Making a child's life better one hour at a time.

MAX DOBSON
Dear Friends,

This is an especially exciting time to be a part of the Oklahoma Christian family. What an eventful few months we’ve had. It is appropriate that we rejoiced with Stafford and JoAnne North for their 50 years of service to the university just days before announcing a $33 million project that will build new student residential centers and dramatically upgrade all of our current student housing. Stafford continues to share great spiritual wisdom in the classroom, but he also oversaw the planning and construction of virtually every building on campus in his years as academic dean and as executive vice president. We are thankful that God has brought together a number of factors to allow this new housing project to go forward. We hope you will take time to remember this project in your prayers – that the men and women working on the construction and renovation will remain safe, and that the results of this project will surpass our wildest dreams in their ability to help attract students to pursue a quality, Christian education at our beloved alma mater.

We also hope you will pray that God guide us in the stewardship of the wonderful gifts recently bestowed on the university. Your fellow alumni, Richard and Pat Lawson, have been richly blessed through Richard’s business, Lawson Software, and have not hesitated to give back to Oklahoma Christian both through their time and through their financial resources. In April, we announced their gift of almost $30 million in Lawson Software stock that will make it possible for thousands more young people to receive the benefits of a Christian education at OC. Doors also continue to open in the community, as demonstrated by the recent gift from Chesapeake Energy Corporation. The Oklahoma City-based company made a $50,000 pledge to the university in May to launch the Chesapeake Scholars Program, which will fund OC scholarships for students from rural Oklahoma. A big reason for Chesapeake’s investment in Oklahoma Christian is you and people like you. A good number of our alumni work at Chesapeake, and the company has been impressed by the initiative, expertise and character of those employees with an Oklahoma Christian diploma on the wall.

As we celebrated with another graduating class at the recent spring commencement ceremony, it struck me how accomplished many of our students are before they even walk across that stage, and how many accomplishments lie ahead in their respective ministries and careers. OC alumni are known for making a positive impact wherever they go and whatever they do. You are a credit to this institution; you are the reason why a national media figure such as Michael Medved will visit our campus – as he did in April – then go on his national radio show the following day and tell millions of listeners that they need to know about this great university called Oklahoma Christian. We are grateful for the rise in giving that has made the university stronger, and we pray you will do what you can to promote Oklahoma Christian in your own backyard and to support OC’s mission to transform lives for Christian faith, leadership and service.

Your brother in Christ,

Mike E. O’Neal
The mission of The Oklahoma Christian Women’s Association unites women to serve and support Oklahoma Christian University in its mission to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world by raising funds to enhance Oklahoma Christian and support her students. It encourages friendships among women who believe in Oklahoma Christian and give off their time and efforts to help others have the OC experience.

Each year, fundraising events are planned on and off campus in many different areas. Some of those events include: golf tournaments, bake sales, luncheons, the new tour of homes and brunch, fashion shows, auctions, cookbooks and our famous OC student gift packages.

We need you! By becoming a member of OCWA, you can partner with OC in helping our future leaders develop spiritually, academically, physically and socially.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Annual Member: $24 / year
Professional Member: $48 / year
(legal for the working woman and mom)!
Second Mile Member: $200
(Supports OCWA Endowment Fund)

If you are interested in starting an OCWA chapter in your area or becoming a member, please get in touch with Christine Meridith, OCWA coordinator at 405.425.5122 or Christine.Meridith@oc.edu.
Mike McDonald: The Everyman
1949-2003
Husband, father, teacher, brother. The everyman, the funny guy, the mentor, the friend.

Mike McDonald, the late vice president for alumni relations at Oklahoma Christian University, will be remembered for all these roles and more. McDonald died on December 22, 2003, after a year-long battle with an aggressive cancer.

“There was never a day or a conversation either in person, on the phone or by email that you ever sensed a negative, pessimistic attitude with Mike,” said Bob Rowley, director of advancement, college classmate and co-worker. “He was optimistic until the very end.”

Kerri (Eggleston 85) Williams, assistant to the president, has the same opinion.

“You couldn’t get around Mike without feeling good,” Williams said. “He was so encouraging. We felt better after talking to him than I’m sure we made him feel. That was just him. He didn’t want anyone to feel sorry for him and he just took everything in stride.”

Williams, who lost her husband to cancer more than a year ago, recalled how McDonald always concerned himself about how she was doing.

“On my first Valentine’s Day without my husband Mike, he was the first one in my office asking me if I was doing okay. I had tried to forget that it was Valentine’s Day and he was just so sensitive about it,” Williams said. “I think he realized that of what a career can look like if you are willing to make certain that you don’t care who gets the credit.”

And McDonald was very passionate about his career. After working for Southwestern Bell and AT&T for 27 years, McDonald retired and returned to his alma mater, Oklahoma Christian University, and was involved in development and alumni projects.

“It wasn’t just a place to go, but it was something that instilled in him the kinds of values that you have to have in order to be successful in your life,” Wilguess said. “It’s not about success financially or success in other areas of business, but its success in being grounded in what God wants for you rather than what the world expects of you.”

Even during his illness, McDonald continued to work.

“There were days when you knew he was in pain, but he never really expressed it. He always set an example for us and he refused to let it get him down and take him away from the passion he had for working on behalf on young Christian people,” Rowley said. “Mike saw his job at Oklahoma Christian as a mission, a calling. He made a tremendous impact on the lives of alumni, faculty and staff here at Oklahoma Christian, and for those of us who worked intimately with him, we just marveled at his spirit.”

McDonald was truly a man of faith and endurance. He knew his fate could turn at any moment, and as he stated late last year, he kept himself positive with the help of family and friends.

“I’ve learned that God gives us rescue boats in this constant flood we’re in,” McDonald said. “I also know he gives you the strength you need when you’ve been surrounded by good people, and I have. For that I’m truly thankful.”

Even after amputating his leg during the summer of 2003 to try to stop the growth of an aggressive cancer, his wife would have to go through that someday.”

John Wilguess, vice president for civic affairs, said he had a great relationship with McDonald.

“He’s wasn’t quite old enough to be my dad, but he wasn’t young enough to be a peer, so to speak,” Wilguess said. “He was the kind of guy who gave you a sense

continued on pg. 33
He has spent a career coaching and mentoring Oklahoma Christian athletes. For 35 years he has served as OC’s athletic director and was named an Honorary Alumnus at last year’s homecoming.

But for all of the wins, trophies and honors, Dr. Max Dobson will tell you one of the greatest blessings he has received on campus is spending time with children who might not ever make a jump shot or hit a home run – but whose spirit has taught him something about God’s love for all of us.

They are the children from the community who have come to his Physical Education for the Exceptional Child, Recreation for the Handicapped Child, and Teaching the Disabled Child courses for almost 20 years.

It all started in 1976 with a phone call from a mother of a disabled child in the community who was looking for a place for her child to play and learn with college students. She asked Dobson if Oklahoma Christian had such a program. It didn’t – yet. Dobson made some calls and the program was born. Since then, more than 1,200 OC students have participated in the class and many of them have come away from the experience saying their lives were forever touched.

The program was a hit during its very first year when the Oklahoma Association for Retarded Citizens honored Dobson with the award for Most Outstanding Local Project. The plaque still hangs in his office. In the beginning, Dobson used his baseball team to help the children. They built a fence and set up a play area for the children.

Dobson said he has acquired about $4,000 worth of equipment, most of it donated by the OCWA (Oklahoma Christian Women’s Association), and with donations from alumni and others.

“The best thing for some of the immobile children is for them to be held, loved and made to feel special. This can be accomplished by simply holding them while bouncing on the trampoline,” Dobson said.

All OC students are encouraged to take the class, no matter what their major is. Some students have even changed their major because of the class.

“I enrolled in Dr. Dobson’s class in the first semester of my sophomore year. I enjoyed it so much that I took it again the next semester,” said junior elementary education major Rachel Richardson. “I grew attached to all the children and now participate in the class without receiving credit. It is an amazing experience.”

The official course description for the Teaching the Disabled Child course says it allows students to work with physically and mentally disabled children in a lab setting involving physical education and recreation.

But each semester, that course description takes on life and love. Dobson explains that it is one of the ways that an education at Oklahoma Christian helps students take the focus off of themselves and to put it on to others.

Alumnus Jayna Perry (’02) appreciated being able to learn some life lessons without having to sit behind a desk in a typical classroom.

“Dr. Dobson is astonishing in the way he has put together this class and has allowed this to become a ministry and outreach to not just the campus community, but the community of Edmond as well. He cares about the future of these children and it rubs off on the students and volunteers in the class to the point that you cannot help but radiate a portion of Dr. Dobson’s image of Christ’s love for these kids,” she said.

Dobson said that Oklahoma Christian students bring something different to the children.

“I had an Edmond teacher tell me that our students are different from students at other universities they have worked with,” Dobson said. She said, “Your kids touch these kids, they hold them and they hug them and they love them. There’s a difference there. We’re amazed at how your students respond to these kids.”

Anna Jane Forrester, a senior organizational communication major, originally took the class to spend more time with Dobson, her stepfather, but came away from the class with more.

“This class has made me appreciate life so much. It has given me a new perspective on the simple things that I always used to take for granted. I appreciate so much more now,” Forrester said. “For example, we have a huge trampoline as one of the toys for...
the kids to play with. They can’t be on it by themselves so we put some of the kids on our laps and sit on the trampoline while someone bounces us. It does not seem like a big deal to us, but for the kids that have always been in wheelchairs and have never felt the sensation of bouncing, they love it. They smile and laugh the entire time.”

The classes draw students from five elementary schools in Edmond: Chisholm, Washington Irving, Angi Debo, John Ross and Cross Timbers. Renee Weigel, a special education teacher from Washington Irving, has been involved with the program for four years.

“Socialization has increased tremendously with the kids. They really look forward to it, and it has increased their social awareness within the community,” Weigel said. “Being able to be in a public situation has also been a big help in increasing the children’s ability to stand noise, activity and busyness.”

Dr. David Goin, superintendent of Edmond Public Schools, praises the program and says it is mutually beneficial for the school district and the university.

“This collaborative effort between Oklahoma Christian and the Edmond Public Schools provides solid benefits and educational opportunities for OC students, plus excellent benefits for a group of children who are faced with extraordinary physical limitations,” Dr. Goin said. “The youngsters’ opportunities for motor development are enhanced as they engage in ‘play’ using the specialized equipment at OC. The personal relationships developed with OC students, while mutually rewarding, meaningfully contribute to the social and emotional growth of youngsters who are faced with significant life challenges. At the same time, the program also extends welcomed services and the university’s positive influence within the larger Edmond community.”

For Richardson, the courses have given her an important foundation for the career she plans in special education.

“Every one of these children is special. They are different than many people around them. Yet God values them and has special plans for their lives just as he does for every other child,” Richardson said. “Every special-needs student is valued and respected. We should all learn from the example set by Dr. Dobson and accept all individuals no matter their ability.”

By Mandy Essary, 01

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**CALENDAR**

- **AUGUST 24 - 28**
  - EARN YOUR WINGS
- **AUGUST 30**
  - FALL SEMESTER BEGINS
- **SEPTEMBER 24 & 25**
  - FALL VISIT
- **OCTOBER 18 & 19**
  - FALL BREAK
- **NOVEMBER 5 & 6**
  - HOMECOMING 2004 - ‘NESTFEST’
- **NOVEMBER 24 - 26**
  - THANKSGIVING BREAK
- **DECEMBER 17**
  - BACCALAUREATE & COMMENCEMENT
- **JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 2, 2005**
  - LECTURESHIP
- **MARCH 31, 2005**
  - ASSOCIATES DINNER

Need to find out when the OC band is having a concert, the soccer team is playing or when Homecoming is? You can find all that and more on the OC website at www.oc.edu. You can also subscribe to AlumNews, an online newsletter that keeps you updated on many campus events. Go to www.oc.edu/alumni to sign up or call Pam Fletcher at 405.425.5120.
“Oklahoma Christian is blessed with devoted supporters like no place else,” said John deSteiguer, vice president for advancement, as he surveyed a room of more than 350 persons who attended the April Associates dinner at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club.

Many of those devoted supporters in the audience on April 1, 2004, were alumni, parents of alumni and friends of Oklahoma Christian. Everyone had in common their belief in the mission and direction of the university, and faithfully and generously support it. Each Associate who attended the dinner supports Oklahoma Christian with a commitment level that provides at least $1,000 in unrestricted funds to the university.

Michael Medved, film critic, best-selling author and nationally-syndicated radio talk show host, was the dinner’s keynote speaker and also spoke at two campus events during the day.

Medved spoke about when he was in college at Yale University and later at Yale Law School, when some of his classmates were named George W. Bush, John Kerry, Hillary Rodham and Bill Clinton. His recollection of those college days captivated the audience and provided new insight.

Another highlight of the evening was honoring Dr. Stafford and JoAnne North, who collectively have served Oklahoma Christian for 100 years.

$30 MILLION LAWSON GIFT ANNOUNCED

In addition, the dinner provided the setting to announce a special gift from Richard and Pat Lawson, who transferred four million shares of stock from Lawson Software to the university in a gift valued at more than $30 million.

“We made these gifts in appreciation for the excellent academic and spiritual training we received at Oklahoma Christian and in hopes that it will encourage other alumni and friends to provide resources to help assure that Oklahoma Christian University strengthens its position as one of the finest private Christian universities in the country,” Richard Lawson said.

Richard Lawson co-founded Lawson Software, Inc., in 1975, nine years after he graduated from Oklahoma Christian with a degree in computer science. He now serves as the company’s chairman of the board. Pat Lawson has served both Lawson Software and numerous charitable causes since her graduation from Oklahoma Christian in 1967 with a degree in elementary education.

Prior to the dinner, special recognition was given to members of the Eagle
THE OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN COVENANT

After numerous town hall meetings with students, faculty, staff and trustees, the university introduced the Oklahoma Christian Covenant in February to fill in a gap in its foundational documents.

"God's kingdom cannot flourish and grow and this campus cannot meet its mission of transforming lives for Christian faith, leadership, and service if all efforts to instill and nurture Christian discipline are grounded no deeper than the legislative regulations in a student handbook or a faculty handbook," said President Dr. Mike O'Neal. "A covenant is intended to be transformational, not just transactional. It has more to do with relationship as a God-people than it does with legality. It has the potential for developing a deeper spiritual community and represents progress in the way we express our community goals. In a very real sense, it is not something new; it is really just a more compelling statement of the existing spiritual and philosophical foundations of the university and of the kind of behavior desired in this Christian university community."

OUR COVENANT

Oklahoma Christian University is a higher learning community which transforms lives for Christian faith, leadership, and service.

The values and behavior of this Christian community are derived from the Bible, rather than the prevailing culture. Because we are a higher learning community dedicated to a distinctively Christian mission, we join together in a community covenant. This covenant is not a creed demanding strict belief in its veracity and inerrancy, and it is not merely an ideal to which we aspire; rather, it is a personal commitment that while we are members of this community, we will abide by the principles and ideals set forth in the covenant. The purpose of our covenant is to unite all of us at Oklahoma Christian University—students, staff, faculty, administration, and Board of Trustees—in a Christian community which is based on biblical principles and which transforms lives for Christian faith, leadership, and service.

We recognize that the University is not the church; however, we are a Christian community which seeks to be guided by the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in scripture. We welcome all students, regardless of their church affiliation, who agree to abide by this covenant. Because the University was founded by members of the churches of Christ and because we seek to serve our church constituents effectively, we expect all full-time faculty and staff to be faithful, active members of the churches of Christ who fully embrace the principles of this covenant.

OUR FOUNDATION

God interacts with this world as both Creator and Savior (Genesis 1; Hebrews 1:1-3).

The Bible is God's inspired word, which shows us the nature of God, the risen Son, and the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

We seek to honor God by imitating the nature of God and his son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit (John 13:13-17; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Peter 2:21).

As members of this Christian higher learning community, we are guided by specific principles set forth in the Bible (Psalms 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

OUR CALL

God calls us to do our best in everything we do (Colossians 3:17; Colossians 3:23).

God calls us to submit our will to his (John 15:14; James 4:7; 1 John 2:17).

God calls us to submit to one another in love (1 Corinthians 10:23-24; Galatians 5:13-14; Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:3-4) and to show his love through the justice, mercy, and faithfulness of our lives (Matthew 5; Matthew 25).

God calls us to live lives of holiness (Ephesians 1:4; 1 Thessalonians. 4:7; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16).

OUR COMMUNITY LIFE

We strive to honor the Lord and be Christlike in all of our conduct (Colossians 3:12-14; Titus 2:11-14).

We strive to demonstrate love and respect for everyone, even those who have views that differ from ours, and avoid conduct or language that is demeaning to others (Galatians 3:28; Philippians 2:3-4; James 2:1-13).

We strive to exercise our Christian freedom responsibly within the framework of God's Word, humbly submitting to others (1 Corinthians 10:23-24; 31-33).

We strive to use wise stewardship of our mind, body, time, abilities and resources and make thoughtful, biblically guided choices in matters of behavior, entertainment, and interpersonal relationships (Philippians 4:8).

We strive to practice honesty and integrity in everything we say and do (Colossians 3:9-10; Revelation 21:8).

We strive to treat our bodies with the honor due the temple of the Holy Spirit—honoring God's plan that sexual relations be a part of a marriage between a man and a woman, dressing modestly, and avoiding any self-destructive practices (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

For the sake of our personal influence and our life together in Christian community, we also agree to certain community standards of conduct which are not specifically set forth in the Bible, but which enable the community to operate peaceably and in harmony with these principles and with one another. These community standards are set forth in the Student Handbook, the Staff Handbook, and the Faculty Handbook.

By choosing to be a part of the Oklahoma Christian University community, every member of the student body, staff, faculty, and Board of Trustees affirms his or her understanding of, respect for, and commitment to abide by the principles, and standards of conduct set forth in this covenant.
HOME COMING 2004

Save the Date!

NESTFEST
NOVEMBER 5 & 6
Hailed as a world leader in educational technology, Oklahoma Christian has kicked it up a notch in its wireless computing program.

Every fulltime undergraduate student and faculty member now receives a new Dell Latitude D600 wireless notebook computer. The alliance with Dell, Inc., is designed to offer students more benefits, including the ability to keep their computers after graduation.

Oklahoma Christian remains the only higher education institution in Oklahoma, and one of just a handful in the U.S., that provides students, faculty and staff members with the technological convenience and advantage of being able to connect to the university network, check email and log on to the Internet from anywhere on campus – indoors or outdoors – and off-campus anywhere that wireless networks are available.

“Since we first put wireless laptops into our students’ hands three years ago, it has been our goal to use technology to enhance the educational experience across the board, promoting a unique level of interactivity with professors and class material, and maximizing students’ abilities to work on assignments anywhere on campus at any time,” said Dr. Mike O’Neal, Oklahoma Christian University president.

After a thorough on-campus analysis last summer, Wake Forest University’s Dr. David G. Brown, a leading expert in the field of technology integration into university curricula, called Oklahoma Christian “the world leader in the use of laptops for in-classroom instruction.” In November, Kurt Snodgrass, vice chancellor for information technology and telecommunications for the Oklahoma State Board of Regents, said that Oklahoma Christian excels above all other Oklahoma universities in computer-based learning.

“The success of our technology initiative is a testimony to how important technology is to this generation of students,” said John Hermes, Director of Computer and Network Services.

“Our goal as we move into a new phase of this initiative is to build a strong partnership with an established company like Dell while striving to provide our students, faculty, and staff with leading-edge technology.”
1956
Dotsy (Cravens) Cash passed away on January 1, 2004, following surgery for cancer.

1969
Eddie and Thearlene (Stanley) Morris are the proud grandparents of Cooper Stanley Gordon, born February 7, 2004, to Dr. Nicquel (95) and Neil Gordon.

1971
Donna (Hutchison) Parker and Treble Heart Books announce the release of Donna’s first novel, Constancy’s Waltz. Donna and her husband, Neal (72), live in Pratville, AL, where Neal teaches French and history at Pratville Christian Academy. Addresses: 109 Diane Drive, Prattville, AL 36066 and Neal_Parker@msn.com.

Sheryl (Price) Searcy was named Secondary Teacher of the Year for Pearland ISD. Addresses: 1609 Cascade Falls Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546 and s-searcy@houston.rr.com.

1975
Candy (Couger) Cernigliaro is the Central Oklahoma Regional Coordinator for Students Working Against Tobacco. Addresses: 412 Ryan Cr., Edmond, OK 73003 and candy_cernigliaro@occhd.org.

Audrey (VanWinkle) Gramling was awarded the Polly Clarke Award by the Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists. Addresses: 3933 SW 8th, Newcastle, OK 73065 and audreyisms@yahoo.com.

LeAnna (Maskburn) Hale graduated with honors in August 2003 from Baylor University with a Doctorate in Educational Administration. Mark is a minister at Oakcrest Church of Christ in Oklahoma City and LeAnna is an assistant professor for Sul Ross State University in Texas. They live in Blanchard, OK.

Michael Palmore died January 10, 2004, after battling pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife, Patsy of Searcy, AR, and three children, Brad, Erik and Kari. Contact Patsy at pdpalmore@yahoo.com.

1976
Dan and Teresa (Parker) Killebrew live in Grapevine, TX. Teresa teaches third grade at Grapevine Elementary School. Dan is an associate vice president with RTKJ. Architectural Firm in Dallas. They have three children, Alan, Leslie and Leah.

Robert and Darla (Readnour 77) Peterson moved to Edmond. Darla is working for Oklahoma Christian Services and Bob started an Internet consulting business. Addresses: 2817 Lexington Way, Edmond, OK 73003, petersonrw@mac.com and rubyreddp@earthlink.net.

Elayne (Sayers) Weger and Clay Bowan were married on January 5, 2003, and both teach at Mustang High School. Addresses: 1616 West Whippoorwill Way, Mustang, OK 73064 and bowmane@mustangk12.ok.us.

1978
Guy W. Jackson received the Earl Sneed Award for outstanding legal education contributions to the Oklahoma Bar Association. He runs his own law firm specializing in estate planning and also is an adjunct instructor at OC. He and his wife, Mary (Epperly), have three children, two are OC students. Addresses: 10405 Harvest Hills, Oklahoma City, OK 73162 and gwjackson@jacksonlaw.com.

1979
Danny Henderson was promoted to chief of the Product Directorate Staffing and Merit Promotion Referral Section in the Civilian Personnel Office at Tinker Air Force Base. He and his wife, Julie (Kimbrough 84), live in Tuttle, OK, with their two daughters, Elizabeth and Emily.

Bob Herndon has a new email address: herndonb@cox.net.

Jim Mainord is assistant director at the Lackland Air Force Base library. Jim is a civilian employee of the Department of Defense, but also is a U.S. Air Force reservist. Addresses: 342 Eileen Dr, Pleasanton, TX 78064, jamesmainor@sbcglobal.net.

Delton McGuire is now the director of development for Cherokee Home for Children in Texas. Addresses: PO Box 295, Cherokee, TX 76832 and dmcguire@chencenx.net.

1981
Tom Denton started a company, D & F Roofing, two years ago. His wife Jill (Hendrix 80) teaches middle school art in the Frisco ISD. Addresses: 9520 Daly Dr, Plano, TX 75025, sales@dandfroofing.com and jillldenton@yahoo.com.

1982
Alyce (Cobb 82) Olmstead was killed tragically October 26, 2004, in a car wreck in the Dallas area. She is survived by her husband Mark (82) and their four children: Sarah, Caleb, Katherine and MacKenzie. Two of the children also were involved in the car accident, but do not have life-threatening injuries. The Olmsteads were regular visitors to the campus, bringing their children to our summer camps and serving as charter OC Associates this year. They also have been active in helping establish the North Texas chapter of the OC Alumni Association, with Alyce serving as the member relations chairperson. Gifts may be directed to the Alyce Olmstead Memorial Fund through the Office of Advancement. Please keep Mark, their children, and their extended family in your thoughts and prayers. You can write to them at: 2261 East FM 550 / Royce City, TX 75189.

Lisa Selby has a new address, 2889 S. Acoma St, Englewood, CO 80110. Email: lisaselby@comcast.net.

1983
Patrice Dills Douglas was named among 30 Women Making a Difference from the Oklahoma Journal Record. She is vice president and general counsel of ACP Sheet Metal Co., Inc & Air Spiral Manufacturing, Co. She also serves as an appointed member of the Oklahoma Human Services Commission and is a member of OC’s Business Advisory Council.

Thomas Winkler is a physician at Family Healthcare Associates in Garland, Texas. He and his wife, Sharon, have three children, Jenna, Becca and Thomas. Addresses: 222 W. Muirfield Road, Garland, TX 75044 and twinkler@pol.net.

1984
Roger Massey and his family plan to leave for Croatia in July on a church planting effort. Roger will continue with World Bible Translation Center as a regional distribution representative of the Center’s Eastern European language translations of the Scriptures. Email: roger@wbtc.com.

1985
D. Daryl and Rebecca (Nichols 86) Lidia announced the formation of Lidia Law Firm, A Professional Corporation, at 1320 E. 9th, Suite 9, Edmond, OK 73034.

1986
Theresa (Boswell) and Michael Emlaw announce the birth of their daughter, Rachel MacKenzie, on May 21, 2003. She joins brothers Brandon, Matthew and Nicholas. Addresses: 75 Alder Lane, Christiansburg, VA 24073 and mtemlaw@juno.com.

Sandie Howard bought her first home: 407 East Waco Place, Broken Arrow, OK 74011, that includes a piano studio for her students. Email: sandie.howard.jto7@statefarm.com.

Jeff and Tessa (Feuerhelm 95) Tefertiller announce the birth of their daughter, Vivian Kate, on March 1, 2004.

1987
Sheila Bradley has a new address, 713 Nandina Way, Wasahachie, TX 75165.

Richard Huff passed away August 20, 2003, from a massive heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Kim, and three children, Austin, Tyler and Victoria.
1988
Doug Aitkenhead was promoted to plant chemist at Muskogee’s Pollution Control Plant. Addresses: 21620 E 104th St. S, Broken Arrow, OK 74014 and aitkenhead52@hotmail.com.

1989
Murray Evans is a correspondent for the Associated Press and lives in Lexington, KY, with his wife, Grace. Addresses: 4904 Marian Court, Lexington, KY 40513 and studentsportssw@yahoo.com.

1990
Wade Clark has a new address: 1050 Metalmark Court, Lantana, TX 76226 and wclark@advantexmail.net.

1991
Noah Jace Hartman, infant son of Jerry and Michelle Hartman, died January 13, 2004. Little Noah had several underdeveloped organs, including his heart, which could not sustain him. Services were held at the Weatherford Church of Christ on January 16, 2004.

Rance and Tammy (Denton) Davis announce the birth of their daughter, Kayla Rebecca, on March 16, 2004. Kayla joins brothers Jacob and Justin.

Brian and Tracie (Varner 93) Jones announce the birth of their son, Zachary Thomas, on April 3, 2003. He joins sister, Hannah. Addresses: 705 S. Gabbert, Monticello, AR 70501 and brianjones@ccc-cable.net.

1992
Cris Brown has been selected for the NM Best award, given to 50 people each year in the Neiman Marcus Group. The NM Best award is given to those associates who best demonstrate the core values of exemplary service to the company and their customers. Cris is a Project Lead in the IS division of Neiman Marcus, in Dallas. Cris also has been appointed as a deacon at the Frisco Church of Christ. He lives in Frisco with his wife, Heather (Rayburn 93), and their two children, Andrew (3) and Kristin (1).

Carl Dye is the pulpit minister for the Northside Church of Christ in Bonham, TX. Addresses: 289 Glen Oaks St., Bonham, TX 75418 and ctdye123@peoplepc.com.

1993
Geri (Marlatt) Cope was named a principal with the Edward Jones holding company. Cope recently moved to Edward Jones’ St. Louis headquarters to serve as a principal in the firm’s Retirement Plan Marketing Department. A native of Woodward, OK, Cope had worked as an investment representative for Edward Jones in Littleton, CO, for the past five years.

Michael and Renee (Aleshire) Brown email addresses are: michael_b@wideoopenwest.com and rejalcb@wideoopenwest.com.

Justice Smith finished his MBA at Oklahoma State University, and is in the Air Force in Washington, DC. Email: justice_smith@hotmail.com.

1994
Ryna (Roseke) and William Barnacle announce the birth of their son, Colton James, on November 20, 2003. Colton joins his brother Will. Addresses: 11712 60th St SW, Kasson, MN 55944 and rlbarnacle@yahoo.com.

Todd and Anna (Petersen 98) Forrestner announce the birth of their son, Samuel Osten, on October 29, 2003. Anna was promoted from area manager to regional vice president with Arbonne International Skin Care. Todd is the Vice President for Forrestner Consulting, Inc. Addresses: 14227 S. Toledo Ave., Bixby, OK 74008 and Todd@Forresterroofing.com.

Stacey (Ellis) and Wade Wolfe announce the birth of their son, Cole Alexander, on March 20, 2003. Addresses: 317 N. Crosstimber Trail, Edmond, OK 73034 and staceywolfe@cox.net.

1995
Jim and Celeste (Herndon 96) Dvorak announce the birth of their son, Hagan James, on March 10, 2004. He joins sister, Sydney. Jim is the director of the North Institute for Educational Technology at OC, and Celeste is an adjunct music professor. Emails: jim.dvorak@oc.edu and celeste.dvorak@oc.edu.

After battling with non-hodgkins lymphoma and recovering from a stem cell transplant, Rick Reed returned to Japan to continue working with the Hitachi-taga Church of Christ. Addresses: 5-6-16 Koupo Mukaihara, Hitachi-taga, Ibaraki-ken, Japan 316-0003 and richardreed71@hotmail.com.

1996
Shawn and Anita (Martin) Carlin announce the birth of their son, Cody James, on July 15, 2003. He joins sister, Lynae. Addresses: 29989 N. Bryce Trail, Queen Creek, AZ 85144 and dan@dvvorak.com.
Sara (Clothier) and Brent Narges announce the birth of their daughter, Madeline, on December 3, 2003. She joins her siblings Andrew and Lauren (twins). Sara owns Loree’s Bridal & Formal in Pittsburg and Brent is a lieutenant with the Pittsburg Police Dept. Addresses: 631 Windsor Circle Pittsburg, KS 66762 and bnarges@cox.net.

Jay and Deanna (Hill 95) Knight announce the birth of their son, Jaxon Cobey, on April 3, 2003. Address: 3812 S. 88th E. Pl., Tulsa, OK 74145.

Dan (96) and Angi Lovejoy (Roper 88) joyfully announce the adoption of their son, their heart’s desire: Elijah Ray Jae-Min Lovejoy, born in Seoul, Korea: May 28, 2003, and welcomed into their arms: October 21, 2003. Addresses: 205 Bluegrass Lane, Edmond, OK 73003 and dan.lovejoy@oc.edu and aklovejoy@cox.net.

Jeanise (Wynn) and Mike Morton announce the birth of their son, Joel Morton, on October 14. The proud grandparents are David (70) and Linda Morton (Stout 71) and Steve (75) and Lisa Wynn. Mike is a teacher at Oklahoma Christian Academy and Jeanise now stays home after teaching first grade. Their new address is 3922 Wisteria Way, San Antonio, TX 78259.

Lisa Wynn and Brent Narges announce the adoption of seven-year-old Coco Chanel Alohilani on September 25, 2003.

Michael and Melissa (Bobadill) Threadgill announce the birth of their daughter, Grace Marie, on December 20, 2002. Addresses: 4302 Bobolink Cr., Missouri City, MO 77459 and mrthread@bechtel.com.

Leann (Bailey) and Tim (04) Priebe announce the birth of their son, Joshua Ryan, on April 20, 2004. Tim is a web developer at Advanced Academics. Leann is a stay at home mom. Address: 705 NW 139th, Edmond, OK 73013 and tim@thepriebes.com.

Leann (Bailey 97), Tim (04) and Joshua Ryan (03) announce the birth of their daughter, Caden Elizabeth, on August 21, 2003. Address: 1105 Woodford Court, Edmond, OK 73034.


Jared (97), Desiree (04) and Joshua Ryan (03) announce the birth of their daughter, their heart’s desire: Jordan Beth, born in Seoul, Korea: May 28, 2003, and welcomed into their arms: October 21, 2003. Address: 705 NW 139th, Edmond, OK 73013 and tim@thepriebes.com.

Elizabeth Glazener (99) and Matthew Cochran announce the birth of their daughter, Grace Marie, on December 20, 2002. Addresses: 4302 Bobolink Cr., Missouri City, MO 77459 and mrthread@bechtel.com.

Chad and Andrea (Roberts 01) Fox announce the birth of their daughter, Audrey Elizabeth, on December 26, 2001. Chad and Andrea both teach Special Education for Plano Independent School District. Andrea was named Beginning Teacher of the Year 2002-2003 at Beaty Early Childhood School.

Amy Hanson completed her master’s degree in Education/Guidance Counseling. She has moved to Brush Colorado to be the high school guidance counselor. Addresses: 410 Carson, Brush, CO 80723 and ahanson@brushschools.org.

Ben Bailey is an account executive at KTSA, a newstalk radio station in San Antonio. His wife, Jaime (Elam 00), teaches first grade. Their new address is 3922 Wisteria Way, San Antonio, TX 78259.

Elizabeth Glazener married Matthew Cochran on September 27, 2003. She works for child protective services. Addresses: 220 S. 2nd St. #1A3, Waco, TX 76701 and email: rosec@cox.net.

Rebekah (Mears 99), Jared (03) and Abigail Kite announce the birth of their daughter, Abigail Rose, on March 4, 2004. Addresses: 5939 Gist PI, Fayetteville, NC 28806 and Rebekah. Kite@oc.edu and Jared.Kite@us.army.mil.
Matt and Beth (Brophy) McKee moved back to Michigan so Matt could pursue his masters degree in engineering at the University of Michigan. Beth is a quality engineer for OnStar. Addresses: 19001 Westmore, Livonia, MI 48152 and livioniamckees@yahoo.com.

Tyson D. Schwerdtfeger is now an associate at Gable & Gwalior in the firm’s Tulsa office.

2000
Damaris (Brisco) and James Schofield announce the birth of their daughter, Isabella Marie, on October 10, 2003. She joins older sister, Ariana. Addresses: 17 Beverly St. #1, Melrose, MA 02176 and dbrisco@bakankin.com.

Patrick and Deirdre (Goodman 00) Cannon announce the birth of their son, Aidan Patrick, born November 5, 2003. Addresses: 4108 Rushview Drive, Arlington, TX 76016 and pdcannon@ev1.net.

Matt and Tamara (Medders) Cramer have settled in Fort Collins, Colo. They serve as ministers for the Colorado Christian Campus Ministries at Mountainside College Church. Address: 1305 Cypress Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

Michael N. Clark, Esq graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Law and now works for Vaughn & Winton, PLLC. Email: mnc@vaughnandwinton.com. Address: 8480 Bluegrass Circle, Parker, CO 80134 and carpys2000@yahoo.com.

Robert and Nicole (Webb 01) Carpenter announce the birth of their daughter, Madison Louise, on Feb. 6, 2004. Addresses: 8480 Bluegrass Circle, Parker, CO 80134 and carpys2000@yahoo.com.

Jeff and Heather (Spitzner 99) Turner announce the birth of their daughter, Amy Nicole, on August 12. Address: 205 Tyler, Coffeyville, KS 67337.

Amanda Davenport married Andre Muller on May 3, 2003. Addresses: Robert-Schumann-Str. 3a, Oelnsritz, Germany 09376 and amandadavenport@web.de.

Michelle (Lyton) Banning is a PE teacher in Andover, KS. Address: 1751 Basswood Ct., Andover, KS 67002.

Jon and Marissa (Young 02) Dodds relocated to Laurel, Maryland, where Jon is an operations manager for Sam’s Club. Addresses: 37 Orchard Towne Ct. #202, Laurel, MD 20707 and jandmdodson@yahoo.com.

Zac and Kellee (Watne) Hager have a new address: 13104 Buckeye Court, Oklahoma City, OK 73170. Email: zkhaiger@hotmail.com.

Barrett Huddleston is in the Ph.D. in theater program at the University of Minnesota, one of two candidates admitted to the program this year. He and his wife, Rachel (Maple), have a new address, 1001 E. 77th St., Apt. 213, Richfield, MN 55423.

Russell and Valerie (Turner) Quirey are training with the Continent of Great Cities for their anticipated move to Salvador, Brazil, where they plan to plant a church. Addresses: 1107 Musken Rd. Apt. 107, Abilene, TX 79601 and quirey@missionsalvador.com.

JJ Scheuerer is preaching for the Oxford Hills Church of Christ located in South Paris, Maine. Addresses: 35 Highland Ave., South Paris, ME 04281 and jj@jscheuerer.com.

Chris and Sarah (English) Young announce the birth of their son, Braden Christopher, on August 20, 2003. Addresses: 7805 Doris Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73162 and saraday520@cox.net.

Jancy (Gharkhania) Lyons and her husband Wes, announce the birth of their son, Tyler Keith, on February 27. Email: jancy.lyons@oc.edu.

Monica Carter and John Sudbury were married June 7, 2003 in Mansfield, TX. Monica is a teacher for Mansfield ISD.

Ryan and Maggie (West) Inlow announce the birth of their daughter, Maisy Elizabeth, on September 15, 2003. Ryan is the pulpit minister at the Perkins Church of Christ. Address: 806 E Hwy 33, Perkins, OK 74059.

Amanda Davenport

Monica Carter

2002

Monica Ann Carter

2003
Summer Mansur and Eric Millican were married on June 21, 2003. Addresses: 1212 S. Michigan, Apt. 2612, Chicago, IL 60605 and s.a.millican@juno.com.

Nkere Reed is a manager trainee for Enterprise Rental. Addresses: 6945 Creek Hollow Rd., Apt.1035, Fort Worth, TX 76137 and nkere.reed@alumni.oc.edu.

Ben and Monica Thompson were married August 23, 2003. Ben will begin Harding University Graduate School of Religion to get his M.Div. beginning in August. Monica will be a travel agent at Carlson Wagonlits Travel in Memphis, TN. Email: MoniqueAnn@hotmail.com.
The Honor Roll of Donors identifies gifts made by alumni, friends and parents during calendar year 2003. Donors are listed in the annual Gift Clubs according to giving level. The number following a donor’s name shows the number of consecutive years that the donor has contributed. Oklahoma Christian University is grateful for the generosity and support displayed by these donors.

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Larry and Connie Bailey
Daryl and Monna Bailey (4)
Misti Bailey
Stephen and Keitha Bailey
Ted and Teloris Baily
Jim and Yodi Baird (12)
Jay and Julia Baker
Buddy and Leah Baker (5)
Homer and Billy Bankhead
Randy Barkley
J and R Barnett
James and Marilyn Barr
Brenda Barre
Russ and Ellen Bartee (3)
Jeffrey and Debbie Bartlett
Lowell and Marilyn Barto (2)
Adam and Amy Basic (5)

Glen and Carolyn Browning
Joyce Brownlie
Cora Bryan (3)
Geron and Kenrie Bryan
Greg Bryan (3)
James Bryan
Kevin and Linda Bryan
Les and Linda Bryan
Perry Bryan
Jeff and Sherry Bryant
Dean and Jeanine Bryce (5)
Jack and Laura Bubun
Buck and Mary Buchanan (2)
Ed and Kathy Buchanan

George and Judy Bunger (3)
Roy and Corine Burch
Daniel Burchel
Bobby and Angela Burgess (2)
Thomas Burkhard (6)
John and Ethel Burleigh
Andrea Burns
Kenneth Burns
Herman and Charlotte Burrough (3)
Jason and Michelle Burtis
Bill and Barbara Burton (3)
John and Jane Burton
Ruth Burton (3)
Thomas Bush
David and Shanna Byrnes (3)
Michael and Kim Cady (2)
James and Judith Cal (2)
John and Linda Caldwell (2)
Max and Alecia Calc
Edward and Donna Camilli
Lyle and Carol Campbell (5)
Mary Campbell
David and Patricia Canan (3)
Barry and Brenda Canham
Virginia Cannon
H.H. Caraway
Byron and Laura Carollock
Richard Carlson
Donald and Leila Carpenter
Robert and Donna Carpenter (6)
James and Sue Carpenter
Maxine Carrell (3)
Samuel and Tina Carrera
Jim and Becky Carter
Robert and Sonja Carter (3)
James Caster (3)
Carlos and Elaine Castillo (3)
Dale Castor
Grady and Juanita Caton
DeVonna Cervantes (3)
Monte Chain
Ted and Anna Chainey (2)
Ann Chalmers
Floyd and Chalons Chambers
Dudley and Vicki Chancey (6)
Terry and Katrina Chaneys (5)
Scott and Carolyn Chaplin (2)
Sidney Chartney (4)
Luceile Cheatham (2)

This country cannot afford to be materially rich and spiritually poor.

Abraham Lincoln

Robert and Kathleen Cheatham
Chicken Express
David and Denise Childress (5)
Randy and Molly Chitwood
Al and Sherrie Christian
Mark and Teresa Christison (4)
Steven and Ginefre Christy
Joan Chuesberg (4)
Clayton and Rachel Clain
Mark and Alice Clark
Amy Clark
Jeff and Elaine Clark (3)
Rosie Clark (4)
A. J. and Patty Clements
Debbie Clendenin
Dwayne and Laedith Cleveland (10)
Mark Clift (6)
Steve and Marsha Clift
Kent and Judith Clinger (5)
Charles and Susan Cloer(2)
Glen and Tammy Clubb
Gary and Jacquelyn Coble (4)
Lindel and Joanne Coffman
Teresa Coffman (4)
Margaret Cogswell (5)
Cory and Cristi Cole (5)
Louise Cole
Edgar and Gayle Coleman (2)
Lance and Stacey Coleman
Patricia Coleman (2)
Sara Collier
William Collier (3)
Dave and Jennifer Compton (2)
Concord Church of Christ
Ron and Tamra Contert (10)
Crystal Cook (3)
Hascal and Dorothy Coop
Judson and Amanda Copeland
Randy and Nikki Cottingham
Steve and Heather Cottum
Alvin Covalt
Doug and Cheryl Cox (5)
Jenny Cox
Jerry and Lois Cox
Eric and Christina Crawford (2)
J.W. and Mildred Crayton
Dennis and Becky Crider (2)
Sandra Crim
Larry and Shannon Crosley
Chuck and Bethany Crow (2)
Otis and Diane Culpepper
James Cummings (3)
Jonathan Curtis
James and Denise Cutbirth (20)
Michael and Cindy Cutter (3)
John and Melanie D'Silva (13)
John and Marsha Dale (5)
Loretta Dale
Billie Daniel (3)
Ed and Betty Daniel (3)
Franklin and Loretta Daniels (2)
Mike and Lavern Daniluk
Wes and Carrie Gotcher (3)
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Paxson Gordon
Jana Gordon
Steve and Carrie Handley
Carolyn Hankins
Jim and Manon Hankins
Mark and Suzan Hanna
Katie Harder
Lyle and Mary Harms (12)
William and Gwen Harper
Kevin and Suzanne Harrington (6)
Eric and Michelle Harris (3)
Earl Harrison
John and Sharon Harrison (4)
Reggie and Kimberly Hart
Kent and Nancy Hartman
Alan and Sandra Haskell
M.G. Hastings
Jim and Shirley Hataway (2)
Tyrel and Lisa Hatfield (2)
Elena Hawkins
Dale and Gail Hawkins
Mike Hawkins
Rick and Arlene Hays
William and Nancy Hearn

Promise a lot and give even more.  
Anthony J. D’Angelo
Education, in the broadest and truest sense, will make an individual seek to help all people, regardless of race, regardless of color, regardless of condition.

George Washington Carver
Honor Roll of Donors

It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35
If your heart is in the right place, it affords you appropriate opportunity to do things for others, to express your good will, to let yourself go sentimentally, philanthropically.

B.C. Forbes

April Tate
Glenn and Jean Teague
Charles and Susan Teddington
Bob and Peggy Tefertiller
Dessain and Stephanie Terry (9)
Franklin and Marilyn Terry
Lawrence and Peggy Terry
Texas Instruments (13)
Steve Thatcher (2)
The Boeing Company (25)
Aaron and Vicki Thomas (3)
Matthew Thomas (2)
Randall and Kathy Thomas (2)
Stephen Thomas (2)
Don and June Thomas
Bob and Maxine Thompson
Darlet Thompson (3)
Benjamin and Monica Thompson
Stephen Tipton
Joe and Ruby Tobey (3)
Ella Todd
Joe and Dottie Tagami (4)
David and Kay Tomberlin
Stanley and Louise Townsend
James and Marla Treat (4)
Mark and Bonita Tremaine
Erik and Jeanie Tryggstad
Pat Tucker (2)
Rusty and Mitzi Tugman
Roudy Turner

Joe Stockton (4)
Duane and Laura Stofan
Terry and Joni Stokes (2)
Jerry Stone
Jennifer Stoner
Laura Storm
Margie Story (2)
Tom and Rebecca Story
Greg and Cynthia Strickland
Tommy and Cheryl Stringer (2)
Jared and Erin Strohl
Mary Ann Sudbury
John and Monica Sudbury
Leonard and Marilyn

Sullivan (2)
Wade and Ardhith Sumpter
Ronald Swadley
David and Emily Swafford
Mr. and Mrs. Sykes Sykes (3)
Gary and Donna Tabor
Mr. and Mrs. Taber Tabor (2)
Jim and Marilynn Tabor
Allen and Bobbie Taggard
Paul and Lucinda Talaferro
Gary and Janet Tandy
Louis Tandy
Albert Tangney
Charles and Susan Tanner

Joe and Sunderland (2)
Ray and Judy Tatsch
Richard and Sonya Weaver (4)
Bob and Pam Weinert
James and Marilyn Wienert
Steve and Penny Welsh
Tommy and Cheryl White
Lynne and John White
Joe and Erin White
Greg and Pam Wilcox (2)
Skip and Marilyn Williams (5)
Bryan and Delise Williams
K. C. and Kathy Williams

Unocal Corporation (6)
Union Pacific Corp

Chapter 2003
Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.
Deuteronomy 8:18
Hundreds of friends, family and members of the armed services gathered at Oklahoma Christian University on Sunday, February 8, 2004, to remember the life of one of eight Army reservists killed in Afghanistan January 29 when a cache of mortar rounds and rifle ammunition exploded near Ghazni, about 90 miles south of Kabul.

Seitsinger was buried with a formal military funeral fitting of the man who spent six-and-a-half years in the U.S. Marines before enrolling at Oklahoma Christian and enlisting in the Army reserves.

His family was presented with the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and a Medal of Commendation during the ceremony by Army Brigadier General Thomas Maney.

"Today we gather to honor the service and sacrifice, to celebrate the honor and the legacy and to mourn the passing of Kyle Seitsinger ... who gave his life in service to our nation," Maney said. "I know we have lost one of Oklahoma’s finest sons, and to those of us who wear or have worn our nation’s uniform, we have lost a fellow soldier.”

After the service, Jo Seitsinger, Kyle’s mother, expressed her gratitude to the OC family for hosting the funeral and to Dr. Philip Patterson, distinguished professor of mass communication, who organized the service. Jo Seitsinger worked in the security office at Oklahoma Christian for more than 10 years.

Patterson was Seitsinger’s academic advisor at Oklahoma Christian. Seitsinger was 11 credit hours short of graduation when he was called to active duty in Afghanistan. The university conferred his degree posthumously and honored him during the spring commencement ceremony.

At Oklahoma Christian, Seitsinger was an editor for the campus newspaper, The Talon. He also served as an intern for The Edmond Sun and as a copy messenger and correspondent for The Oklahoman.

Patterson, who also spoke at Kyle’s funeral, shared the Old Testament story of King David in II Samuel 12, where David lost a child of his own. David, who fasted while the child was sick, arose and washed himself and ate a meal after the child died, telling his servants there was nothing he could do for him now.

Patterson recalled how Seitsinger, fresh from his service in the Marines, would always address him as “sir.” It took awhile for Patterson to convince Seitsinger to loosen up a little, he said.

"Those of us who knew him only late in his life can only get in the front of the parade and take some of the credit for it,” Patterson said. “But he came to us fully formed.”

Patterson said Seitsinger shared his plans to one day go to Bricktown in a swimsuit and cape and make a documentary titled “Captain Speedo.”

“The kids in the newsroom always called Kyle ‘the veteran’ because he was older than they were,” Patterson said.

“Now, Kyle will be the one who never grows up. He’ll always be Captain Speedo.

“Somehow, that’s completely appropriate.”

The story was written by OC alumnus David Hartman (88), a staff writer for The Edmond Sun, and is reprinted with permission.
REMONED LEARNING EXPERT SPEAKS ON CAMPUS

More than a thousand people from Oklahoma and the surrounding region visited campus in November to hear renowned author and learning expert Dr. Mel Levine conduct a free lecture.

In addition to the free lecture, co-sponsored by OC’s School of Education and its College of Professional Studies, Levine also spoke at that day’s Oklahoma Association for the Improvement of Developmental Education conference, held on the OC campus.

Over the past 25 years, Dr. Levine has pioneered programs for the evaluation of children and young adults with learning, development and/or behavioral problems. He has written numerous books and articles and is the author of A Mind at a Time, which was on the New York Times’ bestseller list for more than six months. Dr. Levine and his new book, The Myth of Laziness, recently were featured on The Oprah Winfrey Show. His “Schools Attuned” program trains teachers on how to tailor their class to each student’s strengths and weaknesses.

PASS PROGRAM REWARDS SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Parents and future Eagles, take note of a new scholarship program designed to attract more of the nation’s best and brightest students.

“At a time when the cost of quality education is increasing significantly, we seek to make the unique, quality experience at Oklahoma Christian increasingly accessible to those students who are serious about both academic and spiritual preparation, regardless of their economic circumstances,” said OC President Dr. Mike O’Neal. “While this university will continue to provide educational opportunity to a broad spectrum of students, this program continues a concerted effort to attract more than our share of the brightest and most well-prepared students.”

PASS (Presidential Academic Success Scholarship) carries a value ranging from $4,000 to $9,000 per year, based on students’ ACT or SAT scores. National Merit Scholars will receive additional academic consideration. National Merit Finalists will receive full tuition, room, board and fees. Semifinalists will receive an additional $2,000 above their PASS academic award scholarship. National Merit Commendation students will receive $750, plus their PASS academic award scholarship. The new Oklahoma Christian PASS scholarships are available for first-time college students beginning in the fall of 2004. Scholarships for transfer students also have increased significantly.

For more information on the PASS program, contact the admissions office at 405.425.5050 or at info@oc.edu.

OC EXPANDS FAST TRACK MBA PROGRAM

The School of Business Administration announced a fifth elective track in its Fast Track MBA, which graduated the largest class in the program’s history last August.

A health services management track is now offered along with other tracks in accounting, electronic business, engineering and technology management, and leadership and organizational development, in addition to a general degree.

The program, accredited by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs, allows professionals to obtain their MBA degrees in just one year by going to class two nights a week.

DONORS INCREASE GIVING TO OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN

For the first six months of fiscal year 2003-04, Oklahoma Christian experienced significant increases in several areas of donor giving.

Giving to general scholarship funds was up dramatically from the same period last year. Donors earmarked more than $600,000 toward general scholarships from July through December 2003 compared to almost $400,000 given between July and December 2002. The university’s total number of donors also increased significantly during this time frame.

The university also saw increases in endowment gifts and planned gifts (i.e. charitable gift annuities that pay income to donors for life) as the economy continued to show signs of rebounding with the Dow Jones Industrial Average’s ascent past the 10,000 mark.

“I believe that we can attribute this good news to the loyalty and commitment of Oklahoma Christian’s alumni and friends. Oklahoma Christian is valued because of the high-quality, faith-based education our students receive,” said John deSteiguer, vice president for advancement. “Individuals, families, and even businesses support Oklahoma Christian because our society is made better by the influence of our graduates. People like to make good investments, and OC is a good investment.”

BUSINESS PROGRAMS EARN RE-ACCRREDITATION

The Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs accredited Oklahoma Christian’s business programs on both the undergraduate and
graduate levels through 2014. The Fast Track MBA program, launched in 2002-03, received accreditation well in advance of the five years allowed by ACBSP to bring a program up to accreditation standards.

Oklahoma Christian, Oklahoma City University and the University of Central Oklahoma are the only schools in Oklahoma to have master's programs accredited by ACBSP, an organization for small- to medium-sized higher education institutions.

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR JUDGES OC WRITING CONTEST

Award-winning author Diane Glancy served as judge for the annual writing contest sponsored by Oklahoma Christian University’s literary magazine, Soundings.

The Oklahoma Center for the Book recently honored Glancy, naming her work, The Mask Maker, as the Best Fiction Book for 2003. Glancy was the OC Visiting Writer for 2002 and is a professor of English at Macalister College in St. Paul, Minn.

“This is quite a coup for Soundings sponsor Dr. Peggy Gipson and the student staff,” said Dr. Scott LaMascus, chair of OC’s Department of Language and Literature. “Our visiting writers are poets, dramatists and novelists who already have done great work before they visit campus. But long after they leave campus, our students continue to enjoy the relationships that have grown while these authors are here.”

BUSINESS STUDENTS AMONG TOPS IN NATION

Oklahoma Christian business students scored on average in the highest-possible percentile on a nationally-standardized major field test. OC students scored in the 95th percentile on the test, which is given each semester.

These results are the latest in a long line of successes for the School of Business Administration, which has seen its graduates achieve the highest pass rate of all Oklahoma universities on the CPA exam for three consecutive years.

UNIVERSITY BESTOWS HONORARY DEGREES

The university bestowed four honorary doctoral degrees during the last academic year to Art Linkletter, Akira Hirose, John Sudbury and Jack McGraw.

Linkletter spoke at several events on campus last fall and received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree for his devotion to wholesome entertainment. An Emmy and Grammy award winner, he is most famous for his hit TV series and book, Kids Say the Darndest Things. He also has been a longtime supporter of Christian education, serving on the Board of Regents at Pepperdine University.

During OC’s 54th annual lectureship in January, the university granted an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree to Hirose, chairman of Ibaraki Christian University in Ibaraki, Japan. An outstanding leader in the church in Japan for more than four decades, Hirose left a prestigious business career in 1998 to become chairman of the board of Ibaraki Christian.

During winter commencement, Sudbury received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. Sudbury was a leader in the church in Japan for more than four decades, Hirose left a prestigious business career in 1998 to become chairman of the board of Ibaraki Christian.

OC School of Education Achieves Exam Success

OC School of Education students recently achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the Oklahoma General Education Test, the Oklahoma Professional Teaching Examination, and the Oklahoma Professional Teaching Examination, certification exams that must be completed successfully prior to applying for any kind of teaching license in Oklahoma.

During spring commencement, Jack McGraw was honored for his life of service to the church with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. A successful figure in the oil and gas industry, McGraw began serving the university’s Engineering Advisory Council in 1986, then served on OC’s Board of Trustees from 1989 to 2003.

“I love Christian education because it blesses so many people. I believe that every effort that I made serving as a board member here at Oklahoma Christian University was absolutely vital to the Kingdom of God,” McGraw said. “I hope that my priorities have always been God, family, church and Christian relationships. The Bible says you are blessed to be a blessing to others.”

“My priorities have always been God, family, church and Christian relationships. The Bible says you are blessed to be a blessing to others.”
**OUTSTANDING ALUMNI HONORED**

Stellar careers, exemplary lives and compassion for others are common attributes for each of the award winners who were recognized at Homecoming last November.

B. James Bottoms, 1993 summa cum laude graduate of OC’s College of Business, was recognized with the Outstanding Service to the Church award. He is director of customer service and distribution for Eagle Creek, Inc. Since his graduation, he has used his various positions in the apparel industry to benefit mission work and other ministries. He has arranged for large bolts of surplus material to be sent for use in children's education and to give to needy families in Mexico through Edmond Church of Christ’s annual mission trip to Mexican villages.

Dr. James Cail was recognized for Outstanding Service to the University. A 1958 graduate, Dr. Cail has garnered numerous recognitions for his teaching and family seminars. He led the admissions office in 1963, and only left the university for three years beginning in 1969 to pursue his Ph.D., in religion from Baylor University. After 31 years of teaching psychology, he retired in the spring of 2003. Dr. Cail has been a tireless force in the promotion of Oklahoma Christian. He and his wife, Judy, who graduated from Oklahoma Christian in 1967, have two alumni children, Dr. Trey Cail and Dr. Mindy Cail. Their daughter, Liz, is a current student.

Dr. Charles Villines, class of 1956, was recognized for Outstanding Service to the Community. During the 32 years that Dr. Villines owned his pharmacy in Durant, Okla., he promoted and supported educational programs to prevent drug abuse. He was named Outstanding Citizen of the Year in Durant, was instrumental in raising $100,000 to provide a modern Chinese translation of the Bible, and has served as an elder at the Seventh and Beech Church of Christ since 1972. He is married to fellow 1956 alum Kay (Brundege).

Dr. Max Dobson was honored as the 2003 Honorary Alumnus. He has garnered many awards and accolades during his 37-year tenure as a teacher, coach and athletic director at Oklahoma Christian. He led the Eagle baseball team to the 1972 NAIA College World Series and was named Sooner Athletic Conference women's basketball coach of the year in 1981, 1984 and 1985. In this issue of VISION, you also can read about Dobson’s tremendous work with disabled children. Max and his late wife, Ramona, have three children: Tami Robbins (82); Todd Dobson (85), and his wife, Dee (Crowley 85); and Teri Mueller (95) and her husband, Scott (93). Max and his wife, Marilyn (Forrester), live in Edmond.

**NICKLES URGES GRADS TO FOCUS ON GOD**

“I urge you to be a success, but more importantly, to be successful in God’s eyes. Be significant in his eyes. Make eternal contributions to other people. Share the wonderful blessings that you’ve had in being able to be a graduate of Oklahoma Christian University. It’s a real honor. I just challenge you to make the most of it until Heaven eternal. God bless you.”

With those words, U.S. senator Don Nickles closed his Winter Commencement address address at Oklahoma Christian in December.

“I want to congratulate the students,” Nickles said. “This is not an ending. It is the beginning of a lot of wonderful things. I also want to congratulate the faculty. You may not know the impact you had until someday in Heaven, when you find out a student went on to do wonderful things because you planted a seed in their lives.”

Oklahoma’s senior senator and budget committee chairman, Nickles began his career in public service with his election in 1978 to the Oklahoma State Senate, where he served two years. In 1980, Nickles was elected to the U.S. Senate, eventually becoming the first Oklahoma Republican ever elected to a fourth term in 1998. He will retire from the senate at the end of his term this year.

**CHESAPEAKE FUNDS NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

A generous contribution from Chesapeake Energy Corporation in Oklahoma City will make it possible for more students from rural Oklahoma to attend Oklahoma Christian University. The “Chesapeake Scholars Program” will provide $10,000 per year for the next five years to fund leadership and character scholarships for OC students from western Oklahoma towns with populations of 30,000 or fewer people. Chesapeake Scholars will exhibit both leadership...
and academic qualities, with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

“We are pleased to support Oklahoma Christian University and make it possible for young people from rural Oklahoma to attend this fine university,” said Tom Price, Jr., Senior Vice President of Investor and Government Relations for Chesapeake Energy Corporation. “Our company employs a number of graduates from Oklahoma Christian so we know firsthand the academic preparation and maturity level of the students from OC. They have made an impressive contribution.”

COOL VIEW MAGAZINE WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Destined to live in the magazine racks of living rooms for years to come, OC’s acclaimed viewbook magazine has now won a major national award.

VIEW won “Best of Show” in the 19th Annual Admissions Advertiser Awards, a national contest conducted by Admissions Marketing Report. The glossy 104-page magazine produced by OC’s marketing staff, also won the “Gold” award for first place in the “Student Viewbook” category for schools under 2,000 students.

In addition, Oklahoma Christian won the “Gold” award for first place in the “Magazine/Advertising Series” category for the university’s “Vivid Descriptor” ad campaign, as well as a “Merit” award for its Web site, www.oc.edu.

Out of the 965 total winners, the Admissions Marketing Report panel selected just 15 national “Best of Show” winners across all competition categories, and including colleges and universities of all sizes. The AMR lauded VIEW for exhibiting “the highest production standards, creativity and professionalism” and for its “exceptional contribution to the field of admissions marketing and advertising.” VIEW was one of just four “Best of Show” winners to be produced completely in-house, not through an advertising agency.

“We’re honored and excited to earn this industry recognition, but our real victory comes from our increased exposure to potential students who are finding out about Oklahoma Christian because of the appeal of the magazine,” said Kyle Wray, OC vice president for enrollment and marketing.

Through a generous gift from OC Board of Trustee member Richard Lawson, and his wife, Pat, alumni received the magazine in the mail last year. The Lawsons paid for the additional printing to send the magazine to alumni. They said alumni would get as much enjoyment out of reading VIEW as prospective students and their parents, and they just might pass the magazine along to future Eagles they know at their church or in their community.

If you need another copy of VIEW to give to a prospective student you know, call the Admissions Office at 1.800.877.5010 or visit www.oc.edu/view.

OC STARTS ONLY M.Div. PROGRAM IN CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Christian has launched a Masters of Divinity degree program, the only program of its kind in central Oklahoma. With OC’s Masters of Divinity program beginning in the fall, ministers and others interested in practical biblical scholarship in the metro area and throughout the region now can pursue their standard theological training and education closer to home instead of commuting to Tulsa or to another state.

“A central part of the mission of Oklahoma Christian is to train and prepare Christian men and women for ministry, while teaching and modeling the holy scriptures to all of our students,” said OC president Mike E. O’Neal. “The addition of the M.Div. degree is a natural progression in our desire to serve people from diverse backgrounds who want to strengthen their knowledge of God’s will, deepen their faith, and increase the effectiveness of their ministry.”

The program will include courses on biblical history and theological studies, and will be marked by an emphasis on practical ministry, developing the skills ministers can use on a daily basis in their church work. Courses will be taught by professors with extensive past and current ministerial experience, and with diverse academic backgrounds. Members of OC’s Biblical Studies faculty have earned doctoral degrees from the University of Tennessee, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Oxford University, the University of Notre Dame, the Iliff School of Theology, the University of Florida, the University of Edinburgh, the University of California-Santa Barbara and Baylor University.

Dr. Bob Young is the director of the Masters of Divinity program. Young, who holds his doctor of ministry degree from Abilene Christian University, is the former Bible department chairman and executive vice president at Ohio Valley College. He comes to Oklahoma Christian from the Church of Christ in McAlester, Okla., where he served as the congregation’s pulpit minister.
THREE ALUMNI NAMED TO OC ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Stephanie Findley (basketball/coaching), Mark Jackson (baseball) and Wayne Strohman (track/cross country) were inducted into the Oklahoma Christian University Athletic Hall of Fame in January. The OC Hall of Fame inducted its charter class in 1991 and now includes 28 honorees.

In 19 seasons as head coach of the Lady Eagles’ basketball team, Findley has become the winningest women’s coach in OC history with 373 victories. A 1982 OC graduate, she is a four-time recipient of Coach-of-the-Year honors in the Sooner Athletic Conference. Findley served two terms as the president of the NAIA Women’s Basketball Association (2000-01 and 2002-03), is the NAIA representative to the USA Basketball Women’s Collegiate Committee and has been selected to the Board of Directors of the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame. She is married to Dean Findley, a 1982 OC graduate, and has two daughters, Jordan and Jessica.

Jackson received NAIA All-American first-team baseball honors in 1990, as well as All-District and All-Area recognition. As a senior, he had a .404 batting average and set school records for hits, doubles, home runs and runs batted in. He also was selected as an Academic All-American in 1990 and was co-recipient of the Ray Vaughn Award for Christian Leadership. After a career as a high school athletic director and baseball coach, Jackson now is the owner of M&C Jackson Group, Inc., which operates three businesses in the Cleburne, Texas, area. He is married to the former Chercee Cerrington of Waurika, Okla., and has four children, Rayel, Shelby, Sawyer and Wesley.

Strohman was a four-time NAIA All-American, earning the honors in both indoor and outdoor national competitions. He also was an NAIA Scholar Athlete in 1993. He still holds the school record for the 10,000-meter run, 29:56.51, set in 1994. Still active as a runner, the 1994 OC graduate won the prestigious White Rock Marathon in Dallas, Texas in 1999 and was 10th in the Austin (Texas) Motorola Marathon in 2003. He is a supervisor for Lab One, Inc. in Lenexa, Kansas, and is married to the former Shelby Moore of Deer Creek, Okla.

LADY EAGLES WIN NAIA REGION TITLE

The OC Lady Eagles won their first-ever NAIA Region VI tennis championship with a 5-4 victory over Southern Nazarene University. Coach Chris Young was named Region VI Women’s Coach of the Year. He led both OC teams to top-10 final rankings, with the No. 5 Lady Eagles and No. 9 Eagles both advancing to the second round of the national tournament.

LIZARRALDE WINS REGION TITLE; EAGLES FOURTH IN NAIA

With three record-setting rounds, OC junior Juan Lizarralde became the school’s first-ever regional champion as the Eagles placed second in the NAIA Region VI Golf Championship. Lizarralde shot a course record 64 in the opening round and finished 19 strokes under par for the tournament. At the NAIA national tournament, Lizarralde placed third as the Eagles, the runnerup at regionals, finished fourth as a team. Oklahoma Christian has placed in the top five at the NAIA tournament in each of the last five years.

ATHLETES EARN ALL-AMERICA HONORS

OC junior forward Jarred Merrill was selected to the NAIA Division I Men’s Basketball All-America first team. Merrill, the Sooner Athletic Conference Co-Player of the Year, ranked second in the NAIA in scoring (24.4) and rebounding (12.3). He was named SAC Player of the Week four times and the NAIA National Player of the Week once. OC sophomore guard Lauren Decker was named to the NAIA All-American honorable mention team, averaging 15.8 points, 4.9 rebounds and 3.9 assists as the Lady Eagles advanced to the Sweet 16 in the national tournament.

The NAIA named freshman tennis player Linda Tempelfelde the NAIA/Intercollegiate Tennis Association Rookie of the Year. Tempelfelde also was named a first-team All-American along with teammates Michaela Shejba-lova and Juraj Sekera. Earn-
second-team honors were seniors Alfonso Bacalja, Olzhas Doskarayev and Ashley Sims. It was Bacalja’s third All-America honor and Sims’ second.

OC junior golfer Juan Lizarralde earned All-American honors for the third time after winning the regional championship and placing third at the NAIA national tournament. He and teammate Jorge Romano, who placed

12th at nationals, both earned spots on the NAIA all-tournament team.

Kenneth Bowling became the first freshman and the sixth runner in OC history to earn NAIA All-America honors in cross country. Bowling placed 25th out of 254 runners at the NAIA National Championship meet, leading the Eagles to a 20th-place team finish.

OC soccer players Matt Clark and Brad Cleveland were named to the NAIA All-America honorable mention team. Clark set an OC single-season scoring record with 23 goals. He also was recognized as NAIA National Player of the Week during the year.

NAIA Scholar-Athlete selection is based on athletic achievement and maintaining a minimum 3.5 grade point average.

THOMPSON WINS AGE GROUP AT OKC MEMORIAL MARATHON

OC freshman Allen Thompson won his age group and placed sixth overall in the fourth-annual Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon in April.

A total of 1,476 athletes (955 males and 519 females) competed in the marathon. Thompson, a 19-year-old elementary education major, finished the race in 2:42:18, a pace of 6:12 per mile. It was his first time he ever has run in a marathon.

Originally from Ethiopia, Thompson is the adopted son of Mike and Annette Thompson of LaCrescent, Minn. He is a member of the cross country and track and field teams.

Other OC Scholar-Athletes for 2003-04 were; Justin Barrick (golf; business major); Leta Clendenen (track and field; biology major); Lauren Decker (women’s basketball; accounting major); Blair Dodson (track and field; mechanical engineering major); Ryan Dukes (golf; business major); Tim King (track and field; electrical engineering major); Angela Miller, (women’s soccer; family studies major); Caleb Mullins (men’s soccer; accounting major); and Daniel Ray (cross country; business major).
He still has the Bible that two Oklahoma Christian College students gave him in 1975. It’s a bit worn around the edges, but you can read the personal messages from Tim Denton (76) and Jeff Haseltine (76), encouraging a young Tomoyuki Shinozaki to keep studying the scriptures.

“Tim and Jeff … were God’s tools for a 13-year-old boy to know His love,” said Shinozaki, now minister for the Numazu Church of Christ.

The two students were the first participants in an exchange program between Oklahoma Christian and Japan’s Ibaraki Christian College. The program, now 30 years old, has produced multiple baptisms on both sides of the ocean, and has introduced the Bible to hundreds of Japanese students.

The first Mission Focus, a day-long forum at OC at the conclusion of OC annual Bible lectureship Jan. 28, celebrated that achievement and reviewed more than 100 years of Japanese evangelism. About 50 missions supporters from the U.S. and from Japan attended.

Akira Hirose, elder for the Mito, Japan, Church of Christ and chairman of the board of directors for Ibaraki Christian, gave the keynote address to a luncheon crowd of about 90 people. He saluted Oklahoma Christian for its efforts to teach the English in Japan, which has placed multiple American English teachers in Japan’s public schools.

The Japanese government allows - and even pays - Associate English Teachers (AET’s) to teach in area schools without proselytizing. But their presence has led to increased curiosity about Churches of Christ. AET’s also teach English using the Bible outside of the classrooms.

“Success in Mito depends on AET’s,” Hirose said.

Many of the teachers are former Oklahoma Christian students who became interested in the mission during their time at Ibaraki through the OC’s exchange program or its Pacific Rim semester abroad.

After graduation, English teaching in Japan can be a tempting vocational ministry.

“The government is paying us to do mission work in Japan. Isn’t that wonderful?” said Joe McCormack, Oklahoma Christian professor emeritus, who has assisted in the program.

At the Mito church, which sponsors language studies at its facility, the programs are leading to conversions.

“It is almost a miracle to see 120 non-Christians come to church every Sunday to study the Bible,” Hirose said.

Japanese Christians said they are excited about the future of
the church, in spite of the challenges and hardships. Churches of Christ entered Japan about 1890 through missionaries, including W. K. Azbill and J. M. McCaleb. Evangelistic fervor gripped the Eastern island chain in the days immediately after the World War II. From 1948 to 1952, ministers reported 1,000 baptisms per year and a new congregation started almost every month, according to longtime missionary Dwight Albright.

But today, church of Christ members throughout Japan number about 1,050.

Japan has many “ex-Christians” or “one-time Christians,” said Yukikazu “Yuki” Obata, minister for the Mito church. Japanese may embrace Christianity, or other foreign thought, in their youth because they think of it as something from the West that’s “cool,” Obata said. But as they age, they tend to shun Western things and cast off their Christianity. They reject the faith because “now we’re grown up,” Obata said.

“We are encouraged to see many new Christians in our fellowship because of the English ministry,” Obata said. “What we need is to provide them with properly contextualized Gospel … before moving to China and working there. Charity, a 1996 graduate of Oklahoma Christian, said that they are considering what mission field to enter next, and hearing from Japanese Christians at the Mission Forum gave them some ideas. Mark Chan said that, “just being here, we’ve heard about quite a few opportunities.”

Other ministers added that there is a need for more leadership training within Japan. Naoyoshi Fukushima, minister for the Tachikawa Church of Christ in Tokyo, is associate dean of the Japan School of Evangelism, a school designed to assist Japanese Christians as they combat what Hirose has defined as a brewing crisis in the country - aging preachers.

“We need your help training new generations of leaders,” Fukushima said. “The only reason I’m standing here is because a missionary came and extended his hand with the love of Christ.”

The church leaders said that they hoped the Mission Focus would be the beginning of a series of conversations about the future of evangelism in Japan.

“God will make a way”

“The workshop is like a dream come true for Japanese Christians,” Obata said. “God is making a way to evangelize Japan where there seems to be no way.”

Shinozaki said that the event was a reaffirmation of the faith he encountered in two Oklahoma Christian students nearly 30 years ago.

“It was so special for me to be reminded of the reason why I was baptized Aug. 4, 1975,” Shinozaki said.

Erik Tryggestad, The Christian Chronicle
The dorms. The dorms. The dorms. They were so much a part of our OC experience. Chances are if you were a student 10, 20 or 25 years ago – your old dorm room hasn’t changed much. But not for long.

Oklahoma Christian recently announced a comprehensive student housing project that will result in the construction of two new residence halls and a new student apartment complex, as well as major renovation of all existing student housing.

The new student residence hall and apartment projects will mark the university’s first new housing additions since 1978.

In April, the OC Board of Trustees approved the plan for the $33 million project, which will be financed by 30-year bonds and a fundraising campaign.

“We love our students as if they were our own children, we care about the quality of the housing we provide to them. This university is about training the whole person. It’s about our whole life, not just what we do in the classroom, not just what we do in academics. It’s about the kind of people we are – the kind of lives we live and what we do 24/7,” said Dr. Mike O’Neal, president.

Earlier this spring, renovation began on two residence halls, Fails Hall (men) and Tinius Hall-East (women). Renovation will begin on the seven other existing dormitories and on the existing phases of the Heritage Heights student apartments upon completion of the new construction over the next 18 to 24 months.
“This is certainly the largest and one of the most important projects in the university’s history,” said Alfred C. Branch, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Oklahoma Christian. “We have a great team in place to make the comprehensive plan a reality over the next three years for the benefit of our students for years and years to come.”

The project is under the direction of Trammell Crow Company, with Richard R. Brown Associates handling the architectural designs. Smith & Pickel Construction is executing the renovation of the existing residence halls and the central mechanical plant. ProCon LLC is constructing the new apartment complex. Frankfurt-Short-Bruza provided engineering on the central mechanical plant.

The design for the new residence halls will serve as the architectural capstone on the west end of the campus, featuring a 52-foot tower and a covered entrance with three-story atrium over the reception area that is similar to the appearance of a nice hotel. In addition to the substantial upgrade in student housing, the plans for the residence halls will include “hotel rooms” available to visiting parents.

“I believe God has blessed us with a combination of factors that are going to enable this project to be successful,” O’Neal said. “He has sent trustees, administrators, faculty and staff who recognize the strategic importance of this project at this particular time in the life of Oklahoma Christian. But, along with that, he has sent low interest rates. Current occupancy rates have allowed us to take some housing off-line for renovation on a staggered schedule. He has sent us contractors who are trying to squeeze as much out of our construction dollars as possible. He has sent us advisors and counselors who are helping us in the design of the facilities and helping us to use our money in the best possible way. Recent gifts have given us the financial strength and momentum to undertake this massive project, and I am confident He will send benefactors who will help us with the $2 million incremental funding needed to accomplish this vision.”

McDonald’s doctors found that his lungs were completely full of tumors. His treatment plan involved aggressive chemotherapy, a homeopathic diet and a positive attitude.

“If you didn’t see a man with no leg, if he was just sitting at his desk, you would not imagine that he was a guy facing a serious attack of cancer. He always had the attitude that we were going to beat this. Even a few days before he died, he sent out an email explaining the hospice program he was to go on, which had in the past year dismissed 30 patients from their services because they were healthy again. He said, ‘I am going to be the next one,’” Wilguess said.

In a short amount of time, the tumors had filled his lungs so rapidly that McDonald wasn’t able to make it home from the hospital.

McDonald is survived by his wife, Kathy, their three children Stephanie Ward (94), Mandy Flaming (96) and her husband, Michael, and Alex McDonald (98) and his wife, Jami (Bond 97), and two grandchildren Olivia Flaming and Alex McDonald.

“It was his faith that God was going to take care of him. He would say that all he had to do was make sure that his faith was strong. There was never a day that I could recall seeing him down, even the day before they were to cut his leg off,” Wilguess said. “He came into work and said, ‘they are going to cut my leg off tomorrow. So I thought what would I want to do on my last night on earth as a two-legged man?’ And he said ‘I want to run through wet concrete and feel the stuff squish between my toes.’”

Although McDonald didn’t run through wet concrete, he did clean out his gutters.

“We asked him the next day in the pre-op room what he ended up doing, and he said he had gotten up the morning they were to cut his leg off and he cleaned out his gutters. When we asked why in the world he did that, he said, ‘because they needed cleaning out.’ That was the kind of guy he was,” Wilguess said.

Rowley believed McDonald would want to be remembered most for the person he strived to be in everything he did.

“Mike would want us to remember him as a person that to the best of his ability was committed to the Lord, his family and his work at Oklahoma Christian. He loved life. He packed more into his 50-plus years of living than some people who live to be 90 or 100. He made the most of every day and lived life to the fullest. The reason he was able to get so much out of life is because he put so much into it, and I think he would want us all to strive to do the same,” Rowley said.

OC Associates continued from pg. 7

Society for generous lifetime financial support, and those honorees included Mark and Beth Brewer, Don and Donna Millican, Don and Nettie Glaspie, and Ralph and Maxine Harvey.

The OC Associates program was established in 2003 to honor university friends and benefactors. Each person who annually contributes $1,000 or more ($2,000 for couples) in unrestricted funds to Oklahoma Christian becomes a member of the OC Associates. University friends who contribute at least $5,000 annually in unrestricted funds are recognized as Senior Associates, while contributors of at least $10,000 are recognized as President’s Associates. The designation of Life Associate is awarded to anyone who makes a one-time gift of $25,000 or more in unrestricted funds to the university.

Next year’s Associates Dinner will be held March 31, 2005, at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

For information on how you can become an OC Associate, contact John deSteiguer at 405.425.3094 or john.desteiguer@oc.edu.
Eck leads alumni

Oklahoma Christian University welcomes back alumnus Stephen Eck to lead the university’s Alumni Relations Department.

Eck, a 1992 graduate, returns to Oklahoma Christian from Portland, Oregon, where he has spent the last four years leading fundraising efforts at Cascade College, OC’s sister institution.

“We are excited that Stephen and his family have returned to Oklahoma City to work with us at Oklahoma Christian,” said John deSteiguer, vice president for advancement. “He has terrific ideas to implement into our alumni program and he is an enthusiastic go-getter.”

You can’t talk to Eck very long without hearing a story about his college days – the fun he had leading his social service club, the grueling – yet rewarding – Greek courses he took with Dr. Loren Geiger, traveling on mission trips with Let’s Start Talking, and meeting his future wife, Megan (Thomas 93). Eck also clearly remembers that he had no intention of attending Oklahoma Christian and was bound for Lubbock Christian University when Duane Eggelston and Bob Rowley, who both formerly worked with the Admissions Office, came to his town and took him to dinner. With a week to go before school started, Eck decided to give Oklahoma Christian a try.

It’s a decision he has never regretted. Now, more than 10 years later, Eck’s OC experience gives him excellent footing to work in the alumni program at his beloved alma mater.

“I look forward to building on the good work already being accomplished,” he said.

Organizing more alumni chapters in cities across the nation and getting alumni back to campus for events like homecoming are high on his agenda. Eck comes into an office that was previously led by Mike McDonald, who passed away last December from cancer.

“Mike was a great friend to me at Cascade. And he did so much for Oklahoma Christian. I hope to honor his legacy by building the OC Alumni Department stronger than ever,” Eck said.

Eck will have a lot of help from Pam Fletcher, alumni relations coordinator, who joined the OC staff less than a year ago after working with alumni at the University of Oklahoma.

In addition to his bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma Christian, Eck holds an MBA from Mid-America Nazarene University and plans to attend law school part-time at Oklahoma City in the fall.

Stephen and Megan have two children, Elijah, 5, and Meredith, 3.

If you have questions about OC alumni, or want to offer help or suggestions, email Stephen or Pam at Stephen.Eck@oc.edu or Pam.Fletcher@oc.edu. Don’t forget to regularly check out the alumni relations website at www.oc.edu/alumni.

You can now update your alumni information on Oklahoma Christian’s website. Visit www.oc.edu/alumni to update your name, address, email and other information.