

# CIU

## TODAY

### CLASS OF 2020

Celebrates Unique Commencement

- + *Record Enrollments at CIU and Ben Lippen*
- + *Holding the Hand of a Dying COVID Patient*
- + *Recognizing Racial Diversity*
- + *God Speaks Through Pain – New Book by Dr. Mark Smith*



COLUMBUS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FALL 2020  
CIU.edu  
#DiscoverCIU

# CIU

## TODAY

**CIU Today** is published as a service to CIU alumni and friends by the Office of University Communications at Columbia International University.

Columbia International University admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs and complies with Title IX regulations.

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Bob Holmes

**Designer**      **Photographer**  
Seth Berry      Kierston Smith

**Alumni Editor**  
Danny Arabis

**Contributing Photographers**  
Johnathan Rabon, Nathaniel Rabon, Ben Rutkowski

**Contributing Writers**  
Bob Holmes, Camden Abrams, Naomi Balk, Melissa McCuthcan, Taylor Nelson, Dr. Terry Powell, Dr. Andre Rogers

**Direct all inquiries to:**  
CIU Today magazine  
7435 Monticello Road  
Columbia, SC 29203  
(803) 807-5535  
publicrelations@ciu.edu

**Cover Photo:** Michael Knight of the Class of 2020 celebrates earning a Master of Arts in Teaching.

**CIU**  
Columbia  
International  
University



#DiscoverCIU

## FEATURES

- 10** CIU Alumnus Holds Hand of Dying COVID Patient
- 11** Learning Journalism from a Biblical Perspective (During a Pandemic)
- 12** Longing for Wuhan
- 14** Ben Lippen Fine Arts: Reflecting the Creator
- 16** Class of 2020: A Commencement Like None Other
- 18** "Oh God, I'm Dying!" New Book by President Dr. Mark Smith

## DEPARTMENTS

- 20** **ACADEMICS**  
CIU #1 in Online Learning; Counseling Program Reaccreditation; New Books with Academic Impact
- 22** **ATHLETICS**  
New AD and New Women's Basketball Coach; Softball: Champions of Character; Ben Lippen Football Kids Camp Learns from the Pros
- 24** **CAMPUS LIFE**  
Class of 2024: Welcome to CIU!
- 26** **ADVANCEMENT**  
CIU: A Special Place in My Heart; The Johnny and Jeanne Miller Outdoor Athletics Fields
- 29** **ALUMNI**  
Alumni Spotlight; Recent Alumni Recognition Award; CIU Homecoming/Friends & Family Weekend; Class Notes

# Nothing Has Been the Same Since Leap Day



Bob Holmes  
Editor-in-Chief

Since Leap Day on Feb. 29, it feels like I've been living in a different world. That marks the day for me when things started to change.

I was sitting with my son Ryan and my father-in-law at a spring training baseball game in Sarasota, Florida watching the Baltimore Orioles host the Miami Marlins. There we were

elbow to elbow with fellow baseball fans we had never met. The words "social distancing" were not in our vocabulary. But we had heard about something called coronavirus over in China and spreading into Europe.

The call of the beer vendor coming up our aisle caught our attention.

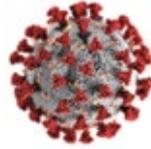
"Hey, I got Corona!" Ryan and I looked at each other as I said, "I can't believe he said that."

Of course, he was selling the Mexican beer by that name. But I still can't believe he said it.

Two days later, as we were leaving Florida to head back to South Carolina, the headline in the Sarasota newspaper announced Florida's first coronavirus cases had just been confirmed in Sarasota and Tampa, two cities we had just visited.

A number of thoughts went through my head including the possibility that we may be taking this virus back to our home state. Much would change in coming days and months, not the least of which would be my suffering from "baseball withdrawal" as the season would be greatly delayed.

I learned new experiences such as "working from home," which earlier in my life sounded like an oxymoron. But many CIU staff members labored strictly from home for about six weeks. The most



amusing part of that was that my daughter Brianne, who has a job similar to mine at Erskine College in South Carolina's Upstate, was also working from home — my home, literally within steps of my "CIU Home Office." Two communication specialists from two different colleges under the same roof! (Glad she came home. She's a delight and a great cook!)

And then there is teaching virtual adult Sunday school. As my church went to online only services for a period, I taught in front of a nearly empty church sanctuary, live over YouTube. I was glad the worship team was at least in the building to nod their heads at my salient points as the camera operator laughed loudly at my attempts at humor. Since then, we've been pre-recording Sunday school — another whole new agonizing experience of watching myself later on Sunday morning. (Have I really lost that much hair on top?)

And then there is Zoom. Before this year, that was the noise made by super hero cartoon characters. Now it's the way I communicate with members of my neighborhood association. Sure, some of them live just down the street, but at least over Zoom I communicate with them without a mask.

Yes, life has changed a lot since Leap Day. But God has not.

**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)**

And no virus can change that. Amen.

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





Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin advised Columbia International University faculty and staff that now is a good time to listen and learn. Benjamin offered the guidance at the invitation of the CIU administration. With an enrollment that is about 35% African-American, President Mark Smith said CIU will “listen and learn, so we can love and lead well.”



## Recognizing Racial Diversity at CIU

By Dr. Andre Rogers  
*Doctor of Ministerial Leadership Director, Professor of Church Ministry*

**W**e all recall times when individuals and institutions have fallen short of reflecting the principles upon which they declare to stand. Yet, it is great to remember the times when institutions, such as Columbia International University, biblically respond to the cultural climate in which they serve. As I reflect on three decades as a CIU faculty member, through the years CIU’s leadership has recognized the importance of taking intentional steps to minister to, and with, people of color.

In the 1930s, Marguerite McQuilkin, the wife of our first president Dr. R.C. McQuilkin, founded Bethel Bible Camp for African American children so they could learn about God and have the summer camp experience that white children already enjoyed. Today, the camp is called Bethel Christian Camp and includes children who are a mix of ethnic and socio-economic groups.

I was present in the 1990s when CIU President Dr. Johnny Miller

made a public statement regarding removal of the Confederate flag from the dome of the South Carolina Statehouse saying: “I see the flag as being a rallying point around which the church could show that it would not act in a racist way, which is not to say that everybody who supports the flag is racist. But if my black brothers and sisters see it as racist, then I want to serve them.”

As the premier Christian institution in South Carolina, CIU is continuing to take action to make CIU more reflective of the diverse nature of the body of Christ. In recent years under the leadership of President Dr. Mark Smith, I have witnessed CIU address the sobering reality of the plight of African Americans by initiating actions on and off campus.

Recognizing employment inequalities in the workplace, Dr. Smith has championed the charge of racial diversity. When I came to CIU in 1999, I was the only African American on the faculty. But over the last three years, CIU has hired African American professors, administrators, and

coaches to work in critical positions throughout the university so that CIU will be more reflective of its core value of Evangelical Unity and the rich diversity of the body of Christ. Now I sit around the table and see eight African American professors and senior leaders, as well as over 25 other African Americans who are a part of the CIU family of employees. What a blessing to behold what God has done!

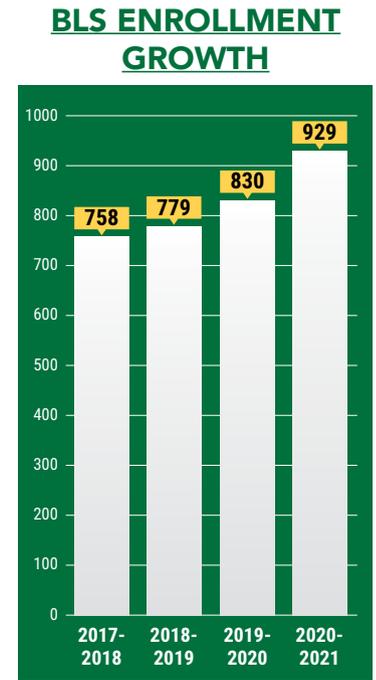
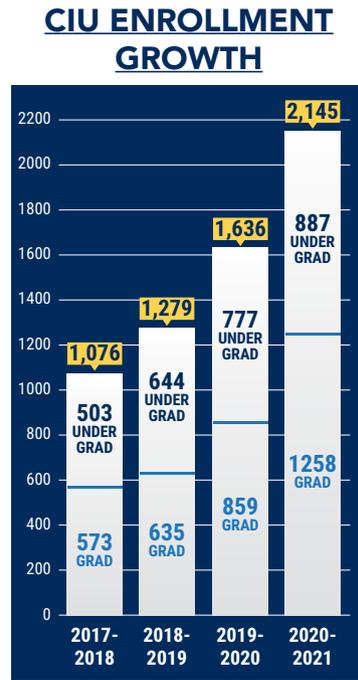
Additionally, the university has brokered the purchase of a number of properties on the Monticello Road corridor for economic development. The demography for the area is 75% African American and our desire is that, as CIU grows, CIU’s neighborhood will also reap the tangible benefits of CIU’s investment. Already, The North Columbia Business Association has recognized CIU with the Community Impact Organization of the Year Award for its efforts.

While I and the CIU leadership recognize much more work is left to be done, we believe the best is yet to come. ■

# Record Enrollments at CIU and Ben Lippen!

The upward enrollment trend at Columbia International University and Ben Lippen School continues in record-breaking fashion. CIU's enrollment has increased for four years straight. A total of 2,145 students are enrolled for the 2020-2021 academic year. That includes residential and online undergraduate and graduate students. Dual enrollment of high school students also continues the upward trend.

Meanwhile, at Ben Lippen, 99 more Pre-K3 to 12th grade students are enrolled this academic year over last year, for a total of 929. ■



## A Call to Denounce Racism on Anniversary of Mother Emanuel Shootings

On the five-year anniversary of the shooting deaths of nine people at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, Columbia International University President Dr. Mark Smith called on Christ followers to denounce racism and injustice. It was on June 17, 2015 that nine people were shot and killed by a white supremacist during a Wednesday night Bible study and prayer meeting at the church also known as "Mother Emanuel."

In a videotaped message on YouTube, Smith said that CIU formally denounces "racism, injustice and any action of any group seeking to make themselves racially superior to any

other group of people. It's just flat out wrong."

Meanwhile, also on the eve of the anniversary, Smith met for lunch and prayer with Columbia leaders to listen and learn about race relations in the community. Meeting with Smith were Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia Urban League President and CEO J.T. McLawhorn, and Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott. Joining Smith from CIU was Special Assistant to the President Dr. Andre Rogers and Executive Vice President Dr. Rick Christman. ■

◀ CIU Professor Dr. Andre Rogers (standing) leads CIU President Dr. Mark Smith and Columbia leaders in prayer.



## CIU Today Magazine Honored

The magazine you are holding is a winner!

CIU Today is a Merit Winner in the 35th Annual Educational Advertising Awards in the category for "External Publications." The magazine is published by the CIU University Communications Department under the direction of Bob Wenzel.

University Communications did even better in the "Total Athletic Program" category winning Gold for CIU Rams Season Posters. A CIU Rams Fundraising Booklet was also a Merit Winner in the "Fund Raising Campaign" category.

The awards are presented by the Higher Education Marketing Report in Marietta, Georgia. ■

Aden Corley, a freshman in the Bible Teaching program, handles a saw during clean up in Lake Charles. (Photos: Kaylyn Stewart)



## CIU Students Roll Up Their Sleeves to Minister After Hurricane

Columbia International University junior Kaylyn Stewart said the people of Lake Charles, Louisiana felt forgotten over a month after enduring Hurricane Laura, one of the strongest storms to ever hit the area with winds of 150 miles per hour.

much more need and pain than we see from media," Stewart said in an email as she headed back to Columbia.

The CIU work crew concentrated much of their efforts on debris clean up and repairs in three locations, including Lakewood Bible Fellowship Church where the crew was sheltered.

"God taught me a lot about selfishness and what it really means to die to ourselves, especially with working and attitude," wrote Stewart, a Humanities major. ■

Stewart was among 26 CIU students who travelled to the Louisiana Gulf Coast on a disaster relief trip Oct. 1-5, led by Dr. Michelle Raven, associate professor of Disaster Relief and Emergency Management.

"I think I'll remember that the world is so much bigger and there is so



The CIU crew assists with repairs at Lakewood Bible Fellowship.

## SC's Highest Civilian Honor Awarded to CIU Alumnus



▲ The Rev. George Crow celebrates with his son, Daniel. (Photo: NE Presbyterian Church)

Columbia International University alumnus The Rev. George Crow is a recipient of one of South Carolina's highest honors. Crow, who earned a Master of Divinity degree from CIU in 1979, was presented with the Order of the Silver Crescent for his 40 years of pastoral service at Northeast Presbyterian Church in Columbia.

The award is the state's highest civilian honor "for significant contributions, leadership, volunteerism, and lifelong influence within a region or community."

After graduating from Columbia Biblical Seminary at CIU, Crow was called to serve in the organizing of Northeast Presbyterian Church (PCA). He oversaw four decades of church growth, the planting of new churches, broad support of stateside and overseas missions and outreach, children's programs, and vibrant women's and men's ministries. ■

## Nothing Says "Thank You" Like a Doughnut!

Members of Columbia International University's Online Admissions team and a Ben Lippen student visited 18 Columbia area first responder locations, thanking them for their service with Krispy Kreme doughnuts and greeting cards.

Director of Graduate and Online Recruitment, Scott Boyer, says the police officers and firefighters they met were genuinely grateful for the small token of appreciation, and asked if they could pose for photos with the team. They also noted that they have been blessed by the support they have received from the greater Columbia community.



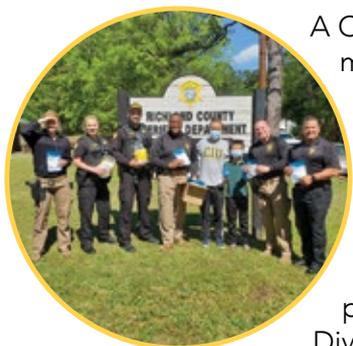
The Irmo Police Department shows off their gift of Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

"The CIU team enjoyed having an opportunity to connect with first responders and gain perspective on their sacrifice to protect and serve the community," Boyer said. ■



## Offering Reassurance During a Pandemic

### Student on Mission With Masks



A CIU student from China helped meet the critical need for M95 masks by distributing them free to those on the front lines of the battle against the coronavirus.

Tiepeng Lyu, who is studying for his Master of Divinity degree, provided 200 masks to the Training Division of the Richland County Sheriff's Department located in the

Denny Terrace neighborhood where Lyu lives, just down Monticello Road from CIU.

When the masks were in short supply in the United States, Lyu had the masks shipped from his home country.

"We really appreciate his efforts in supporting the Richland County Sheriff's Department and his community," said Sheriff Leon Lott.

Lyu also provided 200 masks to health care workers at an assisted living facility and another 200 to a doctor's office in the nearby Eau Claire neighborhood. ■



*Dave Wegener (right) with a customer from Beaufort County Emergency Services.*

### Alumnus Shifts His Business to Meet Pandemic Needs

CIU alumnus Dave Wegener (Class of '91) usually concentrates on setting up custom Mac computers and helping Apple users with tech problems. But after the Covid-19 outbreak in South Carolina, Wegener's Columbia business, Wedge, shifted its focus to producing medical protective devices, starting with face shields.

At one point, Wegener was producing more than 10,000 shields per day and "supplying most of the needs for South Carolina hospitals," Wegener said. ■



CIU Dean of Students Rick Swift (left) receives masks from Robbie McAlister.

## CIU Alumnus Distributes Face Masks Made by Refugees

Face masks sewn by refugees in the overcrowded Moria refugee camp on the Greek Island of Lesbos, were made available to CIU through alumnus Dr. Robbie McAlister ('94, '07).

McAlister ministers among the global diaspora of displaced people around the world. The refugees volunteered to make masks for Western nations struggling to protect themselves from Covid-19. The refugees have fled desperate situations in Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and live in a camp of over 15,000 people designed to accommodate only 2,500 people.

"A refugee who has nothing, is actually helping us in the West, who are typically viewed as having everything," McAlister said. "They're really trying to give back because they realize many of us have gone to help them." ■

## CIU "Caters" to Columbia Health Care Workers

Taylor Morrison oversees catering and special events for Hallmark Management Services Inc., the company that provides food services for CIU. In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, he was asked on behalf of CIU to deliver four large baskets of food to Columbia hospitals, as a gift to the health care workers on the front lines of fighting the coronavirus.



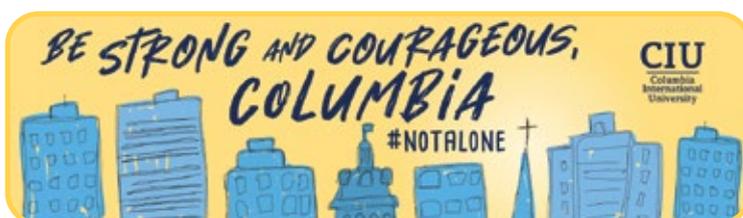
"Seeing the health care workers masked up and in their gowns — you could see it in their eyes that a lot of them were tired," Morrison said. "A lot of them were run down. It was nice to see them perk up a little bit. It was really awesome to be able to do it."

▲ A note from President Dr. Mark Smith accompanied the food baskets

"What a thoughtful way to show your appreciation! Thank you so much!" tweeted Providence Health. ■

## Billboards Encourage the Community

CIU and Ben Lippen School encouraged the community with biblical messages on strategically-placed billboards around the Columbia area. ■



**Stay abreast of CIU News.**  
Sign up for alumni E-News at [ciu.edu/email](http://ciu.edu/email)

# CIU Alum Holds the Hand of Dying Covid Patient



Joey Ketcherside

**J**oey Ketcherside was there to hold the hand of a man dying of Covid-19. He was the only one who could offer the touch.

Ketcherside, a 2004 CIU alumnus, is a nurse in the Medical Intensive Care Unit of Prisma Health Richland Hospital in Columbia. Because of

the contagious nature of the coronavirus, the family could not be at the bedside of their dying loved one. Instead they could only look through a door window into the ICU.

But Ketcherside, who says he often prays that he will be a healing vessel for his ICU patients, tried to offer hope and reassurance to the family members before they left.

"When (the patient) decompensated further, I was able to go in and hold his hand, and pray over him as he died," Ketcherside said.

After doctors informed the family of the death, Ketcherside gave them a phone call.

"I let them know that he was not alone, but that I was there, and I got to tell him how much they cared for him.

"It was kind of a special moment. At a time when it's all chaos, and everyone is fearful, and not certain of what's going to happen next, there was a glimpse of 'Hey my dad didn't die alone someone was there with him.'"

Ketcherside graduated from CIU with a bachelor's degree in General Studies and worked as a carpenter before God led him to consider a nursing career. While he was in nursing school at Midlands Technical College in

Columbia, he found himself at the bedside of a friend who was dying.

"It was clear to me in those times that I had a calling," Ketcherside said. "I always wanted to be helpful and take care of people in some regard. It feels like an extension of my faith when I get to go to work and help and administer healing to people."

Even though Ketcherside says he is always fully supplied with Personal Protection Equipment in the ICU, he stays close to home after work to avoid the risk of spreading the virus. His wife does all the shopping and their three children, sons ages 12 and 10, and a 7-year-old daughter, had to initially get used to online learning.

He helped his children through their own grieving process when they missed their classmates and hugs from someone other than dad and mom.

"Our daughter at one point said, 'I can't wait to be around my friends again. I like y'all but your hugs are getting boring.'"

Meanwhile, God is teaching him during this time to be more patient, not necessarily with patients at the hospital, but with the family as they live under the strain of the new normal.

"What I'm learning is these relationships are very valuable and to slow down and try to understand and take the time to connect and listen to and respond to people." Ketcherside said.

"Something could happen and we could no longer be here. You don't want your relationships to be strained, but take time and develop (them)." ■



# Learning Journalism from a Biblical Perspective

## During a Pandemic

### Recent alumna attends virtual World Journalism Institute

By Naomi Balk

**T**his summer, I had the unique opportunity to attend World magazine's World Journalism Institute (WJI), but with a twist: COVID-19.

The class went virtual and I and 25 other students from three countries met over Zoom from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the last weeks of May. During the course, seasoned journalists from around the globe shared valuable wisdom as I learned the basics of radio, video and photography, practiced street-level reporting, and made connections with peers who were eager to grow as writers.

In addition to learning practical skills, we discussed what it means to tell a story from a biblically objective point of view, even in an era that regards truth as subjective. It involves seeing the world through this lens: that all people are sinful and that Jesus offers grace and redemption. Because of these powerful truths and the authority of Scripture, I learned that I can develop and use my God-given

abilities to draw attention to things that would otherwise go unnoticed.

During our orientation, the associate dean of WJI, Professor Lee Pitts said, "Part of a journalist's job is to encourage people, compel them — maybe even chide them a little — to turn their heads toward the plights of

## We discussed what it means to tell a story from a biblically objective point of view, even in an era that regards truth as subjective.

others." Indeed, the time is now. He likened a journalist to the watchman in Ezekiel 33 who sees danger coming and is charged with warning the community.

This is not easy work, nor is it glamorous. It involves fully entering into a moment, observing the details, asking hard questions, pursuing stories,

and editing countless drafts. I had a chance to do just that. During the second week, I was placed in the feature writing track and was assigned with finding a local business and reporting on how the ownership was handling the reopening after Michigan's COVID-related shutdowns.

Despite the virtual platform, I learned valuable lessons. Among them is the need for journalists who write truthfully.

In early May, I graduated from CIU with majors in English and Bible, and a minor in Writing. I am so thankful that God allowed both CIU and WJI to be a part of my story. God has used them both to equip me with tools to share grace and truth. ■

— Naomi Balk is a freelance writer in Michigan



◀ Melissa McCutchan teaching English to Buddhist monks

## Despite its infamous virus, CIU alumna misses “home”

Sometimes, when I close my eyes, I go back to Wuhan, China. The sidewalks buzz with the chatter and shuffle of 12 million residents. The smell of sesame oil beckons me to buy my favorite street food. Ordering allows me to practice my tortured Chinese, and the shop owner smiles at my attempt. I miss Wuhan every day; before the city was international news, it was my home.

My journey to China began with CIU’s Master of Arts in Teaching program (’16). After finishing my degree and teaching two years in South Carolina public schools, I accepted a position as a fifth grade teacher at Wuhan Yangtze International School (WYIS).

My first month at WYIS, I told my boss, “I think I’m in teacher paradise.” And I was! I got to teach motivated, kind students from all over the world — with far fewer pressures than I faced as an American public school teacher. The students and teachers *loved* coming to school each day. Our community was like a family; in many ways, it reminded me of my years at CIU. It didn’t take long for me to fall in love with China.

# Longing for Wuhan

By Melissa McCutchan



The elementary school faculty at WYIS.



McCutchan (left) with colleagues at a Wuhan park.



In early January, we began to hear reports of a mysterious virus that had infected a few people in our city. No one seemed too concerned. Like usual, our school let out for the two-week Chinese New Year holiday, and I joined a group of eight teachers and 19 of our high school students for an English-teaching service trip to Laos.

Four days into our time in Laos, Wuhan went on lockdown in an effort to contain the rapidly-spreading virus. Foreign embassies began to evacuate their citizens. My friends and students in Wuhan were flown to their passport countries and quarantined. Because the students with us in Laos were unable to return to Wuhan, their guardians picked them up and took them elsewhere.

From there, we chaperones had to decide what to do next. Surely, we reasoned, this wouldn't last more than a month. (How wrong we were!) Four of my friends and I flew to Phuket, Thailand while we waited for Wuhan to reopen. Our school graciously paid for our rental house while we waited.

In Thailand, we hastily assembled online classes for our students, who had literally been scattered across the globe. Somehow, we figured out how to teach students across 15 time zones.

In late February, there was still no transportation into Wuhan, and we were out of visa-free entry days in Thailand. We left for Indonesia. After

30 days in Indonesia, we moved again, this time to Malaysia.

With each stressful day, with every new country, my friends became more like family. We spent most of our time lesson planning and grading, but we also took advantage of the fun Southeast Asia has to offer: beaches, elephants, yummy food. We were anxious to get back to Wuhan, but at least we had each other.

We arrived in Malaysia in mid-March. The country went on lockdown due to COVID-19 four days later. We had been running from the virus, and it finally caught up to us. The stress of the past two months hit me like a train. I spent a week crying and praying. *God, You called me to China. Now why won't You let me go back?*

At the end of March, China announced a ban on foreigners entering the country. With no return to Wuhan in sight, I reluctantly packed my bags and returned to the United States. Well-meaning friends and family told me, "Welcome home," not understanding that the place I called home was on the other side of the world.

I was lonely. I was sad. And as I sat in my childhood bedroom day after day, wrestling with jet lag and stress and depression and God Himself, I rediscovered the joy of simply knowing Jesus: the Jesus who cares more about my heart than my productivity. The

Jesus who also understood what it was like to be far from home, among people who didn't understand Him. The past six months have been some of the hardest of my life, but they have been worthwhile because they allowed me to know Jesus more.

By early July, our chances of returning to China in 2020 seemed practically nonexistent: COVID-19 cases were rising in America, relations between the United States and China were deteriorating, and Beijing had already denied one application for us to return. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, our school received a letter inviting the first eight teachers to return. As I write, those eight teachers are applying for new visas. There is an application in the works for the second group of teachers — my group — to finally return to China. When that is approved, I will get to apply for my visa, too.

I am convinced this is a miracle. At just the right time, God will allow me to board a plane to China. I will have the sweetest reunions with dear friends. I will see my students, and join the crowds on the busy sidewalks, and buy street food. And I will be much more like Jesus than when I left. God doesn't waste suffering. ■

**Late word:** Melissa McCutchan reports she will be back in Wuhan about Oct. 10!

*I rediscovered  
the joy of simply  
knowing Jesus*

—Melissa McCutchan



# FINE ARTS



## By Taylor Nelson Ben Lippen Fine Arts Director

**B**usiness is booming in Ben Lippen Fine Arts! The 2019-2020 academic year saw tremendous growth in several programs across the department. In the Visual Art Program, the completion of the \$5.5M Arts & Science Center provided students with a state-of-the-art studio and allowed students to explore creative methods in Drawing, 2-D Art & Design, and 3-D Art & Design. Student work was featured at the South Carolina State Fair and in the SCISA (South Carolina Independent School Association) Art Show, with multiple students earning ribbons for their creations.

In the Choral Program, Ben Lippen renovated its Choir Studio and welcomed over 70 students to the curricular program (the highest program enrollment in recent years!). Stemming from increased student interest, Ben Lippen launched its first a cappella group composed entirely of male students. With members representing grades 7-12, Varsity Men's A Cappella stunned the audience with their debut performance at the 2020 State of the School Address. Building on the success of this group, Ben Lippen is planning to launch Varsity Women's A Cappella in Fall 2020.

Ben Lippen's Guitar Program has — once again — been recognized at the national level. Guitar teacher, Chris Essig, was featured in the 2019 article, "Guitar Class in 50 States," published by the National Association for Music



# Reflecting the Creator

We teach our students that they are creators who reflect the ultimate Creator, and as a result, we seek to reflect Him well in our work.

Education. With Essig's award-winning instruction, the Beginning Guitar Ensemble and the Advanced Guitar Ensemble both received superior ratings at the SCISA Music Festival. Additionally, four individual students were selected to the South Carolina All State Guitar Ensemble, bringing Ben Lippen's total to 16 students over the past two years. Two students from the Honors Bluegrass Band were selected for additional scholarships from the South Carolina Bluegrass and Traditional Music Association.

The Ben Lippen Band is wildly popular among the student body. With the addition of multiple performance-based classes, the program has doubled in size over the past two years. Students in the program have brought Band into the center of Ben Lippen culture by presenting fun performances at football games, at pep rallies, and — even in the cafeteria!

The growth doesn't stop with the music programs, however, as Ben Lippen's 2019 production of "Annie" included 86 students in the cast and crew. With the premiere of "Madagascar Jr." in Fall 2020, Ben Lippen will inaugurate an ambitious season, featuring three full-length musicals at the lower school, middle school, and high school levels. As more students gain skills through participation in theater, Ben Lippen will continue to

develop a strong culture of well-rounded students and superb school spirit.

The philosophy behind this growth is simple — Ben Lippen Fine Arts personifies the motto, *Better Together*. "Better" signifies our commitment to creating music, theater, and art of the highest quality for the glory of God. We teach our students that they are creators who reflect the ultimate Creator, and as a result, we seek to reflect Him well in our work. We practice, grow, and invest because we serve a glorious God. At the same time, "Together" reflects our department's value of community. We teach our students that their music, art, and theater, are not simply for themselves. Rather, these products are gifts to be given away in service to those around them.

We are thankful for God's blessing on Ben Lippen Fine Arts. If you are committed to creating music, theater, and art of the highest quality, and want to invest in the next generation of creators for the glory of God, we would love to connect with you. ■

Visit [BenLippen.com/FOFA](http://BenLippen.com/FOFA) to view donation membership levels, or email [Taylor.Nelson@BenLippen.com](mailto:Taylor.Nelson@BenLippen.com).



Taylor Nelson

# A Most Unique Ceremony: Commencement 2020

By Bob Holmes

Columbia International University President Dr. Mark Smith told the Class of 2020 that when the decision was made to postpone the spring commencement in May, he “sat in his office and wept as I thought of you graduates not getting to celebrate. But today, we are celebrating.”

“Today” was Aug. 15, and will be remembered as probably the day of the most unique commencement ceremony in CIU’s nearly 100-year history.

COVID-19 concerns prompted the CIU administration to initially announce that commencement would be a virtual event. But many of the graduates voiced support for in-person graduate and undergraduate ceremonies, and they were heard.

Meredith Griffin Osterhaus has been at CIU for five years earning a Master of Arts in Teaching. She wanted an in-person commencement so she could thank her professors.

“I definitely needed to end an era with a beautiful closure with people who have influenced me,” Osterhaus said through a yellow mask at a post-commencement reception in The Quad. “To be able to see them today is just the best!”

A number of coronavirus precautions were taken at the invitation-only commencements in Shortess Chapel, including social distancing between families. Masks were encouraged and made available to those who didn’t have them. The commencements were also broadcast live over Facebook for those who could not attend.

And while the graduates’ professors were socially distanced in the balcony and not on the stage as normal, some offered pandemic-era encouragement via video as “Pomp and Circumstance” played in the background.

“This is probably the greatest crisis in your lifetime,” said Intercultural Studies professor Dr. David Cashin. “It’s also the period of greatest opportunity you may have to minister for Christ. So, that’s my prayer for you as you go out. That you make the most of the opportunities that God has given us right now through this crisis.” ■

“*I definitely needed to end an era with a beautiful closure with people who have influenced me.*”  
—2020 CIU Graduate, Meredith Griffin Osterhaus





## Despite Keeping Their Social Distance at Commencement, the Ben Lippen Class of 2020 was a Close-Knit Group

A Reflection by Camden Abrams, Class of 2020

I began attending Ben Lippen in kindergarten, and over a decade later, the next chapter of my life is rapidly approaching. As a sophomore and junior, there were many days where I longed to graduate, but now that my time at Ben Lippen has come to an end, I realize how truly blessed I have been to have grown up in the Ben Lippen family.

As a student, I was challenged to grow in every aspect of my life. Ben Lippen has allowed me to thrive academically and athletically, and I will always be so grateful to all the teachers and coaches who took the time to invest in me personally and helped me to succeed. But aside from the worldly successes that other good high schools might help their students achieve, what makes Ben Lippen great is the spiritual interest that the faculty and staff take in the students. Through Bible classes and chapels, I developed a strong understanding of Scripture and have deepened my relationship with Christ. In every class, we learned through the lens of Christianity and saw how all of creation points to its Great Creator.

Not only has Ben Lippen's faculty been instrumental in helping me grow and succeed, but my classmates were what made my high school experience truly amazing, and the relational aspect of the Class of 2020 set us apart. Many of us have been in this same class for as long as we can remember, and while social cliques and stress are seemingly inevitable in the high school experience, one defining characteristic of my class was the unity that we shared. Whether you had been at Ben Lippen your whole life, or it was your first year, there was a sense of belonging. This was best exemplified in our come from behind victory in the 2018 Spirit Week as we rallied together, played fun and ridiculous games, and created the upset of the century, breaking the winning streak of the senior class.

Ben Lippen has thus shaped me and many others in the Class of 2020 into the people we are today. I believe that many in my class will go on to be incredibly successful, yet more importantly, I believe that many more will live gospel-centered lives that will impact the world for Christ because of their Ben Lippen experience. ■

“*...one defining characteristic of my class was the unity that we shared.*”

*—2020 BLS Graduate, Camden Abrams*

# GOD SPEAKS THROUGH PAIN —AND HE DOES NOT STUTTER!

## New book by CIU president details life-changing car wreck

### Wham!

The other driver suddenly veered across the center line and rammed into his car at a high rate of speed. He survived, but barely. Every day since that 1996 crash, debilitating pain has been his constant, uninvited companion.

But pain is only part of Dr. Mark Smith's story.

How did a gruesome accident not only test his Christian faith, but deepen it? How did Mark and his wife, Debbie, persevere through a bleak medical prognosis and months of excruciating rehab? How did they stave off resentment over someone else's carelessness? How has Smith fought through ongoing pain to serve with extraordinary success as the president of two Christian universities? How can he possibly call his brokenness a blessing?

A new book gives a riveting account of Smith's story. Co-authored by CIU Professor Emeritus Dr. Terry Powell, "Oh God, I'm Dying! How God Redeems Pain for Our Good and for His Glory," illustrates how the Smiths experienced God's sustaining grace through heartfelt prayer, God's Word, others in the body of Christ, Christian music and medical intervention.

Anyone who experiences physical pain or other forms of affliction will discover the encouraging irony of how God redeems pain when He chooses not to remove

it. The result of reading his story will be renewed hope that God can use broken people, enhancing their usefulness to Him not in spite of suffering, but because of it.

Part 2 of the book offers 10 faith lessons rooted in Smith's story, expanding on biblical content and offering application.

Topics include "Clinging to God's Word," "Pleading with God," "Embracing Brokenness," "Releasing Resentment," "Comforting Persons Who Hurt," "Redeeming Pain," "Using Music To Soothe The Soul," "Cultivating Faith by Remembering God's Past Deeds," "Modeling the Message," and "Discerning God's Call to Ministry."

Smith's desire is that readers of the book discover how God can sustain and still use a weak, broken vessel.

"My hope is that people who feel less useful to God due to a hardship will read this and get a glimpse of what God can do in and for and through them," Smith said. "Their roles may not be as public as mine or utilize the same spiritual gift package, but what God wants to do through them is no less consequential for His Kingdom."

**"Oh God, I'm Dying" is available now as an e-book, with the print version ready on Nov. 24, 2020. The book is published by Morgan James Publishing and may be purchased through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Books-A-Million. ■**



Dr. Mark Smith's wrecked car from his 1996 accident.



### Enthusiastic Endorsements for "Oh God, I'm Dying!"

*"Mark, thank you for turning a test into a testimony. I could not put it down. A page-turner!"*

– Dr. Benny Tate, Senior Pastor, Rock Springs Church, Milner, Georgia

*"After losing my dear wife 19 years ago, then suffering a severe stroke that left me with a disability and daily discomfort, I've read many books on suffering. Your book took me to a deeper level of my spiritual need than any I have read."*

– Steve Bradley, former CIU Director of Field Education



Authors Dr. Mark Smith and Dr. Terry Powell.



# Preparing Scholars to Teach the Next Generation

100% Online

**Ph.D. in Biblical Studies**  
**Ph.D. in Practical Theology**  
**Ph.D. in Theological Studies**  
**Doctor of Ministerial Leadership**

*Equipping Leaders for  
Great Commission Impact*

## Why choose Columbia Biblical Seminary for your Doctoral studies?

- Program design allows you to focus on research and writing from the beginning of your studies.
- Non-residential modality allows you to pursue your degree without relocating.
- Experienced faculty mentors provide individualized guidance in areas of their particular expertise.
- Can be completed in three years of full-time study or five years of part-time study.
- Accredited regionally by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and nationally by the Association for Biblical Higher Education.

**CBS** | Columbia  
Biblical  
Seminary  
*of Columbia International University*

**APPLY TODAY!**  
[ciu.edu/apply](http://ciu.edu/apply) | (800) 777-2227

Columbia International University admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin and complies with Title IX regulations.



### CIU Ranked #1 in SC for Online Learning; #2 Best College Campus

BestColleges.com ranks Columbia International University the 2020 Best Online College in South Carolina, and CIU is #2 in the state for Best College Campus.

In publishing their rankings for online programs, BestColleges.com considers academic outcomes, affordability, and the breadth and depth of online learning opportunities. They also assess the quality of a school's online offerings by looking at who is teaching online classes, the length of time the school has been investing in online learning, and the degree to which students are supported as distance learners.

Meanwhile, CIU is #2 in South Carolina for on-campus learning which includes primarily undergraduate students.

BestColleges.com compares a school's admission rate to its enrollment rate to gauge the rigor and competitiveness of a school, as well as the retention rate, to rank a school's effectiveness at keeping students enrolled. Similarly, graduation rate is crucial in weighing how many enrolled students successfully complete their degree program.

Affordability is also considered with the goal of rewarding schools not only offering competitive tuition, but also providing students with the skills needed to graduate and successfully enter the workforce. ■

### CIU Counseling Program Achieves Important Reaccreditation

Columbia International University Counseling Professor Dr. Glenda Nanna calls CACREP accreditation "vital" to CIU's Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. That's why she was excited when she learned that CACREP gave its stamp of approval to CIU for eight more years.



CACREP stands for Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs. Its accreditation is voluntarily sought by education programs offering entry-level master's degrees in counseling and/or doctoral degrees in counselor education and supervision.

Nanna, who graduated from CIU's Counseling program in 2000, says it's necessary these days for counseling programs to be CACREP accredited because states are scrutinizing whether counselors have the right kind of training to do their jobs effectively.

"CIU has a great history of making sure our students are getting the best training," Nanna said, adding that the accreditation is especially important for a biblical university. "We've always thought it important to be good professionally, as well as have the Christian foundation and faith integration."

Nanna says because CACREP training and competencies are integrated into the CIU program, graduates are better prepared for licensure exams and to work effectively with clients.

CIU is the only Christian university in South Carolina with a CACREP-accredited master's degree program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. ■



---

**"CIU has a great history of making sure our students are getting the best training."**  
– Dr. Glenda Nanna

---



## Professors contribute to The History of Apologetics

Professors Dr. Trevor Castor and Dr. Ed Smither teamed up for a chapter on apologetics in the medieval period as part of the new book, "The History of Apologetics" published by Zondervan.

Castor and Smither focus on Timothy of Baghdad, a bishop who lived from 727-823 and is known for his dialogue with a Muslim spiritual leader.

Castor is the host of the podcast "Truth About Muslims" available at [zwemer.com](http://zwemer.com). ■



## Bringing Hope in the Midst of Crises

Intercultural Studies Professor Dr. Michelle Raven, director of the International Community Development and Disaster Relief/Emergency Management programs at CIU, is also co-editor of a new book of essays titled, "Practicing Hope: Missions and Global Crises," published by William Carey Publishing.

The book considers multiple perspectives on complex crises issues such as sustainability, empowerment, human rights, biblical principles, and missio Dei (mission of God). With stories of hope, the essays provide a reminder that crises are not the end; sometimes they are the beginning of something better. ■



## Distinctively Christian: A Christ-centered Approach to Early Childhood Education

Two Education professors have contributed to two new books in the series, "Distinctively Christian: A Christ-centered Approach to Early Childhood Education" edited by CIU Professor Emeritus Dr. Milt Uecker.

Book two, which includes contributions from CIU's Dr. Michelle Clevenger, centers on Philosophy and Principles and book three on Teaching and Learning includes contributions from Clevenger and CIU colleague Dr. Lynn Hoekstra.

Uecker says that together all who contributed to the project "hope that this trilogy will serve to lay the foundation for a Christ-centered worldview during early childhood." ■



## The Ministry Multiplication Cycle

Chancellor Dr. Bill Jones examines the ministry of Jesus to find four strategic ministry tactics that form the "ministry multiplication cycle" also used by the Apostles in the Book of Acts with the result being powerful growth through multiplication.

Jones says the same ministry multiplication cycle can be replicated today in our own culture. The book is a product of over 30 years of clarifying these principles in the classroom and implementing them around the world, the latter resulting in over 2,000 churches planted among unreached people groups.

Jones serves as chairman of the board of the missions agency Crossover Global. ■

# CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER



## Rams Softball Awarded as Champions of Character

"No matter the score on the board or the outcome of the game, CIU never falters in who they are and what they stand for and I believe that it is a very admirable thing."

That is a quote from Jenni Shepard, the athletic director and head softball coach of Truett McConnell University in Cleveland, Georgia, who nominated the CIU Rams women's softball team for the Appalachian Athletic Conference Champions of Character Women's Team Award.



Shepard is impressed with CIU's display of sportsmanship. She noted that when the games are over, CIU athletes greet members of the opposing team to give them a note with Scripture on it along with an encouraging message. Then, the teams meet for a short devotional thought and prayer. ■

## CIU Athletics Recognized

All of CIU Athletics has been honored for its commitment to ministry. The Rams are the recipients of the 2019-2020 Sports Ministry Award presented by the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA). The award is presented to an NCCAA member institution for "significant spiritual outreach through the utilization of athletic ministries." ■



*"No matter the score on the board or the outcome of the game, CIU never falters in who they are and what they stand for..."*





Darren Richie

## New CIU Athletics Director Brings Championship Credentials

Darren Richie comes to the Rams from Webber International University in Babson Park, Florida. As A.D. at Webber, Richie oversaw 24 sports programs, and guided the school to two NAIA National Championships, three NAIA National

Tournament Championship appearances, and three Sun Conference Championships.

Webber also saw exponential growth under Richie's leadership as he added five new sports programs and raised funds for critical facility upgrades. On top of his administrative duties, Richie took an active role in his athletes' spiritual life as the director of the campus branch of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

Richie replaces James Whitaker who now serves as director of CIU's Sport Management academic program. ■

## New Coach for Women's Hoops

Danielle Fleming comes to CIU from Southern Arkansas University where she served as assistant women's basketball coach for the past two seasons.



Danielle Fleming

Fleming was instrumental in the best turnaround for the Muleriders in NCAA DII, turning the 2018-2019 season record of 3-25 into a 17-12 season in 2019-2020.

As a player, Fleming enjoyed a successful career at Ohio Christian University (OCU) where she was National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Division II Player of the Year in 2011. ■

## Volleyball's Talented Freshman Class

CIU Volleyball Coach Amber Haver says this year's freshmen on her team bring great athletic credentials, scholarship, an international flavor, and a competitive approach to the game.

Most of the freshmen were All-State players in their respective states, with several named "Athlete of the Year" for their school. One is a valedictorian.

International recruits come from Poland, Serbia and Colombia. Three are from Puerto Rico.

"We definitely surprised our conference in the past two years, but this year, I want to be a force," Haver said. Most importantly, Haver adds the freshmen "love Jesus and are excited about growing their faith at CIU." ■



Photo: Jim Biever/Green Bay Packers



Samkon Gado

## Kids Camp Gets Tips on Life and Football from the Pros

Former NFL standouts shared their expertise and words of wisdom with kids from around the Midlands at the Ben Lippen School Falcons Football Kids Camp in July. The camp was led by Ben Lippen Head Football Coach James Reynolds.

The first through fifth grade campers heard from Tyler Thigpen, who played for five NFL teams and Michael Boulware, a Ben Lippen dad, who played in Super Bowl 40 for the Seattle Seahawks. Plus, via video, they heard from former Ben Lippen Falcon, Samkon Gado who graduated in 2001. Gado's six-year NFL career included stints with the Green Bay Packers, Houston Texans, Miami Dolphins, St. Louis Rams and Tennessee Titans. ■



# CLASS OF 2024: WELCOME TO CIU!

By:  
Alexander D. Brickey  
CIU Student Writer



**W**hile the sky started out gloomy, the attitude around the CIU campus was bright. It was move-in day for the Class of 2024.

Upbeat music played as the student leadership readied masks and gloves to assist the new arrivals, just a few of the COVID-19 precautions that were taken.

"My favorite part of move-in day is how everybody gets excited and makes everybody feel welcome," said Olivia Fleming, the president of MuKappa, an organization for missionary kids (MKs) who was helping with the move-in.

As cars with the new arrivals streamed down International Boulevard, they were greeted by friendly waves and assistance from CIU student leadership. Initial check-in was drive-thru style in a side parking lot. The new students and their families were then sent on to their new home in the residence halls.

It was there that they were immediately greeted by the

masked throng of eager helpers, ready to serve if the families desired the extra hands. Parents then had their last conversations with their sons and daughters before sending them off on the adventure that is CIU.

As Kierston Hull dropped off her freshman son, Colby, she called the move-in process "very easy."

"The communication was very good. The welcoming when you get here was very good. And we're looking forward to a great semester," Hull said.

Aynsley Vivian, a freshman from Australia, said she appreciated the friendliness on campus as she moved in earlier in the week with other MKs.

"A special part about move-in day was realizing that there are other people like me here," Vivian said.

Meanwhile, there was a Welcome Weekend full of activity. After getting settled into their new home, students



gathered to play a game called "Mission: Impossible." They roamed the campus under the cover of darkness to reach designated areas without being identified by student leaders with flashlights. A strategy employed by the men of Cassels Residence Hall was to openly approach the areas under a tarp so as not to be identified.

"My favorite part was getting together with all of my housemates and getting under a tarp using the idea of working smarter not harder, essentially having a team bonding experience," said Psychology major Scott Campbell, who is also a Cassels R.A.

Friday included small groups and informative sessions regarding the expectations of joining the community at CIU. And to wrap up the day, a game of Grocery Bingo was

held in the Dining Hall. The room was filled with students eagerly waiting for their numbers to be called. Tyler Tong, assistant dean of student activities, announced the prizes: Amazon gift cards, a Google home speaker, a bean bag chair, and most coveted of all, a pair of Apple AirPods.

On Saturday and Sunday, students gathered in The Quad, sliding down an inflatable waterslide and exchanging names, Frisbees, and stories, providing a common ground in which students could casually come together and grow as a community.

Brennan Minton, a transfer student majoring in Bible said he didn't have much downtime over the weekend, but that was OK.

"It helped break the ice," Minton said. "Everybody here has been very receptive and very welcoming. And everybody, the staff included, has been very generous and very kind, making you feel like you belong here." ■

**Everybody here has been very receptive and very welcoming!**

*Transfer Student Brennan Minton*

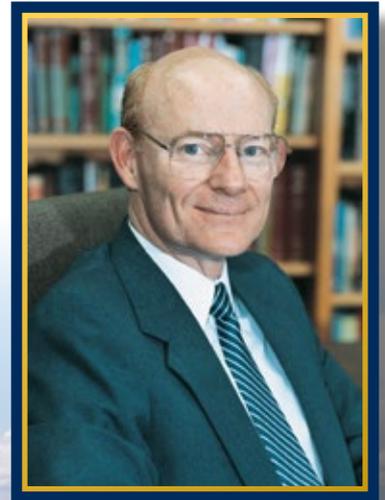
# Outdoor Athletics Fields to be named for Johnny and Jeanne Miller

You may not know this. Before CIU's fourth president Dr. Johnny Miller answered the call to ministry, he was a newspaper sports reporter in Arizona. His lifelong love of sports, coupled with his passion for the message of Christ, has made him a wholehearted supporter and advocate of the role of CIU's athletics program.

With that in mind, CIU is honoring Dr. Miller and his wife Jeanne by naming the outdoor athletic fields: **The Johnny and Jeanne Miller Outdoor Athletics Fields.**

Funds from the \$500,000 campaign will be used to finish critical lighting on the fields and to fund an endowed scholarship in Johnny and Jeanne's name. This will be a fitting memorial to a man who dedicated his life to turning on lights in the darkness.

**Join Team Miller!** A comprehensive list of team members will be presented to Johnny and Jeanne at the dedication in March. Make sure your name is included! ■



Join by Dec. 31, 2020 by visiting [ciu.edu/miller](http://ciu.edu/miller).

Or call Frank Bedell at:  
(803) 309-2702 (Cell)  
(803) 807-5001 (Office)

Mailing address:  
CIU Advancement Office  
PO Box 3122  
Columbia, SC 29230



Diane Mull and her husband Andy, a 1995 CIU alumnus. In 2018, they celebrated as Diane was named a CIU honorary alumna.

## Diane Mull Promoted to VP

A person familiar to many CIU alumni and donors has been promoted to a vice presidential position. Diane Mull arrived at CIU nearly 30 years ago when her husband Andy enrolled in seminary and she took on the role of president of the Wives Fellowship.

Mull has been serving CIU in a full-time capacity since 2011 as director of Alumni Relations and the Advancement Office. In 2017, she also became director of University Communications. This year, CIU President Dr. Mark Smith promoted her to vice president of all three divisions.

Mull's life verse is Rom. 1:16. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

She has used her degree in Communications to minister to international students with Andy. They have two married daughters who are graduates of Ben Lippen School. ■

# CIU: A Special Place in My Heart

Although I only attended CIU for the seminary certificate program, my early life was greatly influenced by former CIU (CBC) graduates. Many were fulfilling their service-learning hours in my church as they taught me in Sunday school or youth group. Several modeled a life of faith as they set out to serve in missions across the globe. Some were counselors at a summer camp I attended. These were important developmental years for me, and looking back, I am grateful for the steady, godly impact of these CIU students.

Now in my late 40s, as I have reflected on life, I have chosen CIU to be one of the charitable organizations to leave in my legacy. My desire is to make an eternal difference with the blessings God has entrusted to me. I want to be a part of helping CIU continue to offer a solid biblically-based education to future CIU students.

I invite you to join me and consider ways you can leave a lasting legacy.

–Elizabeth (Class of 2009)



CIU has a new tool that makes your will preparation easy and free.

No matter your age or estate size, writing a will is a great way to protect what God has entrusted to you and plan for the future.

### OTHER SERVICES FROM FREEWILL:

- Charitable stock gifts can be transferred easily to CIU making an immediate impact on students learning “To Know Him and to Make Him Known.” Visit [ciu.edu/stocks](http://ciu.edu/stocks) when choosing to make your next stock gift.
- If you are 70 ½ or older, you can give a tax-free gift directly from your IRA. To learn more about this type of giving visit [ciu.edu/ira](http://ciu.edu/ira).

For more information visit [ciu.edu/will](http://ciu.edu/will).

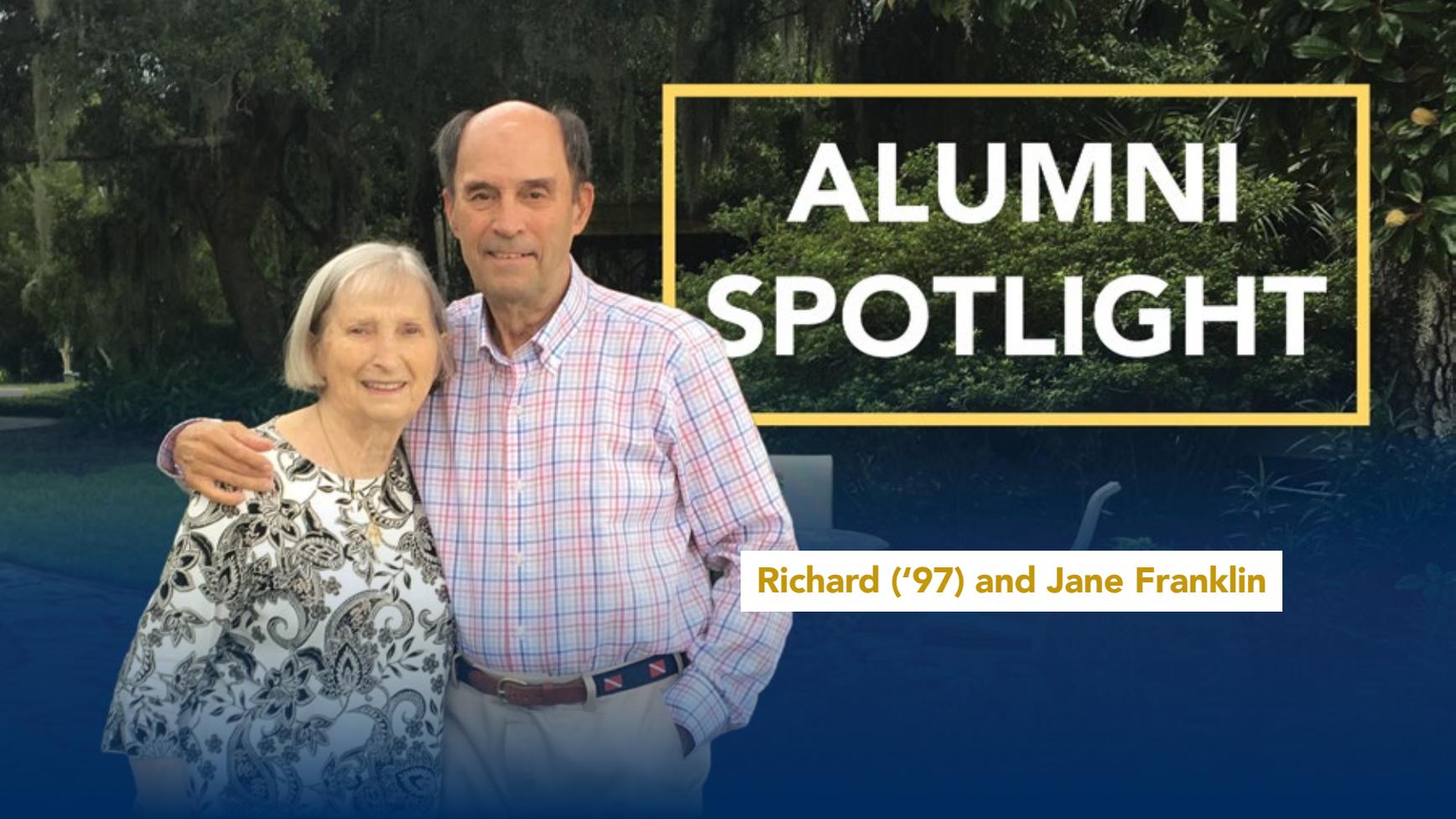
## MANY THANKS TO YOU

Thank you to our alumni, friends and corporate sponsors for your gifts to CIU!



### Make a GIFT, Make an IMPACT

- Give online at [give.ciu.edu](http://give.ciu.edu)
- Call us at (803) 807-5006
- Send to: CIU Advancement Office  
Box 3122, Columbia, SC 29230



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Richard ('97) and Jane Franklin**

## **Alumnus Shares Victorious Christian Living with Counselors**

**R**ichard Franklin recognized a “treasure” at CIU among its core values. And now he is sharing it with others.

Richard, who grew up in Northern Virginia, held various jobs in the financial world. Along the way, he met a charming nurse named Jane who was a native South Carolinian and preacher’s kid. While she did not have any biological brothers or sisters, she says she always had “family” within the Church. Richard and Jane have two children and seven grandchildren.

When their daughter Beth (Franklin) Wall ('96) enrolled at CIU for a graduate degree, Richard joined her, pursuing a Master of Arts in Counseling degree as he launched a sunset career. Richard has happy

memories of sitting in Chapel with Beth, and singing in the Ambassador Choir.

During his time at CIU, Richard grew in his understanding of Victorious Christian Living, that in Christ, all believers enjoy the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Victorious Christian Living is one of CIU’s core values. Richard embraced this teaching and grew in Christ as he experienced a life of victory.

After graduation, Richard and Jane moved to South Carolina’s

Lowcountry where Richard began a pastoral counseling practice focusing on biblically-based healing. Richard now shares teachings on Victorious Christian Living with his clients and helps them apply it to their lives.

Experiencing Victorious Christian Living is a treasure that all Christians can embrace. In his book, “Free and Fulfilled,” the late CIU President Robertson McQuilkin wrote, “No person is more than two steps away from a life of victory in Christ: surrender and faith.”

Richard understands the value of investing in the lives of others. He and Jane are enthusiastic CIU supporters, and are helping the next generation of students to understand and implement Victorious Christian Living. ■

---

**Experiencing Victorious  
Christian Living is a treasure  
that all Christians can  
embrace.**

---

COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# RECENT ALUMNI

## Recognition Award

Columbia International University annually recognizes recent alumni for their distinguished accomplishments in the marketplace, on the mission field or in church ministry. They are a faithful example of CIU's five core values. Read more at [ciu.edu/RARA](http://ciu.edu/RARA).



**EMILY HALL ('10)**  
Special Project Coordinator, Pioneers

Emily graduated from CIU with a Bachelor of Arts in Intercultural Studies. She serves as the special projects coordinator for the missions agency Pioneers, capturing stories of how God is moving in hearts, lives and ministries around the world.

*"My role with Pioneers is to capture how we tell the story of what God is doing around the world in a way that is meaningful and captivates the heart of the next generation. As I collect stories from our field workers, I love that I get to see and hear God's heart for the world firsthand. CIU was a significant part of my life. The professors and staff who invested in me gave me words that I regularly remember today."*



**ELI FADER ('06)**  
Bible Training, TEE

Eli graduated with a Master of Arts in Theology. He lives with his wife, Bethany, and their four boys in Uganda where they have been ministering to South Sudanese refugees since 2007, bringing Bible training through Theological Education by Extension (TEE). TEE partners with local pastors who help guide cultural conversation among students through discussion and implementation.

*"One particular course that has been fun to go through is 'Christian Family' and seeing people come to the full understanding of what God created when He created family. I was modeled that through friends and faculty at CIU and my church at home."*



**SHIRIN TABER ('19)**  
Director of the Middle East Women's Leadership Network and Empower Women Media

Shirin graduated with a Master of Arts in Muslim Studies and is the director of the Middle East Women's Leadership Network and Empower Women Media. With a background in ministry and cross-cultural training, Shirin also assists multiple organizations in media-based initiatives and partners with NGOs to promote women's rights, peace building and religious freedom.

*"CIU took me deeper intellectually and helped shape my perspective regarding how I think and communicate in regard to educating Christians and ministry partners about the Muslim world."*

**Is there someone you would like to nominate?**

Contact Niki McIntosh in the Alumni Office at (803) 807-5508 or [niki.mcintosh@ciu.edu](mailto:niki.mcintosh@ciu.edu)



CIU HOMECOMING 2020

# BLUE & GOLD

NOVEMBER 6-7

FRIENDS & FAMILY WEEKEND





NOVEMBER  
6-7

# Join us for the first ever CIU HOMECOMING FRIENDS & FAMILY WEEKEND!

**Alumni:** Here's your opportunity to connect with classmates, students, faculty and staff!

**New this year:** Parents of current CIU students are also invited to enjoy the weekend with their student!

Music Showcase

Recent Alumni Recognition

Fireworks and Dessert  
at The Pointe

Campus Tours

*Including a special tour for parents with college bound kids*

Student & Alumni Global  
Networking Event

Family Weekend

President's Banquet

Field Day

Bouncy House

Explore Columbia

CIU Bowl



**Danny McCain ('74)**  
Alumnus of the Year

### Celebrating Reunion Classes

1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980  
1990 | 2000 | 2010

➔ Register at [ciu.edu/hc](http://ciu.edu/hc) or call (803) 807-5500



## ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

### 1 Dr. William Barnett ('37)

celebrated his 103rd birthday in May. Bill and his late wife, Laura, worked as a surgeon/nurse team in several hospitals located in Tanzania, Kenya and in the Muslim-controlled Comoro Islands.

### Lydia Stanford Bowman ('42)

celebrated her 100th birthday in July with her family. She was an organist and pianist for many years and is a member at Buffalo Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. She is blessed by having her family close by to visit her regularly.

### 2 Hubert Addleton ('51)

recently celebrated his 90th birthday with a tandem skydive in North Georgia and also published his memoir "Memories of Ben Hill Drive: A Southern Story." Addleton served for 35 years as a Baptist missionary in Pakistan and pastored several churches in Mississippi and in Middle Georgia. He and his wife, Bettie, celebrated their 67th anniversary in June. ✉ [addletonh@bellsouth.net](mailto:addletonh@bellsouth.net)

**Ron Genheimer ('60)** volunteers at Go Ye Village in Tahlequah, Oklahoma where he lives and also volunteers at Hillside Church.

✉ [genheimer@att.net](mailto:genheimer@att.net)

**Bon Rin ('60) and Alma Ro** continue to serve in Hawaii. Bong Rin teaches at three seminaries, serves as president of Asia Graduate School of Theology-Pacific and is writing a text book on Asian church history. Alma has a Chinese student ministry in Honolulu. They have been married for 57 years and have three children and ten grandchildren.

✉ [rohonolulu@gmail.com](mailto:rohonolulu@gmail.com)

### 3 Paul ('71) & Ruth Cochrane

recently moved to Advent Christian Village in Dowling Park, Florida. They continue to minister with Paul serving as an adjunct Bible teacher at Barclay College. ✉ [paulbcochrane@yahoo.com](mailto:paulbcochrane@yahoo.com)

**Lindsey Van Sicklen ('72)** retired from librarianship in May 2012. She volunteers with International Friendship and Proskuneo Ministries. She also enjoys mentoring university students and visiting nursing home residents.

✉ [lvansicklen@gmail.com](mailto:lvansicklen@gmail.com)

### 4 Ginny (Dent) Brant ('77)

published "Unleash Your God-given Healing" after being treated for breast cancer. She discusses how nutrition, lifestyle, integrative and conventional medicine, as well as biblical wisdom, work together to boost the human body's immune system. ✉ [ginnybrant@msn.com](mailto:gabbybrant@msn.com)

**Parks Wilson ('77)** has been ministering to college students through Worldwide Discipleship Association for 43 years. For the last 35 years, Parks and his wife, Julie, have focused on Purdue University students. They have three boys: Sam, David and Aaron.

✉ [parkswilson@hotmail.com](mailto:parkswilson@hotmail.com)

### 5 Rod Culbertson ('80)

has published a book titled, "So Send I You." It summarizes the second part of the course, "Progress of Redemption," created by the late CIU professor Buck Hatch. ✉ [rculbertson@rts.edu](mailto:rculbertson@rts.edu)

### 6 Domna (Vassilaras) Gallion ('82)

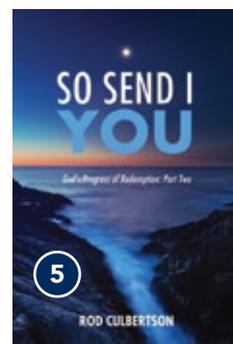
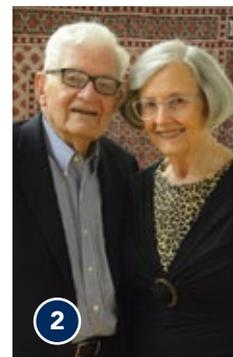
rejoices in her marriage to Lee Gallion on March 14, 2020. They live in Charlotte where Domna continues her work as an accountant.

✉ [d.colepaugh@gmail.com](mailto:d.colepaugh@gmail.com)

### Tom ('80/'85) and Kristen (Beavers) ('85) Sefik

recently moved back to their home church, Grace CMA in Middleburg Heights, Ohio where Tom is pastor of Marriage and Family as well as pastor of Global Outreach. The church's senior pastor is fellow CIU alumnus Jonathan Schaeffer ('88).

✉ [tksefik@gmail.com](mailto:tksefik@gmail.com)





7



9



11



13



8



10



12

**7 Jim Halstead ('87)** has written the "Go and Tell Evangelism Seminar" to equip believers to share the gospel. It is free online. Jim is a bi-vocational pastor of Community CRC in Fort Wayne, Indiana and a special education elementary school teacher. ✉ [jimhalstead@gmail.com](mailto:jimhalstead@gmail.com)

**Ray ('87) and Gwen (Jackson) ('87) Hoskins** met at CIU, their son and daughter are CIU students, and they are hoping to have a third-generation member enroll at Ben Lippen School. Two of their children are preparing for the ministry, following in the family educational tradition of Christian training. ✉ [gwens4grandsons@gmail.com](mailto:gwens4grandsons@gmail.com)

**Jack Brooks ('88/'98)** serves as pastor of Ironworks Pike Community Church in Georgetown, Kentucky. He has published an e-book titled, "The Cal-Minian," encouraging cooperation in ministry between Calvinists and Arminians. ✉ [revjab@gmail.com](mailto:revjab@gmail.com)

**8 Mark ('88) and Eva (Dubert) ('88) Burkholder** serve as member care directors for Christar. Eva authored a devotional study, "Favored, Blessed, Pierced: A Fresh Look at Mary of Nazareth." ✉ [evaburkholder@gmail.com](mailto:evaburkholder@gmail.com)

**9 James ('90) and Gloria Whitaker** are career missionaries in Japan. James is a senior career missionary and founder of Global Outreach Ministries and Zion Christian Ministries. Gloria founded the English Christian Academy for K-12 international students. ✉ [zionbtw@yahoo.com](mailto:zionbtw@yahoo.com)

**10 Jerry Slate Jr. ('91)** has served as pastor of Berean Baptist Church in Hiram, Georgia for 17 years. He and his wife, Angela, have been blessed with six children. He is the co-author (with Dr. Michael Haykin) of "Loving God and Neighbor with Samuel Pearce" from Lexham Publishers.

**Vernon ('93) and Janelle (Sensenig) ('92) Salter** live in Colorado where Vernon equips disciple makers through counseling and soul care for The Navigators, and Janell is the executive assistant for the international vice president of the Navigators. ✉ [vern.liveoak@gmail.com](mailto:vern.liveoak@gmail.com)

**11 J. Michael Thigpen ('94)** moved at the end of May from Southern California to Phoenix where he serves as executive vice president and provost of Phoenix Seminary. While helping to lead the school, he also teaches Old Testament. ✉ [jmichaelthigpen@mac.com](mailto:jmichaelthigpen@mac.com)

**Mike Garrett ('96)** is founder and executive director of Christian Counseling Associates of Raleigh. ✉ [mikegarrettphd@gmail.com](mailto:mikegarrettphd@gmail.com)

**12 Mark Leist ('97)** is the lead pastor of a church plant in Commercial Point, Ohio, launched in March 2019. ✉ [pastormark4@hotmail.com](mailto:pastormark4@hotmail.com)

**Karen (Jeter) Thompson ('98)** is a special education teacher in South Carolina, assisting children with emotional and behavioral disabilities, ADHD and autism. She is working on her Ed.D. in Special Education. ✉ [heaven63.kt@gmail.com](mailto:heaven63.kt@gmail.com)

**13 Burke ('98) and Staci ('98) Allen** are the owners of Squeegee Clean Inc., specializing in window cleaning, soft washing, pressure washing and roof cleaning for businesses and homes. They proudly serve as Christ's ambassadors in their business and in the local community, honoring Christ in how they run their company. ✉ [staci@squeegeecleansc.com](mailto:staci@squeegeecleansc.com)



Update your alumni profile  
@ [ciu.edu/alumniupdate](http://ciu.edu/alumniupdate)

**14 Lowell ('00) and Kristin Wing** live on a 15-acre farm north of Charlotte. Lowell is an elder and worship director at Shearer Presbyterian Church where CBC alumnus Stephen Stout ('72) is head pastor. ✉ [rohan803@yahoo.com](mailto:rohan803@yahoo.com)

**15 Ben ('01) and Mari (Hernandez) ('00) Tuten** with Ethan, Aiden and Mateo returned to the United States three years ago after serving on the mission field in Ecuador for almost a decade. Today, Mari is working with a publisher on a Proverbs 31 Bible study for women, and is employed as a family life coach and speaker. Ben teaches second grade in the Lampeter-Strasburg School District in Pennsylvania. ✉ [mariiposa@yahoo.com](mailto:mariiposa@yahoo.com)

**Gerald Rubink ('01)** retired as a Navy commander after serving for 33 years. ✉ [grubink045@gmail.com](mailto:grubink045@gmail.com)

**16 Travis ('08) and Grace Ross** along with son Johnny, serve at Riverbend Community Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania ✉ [travis@riverbendonline.org](mailto:travis@riverbendonline.org)

**Aaron ('10) and Marissa (Franks) ('06) Burt** welcomed Theodore Reuel in March 2020. He joins siblings Griffin, Elijah, Ransom, Beatrix and Benedict. Aaron is the rector of Advent Anglican Church near Seattle, and Marissa writes novels for young people. ✉ [aaronburtemail@gmail.com](mailto:aaronburtemail@gmail.com)

**17 Margo (Wright) Williams ('10)** helps believers discover the shrewd techniques Satan uses to ensnare believers, in her book "Petty Pain, Understanding the Assignment of Offense." The book equips the reader to examine the heart using the principles of Scripture, with practical applications to bring restoration in relationships. ✉ [margoprazgodnow@gmail.com](mailto:margoprazgodnow@gmail.com)

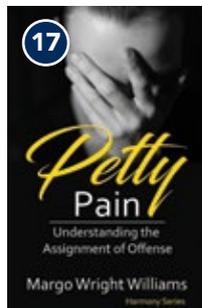
**18 Nairy Ohanian ('11)** serves as a cross-cultural pastoral counselor with Barnabas International, assisting mission workers in the Middle East through counseling, seminars and retreats. She is based in Cairo, Egypt for six to seven months each year and is otherwise in the Washington, D.C. area. ✉ [ohanian01@comcast.net](mailto:ohanian01@comcast.net)

**Elizabeth (Braswell) Dixon ('14)** is a clinical social worker serving children and families in foster care through a nonprofit in Columbia, South Carolina. ✉ [elizandixon@gmail.com](mailto:elizandixon@gmail.com)

**19 Noah ('15) and Vivian-Leigh ('15) Tremaine** along with Emery, welcomed Lily Ruth to the family in March 2020. Vivian will begin her fifth year of teaching high school Bible at a Christian school in Summerville, South Carolina. ✉ [vltremaine@gmail.com](mailto:vltremaine@gmail.com)

## In Memoriam

**Anne Blackburn Fryga ('42)** – April 2020  
**Betty Adams Jones ('46)** – March 2020  
**Clayton Camp ('48)** – March 2020  
**Hazel Barnett Knowlton ('49)** – May 2020  
**David Carlson ('52)** – December 2019  
**Rodney Letchworth ('53)** – February 2019  
**Louise Clark Williams ('53)** – April 2020  
**Verna Gaden Schofield ('53)** – May 2020  
**Neil Jaeger ('54)** – September 2019  
**Edward Foley ('55)** – September 2019  
**Juanita Cochran Thomas ('55)** – May 2020  
**Madelyn Leggat MacDonald ('57)** – May 2020  
**Maryann Seidel Samms ('58)** – March 2020  
**Shirley Thomas ('58)** – January 2020  
**Stanford Sutton Jr. ('58)** – April 2020  
**Marvin Hiles ('57)** – April 2020  
**Isabel Jones Marchant ('57)** – April 2020  
**Shirley Thomas ('61)** – March 2020  
**Maria Johnson ('61)** – March 2020  
**David Brunner ('61)** – March 2020  
**Charles "David" Latta ('61)** – April 2020  
**Virginia Prozan Wellman ('62)** – January 2020  
**Priscilla VanDerDecker ('62)** – June 2020  
**Barbara Venlet Fitzgerald ('63)** – April 2020  
**Mike Arnette ('66)** – January 2020  
**Wallace Ip ('69)** – April 2020  
**Carolyn Roberts Schneider ('70)** – July 2020  
**Russell Warner ('70)** – May 2020  
**Bruce Williams ('71)** – April 2020  
**Richard Roberts ('71)** – May 2020  
**Rhett Sanders Sr. ('74)** – May 2020  
**M. Carlyle Herring ('74)** – July 2020  
**Mary Matthews ('79)** – June 2019  
**Richard Smith ('80)** – July 2020  
**Katherine Millsap Cain ('83)** – February 2020  
**Michael Gasaway ('88)** – March 2020  
**Lawson Duhan ('89)** – October 2019  
**Robin Grimm Bohanan ('89)** – May 2020  
**Samuel Jackson ('92)** – May 2020  
**Wanda Burch ('99)** – April 2020  
**Patrick Flanagan ('06)** – April 2020  
**Ervin Lee Willis ('09)** – April 2020  
**Sandra Reed ('11)** – April 2020  
**Sallie Fravel ('13)** – July 2020



# Considering Others as More Important than Ourselves: Going Deeper with God

Are you ready to “Go Deeper with God?” That’s our goal this school year at Columbia International University. And that begins with a counter-cultural view of how we relate to others.

We live in society that is all about me and my rights — often articulated as “I have been wronged!” But the Kingdom of Heaven is not about me and my rights. Consider Jesus.

Jesus was physically abused, spat upon, and struck with a spear in His side. And yet, He did not retaliate, lead a march, riot, destroy property or kill anyone. Instead, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Phil. 2:8). And He did it for you, and for me.

In Acts 10-11, the Apostle Peter, a Jew, learns that God shows no partiality when he realizes that the Holy Spirit has been poured out on the Gentile centurion Cornelius and his household.

*Opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality”*

So, let us put aside our divisions. We are called to share the good news of peace through Jesus Christ (Acts 10:36). With that as our priority, and we go deeper with God, we will not offend nor be easily offended (1 Cor. 13:5). God’s work is more important than our opinions or prejudices.

Jesus foretold that the increase of offense is one of the signs of the last days. Matthew 24:10 says *many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another*. To go deeper with God, we love and forgive and let go of offenses.

As CIU alumna Margo Williams points out in her outstanding new book “Petty Pain,” bad



---

God’s work is more important than our opinions or prejudices.

---

communication is the easiest way to offend — a lack of self-control by the tongue creates wounds. We cannot dwell on the offenses, we must let them go.

Let’s make sure we don’t fall into Satan’s trap of division that would cause us to believe that our race, our social status, education, attainment or any issue makes us better than another.

Again, we look to Jesus as our example. The Apostle Paul wrote:

*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4)*

Please join the students, faculty and staff of CIU who are “Going Deeper with God,” focusing not on our rights, but on our relationship with Christ and each other.

Yours for His glory,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Mark A. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Dr. Mark A. Smith  
President

CIU HOMECOMING 2020  
**BLUE & GOLD**  
NOVEMBER 6-7  
FRIENDS & FAMILY WEEKEND



**CELEBRATE WITH REUNION CLASSES**  
1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010

Alumni, friends, family  
and parents — **Celebrate**  
with us **Nov. 6–7, 2020!**

[ciu.edu/familyweekend](http://ciu.edu/familyweekend)  
[alumni@ciu.edu](mailto:alumni@ciu.edu) | 803-807-5500

