Before each of his inaugurations as governor of Missouri, John Ashcroft requested that his father, an Assemblies of God minister, lead a prayer service to ask for God’s guidance. When he won a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1995, his father was very ill but made the train ride to Washington, D.C., to attend the dedication service.

As he was about to anoint his son with oil, the elder Ashcroft shared, “The spirit of Washington is arrogance, and the spirit of Christ is humility. Put on the spirit of Christ. Nothing of lasting value has ever been accomplished in arrogance.”

Ashcroft knelt in front of the sofa where the minister was seated and noticed his father trying to lift himself off the couch. “Dad, you don’t have to struggle to stand and pray over me.”

“John,” his father answered, “I’m not struggling to stand; I’m struggling to kneel.” Ashcroft was sworn into the Senate later that day. His father died the next evening.
Ashcroft brought this same spirit of wisdom and humility to the Senate, and later to the office of Attorney General of the United States. After America was attacked on September 11, 2001, Ashcroft reorganized the Justice Department to focus on its number-one priority: preventing another terrorist attack.

Leveraging every legal tool available to law enforcement, including the critical provisions of the U.S. Patriot Act, the Justice Department initiated an anti-terrorism campaign that has assisted in disrupting more than 150 terrorist plots worldwide, dismantling terrorist cells in cities across America and convicting nearly 200 individuals.

When Ashcroft left office, violent crime was at a record low, gun crime was at an all-time low, a successful corporate crime crackdown had been launched and terrorist attacks on the U.S. had been prevented.

In 2005, Ashcroft brought his wisdom and experience—along with his father’s lesson of humility—to the position of Distinguished Professor of Law and Government at Regent University.

The students noticed these characteristics immediately. “Each fall, General Ashcroft invites students to his home in Virginia Beach to eat ice cream and have some fun,” says Regent Law student Elise Girani. “It is such an experience to see a prominent political figure eating ice cream and laughing with law students. General Ashcroft organizes party games, which often get quite competitive, and ends the evening by playing the piano and singing hymns.”

Why did Ashcroft choose to invest in Regent students? “This is a place where you can pursue learning and the truth with real intensity,” Ashcroft answers, “and God has not been placed off limits. So often in secular environments people say, ‘You can pursue the truth, but if you get close to God in this process, you can’t go there.’ Well, frankly, God is truth, and to place the cornerstone or core of truth off limits in an inquiry is to prejudice the inquiry.”
Ashcroft takes an active role in the lives of Regent students, both as a professor and community leader. “Personally interacting with the great men of our age such as General Ashcroft is truly what a university education is all about,” says law alumnus, Joshua Bachman, “and Regent answers the call.”

“The real-world experience and leadership lessons that General Ashcroft brings to our students is part of what makes Regent’s academic environment so enriching,” Regent’s president, Dr. Carlos Campo, says. “Our students and faculty consider it a real privilege to learn from him.”

Going beyond his responsibilities in the graduate schools of law and government, Ashcroft has taken time to speak with undergraduate students in the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) about the true benefits of freedom. “He has a passion for noble public service and leadership,” explains CAS Dean Gerson Moreno-Riaño, “and an exemplary desire to share his life and wisdom with these students.”

Ashcroft is as grateful for the students as they are for him. “Regent students are serious performers,” he says. “Our law students have been national champions in moot court competitions. They have also been formally recognized for writing top quality briefs among the nation’s very best.” “It’s an honor for me to have an opportunity to again devote my life in some measure to education and to young people and students. There is no more noble pursuit than that of investing in the future.”

“This is a place where you can pursue learning and the truth with real intensity and God has not been placed off limits.”

– John Ashcroft
“To change the world, you have to know the world,” says Regent president, Dr. Carlos Campo, speaking of the university’s global mission. “To change the world, you have to love the world as Christ loved us.”

In an effort to engage the nations of the world, Regent’s Office of Global Affairs (OGA) recently launched The Ambassador Series. The program brings diplomats to Regent in order to provide global insights for academia, community service and career growth. The first of these events featured Ambassador Elkanah Odembo of the Republic of Kenya.

“I’m very happy about the work that Regent is beginning to do in Kenya,” Odembo said, speaking at the university’s weekly chapel service. “Universities must have a global outlook and take a global approach. That’s what I see at Regent, and it will yield significant fruit.”

Regent’s initiatives in Kenya include plans to offer Africa’s first faith-based Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership, in conjunction with Pan Africa Christian University, as well as ongoing discussions to provide teacher training. Regent’s Center for Entrepreneurship has an affiliate that is helping to revitalize communities through business initiatives.

Last summer, Regent’s Trauma Team spent two weeks in Kenya, providing crisis and group counseling and offering workshops for local mental health professionals, pastors, school children and families in the region.

“Regent’s mission is to educate global leaders,” says Dr. Sergio Matviuk, executive director of OGA, “and part of that education involves providing opportunities for our students to interact with global leaders.”

One of the highlights of the ambassador’s visit was his presentation to more than 150 students from Regent, local colleges, several private high schools and seven of Virginia Beach’s public high schools. In a wide-ranging discussion, Odembo focused on Kenya’s efforts in economic development. Kenya is taking a lead role to strengthen regional economic communities so that African nations do more business with each other and globally. He also talked about the nation’s major investments in education on behalf of its young population.

Odembo pointed out Kenya’s role in promoting peace and security in the unstable Horn of Africa, such as assisting a transitional government in Somalia and helping to support the world’s largest refugee camp, located in Kenya. The camp has about 600,000 people living in an area designed for 60,000.

“This visit will go a long way in enhancing the relationship between the Kenya Embassy and Regent University,” Odembo declared, “and I look forward to continued engagements with your institution.”

Your continued financial support and prayers allow us to reach the world. Go to regent.edu/give to pledge your monthly support or to make a one-time gift.

Learn more about the Office of Global Affairs: regent.edu/academics/ruglobal.
“The world is changing,” says Dr. Clifton Clarke, director of the Regent University Center for Global Missions (CGM). “Europe and America are no longer at the center of Christian activity. Christianity is a global movement with major developments taking place in the southern regions of the world. The way we train people for missions must change too.”

With this goal in mind, Clarke led a team of 14 Regent students on a two-week mission trip to Ghana, Africa. Graduate and undergraduate students representing nearly every school, and ranging in age from 20 to 60, immersed themselves in a culture a world away from their own.

Through teaching, preaching, leading worship and sharing their testimonies in local churches and public settings, the team had the opportunity to experience global ministry firsthand. The students also volunteered at orphanages, conducted pastors’ and children’s conferences and ministered to university students.

This year’s trip started in the city of Accra. “While a large part of the Western world is declining in terms of the Christian presence,” Clarke explains, “there are many cities like Accra that are burgeoning with the presence of God.”

After several days in Accra, students embarked on an outing to Cape Coast, home of a Dutch slave fortress that was used during the trans-Atlantic slave trade era.

“To be where slaves were held in the most deplorable conditions is something I can’t quite describe in words,” recalls School of Divinity student Tanya Brooks. “On the outside is a beautiful landscape, but in the dungeons of that castle, slaves experienced hell on earth.”

The trip then led students to the northern part of the country to Tamale, a city well-known for its Muslim jurisdiction. The team held the first ever open-air Christian crusade in the middle of the city during their stay—a move Clarke called “audacious,” but part of the Great Commission.

“It’s important to understand the sensitivities and the cultural nuances that are involved in sharing Christ in a context that is predominantly Muslim,” he explains.

But much of the trip wasn’t spent in the cities. It was spent in the outlying rural villages around Tamale, staying in mud huts, carrying clay pots of water four miles from the nearest river and playing with inquisitive children.

“Ghana is a beautiful country rich with culture. Even in their curiosity of us Americans, we always seemed welcome,” College of Arts & Sciences senior Janina Peppers observed. “A few times, another team member and I opted to stay with host families rather than in the hotel, and I was blown away every time by the hospitality.”

Reflecting on CGM’s fourth outreach to Ghana, Clarke shares, “I think Africa has a lot to teach the West.”

Learn more about the Center for Global Missions: regent.edu/cgm.
Former U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Sal Giunta received the United States’ highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor—for his heroic actions during combat in Afghanistan. He shared his story at the Regent University Executive Leadership Series (ELS) luncheon, explaining this important lesson in servant leadership, learned from his first sergeant: “I will never tell you what to do; I will show you what to do.”

“By committing to care for the guys beside you more than yourself—and those guys have made the same commitment—that means you’re being looked out for by two people, not just one,” Giunta explained.

This commitment prepared him for the toughest mission of his life, on October 25, 2007, when his unit was ambushed and pinned down by Taliban fighters. As insurgents began carrying away an injured sergeant, Giunta engaged the enemy, provided medical aid to his wounded comrade and ultimately saved the soldier from capture. His courage and leadership while under extreme enemy fire were integral to the team’s survival and led to his selection as the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War.

“Do something tomorrow for someone else that you wouldn’t normally do,” Giunta challenged the ELS audience. “Every day is a blank slate full of opportunity.”

Learn more about the series and how to get tickets to our next event at regent.edu/els.

Jason Hughey
Policy Analyst, Charles Koch Institute, Washington, D.C.

“Freedom gives man the ability to invest to the utmost in the talents that God has given him.” That’s what recent Regent University graduate Jason Hughey ’12 (College of Arts & Sciences) is taking away from his studies. It’s also what propelled him into his first post-college job at the Charles Koch Institute in Washington, D.C.

Hughey—who graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in government—was among just seven percent of a pool of 1,200 students selected for the program. As a policy analyst with Americans for Prosperity Foundation, his research is focused on understanding free market economics and better business management. “I don’t want to just have faith on the one side and vocation on the other,” he says. “I really believe Christians need to be involved in the public sphere to influence policy.”

Please join the Regent University community in praying for the work of Jason Hughey, November’s alumni world changer.
Dear Friends,

One of the many extraordinary things about Regent University is the caliber of leaders who teach our students. I am delighted to announce that two of our distinguished professors, former Attorney General John Ashcroft and former Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Vern Clark, will continue in their leadership roles through 2015.

Gen. Ashcroft teaches in Regent’s School of Law and the Robertson School of Government. He also teaches a course titled Civil Liberties and National Security at Regent Law’s summer program with the European Center for Law and Justice at the University of Strasbourg in France. He hosts numerous events when he is at Regent and has welcomed more than 2,000 Regent students to his home.

Adm. Clark teaches in both the Robertson School of Government and the School of Business & Leadership. During his time on campus, Adm. Clark also presents policy briefings for other schools and departments, including Regent’s Professional & Continuing Education division, where he teaches in a Homeland Security Certificate Program.

Both of these exemplary Christian leaders are tremendously generous with their time and talent. They model leadership in ways that cannot be expressed through curricula or textbooks; we thank Jesus for them.

We could not enjoy the privilege of learning from world-class leaders like these men without your prayers and generous giving. Christian Leadership to Change the World is more than a slogan; it is a deep commitment at your university: Regent University. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Grace and peace,

Carlos Campo, Ph.D.
President

“WHERE THERE IS NO COUNSEL, PURPOSES ARE FRUSTRATED, BUT WITH MANY COUNSELORS, THEY ARE ACCOMPLISHED.”
PROVERBS 15:22 (AMPLIFIED)