Dear Alumni and Friends:

I can’t begin to tell you what a joy it has been to see all the ways God has blessed your university in recent months. There is more excitement on campus among students, faculty and staff than I can remember.

And there are more of us to be excited. As noted on page 6, this is our second consecutive year of record enrollment. For the first time in our school’s history, there are more than 2,000 students studying under the professional and loving mentoring of master teachers like the unconquerable Dr. John Thompson, who is profiled on page 2. Our Portland campus, Cascade College, also enjoyed a rise in enrollment this year and recently received the largest single gift in its 11-year history.

This special Homecoming edition of VISION is full of stories and reflections on the growing depth and reach of the Oklahoma Christian University mission and community. I hope you will read it all, but especially the stories about alumni and the growing influence of our alumni through the National Alumni Council and regional alumni chapters. There are lots of ways for you to influence the future of OC, and we want to hear your voice.

You will likely be amazed at how our skyline has changed if you haven’t been on campus in awhile. New dorms and apartments are rising across the OC campus as part of our $34 million building project. We have already added a new apartment complex and two new residence halls, as well as completely refurbished two existing residence halls.

Construction of another new student apartment complex is being expedited to house as many as 108 hurricane-displaced families employed by the New Orleans Hornets NBA basketball franchise. That complex will be available to students in the fall of 2006.

Examples of our academic excellence are evident in every corner of the campus. For example, all three of our School of Engineering programs are now accredited, making us the only private college in Oklahoma and the only college in the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities with that distinction. For the fifth straight year, U.S. News & World Report ranked OC as the No. 7 “Best Comprehensive College” in the 16-state western region.

And our graduates continue to perform well. For the past two years, 100 percent of students from the language and literature and science departments who applied to graduate or medical school have been accepted. Just this week, we got word that for the 10th straight year, OC’s chapter of the history honor society was selected as the nation’s best chapter in its division. OC students also earned national or regional honors in numerous areas, including advertising, business, education, engineering, free enterprise, graphic design, history, language and literature, mass communication, management, music, psychology, science, and athletics.

The response of our students, faculty and staff to the needs of Hurricane Katrina victims has been nothing short of inspirational. More than 150 students and faculty from OC volunteered to spend their October break from classes working in the Gulf Coast areas affected by the hurricane.

We’re also very excited about the future of our athletic program. DeWayne Hall recently became our new athletic director and is implementing an aggressive new plan that includes facility upgrades, becoming more competitive in all sports and reviving the baseball program.

I look forward to seeing you and your family on campus for Homecoming. I think you will be very pleased with the progress of your university. Thank you for your continued support and please continue to remember OC in your prayers.

In His service,

Mike E. O’Neal, President
Walls

These

If

Could

Talk

VISION
Alumni Magazine of Oklahoma Christian University (USPS 405-420)
Volume 7, No. 5, Fall 2005

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Oklahoma Christian University admits students of any race, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, handicaps, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

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MILESTONES PAGE 32
ALUMNI LETTER BACK COVER

2005 HOMECOMING RECONNECT
Dr. John Thompson continues to teach history classes at OC despite chronic illness.

“Teaching for me is just joy and as long as I think I can adequately do it, I plan to,” Thompson said. “I haven’t done anything different or extraordinary by continuing to teach.”

We beg to differ. His perseverance through years of chronic kidney problems has been extraordinary. And there’s nothing “adequate” about his teaching. He continues to teach with fervor, and students and faculty alike are thankful he’s still devoted to the classroom.

“He’s so passionate about the subject,” recent graduate Jared Cail said. “He really enjoys teaching it; it’s not just about the job.”

“His kind of enthusiasm is contagious,” Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jeanine Varner said. “He passes that on to students, who then energize him.”
Cool View of OC’s Success

The faculty feature at left comes from the new edition of View, a magazine-style viewbook geared toward prospective students.

Published in September, the 128-page magazine features OC alumni, faculty, staff and students and touts OC’s quality education and environment.

The two previous editions of the magazine won five awards in national and statewide competitions, including a national “Best of Show” award in a contest conducted by Admissions Marketing Report.

View’s latest honor, a first-place award from the Oklahoma Collegiate Public Relations Association, was one of nine awards won by OC’s University Marketing Office at the annual statewide competition.

OC’s nine awards trailed only the University of Oklahoma’s 13. Oklahoma Christian won awards in seven of the nine categories it entered, with projects produced for Admissions, Advancement, Alumni Relations, Financial Services, Housing and Student Life, as well as general marketing projects on behalf of the university.

All of OC’s marketing materials are produced “in-house.” The university’s marketing team members (Stephen Bell, Judson Copeland, Jonathan Curtis, Risa Forrester, Dan Lovejoy, Wes McKinzie, Dawn Shelton, Allison Shumate and Kim Walden) are all OC alumni.

“It speaks volumes about the high-quality academic environment at Oklahoma Christian that we can tap our own alumni to produce work that’s praised and honored by fellow professionals in higher education and in the industry,” said Forrester, OC’s Director of Admissions and Marketing. “It’s gratifying to see our staff’s daily work, research and strategic planning have a positive impact on the university’s success and reputation.”

For more information on View or to order copies for your family or youth group, call OC’s Admissions Office at (405) 425-5954.
ou can’t see their work … and it’s not just because they work behind the scenes.

That’s what happens when you work on the B-2 Bomber, otherwise known as the “Stealth Bomber.”

On enemy radar, it’s invisible … or at least as close to invisible as you can get. In military operations since 1999, stealth bombers have flown virtually undetected from the United States to places like Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq to take out targets with remarkable precision.

The people who give the B-2 its unique capabilities include a large group of OC alumni who work at Northrop Grumman, one of the largest aerospace companies in the world.

National Security in OC Alums’ Hands

(left to right) Ron Naylor, MBA; Ellis McCurtain, BSEE; Rick English, MBA; Josh D. Krauthweil, BSEE; Cedric E. Hawley, BSME; Kim Marionou, MBA; Rick Owens, BSEE, MBA; James B. Jacobs, BSCS; Travis Dixon, BSEE; Andy Fritsch, BSEE; Tim Hayes, MBA; Joshua Foster, BSEE, MBA; Phylliese Sawyer, BSME; Caleb Dacus, BSEE, MBA

(not pictured) Jennifer Foster, BSEE; Preston B. Watterton, BSEE; Brian Morrison, BSCS; Terrence Butler, MBA; Rob Hennervold, MBA; Brian A. Lloyd, BSEE; Jacob A. Beaton, BSEE.
higher. If something’s not perfect, it can put pilots or an operation at risk. It can mean the difference between a precision bomb strike and one that puts civilian lives in harm’s way.

This is important stuff. Northrop Grumman’s OC alumni say the high standards, ethics and experiences of their OC education prepared them for this career. They’ve earned the respect of their peers and bosses to the point where they’ve risen to higher levels of the company.

“Teamwork is key,” said Rick Owens, who has an electrical engineering degree and an MBA from Oklahoma Christian. “At OC, we had a lot of systems projects where we had to work together. That’s really helped at Northrop Grumman in the work we do.”

“Coming through the engineering program, we had the confidence we could handle anything. That carried over to the workplace. OC guys get thrown into fires here. Things have to be done,” McCurtain said. “You had to have a good work ethic to succeed at OC. We had experience with various computer programs and tools. We all had our hands on it before we got here. Other schools didn’t have that.”

Oklahoma Christian has 21 Alumni employed at Northrop Grumman’s local Tinker Air Force Base location. They design and test equipment, operational programs and systems that help make the B-2 the only aircraft in the world that combines long range, a large weapons payload and stealth.

“As an engineering major, when you come out of school, you decide if you want to play or make a difference,” said Ellis McCurtain, one of the first OC alums hired at Northrop Grumman in 1999. “We think we’re making a difference.”

“I feel my job has significance because the B-2 has been a successful platform,” said Andy Fritsch, a 2004 OC grad. “It feels good to know it played an integral role in the war effort.”

That integral role included “kicking down the door” for U.S. troops entering Iraq. The operation, which effectively ended Saddam Hussein’s regime, was made possible by a fleet of stealth two-pilot bombers that went into Iraq unaided and took out key military targets.

The Northrop Grumman team experiences a different pressure under fire. When there is a glitch, or potential glitch, Northrop Grumman’s OC alumni have the company’s bottom line in their hands. The decision to “fail” a project that hasn’t tested quite right could cost Northrop Grumman a contract worth millions of dollars.

In wartime, the stakes are even higher. If something’s not perfect, it can mean the difference between a precision bomb strike and one that puts civilian lives in harm’s way.

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Accreditation makes OC CCCU’s engineering leader

The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology recently accredited OC’s computer engineering program, making Oklahoma Christian the only school in the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities with ABET accreditation of three of its engineering programs. CCCU is composed of 105 colleges and universities nationwide.

OC’s electrical engineering and mechanical engineering programs also are nationally accredited by ABET, a professional accrediting organization for engineering programs. Oklahoma State University, Oral Roberts University, the University of Oklahoma and the University of Tulsa are the only colleges in the state of Oklahoma besides Oklahoma Christian with ABET-accredited engineering programs.

The accreditation process, a voluntary, non-governmental process of peer review, is used to assure quality in educational institutions and programs. The accreditation shows that Oklahoma Christian meets or exceeds criteria that touch all areas of the engineering educational programs, such as faculty, facilities, curriculum, support from within the university and interaction with industry.

Accreditation also allows potential employers to know the university’s graduates are prepared to begin professional practice. “Oklahoma Christian puts particular emphasis on the development of communication skills, ethical decision making and interdisciplinary thinking in all of its engineering programs,” said Dr. Jeff Bigelow, the chair of OC’s electrical and computer engineering departments. “Our goal is to become the engineering school of choice for prospective students and for prospective employers. The accreditation of all of our programs is an indicator for both groups that OC engineering cannot be ignored in their decisions.”

Oklahoma Christian has become the engineering school of choice for an increasing number of students. The addition of an engineering admissions specialist position, combined with faculty recruiting initiatives, helped increase enrollment in the School of Engineering this year.

For more information on OC’s School of Engineering, go to www.oc.edu/engineering
Oklahoma Christian has recorded its second consecutive year of record enrollment and has topped the 2,000 mark on the Oklahoma City campus for the first time in school history. ACT test scores for incoming students continue to rise as well.

“These are exciting times at Oklahoma Christian,” university president Mike O’Neal said. “We have hired 11 new outstanding faculty members this fall and hope to hire several more. Our campus is seeing a resurgence with new and refurbished dorms and apartments to accommodate the additional students.”

“We’re very pleased that these young people and their parents appreciate the value of a faith-based college education,” O’Neal said. “The quality of education that we offer, combined with a friendly, attractive campus, really provides our students an ideal environment for learning and preparing for life and a career. That is reflected in the high caliber of students we are attracting.”

Enrollment at OC for the fall semester is 2,053, compared with 1,947 for the 2004 fall semester, a 5.4 percent increase over last year’s previous record high. The 2005 figures include 1,838 undergraduate and 215 graduate students.

OC’s Cascade College campus in Portland, Oregon, also showed an increase with 286 students this year.

A solid retention rate of more than 70 percent combined with a near-record 549 freshmen and more than 100 transfer students contributed to OC’s record enrollment. Also included are four Hurricane Katrina evacuees who received free tuition.

OC’s new nursing program (launched this year in conjunction with nearby Southern Nazarene University) enabled numerous students to remain at Oklahoma Christian instead of transferring to another school.

“There is a real energy on campus with our new academic programs, new housing, new faculty, and especially our new students,” Director of Admissions and Marketing Risa Forrester said. “Our unprecedented admissions and retention numbers of the past two years are a credit to our faculty and staff, not to mention our current students and alumni who tout OC to campus visitors and to prospective students across the country.”
Mike & Nancy O’Neal and John & Connie Maple will host an Alaskan adventure for alumni and friends of Oklahoma Christian University from May 27 to June 8, 2006. This trip will include a breathtaking cruise of the Inside Passage and an exciting tour by rail and motor coach through the heart of Alaska. For more information and/or to download a reservation form, check our web page at www.oc.edu/alaska. Special OC group rates begin at $2,084 per person. To request a brochure, please call the OC President’s Office at (405) 425-5100 or email kerri.williams@oc.edu with the subject heading: Please Send Alaska Brochure. Your name and mailing address should appear in the text of the email.
What inspired April Tate, a fifth-grade public school teacher, to make an investment of nearly $3,000 in Oklahoma Christian University?

The same spirit that inspires her to be a teacher and missionary, that inspires her to impact lives for good.

April received her education degree from Oklahoma Christian in 1996. She began teaching in her home state of Louisiana and now teaches in Texas. She also enjoys doing mission work and is a decorating consultant for Southern Living at Home.

Since her graduation, April has supported Oklahoma Christian by giving in response to phone-a-thons. She recently decided to participate in Bricks and Memories, a program designed to raise funds for a maintenance endowment for the residence halls and apartments by allowing participants to name rooms and suites.

Room 101 of Gunn-Henderson West Hall, which was April's first home away from home at OC, is now the "April Tate" room.

From hanging out watching movies under piles of blankets in the lounge, to gathering for all-night study vigils, there was something going on every night. April described it as a "who's-got-the-coffee-pot-tonight kind of thing."

"You were forced together in some ways, so it caused bonding and friendships," she said. "I loved always knowing there were great friends next door and down the hall."

One of April's favorite memories is ordering pizza after curfew and getting friends together to bake chocolate chip cookies in her little toaster oven. But she realizes that living in a dorm had a much deeper impact on her life than simply increasing her chocolate chip cookie consumption.

"I can't imagine not having been on campus. That was how you got to know everybody. You were in classes with them, you sat by them in Chapel, you ate in the dining hall together, and you lived in the dorms together," April said. "Everybody on my hall — those were my friends. I didn't know anybody going into the first week of school, and yet by the end of the year these were my new best friends."

That sense of fellowship, friendship and family led April to OC as a student and ultimately led her to participate in Bricks and Memories.

"Ninety percent of my going to OC was the close family feeling we all had because so many of us lived on campus," April said. "I could have gone somewhere else, but I chose OC because of that feeling. When you walk around campus everybody says 'hi' to you. Bricks and Memories is such an immediate way for us as alumni to be a part of giving someone that family feeling."

April's many scrapbooks house the memories of the learning, growth and friendships gained at OC.

She cherishes these memories, and she realizes that part of what went into creating them was the physical setting, the bricks that were behind and around each of the memories.

"When I looked at the brochure, I thought, 'Three thousand dollars! I don't have three thousand dollars. I'm a teacher!' But when I saw how it broke down monthly, I said to myself, 'Well, that I can handle,'" she said. "You know it's not much more than my gym membership. I may use my gym membership a few times a month, but that dorm room is being used every day. I am happy to see the makeover the old rooms are getting."

For more information about Bricks and Memories, go to www.oc.edu/advancement/memorial.

By John S. Michener (’97)
Naming Opportunities for New and Refurbished Residence Rooms

Opportunities

You now have a unique opportunity to enhance the OC experience for our students while making a gift that is recognized permanently. When you sponsor an apartment or a residence hall room, your name or a name of your choosing will be affixed permanently outside the room. Your gift will be an endowment for the room, meaning your gift will be invested, and interest from your gift will ensure that the room is maintained for each new generation of students. It is all about good stewardship.

Additionally, each student who moves into the room for the first time will receive a written introduction to the room’s namesake via a biographical sketch prepared by you. In this way, we can help connect generations of OC graduates and create a greater sense of history, community and appreciation of our heritage. Don’t be surprised if you hear from the grateful students in “your” room.

Naming Gift Guide

Sponsorships are offered at the following rates, which can be fulfilled through various pledge options up to five years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSORED UNIT</th>
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<tr>
<td>New four-person apartment:</td>
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<tr>
<td>New two-person apartment:</td>
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<td>Refurbished apartment:</td>
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<td>New residence hall room:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refurbished residence hall room:</td>
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Please note that while you may choose a specific room to dedicate (perhaps one of your old rooms), these naming opportunities are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. To arrange the details of your room dedication, contact John Michener at (405) 425-5134 or via email at john.michener@oc.edu.
This is clearly not your typical honorary board. When you talk to members of OC’s National Alumni Council, their excitement is of the “reach right through the phone, hold hands and jump up and down” variety.

This group of 13 couldn’t be that passionate about Oklahoma Christian alumni could they? The answer is overwhelmingly “yes.”

Charles Villines (’56) of Durant, Okla., is the newest member of the council. He was the first alumni president of OC’s predecessor, Central Christian College. Villines’ voice is rapid-fire as he describes what makes this board different.

“What it amounts to is people who care,” he says. “They’re excited about what’s happening and the direction of the school.”

And that is what really has Villines going – the school. “It’s growing. It’s alive,” he says.

The council’s chair, Alan Phillips (’76), knows a lot about Oklahoma Christian. He spent 17 years in the president’s and development offices on campus before moving to the Dallas area. He’s seen a lot of different boards come and go, but this one is different.

“I think it starts at the top. I think Dr. O’Neal has made a priority of former students,” Phillips said. “Dr. O’Neal wants the alumni to own the alumni program. In that, I think he is empowering this council to represent that voice to the university.”

The National Alumni Council met for the first time in August 2004. The members are appointed to three-year terms by Dr. O’Neal. These members help reconnect the alumni to the university by giving feedback and ideas to the Alumni Relations Office and by helping establish regional alumni chapters.

The last National Alumni Council meeting coincided with the Earn Your Wings freshman orientation program. Each council member stood on stage and passed on a few nuggets of wisdom to the incoming freshmen.

As Phillips looked out over the young faces, he chose to give them this analogy …

“This journey is a like a marathon. Up to now you’ve been on a 5k run. Now, on Monday, when you start class, you come out of the blocks on a marathon. We, as alumni, are standing beside you
An admissions counselor. This year, two city-wide college fair in Omaha. The next set up an OC recruiting table at a congregation to Spring Sing. Copeland taking interested students from her where the majority of OC alumni reside. Copeland hand out buckets of water by herself in Omaha, Neb. – far chair, has been handing out buckets of water for high school graduates headed to OC, including “Eagle Exit” sendoff events at Texas Rangers baseball field. They range from a fully functioning career networking opportunities. These chapters, supported by the National Alumni Council, are designed to raise OC’s profile in local churches and communities, help the Admissions Office recruit and identify potential students, and reconnect alumni through social and career networking opportunities.

To date, six chapters have been formed. They range from a fully functioning group like the North Texas chapter to the Oklahoma City chapter that is in its preliminary organizational stages.

North Texas

The two-year-old North Texas chapter is the granddaddy of the alumni chapter program. Chapter vice president Russ Bartee (’76) said the group is focused on providing scholarships to area students, increasing the university’s name recognition in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and providing networking opportunities for alumni.

The chapter has accomplished these goals through a number of activities, including “Eagle Exit” sendoff events for high school graduates headed to OC, tailgating events at Texas Rangers baseball games, bus trips for potential students to various campus events, and annual meetings that feature a silent auction and a speaker from the university.

Bartee said the group has been pleased with its progress and has plans to facilitate even more networking. One potential idea is for the chapter to host a reception on campus for OC seniors interested in moving to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, allowing students to interact with key alumni in various industries from the Metroplex.

Kansas City

In its first year, the Kansas City chapter held three events with the support of the alumni and admissions offices. The first event was the KC Eagle Bash at the NAIA national men’s basketball tournament. KC alumni hosted a buffet before the Eagles’ Sweet 16 game. Next, the group had a tailgating party before a Kansas City Royals baseball game, and finally, a summer sendoff for OC students in August. A scholarship was given to an incoming freshman at the event.

“We’re still learning what we can do for the future,” said Elaine Kincaid (’01). “We need to be pulling from prospective and current students as much as possible. When you have the younger people involved, you’re going to get the older people involved, too.”

Houston

The Houston chapter has had three organizational meetings so far, including an organizational meeting at National Alumni Council secretary Joyce Swanson’s house. Swanson said the Houston area is so vast that geography, rather than alumni numbers, may be their biggest obstacle. The group has set up a Yahoo! group. To contact the chapter, go to groups.yahoo.com/group/houstonocalumni.

Tulsa

The Tulsa regional alumni chapter is organizing now. National Alumni Council member Dewayne Petre (’90) said the group has sent out surveys and hopes to gather feedback soon. Along with the Oklahoma Christian Women’s Association, the group hosted a benefit golf tournament. Petre said they plan to schedule family nights for alumni and provide networking.

Red River

This group covers the area from Ardmore to Durant, Okla., and down to Sherman, Texas. The group has had one organizational meeting so far.

Oklahoma City

National Alumni Council member Pat Hanna (’68) said plans are being made to organize a new chapter. The group is looking for interested alumni and friends of the university.

To become involved with any chapter or to start a chapter in your local area, call (405) 425-5110 or e-mail angela.morton@oc.edu.

Regional Alumni Chapters

By Allison Day (’92)

You may be familiar with that old movie trivia game, “the Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon,” where people mention another actor and see if they can connect him or her in six or fewer steps to Kevin Bacon. Playing the OC version (How many links can you make to Dr. Stafford North?) now has become easier with the creation of regional alumni chapters.

These chapters, supported by the National Alumni Council, are designed to raise OC’s profile in local churches and communities, help the Admissions Office recruit and identify potential students, and reconnect alumni through social and career networking opportunities.

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Oklahoma Christian University

RECONNECT

2005 Homecoming

Avanelle Baird

Ellie Miller

November 4-5, 2005
Exciting Activities, Changes Await Returning Alumni

“We didn’t have that when I was a student here!”

That is sure to be a comment you’ll hear a lot at this year’s Homecoming. From the brand-new dorms and apartments to the high-tech washing machines that send email messages when your load is done, the campus has changed.

Students certainly have more opportunities and luxuries than we did. But what hasn’t changed is the connection we all have as fellow OC alumni.

“In my own life, I feel a deep connection to friends, but I also want as many opportunities as possible to be around men like Bailey McBride, Harold Fletcher, Loren Gieger and Joe Watson,” Alumni Relations Director Stephen Eck said. “My life has been so deeply affected by the work of these professors. I want to stay connected, and I want my children to benefit from walking among these giants.”

This year’s Homecoming, November 4–5, 2005, will celebrate those connections in new and exciting ways that your entire family will enjoy.

“More and more of our work in alumni relations focuses on family connections. As OC has grown and matured over the last 55 years, more of our alumni are sending their children to OC,” Eck said.

It starts the second you make the familiar turn off Memorial Road. It’s the same campus, but it certainly looks different. The grass is greener, the buildings are modernized and more numerous, the trees are taller, and the campus is brimming with more students than ever before.

Times are good. All glory and honor to God for his abundant blessings!

Homecoming festivities for alumni begin with a golf tournament on Friday afternoon.

On Friday evening, the Alumni Banquet will honor exceptional women from OC’s history – Avanelle Baird, widow of former OC president Dr. James O. Baird, and Ellie Miller, who is an alumna of Central Christian College (which later was renamed Oklahoma Christian). Saturday’s events are family-oriented. After Chapel that morning, a parade will feature club floats and students throwing candy and prizes to the crowd. The parade will lead to an outdoor picnic with hamburgers, hotdogs, a moon bounce, pony rides and a small “barrel train” for the kids.

Both the women’s and men’s basketball games will be held on Saturday this year. The Lady Eagles tip off at 1 p.m., followed by the men’s game at 3 p.m. The Homecoming coronation ceremony will be held at halftime of the men’s game.

Following the basketball games, another outdoor picnic in the Thelma Gaylord Forum will allow alumni and students to celebrate together.

Of course, we all have our reasons to come back. We love the basketball games, the food and those visits with our favorite teachers. We love seeing our old friends, and even running to Johnnie’s for a hamburger or attending services at the congregation we went to as students. We want to reconnect.

“That is the true reason to come back for Homecoming 2005: to spend time reconnecting to our formative years, when our friends and professors made deep and lasting influences on our lives,” Eck said.

“There is something deeply gratifying and emotionally satisfying about this type of reflection and remembrance.”

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**Friday, November 4**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Oklahoma Christian Women’s Association Craft Sale</td>
<td>The Barn</td>
<td>Christine Meredith</td>
<td>405.425.5222, <a href="mailto:Christine.Meridith@oc.edu">Christine.Meridith@oc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Oklahoma Christian University Alumni Golf Tournament</td>
<td>Coffee Creek Golf Club</td>
<td>David Lynn</td>
<td>405.425.5645, <a href="mailto:David.Lynn@oc.edu">David.Lynn@oc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
<td>Hardeman Auditorium</td>
<td>Angela Morton</td>
<td>405.425.5110, <a href="mailto:Angela.Morton@oc.edu">Angela.Morton@oc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 pm - 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Luncheon</td>
<td>Central Christian College and Fifty-Year Graduates Luncheon</td>
<td>Stephen Eck</td>
<td>405.425.5118, <a href="mailto:Stephen.Eck@oc.edu">Stephen.Eck@oc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Alumini Association Banquet</td>
<td>Gaylord University Center</td>
<td>Dana Holley</td>
<td>405.425.5530, <a href="mailto:Dana.Holley@oc.edu">Dana.Holley@oc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Homecoming Musical: “Into the Woods”</td>
<td>Hardeman Auditorium</td>
<td>Patricia Groves</td>
<td>405.425.5530, <a href="mailto:Patricia.Groves@oc.edu">Patricia.Groves@oc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
<td>Traditional OC Eagle Bonfire</td>
<td>North side of campus</td>
<td>Brittany Partin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Brittany.Partin@student.oc.edu">Brittany.Partin@student.oc.edu</a></td>
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**Saturday, November 5**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am - 10:00 am</td>
<td>Social Service Club Reunion Breakfasts</td>
<td>McIntosh Conservatory</td>
<td>Angela Morton</td>
<td>405.425.5110, <a href="mailto:Angela.Morton@oc.edu">Angela.Morton@oc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am - 11:00 am</td>
<td>Alumni Chapel</td>
<td>Hardeman Auditorium</td>
<td>Stephen Eck</td>
<td>405.425.5118, <a href="mailto:Stephen.Eck@oc.edu">Stephen.Eck@oc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Women’s Basketball vs. Southwest Assemblies of God</td>
<td>Eagles’ Nest</td>
<td>Julie Anderson</td>
<td>405.425.5350, <a href="mailto:Julie.Anderson@oc.edu">Julie.Anderson@oc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Men’s Basketball vs. Arkansas Baptist</td>
<td>Eagles’ Nest</td>
<td>Julie Anderson</td>
<td>405.425.5350, <a href="mailto:Julie.Anderson@oc.edu">Julie.Anderson@oc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 pm</td>
<td>Homecoming Finale Celebration: Alumni and Students</td>
<td>Thelma Gaylord Forum</td>
<td>Dana Groves</td>
<td>405.425.5350, <a href="mailto:Dana.Groves@oc.edu">Dana.Groves@oc.edu</a></td>
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* schedule subject to change
Avanelle Baird, who has devoted her adult life to Christian education and Oklahoma Christian University, has been named a Distinguished Honorary Alumna.

“So much of my life is tied to Oklahoma Christian,” Avanelle Baird said recently at her home near the campus. “My hope has always been that OC would stay close to its roots and it is doing that. If Christian education isn’t different, let’s not do it.”

OC has been a major focus of Avanelle’s life since her late husband, Dr. James Baird, became the school’s first dean in 1950, the second person hired by the new Central Christian College in Bartlesville.

Four years later, James became president of the college and Avanelle’s life became a whirlwind of raising five children, entertaining the Board of Trustees and friends of the college, speaking to ladies’ groups on behalf of the university and Bible teaching.

Avanelle and James also hosted area preachers and their wives annually to make sure the school maintained a close relationship with the churches of Christ.

Somewhere, she found time to help organize the Stepping Stones, a Tulsa-based ladies support group that later became the Oklahoma Christian Women’s Association.

Avanelle graduated from Harding University in 1939 with a bachelor’s degree in business. She served as a student secretary for Harding’s president, Dr. George S. Benson, during her four years of undergraduate work.

After graduation, Avanelle worked for five years with Arkansas Power and Light before moving to Nashville in 1944.

While in Nashville, she worked as secretary to Dr. Batsell Baxter, president of David Lipscomb College. There she met James, a professor at the college, who was teaching, preaching and working on his doctorate.

“They tied his dissertation before we had computers,” she said.

They were married in 1946. She completed a master’s degree in social sciences from George Peabody University in 1947. That degree became useful in later years as she frequently counseled fellow church members.

By the time the Bairds moved with Central Christian from Bartlesville to Oklahoma City in 1958, they had four children and would soon have another.

“When we first moved here, all this land where OC is now was pasture,” she said.

“People in Oklahoma were on fire for Christian education at that time. The business community was also very receptive and we developed an association with many people.”

Summer foreign mission work was also an important part of Avanelle’s life. She fondly recalls trips to Australia, Japan, and the African countries of Cameroon and Zimbabwe.

Friends remember that Avanelle was a tireless ambassador for the university, speaking to women’s groups across Oklahoma, as well as in Tennessee, Texas and Kansas, and at the OC Lectureship.

Avanelle began teaching preschool Sunday School classes as a teenager and taught women’s classes until a few years ago. She’s also a prolific writer, recently authoring two Bible workbooks entitled “The Jesus of the Gospels,” published in 2001, and “Bought with a Price,” published in 2005.

“The people I’ve been privileged to work with and know all these years are what made it worth the effort,” she said. “It has been a joy to find so many people with the same dreams and love for Christian education.”

All five of Avanelle’s children, Harriet Estep, Lynn Jones, Frances Epperly, Jim Baird, and Morrow Beth Jacobs, graduated from OC. Her son Jim is a professor in OC’s College of Biblical Studies.

Avanelle has 14 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Three of her grandchildren also have graduated from the university and two more will graduate in 2006.

“Oklahoma Christian has been a blessing to my family,” Avanelle said. “OC has been blessed through the years with a dedicated faculty and a wise and supportive board. I am very thankful for Dr. (Mike) O’Neal’s leadership, his vision, his encouragement of world missions by our students, and his determination to hold the university to the ideals which brought it into existence.”

Avanelle, who just turned 86, plans to stay active.

“I’m not good at doing nothing,” she said.

By Ron Frost
Ellie Miller of Tulsa, Oklahoma, is being honored as this year’s Distinguished Alumna for her many years of service and devotion to Oklahoma Christian.

When asked to recall her most cherished memories of Central Christian College in Bartlesville, Ellie Miller began to tell of the devotionals.

Inside the magnificent entry hall of the mansion – the centerpiece of the Bartlesville campus – or outside on the patio under the stars, students would quietly assemble in the still of the evening. Soon their voices would sing praises to God, followed by scripture quotations and, finally, prayers. Then they would quietly return to their rooms, having been spiritually renewed by being together – with God.

Just as precious, she said, are the memories of professors who became mentors and lifelong friends. Although she declines to name a favorite, Ellie particularly remembers Bailey McBride and his sophomore English class.

“Oh, my, was he patient,” she laughed, “very patient and considerate. Also, Harold Fletcher, Joe Spaulding, Darvin Keck, Taylor and Oma Carter, and Rosemary Pledger are forever interwoven into our lives. As I look back now, I realize that they could have gone anywhere, but they chose to remain committed to Central Christian, to provide a stable foundation for the college.

“Central Christian was a good experience for me,” Ellie said. “Coming from a large high school, the small college atmosphere nurtured personal and spiritual identity. I really appreciated the friendships which continue to grow because of our common bond in the Lord.”

That Ellie would attend Central Christian was never in doubt: “It never occurred to me to go anywhere else.” As a high school student, she had attended Camp La Quinta in the summers on the Central Christian campus, where CCC students served as counselors.

Her father, Vic Branum, was on Central Christian’s original board of directors. Ellie remembers trips on hot, pre-air-conditioner summer days with her father, as plans and dreams unfolded for Central Christian College, where CCC students served as counselors.

After graduating from Central Christian in 1957 with an associate’s degree, Ellie studied at Abilene Christian University, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education in 1959. She taught elementary school in Irving, Texas, for two years, and then moved to Oklahoma City.

There, a chance meeting with the young man who stood behind her in chorus at Central Christian would change her life forever. Although they had never dated at Central Christian, the romance flourished and Ellie and Dan were married in 1962. Ellie taught school while Dan completed medical school and residency.

Ellie and Dan were blessed with a daughter, Monna Suzanne (Gilpin) in 1965, followed by sons Michael Dan in 1970 and Matthew Jonathan in 1973. The family has grown to include “a wonderful son-in-law and daughter-in-law – James Gilpin and Holly Rosser Miller – as well as three marvelous grandchildren: John Andrew Gilpin, Meghan Elena Gilpin and Annalea Jane Miller.”

Ellie and Dan are active in the Memorial Drive Church of Christ in Tulsa. They are helping plan a May 2006 reunion for Central Christian alumni as they seek to celebrate the school that touched their lives and continues to impact the world.

“Oklahoma Christian is a wonderful place for young people,” Ellie said. “They have the opportunity to develop a deeper relationship with the Lord and be trained to go into the world, to show Jesus. OC faculty and staff are prayerfully dedicated to Jesus and strong in faith.”

Ellie also has been active in the Oklahoma Christian Women’s Association for more than 20 years. She has chaired programs, assisted with various projects, published the OCWA newsletter and served as president.

“Ellie does everything right,” Dan added. “She is a true prayer warrior. If I can’t find her readily, she is in her private place, praying and talking with God.”

Ellie’s selflessness, past and present, will continue to benefit OC students for decades to come. She sees her support of Oklahoma Christian as a way of continuing what her father helped begin … her way of saying thanks.

“God has blessed me with more than I need,” she said. “He’s given me a wonderful husband and family. To God be the glory.”

By Ron Frost
OC MAINTAINS HIGH RANKING ON "BEST COLLEGE" LIST

U.S. News & World Report has ranked Oklahoma Christian as the No. 7 “Best Comprehensive College” in the 16-state western region. This is the seventh consecutive year that U.S. News has ranked Oklahoma Christian in the western region’s top 10, and the 13th consecutive year that the university has earned national recognition in the rankings that are studied by future college students and their parents. “This recognition is a real tribute to the faculty, staff, alumni, donors and other supporters of the university,” said Dr. Mike O’Neal, president. “Without their continued commitment to excellent faith-based higher education, this outstanding rating would not be possible.”

OC STARTS NURSING PROGRAM

This fall, Oklahoma Christian launched a nursing program in partnership with Southern Nazarene University in nearby Bethany. OC’s rigorous biology and health sciences pre-professional programs have allowed nursing students to build a solid foundation for years. The new program now means students no longer need to transfer away from Oklahoma Christian to complete their undergraduate nursing education.

Initially, freshman- and sophomore-level classes are being offered on the OC campus, in addition to one course at SNU. In the future, the OC campus offerings may be expanded to include upper-division courses.

A $13,000 donation from the Oklahoma Christian Women’s Association went toward equipment for OC’s new nursing lab. The equipment includes CPR dummies and simulation arms used to teach students how to administer intravenous solutions.

NOTED AUTHOR APPEARS AT OC

Best-selling author Kathleen Norris was the inaugural speaker for the McBride Lecture for Faith and Literature on Oct. 3. Oklahoma Christian established the McBride Center for Faith and Literature last year to honor Dr. Bailey B. McBride and his wife, Joyce, for their many years of service to Oklahoma Christian University.

In addition to bringing noted authors and speakers to the campus, the McBride Center’s goals are to offer scholarships, sponsor symposia, and support the strengthening of faith and enjoyment of literature on the OC campus.

Among Norris’ works are New York Times bestsellers The Cloister Walk, Dakota: A Spiritual Geography, Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith and The Virgin of Bennington. She also has published seven books of poetry.

FROST NAMED COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Former OC Board of Development member Ron Frost is OC’s new Director of University Communications.

The Director of University Communications role is a newly created position as part of an expanded public relations and communications initiative at Oklahoma Christian.

Frost has more than 20 years of senior-level corporate communications experience, including 10 years as director of corporate communications and public affairs for Fleming Companies.

Frost is an award-winning writer, editor and photographer, highlighted by his selection as the American Press Institute’s national editor of the year.

After graduating from Oklahoma State University, Frost served two years as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army in Washington, D.C., where he was a public information officer and editor of the Pentagon’s internal newspaper.

OC SELECTS NEW ARTS & SCIENCES DEAN

Dr. David Lowry is the new dean of OC’s College of Arts and Sciences. Lowry returns to Oklahoma Christian after working for 20 years at Pepperdine University, most recently as a professor of communication.

Prior to teaching at Pepperdine, Lowry taught at Oklahoma Christian from 1980 to 1985, operated his own marketing research and consulting company, and worked in commercial broadcasting.

While at Pepperdine, Lowry received an outstanding teaching award for his work in first-year seminars and also an award for innovative teaching.

He has made numerous presentations at national and international conferences and publishes in the area of interpersonal communication.

Lowry is teaching in OC’s Department of Communication in addition to serving as dean. He succeeds OC professor of communication Dr. Larry Jerny, who has expanded his teaching duties again after serving as interim dean.

ALUMNI ELECTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alumni Dr. Richard Blankenship, Susie Jackson and Lon Winton are among the newest members of OC’s Board of Trustees.

Blankenship (’59) owned and operated his own veterinary practice, Bryant Veterinary Hospital, in Edmond from 1971 to 2002. He previously served on OC’s Board of Development and is an elder at Edmond Church of Christ.

Jackson (’79) works with the pastoral care ministry program at Fort Worth’s Cook Children’s Medical Center and serves on the advisory board of The Learning Center of North Texas, which provides services to people with learning differences. She and her husband, Mark, actively promote OC alumni involvement in several cities, including Amarillo, Denver, Houston and the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex.

Winton (’69) served as Chesapeake Energy Corporation’s senior vice president for information technology and chief information officer from 1998 until his recent retirement. As part of Chesapeake’s management team, Winton helped lead a company that now ranks as the most active driller of new wells in the nation.

In addition to the three alumni, Pat Jones also recently joined the board. Jones is chief financial officer, vice president and treasurer for the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc. He spent nine years with Hobby Lobby Stores, including two years as senior vice president. During his tenure, Hobby Lobby grew from 50 stores to 280 stores nationwide.

OC ENGAGES IN CHRISTIAN HIGHER ED SEMINAR

This summer, OC faculty and staff members took part in the Board of Trustees’ annual seminar, focusing on ideas presented in the book, “Shaping a Christian Worldview: The Foundations of Christian Higher Education.”

The book is a compilation of essays by Union University’s faculty and administration. Dr. David Dockery, Union president and one of the book’s editors, spoke at two sessions during OC’s two-day seminar.
ORIGHT TO DONATE BLANKETS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE FOR USBY OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN AND OTHER SCHOOLS

OC'S RWANDA SUPPORT CONTINUES

OC alumna Pat Lawson spearheaded an effort by Oklahoma Christian and other schools to donate blankets for the people of the genocide-ravaged country of Rwanda.

In November, OC president Dr. Mike O'Neal and his wife Nancy, along with OC alumni Richard and Pat Lawson and OC visiting missionary Dave Jenkins, visited Rwanda on an exploratory trip. They found that some orphans live in orphanages, but others live on their own, in small mud huts the government set up for them.

The Lawsons challenged OC’s students, faculty and staff to donate blankets to Rwanda. They bought the crates for shipping the blankets overseas.

The Jenkins family moved to Rwanda over the summer to serve as Church of Christ missionaries – supported by Quail Springs Church of Christ. A group of OC students spent part of their summer working with the Jenkins family in Rwanda.

PATTERSON AUTHORS DEVOTIONAL BOOK

Dr. Philip Patterson recently published his eighth book, Living Stones: Bedrock Truths for Quicksand Times.

Each of the book’s 12 chapters revolves around a Bible passage dealing with stones, from the well-known to the relatively obscure: the stone Jacob used as a pillow on his journey to Haran, the stone rolled away from Jesus’ tomb, the stones used to kill Stephen.

The book, the first in a three-book series to be published by Word Publishing of Nashville, is designed for use in personal study, but can be adapted for a quarterly Bible class schedule.

HARTMAN DEBATES LATTER-DAY SAINT

OC missions professor Kent Hartman debated Latter-Day Saint member Roger Anderson at Eastside Church of Christ in March and April.

Hartman teamed with his brother Dale Hartman, an OC alumnus who is a minister at the Eastside Church of Christ, for the debates. Dr. Stafford North, distinguished professor of Bible at Oklahoma Christian, moderated the debates.

The topics were “The book of Mormon: Is it a companion to the Bible? Is it in opposition to the Bible?” and “Is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints a ‘non-Christian cult’ as some churches claim? Or are Latter-Day Saints really Christians?”

CLEVELAND, BAIRD WIN FACULTY AWARDS

At the spring commencement ceremony, Oklahoma Christian honored Professor of Education Dr. Dwayne Cleveland and Professor of Bible Dr. Jim Baird with the Gaylord Chair of Distinguished Teaching and the Faculty Leadership Award, respectively.

Gaylord Chair criteria include innovation, creativity and effectiveness in working with students both in and out of the classroom. Faculty Leadership Award winners must be exceptional in their classroom work and demonstrate a positive influence on Oklahoma Christian through their lives and careers.

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION HONORS VARNER

The Higher Learning Commission, part of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, honored Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jeanine Varner with a Distinguished Service award.

The HLC recognized Varner’s work as a peer reviewer and team chair, and as a member of the commission’s Core Advisory Team, its Accreditation Review Council and its Institutional Action Council.

ENGLISH STUDENTS EXCEL IN NATIONAL CONTEST

Two OC students received graduate school fellowships from the Alpha Chi national college honor scholarship society, giving Oklahoma Christian two of the competition’s top 10 winners.

Heather Meyer was the lone winner of the $3,500 Robert W. Sledge Fellowship, meaning that her project was judged to be the best among the national’s entire applicant pool. Lauren Bruner was one of nine winners of a $2,500 H.Y. Benedict Fellowship.

Meyer and Bruner competed against applicants from all levels of higher education. Professor of English Dr. Paul Varner and Professor of Bible Dr. John Harrison sponsor OC’s Alpha Chi chapter.

Oklahoma Christian has a distinguished record of accomplishment in these national competitions. Lacey Turner won a Benedict Fellowship in 2004. In 2003, Erin O’Roke Wilkerson was named a Benedict Fellowship alternate.

BUSINESS STUDENTS 2ND IN INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

Professor of Management Dr. Johann Snyman led a team of six OC students who won two trophies in the San Diego International Collegiate Business Simulation Competition.

Oklahoma Christian won second place overall and first place for its submitted report. The team members were Ryan Askew, Amanda Carnagey, Andrea Mangus, Hahns Menard, Brent Williams and Jeremy Young.

BRASS RING A BIG DRAW IN 20TH YEAR

OC’s 20th-annual Brass Ring Awards featured a record-breaking 500 entries from 14 different universities and seven different states.

Oklahoma Christian placed second overall in the national competition. Sophomore art major Karis Hawley placed highest for OC, finishing fourth overall.

In the high school competition, the top
NEWS ROUNDUP AROUND CAMPUS

three winners received cash awards and art/design scholarships to Oklahoma Christian.

Michael O’Keefe, chair of OC’s Department of Art and Design, founded the Brass Ring Awards in 1985. The competition has become one of the largest in the United States.

ENGINEERING STUDENTS WIN REGIONAL AWARDS

Mentored by Dr. David Waldo, OC engineering students recently won two awards at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Region 5 conference in Denver.

Jim Klein placed second in the student paper contest for his “Dual Closed Loop DC Motor Controller Project.” OC’s team of Matt Eby, T.J. Kuruvilla, David Paden and Mitch Warren placed third in the robot design contest against 27 other teams, including larger state universities.

FUN RUN RAISES MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The second-annual “Mike McDonald Fun Run” in April was a great success, attracting hundreds of participants to compete in a race whose proceeds support the Mike McDonald Scholarship Fund.

The leader of OC’s advancement and alumni relations programs, McDonald passed away Dec. 22, 2003, after a one-year battle against cancer. After his death, the social service club Gamma Rho joined with McDonald friends and family members to found the Fun Run, a celebration of his impact and influence, and of his commitment to family, fun and OC students.

HALL NAMED ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

DeWayne Hall is OC’s new athletic director. He is charged with implementing an aggressive new strategic plan, which includes the upgrade of athletic facilities and fundraising for the athletic department. The plan also calls for the evaluation and enhancement of current programs and the potential addition of future programs.

Hall’s hiring is the first phase of a long-range comprehensive plan being implemented by university administration as recommended by OC’s Strategic Task Force on Athletics.

“OC has a rich athletic tradition and has enjoyed a great deal of national success in recent years. We will cultivate our resources to build on that foundation and to strive for unprecedented excellence across the board—in our facilities, in our infrastructure, and in our achievements on the playing field, in the classroom and in the community,” Hall said. “We want to establish a premier program that the university and its supporters will rally around. We want to become the model that other athletic programs aspire to.”

A native Oklahoman, Hall has been president of America’s Fast Lane, an automotive maintenance franchise headquartered in Edmond, since 1997. He was president of Jiffy Lube of Oklahoma from 1985 to 1997.

Hall played basketball and earned all-conference and all-district honors in track and field at Abilene Christian University. He coached boys’ basketball for two years at Abilene Christian High School before entering the business arena.

Hall will work in tandem with Director of Athletic Operations Chuck White, who will continue to handle the athletic department’s daily operations and oversee the university’s athletic facilities. He also will help develop a plan to reinstate OC’s baseball program.

ALUMNUS NAMED OU BASEBALL COACH

The University of Oklahoma recently named 1984 OC alumnus Sunny Golloway as its head baseball coach. OU promoted Golloway from his interim head coaching role, in which he led the Sooners to the 2005 NCAA tournament.

Golloway served as pitching coach for OU’s 1994 national championship team and for the USA National Team. He won six straight conference titles as Oral Roberts University’s head coach and is 10th among active NCAA Division I coaches with a .681 winning percentage.

Oklahoma Christian now has alumni leading two of OU’s top four high-profile programs. Sherri Coale, a 1987 OC graduate, is the head coach of the OU women’s basketball team.

MERRILL NAMED NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The NAIA named OC senior forward Jarred Merrill as its national men’s basketball player of the year. OC’s all-time leading scorer averaged 24 points and 10 rebounds per game as he helped lead the Eagles to the Sooner Athletic Conference championship.

Merrill, a two-time first-team All-American, joined Jay Mauck as Eagles to win the national player of the year honor (Mauck won it in 1999). Oklahoma Christian is the only school in the award’s history to have multiple winners of the award.

GOLF TEAM PLACES 2ND IN NATION

For the second time in its history, Oklahoma Christian claimed runner-up honors in the NAIA Men’s National Golf Championship. The Eagles also placed second in the national competition in 2001 and have finished in the top five at the NAIA tournament for six straight years.

Senior Juan Lizarralde tied for third in the individual standings to become OC’s first four-time All-American in golf.

Freshmen Bruno Buccolo and Rhein Gibson also earned first-team All-America honors, and junior Brandon Melville was named honorable mention. OC senior Ryan Dukes was named an NAIA Scholar Athlete.

CAGE CAMP HITS 50,000

The Oklahoma Christian Cage Camp passed the 50,000-camper milestone over the summer. Now in its 22nd year, OC Cage Camp has steadily grown and serves more than 3,000 campers aged 8 to 18 every summer. It is one of the largest fundamental basketball camps of its kind in the southwest region of the country.
In addition to providing basketball instruction for thousands of campers, Cage Camp is a significant contributor to the financial segment of the university.

“Our mission hasn’t changed since day one: to be THE fundamental basketball camp,” camp director and OC men’s basketball coach Dan Hays said. “We want our camps to be a positive experience in every way. We work hard, we push hard, but we have lots of fun doing it.”

**ALLEN EARNS CHAMPION OF CHARACTER AWARD**

OC’s Kory Allen was one of four athletes nationwide to receive the NAIA Champions of Character Award for men’s basketball.

Allen was presented a $2,000 scholarship to be applied to OC’s general scholarship fund.

Allen, a team captain and conference All-Academic honoree, taught youth Bible classes at Memorial Road Church of Christ, served as a youth counselor at Pettijohn Christian Camp and the Special Olympics, and participated in mission trips to Kenya and Poland.

Oklahoma Christian is an NAIA Champions of Character institution, promoting an environment in which every student-athlete, coach, official and spectator is committed to the true spirit of competition through respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership and sportsmanship.

**DECKER WINS PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARD**

OC’s Lauren Decker was selected as the women’s 2005 recipient of the NAIA’s prestigious Emil S. Liston Award. Oklahoma Christian received a $1,000 scholarship award from Daktronics in Decker’s name.

The Liston Award recognizes a male and female junior basketball player based on scholarship, character and playing ability. Decker earned second-team All-America honors while maintaining a 3.95 GPA as an accounting major.

**TRACK, TENNIS ATHLETES EARN NATIONAL HONORS**

OC distance runner Kenneth Bowling earned both indoor and outdoor All-America honors in the spring. Aaron Hoffhines also claimed indoor All-America distinction while Wade Miller earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors.

In tennis, Michaela Shejbalova was named a first-team All-America for the second straight season and Jennifer Le, Bruno Andrade and Luis Arguello received second-team recognition. Piper Johnson earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors.

**SOFTBALL TEAM WINS SAC TOURNAMENT**

The OC softball team won the Sooner Athletic Conference tournament championship in April and claimed an automatic berth to the NAIA Region VI tournament.

Lindsey Lawson, who led the Lady Eagles in both hitting and pitching, earned NAIA All-America second-team honors.

**EAGLE BASH SET FOR OCT. 27**

OC fans can show their support for Eagle athletics in 2005-2006 by attending the “Eagle Bash” on Thursday, Oct. 27.

Those that attend will receive a catered dinner and a tour of the new Eagle Room, the new training room and the remodeled locker rooms. OC’s coaches will give season updates and previews … and two more significant enhancements will be revealed.

The Eagle Bash will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Eagles’ Nest. Casual dress is appropriate for the event, which costs $20 per person. All proceeds will support OC Athletics.

To R.S.V.P. or to get more information, call Pat Hanna at (405) 341-3754.

**OC HOOP TEAMS TO PLAY OU, OSU**

There are two nights in November when you may need to put certain “fan” allegiances aside and root, root, root for your alma mater in high-profile basketball games.

The Lady Eagles travel to the Lloyd Noble Center in Norman Nov. 3 to play the University of Oklahoma.

On Nov. 11, the Eagles play Oklahoma State University at historic Gallagher-Iba Arena in Stillwater.

The Eagle Club and the OC Alumni Relations office are working on special events in conjunction with both games. For more information, go to www.oc.edu/bedlam or call the OC Athletic Department at (405) 425-5350.

**NEW ATHLETICS WEBSITE COMING SOON**

OC’s athletic website will be relaunched on Oct. 27 as www.oeceagles.com.

Along with a new look, the new site will expand throughout the year to include regular features on athletic alumni, current athletes and coaches. It also will feature same-day scores and recaps so you can get the latest results as soon as possible.

The enhancements will make www.oeceagles.com your one-stop shop for everything pertaining to OC Athletics.

**JOIN OCWA!**

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.

It encourages friendships among women who believe in Oklahoma Christian and give of their time and efforts to help others have the OC experience.

Each year, OCWA plans fundraising events on and off campus. Some of these events include: golf tournaments, bake sales, luncheons, the new tour of homes, fashion shows, auctions, cookbooks and our famous OC student gift packages.

OCWA needs 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
- 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 OCWA Coordinator Christine Merideth at 405.425.5122 or at christine.merideth@oc.edu.
Oklahoma Christian University

56th Annual Lectureship
January 22-25, 2006

Progress and Joy in Christ
God’s Power for Living in Philippians

Theme Lecturers:
JAN. 22: Harold Hazelip
JAN. 23: Howard Norton
   Jerry Jones
JAN. 24: Harold Redd
   Eddie Sharp
JAN. 25: Missions Prayer Breakfast

Spanish Theme Lecturers:
Bob Brown
Carlos Lozano
Victorino Martinez

Christian Women’s Program:
Susan Giboney

Study Tracks:

Church Planting Breakfast: Monday 23
Missions Prayer Breakfast: Wednesday 25
Fellowship and Prayer Breakfast: Each day before the first sessions

Post-Lectureship Workshops: Wednesday 25
“Preaching from Philippians”
“Global Missions-Regional Conference”
“Church Leadership and Equipping”

For more Lectureship information, visit www.oc.edu/lectureship
2005 began in a big way for Oklahoma Christian when Board of Trustees chair Don Millican and his wife, Donna, established a $1 million endowment to honor Don’s father. The J.J. (Joe) Millican Endowed Chair in Accounting will support Oklahoma Christian and the accounting discipline within OC’s School of Business Administration. J.J. Millican was a respected Christian businessman, faithful husband and devoted father. He worked as a certified public accountant and as a national partner with Ernst & Young until he retired in 1980. He passed away in 1990. Don Millican is chief financial officer of the Tulsa-based Kaiser-Francis Oil Company. In addition to his OC board chairmanship, he serves on the university Business Advisory Council.

“I believe so strongly in OC’s worth and its mission. In honoring my father, I hope to set forth an example of a man who held Christian principles and integrity as his most valuable business assets,” Don Millican said.

Besides scholarship monies provided by the endowment, planned initiatives include a lectureship series that will bring accounting and business experts to campus.

For four straight years, OC graduates have achieved the highest pass rate of all Oklahoma universities on the CPA examination. In addition to its undergraduate accreditation, Oklahoma Christian is one of just three Oklahoma universities to have master's programs accredited by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs. The university will utilize the “Shumate House,” named in honor of Roy and his late wife, Maxine, to house visiting missionary families and other campus visitors.

“Roy is a master carpenter whose imprint is all over the OC campus. He retired four years ago, but his love for OC and its students remains as strong as ever,” OC president Dr. Mike O’Neal said. “Roy built his home with his own hands, and it shows his expertise and tender, loving care. It is one of the best-built houses in the area and we are honored to utilize it to make visitors feel at home while paying tribute to Roy’s and Maxine’s legacies.”

The children of Royce and Mary Mires recently established a $100,000 endowment in their parents’ honor at Oklahoma Christian. The benefactors are Sue Antwine of Edmond, Joan Chuesberg of Hooker, Dolores Hanna of Columbia, Mo., and Vida Walker of Topeka, Kansas.

Antwine, Chuesberg and Hanna attended Central Christian College, which later became Oklahoma Christian.

The endowment will provide annual scholarship monies to one or more full-time OC students who have completed their first year with a minimum 2.8 GPA. Students should be active Church of Christ members who have shown leadership qualities in church, in school and in the community.

A successful businessman and farmer-rancher, Royce Mires gave of his wealth to support children’s homes, Bible camps, Christian colleges, mission campaigns and other charitable causes.

“Central Christian College was really important in our lives and we believe in the goals of Oklahoma Christian. It’s one of the best Christian schools and, with it being in our home state, we want to help students attend there. We want strong Christians to become stronger and go out and make others Christians,” Antwine said.

The Gambills are longtime Cascade supporters and contributed a separate property two years ago worth almost $700,000. Stephen Eck, OC’s Director for Alumni Relations, said the Gambills’ most recent contribution was in the form of a charitable gift annuity that provides tax-favored income payments from OC for the remainder of their lives.

For more information on gift annuities or other estate planning issues, contact Eck at (405) 425-5118.

**MILLCANS ESTABLISH $1M ENDOWMENT**

**CHILDREN HONOR PARENTS WITH ENDOWMENT**

**SHUMATE DONATES HOUSE TO OC**

**CASCADE COLLEGE RECEIVES LARGEST GIFT**
They were trailblazers and pioneers. They sought adventure and took risks.

They are our first alumni – the students who attended Central Christian College from 1950 to 1958 before the campus moved from Bartlesville to Oklahoma City.

They believed in CCC before there was an OCC or an OC. They didn’t have parents and grandparents who encouraged them to attend their alma mater. There was no record of alumni success, acclaimed faculty achievement or hefty endowment. It was a new, small college, and its future was not secure.

This group of Central Christian College alumni was not afraid to take a leap of faith. They stepped out and followed God’s leading to attend and support one of the first churches of Christ-related schools in Oklahoma.

Those were the days. More than 50 years later, a large group of CCC alumni is still connected. With a database of almost 600 CCC alumni, this group is active in helping Oklahoma Christian today.

From serving on the National Alumni Council to nominating alumni for awards to attending events, the CCC alumni are a vital part of OC’s alumni strength.

The group is making plans for its second reunion to be held on campus May 19-21, 2006. The first one was held in the summer of 2002 on the original campus in Bartlesville.

We can all learn a thing or two about this group. They are loyal to their alma mater and to each other. And they have a lot of fun together.

Thanks CCC Alumni. We are grateful for your loyalty and inspired by your actions!
More than 150 OC students, faculty and staff members spent three days during their Fall Break working in the areas impacted by the recent hurricanes.

OC’s relief effort included more than $2,000 raised through collections during Chapel and at the annual First Week Follies variety show. A student group, the President’s Ambassadors, collected money that will be sent to help the victims. OC students, faculty and staff members also donated supplies such as food, toiletries and other necessities to assist the hurricane victims.

In addition to donations from the OC community, Oklahoma City-area congregations gathered supplies from their members to send to the Gulf Coast with OC’s Fall Break group. The Christian Chronicle, an international newspaper published monthly on the OC campus, is serving as a clearinghouse for relief assistance by churches of Christ.

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, OC students volunteered to work at Feed the Children, a locally based relief agency, to load trucks of supplies, visited Camp Gruber to help feed refugees and “adopted” four students who transferred to Oklahoma Christian from the New Orleans area.

Several of the students arrived from New Orleans with nothing except the clothes they had on. Many OC students helped these displaced students buy school supplies, clothes, electronics and other necessities.

Besides the students’ grassroots outreach, Oklahoma Christian developed a special program to offer free tuition for a semester to students displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

“Following the tragic and unprecedented devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Oklahoma Christian and its students are taking steps to provide assistance to the victims and to college students whose education has been disrupted by the hurricane,” OC president Dr. O’Neal said.

“We want to do everything we can to assist those students who cannot continue their education because of the extraordinary damage to several institutions of higher education in the hurricane’s path.”

Nick Matthews, a student at the University of New Orleans before the hurricane, began attending OC under the new program.

“I came to OC about a year ago when my friend was attending the summer program here and I spent a day at his apartment and just fell in love with the school,” Matthews said. “ Everyone I have met has been so friendly and they treated me as one of their own as soon as I stepped on campus.”

OC assists displaced students, families
The Honor Roll of Donors identifies gifts made by alumni, friends and parents during calendar year 2004. 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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Robert and Anita Young
Donna Younker
Gene Zachary (2)

2005 MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES
ADP Foundation
Abbott Laboratories Fund
Aegon USA Charitable Foundation
American Fidelity Corporation
American International Group, Inc.
Amshem Biosciences Corp.
Anadarko Petroleum Company
Bank One Corporation
Bank of America
BP Amoco Corporation
Caterpillar Foundation
Chevron Corporation
Chevron Matching Gift Program
Colgate Palmolive
ConocoPhillips
DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Devon Energy Corporation
Eateries’ Employees Community Chest
Eli Lilly and Company
Ernst & Young Foundation
Exxon Education Foundation
FleetBoston Financial Foundation
General Motors
General Motors Corporation
GlashoSmithKline
Halliburton Foundation
Hershey Foods
IBM
Intel Foundation
Kerr McGee Corporation
Lee Jeans
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Morgan Stanley Matching Gifts Program
Neiman Marcus
New York Life Foundation
Newfield Exploration
OG&E
Pfizer, Inc.
SBC Foundation
Scripps Howard Foundation
State Farm
Texas Instruments
The Arthur J. Gallagher Foundation
The Boeing Company
The Williams Companies, Inc.
Union Pacific Corporation
Union Pacific Resources
Value Sylvia
Western-Southern Foundation

Gene Zachary (2)
Donna Younker
Gene Zachary (2)
2005. The proud parents are Stephanie and Fred Ybaban. Mark and Linda have another daughter in college and a son in high school. Addresses: 1606 Mountain Shadow Drive, Carlsbad, NM 88220 and mlschi@cavemen.net.

1997
Steve and Rhonda (Smith) Baird announce the birth of their daughter, Mattie Jane, on Dec. 5, 2003. Rhonda is a stay-at-home mom. Steve is a math teacher at Liberal High School in Liberal, KS.

Eric and Brandi (Hoebing 98) Thornhill announce the birth of their son, Garrett Keith, on July 9, 2005.

Robert and Christian (Maloney) Windell announce the birth of their son, Brodie Tyler, on July 1, 2005. He joins sister Caitlyn and brother Riley. Addresses: 22 Country Lane, East Peoria, IL 61611 and rwindell@insightbb.com.

1999
Gary and Amy (Douglas 00) Southerland have moved to their first home. Amy has graduated with a degree in mathematics. Addresses: 17233 S. 92nd E Ave., Bixby, OK 74008, asoutherland@grandbankok.com and youman@cox.net.

2000
Robert and Nicole (Webb 01) Carpenter recently moved to 429 Brighton Dr., Edmond, OK 73003.


Matt and Tamara (Medders) Cramer announce the birth of their son, Owen Mathias, on April 21, 2005. Matt is a minister for Colorado Christian Campus Ministries and Tamara is a VBS Marketing Coordinator for Group Publishing, Inc. Addresses: 4393 N. Lincoln Ave., Loveland, CO 80538 and tamajean@msn.com.

Jeanie (Jacks 00) Tryggstad graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine May 28, 2005. She will begin a residency in pediatrics at the OU Medical Center Children's Hospital in July. Address: 1300 Cedar Ridge Road, Edmond, OK 73013.

Clint and Sheridan Vaughn announce the birth of their son, Garrett Stephen, on March 21, 2005. He joins big brother Hudson. Clint is the owner of Roofscape of Oklahoma, LLC. Addresses: 9952 S. 99th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133 and clintre@cox.net.

VAUGHN FAMILY

2001
Jeffrey and Alisha (Ziegler 00) Berry announce the birth of their son, Gavin Robert, on April 17, 2005. He joins big brother Ryder. Addresses: 1907 W. Teton Dr., Peoria, IL 61614 and azberry@hotmail.com.


2003
John Sudbury teaches chemistry and physics at Arlington High School.

Monica (Carter 02) teaches fourth grade in Mansfield and was selected for the 2005 Who's Who among America's Teachers. Addresses: 4801 Bluebird Lane, Mansfield, TX 76063, jsud99@hotmail.com and monicasudbury@yahoo.com.

Kinder Vandergucht and Andrew Shamhart were married on July 24, 2004. Address: 4707 Sunview Pl., Bartlesville, OK 74006.

2004
Carlos and Virginia Lozano an-
nounce the birth of their son, Eddie, on Nov. 3, 2004. Addresses: 27193 E. 121 St. S., Coveta, OK 74429 and carlos@bacoc.org.

Anndea Jordan was honored by the board of directors of the Character Council of Edmond as a “Champion of Character” for representing the character trait of honor. Anndea was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army on July 10, 2005.

Jennifer (Reagan) McIntyre lives in Japan and works as a substitute elementary teacher. Addresses: PSC76 Box #7096 APO, AP 96319-0049 and coasterdot@alumni.oc.edu.

Matthew Meredith is pursuing a PhD in chemistry at the University of Oklahoma. Addresses: 1100 Oak Tree Ave., Apt. 011, Norman, OK 73072 and matthew.meredith@alumni.oc.edu.

April Wooldridge and Clint Everhart were married on Aug. 6, 2005. They are in Chemnitz, Germany, with the HIM program. Address: april_wooldridge@hotmail.com.

IN LOVING MEMORY: Sue Vaughn Hobson

Sue Vaughn Hobson passed away June 25, 2005, at the age of 86. One of the grand ladies in OC history, she was the widow of legendary track coach and athletic director Ray Vaughn, the mother of alumnus and OC Trustee Ray Vaughn, Jr., and of alumna Dr. Lynn Mitchell, and the stepmother of alumni Beverly North, Mary Ann Brown, and Sharon Tarver.

Ray and Sue Vaughn lived adjacent to the campus for many years and their home was a welcome haven for many athletes and other students from the university, who especially enjoyed her delicious cinnamon rolls. Sue was a founder of “Stepping Stones,” the predecessor to Oklahoma Christian Women’s Association, taught Bible classes, and taught English, drama and speech at OC as well as in high schools.

The funeral was at Memorial Road Church of Christ. In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested memorial donations in Sue’s name to Oklahoma Christian.

IN LOVING MEMORY: D. Keith Maple

D. Keith Maple passed away April 11, 2005, in Dallas after a courageous but brief battle with cancer. He was a 1986 graduate of Oklahoma Christian and earned his master’s degree in architectural design from the University of Texas at Arlington. Keith was a successful architect with Omniplan of Dallas. He was born November 17, 1963, to Mike and Dot Maple of Edmond, who survive him along with his brothers, Stephen and Phillip.
Oklahoma Christian University is growing, thriving and charging ahead in its mission to transform lives for Christian faith, leadership and service. This issue of VISION is replete with stories of people who are living embodiments of this mission.

Our two distinguished alumni honorees, Avanelle Baird and Ellie Miller, both have been model examples of lives lived for the benefit of others. OC is so proud of the alumni who daily add value and goodwill to the university’s reputation.

In his 1946 convocation address, John Sloane Dickey, the great president of Dartmouth College, said, “The world’s troubles are your troubles, and there is nothing wrong with this world that better humans cannot fix.”

Dr. Dickey had a tremendous point about the resiliency and determination of human beings, but his point stops short of the truth. The root problems of this world will never be fixed by better human beings. The root problems of this world can only be fixed by God himself, working through Christlike human beings.

The tireless work of numerous alumni from Houston, who have assisted displaced Hurricane Katrina victims, is one example of OC alumni living lives of compassion and care for their fellow human beings. Earlier this month, OC students voluntarily collected thousands of dollars to assist hurricane victims. And more than 150 OC students volunteered to give up their Fall Break in October to travel to the Gulf Coast to assist with Hurricane cleanup efforts. There are countless other examples of OC family members around the world making a difference in their communities.

OC’s $34 million housing initiative has transformed the campus with immaculate living facilities. Even this initiative will assist displaced hurricane victims. Oklahoma City will be the “home” of the NBA’s New Orleans Hornets this season, and OC has partnered with the city to provide housing for the team’s front-office staff in our new campus apartments.

Oklahoma Christian remains committed to being a good steward of all our resources and blessings for the benefit of others. You can be proud of your alma mater!

As always, we want you to return to campus and see for yourself the growth of this great university. Please come home during Homecoming 2005 to “Reconnect” with OC’s mission. You not only will be amazed by OC’s progress; you will be impressed with the quality of the students who are a part of the OC family.

By Stephen Eck (’92)