

**Recent Alumni Recognition Award Interview**  
**2017 Recipient**  
**Nathan Aylestock, Class of '07**

**Q: How did you choose to attend CIU?**

**A:** I attended CIU through direct answer to prayer. I knew that's where the Lord was leading me. When I was a senior in high school I didn't know exactly what God had planned for me. I knew about CIU, and one night after youth group I remember praying with complete faith that if the Lord was leading me there He would reveal it to me and provide the money I needed to attend. The next day I got called out of class and down to the guidance counselor's office. She handed me an envelope with Psalm 46:10 written on it. I opened the envelope and there was \$2,500 dollars in it for me. I had no idea who it was from, but when I went to the bank later that afternoon it hit me that it was God answering my prayer I had prayed the night before. After that there was never a question in my mind. The Lord was calling me to do something different

**Q: What did you most enjoy about your time at CIU?**

**A:** The fact that CIU is biblically grounded in every aspect of education and college life was something that I really enjoyed. I did my undergrad in Youth Ministry, and after I graduated I worked for a year in CIU Admissions as an Admissions Counselor. The church I was attending at the time was really intentional about investing in me, and encouraged me to pursue my Masters. The Lord made it financially possible, and I got my M.A. with a focus on education and counselling. My counseling classes with Dr. Olshine, curriculum classes with Dr. Lindsay, and Bible for Teachers with Dr. Cooper have all played formative roles in how I teach Bible today.

**Q: What did you do after you graduated from CIU?**

**A:** Towards the end of my Master's Program I started working as the Director of Youth Ministry at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, and served there for eight years. After that I moved up to Rock Hill where I now teach Bible at Westminster Catawba Christian School.

**Q: What do you do now?**

**A:** A lot of what I did at CIU thoroughly prepared me for what I do now on a daily basis. I teach boys 7<sup>th</sup> grade Old Testament Survey, 8<sup>th</sup> grade New Testament Survey, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade Biblical Hermeneutics and the Gospel of John. I also teach a Shop Class for middle school boys, where they learn practical life skills like auto mechanic, woodworking, and outdoor living. There are times when it's hard, but there are so many beautiful times I just know I'm at the center of His will. I get to spend every day teaching God's word, and it is so good and so fun.

**Q: What advice/encouragement to CURRENT STUDENTS?**

**A:** Don't go through your educational experience thinking you know enough for your career path, because you're never going to be there. There's always more to learn. Your professors are going to be helpmates for years to come, so take advantage of the time and get to know them. They are there to really help you, not just to teach you in class.

**Q: What advice/encouragement do you have for ALUMNI?**

**A:** Ministry is messy. You're helping lead other sinners to know a sinless God. And it gets messy. My encouragement would be to remember what the Lord has done for you. Remember how he led you to CIU and how we each grew during our time there. There will be times we have to remember that experience, and how excited we were at the beginning to be in ministry, especially when we were in the trenches and in the thick of it, to be able to carry on. Sometimes we need to remember that God's grace is endless, even for ourselves, as ministry leaders. We need to be sure we are resting fully in His grace to give us the energy to continue on.

**Q: Prayer Requests?**

**A:** Pray for fervor. That we would continue to press on, and that I would live richly in the calling God has given me.