

BEYOND

COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FAITH AT THE FRONTIER OF TECH

PAT GELSINGER,
INTEL'S FORMER CEO,
CALLS A NEW GENERATION
TO SHAPE TECHNOLOGY
WITH PURPOSE.

Feature Story p.26



*President Hogue and Pat Gelsinger dedicate CCU's new Quarry Innovation Lab.
Read the full story on page 32.*





From the **PRESIDENT**

Dear CCU Community,

At Colorado Christian University, every new season brings both change and opportunity. Yet one thing remains constant: our unwavering commitment to prepare students to impact the world for Christ, rooted in God's grace and truth.

This fall, CCU hosted the **AI for Humanity | Faith and Technology Summit** and opened the **Quarry Innovation Lab** — two milestones that reflect how faith and innovation can move forward together. While technology continually evolves, our mission does not. We remain committed to equipping students with wisdom, discernment, and Christ-centered conviction as they learn to engage the tools of their time for God's glory and the good of others.

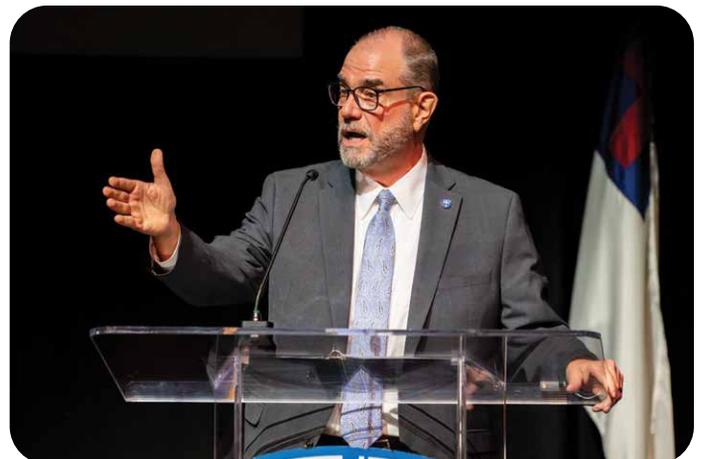
In addition to these exciting developments, we rejoice in the tangible evidence of God's blessing upon our University. This fall, CCU achieved **record enrollment**, reflecting the growing number of students and families who are drawn to a Christ-centered education. We are also grateful for the recognition of *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Wall Street Journal*, which both named CCU among the nation's top universities. These milestones affirm that excellence and faithfulness walk hand in hand at Colorado Christian University, and they would not be possible without the dedication of our outstanding faculty and staff who serve our students with passion and excellence.

As you read this issue of *BEYOND*, I invite you to join me in thanking the Lord for His continued provision and in praying for our students. May they not only master the knowledge and tools of their generation, but also be transformed into leaders who shine the light of Christ in every sphere of cultural influence.

Soli Deo Gloria,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric K. Hogue".

Eric K. Hogue, M.Th.
President





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BEYOND

A publication of Colorado Christian University

Our Magazine

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

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Mission

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

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

Cover Photo: Moselle Photography
Feature Photography: Moselle Photography
and JeffreyGrounds Photography

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Watercolor on Paper for President's Weekend '25

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FUTURE. INTELLIGENT. LIFE.



Dr. Ben and Candy Carson with President Eric and Tammy Hogue in a panel conversation

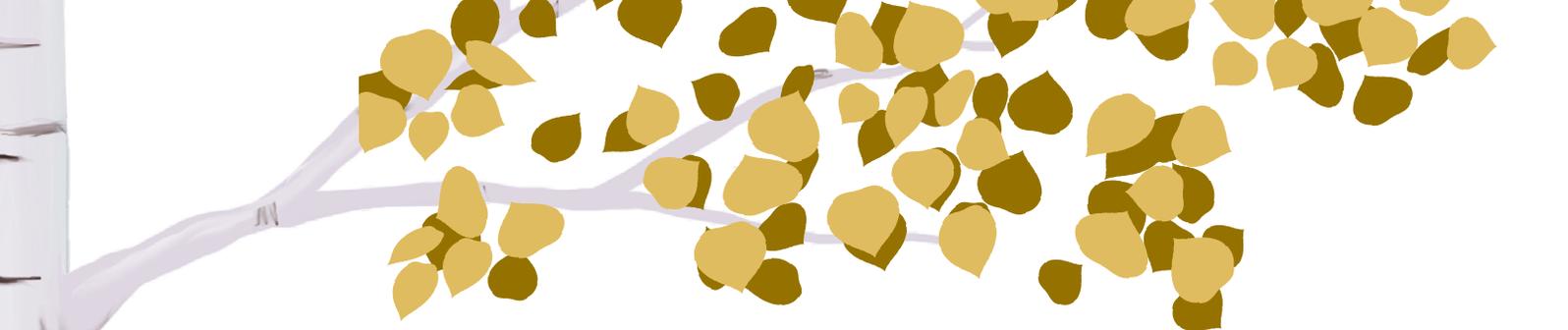
FAITH GENEROSITY *and* VISION

CCU'S MOST SUCCESSFUL PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND

Colorado Christian University celebrated its most successful President's Weekend to date in September 2025, welcoming distinguished guests, alumni, donors, and friends to Beaver Creek, Colorado, for three days of inspiration, worship, and record-setting generosity. The fifth gathering since the event's founding in 2021 raised an unprecedented \$5.9 million in gifts and pledges to advance the University's mission of Christ-centered higher education.

INSPIRING LEADERSHIP AND TESTIMONIES

The weekend's keynote address was delivered by Dr. Ben Carson, world-renowned neurosurgeon, best-selling author, and former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Sharing his journey from poverty in Detroit to pioneering advances in neurosurgery, Carson pointed to his mother's Christian faith and her insistence on daily reading as decisive influences in his life.



“We’re living in a time where people are trying to push God into the background,” Carson told attendees. “But we must be at the forefront of resistance for that. God has not given us a spirit of fear, and trust in God makes all the difference.”

Carson’s message reinforced themes central to CCU’s mission: faith and freedom, the American dream, and the transformative role of education. He emphasized that lasting impact begins with personal responsibility: “The person who has the most influence on what happens to you — is you.”

His wife, Candy Carson, joined a panel discussion on education and leadership, highlighting the critical role of early childhood literacy and reflecting on the hunger for truth she witnesses on college campuses nationwide. Her insights resonated with the University’s commitment to integrating faith and learning.

Former U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos also contributed to the weekend, sending a video message of encouragement. “You are helping to prepare the next generation to take their place in standing firm,” she said. “You are training disciples to further God’s kingdom here on earth, and you have a unique role in doing so at CCU.”

CCU President Eric Hogue praised the Carsons and DeVos for embodying the very values the University seeks to instill in its graduates: unwavering faith, commitment to excellence, and courage in leadership.

A RECORD-BREAKING MOMENT FOR CCU

The weekend also marked a milestone in fundraising, with \$5.9 million in commitments directed toward vital University priorities. Highlights included:

- \$800,000 designated for CCU’s growing endowment.
- \$1.9 million toward the planned Science and Engineering Center.
- \$1.3 million in gifts and pledges for athletics facilities, completing a \$2 million challenge match from CCU alumni Scott (B.S. '91) and Donna (B.A. '91) Miller and Interstate Batteries.
- Additional funds supporting scholarships and other University initiatives.

Since its inception, President’s Weekend has raised more than \$22 million to advance CCU’s mission, becoming one of the University’s most significant donor gatherings.

“President’s Weekend continues to demonstrate the extraordinary generosity of our cherished donors,” said President Hogue. “These gifts are not just numbers on a page — they represent lives transformed through scholarships, new facilities, and the strengthening of our endowment.”

Vice President of University Advancement Daniel LaBry echoed the sentiment: “It’s more than fundraising; it’s about shared worship, shared vision, and shared commitment to the future of CCU. The generosity we witnessed in Beaver Creek will impact students for generations to come.”

WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, AND CELEBRATION

In addition to inspiring addresses and fundraising milestones, the weekend offered meaningful moments of worship, reflection, and community. Guests participated in daily devotions led by Dr. Richard Blackaby, worshiped together under the leadership of the Brenton Brown Band, and enjoyed entertainment from emcee and comedian Adam Christing.

What emerged was more than just a record-setting fundraising event — it was a celebration of shared faith and vision. Donors, alumni, and friends of the University left Beaver Creek with renewed commitment to advancing CCU’s mission of cultivating leaders who impact the world with grace and truth.

LOOKING AHEAD

As CCU looks to the future, the momentum from this year’s gathering provides both encouragement and challenge. The funds raised will expand opportunities for students, strengthen academic and athletic programs, and build the foundation for the next chapter of growth.

The next President’s Weekend is scheduled for February 2027 — and with the success of 2025 as its foundation, it promises to be another landmark moment in the University’s history. 🐾



WATCH THE VIDEO
OF CARLIE'S STORY

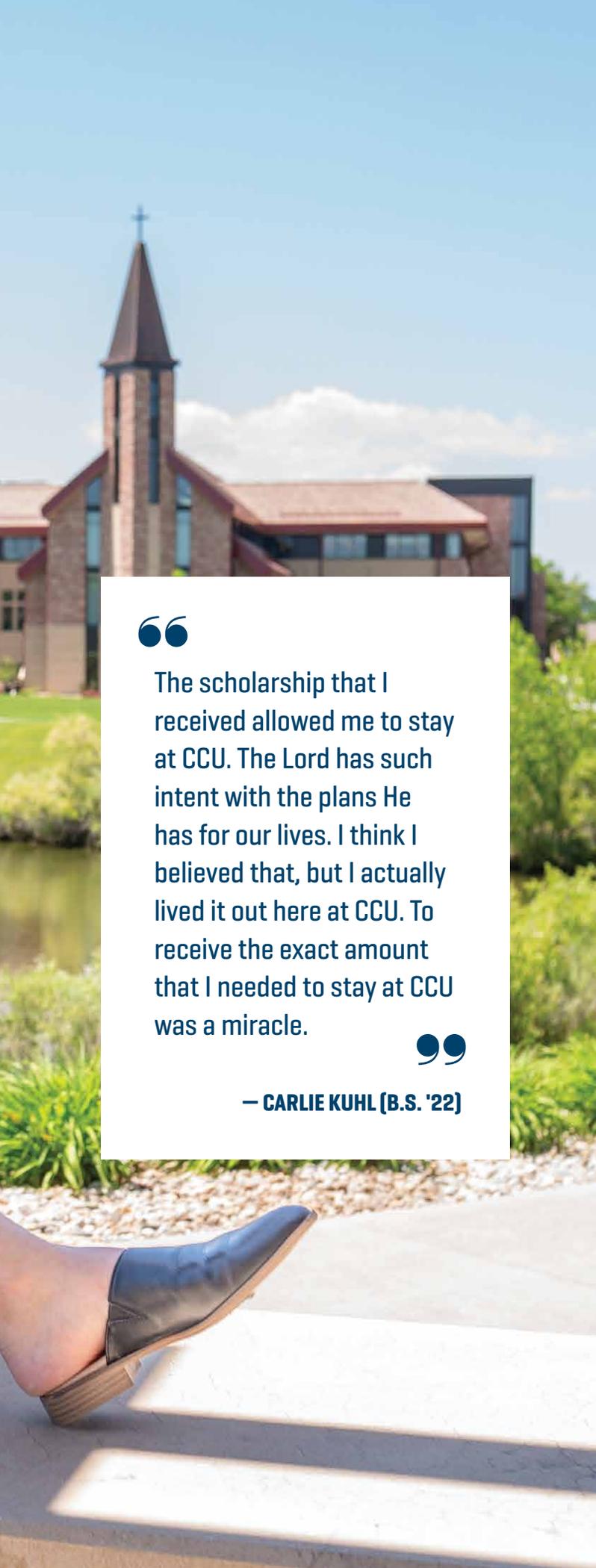
Endowed to Thrive

HOW SCHOLARSHIPS CHANGE LIVES AT CCU

By Daniel LaBry



Carlie Kuhl (B.S. '22) and Justin Kuhl (B.S. '21)



“

The scholarship that I received allowed me to stay at CCU. The Lord has such intent with the plans He has for our lives. I think I believed that, but I actually lived it out here at CCU. To receive the exact amount that I needed to stay at CCU was a miracle.

”

— CARLIE KUHL (B.S. '22)

At Colorado Christian University, nearly 98% of our students receive some form of financial aid. Our aim is that biblically integrated, rigorous, and exemplary education be available to all deserving scholars, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Without the generous support of scholarships provided by the CCU Endowment Foundation, a student like Carlie Kuhl (B.S. '22) would not have been able to stay at CCU — and go on to become the student body president in 2022. **Scan the QR code to hear her powerful story of prayer, perseverance, and pure joy when she met her scholarship donor in person.**

Every endowed gift — regardless of size — has a compounding impact, growing over time and multiplying its effect on future generations of CCU students and faculty. Since 2006, the CCU Endowment Foundation has provided \$2,878,897 in scholarships to 1,293 deserving students — and its impact continues to increase exponentially:

- \$293,250 in 2023-24
- \$376,900 in 2024-25
- \$527,000 in 2025-26

By the end of 2025, the CCU endowment will surpass \$16 million, a dramatic increase from \$5 million in 2019.

The next milestone for the endowment: reaching \$20 million, which will provide \$1 million in annual scholarship support to CCU students each year!

INFLUENCING THE WORLD THROUGH QUALITY WORK: RACHEL MANDT (B.A. '28)

Before starting at CCU, Rachel Mandt took a gap year and completed a program through Summit Ministries. “This was the first time I was introduced to an education that operated through the lens of a Christian worldview,” she continued. “Previously, I had attended public school from kindergarten through my senior year. To be able to pray before class, learn about topics such as church history and philosophy, and know that my professors shared my same values completely changed my view of education.”

Mandt heard about CCU through the Summit Ministries program and after doing some research, she knew she couldn't go anywhere else. “There are endless things I appreciate about going to this University, but several in particular stand out,” she said. “I believe CCU has the most intentional

and genuine professors in the world. I know I can trust them because they live out their beliefs not only in the classroom but also in their personal lives, which they invite their students into. Additionally, I love CCU's location — just 15 minutes from downtown Denver or 15 minutes to the mountains. It's perfect for both work opportunities and weekend adventures. Lastly, the student body and amazing community make CCU very special. I'm incredibly grateful to go to school with such authentic believers who build me up in my faith."

When Mandt first arrived at CCU, she wasn't quite sure which path she wanted to pursue. During the World Changers event on campus, she found herself in a meeting with students majoring in Strategic Communication and Digital Media — and she was hooked. "It seemed to combine everything I enjoyed, and I never even knew those things could be a major," she said. "I grew up very creative — always working on crafts, designs, art projects, or video projects. I also love people and knew that I wanted to pursue a career that allowed me to interact with others daily. When I found out that strategic communication courses at CCU included photography, videography, graphic design, public relations, and more, I was sold! I was also enticed by the fact that this is a constantly growing and evolving industry, which means there are plenty of job opportunities, whether you're working for a company or as your own boss."



Rachel Mandt

Mandt is a recipient of the **Graber Family Endowed Scholarship**, which focuses on helping students meet global needs through the power of the gospel of Christ. "To me, this means living in a way that reflects a deep understanding of Christ's mercy and love towards us so that we cannot help but extend those things to others," Mandt reflected. "This looks like living a grateful, service-oriented life — vocationally, recreationally, and in our everyday habits. A big part of this means simply doing good, quality work. Martin Luther said, 'The Christian shoemaker does his duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship.' I think this is the easiest way to meet global needs through the power of the gospel. Overtly sharing the message of Christ isn't always feasible in secular or even anti-Christian spaces, but working hard and maintaining upright character points to the redemptive work of the Savior in a different way."

With career aspirations that include working for a ministry and using her CCU education to impact the media realm from a Christian perspective, Mandt hopes one day to work in the media department at Summit Ministries, the organization she credits with changing her life. "That would be a job where I could use my skills to share student stories, create marketing content, and increase donor interaction so that more students could be impacted by the life-changing work of a Christian education," she added.

The CCU Endowment Foundation has become an essential part of the University's future financial stability, empowering CCU to:

- ▶ Provide student scholarships, ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder access to a Christ-centered education.
- ▶ Enhance academic programs, fostering innovation and excellence in teaching and learning.
- ▶ Support distinguished faculty, helping CCU to attract and retain educators who inspire, mentor, and lead.
- ▶ Secure CCU's long-term mission, safeguarding its commitment to developing Christian leaders who impact culture and society.

SCAN HERE TO WATCH THE GRABER FAMILY'S STORY AND DISCOVER WHAT INSPIRES THEIR GENEROSITY.





Kyleigh Vigil

Travel is also high on Mandt's list of dreams. After graduation, she already plans to hike the Colorado Trail with a friend and document the experience. She's also considering freelance media work. "I would love to take a year to travel and work on the go from a converted schoolbus-home," said Mandt. "Of course, my biggest dream is to become a wife and mom and use my experience at CCU in communications — along with my minors in Spanish and biblical studies — to serve the kingdom of God through those roles."

However Mandt's next chapter unfolds, her dreams and ambitions reflect the values she has developed and strengthened during her time at CCU: refinement, gratitude, and adventure. "I hope to influence the world by doing good, quality work in my future media and communications career — and also by striving to be a good wife, mom, church volunteer, Bible study leader, friend, mentor, and whatever other role the Lord puts me in," she concluded.

A SENSE OF BELONGING: KYLEIGH VIGIL (B.A. '27)

Elementary education major Kyleigh Vigil hadn't considered attending a Christian university until a friend mentioned CCU. "When I looked into the programs CCU offered, I knew that I would love being a student here," she said.

At first, Vigil was drawn to the exceptional reputation of CCU's education program, but when she visited campus for a Preview event, the University's Christ-centered values inspired her to commit. "I was shocked that we would have Chapel and that I could worship freely," she recalled. "I was also amazed that professors prayed over their students. I felt loved and seen by the staff who helped me pursue CCU and start my degree here."

A lifelong learner who says she could never pick just one favorite subject in school, Vigil opted to pursue a degree in elementary education not only to continue learning herself but also to instill a love of learning in others. Her experience at CCU has deepened her understanding of what it means to be an educator. "Since coming to CCU, I've realized that education has a more beautiful and purposeful role than I previously thought," she reflects. "As a teacher, not only can I encourage a love for learning in others, but I can also deeply love my students and point them to the love of God. Education is an amazing ministry — one that I am super honored to be involved in."

Vigil is a recipient of the **James 1:27 Endowed Scholarship**, named after the Scripture that reads:

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." Awarded to students who have lost one or both parents, the scholarship provides a measure of comfort and care through financial support that helps these students pursue their dreams.

"This support has meant the world to me," Vigil shared. "When going through grief, one feels alone and helpless. However, this scholarship reminded me that God sees me in my grief and will provide. I love CCU and the programs offered here, so the fact I can continue coming here through this scholarship is an amazing blessing. It's helping me accomplish my goal of becoming a public school teacher by making my education at CCU possible. I couldn't imagine pursuing my degree without a Christian perspective because of the ministry aspect involved in it. That's why I'm so grateful to continue at CCU."

After completing her degree, Vigil hopes to become a public school teacher, so she can be a light of encouragement to her students. "I love when Jesus calls all the children to come to Him, so I want to be part of announcing His call to my students," she said. "Elementary students can go through difficult and dark times, so I desire to pour into them and give them hope while teaching them to learn. I want to encourage my students to know that they are capable, smart, and loved."

But her dreams don't stop there — Vigil added that someday she hopes to teach abroad, sharing her love for others with students around the world while seeing more of God's creation.

When asked how she would best describe her student experience at CCU, Vigil reflected thoughtfully: "Belonging, growth, and perseverance. What I value most here is the ability to pursue my relationship with God and be disciplined, while also feeling like I am seen and that I belong." 🐾

CENTENNIAL INSTITUTE

COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FAITH • FAMILY • FREEDOM • FUTURE

Reclaiming the Human Experience In a Digital Age

By Greg Schaller and
Jaimie Erker (B.A. '18)

Centennial Institute's inaugural **Centennial Impact Summit** provided a multigenerational opportunity for Christians to reflect on the proper place of technology and to rediscover what it truly means to be human.





We live in an increasingly technological age. From earlier medical diagnoses to instantaneous communication across time and space, technology has significantly contributed to our lives in countless ways. However, these advancements have come at a cost. The promise of innovation is often clouded by loneliness, distraction, and alienation. As Christians, we must ask: How do we embrace the good of innovation while guarding against its power to distort our understanding of the human person?

This concern was at the heart of the first-ever Centennial Impact Summit, held this past September. Welcoming 230 attendees from all walks of life, the Centennial Institute

provided a forum focused on the critical questions surrounding the proper view of personhood, society, and politics — questions that promote human flourishing, with an emphasis on the role the Church must play in restoring a reverence for human dignity within our culture.

With keynote addresses from John Stonestreet, Clare Morell, Dr. Jean Twenge, Isabel Brown, and Tim Carney, our speakers offered compelling perspectives on topics ranging from social media and family life to the dignity of work. In-depth breakout panels explored pressing issues such as fertility, end-of-life care, artificial intelligence, sexuality, and the fate of the family in an age of technological disruption. Throughout this broad array ▶



of discussions, one truth remained evident: Christians must recover a biblical view of embodiment if we are to navigate technology faithfully.

A fundamental aspect of the Christian faith is the Incarnation. John 1:14 tells us: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” The Bible affirms that we are embodied souls, designed to live in family and community, to work with our hands, to marry and raise children, to care for one another, and to use our lives in worship to God.

Yet technology has begun to undermine these truths. Social media, cell phones, and wearable tech can offer the illusion of connection without demanding our active presence when we are with others. Artificial intelligence promises knowledge without the discipline of learning. Technologies that seek to make our lives more convenient or promise fulfillment can subtly alter the human experience into one of mere commodities and disassociation.

For this reason, Christians must stand at the frontlines of reclaiming a biblical understanding of humanity. Human dignity must be grounded in our inherent worth as creatures made in God’s image — not assigned value based upon efficiency, productivity, or digital reach.

This is not to advocate for active resistance to technology, but to rightly order it within the human experience. Technology must serve our humanity, not substitute for it. It must deepen community, not replace it. It must honor the holiness of our creation, not seek to transcend it.

Speakers of the event encouraged attendees not to avoid technology, but rather to be aware of the unintentional consequences of its dominance in our culture. Carney highlighted how families are becoming fragmented as isolation behind screens replace shared experiences. Twenge noted that anxiety, depression, and loneliness have skyrocketed among teenagers as their experiences are dominated by unrealistic standards portrayed through social media. Panelists also noted how technology is actively shaping how we see others, even when it comes to fertility and end-of-life care. Together, they urged Christians to ensure that technology remains a tool of human creativity, not an element that redefines the very nature of what it means to be human.

The Centennial Impact Summit fostered a unique multigenerational space for Christians to deeply examine the beauty of the human experience and to grapple with how we should faithfully respond to and engage a technological world without sacrificing our inherent dignity and worth found only in Christ. 🐾



17,415 STUDENTS

In the
NEWS

ROOTED IN FAITH RISING IN NUMBERS

CCU REACHES RECORD ENROLLMENT

From Lakewood, Colorado, to living rooms and libraries across the nation, more students than ever are pursuing a Christ-centered education through Colorado Christian University. For fiscal year 2025, CCU celebrated a historic milestone: 17,415 students enrolled, marking the largest student body in its history and a 106% increase over the past decade.

It's the 15th consecutive year of enrollment growth for the University, a remarkable achievement at a time when many colleges across the country are seeing numbers decline. For CCU, the surge represents more than growth — it's evidence of a mission that continues to resonate deeply.

"Colorado Christian University's record enrollment reflects the growing demand for Christ-centered education that transforms lives," said Eric K. Hogue, CCU president. "We are honored to serve students who seek to integrate faith and learning while pursuing academic excellence."

MEETING STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE

CCU's strength lies in its ability to reach students from all walks of life, both those who thrive on its vibrant Lakewood campus and those who pursue degrees from homes and workplaces across the country.

The College of Adult and Graduate Studies (CAGS), which includes CCU Online, leads the way with 8,681 students in adult undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs. Representing all 50 states, 99% of adult learners study online, drawn by the University's blend of flexibility, quality, and faith integration.

"Our programs meet students where they are — geographically and spiritually," said Allison Burkhart, vice

president of University Marketing and CAGS Enrollment and Student Success. "Adult learners want an education that fits their lives without compromising their values, and CCU offers exactly that."

Meanwhile, the College of Undergraduate Studies (CUS) welcomed 1,495 students to the Lakewood campus, including 421 first-time freshmen. With a 93% fall-to-spring retention rate and 80% freshman-to-sophomore retention, CCU's traditional programs continue to attract students seeking an authentic community rooted in faith.

"Our students are drawn to a campus where faith and academics intersect every day," said Dr. Neal Anderson, vice president of Student Life and Traditional Enrollment. "They leave here prepared for careers — and for calling."

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY, DEEPENING IMPACT

Beyond the college experience, CCU Academy serves a growing number of high school students: 7,264 this year across 46 states through dual-enrollment courses that combine rigorous academics with a Christian worldview. The program's 177% growth over the past decade underscores the expanding reach of CCU's mission.

Despite its size, CCU maintains an average class size of 13 and a 16:1 student-to-faculty ratio, ensuring every student receives personal attention and mentoring.

For President Hogue, the record-breaking numbers tell a larger story. "Each of these 17,415 students represents a life being shaped by truth and purpose," he said. "That's what defines Colorado Christian University — not just growth, but transformation." 

Meet Fred Lautenbach

Distinguished Alumnus Joins the Board of Trustees



When Fred Lautenbach (B.A. '82) reflects on his journey from Rockmont College student-athlete to newly appointed Colorado Christian University trustee, one word rises above the rest: faithfulness.

"Every step of my life has been marked by God's faithfulness," Lautenbach said.

"From my days at Rockmont to the work I do now, I've seen how the Lord weaves everything together for His purpose."

Fred and his wife, Lorie, have lived out that purpose for more than four decades — rooted in faith, devoted to family, and passionate about service. The couple, who met on campus in 1980 ("the jock and the cheerleader," Lautenbach laughed), married the following year and built a life centered on Christ's call to love and lead.

After earning his degree in youth ministry and Christian education, Lautenbach taught and coached at a local Christian high school for six years. But in 1986, a new calling led him to join the family business — Lautenbach Insurance in Littleton, Colorado — where he now serves as owner and producer. Under his leadership, the agency has continued its legacy as the oldest continually operating business in downtown Littleton.

In 2022, Fred and Lorie were named Distinguished Alumni by Colorado Christian University, honored for how they model CCU's mission both in their careers and in their personal lives. Together, they've served on mission teams across the globe — helping build churches and schools, deliver Bibles to underground congregations, and provide clean water and food to families in need.

"Serving the global church has been one of the greatest joys of our lives," said Lautenbach. "It reminds us that the gospel isn't confined to one place or people — it's alive everywhere."

At home in Sedalia, Colorado, Fred and Lorie live on a small ranch where they raise cattle and horses. They are active members of Foundry Church in Castle Pines, where Lautenbach serves as an elder, and both lead small groups and serve on the Missions Council.

As he steps into his new role on the CCU Board of Trustees, Lautenbach is eager to give back to the university that shaped his faith and vision. "CCU helped form the foundation of who I am," he reflected. "To serve now as a trustee is both humbling and exciting — it's another way to invest in the next generation of Christ-centered leaders." 

"Serving the global church has been one of the greatest joys in our lives."



WESTERN CONSERVATIVE SUMMIT

July 31 - August 1, 2026

Colorado Christian University

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A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM:
Reigniting the American Dream



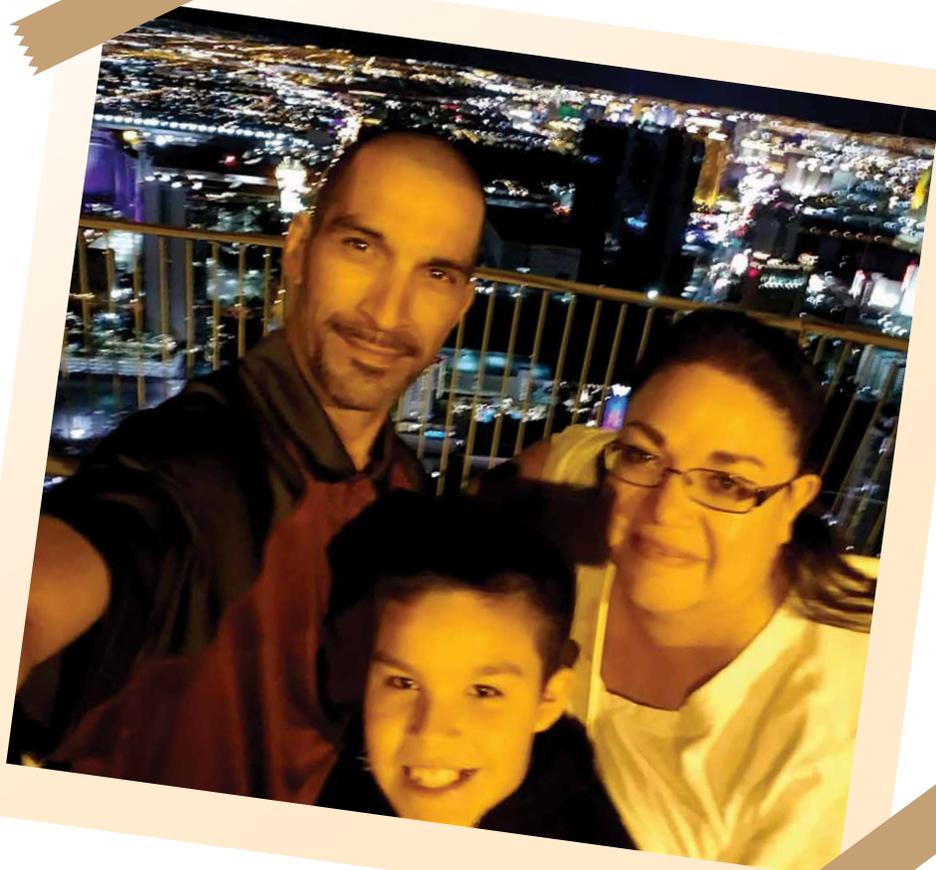
scan for information

Faith and Family

The Federico Family Finds a Future at CCU
By Cory Butzin



It started nearly eight years ago, with a sprinkler and then a prayer.



Now, after navigating both tragedy and triumph, Juanita Federico and her son, Rocky Jr., are finding their future and growing in their faith together at Colorado Christian University.

“My husband (Rocky Sr.) was always very cordial,” Juanita said. “In 2017, he was working for a landscaping company called Terracare, and they positioned him to work on CCU’s campus working on the sprinklers.

“He must not have been having a good day, but someone on campus noticed. They stopped him in the middle of what he was doing and asked, ‘Can I pray for you?’ Somebody else walking by heard their conversation and joined in praying for him. He came home that night to get ready for baseball — he was coaching our son’s baseball team — and said, ‘I know where I want Rocky to go to school.’”

For Rocky Sr., his assignment to CCU was no coincidence. Becoming a part of the tight-knit CCU community and its focus on faith was divinely inspired.

But even divine appointments can lead through disappointment, heartache, and pain.

For Juanita and Rocky Jr., those moments came one year later when all thoughts of school, future, and faith were put to the test.

While on a biannual fishing trip with friends and family to Wheatland Reservoir No. 3, north of Laramie, Wyoming, Rocky Sr. was out on the water alone when he was overtaken by a sudden storm. Investigators believe he made his way to shore for a time before succumbing to hypothermia and eventually drowning.

“We were supposed to go on that trip with him, but (Rocky Jr.) had just turned 11 and was starting middle school,” Juanita said. “His school team had just won the baseball city championship, as well. We were supposed to celebrate both when (Rocky Sr.) came back from the fishing trip.

“I know where I want Rocky to go to school.”

“It left a big hole. The three of us were like the Three Musketeers — but now I was raising my son on my own.”

Rocky and Juanita Federico had been together for 22 years. ▶

"I lost my mom in 2014 and my husband in 2018," Juanita said. "I've had a lot of loss, but God has gotten me through it."

"We started going to Sentinel Community Church together. I grew up Catholic, so going to an evangelical church was foreign to me — but you could feel the Spirit moving in that church. After that first time, we were all quiet on the car ride home, and then my husband said he liked it."

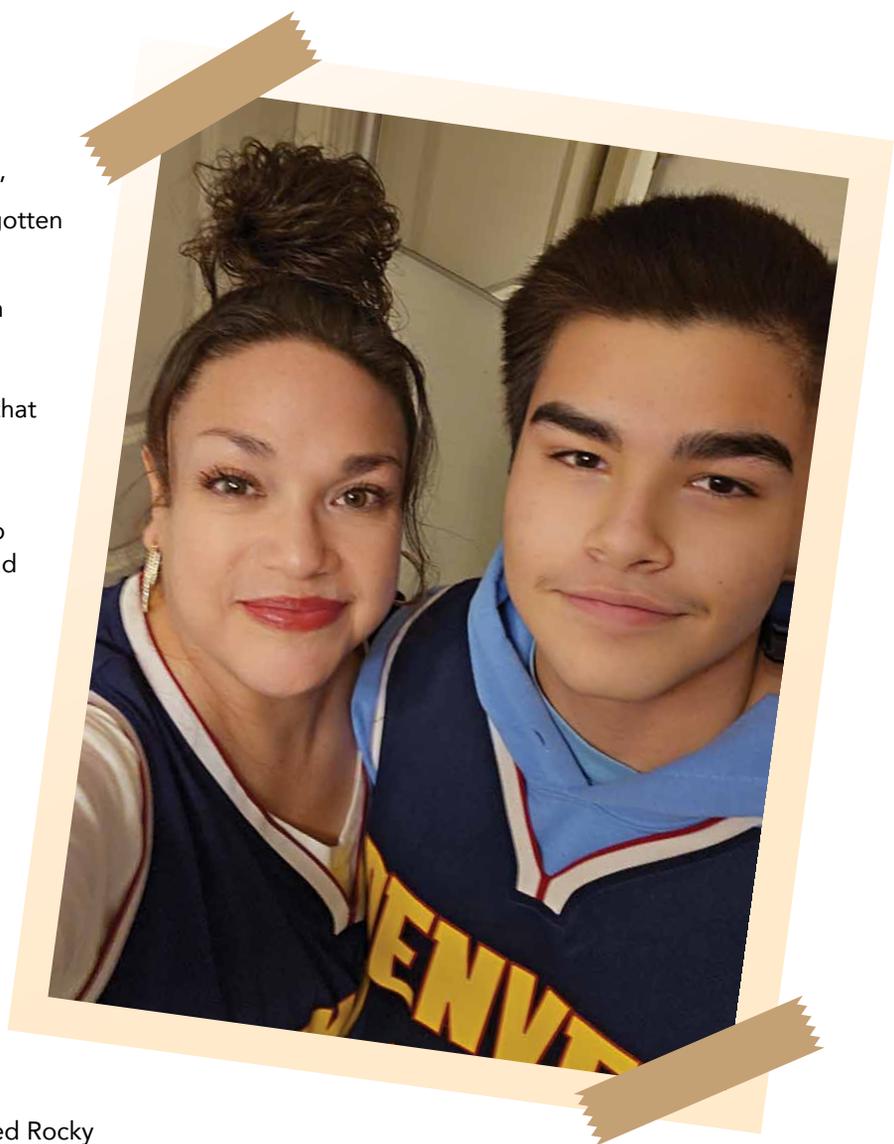
"God has a way of placing you where you need to be. I'm grateful that's where we were then. If it had been any other church, I may not have had the support I needed after he died. When I needed help, the church was there. If I needed money, the church was there. Whatever I have needed, the church has been there to help."

That support included sending Rocky Jr. to attend high school at the prestigious Valor Christian High School, one of Colorado's most respected Christian schools.

"With his dad gone, he needed to be in that type of (Christian) environment," Juanita said. "The class sizes were smaller, and because my son was born with a hearing disability, they could also get him the help he needed."

At a young age, otolaryngologists (ENT) diagnosed Rocky Jr. with enlarged vestibular aqueducts within both inner ears — a condition that can impair hearing and balance. A series of surgeries as a child, along with hearing aids, addressed the issue; however, any sort of head trauma could result in permanent hearing loss.

"He has to see the ENT doctor every six months to see if his hearing has changed," she said.



Between baseball and academics, high school flew by. Before long, it was time to start thinking about college.

"Initially, I really wanted to go to Baylor," Rocky Jr. said. "My dad wanted me to go to CCU, but I hadn't really considered it until my junior year. Then I went to Discovery Days and absolutely loved it."

He wasn't the only one.

"When I dropped him off, I looked at his schedule, and even I wanted to attend some of those classes," Juanita said. "Stepping onto that campus, I said, 'I need to get my education and get it the right way.'"

A longtime K-LOVE listener, Juanita heard about a contest to win a scholarship for CCU Online. She felt led there — and everything began to fall into place.

In fact, Juanita actually beat Rocky Jr. to the punch, enrolling at CCU Online in the fall of 2024, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology with the goal of

"I've had a lot of loss, but God has gotten me through it."



Rocky and his roommates participate in CCU's annual cardboard boat races.

attending graduate school to continue into a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling — hoping to serve others as a marriage and grief counselor.

“He was getting closer to graduating, and I decided I needed to do something for myself,” Juanita said.

In August of 2025, Rocky Jr. joined her at CCU, enrolling in the College of Undergraduate Studies to pursue a degree in Kinesiology. It was during Weekend of Welcome when another one of the Federicos’ prayers were answered.

They were still trying to figure out how to pay for everything, but Juanita decided to take a leap of faith and move Rocky Jr. into the residence hall, trusting it would all work out and that God would provide.

“Even though we still needed about \$10,000 to come through, I decided we would move him in and believe God would take care of us,” Juanita said. “He moved in Thursday, and on Friday, I found out that the money had come through — everything was going to be OK.”

As it turns out, it has been better than OK.

“Being at CCU has brought me closer to God,” Rocky Jr. said. “Whether it’s during Chapel or prayer gatherings, I can feel His presence here. This is a community that truly helps me strengthen my faith.”

Now, mother and son can support one another as each pursues their own academic endeavors.

“It’s pretty cool,” Rocky Jr. said. “We have different classes, but we share what we’re learning. I’ll call her if

I’m struggling in an assignment or class, and she does the same. Even though I’m not there (at home), we try to get through it together.”

Juanita agreed.

“My experience has been better than I thought,” she said. “The last time I was in college, it was 1990. That time, it was about me, though. What I’m doing now is for God’s glory. The classes I’ve taken have been better than I ever expected, and my advisor, Callie Hill, is on my side and has been so helpful. I can reach out to her for anything, and she will find a way to help me. It’s lit a fire under me to do the best I can.” 🐾



THE DUAL CREDIT * DIFFERENCE *



CCU ACADEMY'S TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

By Heather Eades

For many families with high school students, the years leading up to college raise countless questions: Is my student ready academically? Will we be able to afford college financially? Are they spiritually grounded for the independence ahead? Through Colorado Christian University's CCU Academy, the answer is a confident "Yes!"

CCU Academy allows students 15 years and older to earn college credit while fulfilling their high school requirements, blending academic rigor with spiritual formation. Britt Snyder, dean of CCU Academy, sat down with *BEYOND* to discuss this unique dual enrollment program, leading the way in creating greater opportunities and access to private, Christian liberal arts higher education.

VALUES FOR LIFE

"There are many benefits to taking dual enrollment courses, and the financial savings are a huge draw for

many families," said Snyder.

Affordability is at the heart of the program. High school students can take a wide selection of general education courses from CCU — typically freshman and sophomore-level — all taught from a biblical worldview. These courses satisfy both high school and college credit requirements, giving students a jump start on their higher education at a fraction of the cost. Many graduate high school with up to two years of college credit from Colorado Christian University under their belts, and those pursuing an associate degree can enter college with both a financial and academic advantage.

Beyond financial savings, another benefit of CCU Academy is the academic preparedness that comes from taking the program's college-level courses.

"We make our courses excellent and rigorous," said Snyder. "We want our students to gain confidence, knowing, 'I accomplished this, and I can take on the next

step in my education.' We're not a university offering high school classes — we are a university offering college courses to high school students."

The dual credit courses teach students real-world skills: deadlines matter, late work impacts grades, and self-discipline is required. "It's real-world preparation," Snyder explained. "We teach grace and truth, but students also learn accountability." Highly motivated students who take initiative to partner with their professors in their academic success thrive in the program, entering college with a sense of preparedness that eases the often-intense transition from high school.

THE CCU DIFFERENCE

One of CCU Academy's defining features is its shared mission with the University: to transform students to impact the world with the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. Every dual-credit course is taught through a biblical lens by professors who are experts in their fields and also committed Christians.

"What separates CCU Academy from other dual enrollment opportunities is that we are always making sure Jesus' name is known," said Snyder. "We want our students to leave the program knowing Jesus a little more deeply than they did before. It's not just about earning credits — it's about building confidence, integrity, and a biblical foundation for their future."

While many universities now offer early college credit, CCU Academy's Christ-centered approach sets it apart, with the University's same focus on faith and spiritual growth integrated into academic excellence for its dual enrolled high school students. As one of the first Christian universities to offer dual enrollment, CCU Academy has gained a reputation of established excellence, leading the way in both academic and spiritual distinction.

"It's all CCU," said Snyder. "Everything carries the same biblical worldview and academic integrity you'd find on our main campus."

REACHING BEYOND

The program's quality has fueled its rapid growth. In the past year, nearly 7,300 students enrolled in dual-credit courses through more than 230 Christian high school partners and homeschool programs nationwide. These partnerships provide a Christ-centered alternative to public school or secular dual-credit options, opening doors to families who value academic rigor alongside spiritual growth.

CCU Academy also provides access to Christian

higher education to families worldwide. The program's online format allows children of missionaries to log into live classes from South America, Europe, and Africa, while homeschool families across the United States appreciate the private Christian liberal arts college opportunities that might otherwise feel out of reach.

Especially post-Covid, as more families have embraced the benefits of home education, CCU Academy has become an invaluable partner in many families' homeschool journeys.

"It's a blessing," said Snyder. "Parents realize they can educate their kids at home and still give them the best in high academic integrity and biblical teaching, from experts who are passionate about their subject matter."

FROM CLASSES TO CALLINGS

For many students, CCU Academy is life changing. One student enrolled "on a whim" in a communications course and discovered a new calling through mentorship from her professor. She later enrolled at CCU to continue her studies with the same instructor. "Students not only grow academically, but also find direction for their God-given purpose," Snyder shared.

The program's personal support from a dedicated staff is another defining feature that sets CCU Academy apart. Each partner school, teacher, and student is supported by a team of advisors who help with enrollment, course planning, and spiritual encouragement. Student Success Advisors monitor progress, assist struggling students, and pray for each student, ensuring families know that students are cared for mind, body, and spirit.

"These college courses are taught at full rigor," Snyder emphasized. "But our advisors walk with students every step of the way."

Far more than college credits, coursework, or even affordability, CCU Academy is about life-changing transformation.

"Our students are in great hands," said Snyder. "We care deeply about them as whole people — academically, spiritually, and personally. Every student is made in the image of God, and that truth guides everything we do."



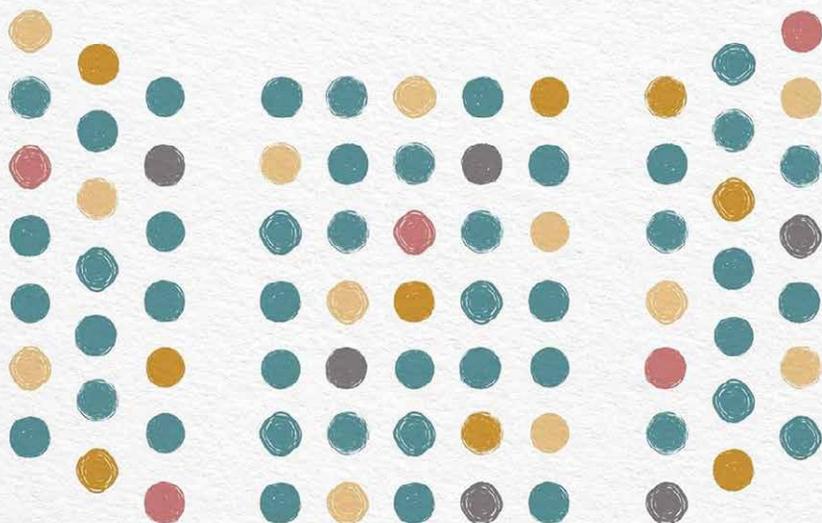
*** WE MAKE OUR COURSES
EXCELLENT AND
RIGOROUS. ***

BRIDGING THE GAP

Dr. Mark Mayfield's Vision for Mental Health in Ministry

By Heather Johnson

THE MENTAL HEALTH HANDBOOK FOR MINISTRY



A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR SUPPORTING THE CHURCH'S MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

EDITED BY

DR. MARK MAYFIELD

As a young pastor, Dr. Mark Mayfield often found himself sitting with people in pain — grief, trauma, addiction, depression — and wishing he had better tools to help. “I knew what it was like to want to care well but feel overwhelmed and underprepared,” he recalled.

That experience planted the seed for his new book, *The Mental Health Handbook for Ministry* (Baker Books, 2025). Drawing on two decades of counseling practice and ministry leadership, the handbook equips pastors, volunteers, and ministry leaders with practical tools and biblical wisdom for caring well.

"Many people turn first to their pastor when facing mental health struggles," Mayfield explained. "Yet pastors often feel untrained. This book is meant to be a trusted companion that leaders can keep within arm's reach when difficult conversations arise."

COLLABORATION FOR THE CHURCH

From the outset, Mayfield knew this couldn't be a solo effort. He invited clinicians, ministry leaders, and CCU counseling faculty to contribute their expertise in trauma, grief, addiction, family systems, and pastoral care.

The result is a collaborative resource that blends clinical insight with theological depth. Each chapter offers practical steps for leaders and integrates Christ-centered hope with professional wisdom. "I didn't want another textbook," said Mayfield. "I wanted something the Church could actually use — accessible, practical, and rooted in the gospel."

ALIGNING WITH CCU'S MISSION

For Mayfield, the book reflects Colorado Christian University's mission of Christ-centered higher education. Just as CCU emphasizes the integration of faith and learning, the handbook serves as a bridge between theology and psychology — helping the church to engage the complexities of mental and emotional well-being through a biblical lens.

Endorsements highlight the handbook's significance. Dr. Jack Graham calls it "an invaluable resource to all who desire to care for those who suffer." Psychiatrist Curt Thompson, MD, notes that it helps the Church flourish "as a place of hope and healing for all of our wounded souls."

A KINGDOM CALLING

Ultimately, Mayfield hopes the book will help congregations become places of genuine healing and restoration. "Equipping the church to care for mental and emotional well-being is not just professional work," said Mayfield. "It's kingdom work."

The Mental Health Handbook for Ministry is available wherever books are sold. 



“
Equipping the
church to care
for mental and
emotional
well-being is not
just professional
work...
”

it's
kingdom
work.
”

Where Faith Meets Future

Inside CCU's AI for Humanity Summit



By Heather Eades

How do we, as Christ followers, engage the most transformative technology of our generation? That was the central question connecting industry innovators, students, college administrators, faculty, church leaders, and friends of the University on October 7, 2025, in the newly opened McDonald Performance Hall at Colorado Christian University's Armstrong Center. Hosted by CCU in partnership with *The Christian Post* and Gloop AI, the historic summit — AI for Humanity: Navigating Ethics and Morality for a Flourishing Future — served as a groundbreaking forum for exploring the intersections of faith, technology, and the ethical and moral use of artificial intelligence.

CCU President Eric Hogue welcomed the opportunity for the University to help lead these essential conversations. "We're educating our students to lead the culture and not be led by it," he explained in a recent interview.

"We believe that every advancement in human knowledge is an opportunity to reflect the image of our Creator and to do so for the glory of His name," Hogue shared during the summit's opening session. "The question before us isn't whether AI will shape our future — it will, whether we like it or not. The question is: Will we shape, develop, and use AI with biblical truth and moral courage?" He emphasized that the goal of the



“...not with fear or blind enthusiasm, but with discernment, wisdom, and hope moving forward.”

summit was to dive into the conversation — “not with fear or blind enthusiasm, but with discernment, wisdom, and hope moving forward.”

From the outset, it was evident this gathering was far more than a tech conference — it was a moment of moral reflection and a vital opportunity to consider the possibilities and responsibilities in stewarding the AI era. Hogue described it as “a remarkable intersection where ancient truth, timeless wisdom, and emerging technology form tomorrow’s innovation.”

The event brought together leading voices in both faith and tech domains, including Gloom’s Executive Chair and Head of Technology (and former Intel CEO) Pat Gelsinger;

The Christian Post Executive Editor Richard Land; and *The Christian Post*’s award-winning journalist and podcaster Brandon Showalter.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Since the release of ChatGPT only a few short years ago, the landscape of nearly every industry has shifted dramatically, compelling leaders to weigh both the benefits and challenges of rapidly evolving AI technologies. With the rise of large language models (LLMs) possessing the ability to accurately create everything from content to code within seconds — alongside a multitude of constantly expanding AI tools, systems, and platforms — the challenge now lies in organizations learning how to work ►



Panel discussion with Justin Lester [left], James Poulter [center], and Annie Chestnut Tutor [right]

with and effectively leverage these growing technologies rather than be replaced by them. For Christians, that exploration deepens into how to shape AI into a force for good — and for God.

The reality is that AI is quickly becoming a transformational powerhouse in the modern workforce, reshaping everything from research to medical procedures to best practices in education and beyond. For a university committed to preparing students as Christ-centered leaders in every field, engaging with — and helping shape — the possibilities of this new technological era is more essential now than ever.

This sense of urgency and opportunity inspired CCU and its partners to host this groundbreaking summit. “If you’re not involved, you’re not in the room,” President Hogue said, emphasizing the need for Christian leadership in the ethical and moral development of artificial intelligence. He reaffirmed CCU’s dedication to remaining on the forefront of these conversations, stating, “We are committed to equipping the next generation of Christian leaders in technology and hope to serve as a leading voice in this space.”

A GATHERING OF FAITH, TECHNOLOGY, AND EDUCATION

The summit brought together an interdisciplinary lineup of speakers and panelists — seasoned technology experts, theologians, ministry leaders, policy analysts, and journalists. Headlining the event was longtime tech executive Pat Gelsinger, Gloo AI’s head of technology.

Additional speakers at the event included:

- Michael Arena, Ph.D., Dean of the Crowell School of Business at Biola University
- Richard Land, executive editor at The Christian Post
- Justin R. Lester, pastor, author, educator, and strategist
- James Poulter, international speaker and expert in AI, innovation, and digital transformation
- Annie Chestnut Tutor, policy analyst with The Heritage Foundation’s Center for Technology and the Human Person.

Together this distinguished group of Christian thought leaders from diverse backgrounds represented a cross-section of AI’s influence throughout society — unified with a common message that Christians can — and must — play an active role in shaping the future of AI.

During the panel, Poulter expressed a sense of urgency to be prepared for this new reality, reminding listeners that AI’s arrival is not gradual, but a “tidal wave” with profound implications for every social institution.

For leaders like Richard Land, AI represents not only an innovation but a profound ethical test. In his address, Land described AI as “the most significant invention since the printing press,” however, suggesting the social, cultural, and spiritual stakes could be just as high. While he stressed the need to guard against the dehumanizing tendencies of unchecked innovation, the summit’s broader message focused on potential — if developed wisely — for AI to become a powerful force for good.

In his keynote speech, Gelsinger challenged believers not to run from AI but toward it — leveraging the technology to educate, serve, and build systems infused with biblical values. He described AI as “a powerful embodiment of the Christian church,” offering tools that, when rightly stewarded, can enhance ministry, expand global outreach, and strengthen discipleship. As he spoke, Gelsinger referenced examples of organizations investing in that vision, including the event’s title sponsor, Gloo, which has been developing values-aligned AI solutions and resources that support faith-centered work and human flourishing. Rather than replacing human relationships, such tools, he noted, are designed to help mission-driven leaders reach more people, communicate more effectively, and steward their resources well. In this way, AI becomes not a threat but a means of advancing spiritual formation and meaningful service in a rapidly changing world.

Others at the summit echoed this vision, arguing that when grounded in biblical truth, AI can support genuine human flourishing — improving access to education, strengthening ministry effectiveness, deepening personal spiritual growth, and offering new forms of service to others. While the summit acknowledged the challenges and the need for appropriate guardrails, it ultimately framed AI as a tool — not an end in itself — that Christians can use to better love, serve, and advance God’s kingdom.

LEADING THE WAY FORWARD

The AI for Humanity summit marked a milestone not only for CCU but for Christian higher education as a whole. By bringing together Christian thought leaders and technology experts to examine both the promise and challenges of AI, the University reaffirmed what it means to take seriously both faith and innovation. Conversations that once focused narrowly around the use of AI and academic integrity now extend far beyond the classroom, reshaping research practices, instructional design, administrative workflows, admissions processes, academic publishing and more.

The summit illuminated the countless ways AI is reshaping the world our graduates will enter — and highlighted CCU’s role in preparing them for it.

Artificial intelligence, the summit emphasized, is more than a technological tool. It is a moral question, a cultural challenge, and a spiritual opportunity. Christians are urged not to retreat from this moment, but to engage it with conviction and courage. The question is no longer whether Christians should care about AI. The question is: When will we start helping build it? 🐾



Dr. Richard Land and President Hogue

CHRIST-CENTERED HIGHER EDUCATION TRANSFORMING STUDENTS TO IMPACT THE WORLD



WITH *Grace*
& **TRUTH**



ARMSTRONG CENTER



WHERE CAN WISDOM BE FOUND?

Preparing Students for an Artificial Intelligence Age



By Dr. David Kotter

*Dean of the School of Theology,
Professor of New Testament
Studies*

"Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place where gold is refined... But where can wisdom be found?" —Job 28

Building on this biblical foundation, Colorado Christian University has launched the Quarry Innovation Lab — a new incubator for artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies, designed to equip students and faculty with wisdom for a rapidly changing world.

WISDOM FOR A NEW AGE

Located in the heart of George Whitefield Hall, The Quarry embodies CCU's conviction that wisdom begins with God. People are made in the image of God, and true intelligence will never be artificial. By rooting technological exploration in this biblical truth, CCU is preparing students to not merely use AI, but to steward it wisely, ethically, and creatively.

The urgency is real. Entry-level positions are already disappearing in fields such as coding, accounting, and graphic design, as many aspects of these positions are being reshaped or replaced by automation. Rather than

retreat from these disruptions, CCU is advancing boldly into this new technological landscape with a distinctly Christian perspective. As history reminds us, God's plan has moved from a garden in Genesis to a city in Revelation, with each generation adapting to new tools — from bronze to iron, slide rules to calculators, and now, to AI.

"The primary problem is failure of imagination," explains Dr. David Kotter, dean of the School of Theology, who directs this initiative at CCU. "Artificial intelligence can do much more today than our students even think to ask or pursue."

The Quarry exists to close that gap, equipping students to imagine, create, and lead with Christ-centered wisdom.

FIVE STATIONS OF INNOVATION

The Quarry offers five interactive stations designed to foster both exploration and reflection:

- **Discovery Center** – Workshops and dialogue on emerging technologies
- **VR/AR Zone** – Immersive experiences in virtual and augmented reality
- **Coding & Collaboration** – Team tables for "vibe coding" and testing new ideas

- **AI Consultant Pod** – One-on-one guidance with faculty and AI mentors
- **Coffee & Reflection** – An inviting space for prayer, conversation, and discernment.

Each area reflects CCU's belief that technology must serve people, not replace them.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

This fall, three workshops introduced the lab to students: First Steps into an AI World; Wisdom at the Crossroads; and The Future of Work and Witness. In each session, CCU students stepped into the unfolding story of technology and faith, exploring what it means to navigate artificial intelligence as followers of Christ. They practiced how to research and write ethically, wrestled with new questions about creativity and calling, and discovered how emerging tools could enhance their work across every discipline.

Faculty and staff workshops extended the vision further — considering AI's role in transforming pedagogy, curriculum design, ethics, and daily efficiency. Workshops for online students and faculty are already planned for the spring semester, ensuring the momentum continues to reach the entirety of CCU's community.



That momentum is real and already building. In October, CCU celebrated The Quarry's official ribbon-cutting ceremony with national leaders in technology and ethics — a milestone that signaled not simply a beginning, but a bold statement of purpose.

Days later, CCU students participated in the AI Gloo Hackathon, which offered \$250,000 in prizes and showcased how Christian creativity can shape the future of innovation. The year ahead promises even more excitement, with upcoming events including debates, conferences, and continued collaborations that position CCU at the forefront of Christian engagement with AI.

PREPARING LEADERS WHO LAST

CCU President Eric Hogue emphasized that CCU's priorities remain unchanged: "Our mission begins with honoring Christ and teaching students to trust the Bible. We also focus on teaching students how to learn, how to think for themselves, and how to communicate clearly. These skills will always be in high demand."

"Everything is impossible until it isn't," added Kotter.

The Quarry stands ready to prove that the future belongs to those who combine technological capability with timeless truth. 🐾



President Hogue, Pat Gelsing, Wil Armstrong, and others dedicate the Quarry Innovation Lab, CCU's new AI and Technology Incubator.

TECHNOLOGY SHAPERS

HOW CCU'S
SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS AND
TECHNOLOGY
IS EQUIPPING
STUDENTS FOR
AN AI FUTURE



By Heather Eades

Artificial intelligence is reshaping the modern workplace at a staggering pace, and higher education is no exception. As these technologies accelerate across nearly every industry, the need has never been greater for leaders who understand how to use them wisely, innovate effectively, and navigate their ethical implications with discernment. While new additions on Colorado Christian University's campus — such as the Quarry Innovation Lab — are shaping tomorrow's tech leaders in the College of Undergraduate Studies, CCU's College of Adult and Graduate Studies (CAGS) is also emerging as a leader in this rapidly evolving field. That leadership is especially evident in the programs preparing students to enter technology-driven professions.

Few understand this shift better than Bren Triplett, director of CCU Online's Computer Information Technology, Information Systems Management, and Project Management programs in the School of Business and Technology. Over the past two years, Triplett has not only extensively studied AI, he has used it, applied it, and integrated it directly into CCU Online's curriculum. His work is positioning CCU at the forefront of innovation within Christian higher education while also helping students stay grounded in what remains real and true in the age of artificial intelligence.



NEW SKILLS FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY

One of CCU's distinctive strengths is its expansive virtual environment within CCU Online. The platform includes more than 127 applications available to students throughout their courses. Staying fluent in these swiftly emerging tech tools has become a top priority across the University — especially within the School of Business and Technology, where graduates will be not only using the latest technologies but also influencing and shaping the AI landscape.

A central goal in adult and graduate programs is teaching students how to collaborate with AI tools rather than fear, avoid, or compete with them. In project management courses, for example, students learn to effectively create and utilize strategic prompts that generate full project plans, task lists, or schedules. They then analyze, refine, and apply those results, learning to manage workflows increasingly shaped by AI-generated outputs.

Programming courses are evolving as well, shifting focus away from building code from scratch and more toward analyzing and evaluating the quality and reliability of AI-generated code. With AI tools now capable of generating fully functional code in real-time, Triplett sees the role of future software developers shifting toward reviewing, debugging, improving accuracy, and enhancing AI-generated work.

That shift is already visible in the rise of “no-code” platforms, which build entire applications from a single prompt. “You simply tell the program, ‘I want my application to do this specific task,’” Triplett explained. “You type in the prompt, and it does all the coding for you.”

While these tools make development more accessible, convenience does not replace foundational understanding. Students must still be able to recognize quality code, identify errors, and ensure that results align with both ethical and professional standards.

“We have to teach the foundational skills, but we have to teach them slightly differently than we have in the past,” said Triplett. “Our graduates will walk away understanding how to code and knowing the foundations of coding, but more importantly, they’ll be able to critically think and recognize good versus bad code.”

Across the School of Business and Technology, Triplett emphasizes that critical thinking, logic, and resilience are emerging as essential professional traits, now more than ever.

“Technology is really about solving problems that haven’t been solved before,” said Triplett. “Your failure rate will be high, which is why grit matters. The ability to keep learning — that’s what makes today’s students successful.”

LEADING INNOVATION BY EXAMPLE

CCU faculty do more than simply teach AI concepts — they model them as well. Triplett was among ChatGPT’s early adopters, signing up within its first two weeks of public release. Since then, he has used AI extensively, including developing accessibility-compliant digital textbooks.

“I ended up writing a Python program that would do ADA compliancy,” said Triplett. “I asked ChatGPT to create the whole thing, and it ran absolutely perfect! It goes through and makes all the modifications, highlighting the changes in the textbook document.”

As rapidly shifting technology now impacts nearly every industry, staying current is essential. Faculty in the School of Business and Technology use the same tools they

teach, experimenting with, troubleshooting, and adapting technologies — often at the same pace as students. This approach creates virtual classroom environments where learning mirrors industry realities.

“To me, effort and the ability to find the answer are much better skills to have than whether you’re an incredible programmer right out of the box,” said Triplett.

KEEP MOVING FORWARD

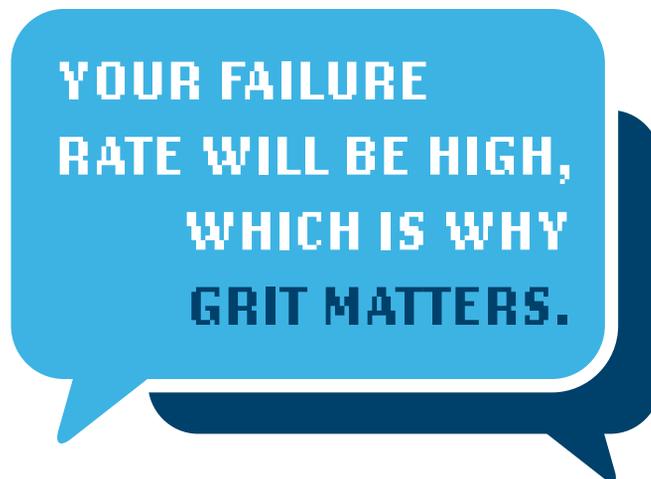
As excitement continues to build across the University for the possibilities that will help transform learning and professional excellence for CCU’s students, Triplett and his colleagues are already developing three new AI-focused courses designed for multiple adult and graduate degree programs:

- **Prompt Engineering.** In this course, students will learn how to craft precise and intentional prompts that produce accurate and useful results — an increasingly essential skill for business, leadership, and technology fields.
- **Building AI Agents.** Moving beyond single prompts, AI “agents” automate complex, multi-step processes. Triplett explained that this new course will teach students how to build these powerful systems using whatever tools and platforms represent the latest industry standard.
- **AI and Leadership.** Led by CCU’s MBA Program Director Rick Hall, this course will help students evaluate emerging technologies, align them with organizational goals, and apply ethical principles in decision-making.

These new courses are slated to begin in the 2026-27 academic year.

As artificial intelligence continues to transform and redefine professional expectations, technology alone is not enough. CCU’s School of Business and Technology remains committed to preparing graduates who lead with integrity, think critically, and adapt quickly.

“As professors, we’re constantly raising the bar so our students can keep learning,” said Triplett. “Because the world is changing fast — and we want them to be ready.” 🐾



THE LEGACY AND IMPACT OF



Each year, the CCU Alumni Association shines a spotlight on graduates who embody the highest ideals of Colorado Christian University. These honorees — leaders, innovators, kingdom builders, and faithful Christ-followers — are recognized through the alumni awards. Among the highest honors the University confers, these awards highlight the remarkable ways our graduates are living out CCU's mission to "...impact the world with grace and truth."

On October 2, 2025, the University honored three outstanding alumni who have achieved extraordinary success in their fields and have made lasting contributions to the kingdom. These graduates represent artistic achievement, ministry leadership, and business innovation, and are a living illustration of CCU's educational mission. Their accomplishments demonstrate that CCU prepares graduates not only for meaningful careers but for lives marked by purpose and impact.



Recognizing our outstanding graduates also reinforces the importance of a strong alumni community and the power of inspiring current students to lead with purpose and conviction. Each award recipient reflects the enduring value of a CCU degree, as well as the spiritual formation that occurs at the institution. Their lives remind us that every graduate carries the potential to shape the future in significant and transformative ways.

CCU's Alumni Charge, read at every Commencement, reminds us: "The University is not the campus, not the buildings on the campus, not a line on your resume, and not a piece of paper. The University is all of us, and it is you. You are her ambassadors, and you will carry her influence and knowledge wherever you go to impact the world in your callings." The 2025

Alumni Impact Award recipients have carried the influence of their CCU experience, expanded on it, and stayed faithful to Jesus Christ. As you read their stories on the following pages, be inspired by their work and their wisdom. ▶





GREG STIER

(B.A. '88)

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Greg Stier graduated from CCU in 1988 with a degree in youth ministry. He is an evangelist, author, speaker, and founder of Dare 2 Share Ministries International. Yet his favorite roles are husband to fellow CCU alumna Debbie (Hein) (B.A. '90) and father to Jeremy and Kailey, who is a current CCU student.

In 1991, Stier founded Dare 2 Share (D2S) with a vision to equip teens to share their faith confidently. That mission intensified in 1999 after the Columbine High School shooting, just minutes away from the ministry's headquarters. Deeply convicted that young people needed the hope of Jesus like never before, Stier resigned from

“
CCU is where the trajectory of my life changed.
”

a local pastorate to pursue Dare 2 Share full time. Since then, he has spoken, trained, and written extensively about youth ministry and evangelism, and millions of lives have been impacted by his ministry.

“As the Casting Crowns song goes, ‘I’m just a nobody trying to tell everybody about the Somebody who can change anybody.’

“One of my favorite verses is Acts 20:24: ‘However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.’

“Although I am super grateful and humbled by this award, I too consider my life worth nothing to me, and my aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me to mobilize a generation to evangelize the world.

“CCU is where I got my solid theological foundation under Jonathan Smith, who led the theology department at the time. This is where I learned my solid youth ministry philosophy under R.J. Koerper, who was the head of the youth ministry department at the time, and where I took preaching class under Dr. Frank Aimes.

“This is where I met my wife — in those old row apartments that look exactly the same as when we were students. CCU is where the trajectory of my life changed. This is where I received the training I needed to launch a global ministry that has now reached millions of teenagers with the gospel. And now my daughter is here at CCU, being shaped just as her parents were.

“But the job is not done. There are one billion teenagers in this world who desperately need the hope of the gospel. And this award serves as a reminder to me of the ultimate reward I’m looking for...straining for — 2 Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

To learn more about Stier’s ministry, visit dare2share.org.

RYAN CLARK

(B.S. '12)

Ryan Clark graduated from CCU in 2012 where he played on the men's baseball team and graduated with a degree in business administration. Today, he is the CEO and partner at Reach The Lost and is a purpose-driven leader known for his ability to build and grow mission-minded businesses. With a career forged in sports and leadership, his early professional years were spent leading marketing teams at various companies, sharpening the strategic and organizational skills that now define his work. During the pandemic, Clark sensed God's call to leverage these abilities for kingdom impact, applying his business expertise to ministry.

In 2021, Clark took the helm of what was then just an idea from his now-business partner: "I think we can intercept searches for churches on Google." Today, Clark and his team now help support some of the largest and fastest-growing churches in the United States, reaching more people online and leveraging digital strategies such as Google Ad Grants, SEO, Google Paid Ads, and other engagement tools.

Clark's driving force is a passion to see people who are far from Christ come to know Him, to help churches flourish in their calling, and to blanket communities across the nation with the hope of Jesus Christ through the local church.

"CCU shaped my faith, and I am forever grateful for that," Clark stated at the award ceremony. "It also introduced me to my amazing wife, Shaylee (Pyle) (B.A. '12), and we now have two awesome kiddos — Adalee and Brantley. The words that have been put on my heart for me to share come from the book of Esther... 'for such a time as this.' And I want to share three points with you:

"First: Fifteen seconds of courage can change your life — be bold. In 2011, I attended a VALS conference, and summoned the courage to speak with a gentleman I did not know. He turned out to be Gary Armstrong, a trustee of CCU. He introduced me to his son, Brad, and then to his friend Chris Coughlin — who was in the sports industry. Chris had a major impact on my career arc and is now a business partner of mine at Reach The Lost. Everything that followed began with 15 seconds of courage to say hello to a stranger. So, be bold.

"Second: Hustle, prepare, and build trust. At CCU, there was a quote — 'Competence is the pioneering witness



for Christ in the workplace.' At age 25, I learned to start thinking like an owner, which means to work hard and always be prepared, which then built trust. These habits paved the way for the seat I am in today. I liken this to the Parable of the Talents found in Matthew 25:14-30, where we find encouragement to hustle and act on what God has entrusted us with, so we are prepared when Jesus returns. God wants to trust us with so much more, and some day we all want to hear: 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'

"My last point is: Pivot! What got you here won't get you there. In each season, your work and leadership have to look different as you level up. Things are changing at a fast pace in our careers, families, and the world, but Scripture gives us guidance for every transition. This is why Mark 2:22 encourages us to 'pour new wine into new wineskins.' We must continually renew our minds as we walk through changing landscapes and seasons."

Be bold. Hustle, prepare, and trust. Pivot to new things with confidence.

To learn more about Clark's work, visit: reachthelost.com. ►



HÉCTOR JARDON

(B.A. '16)

Héctor Jardon was nominated for showing exceptional promise in his early career. He is a conductor, saxophonist, and educator originally from Toluca, Mexico. He currently serves as the assistant conductor of the Littleton Symphony Orchestra, affiliate faculty in saxophone and music education at Colorado Christian University, music director and worship leader at Providence Bible Church, and music director and conductor of the Denver Rock Orchestra.

“
The story of the
gospel can be
beautifully told
through music.
”

Jardon has been the recipient of multiple awards and recognitions from the University of Denver and Colorado Christian University, and he has conducted ensembles throughout the Denver Metro area, as well as in Mexico. He is married to fellow CCU alumna Emily (Webb) (B.A. '16), and when he is not rehearsing or performing, he enjoys cheering on the Nuggets and the Broncos.

“The biggest musical influence on my life was my father, Héctor Jardon Sr., a Toluca-based singer and performer,” Jardon explained at the awards ceremony. “Since I was young, my musical talents have been apparent, and I started taking piano lessons at the age of six. By the time I was 14, after I had several years of musical education, my father bought me a saxophone, and I entered the Conservatorio de Música del Estado de México (Conservatory of Music of the State of Mexico), where I earned an associate degree in jazz studies.

“I have released two solo albums, with a third on the way. My most recent album, *Mil Ideas*, features all original songs, written and performed by me. Throughout my career, I have performed with several bands and artists — including Jorge Romano, Tom Wopat, and Big Band Jazz Mexiquense — and I have participated in various recordings as a soloist and as a sideman with my father.

“All of this to say: The story of the gospel can be beautifully told through music. In addition to my life in Colorado, I am currently working in music and performing in and around Central Mexico. I stay busy producing and performing in concerts of varying genres and settings, from jazz combos to joint concerts with international artists. On top of this performing career, I am jump-starting a music ministry that will use the native musical roots of other cultures to share the Christian message around the world.”

To learn more about Jardon, visit: hectorjrmusic.com.

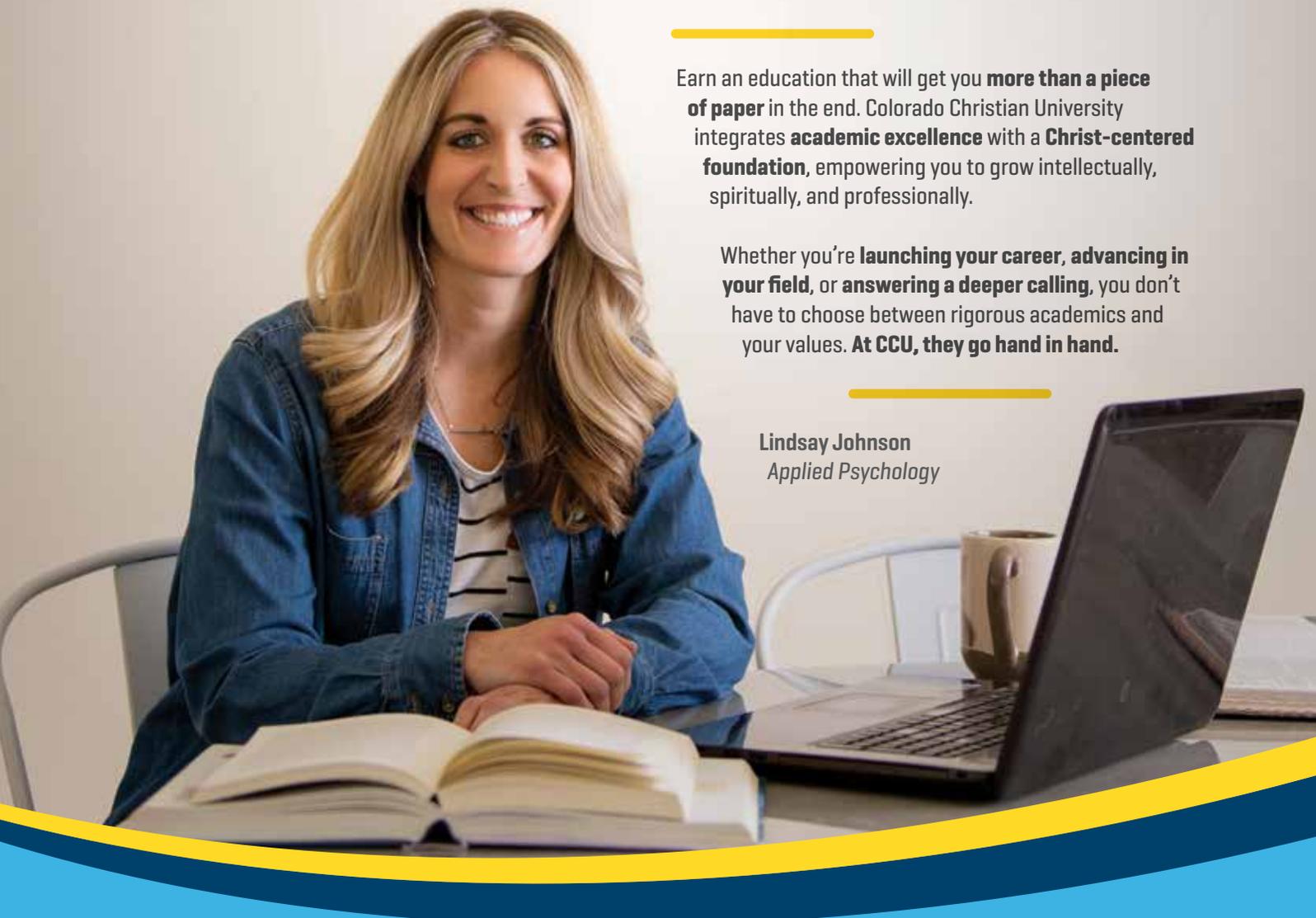




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Lindsay Johnson
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A GAME-CHANGING

GIFT RESHAPES THE FUTURE OF CCU ATHLETICS



Colorado Christian University is stepping into a new era — one defined not only by competition, but by vision. This fall, the University quietly received one of the most significant private contributions in its history: a \$5 million anonymous gift that will launch construction of CCU's first dedicated athletics facility.

For decades, Cougar athletes have trained and competed without spaces designed specifically for them. Now, that is about to change.

The gift arrived after an unexpected observation. The anonymous donor noticed a consistent pattern woven among CCU's strongest graduates: Many were former student-athletes. Engineers, nurses, business leaders — Cougars whose years on the field and court shaped their discipline, resilience, and leadership long after graduation.

Motivated by that connection, the donor hoped to accelerate the University's ability to recruit top Christian student-athletes nationwide — young people eager to grow in both skill and faith, and who may perhaps one day lay down long-term roots in Colorado.

"This moment is nothing short of historic," said CCU President Eric Hogue. "Our athletes compete with heart, discipline, integrity, and grit. Now we can build facilities that reflect their dedication and our mission."

MOMENTUM YEARS IN THE MAKING

The \$5 million commitment did not emerge in isolation. It follows a growing wave of support that has steadily reshaped expectations for Cougar Athletics.

Former CCU athletes Scott and Donna Miller, along with Interstate Batteries, sparked broad participation with a \$2 million challenge match. Their contribution came on the heels of a \$2.5 million anonymous lead gift — the largest in the program's history at the time.

Together, these investments pushed the campaign forward and signaled something bigger than bricks and turf: a belief that athletics is central to CCU's identity.

"Athletics play a vital role in shaping our Christ-centered campus culture," said Dr. Neal Anderson, vice president of Student Life and Traditional Enrollment. "These new



“ATHLETICS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN SHAPING OUR CHRIST-CENTERED CAMPUS CULTURE.”

facilities will attract student-athletes seeking a community where competitive excellence and spiritual formation go hand in hand.”

BEYOND THE FIELD

Phase one of the project will introduce new outdoor spaces designed to elevate training and expand opportunities for CCU’s growing roster of athletic programs. For Athletics Director Jon Poag, the milestone represents the answer to years of prayer and preparation.

“Our coaches and student-athletes have been praying and preparing for this day,” Poag said. “These facilities will transform how we train and compete while shaping leaders and followers of Jesus.”

While the campaign has crossed a major threshold, \$4.4 million is still needed to fully fund the project. More than 125 donors have already joined the effort, and CCU

leaders hope the momentum will continue.

“This investment is about attracting the best and brightest,” said Daniel LaBry, vice president of University Advancement. “Student-athletes are natural leaders — future nurses, teachers, engineers, entrepreneurs. We’re inviting alumni, families, and friends to help finish what’s been started.”

A VISION BECOMING REALITY

Groundbreaking is still ahead, but the energy on campus is unmistakable. What began as a bold idea is quickly becoming a defining chapter in CCU’s history — one that will shape generations of athletes and the University they represent.

As anticipation builds, the Cougars aren’t simply waiting. They’re preparing for a future that finally matches their ambition. 

ROOTED IN LIGHT

How Faith Carried Shannon King Through the Darkness

By Heather Johnson



A student-athlete's journey through mental health, identity, and the sustaining power of Christ.



In the stillness of early morning, when most of campus sleeps, Shannon King runs. But for the Colorado Christian University All-American, running is more than a sport — it's survival. It's worship. And it's testimony.

Before she was a record-setting athlete, King was a young woman fighting a silent battle. "It's hard to talk about," she said in CCU's *Behind the Jersey* interview. "I was in a really dark and lonely place... I didn't want to be here anymore." Her words are honest, raw, and painfully familiar for so many.

That dark season of depression began during her first semester of college, long before she transferred to CCU. She had moved several states away from home, excited for a fresh start — but the lingering effects of the pandemic created unexpected isolation. "It felt like I was starting over," King reflected. "The obstacles to building community were overwhelming."

Emotionally, she felt stuck and overwhelmed. Spiritually, she felt distant from God — yet still anchored in the truth. "Even when I didn't feel it, I clung to what I knew," King said. Alongside the emotional strain came internal and external pressure to perform — both academically and athletically. "I wrapped my identity in how well I performed," admitted King. "And when that got hard, I didn't know how to separate who I was from what I could do."

Transferring to CCU marked a turning point. Joining CCU Athletics helped King to battle her depression by providing authentic community that cares for one another deeply. "It gave me the chance to start building a real support system," she said. "That changed everything."

Then came Nationals.

"I was ranked in the top 30, ready to compete," King shared. "But during the race, my body just shut down. I couldn't feel anything... I collapsed just 60 meters from the finish." She remembers watching runners pass her by, unable to move, her dreams unraveling in real time.

"It felt devastating," King said. "I had worked so hard — not just that season, but for years — to reach that goal. Not finishing was heartbreaking." In the aftermath, her mom and a close teammate found her in the medical tent. "We just cried together," she recalled. "Their presence reminded me I wasn't alone."

Looking back, that moment still stings — but it also reshaped her. "I realized that struggle could lead to growth. That failure didn't define me."

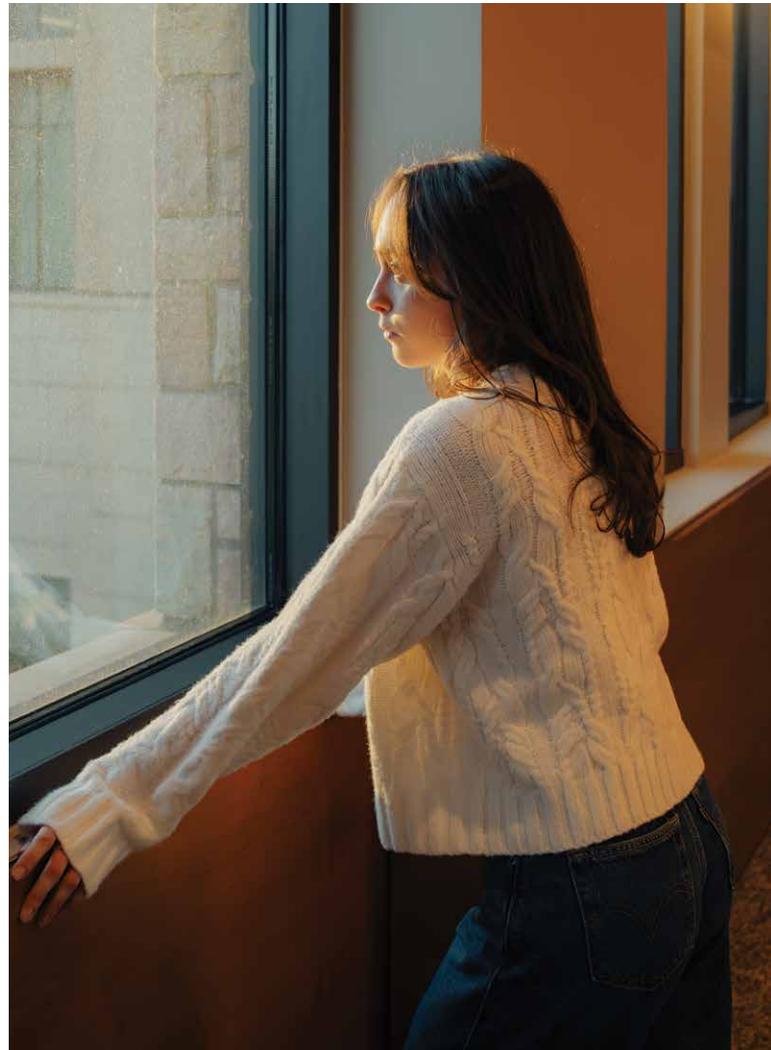
King's recovery wasn't quick. "Some days, even getting out of bed was a win," said King. "But I've learned I'm not alone. And neither are you." Healing, she now understands, is rarely linear.

She clings to the truth of John 1:5: "*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*" That verse became a lifeline. "It reminds me to look to Jesus, who has already overcome every darkness. That gives me hope."

It's not just a verse — it's a promise she's lived.

With the support of her coaches, her CCU family, and her faith, King began to speak out. She sought counseling. She opened up. And as she shared her story, others found courage to do the same.

Her faith played a foundational role in her healing. "Even when I didn't want to admit it, God was caring for me in ways I can only now see clearly," said King. "Knowing who I am because of whose I am changed everything." ▶





"GOD IS WORKING THROUGH THE PAIN."

Verses like Nehemiah 8:10 — *"The joy of the Lord is your strength"* — took on new meaning. "I had to redefine joy," King said. "It wasn't about feelings — it became my strength in the hard moments."

King also found healing in community. "Getting involved in church, serving, and building relationships helped me remember what mattered," she said. Friends, family, and coaches walked with her through the hardest days. "My coaches, especially, helped me start to see my identity beyond performance. Sometimes, just being present and listening was enough."

Today, King is not just running races — she's running toward a calling. Her experiences with mental health and healing led her to pursue graduate study in CCU's Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. "I want to help others feel heard and seen, especially when they feel invisible," said King. "My experience gave me empathy — and now, purpose."

To student-athletes or young adults struggling in silence, she offers this: "You don't have to go through it alone. Speak up. Ask for help. Even when it feels dark, keep showing up. This season will not last forever."

If she could speak to her past self, King would offer compassion and truth: "I'd tell her it's okay not to be okay; that healing takes time; and that God is working through the pain — even when it's hard to see."

Now, she sees the evidence of His faithfulness. "God has answered prayers I thought were impossible. He's given me peace in the middle of stress — and He's teaching me to trust His timing."

In Shannon King's story, we don't just see an athlete. We see a survivor, a sister in Christ, and a light in the dark for anyone struggling to keep going.

"It's not about being strong all the time," said King. "It's about trusting that God is strong for you. And He's not done writing your story." 🐾

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PLANNING FOR MOMENTS

Major League manager Mike Matheny and CCU Athletics Hall of Fame coach Larry Hays shared a message of faith, leadership, and legacy during Colorado Christian University's President's Speaker Series — inspiring a new generation of athletes to compete for Christ.



Coach Larry Hays (left) and Mike Matheny (right)



his past October, CCU welcomed former St. Louis Cardinals and Kansas City Royals Manager Mike Matheny as the featured guest for the fall President's Speaker Series, a full day devoted to exploring Christ-centered leadership on and off the field.

"There's both a pressure and a privilege that comes with being a Christian athlete," Matheny told the packed out Chapel, held in the CCU Event Center. "People are watching how you handle adversity and success. That's your opportunity to reflect something greater than yourself."

Throughout the day, Matheny met with CCU's baseball and softball teams and their coaches in a roundtable-style discussion in the Armstrong Center. He also took time to engage with students, answering questions about purpose and perseverance. His message was simple, but it resonated deeply: Excellence is an act of worship and your responsibility as Christ-centered student-athletes.

"Who you are has to be who you are everywhere," he said. "If you're a person of integrity and grit off the field, it's going to show on the field."

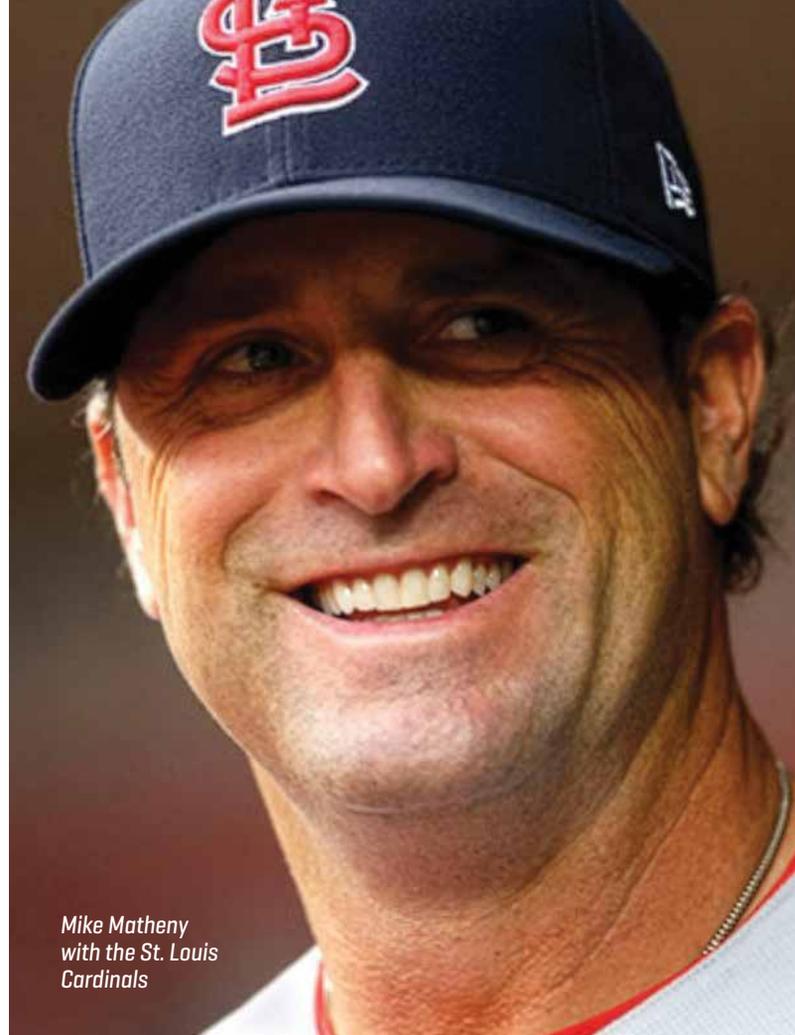
For CCU's student-athletes, the conversation hit home. "Hearing from someone who's competed at the highest level and still makes his faith the center — it's motivating," said one player.

A CALL TO LEAD

The President's Speaker Series, hosted by President Eric K. Hogue, invites thought leaders to challenge CCU students to live out the University's mission: to impact the world with grace and truth. Matheny's visit added a distinctly athletic lens to that call.

That theme carried throughout the evening as the campus gathered for the Blue and Gold Banquet, a celebration of CCU Athletics and those who support it. Held in the Fran and Larry Donnithorne Great Hall, Matheny delivered the keynote address and accepted an invitation to become the official ambassador for CCU baseball and softball — a volunteer role supporting both programs through mentorship and national representation.

The appointment felt natural. "I've spent my life around baseball," Matheny said with a grin. "But what excites me about CCU is the opportunity to combine that experience with a faith community that's unashamed about Jesus Christ. I'm honored to serve as a resource for the coaches and players here."



Mike Matheny
with the St. Louis
Cardinals

LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

The evening also marked a milestone moment for one of CCU's most beloved figures: Coach Larry Hays, head coach of Cougar softball, was inducted into the CCU Athletics Hall of Fame.

Hays joined CCU in 2019 after a storied 40-year career in Texas collegiate athletics, becoming one of the winningest coaches in NCAA history. When he took the stage, Hays deflected praise with his characteristic humility and humor.

"Coaching here has been a blessing," Hays said. "At CCU, teachers and coaches see our players as eternal beings. That makes all the difference."

His players agree. Hanna Espinoza, a junior from Kyle, Colorado, shared what makes Hays' leadership distinctive. "Coach Hays simplifies the game but elevates the purpose," she said. "He talks a lot about trust — about playing hard and playing free — and he reminds us every day that our faith comes first."

Even Matheny, himself a longtime coach, acknowledged Hays' unique ministry through sport. "Coach Hays is what you hope your daughter's coach will be — a servant leader who develops champions on the field and followers of Christ off it," he said. ▶

A HALL OF FAME WE WANT



COACH LARRY HAYS

When Larry Hays got the call to come to CCU, he and his wife, Nell, had just settled into retirement life in Texas. After 52 years in Lubbock and more than 1,500 wins across baseball and softball, he thought his coaching days were behind him.

Then came an unexpected phone call from then-Athletic Director Brian Wall — and a gentle nudge from God.

“I told my wife, ‘I think we’re supposed to do this,’” Hays recalled. “It wasn’t about starting over; it was about continuing to serve.”

Since arriving in Lakewood, Hays has led the Cougars to record-setting seasons — including a 57-win year and back-to-back conference championships — while mentoring dozens of All-Americans and All-Conference honorees. But ask him about statistics, and he’ll steer the conversation toward Scripture.

“Wins are wonderful,” he said, “but what lasts are the relationships. Coaching is ministry — that’s the only reason to do it.”

His players would agree. They describe him as a steady hand, a teacher of both game and grace, and a man who embodies the joy of the sport he loves. As one alum put it, “He doesn’t just coach us; he discipulates us.”

“WINS ARE WONDERFUL,
BUT WHAT LASTS ARE
THE RELATIONSHIPS.”

Hays’ induction into the CCU Hall of Fame, celebrated amid standing ovations and misty eyes, capped an evening that felt like family. “We thank you for accepting us and giving us an opportunity to do what we love,” he told the crowd. “This has blessed our lives more than you know.”

PLAYING FOR WHAT LASTS

As the banquet drew to a close, President Hogue returned to the stage.

“Mike and Larry remind us that excellence is never just about achievement,” Hogue said. “It’s about transformation — about living every moment, on the field and off, for the glory of God.”

For the athletes who filled the room, it was both a challenge and a charge. Their mission, like the men who inspired them, is to play the game well — but to live it even better. 🐾



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We have already raised nearly \$150,000 for the Take a Seat! Campaign from alumni, donors, parents, and friends! Help us reach our goal of \$225,000 to name every seat and provide vital music, theater, and dance resources for our talented students, faculty, staff, and guest artists.

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

SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Biblical Studies (A.A., B.A., M.A., Certificate)
Christian Ministry (B.A.)
Executive Leadership in Christian Ministry (M.A.)
Theological Studies (M.A.)

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

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

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



A.A. = Associate of Arts | A.S. = Associate of Science | B.A. = Bachelor of Arts | B.S. = Bachelor of Science

* BSN is offered in-seat only

College of ADULT AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

SCHOOL OF COUNSELING

Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.A.)
 Emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy
 Emphasis in Substance Use Disorders
 School Counseling (M.A.)
 Counselor Education and Supervision (Ph.D.)

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Alternative Licensure
 Alternative Licensure — Special Education

Curriculum and Instruction (M.A.)
 Emphasis in Alternative Licensure
 Emphasis in Biblical Studies
 Emphasis in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
 Early Childhood Education (B.A.)
 Educational Leadership (M.Ed.)
 Elementary Education (B.A.)
 Special Education (B.A.)
 Special Education (M.Ed.)
 Licensure or Non-Licensure
 Emphasis in Alternative Licensure
 Endorsement in Special Education Generalist
 TESOL (M.Ed., Certificate)
 Endorsement in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education

SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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 Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Transformational Leadership (DNP)
 BSN to DNP
 Family Nurse Practitioner and Transformational Leadership (DNP)
 BSN to DNP
 Nurse Educator and Transformational Leadership (DNP)
 MSN to DNP
 Transformational Leadership (DNP)



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

College of UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Undergraduate Programs

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP

Accounting (major, minor, dual degree)
Business Administration and Management (major, dual degree)
Business as Missions (minor)
Business Data Analytics (minor)
Camp Management (minor)
Economics (minor)
Entrepreneurship (major, minor, dual degree)
Finance (major, minor, dual degree)
International Business (minor)
Leadership (minor, emphasis)
Management (minor, emphasis)
Marketing (major, minor, dual degree)
Military Science — Army (minor)
Outdoor Leadership (major, minor)
Pre-Law (minor, emphasis)
Public Accountant Preparation (minor)

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

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

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

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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



College of UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Undergraduate Programs

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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

SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Nursing (major)

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Biology (major, minor)
Chemistry (minor)
Computer Science (major)
Engineering (major)
Engineering Design (minor)
Health Sciences (major)
Kinesiology and Exercise Science
 (major, minor)
Mathematics (minor)
Pre-Engineering (associate)
Pre-Medical Profession (major)
Pre-Physician Assistant (major)
Pre-Physical Therapy (major)
Science (major)

Sports Management (major)
STEM Research (minor)

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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



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THE *Power* OF ANNUAL GIVING

Fueling Possibility Across Campus

Each year, thousands of alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends come together to make a lasting difference at Colorado Christian University. Through annual giving, they help turn dreams into opportunities for students, regardless of degree programs or extra-curricular interests.

Annual giving supports every part of the CCU experience — from scholarships to athletics, from outdoor leadership to choir tours, from March for Life to mission trips. Your annual gifts to the University play a remarkable role in delivering an exceptional educational experience — both in and outside of the classroom, on and off the field.

For many students, a single gift — regardless of size — can make the difference between attending CCU and staying home.

HOW YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

- 56% of our on-campus students qualify for need-based aid, and that number jumps to 75% for our online students. Your investment helps decrease student loan debt and empowers students to pursue the calling God has placed on their lives. You can support:
 - o The CCU Fund
 - o The Hope Fund
 - o Athletic Scholarships
 - o A Named Scholarship to help students with financial need

- Student experiences play a significant role in helping students apply the real world to their academic journey. Whether it's a band tour, a competition for Moot Court, club hockey, conferences, or research projects, these experiences require vital funding for equipment, travel, and other resources. You can support:

- o **Academic Fundraising**, preferencing a school, degree program, student club, or other activity that is meaningful to you.

- CCU leadership is often presented with new opportunities that require a swift response to emerging needs — such as hosting guest speakers, launching innovative initiatives, or funding vital programs. You can support:

- o **The Student Impact Fund**, helping to ensure these opportunities are made available to students, and the University can continue to thrive in a changing world.

EVERY GIFT MATTERS

There is a common misconception that giving only matters if it's a large gift. In reality, most gifts to CCU are modest — but when combined, they add up to millions of dollars in support each year. Collective impact is the true power of giving.

As CCU looks to the future — with bold plans for innovation, growth, and impact — the generous support of donors like you will remain a cornerstone of our success.

Join the tradition and give today!

You can return a gift in the enclosed envelope, or scan the QR code to visit our secure, online giving site and choose where you want to make a difference in the life of a student. 

If you wish to discuss your gift with a member of the Advancement team, please contact Kara Johnston Mott, director of annual giving and strategic engagement, at 303.963.3320 or email kjohnston@ccu.edu. Thank you for making a difference!

You can transform a student's future
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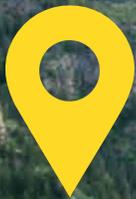
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Future. Intelligent. Life.

By Jeremy Porier (B.S. '00)
Associate Professor of Business Analytics

"Choice. The problem is choice."

It was 2003 when I first heard Neo utter those five words, explaining his AI overlord's dilemma with humanity. While I judged *The Matrix Reloaded* film to be of lesser quality than its predecessor, those words became the catalyst for me — prompting me to consider what truly separated us humans from the artificial intelligence we would inevitably create. Little did I know, at that very moment, my wife was only a few days pregnant with our first child — a creation that would give me an even greater understanding and deeper appreciation for the uniqueness of human life.



Since the birth of my two sons, I have considered many issues through the lens of fatherhood. When it comes to the advancement of technology and AI, I find myself caught between a nostalgic longing for the simpler world I grew up in, while also intrigued by the possibilities of the world my children will help shape. There is little doubt that AI will impact their careers, health care, and decision making, but most often my thoughts drift towards its impact on their own raising of children.

Specifically, I wonder what our society's definition of "life" will be as my

grandchildren learn and grow. Will we truly educate future generations and value humanity's ability to think for ourselves? Will a manufactured thing that appears lifelike be granted the same rights as humans? Will AI be entrusted to arbitrate legal and moral decisions? These questions may seem far-fetched today, but the past 20 years have seen our society become increasingly willing to question truths that once seemed self-evident and obvious to many. Perhaps our modern "problem of choice" is whether we will choose now to be thoughtful, preparing for the profound questions of life, consciousness, and the soul that the rise of AI will inevitably bring.

As we reflect on the intersection of our faith and the growing influence of AI, I offer this prayer of benediction:

"Father God, we thank You for the inimitable uniqueness of Your creation of life, and for Your willingness to give the life of Your Son to provide for our salvation. Grant us wisdom as we utilize the creative gifts You have given us to innovate new tools, and discernment as we consider how and when they should be used. Keep our eyes ever fixed on You, the author and perfecter of our faith, as we spread Your gospel to the very ends of the Earth You created. Amen." 🐾



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OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

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