

BEYOND

COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



**Ad Fontes:
Back to the Sources**

Feature Story [Page 10]

Dear Friends,

What an exciting eight months it has been! Since joining the CCU community in October, I have come to learn more about the history, people, and momentum of CCU.

Consistently, I hear about the ways in which Christ is at work amongst our student body. Students tell of faculty and staff members who become mentors and open new doors of discovery of God's truth. They tell of peers who pray for them and support them as they face difficult personal challenges. They tell of friendships formed through hard work, laughter, and a common commitment to Christ. They speak with conviction about developing character at CCU while using their new skills to serve Christ and others in their vocations.



It is a privilege and a great encouragement to hear these stories, some of which you'll read in this issue of BEYOND. In January, we received the good news that our College of Undergraduate Studies (CUS) received approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer a new bachelor's degree program in industrial engineering, beginning this fall. We also launched new majors in biblical studies, ministry management, and outdoor leadership. In the College of Adult and Graduate Studies (CAGS), we announced that our undergraduate licensure and non-licensure K-12 teaching programs are now available 100% online. CAGS also added new logistics and supply chain management programs for adult learners.

Cougar Athletics had an incredible year, winning three NCCAA national championships — and more importantly, advancing a vital witness for Christ in athletic competition. Speaking of championships, our Speech and Debate team returned as champions after winning the national championship at the National Christian College Forensics Invitational (NCCFI).

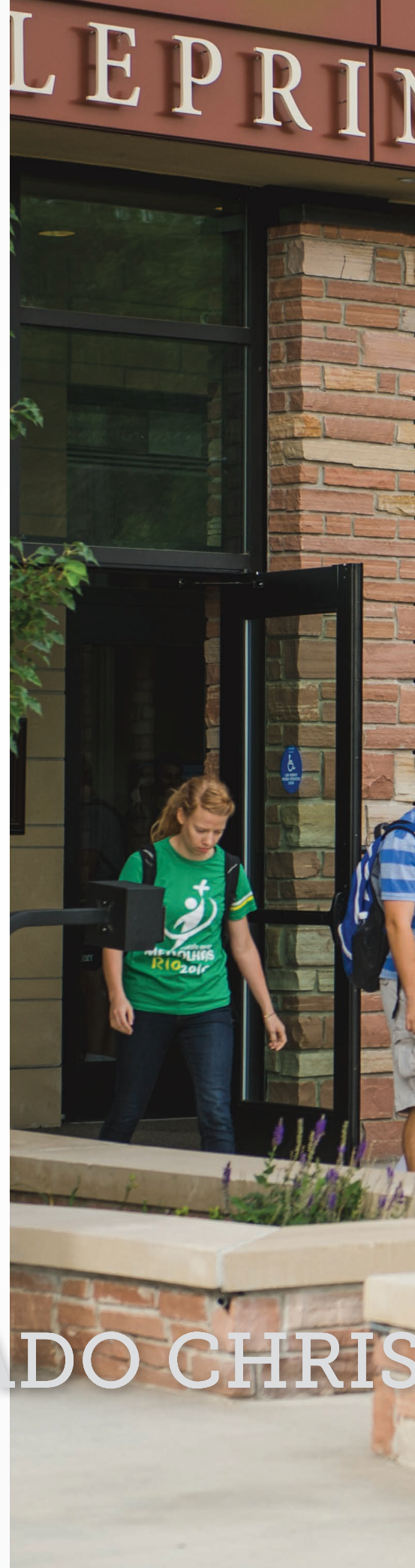
During our spring break and summer holidays, nearly one-third of our traditional undergraduates will travel to 20+ countries through our CCU2theWorld mission program. CCU is impacting communities and changing lives for Christ, worldwide!

Finally, we eagerly await the completion of the Anschutz Student Center, slated for its grand opening this August. Our new student center will continue our focus on becoming a great university, while providing a new space to foster student discipleship in a Christian community. Your prayers and support have helped to make these accomplishments, and so much more, possible. As we look ahead to the future, we thank God for His extraordinary blessings and we continue to seek His guidance as we move forward. May CCU always be a place rooted in the 'grace and truth' of Jesus Christ.

Yours in His Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Sweeting". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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



[COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY]

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BEYOND

A publication of Colorado Christian University

Our Magazine

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



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Vision

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



Mission

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



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NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Here's an overview of what's been going on at CCU.



Dr. Donald W. Sweeting Inaugurated as University President

Over 900 students, special guests, faculty, staff, and friends of CCU celebrated Dr. Donald Sweeting's formal investiture as university president during his Inauguration on Thursday, February 16, 2017. The theme for the ceremony was Colossians 1:17 (ESV), "And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."



Wil Armstrong Elected to CCU Board of Trustees

Wil Armstrong, a Colorado businessman, entrepreneur, and son of former President Bill Armstrong, was elected to the CCU board of trustees on February 22, 2017. Armstrong has served in volunteer, nonprofit, and political capacities in addition to his business ventures. Recently he was elected chairman of the Armstrong Family Foundation.



New Industrial Engineering Program Launches in Fall 2017

With unanimous approval from the Higher Learning Commission, CCU launched the first Industrial Engineering bachelor's degree program in the Denver Metro Area. Enrollment in CCU's Natural Sciences and Mathematics department has tripled over the last five years, necessitating the construction of two new labs, with a third lab on the horizon.



Online Undergraduate Teaching Program for Adult Students

CCU's College of Adult and Graduate Studies launched both undergraduate licensure and non-licensure K-12 teaching programs that are offered 100% online. Students can now enroll in the Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, or Special Education Generalist online programs — with the first cohort starting in August 2017.



Cougars Win Three National Championships

CCU Athletics celebrated three National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Division I National Championships: Men's Basketball (March 2017), Women's Soccer (December 2016), and Men's Golf (October 2016).



CCU Ranked in Top 2% of Colleges Nationwide for the 5th Year

For the 2016-17 academic year, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) evaluated 1,100 colleges and universities nationwide to rate their core curriculum. CCU was honored to be ranked in the top 2% — for the fifth year in a row — one of only 25 colleges nationwide.



New 3+1 Dual Degree Program Launches in Fall 2017

Students can complete a bachelor's degree and master's degree in four years through CCU's new 3+1 Dual Degree program. The first degrees to qualify for the program are a B.A. in Biblical Studies with an M.A. in Biblical Studies and a B.A. in Theology with an M.A. in Theological Studies.



Speech and Debate Team Wins National Championship

CCU's Speech and Debate team won the national championship at the National Christian College Forensics Invitational (NCCFI) hosted by Grand Canyon University on March 18-20, 2017. The team also celebrated a top four finish at the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament, hosted at Boise State University in Idaho on March 21-25.



2017 Commencement Ceremony Recognizes Over 560 Graduates

The May 13 ceremony featured the University's largest graduating class in history, celebrating their hard work and achievement at the 1stBank Center. The University also awarded an honorary doctorate of humanities degree to Professor Hugh Hewitt, who delivered the Commencement address.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the date for these CCU events!



JULY
16-23 **Young Christian Conservatives Leadership Conference**

July 16-23, 2017
CCU Main Campus
180 S. Garrison St., Lakewood, CO 80226

Students ages 16-20 will spend a week at Colorado Christian University with like-minded young Christian conservatives. With afternoon workshops on leadership, they will learn valuable skills from influential political figures. All YCCCLC participants will enjoy excursions around Colorado including whitewater rafting, a Colorado Rockies game, a Service Day project, chapel, worship, and more. The week culminates with the 2017 Western Conservative Summit where they will hear from prominent political and conservative culture leaders from all over the U.S.



JULY
21-23 **Western Conservative Summit**

July 21-23, 2017
Colorado Convention Center
700 14th St.,
Denver, CO 80202

The eighth annual Western Conservative Summit will convene July 21-23 at the Colorado Convention Center. This year's theme is "Making Goodness Fashionable." Sponsored by the Centennial Institute — CCU's public policy think tank — the Western Conservative Summit is the largest gathering of conservatives outside of Washington, D.C. With three days of outstanding speakers and panels, priceless networking, workshops, and an exhibitor trade show, this event aims to advance faith, family, and freedom for our future.



AUG
23-27 **Weekend of Welcome**

August 23-27, 2017
CCU Main Campus
180 S. Garrison St., Lakewood, CO 80226

Weekend of Welcome (WOW) is the beginning of CCU's new student orientation program for incoming students in our College of Undergraduate Studies. New CCU students and their families will have the chance, over four days on campus, to attend workshops, information sessions, service projects, social activities, and other events that will help them connect to our community. The New Student Retreat completes the orientation process and takes place three weeks after WOW.



AUG
24 **Anschutz Student Center Dedication**

August 24, 2017
CCU Main Campus
180 S. Garrison St., Lakewood, CO 80226

After starting construction on the Anschutz Student Center in February 2016, CCU will welcome students into the new student center this August. Please save the date to join us on August 24, 2017 as we dedicate this beautiful venue. More information about the dedication ceremony will be available on the CCU website.



OCT
13-14 **Homecoming 2017**

October 13-14, 2017
CCU Main Campus
180 S. Garrison St., Lakewood, CO 80226

Colorado Christian University's Homecoming and Family Weekend is a time of fellowship, rejoicing, and connection for our alumni, current students, parents and families of current students, and friends of the University. Save the Date! Registration will open in August. Learn more and check back for updates at ccu.edu/homecoming.

Colorado Christian
UNIVERSITY

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For more information and additional events, visit ccu.edu/events.



TRANSFORMING CAMPUS

Celebrating the opening of the Anschutz Student Center this summer.

After seven consecutive years of record-breaking enrollment in our College of Undergraduate Studies, the CCU community is outgrowing our facilities at a rapid rate. The University's Lakewood campus was originally designed for 600 students. Today, our enrollment is more than 1,300 undergraduate students. In our pursuit to become a great university, we know that great universities require buildings that attract top students and faculty, as well as spaces that foster fellowship and a common commitment to Jesus Christ.

CCU's new student center will continue our focus on fostering discipleship in a Christian community, and will be a tremendous blessing for our students.

60,000

Square feet of dining, office, and common space

7

Distinct dining concepts

6,000

Square feet of dedicated student fitness space

600

Seats available for student dining

\$17 MILLION

Total gifts given and pledged for the Anschutz Student Center



Anschutz Student Center under final phase of construction.

BUILDING SUCCESS

During Weekend of Welcome 2017 (CCU's new student orientation), CCU officials, faculty, staff, students, and community leaders will gather on August 24 to celebrate the opening of the Anschutz Student Center (ASC). The new student center will provide 60,000 square feet of dining, fitness, office, and common space, and will be open for casual socializing and studying. This beautiful venue will also be available for special events and will enrich the entire campus experience.

"The opening of a brand-new student center at Colorado Christian University gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the nature of student life at a great university," said vice president for campus redevelopment, Shannon Dreyfuss, noting that a well-rounded Christian higher

education involves more than taking courses and pursuing a major.

"Our student center will serve as a dramatic new gateway to the campus and social hub for our vibrant campus community. But, moreover, the building will be a space for us to continue our focus on fostering discipleship in a Christian community, and will be a tremendous blessing for our students," added Dreyfuss.

The main floor of the ASC will house the new dining commons, featuring seven distinct dining concepts and seating options; and the new Cougar Den, featuring grab-and-go food service and additional seating. The Great Room in the student center will be a beautiful space, available for many different gatherings of students and visitors on campus. The north side of the building will take advantage of a natural slope in the landscape, creating a walkout patio

seating area. The lower floor will house the University Bookstore and a state-of-the-art fitness and workout facility — a first for CCU. Finally, the ASC's upper floor will be common space for students and will include a game room, student health suite, and Student Life professional staff offices.

God is at work at CCU — changing lives and making His grace and truth a reality in the world. The Anschutz Student Center will be a place on campus where this important work will continue. To all who made this beautiful new facility a reality, thank you for your support of CCU and for being a part of our incredible community; your gifts to our campus development fund will impact lives for many generations to come. Without faithful supporters, we could not do it. ●



— Ad Fontes — BACK TO THE SOURCES

A Vision for Colorado Christian University

By Dr. Donald W. Sweeting

OUR SACRED CALLING

I'm excited to be here at Colorado Christian University to help train up a new generation of Christian leaders — for the glory of God and for Christ's kingdom. I believe that we do this in a critical moment in history, at a time where there's not only intense warfare in the heavenly places as Scripture says, but also during a time where there is fragmentation that you can feel in the church, in the culture, in our nation, and in the entire Western world.

I believe that CCU, and other committed Christian universities, are uniquely positioned for extraordinary influence in the days ahead.

My vision for CCU can be summed up in two words: *ad fontes*. It's a Latin expression which means "back to the sources," or literally, "back to the fountains." This little phrase was a motto used during the Renaissance and the Reformation to describe a return to basic sources that gave us our life. When the reformers used it, they were talking about a return to Scripture, to the gospel, and to Jesus Christ.

The word renaissance is a French word that means rebirth. Rebirth is a Christian notion — similar to words such as renewal, reformation, and restoration. These words imply looking backwards to go forward — looking backwards to find wisdom and life so that we can go forward with strength.

“If you mention going backwards in this society, people think you’re crazy.”

That phrase *ad fontes* actually occurs in the old Latin translation of the Bible, the Vulgate, in Psalm 42, verse 1. It reads, “In the same way the stag is drawn back to the sources (*ad fontes*) of water, so my soul is drawn unto You, oh God.” The psalmist expresses this longing to return to God as the source of his life.

Here you can feel the psalmist’s inner longing. He felt distant from the Lord and was deeply moved to go to the sources of life. He was like a thirsty deer that could find no water. He required the Lord’s presence for his survival. He longs to meet with God, his Savior.

WHAT IS THE FOUNTAIN?

The fountain is the living God. As medieval saints and Protestant reformers looked at this Psalm, they said, “It is Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God. It is the gospel, the power of God for salvation. These are the springs that gave us our life.” *Ad fontes!* By looking backwards we can go forward.

The best way to go forward is to return to the thing that gave you life in the first place. This is great advice for the church because churches can drift. They drift from their first love, but they can find their life again by returning to Christ and His Word. This is also good advice for universities. Universities can drift from their mission and the original

vision that brought them into being, but they can also find it again in Jesus Christ.

There’s great wisdom there for us today as we stand at the threshold of a new beginning. Think for a moment about the Western university and its birth. The Western university was born out of cathedral and monastic schools all over Europe. You can still see the traces of this origin today that testify to the theological core of the Western university — there was a Christ-centered vision that brought them into being.

Many today debate about the biggest issue in higher education. What is it? I don’t believe that the biggest issue in higher education is rising costs, student debt, financial sustainability, demographic changes, government intervention, or the digital revolution. These are all important issues that we have to think about, but they are not the big issue. In my opinion, the biggest issue in higher education today is the issue of its center. What is the center? What is the “uni,” in the university?

WHAT IS THE CENTER?

Think about Europe and its emergence from barbarian tribalism. After the Roman Empire was destroyed, it was the church that went on missions and began to put forward a new vision. The conversion of the West was gradual. With all kinds of missionary ventures, monastic outposts, and gospel preaching, the influence of Christ began to spread.

We forget how the light of Jesus transformed the plight of the poor; the way we treat children, women, and the elderly; and the origin of broad-based healthcare, early science, and musical notation. We forget that the gospel has a track record of being the greatest people-changing, culture-changing force in human history.



We've also forgotten that Christianity was the soul of this new civilization, and that the Bible was the DNA of the Western university! As we look at our civilization today, we see that it has turned against its past. It is running from the sources that gave it life. As Os Guinness said, we are a "cut-flower civilization." The flower has been cut off from its roots, and all is not well. "Cut-flower civilizations," he said, "do not last."

CCU has served our community here in Colorado since 1914. It was born out of a Christ-inspired vision. We aspire to be a Christ-centered university of learners and scholars because Christ is our life. We wouldn't exist if it wasn't for Jesus Christ. That's why we teach our students to honor Christ, trust the Bible, live holy lives, and share the love of Christ both on campus and around the world. We are not ashamed of this.

A DISORIENTATION IN UNIVERSITIES TODAY

Many have written about how higher education has lost its way. Recently, a Canadian professor was interviewed about the state of undergraduates in the average institution of Canada. He said, "Our students are post-Christian. Therefore, they do not know what to believe. They are post-historical. Therefore, they are cut off from almost everything that is worth knowing. They are post-literate. Therefore, even if you can point them to what is worth knowing, they are either not interested in reading or they are incapable of taking advantage of it because they do not, in any effective sense, know how to read."

In the midst of all the mounting educational chaos, Christian universities have an incredible opportunity because we have access to spiritual resources that are life-giving. They are found by going *ad fontes* — back to the fountain!

This brings me to the verse that we chose as the theme for my inauguration at CCU, Colossians 1:17 (ESV), "And He, [Jesus Christ] is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." There is light and life in Jesus Christ. Back to the sources, the sources of God's Word, the source of the gospel, the source of the eternal Son of God who is the Logos, the Living Word.

"My predecessor Bill Armstrong had a favorite question. He would often wander around campus and whisper to himself, 'What if?' So today, let me pose my own "what if."

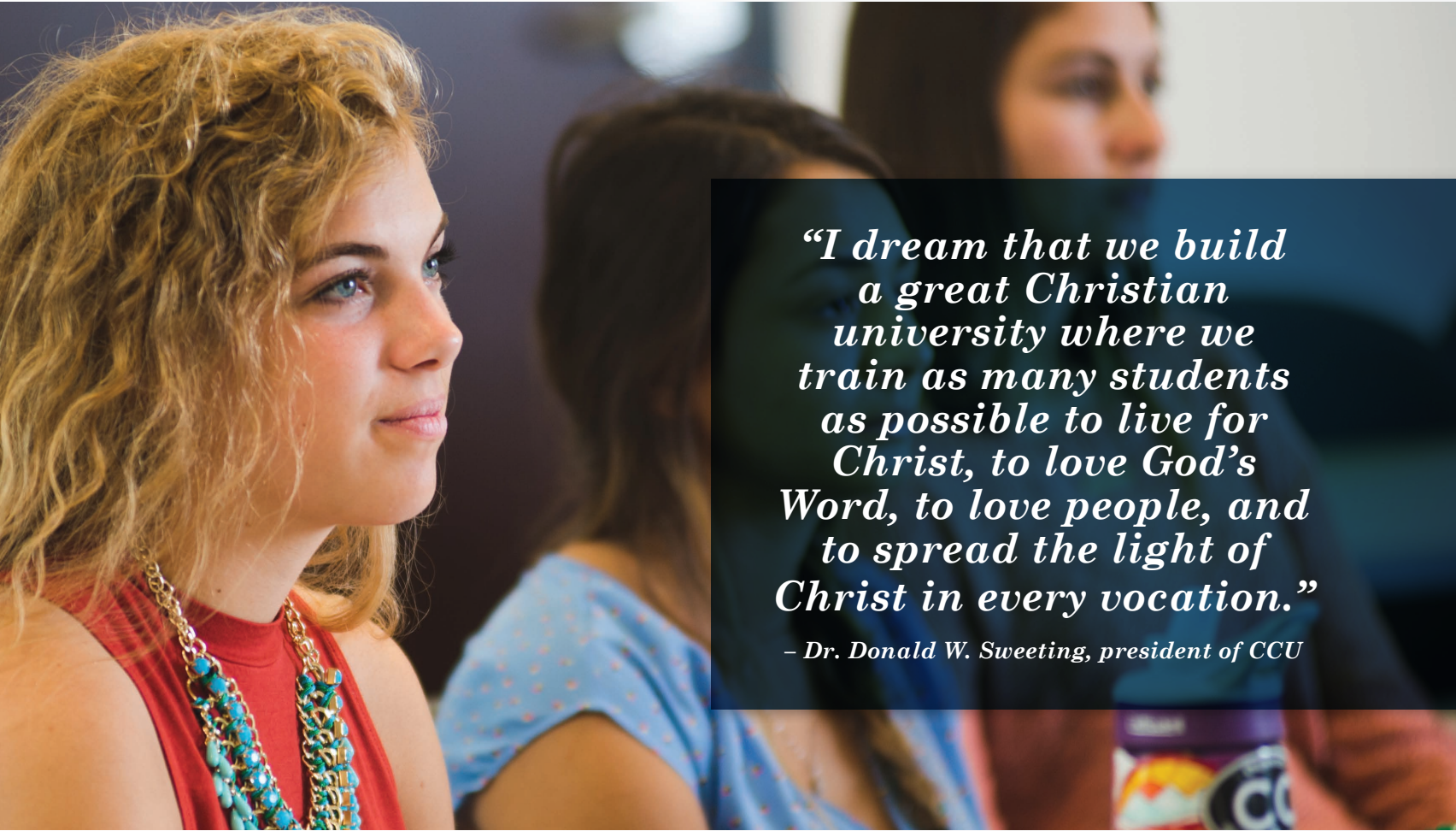
What if we dare to dream a different dream? What if we went in a different direction instead of just going along with everybody else, and looked backwards, *ad fontes*, to go forward? What if higher education, instead of corrupting the younger generation, was a place of spiritual awakening, renaissance, and reformation? Imagine the cultural impact on the church, the nation, and the entire world.

GOING FORWARD

Here's what I dream about for CCU. Number one, I dream that we exalt Jesus Christ and remain faithful to Him in our second 100 years. I want us to be courageously faithful to Him, despite all of the pressures that will come.

Second, I dream that we build a great Christian university. I want us to be convictionally Christian in the classic tradition of the Western university, with a solid core that is under the lordship of Christ.





“I dream that we build a great Christian university where we train as many students as possible to live for Christ, to love God’s Word, to love people, and to spread the light of Christ in every vocation.”

– Dr. Donald W. Sweeting, president of CCU



Inauguration attendees gathering in the Great Room of the Anschutz Student Center.



Dr. Sweeting and guest speakers praying before the Inauguration Chapel Forum.



CCU students studying in Leprino Hall.

Number three, I dream of preparing as many students as possible to spread the influence of Jesus Christ. I want us to train them as whole people; to live for Christ, love God's Word, and be excellently equipped for all kinds of vocations. The early Christians were known for turning their world upside down. I want our students to be known as world changers.

Fourth, call me crazy, but I dream of and pray for another great awakening. We need revival. Historically, God has often sent revival and awakening to the younger generation of Christ-followers who are desperate for Him. I pray that God, in His mercy, would send another awakening to the students of this generation, and that He would be pleased to start moving here in the student body of CCU, to awaken them to Himself, that they might serve Him wholeheartedly. Why not here? Will you join me in praying such a prayer?

Fifth, I dream of a strong academic base for our students that's second to none. Standards have dropped, and there is a theological reason for this.

If you have no ultimate authority, and if everything is relative, then why have discipline? Why build upon a core identity? Why read great books? Why acknowledge great thinkers? Why engage in "the great conversation?"

"Instead, CCU will provide our students with an extraordinary education, pursuing the highest forms of academic excellence."

We will continue building a strong core curriculum in critical disciplines, but in a way that honors Christ and helps students think and live for Jesus Christ.

Sixth, I dream of a university that changes the thought life of the United States of America. I dream that through our students, faculty, and staff, we will change how our society thinks about truth, virtue, freedom,

sanctity of life and marriage, and the value of education. I dream that we will influence our culture with a Christian vision of what it means to be human.

Seventh, I dream of a university that helps to encourage and build the church. I dream of helping the church to be the church — a university that does not undermine the faith of its sons and daughters, but actually strengthens it so they can serve Christ and spread His influence all over the world.

Finally, I dream of finishing our campus by building a great, inspiring setting where students can learn and have an extraordinary education in a remarkable environment. As we say, great buildings don't make a great university, but a great university requires great buildings — which is why we must finish rebuilding this campus.

SURPRISING REVERSALS

We are living in an amazing moment. I would not choose to live in any other time. I know some of my contemporaries look



Dr. Cheri Parks and President Sweeting leading the inauguration procession.

around and get discouraged. But I refuse to do that. Why? Because when I spend time with our students, I become hopeful — but more importantly, because of our hope in Christ who is our life, and in the gospel.

Christianity is a religion of surprising reversals. The ultimate resources for renewal, renaissance, rebirth, and reformation are found not in ourselves, but in the One who Himself rose from the dead, who by His Spirit has often chosen to bring renewal to His church. Which is why I pray, “do it again, Lord.”

“I pray for a movement of God’s Spirit that would lead to a new evangelization — a third great mission to the Western world that we could be a part of.”

But it will not happen by merely appealing to generic values or even conservative values, or to tradition, or a Western canon.

“It will only happen if we return to the fountain, to the God who is Lord, to Christ Jesus who is the Son of God; if we return to Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, and let His Word reshape us.”

So I say to you *ad fontes!* Back to the sources, because that’s where we will thrive. What an appropriate motto for a year commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Why? Because that is how we were born as a university and that is how we will thrive. As the old hymn puts it, “On Christ, the solid rock, we stand. All other ground is sinking sand.”

Will you help us in this dream? Pray with us as we go forward, that God will continue to guide and bless Colorado Christian University in the days ahead. •

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Bringing Back the Gospel

CCU2theWorld — Scotland

Josh Predolich '17

B.S., Accounting and Business Administration



AN UNCOMMON MISSION

It's Sunday morning, just outside Glasgow, Scotland. The pews are empty, but last night the pubs were full. Unable to attract young people, an estimated 500 traditional churches have closed in the last few years. Churches where evangelists such as John Knox and D.L. Moody once preached have been converted to taverns, theaters, and apartment complexes.

Yet, Scotland was once the cradle for reformed Christianity. Historians believe that Christianity was first introduced to Scotland when the Roman Empire occupied Britain in the end of the first or beginning of the second century, A.D. It is believed that Christianity was more formally established in Scotland when missionaries from Ireland arrived in the fifth century.

Christianity in Scotland was formalized and began to flourish with the establishment of the Church of Scotland — known as 'the Kirk' — during the Reformation of 1560.

However, the acceptance of Christianity in Scotland is dropping drastically. In fact, a 2016 Scottish Social Attitudes survey found that 52 percent of people in Scotland said they are not religious, and two-thirds of people living in Scotland said that they "never or practically never" attend church services. Today, only two percent of the population attends church on any given Sunday.

"In Scotland, the church seems to be a social club — people attend just to say that they went and to see their friends," explained CCU senior, Josh Predolich. CCU students have served on mission trips to Lenzie, Scotland, every year since 1999. Josh is one of the students who went on the Scotland trip in 2016, and was a student-leader for the CCU trip in 2017.

"The church is considered something for the 'older generation' in Scotland, and not really seen as something important for the youth and younger generations. I think that's part of the reason why the church is dying in Scotland." Josh continued, "It

seems as though Christianity stops with the older generation because there's a lack of evangelism and discipleship for the younger generation."

While he is no stranger to mission trips, Josh said that the trip to Scotland was immensely different from other trips. "Going to Scotland was a completely different experience. We weren't there to physically build anything, so it's not a typical mission trip in that sense," Josh explained.

Instead of building homes, CCU's students, along with a faculty advisor, partner with a local church — Lenzie Union Parish Church. While there, the CCU students led different activities, events, and Bible studies for the elementary through high school youth programs.

"The sole purpose of the CCU2theWorld trip to Scotland is to talk with the kids and build relationships with them," explained Josh. "Ultimately we go there to show them the love of God through our actions and the conversations we had with them. It takes a few days for the kids to warm up to us and open up about deeper things, but once they decide it is safe to talk with us about their struggles and how the gospel applies to their lives, it becomes one of the most rewarding things about the trip."

Josh connected so well with one of the high school students that they have stayed in touch even while Josh is back in Colorado.



“The challenges they face are similar to those in the U.S. They struggle with alcohol, drugs, and relationship issues,” Josh observed. “It didn’t seem as though the youth in Lenzie felt like they had support or people their own age who they could talk to about what they are going through. They’re on their own, in a sense.”

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

– ACTS 1:8 (ESV)

Josh shared a memorable story from the Scotland trip last year. “It was Good Friday, and our team participated in a ‘cross walk.’ We each took turns carrying a cross from Lenzie to a nearby town called Kirkintilloch. We were approached by a boy named Ewan — he was probably eight or nine years old — who came running up to us when we stopped at a church.”

“He grabbed the cross — which was much larger than he was — and just started walking with it. The image of Ewan carrying

the cross has really stuck with me; this little boy wanted so much to be there with us — to get to know us, to hear about why we were there and what we were doing. Through that experience we were able to share the gospel with him.”

SEEK GOD’S WILL

The Scotland trip had an enormous impact on Josh; so much so, it’s why he led this year’s trip. “The trip taught me to not overlook anybody. Scotland isn’t the first place that you think would need the gospel, but they need it just as badly as anywhere else.”

For those CCU students considering going on a mission trip, Josh advised, “Pray and seek God’s will. Don’t be afraid to go and do God’s work because ultimately, that’s what we are placed on this earth for.”

But for those who are hesitant to travel abroad, he assured, “You don’t need to go on a big trip to share the gospel. There are plenty of opportunities for you to share your story with people around you, in your everyday life.”

Josh graduated from CCU this May. He has been working with the Accounting Department at CCU for three years. Last summer he interned with a Denver-based CPA firm, and has accepted a full-time job there beginning this July.

When asked how he will bring his experience from the trip to his new job, Josh replied, “I’m not going to overlook people. Accountants are generally very well paid, so they’re not struggling financially. However, a lot of them may be lost spiritually.”

Josh continued, “I hope to model CCU’s School of Business and Leadership motto: ‘The pioneering witness for Christ in the workplace is competence.’ This means to build relationships with people and to also do so well at my job that people look at me and wonder what’s different about me. Hopefully that will lead to opportunities for conversations about the gospel in the workplace.”

“The impact that you can have from simply talking with people and trying to love them is greater than you can imagine.”

Since 1999, CCU2theWorld has sent over 200 mission trips to more than 50 countries and 12 states. Ultimately, we want our students to walk away from CCU loving Jesus even more than before they arrived. This means learning to understand that missions, ministry, and service are really a lifestyle; not just one-time events. ●



He Has Made Everything Beautiful In Its Time

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (ESV)

An interview with Dr. Megan DeVore '03

Dr. Megan DeVore, is the associate professor of Church History and Early Christian Studies at Colorado Christian University. Known for her passion for historical theology, Dr. DeVore earned her Ph.D. in Theology, specializing in Early Christianity from the University of Wales. She has taken CCU students on an academic trip to Greece and is currently planning a similar academic travel experience to Rome in 2019.

COMMITMENT TO CHRIST

How did you become interested in studying early Christianity?

When I started my undergraduate work at Colorado Christian University, my major was secondary education, but I found that I couldn't decide which I liked best — theology, history, or English.

The more that I learned about the field of church history, the more I found that my academic interests in theology, history, languages, and literature were funneling me into this discipline.

During my junior year, I completed studies at Oxford University in England, where I took classes in church history, medieval philosophy, and theology. After that year abroad at Oxford, my path was all the more focused, and I used my senior year at CCU to pursue further study of early Christianity and its contexts.

Why did you decide to become a professor?

While substituting at CCU, I happened to run into the dean of the School of Theology, at the photocopier, of all places.

I remember the dean asked me a question in Latin, to which I responded in Latin. He then responded, "That was a test: I want you to be one of our professors." Later, I found out that he had been surveying students about my teaching. And now here I was, being offered an affiliate position in the School of Theology.

From the first day of teaching as an affiliate, I was enamored with the profession and flourishing. Within a year, the dean was moving to hire me as a full-time professor and commissioned me to create various church history courses for the University.

What do you think are the most pressing issues right now for Christians?

I think this is a unique time to be involved in historical theology and church history,

because many Evangelical Christians are appreciating church history again. We are asking many questions: “What is our past? How has that made us who we are? How do we learn from and receive our history? What does it mean to be a Christian now, in a world that’s increasingly skeptical of — and in many places hostile to — us?” We are recognizing that our long history is still with us, and it will help us walk forward as a church.

What is surprising about teaching church history?

When people hear what I teach, they assume that I’m sitting around reading dusty books. They forget that church history is a very visual field, and that I have to be trained in the languages and material cultures of Christianity as well. When I talk about art history, something seems to connect with people; when they learn that art history is an essential component of church history, for example, or when they hear a painting explained, they find it quite compelling.

In centuries past, churches used the arts not to replace Scripture, and not merely as a tool for the illiterate. The arts were to worshipfully coincide with, engage in, and theologically unfold Scripture and its truths. Today, you see a lot of art in Sunday schools: kids do art in church. Yet adults neither do art nor have it surrounding them, in most churches. I would propose that losing our artistic literacy, especially of the visual arts, has limited our view of God, of ourselves, and our practical engagement in worship.

Experiences of the body, mind, and heart, like those that the arts can provide, touch the core of our humanity. They are key to connecting together in community, and are hinged on the reality of the incarnation — that of Emmanuel, *God with us*. *God with us* changes everything, including the material, visual world. Thus art can be used as a tool for engaging with God’s revelation, for formation, for discipleship.



Professor DeVore examining historical artwork.

How does early Christian art affect how you teach?

From the moment that students walk into my classroom each day, they see a huge work of historic art or architecture displayed on the projector screen. Whether it’s examining architecture, paintings, or even Celtic Gospel manuscript pages, I find that rooting historical theology, church history, and even languages in visual arts has many benefits. Practically, it helps my students walk through the overwhelming millennia of history.

My church history class also includes field trips to historic churches around Denver, where I teach my students how to interpret the art and the architecture and where we see historical theology in action. I find that after these experiences, my students leave with an even greater passion to serve their own churches from within, and they leave with an increased awareness that the church — the entire Church — is indeed one body.

How does church history relate to discipleship?

I love teaching in a theology department at a Christian university, because teaching and

discipleship operate in tandem. I tell all of my students that I hope my classes haunt them for the rest of their lives. My goal is to train them as members within the church, in whatever areas they choose to serve. I strive for my students to realize that church history is their family history. It is a past both broken and beautiful, but the church is holy because God is holy — not because we are.

“I encourage my students to have one ‘hand’ deeply involved in ministry and the life of the church, and the other ‘hand’ holding precious Scripture — first and foremost — as well as the past.”

Both ‘hands’ are connected to their mind, heart, spirit, and strength — and thus are animated by the love of God. I hope that they see the immense meaning and practical significance of church history and historical theology, and that this causes them to step up as active participants and decision-shapers in the church.

I hope my classes help my students discover how their beliefs have been shaped by the past. I hope they recognize that not only do they stand on the shoulders of those who’ve come before them, but that they themselves will be the shoulders for those who will come after. That’s an inspiring and perhaps terrifying realization. I pray that as my students leave the classroom, they would leave both thankful for and inspired by the past, growing in not only a deeper sense of identity, but also in an ever-stronger conviction of their responsibility and participation, by the grace of the Triune God, in the church and in the world. •



Letting Go Of Fear

CCU Student-Athlete and Adult Undergraduate Student, Shaya Lawrence '17

B.S., Psychology and Organizational Management in Christian Leadership

CHANGE OF PLANS

I hung up my cleats because the doctor told me I couldn't play [soccer] anymore."

Shaya Lawrence isn't your typical college athlete. Not only did she go back to college after a 10-year break, she also worked while attending school full time. At CCU, she was at least a decade older than her soccer teammates.

How old is she? She's 32.

Originally from Littleton, Colorado, Shaya has loved playing soccer ever since she could walk. She credits her love of the sport to the challenge, the push toward excellence, and the unmatched camaraderie that comes with being on a team. She played soccer throughout high school, and dreamed of playing for a Division I college. It was during her senior year in high school that Colorado Christian University's soccer coach, Tammy McPherson, watched Shaya play and tried to recruit her for CCU's team.

Those plans changed when she was injured later in her senior year of high school. Even with surgery, her doctors told her that she

would not be able to play anymore. "I gave up my dreams of playing college soccer," explained Shaya.

After she graduated from high school, Shaya attended college at Metro State University. One semester into college, she was increasingly frustrated with her inability to play college soccer; on top of that, didn't know what she wanted to do for her career. That's when Shaya decided to take a break from school and work full-time.

A few years after Shaya had surgery to correct her injury, Coach McPherson reached out to Shaya a second time to see if

she wanted to try out for the CCU Cougars. Shaya tried out, made the team, and was even offered a scholarship to play — but the timing wasn't right. Shaya turned down the offer and continued working full-time.

However, according to Shaya, God saw the desires of her heart and doors began to open. Shaya started working as a student retention specialist for CCU's College of Adult and Graduate Studies (CAGS). As an employee at CCU, Shaya benefits from the University's tuition waiver, which made it possible for her to earn her degree.

"I had been working full time for a while, and realized that I really wanted to continue my education and earn my degree," said Shaya. "I began working for CCU in 2012 and then returned to school later that year." At 28, Shaya enrolled in CCU's College of Adult and Graduate Studies.

When one of Shaya's CCU colleagues learned that she used to play soccer, she encouraged Shaya to try out for the team. While hesitant, Shaya had not given up on her dream and tried out again. She made the team, and this time, she went for it.

"Initially I was afraid that it would be weird for my teammates to have an older athlete on the team, or that I would not be able to keep up with them in physical fitness," explained Shaya. "I quickly learned that when I worked hard and let go of my fears, not only did I fit in, I was also able to hold my own on the field."

Like other adult learners, Shaya managed many responsibilities as a student. Between a full-time job, being a full-time student, and playing soccer, Shaya was determined to be successful. "I had to be disciplined and scheduled intentional time to study. Luckily with the CAGS program, I was able to be an online student which has allowed me to juggle my full schedule," said Shaya. It is for this reason that Coach McPherson believes Shaya has been a positive role model for the rest of the team.

NEVER GIVE UP

Shaya's dream became more than she imagined when the women's soccer team made Cougar Athletics history this season, winning their first National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) DI title. They claimed the championship after defeating Oklahoma Baptist University (OKBU) 1-0 at the national tournament. Shaya, as #00 and the Cougar's goalkeeper, played rock solid defense with eight saves against OKBU — one being critical in the last minute of the game from a foul right outside the box.

"I experienced so much joy and pride in each of my teammates who worked their tails off and never gave up," said Shaya regarding the tournament. "Together we played the sport we love and together we pursued honoring and glorifying God through the game of soccer. This was an opportunity for us to use soccer as a witnessing tool since the CCU Cougars

are the only Christian team in the NCAA Division II Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC)."

Shaya continued, "I also had a renewed perspective by playing soccer again at an older age, because I was able to appreciate every minute I played on the field. I would have missed out on that if I had played college soccer right out of high school."

After graduating this May with both a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor's of Science in Organizational Management in Christian Leadership, Shaya reflected on her experience at CCU. "The most important thing that I have learned is that no matter how many obstacles pile up in front of you and get in the way of your dreams, when the Lord puts something on your heart and you remain dedicated to pursuing Him through all of it, He will show up in big ways."

While not 100 percent sure of where she will be after graduation, Shaya would love to coach soccer and has been offered several coaching jobs at local high schools. She has already been doing some coaching for goalkeepers through ZPro Futbol and is helping out with CCU's soccer program.

When asked what advice Shaya would give to adults considering going back to school, she said,

"Never give up on your dreams, even if you have to set them down for a little while."

"Anything is possible in the Lord's strength and it's important to remember that God knows the desires of your heart. He is faithful, it's just a matter of seeking and trusting His timing." •



WINDING PATHWAYS

Meet Alumna Dr. Linda Lujan '91

TAKING THE FIRST STEP

Dr. Linda Lujan '91 earned her bachelor's degree from Colorado Christian University. She became president of Lamar Community College (LCC) in August 2016 after eleven years in the Maricopa Community College District.

"My path changed when I became pregnant at 17, dropped out of high school, and got married."

Linda Lujan had college aspirations, but when her path changed direction, which included raising a family with four children, she almost gave up on her dream.

"I remember seeing Arapahoe Community College (ACC) and thinking that someday I could go there," shared Lujan. "I even remember driving into the parking lot one day but then driving away because I was afraid that I was too old to go back to school."

Lujan decided to take a leap of faith; she applied to ACC, was accepted, and studied computer information systems. After graduating, Lujan taught a class at the college; that's when she realized that she belonged in higher education.

Lujan then pursued a bachelor's degree so that she could continue teaching. "I looked for programs that fit my needs as a full-time employee and full-time mom," she said. "I found that the program at Colorado Christian University fit my needs. It was the perfect choice for me."



Dr. Linda Lujan '91



Dr. Lujan and students at Lamar Community College.

After graduating from CCU, Lujan pursued her master's degree, and realized that she wanted to step into a higher education leadership role. Coincidentally, a position opened up at ACC as the director of Educational Technology. Lujan applied and accepted the job.

OVERCOME ROADBLOCKS

One of Lujan's mentors challenged her to "get the golden ticket," — her Ph.D. While in her doctoral program, Lujan applied for a position as one of the deans at ACC;

she didn't get the job. But she didn't give up, and applied for a dean position at the Community College of Denver; and this time she got the job.

Lujan's career in higher education was destined to go even further. She applied and was a finalist for academic vice president positions at several colleges, but wasn't offered any of those jobs.

However," said Dr. Lujan, "the following year I accepted the role of academic vice president of South Mountain Community College, which ultimately led me to become the president of Chandler-Gilbert Community College."

After eleven years in the Maricopa district, Dr. Lujan accepted her current position as president of Lamar Community College. Regarding her winding pathway, "It always takes you where you need to go," said Lujan.

SHARING THE JOURNEY

Dr. Lujan used to be embarrassed to tell her story to students. "But, my story is a great way to connect with them. I've had students tell me that they too have 'driven away' from college parking lots," said Lujan.

"Your education is a gift that opens up more opportunities for you and it can never be lost."

"If you're considering going back to school," continued Dr. Lujan, "take the leap to continue your education." •

-ALUMNI- UPDATES

Merle and Stella Cheek ('52) – Merle and Stella will be celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary in June of 2017. They will also celebrate their 65th anniversary of graduating from Rockmont College in 1952. All four of their children attended Western Bible Institute. Congratulations, Merle and Stella! **01**

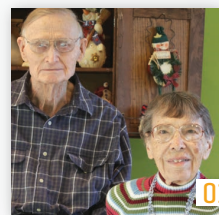
Pauletta Martin ('67) – Pauletta attended Western Bible College, a heritage school of CCU. After 40 years of teaching children and training teens to teach children through Child Evangelism Fellowship, Pauletta and her husband now focus on Chinese outreach. Pauletta also taught ESL students from 40 countries through community colleges in Texas and North Carolina. Currently, at 78 and 73, she and her husband Will remain active in ministry, hosting a Bible study with Chinese scholars at North Carolina State University, and also teach Sunday School at Raleigh Chinese Christian Church where more than 500 people worship weekly.

Gregory Davis ('99) – Following a six-year battle with brain cancer, Greg passed away on October 17, 2016. Greg graduated from CCU in 1999 with a degree in political science. Following graduation, Greg accepted a position at Timberview Middle

School in Colorado Springs where he taught for 15 years. Throughout Greg's time in Colorado Springs, he was very active in the Colorado Springs Basketball Officials Association — officiating the IA Colorado State Championship games in 2009 and 2010. In addition, Greg owned and operated Davis Lawn Care for a number of years in Colorado Springs. **02**

Cody Mitts ('06) – Cody graduated with a bachelor's degree in youth ministry in 2006. Recently, Cody graduated with a master's degree from Denver Seminary's Mental Health Counseling program. Following graduation, Cody has opened a private counseling practice located here in Denver. Cody's advice to current students is to pursue your ideas no matter how small they may seem — dedication can take you a lot further than you might expect. **03**

Rev. Michael Johnson ('11) – Michael earned a B.S. in Organizational Management and Christian Leadership in 2011. Recently, Rev. Johnson became the third pastor of New Resurrection Missionary Baptist Church in Colorado Springs. **04**



01



02



03



04

Dear Alumni,

It's a new season at CCU! I'm excited to introduce myself to you. My name is Chrysandra Brunson. I graduated from CCU with a B.S. in Business Communications with a minor in Leadership in 2011. I currently serve as CCU's Alumni Council president and graduate assistant for Alumni & Parent Relations. It's truly a humbling honor to serve alongside each of you in this new season. God is doing remarkably more than we could imagine in the CCU alumni family. CCU continues to grow in enrollment numbers, degree options, and new buildings. The Anschutz Student Center will be open August 24, 2017!

I hope you will come back to campus soon or join us remotely for a livestreamed event. Please stay tuned for our upcoming events, including Western Conservative Summit, Homecoming, and more. Also, consider joining the Alumni Council from anywhere in the world, and attend our meetings online. As an alum, you will always be considered an integral member of the CCU family!

If you haven't already, share your news with us at ccu.edu/alumni/share. It's our pleasure to stay in touch and to know what God is doing in your life. This will be an exciting year at CCU — I hope you will join us!

In Jesus' passion,

CHRYSANDRA BRUNSON '11

Alumni Council President

Graduate Assistant for Alumni and Parent Relations

-ALUMNI- LETTER



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Stories Are Meant to Be Told.

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

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



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

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