Herold Science Center remodeling benefits OC’s quality science programs
Greetings Fellow Alumni and Friends,

Serving as chairman of your National Alumni Council is a great honor and has provided me a unique perspective into our beloved university and its graduates. I hope you are as proud as I am of Oklahoma Christian’s progress. We were blessed with another record enrollment this fall – more than 2,100 students. Just as impressive, the standardized test scores of students entering OC continue to increase and we have more National Merit Scholars than ever before. Many alumni have worked hard to recruit these talented students and our efforts are really paying off.

Signs of progress are everywhere. We recently received accreditation for another 10 years from the Higher Learning Commission. U.S. News & World Report again ranked Oklahoma Christian as a top-10 “Best Comprehensive College” in the West in its 2007 edition of “America’s Best Colleges.” This is the eighth consecutive year that U.S. News has ranked Oklahoma Christian in the 16-state western region’s top 10, and the 14th consecutive year the university has earned national recognition in the rankings that are studied by future college students and their parents. We also were named a “Best Midwestern College” by the Princeton Review.

So what does all this mean for you and me? It is an indication of OC’s academic excellence, which means we can be very proud of our Oklahoma Christian degrees. The more we all support OC with our prayers, by sending students and by making contributions, the more valuable our diploma becomes.

The campus is going through an amazing transformation. The $34 million student housing project is now complete and OC can compete with any university in terms of attractive and modern housing. The Herold Science Hall laboratories received a significant upgrade over the summer. More renovations and expansion will soon follow to better house OC’s excellent science programs.

Construction will begin soon on the Lawson Commons, which will beautify the campus with a pavilion, 85-foot clock tower, and extensive landscaping. And OC is reinvigorating its baseball program, with funds now being raised to begin construction of a new baseball facility.

If you haven’t been on campus lately, let me encourage you to attend Homecoming on November 3-4. You’ll have a great time seeing old friends and you’ll be amazed at all the campus developments.

Perhaps the thing I’m most proud of, though, is that the university and its faculty and staff have not lost sight of OC’s longtime mission to “transform lives for Christian faith, leadership and service.” Dr. O’Neal’s administration and the Board of Trustees have taken concrete steps to ensure that OC remains true to its foundation.

Alumni have a voice in the future of Oklahoma Christian University. If you’re not active in a local or regional alumni chapter, or want to begin one, contact the Alumni Office. It’s a new day! The newly-formed National Alumni Council is at your service and we want your input. Let’s link arms and move forward together. I hope to see you at Homecoming!

Sincerely,

Alan W. Phillips (76)
Chairman
National Alumni Council

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FEATURES Fall 2006

5 Homecoming on the Range  Schedule of events

11 OC Welcomes Students of Rwanda  10 Presidential Scholars start a new journey at OC

2 Frank Davis  Distinguished alumnus honored

4 Dr. Jim Wilson  Honorary alumnus honored

4 Lead Like Jesus  Business students succeed

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On The Cover:  
Dr. Kris Miller and pre-pharmacy major Courtney Nelson study a western plot that allows for quantification of certain proteins.

VISION FALL 2006
As Frank Davis watched his grandson, Jacob, walk across the stage of the Payne Athletic Center last spring, he saw his family accomplish something no other family had done at Oklahoma Christian.

With Jacob’s completion of his degree, the Davis family became the first to graduate three generations.

The Davis’ relationship with Oklahoma Christian began with a man and family that has a long history with the university. That man, Frank Davis, is OC’s 2006 Distinguished Alumnus.

Frank and his older brother, James, were attending Arkansas Tech University and playing for its basketball team. When a visit to their sister’s home in Houston led the brothers to think for the first time about attending a Christian college.

The brothers were introduced to the idea through a group of Abilene Christian students. Their sister, Jean, then suggested Oklahoma Christian College. A visit to OCC led the pair to a meeting with Ray Vaughn, Sr.

Vaughn told Frank and James that attending OCC not only would give them a chance to play basketball, but also a chance to prepare for their lives after college.

“I remember him saying that, if we came to Oklahoma Christian, we would both have the chance to meet our future wives, and he was right,” Frank said.

Vaughn was looking to bring proven players to fill holes in his young team. When the brothers accepted Vaughn’s invitation, they had no idea the school was still looking for accreditation. If it didn’t come through, the brothers’ future could be in jeopardy.

Vaughn instilled in the young men the desire not only to help establish a strong basketball team, but also to be strong examples to the entire school.

As Vaughn predicted, Frank met the woman with whom he would spend the rest of his life. Frank was introduced to Judy Watson, the sister of teammate Robert Watson, one day after practice.

The couple married the following September. Judy decided to work that year so Frank could graduate in the spring. In October 1962, their first child Glen was born.

Frank had a successful senior year, averaging 26 points a game as the team went 17-5. Though the St. Louis Hawks drafted him, he did not make the team.

Frank thought his senior year would be his last time courtside with the Eagles, but just one year after a move to Ponca City, Okla., where Frank had taken a teaching position, he received another call from Coach Vaughn. This call was an offer to be Oklahoma Christian’s head basketball coach.

“Some of the players on that team say today that if they had known Frank was only a year older than them, they might not have played as hard,” Judy said.

The young coach and team struggled in the first half of the season, losing half of their games. Frank had to dismiss two players, both friends, from the team. When the team came back from semester break, Frank let them know things would be different.
The team went undefeated the rest of the season.
1968 proved to be a banner year for the coach and his team. The Eagles entered the playoffs and defeated Northeastern State University, a team ranked No. 1 in the country that had lost just once in the regular season.
OC defeated Northeastern twice to win the state championship and advance to the national tournament. The Eagles dropped a hard-fought overtime game to Fairmont State, which finished second in the tournament.
Frank coached two more years at Oklahoma Christian before moving on to coaching positions at Georgia State University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University.
“It was at Southeastern State that I realized coaching was not what I wanted to devote my life to. It wasn’t that I didn’t like it anymore, but I wanted something that could give me a sense of purpose again,” Frank said. “I never again, after leaving Oklahoma Christian, felt a reason to win so compelling as the way we felt it then.”
In 1974, Frank returned to Oklahoma Christian as vice president of the American Citizenship Center. This position gave him the opportunity to work on the beginning stages of Enterprise Square. He held this position until 1978, when his career took him and his family in a new direction.
Through the years, the Davis family grew to include daughters Mollie and Kelli and son Grant.
The couple wanted their children to experience life at Oklahoma Christian. They had seen their own life journeys take very different paths when Frank chose to leave Arkansas Tech and come to Oklahoma Christian.
All four of their children went on to finish their degrees at OC: Glen (84), Mollie (86), Kelli (89) and Grant (95).
“There were so many similarities to my experience at OC,” Frank said. “People have such close associations; they are there to help you when you need it. And to know everyone is there for the same overarching purpose is wonderful.”
Frank remembers how emotional it was to watch his children walk the same paths he and Judy had walked before them, especially when the third generation of his family came to OC in fall 2001.
“Seeing Jacob go to school really gave me a sense of time in my life.” Frank said.
Frank and Judy now have had the opportunity to see another grandchild enter the OC family. Their granddaughter, Jill, is a student in OC’s nursing program.
Frank and Judy moved back to Edmond after Frank’s retirement from the automobile business, his career of 26 years after leaving OC in ’78.
The couple has nine more grandchildren (and one more on the way next spring) that they hope spend their college years at Oklahoma Christian.
“I will be very surprised if they don’t all go to OC.” Frank said.

by Allison Shumate (05)
Dr. Jim Wilson calculated that he taught more than 20,000 students during his career at Oklahoma Christian University, many of these students in freshman American history courses. According to his wife, Anna, he learned all of their names. “He would make posters with every student’s picture and name on them,” Anna said. “He would bring them home at night to learn them and then take them back to the office with him each day.”

It is that kind of dedication to his job and to his students that makes Jim Wilson Oklahoma Christian University’s 2006 Distinguished Honorary Alumnus. The university will officially honor him during Homecoming weekend.

Jim’s career at Oklahoma Christian began when he received a letter from Dr. Stafford North. At the time, Jim was teaching at a junior college in Arkansas and had only heard about Oklahoma Christian through his roommate at Harding University.

In 1969, he began working on his doctorate at the University of Oklahoma and teaching part-time at Oklahoma Christian.

As a first-year teacher, Jim received a unique welcome from one class. “I walked into the classroom, pulled down the screen to start to teach my lesson,” Jim recalled, “and there was a picture of Raquel Welch.”

On another occasion, a group of students, including current OC Director of Church Relations Bob Rowley, decided to impersonate another student in the class. Dr. Boyd was a local teacher taking classes at the university. Every day he would come into class with his trench coat, hat and briefcase.

Rowley and the other two young men decided to come to class with their own trench coats, hats and briefcases. Rowley said it was one of the few times he ever heard Jim raise his voice.

The time that Jim spent outside the classroom also holds many of his favorite OC memories.

“Every year at First Week Follies, I always thought, how are we going to get this thing off the ground,” he laughed. “But it always worked out in the end.”

First Week Follies director Bob Lashley gave him a chance to show off his hidden talents. “Bob Lashley always brought out the best in me,” Jim remembered.

At one point, Jim’s “Carnac the Great” routine, in which Rowley served as sidekick Ed McMahon, was so popular it was made into a separate show.
Jim’s love for OU football led him to an interesting encounter with a goat during Chapel one year.

“Don Dunn and I had a wager on the OSU/OU game every year,” Jim said. “He was a huge OSU fan and I was a huge OU fan. That year, he said if OSU won, I would have to milk a goat on the stage during Chapel, and OU lost.”

Jim wanted students to know how much he was interested in them, both inside and outside the classroom.

Whether they were playing varsity or intramural sports or had a part in the Homecoming musical, Jim was there to support his students. He also took the time to recognize their accomplishments in class.

In the 90s, his daughter Jimmieanne (96) was a student in his class.

“It was a strange feeling to see her writing down every little thing I was saying,” Jim said.

Besides teaching her, Jim had the chance to watch his daughter make her own impact on campus as student body president and Homecoming queen.

Jim is not sure if this fact says something good or something bad about his teaching, but he knows of at least 11 couples that had never met before coming into his classroom that are married today. He even performed some of the ceremonies.

That investment in his students was a byproduct of the philosophy he had from the start of his teaching career.

“Treat all your students with respect, like they were going to become a president of the college or a doctor or a lawyer,” Jim said. “You never know who your students will turn out to be.”

In addition to his impact on so many students in the classroom, Jim spent many years in charge of the Neat Week student orientation program.

“I was always amazed that people that were that green when they came to college could make such a change over the next four years,” he said. “It was a metamorphosis, and every class had such a different personality.”

In 1997, Jim was named Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. He saw the department and the whole school through the fire in the Garvey Center.

Jim retired from teaching in 2002 after 33 years of dedicated service to Oklahoma Christian. He and his wife are building a home in the Lake Texoma area, but the impact this Master Teacher had on his students is still evident today.

“Once I was pumping gas and I heard somebody say ‘Dr. Wilson?’ I turned and it was a former student,” Jim said. “He went on to tell me that I had flunked him twice.”

by Allison Shumate (05)
OC alumni may want to buy some peanuts and Cracker Jacks and get ready to root, root, root for the home team. Oklahoma Christian is bringing back its baseball program after a five-year hiatus.

Oklahoma Christian first played intercollegiate baseball from 1960 to 2001. The Eagles were a perennial playoff team under former coach Max Dobson and placed third in the 1972 NAIA College World Series.

Chuck White, a second baseman for the Eagles under Dobson, will be OC’s new head baseball coach.

“When the program was taken away, most people couldn’t believe that it was happening,” White said. “But in a community like this where we love our baseball, it’s great to have it back.”

White, a 1976 OC graduate, coached baseball and softball at Carl Albert High School in Midwest City, Okla., before returning to Oklahoma Christian as director of athletic operations in 2004.

“I am humbled to follow in Coach Dobson’s footsteps as we renew the baseball program,” White said. “I want to help bring back the tradition of baseball that was here in the past. I want baseball to be an ambassador for the university—a quality program that our alumni, supporters and campus community can be proud of.”

Besides strengthening the athletic program as a whole, White also has high hopes for the effect the new program will have on the student body.

“When baseball was still on campus, the players always played a real big part in the school itself,” White said. “And I think that baseball will bring back a level of student involvement, bring new kids to campus and bring an excitement for the freshness of a new start to something.”

Fundraising will be pivotal to the success of the program. Oklahoma Christian has partnered with The Benham Companies on plans for a $3 million baseball facility.

The new stadium is conceived as a first-class facility with lights and other amenities that will make it an attractive venue for night games and for state, regional and national tournaments.

White and Athletic Director DeWayne Hall hosted “road shows” for alumni and friends in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Dallas/Fort Worth to build support for the $800,000 first phase of the stadium campaign. Two baseball alumni made a $400,000 challenge gift that will match other baseball alumni gifts dollar for dollar until the initial $800,000 goal is met.

“We are grateful to our alumni who have stepped forward, and who will step forward, to support the program’s return. We can’t do this without their help,” White said. “Building a quality facility is not free and it is not cheap. But we want to build a quality facility for our athletes, and also to use to host outside events that can generate revenue for the program and the university.”

“Baseball is an integral part of OC’s athletic tradition. We’re excited about what a positive this is for the university from both an athletic and student recruiting perspective,” Hall said. “Our goal is to be competitive as soon as possible. With his ties to our past success and his ability to bring out the best in student-athletes, Chuck White is the right choice to lead the rebirth of our program.”

For more information about the baseball stadium campaign or to help schedule a road show in your area, contact Coach White at (405) 425-5354 or at chuck.white@oc.edu.

by Scott Hill (08) & Wes McKinzie (98)

New head coach Chuck White
He walked in the room, his six-foot-four inch frame towering over me. He sat down, said hello and introduced himself in a deep, confident voice.

Wearing shorts, a t-shirt and a Houston Astros’ baseball cap, he was ready for work. His outfit matched that of his personality: laid back and easygoing.

Joseph “Strech” Suba graduated from Oklahoma Christian in 1977 and has been working in Major League Baseball ever since.

He is a bullpen coach for the Astros, who won the National League championship last year and gave Strech the chance to coach in the World Series.

Strech, a Houston native, is no stranger to baseball. His father was a semi-pro ballplayer in the 40s and coached high school baseball. Strech credits his father for his love of the game.

“It’s in my blood,” he said. “I remember as a small child spending Christmas days out in the yard with a ball in one hand and glove in the other. And when I was older, there were several Friday evenings when my friends were on dates, and I was throwing the ball around instead.”

Max Dobson, OC’s baseball coach at the time, recruited Strech out of high school in the early 70s. At first, Strech declined the invitation and attended Arizona State University, an NCAA powerhouse.

“After attending the ‘it’ baseball college for two years and not receiving any scholarships, I decided to call Coach Dobson,” Strech said.

He says it was the best phone call he ever made. He transferred to Oklahoma Christian in 1975, playing for the Eagles as a junior and senior. He majored in business administration to have something to fall back on if his baseball career didn’t work out.

As it turns out, he didn’t need a fallback plan. Strech played for one year in the minors before being offered a job with the Astros that he still holds today.

Strech has entertained the likes of Hall of Famers Nolan Ryan and Yogi Berra over the course of his career.

“I’ve had them over to the house once or twice for dinner,” Strech says casually like it’s no big deal. “Yogi and I used to watch movies together all the time. I’d pick the place and he’d pay for the popcorn.”

Strech even helped Berra with a movie critic show that used to air on ESPN.

Critiquing himself, Strech says his years at Oklahoma Christian helped him “grow from a kid raised in the church to a man with his own faith.”

And he still believes that now. He resides in Laguna, Calif., with his wife of 15 years. Strech attends Mission Viejo Church of Christ when he’s not traveling with the Astros.

Almost 30 years after playing for the Eagles, he still remembers the lessons Coach Dobson taught him.

“I always equated ability with desire. But if there is one thing I learned from Max, it was that it is more important to have the desire to be the best than it is to just be the best,” Strech said. “He beat that into my head. He benched me for games to get me to learn that. He taught me that just because you want something bad enough doesn’t mean you’re going to get it.”

“That is a life lesson. It doesn’t just relate to sports.”

Strech used himself as a prime example of this lesson.

“I had the desire to play major league baseball, but not the physical ability,” he said. “But my desire was for baseball, and I’m still in the game.”

And he hopes to stay in the game … “especially if the Astros have another World Series in their future,” he says.

by Noelle (Savoie 99) Kornegay

Rendering of new baseball facility exterior

Overhead view of planned baseball facility
Oklahoma Christian recently announced the launch of its new Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program.

The program, which has been in the strategic planning stages for more than a year, recently received full approval from the Oklahoma State Board of Nursing. Overwhelming approval also was given by Oklahoma Christian faculty.

“We are thrilled by the approval of OC’s Bachelor of Science in nursing program,” said Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jeanine Varner. “We believe the program addresses a very important community need and a very important student need.”

OC’s new full-fledged program expands on the one-year cooperative partnership Oklahoma Christian had with nearby Southern Nazarene University. Previously, OC students had the option of choosing pre-nursing as a major, but then had to complete their degree at other institutions. Now nursing students have the opportunity to finish their schooling at Oklahoma Christian.

OC’s nursing program will be built on the strength of its biology and chemistry programs. OC graduates have a 98 percent acceptance rate to medical school and graduate science programs.

OC’s program will differ from the traditional nursing program by placing an emphasis on local and world missions.

“We want students to be grounded scientifically, but we also hope our students will be grounded with a mentality for service and stewardship,” said Dr. Lisa McWhirter, chair of the Department of Biology.

Dr. McWhirter and a group of nursing students traveled to Honduras over spring break for a medical mission. This type of trip will be an important part of the nursing curriculum. For students who do not have the option to travel outside the United States, opportunities will be available to do mission work in and around the Oklahoma City area.

OC’s metro location also will allow nursing students to do their clinical work in the many different area hospitals, each with its own area of expertise.

The program, directed by Linda Fly, began with 30 students this fall. The university hopes to grow that number to 75 students a year. The program will produce its first graduates in spring 2008.

For more information about the nursing program, contact the Admissions Office at (405) 425-5050.
The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc., in Ardmore, Oklahoma, recently committed $1 million toward the renovation and expansion of Oklahoma Christian University’s Herold Science Hall.

“We are extremely grateful to the Noble Foundation Trustees and their president, Mike Cawley, for this generous gift,” Dr. Mike O’Neal said. “The Noble Foundation in Oklahoma is a major supporter of higher education and medical research throughout the state. We are honored by this investment in our students.”

The project’s first phase, the complete renovation of Herold Science Hall’s first floor, began in May and was completed in time for the fall semester. You can take a virtual tour of the renovation at www.oc.edu/sfi.

The second phase will feature a new, two-story addition to the building that will provide 14,000 more square feet of classroom and laboratory space.

The entire project is expected to cost $5.6 million and should be concluded by fall 2008. Alumnus David Gaither (81), widower of beloved biology professor Dr. Kim Gaither, is excited about the project and is helping spearhead the fundraising efforts.

OC science students are perennial winners at the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences meetings. The university’s graduates enjoy a 98 percent long-term acceptance rate into medical and graduate schools.

“Our science program, although challenged by inadequate facilities for many years, has a very distinguished record of achievement,” O’Neal said. “This gift helps ensure that future generations of OC science students will enjoy a state-of-the-art facility, in addition to a dedicated and talented faculty and Christian environment.”

If you want to help with Phase II of the project, contact Dr. John deSteiguer, Vice President of Advancement, at (405) 425-5094 or email him at john.destieguer@oc.edu.
In a rare visit to Oklahoma by a sitting head of state, Rwandan president Paul Kagame highlighted two events at Oklahoma Christian in April.

President Kagame participated in a question-and-answer session with 200 OC students, faculty and staff members in Scott Chapel. He then spoke to approximately 350 local business and government leaders and supporters of the university at an on-campus luncheon.

Following the meetings at the university, President Kagame traveled to the state capitol, where he was greeted by Governor Brad Henry, Lieutenant Governor Mary Fallin, Secretary of State Susan Savage and many other high-ranking Oklahoma officials.

The president was then introduced to a joint session of the Oklahoma Legislature, where he received a standing ovation from the senators, representatives and justices of the Supreme Court.

President Kagame spoke to the large audience, encouraging economic and education cooperation between Rwanda and Oklahoma. After the speech to the legislature, the president met privately with the governor to discuss cooperation between Rwanda and Oklahoma.

Kagame’s visit to Oklahoma emanated from an invitation by OC alumni Richard and Pat Lawson and OC president Mike O’Neal and his wife, Nancy, during their visit to Rwanda in 2004. OC students and faculty members have traveled to Rwanda the past two summers to perform mission work.

Under Kagame’s leadership, Rwanda is recovering from the genocide – made more widely known last year by the movie Hotel Rwanda – that devastated the country in 1994. An estimated 800,000 people were systematically murdered during a three-month reign of terror.

“President Kagame has worked to bring peace and stability to Rwanda,” Dr. O’Neal said. “He is really trying to advance their economy and root out all corruption in the government.”

Accompanying President Kagame to OC were: Jeanne d’Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Education; Albert Butare, Minister of State for Energy, Telecommunication and Infrastructure; Rosemary Museminari, Minister of State for Cooperation and Foreign Affairs; Dr. Zac Nsenga, Ambassador to the United States; and Rosette Rugamba, Director General of Tourism and Conservation Agency.

During the president’s visit, Oklahoma Christian announced the creation of a scholarship program for Rwandan students. Oklahoma Christian also awarded President Kagame an honorary doctorate for his dedication and service to his country and the cause of peace.

“I am humbled by the honor the university has conferred on me,” President Kagame said. “It is a privilege to join the community of Oklahoma Christian University, an institution known for its academic excellence and anchored in Christian faith, leadership and service to its students, its community, its state, its country, and, indeed, the international community, including my country.”
In 1994, this year's college freshmen would have been six or seven years old. In America, we had not yet experienced the horrifying terrorist attacks of Oklahoma City or of September 11, 2001. It was a different time.

On the other side of the world in the African nation of Rwanda, there were 10 children who one day would become freshmen at Oklahoma Christian University. But first, they had to endure and survive a genocide in their homeland that claimed almost one million lives in 100 days.

Much of the world ignored those heinous atrocities in Rwanda in which countrymen brutally slaughtered their own neighbors and many of the women and children left behind were raped and tortured. Twelve years later, Rwanda is a country in which 45 percent of the households are headed by women or children.

As Christians, though, we know redemption. And there is redemption for Rwanda.

Oklahoma Christian University is among those reaching out to help the people of this beautiful country known as “the land of a thousand hills.”

You might say the story of Rwanda and Oklahoma Christian is one of providence. A visit to Minneapolis by Rwandan president Paul Kagame was hosted by OC trustee Richard Lawson and his wife Pat, both alumni, and resulted in his invitation to visit Rwanda.

Meanwhile, OC was welcoming Dave and Jana Jenkins as missionaries-in-residence. The Jenkins had been missionaries in Uganda, which neighbors Rwanda.

What followed was a trip to Africa by OC President Dr. Mike O’Neal and his wife, Nancy, the Lawsons and Dave Jenkins.

God was at work with those relationships. Now, the Jenkins family is in Kigali, Rwanda, as the first Church of Christ missionaries in the country.

Last spring, OC welcomed Rwandan President Paul Kagame for a state visit. This fall, the campus welcomed 10 Rwandan students as presidential scholars.

The Rwandan Scholars program is a partnership between OC and the Ministry of Education in Rwanda. In exchange for their education, the students pledge to begin their careers in Rwanda and, in the process, help rebuild their homeland. Most of the students are pursuing undergraduate degrees in math, science and engineering.

When he visited OC’s campus, President Kagame spoke softly about rebuilding his country and investing in its key assets — the Rwandan people.

He hopes the scholarship program will be the first step in ongoing cultural exchanges between Oklahoma Christian and his country.

“During his visit to Rwanda in 2004, President O’Neal and his colleagues Richard and Pat Lawson rightly analyzed our needs. They understood our strong belief that, to truly become a strong nation, we need in Rwanda a critical mass of qualified citizens,” Kagame said.

Six young men and four women were selected from the top 24 scores out of more than 8,000 high school graduates who took a test as part of the selection process to be the first Rwandans at Oklahoma Christian. For most of them, their journey to enroll at OC was their first international trip and their first time away from Rwanda.

One of the students wants to be the “Bill Gates of Rwanda,” and another student wants to improve literacy in her homeland. Other students clearly have the gift of teaching, and feel called to become role models and mentors in their homeland. Many of them have suffered unspeakable horrors in their young lives.

For now, they are studying hard at Oklahoma Christian, with classes including calculus, computer programming, chemistry, Bible and other core curriculum courses.

They also are experiencing Americana, Oklahoma-style: the Oklahoma State Fair, baseball games, pizza, superstores, traffic, peanut butter, country music and landline telephones.

On campus, they were awed with Earn Your Wings (formerly known as Neat Week), tickled with First Week Follies, and impressed with intramural sports and the cafeteria. One of the students, Yves Mujyambere, is one of OC’s featured freshman bloggers (http://blogs.oc.edu).

The Rwandan students have “adopted” American families: members of Quail Springs Church of Christ who have committed to extend hospitality to the students, check in on them and make sure they are adjusting to their new lives at OC.

Jenkins wrote in his blog (intorwanda.blogspot.com) that the selection of the students gives him great hope for Rwanda’s future.

“I am more convinced than ever that a Sovereign God brings good from humanity’s most painful experiences. These 10 students are captivating people full of ability and vision. Their stories are ones of resilience,” he said. “They have truly been chosen for a purpose that is greater than anything our human minds can comprehend.”

By Dawn Shelton (90)

With help from Erik Tryggestad, The Christian Chronicle
LEAD

Christopher Wilson, Jay Lanceford & Garrett Gronberg
Sometimes big endings begin with what seem like small beginnings.

In this case, it began with a letter to Dr. Phil Lewis, dean of OC’s College of Professional Studies, from a division of Thomas Nelson Publishers.

The first line of the letter asked, “Does your business school have what it takes to lead like Jesus?”

This same letter was sent to all the deans of business programs whose universities were members of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

OC’s business faculty was, of course, intrigued. It was an opportunity for our students to have the hands-on learning experience of writing a regional marketing plan for Ken Blanchard’s latest book, Lead Like Jesus, and compete against other CCCU business teams.

Since we believe, as the letter stated, that our “ultimate goal is to shape students by using biblical teaching and tangible experiences in order to prepare them for the business world,” we decided to participate.

It was a good decision … we won the competition!

OC’s winning team consisted of students Garrett Gronberg, from Overland Park, Kansas, Jay Lunceford, from Florence, Mont., and Christopher Wilson, from Oklahoma City.

“We were motivated to enter the competition because we could clearly see the great experience we would gain,” Wilson said. “It was a great opportunity for us, and we could see that there would also be some great benefits for Oklahoma Christian University.”

The students worked under the oversight of Assistant Professor of Marketing Kerianne Roper, assisted by Associate Professor of Marketing Burt Smith and Dean Phil Lewis. They wrote a marketing plan and executed it in the Oklahoma City market.

OC’s award-winning University Marketing Office also consulted on the project.

The students’ marketing ideas included floor advertising at local bookstores and using the Internet to expand their “community” reach.

Local businesses and churches that allowed the students to use their facilities to promote the book included Books-a-Million, Crossroads Mall, Edmond Church of Christ, Mardel Christian Bookstore, Memorial Road Church of Christ and Quail Springs Church of Christ.

Among other things, the national competition was judged on the creativeness of the promotional tactics used, the number of impressions generated relative to the market size, and the best use of marketing dollars.

Gronberg said the judges for the competition indicated it was their professional presentation and a strong conclusion that set their work apart from their peers.

“We especially want to thank Dr. Phil Lewis, Kerianne Roper and Burt Smith, who pushed our limits and motivated us to success,” Wilson said.

The winning project earned a $5,000 scholarship for OC’s School of Business Administration and an on-campus speaking engagement by Blanchard.

Blanchard will serve as the keynote speaker at the OC Associates Dinner on March 29, 2007.

Gronberg, Lunceford and Wilson graduated in April, and are putting the practical experience from the contest to use in their new jobs.

“Winning the competition was a great way to finish my college career,” Wilson said. “It is exciting to see all of the things I’ve learned during my time at Oklahoma Christian coming together for a common purpose and goal.”
Oklahoma Christian University presents
the Fifth-Annual OC Associates Celebration

Foundations of
STRENGTH
2007 Associates Dinner

Thursday, March 29, 2007, 7:00 pm

Featured Speaker:
KEN BLANCHARD

- Co-author of many best-selling management and leadership books, including
  The One Minute Manager
  Lead Like Jesus

- Expert in workplace learning, employee productivity, leadership, and team effectiveness

For information on becoming an OC Associate, contact the Oklahoma Christian University Office of Advancement • ph: 405.425.5034 • email: john.desteiger@oc.edu
When you say “free enterprise,” “aggregate and supply” or “macro versus microeconomics,” who do you think of? For at least two or three generations of OC alumni, those terms are forever associated with Dr. Howard Leftwich.

He retired from Oklahoma Christian 10 years ago after a 30-year tenure. But he is an OC faculty legend that hundreds, if not thousands of alumni, will never forget. Well … for those of us who had his 8 a.m. classes, our memories might not be as sharp. But we can still discuss supply and demand.

His wife, Marilyn, will tell you she thinks Dr. Leftwich is busier now than he was before retirement.

It has to take considerable time just to keep track of all of his former students who now wear the titles of president, chairman, partner, director, entrepreneur, developer or senator.

His former students are everywhere running everything, and Dr. Leftwich is proud of them.

“It is mind-boggling how far they’ve come because it wasn’t so obvious when they were students,” he said with a twinkle in his eye.

It was almost 40 years ago, in 1967, when Leftwich, a CPA, was rising to the top of “Corporate America,” serving as a controller for a big firm in Kansas City. One day, he got a phone call from the president of a college in Oklahoma he had never heard of.

“Dr. James O. Baird called me cold and asked me to come. I laughed at him,” he recalls.

But Dr. Baird, the former president, kept calling and sharing his dream about building a business program at Oklahoma Christian.

“It took a few visits from Kansas City to Oklahoma City over the next year or so … and many more pleas from Baird. “We kind of felt sorry for him,” laughed Marilyn. “We finally decided to tell him we’ll do it.”

Leftwich resigned his job, took a huge pay cut and moved his family to tiny Edmond, Oklahoma. He went to school fulltime at the University of Oklahoma to pursue his doctorate. By 1970, he was a fulltime faculty member at Oklahoma Christian.

Five years later, he was chairman of the business department, a position he held until 1992. He continued teaching fulltime until he retired in 1996. He continued to teach part-time for three more years.

Leftwich built a program that became one of the biggest on campus, with majors in accounting, finance, management and marketing. A program that was so big it required its own building.

“We were meeting in nooks and corners all over campus,” he recalls.

Thanks to the generosity of Ralph Harvey and his family, the growing program got its own building, the Harvey Business Center, in 1980.

Other highlights of Leftwich’s career include co-authoring the textbook, “The Executive Simulation,” and developing the Free Enterprise course that became a required general education course for all students. Inspiration for the course came from a Gallup Poll concluding that young people showed a lack of knowledge about economics.

Leftwich also is credited with setting the pace for OC’s accounting program, in which graduates continue to pass the CPA examination at a rate far exceeding that of other universities.

He is remembered for being an ambassador for OC in the business community, and for giving his students the best of practical business experience and expectations.

Howard and Marilyn are both delighted to see the success the university has enjoyed in recent years, including the addition of new student housing and new programs, such as the successful MBA.

And they are touched that the new leaders of the business program have remembered him. There is a portrait of him and former dean Dr. Jack Skaggs hanging in HBC.

Forty years later, Howard and Marilyn see how providence was at work and what blessings God had in store for them by taking that leap of faith to come to Oklahoma Christian.

Their children, Don and Linda, grew up around the campus, graduated from OC, met their spouses there, and now are sending the next generation to their alma mater.

Don is now chair of OC’s Department of Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences. He and his wife, Janie, have three children, Robbie, an OC senior, Kimberly, 16, and Brian, 14.

Linda Wheeler followed her mother's lead and is now a secretary at Oklahoma City’s Memorial Road Church of Christ (Marilyn spent 13 years in the job). Linda and her husband, Bob, have two kids, Brandon, an OC Bible major, and Kristen, 12.

Dr. Leftwich stays busy attending the activities of his grandchildren, seeing to his shepherding role as an elder at Memorial Road Church of Christ, and playing a weekly round of golf with pals Dr. Stafford North, Dr. Gerald Parker and others. Although he notes that his golf game hasn’t gotten any better with age.

“It’s been a great way to spend the last 40 years,” he said.

by Dawn Shelton (90)
From left to right: Krista, Matt, Steve, Cheryl and Mike Johns.
Alumni Family’s Investment Pays Dividends


It gave them the opportunity to lead, serve and make lifelong friends, and even the opportunity to travel overseas.

Steve and Cheryl raised their family in Tulsa, and the kids attended one of the largest high schools in the state, Union High School.

With an enrollment of more than 4,100 students, the Johns’ children easily passed through high school, but in a school so big, weren’t ever really forced out of their comfort zones to try new experiences.

“I loved going to a big high school,” said Matt, the middle child who graduated from Oklahoma Christian last spring and is now an admissions counselor for the university. “But coming to OC was a lot less intimidating. It really brought me out of my shell and provided leadership opportunities that I would not have had if I had gone to a state school or some of the other schools I looked at.”

The Johns’ oldest child, Krista, also graduated from OC and is now an elementary school teacher. The youngest child, Mike, is an organizational communication and vocational ministry major and is set to graduate in April 2007.

Steve, the principal at Disney Elementary in Tulsa, and Cheryl, a registered nurse, both attended Oklahoma Christian. They both were heavily involved in social service clubs and student life on campus. Their kids say they’ve heard more than a few stories of their parents’ respective dorm experiences.

But even though Steve and Cheryl wanted their kids to be able to have the same social, academic and spiritual opportunities they’d had, they never thought of forcing their kids to attend the school they loved.

“We wanted them to go wherever they felt most comfortable,” Cheryl said. “I did ask them to check out OC and see what it was all about, but we didn’t force it on them.”

And OC checked out for each of them. As part of their OC experiences, each child also took advantage of the school’s International Studies programs. Krista went on the summer Vienna trip and Matt attended the fall Vienna program.

“They taught each of us to be more independent and brought us closer to God and taught us a lot about ourselves,“ Mike said.

Mike literally went a different route and attended the fall Pacific Rim Studies Program.

“I have always been the one who wants to do something different,” Mike said.

“Pac Rim was a complete culture shock, but in a good way. I truly appreciate things in America that I took for granted. The main thing I took back was getting to spend three-and-a-half months with 20 new close friends.”

Besides their international experiences, the Johns kids also took advantage of on-campus opportunities.

Krista served as president of Gamma Rho and Matt was elected to the Student Government Association three of his four years at OC. Both Matt and Mike joined Chi Lambda Phi.

As with any family sending three children to college, the means to finance their kids’ education had to be considered carefully. They took out a Parent PLUS loan for each child and also used Stafford and Perkins student loans.

And even with loans to repay, the Johns feel indebted to the university.

“It is definitely worth it,” Cheryl said.

“With the lifelong friends my children have made and with the way it has helped them become the well-rounded people they are, we would do it all over again.”

by Tyler Hancock (08)
Oklahoma Christian University has been granted continued accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association. The commission is responsible for providing institutional accreditation throughout a major part of the United States.

As part of the process, OC prepared a comprehensive self-study for more than a year and prepared a report of its findings in accordance with commission expectations.

The commission then sent an evaluation team to the OC campus in March to gather comprehensive evidence to ensure that the self-study was thorough and accurate.

The team recommended continuing accreditation status for the university. Following a review process by the HLC board, the commission approved OC’s continued accreditation for the maximum 10-year period.

“We are extremely pleased to have received a good report from the Higher Learning Commission,” said Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jeanine Varner. “The self-study gave us an opportunity to take a genuine look at all of our strengths and weaknesses as a university.”

The final report from the HLC concluded that OC students were “impressively articulate about the mission statement,” and that “faculty take the university’s mission seriously in designing and implementing academic programming and in integrating the best of learning within the context of faith.”

Varner and Professor of Business Dr. Don Drew led the self-study process. Also serving as committee heads were Dr. Tony Alley, Dr. Jim Baird, Dr. Molly Hill, Dr. Chip Kooi, Dr. Phil Lewis, Dr. John Maple, Dr. Lisa McWhirter, Dr. Robin Miller, Dr. Kathy Thompson, Dr. Bill Goad and Dr. Shawn Jones from Cascade College also aided in the process.

“We are indebted to the many people who worked so hard to prepare the self-study and to host the site visit team,” Varner said. “Their efforts were instrumental in our receiving continued accreditation. They also helped set the stage for development and implementation of our future plans.”

Varner also said that the two previous accreditation visits and reports were factors in OC’s recent growth and development.

Along with the continued accreditation, Oklahoma Christian has been honored again by U.S. News and World Report.

For the eighth straight year, OC has been named a top-10 “Best Comprehensive College” in the 16-state western region.

This is the 14th consecutive year the university has earned national recognition in the U.S. News rankings that are studied by future college students and their parents.

“Obviously we’re very pleased to be ranked in the top 10 again,” President Mike E. O’Neal said. “This is a real tribute to the commitment to excellent faith-based higher education by our faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and supporters. We have certainly been blessed with outstanding faculty and students who are committed to our mission of transforming lives for Christian faith, leadership and service.”
You can help your alma mater with a mocha a month.

For the price of a cup of coffee a month, you can help support scholarships at OC. It’s simple. You can make a difference without having to mail in a check every month. Electronic funds transfer is the most cost-effective, secure and efficient way to donate to OC.

Here is why it works:
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Help OC by donating a Mocha-A-Month

- Tall $3.90
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Fill out the form at www.oc.edu/mocha
This fall brought the third consecutive year of record enrollment at Oklahoma Christian, including a record number of National Merit Scholars.

OC’s enrollment is 2,122, which includes 1,876 undergraduate and 246 graduate students on the Oklahoma City campus. The undergraduate enrollment is a 3 percent increase over last year. Graduate enrollment was up 13 percent. More than 80 percent of undergraduate students live on campus.

OC’s popular accelerated MBA program also continues to grow, with 190 students enrolled this fall, a 12 percent increase over 2005. Fifty-six students are enrolled in OC’s Master of Arts and Master of Divinity programs in the College of Biblical Studies, a 17 percent increase.

Cascade College, OC’s branch campus in Portland, Oregon, also showed an increase with 295 students. Improved retention rates and aggressive recruiting and marketing contributed to the increase.

Oklahoma Christian, which recently received the maximum 10-year renewal of its comprehensive accreditation, has aggressively upgraded its curriculum, faculty and facilities over the past several years. More than 75 percent of OC faculty members now hold terminal degrees in their field.

“Our continued success in attracting more and more outstanding students to Oklahoma Christian is due in no small measure to our exceptional faculty and their dedication to these students and their faith-based education,” President Mike O’Neal said. “I have noticed that the students joining us this fall have a very real commitment to their faith and education. I’m really excited about this group of students.”

OC Enjoyed Third Straight Year of Record Enrollment

Vision Fall 2006
Stephen Eck has moved from his director of alumni relations position to a new role as director of planned giving.

Eck, who has been OC's alumni director since 2004, will oversee the university's efforts to educate and assist alumni and friends in structuring financially creative tax and estate planning techniques.

"Financial planning can be very intimidating to anyone who does not have a financial background," Eck said. "I look forward to assisting our alumni and other friends in this important area."

Eck, a 1992 OC Bible grad, has experience as a registered investment advisor. During that time, he held Series 7 and Series 63 Securities licenses. He has advised clients in asset allocation, retirement planning, charitable giving techniques and tax strategies.

"We are very fortunate to have someone with Stephen's qualifications to lead this important initiative," Vice President of Advancement John deSteiguer said. "He has done a terrific job in alumni relations and I'm confident he will bring that same energy and enthusiasm to this new position."

Michael Mitchell replaced Eck as alumni director. Mitchell became coordinator of alumni relations earlier this year after serving as a residence hall director at Oklahoma Christian from 2003 to 2006.

Mitchell graduated from Oklahoma Christian in 2004 with a bachelor of business administration degree and from the University of Oklahoma with a master's degree in higher education administration in 2006. He also has experience in banking and real estate.

"Michael is the first person to hold this position with specific training in higher education administration, which brings a level of focus and educational training to alumni relations that OC has never had," deSteiguer said. "We look forward to strengthening and growing our alumni relations efforts, and connecting in even more relevant ways to our former students under Michael's leadership."

"I'm excited about continuing to build bridges between OC and its alumni," Mitchell said. "Over the past few years, the alumni office has made significant strides in reconnecting, engaging and strengthening OC's alumni base. Our alumni are a vital part of OC's future and, without their involvement, it will be virtually impossible for us to continue to provide an affordable, first-class Christian higher education."
“EAT MOR CHIKIN”
Though the cows from those Chick-fil-A commercials won’t win a spelling bee anytime soon, they’ve done a good job of making the national fast-food franchise a “moo-ver” and shaker in the restaurant industry.

OC grad Amos Rice (77) is on the front lines of Chik-fil-A’s success as a senior purchasing buyer for the company. He studied human behavior at Oklahoma Christian and says that background in psychology and the social sciences has been invaluable to him.

“Studying the principles of psychology, sociology, anthropology and human behavior help you learn how to work with and to get along with people,” Rice said. “The examples of the professors there along with what we studied helped strengthen my career here at Chick-fil-A and in the marketplace.”

When he transferred to OC from Michigan Christian College, Amos planned on a counseling or teaching career. But he stayed at Oklahoma Christian for four years after his graduation and became one of the school’s top student recruiters.

He got married and moved to Atlanta, where his people skills got him a job doing inspections, sales and purchasing for an aerospace company. In 1989, he joined Chick-fil-A … and he’s been there ever since.

Though he never saw himself as a career business executive when he was sitting in psych class at Oklahoma Christian, he certainly has no regrets. “Chick-fil-A is a good company with strong Christian values. It treats people right. We’re a business, but we try to have a positive influence on people,” Rice said. “If I would have said ‘no,’ who knows what would have happened? When opportunities open up, don’t close those doors, even if it’s not what you plan to pursue as a career.”

And that will be Rice’s philosophy until the cows come home … with chicken, of course.

AIRLINE EXECUTIVE CREDITS OC FOR SUCCESS

Oh, to be in college in again. Ray Sears (87) would do it if he could.

Chapel? What he wouldn’t give to be able to have a break to worship God in the middle of his hectic workday. Curfews? He’d tolerate them better. Strict attendance policies in his economics classes? Well, they helped him be more disciplined in his professional life.

Almost 20 years after he graduated, Ray deeply values his OC education. He attributes his success at Southwest Airlines, where he is vice president of purchasing, to the preparation he had at Oklahoma Christian.

He remembers finals week of his first semester as a freshman. Unfamiliar with the finals schedules, he mistakenly went to work instead of taking Dr. Peggy Gipson’s final at the scheduled time.

When he called her that evening, she was preparing to leave the country the next day for the Christmas holidays, but she allowed him to take his exam in the library and bring it to her when he was finished. She trusted him and she showed mercy.

He never forgot that. It showed him that OC’s professors really care and take a personal interest in their students.

Ray began his career in Southwest Airlines’ finance department in 1988. He rose through the ranks and was named a vice president in 2002. He oversees a 100-person staff with a $5 billion budget that buys everything from peanuts to aircraft parts from 8,000 different suppliers. He works with his teams to improve quality, reduce costs, improve processes and form strategic alliances with key suppliers.

He met his wife, Shea, at Southwest Airlines. Although she has never visited campus, she likely has heard the stories about Spring Sing and the Kappa shows, Ray’s campaign to Australia with Dr. Lynn and Joy McMillon, and Dr. McMillon’s Christian Family course. And Shea has met some of Ray’s college friends – Scott Adams, a fellow Southwest Airlines colleague, and Jack Adams (89), who remains Ray’s best friend.

It’s a busy time for the Sears. They are in the process of adopting a little girl from Russia. Ray and Shea plan to visit campus soon. Ray is impressed with how OC was one of the first wireless campuses in the nation, providing all full-time students with laptop computers. He’ll also be impressed with other campus improvements such as the new state-of-the-art housing and updates to several key buildings.

Ray’s thoughts on leadership are posted on the Southwest Airlines website. You can’t help but notice it echoes OC’s core values:
“Leadership is setting the right example and genuinely caring about making a difference in people’s lives. A truly gifted leader will always adopt a servant attitude; they will put the needs of their people ahead of their own.”

She also took several children to church with her – children who lived in poverty, slept on floors and had parents who were on drugs or were drunk. She picked them up and took them home every Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday evening, just to sing and teach them about God’s love.

While working with these children, she maintained her classes, worked three jobs to pay for her education, and took summer school to finish early.

Along the way, Tom and TyJuana married. She taught until their children were born. When their sons reached high school age, she returned to teach kindergarten in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District in Charlotte, N.C., where she has won many accolades and awards. Tom continued:

Everyone around TyJuana is affected one way or another in her service to God. She is the same today as she was the day I met her: beautiful, pure, innocent and compassionate, with more common sense than anyone I have ever met.

We drive back to Oklahoma Christian every five years to get a picture of us in front of the entrance of the school. Never could we imagine the impact the college would have on us and how it would affect our lives forever. That one moment in time in the cafeteria changed both of our lives forever.

Thank you, Oklahoma Christian. It is my hope and prayer that students are aware that God has a plan for them at OC. And that students and professors will stop long enough to see where they are in life, what God is doing with them and really look at the soul of the person in front of them.

God bless each of you at OC and may TyJuana’s story encourage just one person to think on these things…”

– Tom Shaw

AN OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN LOVE STORY

There’s something about the allure of a love story. This one is special because it updates us on the life of one of our alumni, TyJuana Holloway Shaw (76).

But it is more special because it is written by her sweetheart and husband, Tom Shaw, who shared TyJuana’s story with OC’s alumni office.

He wrote:

“Is God at work at Oklahoma Christian University?” To answer this question, I need to tell you a story of a beautiful student that graduated from OCC in 1976, TyJuana Holloway Shaw.

She started out early in life with several obstacles to overcome – parent’s divorce, living with a single mother trying to raise three small girls (TyJuana was the oldest), hard times and poverty, mental and physical abuse from a close relative, and no father figure she could relate to, to understand the Lord’s unconditional love.

But God blessed her with a mother and grandmother who loved her and raised her the best that they could.

With all that happened to her, I asked her how she was at peace all of the time and kept her determination to become a teacher. She said she continued to pray to concentrate on things that were pure, just, good and lovely. (Philippians 4:8).

I came out of the Navy and straight to OCC as a junior. I met TyJuana in the breakfast line early one morning. She had the kindest voice I had ever heard. She invited me to church and, although I thought it was a date, she came with two other guys! She truly was trying to get people to church.

Eagle Connection is a new, exciting resource for alumni, but its success depends on you. The more alumni that register, the more useful Eagle Connection will be.

To ensure that your personal information remains secure, we must make sure that only alumni can view Eagle Connection.

To verify that you’re an alumnus, you’ll create an Eagle Connection account at www.oc.edu/alumni. After you provide some basic contact information, we’ll ask for your social security number and birth date.

With this information, we will match your Eagle Connection account to our records at OC. All of the information you provide us is subject to OC’s strict privacy policy, available at www.oc.edu/privacy.

For detailed instructions, go to www.oc.edu/activate and follow the steps.

Once we have verified you as an alumnus, you’ll be able to update your information, view the directory, participate in online forums, send online OC greeting cards, and use all of the tools Eagle Connection has to offer.
1973
Joyce and Kurt Swanson’s family traveled to the United Kingdom last summer. Joyce and her son, Stephen, currently an OC electrical engineering major, paused in front of Big Ben during their five-castle tour in England and Scotland. Stephen also was interviewed in front of the London Science Museum by the BBC for an educational program.

1976
Jack Outhier was named director of international missions for Get The WORD Out, Inc. Jack and his wife, Kay, live in Lawton, OK. Addresses: 7614 NW Folkstone Way 73505 and Jack.Outhier@LegacySolutionsLLC.com.

1978
Jim Elliott is production manager for the Amarillo Civic Center and the new Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts in Amarillo, TX. He serves as president of the Greater Southwest Music Festival Board of Directors. Jim and his wife, Kay, have two children.

1984
Kim Collier is founder and executive director for Educational Consulting Services. She is also a legislative action team member with the International Reading Association and a U.S. Delegate with the People to People Ambassador’s Program for literacy with the People to People Association and a U.S. Delegate with the International Reading Executive Director for Educational and Kerri, along with Taylor, Todd August 26 in Oklahoma City. Kirk Cunningham and Emily Williams, reside at 1220 Peppernine Ave. in Edmond, OK. Kerri is the president’s executive assistant at OC and Kirk is a supervisor for Teleflora.

Sandie Howard works and teaches piano at Saied Music Company’s new location on 71st in Tulsa. She also teaches piano at home and sells Pampered Chef. Addresses: 407 E. Waco Place, Broken Arrow, OK 74011 and pchefandpiano@yahoo.com.

Kerry Morris is director of corporate and foundation relations for Valdosta State University. Addresses: 3473 Brown Road, Valdosta, GA 31601 and kwmorris@bellsouth.net.

Mike Clark is Director of Therapy Services at Wagoner Community Hospital in Wagoner, OK. Susan (Holland 89) is in her fourth year of homeschooling their two sons, Jonathan, 10, and David, 6. Addresses: 606 E. Willow Drive, Wagoner, OK 74467 and msjclark@valor.net.com.

1988
Samantha Newsom and Kenneth Rector were married on Dec. 31, 2005. Addresses: 2115 S. Roosevelt Rd., Portales, NM 88130 and samnewsom@yuca.net.

1989
David and Barbara Duncan, along with their girls, Anna Beth and Emma, live at 1322 Shillington Dr., Katy, TX 77450. David is the pulpit minister at Memorial Church of Christ in Houston.

1990
Jim and Celeste (Herndon 96) Dvorak and their children, Sydney and Hagan, are living in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, where Jim is working on his PhD in Christian Theology at McMaster Divinity College. He will present a paper at the annual Society of Biblical Literature meeting in Nov. 2006.

Greg and Donia (Cochran 98) Simmons announce the birth of their daughter, Avery Elise, on Feb. 22, 2006. Addresses: 3404 Squire Oak Drive, Lexington, KY 40515 and gsimmons@insightbb.com or donias@grouptravelleader.com.

1992
Bryce Gage is the high school choral director in Marble Falls, Texas. He resides at 3203B Vista Lane, Marble Falls, TX 78654.

Jodi (Myers) and Kris Pierce announce the birth of Ashley Rose on July 25, 2006. She joins big brother Riley. Address: 1910 Susanna Rd. NE, Piedmont, OK 73078.

Kim (Day) Richter was chosen as Young Member of the Year for OHCE (Oklahoma Home & Community Education), a 5,000-member organization associated with Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service at Oklahoma State University. Kim lives with her husband Ken (91), the minister of Kingfisher Church of Christ, son, Caleb, 11, and daughter, Abbi, 7.

1994
Lt. Michael Lee (USN) was awarded an EMBA from Naval Postgraduate School. He became the airboss aboard the USS Nashville (LPD 13), based in Norfolk, VA, in April 2006.

1996
Stacey (Lockwood) Hartin and her husband, Gincy Hartin, announce the birth of Victoria Dee on Feb. 4, 2006. Stacee teaches in Calabasas, CA. Her husband is a graduate student at Pepperdine.

1997
Adam Mearse moved to Naperville, IL, where he is the youth and family minister at Naperville Church of Christ. Adam is married to Christina Sublett (97). They have two children, Zachary and Elizabeth.

1999
Franklin Wood is youth minister for Southwest Church of Christ in Omaha, NE. Addresses: 19023 Norcross Rd., Elkhorn, NE 68022 and mxwood2002@yahoo.com
2000
Robert Carpenter (00) and Nicole (Webb 01) Carpenter announce the birth of Allie Marie on March 20, 2006. She joins big sister Madison. New address: 429 Brighton Drive, Edmond, OK 73003.

Scott Cuellar and Karen Reynolds were married July 8, 2006, in Austin, TX. Karen is in graduate school at the University of Texas-Southwestern and Scott is a regional operations manager for a safety footwear company. Addresses: 2600 Ventura Dr., Apt 321, Plano, TX 75093 and kecuellar@gmail.com.

Jason and Erin (Richards) Engelke announce the birth of their son, Gabriel Jason, on Aug. 18, 2005. Jason is a music teacher at John Ross Elementary and Erin is vice president of marketing and communications for World Neighbors. Addresses: 13300 Shady Lane Ct., Oklahoma City, OK 73131 and eengelke@wn.org and engelkejl@hotmail.com.

Jared Jones and Karen Hinds married on Dec. 27, 2005 in Portland, OR. The couple lives in Huntington Beach, CA. Address: jakajones@gmail.com.

Michael D. and Becky (Graham) O'Neal announce the birth of their son, William Henry, born on March 26, 2006. They live in Oklahoma City, OK. Michael is an attorney working with Williams, Box, Forshe, & Bullard in Oklahoma City. Becky is a surgical nurse at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital.

2001
Matt and Beth (Brophy 99) McKee announce the birth of their son, Carson Matthew, on Jan. 30, 2006.

Justin and Kari Hatfield have moved to Anderson, SC. Kari is a visiting professor of theatre at Anderson University. Justin works full-time developing his Christian children's publishing/productions company, “Little Acorn Productions.” www.littleacornkids.net.

2002
Stephanie “Nicki” (Parker) Austin graduated from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and works as a physician's assistant in Moore, OK.

2003
Joshua Nichols recently earned a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from Oklahoma State University. He is a youth counselor in Stillwater. Amanda (McCormack 03) is working on her Ph.D. in chemistry at Oklahoma State.

2004
Matthew Meredith and Shannon Brazeal were married July 15, 2006. Matt is in graduate school at the University of Oklahoma and Shannon is a research assistant/lab manager at OU Health Science Center.
April Hamlin and Brent Williams were married March 25, 2006. Address: 157 Stonebridge Blvd., Apt. 1027, Edmond, OK 73013.

Amber Holley has been named the director of New Horizons Child Development Center at 4500 East I-240 Service Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73135. On September 7, Amber cut the ribbon on her brand-new facility. Addresses: 12 S Ridge Pointe Circle, Edmond, OK 73034 and amber.holley@alumni.oc.edu.

Jay Evans (03) and Olivia Serran were married in July 2005. Olivia teaches for Edmond Public Schools and Jay is in law school. Addresses: 2808 NW 65th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73116 and jevans.stu@okcu.edu.

2005
Amy Barker and Zach Sherman were married July 29, 2006, in Fort Worth, TX. Amy is the annual fund coordinator at OC and Zach is a teacher for Moore Public schools.

Hollee (Bland) and Wes McAdams are moving to Leachville, AR, where Wes will be the pulpit minister for the church there. Address: holleenotes@hotmail.com.

2006
Corlie Swan and Heath Agnew were married July 22, 2006, in Vernon, TX. Corlie works in the Alumni Relations department at OC and Heath is pursuing education in physical therapy in Oklahoma City.
This past summer, President Mike O’Neal asked Dr. Stafford North to undertake a two-year project to collect materials and write a book about the history of Oklahoma Christian University.

O’Neal said he thought this was the right time to write a history of Oklahoma Christian. The university is more than 50 years old and needs a comprehensive history to highlight those events and people who gave direction to the institution through the years.

O’Neal also wanted students and faculty from the earlier years of the school to be among the sources of information used.

To have time for the project, North is now teaching only two courses each term and is working during the summers.

He says the project has been moving forward on four fronts.

First, OC’s web marketing staff created a website for alumni and others with information about Oklahoma Christian to use in recording their memories.

At www.oc.edu/historyproject, there are instructions for reporting information to be preserved in the OC archives.

Second, North is producing periodic emails with a trivia question about the history of the college. These emails, which go to alumni, faculty, students and the board of trustees, allow the person to click for the answer to each question. North hopes this will be an entertaining way to interest people in OC’s history.

Third, North and J.J. Compton of the Beam Library staff are collecting and organizing the OC archives. Much written and photographic material has been retained, but it needs to be organized to make these items more useful in the future.

Fourth, North is writing chapters for the book that will be the final product of the project. So far, he has written three chapters and is working on the fourth of what he expects will be a 20-chapter publication.
OC NAMES ENGINEERING DEAN

Dr. Robert Mitchell is OC’s new associate dean for engineering. He joins Oklahoma Christian after serving 12 years as dean of engineering at the University of Missouri-Rolla, one of the country’s top technological research universities.

“This is a very exciting development for Oklahoma Christian University,” OC president Mike O’Neal said. “Dr. Mitchell is regarded as one of the top engineering educators in the country and we are pleased that he recognized the potential for great things here at OC. With the experience and leadership of Dr. Mitchell, I believe we will become better known everywhere as one of the finest engineering programs in the country. His relationships and contacts will provide exceptional opportunities for our engineering students.”

Oklahoma Christian offers degrees in the areas of computer, electrical and mechanical engineering. All three programs are nationally accredited by ABET, making OC the only school in the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities to have three accredited engineering programs.

While at Rolla, Mitchell played an important role in developing the school’s master’s degree program in systems engineering that became the first online degree program offered worldwide by the university.

“I have seen the success OC has had with the MBA program. I hope this can lead to a master’s program in engineering,” Mitchell said. “Engineering bachelor programs today have to be so broad, a master’s program gives students the chance to focus more on a specific area of engineering.”

OC NAMES ENROLLMENT AND MARKETING LEADER

Risa Forrester has been promoted to Dean of Enrollment and Marketing.

Forrester began her career at Oklahoma Christian in 1996 as an admissions counselor and most recently served as OC’s director of admissions and marketing.

“Oklahoma Christian has enjoyed record enrollment over the past three years and Risa’s contributions, particularly in our new student admissions work and the award-winning print and advertising materials, have been a major factor,” Executive Vice President Alfred Branch said.

Undergraduate enrollment has grown 21.4 percent since fall 2003 and total enrollment topped 2,100 students for the first time in the university’s history this fall.

Under Forrester’s leadership, OC’s University Marketing Office has been recognized nationally for VIEW magazine, Parent VIEW magazine and various marketing campaigns.

Forrester holds a bachelor of arts in communication degree from Oklahoma Christian and a master’s in education, college student affairs, from Azusa Pacific University.

FORMER POET LAUREATE KEYNOTES MCBRIDE LECTURE

Dr. Robert Pinsky, a best-selling poet, author, translator and humanities leader, delivered the 2006 McBride Lecture at Oklahoma Christian earlier this month.

The lecture topic, The Life of David, was taken from Pinsky’s 2005 study of King David of I and II Samuel.

Pinsky, a former U.S. poet laureate and an English professor at Boston University, also spent a day on OC’s campus, interacting with OC students and providing a workshop for area college students.

“Dr. Pinsky is well known as a poet, and his outstanding service as the ‘nation’s poet,’” said McBride Center director Scott LAMascus, a professor of English at Oklahoma Christian. “His tenure as poet laureate was marked by high-profile advocacy of poetry enjoyed by millions of ordinary Americans. Oklahoma Christian and the McBride Center were so pleased to host him for this exciting program of events.”

The McBride Lecture is an initiative of the McBride Center for Faith and Literature, an endowment to champion the humanities at Oklahoma Christian. The lecture and center honor longtime OC faculty member Dr. Bailey McBride and his wife Joyce.

The lecture, made possible by a partnership grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council, was the second-annual in the McBride Lecture series. Author Kathleen Norris was the featured guest for the inaugural lecture last year.

ROWE ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED AT OC

Oklahoma Christian recently announced the establishment of the Jack and Barbara Rowe Academic Enhancement Endowment.

The Rowe Endowment will be funded with initial gifts totaling approximately $250,000 and is intended to support academic enhancement, faculty enrichment and general university needs.

“Jack and Barbara provide an amazing example of a Christian couple committed to God, each other, their family and Christian higher education,” Vice President for Advancement John deSteiguer said. “I know this endowment will strengthen and reward the faculty and enhance the learning experience for our students.”

Jack is an elder at the Northern Hills Church of Christ in San Diego, where both he and Barbara serve and teach in numerous ways. The Rowses have helped build and operate retirement facilities that have served literally thousands of people and families.

Jack became a member of OC’s board of trustees in 1999 and has served as chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. The Rowses also are benefactors of the San Diego Christian Foundation, Cascade College, Pepperdine University, and York College.
OC RECEIVES CHAPMAN TRUST GRANT
Tulsa-based Chapman Trusts recently awarded Oklahoma Christian a $35,000 grant to fund undergraduate science research. The Chapman Trusts donation will make an already strong undergraduate research program even stronger.

OC’s undergraduate research program highlights are numerous. Since 1996, more than 60 OC students have participated in summer undergraduate research projects. Fifty-three of those students have graduated from Oklahoma Christian and all that have applied to graduate or professional school have been accepted.

In addition, the university has performed well at the annual Oklahoma Academy of Sciences competition, garnering one Overall Best of Academy award and 16 other first-place awards. Ten OC researchers have been cited in national publications.

“This gift recognizes the extraordinary accomplishments of our excellent science students and the expert mentoring by a highly-qualified and caring science faculty,” OC president Mike O’Neal said. “The work of these colleagues and students validates that the quality of education experienced by our students rivals the very best in the country.”

OC COMPLETES $23.1 MILLION BOND SALE
Oklahoma Christian recently completed the sale of a $23.1 million tax-exempt bond issue through the Oklahoma Industries Authority.

“This concludes a three-year, $33.5 million project to finance and construct additional student housing on campus,” President Mike O’Neal said. “Now our student housing ranks with the best in the country.”

The project included construction of two new residence halls, six new apartment buildings and the remodel and expansion of three existing residence halls.

Jeff Bingham, OC’s chief financial officer, said the tax-exempt status of the bond issue offered significant saving over traditional bank financing. The bonds are backed by a letter of credit from MidFirst Bank in association with LaSalle Bank. The sale was completed by Oppenheim, an Oklahoma City investment bank.

“OC is deeply grateful for the financial expertise of Jeff Bingham and Alfred Branch for conceiving and implementing this highly-favorable financing transaction,” O’Neal said.

OC PARTNERS WITH KOREA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
Oklahoma Christian has signed an agreement with Korea Christian University that will result in the exchange of faculty, students and administrators between the two schools.

“This agreement is a result of the growing interest in Asia among our students and faculty,” OC president Mike O’Neal said. “It represents the first of many new relationships we plan with universities around the globe.”

Dr. O’Neal and Director of International Programs John Osborne represented Oklahoma Christian at the agreement signing in Korea.

As part of the agreement, two full tuition scholarships per year will be awarded to qualified students from both OC and Korea Christian for an exchange of up to one academic year.

Dr. Phil Lewis, dean of OC’s College of Professional Studies, and MBA Director Ken Johnson joined O’Neal and Osborne to visit universities in four Chinese cities. The OC delegation met with officials to lay the groundwork for developing long-term relationships with the universities there.

Members of the delegation also met with officials at universities in Hong Kong and the Philippines. The Pacific Rim Education Foundation sponsored the trip.

“To prepare our students for a global economy, we must provide opportunities for students and faculty to experience learning overseas, to study on our campus with students from around the world, and to have the curriculum reflect the changing world environment,” O’Neal said.

OC HONORS LONGTIME MINISTER
On Sept. 12, approximately 80 church leaders and friends gathered to honor longtime preacher and youth minister Wally Wilkerson of Ft. Worth, Texas.

Wilkerson spoke at the monthly Greater Oklahoma City Preachers’ Luncheon hosted by Oklahoma Christian. As part of the day’s activities, Wilkerson was presented the “Christian Servant Award.”

“Wally Wilkerson is an outstanding Christian who has given so much to the kingdom,” said Lynn McMillon, dean of OC’s College of Biblical Studies. “He was a key person in shaping the whole development of youth ministry among Churches of Christ. He has always been a prince of a Christian gentleman and role model. We admire and appreciate him greatly.”

ALUMNI DESIGNS APPEAR ON HIT ABC SHOW
OC alumni Amanda Cain, Sharon Hinds and Katie Isenberg saw their design skills put to work when ABC’s hit reality show, Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, premiered last month.

The three OC grads are employed at Bella Rose by Chateau in Oklahoma City. Each received a bachelor’s degree in interior design and worked as an intern for Chateau before being hired full-time after graduation.

Bedding and accent pillows from Bella Rose’s line were contributed to the lucky family’s new dream home.

TEAM UNDISCOVERED CRITERIUM
On July 9, the OC campus had its first taste of criterium racing.

The “OC Crit” was host by Team Undiscovered, a university-sponsored group cycling and multi-sport club.

It involved more than 80 cyclists racing on a 0.8-mile loop through the campus road and the Memorial Road Church of Christ parking lot.

Team Undiscovered was founded earlier this year by alumni Judson Copeland, Brian Parks, and Bryan Ziegler. The club consists of students, staff members and alumni with a common love of cycling and fitness.

The organization’s goals are to keep members of the OC family connected through shared interests and to be a “rolling advertisement” that gets OC’s name out in the community. For more information, go to www.teamundiscovered.com or e-mail info@teamundiscovered.com.

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OC GOLFERS PLAY IN PROMINENT TOURNAMENTS

OC’s Brandon Melville was part of the United States golf team that played in the World University Games in Torino, Italy, in September.

Melville, a two-time NAIA All-American honorable mention, is one of five collegians who represented the United States in the international competition.

“This is a significant honor for our golf program and our school to have a player selected for such a prestigious international competition,” OC golf coach David Lynn said.

One of Melville’s teammates, Rhein Gibson, capped his summer by competing in the biggest amateur golf tournament in the world – the U.S. Amateur Championship at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Minnesota.

Gibson, a two-time NAIA first-team All-American from Australia, qualified by placing third in a 150-player tournament in Texas.

Gibson also placed third in September’s Oklahoma Open, finishing as the low-scoring amateur.

OC TENNIS WINS REGIONAL TITLES

Oklahoma Christian captured three tennis championships in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association regional tournament in September.

Junior All-American Jennifer Le won the women’s singles title and teamed with sophomore Gabriela Nastasa to take the doubles title as well.

In men’s play, OC junior Derek Viljoen and sophomore Travis Truax won the doubles title. Viljoen was runnerup in the singles competition.

SOCcER TEAMs START STRONG

The OC women’s soccer team made history to start the 2006 season.

At press time, the Lady Eagles were 9-0-1, setting records for the program’s best-ever start and longest winning streak.

The men’s soccer team also started strong with a 6-2-1 record at press time.

The Eagles and Lady Eagles were rated among the region’s top five teams, with the Lady Eagles owning the top ranking on the women’s side.

CoSIDA SELECTS GREEN FOR HALL OF FAME

The College Sports Information Directors of America selected OC’s Stan Green as a 2006 inductee into the CoSIDA Hall of Fame.

Green is in his 38th year in sports information, the last 18 at Oklahoma Christian. After serving as OC’s director of public relations, he became the school’s first full-time SID in 1997.

Green was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1987 and the Harding University Hall of Fame in 1991. The NAIA honored him as its Sports Information Director of the Year in 1979.

Green has received more than 70 awards from CoSIDA and the NAIA, including six “best in the nation” awards. In addition, he has received more than 100 design and publication awards from various national and international organizations.

OC WINS NAIA MEDIA AWARDS

Oklahoma Christian garnered five media honors in the 2005-06 NAIA Sports Information Directors award competition, highlighted by first-place honors for OC’s athletic website.

The website, www.oceagles.com, was completely redesigned and formatted by OC’s University Marketing Office.

“The primary goals of the redesign were to make the website more visually appealing,” said Dan Lovejoy, manager of web production. “We wanted to simplify the site’s content management to allow for a more informative and user friendly site. We also added enhancements like highlight videos, photo archives, podcasts and an official blog, to make the site more dynamic.”

The OC women’s basketball media guide received a sixth-place award in its category and the men’s media guide received seventh-place honors. The brochures were edited and designed by Sports Information Director Stan Green.

Green also received a third-place award in the Season Preview/Review category for the men’s preseason outlook, which is part of the media guide.
In the feature writing category, Tyler Hancock, a marketing intern from Inola, Okla., won eighth place for a story about softball player Linzi Farris. Farris came back to play last year after being severely injured in a church van accident.

**OC LAUNCHES NEW ATHLETIC FOUNDATION**

Oklahoma Christian has launched a new foundation to help improve the quality of all its athletic programs and enhance the experiences of the OC’s student-athletes.

Gifts made through the Oklahoma Christian Athletic Foundation will support the athletic department’s primary needs over and above the university budget.

Foundation gifts will fund additional scholarships and other student-athlete services such as tutoring and books; operational needs such as new equipment and increased travel and recruiting budgets; and facility improvements.

Foundation members receive numerous annual benefits based on their giving level, including free or discounted admission to the new Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet at Homecoming and the new Ray Vaughn ACE Awards Banquet in the summer.

Foundation members also have the opportunity to nominate and vote on potential inductees to the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Gifts to the Oklahoma Christian Athletic Foundation are unrestricted and tax-deductible. For a complete list of benefits and other information about the Oklahoma Christian Athletic Foundation, go to www.oceagles.com/foundation or contact Athletic Director DeWayne Hall at (405) 425-5350.

**UPCOMING ATHLETIC BANQUETS**

At a gala banquet next summer, Oklahoma Christian will host a prominent individual from the athletic world and another sports figure with Oklahoma ties and an athlete from the athletic world and an Oklahoma Christian will host a prominent individual from the athletic world and another sports figure with Oklahoma ties and an athlete from the athletic world and an

**TRICK OR TREAT? OC VS. OU**

The OC men’s basketball team will play the University of Oklahoma in an exhibition game on Oct. 31.

The game will be Jeff Capel’s first as the new head coach of the Sooners. This will be OC’s first-ever meeting with OU. Last year, the Eagles led Oklahoma State University in the second half before the Cowboys pulled out the exhibition victory.

For ticket information, contact Julie Anderson in the OC athletic department at (405) 425-5350.

**2005-06 OC ATHLETICS YEAR IN REVIEW**

With accomplishments and recognition at the local, regional and national levels, the Oklahoma Christian University athletic program continues to rank as one of the top overall intercollegiate programs in the country.

The men’s golf team continued the best team sports streak in school history with a third-place finish in the NAIA National Tournament.


The men’s and women’s basketball teams earned berths in the national tournament and the Eagles advanced to the “Sweet Sixteen.”

The Lady Eagles’ cross country team captured the Sooner Athletic Conference and Region VI championships. The team capped the season with a best-ever 14th-place finish in the national meet. The men’s team placed 12th nationally for its best finish since 1980.

In tennis, the OC men’s team won its third SAC championship while the Lady Eagles earned a bid to the NAIA national tournament after finishing as the conference and region runnerup.

Randy Heath was named the Sooner Athletic Conference Women’s Track and Field Coach of the Year and David Lynn was named the SAC Men’s Golf Coach of the Year.

OC athletes totaled 17 All-America awards, led by first-team selections Tara Collins (cross country), Lauren Decker (basketball), Bruno Buccolo (golf), Rhein Gibson (golf) and Fernando Gonzales (golf).

A school-record 30 NAIA Scholar-Athlete awards recognized academic accomplishments as well as athletic achievement. The award is based on at least junior academic standing and a minimum 3.5 grade point average.

The six OC women’s basketball players recognized as Scholar-Athletes (Lauren Decker, Katie Fariss, Rachel Martin, Carrie Mills, Dillon Ripley, Chelsey Truesdell, Tasha Turney) represented the highest total in the nation.

Three OC programs also earned recognition as NAIA Scholar Teams. The men’s cross country team (3.63) had the NAIA’s second-highest team GPA in its sport. The women’s tennis team (3.67) ranked sixth and the men’s tennis team (3.47) ranked eighth in their respective sports.
MEMORIAL DONORS 2005

Through the years, Oklahoma Christian University has received numerous donations given to honor the memory of loved ones or to honor milestones in the lives of others. We refer to these donations as “memorial gifts” and “tribute gifts” respectively.

We cherish these gifts because they represent the deep, abiding love of the honorees for Oklahoma Christian. By sharing these Memorial and Tribute Gifts with you, we return their love. We also extend our warm thanks to those who have given to OC on these special occasions.

The following gifts were received in the last 12 months. The names in bold are those being memorialized or honored by those listed below each name.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

FRANCES BABBIT
Bobby and Millie Roberson

JAMES D. BAIRD
Jim and Betty McInteer

BOBBY BAKER
Bobby and Millie Roberson

GUSSIE BEATY
Dan and Jill Amundson

JOETTA BRYAN
Ray and Suzanne Vaughn

RICHARD DANIEL
Mary Daniel

LOWELL V. DOKE
Hubert and Velva Doke

ROY V. EDWARDS
Ray and Suzanne Vaughn

KIM K. GAITHER
Roberta Bachmann
Ken and Betty Baird
Mickey and Jane Banister
Jim and Zoe Baxter
Dean and Fabienne Bogle
Mike and Phyllis Bolin
Alfred and Judy Branch
Lawrence and Jayne Brophy
Robert and Norma Kramer
United Daughters of the Confederacy

LORD GOLDER
Jerry and Lynn Jones

EUGENIA P. GREENWOOD
Alfred and Velma Bradshaw
Robert and Norma Kramer
United Daughters of the Confederacy

JERRAL HARMON
Mike and Beverly Rowlett

SUE HOBSON
Daniel Alcorn
American Public Human Services Association
Nancy Atkins
John Bumpus
Nichole Burland
Steven Crawford
Kay Davis
Donna Earnheart
Ron and Beth Graham
Dan and Jo Ann Hays

Randy and Barbara Heath
James and Marita Jordan
Yvonne Kauger
Sandra Kilgore
Don and Janie Leftwich
Louise McCluggage
Carmelita McCoy
George and Mary Miller
OHCA
Harry and Brenda Patterson
Randall and Margaret Raburn
Bobby and Millie Roberson
John and Sharon Scroggins
Randel Shadid
Stephen and Melody Smith
D.A. Spaeth
Joe and Ruth Stafford
Bobby and Tonda Stafford
David Steele
Lois Tolkan
Ruth Winters

MARY C. INGRAM
Gladys Doremus
Charlotte Fitzpatrick
Tommenee Gohl
Jamie Green
Wilma Grimstad
Helen Guinna
Lucille Hays
Sam Ingram
June Knese
Chystal Mitchell
Elise Stjernholm
Anna Swazy
Bernard and Helen Tewalt
John and Betty Walley

HAROLD JOHNSON
Eldon and Bonnie Berry
Louise McCluggage

RUBY LANDERS
Loren and Iola Gieger

SYBIL LASHEY
Bobby and Millie Roberson

KEITH MAPLE
Stan and Dawn Shelton

MIKE D. MCDONALD
Becky Drewery
Bobby and Millie Roberson

JACK R. MCGRAW
Wanda McGraw

BILL E. MCGINTOSH
Buddy and Margaret Allen
Bud and Jan Argo
Mr. and Mrs. Barkei
Charles and Kathleen Davis
Elly Lilly and Company
Jeffrey Hays
Robert Johnson
Mike and Jenna McIntosh
Deena Standfast

JOHN R. MCCRAY
Bill and Karen Anderson
Paul Bohannon
John and Erin Boyd
Tony and Pam Brandt

Patrick and Paula Brooks
Reva Burlison
Christen R. Clift, O.D.
Brian and April Cole
Don and Sarah Courts
Larry and Julie Diepenbrock
Alan and Ileta Duffle
Ira and Donna Elledge
Bobby and Cheryl Ellis
First National Bank & Trust Co.
Freeman Companies
Jack and Linda Grisham
Stephen and Janis Hagler
James and Carolyn Hall
Jim and Donna Hardin
James and Susan Henderson
Hicks Company
Bill and Geraldine Hedges
Glen and Julia Hunt
Bob and Carol Irby
Johnson, Badertscher & Moore, P.C.
Ron and Darlene Justice
William Lambrecht
Tom and Robyn Lambrecht
Mary Lou Marshall
Dick and Marie Martin
Brett and Jennifer McKnight
Ron and Beverly Minn
Tom and Sherry McRae
McRae-Dentson Vision Center
Employees
John and Betty Minnnett
Chris and Suehzen Mosley
John and Evelyn Mosley
Sherry Murray
Philip Neill
Tom Schneider
Jim and Nona Sheere
Paul and Betty Smith
Teena Hicks Company
Richard and Carol Varley
Phil and Lynda Wheeler
Woody and Penelope Young

MAYOLA MORGAN
Gary and Dea Fields
Ronald and Beverly Mason
Minnie Miller

WAYNE MORGAN
Terry and Kathy Kerr

ROBERT & JUANITA O’HAIR
Richard Stevens

FRANK OWLESLEY
Polly Gowan
MidAmerica Holdings II, LLC
Don and Donna Millican
Bob and Billie Montgomery
Mardena Steele

JOYCE R. RAWLINS
Dan and Ellie Miller

NORVA J. RODGATE
Flossie Barker
Kenton and Edna Charmasson
Margaret Inman
Hugh and Louise Jones
Carol King
BRICKS & MEMORIES

You may also choose to give a permanent Memorial of Tribute Gift in the form of a dedicated residence hall room or teakwood bench. Room dedications are available for a $3,000 pledge over time, and benches are $1,500, with most of these funds going into an endowment to maintain the rooms and benches.

Here is how alumni and friends are dedicating their rooms and benches:

In honor of Dean and Linda Bingham, this room is dedicated by Jeff and Sherry Bingham.

In honor of Hershal and Billie Bradshaw, this room is dedicated by their son Terry L. Bradshaw.

In honor of Ryan Brewer, this room is dedicated by the Brewer family.

This room is dedicated by Tip and Robin Burch in memory of and out of love for their ancestors and descendants.

In honor of Commander John deSteiguer, U.S. Navy Retired, this room is dedicated by Mary Jo deSteiguer, John and Darla deSteiguer.

In honor of DeWayne French, this room is dedicated by his sister, Violet S. Schad.

In honor of Virginia Ruth Hearn, this room is dedicated by her daughter and son-in-law Lynne and Bob Rowley.

This room is dedicated by the McMichael Family in grateful appreciation of their Christian heritage.

In honor of Foy and Margie O’Neal, this room is dedicated by Michael and Becky O’Neal.

In honor of Howard and Ruth Pope, this room is dedicated by Jeff and Sherry Bingham.

In honor of Jim and Pat Scott, this room is dedicated by their children: Deborah Crawford, Cheril Scott, Jamie and Sheila Scott, Robin and Tom Poteet.

This room is dedicated by April Tate, Class of 1996.

In honor of Glenna Trimble, this room is dedicated by her husband, Tom Trimble.

In honor of Casimiro and Margaret Tugaoen.

MEMORIAL BENCHES

In memory of Tamara Dawn Coleman, 1967-1992, this bench is dedicated by her sisters of Beta Sigma.

In honor of Sharon F. Davidson, this bench is dedicated by her husband, Ken Davidson.

In memory of Commander John deSteiguer, U.S. Navy Retired, this bench is dedicated by his wife, Mary Jo.

In honor of Dr. Harold Fletcher, Faculty Emeritus-Master Teacher, dedicated by the OC Board of Trustees.

In honor of Dr. BOBBY G. ROBERSON, this bench is dedicated by his wife, Millie.

In honor of Dr. Jim Wilson, Faculty Emeritus-Master Teacher, dedicated by the OC Board of Trustees.

In honor of B.G. and Syble Winton, this bench is dedicated by Lon and Jane Winton.

In honor of Dr. Todd Trimble, this bench is dedicated by Lon and Jane Winton.

In honor of the life of a loved one by making a Memorial Gift, or celebrate the special occasion of a family member, friend, or colleague by making a Tribute Gift. When you make a Memorial or Tribute Gift, Oklahoma Christian sends a card to the honoree or to the honoree’s family notifying them of the gift. These gifts also are acknowledged in the fall issue of Vision magazine. For more information, contact John Michener at (405) 425.5134 or john.michener@oc.edu.
The National Alumni Council continues to construct an active and vibrant national association of OC alumni. Through various regional events and chapters, OC alumni increasingly reconnect to each other and to the university.

Alumni from across the country volunteer by sending students to OC or by alerting the alumni office of key student leaders in their area whom OC should know. The number of alumni donors increased by more than 200 last year. Much of OC’s alumni relations momentum is a direct result of the fantastic regional leadership in our local chapters.

As OC continues its growth and development as a nationally-recognized leader in Christian higher education, the role of a strong alumni base is essential. No great university has become so without the love and support of its alumni.

In the days ahead, the National Alumni Council and the Office of Alumni Relations will focus on two vital ways we want you to be involved with OC: 1) We want your help recruiting prospective students; and 2) We want you to participate financially by giving to the annual fund each year.

Assisting OC in the identification of key student leaders from your area is the single most helpful thing any alumnus can do for the university. We are in the business of transforming young lives for Christian faith, leadership and service. Without students, our mission is noble, but moot. Broad-based involvement by OC alumni across the country in recruiting top student leaders is the single fastest way for OC to make even greater quantum leaps in quality and reputation.

Additionally, one of the key indicators used by U.S. News & World Report and the Princeton Review in their national listings of the top universities in America is the percentage of alumni who participate financially in the life of the university. OC’s alumni giving percentage is around the national average. However, nothing about OC is average. We are a great university. As the alumni giving percentage increases, the value of our degrees increases. As OC becomes more publicly recognized, the value of our degrees becomes more publicly recognized.

While it’s extremely important that we all participate, it isn’t important that we all participate at the same level. The amount of the gift is not nearly as important as the message the gift sends to the world. Your financial support indicates your personal belief and partnership in OC’s mission of transforming lives.

Chris Adair (97) became the most recent addition to the Oklahoma Christian University National Alumni Council in August.

Chris has been extremely active in keeping alumni connected inter-generationally, through his work with alumni members of the men’s social club, Delta Gamma Sigma.

“Chris is already doing the work of an alumni leader. He is a connector of people and a strategic thinker, and he loves OC,” said Vice President for Advancement John deSteiguer.

Chris and his wife Jennifer met at OC. They live in Edmond, Oklahoma, and are active members of Memorial Road Church of Christ.
McGraw Gift Helps OC Students

For years before his death in October 2004, Oklahoma Christian University held a special place in the heart of independent oil man Jack McGraw.

Just how special is evident in the many financial gifts Jack and his wife, Wanda, made to the university — including the gift of an individual retirement account (IRA) to establish an endowed scholarship.

“Jack was always interested in Christian education,” Wanda said.

Jack first became involved with Oklahoma Christian through his friendship with former president Terry Johnson. Eventually, Jack’s support of the university became so strong that he was asked to become a Board of Trustees member.

“Jack and Wanda McGraw have been stalwart supporters of Oklahoma Christian for decades,” President Mike E. O’Neal said. “Their unyielding support, guidance and friendship of this great university testify to their belief in the life-changing impact of a truly transformational Christian education. This is why it is only appropriate that even as Jack departed this world for his promised reward, he continued to provide for the university he loved.”

While Jack’s decision to name OC as a beneficiary on his IRA was prudent from a tax standpoint — saving his heirs and his estate significant taxes — it also allowed him to direct the funds to be used for the education of missionaries’ children.

Wanda, who regularly joined Jack on his visits to OC from their home in Midland, Texas, firmly supports his belief in the university.

“OC has a very Christian atmosphere with a lot of warmth and friendliness,” she said. “The university is constantly trying to update and improve on its state-of-the-art facilities, relying on the generosity of supporters.”

Naming Oklahoma Christian as beneficiary of a retirement account is an easy and uncomplicated process. To make such a gift, please notify the university so you can be recognized for your generosity with membership in the Oklahoma Christian University Heritage Society. To notify OC, contact the Office for Planned Giving at (405) 425-5118 or at stephen.eck@oc.edu.

New Law Provides IRA Giving Opportunities

On August 17, President Bush signed into law the Pension Protection Act of 2006, which includes a provision permitting charitable rollovers from individual retirement accounts (IRAs).

Through the end of 2007, individuals age 70½ can make charitable gifts directly from their IRA accounts.

The gifts are limited to a maximum of $100,000 in each year, and must be made directly to a charitable organization (gifts to donor advised funds and charitable trusts do not qualify).

Because the distribution is made directly from the IRA account to charity, it is accomplished without triggering any federal or state income taxes.

For more information on this unique short-term window for giving opportunities through IRA accounts, contact the Office for Planned Giving at (405) 425-5118 or at stephen.eck@oc.edu.

College Funding Options for Grandparents

Grandparents paying college expenses for grandchildren have an additional option by funding an Oklahoma Christian University Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity.

Oklahoma Christian can restructure a standard gift annuity agreement so that instead of paying income to the donor over one or two lifespans, the gift annuity payout occurs over a set number of years, and is payable to the grandchild to pay for educational expenses.

Here’s how it works: A grandparent makes a tax-deductible gift to Oklahoma Christian. OC then issues a deferred gift annuity agreement that will pay income to the grandchild during his or her college years.

This arrangement is especially attractive when funded with gifts of highly-appreciated property such as stocks or land. These gifts escape much of the capital gains tax that would normally be paid if the asset were sold outright and the money was given directly to the grandchild.

In addition to the friendly capital gains tax treatment, an Oklahoma Christian University Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity also will provide an excellent income tax deduction — even moreso than a standard gift annuity agreement since the annuity payout is compressed into a shorter term.

For more information, or to receive a personalized OC College Gift Annuity illustration, contact the Office for Planned Giving at (405) 425-5118 or at stephen.eck@oc.edu.
Alumni, Friends Commemorate 'Year of Jubilee'

Fifty years after the first classes, the first meetings, and the first Chapel services, alumni of Columbia Christian College and Cascade College reunited to mark the Year of Jubilee.

Though, for many, the name is different and the campus much-changed, June 22-25 proved that memories transcend time and that reunions are, indeed, sweet.

More than 600 alumni and friends joined together on the Cascade campus for the reunion weekend and alumni summit. It was a joyous event filled with laughter, memories, and friends both old and new.

“We were so pleased by the great turnout,” Director of Alumni Relations Pearl Howarth said. “It was rewarding to watch our alumni come together from the Columbia days and from Cascade. This truly was a uniting experience, just as we had hoped it would be.”

Thursday evening’s on-campus barbeque drew hundreds. Golden Deed, a Columbia Christian College quartet popular in the early 1980s, made a much-anticipated comeback and delivered a memorable concert to a full house.

Friday’s Chapel service was a great time of praise and worship focused on the tri-fold theme of Celebrate, Connect, Unite. It involved many alumni as well as past presidents.

Town Hall Meetings held throughout the weekend provided alumni with a current perspective of Cascade’s successful growth and development. These forums also allowed for open dialogue between alumni and Cascade and OC administrators.

Friday evening’s Campus Collage, the traditional campus talent show (this time done “alumni style”) proved that some talents are best hidden! A packed auditorium sang and laughed the night away. Saturday’s highlights included a performance by the alumni choir, directed in part by OC’s Dr. John Fletcher. Fletcher served as Cascade’s choir director from 1994 to 1997.

Concluding the event with a grand celebration, Cascade’s alumni, faculty, staff and friends were treated to an Anniversary Banquet held at the Oregon Convention Center.

Numerous OC administrators attended, including President Mike O’Neal, who emphasized the importance of a Christ-centered campus in the Pacific Northwest.

O’Neal said he is proud that Oklahoma Christian shares in the mission of Cascade College to transform lives for Christian faith, leadership, and service.

Cascade president Bill Goad delivered the keynote speech, ringing in the Year of Jubilee.

“It is our 50th year. The Lord is providing, and we affirm that everything belongs to Him,” Goad said. “It is because of what He has done, and is doing, that we proclaim this is the Year of Jubilee at Cascade College.”

One alumnus described the weekend as “a priceless experience that made those dollars spent on education worthwhile,” while another said he was “left wanting more and wishing that it didn’t have to end.”

“This is just the beginning for the Cascade/Columbia Alumni Association,” Howarth said. “The Year of Jubilee is a great way to mark a new and exciting stage in our shared history.”

by Abby Copeland (04)
Oklahoma Christian University presents OC First Fridays, a series of quarterly luncheons held on the first Friday of each quarter. Reconnect with other alumni and listen to great speakers talk about issues that are important to Oklahoma.

www.oc.edu/firstfriday 405.425.5120

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT OC CALENDAR EVENTS, CHECK OUT WWW.OC.EDU/CALENDAR.

October 26
Community Trick-or-Treat Night in the OC Ladies Dorms

October 27
Admissions Office hosts Junior Day

October 30
Dr. James Q. Wilson, Summer Series

October 31
Men’s Basketball Game vs The University of Oklahoma - Lloyd Noble Center

November 3-4
Homecoming

November 10
School of Engineering Visit Day

December 5
Cocoa and Carols - Hardeman Auditorium (7:30 PM)

December 15
Graduation

March 9-10
Spring Visit / Spring Sing

March 29
OC Associates Celebration with Ken Blanchard

April 14
Mike McDonald Fun Run

May 31-June 2
Quest
I hope you’ve enjoyed reading this issue of VISION half as much as we’ve enjoyed putting it together.

Around the globe, OC alumni continue to make a difference in their families, churches, businesses and communities.

Even though I hear stories every day about the exciting things OC alumni are accomplishing, I never cease to be amazed by the talented and diverse group of people Oklahoma Christian has produced through the years.

Despite our differences in backgrounds, careers, geography, etc., we all share a common bond with Oklahoma Christian and the years we spent here as students.

What a blessing to be part of a group that has and will continue to play such a key role in defining the long-term success and character of this fine Christian university!

When you reflect on your time at OC the friendships you made, the professors who challenged you, the mission trips that changed your life, the good times and those experiences that made you rethink everything – it is my hope and prayer that you will consider OC a place worthy of your support. We hope you share our passion about OC’s mission and that you want to make a significant impact on the future of this great institution.

There are three areas where Oklahoma Christian covets alumni involvement: 1) pray for the work we do here; 2) support us financially; and 3) influence young people to pursue their education here.

OC’s future is an exciting one and we hope you’ll seriously consider being a part of the university’s continued efforts to transform lives for Christian faith, leadership and service.

by Michael Mitchell (04)

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS OC?

Here’s a three-point plan for the next time you take that vacation or mission trip to some famous or exotic location:

1) Take some OC gear.
2) Take your picture with you wearing it.
3) Tell us where you are and what you’re doing.

If you email or mail the photo to us, we’ll post it on our alumni website ... and it might even appear in the next VISION. We look forward to seeing those pictures!

SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO:

Oklahoma Christian University
Alumni Relations – Where in the World is OC?
P.O. Box 11000
Oklahoma City, OK 73136

Email: alumni@oc.edu

*Digital images preferred, hard copies will not be returned.

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