

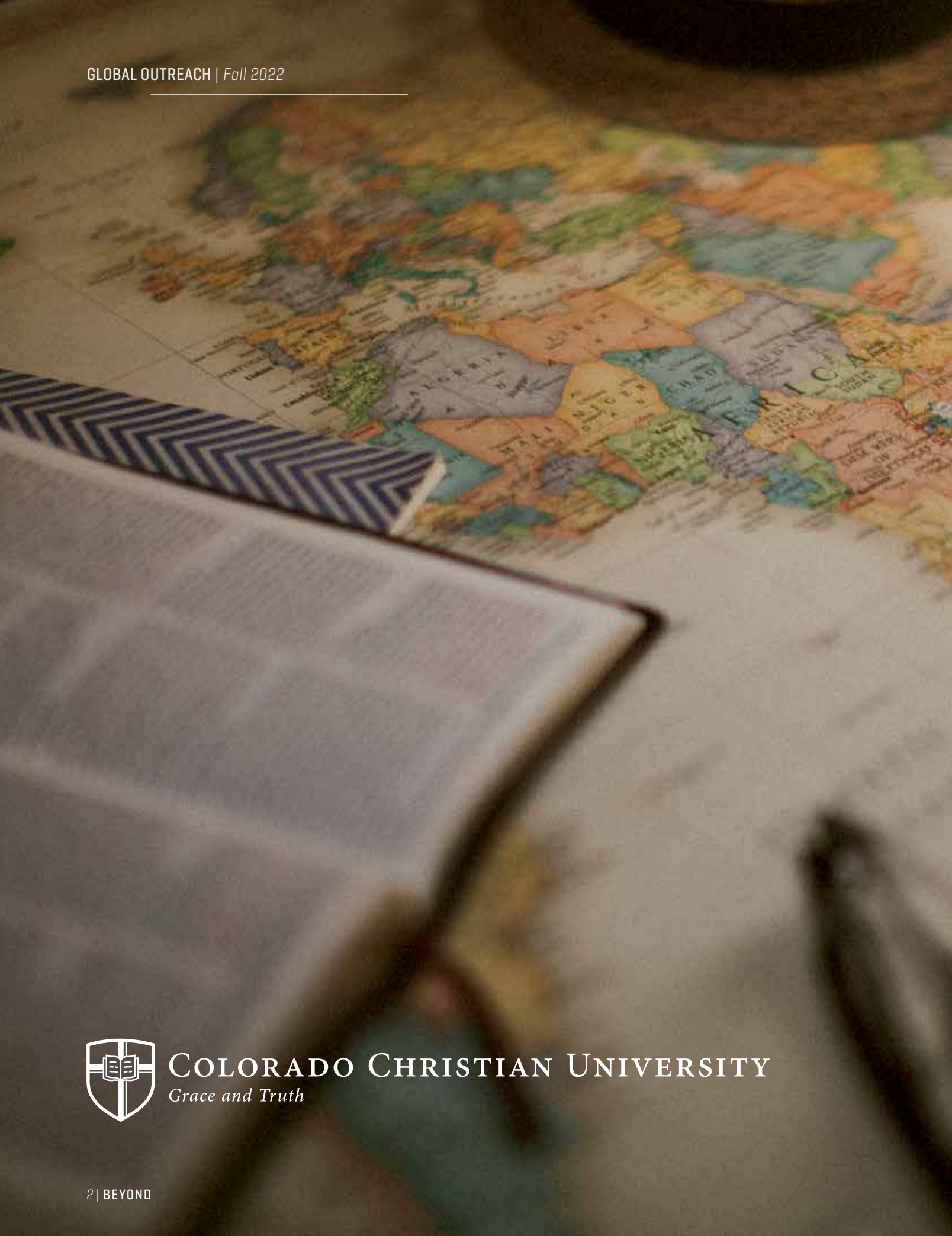
BEYOND

COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



GOING GLOBAL

CCU Impacting the Nations



COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
Grace and Truth

Dear friends,

The past couple of months have seen a whirlwind of change for both myself and Colorado Christian University. In July, the Board of Trustees officially appointed Dr. Donald W. Sweeting as the University's first chancellor. He follows in the footsteps of Dr. David Beckman who served in a similar role at one of the University's heritage institutions. It is a role that we feel Dr. Sweeting is uniquely suited for, as he is now tasked with elevating the University's mission of providing Christ-centered higher education that transforms students to impact the world with grace and truth. Dr. Sweeting's commitment to convictional truth and values continues to serve CCU well.



With Dr. Sweeting's new appointment, I was asked by my fellow Trustees to serve as interim president as we conduct a national search to find the new day-to-day leader of our University. While I would never seek out the role of president, I hope that my experiences as a graduate of the MBA program in the College of Adult and Graduate Studies, serving as an affiliate faculty member in the College of Undergraduate Studies, being a longtime Board of Trustees member, and now a parent of two CCU alumni and one current student, will provide me with the perspective necessary to lead the University through this moment of transition.

As a University, we have 13 strategic priorities that we have chosen to emphasize. The first priority, to honor Christ and share the love of Christ on campus and around the world, sets the foundation upon which all other priorities are built. I have chosen this first priority as my emphasis during my term as president. In this edition of *BEYOND* magazine, you will see firsthand many of the ways that our current students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the University are sharing Christ's love across campus and around the world. From helping refugees on the southern border to providing medical care in Africa, the CCU community's efforts to share the love of Christ are helping to build the kingdom of God here on earth.

Please join me in lifting these individuals and groups up in prayer as they continue on a daily basis to live out our first strategic priority of honoring Christ and sharing the love of Christ on campus and around the world.

With Grace and Truth,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim A. Mctavish". The signature is fluid and cursive.

TIM MCTAVISH
Interim President
Colorado Christian University

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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 for more than 100 years. We 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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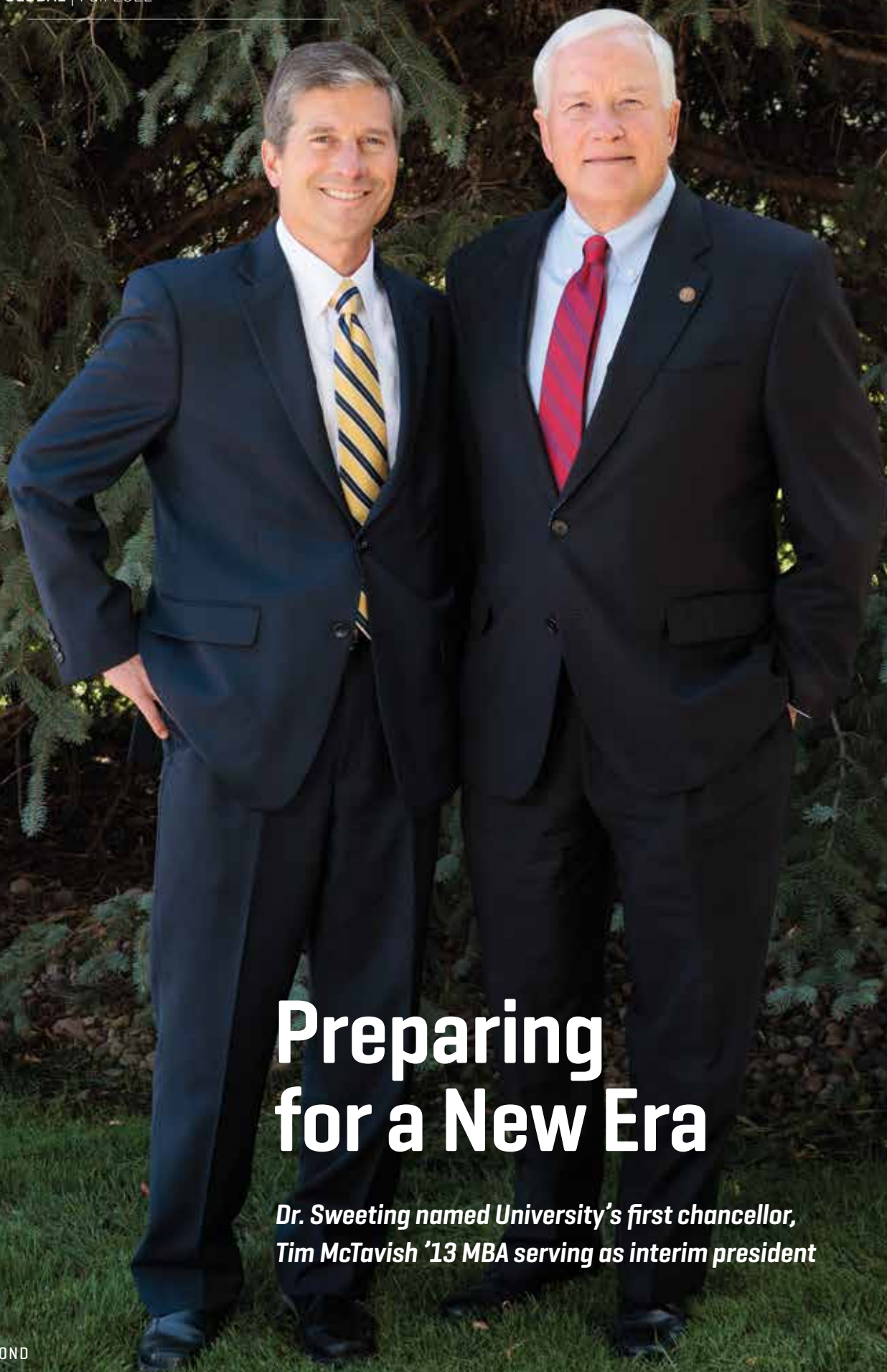
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Mission

**Christ-centered higher education transforming students
to impact the world with grace and truth.**

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

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Preparing for a New Era

*Dr. Sweeting named University's first chancellor,
Tim McTavish '13 MBA serving as interim president*

Ecclésiastes 3:1 reminds Christians that “for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven,” (ESV). For Colorado Christian University, a new season of leadership is dawning as Dr. Donald W. Sweeting, a longtime Board of Trustees member and the president of the University since 2016, has been appointed to the newly-established role of University chancellor. Sweeting follows the legacy of Dr. David Beckman who was named chancellor of one of CCU’s heritage institutions, Colorado Christian College, in 1985.

“CCU’s brand is resonating as never before, and I’m excited about this opportunity to invest more time communicating that,” Sweeting said. “There is a hunger for sane, substantive, convictional, Christ-centered higher education. This new role allows me to promote that while extending the impact of the University’s mission and values.”

Board of Trustees Chairman Tim McTavish, who earned his MBA at CCU in 2013, has stepped into the role of interim president during the national search process. McTavish has served on the Board of Trustees for more than 10 years and has also taught in the School of Business and Leadership in the College of Undergraduate Studies, where students named him affiliate faculty member of the year in 2018 and 2021. McTavish has been replaced as Board chair by fellow Trustee Wil Armstrong, a Denver-based entrepreneur. An executive search firm

has been contracted to assist the Board of Trustees with a national search for the next president.

“Dr. Sweeting has brought a strong commitment to theological integrity, biblical fidelity, and cultural engagement,” McTavish said. “We are thrilled to have him as chancellor, where he will have even greater opportunities to inspire students, parents, and faculty as he continues to champion the cause of Christian higher education during this crucial cultural moment.”

As president, Sweeting oversaw six years of record enrollment and continued academic growth. In his new role as chancellor, Sweeting is charged with amplifying the University’s educational mission, convictions, and strategic priorities inside and outside CCU, as well as assisting the new president.

Sweeting came to CCU from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida, where he served as president and professor of church history from 2010-2016. Sweeting is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and holds degrees from Moody Bible Institute, Lawrence University, Oxford University, and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

“Don Sweeting has understood what a thoroughly Christian university should look like,” Armstrong said. “He’s kept CCU from mission drift and dramatically raised its national profile. I’m excited he’ll continue to do so in his new role as chancellor.”

There is a hunger for sane, substantive, convictional, Christ-centered higher education. This new role allows me to promote that while extending the impact of the University's mission and values.

PREPARING TO LAUNCH

CCU'S DR. DAVID BOSWORTH TALKS MISSIONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY AND ASSISTING STUDENTS OF ALL CAREER FIELDS FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

Legendary missionary and martyr, Jim Elliot, once said, “Oh, the fullness, pleasure, sheer excitement of knowing God on earth!” If you have the opportunity to talk with Colorado Christian University’s School of Theology Associate Professor Dr. David Bosworth, you will discern he lives the quote and is just as passionate about sharing the joy of the Lord around the globe. From the new Bible translation degree program to internships designed for today’s missionary student, Bosworth visits with *BEYOND* about the new and exciting features found in the Global Studies and Intercultural Ministry programs at CCU, taking mission-minded students to the next level.

Bosworth first teamed with CCU in 2006, a time when there was no academic program in missions at the University. Then serving as director of student missions in campus ministries with CCU2theWorld, Bosworth was tasked with developing a minor, with the original vision of providing students curricular and co-curricular opportunities to both serve in missions and be trained *how* to serve in missions.


By 2011, Bosworth had developed the University’s minor in Intercultural Ministry, which later expanded into the Global Studies program as a track within the major. It’s been full-speed ahead expanding the program ever since.

“We were able to design the program from scratch that looked ahead to the 21st century realities that would face missionaries in the upcoming decades. We designed a program that would equip missionaries for service in the world that they’re moving into,” Bosworth said.

Not only did the design process take the needs of future missionaries into consideration, it took today’s professional challenges into view as well.



» GET INVOLVED ccu.edu/ccu2theworld



GOD HAS DESIGNED EACH PERSON UNIQUELY; AND THAT'S NOT BY ACCIDENT. IDENTIFY THE GIFTS, EXPERIENCES, AND PASSIONS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU, AND LEVERAGE THEM FOR THE SAKE OF MAKING HIM KNOWN IN ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD.

“We recognized a transition in today’s careers — people don’t go and find a business where they will spend the rest of their life working; they move around through approximately 12 different jobs/organizations in a lifetime,” Bosworth said. “Missions is affected by that trend as well. As our students graduate, they aren’t really looking to say, ‘I’d like to go spend the next three decades of my life in Brazil as a church planter.’”

Bosworth continued, “If students are still developmentally in that process of determining God’s calling, we’ve designed an academic program and a co-curricular program here at CCU that gives them the opportunity to confirm their calling. It gives them the opportunity to experiment, to be involved in experiential learning... and then to take the next step. Our goal when they finish here is that we make a good handoff.”

The program stresses that students establish a strong foundation before entering the mission field. This starts with developing a strong partnership with their local church, followed closely by a solid working relationship with a mission organization.

“We want students to have church community — a base of people who have already been coming around them, helping to prepare them, support them, engage with them,” said Bosworth. “We also want them to have a partnership with a mission organization who will provide training and logistical support, helping students work through some of the critical issues they’re going to need to think through to be effective in service.”

One of the new features to help students discern their call to missions while in college is a required internship for

all students in intercultural ministry. Upon graduation, in keeping with the trends of today’s young professionals, Bosworth explains that the goal is to then encourage students to make a two-year commitment coming out of college to test the waters, so to speak. Outside of the internships students can choose during college, CCU has developed a partnership with GoCorp to offer graduating students two-year opportunities with long-term mission organizations that are willing to invest in mentorship and provide heavy emphasis in language learning.

“What we’re trying to do is position students for service after graduation, and then after they’ve had a chance to try it out for two years, they’re well-versed to continue on in missions if that’s what God is calling them to do,” Bosworth said.

How did I get here? At times it feels strange that just a year and a half ago I was sitting in a classroom on the third floor of Leprino Hall, listening to Dr. Bosworth talking about working overseas.

I came to CCU desiring to leave with a degree in education and go teach overseas. The Intercultural Ministry minor fit nicely into my schedule around education classes, so I could do both. In the minor, we covered the history of overseas work, the basics, the theology behind the work, and paradigm shifts seen throughout the years. The final class was a practical look at missions and what one needed to do before, during, and after the field. In it, one assignment was to fill out an application and have a mock interview. The Father works in mysterious ways. What started as a mock interview led to more conversations and eventually a two-year assignment in this country. The classes I took helped prepare me for some of the struggles I have found and will find on the field such as culture shock, burnout and rest, team dynamics, and support-raising.

If I have learned anything from my time in university, from support-raising to teaching here, it's that when the Father opens doors, obedience looks like walking through them. If it is His will, He walks alongside you the whole way. Open doors for me were coming to CCU, taking the minor, having professors that encouraged my interests and desires to do work, and coming to Eastern Africa. And while the door remains open, I'll continue here: teaching, learning language and culture, making friends, using what I learned in university as well as what I have learned along the way, and speaking Truth whenever the opportunity arises."


-Sarah*

(graduate of the Intercultural Ministry program)

**Name and location withheld for security*



THEREFORE GO ...
*and make disciples
of many nations.*



WE WERE ABLE TO DESIGN THE PROGRAM FROM SCRATCH THAT LOOKED AHEAD TO THE 21ST CENTURY REALITIES THAT WOULD FACE MISSIONARIES IN THE UPCOMING DECADES ...

WE'RE PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE, BUT WE'RE PREPARING THEM TO ENGAGE NOW. AND THERE'S REAL IMPACT IN THOSE ENGAGEMENTS.

Bosworth's passion for the program and for the global impact his students make cannot be contained in conversation. However, his excitement for CCU's new BABEL degree (Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Exposition and Linguistics) that just launched this fall, designed to train people as Bible translators, takes his enthusiasm to new levels.

"This is incredibly exciting to me!" Bosworth beamed. "This is highly specialized, with an extremely unique aspect: We're partnering with Dallas International University, which is an accredited institution where the faculty are primarily with the Bible translator missionaries."

Bosworth continued, "There are three

areas of this degree: 1. Applied linguistics — how you learn a language and then translate a language — those courses are taught by Dallas International University faculty. And then here through CCU: 2. Bible exposition — studying books of the Bible as well as the biblical languages, Greek or Hebrew. And then also, 3. Missiology — how to cross cultures and prepare to be a missionary. All three of those are included in the degree.

"This is an incredibly exciting partnership where CCU is with only a handful of other schools around the country preparing undergraduates to move into Bible translation — putting the Word of God into people's hands in places where

there is no translation of Scripture. I'm inspired by these students.

"We're preparing students for the future, but we're preparing them to engage now. And there's real impact in those engagements."

When asked what advice he would give to CCU students looking into making a global impact in some way, Bosworth shared, "God has designed each person uniquely, and that's not by accident. Identify the gifts and experiences, passions that God has given you, and leverage them for the sake of making Him known in all corners of the world. That's really my heartbeat. I'm just trying to direct and focus pre-existing passions. I feel sorry for other people — I feel like I have the best job on campus!"



AND SURELY ...

I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

MATTHEW 28:20

PARADISE FOR POLYGLOTS – THE BABEL PERSPECTIVE

Jared Snodgrass '23 is an avid collector ... of words.

Currently in his second semester as a junior in the newly launched B.A. in Biblical Exegesis and Linguistics (BABEL) program, Colorado-native Snodgrass switched his degree from biblical studies to the BABEL program to combine his love for languages and language learning with his love of his favorite Word, the Bible.

“Dr. Kotter encouraged me to pursue doing translation work and working with Wycliffe and other mission agencies in the future because of my proficiency with learning Greek, and the BABEL program sounded like a perfect fit for my passion and giftings. I love the Bible; I love language — why not pursue both at one time and be able to use that in ministry and missions down the road.”

The BABEL degree program partners CCU courses with five core linguistics courses through Dallas International University, with all five offered as eight-week synchronous online courses over the summer or as typical semester-long, in-person or synchronous courses during fall and spring. Snodgrass completed two of the five requirements through DIU this past summer and came away with

glowing reviews.

“It was an amazing experience! The energy and enthusiasm of the professors at DIU were similar to those at CCU — they love their subject and they love their students, and they love bringing the two together.”

Highlights of Snodgrass's experiences included a phonology course, every class practicing new sounds and learning to recognize different sounds made in different languages. Another favorite event was a two-week period providing hands-on practice with another language, interacting with a native speaker. Snodgrass thoroughly enjoyed his time learning and interacting with a native Mandarin speaker, explaining, “It was like an in-the-field experience of what it's like to actually learn language in practice, not just as a classroom requirement.”

While the program is uniquely positioned to launch graduates into careers in Bible translation with organizations such as Wycliffe, Snodgrass encourages students

considering the BABEL program to think outside the box, understanding the degree can be used in countless forms of missions and ministry outside of Bible translation careers. Both Jared and his wife, Kaitlyn (an administrative assistant for the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences in the College of Adult and Graduate Studies), look forward to future plans in ministry in southeast Asia. Jared hopes to use his BABEL degree there in either biblical translation work or literacy work, helping teach ethnic groups how to develop a writing system or develop literacies equipping them to read Scripture, as well as to learn to translate the Bible, medical materials, or educational materials themselves.

“Everything I am learning in these classes will definitely be applied throughout the rest of my life,” said Snodgrass. “In any kind of missions work, overseas work in general, or cross-cultural work domestically, I'll definitely be using the information learned in this degree program. It's an amazing experience.”



CCU2THEWORLD

I remember the distinct moment my roommate ran into my room with a CCU2theWorld application in hand and exclaimed, “This is how you’re getting back to Niger!”

I had been longing for nearly four years at this point to go back to this place I called home. I had hoped it was true but was also skeptical of the idea that I was finally going to be able to go back. Doubtful but hopeful, I started to pray. On my knees, I asked the Lord to make a way but only if it was His will, not my own.

A week later, I saw the Lord start to open doors. Through an act of obedience to the Holy Spirit, I spoke with a woman working the front desk in the science department who connected me with freshmen at CCU who had just moved here from Niger. Through CCU2theWorld we began the process of planning a trip back to Niger.

As my co-lead and I started the process of leading this team, I really saw the Lord grow our leadership skills as we entered unexpected challenges. Month after month, we saw the Lord provide staff and co-leads, trip members, and all the logistics. The Lord provides! This trip was a very hard experience because of the humbling work that the Lord did in a lot of our hearts, yet it was such good growth that I believe has shaped us all to become more of the people He has made us to be. As painful as it’s been, I’d like to say that I wouldn’t change it because of the work that the Lord did there and is still doing.

Overall, the Lord used CCU2theWorld in my life to mold me more into the woman He is shaping me to be. He has remained faithful and used CCU2theWorld to take me back to the land my heart has been longing for. He has used CCU2theWorld to change my life in growing me in my leadership skills and showing me what it looks like to be a humble leader who is available where He needs me. He has used CCU2theWorld to shape more of my view into more of His will for my life in what I feel called to do. The Lord has used CCU2theWorld to change my life with opportunities I thought I may never have, and I am eternally grateful for this program and all the Lord is doing in and through it! Praise the Lord!

Christ be magnified!
God bless!

Paulina Bilotti '24
Proverbs 3:5-6





EDEN OUT OF AFRICA

BEYOND CATCHES UP WITH CCU NURSING STUDENT EDEN HIGGINSBOTTOM '23, BACK FROM HER SAMARITAN'S PURSE GLOBAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN KENYA



It was an incredible experience ... completely life-changing.

Last summer, while the rest of us were perhaps planning our first trips in the past few years (thank you, Covid), CCU senior Eden Higginbottom '23 was off on a trip of a lifetime. In the spring, Higginbottom was selected to serve in Kenya as one of only two nursing students in the Global Internship Program at Samaritan's Purse. Here, Higginbottom shares about her transformative time as a nurse on a mission.

The Global Internship Program at Samaritan's Purse invites undergraduate and graduate college students and recent college graduates to use their fields of study in bringing hope and healing to people around the globe. Higginbottom, a nursing student, was excited to serve in Kenya at the Chogoria Hospital, alongside other international students in the program.

"It was an incredible experience — completely life-changing," said Higginbottom. "The Lord worked in so many ways. Going into the program, we weren't exactly sure what we'd be doing,

but Samaritan's Purse prepared us very well for our time in Kenya."

The program extended through June and July, with Higginbottom's week divided between serving patients, assisting chaplains, and teaching all things academic to local children.

"Part of the week we were in the hospital with the other nurses, observing, assisting with procedures, performing basic patient care — we helped with IVs, administered medication, basic skills learned in nursing school," said Higginbottom.

On alternate days, Higginbottom was able to do bedside ministry with patients, shadowing the chaplains at the hospital.

"We would go to a ward and spend time with each individual patient, introduce ourselves, get to know them, spend time praying with them and encouraging them," said Higginbottom. "Honestly, the chaplains ended up encouraging us so much. Hearing the testimonies of the Christians who were in the hospital ... it was incredible. They just had such

a peace and deep joy that was truly beyond understanding."

Individual time spent with the patients and time with the chaplains were personal highlights of the trip for Higginbottom. One of her greatest take-aways from the experience was observing the way the chaplains encouraged patients, which made a life-changing impact on Higginbottom's own perspective on healthcare.

"It was incredible. The chaplains would say to patients, 'It is a miracle that you're here right now. Many patients don't even make it to the hospital. But the fact that you're here right now is evidence of God's love for you.' Hearing that and seeing the difference that healthcare made was such a blessing, and it was such a gift to be there in the hospital versus the negative connotation we often have. It helped me see that it was a gift, seeing the hope patients had when they were in there, even though going through some of the most difficult times of their life. It all completely changed my perspective and was really life-giving to see."

The ministry experiences from the program reached far beyond the hospital walls. On days when she was not assisting patients, Higginbottom could be found teaching students from preschool to seventh grade. “We taught everything — math, science, history, language arts, art class, and helped with P.E. in the afternoons,” said Higginbottom. “We also got to take the children on a couple of fieldtrips, including an animal orphanage (where the kids could ride on tortoises or have monkeys hop on shoulders.”

During her downtime, Higginbottom was able to join other program participants on weekend adventures of their own. She found time to hike in Mt. Kenya National Park, go on a safari, attend church, and simply explore local areas to soak in the African culture and connect with people.

“CCU prepared me so well, not only


in my nursing skills and the education I received, but also through the spiritual side of things, learning how to always put Christ first and focus on glorifying Him,” said Higginbottom. “And through that, I simply enjoyed being able to have conversations in Kenya and minister to the needs of others.”

However, her time spent with patients in the hospital provided the most life-changing experiences, according to Higginbottom.

“At CCU, we’re taught from the very beginning that, along with every other career path, nursing is ministry,” said Higginbottom. “So, whether a person is in the U.S. or around the globe, we all have an opportunity to make an impact for the kingdom of God. Learning how everything that we do as nurses is important and valuable — whether it’s just through a smile or bringing someone

a glass of water — you never know what kind of impact that’s going to have on their life or what kind of seeds you can plant.”

Considering plans of long-term medical missions for after graduation, Higginbottom is grateful for the opportunity and insights this internship provided. “In Kenya, we got to spend lots of time getting to know and ministering to the spiritual needs of patients. I feel like in the U.S., we’re very task-oriented and trying to get things done; we forget sometimes about the spiritual and emotional needs of patients. Seeing the importance of that and how that changed their care by being able to spend time with them ... that will continue to transfer into my care of patients here in the U.S., or wherever the Lord leads next!”



CCU PREPARED ME SO WELL, NOT ONLY IN MY NURSING SKILLS AND THE EDUCATION I RECEIVED BUT ALSO THROUGH THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF THINGS, LEARNING HOW TO ALWAYS PUT CHRIST FIRST AND FOCUS ON GLORIFYING HIM.



SHARING THE LIFE OF THE PARTY

The Lautenbach Legacy

Each year, Colorado Christian University gives a special shout out to alumni who are living out the mission of the University through excellence in their career or vocational field — in society, in the marketplace, as a professional, or in some extraordinary leadership role. Meet Fred '82 and Lorie Lautenbach — CCU's Distinguished Alumni of the Year — whose passion for missions is all about making connections with people across the globe and supporting and serving pastors, churches, and missionaries in countless countries.


Fred and Lorie Lautenbach love a good party — at least that is what they will tell you has fueled their many years in missions all over the world. As Fred explained, “We simply love people. What God has impressed on me is that there are believers all over this world who believe in the same God as I do, who may worship differently than I do, but they have their faith in Jesus — and I know that some day when I’m called home, we will all be together in glory. Those same people might not look like us, sing like us, or dance like us — but they worship Jesus, and they are the family of God. We know we will be with them in heaven. Why not start the party now (so to speak)?”

For decades, this inviting and enthusiastic couple have been invested in leading and providing others with opportunities for serving, whether in the local community or globally. Locally, Fred owns an independent insurance agency in Littleton, where he has loved ministering to the needs of clients, and credits his phenomenal staff for allowing him and his wife the ability to be dedicated to their passion for missions. “We believe the resources we’ve been blessed with through ownership of a small business have launched us to be able to be deliberate in our giving, in our serving,” said Fred.



**I BELIEVE THAT
WE'RE CALLED TO
BE ON MISSION
WHEREVER WE
ARE, EVEN IN OUR
OWN HOME, AT
THE STORE, IN
OUR COMMUNITY,
OR JOBS. OUR
DESIRE IS TO LIVE
FOR CHRIST IN
EVERYTHING WE DO.**





IT'S NOT ABOUT US, IT'S ABOUT SERVING AND BRINGING GLORY TO GOD. AND I THINK THAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, WE HAVE TO DIRECT PEOPLE BACK TO THE LORD.

In their church, Foundry Church in Castle Pines North, Fred and Lorie have modeled servant leadership for over 20 years, with Lorie leading a women's discipleship group and Fred leading a men's group, along with serving as the mission council chair. Leading teams of volunteers all over the world together, the Lautenbachs have helped build churches and schools, provided food and water filters, brought Bibles to underground churches, trained youth to lead VBS at home and abroad, and continue to look for opportunities to come alongside pastors and their families all over the world.

Fred has served on several mission organization boards, providing connections and countless opportunities for global impact. Together the couple has led mission teams on trips to Cuba, Eastern Europe, and numerous Central American countries — all with the purpose of connecting with people. While Fred focuses more on providing support and leadership training to pastors, Lorie comes

alongside the women in ministry, making connections through encouragement. "It's amazing when you connect with people, how God opens hearts and minds," the couple attest.

The connection for this world-traveling couple first began at Colorado Christian University's heritage school, Rockmont College. Both Colorado natives, Fred was a junior and Lorie a freshmen when their love story began.

"We really believe that Rockmont was a platform for our faith to grow together around sharing the gospel and putting Christ first in all that we do," said Fred.

Fred and Lorie were married right after Lorie's first year at the college. The couple laugh about the fact that although their mission work is definitely a team effort, they have been opposites from the beginning regarding their adventurous spirits. Lorie is the first to admit she is a homebody by nature. "For as much as we have traveled the world, I've always been

satisfied doing things on the homefront — Fred has always been the one to continually say, 'Let's go! Let's go!'" laughed Lorie. "And then I always go ... and it's always wonderful. And the moment we get back, Fred is saying, 'Guess where we can go now?!'"

Meeting up with the Lautenbachs on CCU's campus the night of receiving their Distinguished Alumni Award, their relational expertise became immediately evident. With matching smiles that instantly disarm you, anyone within reach of a hearty handshake or an encouraging hug was fair game. It was a privilege to see the couple at work in their old stomping grounds, reconnecting with old friends passing by or pausing to chat with students about their majors, offering encouragement, and sharing their own experiences at the University. It was easy to picture the couple sharing similar encouragement and restorative joy around the world.



*Sing to the Lord, all the earth;
proclaim his salvation day after day.*

I CHRONICLES 16:23

This rich legacy of relational serving began with Fred's own parents. "My parents started when I was little, taking us on what we called 'vacations with purpose.' And that was instilled in me as a young boy that we need to vacation, but we also need to serve, especially when we go out of our comfort zone or country. I think my folks really planted that seed in my life and taught me to be purposeful in our trips," said Fred.

The Lautenbachs' vacations with purpose continued into their own family of two daughters (one a CCU grad, both now married), carrying on the legacy of creating opportunities to serve others. "Missions is really our passion. We get blessed so much more when we're serving than I think we ever can give to others. It's truly reciprocal; it's amazing what missions does in an individual's life," said Fred.

One of Lorie's most impactful trips was around 2015, when they took their then-high school-aged daughter, Jesse, on a missionary visa into Cuba to serve with Mission's Door, visiting churches, while encouraging and providing leadership training.

"Cuba resonated with me; it was just all about the people," said Lorie. "All the places we have served are wonderful, and it's about the people, always; but the openness in Cuba was special as far as welcoming us into their homes and around their tables, while they had nothing. Sharing their food — what they had was ours — they were so sweet. They packed themselves into a little car just to come and send us off, or pick us up — pregnant ladies and everything! They just wanted to be available and welcome us, and I thought that was so impactful. Just knowing that they loved Jesus and we loved Jesus was our common bond."

Over the years, the Lord has expanded the Lautenbachs' opportunities to share God's love. Through their church, Fred and Lorie work together to plan and organize at least two missions trips a year — one with

adults and a separate trip with youth — which they also lead and join in serving.

"It's not about us, it's about serving and bringing glory to God. And I think that is the most important thing; we have to direct people back to the Lord. And all this work is providing opportunities, and that is what's so crucial. What Lorie and I love about the involvement in missions is being able to provide opportunities for people," said Fred.

This year, the Lautenbachs have worked with their church in partnering with New Hope Eurasia, an organization based in Moldova, serving numerous Eastern European countries — one of those being Ukraine. "For the past three or four years, we've had the pleasure of doing John Maxwell leadership training in Ukraine for pastors, going about every six months. So, this past winter when Ukraine got invaded, our hearts were really tied with the Ukrainian people," said Fred. An overflow of people in the church wanting to go and help was all Fred needed to orchestrate another trip.

"In May, in a matter of two weeks, I was able to put together a trip where we went to Moldova through Romania, helping process some 200-500 refugees coming out of Ukraine, getting them connected with services, food, and clothing before being assigned to wherever they were going. We took a team of 10 who came alongside mothers and children whose fathers had been left to fight. It was a powerful time of loving and caring for people in crisis and in need. It wasn't a mission trip where you went and built a building; it was a mission trip where you were there for the people. Period," said Fred.

Right after returning from Moldova, it was off to the Dominican Republic with the youth of Foundry Church. "In 2004, we helped build a church in the Dominican Republic and have been taking teams of people from our church over there to serve for years, including building a school; this was my eighth trip in June. This last trip,

we took a group of 22 youth. They served by doing a VBS for the kids in the area, and then they also retiled the floors of the whole school. That was our June," said Fred.

As summer continued on, so did the Lautenbachs' mission trips. In July, in partnership with Arise Rwanda, it was off to Central Africa for CCU's distinguished duo. "There were 13 of us from our church that went to Rwanda for 10 days, serving in a bush community called Boneza. There, we provided clean water with 465 water filters purchased by our congregation — we put them together and handed them out to the people there. We also had some nurses that went with us who did a nursing clinic, serving 500 people in two days, and we provided some pastoral leadership training for the pastors in Rwanda," said Fred.

Their return from Africa left Fred and Lorie only looking forward to more, as the Lautenbachs' own passion for missions is tied only by their passion for providing opportunities for others to join in the fun. Next year's adventures in mission work are already in motion, as the couple is now busy coordinating return trips to Rwanda and Ukraine, as well as a youth service opportunity to Mexico.

"We're all on mission for God. I know God has given us a different platform than some people have, and even talking about this, I'm humbled and grateful that God has given us this opportunity to do what we're doing. It's not about us — it's about furthering the kingdom and being used as tools to bring God glory," said Fred. CCU is honored to recognize Fred and Lorie Lautenbach as this year's Distinguished Alumni for their many years of service to CCU, their local community, and the Church at large. They hope that their story might inspire someone to go on a mission trip and join the party.



WE'RE ALL ON A MISSION FROM GOD. I KNOW GOD HAS GIVEN US A DIFFERENT PLATFORM THAN SOME PEOPLE ... I'M HUMBLED AND GRATEFUL THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT WE'RE DOING.

SCHOOL AWAY FROM SCHOOL: CCU's MIRs

Meet the Bryans! CCU's MIRs talk to Anika Hamann '23 about a year in the life on campus with a family of five and their work mentoring missionary kids in Germany.

by Anika Hamann '23

What happens when a missionary kid from Austria with American parents and a missionary kid from America with Austrian parents cross paths? They fall in love, get married, and are inevitably used by God on the mission field. In short, that is the story of CCU's 2022 Missionaries-in-Residence (MIR), Chris and Chrissy Bryan. Along with their three children, Jonathan (14), Joshua (12), and Sarah (8), the Bryans have been sent by WorldVenture, a missions organization. They are making a global impact by mentoring and teaching kids whose families are sent out to spread the gospel across the globe.

When Chris and Chrissy were young children, Chrissy's family was on the support team that sent Chris' family to Austria. Though Chrissy wanted nothing to do with Chris as a child, they

reconnected years later, and she saw him quite differently when they fell in love and eventually got married. Early in their marriage, the Bryans lived in Douglas County, Colorado, but had been offered a few missions opportunities in Kandern, Germany. The Bryans followed this calling from the Lord, and as Chris thinks back on how God has used them over the years he says, "It's funny how God directs your life, and you never know where you're going to end up, but you see all the pieces come together at the end."

Only six months after the Bryans started raising support, they were able to make the move to Germany in 2005. They both filled teaching positions at Black Forest Academy (BFA), an international Christian boarding school for missionary kids, where they have been serving ever since. Chris began by teaching

graphic design and yearbook while Chrissy taught math; however, they have also gotten involved in other areas of the community since then. They are members of the Kindergarten Parent Board, provide help for their neighbors and community, but their biggest passion is for mentoring BFA students.

The Bryans are dedicated to influencing students who have a desire to make their own global impact for Christ. They mentor students through serving God with no fear by using their personal vocations on the mission field. This passion is not limited to BFA students, which some CCU students have experienced from the Bryans' role as the MIRs this year.

Due to regulations in Germany, the Bryans are required to come back to the U.S. every five years. Since their home base is in Colorado, the opportunity to



WHATEVER YOU LOVE TO DO, DO IT ON THE MISSION FIELD; IF IT DOES NOT EXIST THERE ALREADY, YOU CAN ALWAYS CREATE IT!

be the MIR was a perfect fit for their family. The Bryan children attend a local private school and have each enjoyed getting involved on campus; the boys have joined the Lego Club, and Sarah loves hanging out with the cheerleaders.

The Bryans claim that being the MIRs is “the best job ever” as they get to continue doing everything they love, even when they are in the States. Connected with campus ministries, their role at CCU includes promoting missions on campus, speaking in classes, mentoring students connected with or interested in missions or other countries, and several other supportive roles. Essentially, they are able to bless the CCU community by doing what they excel at after years of mentoring through BFA.

By looking at the heart of the Bryans, it is easy to see that they have the same heart for CCU students that they have for BFA students. Ultimately, their goal is to encourage students toward

the Great Commission — to go out and make disciples of all nations. They firmly believe that “there is no job that you cannot do for Christ.” If the Bryans could give advice to every CCU student, it would be this: Do what you love but on the mission field, and if it does not already exist, then you can create it.

Having friends in every time zone around the world, the Bryan family has a very expansive community. However, they desire to keep building a team of people who will partner and develop alongside them to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. The Bryans would love to continue to build relationships with CCU students. It is their challenge to you to find a job that you cannot do for Christ. If you think you have found one, feel free to approach them on campus and see if they can prove you wrong.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Email bfabryans@gmail.com
Website bfacademy.com



CONNECT WITH THE BRYANS!

Get updates through our Facebook group, personal emails, and newsletter.



PARTNER WITH THE BRYANS!

Help keep the cost of education low for missionary families.







ENTERTAINING ANGELS

HOW ONE CCU FAMILY LEFT EVERYTHING
BEHIND TO CARE FOR MIGRANT FAMILIES

**DO NOT FORGET TO SHOW
HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS,
FOR BY SO DOING SOME
PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN
HOSPITALITY TO ANGELS
WITHOUT KNOWING IT.**

—HEBREWS 13:2

What's bigger in Texas than the boots, the belts, the toast? The hearts of people going all in to help with a major humanitarian crisis along the southern border of Texas. Which is exactly why CCU alum and staff member, Kevin McNamara '11, MOL '16 and his wife, CCU alum Kaitlin (Carr) McNamara '11 stopped, dropped, and moved across the country — entertaining angels, if you will — in appropriately named Mission, Texas.

What began as a shared heart for missions led to the couple dating during their senior year of high school in Washington state, introduced by a friend who knew both wanted to become missionaries. And in 2008, it was off to Colorado Christian University, where Kaitlin completed her Elementary Education degree on campus, and Kevin finished his degree through the College of Adult and Graduate Studies in Information Systems Management while working in various IT roles for the University (later earning his Master of Organizational Leadership).









WE HAVE SUCH PEACE ABOUT BEING HERE, EVEN THOUGH IT'S HARD. I HATE THE HEAT, I HATE THE HUMIDITY, I LOVE THE MOUNTAINS, I MISS COLORADO LIKE CRAZY, BUT ... OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE IS NOT FOR OUR OWN COMFORT. OUR PURPOSE IS TO GLORIFY GOD. GOD'S CALLED US TO HELP OTHERS ... AND WE'RE DOING IT.

MY COMMAND IS THIS:

Love one another as I have loved you.

JOHN 15:12

DURING THEIR TIME ON CAMPUS, GOD BEGAN STIRRING A SPECIFIC PASSION FOR COMING ALONGSIDE PEOPLE IN TRANSITIONAL CRISIS WITHIN BOTH KEVIN AND KAITLIN'S HEARTS.

Volunteering with CCU's on-campus refugee ministry, the couple worked as part of a team welcoming and meeting the physical and spiritual needs of refugees from Nepal. This experience, connecting with fellow humans transitioning out of horrific circumstances, only solidified to the now-married McNamaras that the mission field was calling their names. And then ... life. Fast forward through

the whirlwind of marriage, careers, and raising a family — a girl (almost six years old) and a boy (now four years old). Kaitlin taught second grade for several years before having children, and Kevin is currently in his 13th year at CCU where he now serves as assistant vice president of Digital Strategy and Analytics.

“As we moved through life, going to the mission field seemed like an impossible fantasy,” Kevin said. But that call on their hearts never went away.

However, one Sunday at church, a single question served as a call to action. “The pastor asked: ‘If Jesus came back today, would you be content with what you’ve

done with everything He gave you?’” Kevin recalled. “In a discussion later that night, Kaitlin said, ‘No, I wouldn’t be satisfied.’ I agreed, and then the question switched to, ‘Why are we not doing something? What is stopping us?’”

Kaitlin expanded, “That night it was just so clear. God puts certain passions into our hearts and He gives each of us gifts, and I knew that I was not using the passion and gifts He had given me to the full extent. I knew there was more; we both knew He had something more for us as a family.”

With inspirational stories of people in Poland and surrounding countries aiding Ukrainian refugees filtering into



the news at the time, the McNamaras reconnected with the compassion God had placed on their hearts for refugees.

FUELED BY A SENSE OF URGENCY TO GO AND DO, GOD OPENED THE COUPLE'S EYES TO THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS HAPPENING RIGHT HERE IN THE UNITED STATES: THE URGENT HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF TEXAS AND WITHIN THE MIGRANT CAMPS IN NEARBY MEXICAN CITIES.

Researching different ministries and places where they could make the biggest impact with their combined passion and skills, all signs pointed the McNamaras to the border town of

Mission, Texas.

Within three months, their house was packed, and in July, the McNamaras purchased a home with a warehouse on the property near McAllen, Texas, and have wasted no time making connections with local ministries. The McNamaras partnered with 13:2, a non-profit organization dedicated to ministering to the needs of the high volume of migrants coming across the border, as well as within the migrant camps of Reynosa, the nearby Mexican city.

“Our hope in working with 13:2 is to serve as a middleman, uniting the efforts along the border. Our warehouse can be used by other local on-profits and

ministries on the border that receive large shipments and donations of goods — lots of water, blankets, clothes, all the basic needs,” said Kevin. “We distribute to the different organizations what they need, and we also go across to the camps ourselves, bringing carloads of supplies when we go.”

“You can’t simply bring in a truckload of supplies because of import laws and other red tape. But you can fill your trunk with bottled water and bring that to the camps. Last time I went to the camps, I walked across the border with whatever supplies I could fit in my backpack,” said Kaitlin.

Both Kevin and Kaitlin alternate turns



for safety reasons visiting the different migrant camps across the border in Reynosa, specifically two camps run by Pastor Hector: Senda de Vida 1 and 2. Pastor Hector created these camps which house between 1,000-2,000 migrants, providing protection from local cartel activity and access to food, showers, and occasional medical clinics. A large concrete wall surrounds each camp, overflowing with makeshift shelters made from blankets and tarps.

“While there are other smaller places for migrants to wait to be permitted to cross the border that are not enclosed, everyone wants to get into Senda for protection,” said Kaitlin. “It’s simply not safe on the streets. Senda takes mostly

families, mothers, and children. Due to capacity, there are still hundreds and thousands of people left to fend for themselves on the streets or to make their own camps.”

The migrants in the camps are from many ethnic backgrounds, with the majority from Haiti, and the rest from Nicaragua, Venezuela, Guatemala, Ecuador, Cuba, and a few from Mexico. However, the one thing they have in common is their desire to escape horrific circumstances. Each of the families are desperate to leave behind local corruption, extreme crime, poverty, gangs, and multiple forms of persecution in their homelands.

“The life they were coming from ... they found they had no hope. And so, they come here,” said Kevin. The families come to the border camps hoping to find reprieve from the crime on the streets as they wait.

“I recently visited a Haitian camp — a group of Haitians who had traveled together — that was not enclosed,” said Kaitlin.

“When we walked by, you see all these makeshift shelters, people bathing in the Rio Grande River, and homemade camps of people hoping to get inside Senda for protection. It was devastating — the living conditions.”

Recalling his own experience in the

AND DO NOT FORGET ...

*to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

HEBREWS 13:16

migrant camp of Senda de Vida 2, Kevin shared:

“IT WAS HEARTBREAKING TO SEE. THESE ARE FAMILIES. THESE ARE CHILDREN. THEY’RE ALL PACKED IN THERE, LIVING IN BACK-TO-BACK ‘TENTS,’ ENDURING AN INTENSE HEAT YOU CAN’T IMAGINE.

They’ve been waiting two to three months at the camp (after even more months of traveling), each day hoping their names will be called for when they are permitted to cross over to the U.S. And all of them have horrific stories of getting to the camp. Yet, all of this is preferable to the life they had previously, less traumatic than what

they were living before,” said Kevin.

“When you are actually down here, and you see so many children — who are the same age as my own children — in this camp, and they’re sick ... that’s a child of God,” said Kevin. “I see the face of my own child when I look into each child’s eyes there. That’s not ‘an illegal.’ That’s a person.”

Kevin explained, “Certainly, we’re not helping anyone illegally cross the border. But we are going to give out food, share about Jesus, and give people water — all those things.


“I don’t have a solution to the immigrant crisis, or what the laws should be, but when I look at the example of Jesus, he

hung out with sinners, he loved people, he met their needs, and that’s what we’re here to do.”

“It’s frustrating for me how it’s turned into a political thing; that’s been really hard for me,” said Kaitlin. “They’re human beings, and God calls us to help people who are in need, to help the poor — regardless of their circumstances. He doesn’t say, ‘Help them if ...’ He just says, ‘Help them.’”

And that’s exactly what the McNamaras are doing alongside other like-minded and like-hearted individuals and organizations.

“Ministry-wise, there are so many people down here working so hard, and you can just see God putting the pieces together.



I DON'T HAVE A SOLUTION TO THE IMMIGRANT CRISIS, OR WHAT THE LAWS SHOULD BE, BUT WHEN I LOOK AT THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS, HE HUNG OUT WITH SINNERS, HE LOVED PEOPLE, HE MET THEIR NEEDS, AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO DO.

There are multiple camps where people are serving in Reynosa, Mexico, and there is even a school for migrant kids — The Sidewalk School, taught by hired residents of Reynosa,” said Kevin.

WHAT DO THE MCNAMARAS LOOK FORWARD TO DOING NEXT? INVITING PEOPLE TO COME AND LOOK FOR WAYS THEY CAN USE THEIR OWN GIFTINGS TO HELP ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER.

“We just would like people to be aware that we have this humanitarian crisis on our doorstep, and these are desperate, hurting people. And Jesus told us what to do about that.

“We would love for people to join us in prayer, or consider giving financially. 13:2 will be doing a major fundraiser soon; we need a truck with a liftgate to move the pallets to the warehouse.

“We’re also hoping to host some short-term mission trips down

here eventually,” the couple shared. They also hope to inspire people to discover their own unique callings and pursue them.

“MAYBE WORKING ON THE BORDER, HELPING WITH A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS ISN'T YOUR CALLING. FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE, IT'S NOT. BUT MY ENCOURAGEMENT IS TO SIT WITH THE LORD AND REFLECT ON THE GIFTS AND PASSIONS HE'S GIVEN YOU. WHAT DOES HE WANT YOU TO DO?” SAID KAITLIN.

And as is evident by their passion for compassion to others, taking a leap of faith to follow God's call is its own reward.

Kaitlin continued, “I’m very type A, perfectionist-planner, and this is the most un-type-A thing I’ve ever done in my life ... but it is the thing that makes the most sense that I’ve ever done in my life. In one sense, it’s so not me, but in the other sense, it’s the core of who I am. Who God made me to be is to be doing what we’re doing right now.”



CONNECT

There are lots of great organizations doing really great work people can donate to, and these are just a handful of recommendations from the McNamaras if you would like to learn more:

KALEO INTERNATIONAL

kaleointernational.org/en/reynosa

SENDA DE VIDA

ministeriosendadevida.com

SIDEWALK SCHOOL

sidewalkschool.org

THIRTEEN-TWO

thirteentwo.net



FOLLOW US

Follow along on the McNamara's adventures by signing up for their family newsletter: PetraSophos.com

LEADING THE WAY

Q&A WITH CCU2THEWORLD

CCU2THEWORLD is a campus ministry providing mission opportunities at home and abroad for students, led by students, designed by students. Established nearly three decades ago by a CCU student, alumnus Matt Coleman, the program was developed to provide real-life learning opportunities for students to experience what God is doing around the world. CCU2theWorld's current director* explains all, taking us through the process of creating student-led mission trips, global impact from these trips, and how lives are changed on the mission field and beyond.

Q IN TAKING ON YOUR ROLE AS DIRECTOR OF CCU2THEWORLD, WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL VISION FOR THE ORGANIZATION?

My vision for CCU2theWorld is to provide opportunities for CCU students to participate in God's reconciling work around the world. I take that vision from 2 Cor. 5:17-20, which says in one breath that we are 1) new creations in Christ and 2) that God has given every New Creation a ministry of reconciliation. Reconciliation can take many forms. It might look like street evangelism, providing food for the homeless and praying with them, translating the Bible into a local language, cleaning up a beach or alley, visiting elderly people and playing games with them, building a new bathroom, assisting in a medical clinic, hiking into remote areas and bringing needed Bible resources, and many other forms.

Q CCU2THEWORLD IS DESCRIBED AS PROVIDING A SPACE FOR STUDENTS TO CREATE AND DESIGN THEIR OWN MISSION TRIPS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WORKING WITH FACULTY AND STAFF TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS WITH EXISTING "HOST MINISTRIES," AND THEN CO-LEADING THE TRIPS. WHAT DOES THE PROCESS ENTAIL?

The process looks like this:

1. In early September, students propose their trip to me (the director) for review, and once approved, planning begins for trips to go out during spring break and in the summer.
2. The first week in October is Missions Week, and the first Chapel that week is called "Launch," where the approved trips are 'revealed,' and the entire student body can begin signing up to participate. At some point along the way in recruiting, the student leaders also select a staff or faculty member to participate. The trips are always a team effort. The smallest team we've had was three people; the largest (last year) was 27. The average team size is between eight and 12.
3. Teams are finalized in early November and begin fundraising and preparing for their trip. The planning of a trip largely depends on the host ministry's requests.

**Due to the sensitive nature of missions, name withheld for security purposes*

ALL THIS IS FROM GOD

who gave us the
ministry of reconciliation.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-20



The trips all have two (and sometimes three) co-leaders who connect with a host in the location they are going to, in order to plan the trip. We emphasize the importance of meeting the host's needs and criteria, rather than the students giving their list of 'demands' for what the trip looks like. So, the timing, the trip size, and the activities that the team will do are all dependent on the requests of the host.

4. In the spring semester, teams meet weekly; we host several training events; and students continue to raise funds.
5. In March, the spring break trips are sent out, followed by trips throughout the summer.

Q WHAT ARE SOME OF THE UNIQUE WAYS THAT STUDENTS HAVE MINISTERED OR USED THEIR FIELDS OF STUDY ON SOME OF THESE TRIPS?

Almost immediately after starting my role as director of CCU2theWorld last year, students asked to lead a trip using their nursing skills. So, we had a trip that went to the Texas-Mexico border, helping with a clinic for the large migrant population. Another trip to Guatemala played a dual role: assisting with a work project replacing a roof

for a disabled man and also working in the ministry's clinic. Many of the trips have been relationally focused, praying with local brothers and sisters, visiting their homes or villages, participating in worship services and other events. We even had a team composed entirely of athletes who held a sports camp for children in Costa Rica.

Q WHAT ARE SOME OF THE OBSTACLES OR CHALLENGES STUDENTS HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN PREPARING THESE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES? WHAT TYPE OF GROWTH/LEARNING CAME FROM THE CHALLENGES?

Last year, Covid was still a very real and present question. *Will my country be open when it comes time to board our flight? Do we need PCR tests before we go? Do we need Covid vaccines in order to enter the country* (which proved to be a moving target!)? Other obstacles were things like the steep learning curve of planning international travel, learning to communicate cross-culturally, dealing with the realities of life in other parts of the world, including extreme poverty and other social problems that often come with poverty.

Q DO YOU SEE STUDENTS GROW OR CHANGE AS A RESULT OF THESE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES?

Yes, and sometimes in surprising ways. Some students join or lead a trip with no cross-cultural experience at all. Stories of growth in those cases might be expected, such as seeing the world in a new way, discovering their own potential for service in the name of Christ, and so on. In 2022, we had a spring break trip go to Belize, and two students from that trip absolutely fell in love with the people there. So, they organized their own trip back to Belize in the summer. And those same students have taken up leadership of that trip again and will return over spring break in 2023. Other students who already have substantial cross-cultural experience have reported growth as well, in ways that even surprised themselves. One student leader mentioned a substantial spiritual battle with doubts and learned to be vulnerable in that weakness, leaning on teammates to find great support and personal growth through that challenge.

Q HOW CAN STUDENTS GET INVOLVED?

Right now, we have 31 proposed trips for 2023, with spots for nearly 330 students and staff. Students can apply to join trips through the QR code available on Connect and CCU2theWorld's Instagram page @ccu2theworld.

AROUND THE WORLD VIEW

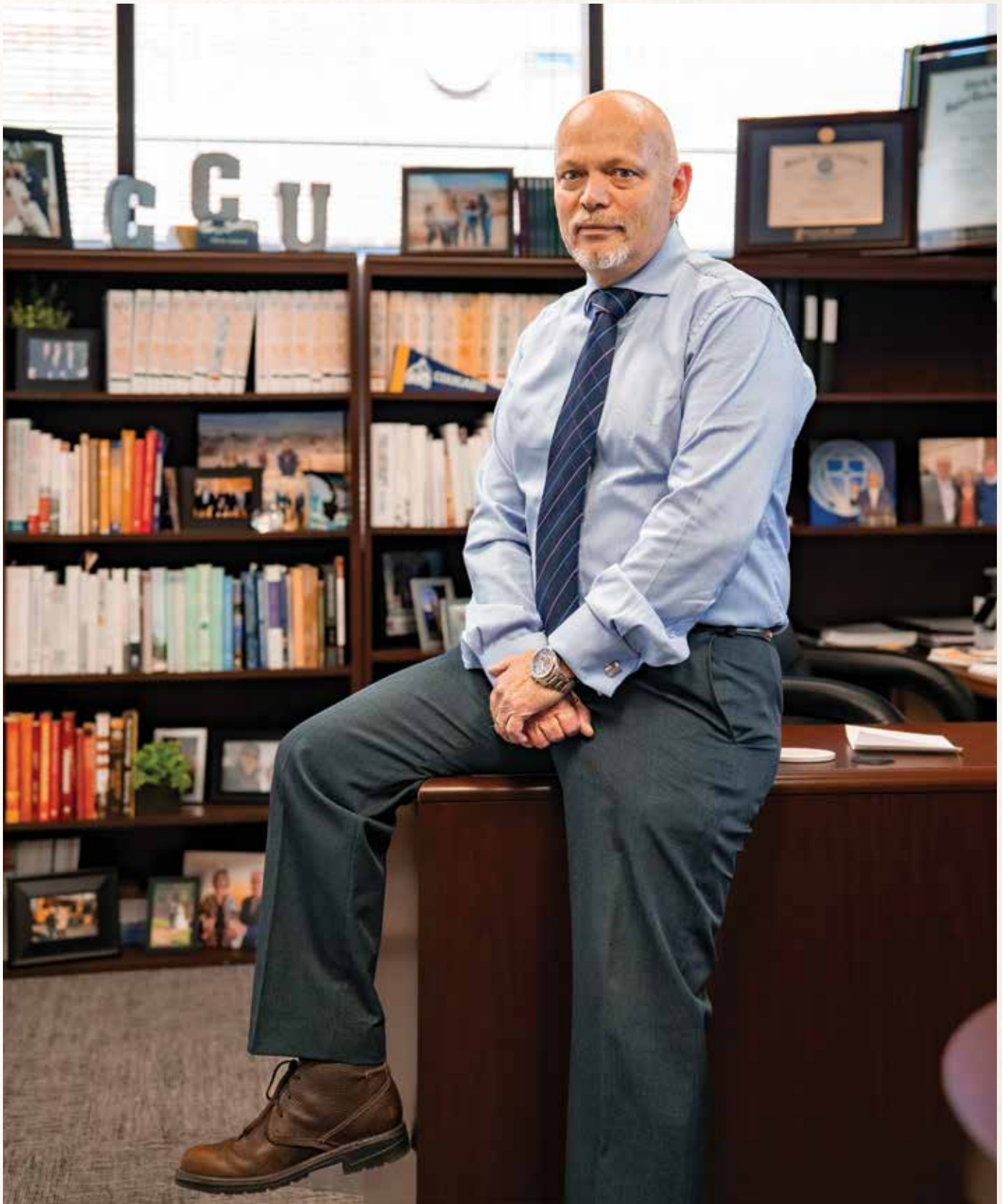
MEET THE UNEXPECTED ACCOUNTANT

For this issue of BEYOND, featuring the many ways people are making global impact for Christ, we also wanted to share how a heart for Christ and global experiences impact and grow a person in many ways. Meet CCU's Chief Budget Officer Iain Wightman. From Zimbabwe to the States, to around the world and back again, Wightman weighs in on the personal impact and opportunities found in living a life of global reach.

On most days in his sixth-floor office on Union Boulevard in Lakewood, CCU's Chief Budget Officer Iain Wightman can be found enjoying his latest view of sunshine and mountains, while bringing budgeting solutions, strategic planning, and financial leadership to the University. What Wightman also brings to the proverbial table is a quick wit, an authentic love for Jesus, and a global perspective — a winning combination in both Wightman's personality and profession — refined over a lifetime of global experiences.

Born in Zimbabwe, Wightman grew up in a small village, the son of an English father and Scottish mother. With a premium put on education, he followed the university track in high school (as part of the British education system in Zimbabwe), with specialized "A-level" focus that led to work with Zimbabwe Banking Corporation. However, it was a missionary's efforts in establishing a young adult group in his village that started Wightman on his first adventure stateside.

Wightman explains that though he grew up Presbyterian, it wasn't until his brother talked him into joining the missionary's youth group that he really started owning his faith. This ignited spark of faith also provided the first stepping stone for Wightman's global adventures.





“When I started going to the youth group, there was meaningful spiritual growth; I developed a more personal relationship with God ... which then gave me an excitement to find a Christian university to study at,” said Wightman.

PROBLEM-SOLVING AND NAVIGATING THE UNEXPECTED

With no Christian universities in Zimbabwe, it was off to Abilene Christian University in Texas where Wightman completed his accounting degree and experienced his first taste of culture shock as well. However, the experience also helped him gain his footing in different circumstances and develop keen navigation and problem-solving skills.

“When I left to go to university in west Texas, that’s where the culture shock came in. I thought I was headed to the big city. But I stepped out ... and was lucky to see a tree! I’m pretty sure a farmer a hundred miles away could switch his light switch on, and I could see it!” laughed Wightman. “It was just flat! I grew up in the eastern highlands of Africa — a combination of savanna (tropical grassland) —which is higher, and we have these many balancing rocks everywhere, huge formations that sit on top of each other. So, I was in complete shock stepping off the plane, expecting to take the bus to the university ... to find west Texas was just flat as far as the eye could see, and no buses. As with anytime when you go somewhere new and you don’t know anything, you have to figure that out. It was a great

learning experience to learn how to adapt and change course, while learning how to navigate the unexpected.”

UNDERSTANDING AND ENGAGING WITH DIFFERENT CULTURES


After college and a brief return-trip to Zimbabwe, with Wightman’s parents originally from the United Kingdom, he headed to London where he took a job as an auditor.

“It was a great time — as an auditor, I traveled most of the southwest United Kingdom and saw a lot of places, saw a lot of companies. It was a good opportunity for me to see a different country and not only learn about it but engage with it; because although I was effectively British, the U.K. was a different sort of place compared to Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe was like what England was like 50 years prior. I understood things, but there was a lot I didn’t know about the culture.”

Time in London introduced Wightman to people from all walks of life and all cultures of life, describing the city as “a melting pot for the world.” And in that mix of those millions of people from around the globe, he found his one, meeting his wife at a local London church. The couple stayed in London for three years, enjoying the many different cultures, food, and festivities found in this one location.

DIVERSIFIED EXPERIENCES PROVIDE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

“There were so many different perspectives and cultures to



IT'S AMAZING THE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES; YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE A LOT TO SEE THE TRUE VALUES IN LIFE. YOU APPRECIATE FAMILY, WHICH IS KEY, AND YOU UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH.

learn from,” said Wightman. “At our church we attended, we had friends from every background — Malaysian, Chinese, West African, South African, Australian, and American — everybody was there!” recalled Wightman fondly.

“I think the opportunity to see other cultures is always a blessing, and living and being in a different culture should be mandatory for everybody,” said Wightman. “You learn how people may do things differently, sometimes just as good or better than what you’re expecting, and it allows you opportunity to see and engage with different perspectives. That’s why it was so great to be living in London at that particular point in time — you were with people from all over the world doing life together.”

EXPANDING YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

The fun continued for the Wightman family, learning about other worldviews while sharing their common foundation in Christ, as they moved to Redding, just outside of London, to escape some of the hustle and bustle of the city without sacrificing the friendships that came with it.

“We started a small house church in my sister-in-law’s house across the street, and because we were so close to London, we had people from all over the world coming in. Because it’s a metropolis-type place where things are always changing, it was a constant churn of fascinating people coming and going.”

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDING YOUR WHEELHOUSE

In fact, over the 15 years they lived in Redding, Wightman found himself in near-constant business travel for several different industries, including incident security and credit card security, oil and gas, and working for a conglomerate.

“The great part of those experiences is when you are a part of industries like those, a lot of companies there in London would have companies elsewhere in the world; so you have so many opportunities to see how things are done differently in different places and learn how to adapt your skillset or expand your problem-solving skills,” said Wightman. “One of the things I liked most about traveling to different companies was getting to see so many different points of view. It’s the same as being in different cultures around the world — so many different viewpoints. If you absorb it all, you learn something new in every culture, every circumstance, for business and in life.”

EXPANDING YOUR HEART

Another lesson Wightman has learned over the years is the personal impact on the heart that comes from experiencing different cultures and the take-away of perspective being everything.

“Experiencing cultures everywhere, you see many different circumstances, from extreme poverty to extreme wealth, but



you also see different perspectives on what is valuable. It may help you appreciate what you have, especially visiting places where people don't have a lot," said Wightman, reflecting on young children begging in the streets of India. "But you also gain understanding of what's most important in life," he continued. "The people in the area where I grew up are Shona — and they are happy people. They may not have a lot, but they're happy. It's amazing the different perspectives; you don't have to have a lot to see the true values in life. You appreciate family, which is key, and you understand the importance of faith."

USING YOUR EXPERIENCES FOR GLOBAL REACH WITH KINGDOM IMPACT

Moving his own family from Redding to Denver more than 10 years ago for work, Wightman fell in love with Colorado's mountain views and 300 days of sunshine that he enjoys from his office windows today. Wightman joined CCU this past February, excited by the opportunity to use his skills and experiences in business for kingdom purposes. Wightman's

experiences looking at life from different viewpoints all over the world make him a perfect fit for his position, allowing him to look at problems and ideas from different angles, take in new ideas with openness and eager understanding, as well as share his own countless approaches to numbers strategies collected over many years in business all over the world. The fact that he is able to weave his faith into his work with CCU is icing on the cake.

"In business, it's very rare that you get an opportunity to have your faith and your business mingle in the same spot. For me, this is a great opportunity really; there aren't typically many calls for an accountant in missions — our church has had medical missionaries or teaching missionaries; we've been on medical missions, but nobody I've known has ever needed an accountant. I'm always thinking, 'Hey, C'mon! Let me come and do your books for you!'" laughs Wightman. "Opportunities like this at CCU are few and far between."

CCU welcomes Wightman into this new grand adventure!

CCU Fund Fuels the Student Experience



Allow me to introduce you to Madisyn, one of our elementary education students. Madisyn joined Colorado Christian University in August of 2021, hailing from Boone, North Carolina. She knew that God was calling her to Christian education but was not sure where He would lead her. She felt a strong calling to not only be a teacher but to join the mission field and teach children abroad. Her journey to CCU began in the midst of several difficult health complications for her family.

Upon being accepted to CCU, Madisyn's little sister was diagnosed with a chronic autoimmune disorder. Because of this, her family was forced to uproot themselves from Boone and move closer to the Children's Hospital of Cincinnati. Just as things started to settle, her father experienced multiple cardiac emergencies. He was then diagnosed with a rare heart defect. Together these health complications depleted her family's savings, causing them to reevaluate the feasibility of Madisyn's collegiate endeavors.

Despite these difficult events, Madisyn kept praying, feeling that God still wanted her to pursue elementary education at CCU. She went to her youth pastor and was encouraged to be honest with CCU about the unforeseen circumstances. While looking at other options, Madisyn decided to approach her admissions counselor about the financial struggles that had befallen her family. It was in this moment of faith and vulnerability that generosity prevailed.

This fall, she began her sophomore year, continuing her degree in elementary education. She chose elementary education because she wants to impact young people for Christ. Though many kids will enter her classroom with hopes and dreams, many will also come to school carrying the weight of the world on their shoulders. She intends to help lift that weight by showing them the love of Jesus. Madisyn said, "By being a light for Christ in the classroom, I can provide love and compassion to students who never receive such care outside of school. I can create an environment where

struggling children can grow in learning and be assured of their value."

CCU's School of Education is filled with students like Madisyn, who are passionate about training the next generation of children. Your support for Madisyn is the means by which you can transform her life and launch into leadership.

When talking with one of Madisyn's professors, Dr. Priscilla Wright, she said, "The School of Education at CCU believes the field of education offers unparalleled opportunities for service, centrally positioning our teacher candidates to influence the next generation for Christ."

You can help students such as Madisyn by making a gift to the CCU Fund and using the attached envelope for your gift. Or, scan the QR code below to go directly to our secure giving site. You can fuel the student experience and provide the resources Madisyn needs to thrive during her time at CCU. God is using our dedicated and Christ-centered faculty to train and develop Madisyn for her future mission field. You make this possible by giving to the CCU Fund.

May the Peace of Christ fill your home this Christmas season.

Give Online to the CCU Fund

» ccu.edu/ccufund



The “typical” adult learners at CCU are anything but typical. They are single mothers. They are veterans. They are people stuck in dead-end jobs striving to make ends meet while prices soar for gas, groceries, and clothing for their children. They are also dedicated and willing to do whatever it takes to provide for their families. That is why they are here. They know that finishing their bachelor’s degree or obtaining a master’s degree can transform their family and their career.

I want to tell you about an adult student named Hanna. Hanna joined the College of Adult and Graduate Studies program in 2019 and just recently graduated this past May. Her journey to CCU began with a mission trip to Brazil the year prior. Once she returned, she knew that changing schools, learning from a Christian worldview, and developing her passion for missionary work were a must. “Switching schools and going to CCU was the best decision I’ve ever made,” said Hanna. As she began studying at CCU, she was diagnosed with Eosinophilic esophagitis (EOE), a chronic immune system disease. Despite this setback and the burden of medical bills, Hanna never missed a class or even an assignment.

Now, Hanna is taking her passion and skills to Australia with her husband, Trenton. Hannah reflects, “I will always be grateful to CCU for the values it instilled in me. Not only am I finding it helpful in my prep for the mission field, but also in my pursuit of being a godly wife, friend, and Christian. I will always be grateful for that.”

You can help students like Hanna by making a gift to The Hope Fund. The Hope Fund provides scholarships for adult learners with academic promise and high-financial needs. Every single dollar you contribute will be pooled with other Hope Fund gifts to ensure that the most students are helped and encouraged to graduate. Because of you, Hanna can impact the world with grace and truth.

As we enter this Christmas season, please remember adult learners like Hanna. Your gift of \$50 will make a difference in their lives. You can do this by scanning the QR code (below) or by mailing the envelope attached to this magazine. Your gift to The Hope Fund directly supports a single mother, a veteran, or a person striving to change their life and that of their children.

Give Hope to an Adult Learner

“SWITCHING SCHOOLS AND GOING TO CCU WAS THE BEST DECISION I’VE EVER MADE.”



Give Online to the Hope Fund

» ccu.edu/hopefund



Literary & Creative Contributions

CCU Faculty & Staff

DIANE M. BADZINSKI AND JONATHAN PETTIGREW

Dr. Diane Badzinski is a professor of communication for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences in the College of Undergraduate Studies.

(2023 release). *Family Communication and the Christian Faith: An Introduction and Exploration*. Integratio Press.

Jonathan Pettigrew (Arizona State University) and Diane M. Badzinski (Colorado Christian University) examine the family from a biblical worldview, integrating theories and practices from diverse academic disciplines (psychology, theology, family studies, and sociology) with special emphasis on how communication creates and sustains healthy, rewarding, and godly families. Instructor's resource and teaching guide available.

CASSIDY J. BURKE

Cassidy Burke is the

assistant athletic director of communications and operations in the Athletic Department.

(2021). *You Are You*. Herndon, VA: Mascot Books.

This impactful children's book, written by CCU's Cassidy Burke and illustrated by David Gnass, follows Penelope the giraffe's struggles with a classmate's cruel words and demonstrates the power of kindness. Tackling complex issues in an ethically confused world, the book provides adults the platform and needed tools to ask kids tough questions about mental health.

IAN CLARY

Dr. Ian Clary is an associate professor of historical theology for the School of Theology in the College of Undergraduate Studies.

(2020). *Reformed Evangelicalism and the Search for a Usable Past: The Historiography of Arnold Dallimore, Pastor-Historian*.

Reformed Historical Theology (61). Gottingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

This book evaluates the historiography of Arnold Dallimore, biographer of evangelical heroes like George Whitefield, Charles Wesley, and Charles Spurgeon, looking at questions of hagiography, objectivity, and what constitutes an historian.

(2021). *God Crowns His Own Gifts: Augustine, Grace, and the Monks of Hadrumetum*. Peterborough, ON: H&E Academic.

This book looks at the later Pelagian controversy in North Africa and the question of the freedom of the will, concluding that Augustine was a model pastor-theologian, defending both orthodoxy and God's church.

CHARLES DENLER

Charles Denler is the director and assistant professor of composition

and music production and engineering for the School of Music in the College of Undergraduate Studies.

(2022). Musical score for *A Surprise for Rabbit*.

On October 22, "Inside the Score" premiered Artist-in-Residence Charles Denler's children's book score. The 12-movement suite will be performed with a 30-piece orchestra. The music will accompany the children's book, *A Surprise for Rabbit*.

MARK DORN

Mark Dorn is the professor of music and coordinator of instrumental music for the School of Music in the College of Undergraduate Studies.

(2022). *Life on the Road: Longing and Pilgrimage on the Way to God*. SoundtheTrumpet Publishing.

Part memoir, part spiritual exploration, *Life on the Road* is a gritty, realistic take on spiritual life. Filled with personal examples,

spiritual musings, and often overlooked truths, this book is an invitation to embrace the dark challenges, as well as the profound joys, of life with God as a longing pilgrim.

ERIC HOGUE

Eric Hogue is the vice president of University Advancement and a member of the president's cabinet.

(December 2022 release). *The Winning Side of the Ask*.

In his latest endeavor, CCU's Vice President of University Advancement Eric Hogue empowers those in fundraising professions to take their calling to the next level, restoring trust, respect, and hope in philanthropy and prioritizing the reality of the donor as the hero of the story. Sharing from his wealth of expertise, Hogue provides insights on developing highly functional fundraising operations and how to engage donors in respectful and meaningful ways, while creating lasting, mutual outcomes and impacts.

MATT JONES

Dr. Matt Jones is an

associate professor of New Testament studies for the School of Theology in the College of Undergraduate Studies.

(2021). *The Humanity of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel*. Pickwick Publications.

This narrative critical examination of Matthew's portrait prioritizes the human element of Jesus's story. Jones purposely balances the human and transcendent so that he can reinforce the reader's belief in Jesus and hope that Jesus's life can be imitated.

SETH M. RODRIQUEZ

Dr. Seth Rodriguez is an assistant professor of Old Testament and biblical archaeology for the School of Theology in the College of Undergraduate Studies.

(2021). "Will the Axe Boast Against the One Who Cuts with It? The Use of Axes and Pickaxes in Iron Age Warfare." In *To Explore the Land of Canaan: Studies in Biblical Archaeology in honor of Jeffrey R. Chadwick on the occasion of his 66th birthday*. Maeir, Aren M., Pierce, George, and Welch, Eric (Eds.). Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter.

This study gathers together information from the Hebrew Bible, the artwork of ancient Egypt and Assyria, and the archaeological record of the Southern Levant in order to clarify what axes looked like in the Iron Age and how they were used in warfare.

GARY STEWARD

Dr. Gary Steward is the dean and an associate professor of history for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences in the College of Undergraduate Studies.

(2021). *Justifying Revolution: The American Clergy's Argument for Political Resistance, 1750–1776*. Oxford University Press.

This book explains the patriot clergy's arguments for resisting the British in the lead-up to the American Revolution.

DOUGLAS GROOTHUIS AND ANDREW 'IKE' SHEPARDSON

Andrew "Ike" Shepardson is CCU's lead affiliate faculty in apologetics.

(2022). *Knowledge of God in the World and the Word*. Zondervan Academic.

Andrew "Ike" Shepardson is CCU's lead affiliate faculty in apologetics. In

Knowledge of God in the World and the Word, Groothuis and Shepardson provide a simple introduction to classical apologetics that also addresses the most common objections to natural theology. Readers will discover an easy point of entry into understanding why Christian beliefs about Jesus are true and rational as the authors apply the power of classical apologetics to Christian ministry.

EARL WAGGONER

Dr. Earl Waggoner is the dean and a professor of biblical and theological studies for the School of Biblical and Theological Studies in the College of Adult and Graduate Studies.

(2022). "Superhero Culture and Contemporary Christianity." In *The Rowman & Littlefield Handbook of Contemporary Christianity in the United States*. Lampert, Mark (Ed.). Rowman & Littlefield.

The Handbook of Contemporary Christianity in the United States is a one-volume examination of Christianity in its role, contributions, and embattled engagements with the contemporary culture of the postmodern United States.

Alumni Honored at Blue and Gold Banquet

On October 1, the Inaugural Blue and Gold Banquet (formerly known as the Distinguished Alumni Awards and Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet) added the perfect celebration to complete the 2022 Homecoming weekend. A number of alumni were honored for their career achievements, their support of CCU, and their athletic talents.

G.O.L.D. (Graduate of the Last Decade) Alumni Award

Lisa Peters '19

Accounting and Business Administration)



The G.O.L.D. Award honors a Graduate of the Last Decade and is bestowed upon an alumnus who obtained their last CCU degree

within the previous 10 years of the award date and who shows career or vocational promise in their field. Lisa Peters is a reimbursement analyst at Centura Health in Colorado. She helps Centura hospitals with Medicare, Medicaid, and Tricare cost reporting, and is passionate in supporting Centura hospitals tackle their healthcare and reimbursement needs.

Prior to Centura, Peters worked as a senior healthcare consultant through BKD CPAs and Advisors, assisting clients with their reimbursement consulting. During her time there, she also served two years as the chair of the Foundation Committee, BKD's charitable arm. Peters is the Chair of the Aspiring Leaders

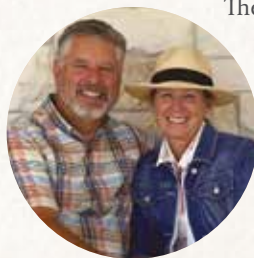
Committee through the Healthcare Financial Management Association Colorado Chapter. She additionally spends time as the senior director of emerging leaders through the Colorado Public Health Association's Board of Directors.

In her free time, Peters loves serving the community. She has served four years on the Young Professionals' Board of Boys Hope Girls Hope, raising over \$300,000 for Colorado high school students who overcame a challenging or disadvantaged background. Peters graduated from CCU in 2019 with dual bachelor degrees in Accounting and Business Administration. She is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health through John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, specializing in health systems and policy, and she expects to graduate in 2024.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Fred '82 and Lorie Lautenbach

(Rockmont Youth Ministry and Christian Education; minor in Camping)



The Distinguished Alumni Award is bestowed upon an alumnus who demonstrates the mission of the University through excellence in their career or

vocational field — in society, in the marketplace, as a professional, or in some extraordinary leadership role. This year, we are bestowing a joint award on a CCU power couple, Fred and Lorie Lautenbach.

They met at Rockmont College in the fall of 1980, where Fred graduated with a bachelor's degree in Youth Ministry and Christian Education and a minor in Camping; Lorie attended from September 1980 through May 1981. They were married in August of 1981.

God blessed Lorie and Fred with two amazing daughters, Hannah and Jesse. Hannah and her husband, Andy Denlinger, have three amazing children, Levi, Amelia, and Luke. Jesse (CCU Class of 2021) and her husband Ty Johnson (CCU Class of 2019) have an awesome son, Boaz.

Fred and Lorie live in Sedalia where they have made home since 1986 on a small ranch where they enjoy raising cattle and horses. They find the most joy in spending time with their kids and grandkids, as well as working on the ranch and traveling on "Vacations with a Purpose." In addition to all of this, they have been active in the CCU athletics program as faithful donors and mentors. Read all about their focus on global missions in their story, "Sharing the Life of the Party" on p. 20.

CCU CLASS NOTES

How CCU alumni are making a difference

The following books and accomplishments were submitted by CCU and heritage institution alumni. The views expressed in these publications are not necessarily the views of Colorado Christian University. If you have written a book or have a notable accomplishment and want to be included in the next Class Notes section, please email your information to ccualumni@ccu.edu.

Dr. Gary Nebeker '87

(Biblical Studies)



After completing his undergraduate degree at CCU, Gary Nebeker went on to earn his Th.M. and Ph.D. at Dallas Theological

Seminary. For 19 years he served at Grace University in Omaha, Nebraska, first as professor of theology, then as vice president of spiritual formation and student services.

For two winters he served as the associate pastor of San Carlos Community Church in Sonora, Mexico. For two years, Nebeker also served as the pastor of spiritual formation at Coram Deo Church

in Omaha, Nebraska.

In 2013, he and his wife, Denise, a licensed marriage and family counselor, created LeaderCare Online. Their ministry mission is to promote the spiritual renewal, emotional health, and relational holiness of ministry leaders and their spouses.

Their ministry was created in response to the rising rate of attrition among pastors and ministry leaders. Burnout, anxiety, relational conflict, and marital challenges are just some of the areas where they seek to serve those in ministry.

“I will be forever grateful for the excellent education and mentoring I received at CCU. I made friends for life there. My view of the world expanded significantly. The Lord did some amazing things in me during that formative season of life,” Nebeker said.

Gary and Denise live in Vail, Arizona. In their leisure time they enjoy travel, good books, music, coffee and the outdoors. They both get energized by “conversations that matter.”

Find out more about Gary's ministry at leadercareonline.com.

Dr. Randy Woodley '83

(Rockmont; Christian Ministries, Communication, Psychology)



After graduating from Rockmont, Dr. Randy Woodley served as the Chapel director for the campus before receiving a Ph.D. in intercultural studies from Asbury Theological Seminary. He is a farmer, activist/scholar, distinguished speaker, teacher and wisdom keeper who addresses a variety of issues concerning

American culture, faith/spirituality, justice, race/diversity, regenerative farming, our relationship with the earth, and Indigenous realities. His expertise has been sought in national venues such as *Time Magazine*, *The Huffington Post*, and *Christianity Today*. Woodley currently serves as distinguished professor of faith and culture at Portland Seminary. Woodley was raised near Detroit, Michigan and is a Cherokee descendent recognized by the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. He co-hosts the “Peacing it All Together” podcast with Bo Sanders. Woodley and his wife are co-sustainers of Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice and Eloheh Farm & Seeds, a regenerative teaching center and farm in Yamhill, Oregon. The Woodleys have been innovators and activists for over three decades. They have four grown children and six grandchildren. His books include:

- *Mission and the Cultural Other: A Closer Look* (Wipf & Stock)
- *Becoming Rooted: One Hundred Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth* (Broadleaf)
- *Indigenous Theology and the Western Worldview: A Decolonized Approach to Christian Doctrine* (Baker Academic)
- *Decolonizing Evangelicalism: An 11:59pm Conversation* (Wipf & Stock)
- *The Harmony Tree: A Story of Healing and Community* (Friesen)
- *Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision* (Eerdmans)
- *Living in Color: Embracing God's Passion for Ethnic Diversity* (InterVarsity)

Carey Green '90

(Youth Ministry)



Carey Green has been blessed beyond measure to be the host of a world-wide podcast, "The Morning Mindset Daily Christian Devotional"

(YourMorningMindset.com) he created to help Christ-followers get their minds aligned with the truth of God daily. The first episode of the podcast was published on January 1, 2018, and as of May 2022 experiences over 120,000 downloads from around the world every single day.

From the podcast, he and his wife created a Christian benevolence non-profit, Not A Needy Person (NotANeedyPerson.org). Based on the generous example of the early church, as recorded in Acts chapter 4, it is a platform that enables Christ-followers to submit their physical needs for consideration. Once vetted and approved, the needs are listed on the NANP website for other Christ-followers to prayerfully give toward. In the first year of its existence (2021), the platform was used to meet over \$75,000 worth of personal needs.

Recently, Green authored his third book in his Christian fantasy series, "The Dragon Slayer Chronicles." It's a Christian-fantasy-ish series which introduces challenges to faith and real-life difficulties we all face, with the aim of bringing the truth of Scripture to bear on those situations. It's a true-to-life adventure (no magic or talking dragons) written according to what it would really be like if dragons still existed. You can see more details on the series at DragonSlayerBook.com.

Green is married to Mindi (Wretland)

Green '90, and they have five children, one grandson, and another grandson on the way. They make their home in Yamhill, Oregon.

Robert Winter '97

(Accounting Management)

Winter received the Distinguished Service Award from the Department of the Interior, the highest honorary recognition an employee can receive within the DOI. It is granted for an outstanding contribution to science, outstanding skill or ability in the performance of duty, outstanding contribution made during an eminent career in the department, or any other exceptional contribution to public service. Recipients receive a special certificate and citation signed by the Secretary along with an engraved gold Distinguished Service Medal and a gold lapel pin.

Winter received this honor for his work in the Office of Natural Resources Revenue. He began his federal career in 1992 and, during his 30 years of public service, has worked for the Office of Trust Funds Management and the Office of Trust Reporting and Reconciliation, in the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST). In these offices, he directly influenced operations, improved fiscal accountability for tribes and individual Indian mineral owners, and established improved processes for financial transactions. In 2010, Winter served as acting deputy special trustee for Trust Services, a senior executive position managing Indian and Tribal trust funds that exceeded \$4.3 billion. He then served as director of trust operations in OST, overseeing Indian and tribal trust funds that were valued at more than \$5.2 billion. In 2019, Winter transferred to the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), where he manages all

custodial accounting functions, financial 33 reporting, and reconciliation of oil and gas revenues with an annual value of more than \$14 billion. He is a recognized expert in energy and mineral royalty reporting, accounting, distribution, and disbursement to the Department of the Treasury (Treasury), states, counties, and individual Indian owners/allottees. Since joining ONRR, Winter's significant accomplishments include implementing enhanced internal accounting controls resulting in unqualified audit opinions and working with Treasury to ensure Indian tribes and allottees receive their full royalty payments without loss from fees or administrative burden. Winter has provided the highest level of professional accounting management while ensuring the accurate collection and disbursement of mineral royalties.

Winter is part of a long legacy of family members who attended or graduated from CCU and Rockmont College. He is married to Ronda (Grenemyer), and she graduated from CCU in 1992 with a degree in business. Her father is Ronald Grenemyer '60 (Rockmont), who graduated with a degree in religion, and he met his wife, Jo Ann at Rockmont in 1957; they have been married 65 years. Le Ann (Grenemyer) Stubbs attended Rockmont in 1983; Richard and Alice Grenemyer (Ronald's brother) both graduated from Rockmont in 1965; Richard is deceased.

Patrice Collins '98

(Organizational Management in Human Resources)

Patrice Collins has been selected as an assistant principal at Barkers Mill Elementary School. Collins is currently an assistant principal at West Creek Middle School. Previously, she served as a teacher at Northeast High School, teaching

courses in ACT prep and criminal justice. Other education experience includes serving as a fourth-grade teacher, college counselor, collaborative teacher, and substitute teacher. Before entering public education, she had roles as a project coordinator and program director for civic organizations and was a staff attorney for Circuit Courts in Kentucky.

Collins served in the U.S. Army for three years of active duty and six years of reserve. She earned her M.A.T. in Elementary Education from Trevecca Nazarene University, J.D. from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and B.S. in Organizational Management of Human Resources from Colorado Christian University. She received her School Administration Certification from Western Kentucky University.

Karla Sierra '03

(Business Administration)

In 2021, Karla Sierra received the JFK Peace Corps Service Award, which honors President John F. Kennedy's vision, leadership, and commitment to public service. She was chosen to receive this award for her tireless dedication to the promotion of economic liberty and personal freedoms. Additionally, she is committed to educating and empowering individuals in the El Paso, Texas, community.

Also in 2021, Sierra received the Inaugural George Gibbs Engagement Director Leadership Award from Americans for Prosperity for outstanding grassroots organizing. Through Sierra's work at The LIBRE Initiative, a nonpartisan, nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to amplifying the voice of the U.S. Hispanic community so it can thrive and contribute to a more prosperous

America, she is involved in a variety of community initiatives and leads a team of staff and volunteers. She educates and empowers community members' voices in the political process and through financial literacy training, economic opportunity, healthcare, issue advocacy, and community service opportunities. Because El Paso is the largest border city in the United States with a steady influx of immigration from Mexico, Central, and South America, Sierra's work has ripples which reach well beyond the border, impacting families and lives in several countries and promoting the goals of the Peace Corps.

After receiving her bachelor's degree from CCU, Sierra received an MBA from the University of Texas at El Paso, after which she joined the Peace Corps, serving in Panama as a community economic development volunteer. She extended her service through Peace Corps Response and spent an additional year as a consultant. During her service, she created partnerships with the Ministry of Education and the UN's Development Programme to reduce poverty, increase awareness of HIV and AIDS, and assist in implementing sustainable projects. Sierra also serves as a trustee at First Presbyterian Church, and is a member of Progress321.

Rebecca Harms '15

(Early Childhood Education)

Rebecca Harms joined Thomson Primary School (Brush School District, Colorado) as the lead preschool teacher. She is a Prairie School grad and attended Northeastern Junior College and Colorado Christian University. Prior to teaching at Thomson, she served as the director and lead teacher at United Methodist Preschool in Fort Morgan.

Harms said she's wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember.

"My family is filled with many teachers, and I have always considered them to be my role models. In elementary school, I was blessed with amazing teachers whom I wanted to be just like! As the oldest child, I remember playing school with my younger brothers and playing the teacher role," she said.

"Young kiddos have a special place in my heart, and I have always wanted to make a positive impact on the lives of young children," said Harms.

Harms said she is enjoying her experience so far at Thomson, and she is looking forward to the rest of the school year.

Outside of the classroom, she enjoys spending time with her family: riding bikes, jumping on the trampoline and playing sports and board games together with her children. They also love to have popcorn and movie nights and visit her parents' house where they can ride horses and four-wheelers. She also enjoys spending time in Bible study and strengthening her faith.

Be a Hero to a Student

Your generous giving empowers a student to receive the education they desire and deserve. Your gift to the **CCU Fund** fuels the student experience for a traditional undergrad. Your gift to **The Hope Fund** ensures an adult learner can access vital scholarship aid so they can graduate on time and with less debt. A student needs you to help them succeed! To make your tax-deductible gift and change a student's life, please use the enclosed envelope.

To make a secure gift online, please visit ccu.edu/giving.

3 Ways to Connect

with your CCU Alumni association



1 CCUSyncedIn 2 Social Media 3 Contact Us

CCU SyncedIn will help you achieve new career potential and success through a state-of-the-art virtual networking experience with a personalized feed, a directory to connect with your peers, and virtual events! And it's exclusive to members of the CCU community.

This powerful digital network will help you enrich your:

- Alumni Engagement
- Professional Development
- Business and Job Promotions
- University News
- Connectivity - Classmates, Industry Professionals, and Geographic Contacts
- Find and/or be a mentor to a fellow CCU community member

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Have an **UPDATE** or looking to **RECONNECT** with the CCU community?

Contact Kara Johnson, director of alumni and parent relations.



303.963.3320
 kjohnston@ccu.edu



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Colorado Christian University

Athletics Roundup

Men's Cross Country | The men's cross country team is off to a strong start to its season, three meets in with two to go until the RMAC Championships. At the Lewis Crossover in Illinois on October 8, they excelled against tough competition, taking first place as a team, with Trent Cochran and Josh Pierantoni taking second and third respectively.

Women's Cross Country | The women's cross country team has come out firing, posting some quality finishes to start the year. Taking on many ranked teams at the Lewis Crossover on October 8, the Cougars ran an excellent race on their way to a first-place finish, as Paige Tack and Shannon King led the way with top 10 finishes.

Women's Soccer | CCU completed a rare feat on October 23 and 25 as they took both games in shutout fashion over Adams State and New Mexico Highlands. Those wins combined with two from men's soccer the same weekend at home marks the first time in school history both soccer programs have combined for four home wins on the same weekend. Alana Lopp took home RMAC goalkeeper of the week honors for her efforts in the two shutouts.

Men's Soccer | The Cougars are in a battle in the RMAC as they compete for a tournament spot. A win over Fort Lewis at home gave them their first win over the Skyhawks in 35 games, and their most recent competition resulted



in a 6-0 drubbing of South Dakota Mines on the road as they fight for position in the conference.

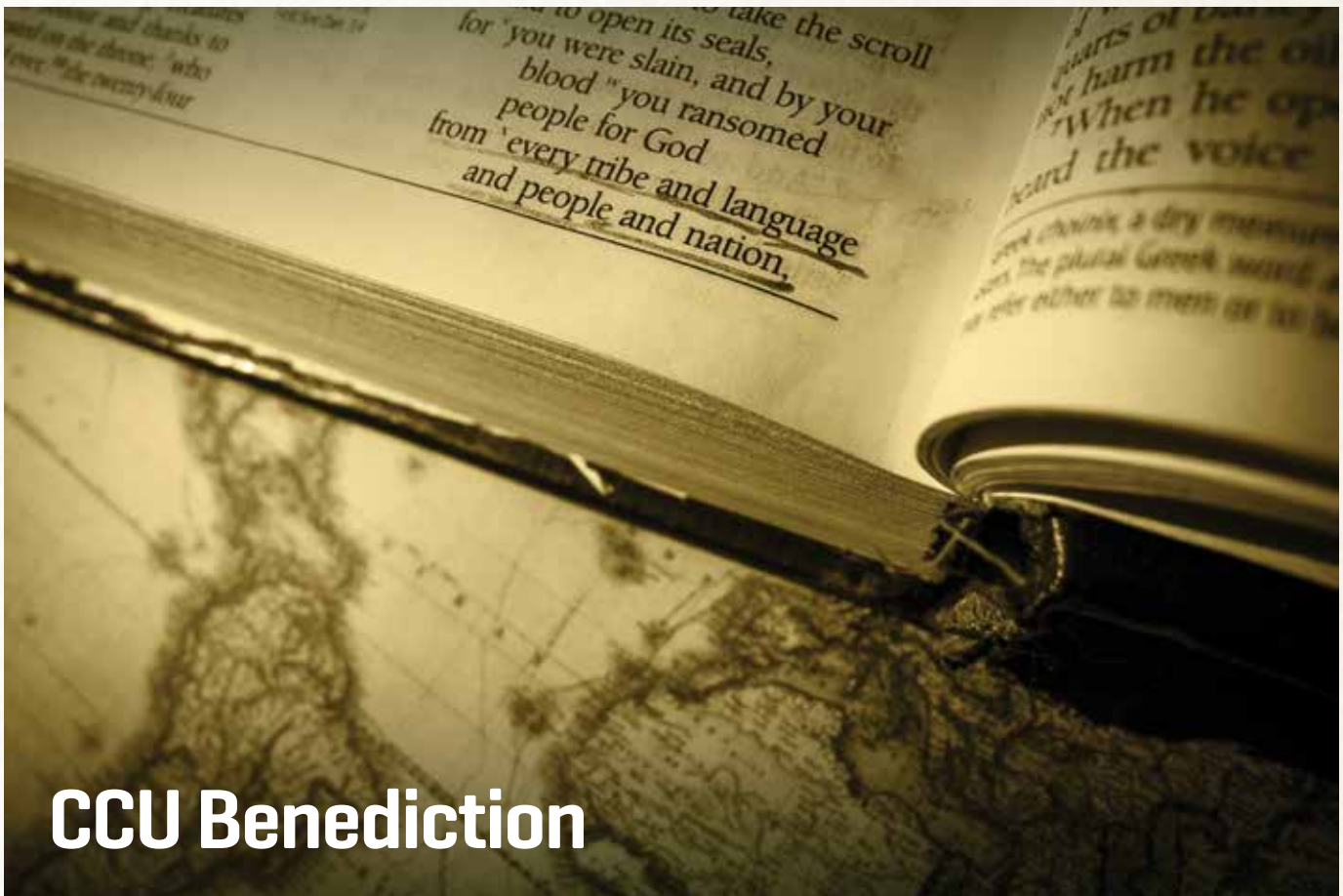
Volleyball | Volleyball has a talented squad this season, which they proved in their home opener, taking down No. 25 Angelo State in a five-set thriller. They continued with consecutive sweeps of UCCS and Westminster and most recently with a four-set victory over Chadron State as they battle in one of the toughest conferences in all of Division II for volleyball. Izzy Jones snagged Setter of the Week honors from the conference for her outstanding efforts.

Women's Golf | Under first-year head coach Ashlyn Kennedy, the Cougars wasted little time in showing they are a force to be reckoned with. Hosting the Swan Memorial to start the year, CCU played excellent golf throughout, taking home the team title as Emily Donaldson placed second overall. They followed with a second-place finish at the Wasatch Invitational as Donaldson again excelled with a second-place finish as she garnered consecutive RMAC Golfer of the Week honors.

Men's Golf | Fresh off a regional berth last season, CCU is picking up where it left off. Hosting the Bob Writz Invite to start the year, the Cougars placed second behind a talented CSU Pueblo team, and Adam Duncan took home the individual title and RMAC Golfer of the Week honors. Xavier Bighaus picked up the team's second Golfer of the Week award in three weeks as he shot a final round 4-under-par 66 at the Ryan Palmer Foundation Invite.

To learn more, visit ccucougars.com





CCU Benediction

Heavenly Father, the preceding pages describe some of the impact and global reach of Colorado Christian University and its students locally and around the world. But even as these words are read, we are humbled by Your massive power and unrivaled impact on virtually every area of life today. We read about students traveling across the world, but we are reminded that You are the Mighty One that created the world — spoke it into existence. We are in awe at Your majestic power.

Lord, these pages speak of accomplishments and dreams of people associated with CCU, but it is only through You that anything that we do is possible. Even the very breath in our

lungs is a gift from You, and we are who we are because of Your grand design. As we close this magazine and go about our daily lives, we ask You to continue to bless each reader with life and to have it more abundantly.

Father, we thank You for Colorado Christian University and its impact on the world you have created and that You sustain with your strong right arm. Your Word teaches us that we can make plans but that You direct our steps. We ask You, Father, for wisdom to know how to make plans that please You and are in accordance with Your desires. And we ask You, Father, to direct our steps in the way that You would have us to go.

Heavenly Father, You have sustained CCU for many years, and year after year You bring to the University students, staff, faculty, donors, and trustees who have a desire to serve You and learn more about You. We know that with You, all things are possible, and we pray, Father, for Your continued favor and blessings on all who are a part of Your educational ministry here in Lakewood, across Colorado, and throughout the world.

Father, please bless and keep all those associated with CCU. Make Your face to shine upon them and be gracious unto them. Lift up Your countenance upon them and give them peace. Amen.

Daniel Cohrs
Executive Vice President



COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Grace and Truth

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

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