

CIU TODAY

Getting the Gospel to the Neighborhood and the Least Reached

- + *CIU Commencement in Asia*
- + *Worldwide Impact Through Athletics*
- + *CIU Legacy at Bethel Christian Camp*

FALL 2019
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TO

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To Him Who Sits on the Throne

The reading of Revelation chapters 4 and 5 sent a chill down my spine. It was not first time I was hearing them. It's just that this time I was the one reading them aloud in front of the congregation with my own voice echoing back at me. I recited in an intentionally loud voice, the worship of the angels in Rev. 5:11-12

*¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,
¹²saying with a loud voice,*

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

While I tried to maintain my concentration to continue the reading without stumbling, my mind was saying, "Wow that is powerful."

It was my privilege to be asked to do the reading for our 2019 Missions Festival with the theme, "Is He Worthy?" Afterward fellow church members thanked me for the reading. My response was, "To think what it's going to be like around the throne! It's one thing to read it to yourself, but when you recite it aloud — Wow!"

The impact was even more dramatic when one of our Festival speakers named Scott, a CIU alumnus who serves in a closed country in Asia, had our entire congregation also read Rev. 5:13-14 aloud with LOUD voices.

¹³And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,

"To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

¹⁴And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

A double "Wow!" moment. More chills.

Our second Festival speaker was another CIU alumnus also named Scott, who ministers in Eurasia to refugees from a closed Central Asian country. He reminded us from Mark 1 that followers of Christ are all fishers of men and we must not delay in the task.

*¹⁶As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they
¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will*

But what is the motivation for the fishing? The theme of the Festival lingered, "Is He worthy?"

The answer from those two CIU alums came back with a resounding, "Yes," He who sits on the throne is indeed worthy. As pastor and author John Piper stated in his book, "Let the Nations be Glad!"



Bob Holmes, Editor-in-Chief

"Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more."

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Bob Holmes". The signature is written over a horizontal bar with a colorful, pixelated pattern.

Bob Holmes
CIU Today
Editor-in-Chief

CIU Celebrates Explosive Growth, New Facilities

At the start of the 2019/2020 school year, the Columbia International

Celebrating a new Arts and Science Center at Ben Lippen School

Ben Lippen's recently completed Arts and Science Center was abuzz with excitement as students and parents explored the new \$5.5 million building on the first day of classes.

"We are excited to see what God is doing here," said Ben Lippen School Headmaster Tony Fajardo. "We want to give our students the opportunity to grow and really expand their talents and abilities."

The 13,000 square footage of inspirational learning space includes STEM, robotics, math, physics, chemistry, technology and fine arts classrooms where students can expand their God-given talents. The new building also offers an art gallery to display students' creative side.

Seventh grader Gabi Brannon said math is one of her favorite subjects and with the new classrooms, she and her peers have a better learning space.

"It looks so different. I like it!" smiled Brannon.

Combined with a 15 percent enrollment increase at Ben Lippen, Fine Arts Director Taylor Nelson said the new building sparks a new chapter for the school.

"Not only is this building a memorial of the Lord's faithfulness, it also [sets it apart as a] top Christian school in Columbia," Nelson said. ■



Ben Lippen Enrollment Rises

Ben Lippen School enrollment is 835 students, the highest since 2004. That includes 225 new students and, for the first time ever, over 100 new families.



Monticello Road Revitalization to Welcome DQ/Convenience Store

It will soon be time to "Grill & Chill" on Monticello Road at the local Dairy Queen.

Columbia International University has entered into an agreement with Jones Petroleum of Georgia for a Dairy Queen restaurant/convenience store combination, the first business establishment to become a part of CIU's revitalization efforts along Monticello Road, the corridor to the CIU campus.



Department will move into an existing building that is being transformed into a substation.

"We're funding the construction of (the substation) to make the community safer," said CIU President Dr. Mark Smith. "It's a gift to the community."

Smith says once Jones Petroleum begins building, the company hopes to complete the project in six to eight months.

"You're looking at 50 to 75 employees that will be hired, and that's going to be a real plus for this community," Smith said.

Smith adds that negotiations continue with other businesses who are considering Monticello Road an excellent location for growth. ■

CIU has purchased seven properties transforming the formerly blighted area into a commercially-viable district. The DQ/convenience store combo will be situated on three lots at the corner of Monticello Road and Peoples Street just off Interstate 20. CIU cleared the properties of vacant buildings and a barroom earlier this year.

Additionally, across the street from the new Dairy Queen, the Richland County Sheriff's

CIU Welcomes New VP

Dr. Rick Christman has joined CIU as the executive vice president of Student Services and Online Services. He comes to Columbia from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee. Christman calls it an honor to join the CIU team.

"In this role, it will be my goal and deliberate intent to serve students on their educational journey, preparing and empowering them to fulfill the Great Commission in whatever field they serve," Christman said. ■



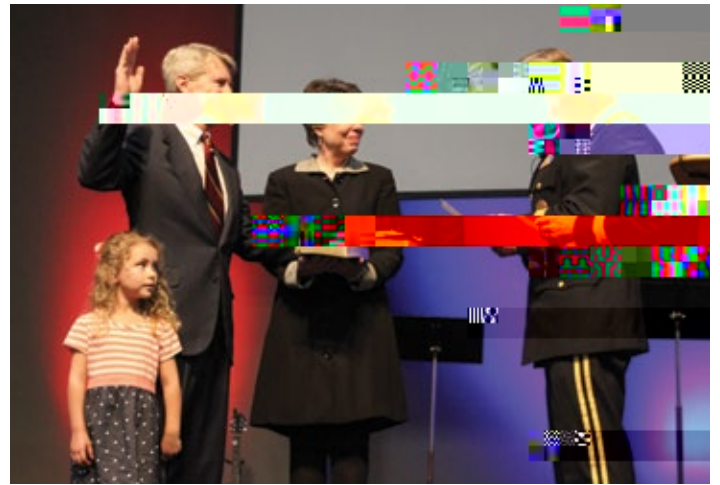
Dr. Rick Christman

Nearly 50 Columbia International University students learned to make an impact in the Nation's Capital, as well as at home at the Faith and Freedom Coalition's Road to

CIU Chancellor Sworn in to the SC State Guard

In a unique Chapel service, South Carolina State Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Leon Lott swore in a new recruit: Dr. Bill Jones. Jones is the chancellor of CIU. Lott also serves as Richland County Sheriff.

The ceremony included the presentation of new CIU bachelor's and master's degrees in Disaster Relief and Emergency Management. The degrees fit with the mission of the S.C. State Guard "to quickly respond to protect people and property and to help communities recover" during a natural or man-made disaster in South Carolina. ■



SC Lt. Gov. Visits CIU Twice to Discuss Important Issues

South Carolina Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette visited the CIU campus twice, once in the spring to discuss state criminal justice reforms and again in August to encourage a focus on the needs of the aging. The first event was a "Lunch and Learn" in March hosted by the CIU School of Business & Professional Studies and the South Carolina Faith



A Summer of Worldwide Impact Through Athletics

Columbia International University softball, volleyball, women's soccer and baseball made an impact with the message of Christ in three different parts of the world over the summer as they teamed-up with local sports ministries and missionaries.

SOFTBALL

Coach Sara Allen and members of her team were in the Middle East for two weeks holding clinics for about 75 youth, women and men, many of whom play on their national teams.

"It was really eye-opening to experience how important it is, especially in Middle Eastern culture, to build genuine relationships with people and to let our stories with Christ flow naturally into those relationships," Allen said. "We had incredibly deep and fruitful conversations with many of the softball players we worked with, and were able to share the gospel after one practice toward the end of our trip as a result of the great energy we had established on the field."

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Coach Kara Farnsworth was on a ministry trip to Asia supporting and encouraging a missionary family in a nation where persecution of the church has increased. But Farnsworth says the door was open for her to play soccer and spend time with the local residents opening the door for the missionaries to "build relationships and share the love of Christ."

While Farnsworth does not speak the local language, she says, "we were able to communicate with one another through playing the game we both love. There is an understanding of one another through the game where we learn more about each other's preferences and how we face success and failure."

VOLLEYBALL

Coach Amber Haver and five members of her team were in the Catalonia

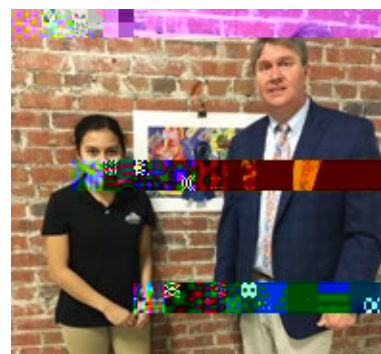
High School Musical

Theatre productions at CIU are almost entirely student led. So a lot of work and a large cast presented the spring production of High School Musical. The cast worked tirelessly to bring the vibrant show to the Hoke Auditorium stage.



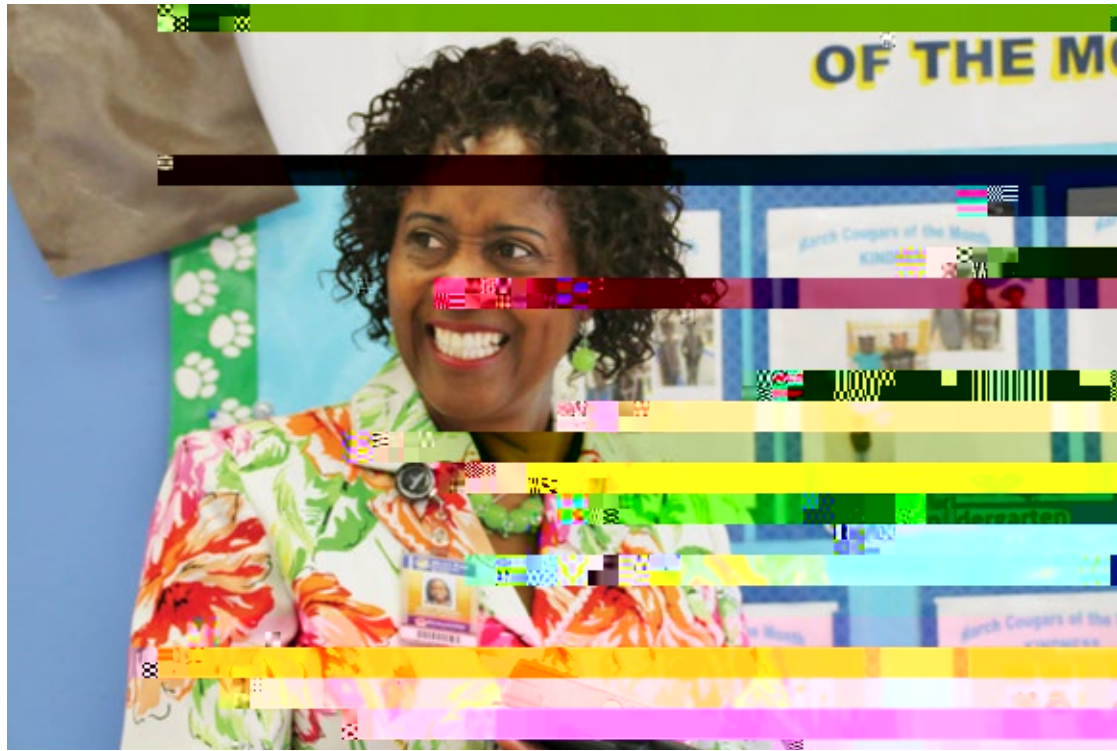
"Candyland" Awarded Blue Ribbon

Congratulations to Ben Lippen School eighth grader Lucia Kirkland. She took first place in her age group in an art competition for her creation "Candyland." She was competing against 30 schools and over 500 artworks at the SCISA (South Carolina Independent School Association) Art Show in Lake City, South Carolina in February. She is pictured with Ben Lippen Upper School Art Teacher Jack Branney.

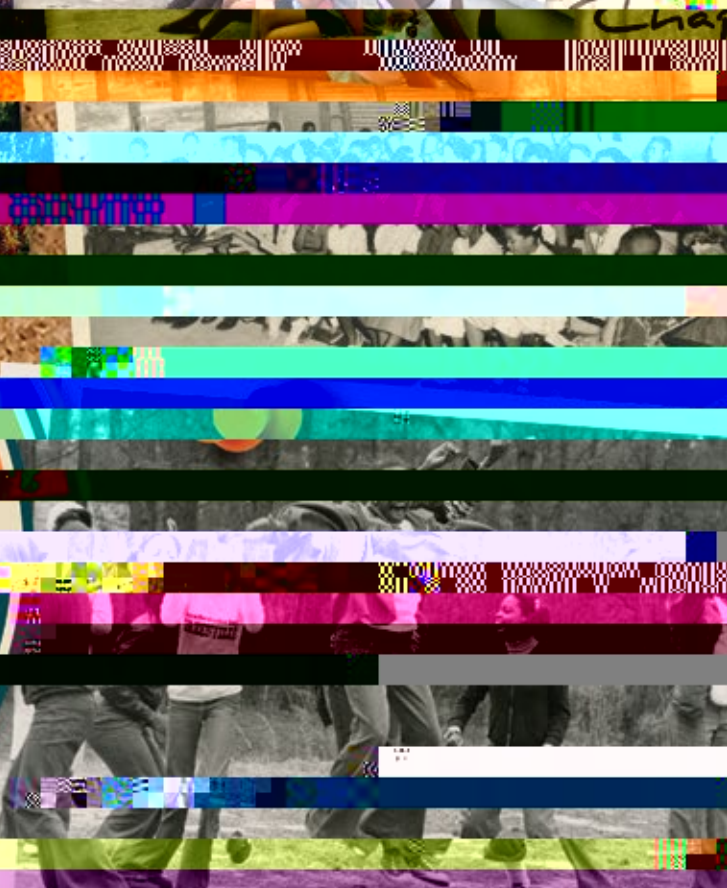
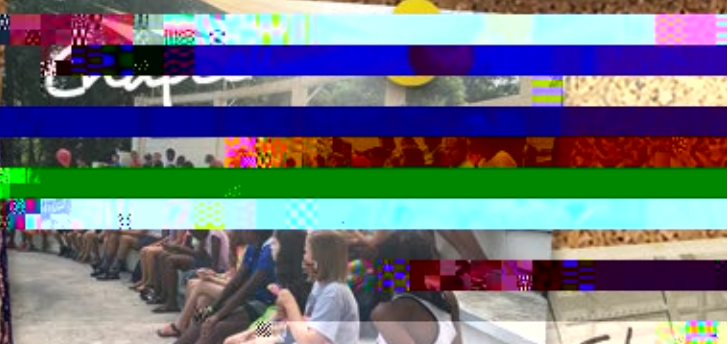


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s I waited for the principal of Hyatt Park Elementary School to meet me in the reception area, a few students were arriving late after the opening bell. When **Principal Dr. Dell Brabham** walked in, one of the students, a girl of about third grade, immediately hugged Brabham around the legs, which was as high as she could reach. But Brabham stooped down to give the little girl what she really wanted — a return good morning hug — an everyday occurrence at the school.



MISSIONS
AT THE CAMP



Marguerite McQuilkin poses with campers in the early days of the Bethel camp.

Bethel Lake Fun

Bethel Rally 1978

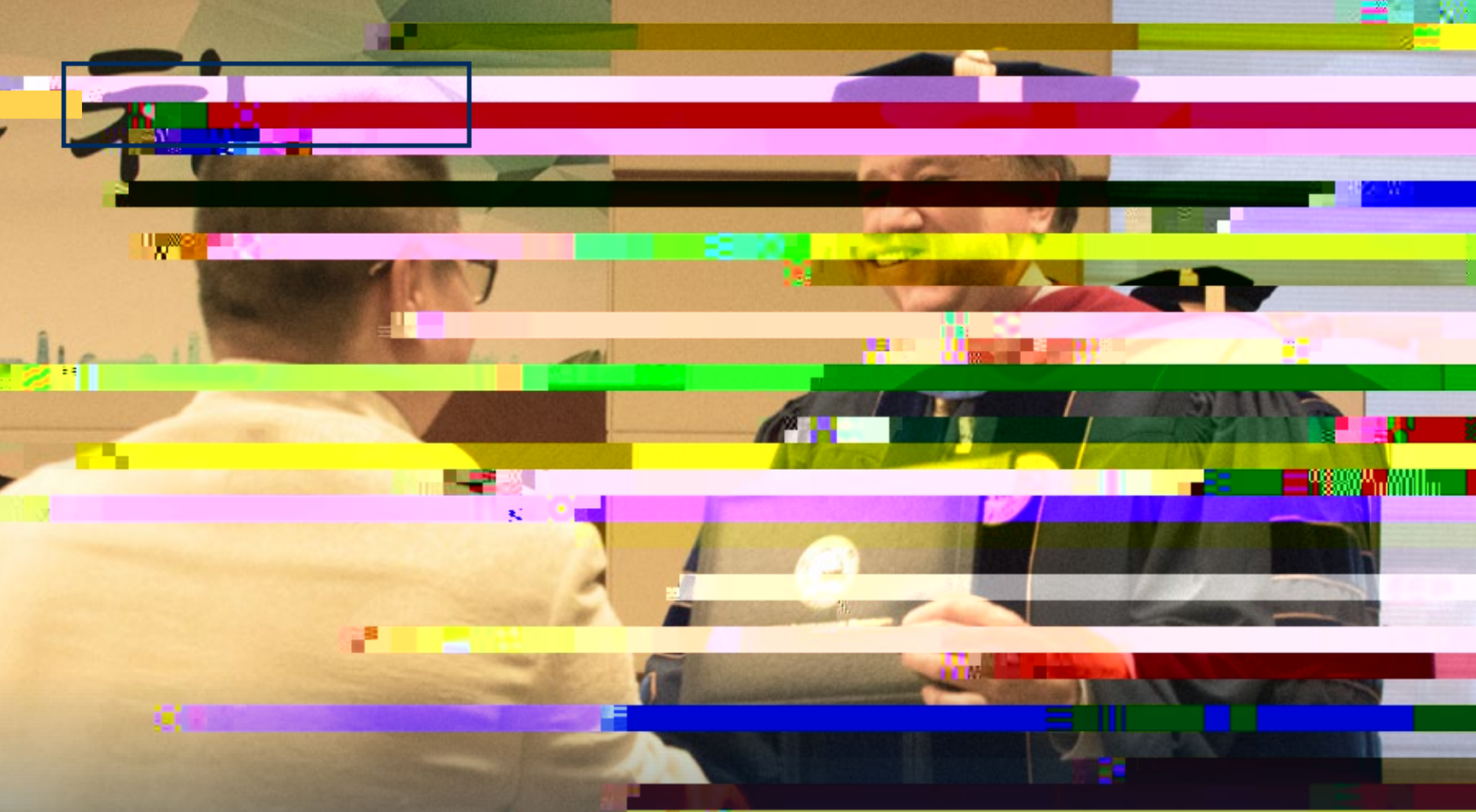


Dr. Shirl Schiffman is a former Bethel Christian camp board chairman and CIU professor



Columbia International University alumna **Erica Williamson**
(2018)





CIU COMMENCEMENT IN ASIA

Master of Education degrees awarded

By CIU Provost Dr. James Lanpher

What a joy it is to see the impact CIU is making in Asia! At a commencement service we held in May, 11 graduates traveled great distances to receive their Master of Education degrees.

One of the highlights for me was the speech given by one of the graduates. She said that she had been praying about how she could be involved in Christian education and when she heard about the CIU program actually offered in her language, her response was "Praise the Lord!" She felt that God had provided an answer to her prayers through CIU. Then as she studied in the program what she appreciated most was that the topics in education were approached from a specifically Christian perspective. While in the United States we may take for granted that there are institutions that will integrate Christian faith into the disciplines they study, this is extremely rare in her country. So for her to be studying an area of vital importance in her own language and from a biblical worldview, really was something she had never expected apart from God making it possible. As this graduate continued to speak about her education and the impact it had on her, I could hear echoes of CIU in her words. The very language she was using and the approach to education she was describing reflected CIU's core values and heart.

We also wanted our graduates in Asia to feel a part of the worldwide CIU community. We did this by being present with them at a graduation and we also did it through video. We had asked faculty and staff at CIU to send greetings and congratulations to our students in Asia, producing a short video with these greetings. We deeply want our Asian graduates to feel a part of the CIU family and as the video was played and I observed tearful graduates as they watched, it became very clear to me that these graduates feel fully a part of CIU.

I had an experience in another city in the same country which also reinforced the importance of what CIU is doing. After an informational meeting in a house church, one of those present

We also wanted our graduates in Asia to feel a part of the worldwide CIU community.

Nearly two years after Hurricane Maria, CIU students continue ministry to Puerto Rico

Columbia International University students made their third missions trip to Puerto Rico since deadly and devastating Category 5 Hurricane Maria hit the U.S. territory in



**BOLDLY
GOING**

INTO
CREATIVITY
ACCEPTANCE
ADAP

**CIU ALUMNI ARE GETTING
THE GOSPEL TO THE LEAST REACHED**

"We have been the target of numerous slanderous articles. We were accused of being CIA agents that support terrorists trying to divide the country. The secret police have come to our church numerous times, threatened, and even violently attacked our local pastors."

– JP, church planter, West Asia

Since you cannot live in your context on a missionary/ministry visa, what type of work (generally) do you do to live in the country? For you what is the relationship between work and ministry?

JP: My wife was able to obtain a work visa through teaching at private schools. I came under my wife's work visa, and this has allowed me to minister freely, and fully devote my time to the ministry.

DL: I registered a medical NGO (non-governmental organization) with the local government and was granted a resident visa and work permit for my medical ministry at a local government hospital. The purpose of the ministry is to see transformational changes in the lives of individuals and the hospital community so they can sustain themselves long term. We strive to move the local community from dependency to dignity by

What are the potential consequences for a Christian worker ministering in your context? What might local believers face for living out their faith, sharing the gospel, or starting a church?

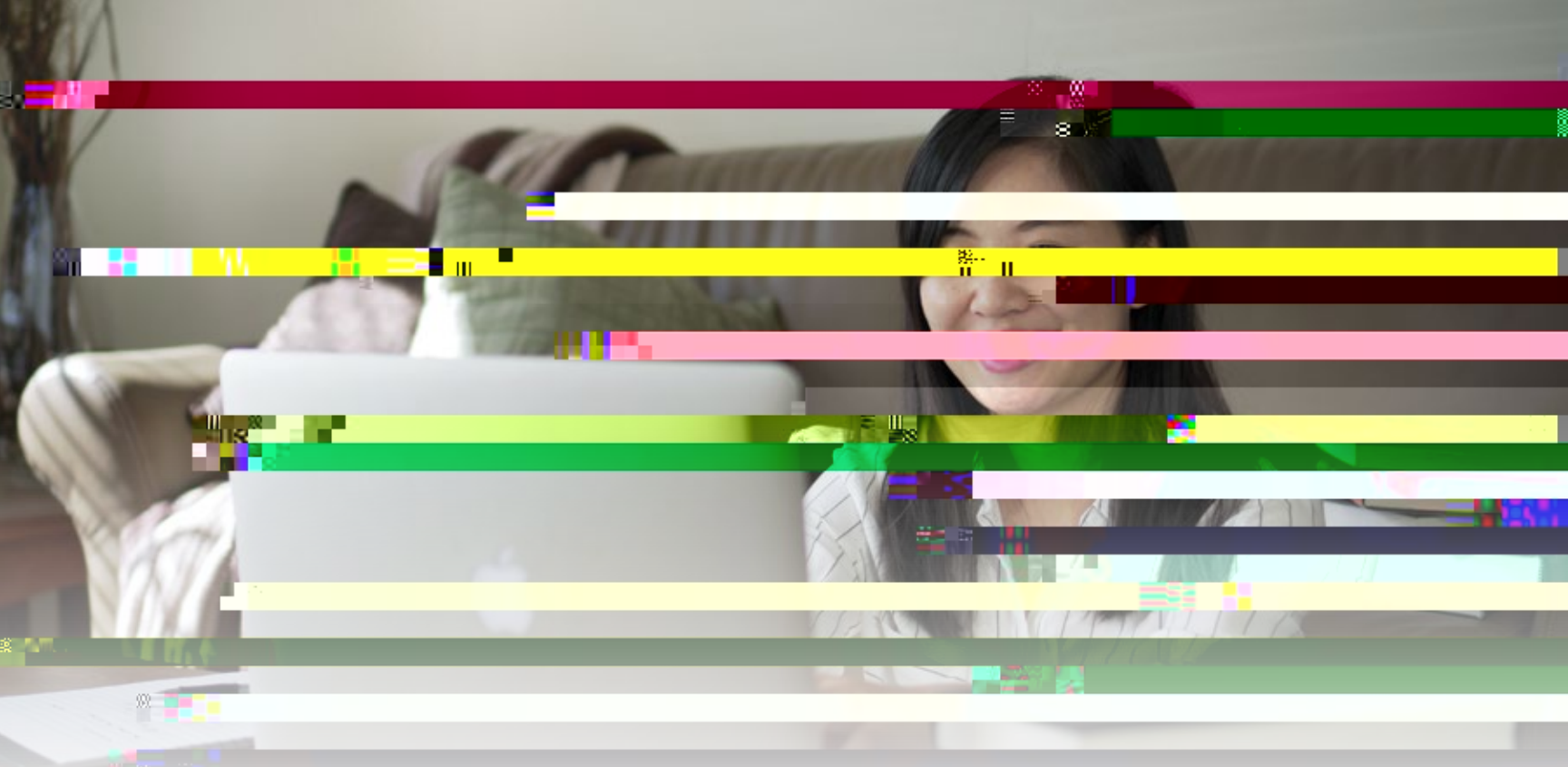
JP: One international pastor was imprisoned in our country for two years because of slander, which came from within the church. The majority of missionaries that are targeted are denied visas, or re-entry into the country. The cost of following Christ for locals in our context, can be much higher, especially for those who actively engage in evangelism, apologetics, and church-planting. They face slander, threats, and physical violence, while those who are dormant can live under the radar with little opposition.

DL: Local believers certainly face serious persecution from their families and relatives, therefore many remain scattered and isolated. However, underground churches have been growing despite many challenges in their Muslim communities.

What are the surprising blessings on living in a restricted area?

JP: Spiritual growth. I have been stretched in areas of faith, practice, and doctrine that I would have never experienced unless I had lived in a restricted nation.

DL: A small community of like-minded workers in the city has been so supportive of one another, which made all become united in Christ. This strong sense of God's community brought His loving message to local believers and to Muslim friends. Through my professional ministry, God has continually blessed me to be with local medical professionals, which has given me many opportunities to share the truth on the basis of intimate relationship and trust.



studying to be a pastor. "As a Christian in a secular business, it gives me better tools for servant leadership."

As a dad with three small children, Lyerly says the flexibility of the online MBA was his only route to a degree as he works about 60 hours per week. He took a two-month break from the program for family time before completing the program by summer's end.

"Making sure I bring my children up right is very important to me," Lyerly added. "I personally don't work on school while they are awake. That way it doesn't have an impact on my interaction on my kids — that way I still get a hundred percent of them. I do all (my studies) at night."

Being able to maintain family priorities were also important for Elizabeth McDowell, 34, as she worked through her online MBA degree. McDowell and her husband Jeff direct the Columbia office of Teen Challenge, an addiction recovery program. Mr. McDowell completed a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from CIU in 2018.

With the sounds of her firstborn, Faylee, cooing and laughing in the background during a phone interview, McDowell said that she became pregnant while in the 18-month MBA program. However, because of the program's flexibility, she was able to continue without a break. Before Faylee was born McDowell studied at night, and "pretty much when (Faylee) was sleeping" after she was born.



Michael Lyerly says as he studied for his MBA, he could go right from the textbook to the warehouse he manages and immediately apply what he was learning. That is one of the advantages of earning an online MBA from Columbia International University.

Lyerly, 34, is one of nine graduates who are the first to earn an online MBA from CIU. He is the senior operations manager at a Florence, South Carolina distribution center of QVC, a home shopping television network based in Pennsylvania. He is the second in

command at the warehouse overseeing business decisions, hiring, staffing and organizing.

After reading in one of his MBA textbooks about how Toyota's production process eliminated waste, he asked himself a few questions.

"I go down to the warehouse floor and I'm looking at how can I keep (the employees) productive," Lyerly explained. "Am I overstaffed? What can I do to streamline the processes?"

Lyerly, who oversees 350-400 employees, says the leadership courses in the MBA program have been his favorites.

"It's something I personally gravitate toward. What can I do to become a better leader?" said Lyerly, who before going into business was

May commencement at CIU. (Left to right): Victor Cuartas, Dae Young Lee, Stephen Davis, Steve Miller, ICS Dean Ed Smither, Steve Kern, John Clayton, Michelle Raven, Mathew Weathers (Not pictured: Jacob Pursley)

First Graduates of Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies Program Celebrate

For some, it was their first time on the CIU campus. The first graduates of the Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies (ICS) program crossed the stage at the May commencement, coming from places near and far. One is from South Korea. Three from South Carolina.

The online program is modeled after the European Ph.D. and can be pursued from anywhere in the world. It prepares students to produce research in areas such as history and theology of mission, cultural anthropology, mission strategy, and Islamic Studies.

"It's a research degree without classes that focuses on a 100,000 word dissertation under the supervision of a qualified specialist," said CIU Dean of Intercultural Studies Dr. Ed Smither. "Instead of having students come to Columbia, we can take the Ph.D. to them on the field where they can do meaningful research in their own context."

Smither says the program is also affordable, costing a fraction of what many American and European Ph.D. programs charge. ■

Good Reads

A new **commentary on Romans written by the Dr. John Harvey**, dean of the CIU Seminary & School of Ministry, offers up-to-date scholarship and concrete application for preachers and lay teachers. The commentary is the latest volume in the Kregel Exegetical Library, providing a thorough explanation of every verse of Romans followed of.3{(date scholar

Ben Lippen Boys and Girls Win Track and Field Championships

Victory was double sweet for Ben Lippen track and field last spring as both the boys and girls teams took home state championships. The day was historic for the girls — it was the first time in school history a girls' track team has won the title. For the boys it was their first state championship since 1998.

The boys' team finished with 89 points, edging second place Cardinal Newman by three points. The girls' team finished with 92 points, 14 more than second-place Wilson Hall.

The boys were led by a strong performance from Camden Abrams who won the 1600 and 3200 meter races. Additionally, the boys' 4x800m relay team of Wesley Gilliam,



Students “Absolutely Blown Away” Over Renovated Dining Hall

The students arrived at CIU for the fall semester and were “Wowed” with their first meal in the renovated \$4 million CIU Dining Hall.

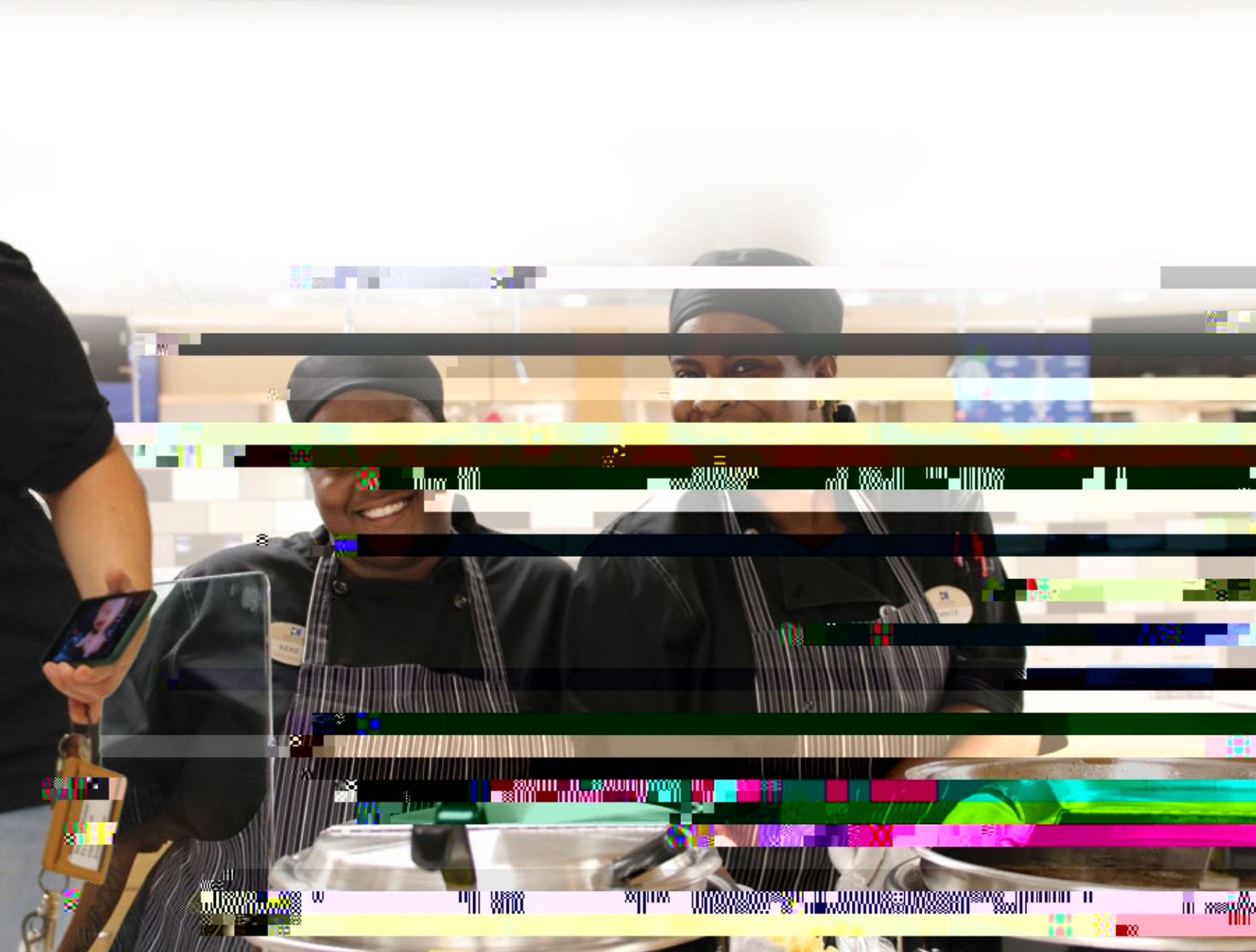
“All my expectations are absolutely blown away,” said CIU Student Body President Andrew McNeill as he sat at a long table with several excited friends.

Both returning students and new students were wide-eyed as they took in the new surroundings and the delicious variety of food choices provided by Hallmark Dining Services. Everyone ate for free at the grand opening.

“I was expecting something cool, but this is mind-blowing,” added McNeill. “All the food and the details feel gourmet. It feels like everything a much larger university would have.”

Guests are greeted with a multi-station elliptical that has expanded nutritional options to meet the diverse culinary needs of local and international students. There were a variety of freshly prepared pizzas — a new pie coming out of the oven every few minutes. A local Carolina favorite — Perlow — a rice and sausage mix, was available as well as other popular choices such as popcorn chicken and a large salad bar that student Gloria Book enjoyed.





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“Direct Answer to Prayer”

ct. 1, many years ago, at a time when neonatal units did not exist, a little girl born prematurely lay gasping for breath, her lungs not developed enough to sustain life. The doctors feared the worst. First president, Robert C. McQuilkin, and the Columbia Bible College family (now CIU) stepped in and prayed earnestly for God to spare her life. That little girl is Alumna of the year, Dorothy Alleene Petty Kracht, or “Direct Answer to Prayer” – as McQuilkin called her.

Alleene and CIU are both a “Direct Answer to Prayer.” In 1921, six young women called the Praying Ladies gathered to urgently ask the Lord to give Columbia a Bible school. Two years later, the Lord did just that when Columbia Bible School opened with six students in rented downtown rooms. Alleene and CIU even share the same birthday, Oct. 1 (but not the same year).

Alleene’s connections to CIU are even more remarkable. Her father is Tom Petty who started CBC/CIU’s Christian Service outreach. Her mother, Nell Petty, was the school hostess for years, her aunt, Sara Petty, was dean of women, her uncle, David Petty, was on the board of trustees, and Petty Memorial Hall is named in honor of her grandmother Ruth Worth Petty, who was a devoted friend and prayer warrior for CIU.

In 1964, Alleene came to CBC/CIU as a student. She met Doug Kracht in 1965, a transfer student from Colorado State University. Doug, a new Christian, found his time at CBC/CIU to be transformative, laying the foundation for his life as a missionary.

Doug and Alleene married in 1970. In 1972, they joined the staff of the Jamaica Bible College. Doug taught while Alleene was the dean of women. Their two children, Saranell and Jeremy were born there. Doug discovered he had artistic gifts and was drawn to multimedia work. He pioneered coursework for the school and created numerous multi-media presentations for the school, World Team and for fellow missionaries. He also partnered with CIU to produce the video series “God’s Blue Print for Biblical Marriage,” available in the Buck Hatch Library on the CIU alumni website (alumni.ciu.edu/resources).

In 1984, Doug and Alleene followed a call to Spain

MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES

Ambassador Choir and
Cola Worships



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CAMPUS TOURS

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**PRESIDENT'S
BANQUET**



**STUDENT &
ALUMNI GLOBAL
NETWORKING
EVENT**



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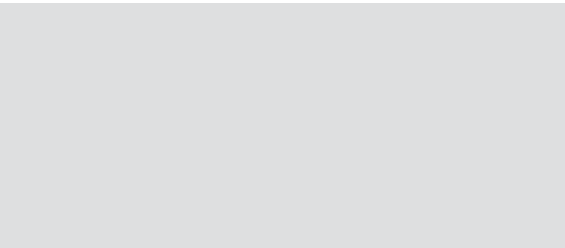
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Each year, Columbia International
University recognizes 12 recent
alumni who are serving on the



ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Peggie (Etheredge) Johnson ('03, '11) has published an anthology collaboration with award-winning and multi-publishing author Cheryl Polote-Williamson, "Soulful Prayers: The Power of Intentional Communication with God." ✉ peggie.johnson@ciu.edu

Russ ('06) and Lauren Clemmer live in Alpharetta, Georgia with their four children, Hobie, Johnny, Caroline and Beau. Russ is the president of Legacy Advisory Partners in Atlanta, a faith-based business advisory firm

Living the Motto

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