

Recent Alumni Recognition Award Interviews

[Daniel Stevanus, 2009]

Q: How did you choose to attend CIU?

A: I knew I wanted to go to a Bible College to study to be in ministry and heard about CIU from something I received in the mail. I then found out I knew some alumni from CIU, people I really respected. Finally, one summer I got to stop in and check out the campus, and I loved the feel of the place. So after much prayer and confirmation from God, I decided to attend.

Q: What did you study at CIU?

A: I studied Pastoral Ministry (and Bible) while I was at CIU. I didn't know exactly what type of ministry I would serve in, but I know I felt called to be a pastor and that the general area of study would prepare me for whatever God had set for me.

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

A: I most enjoyed the time I spent in community with other believers. I learned so much in the classroom and from chapels, but the most life change came in my life from living along side of other people. Both the guys on my hall who pushed me and challenged me to grow in my walk with God as well as the women I came into contact with that taught me to love others well. I was most transformed by simply living in community with others.

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

A: After I graduated CIU, I moved to Long Island, NY and worked as a Middle School Youth Pastor at the church that sent my parents to the mission field when I was a child. We were well connected with this church family, and I even served my CIU internship there before they offered me a position on their staff.

Q: What do you do now?

A: I then moved back down to SC and now live in Lexington, not far from CIU, and serve as a Middle School Youth Pastor at a much larger church, Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church. Here I've been learning to work with a ministry team, not just being the main guy, and I've learned what ministry at a big church looks like. I've enjoyed the opportunity to serve in my gifting, teaching and preaching God's Word to both students each week, as well as in the main services a few times in the year.

Q: Tell me a little bit about your family.

A: I grew up as a Missionary Kid in Bari, Italy. My parents are still on the mission field in Italy. I have an older sister, Dena, who lives in upstate NY, just outside the NYC. Another brother finishing up a pastoral ministry degree from Liberty University. And finally, my brother and sister-in-law (both CIU alumni) and their three children serve as missionaries overseas.

Q: What advice/encouragement would you give to CURRENT STUDENTS?

A: This may sound so simple or cliché, but I really would encourage to them to simply enjoy their time there. It's so easy to look ahead in anticipation of the future, but the time you will spend at CIU is so special and precious. Take it all in, journal about it, document it, do things you wouldn't normally do, because the memories of your time there will both encourage and inspire you in the rest of your life.

Also, I would say to not be afraid to let God work in you where you are there. He may want you to grow in specific ways and challenge your beliefs and character. The beauty of CIU and the community there is that it is a safe place to grow. You may fail and struggle, but ultimately you'll grow and there are plenty of people there to love you through it.

Q: What advice/encouragement would you give to ALUMNI serving around the world?

A: Keep living into what God has for you. Keep growing in your relationship with Him. And keep loving others with the love He first showed us.

Q: Prayer Requests?

A: I was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 2016 and then there was a recurrence of it in 2017. The treatment was intense but successful. I am now cancer-free but continue to ask for prayer as I move forward in my recovery process!