Regent University’s desire to be an institution of higher learning that is making a difference on a global scale is evident in both the school’s mission and vision. But now, enrollment numbers are beginning to reflect Regent’s worldwide impact, as well.

The 2011–2012 academic year began with a record number of international students both on campus and online. Currently, 95 students from 19 different countries are taking classes in Virginia Beach, Va. The 21 new, on-campus international students mark an 83 percent increase over last year. And the global growth of Regent’s online enrollment, 92 percent over fall 2010, is even more impressive. This semester, 284 international students are taking Regent classes online, including the university’s first students in Iran and Afghanistan.

“Clearly, Regent’s mission to produce Christian leaders to change the world has
worldwide appeal,” says Regent’s president, Dr. Carlos Campo. “The international students who come here—students who share the faith that ties us together—know Regent to be a welcoming place committed to preparing them to go into all the world with the skills they will need to help change it for God’s glory.”

Regent’s first connection to incoming on-campus students from outside the United States is the Office of International Student Services (OISS). Director Leeanne Johnson says the OISS staff is committed to helping new international students make a smooth transition from their home country to life at Regent: “Each new student receives a comprehensive pre-arrival information packet to inform them of what to expect when they get to campus and to help reduce the effects of culture shock.”

An “International Student Survival Guide” provides helpful tips, such as how to order take-out food, call a taxi, and connect with friends and family back home via Skype. And each new international enrollee has the opportunity to be matched with a returning student who serves in a big-brother or big-sister capacity. This year, every American on-campus roommate of an international student received a “Passport” guide to help them understand and appreciate some of the challenges their classmate face daily.

“My hope for international students who graduate from Regent is that they can use the knowledge, skills, friendships and connections they acquired to change the world in many positive ways through their fine examples of Christian leadership,” Johnson says.

Varsha Sherring came to Regent from India in 1997 to pursue her master’s degree in film at the School of Communication & the Arts. “At first, arriving at the university and living at Regent Village was like being at an extended family church camp,” Sherring says. “But after a while, loneliness set in, and coupled with academic workload, culture shock set in too. Writing papers, surviving on hot dogs and always asking for a ride took its toll.”

With her master’s in hand, Sherring returned to India in 1999 to work at the Christian Broadcasting Network’s (CBN) India office as producer of special programming. When she decided to pursue her doctorate at Regent, Sherring found

“‘Christian Leadership to Change the World’ is more than just our motto.”

—DR. CARLOS CAMPO
a much different environment waiting for her in Virginia Beach: “Regent had OISS by this time. The staff helped my husband and me to get settled by conducting informative sessions about the American culture, helping us set up bank accounts, taking us on shopping trips, helping us buy a car, etc.”

Sherring continues, “OISS also had formed the International Student Organization (ISO) that arranged for fun outings. This really helped us to find a place to belong and de-stress with fellow international students.”

Sherring graduated from Regent a second time in May 2010 with her Ph.D. in Communication Studies. Despite some of the challenges faced as an international student, Sherring says those experiences were crucial to being successful in her current role: leading the production team for TipriTV.com, a CBN web-based initiative targeting an audience of more than 25 million people from South Asia.

“Regent University prepared me academically as well as spiritually,” Sherring says. “And Regent instilled in me the desire to excel, to be a reflection of Jesus in whatever I do, and to accomplish the purpose for which Christ has called me.”

Campo says Regent’s global focus is not something new. He insists that this vision and heart for the world defines the university and that it will never falter or fade: “‘Christian Leadership to Change the World’ is more than just our motto. It is part of our ethos and the very foundation upon which we were built. Those six words are our commitment to rigorously prepare our students to succeed on the global stage—wherever in the world they go, however they are called to serve the Lord.”

To learn more about Regent University and our 58 fully accredited degree programs, offered both on campus and online, call 800.373.5504 or visit regent.edu/academics.
David M. Edwards is an award-winning worship leader and director of Regent’s International Center for Worship (ICW). He says the Global Week of Worship is at the heart of the center’s mission: “From its inception, the ICW has had a vision to host our own annual worship conference right here at Regent. The Global Week of Worship has helped us prepare for that part of our vision as we move toward implementing that part of our plan.”

When Regent’s Global Week of Worship peaks on the Global Day of Worship—Friday, November 11—the ICW will provide a live, 24-hour, nonstop worship experience in the theaters of Regent’s Communication & Performing Arts Center. Christian music legend Andraé Crouch will perform in the Main Theater that evening, while worship teams and choirs from local churches, along with Regent student groups and graduate-level worship leaders, all unite as one body across the nations in a day-long wave of worship and adoration for Jesus Christ.

“There’s much to keep people busy on a growing campus like Regent University,” Kidd says. “But this community will be more shaped by our corporate worship than by a hundred memos or emails on the subject. All of Regent University is invited to join in the most life-changing, elemental act a human can participate in—worship of the living God.”

For more information about Regent’s Global Week of Worship, visit regent.edu/gww. To learn about the Global Day of Worship, go to globaldayofworship.com.
The premier exhibit of a significant work of art is an important event that’s usually reserved for a high-profile gallery in a major metropolitan area. But the creator of a very unique and powerful piece recently chose to debut his artwork at Regent University. Artist Keith Goodson calls his painting, “The Light of the World,” a “timeless piece that depicts the Nativity in a traditional style with contemporary elements.”

Goodson hand painted the 36-foot by 12-foot mural in oils on canvas, using light strategically and symbolically to emphasize the miraculous story of Christ’s birth for all the earth. It will be on display in the Regent Library Atrium through Saturday, November 12. “I wanted to paint (it) on such a large scale to give the viewer the sense of being a part of the painting,” says Goodson. “The message is that of salvation through grace—a gift.”

Dr. Sara Baron, dean of the Regent Library, says she wanted to have “The Light of the World” debut at the university because: “This painting is a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together around the greatest story ever told.”

Baron adds, “Libraries bring people together with information and ideas, and sometimes those ideas come through art. This amazing artwork demonstrates the enduring story of Christ’s love for everyone, regardless of time and space.”

Goodson calls “The Light of the World” a prophetic painting with Biblical and modern-day “cast members.” The Florida-based artist spent two years preparing and four months painting it: “I began to ask God what He wanted to do with this massive art piece and where He wanted it to go. I really felt a divine drawing to Regent University and the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN). I felt a peace about debuting it there.”

Having “The Light of the World” exhibit open during CBN’s 50th anniversary celebration on October 1 was “overwhelming to say the least.” Goodson continues, “What I love most are the many stories that I get about how this painting speaks to (people). Messages of hope, renewal and appreciation are some of what the viewers convey to me.”

“People have been touched and blessed by the painting,” Baron explains. “During the CBN 50th festivities I watched people come into the library atrium, and their jaws dropped when they saw the painting. Many people took photographs, prayed and celebrated the beauty of the Nativity.”

“Just like the Renaissance paintings speak still today,” Goodson says, “I pray that “The Light of the World” will echo through eternity.”

For more information about “The Light of the World” exhibit, call the Regent Library at 757.352.4185 or visit regent.edu/light.
A Message From the President

Dear Friends,

Regent University is blessed to have 379 international students from 70 countries enrolled this semester—taking classes both on campus and online—while more than 85 nations are home to our 15,000 alumni who are changing the world daily. As a leading global Christian university, we are impacting pivotal professions on a global scale just as our founder and chancellor, Dr. M.G. “Pat” Robertson, envisioned when God told him in 1977 to build a school for His glory. Through the direction and power of the Holy Spirit, we are accomplishing our mission.

This high calling is not something we can achieve on our own. The entire Regent community needs the financial and prayer support of partners and friends like you who come alongside and enable us to reach the world with the truth of the gospel. Our students, alumni, faculty and staff are deeply grateful to you for investing in Regent with yours prayers and gifts. We know the sacrifice of time and resources that you make on our behalf and thank you for your ongoing friendship and support.

Grace and peace,

Carlos Campo, Ph.D.
President

SING TO THE LORD, [AFFECTIONATELY] PRAISE HIS NAME; PROCLAIM HIS SALVATION DAY AFTER DAY. DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS, HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS AMONG ALL PEOPLES. FOR GREAT IS THE LORD AND MOST WORTHY OF PRAISE ...

PSALM 96:2–4A (NIV)
Regent World Changer

Chris Mitchell
Middle East Bureau Chief for CBN News

School of Communication & the Arts alum Chris Mitchell ’88 is the Middle East Bureau Chief for CBN News. Called to be part of the Christian Broadcasting Network’s Jerusalem team in 1998, Mitchell reports daily on events in and around the Holy Land for The 700 Club.

Mitchell says CBN’s Middle East bureau started in one small room with borrowed equipment, but today it’s one of the most established and respected news organizations in Israel. “I gained invaluable hands-on experience at Regent University,” the Boston-area native explains. “It was this powerful combination of practical know-how and a Biblical perspective that prepared me for my calling here in Jerusalem. It laid a foundation I still rely on today while reporting on the frontlines of Israel’s history.”

Please join the Regent community in praying for Chris Mitchell, November’s alumni world changer.

A MONTHLY HABIT

Help Regent train and send out the next generation of “world changers.” Your recurring monthly gift of any amount will empower this university to equip men and women as Christian leaders to change the world. Visit regent.edu/give to find out how you can partner with us on a monthly basis, or call 800.335.4409 to set up recurring gifts using your credit/debit card or electronic check.

ALUMNI ONLINE

The Office of Alumni Relations wants to make sure Regent graduates stay connected to the university. The alumni website is a great resource for news, events, class notes, job opportunities and regional alumni chapter information. Visit regentalumni.org for more information.

REGENT UNIVERSITY

By the Numbers

432 square feet comprise the total surface area of “The Light of the World” painting by Keith Goodson on display at the Regent Library.

379 international students from 70 nations are enrolled in Regent courses both on campus and online.

92 percent is the increase Regent’s international online enrollment over fall 2010.

85+ countries are home to Regent’s 15,000 alumni.