

BEYOND

COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Reaching New Heights

CCU students summit the highest mountain
in the Western Hemisphere
[Feature Story, page 10]



COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Grace and Truth

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.....
..... Notice something different?
..... We have a new logo!
..... More on page 20
.....

Dear friends,

When Colorado Christian University was founded in 1914, the concept of “strategic planning” as we know it today did not exist. However, that doesn’t mean that President Clifton Fowler and our other founders were not planning strategically.

Strategic planning consists of proactively framing the work and future of an organization to advance and strengthen its mission. At the core of the task is clarifying the organization’s mission, priorities, and future. Our institutional history shows that our founders and leaders were visionary — defining our purpose, fortifying our mission, and establishing new goals.



One year ago, we formally embarked on a comprehensive strategic planning initiative for Colorado Christian University. In this process we seek to exalt Jesus Christ, and extend the influence of His kingdom through the Mission and Strategic Priorities of CCU in new and exciting ways. Just like those who came before us at CCU, we have God-honoring goals, strategies, and action plans.

An important aspect of our strategic plan involved creating a unified and cohesive visual brand for CCU. This new brand allows us to begin telling that story in more consistent and powerful ways. Indeed, we have a great story to tell—a story of lives transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ and of the impact of the life-changing education our students have received at CCU.

The name of our University magazine, BEYOND, has never felt more appropriate. Alumni and friends of Colorado Christian University know that our history is replete with examples of God’s continued faithfulness, beyond anything we could ask or imagine. Today, Colorado Christian University is again celebrating momentous accomplishments in all areas of the University. This edition of BEYOND features many of the outstanding achievements of the University as a whole as well as individual students, faculty, and staff.

It’s my hope that as you read these pages you’ll be encouraged by how God is moving at CCU. Just last month, we celebrated the conclusion of the University’s 103rd academic year, with over 1,300 candidates for graduation. Each year at Commencement, I’m deeply moved when I hear the stories of transformation in our students and alumni, and how they continue to live out the mission of CCU — to extend grace and truth to the world.

As James reminds us, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change,” (James 1:17 ESV). We have much to be thankful for, as 2018 has been a year of new ascent at CCU — to God be the glory!

Yours in His service,

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

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BEYOND

A publication of Colorado Christian University

Our Magazine

In BEYOND, our goal is to share the story of CCU, as well as God's faithful provision for more than 100 years. We 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 happening at CCU.



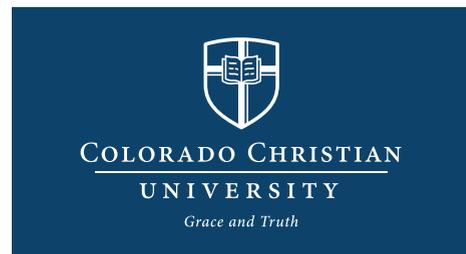
CCU Awarded Grant to Provide Scholarships for Non-Traditional Students

CCU received a \$40,000 grant from the Daniels Fund to provide Boundless Opportunity Scholarships to adult undergraduate students in CCU's College of Adult and Graduate Studies. The Boundless Opportunity Scholarship is designed to benefit motivated non-traditional students who recognize the power of education to create a better life for themselves and their families.



Master of Science in Nursing Earns National Accreditation

CCU's Division of Nursing and Health Sciences announced the accreditation of the Master of Science in Nursing [MSN] program by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education [CCNE]. CCNE is the national autonomous accrediting agency that ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate and graduate nursing education programs. CCU's nursing programs are offered through the College of Adult and Graduate Studies.



New Branding Initiative

One year ago, we formally embarked on a new, unified, and cohesive visual branding initiative and strategy for the University. The new logo effectively communicates our core distinctives: Exemplary academics in the Rocky Mountain region, rooted in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. Learn more about CCU's new visual branding on page 20.



College of Adult and Graduate Studies Offers Exclusive Discount to MOPS

The College of Adult and Graduate Studies signed an exclusive strategic partnership with MOPS International, Inc. The agreement offers a 30% discount to MOPS International members toward undergraduate tuition in CCU's College of Adult and Graduate Studies and 10% toward graduate program tuition.



CCU Announces New Nonprofit Management Degrees

The College of Adult and Graduate Studies launched a new Nonprofit Management program that includes degrees at the bachelor's, associate, and certificate levels and is available as a minor. The Nonprofit Management program will prepare students for leadership roles in hospitals, educational or arts and culture institutions, private foundations, environmental organizations, human services, and faith-based organizations.



New Graduate Emphasis Addresses Cultural Competency

A new emphasis in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse [CLD] was announced for the Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction [MACI] program in the College of Adult and Graduate Studies. The program will prepare graduates to work with students where English is not their first language and is timely for future educators who desire to work in the Denver Public Schools [DPS] system.



New School of Science and Engineering

Due to unprecedented and sustained growth in CCU's Natural Sciences and Mathematics department, the University has announced the creation of a new School of Science and Engineering in the College of Undergraduate Studies with Dr. Mark Parker appointed as dean. The School of Humanities and Sciences will be renamed the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, effective July 1, 2018. Learn more about the growth in this department on page 16.



Men's Golf Competes in NCAA National Championships

The men's golf team made history when they made a run at the NCAA National Championships, the first of any CCU athletic team to play for a national championship title. Although they did not place, the 2018-2019 team is in prime position to return to the national stage.



Stephanie Day and Evan Verbal Named NCAA All-Americans

Stephanie Day, a CCU fastpitch softball player who played at third, second, and shortstop positions, was named All-American by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA). CCU competitive runner, Evan Verbal, set the fastest time in all of NCAA Division II this season, qualifying him for the NCAA National Championships and earning him the elusive All-American honor. Learn more about Evan's story on page 8.



Western Conservative Summit 2018

On June 8 and 9, CCU's public policy think tank, the Centennial Institute, hosted the ninth annual Western Conservative Summit in downtown Denver. The summit, which is the largest gathering of conservatives outside Washington D.C., featured highly influential speakers this year, including Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Ed Meese, Ainsley Earhardt, Ken Buck, Kirk Cameron, and many others.



Dr. Kyle Usrey Named VP of Academic Affairs

International lawyer, former university president, and CCU professor of International Business, Law and Ethics, Dr. Kyle Usrey was named vice president of Academic Affairs in the College of Undergraduate Studies. He has worked for global nonprofits in international trade and missions, and was a former administrative law judge in Washington state.



Eric Hogue Named VP of University Advancement

Christian philanthropy executive, former political candidate, and long-tenured radio, television, and media professional Eric Hogue joined CCU on January 2, 2018 as the new vice president of University Advancement. Prior to CCU, he served as chief development officer (CDO) of William Jessup University (WJU) in Rocklin, California. Meet Eric up close in his interview on page 26.



Dr. Jerry Nelson Appointed to Board of Trustees

An ordained minister through the Evangelical Free Church of America, Dr. Gerald L. (Jerry) Nelson, was appointed to the University's Board of Trustees. Prior to joining the Board he was the senior pastor at Southern Gables Church (EFCA) from 1978 to 2009. During this time, he became actively involved in CCU's efforts to inform public policy. He was also a Centennial Institute fellow (2009-2012).



CCU Expands Presence in Southern Colorado with New Pueblo Center

CCU's first satellite location in Pueblo, Colorado was opened on October 1, 2017. The new office can help answer questions about the application process, enrollment, and registering for classes, and will serve adult students living in or near Pueblo, Pueblo West, Avondale, Rocky Ford, Colorado City, Cañon City, Lamar, and La Junta.



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

IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN

CCU's All-American Competitive Runner, Evan Verbal '17, MPA '19



Stepping up to the line, he gives each leg a quick shake, hoping to shed any pre-race nerves. This wasn't the first time Evan Verbal was competing on the national stage, but he had yet to take home any hardware. This year he would compete in both the mile and 3,000-meter races. It's the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Indoor Track and Field National Championships. And for Evan, the pressure was on. "I didn't want to go home empty handed again," he said. "I really needed an All-American finish. I should have made it in the past, but I couldn't put it together on the right day so I was definitely nervous before this race."

Evan earned his spot in the championship race after qualifying in the one-mile prelims the previous afternoon. This year's field was so strong that the 16 runners needed to go toe-to-toe to claim one of the nine slots available for the finals.

Pacing himself to conserve his energy for the next day, Evan qualified for the finals by taking third in his preliminary heat.

OUTWITTING THE COMPETITION

The following day, Evan was scheduled to run in the one-mile final at 4:40 p.m. and then be ready to run in the 3,000-meter race at 6:05 p.m. — a tight timeline when taking into consideration time for warm-ups before each event and cool-down time in between.

"POP!" The starter gun went off and Evan, along with the other runners, sprang forward onto the track. The pack stayed

together for most of the race. Evan held back and set a steady pace in the rear third of the group.

As the runners followed the curve of the track and headed for the straightaway, Evan saw his opportunity to make his move. Taking the longer curve of the outside route around the pack, he started moving methodically up the ranks, passing his competition one-by-one.

Approaching the final lap, Evan dug deep for the strength to out-sprint some of the nation's best kickers. His secret?

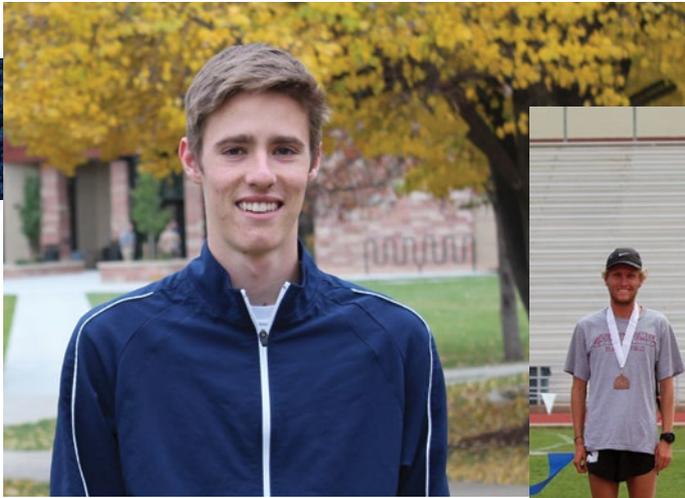
"When you toe the line, you have to believe your body will respond when you having nothing left."
— Evan Verbal

The finish was tight, with the top five runners earning times all within one second of each other.

Crossing the line with that group was Evan, finishing the one-mile race with a time of 4:14.00, earning him fourth place and the elusive All-American honor.

SUCCESS TAKES MORE THAN TALENT

How does a runner from Littleton, Colorado, who was turned down by multiple NCAA DII programs during the



“I see running as many small struggles that can be defeated when you take the advice of your coaches and persistently work hard.”

– Evan Verbal

recruiting process, become an elite All-American runner?

According to Evan’s coach and mentor Jon Poag, “At the NCAA level, there are a lot of talented athletes; Evan’s work ethic is what sets him apart. He is coachable and takes pleasure in hard work. The harder he works, the more confident he becomes.”

Coach Poag continued, “In a sport that often lends to individual accomplishments, Evan is uniquely team-centric. He has always prioritized the team, leading his peers with character and tact while seeking to glorify God in it all. He’s a coach’s dream.”

Poag worked with Evan nearly every day for the past four years, and what he saw did not surprise him; Poag always had a strong belief in Evan’s ability. In 2016, Evan became the first CCU Track and Field athlete to qualify for the NCAA National Championships. “Athletes of his pedigree can live a one-dimensional life focused only on athletic accomplishments, but Evan is a free-standing thinker. I believe that his biggest accomplishments are yet to come.”

CCU’s director of Athletics, Brian Wall, agrees. “To say Evan is a good runner would be an understatement; he has achieved some of the most distinguished awards our conference and national affiliations have to offer. Despite flirting with the four-minute mile barrier, Evan’s most impactful

contributions to CCU Athletics transcend his athletic prowess.”

Wall continued, “Throughout his career Evan taught his teammates to take their commitments seriously and never waiver on the work required to achieve their goals. His work ethic as a student-athlete is something to marvel at. I don’t know which is more impressive, his 3.88 GPA as a double major or the 4:02 mile he ran against some of the best DI competition in the country, but I do know that neither is achieved without uncommon discipline and devotion.”

Evan’s performances last season helped the Cougar men achieve national ranking for the first time in school history.

Evan enjoyed his time with CCU’s track team so much that he decided to compete for his fifth, and final year. Throughout his time at CCU, he took the connections between his faith and running to heart.

“I never used to think about how running could glorify God, but our team and coaches do such a great job discussing it and living it out. It helps me see that there is a purpose in my running and that God can hopefully use me to be a light to other competitive runners.”

Evan is currently earning his Master of Public Administration degree at CCU, but he dreams of running on a post-collegiate level. Keep an eye out for him, as one day we may see him sporting a red, white, and blue singlet, representing the U.S. in the international competitive circuit. •

EVAN’S AWARDS

- NCAA Track and Field Indoor All-American (2018)
- NCAA Track and Field Outdoor All-American (2018)
- RMAC Preseason Athlete of the Year (2018)
- All-RMAC First Team Indoor Season (2017-2018)
- CCU Cougar Award (2017)
- Class of 2017 Athlete of the Year
- RMAC Champion 1500 Meter (2017)
- Track and Field Outdoor Championships Qualifier (2016, 2017)
- Track and Field Indoor Championships Qualifier (2017)
- NCCAA Athlete of the Week (2015, 2017)
- Cross Country 2nd Team All-Region (2016)
- Cross Country All-Conference (2015, 2016)

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS



CCU Students Summit Aconcagua, the Highest Mountain in the Western Hemisphere

Desolate, barren, and yet grotesquely beautiful, the 22,841-foot mountain is a challenging endeavor for even experienced hikers.

Taking a side-trek from Confluencia, Argentina, they slowed their steps to take in their surroundings. Eight CCU students, along with two alumni and CCU's director of Outdoor Leadership programs Derek Branstrom, are trekking Aconcagua (pronounced ah-kawng-kah-gwah), the tallest peak outside of the Himalayas and one of the fabled Seven Summits — the highest mountains in the world.

The team's pace comes to a halt in Plaza Francia, where for the first time on the trip, they catch a glimpse of the south face of Aconcagua. In the Northern Hemisphere, the north face of a mountain is the coldest, most unforgiving side of a mountain; but in Argentina, and the Southern Hemisphere, it's the exact opposite.

"You're walking around the glacier the whole time in this valley and then the south face just hits you in the face. That was the day I first felt intimidated. It was both daunting and beautiful," said CCU student Michelle Perry '18.



“I realized, looking at that sheer wall of ice and rock that this was going to be a difficult ascent,” she continued. “That day, everyone on our team was together. We were all in good spirits, having good conversations, adequate pacing, and the sun was shining. What more could you ask for out of a 12-mile day?”

Surrounded by terrain resembling Mars, this was the last time that all 11 members of the team would be together, challenging each of them with a deeper understanding of how neither height nor depth can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39, ESV).

DANGERS OF THE STONE SENTINEL

Part of the Andes mountain range in western Argentina, Aconcagua is the tallest peak in the Western and Southern Hemispheres. A mountain that was once an active volcano, its name means “stone sentinel” in the Quechuan language.

The peak was first summited in 1897, and since then around 3,500 people attempt it every year. Although it’s not a highly technical climb, the peak has a 30-40 percent success rate due to complications of altitude sickness, falls, heart attacks, hypothermia, exhaustion, and severe weather. Reportedly, three climbers die each year while venturing on Aconcagua.

The 14-day trip was part of a CCU class in its Outdoor Leadership program. Students applied to be in the class and were accepted based on experience, fitness level, and their answers to various mountaineering scenarios such as, “What would you do if your partner had to turn around on summit day?” The class met during the semester to organize and plan the logistics of the mountain expedition. The students were also given an intense physical training program to practice on their own.

ASCENDING THE MOUNTAIN

High altitude peaks are not to be taken lightly. Even at Aconcagua’s base camp, hikers are already standing at the highest point in Colorado — over 14,000 feet.

Badly sunburned from the over 100-degree temperatures in Confluencia, the team began the back-and-forth hiking process necessary for acclimatizing. This involves hiking to the next highest stop, dropping off equipment and resting, then going back down to the lower stop to sleep. Staying at a lower elevation as long as possible allows your body to adjust to the increase in elevation.

Mountains have a way of testing their challengers. In a group setting, it can be difficult to make decisions, cook meals, set up tents, and stay in good spirits.

And a restful night of sleep? In the Andes, that’s out of the question. Breathing at high

altitudes often involves alternating periods of deep and shallow breaths that can result in a temporary stop in breathing that wakes the individual as they gasp for air.

“Sleeping was difficult because your heart is beating over 100 beats per minute — you can hear your own heartbeat.”
– Ryder Searle ‘19

Once the team trekked the 15 miles up to base camp, the second largest base camp in the world, the difficulties were amplified. Altitude sickness hit several of the team members and two in particular were pushing through colds.

For Kyle O’Connell ‘19, the altitude sickness never improved and he made the hard decision to stay at base camp. “The walk



The CCU team at base camp

back down was lonely and demoralizing. I rested at base camp for a couple days, but my dizziness, headaches, and nausea never improved. The window to catch up with the team at Camp 2 passed and I had to come to terms with the fact that I wasn't going to make it to the top."

Josh Korac '19 was one team member who was evacuated from the trip by helicopter due to the harsh impacts of altitude on his system. "It was defeating, flying down in 5-10 minutes what took us days to get

As a Bedouin trader who traveled great distances, Abraham would have constantly met people from different cultures and relied on them for help. In Genesis 18:1-8, we read that when three travelers appeared at his tent in the middle of a hot day, he greeted them warmly and invited them to rest. He brought them water, washed their feet, and fed them with fresh meat and bread.

Whether it was offering a place for them to sleep, teaching them how to make traditional yerba mate tea, or spending time

are longing for something to satisfy the gap in their soul. They worship the mountains and put them in the place of God. Although it was disappointing at first to have to stay at base camp, the friendships I made there with people from around the world became more valuable than a summit."

SUMMIT DAY

After ten days of traversing what felt like the ends of the earth, the rag-tag CCU team made it to Independencia, the final



up to. It was a moment that God later used to humble me, but it was still hard nonetheless."

FOLLOWING IN THE STEPS OF ABRAHAM

There is something about the wilderness that allows people to let their guards down and be vulnerable and open in ways that they wouldn't be anywhere else.

According to Professor Branstrom, "These kinds of experiences open students up to meeting people with different worldviews and different religious backgrounds and helps them learn how to simply love people."

together sharing Hungarian sausage, all of the students felt this same hospitality as they were welcomed into life in the Andes.

**"God uses the wilderness to shape people."
– Graham Gardner '20**

Jordan Tisdall '19, one of the students who stayed at base camp, saw Christ's love for others in the people she met there and believes that it is important for Christians to travel to remote regions of the world.

"There are very few Christians who live in the Andes," she said. "Many people there

stop before reaching the summit. At 19,300 feet of elevation, this is when hikers are the most vulnerable to dehydration and hallucinations.

Waking up around 3 a.m., the team emerged from their tents. It had snowed throughout the night, leaving the trail hidden under five inches of fresh powder.

While beautiful, the snowfall meant that the team would be breaking trail most of summit day, increasing the amount of energy they would need to climb the final stretch. Known as the Canaleta, the last 800 feet up to the summit are the most technical and treacherous steps on the route.

“I can recall the blanketing snow under the stars, the vivid colors in the sunrise, and the journey of descending in a whiteout — although that part is a little fuzzy.”
— Michelle Perry ‘18

there for about two minutes but had to descend because we were coughing badly from the dry air.”

On their way down, they passed Michelle. At this point, Michelle was making her way on the final stretch. As she ascended the Canaleta, things took a turn. She was losing energy fast and kept falling asleep between her steps.

Pushed physically more she had ever been before, this was the highest elevation

“We knew something was wrong right away,” said Adam. “I went over to her and she was sitting down, mumbling incoherently to herself.”

In high altitude climbing, the lack of oxygen and physical exertion can slow down someone’s reactions and ability to think rationally. If it gets progressively worse, people have been reported making irrational decisions with potentially damaging, even fatal consequences.



Progress was slow. Extreme altitudes make it difficult to take more than 10 steps before having to rest for 30 seconds just to catch your breath. Clear thinking dissolves into headaches, nausea, and dizziness. The most important thing is to keep moving and stay warm to prevent damage from frostbite.

Adam Nicholson ‘17 and Ryder Searle were setting the most aggressive pace, taking between eight and nine hours to reach the summit. They were the first to summit Aconcagua that day. Overwhelmed from exhaustion and accomplishment, the two crawled the last 20 feet to the aluminum cross marking the summit.

“We were both in tears over the fact that we had made it,” recalled Adam. “We were

Michelle had ever encountered; prior to Aconcagua, her most significant treks were 14ers in Colorado.

To make things worse, true to the nature of being high up in the mountains, a threatening storm was rolling in. Rangers, who were descending from the summit, approached Michelle and advised that she turn around so that she could descend safely.

Michelle wisely agreed, but was already mentally and physically spent.

As she made her way down the Canaleta, Michelle suddenly lost her footing and fell forward on the steep terrain. Adam and Ryder were resting at the bottom of the Canaleta, and saw Michelle trip.

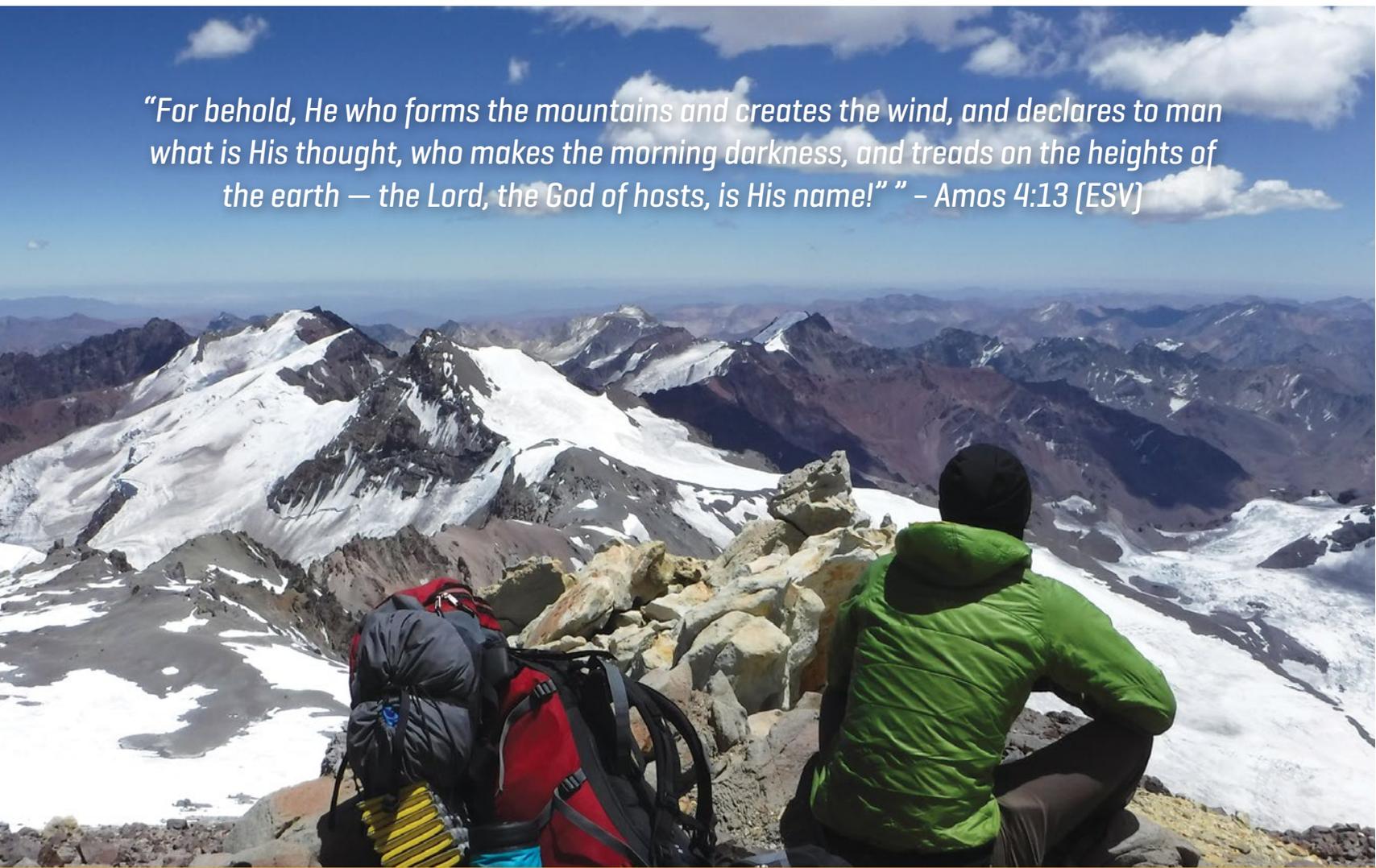
By this time, it was foggy and becoming nearly impossible to find the right trail. With Ryder supporting Michelle and Adam carrying her backpack, the trio chose a direction and started walking.

“It took us over half an hour to realize we had gone down the wrong trail,” shared Ryder. “Michelle was disoriented so we needed to hurry.” The detour added an exhausting extra hour to their descent.

LESSONS FROM THE MOUNTAIN

On mountaineering expeditions, many things need to fall in place for hikers to successfully summit. Altitude affects

“For behold, He who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is His thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth — the Lord, the God of hosts, is His name!” — Amos 4:13 (ESV)



everyone differently, so even the most fit people on the team may not make it to the top — a harrowing reality that can be difficult to overcome.

“I wasn’t feeling well on summit day, but the idea of quitting on the last day was terrifying,” said Daniel Weiss ‘14. “I was also scared that I was going to lose some toes because of how cold my feet were. Pushing through that doubt was one of the most rewarding experiences for me.”

In total, six out of 11 people on the CCU team made it to the summit. During the

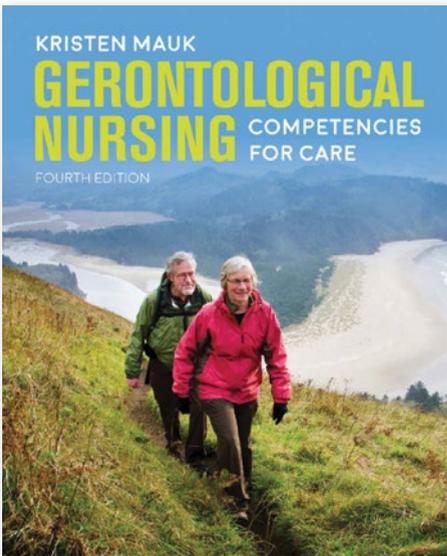
trip, the team faced many challenges, including helicopter evacuations of two team members, bad colds, concussions, and broken equipment; they also carried 300 extra pounds in food, and one original team member was not able to travel with them.

Although the trip didn’t always go as planned, what they brought home was better than what they’d hoped for.

“I realized that this trip had consumed my life for the last six months,” said Kyle O’Connell. “It became for my own selfish achievement and when I couldn’t achieve

my goal of making it to the top, it humbled me. I think I learned more about myself staying at base camp than I would have on top of the mountain.”

Josh Korac added, “There is no place on earth that God can’t reach us, and to me, that shows a glimpse of just how powerful He really is. I learned that although I had my own plan for how the trip was going to go, God had an entirely different plan in store for us; and I think it’s safe to say that His plan is always better.” •



Feats of Knowledge

Recognizing Dr. Kristen Mauk for Winning Book of the Year

Colorado Christian University congratulates Dr. Kristen Mauk for winning the distinguished 2017 Book of the Year Award through The American Journal of Nursing. Her book, *Gerontological Nursing: Competencies for Care*, was chosen by a panel of judges as one of the most valuable texts of the year.

Dr. Mauk is CCU's director of Graduate Nursing programs in the Nursing and Health Sciences Division – College of Adult and Graduate Studies. This is Dr. Mauk's third time receiving this award.

In addition to her Book of the Year award, Dr. Mauk was named the new editor-in-chief of *Rehabilitation Nursing* by the International Academy of Nursing Editors (INANE). While in this role, she will be mentored by Marilyn Oermann, editor of *Nurse Educator* and *The Journal of Nursing Care Quality*.

This recent publication has several updates, including a new chapter on disaster preparedness; expanded content on nutrition, sexuality, healthy aging, dementia, and care giving; and additional coverage on substance abuse.

Written to be a student-friendly text, the book covers basic competencies for nursing in quality care of older adults according to the Core Competencies of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing.

Dr. Mauk found it important that this textbook focused on a holistic view of elder care. She explained, "As a Christian university, we believe that the best care that can be given to aging adults is founded in our respect for them as we are instructed in Scripture. We are to honor and value our elders, and this book helps nurses to give the best care possible to older adults."

Even the cover of the book, which shows an elder couple hiking in the mountains, was chosen to portray active aging. "This is what I see in my community in Ridgway, Colorado," said Mauk. "People living here who are of an older age are outside more, healthier, and continue to have a good quality of life as they pursue healthy aging habits." •

ABOUT DR. MAUK

Dr. Mauk has over 35 years of clinical and academic experience in rehabilitation and gerontological nursing and teaches in these specialties at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Prior to CCU, she was professor of Nursing and Kreft Endowed chair for the Advancement of Nursing Science for 24 years at Valparaiso University in Indiana.

Dr. Mauk is certified in rehabilitation nursing and as a gerontological nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, and advanced hospice and palliative care nurse. She has authored and edited nine books.

"This is the highest level of recognition for a nursing text. It is a great honor for CCU to have such an exceptional faculty member being recognized for her scholarship and service to the discipline of nursing."

– Dr. Barbara White,
Dean of CCU's Nursing and Health Sciences Division

GREEN WITH GROW WITH IT

Groundbreaking Research and Exploration for the Glory of God

Colorado Christian University's Natural Sciences programs have experienced unprecedented growth over the last decade. This growth paved the way for the creation of CCU's new School of Science and Engineering in the College of Undergraduate Studies.

In order to equip our graduates to pursue vocations in the natural sciences, as informed by a Christian worldview, students in the School of Science and Engineering are actively involved in undergraduate research. By exposing students to research early on in their academic programs, they are receiving invaluable training that gives them a competitive advantage when they transition into their career or decide to attend graduate school.

CANCER RESEARCH WITH DR. GALANTE

Dr. Leontine Galante, assistant professor of Biological Sciences at CCU, began her own undergraduate research career at Fairfield University and then later completed her Ph.D. research at Princeton University where she studied cell biology. After earning her Ph.D., Dr. Galante pursued a post-doctoral research fellowship in cancer biology at University of California – San Diego.

Dr. Galante's current research project includes using a variety of molecular biology techniques to study how cancer suppressor genes — present in the normal human genome — may be used to reverse some of the most common traits found in

tumor cells. This spring, CCU students who worked with Dr. Galante on this project presented their findings at the 2018 Rocky Mountain Undergraduate Research Symposium on CCU's main campus.

BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH WITH DR. PARKER

Before leading the Research and Development division of a private biotechnology firm, Dr. Mark Parker, dean of CCU's School of Science and Engineering, conducted academic research at Indiana University, the University of Denver, the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, and the University of Colorado at Boulder. He maintains research collaborations with other researchers at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and Brigham Young University.

Dr. Parker is currently partnering with Dr. Nahanni Freeman, from CCU's Psychology department, in an interdisciplinary project. Their research involves studying how psychological traits like impulsivity and gratification delay are linked to specific genetic polymorphisms. Polymorphisms are different versions of the same gene that cause slight variability in gene function.

More specifically, their research is examining how different variants of a serotonin transporter gene (SLC6A4) correlate to a person's impulsivity and decision-making behaviors. Antidepressant drugs such as Fluoxetine (Prozac) target this specific serotonin transporter gene.



Dr. Parker and CCU students at the Undergraduate Research Symposium

Their research will help identify whether or not specific variants of the gene may predict certain behaviors in an individual.

To conduct this research, Dr. Freeman and Dr. Parker are using standard psychological surveys in conjunction with DNA sampling and genotyping. Their research is still in the early stages as they are continuing to validate their research protocols, but the initial findings of their study were presented at the national meeting of the American Scientific Affiliation in 2017.

GENETICS RESEARCH WITH DR. WOODMAN

Dr. Julie Woodman's research career began when she was an undergraduate at Colorado State University. As an assistant professor of Biological Sciences at CCU, her current research is an extension of the work she began at the University of Colorado and focuses on the molecular mechanisms that underlie cohesin deposition onto chromosomes.

This research is important for understanding genetic defects such as Cornelia de Lange Syndrome or aneuploidy conditions such as Down Syndrome. The lab is using yeast as a model system to focus on understanding how changes in the protein required for cohesin deposition (Scc2) influence these genetic outcomes.

Students who worked with Dr. Woodman on this project presented their findings at the American Scientific Affiliation meeting in 2017 and at the 2018 Rocky Mountain Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Dr. Woodman is conducting a joint research project with CCU's Dr. Christa Koval. Their project is investigating how different sugars may encourage or inhibit the growth of a variety of microbes important for digestive health by studying how changes in the components of kefir — a probiotic drink — alter its microbial composition.

STUDENT RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

Breanne Parets '18, who graduated this May, began her research in light of Colorado's recent ballot amendment that allowed adults suffering from terminal illness to take life-ending, doctor-prescribed sleeping medication. Breanne will present her paper, "Physician-Assisted Suicide: An Examination of Ethics and Dignity at the End of Life" at the 2018 national meeting of the American Scientific Affiliation. The theme for this year's national meeting is Bioethics and Biotechnology.

Christina Edwards, who will graduate from CCU in 2019, was awarded the honor of participating in a competitive research program hosted by Baylor University this summer.

Students have also worked with Dr. Parker and Dr. Randy Cohrs from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center on projects involving the transmission of the varicella zoster virus — the virus that causes chickenpox and shingles.

NATURAL SCIENCES IN FAITH-INTEGRATED LEARNING

Dr. Parker is also involved in a study that is examining how different educational techniques may be used when teaching natural sciences at faith-based institutions. This work is being done collaboratively with faculty from Point Loma Nazarene University, Brigham Young University, and Evangel University.

FUTURE GROWTH

The Natural Sciences and Mathematics department's research programs are currently funded internally by the department. However, with the growth of enrollment in CCU's Natural Sciences programs, there is a

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



MARK PARKER, PH.D.

Dean and Associate Professor of Biological Sciences – School of Science and Engineering, College of Undergraduate Studies

Mark Parker joined CCU's faculty in 2011. Prior to CCU, he was the senior scientist and head of product development at Novus Biologicals and reviewed the National Institutes of Health Small Business Innovative Research Contract. He also received the Individual National Research Service Award from the National Center for Deafness and Other Communication Diseases.

need for outside grants and funds to expand our research capabilities. The creation of the new School of Science and Engineering now offers the opportunity for CCU to pursue outside funding opportunities specific to research programs.

All of CCU's Natural Sciences programs aim to help our students explore the world that God created, use cutting-edge technology, and discover how faith interacts with questions that arise out of studying the sciences. CCU has an ever growing series of research opportunities which will continue to train and prepare students for excellence and kingdom-service while at CCU and in their future endeavors. •

To the
Ends
of the
Earth



A Recap of CCU Students Serving in Uganda

Colorado Christian University emphasizes service and ministry as an important aspect for students to live out their faith while they attend the University. Since 1999, CCU2theWorld has organized over 250 mission trips to more than 50 countries and 12 states.

These mission trips are unique because not only are they student-led and planned, but they are also coordinated in partnership with ministries local to those countries and states.

BLESS THE CHILDREN

This year, a team of seven CCU students and one staff member traveled to Mabaale, Uganda for 12 days to serve with Bless The

Children Ministries (BTCM) — a ministry dedicated to providing for basic needs while training children to become godly leaders in their community.

With a history of poverty, war, corruption, and disease, many of Uganda's children have become orphans. BTCM was founded in 2008 by Craig and Amy Bay. After meeting a Ugandan widow, Hedwig, who was essentially running an orphanage out of her home, they wanted to support her in her mission to provide healthcare, discipleship, and Christian education to the children of Uganda. The ministry now provides clothing, food, and housing for the children, and even started a child sponsorship program and Christian school.

When the CCU students walked through the doors of BTCM, they were quickly integrated into life in Uganda. They dedicated their time to the children's ministry programs, playing with the kids, and sharing Bible stories.

Upon arrival, after 36 hours of travel, the CCU team was welcomed to the orphanage with hundreds of children lining the street, waving palm branches and singing songs. Anna Brawner, the CCU staff leader of the trip commented, "I remember thinking, 'This is what it will feel like when I get to heaven.'"

The CCU students worked alongside BTCM staff members who live and work in Mabaale. "We really got to know the

kids and built amazing relationships with the staff at BTCM,” shared Taylin Mast ‘20. “We were able to show Christ’s love to the cooks, house moms, social workers, and administrators, and encourage them as they work for the Lord in the lives of these children and families.”

On Palm Sunday, the team attended Voice of Truth Church. Along with the children and staff of BTCM, they walked into town and joined the local congregation. During the worship part of the service they were asked to lead the congregation in an American worship song.

Exhausted from travel, and intimidated by the unknown community, the CCU students were hesitant at first. But remembering their goal and purpose for the trip, they were handed a guitar and together they led the congregation in “Good, Good Father.” By the time they finished singing the song, everyone who had gathered was singing along.

This experience was eye-opening for the students, as they were able to witness firsthand how worshiping God translates across cultures, countries, and languages.

“It’s easy to think that we have something to offer on our own, when in reality, the only thing that we have to offer anyone is the truth, love, and hope of Jesus and the gospel.”
– Taylin Mast ‘20

The team knew that despite not sharing a common language, they were able to share this time of celebration because the same spirit of the Lord was in them.

FAITH THROUGH NEW EYES

From not having clean tap water, consistent electricity, or even washing machines, the students were challenged to see their faith through new eyes in Uganda.

“I tend to be a to-do list person who finds joy in tasks, but the Lord made it clear that this trip was partly to teach me how to slow down and be present with the kids, the staff members, and my team,” said Matthew Benjamin ‘19. “The things I learned from these relationships have made me a better person, friend, and leader.”

Jake Korver ‘19 added, “Our sole purpose there was to serve the Lord and serve the people at BTCM, but we were overwhelmed with how much we were being taught by the Lord and loved by the kids.”

Brawner came home with a new conviction about how she serves others. “I give my time, resources, and talents on a regular basis; however, I do so very comfortably. This trip made me want to give sacrificially and extravagantly after meeting so many kids that have so much less than I do, and are so much more joyful in their circumstances.”

TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN

CCU students are required to complete 180 ministry/service hours in the community in order to graduate — not only to serve others, but to also pave the way for a continual life of service.

The staff at Bless The Children Ministries works hard to love on these orphans and be a positive space in the community — and their work isn’t done yet. “The ministry is working toward reconciling families and empowering women — they care about things that Jesus cared about,” said Anna.

For those of us living on the other side of the world, Hedwig, the director of BTCM, has an important reminder: “to whom much is given, much is expected.” •

Learn more about Bless The Children Ministries and how you can get involved at btcmm.org



CCU is grateful for the opportunity to serve and support local ministries. Help us spread Christ’s love around the world by praying for our missions teams. To learn about upcoming CCU student-led mission trips, visit ccu.edu/ccu2theworld.

Modern and Academic

The logo maintains a connection to the CCU seal and has been updated with a clean, collegiate, and modern look with fewer elements. The new typeface is easier to read on both digital and print platforms.



COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Grace and Truth

Unifying and Cohesive

The new logo serves as a foundation for a shared, corporate brand for the University that can be flexible and adaptable to a variety of informative and promotional items, both in print and digital formats.

Based On Our Foundation

Before making any changes, we looked for inspiration from our beginnings — from our roots as a university. In 1914, President Clifton Fowler founded Denver Bible Institute on two principles: grace and truth, which is why the new logo includes *grace and truth*.

Inspired by the Seal

We arrived at a design that effectively communicates the CCU identity by incorporating essential elements of the University seal into the new logo. The new logo displays our core distinctive: Exemplary academics in the Rocky Mountain Region, rooted in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

How do you like our new look?
CCU's visual brand incorporates these four
colors. You can find more resources about our
brand guidelines at ccu.edu/branding.

OUR NEW VISUAL BRAND

One year ago, we formally embarked on a new, unified, and cohesive visual branding initiative for Colorado Christian University.

In the most basic terms, branding is an effort to create visual unity across the entire University. A shared visual brand allows us to begin telling a more consistent and powerful story, by better leveraging the University's strengths. We have a great story to tell, a story of lives transformed by the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

BACK TO OUR ROOTS

In recent years, as CCU experienced record growth, various schools, departments, and divisions developed their own logos. As an unintended result, "Colorado Christian University" often got a little lost in the proliferation of inconsistent visual brands. We recognized that we needed a better way to build awareness and recognition for the University as a whole.

So, we went back to our beginnings — back to our roots. In 1914, President Clifton Fowler founded Denver Bible Institute on two principles — grace and truth. From those modest beginnings, Colorado Christian University was born, and a University seal was created to depict our core identity.

In the CCU seal, the Word of God in the center is placed upon the Cross of Christ, which is laid upon the Shield of Faith. This Shield of Faith is surrounded by three Greek words which are translated "grace and

truth," the University motto. The outer rings surrounding the Word, the Cross, and the Shield contain two elements: the year 1914, when Denver Bible Institute was founded, and our name, Colorado Christian University.

CRAFTING A NEW VISUAL BRAND

The CCU seal has a place of great importance — and always will. It indicates official sanction and is the formal identifier of the University. There is no other symbol that better represents the entire University, and no other symbol that tells our story so concisely.

With this in mind, we got to work, and started exploring many different options for CCU's new logo to complement the University seal. We had to combine design with function, and it didn't happen overnight. We refined, and refined, and refined.

Ultimately, we arrived at a place that better tells the CCU story by incorporating essential elements of the University seal — the Word of God, the Cross of Christ, the Shield of Faith, and the University motto, "grace and truth" — into a new, modern logo.

NEW LOGO, SAME CCU

We are excited to roll out our new look! Our new logo effectively communicates CCU's core distinctives, and is meant to serve as a foundation for a shared, corporate brand that can be flexible.

The new CCU logo unites all parts of the University under one identifiable image —

so that anyone who sees it can immediately recognize who we are as a University.

This branding initiative helps visually communicate the great University that we've become. Because a great University draws from the strengths of its parts; and a stronger Colorado Christian University not only benefits the entire CCU community, but also strengthens the Kingdom, and continues to transform lives. •



**COLORADO CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

Grace and Truth



BUILDING

INTO

LIVES

**CAMPUS
REDEVELOPMENT
CAMPAIGN
UPDATE**





“It is as if you can hear God speaking and saying, ‘I will show the world what I will do for a university that honors my name.’”
–Bill Armstrong, former President of Colorado Christian University



Colorado Christian University’s total student enrollment reached 8,156 students in fall 2017— a record-breaking milestone in enrollment for the University. This included 1,343 traditional undergraduate students in the College of Undergraduate Studies, as well as 5,599 adult undergraduate students and 1,214 graduate students in the College of Adult and Graduate Studies.

This is also the first time that CCU’s graduate program enrollment has surpassed 1,000 students. These figures continue an eight-year trend in setting new enrollment records each fall semester, and reflect a 69% overall growth rate in enrollment over the last five years.

There’s a saying that, “If you build it, they will come.” As you can see, more students are choosing to attend our university, necessitating the need for us to build dedicated education space to effectively serve them.

They’re coming; now is the time to build.

Allison Sievers, the vice president of Enrollment in CCU’s College of Adult and Graduate Studies, believes that CCU’s distinct mission is driving the enrollment growth among adult students. “First and foremost, God is blessing the University,” shared Sievers. “It is clear that our effort to be student-centric and kingdom-minded, with the true integration of faith in everything we do, has attracted students across the nation.”

According to Jim McCormick, vice president of Enrollment and Student Life in the College of Undergraduate Studies, “Growth at CCU means more students are volunteering in the community and more students are participating in local ministries and mission trips around the world.”

AN EXPANDING CAMPUS

The sustained growth across the University continues to be the driving force behind CCU’s campus redevelopment campaign, which began in 2012. Since launching the campaign, the University has expanded its Lakewood campus to 34 acres and three new buildings.

Leprino Hall was the first building completed in the campaign. The academic building added over 540 in-class seats — doubling our previous classroom capacity. The first new residence hall, Yetter Hall, features 53 apartment-style units — providing an additional 300 beds to serve our rapidly growing student body. The Anschutz Student Center, which opened in August of 2017, provides space for dining, gathering, and fellowship — a beautiful facility where God will change lives for His purposes, both now and in future generations.

8,156
STUDENTS
THIS YEAR

69%
5-YEAR
GROWTH
RATE



FUTURE PROJECTS



RESIDENCE HALL #2

At CCU, we believe that on-campus housing and residential life are important parts of the complete educational experience. That's why all full-time, unmarried, first and second-year undergraduates are required to live on campus.

The Lakewood campus, which was originally designed to accommodate 600 students, is now home to more than 1,300 traditional undergraduates, resulting in the immediate need of building a second new residential building to house our students on campus. Plans are currently in motion to break ground on the new residence hall this summer.



ACADEMIC BUILDING #2

Student enrollment continues to grow exponentially. For example, enrollment in CCU's Natural Sciences and Mathematics department alone has tripled over the last five years — necessitating the launch of a new School Science and Engineering in the College of Undergraduate Studies.

With the explosion of growth in the academic programs of the University, CCU has identified the need to build a second new academic building to house classroom and laboratory space.

The dedicated academic building will require an estimated \$19 million to bring to fruition.

"I dream of finishing our campus, of building a great, inspiring setting where students can learn and have an extraordinary education in a world-class environment.

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



THE ARMSTRONG CENTER

As University president, Bill Armstrong maintained an uncommon vision for CCU. He envisioned a university that would be a light in the Rocky Mountain west that led with the highest standards of academics, ministered to the world, and engaged the culture.

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

School of Music

The Armstrong Center will provide for both practice and performance space for students in the music and theatre programs offered by CCU. By keeping our music programs Christ-centered, we develop not only skilled musicians, but also leaders in the arts who will help redeem the culture for the kingdom of God.

Chapel

As the focal point of the campus, the new chapel will make a statement of who we are, what we stand for, and how we will steadily remain Christ-centered as a university. Chapel services are both purposeful and necessary for us — which is why we need a sacred space for worship.

Library

The Armstrong Center will house the new CCU Library. With a collection of over 380,000 books, videos, and music, and access to 32 million more items through our lending partners, this educational space will foster resource exploration and knowledge creation in support of the academic programs of the University.

BUILDING INTO LIVES

Campaign efforts are currently underway to raise the funds needed to break ground on the Armstrong Center. To date, \$14.6 million of the \$30.2 million needed for construction has been identified.

As we continue on our mission to become a great university, we are grateful for both the financial contributions and prayerful support dedicated to this campaign. The buildings constructed to date have already enhanced the student experience and the ability for our campus to attract and serve the local community.

However, there is more work to be done. Keep an eye out for more information about the fundraising needs and construction of the Armstrong Center. •



\$14.6
MILLION
IDENTIFIED

Stay up-to-date on our progress and find out how you can help us build into lives. Visit CCU.EDU/CAMPAIGN.

\$30.2
MILLION
NEEDED

A portrait of Eric Hogue, a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a yellow and blue striped tie. He is smiling and sitting in a black leather office chair. In the background, there is a bookshelf filled with books and a window with blinds. A dark blue vertical bar is on the left side of the image, containing the text 'MEET ERIC HOGUE' in white.

MEET ERIC HOGUE

CCU's New Vice President of University Advancement

We sat down with Eric Hogue to learn about his vision for University Advancement. Eric joined the University in January of 2018.

What were you doing prior to joining CCU?

I was the chief development officer (CDO) for William Jessup University in Northern California for seven years. I operated all systematic, capital, and annual comprehensive fundraising projects for Advancement, managed the WJU Athletics Department, and launched the university's Marketing Department.

Before Jessup, I was a 30-year radio and television operations manager and personality. As a political talk show host,

I filled in for nationally syndicated hosts Hugh Hewitt, Dennis Prager, Michael Medved, Laura Ingraham, and Bill Bennett (former Regan administration's Secretary of Education).

Early on, I did radio and television play-by-plays for NCAA football and basketball. It is safe to say that I am an all-encompassing sports fanatic!

Why did you join CCU?

I was a distant admirer of CCU's Strategic Priorities. Dr. Sweeting consistently speaks about *ad fontes* — a return to the foundations of the university — the gospel of Jesus Christ. I passionately support CCU's biblically integrated pedagogy. The University

provides a higher education that recognizes God's biblical commands and encourages defining one's vocation so that it represents the gospel. That's why I joined CCU!

What have you seen during your first six months on the job?

The generosity of the donors of the University is such an encouragement. I have been blessed to meet with over 50 donors since starting at CCU in January. I've also been encouraged by Dr. Sweeting's academic acumen — it's stellar! His theological rigor and theological research is a huge benefit for me personally.

What do you like best about working at CCU?

This is easy — it's the people! My wife

Tammy and I lived in California for 20 years, but we never lost our love for the Midwest culture. The people at CCU bring us home. We are both from the great state of Ohio — go Buckeyes!

The unexpected gem of my CCU journey so far has been the hospitality of Dr. and Mrs. Sweeting, my amazing colleagues on the Cabinet, and a host of Board of Trustee members who have reached out with encouragement. It is so good to relate with real people, with real life issues, and a real love and commitment to the grace-filled gospel of Jesus Christ.

What is something about you that other people would be surprised to know?

There are a few peculiar characteristics about me that people might find interesting. It is safe to say that I am the youngest vice president of Advancement in the world. You see, I was born on February 29. I am only 13.5 birthdays old. This makes for numerous lunchtime jokes and conversations — I will save them for BEYOND readers who want to share a coffee or lunch sometime.

I was also a Republican candidate for the California State Assembly in 2007. Being a Christian conservative in California — even in 2007 — was a tall task. That experience was a real eye-opener! I helped to launch the recall of California Governor Gray Davis in 2003.

Finally, I am a severe “weekend introvert.” On the weekends, I want nothing more than quality time with my wife, Tammy, and our wonderful adult children and grandchildren. The antidote to a busy week is an unscheduled Saturday with family, watching sports, grilling on the BBQ, and a Sunday filled with the teaching of God’s word.

What is your vision for the University in the coming years?

I am an avid reader of theologian Abraham Kuyper. Kuyper’s famous quote states, “There is not a square inch in the whole

domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, ‘Mine!’”

I believe a great Christian university recognizes that every square inch is Christ’s. A great university is one that delivers transformative business leaders, nurses, doctors, teachers, pastors, politicians, into every area, every inch, of the workforce. A great university is a Christian university that provides graduates of kingdom compassions, godly character, excellence, and gospel-soaked passions into every square inch of the marketplace, church, education, and the world at large.

I want to be in membership with a great university that features a professionally orchestrated Advancement department that raises alumni, parents, and friendly generosity to support the fulfillment of this

University Advancement will also continue to focus on the Armstrong Legacy Initiative as a loving tribute to CCU’s late President Bill Armstrong. We are determined to work closely with a growing roster of generous donors to increase the University Endowment, establish new planned giving and estate opportunities, and to expand our philanthropic footprint geographically within the Colorado region and bordering states.

We look to develop mutually beneficial relationships with our College of Undergraduate Studies and College of Adult and Graduate Studies alumni, parents, and friends. A good example of this is the launch of The CCU Fund, which will support the University’s scholarship needs, academic offerings, and bolster the entire CCU experience for both our traditional undergraduate and adult students.

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, ‘Mine!’”

– Abraham Kuyper

amazing mission of CCU. I am here to tell you, if we abide in Jesus Christ and stay focused on the Word of God, it can happen — for the glory of God, alone!

What can we expect from University Advancement this next year?

We are hard at work in University Advancement implementing a systematic and comprehensive fundraising office for CCU. Our heart’s intent is to afford donors various paths and distinct means to express their biblical generosity through the University.

I joined CCU because I believe this to be true: There is no better time to give to CCU than right now! Hundreds of generous donors have given to CCU over the past few years and together have changed the trajectory of the University.

But, we cannot stop here. There is more work to do. I love helping support CCU’s mission financially because I believe that there are so many opportunities here to impact this country, our culture, and every past, current, and future CCU student for the glory of God and the sake of the gospel. •

FORWARD TOGETHER

THE CCU FUND

What is the CCU Fund?

The CCU Fund is a general University fund with the vital purpose of supporting CCU students in the areas of scholarships, academics, and experience.

Why does CCU need my support?

As the national cost of Christian higher education increases, CCU is determined to maintain affordability through student scholarships. With your help, The CCU Fund will provide needed scholarships that support both traditional undergraduate and transfer students in our College of Undergraduate Studies and adult learners in our College of Adult and Graduate Studies.

Who will benefit from the CCU Fund?

When you give to The CCU Fund, you are making a direct gift to CCU students and the student experience. The cumulative effect of donations from alumni, parents,

and friends of CCU enables students to receive the financial assistance they need to pursue an exemplary Christ-centered higher education.

What if I can't afford a large gift right now?

The CCU Fund is for everyone! The donation amount you choose to give is up to you. Participation is the goal! Your donation, large or small, will be combined with thousands of CCU supporters each month — collectively supporting CCU students and God's plan for their lives through Colorado Christian University.

Why should I consider giving?

The CCU Fund allows everyone — alumni, parents, employees, extended family, and friends of the University, to participate in the mission of CCU and support our current and future students. This is your opportunity to partner with CCU's mission of a rigorous,

Christ-centered liberal arts education to shape our world's future leaders. By giving to The CCU Fund, you are supporting CCU's Strategic Priorities and influencing the culture through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are asking if you would return a generous gift for our students through The CCU Fund.

“Your gift, of any amount, adds to CCU's ability to benefit more CCU students. Prayerfully consider returning a donation in the enclosed pre-paid postage envelope today. I am praying for CCU alumni, parents, employees, and friends to come together and build a generous army to support every student attending CCU student through The CCU Fund each year.”

– Eric Hogue, Vice President of University Advancement •

The CCU Fund is your gift — added to thousands of others — enabling all of CCU to move forward together.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Meet the Father-Son Duo Who Graduated Together From CCU This Year



Branden Yeates '18

Jeff Yeates '18

Branden Yeates chose to attend CCU's College of Undergraduate Studies in 2015 when he transferred during his sophomore year of college.

When he was searching for colleges, Branden knew that he wanted to study political science and business. He decided to attend CCU because, according to him, "the curriculum is faith-driven, academically rigorous, and locally connected."

One year later, Branden's father, Jeff Yeates, also decided to go back to college.

"After my wife, Laura, and I had completed 20 years of homeschooling our two sons, it was time to revisit God's leading for the next chapter of our lives," Jeff shared. "God gives us gifts so we can benefit others and we desired to find out how God wanted us to next use our gifts. Laura decided to focus on Christian mentoring and crisis support and I decided to complete the Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from CCU."

Prior to his time at CCU, Jeff was a programmer for the Lockheed Corporation. He also set up two nonprofit corporations that are still operating today.

It's not often that a father and son attend the same college, at the same time. But there are some advantages.

Branden explained, "We didn't study together in the sense of studying the same materials, but I was able to help my dad out by reading his papers and he helped train me for my Microsoft Excel Expert Certification by teaching me programming logic and excel functions. He's used it for over 30 years so he knew how to show me what I needed to know."

It was also fun for Jeff to meet Branden's friends on campus and introduce himself as a student. Jeff laughed as he said, "I don't know if they believed me."

While Jeff and Branden both chose CCU for different reasons, there was one underlying factor that tied them together: a Christ-centered higher education.

"At CCU I haven't just been taught — I've been mentored, befriended, and

commissioned. This partnership and emphasis on Christian faith as the underlying belief system that defines everything else are what make CCU a place to be treasured," shared Branden.

Jeff added, "CCU's courses make it clear that everyone is in full-time ministry. When looking at colleges, I wanted not only professors with experience, but also ones who emphasize character and building a strong foundation in Christ."

What's next for the Yeates?

With his triple major in Accounting, Business Administration, and Social Science with a Political Science emphasis, Branden will begin his career next spring as an auditor at Moss Adams, LLP in downtown Denver. Jeff is working on his capstone project where he will teach a new computer language that was recently developed by Apple — he will complete his capstone class this October. •

"The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him." — Proverbs 23:24 (ESV)



In Memoriam

Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. Kelton Lustig

Colorado Christian University mourns the loss of one of CCU's most beloved faculty members, Dr. Kelton Lustig, who served as a professor of Education in the School of Education for nearly two decades. Dr. Lustig passed away on December 23, 2017.

As a friend, colleague, confidant, scholar, devoted family man, and fellow mischief-maker, Kelton's presence was a blessing to everyone he met. He felt called to ministry as a public educator and devoted his life to shaping the minds and hearts of people toward a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

When not in the classroom, Kelton loved spending time in the outdoors and found joy in red Mustangs and four wheeling. He was known affectionately as "Blue" by his three grandsons.

Kelton grew up in Greeley, Colorado. In 1977, he graduated from Bethel College with his bachelor's degree in History then taught middle school for one year in Kimball, Nebraska.

On August 5, 1978, Kelton married Judy Peterson in Saint Paul, Minnesota — they were married for nearly 40 years. Shortly after, they moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado where he taught at an alternative junior high school for several years before transferring to Cheyenne Mountain Junior High.

While in Colorado Springs, Kelton and Judy welcomed their son Nathan and daughter Allison to the world.

In 1987, the Lustig family moved to Plymouth, Minnesota when Kelton took a job teaching reading at Hopkins Junior High. He finished his master's degree in K-12 Reading Education at University of Colorado in Colorado Springs.

After 12 years in the public school setting, he transitioned to teaching at Bethel College in the School of Education for the next eight years. During his time at Bethel, Kelton completed his doctorate degree from University of Northern Colorado in Greeley in Special Education.

He then took a position in a private company diagnosing and working with students with learning disabilities. This led to his position as a professor of Education in the School of Education at Colorado Christian University. He taught at CCU for over 20 years and loved it tremendously. While at CCU, Kelton received the Faculty Community Service Award in 2014.

Throughout his career, Dr. Lustig loved mentoring and training students to be more than educators, and instead to be ambassadors of Christ in the classroom. He asked great questions and provided wise insight and counsel to those he taught and mentored. He always encouraged his students to be kind, be professional, laugh, and care about meaningful things.

Kelton loved Jesus, his family, his friends, his students, and his colleagues. CCU will greatly miss his kindness, laughter, and passion for teaching students to be professional educators. •

"Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (ESV)

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We love celebrating the successes and milestones of alumni from Colorado Christian University and our legacy schools.

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- Been published?
- Served in missions?
- Gotten married?
- Had kids?
- Won an award?
- Or earned more degrees?

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