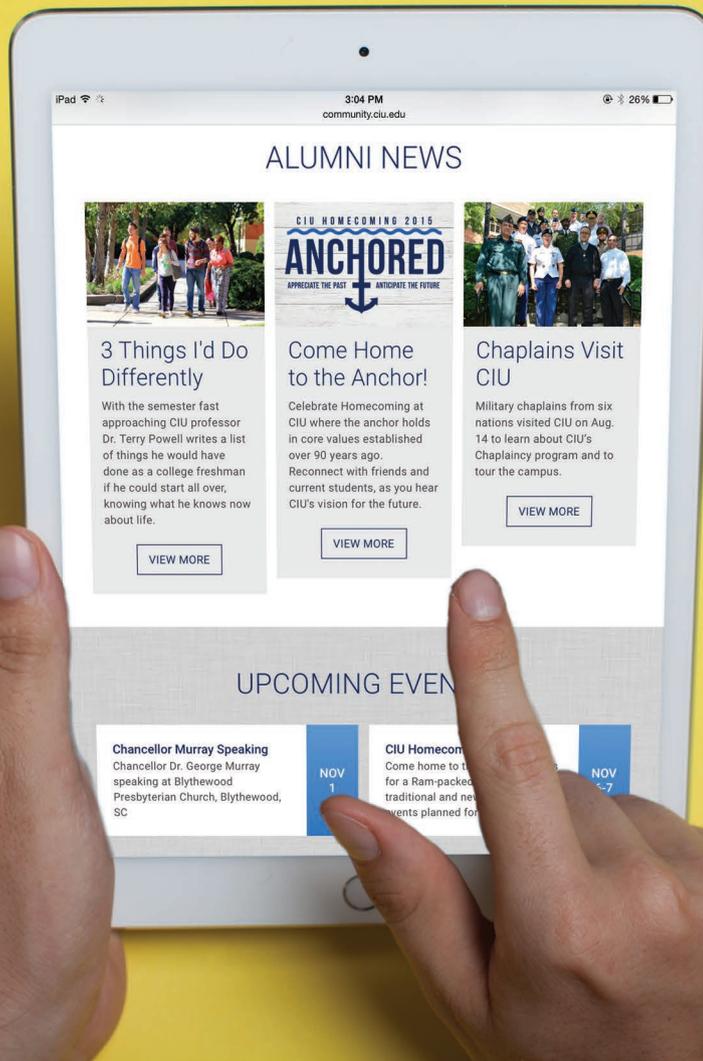
See Chaunté McClure's "baby" at CIU.edu. ■

The website is really the front door to CIU.



Check Out the New CIU.edu





INTRODUCING

the new ALUMNI website

With an attractive new design and easy navigation, you'll want to check in often to find out what's happening with your fellow alumni and on campus.

- Looking for a former classmate? Check out the complete alumni directory.
- Update your personal and professional status with the convenient update form.
- Easy access to free resources.
- Register for Homecoming online.

Visit www.ciu.edu/alumni today!



ALUMNI

CIU HOMECOMING 2015

ANCHORED

APPRECIATE THE PAST  ANTICIPATE THE FUTURE

Come home to the anchor!

Celebrate Homecoming at CIU where the anchor holds in core values established over 90 years ago. Reconnect with friends and current students, as you hear CIU's vision for the future. Join us for a Ram-packed weekend of traditional and new Homecoming events planned for you!

November 6 - 7

Homecoming 2015 Schedule

Thursday – November 5

- 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Homecoming Check-In | *Alumni Center*
 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner available for purchase in the cafeteria
 7:00 p.m. CIU Rams vs. Bob Jones University soccer game (free) | *Soccer Field*

Friday – November 6

- 8:00 - 10:45 a.m. Homecoming Check-In | *Alumni Center* (also between 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.)
 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast available for purchase in the cafeteria
 9:00 - 5:00 p.m. Super Sale at CMRD | *Ridderhof*
 9:15 - 10:45 a.m. Class Reunions (free) | *Various Locations*
 9:15 - 10:45 a.m. Mystery Alum gives words of wisdom at Library Tour | *Library*
 11:00 - Noon Alumni of the Year Chapel - Dr. David Chow '75 | *Shortess Chapel*
 Rev. Moses Chow '58 (posthumously)
 Noon - 2:00 p.m. Student-Alumni Luncheon* (\$8) | *Cafeteria*
 2:15 - 4:00 p.m. Class Reunions (free) | *Various Locations*
 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Campus Tours (free) | *Meet in front of the Administration Building*
 4:15 - 5:15 p.m. "Speed Meeting" with students (free) | *Student Center*
 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. President's Banquet* (\$20) | *Moore Fitness Center*
 Speakers: Dr. David Chow and Dr. Chuck Kwok
 8:15 p.m. Fireworks (weather permitting) | *Near CIU Soccer Field*

Saturday – November 7

- 8:00 - 10:45 a.m. Homecoming Check-In | *Alumni Center*
 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast with Alumnus of the Year Dr. David Chow | *McKey/Rikard*
 (breakfast available for purchase in the cafeteria)
 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. Bouncy House and Kite Flying for Kids (free) | *CIU soccer field*
 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Class Reunions (free) | *Various Locations*
 Noon - 1:30 p.m. Picnic Lunch* (\$8.00 adult/\$4.00 for children 12 & under) | *CIU Soccer Field*
 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Pine View Community Center Open House/Refreshments (free)
 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. CIU Players production of "Alice in Wonderland"* | *Hoke Auditorium*
 (\$5.00 adult/\$2.00 for children 12 & under)
 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Super Sale at CMRD | *Ridderhof*
 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. CIU Rams vs. Chowan University soccer game (free) | *CIU Soccer Field*
 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner available for purchase at Ben Lippen Football Field
 6:00 p.m. CIU Bowl - women's game | *Ben Lippen Football Field*
 8:00 p.m. CIU Bowl - men's game | *Ben Lippen Football Field*

* Ticketed Events

Register today at www.ciu.edu/alumni/hc15



ALUMNI Class Notes

Paul Leber ('46) is 95(!) years old and still has a strong prayer ministry. He pastored several churches in his lifetime and is very grateful for what he learned at CBC/CIU. Originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he now lives in Philadelphia, Mississippi.

William Thornton ('52) lost his beloved wife, Elsie in 2014. Their three children are Billy, Becky and Tom. William lives in Quarryville, Pennsylvania, the same location as his classmates **Bob Scott ('52)** and **Jean Abrahamsen ('52)**.

Betty Overcash Yount ('54) published the children's book, "Who is God and What's He Like?" bbyount@bellsouth.net



Allen ('60) and Diane ('60) Huntzinger retired from Christar in March 2015 after 52 years of service. Allyn continues distributing material published by Child Evangelism Fellowship and Bible Visuals. They pray that Allen's book, "Persians in the Bible," published in both Persian and English, will continue to be distributed. allyn316@gmail.com

Larry ('65) and Ruth McCullough - Having served as president of four Christian colleges/universities over the last 25 years, including Miami Christian College/Trinity International University, Northwest Baptist College and Seminary, and Universidad FLET, Larry retired as president of Laurel University in High Point, North Carolina in June 2013. He currently serves as senior executive advisor with Knowledge Elements, consulting Christian universities as a growth agent. They enjoy their eight grandchildren. ldmccullough37@yahoo.com

Doug Kracht ('67) and Paul Thompson ('62) continue their work in translating Christian material into Spanish for ministries in the Dominican Republic and Cuba. They are amazed to see how God is using the Spanish version of Progress of Redemption by Buck Hatch. It is available at www.buckhatchlibrary.com.

Joyce Leland Burlingame ('74) In "Living with Death – Dying with Life" Joyce shares her nine-month journey of caring for her husband, Scott, who suffered with terminal cancer. She recalls the many ways God proved Himself over the years. joyce.burlingame@gmail.com



Henry ('79) and Sara Spearing ('79) Baker are doing well in Knoxville, Tennessee, serving the Lord in their church and in the Christian school where Sara has been teaching for the last 33 years. Their two sons are walking with the Lord; Mark, as a classical Christian school teacher; Nathan, as a software engineer and active leader in his church. mrsbear1024@hotmail.com



Larry ('80) and Debbie Nehlsen ('76) Peck are directors of "Rome with Purpose," an accredited semester program in Rome, Italy. They also offer several weeklong programs for adults or homeschoolers. Contact them for special CIU discounts. Come "experience Italy in Christian community." www.RomeWithPurpose.com

David ('86) and Nancy Brown ('84) Elliott moved from St. Louis to Mount Pleasant, South Carolina to be near their son and family. David is retired as an Evangelical Presbyterian Church pastor serving most of his career at Central Presbyterian Church in St. Louis. They have been married for 44 years. dvelliott5@aol.com

James ('90) and Gloria Whitaker were missionaries with Christian In Action International (Japan TEAM) for 10 years before James came to Columbia to study in the seminary. Since leaving CIU, he and Gloria have completed more than 25 years serving in Japan and the Philippines as church planters, school teachers, and emergency relief workers. James continued his studies earning an M.A. and M.Div. in Pastoral Counseling. They are in ministry transition at this time and look forward to what God has in store for them. zionbtw@yahoo.com

Danny Carpenter ('91) ministered with TEAM in Venezuela until 2009 when TEAM closed the field. The church he was associated with in Venezuela asked him to stay on to develop leadership training. He helped design a Ministerial Training Center, with the first graduates finishing this year. Danny also mentors, leads seminars, teaches and preaches. He is also working on his Doctorate of Religious Studies in Apologetics and Theology. venprophet@hotmail.com

Robbie ('03) and Irene Pruitt are excited that God is leading them to continue their work at a school in Haiti. Robbie teaches high school Bible, helps with chapel, coordinates continuing education for teachers, and serves as the school's social media director. Irene stays at home with their child, Grace, while also providing some counseling and mentorship. irenepruitt@gmail.com

Ralph Anzenberger ('03,'11) recently published "(re) Discovering the Ministry of the Evangelist." It is a tool designed for pastors, theologians and church leaders as well as for anyone developing a training program for evangelists. The book also provides a comprehensive understanding of the role and responsibility of the evangelist in contemporary culture. family@Anzenberger.org

Jayson Casper ('09) lives with his wife, Julie, and their four children in Cairo, Egypt where he serves as a correspondent for Christianity Today magazine and writes the blog, "A Sense of Belonging" focusing on Egyptian politics, religion, and culture. Jayson worked previously in Mauritania, Jordan, and Tunisia, and holds an M.A. in Islamic studies from CIU. Jayson.casper@ideasworld.org



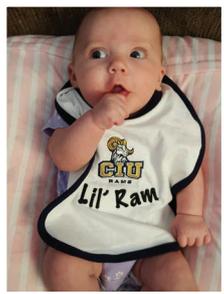
Dan and Christine Matthews Delmater ('11) were blessed with a beautiful daughter, Olivia Grace born July 2014. christine.em83@gmail.com



Lars-Uwe ('09) Sonja Huget ('09) Jung met while studying at the CIU extension in Korntal, Germany, and were married 10 days after attaining master's degrees in Intercultural Studies in 2009. After pastoring a church for two years in Hanau, Germany, they joined the Marburger Mission in 2011 and are now working in the interior of the Sertão region in northeastern Brazil. Their ministry includes theological education, mentoring pastors and church leaders, and ministering to families with handicapped children. lars-uwe@gmx.net



Tirrell and Karina Howell welcomed their third child, Elliot on July 14, 2015. Tirrell is the director of IT at CIU and Karina is a former Ben Lippen School staff member. Their daughters Trinity and Zoe' are thrilled to have a baby brother. thowell@ciu.edu



Bill ('10) and Courtney Wilson ('09) Brown welcomed Elizabeth Ann into their family on July 11. Bill serves in CIU's Registrar's Office and Courtney is a first grade teacher. wbrown@ciu.edu

100th Birthday



Family, friends and alumni gathered to celebrate **Catherine Walker's** 100th birthday on May 16. Catherine graduated in 1939. She is the daughter of Mrs. Clara Walker, a former dean of women for whom Walker Residence Hall is named. Catherine served in China for three years, and assisted in the founding of a seminary in Indonesia where she taught for 30 years.

With The Lord

Edith Blackburn Norwood '40 – May 2015
Margaret Fox Shaiebly '49 – August 2015
Vera Bray '50 – April 2015
Eugene "Gene" Madeira '50 – July 2015
Frank Cole '51 – March 2015
Elsie Hare Thornton '51 – February 2015
Mildred Rogers Carnall '52 – May 2015
Jack Roeda '53 – May 2015
Malcolm, husband of Patricia Gumm Bicker, '55 – April 2015
Earlene Voss '56 – June 2015
John Waller '62 – May 2015
Marlene Graffius Snyder '65 – February 2015
John Snyder '65 – February 2015
William Cassedy '71 – April 2015
Clinton Ira Morrison '73 – April 2015
Daniel Pinkham '78 – August 2015
Juliana Forcus '85 – February 2015
David Sturkey '85 – April 2015
Kenneth Estes '89 – July 2015
Cinda Kammermann '93/'08 – August 2015
Gwendolyn Gibson '15 – May 2015
Joyce Supplee – Former Staff and Honorary alumna – June 2015
Mike Barnett – Faculty – August 2015



Update your alumni profile
 @ ciu.me/alumniprofile



Check out upcoming events
 and speaking schedules of
 President Bill Jones and
 Chancellor George Murray
 @ ciu.me/ciuevents

ALUMNI



Don't Miss the President's Banquet at Homecoming 2015 November 6 at 6 p.m.

CIU's mission is to educate people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ. That requires training students for ministry and the marketplace. The President's Banquet will address both spheres of influence featuring speakers Dr. David Chow and Dr. Chuck Kwok.



Dr. David T. Chow ('75)

Dr. David Chow ('75) is the president of Ambassadors for Christ, Inc. (AFC) continuing the work that his father, Moses Chow ('58) began. His heart is to see the Chinese churches and the Chinese be a force for God's kingdom. He thoroughly embodies CIU's core values of World Evangelization and Evangelical Unity. AFC's mission is to reach and disciple Chinese intellectuals through partnerships with Chinese churches.



Dr. Chuck C. Y. Kwok

Dr. Chuck Kwok is professor of International Business at the University of South Carolina (USC) in Columbia. He has been teaching international finance and China business courses at the master's and doctoral levels at USC since 1984. Dr. Kwok pioneers the interdisciplinary study on how national culture influences financial practices around the world. He has published over 50 refereed journal articles as well as five books and monographs.

Register for the President's Banquet and all of Homecoming 2015
at www.ciu.edu/alumni.

THE FINAL WORD

God's Blessings Come in Many Ways

At Columbia International University, the financial blessings that come from faithful donors encourage our hearts. Pages 26-27 of this magazine feature generous individuals, each from a different age and stage in life, each with a different need that God has placed on their heart, but all with a common interest to see CIU's mission fulfilled: "to educate people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ."

Even more amazing, God blessed us last fiscal year through 1,940 donors just like them. Our Forward in Faith Campaign continued its momentum with \$6,762,045.31 in gifts bringing our campaign total so far to \$24,131,760.88. Our CIU Fund, which is part of our Forward in Faith Campaign, was blessed with gifts totaling \$1,598,592.81. Several alumni and friends went home to be with the Lord leaving generous gifts.

That means our total gift income for the year was \$10,266,974.31, and we are grateful for every dollar that was given. It enabled us to provide financial aid, salaries for our faculty and staff, the ability to reach more students, and I could go on. Visit our new website (www.ciu.edu/support) for information on each project. But so much more needs to be done.

With God's blessing, even greater amounts than this past year can come this academic year, enabling us to expand our mission. I would like to challenge our alumni, our friends, and those who have supported us so generously through the years to do three things:

- 1) Continue to pray that God will provide as He has for 92 years.
- 2) If you have never done so, please consider a monthly or a one-time gift to our CIU Fund. Give conveniently online at www.ciu.edu/support.
- 3) Consider an extraordinary gift to help us meet our goal to finish the buildings yet to be renovated: the Fisher Building, Rossi Student Center, and Shortess Chapel.

God has blessed CIU with unshakable core values and a strong vision for 92 years. In a world constantly more secular and where biblical Christianity frequently comes under attack, we need to be an even stronger presence for God. Your prayers and financial support make it possible.

Yours for His glory,



William H. Jones
President

God has
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CIU TODAY



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CIU HOMECOMING 2015

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APPRECIATE THE PAST  **ANTICIPATE THE FUTURE**

The central graphic is set against a background of an underwater scene. Sunlight filters through the water from the top left, creating a bright, shimmering effect. Numerous bubbles of various sizes are scattered throughout the water, particularly concentrated around the text. The text "CIU HOMECOMING 2015" is written in a blue, blocky font with a slight shadow. Below it is a wavy line representing water. The word "ANCHORED" is the largest, in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the phrases "APPRECIATE THE PAST" and "ANTICIPATE THE FUTURE" are written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font, flanking a large, blue anchor icon.

November 6-7 | www.ciu.edu/alumni/hc15 | (803) 807-5500 | alumni@ciu.edu

