

HOW TO BUILD A BETTER ENGINEER

PAGING DR. MOSES

CCU'S WOMEN IN STEM

SPRING 2022

BEYOND

COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



Where Faith and
Science Meet



COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
Grace and Truth

Dear friends,

As we draw the 2021-2022 academic year to a close, Colorado Christian University continues to see God's divine hand of direction on the University and its mission to provide Christ-centered education that transforms students to impact the world with grace and truth.



The theme for this edition of *BEYOND* is the intersection of faith and science. Dr. Mark Parker, dean of the School of Science and Engineering in the College of Undergraduate Studies (CUS), and Dr. David Kotter, dean of the School of Theology in CUS, are joined by their colleagues in examining what St. Augustine described as God's two books: the Book of Nature and the Book of Scripture. Faculty from the two schools speak about the integration of faith and science in the classroom and describe how both bring honor to God.

Building on the theme of where faith and science meet, this edition spotlights four women of CCU who are leading in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) or are preparing to lead. Dr. Amanda Furness, assistant professor of chemistry, impacts students daily as they prepare for careers in science. Anna George MBA '13, M.S. '20, B.S. '07 is a shining example of what can be accomplished, as she is one of just a handful of women nationally to serve as a chief information security officer. Kaitlyn Meyers B.S. '22 is preparing to utilize her math and science aptitude and her investigative, inquisitive mind on the mission field. Jennifer Milburn M.S. '21 is combating national cybersecurity threats in her role in the defense industry.

Other highlights from this edition include a trip to the heart of Israel with Dr. Seth Rodriguez and undergraduate students as they roll up their sleeves and assist with an archeological dig at the Tabernacle site in Tel Shiloh; the journey from the Buckeye State to the Rocky Mountains for Dr. Ethan Moses B.S. '03, where he serves as the medical director for the Colorado Division of Worker's Compensation as well as chief medical officer at Peak Form Medical Center; a first-person account of interviewing NFL Hall of Famers at Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles by an undergraduate student media member; class notes; and a benediction from Athletics Director Brian Wall.

As you will likely notice flipping through this edition, the design of the magazine has been refreshed to better articulate God's blessing to the University. I hope you enjoy the new look and feel.

Yours in His service,

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

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

inside

VOLUME 6 NO. 2

06

Forward with Conviction

CCU supports expansion of science and engineering programs with new facility

08

How to Build a Better Engineer

Dr. Cory Hixson inspires CCU students to pursue engineering as a mission

12

Building a Brighter Future

Worship musician and student engineer Jack Vannice shares about what his future will hold beyond the halls of CCU

14

Unearthing History

CCU's biblical archeology program is digging up evidence for the faith

20

Where Faith and Science Meet

Science and theology faculty explore the intersection of their two fields

34

CCU's Women in STEM

CCU's standout female faculty, alumni, and students are making their marks in a male-dominated field

44

Paging Dr. Moses

Alumnus Dr. Ethan Moses is using his CCU science degree to answer God's call and change lives

48

'Nice Hair': Student Media at Super Bowl LVI

CCU media students create first-hand coverage at Super Bowl LVI

50

Class Notes

Classmate updates from CCU alums and University donor memorials



BEYOND

A publication of Colorado Christian University

Our Magazine

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

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Mission

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

Colorado Christian University cultivates knowledge and love of God in a Christ-centered community of learners and scholars, with an enduring commitment to the integration of exemplary academics, spiritual formation, and engagement with the world. We envision graduates who think critically and creatively, lead with high ethical and professional standards, embody the character and compassion of Jesus Christ, treasure the gospel, and who thereby are prepared to impact the world in their callings.

On the Cover

CCU pre-physician assistant major Lейelle Salinger '24 is studying under the keen tutelage of the University's female STEM faculty.

Photo Credit: Hunter Kirby '22

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2nd Annual **PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND RETREAT** jumpstarts

Forward* with *Conviction **Capital Campaign to build the Science Center**

Parents, alumni, and friends of Colorado Christian University gathered for the second annual President's Weekend event at the Montage seaside resort in Laguna Beach, Calif., Feb. 17-20, to pray, worship, and fellowship. The highlight of the weekend was the official launch of the *Forward with Conviction* capital campaign to build a state-of-the-art academic center to house the School of Science and Engineering in the College of Undergraduate Studies. More than \$5.8 million was pledged during the weekend. Total pledges and campaign contributions directed toward the new Science Center — the second phase of the Armstrong Legacy Initiative — currently rest at \$13.2 million. The initial phase, raising the necessary funds to begin construction on the Armstrong Center, was completed in 2020-21 and totaled \$33.2 million. Ground breaking

for this signature campus building is set to begin later this year.

"The new science and technology building will be the centerpiece of CCU's bold, path-breaking effort to produce more graduates in the STEM fields so vital to America's future, if this nation is to maintain its preeminence as a leader in innovation and invention," Dr. Donald W. Sweeting said.

To learn how you can personally impact science, technology, engineering, and math students at CCU and help the University move *Forward with Conviction*, contact Eric Hogue, vice president of University Advancement at 303.963.3093 or ehogue@ccu.edu.





Learn more
ccu.edu/sciencecenter





My job isn't to teach you
what to think; it's to
teach you how to think.



How to Build a Better Engineer: Constructing CCU's Industrial and Systems Engineering Program

When Dr. Cory Hixson was deconstructing and rebuilding his mother's computer as a young boy, his mom "may or may not have freaked out a bit seeing her multi-thousand dollar electronic ripped to shreds on the kitchen table." At the same time, Hixson calmly assured her, "We've got this. Everything's going to be great!" And that has been Hixson's wildly successful approach to building up from the ground level the engineering program at Colorado Christian University.

The Pennsylvania native discovered his calling after a move with his wife to Texas, where he was exposed to engineering education — a hybrid field combining science and technology with teaching and pedagogy.

"I thought, *That's perfect! That's exactly what I want to do.* I had worked as an engineer; I had taught high school, but I didn't want to stay there teaching the same course and repeating it seven times a day," Hixson said. "That didn't resonate with my brain. I've always been a problem solver; so, I went back to graduate school at Virginia Tech."

Hixson joined CCU as the first full-time faculty member of the engineering department in the fall of 2018, following the program's launch in 2017. Working alongside program co-creators, Justin Peddicord and Dr. Lene Jaqua, Hixson embraced his passion and enthusiasm for analytical innovation and advising students.



“The question students should be asking themselves is: ‘Do you want to improve efficiency, reduce waste, create safer conditions?’ If you want to make things better, be an engineer,” Hixson said. “You come into this program because you’re naturally creative, you think through things in a way that’s unique and different, and you have an ability to work on teams. Those qualities are essential to success in the field and are often overlooked.”

Hixson’s own can-do attitude, aptitude for problem-solving, and heart for building up Christian engineers illuminates the “why” behind the engineering department’s success and its inevitable expansion.

“I’ve always said, ‘There’s got to be a better way this thing should work,’ or ‘I know there’s a way this thing can really work, and I just have to figure out how to do it,’” Hixson said.

CCU’s engineering program launched in 2017 with a bachelor’s in industrial and systems engineering. It has since expanded to include a bachelor’s in engineering and project management and an associate degree in pre-engineering. The latter is offered as part of a 2:2 program that allows students to obtain a solid foundation in general engineering principles from a Christian worldview and complete an engineering degree in a specialty area, such as mechanical, electrical, or civil engineering at another institution.

As the world continues to develop more intricate systems and technology, the demand for jobs in engineering shows no signs of slowing down, much like Hixson himself.



I want them to be here because that's the right thing for them, because God put them here, not to have more students in the program ... We really want to make sure it's a good fit.

"As we introduce new, advanced, and more complex challenges, we increase efficiency, productivity, and safety for the workers," Hixson said. "There is opportunity for CCU graduates to do things they're passionate about and interested in while adding value to the world.

"The hard thing to tell a student isn't that there are endless opportunities, but rather that part of their four years at CCU is working together, figuring out which opportunities they are going to go after," Hixson said. "They can't go after them all, but together we figure out what they are interested in and passionate about."

The individualized guidance in student strength assessment, engineering aptitude, and specialization selection is merely one of the many benefits of CCU's engineering program. Hixson enjoys helping students determine if engineering is what they are truly passionate about.

"I want students to be here because that's the right thing for them, because God put them here. I get incoming students all the time who are good at math and science, so they were encouraged to go into engineering,"

Hixson said. "However, there are a ton of people who are good at math and science who shouldn't be engineers.

"We really want to make sure it's a good fit. And if it is, my goal is to teach them a fundamental skillset, a box of tools they'll take with them, so when they graduate, they can do whatever a company needs them to do in the context they want to do it — that's an engineering degree."

For students who thrive on real-world problem solving and embracing obstacles as catalysts for progress, the CCU engineering program has much to offer. Students gain hands-on experience, from introductory courses using CAD to solve practical problems, to environmental simulation courses with complex variables, to work-methods courses exploring ways to improve efficiency.

"My job isn't to teach students what to think, it's to teach them how to think," Hixson said. "Can they take a complex, undefined problem and turn it into a solution that adds value? Courses in the program are designed for doing just that."

Hixson's success in equipping his students with real-world problem

solving has also allowed him to pursue partnerships with industry giants such as Lockheed Martin. Providing students with first-hand experiences in the industry further ensures their engineering success.

"For our senior capstone design class, we partner with a larger, real-world project, sometimes internal to CCU, sometimes external. Projects change yearly based on students' interests and what's available," Hixson said.

The program's second class graduates this spring. The program's expansion has Hixson in his element, perpetually equipping Christian engineers for success in their respective fields, and knowing, 'We've got this! Everything's going to be great.'

» Get involved

If you or someone you know is interested in partnering on a capstone design project, serving as an engineering mentor or affiliate faculty, or donating to the program, contact **Dr. Cory Hixson at 303.963.3271 or chixson@ccu.edu**.



Photo Credit: Abbie VandenEinde '22

Building a Brighter Future: Engineering at CCU

Colorado native Jack Vannice is nearing the finish line of his academic run at CCU. With a Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering and a full-time manufacturing engineer position lined up, Vannice reflects with gratitude on the ways God's timing and the people and experiences at CCU have helped him reach this milestone moment.

Growing up, Vannice was a natural at science and math and possessed a complementary inquisitive nature.

"I had always thought engineering would be a good fit because I enjoyed math and physics," Vannice said. "I started to learn what industrial and systems engineering actually is, bettering existing systems. I realized industrial and systems engineering was the clear option for me and could provide value to a company."

Living in close proximity to CCU's Lakewood campus, Vannice had always dreamed of being part of its campus community life. His older sister had attended, and so Vannice had already experienced the University's rich investment in relationships and its welcoming environment.

When Vannice began researching college options, CCU did not offer an engineering program; however timing proved to be perfect — with much thanks to donors — as CCU expanded the science department to include an industrial and systems engineering program.

“That same year, CCU launched the engineering program. It was the best of both worlds — the community I was seeking and the degree program I needed,” Vannice said.

As a freshman commuter student, Vannice worried about finding the campus-life tribe of people he sought. However, CCU’s small class size proved useful in forming lasting friendships in the engineering program.

“I’ve never lived on campus because my parents live so close, so it was tough at first to find that community,” Vannice said. “But with only four or five students in each of my engineering classes, it really brings you into a tight-knit community where everyone is extremely close. That’s been a huge part of my experience here; it’s been really cool to progress through the entire program with the same group of people.”

Vannice’s experiences also reflect how CCU’s community extends to mentorship from faculty as well.

“I’ve really enjoyed the fact that we’re close with our professors, even in some of the classes that aren’t engineering-specific. They are all willing and able to help you,” Vannice said.

As well-established industry professionals, the professors can relate to students such as Vannice.

“One of the biggest differences in CCU’s engineering program is that the professors actually know where I’m working right now,

what I’m up to, and what my plans are,” Vannice said. “It seems that students in other engineering programs don’t have much of a relationship at all with their professors. That’s something that has definitely stood out to me as a very unique, positive aspect of the program.”

One such connected faculty member, Dr. Cory Hixson, has had a particular influence on Vannice. Teaching the majority of engineering courses at CCU, Hixson is an assistant professor in the School of Science and Engineering and leads the industrial and systems engineering program.

“I think you can tell that he genuinely cares about your future; he wants to help you as much as you will allow him to help you,” Vannice said. “And that means a lot to me, to have somebody who’s looking out for our futures and wants us to reach our maximum potential.”

Vannice appreciates the well-rounded care from faculty and highly recommends CCU.

“Everything our professors do is to further students’ growth in the kingdom and their growth in their career. CCU is a great choice for anyone who’s considering it,” Vannice said.

With a supportive team of professors making a better way for students and building a solid foundation of faith, the engineering department at CCU is an expanding project of its own with eternal impact.

“My faith has played a major role in my engineering journey,” Vannice said. “It’s allowed me to see things I’m good at and how they can be used in working for the kingdom.

“Industrial and systems engineering is making people’s jobs easier. I like to think of that as doing the work of the kingdom of God,” Vannice said.

With strong faith formation and a solid engineering education, Vannice has the foundation to create a meaningful impact for Christ in his field and the world.



Photo Credit: Abbie VandenEinde '22

Industrial and systems engineering is making people’s jobs easier. I like to think of that as doing the work of the kingdom of God.

UNEARTHING HISTORY:

CCU Critical Thinkers Break Ground

Imagine your feet planted in the same place where God enacted a miracle, smelling the warm sand, feeling the Middle Eastern winds move over you, the sun as it heats your face. Imagine running your hands along the ridges and crags of 2,000-year-old ruins. Here, in this place, you experience God's might and presence in a new way. Your faith is ignited — seeing and believing merge.

Since 2016, CCU students have traveled to Israel to aid in archeological digs that unearth biblical evidence. This spring, Dr. Seth Rodriguez, assistant professor of Old Testament and biblical archaeology in the College of Undergraduate Studies' School of Theology, will lead a team of 16 students to Tel Shiloh, where the Tabernacle stood for 300 years. Students will work alongside professionals from the Associates for Biblical Research, a consortium of Christian archeologists and historians, unearthing and cataloguing the ancient ruins.

"As we went from site to site, our leader was very intentional about talking through why these sites and their history matter and how they impact our faith," said Samantha Swanson '20, a CCU alumna who participated in the 2019 expedition.





“ WE CAN USE ARCHEOLOGY AS AN APOLOGETIC FOR THE BIBLE. WE LIVE IN SUCH A VISUAL CULTURE. GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN YOU COULD STAND UP ON A PODIUM ON A SUNDAY MORNING AND JUST READ A SERMON. ”





Photo Credit: Hanna Sise

“

SHE WAS STANDING THERE, LOOKING OUT OVER THE SEA OF GALILEE AND CRYING BECAUSE IT WAS HITTING HER LIKE IT HAD HIT ME. 'WOW, THIS IS REAL. JESUS ACTUALLY WAS HERE. GOD ACTUALLY SENT HIS SON, AND HE DID ALL THESE AMAZING THINGS FOR ME AND FOR ALL OF US.'

Jesus actually was here.

“You’re taking them to Israel, and you’re reading the Bible in the land of the Bible with them, seeing those ‘aha’ moments in their minds, and also in their hearts,” Rodriquez said. “That’s the thrill for me, helping the students grow in their faith.”

This year, CCU students will participate for three weeks at a dig in Shiloh. Five days a week, they will wake early to board the bus for the 45-minute journey from Jerusalem. On site, students support the team with wet sifting, lab work, and pottery washing.

Rodriquez emphasized the importance of the work as students are resurrecting primary source material, not secondary source material.

“They are contributing to and increasing our knowledge of the ancient world

by helping to excavate a few more layers at a certain biblical site. They’re contributing to the body of knowledge that we, as scholars, pull from as we’re interpreting things,” Rodriquez said. “CCU students are helping everyone by helping archeologists add to that body of knowledge.”

Rodriquez discovered his rich passion for the Old Testament and archaeology during his time as a student at The Master’s University. After a three-month stint in Israel, Rodriquez felt his calling shift from pastor to professor.

“I fell in love with archeology and fell in love with Old Testament history,” Rodriquez said, adding that he enjoys providing the same experience for his own students now. “I get to lead students

to Israel every summer and give them the same experience — hopefully, the same experience that I had when I was a college student. It’s just a delight.”

Students’ faith can come alive as they walk where Jesus walked and prayed where His disciples prayed. Rodriquez recalled a student’s moving experience during the 2019 trip.

“She was standing there, looking out over the Sea of Galilee and crying because it was hitting her like it had hit me. ‘Wow, this is real. Jesus actually was here. God actually sent His Son, and He did all these amazing things for me and for all of us,’” Rodriquez said.

Swanson also found a deep connection while at the Arbel Cliffs.



“Somehow, standing above this place rather than within it served as a chance to step back and really think about the significance of the fact that Jesus literally came to live — right below us — die, and ultimately rise again for us. It was a needed and good reminder.”

Rodriquez vividly recalls his own archaeologically-driven faith experience.

“One of those places for me was in Tel Dan. Archeologists have uncovered the high place of Dan, the worship center, and the foundation of the building where that golden calf stood. You can look at this spot and say, ‘This is where this happened.’ For me, it was in those moments that the Bible came alive. I was never the same again.”

Building on this foundation of hands-on learning and cultural connection, students can now apply these life-changing experiences to their degrees. CCU launched a minor in Biblical Archeology during the 2021-2022 school year. The trip itself can be used toward three course credits in the biblical archeology minor through a course called Field Experience in Biblical Archeology. All CCU students are invited to register for the course.

Rodriquez encourages his students to dig into the field, citing its practical applications. “We can use archeology as an apologetic for the Bible. We live in such a visual culture. Gone are the days when you could stand up on a podium on a Sunday morning and just read a sermon,” Rodriquez said. “Archeology

is a valuable tool in churches, in classrooms, to illustrate.”

CCU’s School of Theology hopes to produce more Christian archeologists who can examine evidence from a Christian worldview and think critically to break new ground.

“The more people we have doing that, the better the science is going to be, and the more observations are going to be made,” Rodriquez said. “Work created from a Christian worldview benefits the church and the world. Christians are not checking their brain at the door. There are good reasons for our faith. Biblical archeology at CCU is just getting off the ground. I don’t know what will happen next. It’s just a wild ride that God has us on right now.”



Photo Credit: Hanna Sise



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In the dropdown menu, select Seth Rodriquez as the Team Member.

In the beginning
God created the heavens
and the earth.

Integration of Science and Faith at CCU: The Study of God's Two Books

Mark Parker, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
Dean of the School of Science and Engineering

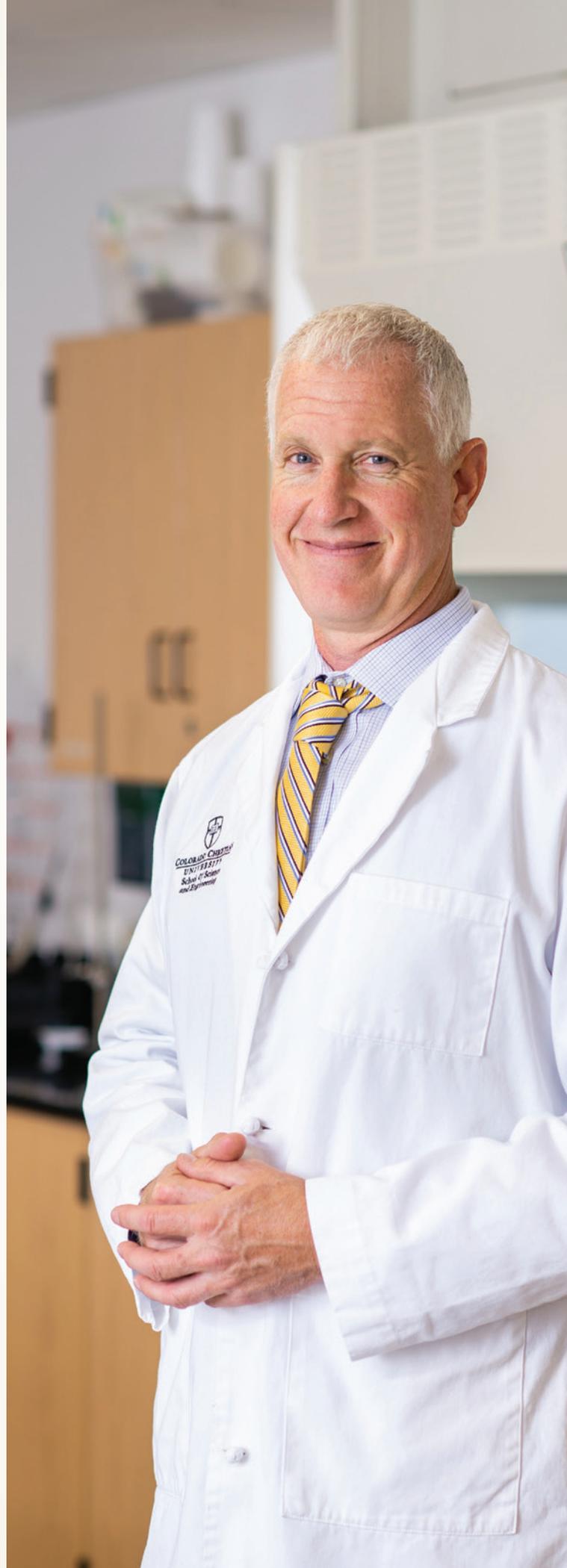
At Colorado Christian University, we base everything we do in biblical truth and the infallibility of the Word of God. An appropriate place to begin this basis is Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth," (NIV). This grounds everything we do with the knowledge that God is Creator, and our study of both creation and Scripture are a form of worship giving glory to the Creator.

The School of Science and Engineering and the School of Theology collaborate to grow students' understanding that all truth is God's truth. We often refer to Augustine's idea that God reveals himself to us via His two books: Scripture and the created world. He states that, "There is a great book: the very appearance of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Read it. God, whom you want to discover, never wrote that book with ink. Instead, He set before your eyes the things that He had made." These two books, both authored by God, will always point to God as Peter states in Romans 1:19-20, "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made," (NIV).

Beginning our study of creation with the understanding of God as Creator allows us to marvel at the perfection of the physical laws and constants controlling the structure of the universe, such as the nearly incomprehensible complexities of the

molecular and biochemical interactions necessary for the development of a single cell into a complex organism and the beauty of the mathematical language that allow us to study and understand these interactions and do it with confidence that they are all intentional and providential in nature. At the same time, we can be awed by the Good News that the God who was able to do all of these things also loves us individually and has a plan for our salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. This combination provides students and faculty at CCU with the unique opportunity to understand that they are pillars of the Christian faith linked to our eternal salvation and peripherals that may have different acceptable interpretations among Christians. These peripherals are areas that do not impact our salvation, and upon which there may not yet be clear agreement between God's two books.

The idea that there can be humble and gracious discussion of these peripherals is challenging to some believers, as there is often confusion and contention over what is peripheral and what are the pillars of the faith that lead to salvation. In an academic setting, discussion, research, and inquiry are not just encouraged but required for a full intellectual life. At CCU, our Statement of Faith unites us as believers and clearly delineates what those pillars are. This agreement on the pillars of our faith has allowed us to have honest and fruitful discussions about the peripherals based on the understanding each of us has reached through our own research and inquiry. The ability to have these discussions with brilliant and gracious colleagues led the Schools of Science and Engineering and Theology to collaborate on the second "Origins" lecture series, presented in 2019. The goal of the lecture series was to help students have the confidence to inquire about some of the peripherals that certain students find the most challenging, namely the Origins of the Universe and the Origins of Life. This collaboration served not only the students to whom the lectures were presented, but also faculty involved, forging a stronger bond between our schools, strengthening relationships, and providing a sense of Christian fellowship.



Reading Augustine's Two Books Together: CCU Professors Collaborate on Understanding the Age of the Earth

David Kotter, Ph.D.
Professor of New Testament Studies,
Dean of the School of Theology

It was a joy to plan the “Origins” lecture series with colleagues from the School of Theology and the School of Science and Engineering. Through this event, CCU’s professors joined forces to create a meaningful body of work to explore the intersection of science and faith.

For months, this academic team, with specializations ranging from nuclear physics and neuroscience to historical theology and biblical studies, met for lunch to prepare lecture content. I developed my material alongside Dr. Parker, a biological sciences professor with a graduate degree in theology, to couple his knowledge with my own technical background in engineering with graduate degrees in biblical studies. This lunchtime work with Dr. Parker and our esteemed faculty produced a series of lectures on the origins of the universe, the origins of human life, and the implications for practical theology. It also prompted invaluable technical, free-ranging, and collegial dialogues, an experience that all should encounter. The culmination of these lunches resulted in the “Origins” series, aimed to reconcile what St. Augustine described as God’s two books: The Book of Nature (the natural world) and the Book of Scripture (the Bible).

On one hand, the scientists’ instrument readings produced an estimate that the earth is around 4.5 billion years old (give or take a few million years). On the other hand, the most natural reading of the Bible indicated a world only thousands of years old. The collaborating professors were faced with the apparent dilemma of a rather young world with the appearance of exceedingly great age. How could a team of professors devoted to the inerrancy of Scripture in the original manuscripts and simultaneously committed to rigorous scientific inquiry reconcile such an apparent contradiction?



One attempted reconciliation suggested that the word “day” (y-ōm) might refer to an extended period of time in Genesis, much like an English speaker might refer to many years as, “Back in my day, we could buy a bottle of Coke for a nickel.” Unfortunately, words always derive their meaning from the near context, and “And there was evening and there was morning, the first day” (Genesis 1:5 ESV) describes a single day rather than an extended period of time. The fourth commandment supports this understanding: “For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” (Exodus 20:11 ESV). In summary, an earth much younger than a billion years is consistent with the most comfortable reading of the biblical text.

An alternative attempt at reconciliation challenged the scientific assumption that the laws of physics were constant throughout the universe and throughout time. Could the rate of carbon decay or the speed of light have been different nearer the time of the epic creation of the earth? Could the cataclysmic flood during the time of Noah have adjusted the laws of physics to suggest an older universe? Unfortunately, such questions could not be answered scientifically because both the creation and the flood were singular and unrepeatable events. The team found it difficult to argue against the scientific methods that indicated that the universe was old.

A closer look at the biblical text, however, showed that this dilemma was only apparent but not real. Genesis

God created everything out of nothing.

1:26-31 shows that on the day Adam was created, he was able to understand the words God was saying, receive the creation mandate, and assume dominion over animals. Some people have estimated this level of maturity to be about 18 or perhaps 30 years old, since Adam soon afterward named all the animals and appreciated the natural beauty of Eve. In other words, Adam was not created as an infant, so when he was one day old, he had the maturity of a grown man. Likewise, plants were not created as seeds but as mature trees bearing fruit on the day they were created (Genesis 1:11-13). From this clear biblical data, one can surmise that a mature earth created in a matter of days had petroleum under the ground that would appear to be millions of years old. Further, it is not difficult to speculate that a mature universe on the day of creation would have had light with the appearance of having traveled for millions of years from distant galaxies.

The team of CCU professors realized that the technical instruments of the top scientists were revealing exactly what would be expected from a careful reading of the biblical text: a world

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. Revelation 4:11 (NIV)

that was created quite recently with the appearance of a mature universe. Another realization was that while there might be other ways of reconciling Augustine's Two Books, a lack of data would always make reconciliation difficult. The scientists agreed that certain aspects of creation could never be rigorously assessed nor repeated in the lab. The theologians understood that the creation account in the Pentateuch was written to an ancient Israelite audience with significantly different concerns and was not intended to provide a precise sourcebook on origins. Even the older professors of the team had to admit that they had not been present at the creation of the world and could not speak with the assurance of first-hand experience. Similarly, Moses, who wrote the Pentateuch, was

not present at the creation but only recorded the things that God related to him about that major event.

As a result, the CCU professors on the team concluded that humility is always necessary in dialogues among Christians about the origins of human beings and the world. Even so, all believers can agree that the Bible is clear on the most important points. First, God created everything out of nothing with unlimited power and majesty. Second, the Lord made Adam and Eve with purpose of God's glory and to have dominion over creation. Finally, God is worthy of praise today for every aspect of creation: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being" (Revelation 4:11 NIV).

The Wonder of Science and Theology

Ian Hugh Clary, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Historical Theology

Here at Colorado Christian University, I teach a general education course called Introduction to Theology, where, about halfway through, my students and I land on the doctrine of Creation. Each semester for the past five years has proved an experience illuminating students' confusion about the relationship between theology and science. Some grow up in contexts that teach them to be skeptical of the natural sciences for fear that they will lead them away from their faith. But, as a historical theologian, I find that theology and science (along with philosophy and psychology) have always been friends who serve one another well.

Theology and science are complementary methods of obtaining truth about reality, and the Christian tradition has long recognized this mutually beneficial relationship. For instance, the *Belgic Confession of Faith* (1561), penned by a Dutch theologian named Guido de Bres (1522–1567), remains a standard confessional document for many Protestant churches today. Article 2 of the confession, titled “The Means by Which We Know God,” says that the first means is “the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God.” The second means of knowing God is “by his holy and divine Word, as much as we need in this life, for God’s glory and for our salvation.” Note that both are described as books from which we come to know God. The confession’s language here strikes a beautiful balance which de Bres would have learned from his theology professor in Geneva, the infamous John Calvin (1509–1564).

In his commentary on Genesis, Calvin said that God “clothes

himself, so to speak, with the image of the world, in which he would present himself to our contemplation. ... [L]et the world become our school if we rightly desire to know God.” In my World Religions course, I look at some potential defeaters of the Christian religion, one of which concerns the relationship between theology and science. I argue that the Christian’s sense of wonder at God’s creation — as Calvin aptly describes as the “theater of God’s glory” — fuels the scientific endeavor.

No one better exemplifies the wonder of God in creation than the American pastor-theologian Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758), who had a very high view of the study of nature as reflecting God’s glory. One thinks of his famous early essay “On Insects” (ca. 1720), where he scientifically described the beauty of a spider’s web. He articulated an infectious sense of wonder at the natural world, which would mirror his wonder at God in so many of his other writings. He tells us that when he resolved “to find out the mysteries of these their amazing works ... I discovered one wonder after another.” Edwards observed a great application to the Christian’s understanding of God and science in his study of spiders, that we “see the exuberant goodness of the Creator, who hath not only provided for all the necessities, but also for the pleasure and recreation of all sorts of creatures, and even the insects and those that are most despicable.”

One of my aims as a professor of theology at CCU is to instill in our students a love of how God reveals himself to us, both in Scripture, and in the natural world. I am so thankful to work alongside our science faculty as our fields continue to inform a greater sense of the wonder of the God who created all things for His glory.

Theology and science
are complementary
methods of obtaining
truth about reality.



Cosmogony

Lene Mahler Jaqua, Ph.D.

Professor of Physical and General Sciences

Most of us are familiar with the verse “In the beginning, God created ...” (Genesis 1:1 NIV). Likewise, at the beginning of the Gospel of John, we hear that Christ is the Word of God, “through him all things were made” (John 1:3 NIV). Our faith is a cosmic faith that encompasses the restoration of God’s entire creation — not just us of humans as spiritual beings but also of our physical bodies. Like Christ, we will physically be raised from the dead. At the heart of our faith is the worship of our Creator — that we may be made holy, and not just us, but the whole world with us. “Behold, I make *all things* [πάντα] new.” (Revelation 21:5 KJV, *emphasis mine*.)

God reveals Himself through His Book of Scripture and His Book of Nature — His created order. Science is mankind’s collective attempt at observing, describing, and explaining that order. Christians who are also scientists spend their lives studying manifestations of that created order. We may do so by observing, describing, and explaining something as simple as the motion of a ball rolling down a ramp. We may do so by measuring the wavelength of light emanating from distant stars. We may do so by sequencing the DNA of

a deadly virus. We do it to understand the world we live in and through that understanding, to catch an ever-clearer glimpse of the purpose and mind of our Creator, who sustains His cosmos both intrinsically (as the Incarnate Christ) and extrinsically (as He transcends the limits of time and space). Understanding God’s cosmos (including human life within that cosmos) is a critical part of the salvific interplay between us creatures and our Creator.

Indeed, reverence toward God and responsibility for His creation are inseparably connected in Christ, who came into this world not to free us from it but to lead us to God’s plan of salvation — the restoration of us and of His creation. We will one day stand before God with all our mortal limitations, responsible to Him for what we did with what He gave us, and that includes our dealings with His creation — the parts of it which we can see, hear, touch, smell, and taste.

Christians who are scientists have the unique privilege to study slivers of that complex and immense created order. As a result, we sometimes get to think (perhaps a fraction?) of one of God’s thoughts after Him. And to do

that, our scientific thinking must be tempered by humility and faith, both of which illumine and inform, not only our attempt at science but also our responsibility towards God’s creation.

Modern understanding of the origins of the cosmos began with Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity in 1915. We learned that gravity is nothing but the curving of space and time by mass and energy. In other words, as matter and space-time interact, we experience it daily, hourly, minute-by-minute as the pull of gravity. Add to that Edwin Hubble’s discovery of red-shifted stars and galaxies — evidence for the continued expansion of the cosmos. Play that movie backward, and it looks like God started the cosmos at a singular point. With gratitude, we rejoice in Genesis 1. Science agrees. There is a beginning. Most scientists accept this model of the Big Bang. Add the 1965 discovery of the early universe’s ubiquitous early cosmic microwave background radiation, and the idea of singularity of infinite density grows increasingly compelling.

Our desire to understand the physics of the very earliest cosmos is what particle physics is all about: experimentally replicating the conditions of that early

Understanding God's
cosmos is a critical part
of the salvific interplay
between us creatures
and our Creator.

universe. We do so by accelerating beams of tiny particles to ever higher speeds, then smashing them together to observe, describe, and explain the debris that emanates from those collisions.

Caveat emptor! When we reach all the way back in time to the Big Bang, we have reached our limit as scientists. Before that singular point, no experimentation can take us. And worse, physics has other severe limitations. The very foundations from which our reasoning about physics arises, our most basic assumptions, are questions that cannot be answered by physics itself.

Why does anything exist? Why are there laws of physics? Are these laws of physics descriptive or prescriptive? Why are we even able to articulate these laws? Is the universe truly intelligible?

These questions undergird the entire process of scientific thinking. But, for answers, we must turn our attention to metaphysics, philosophy, religion, and, in my view, Christianity.





Not only is the magnitude of creation breathtaking, but God demonstrates His faithfulness in the laws of nature.

Science through the Lens of Faith

Julie A. Woodman, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology

Studying science in light of a Christian worldview offers a unique perspective when exploring God's magnificent creation. Science shows us that God created this world with incredible detail and complexity. These complexities of creation are present in all scientific disciplines, whether it be through studying the vastness of the universe or the smallest intricacies of the cell. A thorough understanding of the scientific principles that drive creation does not disprove or replace God but rather points to an omnipresent, awe-inspiring Creator. In fact, when we view science through the lens of faith, God reveals Himself more fully to us; many attributes of God are made clearer to us through our scientific endeavors.

God is powerful. From science, we understand that God is powerful and intentional in His creation. Consider an estimated 100-200 billion galaxies in our universe and 200 billion trillion stars. How powerful is a God who has the authority to create a universe so big? Now consider that almost every cell in the human body packages 2 meters

of DNA into its microscopic nucleus, a nucleus so small that it takes up less than 10% of a cell's total volume. DNA packaging requires precision to access the individual instructions for life (our genes) without getting tangled up in a genomic knot. The structure that controls DNA packaging, called the nucleosome, spools the DNA around itself allowing a full 2 meters of DNA to be packaged comfortably within the nucleus. How intentional is our God in His creation that our blueprint for life, our DNA, can be protected and organized into such a small space?

God is faithful. In search of scientific truth, we appreciate and rely on God's faithfulness in creation. Not only is the magnitude of creation breathtaking, but God demonstrates His faithfulness in the laws of nature. When we design an experiment, we rely on our knowledge that scientific laws are constant. If we drop an apple, gravity will pull it down toward Earth. We can ask and answer scientific questions because these laws that drive creation are constant. If the laws of nature, authored by God, changed, scientific inquiry as we know

it would halt, and God's created world would be more mysterious. God is, however, faithful in His authorship of creation, allowing us to study and glorify His works.

God is glorious. A key aspect of science is observation. Putting this scientific necessity to use, one can easily observe the beauty in creation. Go outside at night and look up. The heavens declare the glory of the Lord (Psalm 19:1). Experience the joy of a new life when a baby is born. I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). No matter where you look, creation is breathtaking, and it highlights the glory of its Creator.

God is loving. Perhaps most importantly, when we consider what insights science lends to our understanding of God, we learn that God is loving. Our Awesome Creator, who created all things big and small, is the same God who humbled Himself to join His creation and suffer at its hands. When we juxtapose the magnitude of creation with God's humility on the cross, we begin to understand just how great His love is for us.



For those that have eyes to see, the hard sciences reveal evidence of the existence and glory of God.

All Truth is God's Truth

John Wind, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Theology

My academic discipline of theology focuses primarily on studying the book of Scripture. But in one area of my classroom in particular, science intersects with theology: apologetics. As I understand it, “science” consists of both “harder” and “softer” sciences, distinguished by differing methods of evidence and testing. The so-called “hard sciences” have a stronger focus on what can be tested in a repeatable fashion through experimentation. “Soft sciences” (or “social sciences”) focus more on human variability and on historical events that are, strictly speaking, unrepeatable. In softer sciences, where the method of experimental repetition in order to test a hypothesis is less of a possibility (such as in the disciplines of history and archeology), the scientist examines historical artifacts and develops conclusions based upon inferences to the best explanation of those artifacts.

In my Introduction to Apologetics class, I make use of both hard and soft sciences. For example, as concerns hard sciences, the evidence of modern astrophysics points to the truth that the universe had a beginning — a scientific claim that coheres nicely with the traditional Christian claim that a finite universe is evidence of an infinite Creator. Furthermore, modern astrophysics also increasingly recognizes that the universe as a whole and the earth as a habitable planet appear to be finely tuned for life, again bringing science in line with the traditional Christian arguments for the existence of God from design. Not only does modern science give evidence of design at the macro-level of the universe, but it also gives evidence of design at the micro-level of biology, including the very DNA code that undergirds

all biological life. In theological terms common in my classes, this kind of scientific knowledge is part of God’s “general revelation” in nature. As Paul proclaims in Romans 1:20, God’s “invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.” For those that have eyes to see, the hard sciences reveal evidence of the existence and glory of God.

The softer sciences also play a crucial role in my apologetics classroom. Scripture is filled with historical events — non-repeatable phenomena which are largely beyond the reach of the experiments of the hard sciences. Instead, in the science of history, we gather the evidence that remains of historical events and seek to reconstruct and understand what happened and why. Can the stories and claims of Scripture stand up to this scrutiny? In apologetics, we examine the multitude of evidence that points to the broad historical truthfulness of Scripture as well as the historicity of specific historical events, such as the resurrection of Christ. Like a jury considering evidence in a courtroom, my goal is to help students see that when all the evidence of history is considered, they have good reason to trust Scripture as the true revelation of God in time and space.

Theology proceeds on the assumption that all truth is God’s truth and that the book of Scripture and the book of nature are ultimately in harmony. In teaching apologetics, I seek to make this harmony explicit, demonstrating how the evidence of experimentation and the evidence of history are in fundamental agreement with the revelatory claims of Scripture.

“I was taught that the way of progress
was neither swift nor easy.”

—Marie Curie, Nobel Prize-winning physicist

MISSION POSSIBLE: CCU's Inspiring Women in STEM

Curie's words echo loudly through women's slow but steady rise in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) — fields traditionally dominated by men. At Colorado Christian University this rise is on full display as graduates continue to find success as medical doctors, systems engineers, cybersecurity professionals, information technology leaders, and more. They are inspired and mentored by a cadre of women faculty members — a group that includes more than half of all full-time faculty members in the College of Undergraduate Studies' School of Science and Engineering.

In this edition of *Beyond*, we spotlight four women who exemplify Curie's spirit of persistence and excellence.



Photo Credit: Hunter Kirby '22

Faculty Spotlight

DR. AMANDA FURNESS

Dr. Amanda Furness, assistant professor of chemistry in the School of Science and Engineering, found her footing and a special spot in her heart for teaching when she realized the interest that one passionate professor can spark for a student.

Furness remembers overhearing a particular student comment in her class:

“She said, ‘This makes so much more sense when it’s explained by someone who actually likes the material.’ Science is far more interesting when you have a good teacher.”

Furness excels at creating enthusiasm around math and science.

“She has taught me more than just the facts. She wants us to have passion for what we learn,” said Sydney Hunter ’23.

Furness strives to increase engagement in her classroom.



Photo Credit: Hunter Kirby '22

From left to right: Sydney Hunter, Dr. Amanda Furness, Dr. Emily York, Marta Hansen

“I’m not trying to convert you; I’m just trying to grow your appreciation for science and math,” Furness said. **“You don’t have to love it, but you need to be able to appreciate some aspects.”**

A self-proclaimed “nerd,” Furness “clicked” with math and science early on. She originally dreamt of applying her talents to a career in food science, inspired by her cousin’s work at Eli Lilly developing new food flavors. In high school, Furness was driven to succeed by a chemistry teacher, Monique Reed, who held her to the highest standards.

“She was just an amazing teacher. She really cared about her students,” Furness said. “She was the one who gave me a passion for chemistry and made me realize that I could actually do it and pursue it.”

Furness is passionate about personally inspiring her students.

“Dr. Furness cares so much about our success and is constantly willing to help us out in any way that she can, whether in school or life in general,” Ellie Klotz ’23, a health sciences major said.

Furness seeks to offer the same support she experienced in undergraduate studies at Briar Cliff University.

“We had four chemistry majors that graduated, and I think all four of us were women, which was cool,” Furness said. However, her graduate school experience at the University of Kansas was an about-face as only four of the 22 students in her cohort were women.

Furness continued to experience a wide disparity in the number of women compared to men throughout her post-doctoral work at Massachusetts General Hospital in collaboration with Harvard

Medical School.

“When I went to Mass General, there were a lot of women there, but they were all at a lower position,” Furness said. “It was frustrating.”

Now well into her teaching career, Furness understands that the STEM faculty at CCU is an exception.

“It’s this anomaly that a lot of our faculty are women. If you go out into the field, you don’t see that.”

Furness is hopeful that this next generation will be led by strong female voices. Several of her female students agree.

“It’s important to have women in STEM because they offer a new perspective on potential problems,” said Marta Hansen ’23, a health science major and student of Furness.

“The more diverse and intelligent minds there are working on a problem, the greater the likelihood of creating an efficient and effective solution. Women in STEM can greatly contribute to this creative problem solving,” Hanson said.

Although not a scientist but a missionary by trade, Furness mother supplied the encouragement Furness’ needed to reach her career goals.

“She has this strong personality, which is where I got it from. I have a great example of a strong female role model in my life. I never felt I couldn’t do anything,” Furness said.

Her mother offered unconditional support despite her more right-brained constitution.

“She said, ‘Well, I won’t be able to help you with your math homework anymore because it’s over my head.’ But beyond that, she always encouraged me to do



what I wanted to do,” the chemistry professor said.

Furness tries to empower her students to reach their life goals even when they don't think they can.

“I have a student who really wants to get into medical school, and I think she can do it, but she doubts herself,” Furness said. “I told her, don't second-guess yourself. God has put this passion

on your heart. Stick to it. It's going to be hard and require a lot of work, but most things that require work are worth it.”

CCU student Leielle Salinger '24 is taking Furness' words to heart.

“Women working in STEM are examples to younger generations that we can accomplish what we put our minds to with diligence, dedication, and hard work.”

Photo Credit: Hunter Kirby '22

From left to right: Dr. Amanda Furness, Marta Hansen, Leielle Salinger, Sydney Hunter, Ellie Klotz

Alumni Spotlight

JENNIFER MILBURN M.S. '21

Earning a Master of Science in Cybersecurity from the College of Adult and Graduate Studies in 2021, Jennifer Milburn uses her degree to amplify her leadership roles in the military and within her church community.

The oldest of four children, Milburn led her family while her single mother worked multiple jobs. Leadership was a natural position for her, but she needed the right outlet.

“I didn’t excel in sports or academics and wasn’t sure where I was going with my life,” Milburn said. “When I was 17, I decided to join the Marine Corps Reserve. I was eager to take on the challenge.”

Milburn enhanced her leadership skills in the Marine Corps and developed a passion for national defense. She also enrolled in Kent State University’s flight program to become a pilot.

After a severe knee injury suffered on an obstacle course during officer candidate school, Milburn suspended military pilot training.

“I was medically discharged and wondered what I would do next. God is good, though; He led me down a path that brought me to where I am today.”

Milburn adjusted her program to aeronautical engineering and spent the next decade working for Boeing and BAE as a space and defense programs contractor.

“I was thankful I could switch majors into something where I could still serve the defense community,” Milburn said.

The next step in Milburn’s career led her to the Master of Science in Cybersecurity program in CCU’s College of Adult and Graduate Studies.

“In national defense, cyber threats are constant, and the people who know how to address the concerns are few,” Milburn said.

She knows that she is among the few and the proud in many ways as a female in military leadership and a successful, competitive woman in a challenging field. Milburn had to balance her career goals with her family life, something she was able to accomplish with CCU’s 100% online program format.

“I could keep up with being a busy wife and mom as well as a supervisor at work,” Milburn said. “I now have a degree in a field that very few people understand, giving me the knowledge needed for my current role as well as increasing my leverage for competing in my field.”

Still positioned in civilian leadership with the U.S. Air Force as a test engineer section chief, Milburn well understands the hurdles as a woman in her career field.

“Being a woman in a male-dominated field has its challenges but also can be very refreshing. I have friends who work in predominantly female fields, and unfortunately, women compete against each other when they really should be banding together,” Milburn concedes.

She feels a strong connection to other women experiencing the same scarcity in their fields.

“We look out for each other, and we form a close-knit team because we all have similar experiences,” Milburn said.

Milburn recognizes this group’s challenge of succeeding at home and work.

“We don’t want to let either one down. It is very hard to tell my male counterparts that I will be late because my son left his backpack in the car, or I was up all night with a sick kid,” said Milburn.

She notes the blessing of peers and supervisors who support work/life balance.

Milburn advises “If you are in a position where your home life is not supported, find something else. There are good companies and leaders out there that will support you.”

She knows the unique challenges working in STEM and in the military, but values the different perspectives required for team success.

“Recognizing that God made women different is so important, and bringing our unique perspectives only makes organizations more successful.”

She also uses her cybersecurity knowledge and heart for Jesus in her church community.

“Most churches depend on outsourcing IT without understanding the policies and procedures, and most can’t afford

“Recognizing that God made women different is so important, and bringing our unique perspective only makes organizations more successful.”

to spend money on cyber assessments.” Milburn said.

Together, Milburn and her husband, who works in physical security, have made recommendations to help improve church security, allowing the staff to continue the real mission of leading people to Jesus.

Milburn offers several pieces of valuable advice to women entering STEM.

“When it comes specifically to STEM,” Milburn said, “Don’t be pressured by the world to do something you don’t want to do.”

“Whether women dream of becoming engineers, mothers, or corporate executives, there is a season for everything; trust God in your direction, not yourself.”

“Don’t go into engineering and expect to be ‘one of the guys,’” Milburn said. “We can be treated equally and uniquely as women at the same time.”

She also encourages women to heed Titus 2: Be reverent, self-controlled, kind, busy, and seekers and teachers of the truth.

Milburn lastly recommends finding a mentor.

“I love talking with new women engineers and helping them work through the unique struggles we have as we go through work and life,” Milburn said. Be who God made you to be, and don’t forget who you are in Him.”



Student Spotlight

KAITLYN MYERS '22

Paving the way for females in the Industrial and Systems Engineering program at Colorado Christian University, senior Kaitlyn Myers '22 is on a mission. While many engineering grads hope to break boundaries in robotics, alternative energy solutions, or as an aerospace engineer, Myers is utilizing her math and science aptitude and her investigative, inquisitive mind as a means of helping others on the mission field.

“A lot of engineering is simply working efficiently and safely — creating efficiency in any sort of process you’re doing. I have always had a heart for people and the nations, so I hope to use my gifts and talents on the mission field after graduation,” Myers said.

Following in her father’s footsteps in engineering, it was important to Myers to attend a Christian university. However, finding a Christian university with an engineering program proved to be a challenge.

During a pit stop while headed west from Indiana, Myers discovered CCU. It was love at first sight. She particularly enjoyed the tight-knit, personable community.

“I like CCU and the science department. I know all my professors, and they really invest in you,” Myers said.

While each of her professors has helped Myers on her path to graduation, the theme of women supporting women in STEM has played a critical role in Myers’ academic success.

One professor in particular has taken Myers under her wing, even hiring her as a lab assistant.

“She’s been very influential in helping me succeed in any way possible,” Myers said.

Dr. Lene Jaqua is a physical and general sciences professor in CCU’s School of Science and Engineering as well as a curriculum developer, researcher, publisher, and author of 10 textbooks and countless lab manuals. Jaqua sets the standard for women in STEM like Myers and inspires them to reach their full potential.

Myers especially recalls Jaqua’s encouragement during frustrating and challenging times with Calculus 2, reminding Myers of her intelligence and capability.

“The fact that she knew I was a good student and understood I was trying my best was so encouraging,” Myers said. “I like studying STEM at CCU because they push you to think, but they also ask you how you are doing as an individual, how job hunting is going. It grows you as a person.”

Myers values her professors’ constant pursuit of excellence, grace, and truth. Jaqua encourages all of her students to strive for excellence in STEM and has seen progress over the years as more and more women lead successful careers in the sciences alongside their male counterparts.

“In 1990, 8% of physics doctorates were awarded to women. In 2020, that number was 20%. We still have a long way to go, but we are making some progress,” Jaqua said.

With more and more female students like Myers making their mark in STEM in quality Christian engineering programs, those numbers are sure to soar.



“I like studying STEM at CCU because they push you to think, but they also ask you how you are doing as an individual, how job hunting is going. It grows you as a person.”

Photo Credit: Abbie VandenEinde '22

Staff and Alumni Spotlight

ANNA GEORGE MBA '13, M.S. '20, B.S. '07



Trading teaching and law dreams for one of technology, CCU Chief Information Security Officer Anna George found her footing in the world of STEM. The inquisitive child grew to be a curious adult, never thwarted by the unknown. Within the burgeoning technological field of cybersecurity, George was amply prepared to roll up her sleeves and absorb all she might learn.

“I found it fascinating when other people around me were so intimidated by technology,” George said.

She drew career inspiration from numerous women. George’s aunt Sylvia was ahead of her time, postponing family life for work in accounting, a math-based career. Sylvia gave George a glimpse into a life where she could have it all.

“She wanted to put a career first. She wanted to travel the world, get a degree, and do something different with her life,” George said, noting that her aunt eventually had children.

George worked toward the “you-can-have-it-all” lifestyle, first undertaking paralegal training before associate coursework in computers. It was at this point George experienced her first taste of what would eventually be her career when Dr. Vicky Seehusen, the female IT director at Red Rocks Community College, hired George for the college’s new initiative, an IT help

desk. George was bright, acing her computer courses, and was determined to succeed.

George credits Seehusen, along with other female mentors, for helping her go the distance in a male-dominated industry.

“I wouldn’t be where I am today if it wasn’t for Vicky. Showing that interest, I felt empowered,” George said. *“I could do this if she can do it, lead IT and hobnob with some of the tougher professors. I probably have a chance.”*

Her female computer professors’ accomplishments were also inspirations.

“These were big executives who worked for Lockheed and the airlines, and they would work part-time as professors. I was like, ‘Wow.’”

Using her associate degree to springboard her IT career, George joined CCU, first as a student, earning a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems in 2007, then as an employee. She would go on to earn a Master of Business Administration in 2013 and Master of Science in Cybersecurity in 2020.

In 2018, George was appointed CCU’s chief information security officer. When she joined a professional group for other chief information security officers she was the only female.

“I was just a little taken aback because that’s how it was when I first started my career. I’d go to some of these training seminars or these user groups, and there’d be one or two of us,” George said. She noted the thin numbers of female leadership in technology. “There are not very many women in security or in IT in those roles. Even when I worked at other universities, there were few women at the leadership level.”

George is hopeful that more women will join the field, given the rise in everyday cyber threats and the media coverage of

“Always be willing to learn, always be willing to find the truth. There’s so much information out there.”

serious cybercrime. She encourages students who enjoy linear problem solving to try their hand at information systems to join the ranks of cyber defense.

George sees the purpose behind her passion, noting varied industries impacted by information security issues.

“I think the thing that’s most exciting is that when I first started work in security at CCU, it was an afterthought. But now, with all that’s going on in the world and the Colonial Pipeline hack and electrical facilities being compromised or being taken offline, I think people are taking it more seriously.”

High-profile attacks have increased support for cybersecurity.

“I think it’s better received than it was five years ago,” George said. She added the attention bodes well for increasing support and increasing women’s interest in the field.

“Always be willing to learn, always be willing to find the truth. There’s so much information out there,” George offered as advice to women interested in STEM fields. “Find someone, a mentor or group, to grow or help get you on the right path or bring in resources. That’s the thing that’s going to keep you engaged and feel a sense of community.”



Paging Dr. Moses

The Limitless Possibilities of a Doctor on Call

Don't let the letters behind his name fool you. CCU alum Xavier James Ethan Moses, M.D., MPH, FACOEM (2003) is as humble and personable as people get. Spend just five minutes with the good doctor and you are guaranteed a new friend. Get this medical director/chief medical officer/professor to pause long enough for an interview, and you will discover how God has made all these titles possible, beginning with the science department of CCU.

The Ohio native always felt drawn to missions, to live the often-misquoted call to “preach the gospel at all times, using words when necessary.” But like many in their youth, he struggled to find the right avenue for this calling. Graduating at 17, Moses opted to delay college and performed with a Christian drama ministry, Covenant Players, throughout California, Pennsylvania, and Colorado during their two-year tour. Always listening for God to advise each move and “make it so,” God spoke to Moses’ heart during those years and would soon draw him back to the Rocky Mountains.





“Things are only impossible until they’re not.”

– Captain Jean-Luc Picard
Star Trek: The Next Generation

“I fell in love with Colorado as soon as I crossed the state line. I knew instantly, “This is where I belong,” said Moses.

And he was right. While Moses had a clear vision for long-term work in overseas missions, he sought God’s counsel for his next steps. It would only be a matter of time before he would be back in the Columbine state with his soon-to-be-career path and a drive to refine his calling further at CCU.

“After I realized that I was not going to be an actor for the rest of my life, I went back to Columbus for a brief period and attended a Vineyard Leadership Institute ministry training program. Working fulltime, I waited on the Lord for direction and discernment in reconciling career and calling.”

Remaining mission-minded, Moses considered an interesting career change, one his father had once suggested: medicine.

“I had realized the two biggest needs in the mission field are distribution of food and water and the need for quality healthcare. And while someone who can coordinate appropriate food and water delivery may not be able to provide medical care, a doctor can easily manage the care of meeting others’ physical needs.”

“There’s nothing quite so humbling as trying to love on kids in a broken system. It has prompted me in all my roles to ensure that no one is left *without a voice.*”

And if there’s one thing about Moses, he will work to his full potential in any given situation, knowing anything is possible with God.

“Becoming a doctor just kind of made sense — Vineyard was teaching us how to be missionaries or pastors, and I excelled in all the classes. Whether it was giving sermons or counseling people, I did well. But at every step along the way, it felt like I was trying to paint a house with a fork. It became abundantly clear the more I prayed thoughtfully about becoming a doctor — I realized, ‘Oh ... this is how you built me, isn’t it?’

Moses already knew Colorado was his destination, and he soon discovered CCU was the ticket.

“Once I heard God saying clearly, ‘You’re going to be a doctor,’ I said, ‘OK, I guess I’m going to have to go to college for that!’” Moses said, laughing.

Although eligible for enrollment with many Ivy League institutions, Moses took a path less traveled.

“Many people don’t necessarily think of a Christian university as the place to study science — I can attest, it’s exactly the opposite. However, I felt I received an excellent education in biology and pre-med at CCU; the experience served me well.”

Aside from his importance of obtaining a faith-focused education, another draw for Moses to CCU was field-experienced faculty.

“In many other universities, as a student in one of the pre-health professions, almost all your classes are taught by teaching assistants. But one of the things that really impressed me about CCU was that from the beginning of my pre-med training to the end, literally every class, every lecture, was taught by an experienced, Ph.D. expert,” said Moses.

Aside from their expertise, Moses appreciated CCU faculty’s personal investment in students’ lives.

“I had direct access to actual doctors who were teaching — and, in fact, I often had dinner with them! Sometimes we met their families, too. It was not something you would get in a typical university environment. The doctors in charge of the program really took all of us under their wings.”

After graduating from CCU as valedictorian with a B.S. in Biology on the pre-med track, Moses extended his education with a medical degree from Tulane University, completing a four-year dual degree in their MD/MPH program.

From there, God gave Moses a glimpse of overseas missions, serving others through the U.S. Air Force, working as a flight surgeon in Iraq. And the rest is history, as Moses jokes, “As far as I know, they still call me ‘doctor.’”



God continues to provide opportunities for Moses to serve and lead from his education and experiences. His hard work has positioned him as the medical director for the Colorado Division of Worker's Compensation as well as chief medical officer at Peak Form Medical Center.

"One of the main things I enjoy about my work is ensuring that my patients receive high quality care — as the division's medical director, I have the opportunity to improve the quality of care for every injured worker in Colorado."

Through his role as a medical director, Moses trains providers, establishes equitable regulations, enforces insurance integrity, and develops

holistic models of care. His training continues into his work as assistant professor at both University of Colorado School of Medicine and Colorado School of Public Health.

Moses's most recent calling is fatherhood. Along with his wife, Debra, and two young sons, the Moses family served their community providing foster care for five years.

"The biggest part of my life aside from work is my family, and, until recently, being a foster parent. My wife and I were foster parents with roughly 15 kids through our home." Moses said. "There's nothing quite so humbling as trying to love on kids in a broken system. It has prompted me in all my roles to ensure

that no one is left without a voice."

After fostering their youngest son for almost 16 months, Moses and his family were able to adopt their newest addition.

In addition to his medical practice, professorship, and family life, Moses remains prayerful about extending his reach to serve others. Moses and his wife still maintain the long-term goal to serve in missions overseas, and he waits on the Lord for timing and partnerships to fall into place.

With the many hats that Moses dons so well, God continues the work that He began at CCU to prepare him for a variety of kingdom work. And Moses is sure to answer His call.

'Nice Hair'

Student Media Take Center
Stage at Super Bowl VLI

By Will Klumpenhower
Strategic Communications '23

Learn more

Visit cougmedia.com to put your finger on the pulse of student life on CCU's Lakewood campus.



Super Bowl Team from left to right:
Bryce Lindquist, Autry Jones, Jess Stainbrook, Will Klumpenhower,
Hunter Kirby, Taylor Sharkey, Rachel Lucas

Photo Credit: Taylor Sharkey '22



I have learned how to work efficiently as part of a media team, for one. I've learned how to operate the sorts of big, fancy cameras that cost as much as a Ferrari.

I can never sleep the night before a Super Bowl trip. My body pulses with tiny adrenaline molecules, screaming through my veins, “This is so cool. How in the world are you allowed to do this?” I don’t know. No other school does this. No other school gets to send their students to interview the best athletes on the planet.

But we do. This is our third year doing it. I’ve been to Miami, Tampa Bay, and most recently, Los Angeles on behalf of CCU and our fledgling student media company, CougMedia.

It’s incredible what we get to do for a media group of our stature. We are issued official NFL media passes, allowing us access to TV presenters, coaches, and everyone who’s playing in the game you watch on Sunday. Just this last year we got to talk to Bengals head coach Zac Taylor and Rams players Von Miller and Andrew Whitworth, among others. We ask them about the game, but also about their faith (we are among the only ones asking those questions). Then we throw all our best clips together into a spiffy little video for our audience (that’s you) to enjoy before kickoff.

It’s ridiculous. With the exception of gimmick kid reporters brought in by the NFL Network, we are the youngest people in these rooms by a decade. How is that possible?

Well, it wouldn’t be without our faculty leader and media oligarch Jess Stainbrook, who for reasons known only to God elected to have undergrads produce the entire catalog for his pre-existing media company (FSPN).

CCU is lucky to have him. Without him there is no trip, no utterly unique academic experience for CCU’s Strategic Communication students.

Stainbrook was also, many years ago, taken hostage in Soviet Russia by the KGB. That has nothing to do with the Super Bowl, but I thought you would want to know.

What have I learned from these trips? Well, I have learned how to work efficiently as part of a media team, for one. I’ve learned how to operate the sorts of big, fancy cameras that cost as much as a Ferrari. Most importantly, I’ve learned that I can work in this industry. It’s not just a pipe dream — I have the talent to interview famous NFL persons about the sport they play, the lives they lead, and (most importantly) what they think of my haircut.

That last bit is true, by the way. My barber must’ve had some magic in his clippers the week before because not one but *two* Pro Football Hall of Famers complimented my ’do in Miami. Terry Bradshaw actually patted it for a second. Normally something like that might seem inappropriate in a professional setting, but since he himself hasn’t had any hair to speak of since like 1974, I figured I could let that slide. Howie Long also said some nice things about it, but since he was a Raider, it didn’t mean as much to me.

I have no idea how I’ve been lucky enough to get an internship of this caliber this young, but I am not complaining; it rocks. Football is cool and so is CougMedia.

CCU CLASS NOTES

How CCU alumni are making a difference

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

Aleha Landry '16

(B.S. Business Administration)



Landry was nominated for the 2022 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year by members of her husband's installation at

Schriever Space Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The nominee with the most votes from a military installation is then eligible for consideration for the branch spouse of the year. Branch spouses are then eligible for the overall military spouse of the year. It's a prestigious program that gives visibility to the branch and overall winner and allows them to continue

advancing their platforms. Landry's platform is military mental health and spouse support.

"I advocate for changes to the military mental health system, and specifically why spouses should be included in this discussion. Oftentimes, including my own experience, spouses are not contacted in an acute mental health crisis involving the member. This is a disservice to everyone involved, and supporting spouses in the mental health fight is imperative on all levels. Directly supporting spouses and families means more holistic support of service members. Additionally, I believe that bringing spouses to the table can solve problems, not only on a family level, but on a military-wide scale as well. Spouses are the most underutilized and undervalued resource the military has. We are highly educated and have front row seats to how the system works and how the system fails. Allowing spouses input on policy would offer a more complete picture of what is going on and, I believe, solve some of the longstanding issues within the military community, such as mental health," said Landry.

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health and is in crisis, please visit [suicidpreventionlifeline.org](https://www.suicidpreventionlifeline.org) or call 1.800.273.8255 to speak with a counselor.

Matthew Lundgren '17

CPA (MBA in Advanced Accounting)



The accounting firm Lavine, Lofgren, Morris & Engelberg, LLP, in La Jolla, Calif., announced that Matt Lundgren has joined the firm as a tax manager.

Lundgren is a CPA with seven years of experience providing tax and accounting services. Prior to joining LLME, he was

a tax manager at Hamilton Tharp, LLP where he focused on trust, estate, and individual income tax matters, as well as preparing fiduciary accounting reports. Lundgren also specializes in foreign matters, concentrating on the taxation of United States volleyball athletes playing abroad in Europe and Asia. He lectures an accounting course at California State University, San Marcos, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Accounting. He holds a Master of Business Administration in Advanced Accounting from Colorado Christian University.

Ryan Serena '11

(B.A. Social Science)



Serena joined the Chicago Cubs as minor league infield coordinator. Currently, Serena owns and operates Rogue Baseball Performance in Englewood,

Colo., which offers individualized training for players at all levels. The former shortstop played baseball at Lamar Community College (Lamar, Colo.) and Colorado Christian University, where he earned National Christian College Athletic Association first-team all-region honors his senior year.

Ryan Hartwig '00

(B.A. Communication & B.S. Interdisciplinary Studies)



Dr. Ryan Hartwig, current dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences in the College of Undergraduate Studies, will join Vanguard University as vice president for academic affairs and provost.

At Colorado Christian, Hartwig developed and launched several new academic programs, including an honors program, implemented a new program review process and accordingly revamped programs, and increased diversity of the faculty. Hartwig has also served at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif., as chair of the Department of Communication, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and chair of the Chairs' Advisory Council, all while serving on the faculty as associate professor of communication.

As VPAA and provost, Hartwig will serve as chief academic officer at Vanguard and provide vision and leadership for the faculty and academic services and programs, including the undergraduate college, graduate and professional studies, academic centers and institutes, and the registrar and library. The provost reports directly to the president and serves as a member of the University President's Cabinet.

Hartwig holds a Ph.D. in Group and Organizational Communication from the University of Colorado, an M.S.Ed. in Higher Education Administration from Purdue University, and a B.A. in Communication and B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies from Colorado Christian University. Hartwig is the author of two best-selling books on church leadership: *Teams That Thrive* (InterVarsity Press, 2015) and *Leading Small Groups That Thrive* (Zondervan, 2020). He has written for leading publications such as *Influence*, *Outreach Magazine*, *Leadership Journal* and pastors.com. In addition, Hartwig is a frequent speaker and consultant to ministries and churches throughout the nation.

Hartwig is married to Jill, and the proud father of his four children: Halle, Alia, Katelyn, and Matthew.

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Two Alumni to Speak at 2022 Commencement Ceremonies on May 6



Kirsten Anderson '03 (B.A. Liberal Arts) will deliver the alumni charge during the 2022 Commencement Ceremony for the College of Undergraduate Studies. Anderson is a professional educator in the Brighton 27J School District in Colorado, where she has taught for more than 19 years and currently serves as a third-grade teacher and team lead at Bromley East Charter School. Throughout the course of her career, she has held the following positions: first-grade teacher, fourth-grade teacher, third-grade teacher/lead third-grade teacher, K-8 reading interventionist, volunteer gifted & talented district liaison, Brighton 27J District Accountability Committee Member, summer enrichment teacher for grades K-12, and mentor teacher for staff members.

Anderson also enjoys her work as a co-founder/coordinator of the Healing Paws Community Service Project for Platte Valley Medical Center and the Brighton Police Department. She is a golden retriever mom to her therapy dog in-training, Phinehas, and a handler-in-training for the Alliance of Therapy Dogs Organization. In her free time, Anderson loves serving the Lord by using her talents as a certified women's Bible teacher for Precept Ministries International to encourage others; and as a Good News Club team lead, teacher trainer, and conference speaker for Child Evangelism Fellowship. Anderson also owns an Etsy shop called "Teaching for Eternity" where she creates educational printables and Bible study content.



Danny Moore '98

(B.S. Organization Management)

Danny Moore will deliver the commencement address at the 2022 Commencement Ceremony for the College of Adult and Graduate Studies. He attended CCU in the late '90s in the adult weekend program, a precursor to the current online College of Adult and Graduate Studies, after serving in the U.S. Navy. Moore earned a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management at CCU. He then went on to receive his MBA from the University of Phoenix in Global Management. Born and raised in Louisiana, Moore knew that the Lord would call him away from his home state to accomplish big things.

Moore is president and founder of DeNOVO Solutions, LLC, and president of Thornberry Consulting, LLC. He has more than 34 years of operational and business experience in intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. Moore retired as a Navy master chief, completing his final assignment as a senior enlisted advisor at the Aerospace Data Facility in Colorado. He is a graduate of numerous Navy leadership and technical schools and is a certified project management professional.

Moore graduated from the Leadership Program of the Rockies, America's premier institute to develop, strengthen, train, and equip emerging leaders to reach new heights in public policy and the political process. LPR identifies and brings together emerging leaders from the legal, economic, business, political, nonprofit, and civic professions to learn how visionary, principle-centered leadership can positively impact their community. He currently serves on the board of directors. Moore also serves on the board of directors for Farmland Partners, Inc., a publicly-traded real estate investment trust that manages and seeks to acquire both high-quality farmland and land with excellent agricultural development potential located throughout North America. He volunteers on the Scholarship Selection Committee for the prestigious Daniels Scholarship Program through the Daniels Fund.



SAVE-THE-DATE

Homecoming & Family Weekend

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 1, 2022

A weekend of fun, fellowship, and food is planned for alumni, parents, and students! Special activities are planned for all reunion classes that end in 2 and 7 from CCU and all heritage institutions!

Cougar Tailgate Festival

Nursing Summit

Educators of Vision

Service projects

Athletics Hall of Fame Dinner

Golf Outing

Athletic games and alumni games

Reunion year gatherings

3 Ways to Connect

with your CCU Alumni association



1 CCUSyncedIn 2 Social Media 3 Contact Us

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

This powerful digital network will help you enrich your:

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

SPECIAL GIVEAWAYS to everyone who signs up by June 30!

ccusyncedin.com

For the latest news about your classmates, please follow your CCU Alumni Association on your favorite social media channels.



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

Contact Kara Johnson, director of alumni and parent relations.



 **303.963.3320**
 **kjohnston@ccu.edu**



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Colorado Christian University



CCU Women's Golf Captures RMAC Title

Senior Faith Kilgore's Late Push Secures Individual Crown

Colorado Christian University cruised to an eight-stroke victory April 19 at the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Women's Golf Championships at Whirlwind Golf Club at Wildhorse Pass in Chandler, Ariz. It was the program's first RMAC title. Leading the charge for CCU was senior Faith Kilgore, who shot a 3-under-par 213 for the tournament to capture the Cougars' first individual conference title.

"This is really the culmination of many years of hard work," said head coach Phillip Nelson. "Our group of eight women have worked so hard this year to make each other better and prepare our team to win this title."

Nelson has led the Cougars on a historic run with a 52-1 head-to-head record in the conference. The team shattered the previous RMAC championship total scoring record by 13 strokes. Kilgore was joined atop the leaderboard by sophomore Kiersten Bryant, who finished third. Senior Emily Donaldson tied for seventh overall while junior Courtney Andersson finished in 11th place.

Next up, CCU heads to the NCAA regional tournament in Stockton, Calif., May 2-4 with an opportunity to advance to the NCAA championships for the first time in program history.

"What I'm most happy about is that this season is not over yet. I have enjoyed coaching these women so much, and the fact we get to keep playing is such a privilege," Nelson said. "With the way the women are playing, we have a chance to make it out of a very competitive regional tournament and on to nationals."

The victory in Arizona was only the second team RMAC championship in University history. The other program to experience similar success was the 2015 women's basketball team.

"I am extremely proud of Coach Nelson and each of the golfers for their outstanding accomplishment winning the RMAC Championship," said CCU Athletic Director Brian Wall. "Their accomplishment represents tremendous dedication and preparation."



At press time, CCU softball has the longest win streak in NCAA Division II. The Cougars have not lost since March 4 and sit atop the RMAC standings. The team is in good position to claim its first RMAC regular season championship.

To learn more, visit ccucougars.com.

#goCOUGSgo



There is none
greater than you,
none like you.

CCU Benediction

Almighty God, as we look to the future, we constantly look to you as our helper, comforter, protector, provider, counselor, our source of wisdom, peace, and courage! We acknowledge that you are all knowing, all powerful, always present with us, loving us unconditionally. Truly, you are our rock, our fortress, our sure foundation, our beacon of truth, hope, and the one who forgives our sins. There is none greater than you, none like you, and no one else to whom we may confidently turn in every circumstance.

Our Loving Heavenly Father, would you pour out your Spirit afresh upon all CCU students, alumni, professors, staff, and board members?

May you open the eyes of our hearts, and give us all the understanding to know you more deeply; inspire within us the desire to offer all of our gifts, talents, and skills

passionately to you as our authentic acts of worship.

May you cause the words of our mouths, the thoughts and meditations of our hearts, and all of our actions to be pleasing in your sight, Oh Lord, our Rock, and our Redeemer.

Holy Spirit, may you always go before us, and prepare the hearts of all with whom we will interact, that we might communicate your grace and truth to them. May you inspire us daily to use the various platforms you establish in our lives to influence others to come into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Lord Jesus, would you pour out a special blessing upon all CCU student-athletes. Would you give them the grace to always seek and find their true identity in you. May they receive your motivation to hone and develop their respective

athletic gifts and talents in ways that reflect the excellence of their Creator. May they compete with pure hearts and minds to bring attention and honor to you as they experience successful and adverse outcomes within their sports. May they become outstanding teammates as they learn how to place the interests of others ahead of their own. May they always compete with confidence through thorough preparation, tenacity in the heat of battle, pure minds, and humble hearts, irrespective of outcomes. May you give them peace and abiding joy as they seek always to make you famous in their respective athletic competitions.

May the blessing of the Lord that makes rich and adds no sorrow be upon all of us as your redeemed bride! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Brian Wall
Director of Athletics



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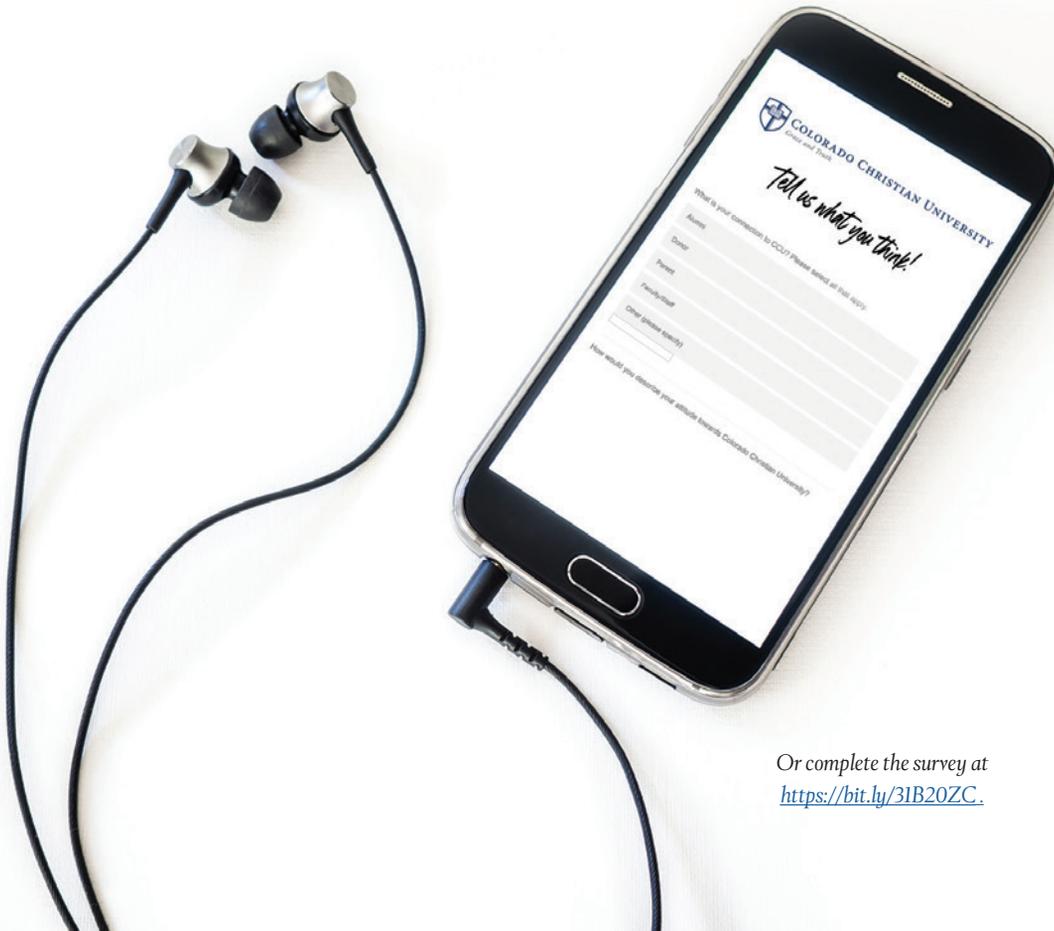
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