

*"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."
Romans 12:10 (ESV)*

CIU Alumni of the Year

Approved by CIU AALC on May 4, 2006

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Alumni of the Year recognition is bestowed annually to a graduate or graduates of Columbia International University. Each award recognizes and honors God's work in and through an individual whose life manifests CIU's goal "To Know Christ and Make Him Known".

1. This individual's life and ministry should reflect a faithful example of the five core values of CIU. These are: Authority of Scripture, Victorious Christian Living, World Evangelization, Prayer and Faith, Evangelical Unity.
2. This individual should demonstrate a lifestyle of ministry, rather than a specific vocation or location. Also, this individual should have a depth and breadth of ministry not commonly achieved by a recent graduate of CIU.
3. Award recipients should be chosen from all realms of ministry, including international missions, domestic ministry, volunteer service, family faithfulness, and marketplace ministry. An intentional variety of awards should bring up each realm of ministry at least once every 5 years.
4. It should be understood that award recipients are not perfect or without flaws, but rather, they glorify God in their humanity. The overall character of the individual should be witnessed by those who know them best, and should be faithful to the teachings of Scripture.
5. Consistent with Hebrews 11, this recognition seeks to glorify God who has been faithful in the recipient's life and ministry. The recipient represents so many other alumni who are faithful wherever God has called them, but all alumni will never be recognized by this method. Finally, the story of the life and ministry of each recipient should provide encouragement and focus to the current family of CIU.

NOMINATION:

The Alumni of the Year mission statement should be posted on CIU's Net Community, along with a nomination form. This would enable all alumni worldwide to be involved in the process of nomination for Alumni of the Year.

Nomination should include basic information about the alumnus, reasons for the choice, and personal observations about their life and ministry. There should not be any anonymous submissions.

These nominations will be kept by the Alumni Ministries office until the Alumni of the Year task force meets to begin the annual selection process. If an alumnus is not chosen in the immediate year, their nomination will be kept for consideration in future years.

The Alumni of the Year mission statement and nomination form should also be available at Homecoming for returning alumni to submit nominations. Current faculty and trustees of CIU, having honorary alumnus status, are allowed to submit nominations for Alumni of the Year, using the nomination form.

SELECTION:

Alumni of the Year honorees can be graduates of either the Bible college, graduate school, or seminary. In order for recognition of a couple, both spouses should be alumni of CIU. Conversely, if both spouses are alumni of CIU, both should be recognized together, even if one spouse has the more visible ministry. An Alumni of the Year honoree can be already deceased, although that would complicate the recognition process.

An annual Alumni of the Year task force will be chosen prior to Homecoming, and announced at the annual meeting at Homecoming. The task force will be chosen by the Alumni Association Leadership Council (AALC), together with the Alumni Ministries team. The task force can include members of the AALC and other alumni who are asked and willing to serve. The task force term will be for one year or until selection for the following year is complete.

The goal of the annual task force will be to review all nominations received and select several for further research. The task force members will conduct interviews and conversations with the nominees and those who can attest to their life, character, and ministry. They will determine whether each candidate meets the criteria listed in the Alumni of the Year mission statement.

Following is a list of questions which could be used in conversation with those who are asked to attest to the life, character and ministry of the nominee.

- Please describe the nominee's history with you or your organization.
- Would you please comment on how this nominee has impacted world evangelization?
- How does the nominee display the qualities of Biblical Authority and Victorious Christian Living?
- How has the nominee been strategic in advancing the Kingdom through prayer and faith?
- Please describe any significant accomplishments this nominee has achieved over his or her lifetime.
- What notable qualities make this nominee unique?
- Do you have any concerns regarding this nominee being honored as our Alumni of the Year?
- Do you have any final thoughts that you would like to share on behalf of this nominee, and why they are the best choice for this award?

The task force will also determine that the intentional variety of awards is maintained, as expected in item #3 of the Alumni of the Year mission statement.

When the task force is satisfied with their research, they will vote on one or more Alumni of the Year honorees for the following year. This should be done during the fall of the year, but no later than the February meeting of the AALC.

At the February meeting of the AALC, a spokesman for the task force will present the list of honorees, along with enough information for the AALC to vote on those honorees. The AALC will vote to approve the list of honorees for the next Homecoming.

Once the list is approved, the honorees should be contacted and arrangements made for each to attend Homecoming that fall. The honoree's names will be publicized, along with a request for photos, stories, etc. that can be used in their recognition. Their names should be included in all Homecoming promotions and on the CIU Net Community.

RECOGNITION:

The preparation for recognition will begin as soon as honorees are approved. The Alumni Ministries team, along with input from AALC, will decide the extent of the Homecoming recognition. This depends on the number of honorees, the schedule of Homecoming, the resources available on each honoree, etc. Media presentations or an individual presenter could introduce each honoree at the Homecoming Alumni of the Year chapel.

Further research and interviews should be achieved in this recognition process, including interviews with each honoree, to enhance the live presentation and written presentation. Interviews could include family members and spouse, individuals with whom the honoree ministered/worked. Letters and other writings, photographs, and stories can complete the research.

A written presentation/biography of each honoree should be included in the Homecoming information packets given to returning alumni. The written presentation/biography should also be available to current students and faculty. These materials will become a part of the CIU Archives, along with supplemental material obtained but not directly used.

The annual Alumni of the Year honorees should be included in other Homecoming events, including opportunities for them to speak and meet other alumni, students and faculty.

In some cases, it may be appropriate to open a scholarship award in the name of an Alumni of the Year honoree, and encourage contributions to an endowed fund that will assist students each year.

Permanent recognition of all the Alumni of the Year honorees, past and present, should be placed somewhere on campus as a lasting reminder of God's faithfulness to the graduates of CIU. This should serve as an encouragement and focus to current students, faculty, and alumni of CIU.

Further use of the written and media presentations of each honoree could be used in student recruitment materials, alumni gatherings, mailings, and other opportunities, not just in the year of their honor. All Alumni of the Year honorees should be included on CIU's Net Community, with periodic updates to maintain relevance.

Intentional efforts should be made to involve past Alumni of the Year honorees in the lives of current students as mentors and witnesses to God's faithfulness. Opportunities could include chapel speakers, prayer day involvement, evening spontaneous gatherings in the dorms, and other ideas, depending on the location, availability, and interest of the honorees. Written devotional materials could also be developed as an on-going and passive opportunity for blessing in the lives of students.

Past Alumni of the Year could also be honored at subsequent Homecomings, or through serving on an Alumni of the Year task force. All these efforts are designed to spotlight God's faithfulness, and provide an opportunity rather than a demand for honorees to be blessed, and to be a blessing to all associated with CIU.