

# BEYOND

COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



## Great is Thy Faithfulness

Don Whipple '55, Feature Story [Page 10]

Dear Friends,

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.” So wrote the prophet in Lamentations 3:22, reminding us that God’s faithfulness is a source of great comfort and thanksgiving.



At Colorado Christian University, we have seen God’s faithfulness in many ways, both as an institution and in the lives of our students. In this issue of BEYOND, we commemorate God’s continued faithfulness to CCU throughout the generations.

The stories within remind us of God’s character and how He has moved through His people and His church. We are reminded by the greatness of the gospel, and the enduring importance of the Protestant Reformation — 500 years after Martin Luther changed the course of Christian history. We are reminded by the remarkable story of alumnus Don Whipple ’55, and his lifetime of service, both to his country and to the church. We are reminded by God’s continued provision to CCU, as we celebrate 50 years at our Lakewood campus and our continued growth in all areas of the University.

I also hope you will be encouraged by the extraordinary journey of CCU undergraduate Christian Osterhout ’19 and how God has led him to CCU. Finally, I hope you will be inspired by our recent work in the Holy Land through CCU2theWorld as we collaborate with friends to unearth treasures that testify to the truthfulness of Scripture, while sharing the gospel with those who don’t know Christ.

As our students, faculty, and staff are in the midst of another academic year, I’m convinced that there is no better time to be a faithful, mission-driven institution of higher learning that is educating students and preparing them for significant roles of leadership in the church, the arts, business, education, government, and all other vocations. A CCU education not only provides rigorous study rooted in a biblical worldview, but also demonstrates how lives transformed by the power of grace and truth can make a difference for Christ in every field of human endeavor.

Thank you for being a part of the Colorado Christian University community. We are so thankful for your continued support and prayers, which allow CCU to build His church, engage the culture, and train Christ-centered leaders for all kinds of callings.

Great is His faithfulness indeed!

Yours in His Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Sweeting". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**DONALD W. SWEETING, Ph.D.**  
*President*  
*Colorado Christian University*

A large, vertical photograph of a modern building interior. The space is open and bright, with high ceilings and large windows. Several people are sitting on bright green modular sofas arranged around a central area. The lighting is warm and modern. The text "[COLORADO CHRIS" is overlaid in large, white, semi-transparent letters across the bottom of the image.

[COLORADO CHRIS



ANSCHUTZ  
STUDENT CENTER

STIAN UNIVERSITY ]

# BEYOND

A publication of Colorado Christian University

## Our Magazine

In BEYOND, our goal is to share the story of CCU, as well as God's faithful provision over the last 100 years. We also aim to share the stories of the people who go beyond and make CCU the great university it is today. Whether you're an alum or a friend, this magazine is designed for you, because your story, our story — His story, is meant to be told.



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## Vision

We envision graduates who think critically and creatively, lead with high ethical and professional standards, embody the character and compassion of Jesus Christ, and who thereby are prepared to impact the world.



## Mission

Colorado Christian University cultivates knowledge and love of God in a Christ-centered community of learners and scholars, with an enduring commitment to the integration of exemplary academics, spiritual formation, and engagement with the world.



Colorado Christian University  
8787 W. Alameda Ave.  
Lakewood, Colorado 80226  
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# NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Here's an overview of what's happening at CCU.



## CCU Enrollment Surpasses 8,000

CCU's total student enrollment reached 8,156 students this year — a record-breaking milestone in enrollment for both colleges. This included 1,343 traditional undergraduate students, as well as 5,599 adult undergraduate students and 1,214 graduate students. This is also the first year that CCU's graduate program enrollment has surpassed 1,000 students.



## CCU Ranked as One of the Fastest-Growing Institutions

*The Chronicle of Higher Education* ranked Colorado Christian University as the seventh fastest-growing private nonprofit master's institution in the nation; these results were published in *The Almanac of Higher Education 2017-2018*.



## McTavish Elected Vice Chair of CCU Board of Trustees

Colorado businessman and entrepreneur Tim McTavish MBA '13 was elected as vice chair of the Board of Trustees of Colorado Christian University. McTavish has been an active member of the CCU Board of Trustees since 2009, and is currently an adjunct professor in CCU's School of Business and Leadership.



## 2017 Military Friendly School Designation

Colorado Christian University's College of Adult and Graduate Studies earned the 2017 Military Friendly® School designation for its "commitment, effort, and success in attracting and supporting military students." This rating sets the standard for colleges that provide positive employment and education outcomes for veterans and their families.



## Hiro Named Head Coach of Men's Basketball

Colorado Christian University hired Jeff Hironaka (Hiro) to lead the next era of CCU men's basketball. Hironaka has served as the head coach of perennial DII basketball power Seattle Pacific University, and was the assistant coach at Washington State and Portland State Universities.



## New Logistics and Supply Chain Management Degree Programs

Colorado Christian University's College of Adult and Graduate Studies launched a new logistics and supply chain management program that includes degrees at the bachelor's, associate, and certificate levels, and is also available as a minor. The program will start in the spring 2018 semester.



## CCU Named Charles Denler Director of Worship Arts

Emmy award-winning composer and School of Music faculty, Charles Denler '17 was named CCU's Director of Worship Arts. Denler has nearly 200 film and television scores to his credit.



## Dr. Woodbridge Receives Honorary Doctorate

To celebrate world-renowned Dr. John Woodbridge's commitment to Christian education, CCU awarded Dr. Woodbridge an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity. "For many decades Dr. Woodbridge has been a renowned church historian, prolific author, extraordinary teacher, mentor to up-and-coming scholars, and an important spokesman for American evangelicals," noted Dr. Sweeting, CCU president.

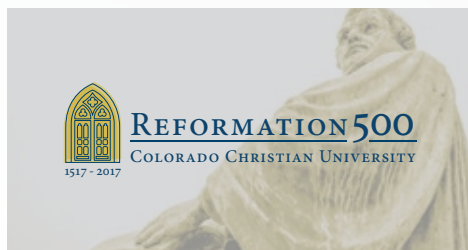


## Homecoming and Family Weekend

CCU welcomed alumni, parents, and friends back to its Lakewood campus for a weekend which included the Cougar Dash 5K, the annual Balloon Glow, reunions for specific heritage institutions, and various alumni athletic games. Alumni and families of current students had the opportunity to see the expansion of the Lakewood campus, and tour the new Anschutz Student Center.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the date for these CCU events!



## SEP-APR 17-18 Reformation 500 Series

September 2017 – April 2018  
CCU Main Campus  
8787 W. Alameda Ave.  
Lakewood, CO 80226

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, CCU is hosting several important events for students, faculty, and staff to engage the five 'solas' of the Reformation and celebrate the lasting impact they've had on the Christian church. To see a detailed schedule of events, please visit [ccu.edu/reformation](http://ccu.edu/reformation).



## DEC 7 Celebrate the Light

December 7, 2017  
5:15 p.m.  
Anschutz Student Center  
CCU Main Campus  
8787 W. Alameda Ave.  
Lakewood, CO 80226

Join us for this annual tradition as we sing Christmas carols and light our Christmas tree outside of the Anschutz Student Center. Following the ceremony all are invited to celebrate the season by enjoying hot cocoa, live music, cookie decorating, games, and a Christmas movie inside the student center.



## DEC 8-9 CCU Christmas Celebration: "How Great our Joy!"

December 8-9, 2017  
West Bowles Community Church  
12325 W. Bowles Ave.  
Lakewood, CO 80127

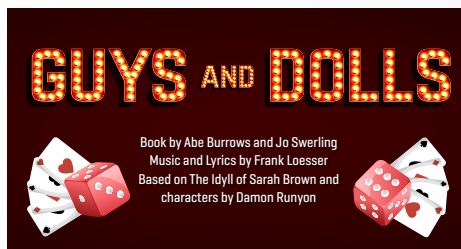
Colorado Christian University's School of Music cordially invites you to celebrate the birth of Christ by joining us for the annual Christmas Celebration, with the theme "How Great our Joy!" These concerts will feature over 150 of CCU's finest instrumental and vocal students, presenting large ensemble selections, a variety of soloists, and special readings, all designed to lead to the joy and true meaning of this holy time of year. For ticket information, please visit [ccu.edu/musicvents](http://ccu.edu/musicvents).



## APR 19 VALS 2018: A Forecast into the Future of Business: Rising Storm Surge or New Rays of Sun — It's Your Decision!

April 19, 2018  
Hyatt Regency DTC  
7800 E. Tufts Ave.  
Denver, CO 80237

The Values-Aligned Leadership Summit is a one-day event that brings together business leaders in the Denver-Metro area with our School of Business and Leadership students to discuss the importance of ethics based leadership.



## FEB 15-18 Spring Musical: "Guys and Dolls"

February 15-18, 2018  
Lakewood Cultural Center  
470 S. Allison Pkwy.  
Lakewood, CO 80226

Set in the Manhattan of Damon Runyon's short stories, "Guys and Dolls" tells of con man Nathan Detroit's efforts to find new life for his notorious dice game, and his bet with high-roller Sky Masterson. The story takes us from the bustle of Times Square to the dance clubs of Havana to the sewers of New York City as it demonstrates the great lengths to which a guy will go when he truly falls in love with a "doll."



# The Greatness of the Gospel

What Caused the Reformation and Why is it Still Important?

By: Dr. Ian Clary



1517 - 2017

## REFORMATION 500

### COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

### A NECESSARY SHIFT

As Christians the world over commemorate the five-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation, questions arise about its quality and necessity. While Protestants in the Ukraine recently celebrated it in mass demonstrations in Kiev, others in North America have registered lament. One question that is regularly asked is whether the Reformation was necessary. Some of its heirs have argued that the Reformation was a divisive tragedy. Yet, in light of the corruptions of the late-medieval church, we are hard-pressed to see why one might think that a Reformation was avoidable. Matthew Levering, a Roman Catholic theologian, has recently authored a book asking, *Was the Reformation a Mistake?* Admirably, Levering replies that the Reformation itself was ultimately not a mistake. “There had to be a Reformation,” Levering says, “and it is good that the Reformation shook up the status quo in Rome and elsewhere that was unacceptable and untenable.” While Levering is certainly right, corruption is secondary to larger theological issues. In this article I would like to explore the two major theological concerns of the Reformers.

Reflecting on the religious turmoil of sixteenth-century Europe, historians have highlighted two main causes of the Reformation; they are what have been described in technical jargon as the “formal” and “material” causes of the Reformation. The formal cause, that which gave proper shape to it, was the doctrine of *sola scriptura*. That is, Scripture alone is the final authority on matters of life and faith. The material cause, that which gives content, was *sola fide*, or the doctrine of justification by faith alone. First, we will consider justification, and then turn to Scripture.

Though we will look at the two causes in the life of Martin Luther (1483–1546) as an example, they can just as easily be found in the lives of other Reformers such as John Calvin (1509–1564) or William Tyndale (1494–1536). Luther, the monk-turned-reformer in Wittenberg, Germany, famously struggled with his standing before God. Before his “Reformation Breakthrough” Luther knew in his bones that he was a sinner who stood guilty before a holy God and that no amount of good works could absolve him of sin. He believed that the gospel was as accusing as the law, and that the “righteousness of God” was the Bible’s way of describing God’s just wrath

against sin. Imagine his joy when, based on his reading of Romans 1:17 (“the just shall live by faith”) he discovered that God’s righteousness was not about judgment, but about God’s own gift of Christ’s righteousness given to the sinner by faith alone! This was the nub of his breakthrough: good works are important only as the fruit, not the grounds, of saving faith. Paul makes this clear in Ephesians 2:8–9 where he speaks of being saved “by grace” and “through faith” which are “apart from works.”

### GOD’S WORD ALONE

Before this breakthrough, Luther had come to a new understanding of biblical authority. It was precipitated by his pastoral concern with the sale of indulgences, which were a kind of certificate that were said to free a soul from Purgatory. Too many of his impoverished parishioners were wasting money on what amounted to just paper. After nailing his *Ninety-Five Theses Against the Power of Indulgences* to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517, Luther became engaged in a controversy over the nature of authority: was it the Pope and church tradition that were the final arbiters of faith and practice, or was it Scripture? Luther came to see that while



tradition was important and necessary, its authority was derived from Scripture. Where Scripture and tradition were in conflict, Scripture had the final word. This conviction was put to the test in 1521 at the Imperial Diet of Worms where he refused to recant before the Holy Roman Emperor: “Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason, my conscience is captive to the Word of God.” Here we have an apt summation of *sola scriptura*, that we are captive to God’s Word alone.

## HEART OF THE GOSPEL

It would be wrong to look back at the Reformation and conclude that the differences between Protestants and

Catholics are absolute. We have a common history and there is much that we share theologically including doctrines like the Trinity and the resurrection of Christ. We also stand together against moral decline in society. Yet, we must not deny the real doctrinal variance that goes to the heart of the gospel. How is a sinner saved? Is it by faith alone, or do works function as grounds for saving faith? How do we know the gospel? Is the Bible the ultimate authority, or does tradition stand on equal footing? The differences between our two expressions of Christian faith ultimately come back to these two causes. While Levering is right, that the Reformation was necessary because of church corruption, it was also necessary — and remains necessary — because we do not agree on the nature of the gospel and biblical authority. These are vital issues for Christians to understand. May the Spirit use our celebrations of the Reformation to bring us to the truth that Luther so well described in the hymn “A Mighty Fortress,” that we do not “in our own strength confide,” but rather we trust in Christ and his Word which is “above all earthly powers.” •

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



## IAN CLARY, PH.D.

*Assistant Professor of Historical Theology  
College of Undergraduate Studies – School  
of Theology*

Ian Clary joined CCU in 2017 as assistant professor of Historical Theology. He also lectures at Munster Bible College in Cork, Ireland. He is the editor of and contributor to a number of books including, most recently, *Pentecostal Outpourings: Revival and the Reformed Tradition*. Ian is married to Vicky and they live in Lakewood with their four children.

# - THE - GREATEST GENERATION

FROM IWO JIMA TO ROCKMONT COLLEGE

Don Whipple '55  
B.A., Biblical Studies and History

SEMPER FIDELIS



ALWAYS FAITHFUL



In 1943 at age 17, Don Whipple joined the U.S. Marine Corps and was assigned to the 5th Marine Division and 28th Combat Team. He is a survivor of the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima, where one out of every three U.S. soldiers was either wounded or killed. Despite the devastation that he witnessed on an island he calls "the ugliest place I ever saw in my life," Don found Christ during his time in the Marines and later found himself at Rockmont College, a legacy institution of Colorado Christian University.



Left: Don, his mother Bernice, and his grandfather.  
Middle: The house Don was born in on August 31, 1925.  
Right: Don on the far right in the first row.



## “...I was part of the few and proud.”

**A**lumnus Don Whipple was born on a ranch in Kansas, just north of Dodge City on August 31, 1925. He was one of 13 children and fondly recalls memories of cattle drives, milking cows, breaking wild horses, and trapping for extra money. “I was an American cowboy,” said Whipple.

As a teenager, Don remembers hearing President Roosevelt address the nation after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Feeling compelled to join the fight, he took a train to Denver just days after high school graduation to enlist in the U.S. Marines. Whipple was just 17 years old at the time, so his parents were required to sign a waiver of consent so he could enlist. He shared, “Of all the men and women in arms during World War II, there were 16 million in uniform.

Only 150,000 of those were Marines — I was part of the few and proud.”

After boot camp in San Diego, California, and communications school in Pine Valley, Don’s division trained at Camp Pendleton. “We landed on every beach up and down the whole coast,” said Whipple. “We practiced hundreds of landings across the California beaches.”

### ENCOUNTERING CHRIST

The 5th Marine Division was then transferred to Hawaii. It was in 1943, at Camp Tarawa, when Don found out that his father had passed away. “The First Sergeant called me into his tent. I had always obeyed orders and was a good Marine, so all the guys were wondering why I was being

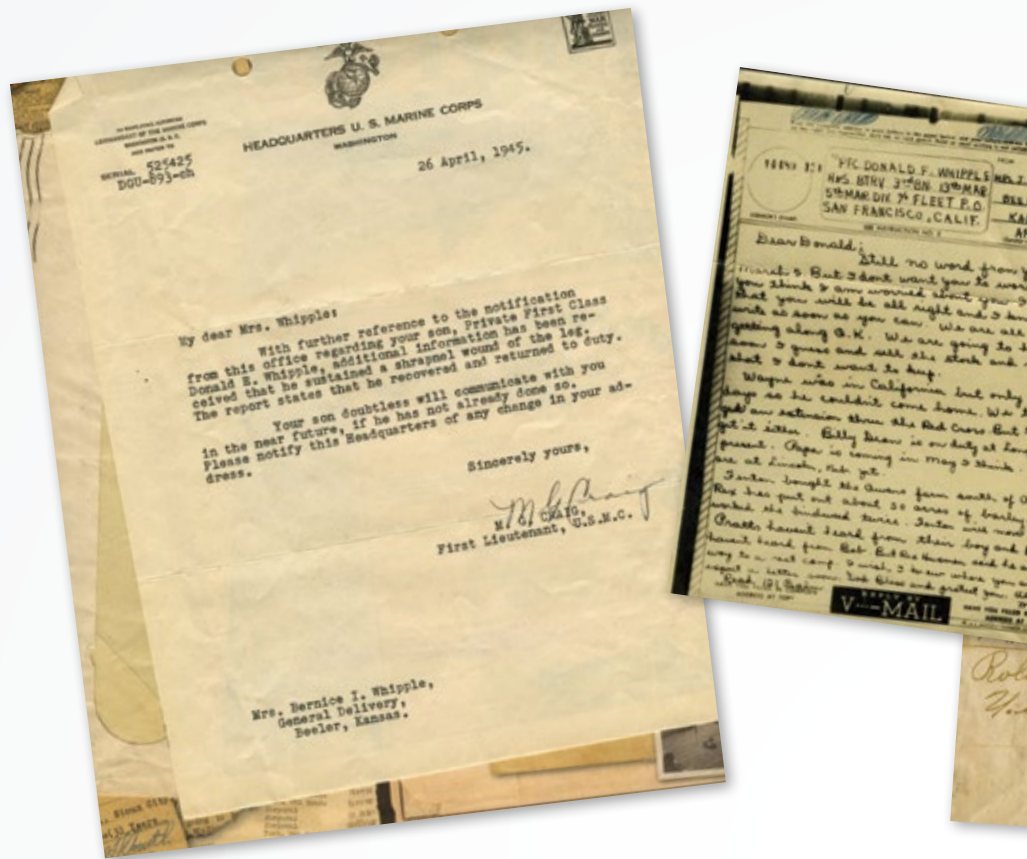
called in,” Whipple explained. “The sergeant handed me a telegram from my mother that read, ‘Dad was in a car accident.’ I was so shocked that I cried in the tent.”

Don felt like his world had been turned upside down. “I had gone to church growing up and I was always told, ‘Just be a good guy and do everything that’s right and that’ll get you to Heaven,’” he said. “It was hard for me to hear that my father had died because even though he was a good man, he never went with our family to church.”

He continued, “When I finally got myself together, the First Sergeant told the guys that my father had died. They all broke rank and gathered around me to give me moral support. One guy invited me to church, and that night I went forward to ask Christ into my life. I didn’t really understand what it meant, but the Marine visited me the next day to connect the dots for me. I thought, ‘This guy’s got what I’ve been searching for. This was knowing Christ in a real way.’”

*“This guy’s got what I’ve been searching for. This was knowing Christ in a real way.”*

Whipple sees a parallel between the Marine Corps and life in Christ. “Being a Christian, the change is forever. I know that because I haven’t been the same since.” Don shared, “Being a Marine, there are no compromises, no shortcuts, and no promise except one: the change is forever.”



## BOUND IN BATTLE

Soon after, Don and his unit were on their way to an unknown destination. Don suspected that it was Iwo Jima once he looked at a map of the island in a newspaper. The map looked eerily similar to the maps they had used in training.

The 5th Marine Division was sent to Iwo Jima in early 1945 where 21,000 Japanese soldiers waited to defend the island. The division’s mission was to capture and secure the eight-square mile island in the South Pacific as it was the perfect setting for an airstrip — so the U.S. could potentially attack Tokyo, just four hours away.

“It looked like a monster rising up out of the sea,” said Don.

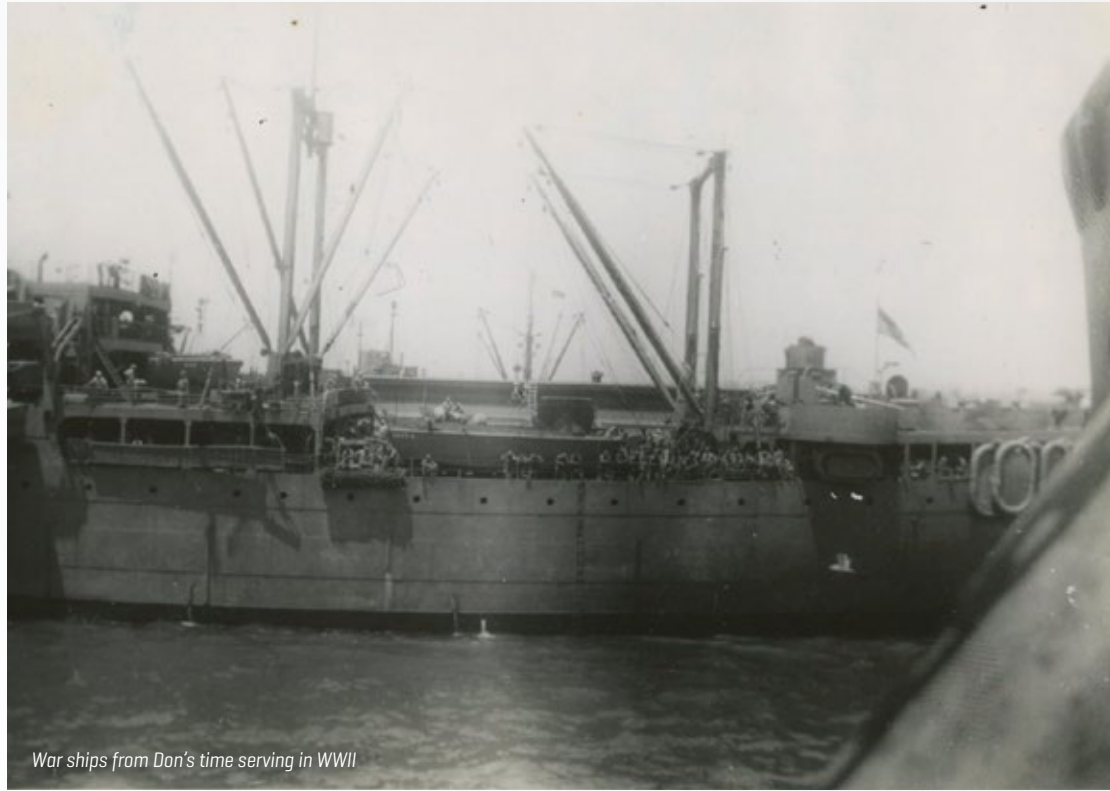
Surrounded by waves that were nine feet high, they watched U.S. battleships shell the

entire island with fire. “Up to this point, it just seemed like we were in another practice session. It felt routine,” said Whipple. Reality suddenly set in when a U.S. plane was shot out of the sky and spiraled downward, plunging into the ocean. He continued, “It hit me: these guys are out to kill us. This is for real.”

It was February 19, 1945 when he and his fellow Marines stormed the beach as part of the second wave. Machine guns pinged bullets off the ramp in the front of their boat as they landed right at the foot of Mt. Suribachi. They were immediately pinned down by enemy fire and the black ash on the beach was like quicksand.

“You’d take one step then you’d sink to your knees and slide back about three steps. We had about 100 pounds of weight on our backs,” he said. Pulling a cart with radio and telephone equipment, Don had only been on the beach for about 15 minutes. Just then,

Left: Letter to Don's mother about his injury  
Middle: Letters to Don written by his mother



War ships from Don's time serving in WWII

a mortar went off about five feet in front of him. Whipple was hit in the leg but he didn't know it, so when he tried to stand up, he fell back into the sand. He tried again but heard his captain say, "Whip, you've been hit." Don was carried to a hospital boat. That night on the ship, he listened to the battle raging on, wondering about the fate of his brothers in arms.

*“There's no closer bond among men than between those who have been in combat together.”*





Marine Corps War Memorial, (Iwo Jima Memorial) in Arlington, VA.



Don after the battle on Iwo Jima

“There’s no closer bond among men than between those who have been in combat together,” Don said. “You’re fighting for the guy next to you; the guy who has been a buddy to you like nobody ever before.”

Still wounded and unwilling to leave his unit behind, Whipple and another Marine scrounged up gear and uniforms from the “dead man’s pile” on the deck of the hospital boat and hitched a ride on a smaller boat back to Iwo Jima. Dragging his shrapnel-wounded leg, Don met up with his artillery unit, and for the next 35 days, Don carried out his duties as a forward observer by working on a switchboard used to communicate with other combat teams. During that time the Marines never enjoyed a hot meal, never changed clothes, and never bathed.

“The ugly smells of Iwo Jima were one of the things that I’ll never forget. Especially the smell of gun powder, sulfur, and death. Now, every morning I thank the Lord for being able to simply take a shower,” said Whipple.

## THE FLAG WAS STILL THERE

Don spent a total of 36 days on the island during what’s considered the fiercest and bloodiest battle in U.S. Marine Corps history. “I consider it a great privilege to have been in that battle,” he said. On February 23, 1945, Whipple was honored to view the legendary Iwo Jima flag raising made famous by war correspondent Joe Rosenthal’s photograph of the scene. “I turned around and watched them raise it up more than 500 feet high on Mt. Suribachi,” Don shared. “Across the island you could hear men hollering and shooting their rifles off into the air. It was a source of comfort. Every morning you’d look out of your foxhole and look up to see if the flag was still there.”

The Battle of Iwo Jima, which began February 19, 1945, lasted until March 26, 1945 and ended in a United States victory. During the battle, more than 6,800 American soldiers and 20,000 Japanese soldiers lost their lives.

After serving additional duty in Nagasaki — three weeks after the U.S. had dropped an atomic bomb — Don was discharged in March, 1946. He was later awarded a Purple Heart for being wounded during his service.

## RETURNING HOME, FINDING ROCKMONT

“Coming back to civilian life was one of the toughest times in my life,” said Whipple. But good things were in store for him.

The following November, Don married his childhood sweetheart, Joan, and they remained married for 56 years. In 1954, they celebrated the birth of their daughter. Don attended radio television school then moved to Denver to work with a local radio station. While in Denver, Don discovered Rockmont College — a legacy institution of Colorado Christian University — where he majored in biblical studies and history, graduating in 1955.

“My time at Rockmont was a wonderful experience. During those years many godly



Island of Iwo Jima

men spoke into my life, discipled me, and prepared me for a life of ministry,” he said. Since then, Don’s passion to share the gospel and the love of Christ with others has taken him many places all over the world. He started and directed the Denver Christian Serviceman’s Center, pastored several churches, mentored pastors overseas, and directed Denver Youth for Christ.

**“CCU is a wonderful place and the commitment to God is still so evident.”**

Whipple recently returned to Colorado Christian University for its annual Homecoming and Family Weekend. While

on campus he observed, “The CCU campus is very different from when I attended, but the purpose and the goals are still the same. CCU is a wonderful place and the commitment to God is still so evident.”

### **SEMPER FI: ALWAYS FAITHFUL**

Don Whipple’s memories of serving in the battle of Iwo Jima will stay with him for the rest of his life. As a Marine, he dedicated himself to the motto of the U.S. Marine Corps, *semper fidelis* — a Latin phrase that means “always faithful.”

At the age of 92, Whipple is determined that he will never fully “retire.” Seventy years after he landed on Iwo Jima, he celebrated his 90th birthday by parachuting out of a plane — just like George H.W. Bush. At the age of 92, Don continues to stay faithful to his calling to share the gospel and bring others to Christ. Don routinely speaks at local high schools in the Denver-metro area and has addressed Marines at graduation ceremonies.



Don and CCU President Sweeting



He also volunteers his time counseling veterans who have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). By counseling them as soon as they return home, Whipple hopes that his support can help them transition well into civilian life.

Don’s life experiences will always bring him back to those dark days in battle where he truly found the faithfulness of God. Upon remembering his time on Iwo Jima he said, “There were many days when I didn’t think I would see the next sunrise. To God be the glory.” •

**“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”**

**- Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)**

# HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD

An Unforgettable Testimony  
of God's Faithfulness

**C**CU undergraduate Christian Osterhout grew up on a 150-acre farm in a small town in Oklahoma with his mom, dad, and twin sister. He attended a small school that was 40 minutes from their home. They were a tight-knit family and enjoyed a peaceful life on the farm. "I think back and have a lot of great memories with my mom and dad, especially going outside to throw a football together," said Christian.

Things changed for Christian in middle school, when both of his parents were diagnosed with potentially fatal diseases. ALS runs in the family, and he recalled that his dad started to show symptoms at the same time that his mom was suffering from severe asthma, which was later diagnosed as lung cancer. Yet, it was also during this time that Christian rededicated his life to Christ at a church camp: "I remember praying, 'God, I can't handle this, I feel like everything is going to fall apart.'"

Leading up to his freshman year in high school, Christian watched his dad become

## CHRISTIAN OSTERHOUT '19

*B.S., Accounting and  
Business Administration  
Edmond, Oklahoma*



## *“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted...” Psalm 34:18 (ESV)*

increasingly weak. “It was traumatic because every month it seemed like there was something else my dad couldn’t do,” he observed. “It was hard to see it happening to him because I saw my dad as a superhero; he was such a good father.” While attending a leadership conference in Denver, Colorado, Christian received a life-changing phone call. “My mom told me that my dad had passed away in his sleep. It was strange, but right then all I felt was God’s presence. In that moment, all I could think, was ‘How great is our God.’”

After his dad passed away, life at home became even more chaotic. Christian’s mother was becoming progressively ill and was so weak that she couldn’t walk. Their family, including Christian and his sister, had to move to a different house. Christian, at 16 years old, started working to help support the family.

### **FULL CIRCLE**

That’s when another phone call changed his life, this time from his high school football coach, Chris Roberts.

“Coach Roberts called me and invited me to go out to lunch,” Christian recalled. “I started going over to his house at least once a week. He and his wife had three kids at the time, and it was fun to be able to throw a football around with them.”

The Roberts home became a safe haven for Christian, who was focused on taking care of his mom during that time. “Coach Roberts was there for me while I was still grieving the loss of my dad, and while I watched my mom grow weaker from the cancer,” Christian explained.

It was during this time that Coach Roberts and his wife, Sarah, spoke with Christian’s

mother about becoming his legal guardians should anything happen to her. Several months later, their worst fears were realized. Three years after losing his father, Christian’s mother lost her battle with cancer on September 3. He was a high school senior at Crossings Christian School. As promised, Chris and Sarah Roberts officially took Osterhout into their home. Christian’s sister chose to move further away and live with relatives.

### **“It’s funny how that ended up coming around full circle.”**

Football has always been a part of Christian’s story. “My parents were focused on academics in high school and I was very athletic, so they would joke that I had been switched at the hospital with a coach’s kid,” he shared. “It’s funny how that ended up coming around full circle.”

### **A ‘SECOND’ SECOND HOME**

Christian is now a junior at CCU, studying accounting and business. “God is so good,” Christian said. “I have fond memories of family vacations in Colorado, so CCU was a perfect fit. Not only is it an academically rigorous university that is close to the mountains, I felt like it would make a great second home where I could start over.”

Christian added, “At CCU, I get to be a part of a university where our purpose is to bring glory to God. With my roommates and my friends, we’re all on this adventure of figuring out life together.”

While at CCU, Christian has been involved in helping others and the local community. He volunteers as a tutor through Whiz



*Christian and the Roberts family*

Kids and is a discipleship group (D-Group) leader. “I just want to be there for the guys in my D-Group and encourage them to become more of who they are, in the image of Christ,” he remarked.

Christian plans to start a financial club on campus to help fellow students learn about financial responsibility. “I’m studying business and accounting because I want to know that what I am doing is valuable. That’s how I want to serve others,” he said. “As a believer, the best way for me to share Christ in the workplace is to demonstrate a good work ethic and competence in my vocation. By being skilled at what I do, I can make others wonder why there is something different about me.”

Christian’s story has already been used to impact others around him. In 2015, Christian won the NFL’s “Together We Make Football” contest where he was awarded a trip to the Super Bowl and even got to meet football legend Deion Sanders.

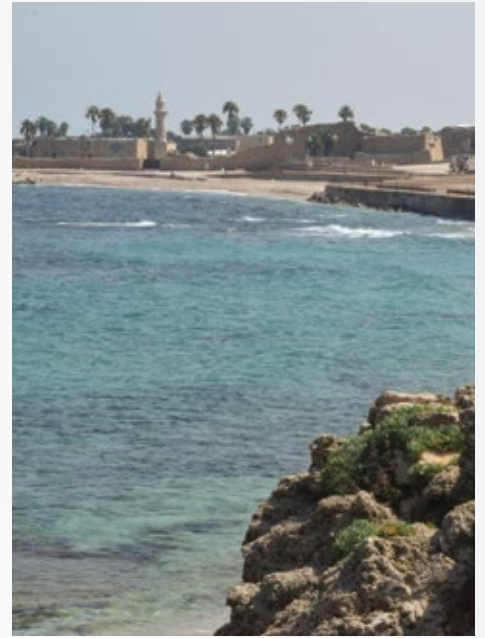
Although Christian’s story involves loss and tragedy, he wants it to have a positive takeaway. “God is close to the brokenhearted. This journey has completely changed what it means for me to find joy in the Lord. There’s still a lot of pain associated with what happened, but God continues to be faithful through it all.” •

# **GREAT** **DISCOVERIES**

Uncovering the History of God's People

*“When I hear people say  
that they think archaeology  
disproves the Bible, I tell  
them to keep digging.”*

*– Dr. David Kotter  
Dean of the School of Theology*



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*“Once you’ve been to Israel, you no longer read your Bible in black and white.”*

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When we hear the word “archaeology,” most of us will immediately think of Indiana Jones. But at Colorado Christian University, when we hear “archaeology,” we think of Dr. David Kotter.

For the last two years, Dr. Kotter, CCU’s dean of the School of Theology, has led teams of CCU students to participate in excavating an archaeological site north of the village of Gath — near the hometown of Goliath (1 Samuel 17) — in Israel. The site is directed by Bar-Ilan University — the largest university in Israel — which delegates various areas of the site to archeological researchers from around the world.

CCU partners with the University of Kansas to excavate the lower part of the ancient city and an olive oil complex. It is at this site where students have found many artifacts that date back to biblical times.

“Once you’ve been to Israel, you no longer read your Bible in black and white,” said Dr. Kotter. “Our students are gaining a reputation in the biblical archaeology world in Israel and it’s making an impact.”



## DIGGING IN

### ***What does a typical day look like on this trip?***

We stayed in a kibbutz, which is an Israeli collective living community. At 5 a.m. every morning we would ride a bus to the dig site where we worked for four hours before eating breakfast. After breakfast we would work four more hours until lunchtime. After lunch we spent time washing the pottery sherds that we found.

Then, after working at the site, we had lectures and then spent time together in worship. Even people who weren't Christians would join us because it was new to them.

### ***What can you tell us about the archaeological site?***

Our site is the largest of the five Philistine cities that have been found. The city where we are digging would have controlled the coastal highway, so if a ruler like Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon wanted to control the area, the first thing he would have to do is capture this city. There are 17 layers of occupation there.

During this last trip we found an oven and an olive oil crushing vat. We also found the remains of a woman who seemed to be in her home when the city was besieged. We found artifacts that are pieces from a loom that would have been in her home with her. We believe that this area had been destroyed by the Arameans in 830 B.C.

## A BIBLICAL NOTEPAD

### ***Many of the artifacts found at this site are pieces of pottery. What can you learn from broken pottery?***

Pottery is unique because even if it breaks, it doesn't corrode. In biblical times, people would write notes on sherds of pottery — kind of like we use sticky notes today. Pottery is a synthetic stone, so you can find designs and writing that provide us with information.

You can learn about the pottery by comparing pieces found in different layers of soil. Pottery that is older will often be thicker and cruder in appearance. Newer pieces will have a different style and may have designs or writing on them.

Pottery also helps us establish context when we are digging. People would set their pottery along a wall, so when you find a pot, you expand your digging along the wall; eventually you will find a corner. This provides us with information about the size of the room. It's both an art and a science.

When artifacts are found, they are brought to the Israeli National Museum in Jerusalem. Items are cataloged and some are restored then displayed at Bar-Ilan University.

### ***Does this trip provide unique opportunities to share God's love with others?***

Our students are encouraged in their faith when they can walk where Jesus walked — in places like Galilee and the Temple Mount. Finding physical evidence that's consistent with the Bible is encouraging. This also makes it a rare place to share the gospel.

***“Our students are encouraged in their faith when they can walk where Jesus walked.”***

Washing pottery was when we had the greatest opportunity for evangelism. Everyone had their own pile of pieces to wash. You'd sit around and start talking to the people you're with and as soon as you were done with your bucket, you would get up and help other people wash their pottery. After doing this every afternoon, everyone got to know people's stories and were able to share their faith with others around them.

## INTERPRETING THE ARTIFACTS

### ***Why is there a need for Christian archaeologists?***

We need more evangelical archaeologists because experience dictates how one interprets a new find. For example, some

archaeologists used to say that King David was a legendary figure rather than a historical king. But when they found an inscribed stone dating from the 9th century B.C. that had David's name on it and said he was the king of Israel, archaeology was consistent with the Bible's record of David.

Ultimately our goal is to offer church history and archaeology minors for our students at CCU. We hope that this minor will help prepare them for graduate school so that they can bring the gospel message with them as they study the history and artifacts.

For me, my goal is that my students leave the experience saying, "What a great God we serve in Jesus Christ." We need scholars to study the text and we need archaeologists to interpret findings through a biblical lens. In both areas, we have a lot to dig. •



## VOLUNTEER AT A DIG

Bar-Ilan University works with volunteers around the world on various digs throughout the year. If you have an interest in archaeology and would like to learn more about going on a dig, Dr. Kotter has offered to connect CCU alumni and friends with representatives from Bar-Ilan University. There are no age limits on these digs, they simply ask that people are available to participate for at least two weeks. Dr. Kotter can be reached at [dkotter@ccu.edu](mailto:dkotter@ccu.edu).

Photos courtesy of Dr. Kotter and CCU students.

# THE TOOLS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGIST



Bible



Pick Axe



Hoe



Bucket and Screen



Trowel



Brush and Pan



Dental Pick

# CCU IN LAKEWOOD

## - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS -

1967-2017



Rockmont College moves to Lakewood under the guiding hand of Dr. Beckman.



Colorado Christian College merges with Colorado Baptist University and is renamed Colorado Christian University.



The Lakewood City Council approves CCU's request for rezoning the Lakewood campus.

1967

1968

Huitt Barfoot founds Colorado Baptist Junior College.

1985

Western Bible College and Rockmont College merge to form Colorado Christian College.



1989

CCU joins the newly formed Colorado Athletic Conference (CAC) and the new gymnasium/fieldhouse is completed just in time for the fall season.

1990

2002

The College of Adult and Graduate Studies restructures its programs and opens campuses in Colorado Springs, Denver Tech Center, Grand Junction, Lakewood, Loveland, and Northglenn. Classes are also offered online for the first time.

2012



Yetter Hall, CCU's first new residential building, becomes home to 300 students at the start of the fall semester.



The Anschutz Student Center — with 60,000 square feet of dining, office, and common space — opens to students on August 24.



In September 2014, CCU celebrates its 100th anniversary.

2014

2015

2017

2013

2014

The CCU community dedicates the site for CCU's Lakewood campus redevelopment project on May 2, 2013.

At the start of the fall semester, CCU students attend class for the first time in Leprino Hall, CCU's new academic building.



***"...There's somebody who has a greater plan."***

"One hundred and three years ago, a mustard seed was planted; and that seed has taken many different turns. For many years, Colorado Christian University was looking outside the city of Lakewood for a home to grow and to expand. CCU looked all over, but for some reason, you kept coming back to the city of Lakewood.

We are thrilled that CCU calls Lakewood home. We have a great partnership, and we look forward to many, many years to come. Congratulations on all your hard work and all the time, energy, and focus you've put in to make the city of Lakewood a better place. I look forward to another 103 years as we continue to see the University grow."



**HONORABLE  
ADAM PAUL**  
*Mayor of Lakewood*

# BECOMING A GREAT UNIVERSITY

God's Blessing on CCU's Campus Redevelopment Campaign



Anschutz Student Center foyer

Since its onset in October of 2012, the Faith | Family | Freedom Campaign has assisted our continued vision of becoming a great university. Five years into this campaign, the University has expanded its Lakewood campus to 34 acres and completed construction on three new buildings including an academic building, a residence hall, and a new student center.

These first buildings were essential to support CCU's exceptional growth. Leprino Hall added over 540 in-class seats — doubling our previous classroom capacity. Yetter Hall features 53 apartment-style units — providing an additional 300 beds to serve our rapidly growing student body. The Anschutz Student Center provides space for dining and fellowship — a beautiful facility where God will change lives for His purposes, both now and in future generations.

By God's faithfulness, CCU is well positioned for a promising future. As we welcomed the largest student body in University history, we recognize that God has even bigger plans for the University — plans that require additional, world-class facilities.

Several construction projects are in the planning stages. These will provide immediate support in both academic and residential space to accommodate our continued enrollment growth.





## NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

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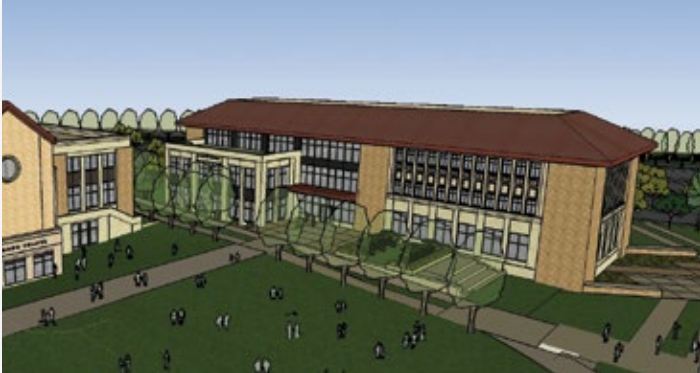
After seven consecutive years of record-breaking enrollment in our College of Undergraduate Studies, our most immediate need is a second new residential building to house students on campus. The Lakewood campus, which was originally designed to accommodate 600 students, is now home to more than 1,300 traditional undergraduates.



## THE ARMSTRONG CENTER

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To celebrate God's faithfulness and honor the life and legacy of our late president Bill Armstrong, CCU is planning the construction of the Armstrong Center. This beautiful new facility will stand as the anchor for CCU's integration of faith and learning, housing our University's first dedicated chapel, the School of Music, the University library, and space for media production and the performing arts.



## NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING

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CCU is planning the construction of a second academic building to provide for our continued student enrollment growth and increased science and technology needs. In CCU's Natural Sciences and Mathematics department alone, enrollment has tripled over the last five years, and the stage is set for continued growth with the launch of our new Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering this fall. This new academic building will expand opportunities for future generations in the fields of science, medicine, engineering, and technology to become world changers for Jesus Christ.



## ACADEMIC QUAD

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Next to Leprino Hall, the new academic quad will be the focal point of CCU's academic and community experience. With the addition of the Armstrong Center and a second new academic building, completion of the academic quad will add over 100,000 square feet of new educational space.

# SALUTING SERVICE MEMBERS

Stories from CCU Students Who Have Served in the U.S. Armed Forces



**Name:** *Lucas Sobczak '18*  
**Military Branch:** *Army ROTC*  
**Degree:** *B.A. Communication, College of Undergraduate Studies*

"I think education is crucial for everyone, not just military members. As officers in the military, we have to make quick decisions that could cause the loss of life, and having a higher level of education helps better equip us to effectively deal with these challenges. God has been ever-present throughout my journey. I thought my training was never going to end, but I prayed that God would change my attitude to become optimistic and trust that He would bring me through it."



**Name:** *Paule Boglo '19*  
**Military Branch:** *Army*  
**Degree:** *A.A. General Studies, College of Adult and Graduate Studies*

"I've seen God's faithfulness when He has provided me with the extra capacity to focus on school while everything else has been going on in my life. I've learned so much from a biblical perspective throughout my courses that I appreciate the time I've spent growing in my faith. Many military members will only be in the military for a short period relative to the rest of life, and having an education is important for continuing professionally."



**Name:** *Trevor Burden '17*  
**Military Branch:** *Air Force*  
**Degree:** *B.A. Psychology, College of Undergraduate Students*

"Education is important for everyone. I can only speak for myself in saying that having a background in education better prepares me in my ability to think critically. No matter what task I encounter I am confident I have the tools and the ability to access resources in order to get the job done. In John 4, we read about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. In this chapter, Jesus defies the cultural standards of His people by speaking with a Samaritan woman who had no husband. During that conversation, Jesus offers her the living water. Then Jesus tests the woman and, in doing so, gets right to the core of her sin. After this encounter with Jesus, the woman begins to believe in Him and spreads her story to people throughout the town. This story demonstrates God's power to redeem mankind. Jesus is always pursuing us, trying to get into the dark rooms of our hearts so that we will surrender our whole lives to Him. I know He's doing the same for me."



**Name:** *Danielle Roberts '19*  
**Military Branch:** *Retired Navy*  
**Degree:** *B.S. Business Administration, College of Adult and Graduate Studies*

"It is difficult to be in the military. Being on call 24/7 and being a student take a lot of energy. I have wanted to quit pursuing my degree so many times but when I pray and think about God's promises for my life, I get energy back. The Bible says in Proverbs 3:5-6 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, submit to Him and He will make your paths straight.' Faith keeps me going."



Join the Colorado Christian University Facebook page to stay connected with friends and keep updated on upcoming events.

**ALUMNI**

[www.facebook.com/myccualumni](http://www.facebook.com/myccualumni)

**PARENTS**

[www.facebook.com/groups/ccuparents](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ccuparents)

**— DEAR ALUMNI —**

It is wonderful to write you this beautiful fall season, especially in this issue of BEYOND, celebrating veterans and military personnel who are a part of the CCU community. On behalf of CCU, we are forever indebted with gratitude for your heroic service to our nation. From our limited perspective we humbly recognize the huge sacrifice you all have made. Thank you for “asking what you can do for your country and not what your country can do for you.”

We began the new academic year with record enrollment in both colleges and celebrated the dedication of our newest building, the Anschutz Student Center, on August 24, 2017. It was a historic moment in the University’s history and a pure delight to have so many of you join the festivities.

We celebrated Homecoming and Family Weekend in October with an incredible week of events. We recognized three awe-inspiring alumni; Charlie Curtis ‘09 (Gold Alumnus Award), State Senator Kevin Lundberg ‘74 (Pioneer Alumnus Award), and Edna Ogle ‘49 (CCU’s Lifetime Alumnus Award). We were thrilled with the attendance for the weekend this year and hope you join us next year! I am deeply grateful for everyone’s help and participation — you made Homecoming extraordinary.

Stay tuned for upcoming events. I hope you will come back to campus sometime soon or join us remotely for a live-streamed event. You can also consider joining the Alumni Council from anywhere in the world and attending meetings online. As an alumnus, you are always regarded as an integral member of the CCU family!

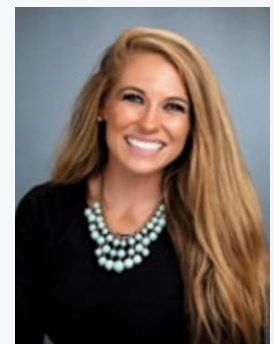
Please share your news with us at [ccu.edu/alumni/share](http://ccu.edu/alumni/share). It’s our pleasure to stay in touch and know what God is doing in your life. It is an exciting year at CCU for everyone — including you!

In Jesus’ passion,

**CHRYSANDRA BRUNSON ‘11**

*Alumni Council President*

*Graduate Assistant for Alumni and Parent Relations*



Colorado Christian University  
8787 W. Alameda Ave.  
Lakewood, CO 80226

# Stories Are Meant to Be Told.

If you're an alum of Colorado Christian University (or one of its legacy schools), we're guessing that you haven't been hiding under a rock since you graduated. You've landed jobs, published books, gotten married, had children, earned more degrees, and learned a lot about life along the way.

We would love to tell your stories. That's why we've created a web page where you can share your news and keep the CCU community informed. Your story is important, and it'll have an impact beyond what you know. After all, stories are meant to be told.



**VISIT [CCU.EDU/ALUMNI/SHARE](https://ccu.edu/alumni/share)  
TODAY AND TELL YOUR STORY!**

**VISIT US ONLINE**  
**[CCU.EDU](https://ccu.edu)**

Colorado Christian  
**UNIVERSITY**