

Networking

Have you met people through CPU who have interests similar to your own? Perhaps you would like to contact one or more of the graduates mentioned in the *Alumni Newsletters*. You may be able to make fruitful connections—to broaden your network of contacts.

For example, **Beth Roder, R.N., M.A.** (1986) who is Director of Nursing at Cavalier County Memorial Hospital in Langdon, North Dakota writes that “at times I feel very isolated on the northern border of the nation.” Nevertheless, after she read

about another CPU graduate, **Rein Tideiksaar, Ph.D.** (1980) who is an Assistant Professor of geriatrics at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, she realized they were both keenly interested in clinical assessment and management of falls in the elderly. After they got acquainted, she organized and participated with him in a conference on “Falls Management and Restraint Reduction” which took place in November 1991 at locations in North and South Dakota.

Many other students and alumni have expressed interest in networking. **Jeffrey Dillon, Ph.D.** (1991) writes, “I propose to the CPU community, including alumni, students, and faculty, a concept

which will engender more personal contact between us all. Initially I would like to start a newsletter . . . which would contain ideas on how as a CPU community we can mutually share and support each other in the pursuit of personal goals: academic, professional, social, and emotional. Examples might be: meeting together at professional conferences, meeting for mini-seminars at satellite locations, sharing a learning resource, and lending support in times of conflict or change.”

Let us know your thoughts about this. Write to CPU (care of the President's Office) or directly to Jeffrey Dillon at P.O. Box 3057, Ventura, California 93006.

Message from the President

This past year, Columbia Pacific University was awarded renewal of Full Institutional Approval for the maximum legal term of three years. To establish that renewal, the University had undergone an extensive review of its academic and administrative corpus by a panel of senior scholars appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of California.

To be sure, all of us who have been involved with CPU's development—faculty, and staff, but also students (and former students)—have a right to be proud of CPU's reappraisal. The University has thus been rightly recognized for its intellectual strength and academic stature, for its perspicacious philosophical base, for its value to the community at large, and for its formidable potential for making further contributions to the greater culture.

For the University, this is a time of reassured confidence, but also of renewed vigor in exploration. Columbia Pacific University has entered its fourteenth year. In many cultures around the world that is an age that symbolizes transition to maturity. Aristotle, who conceived of a human life as divided into seven year periods, considered the fourteenth year “the gateway to adulthood.” Sometimes it seems an awkward age when inexperience clashes with adult potential. More importantly and in a broader perspective, it is characteristically a time for the flowering of physical grace and strength, the dramatic exten-

sion of intellectual skills, and the searching reevaluation of philosophical and spiritual orientation: in brief, the exploration of personal and social maturity.

There can be little doubt that the broader world culture is in transition. The past few years have witnessed the end of the cold war—“the end of history” as Francis Fukyama termed it, a time when all the significant economic and political powers of the world have come into agreement that liberal democracy is the highest, the “final” form of government, and that entrepreneurial capitalism with a social conscience is the highest, the final form of economics. President George Bush has visualized a “New World Order” of lawful international cooperation and mobilized United Nations action to counter military aggression in the Middle East. Throughout the world popular movements have arisen and thrown off the shackles of dictators, isolation, and military/police suppression to raise their voices and be heard in the worldwide community of nations. Throughout the world, natural disasters have summoned worldwide pity and relief efforts. Throughout the world the miracles of modern technology are increasingly reaching, healing, teaching, elevating human life.

This is not to say there are not problems. The path to the New World Order—if we can reach it—is fraught with distractions and dangers. The goals of peaceful international cooperation for higher living standards and freer creative self-expression for all humanity are not a foregone conclusion. Just as mismanagement of technology, especially when wedded with short-sighted megalomania

and greed, can threaten our biosphere—kill our oceans, pollute our atmosphere, waste our land—so mismanagement of our other intellectual resources can cripple or abort the gestation of the New World Order and the birth of higher civilization goals.

No, the path we are on of world transition cannot be taken for granted. Its branching possibilities are numerous, deceitful, and tempting. We must keep broad perspectives and high goals in mind, never becoming parochial or constrained by limited vision or courage. Most importantly, the path toward the New World Order must always reflect and encourage an evolution of individuals. Personal freedoms and life enhancement must never be lost in images of groups and abstract principles.

Neither can Columbia Pacific University's path toward maturity be assumed. But it is appropriate at this moment to take pride in our accomplishments thus far, even as we rededicate ourselves to the greater view of education that CPU represents—education as a personal philosophy of lifelong intellectual growth and exploration integrated with a healthful lifestyle and vigorous participation in the broader community of humankind. This is a view suited to the profoundly challenging but also inspiring and promising New World Order emerging around us. As an alumnus, you have my heartfelt congratulations and thanks for your participation in this vision.


Richard Crews, M.D., President