Dear alumni and friends,

I hope the year 2005 has wonderful things in store for you and your loved ones. Early signs indicate that this will be another extraordinary year for Oklahoma Christian, though 2004 will be difficult to top. God's blessings have been abundant during the past year.

The fall semester was energized with an increase of almost 250 students over the previous year. Our record enrollment reflects increases in all categories – freshmen, transfer, returning and graduate students. Our strategic initiatives approved a year ago have proven quite successful in accomplishing a major goal to attract more students to Oklahoma Christian. It is a positive reflection on our commitment to uncompromising quality Christian education and the dedication of our faculty and staff. First and foremost, we are grateful to God for providing the opportunity to mentor and shape the lives of more young people as they learn and prepare to make a difference in our world.

God's blessings to Oklahoma Christian have been numerous. In addition to the record enrollment, we have experienced a significant rise in giving – from alumni and from our friends in the corporate and civic communities. The recent launch of our $34 million comprehensive student housing project has come at the perfect time as we expand and upgrade our facilities to accommodate the largest student body in OC history. We have exciting information to share about how this project has progressed and evolved in light of the increase in students.

Besides the good news on campus, we hope you enjoy reading about the successes of our alumni, faculty and students in these pages. This edition of Vision takes you up close and personal with Richard and Pat Lawson, to whom we owe so much, and takes a look at the careers of several OC alumni with key roles in Oklahoma's judicial system. We also unveil our first comprehensive campaign in two decades – Higher Learning~Higher Calling - The Campaign for Oklahoma Christian University. I ask you to prayerfully consider what role you may have in this effort as we build on a solid foundation to strengthen Oklahoma Christian in the present and help secure the university's future.

This special edition of Vision also contains the University Report, a nuts-and-bolts look at the last fiscal year. Among my primary goals as OC's president are increasing transparency and further opening lines of communication between the administration and our alumni, faculty, staff and students. We hope this University Report, and Vision as a whole, is both informative and inspiring. We welcome your input and feedback about any subject affecting Oklahoma Christian. This is your university, and we encourage your continued participation in its mission and the ministry to our students and our community. Pray for us as we seek to be good stewards of the Lord's blessings in our mission to transform lives for Christian faith, leadership and service.

In His service,

Mike E. O'Neal, President
On cloud 9

WILLIAMS-BRANCH GIFT ENRICHES COLLEGE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES’ FUTURE
The beginning of the 2004-2005 academic year came with an extra sparkle as Oklahoma Christian announced an alumni gift of $1.5 million and the renaming of the university's central physical and spiritual landmark building as the Williams-Branch Center for Biblical Studies.

The gift was pledged by Dr. Charlie and Lesa Branch of Advance, N.C., in honor of their parents, Charles and Joyce Williams of Oklahoma City and Dr. Charles and Sylvia Branch of San Antonio. It is going toward redevelopment and support of the biblical studies building, and toward endowment to support OC and its College of Biblical Studies.

The university rededicated the building as the Williams-Branch Center last month at a special ceremony that showcased the improvements already made as part of the facility's ongoing renovation and refurbishment. The grand finale of the ceremony involved pulling the covering off the new sign on the building, located on the south wall facing the university's main entrance.

“The special place must have an identity. An identity that personifies true love of God's word, an identity that embodies the virtue and reward of the Christian life, that identifies for present and for future students real-life heroes of faith whose lives reflect in a very tangible way the Christian principles that they will learn within its walls,” Charlie Branch said.

OC president Mike O'Neal said the school was honored that two former students decided to bestow such a gift in a unique way.

“This is a wonderful day in the life of Oklahoma Christian University,” O'Neal said. “Especially with the opportunity to honor these two great families who have meant so much to this university through the years – not only in sending their children, but investing in us with their financial resources and encouraging others to be a part of the university. This gift will have deep and positive impact on this institution far into the future. Our response is a commitment to be faithful to the trust they have placed in us.”

Charlie Branch is the chair of Wake Forest University’s Department of Neurosurgery, a position he has held since 2001. He has served on the department's faculty since 1987 upon completing his residency there. He received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School after graduating in 1977 from Oklahoma Christian, where he met Lesa, a 1978 OC alumna. They were married in June 1978.

Charles Williams has been a gospel preacher for half a century, serving as a minister and elder in Oklahoma City at Oakcrest Church of Christ, and now at the North MacArthur Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. He has worked on numerous mission campaigns.

In addition to being the ideal model of the wife of an effective gospel preacher and elder, Joyce Williams has been a longtime ladies bible class teacher. As a mother, she has instilled in her children a love for the Lord and a heritage of Christian education.

He and Sylvia have been bible class teachers for more than 40 years. He also has served as an elder for three decades while she has been a trustee of Christian Heritage Schools in San Antonio for 20 years, and a trustee of The Christian Chronicle international newspaper.

“So many entities in today's society are tearing down the family, and we hope that, in some way, holding up our parents will remind all of us how valuable and important the family is,” said Charlie Branch. “Oklahoma Christian University is a special place. The university stands for the real value of Christian principles and the value of Christian family. Lesa and I love Oklahoma Christian. This institution is very special to our parents. It's almost natural that we could honor them and bless other people at the same time.”

The Biblical Studies Center originally opened in 1987. Because all OC students take bible classes as part of the university's core curriculum, the building joins the Gaylord University Center and Hardeman Auditorium – where daily Chapel services are held – as the most-trafficked facilities on campus.

“Teaching God's word through their various disciplines and through their lives is central to all who teach and work here, but there is a sense...
in which this building is symbolic. Its place at the front of the campus makes a statement about what all of us who work here stand for,” said Dr. Lynn McMillon, dean of the College of Biblical Studies. “For Charlie and Lesa to make this very generous gift is not only humbling, it is an enormous inspiration and encouragement to all of us. We appreciate their gift, but we also deeply appreciate their example and the legacy and teaching of their families.”

Vice President of Advancement John deSteiguer said the gift is special for several reasons.

“When we look back at this, we will realize that this is one of the most significant gifts this university has received in 55 years,” deSteiguer said. “Not only did it upgrade a very important facility that touches everyone’s lives on this campus, it sets a great example to other alumni that they can give back to the university and make a difference.”

THE WILLIAMS-BRANCH CENTER FOR BIBLICAL STUDIES
BACKGROUND AND FACTS

Oklahoma Christian officials broke ground on the 30,000-square-foot Biblical Studies Center on Sept. 26, 1986.

On Sept. 18, 1987, Oklahoma Christian dedicated the Biblical Studies Center. The $3 million building, financed by OC’s $50 million With Wings as Eagles campaign, was made possible by a group of 42 founding donors.

On Sept. 3, 2004, the Biblical Studies Center was renamed the Williams-Branch Center for Biblical Studies, in honor of Charles and Joyce Williams and Charles and Sylvia Branch. A $1.5 million gift by alumni couple Charlie and Lesa (Williams) Branch in honor of their parents went toward redevelopment and support of the Biblical Studies Center, and toward endowment to support Oklahoma Christian and its College of Biblical Studies. The university officially rededicated the facility as the Williams-Branch Center for Biblical Studies on Feb. 1, 2005.

The first phase of the Williams-Branch Center redevelopment includes exterior enhancements to the front of the building, including an updated second-floor walkway as well as landscaping, brick work and iron work. Inside, the walls are enhanced with new paint and wainscot. The building also has new carpet and updated ceilings. Technological enhancements in the classrooms and new seating will be added later this month. The second phase of the renovations will include modernized interior lighting and remodeled conference and office space.

The Biblical Studies Center was designed by Oklahoma City architects Culver and Brandon, and built by E.V. Cox Construction Co. of Oklahoma City. Smith & Pickel Construction is spearheading the current renovations.

At its opening, the two-level Biblical Studies Center included classrooms, a small library, an auditorium, faculty and staff offices and study areas on the first level, and a second level devoted to a 300-seat chapel. It also housed the offices of the Christian Chronicle international newspaper, which remain there to this day.

Two wings of the Biblical Studies Center were named after former OC Bible professors Hugo McCord and Raymond Kelcy at its dedication. The late McCord, honored as a professor emeritus following his retirement, was one of the institution’s first professors when it began in Bartlesville as Central Christian College. Kelcy, a member of OC’s Master Teacher Hall of Fame, chaired the school’s Bible department from 1963 to 1986, when he died unexpectedly.

The opening of the Biblical Studies Center helped pave the way for a new Master of Arts in Ministry degree in 1988. OC’s first graduate degree program was designed to meet a need for additional training in ministry for students. Focusing on practical ministry training, the program featured two tracks of study – general ministry and family life ministry.

In March 2004, Oklahoma Christian launched a new Master of Divinity degree program, the only program of its kind in central Oklahoma. The program, which includes courses on biblical history and theological studies, is marked by an emphasis on practical ministry, developing the skills ministers can use on a daily basis in their church work.

In addition to classrooms, offices and conference space, the Williams-Branch Center for Biblical Studies includes Raymond Kelcy Hall, Hugo McCord Hall, the Robert and Velma Wheeler Auditorium, the Glenn and Pansy Durrill Lecture Hall, the Warlick Language Room, the Sudbury Missions Room, the Fletcher Dailey Library and Scott Chapel.

Scott Chapel, a 300-seat facility used for worship services, classes, weddings and meetings, features stained glass windows and a choral loft. It is named for Mabel and Leo Scott of Thackerville, Okla. The chapel’s rose windows are in memory of Phyllis Boss Dunn. The bell tower that tops the facility houses the Cordell Christian College bell, which was used on the Cordell campus until its closing in 1931. The bell was donated by the Cordell Christian College Alumni Association.
Richard and Pat Lawson are known for their philanthropy. It’s only natural that Richard’s “giving spirit” is what launched the couple’s relationship when they were students at Oklahoma Christian in the 1960s, and what would lead to their giving the university one of its largest gifts four decades later.

When they were students, Richard was a bit shy and wanted to ask Pat on a date, but the opportunity hadn’t presented itself. So when a driver was needed to take the cheerleaders, including Pat, to a basketball game at Langston University, Richard saw his chance.

Pat and Richard knew of each other before they officially met on that road trip. They had mutual friends, but had never spent any time alone together. Pat had heard rumblings that Richard was going to ask her out. She waited for him to make his move, but nothing ever happened.

“One day, I was walking through the cafeteria with my friends, and I overheard his friends at the other table telling him to go and ask me out, but he didn’t,” Pat said.

Later that evening, as Pat was getting ready for that basketball game, Richard finally called. The entire girls’ dorm shared one phone, and she had to get out of the tub and run downstairs to take the call.

That was their first date, and the rest is the story of their life together.

When Pat Davidson graduated from tiny Velma-Alma High School, her parents influenced her college choice that would take her away from home for the first time.

“My mother was determined for me to go to Oklahoma Christian,”
Pat said, “I was dating a boy from OU at the time, and when he and my parents dropped me off at school, he told me it looked like a desert motel,” Pat joked.

At first, Pat went home every weekend. Then she joined the cheerleading squad and began staying on campus, making new friends and enjoying school as she earned her degree in elementary education.

Richard Lawson chose Oklahoma Christian College because his older sister had attended Central Christian College in Bartlesville.

“OC was a little weird when I first came, out in the middle of nowhere,” Richard said, “I remember it being quiet and lonely sometimes.”

He fondly remembers his time in the dorms. He lived in Wilson West, known to most guys as “A Dorm,” with three guys to a two-man room.

Richard was a math major. During his sophomore year, he had the opportunity to take one of Oklahoma Christian’s first computer science courses. On Thursday nights, the class met at the University of Oklahoma’s campus in Oklahoma City. Decades before the personal computer, Richard’s class worked on a machine that filled the entire room.

Both Richard and Pat have many memorable experiences during their time at Oklahoma Christian. Richard’s first time out of the country was as part of Oklahoma Christian’s first international studies program. A small group traveled to Europe and lived in Germany while studying. Also along on that particular trip was current OC President Dr. Mike O’Neal, who was a fellow student.

Pat had the honor of being crowned Homecoming queen. She remembers her coronation in the Barn, where she was escorted by student body president Mark Livingston.

Social service clubs played a part in both Richard and Pat’s on-campus life. Clubs were co-ed at the time and, like today, were focused on service while still having fun. Richard was a member of both the Berians and the Ionians, and Pat was a part of the Olympians and the Ionians.

“For a lot of people, club was what gave them an identity,” Pat said.

Richard graduated from Oklahoma Christian in 1966 and went on to pursue his master’s degree in computer science at Purdue University, one of only three schools in the country at the time that offered that degree. He was offered an assistantship, which gave him a part-time job and paid half his tuition.

Pat stayed at Oklahoma Christian for her senior year, taking this time to focus on her studies. She remembers the days of water fights with her roommates as an underclassman, then entering into her senior year and feeling she was way too mature to be dealing with such nonsense.

In 1967, Pat graduated on a Thursday and the couple was married the following Saturday. With Richard still working on his master’s degree, the couple had to consider the trip from Oklahoma back to Purdue their honeymoon.

Pat taught at an elementary school while Richard finished his degree. She left her teaching days behind when she found out that she and Richard were expecting their first child.

In 1975, less than a decade after his graduation from Oklahoma Christian, Richard, his brother Bill Lawson, and family friend John Cerullo founded Lawson & Associates. For the first year and a half, the consulting firm operated out of Richard and Pat’s home. Richard knew it was time to move his company out of the house when a client asked why he didn’t hear the “company dog” barking in the background of their phone conversation.

Their consulting business led to the creation of Lawson Software. The business partners launched into an untapped market of offering customized software packages to businesses. As Richard put it, they grew the company “organically,” and put all of the profits back into the company.

In its 29 years, Lawson Software has grown into an international company with annual revenue of $344 million by providing business software to large and mid-sized organizations in healthcare, retail, professional services, public sector, financial services and other strategic markets. Most of the company’s customers are Fortune 2000 companies.

Computer World magazine recognized Lawson Software in 1996 as the first enterprise software company to provide business applications for the World Wide Web.

In the early 1990s, Richard and his associates began to contemplate taking the company from private to public ownership. When the plans for the public offering came together, the nation’s economy was on shaky ground following the September 11th terrorist attacks and the Enron scandal.

They began the process of shopping Lawson to potential investors. When the call finally came for the initial public offering on NASDAQ,
Pat and Richard quickly traveled to New York City for the stock’s debut. The initial public offering was a great success and brought more than $230 million to the company. Richard knows now it would have been tough for Lawson to stay private and make it through the hard economic times the country faced.

“It was almost like a wedding. We had all the people around that had put so much work into the company. We wanted to celebrate with them. It was euphoric,” Pat said.

Richard currently serves as Chairman of the Board for Lawson and spends 40 percent of his time in Minneapolis at the company’s headquarters. Being very hands on, Richard continues to work in the company’s research and development department.

While working and living in Minnesota, the couple lost touch with the university until they moved to Dallas in the 1980s and Gay Coleman encouraged them to attend Spring Sing.

Their re-connection with OC grew even stronger when Richard and Pat’s sons came to Oklahoma Christian. When their oldest son Ricky started, Pat was much more interested in what he would be involved in socially. Richard had a hard time adjusting to having his kids away from home. The pair remembers the phone calls they would receive.

“He would call at night and I could hear the other guys in the background. Before he would end the conversation, he would say ‘gotta go mom, I have a test in the morning.’ That always worried me a little,” Pat said.

The Lawsons’ younger son, Lance, also attended Oklahoma Christian. She knew that both of her sons would discover what they love to do, and then do it.

Pat and Richard always knew they wanted to give back to the university that had given so much to them, but they never were sure when or how much that gift would be. They credit OC Executive Vice President Alfred Branch and former President Kevin Jacobs for helping them broaden their vision of what they could do for their alma mater. The Lawsons decided to share their blessings with Oklahoma Christian in the form of Lawson Software stock. When the university announced the gift last April, the 4 million stock shares were valued at almost $30 million. It represented one of the largest single gifts the university ever has received.

“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 said.

Along with the late Edward L. Gaylord, chairman and publisher of The Oklahoma Publishing Company, the Lawsons have ensured the university’s financial strength and vitality for the 21st century. The majority of these two landmark gifts are being invested as part of the university’s permanent endowment.

Richard has been a member of the OC Board of Trustees since 1994. The current board has worked through challenging financial circumstances, but he feels they are leading the university in the right direction.

The Lawsons also are involved in building connections with students after they leave Oklahoma Christian through their work with the North Texas chapter of the OC Alumni Association.

“We want to be a networking tool. We want people to stay connected,” Pat said.

As proud grandparents, Pat and Richard hope to see each of their grandkids, including Tess, 12, Isabelle, 5, Max, 10, Sammi, 7, and Dani, 3, come to Oklahoma Christian and have a wonderful experience – just like they did.

“Oklahoma Christian University is richly blessed to have alumni such as Richard and Pat Lawson who are willing through their generosity to make it possible for thousands of young people to enjoy the same excellent experience they received as students at the university,” said Dr. O’Neal. “We thank God for giving the Lawsons such generous and caring hearts, and for instilling in them a passion for Christian higher education.”
The $60 Million Campaign
While many of us were students at Oklahoma Christian, bulldozers, dirt, bricks and mortar were part of a growing campus. We tolerated the inconvenience as we walked to class. After all, new dorms and classrooms were being built – for us. Many of us, in the folly of our youth, likely thought our tuition dollars were paying for those new buildings and renovations.

Today, with the benefit of a college education and maturity, we know those buildings didn’t happen without the generosity of many others who believed in the mission of a young Christian college in Oklahoma City. And because we attended a private university that did not have the benefit of public funding, our tuition dollars were stretched to pay those who taught us, to expand academic programs, and even to keep the lights on!

More than 50 years later, with capital campaigns such as With Wings At Eagles and Great Expectations gone by, a new capital campaign is underway at our alma mater. It’s the biggest endeavor yet, and the first one in more than a decade.

It’s called Higher Learning~Higher Calling, and it’s a comprehensive $60 million fundraising campaign. Our support will help further OC’s mission to transform lives for Christian faith, leadership and service by funding scholarships, capital projects and programs that will enhance the OC experience for students of today and tomorrow (some of whom are our children and grandchildren).

As Oklahoma Christian alumni, we know the value of our education. And our employers, colleagues, community leaders and others also recognize it when they see the strong work ethic, strong education and servant hearts that many of us have taken into the world. As the university’s strength, accolades and achievement grow, the value of our education pays more dividends. We, in turn, can give back.

Several significant capital initiatives are part of the Higher Learning~Higher Calling campaign. Among the most important academic bricks and mortar project is a state-of-the-art science and research center that will dramatically upgrade the facilities available to the university’s successful science programs.

Within the next few months, two new residence halls, a new apartment complex and a new central plant will open as part of a comprehensive student housing initiative that already has resulted in the construction of another new apartment complex and the complete refurbishment of two existing residence halls. The launch of the new housing initiative last year fortunately preceeded the largest student enrollment in school history.

“With more students than ever before seeking the high-quality Christian education offered by Oklahoma Christian, we must increase our capacity and improve the facilities that enrich our students’ experience as they prepare for productive careers and lives of service,” OC President Mike O’Neal said. “The words Higher Learning~Higher Calling have been chosen with care, as they represent the two foundations on which this university stands – continually increasing academic excellence and spiritual excellence – thus addressing the whole needs of mankind.”

Because private institutions do not benefit from state funding, raising permanent endowment is of primary importance in this campaign. This part of the campaign will help ensure OC’s continued strength and success because endowment provides future consistent funding of student scholarships and quality academic programs.

Donors also will have the opportunity to give toward restricted needs to enhance existing academic programs or scholarship funds at the university.

Oklahoma Christian raised $30.7 million in gifts and pledges during the quiet phase of the campaign, which began in January 2004.

Several campaign gifts of $1 million or more have been announced previously. Last February, OC received the final $15 million installment of a multi-year pledge from alumni H. Richard and Pat Lawson. In September, alumni Charles and Lesa Branch pledged $1.5 million toward endowment and to support the newly-named Williams-Branch Center for Biblical Studies. In January, Board of Trustees Chair Don Millican and his wife, Donna, pledged $1 million to establish the J.J. Millican Endowed Chair in Accounting.

“Oklahoma Christian University is unique in higher education today. It truly educates both the mind and spirit of the students,” said alumnus Richard Lawson, who will serve with his wife Pat as national co-chairs of the campaign. “OC’s impact in the southwest and beyond is significant and far-reaching, and we are proud to be a part of this important campaign.”

Other major gifts to the campaign include $2 million annually from the charitable lead trust established by the late Edward L. Gaylord, chairman and publisher of The Oklahoma Publishing Company. Within the past year, Chesapeake Energy Corporation and OG&E each established scholarship funds at Oklahoma Christian, while a Kirkpatrick Foundation grant will support a national lecture series. Oklahoma Christian also recently announced endowments to establish the Harold and Mary Helon Fletcher Center for Music and the Bailey and Joyce McBride Center for Faith and Literature.

In conjunction with the campaign, donors will have naming opportunities through major gifts to the university. Naming opportunities include: student residence facilities and individual rooms; the planned science and research center; the planned university commons; the university recital hall; the university art gallery; academic wings, offices and classrooms; and academic endowments and scholarships.

For more information about the Higher Learning~Higher Calling campaign, call OC’s Office of Advancement Office at (405) 425-5094, email advancement@oc.edu or visit www.HigherLearningHigherCalling.com.
Enjoying one of the most exciting times in its 54-year history, the beginning of the fall semester saw Oklahoma Christian smash several enrollment and retention records.

The 1,947 students enrolled at Oklahoma Christian, surpassed the previous high of 1,811 students in 1982. This year's enrollment total includes 1,748 undergraduate students and 199 graduate students, both of which also are school records. The 572 first-time college students enrolled at Oklahoma Christian also was a record high. Including Cascade College, the university's branch campus in Portland, Oregon, OC's overall enrollment total was 2,206.

Even with the substantial increase in first-time college students enrolled, the average ACT score for incoming students also rose, due in part to the university's new Presidential Academic Success Scholarship (PASS). PASS scholarships award $4,000 to $9,000 per year to incoming students based on their ACT or SAT scores, with additional academic consideration for National Merit Scholars, including full tuition, room, board and fees for National Merit Finalists.

The enrollment increase brought its share of welcomed challenges to the OC community. The university temporarily set up a closed-circuit television feed of its daily Chapel service in Judd Theatre to accommodate the overflow of students from Hardeman Auditorium.

With one of OC's nine residence halls closed for renovation as part of the $34 million student housing project, the university also arranged to temporarily group three students together in on-campus apartments that normally house just two students. In addition, some OC faculty and staff members volunteered to house students off-campus in their homes. The completion of the Tinnus Hall-East renovation and the opening of a newly-constructed apartment building at the start of this spring semester alleviated the housing challenge.

Retention of first-time college students also is at its highest level since the launch of Freshman Experience, part of the Office of Student Life, in 1998. The university retained 74 percent of students who were enrolled at Oklahoma Christian as first-time college students last fall.

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**CATeGORY 2004 enRoLLmenT PREVioUS RecoRD (YeAR)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2004 Enrollment</th>
<th>Previous Record (Year)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total enrollment</td>
<td>1,947</td>
<td>1,811 (1982)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(OC’s Oklahoma City campus)</td>
<td>1,748</td>
<td>1,643 (1982)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate student enrollment</td>
<td>1,748</td>
<td>1,643 (1982)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate student enrollment</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>131 (2003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-time college student enrollment</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>503 (1982)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshman retention percentage</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>73% (2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall enrollment</td>
<td>2,206</td>
<td>2,141 (2001)</td>
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“We are thrilled to have each of these students here at Oklahoma Christian. We thank God for this blessing and pray that we will be good stewards as we seek to equip and to prepare our students for purposeful lives of leadership, faith and service,” said OC president Dr. Mike O'Neal. “The record enrollment we celebrate truly is a team effort. Faculty and staff alike went the extra mile in serving our current and prospective students. In addition, the housing, scholarship and technology initiatives of the past year have increased the affordability and the value of Oklahoma Christian.”

Retention of first-time college students also is at its highest level since the launch of Freshman Experience, part of the Office of Student Life, in 1998. The university retained 74 percent of students who were enrolled at Oklahoma Christian as first-time college students last fall.
1972  
Robert Gerst serves as executive director of the Care Center, a non-profit Christian counseling center in Arkansas. Rob is serving his second term on the Board of Directors of the American Mental Health Counselors Association.

1974  
Jean (Martin) Adams, a high school principal, was installed as National President of Kappa Kappa Iota (Professional Educators Organization) in June 2004.

Gene Gilliland was awarded the “Citizen of the Year” award by the Marshall County Chamber of Commerce. Addresses: 107 E. 21st Street, Benton, KY 42025 and geneg@apex.net.

1975  
Michael Palmore passed away in January 2004. He is survived by his wife Patsy (Hood) Eason and son Brad. Addresses: 709 Linden Lane, Siloam Springs, AR 72761 and pdpalmore@yahoo.com.

1978  
Terre Lynn (Adams) Dodgen, 46, passed away Oct. 17, 2004. She is survived by her husband Richard, her daughter Audrey, her son Jacob, and her mother Darlene, all of the home, and her father John, of Edmond. Memorials can be made to the North MacArthur Church of Christ Food Pantry or to Christian Services of Oklahoma.

1981  
W. Michael Partain married Brenda Lawrence on Sept. 4, 2004. Michael is a partner with Davis, Tuttle Venture Partners. Addresses: PO Box 1461, Stillwell, OK 74960 and mpartain@davistuttle.com.

1982  
Sandra (Hodges) Green has completed training and is registered with the Oklahoma Autism Registry. She teaches learning disabled students at Stillwater Middle School. Addresses: 3006 W 27th, Stillwell, OK 74470 and sgreen@stilwater.k12.ok.us.

1983  
Lisa Johnson is now the men’s and women’s tennis coach at Oklahoma Christian University. E-mail: lisa.johnson@oc.edu.

Russ Trigg is a Lt. Col. in the Air Force and has served as a family physician and flight surgeon family for the last seven years. He is now a resident in aerospace medicine at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks City-Base, San Antonio, TX. His wife, Lynn, home schools their children, Emily, Anna, and David. Addresses: 2311 Brighton Oaks, San Antonio, TX 78231 and rtrigg@sarxrr.com.

1984  
Jana (Barr) Rucker is the marketing vice president for BISYS. She and her family have relocated to Florida. Addresses: 353 Lanternback Island Drive, Satellite Beach, FL 32937 and jana_rucker@yahoo.com.

1987  
Leslie Anne Little, 41, of Poteau, OK, passed away Oct. 22, 2004, in Little Rock. She received a bachelor’s degree in Social Work from Oklahoma Christian College and worked as a counselor/adviser. Survivors include her husband of 19 years, Jeff; two sons, Kael and Chase; her father; a brother and sister-in-law, Eric and Robin Hill, all of Poteau; a sister and brother-in-law, Kaelin and Joe Bleed of Owasso; other loved ones, friends; and her church family.


Dr. Larry A. Van Meter successfully defended his dissertation on Aug. 10. He teaches English at York College. E-mail: lvanmeter@york.edu.

1988  
James Mace is going to the isles of Iona and Ireland for exploration on the history of Christianity. Addresses: 625 Barefoot Drive, Wilmore, KY 40390 and James_Mace@asburyseminary.edu.

Mark Tremaine is now the Dean of Student Life at Sterling College in Kansas. Addresses: 115 N. 7th St., Sterling, KS 67579 and thec.farm@juno.com.

Lyndal Weaver is the girls’ basketball coach and girls’ athletic director at Melissa High School in Melissa, TX. Addresses: 2105 White Cliff, Richardson, TX 75080 and LyndalWeaver@msn.com.

1989  
Robert and Della (Mahoney) Gregg announce the birth of their daughter, Rylee Jo, on April 26, 2004. Rylee joins brothers Robert and Ryan. Addresses: 421 Alice Dr., Duncan, OK, 73533 and rgregg@tixhoma.net.

Carolyn (Rhoden) and Byron Simpson announce the birth of their daughter, Julia Elizabeth, on Nov. 13, 2003. She joins sister Riley. Address: 3508 Lohnerridge, Pearlard, TX 77581 and CarolynSimpson@ev1.net.

1990  
ALUMNA COALE HIRES PINK AT OU  
A longtime member of the OC family recently left the university to work with a nationally-recognized OC alumna.

University of Oklahoma head women’s basketball coach Sherri Coale, a 1987 OC graduate, hired OC assistant professor of education Bill Pink as the director of basketball operations for the women’s program.

Pink, a 1990 OC alumnus, taught for six years at Oklahoma Christian after serving as athletic director, assistant to the president and head men’s basketball coach at OC’s sister school, Cascade College in Portland, Oregon.

At OU, Pink’s duties include managing the team’s finances, coordinating the team’s schedule, recruiting and marketing.

WRAY NAMED MARKETING DIRECTOR AT OSU  
Kyle Wray left Oklahoma Christian in November to take a position as the Director of Marketing at Oklahoma State University.

Wray served Oklahoma Christian for 10 years, progressing from an admissions counselor to the vice president for enrollment and marketing. Under his leadership, the Admissions Office helped engineer the largest enrollment in school history, the Marketing and Public Relations Office produced national award-winning marketing materials, and the Financial Services Office revamped policies, leading to a significant decrease in accounts receivable and a significant increase in student aid and scholarships.

At OSU, the 1989 OC graduate now oversees marketing for fundraising, alumni, athletics, enrollment and academics at Oklahoma State, developing marketing plans for the five OSU system campuses.

IN LOVING MEMORY: JACK MCGRAW  
Jack R. McGraw’s life of bringing glory to God ended on October 24, 2004, at the age of 72, following an eight-month battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Wanda, four sons and their wives, Tim and Terri, Scott and Connie, Kyle and DeAnn and Travis and Donna, all of Midland, TX and 11 grandchildren. He was a successful businessman in the oil industry. He was asked to serve on the Engineering Council at OC in 1986, and served on the OC Board of Trustees from 1989 to 2003. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from OC in 2004. Jack and Wanda generously supported Christian education, helped put missionary children through college, recruited students for Oklahoma Christian and supported mission efforts around the world. Of all that stirred his heart, nothing was more important to him than the Kingdom of God. He is greatly missed by the thousands who were blessed by his friendship and leadership. The Jack and Wanda McGraw endowed scholarship has been created to support children of missionaries attending OC.
David Bates’ band, Moonshot Radio, is receiving national attention with their album, “Anywhere But Here...” For more information, go to www.moonshotradio.com.

1991
Aaron Edwards is the area sales manager for Capital One Auto Finance, central/western Oklahoma territory. Addresses: 1905 Thunderbird Blvd, Edmond, OK 73013 and ad_edwards@msn.com.

1992
Barry Brown graduated with honors in May from Stetson University College of Law. Following passage of the bar at the end of July, he began working in the Air Force JAG Corps. Addresses: 1034 Ferdinand Drive, San Antonio, TX 78245 and thorsbat@earthlink.net.


1993
Ron and Heather (Wolken 91) Blankinship announce the birth of their daughter, Kiera Elise, on Aug. 13, 2003. Addresses: 7920 Chambersburg Road, Huber Heights, OH 45424, bblankinship@yahoo.com and ehepaar@juno.com.

Kevin and Heather (Boyle 93) Hahn announce the birth of their daughter, Faith, on Nov. 6, 2003. She joins sisters Emily and Hannah and brother Caleb. Kevin retired after five years in the Air Force as a program manager and officer training instructor. Kevin is returning to full-time ministry in Mason, TX.

John and Becky (Maple) Valentine announce the birth of Alexandra Ainslee on April 16, 2004. She joins sister Victoria. John is an attorney for the law firm Ryan, Bisher, Ryan in Oklahoma City. Addresses: 345 Memory Lane, Edmond, OK 73013 and jvalentine@rblawfirm.com.

1995
Rich Hill was promoted to Senior Network Engineer for Midland Loan Services and completed the Cisco Certified Network Professional certification. Addresses: 8112 E 66th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64133 and rich.hill@midlands.com.

John and Amy (Pitts 96) Maple announce the birth of their daughter, Devon Elise, on Feb. 6, 2004. She joins big brother Austin. John is completing a gastroenterology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, and Amy is an independent consultant for Mary Kay. Addresses: 4231 9th Street NW, Rochester, MN 55901, maple.john@mayo.edu and amympmaple@hotmail.com.

Tim and Risa (Johns) Forrester announce the adoption of their son, Calvin Ryan. Addresses: 15718 Teesdale Road, Edmond, OK 73013, tforrester@cox.net and risa.forrester@oc.edu.

1994
Timothy and Amy (Briar 95) Brown announce the birth of Riley Kate, on July 10, 2003. She joins big sister Carly McKenna. Addresses: 12821 Haskins, Overland Park, KS 66213 and heytrimbrown@yahoo.com.

Angela (Wallace) Richards is principal trumpet of the Fort Smith Symphony as well as a private instructor. Sean recently started his own book restoration and printing business. They live with their daughter Camryn at 715 NE 17th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73103.

1997
Troy Baker graduated with his masters degree in School Psychology from Abilene Christian University in May, 2003. He is now a school psychologist with Lincoln Public Schools. Katie (Eroh) teaches communication courses at Southeast Community College. Addresses: 5541 S. 32nd Circle, Lincoln, NE 68516 and katie_bake@yahoo.com.

Ed and Brooke (Tarpley 97) Brown announce the birth of their twin daughters, Morgan Isabelle and Meagan O’Keefe, on July 20, 2004. They join their sister Mackenzie. Addresses: 8313 E. Lansing Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74014 and macbeth1023@yahoo.com.


Josh and Denise (Dunn 96) Cummings announce the birth of their son, Grant, on Nov. 27, 2003. He joins sister Hannah. Addresses: 1242 Moss Dale Dr., Sugarland, TX 77479 and dcummings4@houston.rr.com.


1998
Aric and Amber (Merchant 01) Bramlett announce the birth of their son, Noah Charles, on Feb. 25, 2004. He joins sister Sage. Aric joined the Air Force and is currently stationed in Columbus, MS. Addresses: 5204A Lowndes Ave, CAFB, MS 39705 and merchantamber@yahoo.com.

Damon and Gina (Cummings 01) Blankinship announce the birth of their daughter, Courtney Lanell, on April 12, 2004. Addresses: 1104 A Willowood Ct., Barksdale AFB, LA 71110 and dblankinship@bellsouth.net.

Travis Montgomery completed his M.A. in English at the University of Mississippi in July, 2004. He is now working toward his Ph.D. with an honors scholarship. Janna (Ward) is still singing and acting, and she is currently employed in the Office of Choral Activities at “Ole Miss.”

Robert Windell is a marketing consultant at Caterpillar. Addresses: 22 Country Lane, East Peoria, IL 61611 and rwindell@insightbb.com.

1999
Chris Claassen and Tanzeen Muna Khan were married on May 17, 2004, in Dallas. Chris graduated from the SMU School of Law in May and is an associate with Burg, Simpson, Eldridge, Hersh & Jardine, PC. Addresses: 6000 Parkridge Blvd., Apt 251, Irving, TX 75063-9115 and eclairson@mindsping.com.

Brad Leonard received a promotion as a contract program manager at Schriever Air Force Base, CO.

John Reddish and Rebecca Creager (03) were married April 17, 2004, in Yukon, OK.

continued on page 21
A generous contribution from Chesapeake Energy Corporation in Oklahoma City has made it possible for more students from rural Oklahoma to attend Oklahoma Christian.

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.”

In September, Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company (OG&E) and OC took a significant step in their long-standing partnership with the creation of the OG&E Scholars program.

The OG&E Foundation recently approved a new multi-year commitment of $360,000 for the purpose of creating an endowment to support outstanding incoming freshman students in OC’s Honors Program.

“This is a meaningful and generous gift from one of Oklahoma’s finest companies. We are deeply appreciative for OG&E’s continued support and for its confidence in the quality of our students,” said OC president Dr. Mike O’Neal.

OG&E has made significant contributions to bolster OC’s capital, operations and endowment over the past two decades.

“Our company has earned a reputation for excellence in Oklahoma, and we are happy to share it with our young people in a way that will improve the quality of their educational experience here,” said Steven E. Moore, chairman, president and CEO of OGE Energy Corp., the Oklahoma City-based parent company of OG&E.
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William B. Beeman, Mesquite, TX; Karl H. Berg, Wichita, KS; Daryl J. Bond, Yukon, OK; Charles L. Branch, MD, San Antonio, TX; C.A. Buchanan, Edmond, OK; Harrell C. Dodson, MD, Oklahoma City; Joe A. Dodson, Oklahoma City; G. LaMoine Neal, Oklahoma City; Allen L. Reese, Ada, OK; Dale Roberts, Norman, OK; Jack M. Stephenson, MD, Sulphur, OK; John D. Sudbury, The Woodlands, TX; Philip S. Winn, Branson, MO.

Ron Wright, President of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Cincinnati, OH.

Michelle Stephens, Member of the Oklahoma State School Board, Weatherford, OK.

Kerry Barnes, Director of Retail Stores for Adidas America in Portland, Vancouver, WA.

Ken Davidson, Seagate Technology, Yukon, OK.

Dr. Brad Britton, Chief Executive Officer and Medical Director of Britton Vision Associates, Edmond, OK.
HOUSING PROJECT STATUS

PHASE I:
• Renovation of Fails Hall (underclass men) Completed August 2004
• Renovation and expansion of Tinius Hall-East (96 underclass women) Completed December 2004
• Construction of New Apartment Complex (96 upperclass women) Completed December 2004
• Central Heating and Cooling Plant to service residence halls Projected Completion April 2005
• Phase I Project Total: $12 million

PHASE II:
• New Residence Halls Projected Completion August 2005
• Two separate residence halls joined by student commons area
• North residence hall (103 sophomore men)
• South residence hall (103 sophomore women)
• Phase II Project Total: $9.3 million

PHASE III:
• New Apartment Units (300 students) Projected Completion TBD
• Phase III Project Total: $10 million

FAILS HALL – Completely refurbished with new single rooms, private restrooms, enlarged two-man rooms, and enlarged and completely-renovated common restrooms. Each room also is outfitted with new furniture. All of the safety features of the building were upgraded, including fire sprinklers in each room. There also is a newly-renovated lobby that serves both Fails and Warlick Halls. The exterior of the building also received an attractive facelift.

TINIUS HALL-EAST – One of the two original residence halls on campus, this building also received a total renovation. All of the suite-style rooms were refurbished with the addition of sinks/vanity cabinetry in each room, with the suite-style restrooms completely renovated and enhanced with new cabinets, tile, showers and fixtures. Two attractive additions to the east side of the hall accommodate 16 new single rooms that each share a private restroom with one other room. Other new amenities include a laundromat, fitness center and bicycle storage facility. The exterior also received a similar enhancement to match the new Fails Hall exterior.
NEW APARTMENTS – This new three-story addition to our apartment and Nowlin Center complex is a welcome addition to apartment life at Oklahoma Christian. There is a combination of four-bedroom and two-bedroom units. Students can choose a single bedroom in a unit or a double-bedroom unit with sinks in the bedrooms. The four-bedroom units have two full bathrooms. Each unit includes a full kitchen, living area, balcony, and full-size washer and dryer. The parking at the apartment complex also has been expanded to accommodate OC’s growing apartment population.

CENTRAL PLANT – This facility, under construction near the Barn, will supply new air conditioning and heating to the residence halls and several of our larger buildings on campus. This new facility will allow students to have complete temperature control in the newly-renovated residence halls and the new residence hall complex under construction. This facility will allow the university to operate more efficiently in the future.

NEW RESIDENCE HALL COMPLEXES – These new facilities are under construction at the west end of the university’s residential mall. The residence halls will be three stories and have both single and double suite-style rooms, private bathrooms in each suite and a common living area. Each floor of each hall will have a private TV lounge and laundromat facility. The three-story commons facility will include a grand lobby to host school functions, a student activity area, food service area, private and group study rooms, meditation/prayer rooms, a guest “hotel room,” and a fitness center.

ADDITIONAL APARTMENTS – In response to OC’s rising enrollment, the university plans to further expand its apartment capacity on the east side of the campus. These additional apartments will provide an additional 250-300 beds to accommodate the growing “traditional” student and married student populations (many of these students currently are forced to live off-campus). In conjunction with this phase, the university will assess the renovation needs of the four existing apartment buildings, which are 30 years old.
UNIVERSITY METRICS

UNIVERSITY EXPENSES 2004

- Management & General: 31%
- Instruction: 41%
- Student Services: 18%
- Academic Support: 9%
- Public Service: 1%

UNIVERSITY REVENUES 2004

- Student Fees: 57%
- Private gifts, grants & contracts: 32%
- Endowment & Other: 11%

OC's net assets are showing steady growth due to generous support of alumni and friends, and prudent fiscal management.

Net Assets (in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>43,640</td>
<td>49,672</td>
<td>49,926</td>
<td>55,226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Donors

- 2001: 1850
- 2002: 1577
- 2003: 1667
- 2004: 1786

Cumulative Applications

- 2001: 1700
- 2002: 1411
- 2003: 1377
- 2004: 1476

Net Assets (in thousands)

- 2001: $30,000
- 2002: $35,000
- 2003: $40,000
- 2004: $45,000
University Metrics

Number of Donors

Last year’s total number of university donors hit an all-time high.

Cumulative Applications

The numbers of students applying to OC set a record last year.
Hard-working, dedicated and talented professionals make up Oklahoma Christian University's Advancement staff. If you want information on topics ranging from gift annuities, estate planning, scholarship endowments, alumni activities or information about lectureship or other events, OC’s advancement staff is ready to serve. The main phone number for the Office of Advancement is (405) 425-5094.

FROM TOP LEFT TO BOTTOM RIGHT: Jamie Haworth, Records Coordinator; Christine Merideth, OCWA Coordinator; Sarah McBride, Annual Fund Director; Dana Holley, Executive Assistant for VP for Advancement; Kerri Williams, Executive Assistant for the President; Janie Lefwich, Administrative Assistant, Advancement; Pam Fletcher, Alumni Relations Coordinator; Jennifer Rocheleau, Career Services Liaison; Matt Brock, Director of Foundation Relations; John Wilguess, Vice President for Civic Affairs; Dr. John deSteiguer, Vice President for Advancement; Bob Rowley, Advancement Officer/Church Relations; Stephen Eck, Director of Alumni Relations.

NOT PICTURED: Kinney Bryant, Advancement Officer; Shon Smith, Vice President for Church Relations; John Michener, Advancement Officer; Kathy Hoffhines, Administrative Assistant, Advancement.
Kathryn (Johnson) Walker graduated from OU Law School in May, 2004 and is now an assistant attorney general for the Oklahoma Attorney General. Addresses: 1410 McKinley, Norman, OK 73072 and kathrynwalker@yahoo.com.

Rebecca (King) and Wayne Weber announce the birth of their son, Logan Tyler, on June 19, 2004.

Ashlyn Nicole, on Aug. 19, 2004. She announces the birth of their daughter, Chrissey gibj@yahoo.com. Addresses: 14 Moscow Brook Trail, Hope Valley, RI 02832 and 12701 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73120 and crnusbaum@hotmail.com.

Alexis Gertrude Gibbons and Brent and Amy (Kirkpatrick) Young announce the birth of their daughter, Ashlyn Nicole, on Aug. 19, 2004.

Logan Tyler Weber

2000

Blake and Shelly (Almy) Collins had simultaneous exhibitions of their artwork at Untitled [ArtSpace] Dec. 3 - Jan. 22. For more information about Untitled [ArtSpace], visit www.1ne3.org. Addresses: 507 NW 19th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73103 and shelly@bloomstudio.net.

Matt and Tamara (Medders) Cramer moved to Loveland, CO, where Tamara was promoted to VBS marketing coordinator at Group Publishing. Matt is the campus minister at Mountainside College Church. Email: mattr@mountainsidecollegechurch.com.

Jenny (Dunnell) and Matt Gibbons announce the birth of their daughter, Alexis Gerrtrade, on Sept. 30, 2003. Addresses: 14 Moscow Brook Trail, Hope Valley, RI 02832 and gibj@yahoo.com.

Shelly (Prather) Doremus married SSgt Brian Doremus in July 2003. They live in Ramstein, Germany. E-mail: shelleybrian03@aol.com.

Matt and Mandy (Essary 01) Stansberry were married Sept. 18, 2004, at the White House Mansion in Tulsa, OK. Matt currently works for Saxum Communications as a graphic associate. His band, The Matt Stansberry Band, won the Oklahoma State Fair Battle of the Bands. Addresses: 1317 Mary Lee Lane, Unit R, Edmond, OK, 73034, mstansberry@saxumcommunications.com.

Cassidy Claassen and Sarah Rempel were married on Nov. 29, 2003, in Newton, KS. Cassidy attends medical school at the University of Maryland in Baltimore, MD. Addresses: 243 14th St. NE, Apt. 4 Washington, DC 20002 and cassandsarah@yahoo.com.

Lee and Aime (Walker 99) Langdon announce the birth of their daughter, Makenna M’Lynn, on May 5, 2003. Lee is a youth minister at the Naperville Church of Christ and Aime is a full-time mom. Addresses: 1336 Parkside Drive, Bolingbrook, IL 60490 and scodanlee@hotmail.com.

Rachel Nghswonger works for Network of International Christian Schools as a teacher of first through third grade children at Highlands International School in La Paz, Bolivia. Email: racheln24@hotmail.com.

2001

Katie Harder is working on her masters in education, and teaching high school science. Addresses: 5029 Candlelight Dr., Racine, WI 53402 and ktharder@hotmail.com.

2002

Ben and Sada (Herndon) Knowles announce the birth of their son, Corben Thomas, on Sept. 5, 2004. Ben works as an aerospace engineer at Tinker Air Force Base and Sada is an adjunct professor in family studies at OC. Addresses: 3913 Jim Robison Dr., Edmond, OK 73013 and benjaminknowles@sbcglobal.net.

Mia Reese Lashley

Dave McInnis is the teen minister at Branches of Christ. Kara (Arrington 01) has been promoted to Pell Grant processor for Kaplan Higher Education. Addresses: 6284 New Mill Trail, Acworth, GA 30102, happydave@minister.com and karajanae@hotmail.com.

Chris and Danielle (Wilson 01) Nusbaum moved back to the US from Japan. Chris is a systems analyst for Robertson Ceco Corporation and Danielle is a Discovery Toys consultant. Addresses: 12701 N. Pennsylvania Apt. 39, Oklahoma City, OK 73120 and ernusbaum@hotmail.com.

Brent and Amy (Kirkpatrick) Young announce the birth of their daughter, Lillian Camille, on Sept. 5, 2003. Addresses: 2712 Morrison Trail, Edmond, OK 73003 and junior7200@aol.com.

2003

Kevin Dodd announces his marriage to Tony Larson on Sept. 11, 2004. Addresses: 3101 Shoreline Drive Apt. 1622, Austin, TX 78728 and kdodd@banisterpool.com.

Jon and Jennifer (Ziegler) Goss announce their marriage on June 25, 2004. Jennifer is a Pre-K teacher for Mustang Public Schools and Jon is a law student at the University of Oklahoma. Addresses: 700 NE 122nd St. #601, Oklahoma City, OK 73114 and gossj@mustanggs.org.

Matt and Mandy (Essary 01) Stansberry
Kenneth W. Starr, former U.S. solicitor general and recently-appointed dean of the Pepperdine University School of Law, visited the Oklahoma Christian University (OC) campus November 1. His visit, sponsored by The Center for Freedom Studies at Oklahoma Christian and part of the Hatton W. Sumners Speaker Series, included on-campus engagements as well as a dinner held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

“Judge Starr is a man of faith. He is a man of integrity, a man of extraordinary intelligence, and a man who has used his God-given talents to bless his fellow man,” President Mike O’Neal said when introducing Starr to the student body in Chapel. “In a time when unselfish and sacrificial civil service has been replaced by political opportunism and soundbites, this man is a refreshing and welcome voice.”

While Starr may be best known for his involvement as independent counsel in the Clinton Whitewater investigation, his resume includes numerous teaching roles and service as a U.S. circuit judge for the District of Columbia prior to his assuming the role of solicitor general in 1989.

“I never sought the spotlight,” Starr said. “In an age of celebrity, one should remember that anonymity is a form of freedom.”

In his remarks at Chapel and at a media gathering, Starr emphasized the importance of being faithful to the call one receives.

“Don’t be a Jonah who is seeking to run away from a responsibility if that responsibility comes one’s way,” Starr said. “We are not called upon to be successful. We are called upon to be faithful.”

As Starr begins this new stage of life at Pepperdine, he looks to the past and says that, if he must be remembered in history books, he hopes his section is kept simple.

“I love the answer of Potter Stuart when asked, ‘How do you want to be remembered for your days on the Supreme Court?’ His response was, ‘He was a good judge,’” Starr said. “Well, I would like to be known as a person of integrity who tried to do his best.”
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They’re not the typical issues you deal with on the job, but for three OC alumni, these controversial issues are part of the daily grind.


From protecting consumers who buy a digital camera on eBay and receive a box of rocks in the mail, for example, to giving an opinion related to the legal definition of marriage - to representing the state in criminal appeals cases, and a myriad of other legal issues, the AG’s office is known as the state’s law firm.

“It is exciting,” said Sandy, senior assistant attorney general. “Everything that we do is of interest to the public and has consequences for the public.”

With great power comes great responsibility. Gay, Sandy and Kathryn agree that their undergraduate experience at Oklahoma Christian helped build a foundation of a strong work...
They're not the typical issues you deal with on the job, but for three OC alumni, these controversial issues are part of the daily grind. Gay (59 Abston) Tudor, Sandy (81 Howard) Rinehart and Kathryn (99 Johnson) Walker work for the Oklahoma Attorney General's office under Attorney General Drew Edmondson. From protecting consumers who buy a digital camera on eBay and receive a box of rocks in the mail, for example, to giving an opinion related to the legal definition of marriage – to representing the state in criminal appeals cases, and a myriad of other legal issues, the AG's office is known as the state's law firm.

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With great power comes great responsibility. Gay, Sandy and Kathryn agree that their undergraduate experience at Oklahoma Christian helped build a foundation of a strong ethic, analytical skills and a belief system that has aided them in their professional lives.

"They are good people. I’m impressed by the education they received and the product the university provides," said Edmondson, who was elected AG in 1994.

Gay was among the first students to attend Oklahoma Christian after the school moved from Bartlesville to Oklahoma City. She pursued music at OC and credits Dr. Harold Fletcher for making music come alive for her beyond the notes.

"Dr. Fletcher was a big influence on me. He was the first person who ever showed me an analytical approach to music that really was beyond memorization. He taught me to think critically," said Gay, who earned her education degree from Abilene Christian University.

She met her husband, Boyd, at ACU, though both of them had been students at OC.

Fourteen years later, with their girls, Joy (87 Tudor) Neel and Julie, in school, Gay felt a tug for something more beyond the private piano lessons she gave. She didn’t know what it was until she read a magazine article about another woman who went to law school and was making a difference.

"At the time I thought being a lawyer just involved speaking, writing and reading – and I could do those things," said Gay. "That probably wasn’t a good way to make a decision!"

After the grind of law school and balancing a busy family life, Gay worked for fellow OC alumni Linda and Eric King in their law firm.

"OC helped me get my first job," she said.

Today, she is the chief over the general counsel section of the AG’s office, the largest section in the office. Edmondson elevated Gay to that position in 1996.

Gay’s section oversees all state agencies, boards and commissions on matters involving the Open Meetings Act, internal processes and hiring and firing of personnel. She also assigns AG staff to write opinions on a variety of subjects that Edmonson says run the gamut from "the sublime to the ridiculous."

Edmondson has high praise for her professionalism.

"Working with state agencies is not always easy. They don’t want their lawyers telling them when they can’t do something because it’s wrong, illegal or unconstitutional," he said.

"Gay brings to the position tremendous legal experience and diplomacy. I have never been disappointed in her work. She does an outstanding job," said Edmondson, "However, when she needs to be, she can be tough as nails."
Sandy has the longest tenure with the AG’s office. She was hired in 1985 and by 1990 was appointed chief of the criminal division. Her section was responsible for all of the appeals from convictions in each of Oklahoma’s 77 counties, including all murder convictions and those that received death penalty sentences.

In 2001, Edmondson elevated Sandy to Senior Assistant Attorney General. It is a position in which she is handed anything significant or high profile, including cases that will go to the State Supreme Court.

Her years in the criminal division and working on high-profile death penalty cases put her in the media limelight on several occasions and brought personal attacks from anti-death penalty activists.

“The word I think of about Sandy is balance,” said Edmondson. “She does her homework and she is solid in her position.”

“When criticism comes her way, she has a strong faith in herself and beyond herself to withstand it,” he added.

One of the most notorious death row inmates in Oklahoma was Roger Dale Stafford, convicted of killing six persons at a Sirloin Stockade restaurant in Oklahoma City and three others on a highway in McLain County. He stayed on death row for 20 years and Sandy handled the state appeals on his case.

After his execution, Sandy received in the mail a gift certificate to the Sirloin Stockade. It was from Stafford; she has the certificate framed in her office.

“I framed it because it’s a piece of history. The case was very important to the people of Oklahoma and so many Oklahomans were personally affected by it. I worked on the case for 10 long years and the certificate symbolizes the completion of the case for me,” she said.

Undoubtedly, one of Sandy’s career highlights was being selected as a Fellow to the United States Supreme Court in 1996.

“I was there for about three months and I went to the Supreme Court almost every day. I watched all the arguments that term and argued a case myself,” she said. “After the arguments, the other Fellow and I would summarize them in a publication that went to all the AG’s. We would also summarize the court’s opinions that were handed down.”

That is a very prestigious career accomplishment for someone who didn’t intend to go to law school.

Working in accounting after graduating from Oklahoma Christian in 1981, Sandy said she felt a desire to become more educated. Law school became an interesting option for her. “I thought I could do it,” she recalls.

Sandy married John Rinehart, an investigator in the Consumer Protection Division, in 2003.
Naming Opportunities for New and Refurbished Residence Rooms

The physical landscape of Oklahoma Christian is dramatically changing thanks to a $34 million comprehensive student housing project that has produced new apartment complex and will result in another apartment complex, two new residence halls, and the complete renovation and refurbishment of OC’s existing residence halls and apartments.

Just as mortar holds together the bricks on our students’ homes away from home, it is your love and support, and the blessings of our Lord, which hold together this precious university. You now have a unique new opportunity to enhance the OC experience for our students while making a gift that is recognized permanently.

By investing in one of the following opportunities, your name or a name of your choosing will be affixed permanently outside an apartment unit or a residence hall room. Larger gifts give you the chance to get in on the ground floor of these new facilities at their openings. Smaller gifts provide you the opportunity to give as you’re able and, perhaps, to name your old dorm room!

Additionally, at the beginning of each academic year, the students living in named rooms will receive: 1) written introductions to their room’s namesake via a biographical sketch; and 2) a welcome gift. Don’t be surprised if you hear from the grateful students in “your” room!

Opportunities

- $6,000 immediate gift plus a 1- to 5-year pledge of $12,000 for maintenance endowment
- $6,000 immediate gift plus a 1- to 5-year pledge of $6,000 for maintenance endowment
- $3,000 immediate gift plus a 1- to 5-year pledge of $3,000 for maintenance endowment
- $3,000 payable in an immediate gift or 1- to 5-year pledge

The number of residential units are limited, so call now to name “your” room. Thank you for your prayers and for your support of Oklahoma Christian University.

If you have any questions, or if you would like more information, please contact the Oklahoma Christian Office of Advancement, ph 405.425.5094 email: advancement@oc.edu

Special Discounted Opportunity through March 31, 2005.
DR. HAROLD FLETCHER
HONORED AS A HERO OF OUR HISTORY

Oklahoma Christian alumni honored Dr. Harold Fletcher as an honorary alumnus and “Hero of Our History” during a special banquet during Homecoming weekend.

At a luncheon for Central Christian College alumni, OC President Dr. Mike O’Neal announced the establishment of the Harold and Mary Helon Fletcher Center for Music. Former students, friends and family members contributed more than $100,000 to establish the endowment to rename the music corridor in the Garvey Center that houses the music offices and studios. The university officially dedicated the Fletcher Center earlier this month.

If Dr. Fletcher was special to your life at Oklahoma Christian, or if you think of him each time you remember our Monday morning Chapel tradition of singing the song he wrote, “Hail to Oklahoma Christian,” honor him with an endowment gift for the Fletcher Center for Music. Contact Director of Alumni Relations Stephen Eck for more information, or visit www.oc.edu/advancement.

Dr. Fletcher retired nearly a decade ago, but he continues to teach a class or two almost every semester, giving today’s students the opportunity to “sit at his feet” and learn more than any score or book ever could teach them.

When his beloved Mary Helon died in 2001, Harold did not know how he would live without her. But he is here to hold his first great grandchild, adore his five grandchildren and love his four children Sylvia Hurst and her husband, Gary, Alicia Burch and her husband, Bob Burch, Nancy Snyder, and John Fletcher and his wife, Cynthia.

The following essay was included in the 50 Who Made A Difference tribute as part of the university’s 2000 annual report. It was written by alumna Lindy (Scobey 68) Adams.

Harold and Mary Helon Fletcher moved from Florida Christian College to Bartlesville in 1950 when a Christian college for Oklahoma was only a dream. They made a commitment that has endured a half-century.

For five decades, the Fletchers have demonstrated to students that the life of faith and family and the life of intellectual openness, inquiry, learning and devotion to the arts are not mutually exclusive. Their love and commitment to family in an environment rich with music, art, theatre, travel and a healthy questioning of the status quo have set a much-emulated standard, especially for the many faculty members they have loved and mentored.

A true intellectual, Harold Fletcher has a love for learning and a respect for every aspect of life that far surpasses traditional scholarship. He sees the artistic validity in an Ozark fiddle tune as fully as a Bach cantata. He values the history of Oklahoma as much as the history of the Renaissance. He loves opera; he loves the steel bands of Trinidad. He loves everything beautiful, good and true.

At the risk of personal loss, Harold Fletcher has exemplified a life of integrity. Even though a self-described classically-trained music teacher from West Texas, he emerged in the 1960s as a man before his time. With Mary Helon’s help and support, he was the most ardent advocate of civil rights and human rights on the Oklahoma Christian campus during that turbulent decade.

A gifted composer, pianist, conductor, teacher, historian, musicologist, theologian, philosopher, scholar, gardener and craftsman, he wears well the description ‘Renaissance Man.’ As a conductor and as a teacher of music history, literature and theory, he engendered lasting reverence, loyalty and an amazing level of hard work from his students as much so in the 21st century as in the 1950s.

Mary Helon Fletcher, who died in 2001, was for many years an instructor in piano. She was totally herself. Her candor, realness in an age of artifice, and enjoyment of fun, music and the stage continually drew people to her. She simply adored students. Being on Mary Helon’s list as one of her favorites was a coveted privilege.

The memory of a meal at her table, with the best of native Southern cuisine, endures as a lasting lesson in humanity and true civility.

A student from the 1970s captured the impact of Harold and Mary Helon Fletcher on the life of this university in a brief phrase: While in their presence, he explains, a person feels more whole.
Dr. Bailey McBride Named Distinguished Alumnus

It has been a big year for Dr. Bailey McBride. And the Oklahoma Christian family could never tire of celebrating.

In the fall, McBride was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame. He joins an esteemed group of individuals who have made lasting contributions to higher education in the state of Oklahoma. Distinguished Professor of Bible Dr. Stafford North was inducted into the Higher Ed Hall in 1997 and former OC president J. Terry Johnson was honored in 2000.

At Homecoming, Dr. McBride was honored as one of the Heroes of Our History during the alumni banquet in which he also was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus honor.

In a surprise announcement, Dr. Mike O’Neal revealed the establishment of the Bailey and Joyce McBride Center for Faith and Literature. Gifts totaling more than $180,000 were contributed from alumni, friends and family of the McBrides to establish this special endowment. Among other things, the McBride Center for Faith and Literature will offer scholarships, sponsor symposia, bring noted authors and speakers to campus, and support the strengthening of faith and enjoyment of literature on our campus. To make an endowment gift to the McBride Center for Faith and Literature, contact Director of Alumni Relations Stephen Eck for more information, or visit www.oc.edu/advancement.

Currently, Dr. McBride leads the OC Honors Program and serves on the editorial staff of The Christian Chronicle. In 2000, the McBrides were among the 50 Who Made A Difference included in a special edition of the annual report. Written by alumna Lindy (Scobey 68) Adams, who captures for all of us the love we feel for this couple, it is printed again here.

“Time presses in on him from every side. Curricula and conferences are the order of the day. Yet amid the intellectual trappings, his eyes looked into the soul, and we were glad that someone knew where the education was.”

Written almost 30 years ago for the 1972 Aerie, these words express both for then and now Bailey McBride’s impact on life and learning at Oklahoma Christian. Certainly no single person is more loved or revered by alumni than is Bailey McBride. His role as a friend and mentor to students is legendary. His ability to catalogue and remember the details of former students’ lives - their hometowns, careers and children’s names and ages - is a constant amazement. Does he have a hidden memory chip in his brain to store all that data?

Sustained by their love for each other, Bailey and Joyce have enlightened the lives of four decades of students who have chosen the windy hill’s 200 acres for their college experience. Joyce’s “honey” and “darling” (authentic indicators of her Southern roots) have comforted many a homesick student, newlywed or young mother. Bailey’s concern for the nuances of students’ lives has restored humanity to innumerable fractured souls. Together, they have survived the sit-ins and cataclysms of the 1960s, the bell-bottoms and sideburns of the 1970s, the self-absorption and financial chaos of the 1980s and now are traversing the choppy waters of Generation X.

When Bailey McBride left the thriving confines of Tulsa’s Will Rogers High School and traveled north to study at struggling Central Christian College in Bartlesville, did he know his choice would inalterably mold his life? When Bailey and Joyce returned to Oklahoma in 1966 as young parents and cast their lot with Oklahoma Christian, did they envision that the treeless fledgling campus would become the focus of their lives’ work?

Surely not. But as way led on to way, as Bailey moved from a faculty post to become academic dean, vice president, provost and now director of the Institute for Excellence in Learning; as they became indispensable leaders in the Memorial Road church and Joyce’s pre-kindergarten class became a revered institution among that community, the years flew by with increasing speed.

Benny, Joyce’s brother, left his beloved home in Tennessee to join the growing family. The McBride children, Melissa, Lynnette and Michael, grew up, graduated from Oklahoma Christian and established families of their own.

And through it all, one thing remained the same: Bailey and Joyce’s ongoing investment in the lives of people. There must have been a tremendous pull to quit, not to care, to say “enough.” But they didn’t, and won’t.

This investment, a manifestation of their servant hearts, endures as the lasting legacy of Bailey and Joyce McBride.
U.S. NEWS RANKS OC IN TOP 10 AGAIN

Oklahoma Christian is ranked No. 7 on a list of Best Comprehensive Colleges in the 16-state western region, according to the 2005 Best College Rankings from U.S. News & World Report.

This is the 12th consecutive year Oklahoma Christian has earned national recognition in the rankings that are studied by future college students and their parents.

“It is gratifying and humbling to have a respected, independent organization continue to recognize the quality of our academic programs and our students, faculty, staff and alumni,” OC president Dr. Mike O’Neal said. “This ranking again validates our commitment to rigorous academics combined with a mission to transform lives for Christian faith, leadership and service.”

STUDENTS, ALUMNI BENEFIT FROM EXPRESS ALLIANCE

Oklahoma Christian and Express Personnel Services have forged a new relationship to provide job opportunities to OC students and alumni.

Many businesses in the state already turn to Oklahoma Christian when they seek well-qualified and well-educated employees. The new relationship with Express Personnel will benefit students and alumni by building on their network of resources.

“It is my hope that this will result in the preparation, promotion and employment of all of our graduating seniors in desirable jobs. I also hope it develops into a great service to our alumni,” President Mike O’Neal said.

LAWSONS HONORED BY PURDUE

In October, Purdue University announced that it will name its new computer science building for OC alumni Richard and Pat Lawson, whose $4.7 million donation forms the largest single private contribution to the $20 million facility.

The Lawsons also received a Purdue Pinnacle Award, among the university’s highest honors, in recognition of their philanthropic gifts to Purdue. Richard Lawson, now a member of OC’s Board of Trustees, received his master’s degree in computer science from Purdue in 1968. Richard and Pat Lawson graduated from Oklahoma Christian in 1966 and 1967, respectively.

COALE RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR FOR OC TIES

In celebration of Christian Higher Education Month in October, the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities selected OC alumna Sherri Coale as one of 21 outstanding alumni from its member colleges.

Coale, who graduated summa cum laude from Oklahoma Christian in 1987, is the head women’s basketball coach at the University of Oklahoma.

“My experience at OC was more than the pursuit of a formal education. Now that I’m in the business of impacting and educating young people, I realize what a pivotal point this is in the maturation process of all of us. We not only gain a degree, but we figure out who we are, what we believe in and what we stand for, what we’re going to be about,” Coale said.

OC MARKETING STYLE DUBBED CUTTING EDGE

The national publication Admissions Marketing Report featured Oklahoma Christian University as the cover story of its July/August edition. The article’s writer, Bill Gregory, praised OC’s cutting-edge and comprehensive approach, which included research and test marketing, and its effort to give all admissions and marketing materials a distinctive “OC style.”

Last February, OC’s magazine-style viewbook won “Best of Show” and three other Admissions Advertising Awards in a national contest conducted by Admissions Marketing Report. This year, Oklahoma Christian again won four awards in the annual AMR contest, including first-place honors for Parent View magazine and for the university’s “T-shirt” advertising campaign.

“You are on the cutting edge in publication design and marketing message execution even in comparison to larger universities,” Gregory said. “Parent View is more than a creative viewbook; it was an especially creative idea. From cover to cover, it looks like a magazine the target audience would read. So much so, you may have gotten a lot of readership you wouldn’t have otherwise.”

STUDENTS PRESENT AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Seven OC students presented their works at a national literature conference in March. Sigma Tau Delta, an international English honor society with more than 600 active chapters, accepted works by OC students Lauren Bruner, Jessica Fuller, Wes McGee, Heather Meyer, Kristina Riggs, Spencer Stevens and Amy Thomson.

STUDENT HISTORY GROUP WINS ELITE NATIONAL AWARD

Tau Sigma, OC’s chapter of the National History Honor Society, was named the nation’s “Best Chapter” in its category for the ninth year in a row and the 10th time overall. This year’s honor carried even more prestige — for the first time, chapters who had won the “Best Chapter” award five or more times in Phi Alpha Theta’s 83-year history competed in an “elite” category separate from the rest of the national membership.

STATE ORGANIZATIONS HONOR STUDENT BODY

The Campus Compact of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education presented the OC student body with the winners banner for the 2004 voter registration contest at a recent Chapel service. Oklahoma Christian won by registering 230 students during the two-day statewide drive in September. Overall, more than 50 percent of OC’s 1,947 member student body registered to vote in the Nov. 2 elections, well above the average for colleges and universities nationwide.

STUDENTS GIVE FREE TIME TO SERVICE

In August, OC science and engineering
students volunteered to frame a house in southeast Oklahoma City in conjunction with Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity. That same day, more than 700 students took part in the fifth-annual Kite Day for students at Oklahoma City’s Western Village Academy. Throughout the school year, OC students mentor and tutor these at-risk children, who have brought up their test scores dramatically.

In October, approximately 40 OC students spent their Fall Break working with an inner-city church in St. Louis, helping with programs for children and teenagers. In February, OC students helped with a drive to collect donations for needy people in Afghanistan. And in what has become an annual tradition, Spring Break saw many OC students go on mission trips both inside and outside the United States through local congregations and through OC’s Outreach organization.

**OC STUDENT TO COMPETE IN MISS OKLAHOMA PAGEANT**

OC freshman Emoly West will compete for the title of Miss Oklahoma in June. West qualified for Miss Oklahoma by winning the Miss Queen of the West pageant. All contestants in the regional pageant were required to have a platform which judges question. West’s platform focused on the importance of abstaining from premarital sexual activity, drugs, alcohol or violence.

“I am excited about the opportunity to compete in Miss Oklahoma because the entire organization is one that illuminates integrity, morals and high callings in public service,” West said.

**COMMENCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

In addition to the 203 OC students who received bachelor’s or master’s degrees at OC’s summer and winter commencement ceremonies, Oklahoma Christian also honored two longtime friends.

In August, the university presented Marshall D. Hartman, a longtime member of OC’s Board of Development, an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree for his service to the church. In December, Oklahoma Christian presented C.A. “Buck” Buchanan with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. Buchanan has served as an OC trustee and as an elder at Memorial Road Church of Christ for four decades.

**MILLER WINS OKLAHOMA HOUSE SEAT**

Assistant Professor of Business Ken Miller received 74 percent of the vote in the November election to take the Edmond house seat being vacated by alumnus and Board of Trustee member Ray Vaughn, who left the legislature due to term limits.

**COLLEGE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES LAUNCHES M.DIV.**

Longtime minister and college administrator Dr. Bob Young is the new Director of Graduate Bible. The OC alumnus is charged with overseeing the university’s graduate programs in its College of Biblical Studies, including the new master of divinity program, the only program of its kind in central Oklahoma.

The program includes courses on biblical history and theological studies, and is marked by an emphasis on practical ministry, developing the skills ministers can use on a daily basis in their church work.

**VISIT DAYS BRING FUTURE STUDENTS TO CAMPUS**

High school juniors and seniors, youth groups and parents descended on campus earlier this month for Spring Visit 2005, a special weekend of tours, entertainment, scholarship competition and fun activities. The visit weekend, which brought more than 400 students to campus for the second straight year, coincided with OC’s annual Spring Sing program.

In September, OC’s annual Fall Visit for prospective students and parents attracted 350 visitors to campus. November’s Junior Day for high school juniors drew more than 100 students to campus, making it the largest Junior Day in OC history.

**BASKETBALL TEAMS HAVE HISTORIC SEASONS**

Both of OC’s basketball teams entered NAIA national tournament play with high rankings and high expectations. The national tournament began after *Vision* went to press; for updated team results and OC’s All-America honors, go to www.oc.edu/05hoops.

The Eagles, Sooner Athletic Conference champions and ranked No. 6 in the nation, dominated the all-conference team.

Dan Hays was named Coach of the Year for the fifth time in his 22 years at Oklahoma Christian and Jarred Merrill was named Player of the Year and selected to the SAC first team for the second straight season.

The Lady Eagles, ranked No. 12 in the nation, finished second in the SAC. Lauren Decker earned women’s first-team honors and the SAC’s Sportsmanship Award while Rachel Martin was named co-newcomer of the year.

Other Eagles receiving all-conference recognition were: Brady Page, second team; Keith Harris, third team; and Charles Baldwin, honorable mention.

Other Lady Eagles honored included: Tasha Turney, second team; Carlissa Plowden, third team; Katie Fariss, honorable mention; and Martin, honorable mention.

**HAYS STEPS DOWN AS AD; WHITE JOINS OC**

OC men’s basketball coach Dan Hays recently relinquished his duties as athletic director to devote more time to coaching and to directing the university’s highly-successful summer Cage Camps. An NAIA Hall of Famer, Hays has won six conference championships and almost 500 games in 22 years at OC.

Chuck White, who recently came to Oklahoma Christian from Carl Albert High School, has been named director of athletic operations. A 1976 OC graduate, White was a 28-year member
of the Mid-Del School District. He served as baseball and softball head coach at Carl Albert High School, directing the softball team to the 2003 and 2004 state playoffs.

White is leading a Strategic Task Force on Athletics to examine all facets of the athletic program, including the future role and responsibilities of the athletic director. The university has launched a nationwide search of candidates for the new athletic director position. For more information, call (405) 425-5354 or email chuck.white@oc.edu.

SPRING TEAMS HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS

OC’s tennis teams, perennial national powers that finished in top 10 last season, shoot for another successful year under new head coach Lisa Johnson. Johnson, a 1983 OC alumnus, returns to her alma mater from Chickasha High School, where she was the Oklahoma Region Coach of the Year in 2004.

This year’s national tennis tournament will be in Mobile, Ala., May 16-20. Oklahoma Christian won the 2003 NAIA men’s national championship.

The NAIA ranked the OC men’s golf team second behind defending national champion Oklahoma City University in the preseason national poll. The golfers teed off the season this month and will shoot for their sixth-straight national top-five finish at the NAIA tournament May 24-27 in Olathe, Kansas. Juan Lizarraile, a two-time All-American and the defending Sooner Athletic Conference and Region VI individual champion, returns for the Eagles.

The Lady Eagle softball team looks to return to the national tournament for the third time in four years. The tournament will be held May 20-25 in Decatur, Ala. OC’s schedule included trips to the University of Texas and to Baylor University for the second straight year. The Lady Eagles split two games with Baylor last season.

The outdoor track and field season is underway, with the national championship meet set for May 26-28 in Louisville, Ky.

HOFFHINES, BOWLING EARN ALL-AMERICA HONORS

Senior Aaron Hoffhines and sophomore Kenneth Bowling earned All-America honors at the NAIA Indoor National Championship meet earlier this month. Hoffhines, the school record-holder in the weight throw, placed fourth in the event. Bowling placed sixth in the men’s 3,000-meter run as Oklahoma Christian tied for 30th overall.

Bowling also earned All-America honors in cross country earlier this year after winning the Sooner Athletic Conference and Region VI individual cross country championships.

OC WINS CONFERENCE, REGIONAL TITLES

The OC women’s soccer team made its second national tournament appearance in three years, winning the Sooner Athletic Conference and Region VI championships along the way. Oklahoma Christian also won the conference and regional titles in 2002.

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SOCCE R PLAYERS NAMED ALL-AMERICANS

OC forward Matt Clark and goalkeeper Caleb Mullins were named to the 2004 NAIA All-America honorable mention soccer team. Clark, the Sooner Athletic Conference Player of the Year, led the Eagles with 22 goals and six assists, raising his OC career scoring record to 59 goals, 15 assists and 134 points. Mullins recorded five shutouts, 94 saves and a 1.28 goals-allowed average.

OC ATHLETES EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

OC’s 2004 softball team ranked No. 4 in the NAIA Academic Top 10 with a 3.549 cumulative team grade point average. Since the intercollegiate softball program began in 1995, 19 Lady Eagles have been named NAIA Scholar Athletes and 99 percent of seniors have completed baccalaureate degrees.

Three OC fall sports athletes earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors: cross country runner Wade Miller (elementary education major 3.57 GPA); men’s soccer goalkeeper Caleb Mullins (accounting major – 3.67 GPA); and women’s soccer goalkeeper Chelsee Truesdell (biology major – 3.94 GPA). Mullins was selected to the ESPN Academic All-District VI first team while Truesdell earned ESPN Academic All-America third-team honors.

Decker, Truesdell, Turney, Katie Fariss, Carrie Mills and Carlissa Plowden, as well as Kory Allen, Brady Page and Dillon Ripley, all earned academic all-conference honors in basketball.

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The College Sports Information Directors of America selected women’s basketball players Lauren Decker and Tasha Turney to the ESPN All-District VI first and second teams, respectively. Decker, an accounting major with a 3.95 GPA, will advance to the national ballot for ESPN Academic All-America honors. Turney owns a 4.0 GPA as an education major.

Decker, Truesdell, Turney, Katie Fariss, Carrie Mills and Carlissa Plowden, as well as Kory Allen, Brady Page and Dillon Ripley, all earned academic all-conference honors in basketball.

This is OC’s fourth year to be honored with this award. OC student-athletes have been involved in numerous community outreach activities, including Habitat for Humanity projects, mission campaigns, inner-city support and youth clinics.

The award recognizes NAIA member institutions that promote or implement activities related to the character values of respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership and sportsmanship.

OC SPIRIT STORE OPENS ONLINE

The OC Spirit Store is open for business online. From shirts to sweatshirts to blankets, the OC Spirit Store features many items with the official OC logo embroidered on them, giving current and former Eagles the chance to show their OC pride. Start browsing and shopping at www.oc.edu/alumni.

For more on these and other stories, go to http://news.oc.edu. To receive regular news updates by email, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 405.425.5120 or email pam.fletcher@oc.edu to be added to the Alumni News email list.
Is it right for America to promote its principles of liberty and equal rights throughout the world? Should we engage in armed conflict to give people freedom? Tough questions ... worthy of a tough debate.

On March 8, Oklahoma Christian University hosted the conservative Dinesh D’Souza and libertarian Doug Bandow for a debate entitled “American Foreign Policy: the Morality of Empire.” The debate between these former Ronald Reagan foreign policy analysts went beyond the tactical aspects of U.S. foreign policy and examined its ethical and moral dimensions.

The debate was part of OC’s Hatton W. Sumners Foundation Speaker Series, which has brought Holocaust survivor Fred Casimir, television legend and best-selling author Art Linkletter, nationally-syndicated radio host Michael Medved, former U.S. solicitor general Kenneth W. Starr, and U.S. congressman Tom Tancredo to campus within the last year.

Bandow, a nationally-syndicated columnist, is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C. D’Souza is a nationally-recognized speaker and author of several books, including Ronald Reagan: How an Ordinary Man Became an Extraordinary Leader and his recent best-seller, What’s So Great About America.

D’Souza participated in several events on the OC campus prior to the debate, speaking to numerous classes and participating in a “free-wheeling political discussion” with faculty, staff and students.

Kathryn also landed in law school at the University of Oklahoma in a roundabout way. An Honors student at OC, Kathryn was a leader among students in the psychology department.

She was a social worker following graduation, but after one of her colleagues was murdered while visiting a client’s home, Kathryn began researching other career paths.

When she settled on law school, she anticipated a career in public service, perhaps in juvenile court. When she heard about the opening at the AG’s office, she pursued it and ultimately was hired.

Kathryn passed the bar exam last summer and joined the AG staff only a few months ago. She is married to Chris Walker, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) in Chickasha.

“Kathryn already has proven herself. She is excellent in research and writing,” said Edmondson.

Kathryn is an assistant attorney general in the Consumer Affairs Unit and works on cases involving eBay and other Internet fraud.

“It’s good to work somewhere where you're proud of what you do and whom you work with,” she said.
As you have just read in *Vision*, this year’s Homecoming was an warm and loving time of reflection as we honored two tremendous men for their commitment and dedication to the mission of Oklahoma Christian University.

Drs. Harold Fletcher and Bailey McBride epitomize the OC mission by being in their own lives transformed men living and serving Christ through Christian faith, leadership and service. It was wonderful to see so many grateful alumni blessed by the opportunity to honor these two great men.

One of our goals in the alumni relations office is to develop and sustain a culture of recognition and honor for those whose lives have made a difference in furthering the work and vitality of the OC experience. Without the ranks of alumni who give so much of their time, talent and treasure to further OC’s growth, it would not be possible to achieve the successes you have read about in this edition of *Vision*.

One of the greatest contributions an alumnus can make toward the work is helping spread the word of your own positive OC experience among young people within your circle of influence. If you can assist OC’s admissions office in identifying young men and women who should be contacted, please call (405) 425-5050.

Another major goal of the alumni relations office is to better facilitate connections between alumni. To help achieve this goal, we are launching a comprehensive alumni directory program with the assistance of Harris Publishing, the nation’s leader in alumni directory programs. Harris Publishing will work alongside our office to contact all OC alumni and gather information for inclusion in the directory. Copies of the directory will be available around the first part of next year.

Another tremendous year is ahead of us. This past calendar year was among the greatest in OC history. If you are close to campus, please call and come by for a visit.

It would be my pleasure to personally show you some of the tremendous improvements brought about through our $34 million housing initiative, to take you to Chapel to hear the students’ incredible singing, or to simply let you experience for a morning what those of us who are blessed enough to work on this campus see everyday – vivacious young lives being shaped and trained at Oklahoma Christian University for great works of service and leadership throughout the world.

**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.

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<td>Second Mile Member:</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>(Supports OCWA Endowment Fund)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are interested in starting an OCWA chapter in your area, or becoming a member, please get in touch with OCWA Coordinator Christine Meridith at 405.425.5122 or at christine.meridith@oc.edu.

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