

CIU TODAY

*Record Enrollments at CIU
and Ben Lippen*

*Holding the Hand of a Dying
COVID Patient*

Recognizing Racial Diversity

*God Speaks Through Pain
– New Book by Dr. Mark Smith*

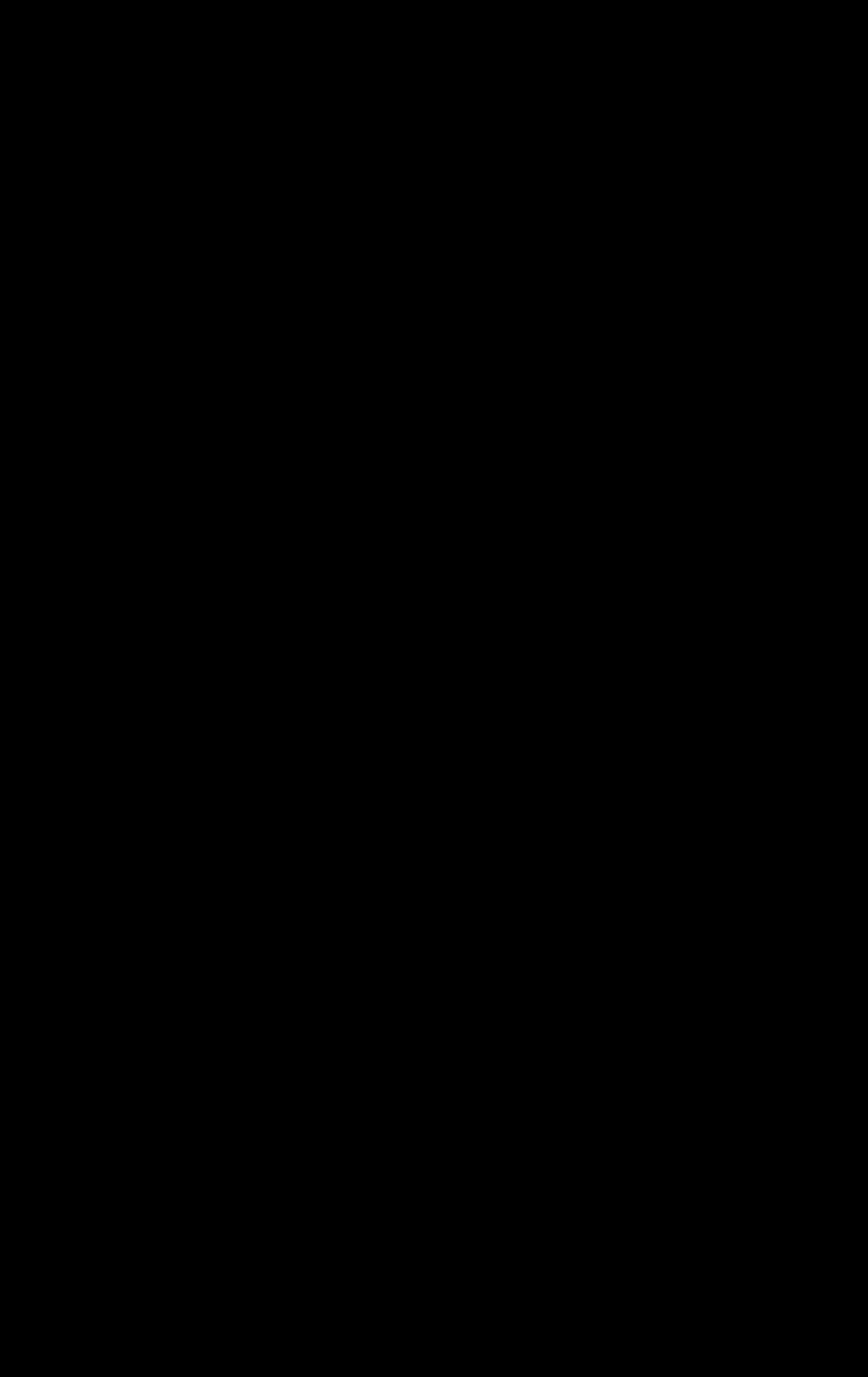
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Bob Holmes

Seth Berry Kierston Smith

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Since Leap Day on Feb. 29, it feels like I've been living in a different world. That marks the day for me when things started to change.

I was sitting with my son Ryan and my father-in-law at a spring training baseball game in Sarasota, Florida watching the Baltimore Orioles host the Miami Marlins. There we were

elbow to elbow with fellow baseball fans we had never met. The words "social distancing" were not in our vocabulary. But we had heard about something called coronavirus over in China and spreading into Europe.

The call of the beer vendor coming up our aisle caught our attention.

"Hey, I got Corona!" Ryan and I looked at each other as I said, "I can't believe he said that."

Of course, he was selling the Mexican beer by that name. But I still can't believe he said it.

Two days later, as we were leaving Florida to head back to South Carolina, the headline in the Sarasota newspaper announced Florida's first coronavirus cases had just been confirmed in





By Dr. Andre Rogers
Doctor of Ministerial Leadership Director, Professor of Church Ministry

We all recall times when individuals and institutions have fallen short of reflecting the principles upon which they declare to stand. Yet, it is great to remember the times when institutions, such as Columbia International University, biblically respond to the cultural climate in which they serve. As I reflect on three decades as a CIU faculty member, through the years CIU's leadership has recognized the importance of taking intentional steps to minister to, and with, people of color.

In the 1930s, Marguerite McQuilkin, the wife of our first president Dr. R.C. McQuilkin, founded Bethel Bible Camp for African American children so they could learn about God and have the summer camp experience that white children already enjoyed. Today, the camp is called Bethel Christian Camp and includes children who are a mix of ethnic and socio-economic groups.

I was present in the 1990s when CIU President Dr. Johnny Miller

made a public statement regarding removal of the Confederate flag from the dome of the South Carolina Statehouse saying: "I see the flag as being a rallying point around which the church could show that it would not act in a racist way, which is not to say that everybody who supports the flag is racist. But if my black brothers and sisters see it as racist, then I want to serve them."

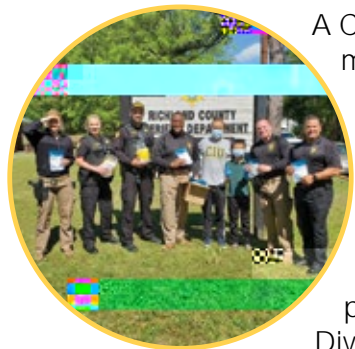
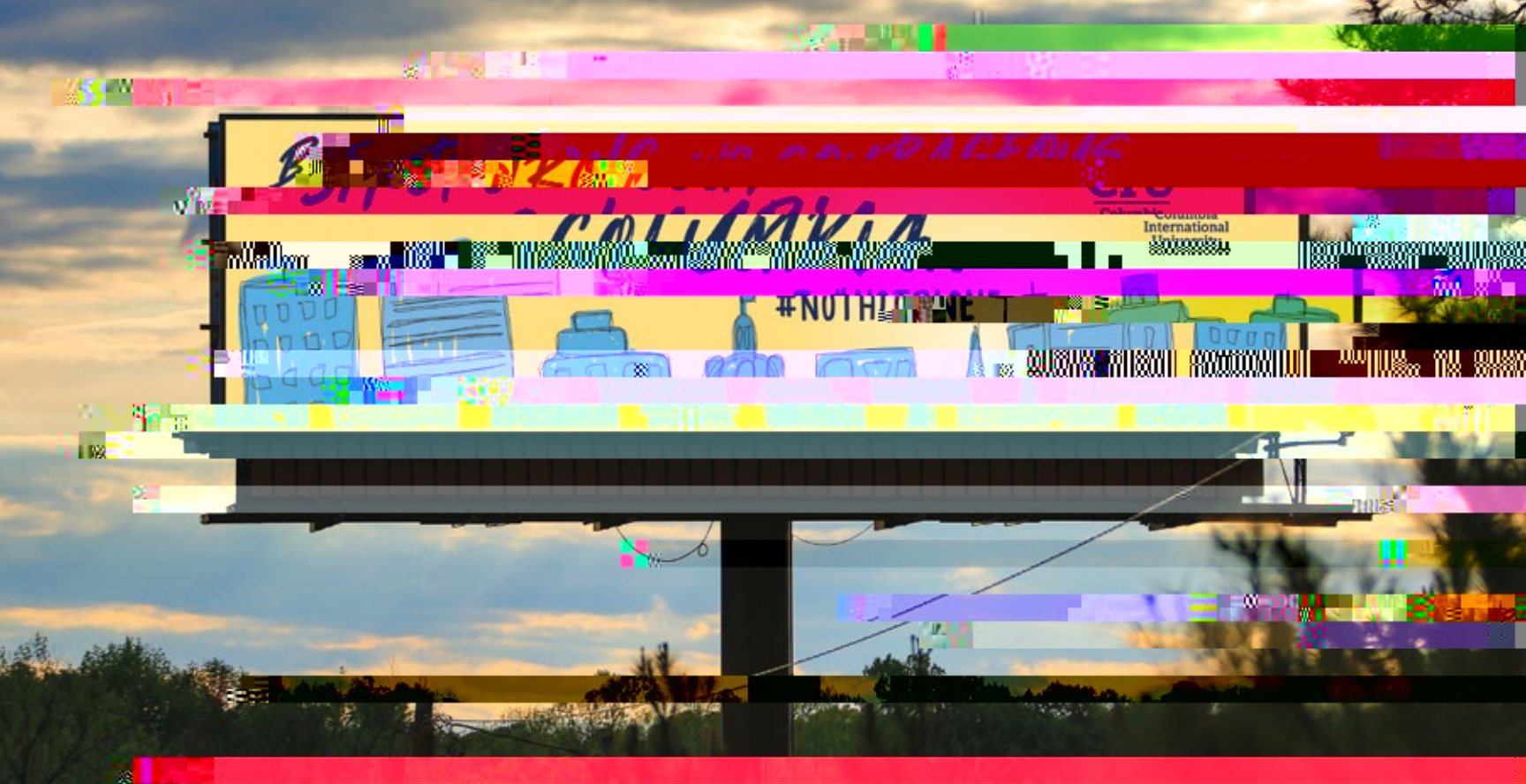
As the premier Christian institution in South Carolina, CIU is continuing to take action to make CIU more reflective of the diverse nature of the body of Christ. In recent years under the leadership of President Dr. Mark Smith, I have witnessed CIU address the sobering reality of the plight of African Americans by initiating actions on and off campus.

Recognizing employment inequalities in the workplace, Dr. Smith has championed the charge of racial diversity. When I came to CIU in 1999, I was the only African American on the faculty. But over the last three years, CIU has hired African American professors, administrators, and

coaches to work in critical positions throughout the university so that CIU will be more reflective of its core value of Evangelical Unity and the rich diversity of the body of Christ. Now I sit around the table and see eight African American professors and senior leaders, as well as over 25 other African Americans who are a part of the CIU family of employees. What a blessing to behold what God has done!

Additionally, the university has brokered the purchase of a number of properties on the Monticello Road corridor for economic development. The demography for the area is 75% African American and our desire is that, as CIU grows, CIU's neighborhood will also reap the tangible benefits of CIU's investment. Already, The North Columbia Business Association has recognized CIU with the Community Impact Organization of the Year Award for its efforts.

While I and the CIU leadership recognize much more work is left to be done, we believe the best is yet to come. ■



A CIU student from China helped meet the critical need for M95 masks by distributing them free to those on the front lines of the battle against the coronavirus.

Tiepeng Lyu, who is studying for his Master of Divinity degree, provided 200 masks to the Training Division of the Richland County Sheriff's Department located in the

Denny Terrace neighborhood where Lyu lives, just down Monticello Road from CIU.

When the masks were in short supply in the United States, Lyu had the masks shipped from his home country.

"We really appreciate his efforts in supporting the Richland County Sheriff's Department and his community," said Sheriff Leon Lott.

Lyu also provided 200 masks to health care workers at an assisted living facility and another 200 to a doctor's office in the nearby Eau Claire neighborhood. ■

Dave Wegener (right) with a customer from Beaufort County Emergency Services.

CIU alumnus Dave Wegener (Class of '91) usually concentrates on setting up custom Mac computers and helping Apple users with tech problems. But after the Covid-19 outbreak in South Carolina, Wegener's Columbia business, Wedge, shifted its focus to producing medical protective devices, starting with face shields.

At one point, Wegener was producing more than 10,000 shields per day and "supplying most of the needs for South Carolina hospitals," Wegener said. ■

Face masks sewn by refugees in the overcrowded Moria



Joey Ketcherside was there to hold the hand of a man dying of Covid-19. He was the only one who could offer the touch.

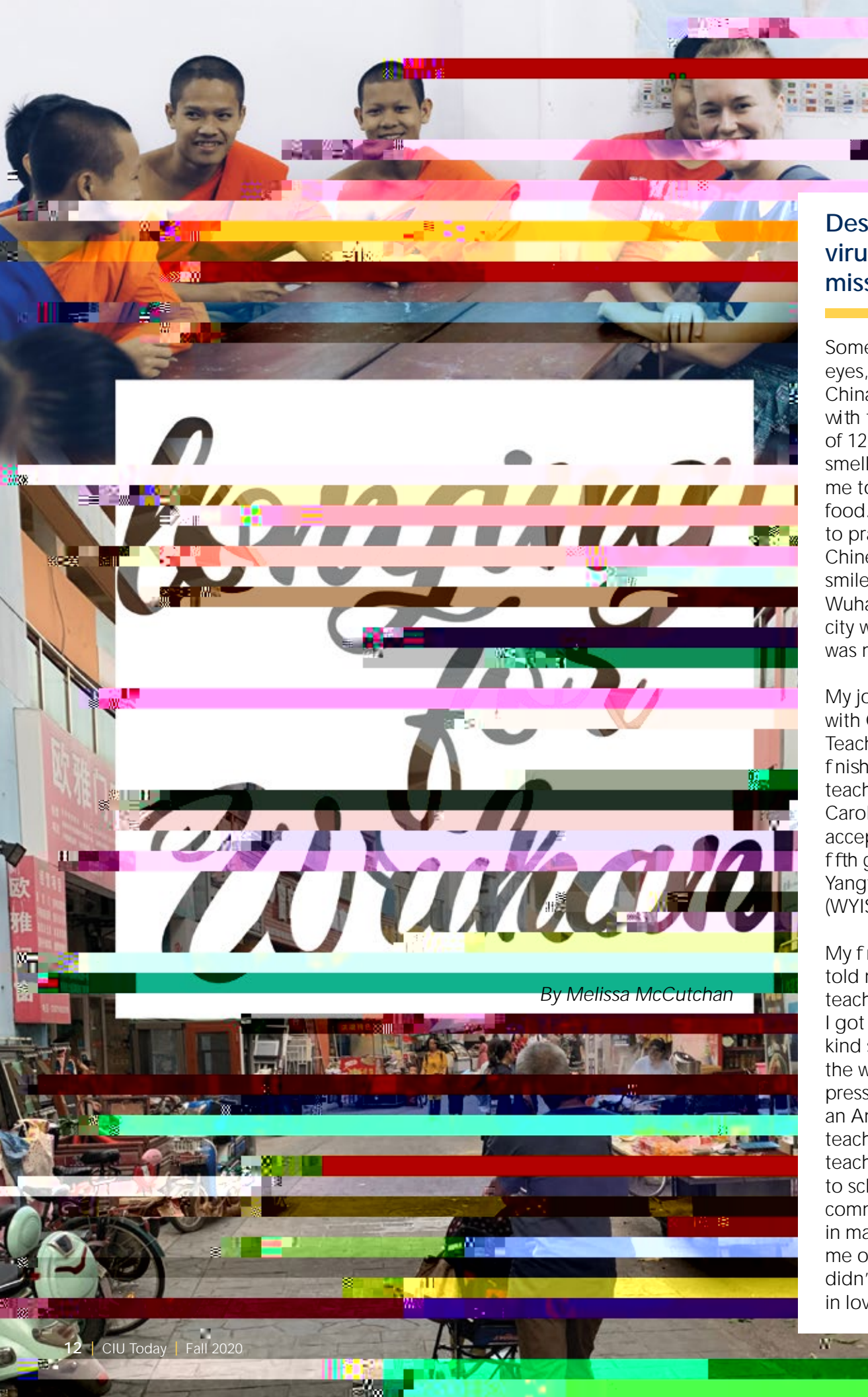
Ketcherside, a 2004 CIU alumnus, is a nurse in the Medical Intensive Care Unit of Prisma Health Richland

abilities to draw attention to things that would otherwise go unnoticed.

During our orientation, the associate dean of WJI, Professor Lee Pitts said, " Part of a journalist's job is to encourage people, compel them — maybe even chide them a little —to turn their heads toward the plights of

others." Indeed, the time is now. He likened a journalist to the watchman in Ezekiel 33 who sees danger coming and is charged with warning the community.

This is not easy work, nor is it glamorous. It involves fully entering into a moment, observing the details, asking hard questions, pursuing stories,



◀ Melissa McCutchan teaching English to Buddhist monks

Despite its infamous virus, CIU alumna misses “home”

Sometimes, when I close my eyes, I go back to Wuhan, China. The sidewalks buzz with the chatter and shuffle of 12 million residents. The smell of sesame oil beckons me to buy my favorite street food. Ordering allows me to practice my tortured Chinese, and the shop owner smiles at my attempt. I miss Wuhan every day; before the city was international news, it was my home.

My journey to China began with CIU’s Master of Arts in Teaching program (‘16). After finishing my degree and teaching two years in South Carolina public schools, I accepted a position as a fifth grade teacher at Wuhan Yangtze International School (WYIS).

My first month at WYIS, I told my boss, “I think I’m in teacher paradise.” And I was! I got to teach motivated, kind students from all over the world — with far fewer pressures than I faced as an American public school teacher. The students and teachers *loved* coming to school each day. Our community was like a family; in many ways, it reminded me of my years at CIU. It didn’t take long for me to fall in love with China.

By Melissa McCutchan

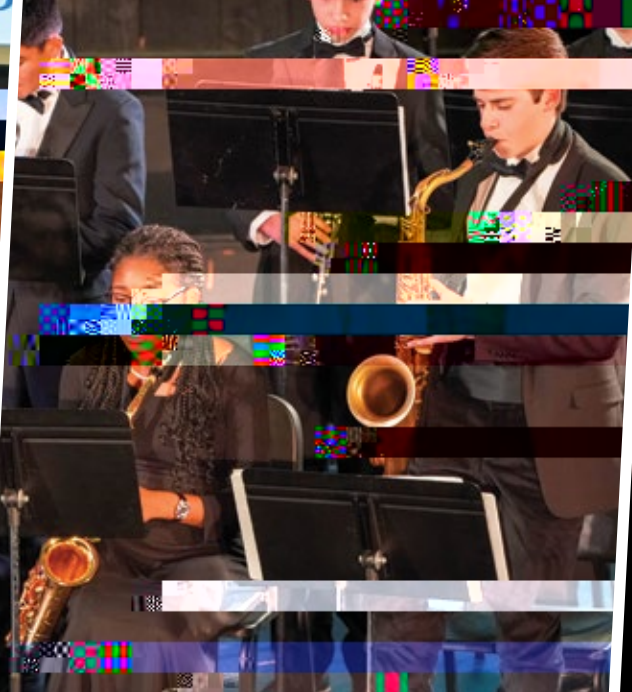
I rediscovered
the joy of simply
knowing Jesus

By Taylor Nelson

B L F A D

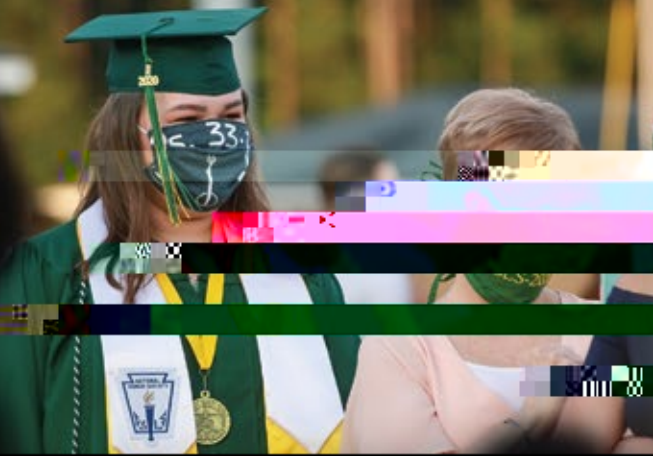
Business is booming in Ben Lippen Fine Arts! The 2019-2020 academic year saw tremendous growth in several programs across the department. In the Visual Art Program, the completion of the \$5.5M Arts & Science Center provided students with a state-of-the-art studio and allowed students to explore creative methods in Drawing, 2-D Art & Design, and 3-D Art & Design. Student work was featured at the South Carolina State Fair and in the SCISA (South Carolina Independent School Association) Art Show, with multiple students earning ribbons for their creations.

In the Choral Program, Ben Lippen renovated its Choir Studio and welcomed over 70 students to the curricular program (the highest program enrollment in recent years!). Stemming from increased student interest, Ben Lippen launched its first a cappella group composed entirely of male students. With members representing grades 7-12, Varsity Men's A Cappella stunned the audience with their debut performance at the 2020 State



Columbia International University President Dr. Mark Smith told the Class of 2020 that when the decision was made to postpone the spring commencement in May, he "sat in his office and wept as I thought of you graduates not getting to celebrate. But today, we are celebrating."





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I began attending Ben Lippen in kindergarten, and over a decade later, the next chapter of my life is rapidly approaching. As a sophomore and junior, there were many days where I longed to graduate, but now that my time at Ben Lippen has come to an end, I realize how truly blessed I have been to have grown up in the Ben Lippen family.

As a student, I was challenged to grow in every aspect of my life. Ben Lippen has allowed me to thrive academically and athletically, and I will always be so grateful to all the teachers and coaches who took the time to invest in me personally and helped me to succeed. But aside from the worldly successes that other good high schools might help their students achieve, what makes Ben Lippen great is the spiritual interest that the faculty and staff take in the students. Through Bible classes and chapels, I developed a strong understanding of Scripture and have deepened my relationship with Christ. In every class, we learned through the lens of Christianity and saw how all of creation points to its Great Creator.

Not only has Ben Lippen's faculty been instrumental in helping me grow and succeed, but my classmates were what made my high school experience truly amazing, and the relational aspect of the Class of 2020 set us apart. Many of us have been in this same class for as long as we can remember, and while social cliques and stress are seemingly inevitable in the high school experience, one defining characteristic of my class was the unity that we shared. Whether you had been at Ben Lippen your whole life, or it was your first year, there was a sense of belonging. This was best exemplified in our come from behind victory in the 2018 Spirit Week as we rallied together, played fun and ridiculous games, and created the upset of the century, breaking the winning streak of the senior class.

Ben Lippen has thus shaped me and many others in the Class of 2020 into the people we are today. I believe that many in my class will go on to be incredibly successful, yet more importantly, I believe that many more will live gospel-centered lives that will impact the world for Christ because of their Ben Lippen experience.

“*...one defining characteristic of my class was the unity that we shared.*”

–2020 BLS Graduate, Camden Abrams

Wham!

The other driver suddenly veered across the center line and rammed into his car at a high rate of speed. He survived, but barely. Every day since that 1996 crash, debilitating pain has been his constant, uninvited companion.

But pain is only *part* of Dr. Mark Smith's story.

How did a gruesome accident not only test his Christian faith, but deepen it? How did Mark and his wife, Debbie, persevere through a bleak medical prognosis and months of excruciating rehab? How did they stave off resentment over someone else's carelessness? How has Smith fought through ongoing pain to serve with extraordinary success as the president of two Christian universities? How can he possibly call his brokenness a blessing?

A new book gives a riveting account of Smith's story. Co-authored by CIU Professor Emeritus Dr. Terry Powell, "Oh God, I'm Dying! How God Redeems Pain for Our Good and for His Glory," illustrates how the Smiths experienced God's sustaining grace through heartfelt prayer, God's Word, others in the body of Christ, Christian music and medical intervention.

Anyone who experiences physical pain or other forms of affliction will discover the encouraging irony of how God redeems pain when He chooses not to remove

it. The result of reading his story will be renewed hope that God can use broken



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BestColleges.com ranks Columbia International University the 2020 Best Online College in South Carolina, and CIU is #2 in the state for Best College Campus.

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER



"No matter the score on the board or the outcome of the game, CIU never falters in who they are and what they stand for and I believe that it is a very admirable thing."

That is a quote from Jenni Shepard, the athletic director and head softball coach of Truett McConnell University in Cleveland, Georgia, who nominated the CIU Rams women's softball team for the Appalachian Athletic Conference Champions of Character Women's Team Award.

Shepard is impressed with CIU's display of sportsmanship. She noted that when the games are over, CIU athletes greet members of the opposing team to give them a note with Scripture on it along with an encouraging message. Then, the teams meet for a short devotional thought and prayer. ■

All of CIU Athletics has been honored for its commitment to ministry. The Rams are the recipients of the 2019-2020 Sports Ministry Award presented by the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA). The award is presented to an NCCAA member institution for "significant spiritual outreach through the utilization of athletic ministries." ■



"No matter the score on the board or the outcome of the game, CIU never falters in who they are and what they stand for..."





CLASS OF 2024: WELCOME TO CIU!

By:
Alexander D. Brickey
CIU Student Writer

While the sky started out gloomy, the attitude around the CIU campus was bright. It was move-in day for the Class of 2024.

Upbeat music played as the student leadership readied masks and gloves to assist the new arrivals, just a few of the COVID-19 precautions that were taken.

“My favorite part of move-in day is how everybody gets excited and makes everybody feel welcome,” said Olivia Fleming, the president of MuKappa, an organization for missionary kids (MKs) who was helping with the move-in.

As cars with the new arrivals streamed down International Boulevard, they were greeted by friendly waves and assistance from CIU student leadership. Initial check-in was drive-thru style in a side parking lot. The new students and their families were then sent on to their new home in the residence halls.

It was there that they were immediately greeted by the

masked throng of eager helpers, ready to serve if the families desired the extra hands. Parents then had their last conversations with their sons and daughters before sending them off on the adventure that is CIU.

As Kierston Hull dropped off her freshman son, Colby, she called the move-in process “very easy.”


“The communication was very good. The welcoming when you get here was very good. And we’re looking forward to a great semester,” Hull said.

Aynsley Vivian, a freshman from Australia, said she appreciated the friendliness on campus as she moved in earlier in the week with other MKs.

“A special part about move-in day was realizing that there are other people like me here,” Vivian said.

Meanwhile, there was a Welcome Weekend full of activity. After getting settled into their new home, students

gathered to play a game called "Mission: Impossible."
They roamed the campus under the cover of darkness to
reach designated areas without being identified by student
leaders with flashlights. A strategy em... reuŇ d S sy ps/ hodS s nteu
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You may not know this. Before CIU's fourth president Dr. Johnny Miller answered the call to ministry, he was a newspaper sports reporter in Arizona. His lifelong love of sports, coupled with his passion for the message of Christ, has made him a wholehearted supporter and advocate of the role of CIU's athletics program.

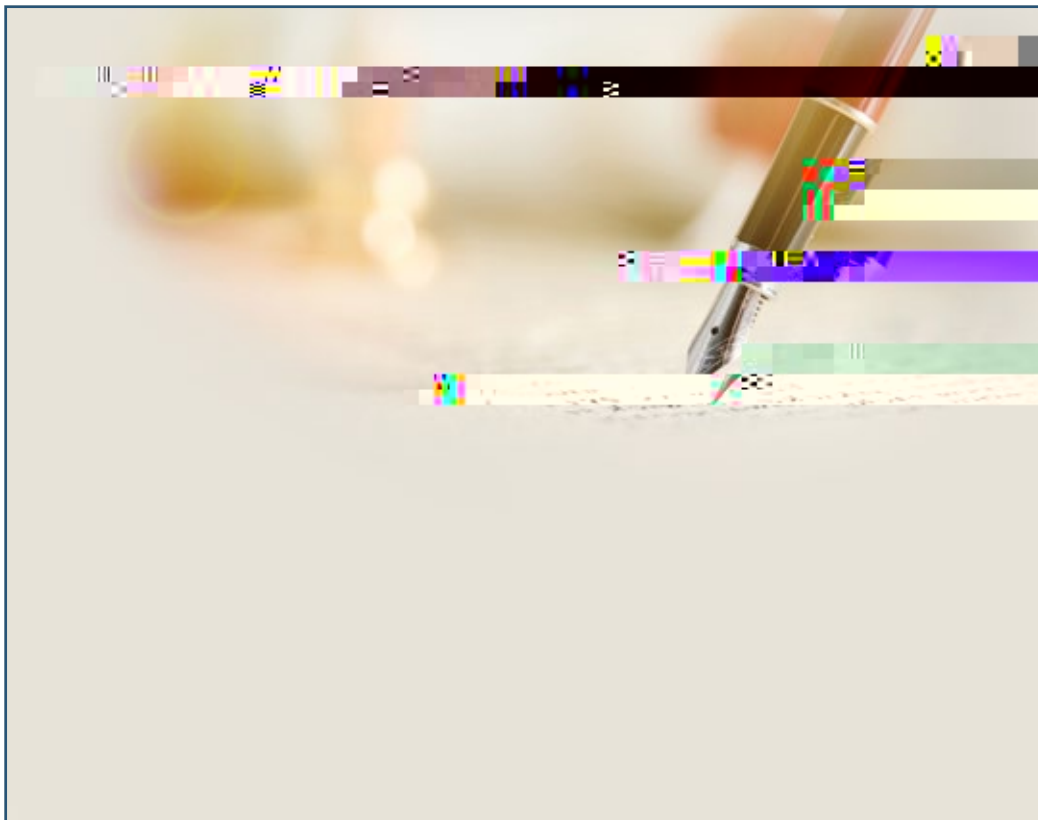
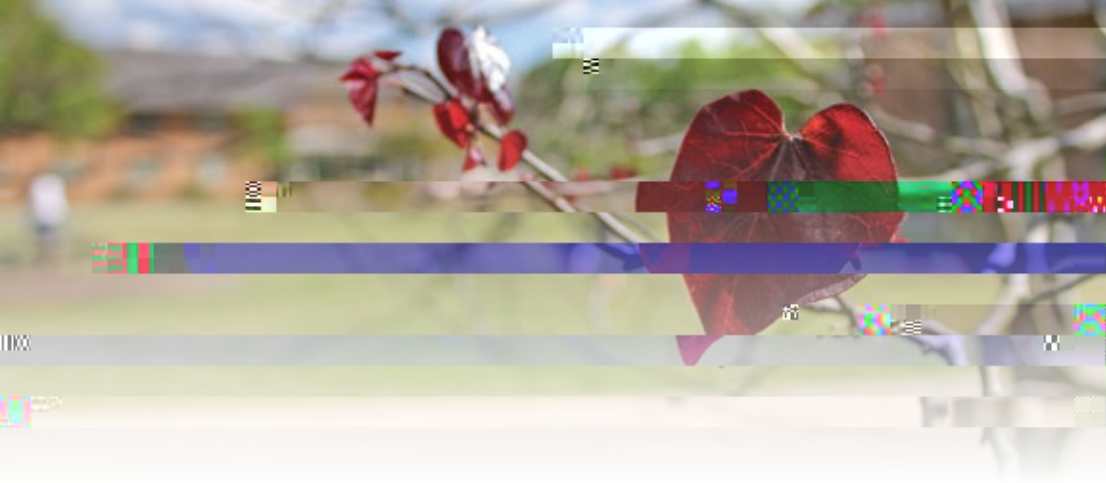
With that in mind, CIU is honoring Dr. Miller and his wife Jeanne by naming the outdoor athletic fields: **The Johnny and Jeanne Miller Outdoor Athletics Fields.**

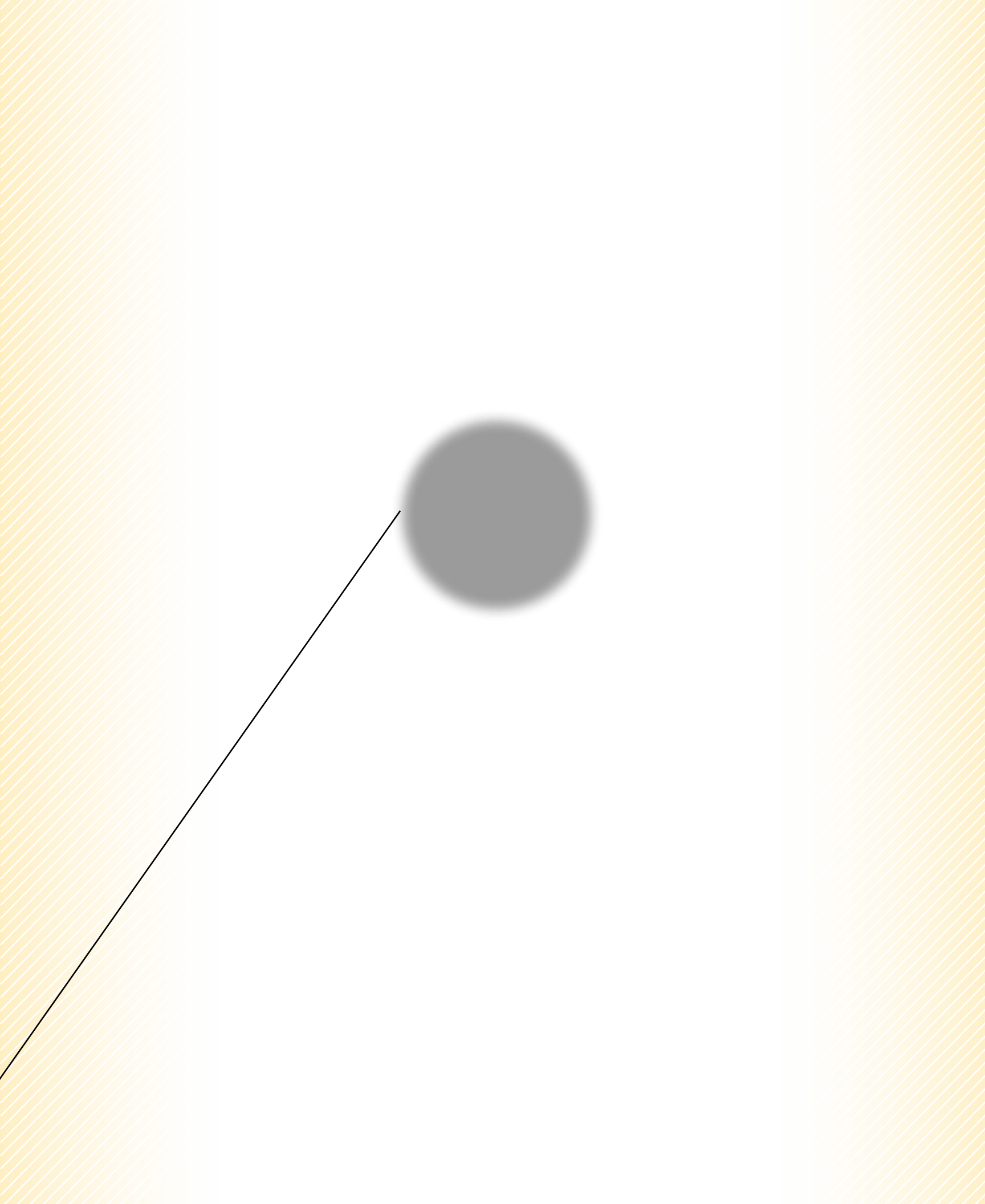
Funds from the \$500,000 campaign will be used to finish critical lighting on the fields and to fund an endowed scholarship in Johnny and Jeanne's name. This will be a fitting memorial to a man who dedicated his life to turning on lights in the darkness.

Join Team Miller! A comprehensive list of team members will be presented to Johnny and Jeanne at the dedication in March. Make sure your name is included! ■

A person familiar to many CIU alumni and donors has been promoted to a vice presidential position. Diane Mull arrived at CIU nearly 30 years ago when her husband Andy enrolled in seminary and she took on the role of president of the Wives Fellowship.

Mull has been serving CIU in a full-time capacity since 2011 as director of Alumni Relations and the Advancement Office. In 2017, she also became director of University Communications. This year, CIU President Dr. Mark







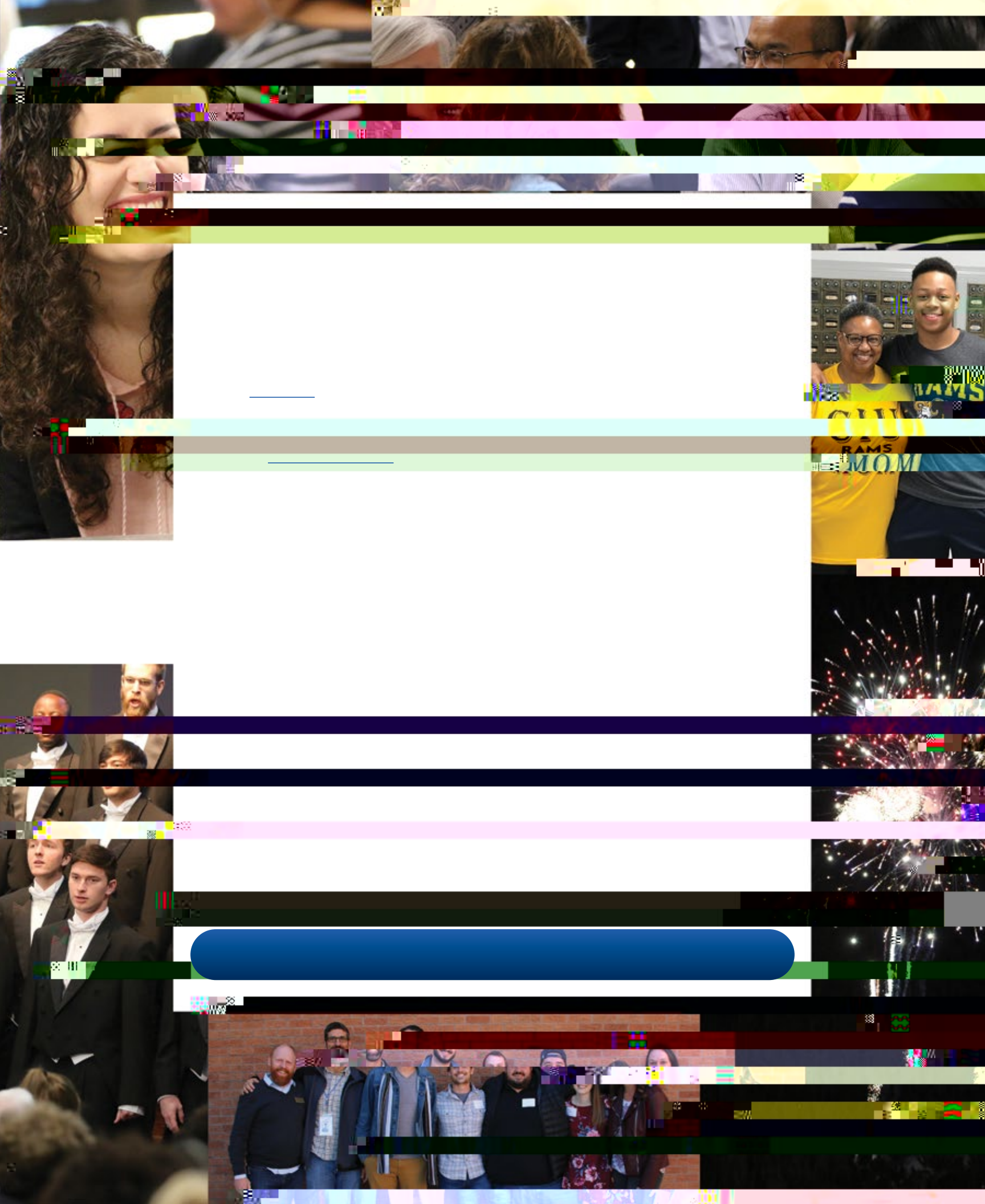
CU Homecoming 2020

Welcome Home

CU HOME COMING 2020

BLUE & GOLD

NOVEMBER FRIENDS & FAMILY WALKEN



celebrated his 103rd birthday in May. Bill and his late wife, Laura, worked as a surgeon/nurse team in several hospitals located in Tanzania, Kenya and in the Muslim-controlled Comoro Islands.

celebrated her 100th birthday in July with her family. She was an organist and pianist for many years and is a member at Buffalo Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. She is blessed by having her family close by to visit her regularly.

recently celebrated his 90th birthday with a tandem skydive in North Georgia and also published his memoir "Memories of Ben Hill Drive: A Southern Story." Addleton served for 35 years as a Baptist missionary in Pakistan and pastored several churches in Mississippi and in Middle Georgia. He and his wife, Bettie, celebrated their 67th anniversary in June. ✉ addletonh@bellsouth.net

volunteers at Go Ye Village in Tahlequah, Oklahoma where he lives and also volunteers at Hillside Church. ✉ genheimer@att.net

continue to serve in Hawaii. Bong Rin teaches at three seminaries, serves as

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has written

live
on a 15-acre farm north of Charlotte.
Lowell is an elder and worship director
at Shearer Presbyterian Church where
CBC alumnus Stephen Stout ('72) is
head pastor.

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