

A NEW ERA FOR CCU | THE FRUITS OF SURRENDER | MINISTRY IN MOTION | DOUBLE VISION | FALL 2023

BEYOND

COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



BE a GREAT Christian University

Courageous, Uncompromising, Christ-Centered p. 10



COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
Grace and Truth

Dear partner,

Fall semester at Colorado Christian University is now in full swing! As a new academic year begins, students, whether returning or just beginning their CCU journey, fill our campus and courses with a passionate desire to learn and grow. The crisp, cooler weather creates a dash in our campus footsteps and a quickened excitement for the promises to be found in this season of change. And it all begins with one nostalgic notice of a golden leaf on the ground.



For those who have been blessed to live in Colorado for even a short time, you know what I'm talking about.

We wait holding our breath in anticipation for the early weeks of autumn and that first pop of light on the Front Range. One little leaf. And then another, and another. Before we know it, the mountains are ablaze in their splendor, and the pilgrimage to “see the colors” begins. The Father’s artistry is on full display in the boldness of the aspen, shimmering against Colorado’s azure skies — a visual reminder of the beauty to be found in seasonal change. While there are countless transformations happening throughout CCU this season — a new presidency, new buildings underway, the hope of a new athletics facility, and new courses and areas of study — change abounds, and it is beautiful to be a part of it all.

The fall edition of *BEYOND* magazine pays tribute to CCU’s changemakers: world-changing faculty, students, alumni, and supporters, lighting sparks that inspire others to do the same. In the pages that follow, you will read about the metamorphosis of a one-room schoolhouse with two students becoming the GREAT Christian University CCU is today, now home to more than 10,000 world changers for Christ. You will be inspired by CCU’s Founding Dean of Nursing, Dr. Barbara White, sharing her journey of faithfully waiting on the Lord to launch a nursing program with a focus on ministry. You will also meet musician and scientist, Elijah Johnson — a current CCU student both making and inspiring change in the area of cancer treatment research, a mission close to home for Johnson and his entire family. You will see how our College of Adult and Graduate Studies (CAGS) helps students in overseas missions and celebrate the growth of CCU Academy, changing the face of education for highschoolers everywhere. We also look at mighty developments happening on campus in CCU’s athletics department through our outstanding student-athletes and the coaches pouring into them.

Student by student. Brick by brick. One leaf at a time. GREAT things are happening in, around, and through Colorado Christian University. I pray you will be both inspired and encouraged through the following stories as much as I am. Together, one CCU graduate at a time, we are transforming the world with grace and truth.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Eric K. Hogue
President



Learn more about CCU,
the Lantern of the Rockies.

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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 Christian 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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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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CCU is and will remain an unapologetic, Christ-centered university that seeks to educate every student through academic enterprise, conserving and transmitting flourishing human wisdom.

A New Era for CCU

Eric K. Hogue was inaugurated as the 22nd president of Colorado Christian University on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, in front of students, faculty, staff and community members in the CCU Event Center in Lakewood.

“In today’s culture, courageous and uncompromising Christ-centered higher education enjoys an unprecedented opportunity to serve the Church by impacting this world with grace and truth — the grace of Jesus Christ and the absolute truths of a Christian worldview,” said Hogue in his address following the investiture ceremony. “CCU is and will remain an unapologetic Christ-centered university that seeks to educate every student through academic enterprise, conserving and transmitting flourishing human wisdom.”

Hogue was named president by the CCU Board of Trustees in March following an extensive nationwide search. He follows Dr. Donald W. Sweeting, who was appointed chancellor of the University in August 2022 after serving for six years as the University’s president. He assumes leadership of a university that has experienced consistent enrollment growth and expansion for more than a decade. CCU currently serves more than 10,000 traditional, adult, graduate, and academy students enrolled at its residential campus in Lakewood and online throughout the world. CCU has also recently been recognized by both the *Wall Street Journal* and *U.S. News & World Report* as a leading university.



“You have been chosen to lead our university for a purpose far greater than this moment,” said Wil Armstrong, chairman of CCU’s Board of Trustees, following the investiture ceremony. “You have been called to guide our community towards academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, and spiritual growth. Your leadership carries the weight of responsibility and the promise of a brighter future for each and every soul entrusted to your care.”

The inauguration was closed by Dean of Spiritual Formation, Paul Faust, who shared 2 Timothy 1:1-14 as a final reflection. The closing words of the Scripture capture

the heart of the University and a challenge President Hogue wholeheartedly embraces:

“By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”

Hogue was joined in the investiture ceremony by Dr. John Jackson, president of Jessup University in Rocklin, California; Dr. Carol Summers, a now-retired longtime university administrator; Dr. Adam Morris, president of Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California; Dr. Brad Johnson, president of the College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri; Armstrong; Dr. Sweeting; Dr. Janet Black,

vice president of academic affairs for CCU’s College of Undergraduate Studies; and Dr. Sarah Scherling, vice president of academic affairs for CCU’s College of Adult and Undergraduate Studies.

The event was filled from beginning to end with outstanding musical performances from the University Symphonic Band in conjunction with the University Choir and University Women’s Choir.

Congratulations, President Hogue! Colorado Christian University is proud to have you leading the way to be a GREAT Christian University!



Watch the inauguration recap video



I believe we serve and prepare students by providing a foundation of truth that places each student before a holy, awesome, sovereign, loving Creator God!



Courageous Uncompromising Christ-Centered

For over a century, leaders with hearts for God and excellence in higher education have shepherded Colorado Christian University with grace and truth. As President Eric K. Hogue takes up the mantle of leadership, he stands on the foundation laid by the servant leaders before him. With gratitude and excitement for the responsibility he has been charged with, Hogue invites CCU into a new season of being a GREAT Christian University. His nine pillars of his presidency reflect Hogue's dedication to excellence and being the nation's best performing, most trusted, respected, and recognized Christ-centered, biblically sound, evangelical, conservative university.

TO BE A GREAT CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Be the nation's best-performing and most-trusted, respected, and recognized Christ-centered, biblically sound, evangelical, conservative university.



Be a magnet for outstanding Christian students and scholars, offering a biblically integrated, rigorous, exemplary education that equips each CCU student for significant leadership that transforms the world with grace and truth.



Be conscious in building cross-cultural campuses (residential, online, Academy). We will effectively engage, educate, and emulate God's *Imago Dei* as we reflect the breadth of the Body of Christ and God's creation.



Be a leading Christian university in developing student spiritual formation, student discipleship, and the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Be strategic in growing CCU's brand as the nation's best-performing and most-trusted and respected Christ-centered, biblically sound, evangelical, conservative university.



Be committed to actively recruiting, retaining, and rewarding the best-performing, most-distinguished Christian professors to the existing roster of eminent CCU faculty, because students are drawn to professors, not courses.



Be welcoming to philanthropic partner opportunities to fund scholarships, academic programs, and campus development, increasing charitable innovations, and prioritizing rapidly growing the University endowment to secure the future of Colorado Christian University.



Be intentional in developing and delivering competent, convictional, and courageous CCU graduates into the world; graduates exceptionally employable and capable of becoming cultural leaders.



Be excellent Christian stewards of the University's resources and our students' tuition, constructing professional, best practice facilities and operations, emphasizing financial profitability for sustainable growth to both "secure and mature" CCU's distinct Christ-centered higher education mission.



Be competitive, character-filled, and committed to excellence while nurturing the spiritual development of each student-athlete, producing CCU Cougar athletes who lead Christ-centered lives inside and outside the arenas of competition.



This July was a special moment for Colorado Christian University's School of Nursing and Health Professions Dean Emeritus, Dr. Barbara White.

After 17 years of living out the dream God had placed on her heart many years prior, White's retirement honors both the journey leading up to and the legacy left behind the launch and leading of CCU's nursing program.

PHOTO CREDIT AUBRI PORTER

The Fruits of Surrender

The Barbara White Legacy: *how a life surrendered unlocked the doors to CCU's School of Nursing and Health Professions*

By Heather A. Eades

In 2007, the first-generation iPhone was being introduced to the world; NASA had just launched the Phoenix Mars Lander; and Colorado Christian University's Dr. Barbara White was launching the School of Nursing. While each of these historical events have a story behind them, the nursing program at CCU is a love story. It's birth was an event that had been prayed over, wrestled with, surrendered even — all leading up to God's timing for God's program that White has been shepherding for the last 17 years.

“Nursing at CCU is not just a scientific discipline; it is also a sacred calling.”

Since the School of Nursing's founding, 933 students have graduated from its programs, educated and equipped in the ministry of nursing as the hands and feet of Jesus. It began simply with an online RN-BSN track, expanded into a BSN degree, a master's program, and soon after became home to CCU's first doctorate degree. The current enrollment at time of publication is 468 nursing students.

White had no idea that the seed God had planted on her heart 20 years earlier would grow into such an expansive opportunity for CCU nursing students. The look back is a beautiful view and one that White enjoys sharing.

THE CALL

“My life calling from the Lord has *always* been to start nursing as ministry at CCU,” said White. “Never did I expect to stay this long,” she laughed. “I didn’t expect to do all that work — I was just going to start Nursing ... but this is really God’s story, not mine.”

That story began with White’s own call into the field of nursing back in college, which seemed like a detour to her own plans at the time as she studied to become a high school gym teacher. However, through a divine appointment, needing part-time work between her freshman and sophomore years, she took a summer job as a nurse aide at a local community hospital.

“Little did I know how that summer would change my life,” White recalled in a chapter she wrote for the book *Nursing as Ministry* (2021). “By the end of the summer, I knew without a doubt that I needed to change majors and become a nurse. I transferred to the university medical center and never looked back.”

And the rest is history. Or “His story,” as White is often reminded.

“Upon graduation, my heart’s desire was clearly set on teaching nursing and someday becoming dean of a nursing school,” wrote White. Her own college experience and the mentoring she had received along the way inspired a desire to encourage and support other nursing students. “But I had no clue how to get there. I stepped out into life confident and expectant.”

Plot twist: Enter true love. In 1970, Barbara met and married her husband, John, and they both began their careers in Chicago — Barbara “as a staff nurse on a general medical surgical unit at a large medical center.” It was there that

she gained the experience and skills required of a registered nurse — skills that have now traveled the world with her.

When the Lord opened doors for Barbara and her husband to follow their hearts to Denver, she began teaching general medical-surgical nursing at a local hospital diploma school. This experience helped lay the foundation for White’s deep knowledge and practice of effective nursing education and excellence in leadership. By the early 1980s, she was appointed director of the program.


“I was able to share my faith with patients and students along the way,” said White. “I loved teaching nursing, and I knew I was in the right place, doing the right thing.”

While that season was a rich blessing in many ways, it proved to be only a foreshadowing of all God had in store. Without missing a beat, when one door closed, White immediately heard the knocking on her heart for another one to open.

“In 1986, I was in the process of closing the last diploma school of nursing in the state of Colorado when God again touched my heart with a desire to start a nursing school where we could literally and unapologetically teach nursing as ministry,” shared White.

At the time, the vision seemed far-fetched and seemingly impossible with the complications of the changing field of nursing and a season of raising her family amidst the busyness of life. Still, White continued to pray over this dream that never went away.

“As I prayed, (the vision) became more focused as God laid on my heart the clear desire to start a nursing school at Colorado Christian University.”


For I know
the plans I
have for you,
declares the
Lord, plans
to prosper
you and not
to harm you,
plans to give
you a hope
and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

W Over the past many years, God has been teaching me that the 'calling' is really the 'process.' We never really arrive at our calling: We live into it.

THE WAIT

The vision was clear; the desire to serve was there; but the real work for White proved to be in the waiting. The balancing act of juggling the roles of spouse and parent while furthering her career grew more challenging by the day.

White recalled, "All of a sudden, I found myself in midlife, now wondering, 'Will I ever be able to do something significant for you, Lord?'" Little did she know at the time, but the ascent of her journey was still just beginning.

After the closure of the diploma nursing school, White moved forward in teaching classes to nursing students at Regis University, pouring into future nurses in their own journeys. While she loved the students and found the work fulfilling, still the desire to teach nursing from a biblical perspective, a focus on nursing truly as ministry, never went away.

In *Nursing as Ministry*, White

authentically shared the sense of restlessness and wrestling to find contentment in that season, unaware at the time of how it was all being used to refine and prepare the foundation for God's plans for nursing at CCU ... in His time.

"Throughout life, I had pleaded with God, all in pursuit of this elusive sense of calling," wrote White. "I waited on the Lord. I believed I was called by God. Forgetting what was behind and straining toward what was ahead, I pressed on and prayed hard"

What God began to reveal to White was that He had been using her all along. It soon became clear: "Serving God to advance His kingdom is not something we have to beg Him to do; it is something He has already chosen for us."

White continued, "... Over the past many years, God has been teaching me that the 'calling' is really the 'process.' We never really arrive at our calling: We live into it."

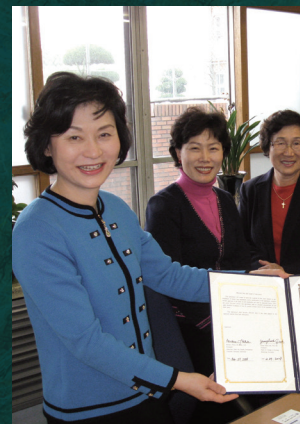
The biggest takeaway: God's timing is always perfect.

THE SURRENDER

What White learned through the process of waiting was the power of surrender and releasing her own plans fully to God. She recalls, "Finally, I realized that this dream of mine was not about me and what I could do for God. It had to be all about Jesus and what He could do through us. I needed to get out of the way."

The funny thing with God is that often, once we surrender to the possibility that our own dreams/plans may not happen, and we realize the true goal is to serve God, (period) — often, that is the moment God had been waiting for all along. For White, she simply realized that she wanted to serve God — dean of a nursing school, teaching nursing as ministry or not — and that's when God spoke: "Just take what you know and go wherever I send you."

Hangzhou, China 2011



God's timing is
always perfect.



Costa Rica 2008



Manila 2016

Buenos Aires 2004



Taipei, Taiwan 2006

And so she did.

Where God sent her, however, was not directly to CCU. There were many pitstops in between, most on the other side of the world. Taking God's words to heart, along with all of the experiences and skills obtained up to this point, she traveled with her husband and their children to 41 countries on six continents where she taught nursing students and leaders in 21 of those countries.

It wasn't until 2007, after returning from Seoul, Korea, where she and her husband had just spent a "year-long Fulbright scholar adventure," the long prayed-over dream finally became a reality. The position that she had been praying for and over for the past 20 years was offered and accepted. White stepped into her call to start a nursing school, teaching nursing as ministry, at last at CCU.

THE FRUIT

As anyone who has ever experienced God's timing can attest: when God moves ... He moves! To rephrase the quote from the movie, *Field of Dreams*, "If you build it, they will come." And from the moment Barbara White walked through God's open door at CCU, that is exactly what happened with the launch of the nursing school. Nursing students were on deck to transfer in.

Over the course of White's 17 years at CCU, the nursing program steadily flourished and continues to expand. 2008 saw the first graduating cohort of LPN-ASN students in Grand Junction, followed close behind by the first graduating cohort of RN-BSN students in 2010. The first cohort of BSN students received their diplomas in 2013, followed by the first cohort of MSN graduates in 2017. The BSN program was expanded to the campus CUS students in 2019, and the first cohort of DNP students graduated in 2021.

One of those students eternally grateful for the nursing program at CCU is Eden Higginbottom ('23), one of two nursing students selected to serve in the Global Internship Program at Samaritan's Purse (featured in *BEYOND* Fall '22 edition), now serving in long-term medical missions.

"The nursing program at Colorado Christian University was truly an answer to prayer," said Higginbottom. "During my time in the program, I gained not only the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be a qualified nurse, but I was also thoroughly prepared to practice nursing as ministry.

"Dr. White was a blessing during my nursing school journey," Higginbottom continued. Her kindness, wisdom, love for

nursing, and commitment to Christ was so evident that I could not have been more grateful for the impact she has made on my life!"

The students have have left an indelible imprint on White's life as well. Her dedication to CCU's students has driven White to not only launch the nursing program but to help it go the distance, distinctly set apart from other school's programs.

"CCU is very unique in our approach because we are not just putting little devotions in each class — we teach nursing from a Scriptural viewpoint," said White. "So, everything from leadership principles to conflict resolution, teambuilding, care for the individual as a total person — mind, body, and spirit — we teach nurses how to do spiritual care, not just physical care. Everything we do looks at nursing from Jesus' perspective, which makes it very unique. Nursing at CCU is not just a scientific discipline; it is also a sacred calling."

When asked what she has been most excited to see God develop from the many things she has helped establish over the past 17 years, one that immediately comes to White's mind is the doctorate of nursing practice, offered through the College of Adult and Graduate Studies.

"The fact that we were able to have the first doctorate, the doctorate of nursing practice (DNP) — the very first doctorate at CCU — that was an extreme honor and privilege to be a part of," said White. "I'm so thankful for that."

White's advice to her graduates of the nursing program is wisdom that comes from her own experiences, her own story, to inspire others in the sacred call to the field.

"Remember that God is sovereign," said White. "Nothing comes into your life except that comes through the hands of God. His timing is perfect. Sometimes we can try to get ahead of God; sometimes when He doesn't answer right away, we feel like giving up. You've got to remember that God is sovereign, and His timing is perfect."

White continued, "God uses everything in our life to prepare us for what He has in store next. He used absolutely everything in my career and in my journey — all of that prepared me to be the dean of the School of Nursing here. I didn't expect to start all three levels of education and then secure 10 years of full national accreditation, but everything in my life led up to what He had next."

And the story is still unfolding. White considers it an absolute blessing to be able to reflect on the incredible journey leading up to, through, and beyond her calling to build CCU's School of Nursing program. Her legacy at the University serves as a

testimony to one's call, God's timing, a willing heart, and the fruit that comes from those things combined.

Dr. White is now looking forward to the next chapter and living out the new adventures God has planned.

"He is not done with me," said White. "During this next phase of life, my prayer is to know Him more completely and to love Him more intimately so that I can faithfully serve Him in whatever He calls me to do. True fulfillment in life only comes from being in the center of God's will."

The story continues and is one that CCU will reread with fondness and gratitude for generations to come. Thank you, Dr. Barbara White, for making a way for nurses now in ministry through CCU. We look forward to the next chapter!

"I am certain that I am leaving this program in the hands of an extremely competent team and an exceptional new Dean. Dr. Christine Lepianka is also, without a doubt, called to CCU for the next phase of nursing at CCU. Under her leadership, I am confident that CCU nursing will move to a whole new level."

-Dr. Barbara White



New Dean of Nursing Dr. Christine Lepianka

Dr. Christine Lepianka grew up in central Illinois and brings over 30 years of combined clinical and academic experience into her new position as dean of CCU's nursing program. Her career in nursing has developed into a focus on women's and children's health, as well as on providing quality healthcare to vulnerable populations. Additionally, Lepianka brings a specialty in forensic nursing with training in care for victims of violence across the lifespan. Her research and volunteerism have focused on vulnerable women, primarily those engaged in human sex trafficking, substance use disorder, homelessness, and exposure to violence. Her research and work with vulnerable women have allowed Lepianka national recognition as a Jonas Scholar, the opportunity as a featured author in the *Journal of Forensic Nursing*, and she has been a frequent speaker at both regional and international conferences.

Dr. Lepianka has a passion for Christian education and serving as a witness for Christ. She especially enjoys students as they seek to gain knowledge of God's unfailing love and faithfulness while developing spiritual maturity. This passion, along with a deep appreciation for biblical truths, is what drew her to CCU. She is honored to be handed the torch as dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions and run with it.

Excellence in Athletics:

CCU's All-American Accolades

By Cory Butzin

Keep the Pace, Finish the Race

Pace after pace.

Mile after mile.

Running is a race against time. It's a race with teammates against the opposition. It's a mental challenge to keep going when every muscle and breath aches for you to quit.

Few answered the challenge as well as Colorado Christian University runners, which saw five different Cougars standouts earn All-American honors during the 2022-23 school year.

"Running is not an individual sport, according to me," said CCU's Matthew Storer. "I think a lot of runners would agree. The outside perspective is 'you get yourself across the line,' and that's true to an extent. However, it's really, *What did you do up until that day of the race?*

"You got up every morning with your teammates," said Storer. "You went to lifting together. You stretched together. You did everything with these guys. So then when you're on the line, if you're only thinking about your own individual accolades, I don't think you can run as hard."

Last year, the Cougars ran for each other, and it showed in the results.

Expectations were high for both the men's and women's teams, which finished No. 10 and No. 22 in the nation in 2021. Josh Pierantoni returned after becoming one of the first two All-American runners in CCU history, joined by veteran Trent Cochran and Storer, who transferred from Western Colorado University.

Isaac Russo

Matt Storer



ALL-AMERICAN EXCELLENCE



Matt Storer ★ Josh Pierantoni ★ Trent Cochran ★ Zanzie Demco ★ Hudson Majeski
Isaac Russo ★ Xavier Bighaus ★ Kali Crandall ★ Kenzie Middleton ★ Logan Menzies

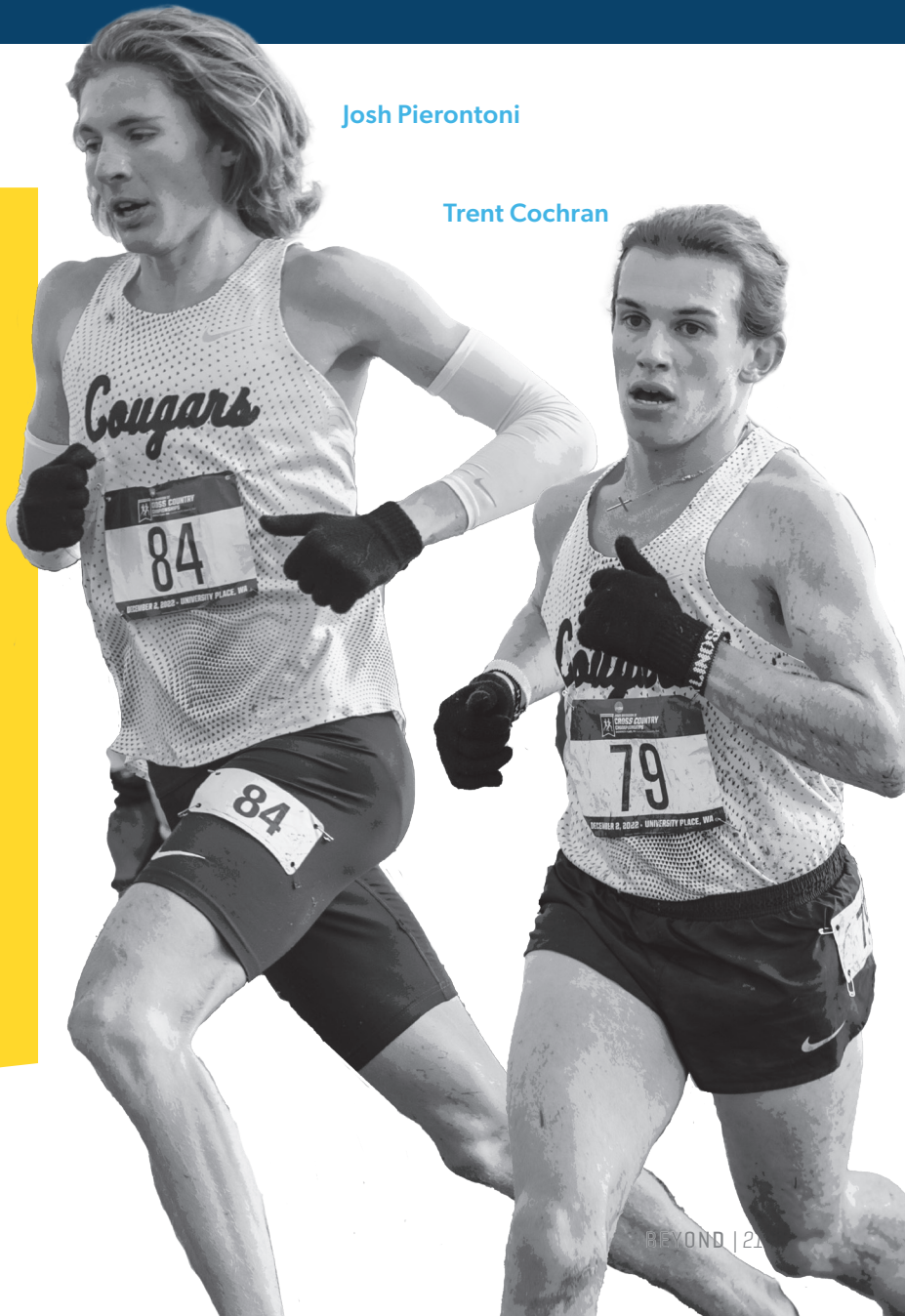


I'd say our secret is living for a bigger purpose and knowing salvation is complete in Jesus. Because running is painful! I don't love it enough to do it for myself. But using the gift that God's given us to glorify Him in any way, even if it's just running, is awesome.

Matt Storer

Josh Pierantoni

Trent Cochran



Pierantoni kickstarted the Colorado Open hosted by the University of Colorado at Boulder and ran a blistering pace, finishing just five seconds back of the leader against a field of Division I runners.

CCU men's and women's teams ran to victory winning the Lewis Crossover a few weeks later with Cochran and Pierantoni finishing second and third, respectively.

"We all get together and make a strategy," Storer said. "And we were able to work with each other and push each other."

The Cougars clawed their way through snow on the ground at Wash Park in Denver with five runners placing in the top 20 to earn a second-place finish as a team and an automatic berth to the National Championships.

Pierantoni finished third with a time of 30:35.3 in the 10k, while Storer came in sixth with a time of 30:52.2. Alex Vance came in 15th at 31:34.4 with Cochran finishing 17th at 31:39.3. A step behind Cochran, Isaac Russo came in 18th with a time of 31:42.4.

"To be second in this region, you can't do that unless you have a deep team," said Coach Jon Poag after the race. "So, credit to the guys one-through-seven for really putting it together, and I'm really excited to see what they can do at the national level."

In its previous forays onto the national scene, CCU finished 17th in 2019 and 10th in 2021.

This past season, the Cougars started out middle of the pack against the nation's best in Seattle, Washington for the NCAA Division II National Championships before moving up near the front halfway through. Then as the finish line approached, they made a move onto the podium and into history.

Pierantoni led the way with a final time of 30:08.6 that was good for 11th place, while Storer came in 17th at 30:14.2. Cochran's time of 30:24.8 was good for 31st place.

With top 40 finishes, CCU took third place in the nation with Pierantoni, Storer, and Cochran earning All-American honors.

"That was awesome because I had no idea, going into the race, where I would place," Storer said. "We all came across the line and just huddled together crossing our fingers wondering, 'Did we do it?'"

They did.

Colorado School of Mines had three top 10 finishes to become national champions, while Wingate out of North

Carolina came in second, just 14 points ahead of CCU.

The team credits their focus on a greater purpose for their success.

"With your teammates, when you're practicing on time, stretching, cooling down — doing the small things right leads to bigger success," Storer said. "Doing it for a bigger purpose helps drive those things forward that could usually be left out."

"We try to show Christ's love on our team," Storer explained. "I've had a lot of people from other schools come up and ask me, 'What's CCU's secret?' I'd say our secret is living for a bigger purpose and knowing salvation is complete in Jesus. Because running is painful! I don't love it enough to do it for myself. But using the gift that God's given us to glorify Him in any way, even if it's just running, is awesome."

Pierantoni followed his junior campaign with back-to-back All-American honors in cross country, and he added third and fifth-place finishes in the 5k and 10k at the NCAA Track and Field Championships to cap his senior season with three All-American honors.

In addition to his cross-country recognition, Storer finished fifth in the Indoor Track and Field Championships 5k winter final to earn a second All-American honor. Then during the outdoor track and field season, he finished as the national runner-up in the 5k and fourth place in the 10k to earn his fourth All-American honor in his first season with the Cougars.

Cochran added a 14th-place finish in the outdoor track and field 1500m final to finish the season as a two-time All-American, and Majeski finished eighth in the fast-paced mile at the outdoor track and field championships to become an All-American. Russo finished 13th in the 10k for the outdoor track and field championships to earn All-American honors.

On the women's side, there was another historic showing as the women finished 10th in the nation at the same race as the men's team for the highest finish in the program's history. Top finishers in the 6k race were Paige Tack with a time of 21:35.8 and Zanzie Demco with a time of 21:45.3.

Demco capped off a banner campaign for the CCU women's track and field team with a 14th-place finish in the outdoor track and field championships in the 1500m event to become an All-American.

Expectations remain high for the Cougars heading into 2023-24. The United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association ranked both CCU cross-country teams in the top 10 in the nation with the men coming in at No. 6 and the women at No. 9.

Swinging for the Fences

On the softball diamond, Colorado Christian featured just the right mixture of pop at the plate and perfection in the circle en route to a season for the record books.

The season did not start off on the highest of notes as a 7-1 setback to No. 11-ranked Cal State San Marcos in the season opener and 10-6 loss to Biola University out of California saw the Cougars seeing 0-2 staring them straight in the face.

However, it was merely setting the stage.

Alexis Hamilton tossed a three-hit shutout against Hawaii Pacific to get CCU rocking in its first win of the season, and Kali Crandall's one-hit gem in a nightcap matchup against San Francisco State got the Cougars rolling all the way to .500 and well past.

The season-opening losses came on February 3, 2023, in the opening day of the CUI Kickoff Classic, and the Cougars didn't feel the bitter taste of defeat until the first of April — April Fool's indeed — in an 8-7 setback to Regis.

In between, they put together a school-record, 34-game winning streak, rising to be ranked No. 7 in the nation.

“This season was no different than the two years before I have played softball at CCU,” said catcher Kenzie Middleton. “I still put in the hard work. The only thing that was different was the team chemistry. Everyone clicked, and we had fun all year. We centered our success around God, which made this team so special and successful.”

Special might be an understatement for the season Middleton and Co. put together.

A junior hailing from Golden, Colorado, Middleton had a beyond

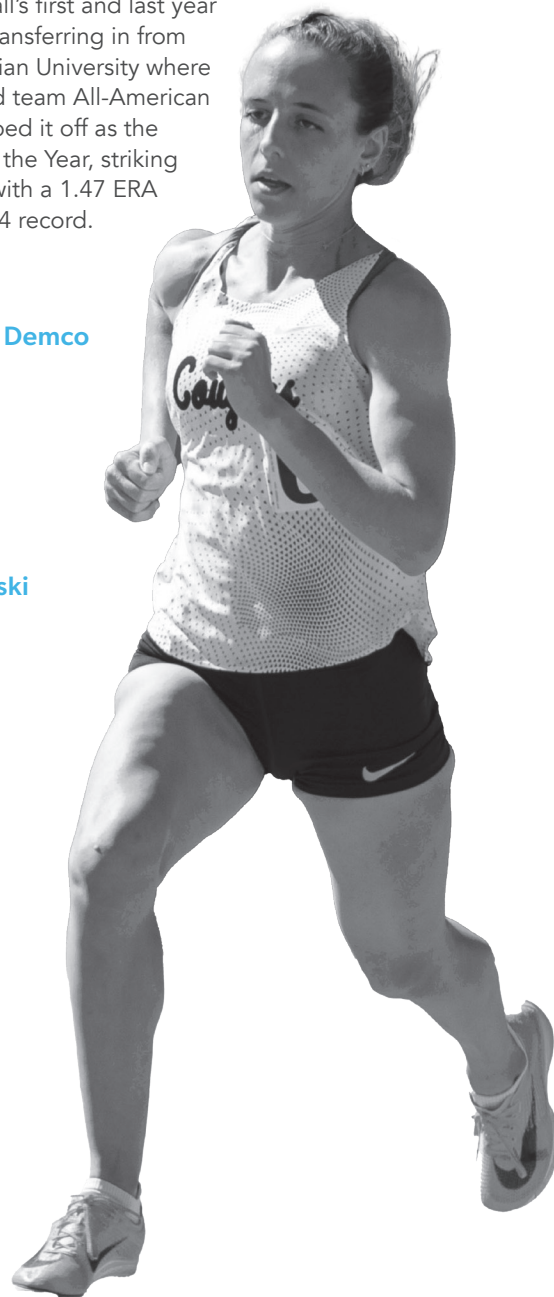
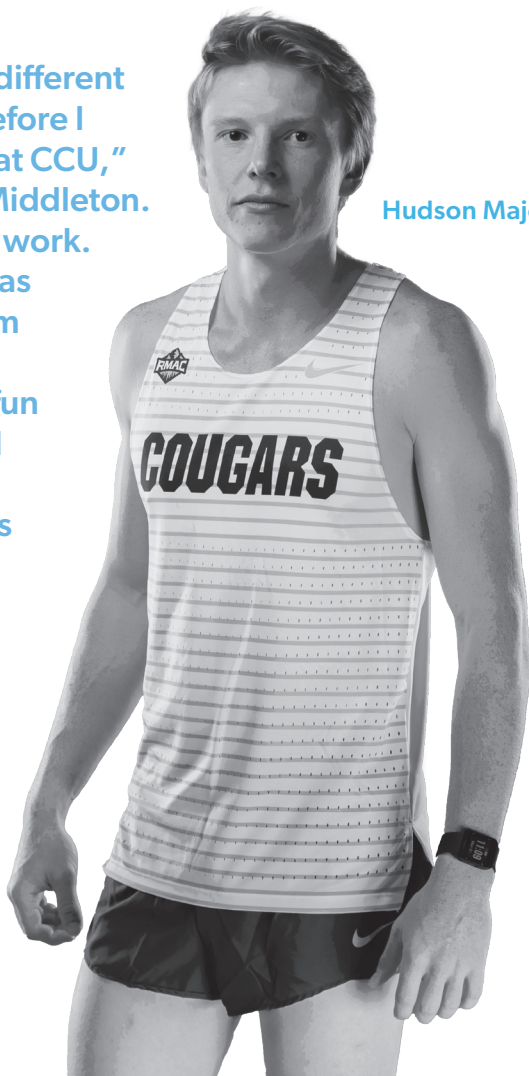
spectacular season, slashing .401 at the plate to be named Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Player of the Year, South Central Region Player of the Year, and a first team All-American, according to the DII Conference Commissioners Association (D2CCA) and National Fastpitch Coaches Association. She also broke the career triples, season doubles, and single season home-run records.

She was joined on the All-American team by teammates Crandall, who was dealing in the circle all season long, and Logan Menzies in the outfield.

A graduate student hailing from Artesia, New Mexico, 2023 was Crandall's first and last year with CCU after transferring in from Oklahoma Christian University where she was a second team All-American pitcher. She capped it off as the RMAC Pitcher of the Year, striking out 230 batters with a 1.47 ERA en route to a 29-4 record.

Zanzie Demco

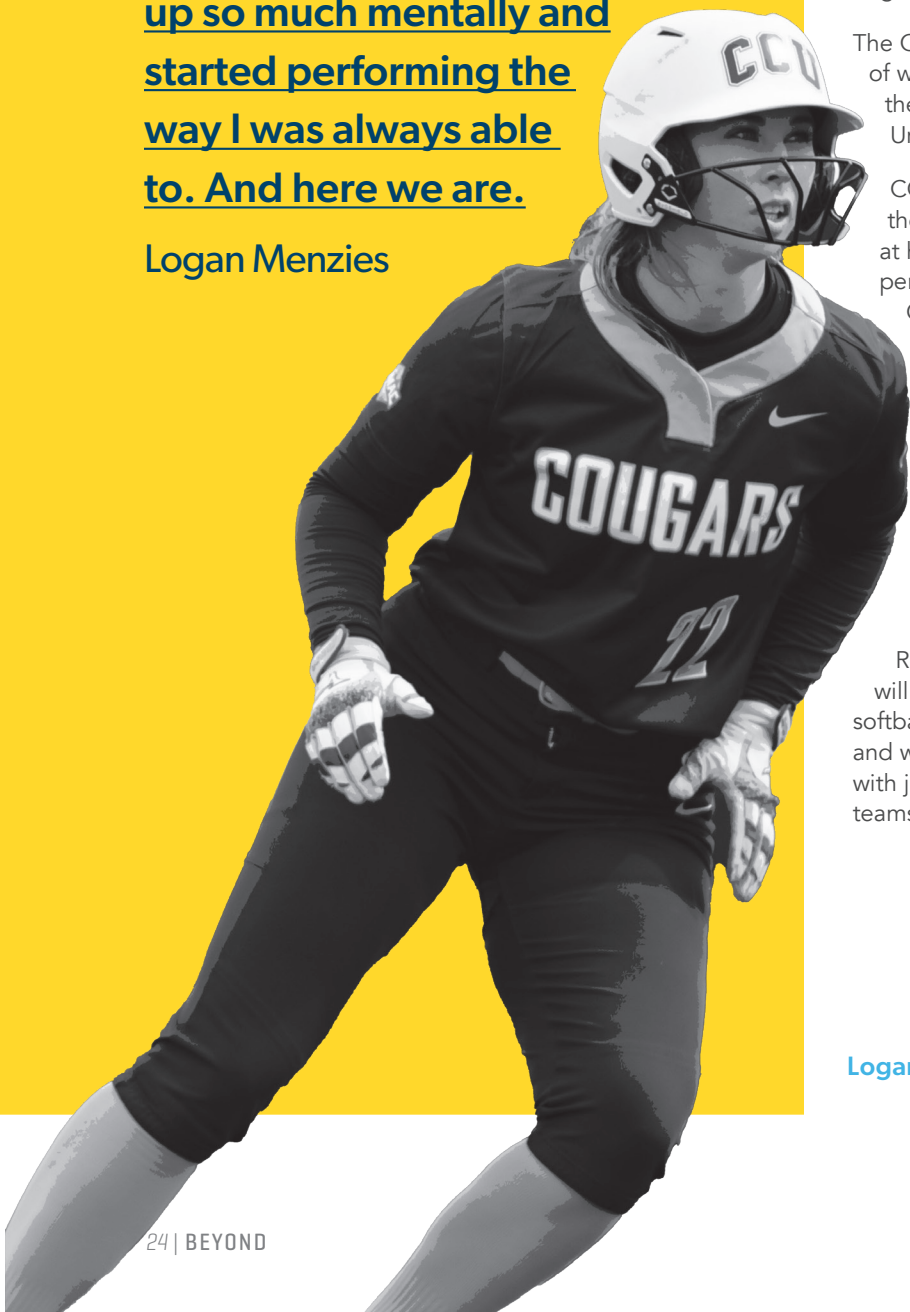
Hudson Majewski





This year I changed my mindset. 'I thought, I'm not going to let my performance define me anymore. I'm genuinely going to give this season to God and see what He does with it.' Funny enough, I finally stopped beating myself up so much mentally and started performing the way I was always able to. And here we are.

Logan Menzies



Not to be outdone, Harper, Texas, native Menzies put together a top-notch season of her own. At one point, Menzies tied Middleton for the school record with 16 home runs, while hitting .346 with 64 runs batted in to be named a D2CCA All-American.

"This year I changed my mindset," said Menzies. "I thought, I'm not going to let my performance define me anymore. I'm genuinely going to give this season to God and see what He does with it. Funny enough, I finally stopped beating myself up so much mentally and started performing the way I was always able to. And here we are."

For the first time in any sport at CCU, the softball team hosted the RMAC Championship tournament, capping off its second-consecutive conference tournament title with an 8-3 win over Colorado Mesa before earning a spot in the NCAA Regional tournament.

The Cougs traveled to Canyon, Texas, and earned a pair of wins against St. Mary's University before bowing out of the tournament against No. 9-ranked West Texas A&M University.

CCU capped off the year with a 57-6 record, which was the best mark in school history, with a perfect 23-0 mark at home. Crandall and Abrie Castillo tossed a handful of perfect games, and Coach Larry Hays was named RMAC Coach of the Year for the second straight season.

As the No. 2 seed in the region, CCU had earned the right to host games. Though with CCU lacking adequate facilities, hosting responsibilities were given to West Texas A&M.

Hopefully that is the last time the Cougars are unable to host after the University announced a new campaign to bring the new sports complex to life less than a mile away from campus.

Renderings have been completed for the complex that will include an NCAA-approved competitive, synthetic turf softball field; a collegiate, synthetic turf soccer field for men's and women's soccer; and a four-lane practice track complete with jump pits for the men's and women's track and field teams.

Logan Menzies



“I think getting our own facility would be so beneficial, especially after what the softball team accomplished last year,” Crandall said. “I know everyone’s working hard and doing the best they can ... I’m grateful things are getting started.”

Sophomore Sensation

After last season’s successes, the CCU men’s golf team heads into this new year with high expectations as the expected front-runner to win the RMAC. A big reason why is the return of standouts like Xavier Bighaus.

Currently a junior hailing from Melissa, Texas, last season Bighaus started fast with a fourth-place finish in the Ryan Palmer Foundation Invitational to open the season, and he finished strong down the stretch.

The Las Vegas Desert Classic in Boulder City, Nevada, and the Southern Colorado Masters in Pueblo, Colorado, marked the first time in program history the Cougars won back-to-back tournaments, with Bighaus finishing in fourth place in Nevada, highlighted by shooting a 66 with seven birdies on the second day. He claimed a third-place finish for the Cougars in Pueblo.

In the RMAC Championships, Bighaus opened up, shooting a 1-under par 71 in the first round and followed that up with a career-best 7-under par score of 65 on day 2, which carried him to first place at the RMAC Conference Championship.

He capped the season as an RMAC All-Conference selection while being named to the Ping All-Region Team and Ping Honorable Mention All-American honors. Not a bad way to round out your sophomore year.

The success of CCU athletes like Bighaus and Co. was evident in their respective areas of competition; however, it wasn’t just their scores and times that made the difference.

After the 2022-23 school year, CCU was recognized with its sixth consecutive and 10th total Sportsmanship Cup from the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, which proves the Cougars’ intention to and success at preparing competitive, character-filled, student-athletes who make an impact on their teams, in their towns, and across the globe.

Kenzie Middleton

Kali Crandall

Xavier Bighaus



BEYOND

BOUNDARIES

WITH CCU ACADEMY

BY MEGHAN HICKMAN

Providing college credit opportunities for high school students across the world

Colorado Christian University is dedicated to the growth of a student in every stage of his or her life, beginning as early as a freshman in high school. Providing students with a glimpse of Christ-centered higher education at an early age is a vision that Jim McCormick, senior vice president and vice president of Student Life and Enrollment, has cultivated for the past decade through the CCU Academy.

AFFORDABLE COLLEGE COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS

An academic division comprised of a team dedicated to the success of high school students is a rare occurrence at any university, but CCU has set its sights on championing lives by paving the way for higher education to remain affordable and accessible through three key programs offered by CCU Academy.

➤ **DUAL CREDIT** CCU Academy partners with over 150 high schools in the United States to provide dual-credit options to students where they can earn college credit without leaving their high school campuses. The program enables high schools to offer collegiate-level courses on their campuses by utilizing their college-level curriculum and highly credentialed faculty.

➤ **ONLINE DUAL ENROLLMENT** CCU Academy's online dual-enrollment courses are taught 100% online by highly qualified CCU faculty and are designed for students who wish to have a faith component integrated with their general education coursework. This program serves homeschool students especially well due to its scheduling flexibility and asynchronous format.

➤ **ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE** The CCU Academy Associate of Arts degree is designed for high school students and focuses on CCU's general education curriculum, which includes Arts and Humanities, Biblical Studies, Communication, Science, and Social Science. The A.A. degree requires completion of 60 hours, including 36 hours in general education courses and 24 hours in electives — students may transfer up to 75% of the required credits toward the CCU A.A. in Liberal Arts degree track.



I'm excited to be at a university where the students around me have chosen to be a part of a Christian environment, where they also desire to be intentional about their faith and spiritual growth.

—Karis Richardson



In its first year, CCU Academy served three students, and now at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year, CCU Academy has served 7,000 students across the U.S. and internationally. The heart and mission behind the Academy has always been to keep the prices of courses low so that students have a surplus of options to earn as many college credits as they can before transferring in to a university or college, or even directly into CCU.

Many of CCU's undergraduate students have their first encounter with the University during their time in high school, taking Academy courses where they get to experience higher education from an authentic and unapologetically Christian worldview.



Students like Karis Richardson had their first encounter with CCU during high school, taking dual-credit courses and completing her associate of arts degree at Trinity Classical Academy, Santa Clarita, California. Catching waves on the coast and playing the piano and guitar throughout high school did not stop Richardson from engaging in a rigorous and challenging academic experience by taking CCU Academy courses and earning her A.A. degree. She wanted something "convenient, but not easy."

"You're putting in a lot of good work for a really good outcome for a really good thing in the end," said Richardson. "It's encouraging to know

that you're not just working hard for nothing, even though it can be hard."

While managing her busy schedule and earning 60 college credits in high school, Richardson drew encouragement from Romans 5, standing firm in righteousness and being upheld by the Lord.

"Endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Romans 5:4-5, ESV).

Richardson became even more encouraged to draw near to the Lord

in a post-high school setting when she visited CCU during her senior year and heard McCormick speak on the transition into college. She was particularly moved when she heard him state that the current statistic for college students keeping their faith is 70%.

"He was talking about how the main priority at CCU was to not contribute towards that 70% statistic and how CCU wants to build stronger Christians," recalled Richardson. "This really stood out to me when I considered where I was going."

Through a continued series of interactions and guidance from the Lord, Richardson made her final decision to attend CCU this fall where she plans to study Business Management and Outdoor Leadership. Her entrepreneurial spirit infused with a heart for the outdoors inspires her to one day create a business where she can blend all of her passions together while teaching others. Attending CCU with her A.A. degree already completed provides Richardson with the opportunity to focus on her major- and minor-specific courses.

Karis will miss her two parents, Andrew and Rebekah, along with her three sisters, as she says "see you later" this fall and embarks on her journey to CCU; however, she's excited to experience the beauty of Colorado, become more independent, and grow spiritually during her time as a student.

"I'm excited to be at a university where the students around me have chosen to be a part of a Christian environment, where they also desire to be intentional about their faith and spiritual growth," said Richardson.



LEARN MORE about CCU Academy and how a student can jump-start their college education at ccu.edu/academy.

A FIVE-EVENT COLLABORATIVE

THE MESSIAH PROJECT

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO HANDEL

THEOLOGY

PROPHETCY



THE MESSIAH PROJECT IS A
FIVE-EVENT COLLABORATIVE
SERIES BETWEEN THE SCHOOL
OF MUSIC AND THE SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY FOR THE 2023-24
ACADEMIC YEAR.

HISTORY



So, she took Grandma's advice and enrolled at CCU to begin working toward earning her Bachelor of Arts in Communications, 100% online from South Korea ...

Grandma and Gwangju:

CCU alumna fulfills family wish from across the globe

By Cory Butzin

What's the old saying? Parents know a lot, but grandparents know everything.

For Rachel Williamson, truer words have never been spoken. Even when teaching on the other side of the world, her grandmother's childhood nudges toward Colorado Christian University stayed with Williamson to create opportunities that will last a lifetime.

Growing up in Colorado Springs, the now 33-year-old Williamson experienced life similar to most, in a close-knit family of four, with frequent trips to see grandma who lived only

a short distance away from CCU's campus.

Little did Williamson know how foreshadowing those trips would turn out to be.

"She's literally only five minutes west of campus," Williamson said of her grandmother. "We used to drive by CCU all the time, and she'd tell me I could live with her and go to school there."

Grandma's hopes for Williamson were partially right. She did end up becoming a member of the CCU family, only with a couple extra stops and an airplane ride of nearly 6,300 miles along the way.

"Growing up, I always thought I'd live in a Spanish-speaking country," Williamson said. "And I went to an unaccredited university, so I knew I couldn't use it for anything here; I started to look at other countries.

"In 2011, a friend introduced me to Korean dramas. At first, I didn't like them, but then something resonated with me. I thought, 'Maybe this (Korea) is where I'm supposed to go.' So, I graduated in 2013, got my Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) certificate, and I moved to Korea to teach English as a second language."



CCU | online.
Colorado Christian University



A city of more than 1.5 million people, Gwangju is one of the largest metropolitan centers in South Korea located a couple hours south of the capital city of Seoul.

For the first two years, Williamson taught English to kindergarteners at LCI Kids Club before spending the next seven years teaching at Yeongcheon Middle School, Geumgu Middle School, Cheomdan Middle School, Seongdeok Middle School, Gwangju Jinheung Middle School, and Goesil Middle School.

"Some aspects were hard, like not being able to come back to the States for a birth or death in the family," she said. "Because I was a teacher, I was only allowed to take vacations during summer and winter breaks, but I loved

the experience. I did a lot of traveling and was able to explore."

Williamson traveled to historical sites throughout the country, including the site of the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang and took vacations to Japan, but she also began to turn an eye toward the future.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do long-term, but I knew I couldn't do anything with the degree I had at the time," she said. "Working and trying to take multiple classes at the same time was difficult. I talked to other university's programs where you had to take two or three classes at a time. CCU was the only one that gave me the option to take one class at a time and not be stressed out."

So, she took Grandma's advice and enrolled at CCU to begin working toward earning her Bachelor of Arts in Communications, 100% online from South Korea through the College of Adult and Graduate Studies. And in 2022, Williamson graduated from Colorado Christian University.

Grandma was proud.

"I've really enjoyed my CCU experience," Williamson said. "I enjoy being able to talk about different topics, how the Bible is integrated into all classes, and to see how what we're taught relates to Scripture without fear of being criticized by teachers or peers; that is really nice."

The ability for Williamson to complete her degree while still teaching in Korea



I didn't know what I wanted to do long-term, but I knew I couldn't do anything with the degree I had at the time.

was the icing on the cake; however, she knew her time in Gwangju was coming to an end, although not her time at CCU.

“By 2022, I knew I was going to spend one more year in Korea and then move back to the States,” she said. “I love teaching, and I saw the Master of Education in Special Education at CCU Online and enrolled.”

Williamson completed the first year of her master’s program, including some of her student teaching requirements, while in South Korea.

“Rachel is one of the most conscientious students I have had the privilege of working with,” said Professor Kathy Johnson, who taught two of Williamson’s graduate courses and served as her field advisor. “Several

times, our course webinars were in the middle of the night due to Rachel living in Korea, but she never missed a webinar. She is dedicated and has the heart to be a special education teacher.”

In the spring of 2023, Williamson moved back to the United States.

After growing up in Colorado Springs, a city of nearly half a million people, and spending nearly a decade in the metropolis of Gwangju, she moved back to Grass Lake, Michigan, a village of a little more than 1,000 people half an hour west of Ann Arbor, to be near her parents who moved there from Colorado.

“Honestly, I’ve had more of a culture shock moving back to Grass Lake than

I did moving to Korea,” she said. “I’m used to being able to walk everywhere! I had two Starbucks within a five-minute walk of my house in South Korea.”

Williamson said she’s now taking time to rest before diving into substitute teaching. She is completing the last year of her master’s program before graduating next spring and tackling life’s next challenge with a spirit of adventure and two Colorado Christian University degrees to her credit.

“I don’t know many people who are able to take the time to do something like moving to Korea, but I’m glad I was allowed the opportunity,” Williamson said. “There was some good, some bad, and everything in between, but it was an experience I’ll never forget.”



MINISTRY in MOTION

CCU's Kinesiology department's winning combination of ministry and the study of motion has created a community of servant leaders.

By Heather A. Eades

Take a stroll anywhere on Colorado Christian University's Lakewood campus these days, and you can't escape the sense of forward movement. And the expansion and growth observed in construction are just outward nods to the many ways CCU is growing; inside each department is a continuous drive toward excellence. However, in the literal sense, no department is more intently focused on movement than CCU's Kinesiology department.

Though pronouncing the name of the department can prove challenging enough (kin-ee-zee-ol-oh-gee in case you were wondering), even a basic understanding of the program may have you scratching your head; however, the definition is simply: science designed for everybody — or every body, as CCU's kinesiology students will be the first to tell you.

Second-year kinesiology and exercise science major, Jessa Scott ('25) explains, "For me, one of the biggest things I love about the field is that it's so relatable to anyone — we all

have a body. And being able to relate to people and have the knowledge to help people is huge — because everyone can always do something to get healthier, stay more active, take care of their body."

And those "somethings" are not found in the latest diet trend or workout fad. The way that students learn to help individuals achieve optimum health is through science.

"We are exercise science," explains Dr. Bryan Crutcher (a.k.a. "Dr. B."), assistant professor and director of the program, located in the College of Undergraduate Studies' School of Science and Engineering. "We train students how to use science to improve health and wellness, sport performance, and quality of life."

And while images of workout classes and fitness blogging may come to mind at mention of the term, according to Crutcher, kinesiology also goes so much deeper, and it is a vast science



PHOTO CREDIT AUBRI PORTER

"Dr. B." instructs students on using equipment for an aerobic fitness test (VO2max), looking at the endurance capacity of an athlete and how well their body consumes oxygen. Student-athlete Nico Ramirez, B.S. Kinesiology and Exercise Science ('24) demonstrates on the treadmill.

"We are exercise science. We train students how to use science to improve health and wellness, sport performance, and quality of life."



PHOTO CREDIT AUBRI PORTER

of research, application, and serving others.

“We are scientists,” said Crutcher. “We are conducting research, studying data, testing, re-testing — to help people. And that comes in many forms: physical therapy, occupational therapy, exercise physiology, strength and conditioning, athletic training — people in those fields are kinesiology-trained individuals. We are professionals using science to improve the big three areas: health and wellness, sport performance, and overall quality of life.”

Crutcher is at the helm of CCU’s Kinesiology and Exercise Science program, which houses three majors that continue to progress: Kinesiology and Exercise Science, Pre-Physical Therapy, and the recently added Sport Management major, as well as a minor in kinesiology. And according to Crutcher, both he and the Kinesiology department at CCU are just getting started.

With an athlete’s dedication and drive to peak performance, the entire department faculty pours everything they have into assuring they consistently challenge students to excellence in the field with the heart of a servant and the love of Jesus.

Senior Coby Speer (’24), a Pre-P.T. major, embraces the challenge thanks to the support and encouragement found in every aspect of the department.

“For anyone who is looking for a kinesiology program where they invest all-in with you, then CCU is the place to be,” said Speer. “Dr. B. and all of the faculty in the program are incredible. It’s 100% commitment, but you get a lot out of it. Everyone makes sure that you’re learning and growing.”

Crutcher is the driving force behind the program’s development at CCU, though he will humbly and repeatedly insist it is the students who are the fuel. With a passion and off-the-charts enthusiasm for both teaching and building the program from the ground up, it is his continuous and contagious energy poured into serving others that has grown the program to well over 100 students in just three, now going on four, short years.

Though Crutcher is a lifelong athlete, Christian higher education was always important to him, and he wanted to be in an environment where he could teach science and glorify Jesus at the same time. And while he is the first to admit you can do that anywhere, he clarified, “I wanted to be in an environment that championed that and that was part of our mission.”

The department’s winning combination of ministry and the study of motion has created a community of servant leaders, like Scott. For her, it is the team spirit, dedication, and drive Crutcher fosters that keep his students engaged with the

intensity of athletes combined with a ministry mindset.

“This program has created a community of students who really want to serve others,” said Scott. “One of the main reasons I got into it was because I wanted to work with people. A lot of my friends and I — we didn’t go into kinesiology just because of the science alone (which is very fascinating!) but to be able to work with people and serve them by helping them with their overall health and well-being. That’s probably one of the biggest reasons I’d say the program is so important and has impacted CCU as a whole — this community of students who want to help people. And Dr. B. is a huge reason why we all love it so much.”

Speer attests to the strong connection and community that establishes the program as an asset to CCU.

“My favorite thing is learning some really challenging material with the people I regularly have class with,” said Speer. “The class sizes are small, so learning alongside this same group of people throughout the program, it just makes those upper level classes a lot more fun. You know these people as your classmates and now as your friends.”

The team spirit is something that especially resonates with Speer, who had been an athlete all his life.

“I had always been in athletics growing up. So, once I decided I wasn’t going to play football in college, I still wanted to stay connected to that sports world, and kinesiology has proven to be the perfect way to do that.”

Speer plans to continue on with his studies after graduation to earn his doctorate of physical therapy; however, his dream is to work with sports teams, a physical therapist for athletes.

Scott is a second-year junior to the program, a homeschool graduate transferring in last year from courses taken through Colorado Early College. While the classes in her major are top-tier challenging and demand hard work and dedication, Scott remains focused on her long-term goals of using her degree as an athletic trainer for either first responders or the military.

While one may think of athletic trainers only conditioning the sports-inclined, the range of people the students (regardless of their area of emphasis) prepare to work with is extensive. From children to the elderly, athletes to cancer patients or stroke victims — the goal of kinesiology is simply to help people become better at what they do.

“We work with everyone to be healthier, stronger, fit, increase their longevity — whatever their goals may be,” said Crutcher. “Maybe one person’s sport performance is to pick up her grandkids — that’s what she wants to get better at; or maybe



Abby Isom '24

I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to be part of the Kinesiology and Exercise Science department at CCU. Dr. B is an incredible professor who truly cares about my individual success. He takes the time to make this program the best it can be. Even though the kinesiology program is young, it has quickly become a very tight-knit group of people. We help each other, challenge each other, and encourage one another through the hard classes. I feel prepared to go into the workforce and keep my faith at the center of what I do. Obtaining my degree in Pre-Physical Therapy from Colorado Christian University will prepare me for the next step in my career, graduate school! I feel confident heading into my career that I have the tools I need to succeed and that I have a group of people who are walking right alongside me!

TEAM

another person wants to get better at an ability to run without pain in order to keep his heart healthy; maybe another person is an athlete who wants to be an Olympian — the clients and the goals are vast and varied. It's a very in-depth and individualized field."

Individual goals often also include how to become better at avoiding hospital visits and using science to do so.

"A lot of the learning in our courses is about what we can do to help prevent injuries from happening in the first place," said Scott. "Many people will go to the gym and not worry about training, balance, and flexibility, but those things really help prevent injuries. So, we really focus on form and safety and how to train smart. We also learn how to help people focus on the whole aspect of health — not just exercise and conditioning, but what you're eating, how much sleep you're getting, what your mindset is, etc. — it's an overall holistic approach which I think is really cool."

The department has also expanded into the business side of sports with the more recent addition of the sport management degree. This behind-the-scenes team of students is gaining momentum, learning what it takes to execute sporting events with excellence. Crutcher is proud of this expansion of the Kinesiology department and the hard work his students pour into it.

"Our sport management majors are working hard to learn how to run facilities and events. When you go to a CCU sporting event, watch the Nuggets play, or watch the World Cup, there are so many individuals trained in sport management helping to put on these amazing events. Without students being trained in sport management, events like these could not happen. We are very excited to continue to see our sport management program grow."

Whether the learning is around preventative or responsive health plans/treatments, coaching clients to meet their personal health goals, or developing sports management skills and strategies, students learn by doing in the kinesiology department, using the latest advancements in exercise technology and education. And the kin lab is the

place where the magic happens.

“It’s all very hands-on learning,” said Crutcher. “We’re advancing our labs and classes every year, getting students real hands-on experience, and we’re partnering with our Athletics department along with multiple locations, such as p.t. clinics and strength and conditioning facilities, where our students are getting real-world experience working in the field with real clients/real patients. We’re excited about doing research, doing science, taking what we’re learning in lecture and applying. Our students do the research, do the testing, do the hands-on.”

The hands-on approach of the program has played a winning part in keeping the students excited and engaged through even some of the most challenging courses. And having the students jump in, in practice along with theory, begins at Day 1.

“Even in some of the very first classes we take, we learn how to tape ankles or test for different injuries, all by doing,” said Scott. The older students will have different and obviously more advanced projects or research or testing with some of the athletics students. Some of my favorite things have been all the hands-on learning, which I find, for me, sticks better. I already have learned so much!”

For Speer, actively conducting research has been his passion.

“I’m currently working on a project that is studying whether or not music can be used as an ergogenic aid during workouts,” said Speer.

Describing the process, Speer elaborated, “We have people come in and perform a one-rep bench max protocol with music, then without, along with a with/without music condition for the anaerobic test. Basically, they’ll

come in four separate times doing the same test but with and without music.”

The process is no easy feat.

“I’ve been working on this study since August of last year,” said Speer. “This semester, we’ll kick off the actual data collection, and then next spring, we’ll write up the manuscript and hopefully publish it.”

Despite the outstanding research happening in the program along with equipping for success in the field, perhaps one of the most standout features of CCU’s kinesiology department is how students are challenged to be the hands and feet of The Healer himself.

“I always tell my students: God created us to move. He built us to be active,” said Crutcher. “Let’s grow your faith in Jesus while we grow your health and wellness — let’s do both. How do we do that? What does that look like? That’s a goal of mine as well.”

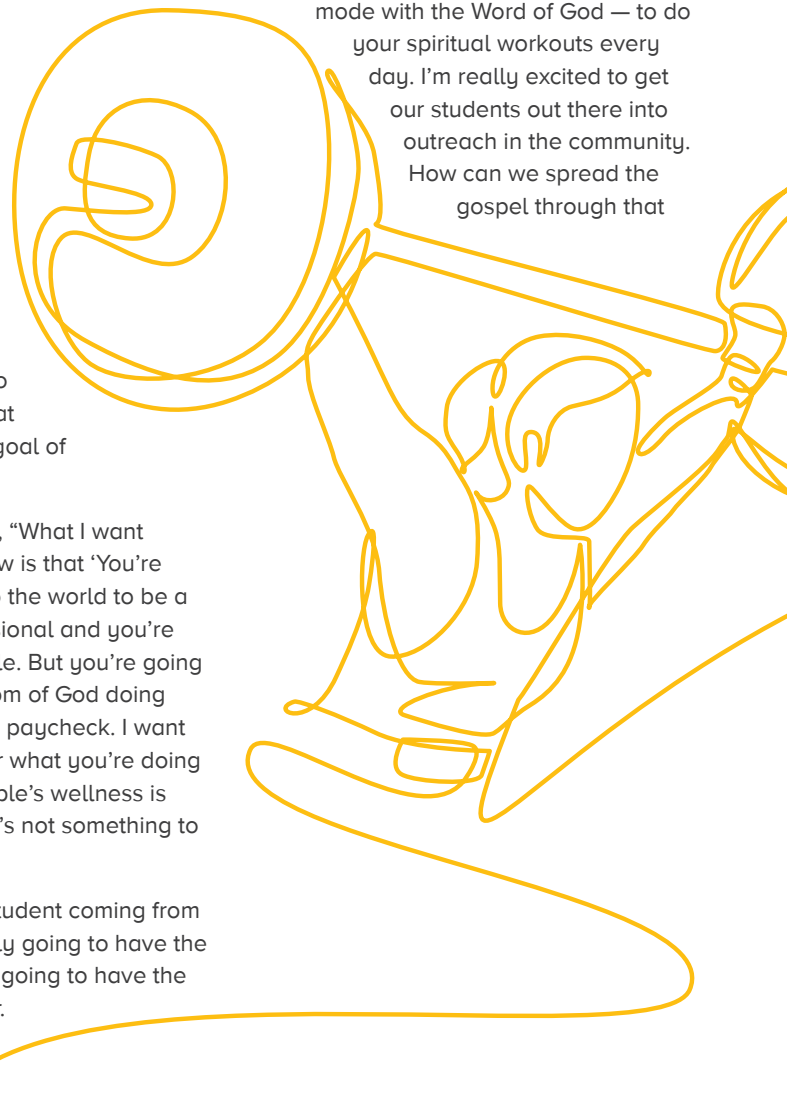
Crutcher continued, “What I want my students to know is that ‘You’re going to go out into the world to be a kinesiology professional and you’re going to help people. But you’re going to honor the kingdom of God doing that — it’s not just a paycheck. I want you to be on fire for what you’re doing because other people’s wellness is in your hands. That’s not something to take lightly.”

“As a kinesiology student coming from CCU, you’re not only going to have the science, but you’re going to have the faith,” said Crutcher.

“You’re going to put those two together, and you’re going to change the world as you change people’s lives.”

And when Crutcher is not in the classroom or working toward department goals, he can be found modeling the ministry aspect of the field, pouring into his students. From creating personalized health and wellness plans for students, faculty, and staff to leading Bible studies for the department students with his wife, Michelle, Crutcher leads the lifestyle goals he teaches by example.

“As I joke with my students,” said Crutcher, “We can teach you how to go beast-mode in the gym, but we also want to teach you how to go beast-mode with the Word of God — to do your spiritual workouts every day. I’m really excited to get our students out there into outreach in the community. How can we spread the gospel through that



We can teach you how to go beast-mode in the gym, but we also want to teach you how to go beast-mode with the Word of God — to do your spiritual workouts every day.

message of health and wellness and what we do? That is a mission of mine, to figure out how to do that well.”

Since its inception in 2020, the program is continuously moving forward into excellence, already doing many things quite well. Now in his fourth year of building CCU’s Kinesiology and Exercise Science program from the ground up, Crutcher has been an unstoppable force in setting a strong foundation and is ready for the program itself to go “beast-mode.”

Crutcher recapped a few successes and highlights from the department in 2023 and his plans moving forward.

May of 2023 saw the first graduating class of the kinesiology program, and this past year’s valedictorian was a pre-physical therapy major. While the program began with sophomores transferring into the program at its birth, 2024 will see the first graduating class of the program who have gone through all four years at CCU.

“We had a really great year,” said Crutcher. “We had some research published, three studies that were published in peer-reviewed journals out of our department this year; and we have students who are participating in new research right

now. They’re leading their own research and presenting at conferences, so I’m really encouraging them in that.

“And then, we’re just continuing to grow,” said Crutcher. “We are perpetually doing more in the lab, getting more equipment to teach how to actually do exercise testing, take a client/athlete and test them, and then learn how to interpret the data for them. We’re not only doing that in research, but we’re doing that in our classes. We are also looking forward to seeing our sport management students continue

to advance in the program and help run the very events we love to attend in sport.”

This new year also launches an excitement in the department around the new presidency at CCU, and one of President Eric K. Hogue’s pillars: championing excellence in athletics.

“I’m so excited for President Hogue,” said Crutcher. “He wants to learn more about what we’re doing in kinesiology, and he’s very supportive. His focus on excellence in athletics helps our program as well, because we help the Athletics department, and our students get to grow their education — It’s a win-win.

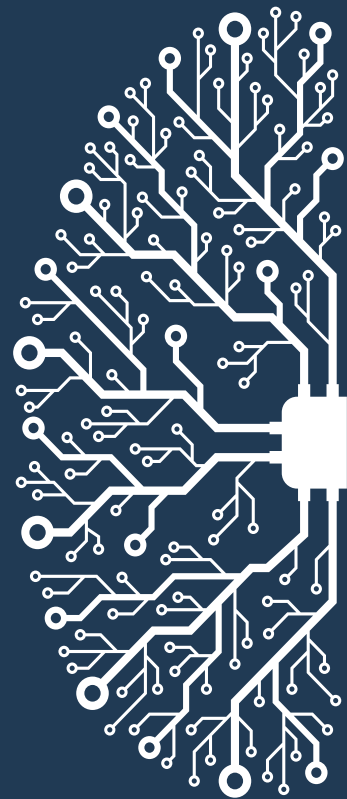
“I truly love working at CCU, engaging in teaching, research, and scientific application,” said Crutcher. “Working with my students and athletes is such a privilege and honor. Helping them deepen their knowledge of health and performance is a joy that is expressed in my passion for this job.”

Crutcher continued, “Our goal in this field of kinesiology is to help others attain their health and performance goals. Most importantly, however, it is to glorify our Savior, Jesus Christ, through faith and education. I want to be the premier kinesiology program in the Rocky Mountain region, from a science perspective but also from a faith perspective.”

As this fall semester kicks off a new era at CCU, with growth and change in countless ways, Crutcher couldn’t be happier to be a part of the full-steam-ahead momentum.

“I am so blessed to have my dream job here at CCU! I love this University, all of my students, my athletes, and this program! I truly give thanks to the Lord, and this is His program; I’m just stewarding it for Him.”

DOUBLE VISION



The art and science of CUS dual major Elijah Johnson, finding balance between music and scientific research while living a life of faith over fear

By Heather A. Eades

There are two sides to every story — especially a story like the one belonging to dual-major, artistic scientist, CCU junior Elijah Johnson. Much like a College of Undergraduate Studies superhero, Johnson is a biology major/student researcher, working to cure cancer by day; music major, aspiring flutist by night.

While his two seemingly opposing passions of music and science couldn't appear to be more different, Johnson relies on both to strike the perfect balance in his life. With the aesthetic and charm of an '80s British pop legend, still, somehow a quick change reminiscent of Clark Kent into a lab coat and goggles suits Johnson as seamlessly as a chem lab latex glove.

However, science was not always a part of Johnson's plans. A musician since age six when he learned to play piano, he picked up the flute as a preteen in middle school band. Johnson's original career goals were set on becoming a professional musician, playing the flute.

The oldest of four boys, Johnson explains, "I think I live exactly as anyone would expect an oldest child to live: I have

a plan, I like to fulfill the plan, I like to do what I can to avoid detours, and I make it happen. And that can really drive what I accomplish, to an extent of course."

And that extent, Johnson knows full well. For as much as Johnson works hard to avoid detours in life, at the time he was gearing up to tackle high school, it was an unexpected change in direction and overall perspective on life that set him on the track he is currently pursuing in scientific research. While most students in his junior high class at Resurrection Christian in Loveland, Colorado, were dealing with pimples, popularity, and other typical teenage stressors, Johnson was staring down the threat of cancer.

At age 14, Johnson, along with his mom and younger brother, was diagnosed with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS), a rare genetic mutation with no known cure (yet) that increases a person's risk of developing cancer. Instead of the typical two genes that correlate with two functioning proteins to prevent cancer and suppress tumors, Johnson and his family members with LFS have only one — a hard blow to process at any stage of life, but for Johnson, the threat was multi-layered.



“When I was diagnosed around seventh/eighth grade, it was very upsetting. I was upset — not mainly because of my own diagnosis, but because of my youngest brother’s diagnosis who was probably like eight or nine years old at the time,” said Johnson. “I was just like, ‘Come on, God. He’s eight years old ... I don’t want to watch him die from cancer before I have to even worry about getting sick myself.’ That’s been my biggest fear still, but it was just all-consuming back then when I was diagnosed.”

Wasting no time, once established in high school, Johnson changed his future music career aspirations to tackle his family’s genetic mutation head-on. He set his sights on becoming a doctor and was on track to grace the pre-med programs of some well-known, Ivy League schools. However, it was the loss of his grandmother during his senior year of high school that uprooted life even more. However, it helped him redefine his own requirements for college and paved the way to CCU.

“The loss of my grandmother really changed my perspective on things,” said Johnson. “She was definitely one of my spiritual rocks. Losing her made me realize how important my family is and how I didn’t want to spend four years of my life developing as an adult far away from them. So, I shifted my search to local Christian universities that would affirm my faith.”

Johnson’s faith has helped him to not live a life of fear but rather move forward in his giftings with intention and purpose. The goal: to simply help people battling or facing chronic illness.

God led the way to CCU where Johnson was accepted and excited to begin his pre-med journey. However, it was the passion of CCU’s science professors that helped him discover an untapped passion for research that led to changing his major to biology with a chemistry minor. He also added a

So, I had to make up my mind about what I believe — not because I’m in a time crunch, but because I can’t live in this bubble full of uncertainty and fear. That just quells your quality of life and what you can achieve.



second major in music, inspired by the School of Music faculty.

While Johnson credits many of the School of Science and Engineering faculty for his current vocational track, Dr. Leontine Galante (Dr. G.) was the associate professor who sparked Johnson's interest in research. While pursuing the pre-med track, Johnson was inspired by Gallante's own research experience. She worked to help Johnson explore the practice of research and ultimately led him to the internship with CU Anschutz's Research Experience for Undergrads (REU) program. Within just a few classes testing the waters, Johnson was hooked.

"Since doing research, I've been able to see the intricacies that science has and the unlimited power and design placed in every detail that God has implemented in science," said Johnson. "I love how I can experience that and learn it, do it, and put it to work, and hopefully help people one day with it."

Assistant Professor Dr. Emily Douville was another formative voice for Johnson on the road to scientific research. A pivotal course so far for him has been Douville's organic chemistry class, which helped expand his long-term goals to pursue a Ph.D. in organic chemistry for work in chemical research. He hopes to put his passion for research to work by discovering/making new anti-cancer drugs, specifically targeting genes like the one responsible for LFS and helping others with the same diagnosis.

The personalized mentoring from CCU's faculty has now led Johnson to a second year of internship as a student researcher at University of Colorado Anschutz, having worked in two different labs, while still embracing his dual biology and music degrees at CCU.

School of Music Professor Mark Dorn observed about Johnson, "There is an intentionality in him I find pretty rare. A lot of our students have missional inclinations, but his is so very focused

and personal, and he's so understated about it. He would have reason to feel either victimized by it or seeking attention — but there's just none of that. It's like he's leveraging this hardship with his family for the greater good. And I just admire him so much for that."

Johnson's dedication to both of his academic disciplines does not go unnoticed. His music professors will be the first to brag on his musical talents alongside his scientific giftings. According to Dorn, Johnson was the recipient of one of three School of Music scholarships last year, his for academic excellence.

Though the color of his hair has been known to artistically change, there is one constant noted about Johnson — if he has a passion, you can guarantee it will be pursued, will have purpose, and will always be accomplished with excellence.

His first love of music began as a college minor, but as Johnson's professors

Anyone within listening range is able to tune into the anointing that seems to grace his musical ability and can tap into the stabilizing strength that comes from his playing — a strength that continues to carry him, keep him centered, and give him hope, even when it's hard.

quickly became aware of his rare talent in playing flute, they encouraged him to lean further into music.

“He came here pre-med and was just doing band to keep playing,” notes Dorn. “And after he got into the year, I said, ‘Elijah, you should be taking lessons, you play so beautifully! You should do whatever your schedule permits.’ And (with Johnson’s signature determination) he said, ‘Well, what if I added a second major?’” Laughingly, Dorn recalls, “I said, ‘I think that would be hard.’”

But any challenge appears to be a “challenge accepted” for Johnson, and the music department couldn’t be happier. Since arriving freshmen year on campus, Johnson has been the first chair in Dorn’s flute section and has played professional-level performances alongside CCU faculty throughout his college career, including most recently at President Hogue’s inauguration.

With a special affinity for playing



PHOTO CREDIT AUBRI PORTER



Through both his science and music degrees, Johnson has transformed his fears into compassion and a determination to help others with everything he's made of. In return, those gifts help him as well.

classical French Romanticism-era pieces, Johnson pours emotion into everything he plays. As a general music major with an emphasis on flute, he enjoys his time as part of and touring with the Symphonic Band, participating in the Christmas concerts at CCU, as well as accompanying in band concerts, and playing in the musical pits.

“He’s an extraordinary player,” said Dorn. “He’s one of our best instrumentalists.”

Dorn marveled, “As a musician, there are technicians and there are expressive players, and all of the good musicians can do both. But Elijah is as expressive and just as beautiful a soloist as any student I’ve worked with. It’s like he can’t be anything but artistic in his musical work — which is really interesting because he’s got this very scientific brain!”

To Johnson, it makes perfect sense. Both majors have worked together in a unique pairing for him as both a means of creative expression and as foundational pieces to his faith journey. He credits the flexibility and individualized support of both School of Science and School of Music faculty to help develop his strengths as a whole.

“I’m so grateful for the opportunity to pursue both of my passions at once,” said Johnson. “I didn’t realize how important the balance was to me until I added music as a major. Then I was like, ‘Ohmygosh — it’s so nice to switch back and forth,’ to get to use both sides of my brain but also to see how they work together.”

When asked if he feels there is a connection between his science and music, Johnson personally finds similarities in the expression and creativity behind both.

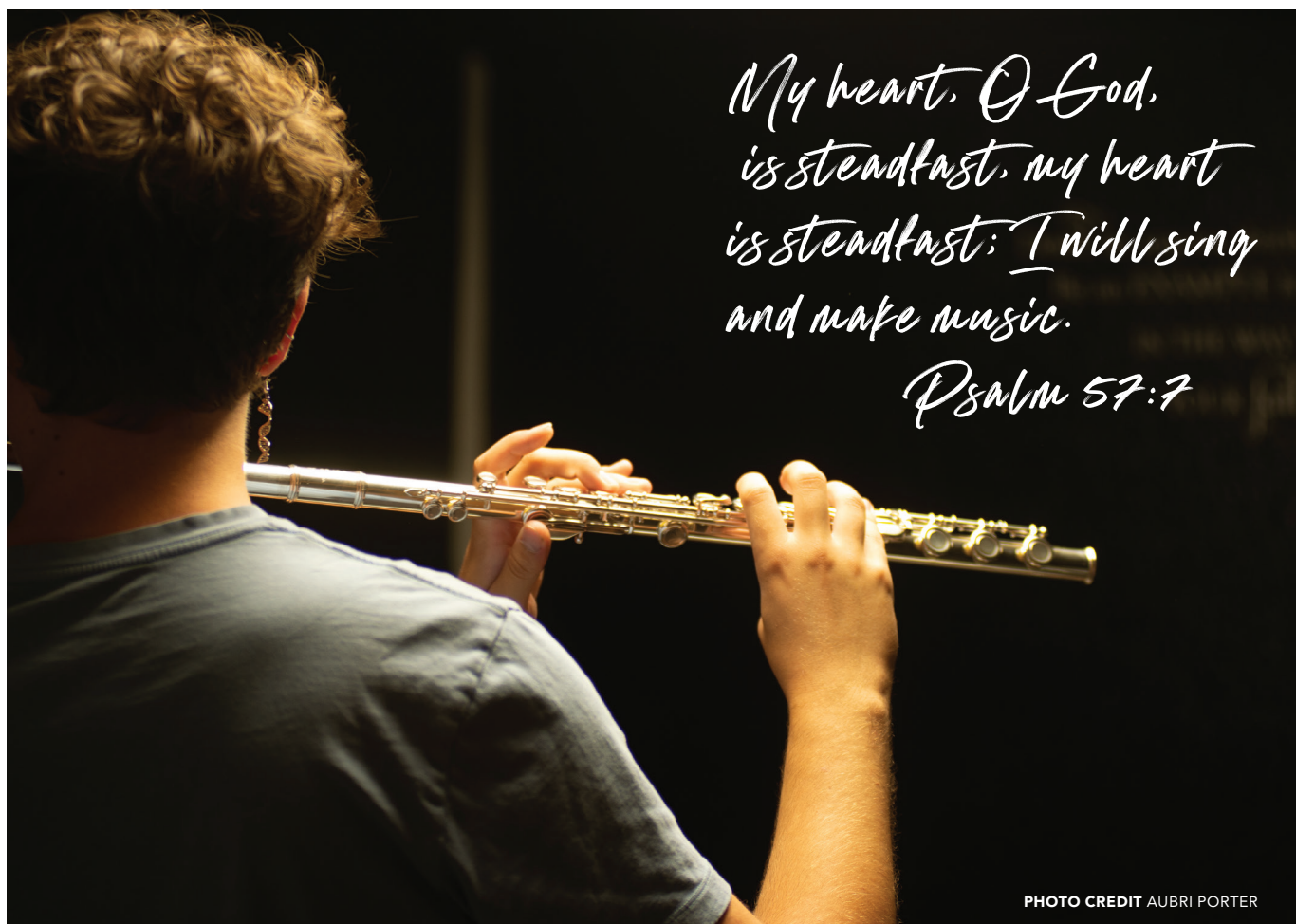
“Research requires so much creativity,” Johnson explained. “It’s actually something I’ve been learning a lot about this past summer in internship — how you need to be able to approach things in so many different ways and understand how you can do that in order to find an answer from something.”

“And so, with music and art, you can approach something and get similar responses from yourself and the audience, but you can also do that in so many different ways,” Johnson continued. “The same holds true in research — knowing how to do it, when to do it, where to do it, and being able to place in it the importance of it, knowing how to approach something and achieve the same goal ... Science, especially the research side of it, is definitely an art, and there is definitely overlap — which I’m grateful for, and I wasn’t expecting! It is kind of like a little gift!”

Through both his science and music degrees, Johnson has transformed his fears into compassion and a determination to help others with everything he’s made of. In return, those gifts help him as well.

Johnson reflects, “With research, I think it’s almost a method of worship to get to experience and learn and express God’s creation. And music also helps a lot with that. Music is also a big worship and prayer time for me and helps me process through a lot.”

Watching Johnson immediately get lost in the music the moment he picks up his flute is a sacred experience. Anyone within listening range is able to tune into the anointing that seems to grace his musical ability, and can tap into the stabilizing strength that comes from his playing — a strength that continues to carry him, keep him centered, and give him hope, even when it’s hard.



The loss of several friends who also had LFS, dying from cancer within a year of Johnson meeting them, is the tragic type of hard that drives his plans forward to help find a cure. Steadied by his music, it is his unique and personal perspective that creates an unmatched drive in his career aspirations, but also a steadfast and inspirational faith that has only grown stronger throughout his journey.

“With the loss of my friends, it was like, *Wow — this is real; this is happening around me. It could happen to me, my mom, my brother at any time,*” Johnson recalled. “So, I had to make up my mind about what I believe — not because I’m in a time

crunch, but because I can’t live in this bubble full of uncertainty and fear. That just quells your quality of life and what you can achieve.”

For Johnson, slowing down or losing focus is not an option. He credits CCU for helping him continue to grow in his faith journey while working toward his goals in the field.

“Knowing that we could someday have an effect on God’s people that He created in His image through our work is just so motivating,” said Johnson. “At least for me, it is. That’s one thing I’ve been noticing and have been grateful for

throughout this journey: my worldview. Beause it’s hard — you look at the stats; you look at how many are dying from these cancers ... and it can feel defeating. So, it’s just nice to have a sense of motivation beyond the work we’re doing and kind of see these people we might be able to help as a way for us to love them through our work.”

CCU stands proudly behind both the future scientific and musical contributions and successes of Elijah Johnson. We ask you to join us in praying over this exemplary student, and extraordinary musician in one accord.



The scholarship I received was a huge blessing because it brought financial peace to me and my family.

CCU Fund donors give \$3.35M since its inception in 2018

You play an important role in helping students enroll and graduate from Colorado Christian University. In just six years, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends have invested 6,348 gifts to the **CCU Fund**, which directly supports our traditional students in the College of Undergraduate Studies (CUS) on the Lakewood campus.

In response to rising student need, the CCU Fund will now serve as a scholarship fund for students in need. More than ever, your investment in a student's education will ensure a student who desires a Christian education can benefit from CCU and impact the world with grace and truth. You can help a student receive a Christ-centered future.

One such student is Meara. She hails from Pinehurst, North Carolina, and she has one younger sister in high school. Meara chose CCU because it aligned with her values around faith and academics, as well as her personal goals. She also liked CCU's "Jesus plus everything" approach, meaning Jesus first, and everything else follows.

I asked Meara to tell us a little bit about herself.

What are your academic and career goals?

I am focused on a degree in business administration with a minor in marketing. I hope to be a

small-business consultant and help entrepreneurs. My summer internship had this focus, and it affirmed my calling into this field.

What is your favorite class?

My favorite class so far was Business 101 because it was very challenging, and the professor displayed a lot of grace and was easy to connect with on a personal level.

Do you have a favorite professor?

My favorite professor is Mike VanderKooi, MBA, M.S., because he is full of joy and is a gifted teacher.

How did a scholarship make a difference to your CCU experience?

The scholarship I received was a huge blessing because it brought financial peace to me and my family. I am now in a better position to pursue my degree at CCU and graduate into my calling.

What do you want scholarship donors to know?

Your gifts really do help and can be a deciding factor for many students who want to come to CCU. It made a big difference for me, and I am very grateful for CCU and the Christ-centered education I am receiving.

What is your favorite CCU activity outside of class?

I absolutely love my D-Group (Discipleship Group) and how I can



always find support, prayer, and friendship through these women. I also serve as a Preview host, where I oversee 35 students who serve as room hosts for visiting prospective students. It's very rewarding to encourage future students to come to this wonderful university.

Meara is thriving at CCU because of people like you who want to make a difference. To make a gift, please scan the QR code below, or visit our secure giving site at ccu.edu/ccufund. You can also use the attached BRE and send in your gift today.



THANK YOU for being a generous donor and investing in a CCU student!

Give securely online: ccu.edu/ccufund



**CCU'S ANNUAL
GIVES DAY**
is Thursday,
March 7, 2024!

You will have the opportunity to make a difference for a student by supporting projects and scholarships for undergraduates, adult learners, scholar athletes, and future nurses. Mark your calendar, and show why you love CCU with your tax-deductible gift on Gives Day 2024!



You can bring hope to an adult learner through the Hope Fund!

In the fall of 2020, the **Hope Fund** was launched for adult learners enrolled in the College of Adult and Graduate Studies (CAGS). Like the CCU Fund, this fund provides vital scholarship dollars to adult learners who need help finishing strong and obtaining a transformational degree from CCU.

What does a typical CAGS student look like? In general, they are unique and determined. They have the remarkable resiliency and grit that it takes to be an adult student. Adult learners must navigate the waters of returning to school after, in many cases, a very long hiatus from any "classroom" environment. CAGS students are going to school amid the challenges of everyday life. They have been hit the hardest by the lingering effects of the pandemic and inflation on their jobs and family budget. Many are trying their best to balance family, kids, jobs, looking for jobs, military commitment, relationships, elderly parents ... many struggle with finances, mortgage and rent payments, bills, broken relationships, and so much more.

Now more than ever a CAGS student needs your help to stay enrolled and finish strong so they can pursue their calling and change the economic mobility for themselves and for their children.

To be a GREAT Christian university means that students of all ages have access to a high-quality college education marked by academic, personal, and spiritual growth. You can be a hero to these students by investing in the Hope Fund.

To make a gift today, please visit our secure giving site at ccu.edu/hopefund. You can also use the attached envelope, or scan the QR code below. Gifts of all amounts from donors like you will be pooled together to make a big impact for CCU's adult learners.



THANK YOU for bringing hope to and investing in an adult learner.

Give securely online: ccu.edu/hopefund

Daniel LaBry Joins Colorado Christian University as Vice President of Advancement

LaBry brings more than three decades of philanthropic experience to his new role



Colorado Christian University is pleased to announce that it has appointed Daniel LaBry vice president of

Advancement for the University. LaBry has served in philanthropic roles for more than three decades before joining CCU.

"Daniel brings a wealth of experience and a passion for Christ-centered higher education to Colorado Christian University," said President Eric K. Hogue. "I am excited for his leadership

in the vital work of partnering with our friends and supporters of the University as we prepare graduates that will transform the world with grace and truth."

The tapestry of experience God has woven in LaBry's journey brings a deep connection to CCU's programs and Strategic Priorities to be a GREAT Christian university. Through LaBry's professional journey, he has been on the front lines of STEM education (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), the national school choice movement, adoption and orphan care, evangelism training, formal seminary and informal pastoral and ministry leadership training,

international missions in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Cuba, and the Philippines, and higher education in secular and Christ-centered environments.

"The experiences and skills God has given me are an ideal match with CCU and the work He is doing," LaBry said. "This is a place where God is on the move, and it's a blessing to be part of His work!"

The entire University celebrates this new addition to the CCU family. Please join us in welcoming Daniel LaBry in continuing the good work happening through Advancement.

Discover your spiritual roots on a fantastic pilgrimage! **WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL**

10-DAY TOUR OF GREECE & TURKEY
including three-night Greek Isles cruise
with optional Rome extension

MAY 13-22, 2024

[May 22-24, optional Rome extension]

Hosted by Dr. Donald & Mrs. Christina Sweeting

Onsite Bible teaching by Dr. Sweeting [CCU Chancellor]
and Dr. David Kotter [CCU Dean of the School of Theology]

Imagine standing on Mars Hill in Athens or walking the streets of Ephesus or looking out from the Isle of Patmos where John was exiled. Imagine walking in Rome where Paul and many early Christians gave their lives for the gospel. On this trip, we will walk where some of the apostles walked and open the Scriptures to learn about those very places and events which ultimately brought the gospel to us!

For more information, please contact:

Betsy Simpson

303.963.3473 or bsimpson@ccu.edu



CCU celebrates more than 1,400 graduates

The Class of 2023 is the largest in University history

COMMENCEMENT MAY 2023

9 Doctoral degrees · 442 Master's degrees · 355 CUS Bachelor's degrees
623 CAGS Bachelor's and Associates degrees · 54 high school students earned
an Associate degree through CCU Academy

many
walk through life
in a tint of white

their dreams
painted black

expectant
each day
will be the same

anticipating
every moment will be
gray

instead

teach them
to live in color

discovering
the acrylics
the earth has to offer

smiling in butterscotch yellow
laughing in primrose pink
loving in raspberry red

tell them
to sing
in the shade of spun sugar
humming in
the hue of bluebells and butterflies

lead them
to an empty canvas

a french stitched cloth
ready to be painted
ready to be stained

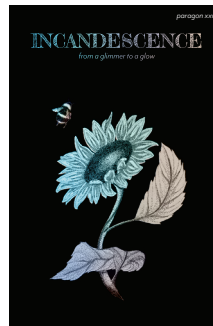
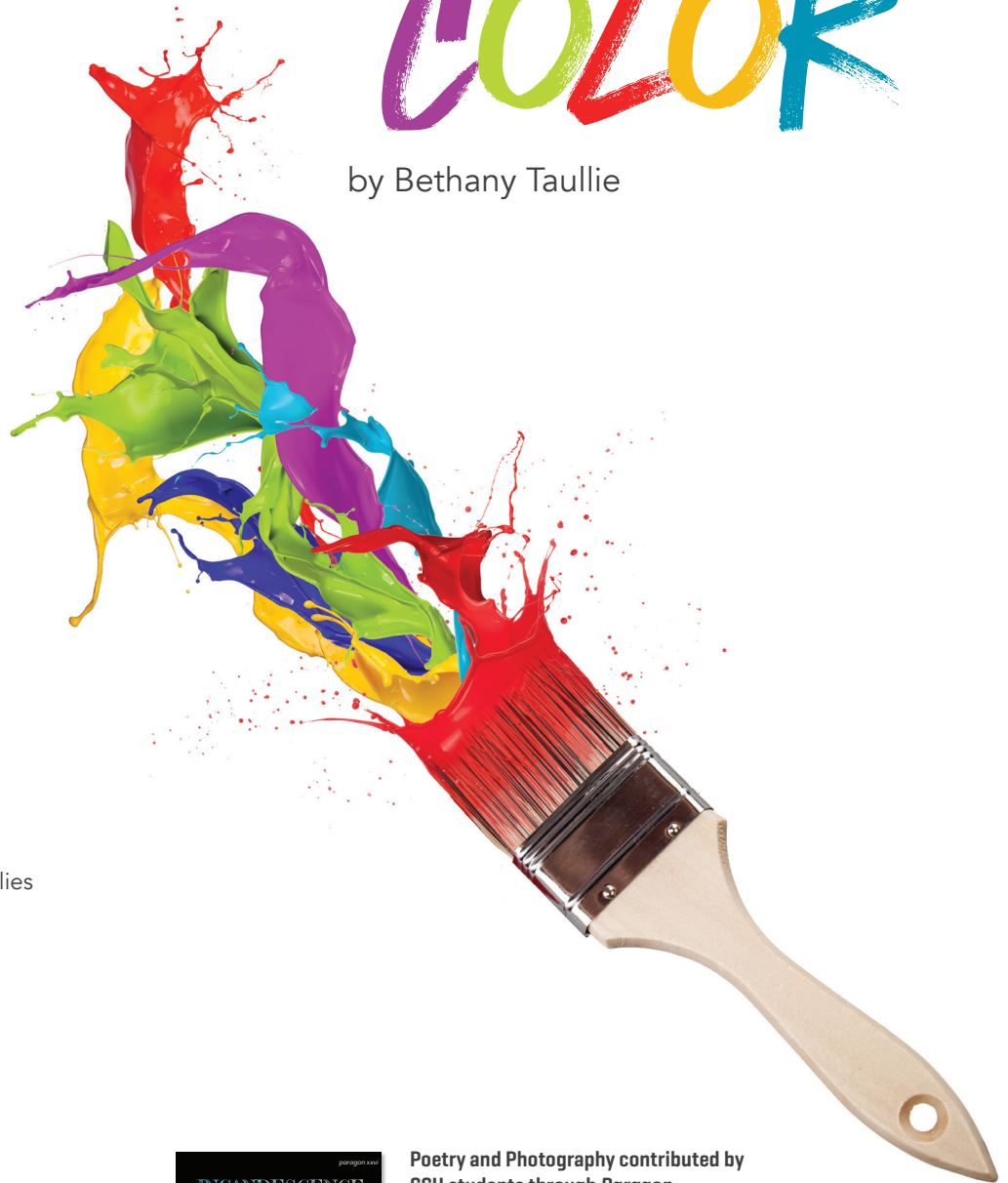
with every watercolor
their hearts can imagine

hold them
hug them
guide them
teach them

to dip their brushes
and live in color

LIVE IN COLOR

by Bethany Taullie



Poetry and Photography contributed by CCU students through Paragon

Paragon is the Colorado Christian University literary magazine that provides students with an outlet for creativity and expression. Under the direction of appointed student editors, our annual publication consists of contributions by students of original poetry, short stories, photography, and artwork. Annually, students at CCU have the opportunity to submit and publish their work through our literary arts journal. This student-driven club focuses on community, design, and widespread appreciation of literature and art on campus!

Breathe In & Let It Go

Photography by Paige Dunlap



College of Adult and Graduate Studies

Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

CCU offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs for those ready to advance their career options, expertise, and earnings potential.

SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Applied Psychology (B.S.)
 - Emphasis in Biblical Studies
 - Emphasis in Clinical Counseling
 - Emphasis in Criminal Justice
- Communication Studies (A.A., B.A., Certificate)
- Creative Writing (B.A.)
- Criminal Justice (A.S., B.S., Certificate)
- Criminal Justice (M.S.)
 - Emphasis in Campus, Event, and Organizational Safety
- General Studies (A.A.)
- Psychology (A.S., M.S.)

SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

- Applied Apologetics (B.A., M.A.)
 - Emphasis in Cultural Engagement
 - Emphasis in Global Apologetics
 - Emphasis in Innovative Evangelism
 - Emphasis in Practical Apologetics
- Biblical Studies (A.A., B.A., M.A., Certificate)
- Christian Ministry (B.A.)
- Executive Leadership in Christian Ministry (M.A.)
- Theological Studies (M.A.)

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

- Accounting/Accountancy (B.S., M.S., Certificate)
- Business (B.S.)
 - Emphasis in Entrepreneurship
 - Emphasis in International Business
- Business Administration (A.S.)
- Business Administration (MBA)
 - Emphasis in Advanced Accounting
 - Emphasis in Cyber Security
 - Emphasis in Economics
 - Emphasis in Enterprise Agility
 - Emphasis in Healthcare Administration
 - Emphasis in Leadership
 - Emphasis in Project Management
- Computer Information Technology (A.S.)
- Computer Information Technology (B.S.)
 - Emphasis in Cyber Security
 - Emphasis in Data Engineering
 - Emphasis in Database Management
 - Emphasis in Networking
 - Emphasis in System Analyst
- Computer Science (A.S., B.S.)
- Cyber Security (A.S., B.S., M.S.)
- Data Analytics (A.S., B.S.)
- Economics (B.S., M.S.)
- Entrepreneurship (Certificate)
- Ethics (Certificate)
- Healthcare Administration (A.S., B.S.)



- Healthcare Administration (Certificate)
- Human Resource Management (A.S., B.S., M.S., Certificate)
- Information Systems Management (B.S.)
 - Emphasis in Cyber Security
 - Emphasis in System Analyst
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management (A.S., B.S., Certificate)
- Marketing and Sales (A.S., B.S., Certificate)
- Nonprofit Management (A.S., B.S., Certificate)
- Organizational Leadership (MOL)

A.S. = Associate of Science | B.A. = Bachelor of Arts | B.S. = Bachelor of Science * BSN is offered in-seat only

College of Adult and Graduate Studies

Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

Organizational Management in Christian Leadership (B.S.)
Organizational Management in Enterprise Agility (B.S.)
Organizational Management in Project Management (B.S.)
Project Management (Certificate)
Public Administration (MPA)

SCHOOL OF COUNSELING

Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.A.)
Emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy
Emphasis in Substance Use Disorders



School Counseling (M.A.)
Counselor Education and Supervision (Ph.D.)

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Alternative Licensure
Alternative Licensure – Special Education
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education (M.Ed.)
Endorsement in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education
Curriculum and Instruction (M.A.)
Emphasis in Alternative Licensing
Emphasis in Biblical Studies
Emphasis in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education
Early Childhood Education (B.A.)
Educational Leadership (M.Ed.)
Elementary Education (B.A.)
Special Education (B.A.)
Special Education (M.Ed.)
Licensure or Non-Licensure
Emphasis in Alternative Licensing
Endorsement in Special Education Generalist
TESOL Certificate

SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Nursing (BSN*, RN-BSN)
Nursing (MSN)
Emphasis in Clinical Care Management in Adult and Geriatric

Emphasis in Nursing Education
Nursing Practice in Visionary Leadership (DNP)



"CCU made it possible for me to keep my full-time job with its odd hours and earn my degree on my own time. I don't know if I could've done it any other way. Now I'm equipped with the knowledge I need to be the best I can be." – Betty R.

[CCU.EDU/PROGRAMS](https://www.ccu.edu/programs)

M.A. = Master of Arts | M.Ed. = Master of Educational Leadership | M.S. = Master of Science | MBA = Master of Business Administration
MOL = Master of Organizational Leadership | MPA = Master of Public Administration | MSN = Master of Science in Nursing
Ph.D. = Doctor of Philosophy | DNP = Doctor of Nursing Practice

College of Undergraduate Studies

Undergraduate Programs

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP

Accounting (major, minor, dual degree)
Business Administration (major, dual degree)
Business Data Analytics (minor)
Camp Management (minor)
Computer Information Systems (major, minor)
Economics (minor)
Entrepreneurship (major, minor, dual degree)
Finance (major, minor, dual degree)
International Business (minor)
Leadership (emphasis)
Management (major, minor, emphasis, dual degree)
Marketing (major, minor, dual degree)
Military Science – Army (minor)
Outdoor Leadership (major, minor)
Pre-Law (minor, emphasis)
Public Accountant Preparation (minor)

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Classical Elementary Education (Elementary Education track)
Coaching (minor)
Education (minor, emphasis)
Elementary Education Licensure (Liberal Arts major)
English (emphasis)
K-12 Music Education Licensure (Music major)
K-12 Physical Education Licensure (Physical Education major)

K-12 Special Education Generalist Licensure (Liberal Arts major, dual degree)
Reading Education (minor)
Reading Literacy (emphasis)
Secondary English/Language Arts Licensure (English major)
Secondary Science Licensure (General Science major)
Secondary Social Studies Licensure (History major)
Secondary Mathematics Licensure (Mathematics major)
Social Studies (emphasis)
Special Education (minor)
Teaching and Learning (major)

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Augustine Honors (minor, emphasis)
Communication (major, minor)
Creative Writing (minor)
Criminal Justice Law and Practice (major)
Digital Media (minor)
English (major, minor)
Global Studies (major, minor)
History (major, minor)
Liberal Arts (major)
Politics (major, minor)
Psychology (major, minor, dual degree)
Public Relations (minor)
Social Science (major)
Strategic Communication (major)



College of Undergraduate Studies

Undergraduate Programs

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Contemporary Music (minor)
 Dance (minor)
 Music (major, minor)
 Music Composition (major)
 Music Conducting (certificate)
 Music Education K-12 Licensure (major)
 Music Media and Marketing (major)
 Music Performance (major)
 Music Production and Engineering (major)
 Music Theatre (minor)
 Sacred Music and Literature (minor)
 Theatre (minor)
 Worship Arts (major)

SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Nursing (major)

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Biology (major, minor)
 Chemistry (minor)
 Computer Science (major)
 Engineering Design (minor)
 Engineering Project Management (major)
 Health Sciences (major)
 Industrial and Systems Engineering (major)
 Kinesiology and Exercise Science (major, minor)
 Mathematics (minor)
 Pre-Engineering (associate)
 Pre-Medical Profession (major)

Pre-Physical Therapy (major)
 Pre-Physician Assistant (major)
 Science (major)
 Sports Management (major)

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Apologetics and Evangelism (major, minor)
 Biblical Archaeology (minor)
 Biblical Exegesis and Linguistics (major)
 Biblical Studies (minor)
 Biblical Studies with Languages (major, dual degree)
 Church History (minor)
 Intercultural Ministry (minor)
 Ministry Management (major)
 Philosophy (major, minor)
 Theology (major, minor, dual degree)
 Young Life Leadership (minor)
 Youth Ministry (major, minor)



CCU Academy

Affordable College Courses for High School Students

Through CCU Academy, Colorado Christian University provides opportunities for students to earn transferable college credit and even an associate degree prior to their high school graduation. Dual credit and dual enrollment courses provide affordable general education courses for high school students in order to help reduce college costs and prepare for the rigor of college coursework.

CCU Academy courses are taught with a Christian worldview — in keeping with CCU's mission to provide Christ-centered higher education transforming students to impact the world with grace and truth.

Vist ccu.edu/academy.



CCU Academy

Colorado Christian University
 Grace and Truth



Armstrong Center Steeple Signing Event

CCU students, faculty, staff, and alumni came together October 4 to celebrate and sign the steeple of the Armstrong Center, the future home of the School of Music and the backbone of the academic quad of the Lakewood campus.

Follow the CCU Alumni Association on social media to stay up to date and discover how you can get involved with the University.

Have an update or looking to reconnect with the CCU Community?



myccualumni



ccualumniassociation



/groups/50908/



@CCUAlumni



www.ccu.edu/alumni

CCUSynced 

ccusyncedin.com

CONTACT:

Kara Johnston Mott

Director of Alumni and Parent Relations



 303.963.3320

 kjohnston@ccu.edu



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Colorado Christian University

'O Lord God, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours?

Deuteronomy 3:24

CCU Benediction

Good Father, we give You glory, for You have been kind and gracious to our CCU family. You have proven to be continually faithful. Your mercies have been new in every new block and in every new class. Your faithfulness continues to bring us to unimaginable lengths. For all that You have done and continue to do, we lift You up as the King of our hearts, the Ruler of our minds, and the Captor of our souls. We sing with the angels and say, "Holy, holy, holy, are You, Lord God Almighty." You are worthy of all our praise and adoration. We thank You for using us even in our weakness to magnify You, Sovereign Lord.

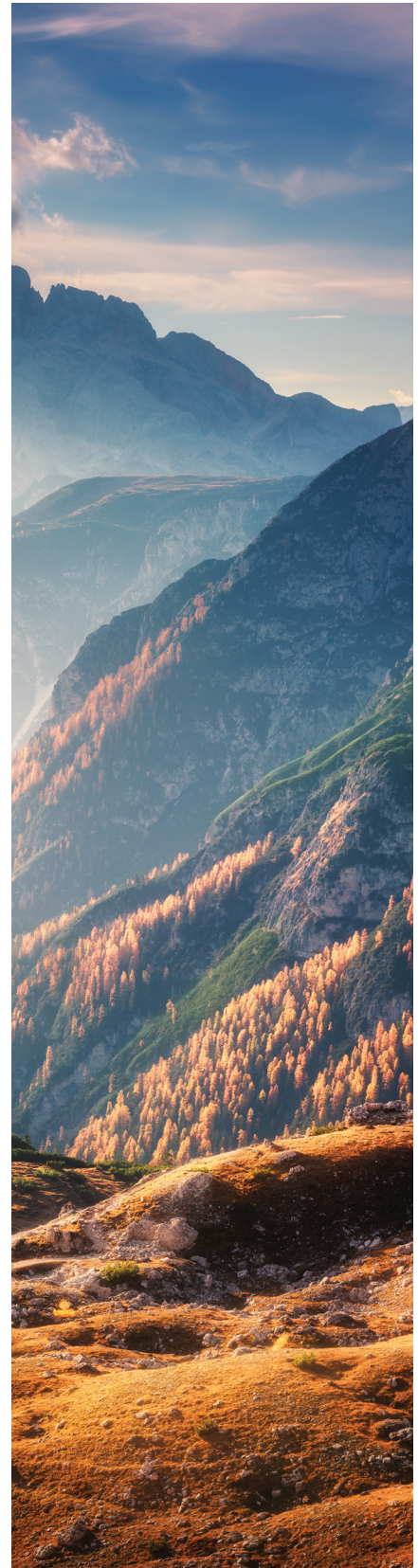
Thank You for the privilege we have to be called Your sons and daughters and to be a part of Your kingdom purposes on earth. Thank You for all the ways that these pages boast of who You are and what You are doing in and through CCU. Thank You for the opportunity to be Your hands and feet to the hurting, lost, and lonely. May we continue to serve our students and communities, modeling after Your compassion and humility. May Colorado Christian University continue to be filled with people after Your heart as we emulate Your love in this generation, for we know our University is here for such a time as this.

Lord, we proclaim that it is not by our might, not by our power, but by Your Spirit that we can live, breathe, and have our being in You. We ask for direction, wisdom, and Holy Spirit counsel as we continue to seek Your will for us. We trust that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens and empowers us. We trust that You will open the right doors, shut the wrong ones, and equip us to discern the difference.

May we continue our endeavor towards greatness, but only that we may be representations of Your greatness. May our love and service reflect Your unconditional love and spread contagiously throughout the world. May our past testimonies, present strivings, and future plans only seek to magnify the Author and the Perfector of our faith so that we, too, may be called good and faithful stewards of all You have entrusted to this great Christian University.

We pray all of this with faith and in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Nancy Thomas Ph.D., LPC-S
*Program Director, Master of Arts in
 Clinical Mental Health Counseling,
 College of Adult and Graduate Studies*





COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Grace and Truth

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

8787 W. Alameda Ave.

Lakewood, CO 80226

Weekend of Welcome 2023



Watch the 1-minute video highlights as we kick off the fall semester!

