

# BEYOND

COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



## CCU'S NEW PRESIDENT: DR. DON SWEETING

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Feature Story [Page 10]

Dear Friends,

The past year has been a whirlwind of emotions. We grieved, as a community, the loss of our great leader, President Bill Armstrong. And, on October 1st, we welcomed a new president at the helm of our beloved university.

As always, it is our goal to keep you informed about and also proud to be associated with Colorado Christian University. In this edition of *BEYOND*, you will see some of the ways CCU is engaging with the broader community through public policy and political science; some of the wonderful events and various programs going on; and you'll learn about the man whom the board of trustees unanimously voted to be our next president. As we move forward into a new era at CCU, we do so trusting always in the grace and sovereignty of our Lord Jesus Christ.



We are excited to introduce you to CCU's new president, Dr. Donald Sweeting. You can read more about him on page 10, but I'd like to share with you my perspective on the man God has appointed to this position.

After a decade under the guidance and leadership of President Bill Armstrong, this University needs a president who stands boldly for the convictions and values that CCU holds. Dr. Sweeting does just that. And, having served on CCU's board of trustees for 11 years, Dr. Don Sweeting has an inside understanding of the University's Statement of Faith, Strategic Objectives, mission and vision statements, and our pursuit to become a great university. He also has a great understanding of the leadership and vision that Bill Armstrong provided, and understands that his role is not to "replace" President Armstrong, but rather to "succeed" him.

Most importantly, Dr. Sweeting has an unshakable commitment to Jesus Christ and is steadfast in his faith. Above all, this is what I am most confident in. We believe CCU is seeing such success in enrollment, athletics, debate, our campus redevelopment, and many other arenas, because God is blessing us—a university that honors Him.

As we welcome Dr. Sweeting as our new president, we remain confident that God will continue blessing a university that puts Him at the center of all that we are and all that we do.

I hope this magazine finds you well, and that you will discover some of the ways we are spreading God's truth, and some of the ways He is showing us His favor. Thank you for your continued friendship to CCU. There is no doubt that our alumni and friends are a tangible part of the good work that God is doing here.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul J. Eldridge". The signature is fluid and cursive.

PAUL J. ELDRIDGE, J.D.  
Vice President  
Development & Alumni/Parent Relations

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# BEYOND

A Publication of Colorado Christian University

## CCU's Mission

As the flagship Christian university in the Rocky Mountain region, CCU 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.



## 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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# NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

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



## CCU Mourns the Passing of President Bill Armstrong

Our beloved President Bill Armstrong (2006-2016) passed away on Tuesday, July 5, 2016 after a courageous battle with cancer. Beyond his many accomplishments, President Armstrong's true legacy was his focus on Jesus and his enthusiasm for CCU. While we mourn his passing, we also celebrate his life of service and leadership.



## CCU Announces Two New Master's Degrees

CCU's new Master of Public Administration program was developed to directly address the core competencies needed for government and non-profit administration. | CCU launched a new Master of Science in Criminal Justice with five fundamental components: leadership, systems communication, public communication, theory, and concrete skills.



## CCU Ranked #1 in Colorado for Lowest Student Debt

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* named CCU the #1 college in Colorado for the lowest average student loan debt at graduation. The study included over 1,300 schools throughout the nation.



## President Dr. Donald W. Sweeting

Dr. Donald Sweeting, a long-time trustee of CCU, was appointed by the board of trustees as the new president on August 2, 2016. He joined the CCU community fulltime on October 1st. See more on page 10.



## FirstBank Funds New Scholarship for CCU's School of Business & Leadership

The scholarship—funded by FirstBank—will result in \$150,000 awarded to select students over the next four years. To qualify, students must be in good standing with the University; be a Colorado resident; have financial need; be a College of Undergraduate Studies student with a major in the School of Business and Leadership; and have an average GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Scholarship recipients will be determined by CCU's Scholarship Advisory Committee, with preference given to students actively involved in the community. The scholarship is intended to increase program diversity and strengthen service to the community.

For more information about the FirstBank scholarship, visit [ccu.edu/news/first-bank-scholarship](http://ccu.edu/news/first-bank-scholarship).



## CCU Announces Two New Graduate Education Programs

CCU's College of Adult and Graduate Studies is pleased to announce two new M.Ed. programs: the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and the M.Ed. in Special Education.



## Record-Breaking Enrollment

CCU's College of Undergraduate Studies welcomed its largest incoming class in the University's over 100-year history—with 470 students. Total traditional undergraduate enrollment this fall is 1,306 students, at a time when the average Christian college is experiencing an 8% decrease in enrollment.



## "Best Four-year Colleges for Adult Learners"

CCU is ranked in the top 30 colleges on *Washington Monthly's* first-ever list of the "Best Four-year Colleges for Adult Learners." CCU's College of Adult and Graduate Studies was recognized for its education, convenience for adult students, and high employment rates post-graduation.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

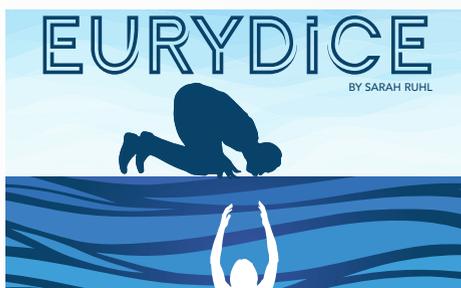
Save the date for these CCU events!



## OCT 29 Harvest Carnival

October 29, 2016  
CCU Main Campus  
180 S. Garrison St., Lakewood, CO 80226

Community members are invited to our FREE 20th annual CCU Harvest Carnival. The activities will be geared towards children through age 12. There will be lots of carnival games, candy, and rides, and we ask that kids come in costume. CCU will also be collecting non-perishable/canned food items to be donated to our friends living on the Northern Arapahoe Indian Reservation in Wyoming.



## NOV 9-12 Fall Play: Eurydice

November 9-12, 2016  
CCU Music Center  
9200 W. Ellsworth Ave.,  
Lakewood, CO 80226

In *Eurydice*, Sarah Ruhl re-imagines the classic myth of Orpheus through the eyes of its heroine. With contemporary characters, ingenious plot twists, and breathtaking visual effects, the play is a fresh look at a timeless love story. For tickets, please visit [ccu.edu/musicevents](http://ccu.edu/musicevents).



## DEC 2 & 3 CCU Christmas Celebration

December 2 & 3  
West Bowles Community Church  
12325 W. Bowles Ave.  
Littleton, CO 80127

Colorado Christian University's School of Music cordially invites you to celebrate the birth of Christ by joining us for the annual Christmas Celebration. These concerts will feature over 150 of CCU's finest instrumental and vocal students, presenting large ensemble selections, a variety of soloists, and special readings, all designed to lead to the joy and true meaning of this holy time of year.

Please bring a canned good to donate to Community Ministry Food Bank. For tickets, please visit [ccu.edu/musicevents](http://ccu.edu/musicevents).



## JAN 25 VALS 2017

January 25, 2017  
Westin Westminster  
10600 Westminster Blvd,  
Westminster, CO 80020

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



## FEB 9-12 Spring Musical: Oklahoma!

February 9-12, 2017  
Lakewood Cultural Center  
470 S. Allison Pkwy., Lakewood, CO 80226

You are invited to join Colorado Christian University for our spring play, *Oklahoma!* With such classic songs as "Oh What a Beautiful Morning," "I Cain't Say No," and "People Will Say We're In Love," you will find yourselves swept up in a beautiful love story that established musical theatre as a truly American art form. For tickets, please visit [ccu.edu/musicevents](http://ccu.edu/musicevents).

Colorado Christian  
UNIVERSITY

For more information and  
additional events, visit  
[ccu.edu/events](http://ccu.edu/events).



# Thomas Williamson:

## From Politics to Oilfield to Proud CCU Parent

Putting God first in the political landscape.



### TWISTS AND TURNS

In the early-1990s, Thomas Williamson worked in politics. He ran his first statewide campaign for a presidential candidate at just 24 years old, and he met and became friends with CCU President Bill Armstrong and Centennial Institute founder John Andrews—both before they were involved at Colorado Christian University.

Before his days in politics, Williamson moved to Colorado in 1983 and attended Air Academy High School in Colorado Springs—around the time his father retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army. After attending the University of Denver, he landed his first job as a stock and commodities broker for a major Wall Street firm. Subsequently he ran his own political consulting company at the state and national levels. He has worked in a variety of industries, but it was the oil boom in the Bakken field of North Dakota that allowed him to build multiple companies. However, things have not always been easy for the Williamsons.

“In twenty years of marriage we have faced layoffs, long stints of not working, moves across the country, and health emergencies that left me near death, us worn down and literally broke,” Thomas said. “But we always knew somehow we were going to be all

right. Through each of these events we were always able to see God working for us.”

Even though Williamson’s career now focuses on design, inspection and construction management of oil and gas pipelines and facilities, he’s still involved with politics by being a part of CCU’s Centennial Institute. “I truly believe CCU and the Centennial Institute may be our last bastion of hope when it comes to turning not only the secular view in our society around, but the secular view within our own conservative movement,” he said.

**“Through each of these events we were always able to see God working for us.”**

Today, Williamson and his wife Julia are supporters of CCU, and they are also the proud parents of one of its students, Hallie, who is a junior at CCU this year. When Hallie decided to attend, Thomas reached out to his friend, President Armstrong, and asked him to look after his daughter. While visiting Bill in his office that first year, Bill prayed with Williamson, and laid out his vision for the University. It was then that Williamson knew this was a place he



Thomas Williamson and his daughter Hallie Williamson '18.

wanted to be forever connected to. “I knew this was something I didn’t just want my first daughter to be a part of,” he said, “I want each of my children to experience it, and I want our whole family to be a part of it.”

Mr. and Mrs. Williamson are proud to support CCU through their giving, and they are members of the newly formed Parent Executive Committee. He views his gifts as an investment in the future of his country, its young people, and as a vehicle through which he can further the purposes of his friend, Bill Armstrong. When asked by friends about his support of CCU, Thomas Williamson simply replies, “We have the vision of a great man to fulfill.” •



# *Our Weakness, His Strength*

A Conversation with Dr. Don Sweeting, CCU's new president

*Throughout the Bible, we see that God consistently chooses those who many of us might see as “the wrong people.” From Moses to Rahab, David, Paul and countless others, we see that God delights in using unexpected people so that He is glorified. That’s a good thing, because it keeps us humble.*

*Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12:9, “...He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”*

*We caught up with CCU's new president, Dr. Don Sweeting, and he shared with us how despite his shortcomings, God has always been there weaving together the pieces that would make him who he is today.*

## LIFELONG MISSION

***This is a big transition for you, moving back to Colorado. What are you looking forward to most?*** We have family in Colorado, and we have a lot of dear friends from when I was the pastor at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church. We're also looking forward to hiking. Even while living in Florida, we've taken trips to Colorado each summer to hike, often a 14er. We go wherever there's a tree line and wild flowers, and even snow. I also like fly fishing and plan to attend Rockies games in the new season. I'm a big baseball fan. Then there's Tokyo Joe's. We don't have one in Florida, and I really miss it, so that'll be great.

***Can you tell us more about your family?***

My wife Christina and I have three boys and one daughter. My oldest son James is married and works with Young Life in Nashville. He and his wife Kristin had a baby about a year ago, our first grandson, Hudson George. Our second son Jonathan is in China and works with a mission organization called ELIC, English Language Institute. My third son Joshua is a CCU graduate and is an accountant in downtown Denver. My daughter Julianna is a senior in high school and attends a classical Christian school in Orlando.

***What led you to ministry?*** Growing up my interests were in politics, law, and ministry. I wasn't sure where God was calling me, so I found myself in Washington D.C. working as a congressional intern on Capitol Hill. In fact, Bill Armstrong was in the Senate at that time. After that, I worked with Prison Fellowship where I served as an assistant for Chuck Colson. During that year we met with high-level government officials and also with prison inmates. We were going into prisons around the country doing discipleship seminars.

I can remember going back and forth and even arguing with God about my

future (in my Chevy Nova, in the Capitol parking lot). It was difficult because when you're in Washington D.C., you have all these contacts with those working for external reform. But working with Prison Fellowship and visiting inmates was where I rediscovered the power of the gospel. I saw people's lives being changed from the inside out. I saw that the gospel really is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, like Scripture says.

***"I remember sitting in my car just saying, 'Ok God. I'll do what You want me to do.'"***

It was then that I sensed that I was being called into some form of gospel ministry. I remember sitting in my car just saying, "Ok, God. I'll do what You want me to do. This one door will shut, and I'll no longer consider it." When the other door opened, that was decisive for me.

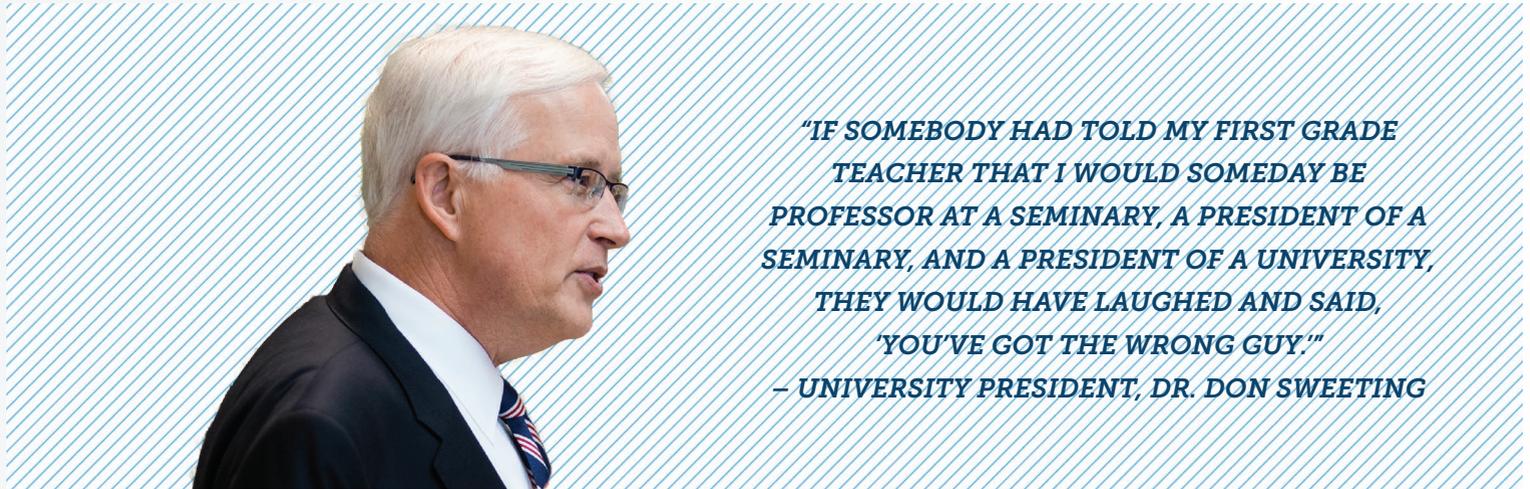
My lifelong mission is to be a wholehearted disciple of Jesus Christ and to make disciples

of Christ who bring glory to God and blessing to our world. I do this by promoting the gospel, by being a faithful father and husband, and by using my gifts to build the church, promote Christian education and formation, and train leaders.

***What are your views on mentorship?***

People can mentor you in different ways. You can have living mentors, but you can





***“IF SOMEBODY HAD TOLD MY FIRST GRADE TEACHER THAT I WOULD SOMEDAY BE PROFESSOR AT A SEMINARY, A PRESIDENT OF A SEMINARY, AND A PRESIDENT OF A UNIVERSITY, THEY WOULD HAVE LAUGHED AND SAID, ‘YOU’VE GOT THE WRONG GUY.’”***  
**– UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, DR. DON SWEETING**

also be mentored by people who are long gone—like Calvin, Luther, and Augustine. That’s the great thing about reading. I think my living heroes have been Chuck Colson, Carl Henry, J.I. Packer, and John Stott. It’s mostly Christian leaders who inspire me, although there have been secular leaders too, such as Winston Churchill. My dad and mom have also been a huge influence on my life.

Mentoring is an important aspect of leadership. It is part of our biblical mandate. I believe in investing my life in the younger generation of leaders coming after me. I am not sure what that will look like at CCU, but I will continue an emphasis on mentoring, and will encourage my leadership team to do the same.

***“Son, readers are leaders, and leaders are readers. It’s important to read good books, not just any book.”***

***Are you a pretty voracious reader?***

I am. But I didn’t grow up a big reader. I wasn’t a good reader at all. I was not a natural student, and struggled in school. I

was in the slower reading groups as a kid and was an unmotivated student in high school. It’s been a thing I’ve had to learn over time. My dad used to tell me, “Son, readers are leaders, and leaders are readers. It’s important to read good books, not just any book.”

Some people can read faster, some slower, and the amount isn’t important. Reading is a way to restore your vision and deepen your faith. The book that I’ve been giving away a lot lately is called *Lit!: A Christian Guide to Reading Books*. I think it’s the best book out there on learning how to be a good reader.

## **CHRIST CHANGED ME**

***What failures have most led you to where you are now?*** If you have an honest conversation with any leader, they will have to tell you about how failure or discovering a weakness was formative. If they don’t tell you that, they’re not being completely honest. I think God delights in working through our failures and our weaknesses. His greatest works in our lives often come out of those. That’s a lesson that you don’t realize growing up, but you look back and you see it.

I look back on my weaknesses as a student, and I see how Christ changed me. When I recommitted my life to Him, something

happened in my life and suddenly I had this hunger to read and learn like never before. It was like a light switch that turned on. I learned to depend upon Christ, because He brought about the change in me.

***It’s ironic that the space where you struggled most growing up, in a school setting, is the very same area that God is using you most in ministry.*** Well, it causes me to laugh. It’s my Sarah-like moment, when God said, “Sarah, you’re barren. I’m going to give you a son. You’re going to be a parent.” That’s when Sarah laughed (Genesis 18:10-13). If somebody had told me that this is where I’d be, I wouldn’t have believed them. I would have laughed.

There are a lot of times when we’re depending on our own strength and not getting very far. We try to work things out by ourselves. The Lord will often break you of that self-sufficiency to throw you back on Himself so that you seek Him. Then He raises you up to a new season of fruitfulness, and uses you in a way you never imagined.

## **GRACE AND TRUTH**

***Why did you choose to serve in ministry at a university?*** I love the idea of a Christian university. Universities arose out of a Christian setting in medieval Europe. If you

look at the founding of those universities, you'll see that they were birthed by monasteries or cathedral schools. They grew out of an explicit Christ-centered vision.

That idea is still relevant, and it excites me. The thought of a modern Christian university like CCU that is not ashamed of Jesus Christ is doubly exciting. You know—"the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," (Proverbs 9:10). You know that His light is essential to see straight. So, to train leaders in all the different vocations at a Christ-centered university, what a privilege! It's not just going to influence the churches; it will influence the culture and the nation.

**What does CCU mean to you on a personal level?** I love the University and believe in the mission of CCU. Higher education needs Jesus. CCU stands out because of its convictional commitments to be a Christian

university that is Christ-centered, founded on the truthfulness of the Bible, and that cares about training students to serve God in all vocations. Our motto is "grace and truth," (John 1:17). That is what the world needs. That is what the church needs. That is what students need.

***"It's not just going to influence the churches; it will influence the culture and the nation."***

***How can we pray for you and your family?***

Just knowing that you're praying means so much. Pray for us in the transition because there will be several phases, including selling the house. Secondly, pray for God's protection and blessing on Colorado Christian University in this new season. •



Sweeting family photo. Top row from left to right: Christina, James, Jonathan, Don, and Joshua '14. Bottom row from left to right: Kristin, Hudson George, and Julianna.

**FUN FACTS  
ABOUT DR. SWEETING**



***Hearts Across The Ocean***

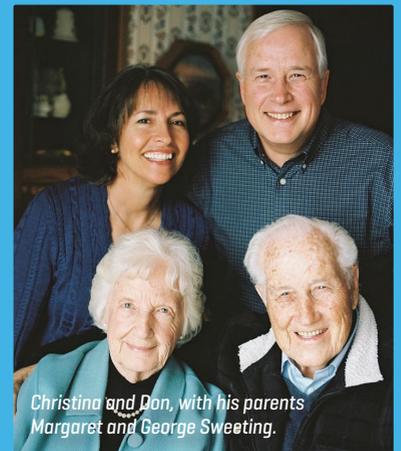
Dr. Sweeting met his wife Christina at a bus stop in London at Heathrow Airport. He was pursuing his master's degree at Oxford, and she was studying a semester abroad. After Christina graduated they got married. The Sweetings spent their first year of marriage in England then moved back to the U.S. when Dr. Sweeting began preparing for his ordination.



The Sweeting family's dog, Autumn, is a brown and white Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. Whenever Julianna plays the piano, Autumn will run to the piano, sit underneath it, and lift her head to sing [howl] along.



Dr. Sweeting is a devoted tea drinker (English breakfast with milk). If he could have tea with anyone, he would share a cup with Augustine, Martin Luther, and C.S. Lewis.



Christina and Don, with his parents Margaret and George Sweeting.

# Re-Empowering Parents as Educators

Brittany Corona on School Choice



**B**rittany Corona '12, was a political science and social science major at Colorado Christian University, where she was also a Centennial Institute 1776 Scholar. Since her time at CCU, she's studied at the John Jay Institute, the Claremont Institute, and the Young Conservatives Coalition, earning three fellowships along the way.

Today, Corona works at EdChoice, formally Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice. As the director of state policy, she fights for greater educational choice for parents. CCU caught up with Brittany Corona and asked her to share her work on school choice and its impact on families and communities.

**What are some things you're working on right now?** My job as the director of state policy is dependent on what the legislative climate is for school choice in that particular state. That means looking at the make-up of the legislature and the governor, and also the cultural ramifications on the ground. So I like to go into a state and do the heavy lifting of educating policymakers and stakeholders—such as parents and non-profits on the ground—about effective school choice policies. I help teach them how to put school choice policies into practice in their particular state.

## What's important about school choice?

What we've seen with the growth of the welfare state is a restriction of many economic liberties, and also the deterioration of the family and civil society. I see it as a political means to effectively restore civil society and the family. Allowing school choice measures to enter a state means that the dollars that would've followed a child, had they gone to public schools, will then be given to the parent to utilize for private school tuition.

One measure that's really taken off is an education savings account, in which parents receive a deposit of public funds into a savings account for parents to then use for multiple services and providers. They can pay for online learning, private school tuition, curricula, and textbooks, customizing their child's education to their specific needs. When you do that, you're re-empowering parents in their proper role as the child's primary educator. I believe this will ultimately transform communities and transform our country by transferring community and local empowerment back to families.

**Do you have evidence of how school choice is restoring families?** A lot of the empirical data on school choice has to do with achievement and attainment levels. Students who participate in school choice programs have been shown to have a lower crime rate, greater political awareness, increased community participation, and civic values.

EdChoice does a lot of research on school choice initiatives and how they benefit families. We survey families every year and we see that one of the top, if not the top reason, that parents participate in school choice programs is because of religious education.

**"We believe, as a conviction of school choice, that every child is unique and has distinct learning needs."**

We believe, as a conviction of school choice, that every child is unique and has distinct learning needs. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to a child's learning needs. Furthermore, the best people that know the individual learning needs of a child are the parents. Returning accountability away from centralized forces and back to the most localized level—the parents—is ultimately restoring communities.

**Can you talk about how your faith plays into this?** The reason I got into education largely came from my experience at the John Jay Institute and my experience at CCU. I didn't grow up with strong Christian values or understand the source for that. I had to be re-educated with Christ-first principles, which is the key for a lot of America right now. We have a lot of secular values that aren't grounded in permanent things. I believe that education



Brittany Corona speaking at the 2016 Western Conservative Summit.

**How do you know when you've had success?**

You can look at success through empirical data points. School choice voucher programs are one of the most researched education reforms in the country, and the vast majority of studies on these programs have shown that they've benefited the public schools, the private schools, and even benefited the values within a community. So it's been a success all-around.

***"I believe that education is the formation of the human soul, and school choice offers a mechanism to restore community and a proper understanding of education."***

is the formation of the human soul, and school choice offers a mechanism to restore community and a proper understanding of education. As a Christian, being part of this type of movement is a calling. Christians are all called to be a light to the world, and let our light shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify God.

One of the things the school choice movement and I are going to have to grapple with very soon is that there will be attacks on religious liberty for parochial schools. This is something that school choice reformers are going to have to address very directly. I feel I need to stand up for the religious convictions of schools that teach capital "T" truth and point to Christ.

***When we think of school choice, we think of private schools in wealthy areas. But it sounds like this is gaining headway in urban areas.*** For private school choice, the majority are in urban areas. Private school choice is already naturally being practiced

by affluent communities because they have the financial means to pick up and move to a better school. Ultimately, school choice raises all boats. The more students that participate in a school choice program in a state, it forces—through competitive pressure—the low-performing schools to start competing. It raises all boats for affluent kids, low income kids, for middle



income kids, all across the board. Without school choice programs, it is consigned only to the rich because they have the ability to move.

But I don't think we've had a broad enough reach with school choice programs. School choice started in earnest in the 1990s. Since the 1990s, we have 61 private school choice programs operating in 30 states and the D.C. area. What we're looking at now for school choice are universal-type programs. In 2015, Nevada was the first state to pass legislation that guaranteed that any student in the state who was enrolled in a public school for at least 100 days was eligible for an education savings account. That's the type of direction we need to see if we're going to see institutional reform.

What we're witnessing now, with the growth of school choice programs, is a deficit in quality private schools. We need to start thinking innovatively to create a space where entrepreneurs would step in and start providing new types of education models, so parents can engage in different ways with how to teach their child. ●



# Turning Students Into Accomplished Leaders

A look into Political Science at CCU

A career in politics requires service in the community, a keen eye for problem-solving, and an education that prepares one for jobs that can lead to practically anywhere in life—from a courtroom to the White House. With this in mind, Colorado Christian University is called to be a place where future leaders will not only get an excellent education, but will also be equipped with God's Word to lead their peers, administrators, and the world.

“The study of politics was a priority for former president, Bill Armstrong. It was not, of course, the most important priority. Everything was secondary to the priority of Jesus, Jesus, Jesus—President Armstrong would never allow anyone to be confused about this,” said political science professor, Greg Schaller. “Nevertheless, he did care deeply about American politics and the need for good citizens who are well-informed about their government. This is true not only for students of political science but also for everyone who attends CCU.”

*Erin Shumaker '13 and Jonathan Finer '13, who attended the Republican National Convention. Finer is currently a legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO).*

## A NEW EXPERIENCE

The road to introducing political science courses, minors, and majors began with President Armstrong creating and implementing CCU's Strategic Objectives. This includes: "Impact our culture in support of traditional family values, sanctity of life, compassion for the poor, Biblical view of human nature, limited government, personal freedom, free markets, natural law, and original intent of the Constitution and Western civilization." He then curated the core curriculum, which includes the American Government course. This course gives students an overview of: the founding principles as laid down in the Declaration of Independence; the concept of limited government; and the importance of maintaining fidelity to the Constitution and the principle of rule of law.

"In order to prepare our students for any vocation, President Armstrong knew that knowledge of these fundamentals is essential," said Schaller. "While it was important to President Armstrong that all of our graduates be well-versed in their understanding of American government, he also realized the importance of raising up the next generation of political leaders. A part of that plan included the development of a political science program at CCU."

In 2009, CCU brought in Professor Schaller as its first political science professor. After



the success and interest during this first year, a minor in political science was created. This ignited a hunger in students. Seven poly-sci courses were offered including Political Economy, U.S. Supreme Court, and Washington Week. Just two years after political science courses were introduced at CCU, the major was created.

***"...He also realized the importance of raising up the next generation of political leaders."***

With the sudden interest in political science, Professor Schaller had an interesting way of testing his students before their coursework began. "He had us take a generic test of one hundred questions to gauge the class' knowledge about the political process," said Chad Yelinski '13. "I didn't know it then but Professor Schaller would become a friend and mentor throughout my four years at CCU. I took at least one class with him every semester thereafter."

Describing his political science experience as "full of grace and challenges," Yelinski was not only intrigued by the coursework—reading works by great writers such as Locke, Aristotle, and Plato—but he felt it was important. "We have a political process shaped by educated, passionate, and engaged citizens. It is our duty, as citizens, to participate in that process," he said. "Learning about the uniqueness of our political structure, as designed by the founders, was enthralling. I knew then that I wanted to participate in that process, and through the political science program, I was able to learn how."

The political science major at CCU educates students by training them in topics that include constitutional law, public policy, and the institutions of American government. "A CCU education provides its students

both breadth and depth," said Jonathan Finan '13.

Besides equipping students with the education necessary to excel in the workplace, CCU also gives them the tools they need to be active in their community day-to-day. "I enjoyed learning how to apply my theology to everyday life," said Erin Shumaker '13. "The gospel is not just something that you accept once and move on from, but instead is something you preach to yourself every day. Being in a community of believers who were moving in the same direction I was—toward Christlikeness—was a tremendous help."

After graduating from CCU, many alums stay connected with CCU and its public policy think tank, the Centennial Institute. "I love going back every year for the Western Conservative Summit to see how the program continues to grow," said Yelinski. "God has been doing some amazing things through the Centennial Institute with the Summit, and He is not done yet. It is exciting and encouraging for me to go and see how He is furthering that important work."

Finer is still involved in the CCU and Centennial Institute communities. "Staying in touch with professors and staff allows me to observe and appreciate the positive changes taking place each day, month, and year," he said. "Remaining involved with the ever-popular Western Conservative Summit has allowed me to meet the impressive speakers the Summit brings in, as well as work behind the scenes."

As for current students, Finan gives a bit of advice: "Do not be afraid to take advantage of every opportunity you can, taking your own Indiana Jones leap of faith with your future," he said. "The relationships you build at CCU are exceptionally rare—nowhere else will you get the chance to set yourself up for success than the four years you are afforded at CCU." •

# A Footprint of Progress

Faith | Family | Freedom Campaign



## FAITH | FAMILY | FREEDOM

Since October of 2012, when CCU received approval for rezoning its Lakewood campus by the Lakewood City Council, the Faith | Family | Freedom Campaign has been a burgeoning endeavor with the acquisition of adjacent land, new parking lots and a central campus drive, two completed buildings, and construction currently in progress on the third building.

This campaign is not simply about new buildings and giving our Lakewood campus a facelift—the campus redevelopment campaign is changing the way students are experiencing life at CCU.

Phase I of the campaign was completed just in time for students to arrive in the fall of 2014 with the completion of Leprino Hall—a 43,000 square foot academic building with faculty offices, classrooms, and study space

which gives students the opportunity to not only live together, but also learn together in community.

Phase II of the campaign began with the construction of the first new residence building, Yetter Hall. Dedicated in August of 2015 as a tribute to the president of Rockmont College (a CCU predecessor) in the 1950s and 60s, Yetter Hall transformed the campus with 103,000 square feet of

community living space. The apartment-style residence hall houses 300 beds and 150 bathrooms and each unit is equipped with a full kitchen.

## A NEW EXPERIENCE

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“We are thrilled to have started construction on the final building in Phase II, the Anschutz Student Center,” commented Paul Eldridge, Vice President of Development and Alumni/Parent Relations. This building will stand at the center of the campus and offer 60,000 square feet of dining, fitness, office, and hangout space.

“In a way, this building will complete the student experience,” says Vice President Shannon Dreyfuss. “Having a completed academic and residence building, a student center was the next big need.” ●



# STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

- Sara Magruder '18, Communications Major

“Arriving at Colorado Christian University this fall, I was so thrilled to see the progress made on the Anschutz Student Center. We always talk about what a wonderful community we have here, we pride ourselves in the beauty of fellowship and it will be such a blessing to have another building that reflects and encourages growth in friendship, in knowledge, and in following the Lord.

I look forward to sharing a meal with friends in the new dining hall, heading to the fitness center to work out, and going to the game room after a long day to relax and unwind. I'm so excited to have a place where I can grab some coffee, go outside, sit, and be alone with God.

This facility is another symbol of our commitment to being together in fellowship with one another and in fellowship with God. I can't wait to see the Anschutz Student Center finished and watch the Lord work in it and through it to transform the lives of CCU students.”



Dear Alumni,

As another year begins, the Colorado Christian University community grieves the loss of President Armstrong, and rejoices in all God is doing at our University. New enrollment milestones have been set as we roll into the fall semester of 2016. Our campus continues to grow with the rise of the Anschutz Student Center, and the board of trustees' appointment of our new president, Dr. Don Sweeting. There has been much change and growth as we strive to teach and develop the next generation of young minds.

The Alumni Council has just appointed five new members, as this body continues to serve our faithful alumni. The Council is working hard to provide more engagement opportunities for you, including "Perennial," our new alumni professional development series. Keep on the lookout for these events.

Our nation is on the verge of its new presidency, and the Centennial Institute finished its first Western Conservative Summit with its new leader—Jeff Hunt. We adhere to the Strategic Objectives that President Armstrong implemented—with particular focus on number eight during this time of transition for our nation: "Impact our culture in support of traditional family values, sanctity of life, compassion for the poor, Biblical view of human nature, limited government, personal freedom, free markets, natural law, original intent of the Constitution and Western civilization."

As an alumnus, you will always be considered an integral member of the CCU family! If you haven't lately, share your news with us at [ccu.edu/alumni/share](http://ccu.edu/alumni/share). It's our pleasure to stay in touch and know what God is doing in your life. It will be an exciting year at CCU— come along with us!

Blessings,



MISSY SMITH-SHIMIRAK  
*Director of Alumni and Parent Relations*



# PARENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pray, Promote, Provide

## JOIN CCU'S NEWEST PARENT ORGANIZATION

- Meet CCU leadership and faculty
- Attend special CCU events
- Invest in CCU's future

Call us for information on our special events or to join the PEC today!

Please contact Javan Greeson, Director of Development and Planned Giving at **303.963.3197**



# CCU2theWORLD

CCU mission trips are student-led and designed. Students work with CCU staff to build relationships with existing ministries in the area of their choice, and then co-lead the trip with a staff or faculty member. Over the last 17 years, CCU students have taken over 200 mission trips to more than 50 countries and 12 states.

Photos feature students on mission trips in: India, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, Poland & Thailand.



CCU2THEWORLD | Fall 2016



  
CCU2theWorld

BEYOND | 21

# — ALUMNI — NEWS 2016

**Matt Andrews ('06)** - Matt graduated with a degree in theology in 2006. His book, "Slaying Biblical Illiteracy" has just been published by the Youth Cartel. This book came out of a curriculum Matt created for a summer camp while he was working as a youth pastor. The book is designed to help Youth Ministry leaders and volunteers address the growing biblical illiteracy among young people in fun, creative ways. **01**

**Erin Amsberry ('16)** - Erin is currently living in Washington D.C. and working at the American Enterprise Institute in the Digital Communication department. She is helping the Institute communicate its mission to foster a competition of ideas to bring a better life to all people. She credits CCU with her ability to view everyone as a valuable member of society with God-given gifts and abilities. Her time at CCU shaped her in a meaningful way and fashioned her to want to build up the essential elements that allow for human flourishing: economic empowerment, spiritual revival, and Christ-centered community. **02**

**Kimberly Christian ('05)** - Kimberly graduated in 2005 with a degree in communications. She recently moved and began a new position as vice president of Student Life at Sterling College in Kansas. Her advice to current students is to build relationships and get involved in the campus community. **03**

**Charles Curtis ('08)** - Charles and his wife, Brianne (formerly Andrus) class of 2008 recently moved back to Denver and are expecting baby number three! Charles is in the start up stages of two new initiatives helping Christian givers and entrepreneurs direct their finances to make an impact on the Kingdom. Charles also serves on the CCU alumni council and serves as a private family CFO and portfolio manager. \* **03**

**Melanie Engelen ('90)** - Melanie graduated in 1990 with a degree in human resource management. She just celebrated 25 years with the federal government. After 24 years of working for quasi

agencies, she went to work for an executive branch, Homeland Security - TSA.

**Lauren Jackson ('13)** - Lauren graduated from CCU in 2013 with a degree in communications. Both she and her husband are pastors in the greater Denver area. He is a Worship Pastor at Fathom church and she is a Children's Pastor at Denver Community Church. Lauren is grateful for the difficult seasons in college because it allowed God to stretch and mold her. She believes that if she would have been closed to what her professors and leaders had to say, she would not be where she is today. **04**

**Linda Lujan ('91)** - Linda earned a bachelor's degree in human resource management from Colorado Christian University. She went on to attain her Master of Arts from George Washington University and a Ph.D. from Colorado State University. Dr. Linda Lujan has been appointed as the president of Lamar Community College (LCC). Lujan began her community college career with the Colorado Community College System, serving as a faculty department chair in Computer Science and Information Systems and then as assistant division director of the Business and Professional Services Division at Arapahoe Community College. She then served as dean of the Centers for Business and Technology and Health Sciences at the Community College of Denver. **05**

**Kelly Lund ('10)** - Kelly graduated from CCU in 2010 and now is an internet sensation along with his dog, Loki the Wolf Dog. The two have taken over Instagram with over a million followers and are known for their picturesque adventures, and were recently featured in *Westword* magazine.

**Morgan Mote ('09)** - Morgan earned her bachelor's degree in communications from Colorado Christian University. She is the new executive director of Colorado Springs Teen Court, a program that provides alternative sentencing for first-time misdemeanor offenses committed by 10 through 18-year-olds. Morgan became involved with this program as a high school volunteer. **06**

**Sharon Nelson ('01)** - Sharon graduated from Colorado Christian University in 2001 with a degree in Liberal Arts. She encourages current students to "fully embrace all that CCU will offer you during your time there and look for ways to share the impact CCU is having on your life with others!"

**Eric Palmer ('04)** - Eric currently resides in Alamosa, Colorado and has recently accepted the position of assistant principal at Ortega Middle School. Congratulations to Eric. We wish you great success!

**Aaron Roach ('11)** - Aaron graduated from Colorado Christian University in 2011 with a degree in theology. He is currently employed with the U.S. Navy out of Bangor, Washington. He and his wife, Sophie, are expecting their first child. Congratulations Aaron and Sophie!

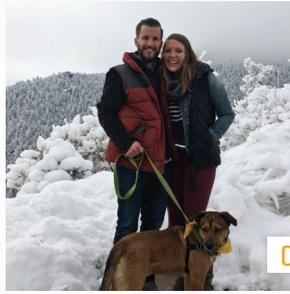
**Nancy Streza ('78)** - Nancy attended Rockmont College, a heritage school of CCU, and graduated in 1978 from the Christian ministries program. She and her family had the opportunity to travel to Cuba with Haven Ministries and distribute Bibles. She recounts that people walked many miles, travelled by oxcart, bus, and even dump truck to get to rural churches and receive their Bibles. One woman told them that she had been praying for a Bible since 1985. Nancy said that God's word became more precious to her that week. **07**

**Michael Tipton ('10)** - Mike graduated from Colorado Christian University in 2010. Shortly after graduating he joined the U.S. Navy where he spent nine years working aboard fast attack submarines and managing satellites at Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia. Upon his departure from the Navy, Mike became a civilian contractor working for defense contractors at Air Force Space Command located at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado Springs.

Mike was named as the Pikes Peak Region's Small Business Person of the Year during the annual Small Business Week awards ceremony held in Colorado Springs, CO. Mike started his organization, Integrity Communications Solutions, in 2009. Integrity provides technical service within the Department of Defense. In the past three years Mike has been able to hire 14 people, obtain growth of 75%, and even expand outside of Colorado. Mike has set himself apart by a willingness to learn from others, remain teachable and maintain integrity in his business operations. Mike also contributes in many ways to the community including serving as Tri-County volunteer assistant fire chief and an EMT.



01



04



07



02



05



03



06



Remember to share your news today and tell your story!

[ccu.edu/alumni/share](http://ccu.edu/alumni/share)

# Growing a Legacy

*"The more kids CCU graduates, the better the world is going to be." - Rich Plumridge*

## 1914 Legacy Society

If you're interested in leaving a legacy by including CCU in your estate, you'll become part of our 1914 Legacy Society. There are many ways to leave a gift:

- IRA Beneficiary
- Will
- Lead/Remainder Trust
- Life Insurance
- Life Estate Gift
- And many others!

## IRA Rollovers

If you're over 70 ½, you're allowed a charitable gift from your IRA for up to \$100,000. It's a great way to leave a legacy, and may count against your unsatisfied minimum required distributions.

If you'd like more information or have questions, please contact Javan Greeson or Kathy Pettit at 303.963.3330, or visit [ccu.edu/plannedgiving](http://ccu.edu/plannedgiving).

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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 on the way.

And we want to know about it. That's why we have a web page set up where you can share your story—good news or bad—and keep the community informed. Your story is important, and it'll have an impact beyond what you know. After all, stories are meant to be told.

[ccu.edu/alumni/share](https://ccu.edu/alumni/share)



Visit [ccu.edu/alumni/share](https://ccu.edu/alumni/share) today and tell your story!

