Dear Alumni and Friends:

You will be pleased to know that your university is enjoying record enrollment for the fourth straight year and has welcomed one of the highest-ranked freshman classes on record. Academic excellence integrated with spiritual excellence has always been OC’s strength, and we will continue to work to ensure that the university is attractive and challenging to students who are serious about their education and faith.

We appreciate the fact that our alumni play a critical role in our quest to become one of the finest private faith-based universities in the country. Your sacrifices in supporting Oklahoma Christian make a tremendous difference and will help us reach new heights.

Our excellence is evident in the performance of our students and graduates who continually outperform those of other private and public universities in Oklahoma. It is evident in our outstanding faculty; more than 70% now hold (and most of the remaining faculty are working toward) a terminal degree. And it is evident in the caliber of students who choose to pursue their higher education at Oklahoma Christian. Whether you support OC with your dollars, volunteer time, sending quality students our way, or just talking up your alma mater, you make a difference.

Our goal is to provide the finest value in higher education by offering an outstanding academic curriculum complemented by a Christian campus experience. In an effort to define our vision, I have proposed to our faculty and staff that our current vision statement be expanded to the following: “Oklahoma Christian University will be a premier Christian university – top 25 nationally, top 10 regionally, and first in Oklahoma among faith-based universities – effectively transforming lives for Christian faith, leadership, and service.”

I hope you will support this ambitious objective. Because of our commitment to exceptional stewardship, we will be able to pursue this objective with fewer resources than the competition, but it will still require our friends and alumni to invest time and money in OC’s future.

These are indeed exciting times at Oklahoma Christian.

Please make every effort to attend your Homecoming Nov. 9-10. We will celebrate the Oklahoma Centennial with the near completion of the new Lawson Commons, the 8,000-square-foot outdoor pavilion featuring extensive landscaping. If you haven’t been on campus recently, you’re in for a pleasant surprise. In addition to the Lawson Commons, the campus features new student housing and renovated classrooms and laboratories.

We also have big plans for Enterprise Square, making it a more useful facility while maintaining fidelity to the intent of benefactors who wanted the facility to be instrumental in teaching the principles of liberty, free enterprise and citizenship. Enterprise Square will be transformed to serve the university and the community in many ways.

The refurbished 65,000 square-foot building will contain office and classroom space, administrative offices, an art gallery, exhibit space, conference facilities, and homes for the Academy of Leadership & Liberty, for the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame, and for the Sales and Marketing Executives International Academy of Leadership. We have already raised more than $1 million for the renovation, and the campaign to raise the additional $5-6 million is underway. This will be a tremendous addition to our ever-improving campus.

You are so important to the future of this great university. Please do everything you can to enhance OC’s reputation in your area. Encourage outstanding young people in your church and community to attend OC. And please continue to remember our dedicated faculty and staff in your prayers and in your charitable giving.

This is your university and you have a significant investment in its future. We want to hear your thoughts and ideas. I encourage you to communicate your questions, comments or suggestions for how we can better serve our students, parents and alumni directly to me at mike.oneal@oc.edu, or to any of my capable colleagues. May God continue to bless you and yours.

In His Service,

Mike E. O’Neal, President
features Fall 2007

10 Much More than a Mvule Tree
Natalie Mead and her students help carry on the work of Adam Langford.

10 Dr. Nicquel Gordon
Distinguished Young Alumna

6 Oklahoma Homecoming
Nov. 9-10, 2007

13 Flying By The Seat of His Pants
OC alumnus takes flight

Contributors

President:
Dr. Mike E. O’Neal (68)

Executive Vice President:
Alfred Branch (84)

Editor:
Wes McKinzie (98)

Contributors:
Stephen Eck (92), Risa Forrester (96), Ron Frost, Tyler Hancock (08), Michael Mitchell (04), Dave Seat (06), Dawn R. Shelton (90), Allison Shumate (05), Rachel Yeakley (07)

Designers:
Stephen Bell (03), Judson Copeland (02), Jonathan Curtis (03), Rachel O’Donnell (02), Kim Walden (98)

Photography:
Judson Copeland (02), Steven Christy (01)

14 Alumni In Action
Features on alumni Tony Weedn, Jeff Dimick and Sue Ott Rowlands.

22 Milestones
The latest comings and goings of your former classmates.

36 Memorial Donor List
A list of financial supporters who have made memorial gifts to OC in the past year.

38 News
Updates on the recent accomplishments and happenings at your alma mater.

On The Cover:
Tony Weedn is stationed at Vance Air Force Base, Enid, OK.
Shough Named Distinguished Alumnus

During the three sessions of camp that Richard Shough (87) runs at Oklahoma Christian University each summer, he is never out of touch with what is going on.

Whether by phone or walkie-talkie, members of his staff know they can get a hold of him night or day. This may be one reason his wife, Janet (83), stays in a separate room when she visits camp!

Richard has worked in youth ministry for 20 years. After spending 13 years in Sherman, Texas, Richard and his family moved to San Antonio, where he began work with MacArthur Park Church of Christ.

In the fall of 1991, Richard and his fellow camp directors were looking for a new site to host their camps the following summer. After turning away 60 campers the previous summer, the group leaders knew they needed a place that could accommodate the camps’ growth.

The leaders approached Oklahoma Christian, and Camp Impact soon had a home on campus. Impact is for fourth through sixth graders and focuses on impacting their lives with the love of Christ.

Camp Cornerstone followed a similar path. After Richard moved from Sherman to San Antonio, a group of area youth ministers were looking for a camp specifically for middle school students. Camp Cornerstone, which has been run at OC for the past 10 summers, serves as a great place for campers transitioning out of their time at Impact.

Camp Zenith focuses its efforts on high school students and their ability to have one of their best weeks of the year. Richard directs the camp, which is planned by youth ministers from six states.
Though the camp directors have decided to limit the number of youngsters that attend Camp Impact, the group has great hopes for Cornerstone and Zenith. The goal with Zenith is to bring 1,000 campers to OC and fill Hardeman Auditorium. Camp leaders have begun a five-year plan to find other youth groups they can reach out to and bring in to the camps.

The campers aren't the only people that Richard wants to have an impact on each summer. Having the opportunity to mentor and encourage up-and-coming youth ministers keeps Richard coming back every year. He shares his own experiences with young men who have been in the profession for just a year or two. He wants to encourage them to "stick with it" and continue to grow in their knowledge and experience.

With all the years Richard has dedicated to his summer work, he has begun to see people cycle through the program. This past summer, for the first time, he saw people come back who had experienced camp at all levels – from camper to counselor. He knows that, at some point, he’ll see children of former campers and workers coming through for their own camp experiences.

“I brought four counselors to Zenith that were old Impact campers, Cornerstone campers and Zenith campers,” Richard said. “Now they’re married and out of school. They’re our youth workers at MacArthur Park.”

Richard has recently taken a position as the Church Life minister at MacArthur Park. In his new position, Richard works closely with parents and oversees the youth and children’s areas.

“If you really want to make a difference in a kid’s life, you make a difference in their parents’ lives and families,” Richard said.

The original plan was to give up all his outside youth-related activities, but he didn’t want to give up his work with the summer camps. Though he may transition out of his camp role in the years to come, he’s not sure what the plan will be … especially after hosting more than 1,100 campers this summer alone.

One thing he is sure of is that the greatest rewards may never be seen the week the campers are on OC’s campus. For Richard, the greatest reward is receiving a call or an email days or weeks after camp is over and hearing how campers are growing in their walk with God.

By Allison Shumate
Nicquel Gordon, M.D., works at her office from 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and that’s on a day when everything goes as planned. She also juggles the important task of raising two little boys with her husband, Neil.

Nicquel, who will be honored as OC’s 2007 Outstanding Distinguished Young Alumna during Homecoming weekend in November, has delivered more than 2,000 babies since she began her residency seven years ago at the University of Oklahoma.

Now an obstetrician/gynecologist in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Nicquel delivers an average of 20 babies a month.

Nicquel originally wanted to do something in pediatrics. But witnessing a birth changed her mind.

“The first time I saw a baby being born, it was just awesome,” she said. “I kept thinking, ‘No, I don’t want to do ob/gyn. They’re way too busy, and I could never do that.’ But that’s kind of where my heart kept pulling me. So that’s where I went, and I love it.”

Though the miracle of birth caused her to choose obstetrics as her specialty in medical school, her time at Oklahoma Christian started her down the medicine career path.

After attending Oklahoma State University and studying accounting for one year, Nicquel had what she calls a life-altering summer. A revelation at church camp prompted her to change her career path and her school.

“I was a typical freshman at a state school,” Nicquel said. “Then I think God sent me to Oklahoma Christian, because I felt like it changed my life. I wanted the education part, but also, I wanted to be a better Christian and go in a different direction with my life. And that’s so much easier to do at a Christian school.”

Instead of continuing her degree in business, Nicquel decided to switch to biology/pre-med.

“I had always enjoyed science and knew that I wanted to work with people,” she said. “I had a sick grandma at the time, too, and I think that had a little bit to do with me wanting to go into medicine, because I saw her suffering and wanted to be able to do something to help her.”

Mentors like former biology professor Molly Hill influenced and inspired Nicquel. In fact, she still tries to keep in touch with Dr. Hill, as she did throughout medical school at OU and through her residency at the OU Health Science Center.

Nicquel stayed busy during her three years at OC. She participated in Gamma Rho, simultaneously worked three jobs, and still managed to find time to fall in love with Neil. They got married in 1993.

“I’ve said this for 14 years on now,” Neil said. “When I married Nicquel, I won the lottery. She’s brilliant. She’s beautiful. She’s a great mother. She’s a great wife. She’s a great Christian.”

Without her husband’s support, Nicquel says her work would be impossible.

“He’s my cheerleader whenever I’m down in the dumps,” she said.

Finding balance often proves difficult. But with the help of Neil, who owns a landscaping business, Nicquel says she does her best to lead a balanced life.

“It’s very challenging sometimes. You just have to keep your priorities in mind and remember God first, family next and work underneath that,” Nicquel said. “I want to be everything. So I want to be able to go pick up my son from day care. I want to be able to come home at lunch if he’s sick. But sometimes that’s very challenging.”

Going through two pregnancies with Cooper, 3, and Will, 18 months, Nicquel gained a new perspective as an obstetrician.

“I think I’m able to be more empathetic,” she said. “I think it made me a better doctor because I can put myself in my patient’s position and know how they feel. I think a majority of women want to see a woman doctor for that reason.”

She says her role as a doctor can be very emotional.

“I love taking care of women. I love the whole aspect of being able to do surgery, and deliver babies, and see patients in the office and have a chance to educate them, and to really teach something. That’s what I really like. I’m sure not in it for the money. The work is way too hard for that,” Nicquel laughed.

Being a doctor, a wife and a mother may not be the easiest life, but Nicquel says she wouldn’t have it any other way.

“I want to do everything. I want every minute of my day to be filled with something,” she said.

After she completed her residency in Oklahoma City, Nicquel, Neil and Cooper moved to Hot Springs, where Nicquel started working as a partner with Heritage Physician Group.

Three years later, the Gordons still love the beautiful Arkansas town and their church home, National Park Church of Christ. Nicquel teaches a “True Love Waits” class to junior high girls in an effort to encourage them to stay sexually pure until marriage.

Although they hadn’t considered moving out of Oklahoma, where both Niquel and Neil grew up, Hot Springs has become their home.

“Life and God have blessed us very richly,” Neil said.
Former men’s basketball coach Jerry Jobe and former soccer/tennis All-American Sam Winterbotham (feature on page 8) will be inducted into the Oklahoma Christian Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, November 10. The Hall of Fame Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Gaylord University Center Dining Hall. Tickets cost $15 and can be purchased by contacting Julie Anderson at (405) 425-5350 or at julie.anderson@oc.edu.

Jerry Jobe’s face lights up when he hears the words “Oklahoma Christian.”

As the school’s head men’s basketball coach from 1975 to 1983, Jobe accumulated a long list of accomplishments. Four conference championships in five years. Three 30-win seasons. Beating Memphis State by 14 points on the Tigers’ home court. Leading the Eagles to the 1982 NAIA tournament.

But it’s not the on-the-court glory that causes the 72-year-old’s face to shine when he looks back to his time at Oklahoma Christian. It’s the relationships, people and family atmosphere that Jerry and his wife Laura Beth say provided the best years of their lives.

“It was the most fun we ever had as a family,” Jerry said recently as he took a break from preparing for a fishing trip with his longtime friend, former OC history professor Jim Wilson. “I had the opportunity to coach my son (Kelly) for four years. My wife was a teacher and volleyball coach, and our two girls (Sherry and Terry) were cheerleaders. We couldn’t have had as much fun anywhere else.”

He was head coach at Southwestern Oklahoma State in 1975 when former Oklahoma Christian athletic director Ray Vaughn, Sr., called to see if Jerry would be interested in coaching the Eagles. Jerry met with Vaughn and former Oklahoma Christian president J. Terry Johnson at an Oklahoma City restaurant.

“It was a tough decision,” Jerry said. “We had our twin girls heading into their junior years of high school and our son was about to be a ninth grader. It was a very difficult time to move a family. But Terry had a real genuine way about him. I thought about the decision after that meeting, about the church affiliation and all the benefits of Oklahoma Christian. I wanted to take the job, but we took a family vote and I was down four to one.”

But Jerry overruled the vote … and the rest is history. Oklahoma Christian went 14-15 in his first season, but to say the Eagles turned it around the next year would be a monumental understatement.

OC went 30-3 in 1976-77, the first of four 30-win seasons under Jobe. His .790 career winning percentage (211-56) is the best in the history of OK athletics.

That 1976-77 season featured a memorable game in front of 6,500 fans at Oklahoma City's Myriad Arena. Bethany Nazarene (now Southern Nazarene) had a five-point lead (and the ball) with 16 seconds left. Things looked bleak for the Eagles.

“All the smart basketball fans had left,” Jerry said. “To be honest with you, I would have liked to have gone with them.”

But a steal, free throw and basket by Ed Pipes, followed by a last-second shot by Duffy Holloway, sent the game into overtime. Given new life, the Eagles rode big shots by Keith Pigg and Greg Holloway to an improbable double-overtime victory – one of the greatest comeback wins in Eagle basketball history.

The frenzy on the court and in the stands was typical of Oklahoma Christian’s rivalry games.

“Those games were almost indescribable,” said Kelly Jobe, who was a standout guard on his father’s Eagle teams from 1979 to
1983. “You would walk into the gym at 5:30 and the place would already be packed. There was so much excitement on campus whenever we played Bethany or OBU. It was just an unbelievable atmosphere.”

The Eagles’ big-game experience paid off on a landmark road trip to Tennessee in December 1979. After winning at David Lipscomb and at Freed-Hardeman, the Eagles had to face NCAA power Memphis State.

The Eagles were more than up to the test. They jumped out to an early lead and switched to a four-corners offense for the game’s final 30 minutes.

“Everyone in the place thought we were trying to run the clock out,” Jerry said. “But we were in that offense to score points.”

And score them they did … especially Kelly, who finished with a game-high 32 points. (“He would have had 52 if he’d hit his free throws,” Jerry said).

The Eagles won 90-76, shocking the crowd of 11,500 fans in MSU’s hostile Mid-South Arena.

“That game was unbelievable. If ESPN had been around, it would have been the top story, just like Appalachian State beating Michigan in football,” Kelly said. “It was a great feeling to beat them. I don’t think we realized what we had just done when it was over.”

The Eagles went on to win another conference title that year, one of the three they won with Kelly in the backcourt. An NAIA honorable mention All-American in 1980, Kelly left Oklahoma Christian with 1,836 points (a total that still ranks fifth on the Eagles’ all-time scoring list) and with school records for most assists in a career and a season.

“It was always my dream to play for my dad,” Kelly said. “When I was little, I just knew that was how it was going to be. I never wanted it any other way.”

Other Eagle greats such as Rob Mayberry, Kenneth Orange, Ron Webb and Bob Williams also donned the Eagles’ maroon and grey during Jerry’s tenure.

Jerry baptized Mayberry, a star player who transferred to Oklahoma Christian from Oklahoma State. Jobe’s goal “to win as many as possible” went beyond the scoreboard.

“If you could have some kind of influence on them and they became Christians, that’s far greater than any basketball game you could win,” Jerry said.

Williams, whose son Shelden now plays for the NBA’s Atlanta Hawks after starring at Duke University, arrived on campus from a junior college with a less than stellar academic record. After catching wind of Bob’s lackluster attendance one day, Jerry intercepted Bob in the gym lobby and promptly took him to the registrar’s office to drop him out of school.

“I told him he wasn’t going to play for me if he didn’t go to class,” Jerry said. “We were walking up to the registrar’s door when he told me he wanted a second chance.”

Williams got that chance … on the condition that he go to class and keep his grades up. He more than capitalized on the opportunity. In January 1977, he set the school’s single-game rebounding record with 26 against defending NAIA champion Cameron. More importantly, he went on to graduate and now teaches and coaches in Oklahoma’s Mid-Del School District.

“That’s special for me because of what he achieved athletically and academically,” Jerry said. “To see Bob go on to become such an influential and successful man is a great thing.”

Jerry’s commitment and loyalty to his players and staff remain clear today. His effusive praise runs the gamut from his All-Americans to “the best walk-on he ever had,” Mike Herndon, whose persistence and Christian example made a huge impact on his teammates. Jerry also is quick to credit his assistant coaches for the Eagles’ tremendous success.

“I had three great assistants at Oklahoma Christian in David Smith, Jan Handley and Kenny Turner,” Jerry said. “They were all tireless workers and they were the biggest reason we had excellent ballplayers enter our program.”

After he resigned from Oklahoma Christian in 1983, Jerry went to the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Athletic Association, where he served as associate executive secretary for 13 years. He and Laura Beth (who coached volleyball at Oklahoma Christian for five seasons in the late 70s and early 80s) are now retired and live in Norman, Oklahoma.

“We really had the perfect situation at Oklahoma Christian. We had great administrative support and great faculty support. Our student body was strongly involved with the basketball program,” Jerry said. “That’s what made those eight years so fun – the relationships we made and the lifelong friends we have. We treasure those years at Oklahoma Christian.”

By Dave Seat and Wes McKinzie
Sam Winterbotham borrowed money from his butcher to come to Oklahoma Christian University. That investment is still paying dividends.

Winterbotham, a five-time NAIA All-American who starred for OC's soccer and tennis teams in the 90s, is now a successful head coach at the University of Tennessee.

It all started with that loan from Sam's butcher, and a partial scholarship from former OC tennis coach Kris Miller. “My tennis resume was OK, but it really was a leap of faith for Coach to do what he did,” said Sam, a native of Stoke on Trent, Great Britain. “I will forever be grateful for the opportunity. It changed my life.”

It didn’t take long for Sam to improve his resume. He went 3-0 in his first tournament as an Eagle, including a 6-0, 6-0 victory in his first collegiate match. It was an auspicious start to a freshman year that ended with Sam’s selection to the NAIA All-America second team.

By the time his career was over, Sam would be a four-time All-American in tennis, including two years on the All-America first team.

In 1998, he helped the Eagles win the Sooner Athletic Conference championship. His biggest individual highlight came in 1996, when he overcame a bout with mononucleosis to win the Intercollegiate Tennis Association regional and national singles championships.

“The regional tournament ended up being the toughest part,” Sam said. “I beat the No. 1 guy in the nation in a three-and-a-half-hour marathon, then was given a 50-minute break before I played the regional final against the No. 5 guy in the nation. I managed to beat him in another three-and-a-half-hour match. I remember drinking so much arctic-blue Gatorade in those seven hours that my mouth was stained for days.”

On the soccer field, Sam capped his playing career by helping lead the Eagles to the 1998 Sooner Athletic Conference tournament title. He was named SAC Player of the Year, and earned a spot on the NAIA All-Region First Team in addition to NAIA All-America honorable mention. Sam joined Eric Wiens (basketball/track and field) as the only two OC athletes to earn All-America honors in two different sports.

“My last season was really fun,” Sam said. “There were so many talented young guys on the team and it was really a great experience. We had many great conversations about life and religion – anything other than sports really. It was great learning from them.”

Now the student is a teacher. It only took one semester at Oklahoma Christian for Sam to set his sights on college coaching.

Before he graduated with his marketing degree in 1999, he helped Miller coach OC’s junior varsity tennis team. Sam’s resume and (he says) a lot of help from OC’s career center helped him land a volunteer assistant’s job at Baylor University.

He became a full-time assistant the next year. And in his third season, he was named the NCAA Region VI Assistant Tennis Coach of the Year as Baylor won the Big 12 regular season and conference tournaments in 2002.

Sam became the head tennis coach at the University of Colorado later that year and quickly turned the program around. In 2006, he led the Buffaloes to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1988 and was named the ITA/Wilson Mountain Region Tennis Coach of the Year and the Big 12 Conference Co-Coach of the Year.

Now he’s in his second season leading the men’s program at Tennessee after taking the Volunteers to the national tournament last year. The principles he learned from Miller and from former OC soccer coach Jon Goad have served Sam well in his career.

“Coaching is a constant challenge. There are the obvious challenges of wins and losses. Then there are the more important challenges of helping your players develop character,” Sam said. “You push them, you support them, you chastise them, you reinforce them. And you are constantly trying to find new ways to help them. That is what I enjoy most about coaching.”

Sam also has quite a team at home in wife Tara (McClure), a former OC softball player, and children Zoe, Ryann and Sophia. “Tara is the No. 1 reason for my success. She is the anchor of support for all that I do,” Sam said. “We have three beautiful children, and Tara continues to help them blossom while allowing me to spend my time worrying about winning a match.”

Sam also draws support from his brother Glyn, who came to Oklahoma Christian a semester after Sam and became another key member of OC’s soccer team.

“Glyn was a great teammate. He is also a great brother. He continues to be a great influence on me and someone I continue to look up to. I wouldn’t trade any of the time we got to spend together at OC,” Sam said.

Nor would Sam trade his experience at OC, where he was honored as the university’s international business student of the year in 1999. Though he’s now an NCAA coach with a resume that’s way beyond “OK,” Sam has a deep love for his alma mater.

“Oklahoma Christian is full of great people. My professors were excellent, and the personal attention I received was invaluable. My peers were fantastic, and I made so many great friends. But ultimately, I was influenced by the goodness of the place,” Sam said. “I still think it is incredible that I got supported through college because I could hit and kick a ball. It’s an amazing gift.”

A gift that keeps on giving.

By Wes McKinzie
Class and Club Reunions
OCWA Pancake Breakfast
Homecoming Musical
Homecoming Banquet
Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner
Homecoming Carnival and Lunch
Saturday Basketball Doubleheader
Outdoor Concert by national recording artist Ingram Hill
And Much, Much More!

RSVP TODAY
www.oc.edu/homecoming

NOVEMBER 9-10, 2007
Natalie Mead’s fourth-grade class at Pecan Creek Elementary School in Denton, Texas, wants to take a trip to Uganda – in 30 years. They need that extra time because that’s how long it takes for a Mvule tree to mature and flourish.

When classes began in Mrs. Mead’s class last fall, none of her students had heard of a Mvule tree or knew of the great resource it is to the villages of Uganda. But by the end of the year, the class was doing all it could to raise money to plant as many Mvule trees as possible.

The project was born out of the tragic death of OC alumnus Adam Langford in January. Langford died in an automobile accident while working as a missionary in Uganda.

Natalie and her husband, Todd, had known Adam since he was a member of Todd’s youth group at Quail Springs Church of Christ.

The Meads had a close connection with Adam and his entire family. The Langford kids frequently visited the Meads’ home, even when the youth group wasn’t meeting. Natalie often called on Adam’s mom, Kathy, for advice about raising her own kids.

Natalie recalls a trip to Honduras that foretold Adam’s love for missions. Shortly after arriving with the youth group, her husband became ill. Adam stepped up and took a leading role.

The couple reconnected with Adam years later just as he was about to embark on his mission work in Uganda. The Meads’ trip to Portland for Todd’s birthday led to an unlikely reunion. As the couple walked down the street on their way to have coffee, they heard a familiar voice bellow from a passing car. Both wondered if they were hearing things, but minutes later, Adam and his friends walked into the coffee shop.
Adam was only two weeks away from leaving for his mission work in Uganda. He was going to join his brother and his sister-in-law, Ben and Kym Langford, in their work.

“Adam’s eyes were full of life,” Natalie remembers. Natalie now cherishes a photo they took that night. She said that if you could have held a mirror to her face as he told her of his upcoming plans, you would have seen a look of confusion. The idea that someone so young could give up everything he had to go and serve others was astounding. But Adam didn’t consider it a sacrifice.

Tragically, on January 16, 2007, Adam made the ultimate sacrifice.

A visit to the Langfords’ home before the funeral revealed one of Adam’s greatest passions. Kathy showed items that had been sent back from Uganda and told stories of the projects Adam had been a part of. One project stuck out among the rest.

“Her eyes lit up with the same glow that Adam’s eyes always had,” Natalie said. “I had an immediate connection with this project. I didn’t know then what it was about, but it was something that really resonated with me. In the midst of that grief, it transformed her.”

Natalie knew that her class of fourth-graders was extra special that year. When she returned to school after the funeral, her students recognized she was dealing with something personal. They asked her why she looked so sad.

She shared Adam’s story and her struggle to understand why someone who was so young and who was making such a positive impact could be taken. Her students cried with her and asked to learn more about Adam and his work.

As she read the information from Adam’s funeral program, her students made an immediate connection with The Mvule Project. They wanted to know more about it, they wanted to research it and they wanted to write about it – anything they could do to learn more.

And so the idea of authoring a book was born. In the beginning, the hope was that Natalie and the students could sell enough books to sponsor one tree through The Mvule Project. For each tree planted, up to 100 per village, the Kibo Group, a non-profit agency, contributes to a Ugandan village. One hundred trees can earn a village as much as $3,000 in two years.

With a statewide writing test to complete before they could begin the book, Natalie’s students had just 10 weeks to complete the entire project before the end of the school year. The class divided into five groups: writing, illustration, editing, marketing and research.

Natalie asked the children to take the weekend and think about which group they most wanted to be a part of. When they returned to class the following Monday, each group was evenly divided and each student was able to work on their first team choice. Natalie says this is just one of the many details that seemed to fall into place.

Natalie contacted a friend in the publishing business. A simple request for guidance led to her friend volunteering to publish the book completely free of charge. Volunteers continued to join the project, including a new marketing firm as well as many of the students’ parents.

The student research team began researching all aspects of Uganda, including the culture, animals and, of course, the Mvule tree. Next, it was up to the editing team to sort through all the information. Then the whole class came up with the story’s main characters and plot.

After the class developed the story, the writing and illustrating teams took on their duties. The writers began writing as a group, but with time short to complete the entire process, Natalie gave each of them the opportunity to write out their version of the story. They then brought all those ideas together and came out with the final product.

In the book, entitled More Than a Mvule Tree, a Mvule tree becomes friends with an African boy. The boy has to protect the tree from the book’s villain, a man interested in cutting down the tree to make furniture, by uniting the community and educating him on the need to preserve the tree.

On the illustration team, each student was responsible for drawing the same element over and over to keep continuity in the drawings. One person took on drawing the tree trunks while another drew all the leaves.

“I really just facilitated the process,” Natalie said. “If it had become my book, it would have been a completely different story and the children’s perspective would have been lost.”

The student marketing team had the responsibility of spreading word of the project to the school and beyond. Their school-wide announcements chronicled the progress of how many books were being sold and how many trees that would provide for the Ugandan people.

Today, the class has sold more than 600 books, which will purchase approximately 40 trees. When Natalie’s former students stop by her classroom, which houses a new class of fourth-graders this year, they are no longer interested in the number of books they have sold. They simply want to know how many trees they have helped plant in Uganda.

(continued on page 12)
A release party a week after the book’s printing allowed the kids to share their book and their dreams for the project with their schoolmates and some very important guests. The party was attended by friends and family, local media, members of the local school board, a Kibo Group representative, and maybe most importantly, Terry and Kathy Langford, who had just returned from a trip to Uganda.

Interest in the book has continued to grow. Natalie, who fills and ships all the orders, has sent books across the country and across the world, including Uganda. She has received requests from California to Pennsylvania and has interest from a bookstore in New York.

The book’s success has brought more opportunities to spread the word of The Mvule Project. A promotional DVD featuring Adam’s work as well as the efforts of Natalie’s class is in production.

Jay Paul, a close friend of Adam’s, now uses the book as a means to pass on his message. He sends it to friends and associates, asking them not just to buy a book, but to purchase an entire tree.

Jay plans to visit Uganda next summer. He wants to continue the work Adam started. Recalling how great an uncle Adam was to Ben and Kym’s young son, Jays says Adam would have loved that these kids were making a difference.

Before his death, Adam had created a list of goals he wanted to accomplish in life. One of his goals was that he live a life worth writing about some day. In an interview with the local Denton newspaper at the book release party, Adam’s dad said they would “put ‘done’ on that one.”

By Allison Shumate

As one tree falls, another is planted

Adam tried to use his business experience and knowledge to help the people of Uganda create sustainable economic growth. He called this effort “redemptive business.” The Mvule Project was one of those redemptive business projects.

With the help of a Mvule Project engineer, a village plants a tree and marks it with a global positioning system for further monitoring. Over the next year, Mvule Project engineers periodically monitor the trees’ status. The motivation to keep these trees alive is big because every live tree garners income for the village.

It is said that if a mvule tree can make it through the harsh first year, it’s good to grow. At the end of a year, every village with 100 or more living trees will receive more than $1,000 for their school.

You can support the Mvule Tree Project at Homecoming! Oklahoma Christian will offer the books for sale throughout the weekend, with all proceeds going toward the project. If you can’t attend Homecoming or simply want to buy copies online.

www.oc.edu/mvule

Adam Langford, 1979-2007

For Adam Langford, being a missionary was more than just preaching and teaching. Adam said that God revealed to him ways in which he could use his talents and abilities to bring hope to the poorest of the poor. That example lives on today in the students at Pecan Creek Elementary.
How has Oklahoma Christian become connected with the east African nation of Rwanda?

Let us count the ways.

Over the last year, OC’s alumni, board members, students, faculty, staff and administration have embraced the hope and beauty of Rwanda in ways that, in some cases, were not even imagined just one short year ago.

• The ROC (Rwanda Outreach and Community) Foundation has been established to partner with the Rwandan government to invest in people and property in the country. President Mike O’Neal serves as chairman on the ROC Foundation Board. Alumni Pat Lawson and John Osborne also serve on the board.

• OC welcomed 10 new Rwandan students for the 2007-08 school year. They join the inaugural class of 10 Rwandan Presidential Scholars who arrived last year.

• In August, former professor of chemistry Dr. Holly Hixson and her husband, Bryan Hixson, former director of OC’s North Institute for Teaching & Learning, moved to Kigali, Rwanda, with their young daughters to teach in and operate the Caisse Sociale property, a school, church and community center that is being purchased by the ROC Foundation.

• Two alumni couples were granted permission, along with two other families, to adopt orphans at the Sisters of Hope orphanage. They plan to bring home three baby boys within the next six months.

Brett (’92) and Keli (’92 Hopkins) Shreck had been praying for several months about God’s call to grow their family. They had felt God leading them specifically to adopt internationally as they prayed for the orphans of the world.

Last spring, when their preacher and his wife traveled to Rwanda for the opening of Christ Church in Kigali and visited the local orphanage, they came home with a challenge to “do something” about the dozens of babies crowded into one room with no supplies and little hope for their futures.

The Shrecks, along with Andy (’91) and Julie Crum, knew this message was for them. Amazingly, the Rwandan government allowed the Shrecks, Crums and two other couples from their congregation to adopt Rwandan orphans.

Missionaries Dave and Jana Jenkins, who were OC missionaries in residence in 2004-05, have become invaluable facilitators in the adoption process.

In spite of 1994’s unspeakable genocide that saw nearly one million people killed in Rwanda, the people of this small central African nation have struggled, persevered and become one of the most stable and forward-thinking nations on the African continent.

Under the leadership of President Paul Kagame and many others, the Rwandan people have embraced forgiveness and hope as they work toward developing a nation made of entrepreneurs who will break the cycle of dependency that has characterized the last 50 years of development in Africa.

The ROC Foundation (rocfoundation.org) is partnering on special projects to help establish Rwanda as a regional hub for trade and information technology.

If their first academic year is any indication, OC’s first 10 Rwandan Presidential Scholars will help build the new Rwanda. The students did very well their first year, earning many academic awards.

They accomplished this while also becoming immersed in many aspects of American culture: pizza, ice cream, swimming … and even Wal-Mart. The students also have taken many side trips with roommates and their American “foster” families.

There are so many connections between OC and a country across an ocean. Please pray for these connections and that God will be glorified as He uses Oklahoma Christian and many faithful followers to bring hope to a country that is embracing hope as the key to its future.

By Dawn Shelton
Did you ever consider that being able to read is a gift? That’s how OC English Professor Gail Nash sees it. And it’s a gift worth passing on.

In addition to teaching her students at Oklahoma Christian, Nash and other volunteers lead a valuable program called the Community Literacy Project.

Considering that most OC students grew up in highly-literate homes surrounded by books and conversations, Nash says her students have the responsibility to extend that grace to others.

“We don’t need to wait to find technology to cure illiteracy,” Nash said. “We already know how to teach people to read. We don’t need to wait for advances in technology or medicine like are needed to cure cancer. We already know how to cure this problem.”

Nash’s passion has caught on with her TEFL (teaching English as a foreign language) students and to other OC staff members, who spend lunch hours during the week teaching English to some of OC’s non-English speaking employees who work in custodial and maintenance services.

OC student Miranda Brazle is a TEFL major who serves as a student coordinator for the literacy project.

“I’m not just helping people; I’m getting experience in my field,” Brazle said.

OC’s TEFL degree program provides another advantage; Oklahoma Christian is one of just a few universities that offer a bachelor’s degree in teaching English as a foreign language.

In addition to the project’s on-campus emphasis, a group of volunteers also ventures off campus to teach English to others.

“We are reaching out to our own OC community and to the Oklahoma City community as well,” Nash said.

Brazle says she feels fortunate to help those who need to improve their linguistic skills. She says it’s a great way to connect with people she sees around campus that she hasn’t gotten to know.

“Now I can walk around campus and see them and say ‘Hi,’” she said. “I want to encourage them and lift up their day.”

By Kellie Olive and Dawn Shelton

Students in Service

Behind on-campus initiatives like the student group Outreach and OC’s nursing program, Oklahoma Christian students are heavily involved in mission opportunities in the United States and abroad.

But OC students’ dedication to service goes beyond “traditional” mission work.

It’s a spirit of reaching out that permeates the campus community.

Just within the past year, student service activities included the launch of Wishing Well, an organization whose cause is to help provide clean water in Africa. More than 300 OC students attended a two-hour prayer service as part of the group’s on-campus kickoff. OC’s art and design students got involved through “creativity walls,” which were used to help students express what was in their hearts for African people who are in need of new wells for clean water.


Students picked up cards in the Thelma Gaylord Forum and prayed for individual children. They also had the opportunity to sponsor individual children in Africa.

Following the tragedy at Virginia Tech University, OC students launched a grassroots effort to make a huge sign of solidarity, comfort and support that was sent to the Blacksburg school.

OC students organized and participated in “Race for the Cure” and “Relay for Life,” events that each raised thousands of dollars for cancer research.

OC’s athletic department got into the act with various outreach activities by the women’s basketball team and an effort by the men’s soccer team to help a local organization move and load medical supplies destined for third-world countries.

The Student Government Association and the history honors society Phi Alpha Theta worked to make a difference on campus with Operation Lift, an endeavor that raised more than $20,000 to install a chair lift in one of OC’s two-story buildings.
“Eagle Packs for Kids” is a new project sponsored by the Office for Alumni Relations at Oklahoma Christian University. Alumni provided 600 backpacks for children in the Oklahoma City Public School system.

“Working in conjunction with the G.O.A.L.S. (Greater Oklahomans Achieving Lifelong Success) project, our goal was to provide 1,000 backpacks for underprivileged kids in the Oklahoma City area,” said Michael Mitchell, director of alumni relations.

“This is a great way for alumni to get involved with OC while giving back to the community.”

Mitchell was approached by Diana Johnson from G.O.A.L.S., and asked if the university could help by supplying backpacks.

“I asked how many do you need, and she said 500. We ended up giving away 600 backpacks and could have given away more,” Mitchell said.

For every $8 donated to this program, OC’s Office for Alumni Relations was able to provide a new backpack complete with an OC logo to one student.

The program was targeted for kindergarten through 12th-grade students who are listed as receiving medical services with the Department of Human Services Kelly office.

“We raised close to half of the money, and an anonymous corporate sponsorship paid for the rest,” Mitchell said.

In addition to the backpacks provided by OC alumni, students, faculty and staff, G.O.A.L.S. also provided immunization shots and vision/hearing screenings among other things.

“Getting our alumni involved to provide backpacks to these students really fits with our mission and what we do here at Oklahoma Christian. Our graduates bring hope to the world,” Mitchell said.

Lining up at 6 a.m., 2,000 people, mostly elementary students and their parents, waited in line for a backpack. All of the backpacks were given away by 1 p.m.

“What made it even more precious was the fact that our county director, Milton Roosevelt, was the first African-American graduate from Oklahoma Christian University,” Johnson said. “I would like to say a great big ‘shout out’ (thank you) and kudos to OC for the beautiful custom-made backpacks provided for the children. Because of them and their dedication this program became reality and a success in itself.”

Donations are being taken for next year’s Eagle Packs Program. To make a donation by check, make your check out to Oklahoma Christian University with “Backpacks for Kids” on the memo line.

The school’s mailing address is: Oklahoma Christian University, Office for Alumni Relations, 2501 E. Memorial Road, Edmond, OK 73013.

By Patty Miller
The Edmond Sun
When Tony Weedn arrived on the Oklahoma Christian campus as a freshman, there was a lot he didn’t know. He didn’t know what he was going to study. He didn’t know the lifelong friends he would make in the social service club he didn’t know he would join. He didn’t know he would meet his future wife, Haylee.

But even with all these unknowns, Tony came to OC with a flight plan. He was determined to become a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. Tony chose liberal studies as his major because it gave him a backup plan in case his dream of becoming a pilot didn’t come true.

“At liberal studies, you can pick and choose classes to take within three chosen categories,” Tony said. “I was able to be a radio DJ, design websites and learn a ton about history. It was a great feeling having those diverse possibilities available to me in case I didn’t become a pilot.”

But as it turned out, Tony’s classroom dedication and passion for flying kept him from becoming the world’s first web-designing radio DJ with a knack for historical trivia.

After spending four years commuting between Oklahoma Christian and his Air Force ROTC unit at the University of Oklahoma, he was commissioned in the United States Air Force as a second lieutenant and earned a pilot slot.

Just one month after graduating from OC, Tony started Air Force flight training school.

After 14 physically and mentally grueling months, he finished his training with “flying” colors and got his assignment as an instructor pilot. Fast forward a few years, and Tony spends most of his time doing just what his job title implies: teaching his students (many of whom are Air Force Academy graduates) the ins and outs of operating multi-million dollar military aircraft … without injuring themselves or the jets.

In addition to the personal satisfaction he gets from sharing his passion for flying with his students, Tony’s role as an instructor pilot is also quickly increasing the number of flight hours he logs.

The number of hours in flight is one of the many factors that determine the types of missions a pilot is assigned. And, although he’s leaving things in God’s hands, Tony has his sights set on ONE specific mission.

“When you ask him about that one specific mission, it doesn’t seem too farfetched when he looks you straight in the eye, flashes a confident smile, and tells you his goal is to fly Air Force One for the president of the United States some day.”

But even if he does end up running the cockpit for the Commander in Chief, Tony always will look back at OC as the place where he first earned his wings.

“I have a ton of favorite memories from OC. If I could come back and start all over again I would do it in a heartbeat,” Tony said.

By Michael Mitchell
OC helped me learn more about my faith and how to keep it strong. The hardest thing about the “real world” is not conforming to it. You have to stand strong ... and OC taught me those values. I just recently got a letter from one of my students that read:

“Tony, I just wanted to say thanks for being such a great example around the flight room both as a Christian and an instructor pilot in general. It is one that I will strive to emulate as I begin my career as a rated pilot. I hope we can stay in touch because I know the Lord has great things in store for you. Thanks!”

This is what it’s all about. I carry this letter with me everywhere I fly to remind me of what’s important. My job may be as an instructor pilot, but my goal is to be the best Christ-like example I can be and bring as many people to heaven with me as possible.

— Tony Weedn
His friends think it’s cool to say he’s a bona fide rocket scientist. Because he is. He’s also a big deal with his job at Boeing in Los Angeles. And an entrepreneur. And an urban missionary. And a community volunteer.

Jeff Dimick graduated from OC in 1983. Yep, that’s way before OC’s incoming freshman were even born, but they’ll still walk the same campus, although Jeff has observed some differences.

“I live in LA and work with many college age and young adults at church. So nothing surprises me about appearances,” he said.

“Here are a few observations: shorts on campus, when did they allow that? And facial hair? That was only by exception when I was in school.”

When Jeff, clean shaven and wearing preppy clothes, graduated from Oklahoma Christian with his math/computer science degree, his career launched into an orbit that led him to Boeing, managing a technology that didn’t even exist until 1995.

That technology – GPS (short for “global positioning system”) – gives us directions in our cars.

It makes sure the ATM machine will give us cash (assuming there’s no zero balance). It even helps ensure our national security.

Besides his gig with Boeing, Jeff also is involved with One World Post, a cool, digital editing company that works on shows seen on MTV, VH1 and other networks.

He lives in the Los Angeles fast lane during the week. But on weekends, you’ll find him praying and serving at the Hilltop Community Church of Christ, in El Segundo, where he answered God’s call to do mission work. The congregation’s mission is to “accept people where they are and help each other accept where God wants us to be” (from John 8:11).

Jeff sometimes comes back to campus as a guest lecturer, and he recently joined the university’s Board of Trustees.

“When I travel back to OC, I always enjoy the pace and the focus on people and relationships,” he said.

By Dawn Shelton
In the face of tragedy, the human instinct is to run away.

After the April 16 shooting at Virginia Tech University, no one would have blamed an administrator for leaving. But Oklahoma Christian alumna Sue Ott Rowlands did just the opposite.

Her passion for theater, arts and higher education led her straight to Virginia Tech’s newest college: Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. She began her role as dean in July. Although she admits that Virginia Tech, and specifically her college, which lost several students and professors five months ago, will never be the same, she and her new colleagues are trying to achieve what they call “the new normal.”

Virginia Tech’s commitment to international studies and the arts drew her to this new position. Sue received a degree in speech/communication with a theater concentration in 1975, followed by a master of fine arts degree in acting and directing from the University of Oklahoma.

Since then, she has pursued a career in both theater and higher education that included acting, directing, teaching, and touring her one-woman show nationally and internationally. Sue decided to move to Blacksburg, Virginia, because of the university’s commitment to her passions.

“In the last 10 years, I’ve really honed in on two things,” she said. “The first is international work as an artist. I pretty much only work internationally now. The second is higher education administration. I really like the position of dean because you really get to interact with scholars and artists of many different fields and facilitate the research and the teaching. Virginia Tech really is interested in international work, and has taken a leadership role in the area of diversity. And those are all very important values to me.”

Another positive aspect of her new role as dean is the ability the college gives her to continue her own international work. Sue’s past performance tours include Hungary, India, Taiwan and New Zealand. She also has taught acting classes overseas and taken students abroad to the Czech Republic, England and France.

“I have several different one-woman shows/performances, and I tour these around the world,” Sue said. “Usually wherever I am, I’m also available to teach a class or set up an art collaboration that I can bring back to Virginia Tech.”

The Duncan native, mother of two and a proud grandmother, fondly remembers her four years at Oklahoma Christian. She says her most memorable times were spent in the theater department, acting in many of the school’s productions.

“I pretty much lived in the theater,” she said.

During Sue’s freshman year, she played the role of Helen Keller in The Miracle Worker.

“That was just wonderful, because it really got me involved right away,” she said. Another one of her favorite OC productions was the comedy, You Can’t Take It with You.

Sue is grateful for her OC experience, which she says laid an excellent foundation for her career and her spiritual life. The nurturing, Christian atmosphere helped her focus on her education, rather than be distracted by the common pitfalls of many college students.

Sue looks forward to making a difference on a campus that has been through so much. She loves the many hats she has worn throughout her career, and will continue to work toward her goals.

“I have the desire to see people and their passions flourish,” she said. “As I have moved from teaching into chairing the department of theater into working as a dean, I find that each of these positions provides greater opportunities to help others realize their dreams.”

By Rachel Yeakley
With a clear vision of ensuring Oklahoma Christian University’s academic excellence, Dr. Allison Garrett recently accepted the challenge of serving as OC’s vice president for academic affairs.

“We are excited that Dr. Garrett is joining Oklahoma Christian University,” President Dr. Mike O’Neal said. “She brings great qualities to this position that will enable us to achieve our vision of becoming a premier academic and spiritual institution of higher learning.”

Garrett replaces Dr. Jeanine Varner, who left the university to take a similar position at Abilene Christian University.

“I am especially honored to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Jeanine Varner, Dr. Bailey McBride and Dr. Stafford North, who have done so much for Oklahoma Christian over the years,” Garrett said. “Through the work of incredibly talented faculty and students, and the Lord’s blessings, OC has achieved great things. I am eager to be a part of its exciting future.”

Garrett, a 1984 honors graduate of Oklahoma Christian, reconnected with her alma mater through her service on OC’s Board of Trustees. She chaired the board’s academic affairs committee.

“Over the past few years, I’ve developed tremendous admiration for the abilities of Mike O’Neal and the team he has assembled. There are terrific faculty members here who are not only experts in their fields, but who genuinely care about the students,” Garrett said. “My goals are to work to provide the faculty with the resources they need to continue their terrific work and to work with others here at the university to get the word out about the strong quality of the academic programs here.”

Garrett came to Oklahoma Christian from Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala., where she was an associate professor of law and served on the law school’s curriculum, faculty appointments and strategic planning committees.

Prior to her stint at Faulkner, Garrett served in several senior-level positions with Wal-Mart from 1994 to 2004, including vice president of benefits compliance and planning and vice president and general counsel of the corporate division.

She is a member of the Oklahoma and Arkansas bar associations and has been frequently quoted in national media as an expert on corporate governance, securities law and ERISA issues.

She has written several articles, including A Comparison of United States and United Kingdom Approaches to Board Structure and has spoken at many different events. She has held key positions in professional organizations, including the American Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals, and the Arkansas Bar Association.

Garrett and her husband, Chip, have three children: Ethan, Tori and Noah. In addition to Garrett’s bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma Christian, which she completed in just two years, Garrett holds a master of law degree from Georgetown University and a juris doctorate degree from the University of Tulsa.

“OC provides an excellent education to the students. That’s why our students do so well in competitions, on professional examinations, in admission to graduate schools and in their careers,” Garrett said. “I believe that OC has a tremendous future because of the incredible potential and spirit that exists here, and I am eager to be a part of it.”

By Ron Frost
Research and Resilience

His corner office in the Williams-Branch Biblical Studies Center is typical of a university professor. The shelves are maxed out with books. The desk is organized. The calendar is full. There are numerous framed diplomas on the wall.

But there also are two carved wooden elephants on a shelf, a colorful giraffe in another corner and a safari-themed pillow on a guest chair. There’s a large framed picture of Cape Town, South Africa. It’s a decidedly African theme … and when you hear him speak, you know that Dr. Alan Martin is not “from” here.

Dr. Martin, an associate professor of marriage and family ministry, is from South Africa. But it’s not just the décor and cool accent that connects him with home. His educational and professional journey has led him to help fellow Africans from Sudan and Rwanda who now live in the U.S.

At Michigan State University, God brought Dr. Martin together with Sudanese refugees who had emigrated from their war-torn country. Dr. Martin was in a doctorate program and he became mentor, counselor and friend to these young men.

The Sudanese refugees had witnessed and survived such terror as witnessing one or both of their parents being murdered, having their own lives threatened and running to escape the killers.

He expected to find the students suffering from post-traumatic stress. But what he found was resilience … and eventually, a new topic for his dissertation.

That dissertation is now a ground-breaking document used throughout the United States. His research is used by organizations that provide counseling and services to refugees.

As providence would have it, Dr. Martin came to Oklahoma Christian in 2006, at the same time the university welcomed its first group of presidential scholars from Rwanda.

These students are all survivors of the 1994 genocide and the years of ensuing violence. Most of them were young children when the genocide occurred. They all lost someone.

Again, he has found resilience. And hope.

As Dr. Martin ministers to the Rwandans and monitors their progress, he finds that they are teaching their fellow OC students about that same resilience, hope and focus. And teaching them more about the world.

In the classroom, Dr. Martin teaches one of OC’s most popular classes, Christian Family. The course topics range from selecting a spouse to finances to raising kids. It also addresses divorce and remarriage.

“There’s no sugar coating,” he said.

Dr. Martin and his wife, Linda, have been married nearly 30 years and have three grown children. He has quickly become part of the OC family as he teaches students about relationships and about our world.

By Dawn Shelton
MILESTONES

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ALUMNI

Bud (56) and Marie Rawlins, Dan (56) and Ellie (57) Miller, Milton Spengler (56), and Kay Villines (56) take time to pose for a picture after filling up on Mexican food at a June 3 dinner in Winfield, Kan. The photo was taken by Charles Villines (56). Other Central Christian alumni present for the dinner were Fern Bohanan (56), Gerald Hodges (56) and Juanita Davis (55).

1950
After 54 years of full-time local church work, Windle and Barbara Kee will begin conducting seminars and gospel meetings beginning in January. The Kees helped started and/or worked with congregations in Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Cameroon, Central America and West Africa. They plan to make Temple, Texas, their new home. Contact info: bokeewin@livingston.net / 936-646-5198 / 936-328-7962.

1951
After about 20 years in Texas on Lake Livingston, Bud and Sarah (Parker) McFarland have moved to Edmond.

1955

1956

1959
Jeraldine (Wright) Parker now has three grandsons: Malkani (8), Bryce (3), and Aedan (8 mo.).

1964
Ted and Sandra (Garner) Paddock live in Wichita Falls, Texas. Their grown daughters are Paige Box (husband Brian, and daughters Madison and Mackenzie), and Pepper Bradberry (husband Charlie, and children Morgan, Meghan and Mason). Ted is a professor of criminal justice at Midwestern State University. Sandy retired in 2002 as administrative assistant for child protective services. Ted has served as an elder at Tenth and Broad Church of Christ since 1988.

1965
Bob Coleman’s daughter, Jennifer, has been accepted into the Department of Anthropology graduate program at the University of York in England. Daughter, Sara, works in marketing for Wisconsin Athletic Club near Milwaukee. Son, Jon, is completing his undergraduate degree in telecommunications at Michigan State University as well as a director role at WKAR, MSU’s public television station.

1969
Leon Talley has preached for the Sixth Street Church of Christ in Friona, Texas, since February 1983. His first wife, Jeffie, died in 1999. Leon then married Nelda. Leon has three sons: Tracey of Norman, Okla., Troy of Lubbock, Texas, and Terron of Asheville, N.C. Nelda has two sons and a daughter: Kent of Ft. Sumner, N.M., Curt of Friona, Texas, and Dana of Shallowater, Texas.

1971
Jim Foltz, R.N., was promoted to clinical manager of Nephrology Services and the Intermediate Care Unit at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center this past spring. He also received the OU Medical Center’s Humanitarian Award for his work in community involvement, including his church activities. Jim and his wife Betty (Summers 71) live in Oklahoma City. They have two daughters, ages 23 and 21.

1971
Dr. Steve Bounds has accepted a position as assistant professor of educational leadership at Arkansas State University. Steve, who is married to Charlotte (Jones), recently retired as a school superintendent after 31 years in education.

1975
Judge Morris is recovering well following a double lung transplant surgery in January. He is also a cancer survivor, having been diagnosed with leukemia in 1987 and undergoing a successful bone marrow transplant in 1993. Judge and Caryl live in Broken Arrow, Okla. Judge preaches for the Carbondale Church of Christ in Tulsa and Caryl is an x-ray technologist at Saint Francis Hospital. Their son Brent works at US Cellular in Tulsa. Their daughter Kari attends Oklahoma Christian and is employed at IBC Bank in Edmond.

1976
Bill Whaley has accepted a counselor position at Hope Harbor in Claremore, Okla. He and Saphronia (Thomas 74) have three children, one granddaughter, and two more on the way. Saphronia will continue to work as a registered nurse in the Claremore area.

1976
Jim Bryant retired from Edmond Public Schools after 27 years of teaching middle school. He now works at the OC Physical Plant and serves as a deacon for Waterloo Road Church of Christ in Edmond. Jim’s wife, Mardie (Canham), is taking a leave of absence after 14 years as a teacher assistant to be a stay-at-home mom for their three young children. Of their six children, two are married, one is a Senior at OC, and the little ones are in Kindergarten, first grade and second grade.

1977
Ken Ellis now lives in Noble, Okla., where he serves as a preacher and works with diabetes support groups.

Mark A. Stansberry received the 2007 Fund for American Studies Alumni Service Award during the Fund’s 40th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, D.C. During the black-tie celebration
dinner, Mark and his wife Nancy sang the national anthem. Actor, comedian and former presidential speechwriter Ben Stein, journalist Fred Barnes, former United Nations ambassador John Bolton, and U.S. News & World Report senior writer Michael Barone presented remarks. Mark is chairman of the GTD Group, which comprises several companies. He is a member of OC’s Board of Trustees.

**SUSAN HAMMOND**

Kevin Ward is the Aboriginal Family Conference coordinator for the Interior (First Nations) of British Columbia. He works with Upper Nicola Indian Band and Sewexm Child and Family Services. Kevin, Susan, Mitchell (17) and Morgan (14) live in Salmon Arm. Contact info: 2497 4B Ave. SE, Salmon Arm, BC V1E1K9 / Home: 250-832-0031 / Kevin cell: 250-833-5033 / kward@telus.net.

**1980**

Mark Schinnerer became the chief executive officer for CARC, Inc. in Carlsbad, N.M., in May. Mark and his wife Linda (Ragan) have lived in Carlsbad 17 years. They have three children: Stephanie is married to Fred Yhaben, Jessica attends West Texas A&M University and Craig lives and works in Carlsbad. They also enjoy their time with their grandson, Lico Yhaben (2).

After living in the same home for 20 years, Donald and Patrice (Voss) Ziegler downsized into a new home last year. Contact info: 741 N. Woodstone Drive, Andover, KS 67002.

**1981**

Brent and Shari (Cox) Adams live in the middle of 60 acres with their horses, donkeys, show sheep and show goats, dogs and cat. Shari is an elementary P.E. teacher and Brent is a state policeman. They have two daughters, a son and two grandchildren.

**1982**

Sandra (Hodges) Green and family recently moved to Burleson, Texas, due to her husband’s new job promotion to co-director of the National Design, Construction and Soil Mechanics Center, USDA in Ft. Worth, Texas. Sandra is a teacher, but is a homemaker this year. Their family includes Monica (recent OC graduate and features editor for the Cleburne Times-Review in Texas), Zac (18) and Allison (15).

**1983**

Alan and Jana (Vanlandingham) Austin celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on May 1. Alan is a senior programmer analyst for Synthes USA and Jana is a bookkeeper for Pikes Peak Christian School. They live in Colorado Springs, Colo. Their daughter Aubrey is a sophomore at ACU. Daughter Cassidy is 16 and son Heath is 13.

Marla (Tobey) Treat teaches Alpha Phonics at Davis Intermediate School in Wylie, Texas. Husband Kent owns Kalos Financial and is president of Kalos Consulting Corp. They have two daughters: Alison (16) and Macy (12). Contact info: 2305 Silver Maple Dr., St Paul, TX 75098.

**1986**

Paul and Marseana (Neal) Davies now live in Reno, Nev., where Paul works as a union journeyman electrician and teaches upgrade courses. Marseana is a housewife.

Sandie (Howard) got married on June 19 to Roger Hintz. Sandie teaches piano and sells Pampered Chef. Roger has worked more than 10 years as an AMP mechanic for American Airlines. Contact info: 2047 E. 47th St. South, Broken Arrow, OK 74014 / pchefandpiano@yahoo.com.

**1957**

Alison (16) and Macy (12). Contact info: 2305 Silver Maple Dr., St Paul, TX 75098.
Linda (Nordness) Oser has a new address: 909 Harbor House Dr., Apt. 6, Madison, WI 53719.

Holly (Penn) Shrock recently finished her independent CD project, Transform, an original collection of Christian songs written and sung by Holly. It is available, along with a previously-recorded a cappella collection entitled Elation, at www.CDBaby.com.

Nigel (Oscar) Woodberry has sold a high school football show to Fox Sports. The show is tentatively called “Rivalry.”

1989
Cian Benning was named HRVP for Miles Properties Inc. He is responsible for HR, training and IT for Mile Development and Miles Properties Inc. Cian has more than 15 years of human resource and training experience with Fortune 100 companies, including The Home Depot and Accenture. She has the senior professional in human resources (SPHR) accreditation. Contact info: cd259@bellsouth.net.

G. Scott Furniss is now the staff accountant for Hardcastle Construction in Washington, Okla. He lives with his wife Cathy (Coombs 91) and their three children, Rhiana (12), Aidan (9) and Aeryn (5) in Purcell, Okla. Scott also preaches in the area.

Laura A. Ross has been promoted to the rank of senior chief petty officer in the U.S. Navy. She has been selected to work for Rear Admiral David A. Gove, oceanographer and navigator of the Navy. She is stationed at the U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.

Carolyn (Rhoden) Simpson has moved. She and her husband have two children: Riley (6) and Julia (3). Contact info: 4034 Ravensway Ct., Pearland, TX 77584 / carolyn-simpson@comcast.net.

Bruce Dimick has gone back to school to become a licensed marriage and family therapist. He will graduate in June. His wife Julie works for Procter and Gamble. They have two children: Sydnee (11) and Nathan (8). They live in Salina, Kan.

Mark Harvill is chief operating officer of Paragon Biomedical in Irvine, Calif. Mark and his wife Ellie have moved to Coto de Caza, Calif.

Sarah (Thornburg) Horton completed her first triathlon in June. She covered the sprint distance in 1:30:56. She is continuing her endurance training and running the Maui Half Marathon with Team in Training, which benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Sarah lives in Edmond with husband Scott (86) and daughter Preslie.

Chuck Olliff received his masters’ degree in education in counseling and development in 1995 and became a licensed counselor in 1999. He is executive director at a Christian counseling agency in Beaumont, Texas, where he manages a staff of 12 counselors and hosts a radio call-in show for mental health tips.

Paula (Perry) Sayers recently began a data entry job at United Health Care in Moline, Illinois.

Susan (Stewart) married Robert Wood on July 1, 2006, in Edmond. They spent their honeymoon in the Canadian Rockies.

GROVE FAMILY

Tim Grove and his wife Cheryl welcomed their baby daughter Cecily Megann on June 20. Cecily joins big sister Madeline who is three. Tim received his MBA from the University of Texas in Arlington in December 2006. In January, he was promoted to vice president of systems development at EECU, a credit union in Fort Worth, Texas. Contact info: tgrove@gmail.com.

1992
After living in a camper and taking a sightseeing trip over the past year that covered all of the lower 48 states, Kevin and Carrie Jane (Hicks 93) Arledge and their three children – Morgan Leigh (10), Vivian (9), and Holden (7) – have moved back to Edmond. Contact info: 2505 Meadow View Rd., Edmond, OK 73013.

Paula (Pflughoft) and Paul Giboney welcomed their third daughter Ashley on Nov. 20, 2006. She joins big sisters Amy (8) and Anna (6).

Tamera (Bowman) Jefferson taught fourth grade in Owasso, Okla., for six years then took off for six years to be a stay-at-home mom. She went back to teaching in Owasso last year. Ken is a manager for Williams Companies in Tulsa. They have two children: Conner (11) and Carley (8). They are active members at Collinsville Church of Christ. Contact info: tdtjwety@cox.net.

Chuck Olliff received his masters’ degree in education in counseling and development in 1995 and became a licensed counselor in 1999. He is executive director at a Christian counseling agency in Beaumont, Texas, where he manages a staff of 12 counselors and hosts a radio call-in show for mental health tips.

Paula (Perry) Sayers recently began a data entry job at United Health Care in Moline, Illinois.

Susan (Stewart) married Robert Wood on July 1, 2006, in Edmond. They spent their honeymoon in the Canadian Rockies.

1993

Renee (Stamper) and Marty Cobarruvias announce the birth of their son, Anson Pablo. He was born on August 2. Contact info: rendistamp@yahoo.com.

Bradley and Belinda Hayes have two children: Syvannah (3) and Jaycie (2). They expect another addition in November.

ANSON PABLO COBARRUVIAS
OC’s “Table for Twelve” program needs OC alumni in the Oklahoma City area to open their homes to students for small dinner parties that bring alumni and students together in a warm, friendly environment for good food, conversation, and camaraderie.

**Table for Who?**

Though having dinner with twelve people you don’t know may sound a bit unappetizing, “Table for Twelve” is a new program that connects current Oklahoma Christian University students with alumni, and adds a personal touch to the Oklahoma Christian experience for today’s students.

**It’s much more than a meal.**

The phrase “Table for Twelve” may sound intimidating and unusual but the concept behind the program is to build and strengthen the Oklahoma Christian community by creating an informal atmosphere for Oklahoma Christian students to make connections with alumni and faculty as well as other students they might otherwise not know. Apart from good food and conversation, the program is attractive because it affords students the opportunity to network with Oklahoma Christian alumni, find out about life after college, and interact with professors outside the classroom. It also offers a chance for students to get a feel for the extended OC family, and to see that they can still be involved and stay connected with Oklahoma Christian after they graduate.

**How do I participate?**

The program format is simple! Local alumni are invited to host dinners, at no cost to their guests, for about 10 or so students and a couple of faculty members. If you don’t have room for twelve, feel free to host a smaller dinner. These gatherings can be as formal – or as casual – as the host desires, and can take place in the alum’s home, outdoors or at a restaurant. Dinners can range from a catered affair to a backyard barbecue. As the host, you get to decide!

**Serving as a host benefits you and current Oklahoma Christian students.**

The program is designed to be as rewarding for the alumni hosts as it is for the students and faculty members. As a participant, you will help to bring together and, subsequently, bridge the gap between current Oklahoma Christian students and alumni. This is the perfect opportunity to share your experiences with fellow members of the Oklahoma Christian community!

The “Table for Twelve” program is a recipe that has worked well for other colleges and universities across the country. After seeing the success of similar programs, OC’s Office for Alumni Relations decided to bring the “Table for Twelve” program here to Oklahoma Christian. We hope the program will turn into a great succession where students will eventually play host to the dinners as alumni.
MILESTONES

**Eric and Trisha (Estes) Hutcherson** announce the birth of their son, Adam Kyle, on June 19, 2005. Eric is a financial services representative for Metlife in Oklahoma City and a deacon at Central Church of Christ. Trisha in their hometown of Moore, Okla. Trisha received her master of library and information studies degree from the University of Oklahoma in 2002 and worked as a school librarian until Adam’s birth.

**James and Menda (Jackson 92) Lippe** live in Naperville, Ill. where Menda works as a first-grade teacher and James is a vice president for Pearson. Their daughters, Jenna and Macy, will attend OC in 2012 and 2016.

**Steven and Katie Montgomery** are proud to announce the birth of their son on July 24. He weighed seven pounds, 14 ounces.

**Carl and Carol (Hartman 93) Duncan** adopted Avah Marie (born July 24, 2006) on May 19, 2007. Avah Marie joined Kyler Cole (9) and Kambrin Shae (4).

**Alicia (Lici) Davis** married Scott Gregory Baker on January 13 in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

**Elijah Aaron Hannel** was born June 5 to Joe and Jennifer (Knight) Hannel. He weighed seven pounds, five ounces and measured 19-1/4 inches. He joins sister Samara (6) and brother Guy (2). Joe teaches fourth grade in Kansas City, Mo., and will graduate from the University of Central Missouri with his master’s degree in education administration in May. Jennifer homeschooled Samara and is finishing up a medical transcription certificate so she can work from home.

**Rich Hill** is a senior network engineer with DST Systems in Kansas City, Mo. He also works as an adjunct professor with DeVry University and is pursuing his master’s degree in networking and communications management at Keller Graduate School of Management. He and wife Lisa have been married for 11 years. They have two children: Drew (10) and Claire (4). Contact info: rich@thedutoriot.com.

**Kyle and Audrey (Dill 96) Mauck** are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Kerrigan Reese on June 12. She weighed seven pounds, two ounces and was 18 inches long. She joins big brother Carson (3). Contact info: www.maucktalk.blogspot.com.

**Mercenarie Elizabeth Barr**

**Josh Fowler** was promoted to service manager at Bob Moore Saturn of Edmond. His wife Heather (Kopf 99) is a stay-at-home mom and part-time gymnastics judge. They have three children: Dustin (7), Jodee (4) and Dylan (3).

**Nate and Ashley Myers** announce the birth of their first child, Amelia Claire. She was born on April 25; she weighed six pounds, 11.5 ounces. The Thompsons live in Frisco, Texas.

**Melissa (Farris) married David Vitale on January 27. Contact info: 12723 Persimmon Tree Drive, Charlotte, NC 28273.**

**Douglas Lowry** married Nikole Charvet on June 10, 2006. Their first son, Aiden Patrik, was born June 23, 2007. He weighed seven pounds, 15 ounces. They live in Houston, Texas, where Doug is a football/baseball coach and biology teacher at Stratford High School.

**Kerrigan Reese Mauck**

**Kerrigan Reese Mauck**

**Greg and Heather (Hudson 00) Brown** live in Albuquerque, N.M., with children Kennedy (3) and Hudson (10 mos.). Greg is a high school basketball coach and teacher. Heather works in the nuclear weapons division at Sandia National Laboratories.

**Ed and Courtney (Weger 99) Cantrell** have been working fulltime with the church in Chemnitz, Germany; since November 2001. They plan to move to Oklahoma City this November 2007, where they will continue their work spreading the word of God.

**Craig and Laura (Stinnett) Davis** have moved to Yukon, Okla. Craig still works as president/CEO of Fantasy Planet and Lara is a stay-at-home mom to Caleb (10), Noah (6), Levi (5) and Faith (2). Contact info: 925 Erinova Drive, Yukon, OK 73099.

**Wesley and Alicia (Andrews 99) Gunter** announce the birth of their son, Kyler Dane, on May 23. He joins big sister Jayna Claire. Contact info: agunter@mail.wphs.k12.mo.us.
April 12, 2008

5K Run
Pre-Race Meeting in front of the Williams-Branch Center for Biblical Studies

For more information, contact the Alumni Office at 405.425.5110 or visit www.oc.edu/funrun.

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:
- Convenient – No more checks for you to write and mail. Your gift is electronically transferred each month from your bank account to OC.
- Affordable – The total amount of your annual gift can be spread over a period of 12 months.
- Timely – Your gift goes to work immediately.
- Raises Participation – The EFT Gifting Program contributes positively to the university’s annual alumni participation rate.

Help OC by donating a Mocha-A-Month
Tall $3.90
Grande $4.45
Venti $5.00
Fill out the form at www.oc.edu/mocha
Katrina (Walkinshaw) Halcli gave birth to Elizabeth Claire on April 25 in Landstuhl, Germany. She weighed nine pounds, 11 ounces and was 22.4 inches long at birth. She joins John Matthew (3). Contact info: khalcli@hotmail.com.

Tina (Watkins) and Patrick Evans announce the birth of Abigail Josephine on February 11. Contact info: tina_evans@cox.net.

Ann Longfellow has been promoted to drama department chairhead at Urbandale High School in Urbandale, Iowa. Ann enjoys teaching high school drama and speech, as well as a public speaking course through Des Moines Area Community College. Contact info: 2616 Patricia Dr. #223, Urbandale, IA 50322 / annlongfellow@hotmail.com.

Chad and Cindy (Buchanan) Lowe announce the birth of their first child, Evan Keith, on September 27, 2006. They live in Moore, Okla.

Kyle and Janell (Herman) Mickelson recently moved to Richmond, Texas. Janell is the financial systems manager for Noble Drilling Services in Sugar Land, Texas. They attend Grueter Road Church of Christ in Rosenberg, Texas. They have two children: Garrett (2) and Aubrey (2). Contact info: mickeisonfamily@go.com.

Wayne and Rebecca (King) Weber announce the birth of their second son, Luke Allen, on July 23. He joins big brother Logan. Rebecca is a teacher and Wayne works for Cox Communications.

Josh and Jen (Roseberry) Foster announce the birth of their third son, Bryce Anderson, on October 22, 2006. He joins big brothers Ty Allen (3) and Brett Andrew (1). They live in Edmond, OK.

Lance and Gena Gilbert announce the birth of Breckan Asher on February 8. He weighed seven pounds, three ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. He joins big brother Aidan. Contact info: gilbertk4@uddenlink.net

Kyle and Jennifer (Childers) Granger welcomed their first child, Ella Marie, on March 3. They live in Edmond where Jennifer teaches second grade and Kyle works for Motorola at One Link Wireless.

Bobby Kern married Lisa Peoples on May 12, 2000. The live in the Little Rock area, where Bobby works as the student minister for Bryant Church of Christ.

Allison (Lang) married Scott Buechner on January 13. They moved to Edmond from Scottsdale, Ariz., due to Scott’s new job as a photojournalist at KWTV.

Seth and Katie (Kelsey 02) McDowell announce the birth of their son, Charles Michael, on December 28, 2006. He joins sister Macy (2). Contact info: 2908 Fairfield Dr., Edmond, OK 73003 / sethmcdowell@sbeglobal.net / katiemcdowell@yahoo.com.

Ben and Krystal (Rawls) Morris announce the birth of their daughter, Roselyn Jo, on April 19. Kaitlyn joins big sister Hannah.

In April, Joy Rainey became a kinship foster parent to one of her former students at Western Village Academy in Oklahoma City. She is pursuing official foster parenting certification at this time.

Jared Salisbury, Amanda (Young 98) Salisbury and Misty (Young 96) Hisch, along with Misty’s husband Warren and Pam and Lloyd Young, formed ShyJot Publications LLC in April. ShyJot’s services include greeting cards, custom-written and -illustrated stories, ghostwriting, and visual art services. Contact info: www.shyjot.com.

Clint and Rachel (Guess) Spencer announce the birth of their daughter, Roselyn Jo, on October 24, 2006. They live in Paris, Texas.
HEALTHY CHURCHES, WORKING CHURCHES

Conference focusing all forms of local church ministry on transformation.

www.oc.edu/Quest

Registration for the event and for accommodations opens on January 1, 2008. Visit the website or call 405.425.1980 for more info.

MAY 29–31, 2008

Classes and discussions on topics related to evangelism, missional churches, recruiting and training volunteers, worship, ministering to marriages and families, youth, children and women's ministries, and a lot more.
MILESTONES

Shawna (Robinson) lives in Sugar Land, Texas, with her husband, Carl Steplock IV. Their first child, a son, is due in mid-October.

Chris Young, director of women’s tennis at Wichita State University, received the Wilson/ITA Central Region Coach-of-the-Year award and is a finalist for the national coach-of-the-year award. Young’s Shockers finished the 2007 season with a school-record 27 wins and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Young has been named the Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year each of the past two seasons, winning two conference titles and making two NCAA Tournament appearances.

2001
Osvaldo and Clavelia (Sedillo 00) Cuarezma announce the birth of their third son, Jacob Antonio, on October 3, 2006. He has two big brothers Alejandro Javier (3) and Samuel Eloy (3). They live in Royal Oak, Mich.

Chris Gee and his wife Lacy recently built a new home in North Edmond. They have two children and one on the way. Chris owns his own businesses in the health care travel industries.

2002
Damon and Gina (Cummings 01) Blankinship announce the birth of their daughter, Carlee Marie, on June 29. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 inches long. She joins big sister Courtney Lanell. They live in Louisiana, where Damon is stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base. Contact info: dblankinship@bellsouth.net.

Melissa (Fuller) and Jason Clark announce the adoption of their son, Isaiah Jeffery (2), and the birth of their daughter, Addison Grace, on March 14.

Scott and Nerissa (Graves) Collins will both receive their MD degrees from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in May. They will do their residency training at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

2003
Heather Hartman graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in May. She works for Catholic Charities in its immigration law department. She and David Roberts (03) are getting married November 10. They met as English majors and Honors Program members at OC.

Chris and Sarah Newey have both completed their masters degrees in biomedical sciences and health administration, respectively. They live in Ohio, where they’re working to complete medical degrees. Chris will complete his doctor of osteopathic medicine degree in May. Sarah is finishing her first year of podiatry school.


Barrett and Rachel (Maple) Huddleston have moved. Barrett is the new theater/communications professor at OC. They are expecting their first child in the fall. Contact info: 13601 Pin Oak Place, Edmond, OK 73013.

Amanda (Wiens) and Derek Peek were married on December 22, 2006. Amanda is a licensed professional counselor working as a therapist for Integris Mental Health. They live in Edmond.

Ben and Kelly (Eroh) Tyson are proud to announce the arrival of Sophie Kathleen on June 26, 2007. Sophie was eight pounds, two ounces and 20 3/4 inches long.

Cale and Annika (Thornburg) Bryant announce the birth of their son Alec Judson (A.J.), on August 16, 2007.

2004
Kristopher Austin has a new job as a network engineer for 3Nines. The company administers and supports information technology for small and medium-sized businesses in the Oklahoma City metro area.

Peter and Kim (Bunger 98) Walden announce the birth of their son, Oliver Niklas, on May 21. He weighed seven pounds, six ounces. Oliver joins big sister Molly (4). Contact info: kwalden@oc.edu.

2001
2002
2003
2004
The Sixth-Annual Oklahoma Christian University Associates Dinner celebrating our generous donors and highlighting the University’s impact and bright future is set for March 27, 2008. Plan on being a part of this exciting gala event. Our past keynote speakers have included Ken Blanchard, Ken Starr, Ambassador Paul Bremer, Michael Medved, Gene Stallings and others. Your commitment and involvement make a difference!

OC Associates are Oklahoma Christian University supporters who contribute $1,000 or more per year. To become an OC Associate, contact the Oklahoma Christian University Office of Advancement.

- ph: 405.425.5094  
- email: john.desteiguer@oc.edu
Jana (Bridgwater) married William Travis McHam on March 17 in Arlington, Texas, where she grew up. Travis and Jana Kay have known each other for 16 years through Sooner Youth Camp in Ardmore, Okla. Contact info: janakay.mcham@gmail.com.

Nathan and Dene (Thomasson 03) Canter announce the birth of Julie Grace, born May 16. She was eight pounds, eight ounces and 20 1/4 inches.

Brad Cleveland recently opened a restaurant in Colorado Springs called Bird Dog BBQ. In its 31st month of operation, Bird Dog BBQ was voted Best BBQ in Colorado Springs by the Colorado Springs Gazette food panel. A second location is in the planning stages. Contact info: www.birddogbbq.com.

Abby & Dylan Burt

Abby Copeland will marry Dylan Burt on October 20. Abby and Dylan met while she was the director of communications and marketing at Cascade College. Abby and Dylan are now employed by Alaska Canopy Adventures in Juneau, Alaska, where he is the operations manager and she works with the marketing of this unique on-shore excursion business.

Brittany Dixon-Jones was married in 2006. She and her husband have a baby girl, Kylie (8 mos).

Carly (Graham) Harris completed her master's degree in family and child studies from the University of Central Oklahoma in May. She and her husband Jared live in Oklahoma City with their newborn baby boy.

After working with emerging web technologies for the past three years, Ted Howard has co-authored a book on ThinWire, a web technology he co-developed. The book is being published by Prentice Hall. It is available at www.phptr.com/title/0132366223.

Trevor and Jennifer (Reagan) McIntyre announce the birth of McKenzie Anne, born July 6 in Misawa, Japan.

Tim and Leann (Bailey 97) Priebe announce the birth of their second son, Jackson Carter. Jackson was born December 18, 2006; he joins big brother Joshua (3). Tim runs a web design business, T&S Web Design, based in Edmond. Leann is a stay-at-home mom and works as a teacher at Edmond Church of Christ's Sonshine School.

The Matt Stansberry Band

Matt Stansberry, Denver Greene (03) and Ben Tinius (03) of The Matt Stansberry Band (MSB) recently performed two concerts in Hollywood, Calif., in support of their latest EP release, Hall of Giants. MSB was nominated for “Best Group with Vocal” at this year’s L.A. Music Awards for its track, “Code Red.” The band also was showcased at the Heart of Texas Music Festival during Austin’s South by Southwest. Contact info: www.mattstansberryband.com.

2005

On June 14, Jonathan Ball was promoted from second lieutenant to first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force after two years of service as a civil engineer. Since receiving his commission in 2005, he has been stationed in Missouri at Whiteman Air Force Base, the home of the B-2 stealth bomber. Contact info: ocengrts@alumni.oc.edu.

Michelle (Britt) married Nick Sanders in July 2006. They recently moved to Broken Arrow, Okla., where Nick works at Flight Safety International.

David and Monica (Magee) Paden announce the birth of Benjamin Samuel Paden, born June 29, 2006.

Nicole (Philen) and Joseph Elerson were married July 6, 2006. They live in Sulphur Springs, Texas, where Joseph is a sportswriter and Nicole stays home.

Maida Raine Scharrer was born to Kara (Kinkel) and Erik Scharrer on May 3. She weighed eight pounds, one ounce and was 21 inches long.

Sarah and Cory Smith were married January 13 in Marysville, Ohio.

Jeremy and Kerri (Taylor) Vogel announce the adoption of their daughter, Brooke Madison, on May 7 in the Philippines. The Vogels live in Wichita Kan. Contact info: jvogel3@cox.net.

2006

Austin and Amy (Freeman) Jones were married on August 11 in Azle, Texas. They live in Edmond, Okla., where Amy is an engineering assistant for JMA Energy Company, LLC. Austin is a student at the University of Central Oklahoma; he will graduate in May. Contact info: amyjones83@gmail.com.

Jamie Kessler graduated from Southwest Airlines’ Inflight Training program in April and began a career as a flight attendant. She is based out of Orlando, Fla.

Phil and Tara (Brown 02) Klutts were married on July 6 in OC’s Scott Chapel. They live in Broken Arrow, Okla., where Tara is a math teacher. Phil is a personal trainer; he is going back to school to get his EMT license.

John and Melissa (Sneed 05) Mullins announce the birth of their daughter, Ella Grace, on June 29. She weighed nine pounds, two ounces and was 21 inches long.

Renae (Rutledge) Quiriz got married Sept. 2, 2006, in Arlington, Texas. She and her husband live in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Sam Ward was recently accepted to the College of Dentistry at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. He will graduate in 2011.

Luke and Amanda (Forrester 05) Watson announce the birth of their daughter, Nora Violet, on July 13 in Oklahoma City. The Watsons live in Edmond, where Luke is an engineer at Chesapeake Energy and Amanda is an assistant in OC’s Student Life Office.

2007

Jon Watje is a reporter for the Mustang Times in Mustang, Okla.

In Memoriam

Brian Windell passed away on August 8 in a car accident. He was completing his degree in mechanical engineering and would have graduated December 2007. He worked as a sales engineer for Air Products Supply in Oklahoma City. He leaves behind a wife of five years, Amy (Smith 02), and a beautiful daughter, Kaija Denae, who was born November 29, 2006. A trust fund has been set up for Kaija’s education at any BanFirst. Amy is staying in Oklahoma City; she works as a teacher at Putnam City High School. Contact info: elephish02@yahoo.com.
Eagle Connect 2.0, your one-stop shop for networking with other alumni, catching up on the latest OC alumni news, finding out about and registering for upcoming events, submitting Milestones and photos, maintaining your alumni profile, and much more!

connect.oc.edu

LOG ON & SIGN UP TODAY!

SHOW SOME SPIRIT!

Wearing maroon face paint every day can be a drag. Take a break and wear the latest OC clothing instead. Astound your friends with a plethora of dazzling Eagles gear. Get the kids in on the action, with miniature clothes that even compass-compas would envy.

UShopOC.com

We ALL Shop OC!
ABOUT OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY
Founded in 1950 as Central Christian College; comprehensive Christian university serving more than 2,400 students; affiliated with the churches of Christ; 14 academic departments operate in one of three colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Biblical Studies, and the College of Professional Studies; students choose from more than 60 majors and 30 additional areas of study; graduate degrees include the Master of Arts in Ministry, the Master of Divinity, and the Master of Business Administration.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION
• Designated by Princeton Review as a Best Midwestern College.
• Only member of the 105-school Council for Christian Colleges and Universities with three engineering degree programs accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.
• Ranked 17th among the 50 most unwired college campuses by the Intel Corporation.
• Named by the John Templeton Foundation as an institution that inspires students to lead ethical and civic-minded lives in its guide, Colleges That Encourage Character Development.

ACADEMIC POINTS OF PRIDE (2006–07)
• 90% of OC students who applied to medical schools were accepted.
• 100% of OC language and literature students who applied to graduate school were accepted.
• 100% job placement rate for OC’s School of Education graduates.
• 100% of OC education graduates passed the mandatory statewide qualifying exams.
• No. 1 pass rate on the CPA exam among accounting graduates from all Oklahoma universities for 11 of the past 13 years.
• Named “Best Chapter” in the National History Honor Society of all U.S. universities with 3,000 or fewer students for the 11th straight year.

ACCREDITATION
• Oklahoma Christian University: Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
• School of Business Administration: Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs
• School of Education: National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education
• School of Engineering: The mechanical, electrical and computer engineering degree programs are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).
• Department of Music: National Association of Schools of Music

FACTS
• 15-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio.
• 71% of classes contain less than 30 students.
• Every fulltime student receives a Dell laptop computer; wireless Internet access throughout campus.
• 20 study abroad and off-campus learning options.
• 60 student organizations.
• More than 60% of student body involved in ongoing service and ministry opportunities.
• More than 40 student service and ministry opportunities.
• 500 students, faculty, and staff members participate in mission opportunities each year in more than 30 countries on six continents. Some countries served include Australia, Austria, China, Croatia, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Rwanda, Switzerland, and the United States.
• More than 250 students participate in 13 Varsity sports, including baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, and track and field.
• 96% of undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid.
During the past three decades, 70 to 80% of all Americans who died did so without an executed Last Will and Testament.

The importance of a properly drafted and executed will cannot be overstated; especially for families with minor children.

Without a will, if both parents die, the probate judge must determine who among the surviving family members will raise the minor children. A will gives clear guidance to the judge and removes this uncertainty. Also, your properly drafted and executed will distributes your property according to your wishes.

Again, without a proper will or trust, a judge must follow the intestacy laws of your state in distributing your assets. Your properly drafted and executed will allows you to determine who will raise your children and share in the benefits of your estate rather than leaving the decision to a probate judge.

With a properly drafted and executed will, you determine these vitally important issues before they occur. If you do not have a will, or if you need to revise or update your old will, please check with a local estate planning attorney. Contact OC’s Office of Planned Giving at (405) 425-5118 or at stephen.eck@oc.edu for free information on the importance of a Last Will and Testament. In addition to providing free information on executing a will, we can help you find a good local estate planning attorney in your area. Go to www.oc.edu/plannedgiving for more info.

Bonds’ legacies enrich Oklahoma Christian

Although Virgil and Jo Bond’s diligent and significant financial support of Oklahoma Christian University began almost two decades ago, the gift of their own family is even greater.

Virgil and Jo sent their daughter, Joye Hanegan (79), to Oklahoma Christian, where she met her husband, Ronald Hanegan (78). Years later, Robert and Joye sent their sons, Michael (06) and Jonathan (06), to OC.

Virgil and Jo have always spoken with deep pride about their family ... and with good reason. Their grandsons have put their talents to work for the Kingdom. Michael is a minister in Pryor, Okla., and Jonathan serves as a missionary in Caracas, Venezuela.

As partners in the work at OC, Virgil and Jo have significantly affected the life-development of many students on this campus, not just their own.

During OC’s “On Wings as Eagles Campaign” in the late 1980s, Virgil and Jo established their first OC Charitable Gift Annuity, followed a few years later by their second.

“Gift annuities are a great way to support Oklahoma Christian,” Virgil said. “They help the university and they help us with dependable monthly income.”

An OC Charitable Gift Annuity is a simple agreement between the university and the donor that obligates the university to pay a fixed amount every year to the donor (either monthly, quarterly or annually).

OC ascribes to the rate recommendation of the American Council on Gift Annuities, which is determined by financial market conditions and increase based on the age of the donor. CGAs are extremely flexible and can be structured to pay income for one or two individual lives.

A CGA is an ideal way to support OC in the future and provide attractive monthly income for yourself right now. For many OC CGA donors, the tax-favored treatment of the CGA payments is the most attractive aspect.

Depending on the type of asset used to fund the CGA, the tax benefits can be substantial. Donors receive a current year charitable income tax deduction and about one-third of the income received from the CGA payments is generally tax-free.

To see a specific illustration of what an OC CGA looks like in comparison to your certificates of deposit or other fixed income investments, go to www.oc.edu/plannedgiving to build your own gift illustration or call Stephen Eck at (405) 425-5118. Eck can prepare a no-cost, no-obligation personalized illustration for your review.
Building community starts with a place: a place to ponder a professor's remark, think on theology, or share french fries with a friend.

Building community is the inspiration behind the Memorial Bench Program at Oklahoma Christian University. The goal is to place practical, yet handsome, park benches around the campus in places that complement the campus landscaping and pedestrian traffic.

Creating a more user-friendly, comfortable environment enables people to slow down between classes, appointments and Chapel. The proper time and space will foster the kind of valuable relationships that are found in community.

“We want to offer folks the opportunity to relax and enjoy the atmosphere that surrounds them,” said John Michener, director of the Memorial Bench Program.

Through the generosity of alumni, friends and trustees, the first benches have already been placed on campus. In fact, the OC Board of Development sponsored nearly two dozen benches which grace Lawson Commons and honor OC’s Faculty Emeriti.

“I can’t think of a better way to memorialize those who have loved and served OC than to add beauty and practicality to our campus,” OC First Lady Nancy O’Neal said.

These six-foot benches exhibit classic proportions. The heavy teakwood from which they are fashioned is exceptionally durable and weather-resistant.

Each bench will be fully endowed, having a place on campus for as long as the Lord blesses Oklahoma Christian with students. Through an attached bronze plaque, these elegant benches offer the opportunity to permanently memorialize or honor a loved one, or to simply reflect your love for OC.

Endowing a bench requires a tax-deductible contribution of only $1,500. Contact John Michener at (405) 425-5134 or at john.michener@oc.edu to arrange the endowment of a bench today.
MEMORIAL DONORS

2006

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

Admiral John Kirkpatrick
Bobby and Millie Prince Roberson

Dr. John R. McRary, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Houck
Ms. Linda Pesterfield

Dr. Kim K. Gaither, Ph.D.
Miss Allison D. Armstrong

Kathy Carpenter
Dr. and Mrs. David Goin

Adam L. Langford
1997 Edmond Santa Fe High School Sr. Class
Dr. Tina Ware
Mr. & Mrs. James Kimbrell, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bruner
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hays
Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Dickey
Mr. and Mrs. David Seat
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Bogle
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Fields
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Poland
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Stanley
Mr. and Mrs. Randy A. Heath
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Vaughn
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Rasch
Mrs. Neva McRay
Ms. Glenda Griggs
Ms. Karlena Risenhoover
Ms. Kristen Rogstad
Ms. Mary C. Henson
Ms. Peggy Jones
Ms. Renee Grau

Anthony Sims
Dr. and Mrs. Scott LaMascus
Mr. Nelson & Dr. Penny Eubank

Carl Redgate
Mrs. Sandie Olson

Charles L. Floyd
Dr. and Mrs. J. Terry Johnson
Dr. and Mrs. John D. Sudbury
Ms. Joan W. Burns
Pinchak & Co.

Charles L. Mackey, Jr.
Mr. Charles L. Mackey, Jr.

Cliff Knight
Bobby and Millie Prince Roberson

Dan Reiter
Mr. and Mrs. Billie Eskew
Mr. and Mrs. Don Ziegler
Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Kirtley
Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Reiter
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Ferrell
Ms. Dorothy Cowles

Edward C. Joullian, III
Bobby and Millie Prince Roberson

Frank Owlsley
Park Plaza Church of Christ

Fred L. French
Mr. and Mrs. Danney Lidia

Glen Swan
Mr. and Mrs. David Byrnes

Guy Roberson
Bobby and Millie Prince Roberson

Harry Jett
Dr. and Mrs. David Goin

Howard Russell
Bobby and Millie Prince Roberson

Jake Worthen
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Walton

James H. Mason
Dr. and Mrs. James Mason, Jr.

Jerrol Harmon
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Rowlett

John R. McRary
Ms. Linda Pesterfield

Kenneth A. Murray
Dr. and Mrs. Jim Murray

Logan D. Iverson
Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Fletcher

Malcolm P. Hinkley
Memorial Road Church of Christ

R. Glenn McFarland
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Vaughn

Richard Hostetler
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Agent

S. R. Bryant, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Lamb
Dr. and Mrs. Todd Wright
Memorial Road Church of Christ

Mr. and Mrs. Randy A. Heath
Ms. Juanita Foshee
Ms. Betty Sue Clarke
Ms. Margo Thein
Ms. Nancy C. Ralls

Sam P. Ingram
Mr. and Mrs. A. Glass
Ms. Jamey Green
Ms. Janet Desgalier

Christine Mason
Dr. and Mrs. James Mason, Jr.

Cleo Cochran
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bryant

Elva McRary
Dr. and Mrs. David Keck
Dr. and Mrs. John B. Minnett
Mr. and Mrs. Hank Henderson
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Howard
Mr. and Mrs. John Mosley
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Tom London
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy J. Mills
Mr. Lyndal Robertson
Ms. Leah London
Ms. Linda Pesterfield
Ms. Mary Ellen Wall

Helene E. Pennybacker
Bobby and Millie Prince Roberson
Mr. and Mrs. Larry J. Wallace

Janet Carter
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Herndon

Juanita Woodward
Bobby and Millie Prince Roberson
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Leonardi
Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Davis

Loyle Youngblood
Mr. David R. Brown, Revocable

Maxine Bryant
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Lamb
Dr. and Mrs. Todd Wright
Ms. Betty Sue Clarke

Mildred Worthen
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Walton

Patsy J. Tippens
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Walton

Theodore Barnes
Bobby and Millie Prince Roberson

Bobbie Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Vaughn

Honorarium
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Sylvania Branch
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blank

Dr. Molly C. Hill
Dr. Al Mikell
Dr. and Mrs. Bill Luttrell
Dr. and Mrs. David Cassel

Dr. and Mrs. David J. Waldo
Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Feuerhelm
Dr. and Mrs. Owen R. Mitchell
Dr. and Mrs. Troy Hamlett
Dr. and Mrs. William Ryan, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. John D. Sortwell
Dr. and Mrs. William R. Killmer
Dr. Kris and Robyn Miller
Dr. Kris and Robyn Miller
Dr. Mike and Peggy Gibson
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred C. Branch
Mr. and Mrs. Don G. Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. Don Lefitch
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Huntsman
Mr. and Mrs. James Elkins
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Perkins
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Yang
Mr. and Mrs. Sid Brown
Mr. Bryan and Dr. Holly Hixson
Mr. Jim and Dr. Lisa McWhirter
Mrs. Lindsey J. Long
Ms. Jennifer Bryan
Philanthropists

Max and Ramona Dobson
Dr. and Mrs. Max Dobson

Mr. Ray Hardin
Bobby and Millie Prince Roberson

Ms. Velma Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. Mark A. Jackson

Memorial Benches

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Branch
“In honor of Alfred and Judy Branch”

The Grandview Group
“In honor of Richard & Pat Lawson, this bench is dedicated by The Grandview Group 2007”

Kyle & Janell Mickelson
“In loving memory of Joe D. Herman III
1974-1999, from his brother-in-law and sister”

“In appreciation for Jim Stephens’ 23 years of dedicated service as Director of the Physical Plant”

Honour 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. Their gifts also are acknowledged in the fall issue of VISION magazine. For more information, contact John Michener at (405) 425-5134 or at john.michener@oc.edu.
OC ENJOYS FOURTH RECORD YEAR

Fall enrollment reached record levels for the fourth consecutive year at Oklahoma Christian.

Total enrollment for the fall semester is 2,258 students, which includes 1,998 undergraduate and 260 graduate students. The undergraduate enrollment is a 6.5 percent increase over the previous year while graduate enrollment was up 5.7 percent. Improved retention rates and aggressive recruiting and marketing contributed to the increase.

“Our goal is to continue to bring the best and the brightest here from around the globe and to prepare them to make a difference in the world,” OC president Mike O’Neal said. “They will receive first-rate academic training while being transformed for Christian faith, leadership and service.”

The university’s popular fast-track MBA program also continues to grow, with 210 students enrolled this fall, a 10.5 percent increase over 2006. An additional 50 students are enrolled in OC’s Master of Arts and Master of Divinity programs in the College of Biblical Studies.

OC’s first year of international recruiting efforts brought 68 new international students to campus, boosting the total to 195. More than half of OC’s undergraduate students are from outside Oklahoma.

OC RECEIVES $2.5 MILLION GIFT FROM McNALLYS

Oklahoma Christian recently received a gift of approximately $2.5 million from the estate of Edna McNally.

“We are very excited to have this important donation from one of our dearest friends,” OC president Dr. Mike O’Neal said. “Although Edna and her husband, Vernon, were not alumni of Oklahoma Christian, over the last few years they were certainly among our most loyal supporters. Their love for this university and its mission will make a difference in the lives of many young people for generations to come.”

Oklahoma Christian named one of its new student housing apartment complexes after the McNallys. The school also endowed the Edna McNally Scholarship with proceeds from charitable gift annuities she funded in the several years before her death in January 2006 at age 87.

With Edna’s encouragement, her brother, Dale Cropp, also established two charitable gift annuities with Oklahoma Christian.

“Edna McNally was a person of tremendous conviction, compassion and commitment,” Director of Church Relations Bob Rowley said. “She had a love of young people and wanted to see them have an opportunity to come to school and reach their full potential in life. Edna and Vernon were wonderful Christians who just wanted to help others.”

After graduating from Northwestern Oklahoma State College in 1943 with a degree in elementary education, Edna taught for 37 years. She was selected as Woods County Teacher of the Year in 1978.

Edna and Vernon were married in 1942 and they lived and worked on their farm for 38 years before moving into Waynoka in 1981. Vernon, who passed away in 2002 at the age of 84, was very active in the community. He was instrumental in obtaining grants to build the Waynoka Health Clinic and the Waynoka Manufacturing Company, now CDR.

The McNallys’ generosity extended to other organizations, including their church, the In Search of the Lord’s Way television program, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Waynoka High School, and the Share Medical Center in Alva. Vernon and Edna were members of the Elm and Murrow Church of Christ in Waynoka.

TULSA ALUMNI RAISE MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Tulsa chapter of the Oklahoma Christian Women’s Association, in a joint effort with the Green Country Alumni Chapter, recently raised more than $3,000 for student scholarships at their annual “Swing For Scholarships” golf tournament in June.

Twenty-one teams of four golfers competed in the tournament and enjoyed an afternoon of fun and fellowship at the LaFortune Park Golf Course in Tulsa.

For information on how to join OCWA’s Tulsa chapter and/or the Green Country alumni chapter, contact Dewayna Petre (OCWA Tulsa president) at dewayna petre@cox.net or Eric Begin (Green Country alumni chapter president) at ebegins@mcgivernlaw.com.

If you missed the tournament, but still want to help fund scholarships at Oklahoma Christian, donations can be made through the university’s online giving page, www.oc.edu/givenow.

TONY SNOW TO SPEAK AT OC

Former White House press secretary Tony Snow will speak at Oklahoma Christian on November 29.

Snow will be on campus as part of the Hatton W. Summers Distinguished Speaker Series, sponsored by OC’s Academy of Leadership and Liberty. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. in Hardeman Auditorium.

Snow served as the White House press secretary for the George W. Bush administration from May 2006 to September 2007. In 1991, he served as director of speechwriting and as deputy assistant to the president for media affairs for President George H.W. Bush.

Snow spent a quarter of a century in the news business, working in print, radio and television. He started his career in 1979 as an editorial writer for the Greensboro Record in North Carolina. He’s written nationally-syndicated columns for both the Detroit News and USA Today.

Snow hosted Fox News Sunday on Fox News Channel for seven years. He also hosted The Tony Snow Show on Fox News Radio and Weekend Live with Tony Snow on the Fox News Channel.

Prior to his media career, the Davidson College graduate taught physics and geography in Kenya, and was a substitute teacher in Cincinnati, teaching everything from calculus to art. He also worked as an advocate for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled in North Carolina.
In February 2005, Snow was diagnosed with colon cancer. After successful colon surgery, Snow began a course of chemotherapy treatment and returned to work at Fox News in April 2005. In March 2007, 10 months after becoming White House press secretary, Snow’s doctors discovered his cancer had returned. After another surgery, Snow resumed his White House duties in April and began a second round of chemotherapy treatment, which he completed just prior to leaving the Bush Administration.

For ticket information, go to the Academy of Leadership and Liberty website at www.oc.edu/academy. For more info, email academy@oc.edu.

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER LECTURES AT OC

Pulitzer Prize winner Marilynne Robinson was the keynote speaker at Oklahoma Christian’s third-annual McBride Lecture for Faith & Literature in October.

Named for Dr. Bailey and Joyce McBride, the annual lecture brings nationally-known speakers to the university to explore the relationship of Christian faith and literature.

Robinson’s novel, Gilead, won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the 2004 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction.

Her 1980 novel, Housekeeping, won the PEN/Hemingway Award for First Fiction and the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Award from the Academy of American Arts and Letters.

Robinson also is the author of influential nonfiction and essays. Her works have appeared in publications such as Harper’s, Paris Review and The New York Times Book Review.

Robinson met with students in a variety of additional venues and formats during her visit to Oklahoma Christian.

“Marilynne Robinson has been called a ‘living great’ American author and readers know her novels speak of important issues for the American soul,” Professor of English Scott LaMascus said. “We are grateful for all the partnerships which make possible these free, public lectures by leading figures in the nation.”

Co-sponsors of Robinson’s visit included the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the Oklahoma Scholarship-Leadership Enrichment Program (OSLEP) of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. An OSLEP seminar will be conducted with students from across the state during Robinson’s visit.

FRANKS DELIVERS COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

General Tommy Franks, retired four-star general and former Commander-and-Chief of the United States Central Command, delivered the address at OC’s summer commencement.

At the culmination of a four-decade military career, General Franks led American and Coalition troops in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

General Franks has earned several awards, including five Distinguished Service Medals, four Legions of Merit, four Bronze Stars and three Purple Hearts, as well as various foreign awards. In 2004, General Franks was awarded the highest civilian award in the United States, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Since his retirement in 2003, General Franks has traveled the world, speaking on leadership, character and the value of democracy. He also became a best-selling author when his autobiography, American Soldier, debuted at No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list in 2004.

“General Franks has had an immense impact on our country and our hope is that he inspired our students to change our country and the world,” OC president Mike O’Neal said.

During the commencement ceremony, W. L. Fletcher III received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree for his commitment to serving the church, his family and community.

Fletcher, a 40-year veteran of the insurance business in the San Diego area, dedicated much of his time to establishing groups that benefit others, especially young people. He helped found the San Diego Christian Foundation, serving as chair for 18 years.

Fletcher sits on the board of directors for The Christian Chronicle and the board of regents for Pepperdine University.

OC SCHOLARSHIP FUND NAMED FOR VARNERS

An endowed scholarship fund in OC’s Department of Language and Literature has been named the Dr. Paul and Dr. Jeanine Varner Scholarship Endowment for Literary Arts. The fund will generate scholarships to support student editors of Soundings, OC’s literary magazine, and to support excellence in the literary arts.

“I am deeply honored by the establishment of the Scholarship for Literary Arts,” Jeanine Varner said. “I see the establishment of this scholarship as a wonderful recognition of our love for OC and its students. Paul and I believe wholeheartedly in the mission of Christian higher education, and it’s a thrill to think that someday soon a student will be receiving this scholarship and benefiting from an excellent OC education.”

The Varners recently left Oklahoma Christian for similar positions at Abilene Christian University. Jeanine served the university for 20 years – first as an English faculty member, then as chair of the Department of Language and Literature, then as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and, most recently, as vice president for academic affairs. As a renowned professor of English, Paul Varner enriched the lives of many OC students and alumni.

“Their influence on students, faculty and administration will be celebrated and renewed each year as the Varner Scholarship is awarded,” said Dr. Scott LaMascus, professor of English and past chair of the Department of Language and Literature. “This scholarship will be a fitting reminder of their legacy as outstanding alumni, professors, Christian mentors and leaders of our academic programs.”

Paul was the first student editor of Soundings. As an author, he has established a national reputation as a scholar of American literature of the West and has a significant record of scholarly publication and presentation on Fredrick Faust, a.k.a. Max Brand. He currently has two books under contract.

Jeanine was a major contributor as a professor and administrator. She led two self-studies that resulted in 10-year reaccreditations for the university, guided
successful accreditation reports and gained accreditation for the Master of Divinity and Master of Business Administration programs. She was a major contributor to the development of the OC Honors Program and the new nursing program.

“We owe a great debt of gratitude to the Varners for the tremendous job they have done as teachers and administrator,” OC president Mike O’Neal said. “They deserve much of the credit for the significant advancement the university has made in achieving academic excellence in recent years.”

To help honor the Varners, send donations to the Drs. Paul and Jeanine Varner Scholarship Endowment in care of the Advance Office, Oklahoma Christian University, Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100.

LIBRARY COLLECTION TO HONOR TONY ALLEY

Dr. Tony Alley is known by alumni, students, and the entire OC community as a professor who cares deeply about his students.

Besides his deep spiritual and academic impact on his students, Alley is known for his scholarship and expertise in the field of computer design and new media.

To encourage students to further their own research and scholarship, he has donated his personal books to OC’s Beam Library to establish the Tony Alley Computer Design and New Media Collection.

If you want to honor Dr. Alley’s contribution to your life or to the field of computer graphics and new media, you can add to the Tony Alley Collection by purchasing a book from Tony’s Amazon.com wishlist. You can access the list through www.oc.edu/tonysbooks.

Books purchased from the list will be shipped directly to Dr. Alley and will be added to the collection to benefit both current and future students.

For more information about his project, contact Tamie Willis at (405) 425-5320 or at tamie.willis@oc.edu.

‘GREETING GANG’ GIVES WARM WELCOME

The day college freshmen move into their dorms usually causes much fear and excitement. Volunteers at Oklahoma Christian tried to make the transition a little easier with a tradition that began last year.

More than 80 volunteers — known as the “Greeting Gang” — were stationed in front of the university’s main entrance and each of the residence halls on move-in day in August. The goal was to make new students feel welcome, help them unload their belongings and provide refreshments throughout the day.

“People have a lot of stuff to move in these days, so anything we can do to make a good impression and help them out, that’s what we’re trying to do,” Associate Dean of Students Jeff Bennett said. “It’s really a helpful thing, making people feel welcome and showing hospitality from the campus community.”

A NIGHT OF FUN FOR ALUMNI FAMILIES

Almost 900 people gathered on campus on June 22 for OC’s Family Fun Night, sponsored by Citizens Bank of Edmond.

While children took turns on the inflatable obstacle course, rock wall, moon bounce, and pony rides, adults fellowshipped with friends and enjoyed a pleasant June evening on OC’s campus.

Families were treated to free hot dogs, a magic show, a concert by OC’s Summer Singers, a perfect Oklahoma summer sunset, and an outdoor showing of the Disney Pixar hit “Cars” on a giant outdoor movie screen.

TRAVEL TO ROME WITH OC IN NOVEMBER 2008

The Alumni Office is looking for individuals, families, and groups who are interested in taking part in a nine-day excursion to Rome, Italy, next year.

The trip, scheduled for November 29-December 7, 2008, will feature a seven-night stay at the Mercure Roma Delta Colosseo hotel in the heart of Rome.

The schedule will include guided tours of some of Rome’s most magnificent historical and cultural sights, time for exploring the city on your own or with a group, the opportunity to take optional day trips to nearby points of interest, and a chance to cultivate new and old friendships with other OC alumni.

The trip cost of $1,900 per person for double occupancy and $2,150 per person for single occupancy includes:

- Round-trip air transportation with a major airline, airport transfers and escorts
- The services of a bilingual tour director
- Hotel accommodations and service charges, plus tips, baggage handling and local taxes
- Buffet breakfast daily
- Private deluxe motor coach with reclining seats and restroom

For more information, call (405) 425-5110 or go to www.oc.edu/rome.

TEAM OC PARTICIPATES IN MEMORIAL MARATHON

Almost 200 OC alumni, students, faculty and staff members teamed up in April to participate in the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon.

The team members, including university president Mike O’Neal, all participated in some form of the race, from the marathon to the marathon relay teams to the fun walk.

In addition to representing Oklahoma Christian, “Team OC” served as a good way to connect the university with the community and pay tribute to the victims of the Oklahoma City federal building bombing.

Director of Admissions Darci Thompson coordinated OC’s effort and achieved a personal milestone by running her first full marathon.

“We wanted to promote health and community on campus and outreach,” Thompson said.

Curtis Janz, chairman of the physical education department and associate head coach for OC’s men’s basketball team, said he hopes the relay team and fitness program will help students work on more than just their minds.

“I hope this is a beginning to a campus that is more fully functioning,” Janz said.

For more information about the Alumni Office, call (405) 425-5110 or go to www.oc.edu/rome.
OC PLACES 29TH IN DIRECTORS’ CUP

Oklahoma Christian University placed 29th in the final 2006-07 U.S. Sports Academy Directors’ Cup standings released June 12. The ranking was the highest for Oklahoma Christian since a seventh-place finish in 2002-03.

“We have a rich athletic tradition at Oklahoma Christian that we work very hard to uphold,” OC athletic director DeWayne Hall said. “This accomplishment highlights what was a great year for our athletic programs both on and off the field of play.”

Half of OC’s 12 programs finished in the top 15 nationally, led by a third-place finish by the men’s golf team and a national quarterfinal appearance by the men’s soccer team.

Women’s tennis, women’s basketball and women’s soccer all notched ninth-place finishes for Oklahoma Christian.

Other contributors to OC’s Directors’ Cup total were men’s cross country, men’s outdoor track and field, men’s indoor track and field, and women’s outdoor track and field.

In addition to OC’s team success, Eagle and Lady Eagle athletes combined to win 25 individual NAIA All-America honors in 2006-07. Oklahoma Christian also built on its strong academic reputation by totaling a school-record 30 NAIA Scholar-Athletes for the second straight year.

OC HONORED WITH NAIA SCHOLAR TEAMS

Eleven of OC’s 12 varsity programs had cumulative grade point averages of more than 3.0 in 2006-07.

Ten of those teams landed on the NAIA’s 2006-07 scholar team list, which recognizes teams with GPAs of 3.0 or higher. Oklahoma Christian was one of just eight schools nationwide to have 10 or more teams on the NAIA list.

“We take great pride in our student-athletes and their commitment to academic excellence. This honor is for our outstanding coaches and student-athletes whose undying efforts to excel on and off the field make us all proud,” OC athletic director DeWayne Hall said.

OC’s total was the highest of all schools in the Sooner Athletic Conference and NAIA Region VI. Oklahoma Christian had 10 of the 17 scholar teams from the state of Oklahoma (59 percent) and 10 of the 22 scholar teams from the SAC (45 percent).

The OC teams on the list were women’s basketball (3.56 GPA), women’s cross country (3.55 GPA), men’s cross country (3.46 GPA), women’s tennis (3.45 GPA), men’s tennis (3.43 GPA), women’s track and field (3.43 GPA), men’s track and field (3.34 GPA), softball (3.25 GPA), women’s soccer (3.19 GPA), and men’s golf (3.15 GPA).

Men’s basketball also surpassed the standard with a 3.17 GPA while men’s soccer was on the cusp with a 2.96 cumulative GPA.

OC EARNS CENTENNIAL RECOGNITION

Oklahoma Christian was well-represented on prestigious “best-of” lists published by the Oklahoman newspaper in celebration of the state’s centennial.

Jeff Bennett, who placed fourth in the decathlon at the 1972 Summer Olympic Games, was No. 91 on the Oklahoman’s list of the 100 greatest athletes in state history.

Prior to his Olympic success, Bennett won three NAIA national championships representing Oklahoma Christian.

He was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1976 and was a charter honoree of the OC Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991. He is now an assistant coach for OC’s track and field program and also serves as the university’s associate dean of students.

The Eagles’ Nest ranked No. 84 on the listing of the top 100 sports venues in Oklahoma history. Oklahoman columnist Berry Tramel said the Nest boasted “the best small-college atmosphere in the state.”

The Eagles’ Nest was one of just two non-NCAA Division I current college venues to make the list. It is home to the OC’s basketball teams and to OC Cage Camp, known as the best fundamental basketball camp in this part of the United States.

In addition to the Nest’s recognition, Midwest Trophy landed at No. 74 on the Oklahoman’s sports venue list. Midwest

Trophy (now known as MTM Recognition) produces the hardware for the majority of America’s sports championships, including the BCS.

David Smith, an Oklahoma Christian alumnus and a member of the OC Athletic Hall of Fame, is MTM’s founder and chief executive officer.

Another OC alum, Sherri Coale, was No. 46 on the Oklahoman’s list of the greatest coaches and sports contributors in Oklahoma’s 100 years as a state.

Coale, a member of OC’s Athletic Hall of Fame, has won five Big 12 regular-season championships and four Big 12 tournament titles as head coach of the University of Oklahoma women’s basketball team. She led the 2000-01 Sooners to the NCAA national championship game.

Academically, her team has posted 21 straight semesters with a combined GPA of 3.0 or better.

As a point guard for the Lady Eagles, Coale was an NAIA Academic All-American in 1987 after helping Oklahoma Christian win Sooner Athletic Conference championships in 1984, 1985 and 1986.

LADY EAGLES EARN NATIONAL AWARDS

The Lady Eagle basketball team achieved two other impressive team honors following its 2006-07 Sweet 16 season.

The Lady Eagles were the national winners of the NAIA’s “Champions of Character” award. The honor goes to a team that exemplifies the NAIA’s five core character values of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship.

Throughout the year, the women’s basketball team has been involved in community and area activities that included the Cancer Relay for Life, mentoring and physical fitness programs at elementary schools, Thanksgiving meal distribution and a fundraiser for medical missions.
“This is something our team can take pride in because it truly was a team program,” Findley said. “Their involvement and commitment away from the practice floor added a new dimension to being a team member and the meaning of team unity.”

The Lady Eagles also placed third nationally on the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association academic honor roll, marking the program’s sixth appearance in the past 10 years.

“We set a goal every year to finish in the top 10. This is a really great honor for our girls and something we worked very hard for,” Findley said. “This is a great group achievement for our team and it highlights what we want our players to stand for.”

**LE WINS ARTHUR ASHE AWARD**

OC’s Jennifer Le was named the 2007 NAIA recipient of the Arthur Ashe Leadership and Sportsmanship Award, presented by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

Le, a three-time NAIA All-American and two-time NAIA Scholar-Athlete honoree, received the prestigious award at the NAIA Women’s Tennis National Tournament, where she led the Lady Eagles to the Sweet 16.

The Arthur Ashe Award is based on tennis accomplishments, scholastic and extracurricular achievements, sportsmanship, leadership and character.

Le is the second OC athlete to receive the Arthur Ashe Award. Former All-American Gabriela Lancman was the 2001 recipient.

As a reward for the honor, Le participated in the ITA Awards Luncheon in New York City, a precursor to the 2007 U.S. Open.

“I’m so thrilled that Jennifer has the opportunity to participate in and be honored during the U.S. Open in New York City,” OC tennis coach Lisa Johnson said. “She has the complete package: sportsmanship, leadership, academics (3.89 GPA) athletic ability (43-14 singles record over three years) and relentless determination to be the best.”

**EAGLES TEST METTLE AGAINST PROS**

Former OC basketball players Keith Harris and John Nottley are playing professionally overseas.

Harris, an NAIA All-America honorable mention selection in 2005-06, is playing with the Schwalmer Baskets of Düsseldorf, Germany. Nottley is playing for the Guildford Heat in his home country of England.

Two current OC student-athletes had summer opportunities to test themselves against professionals.

All-America soccer player Adam Barnes trained with the Malmo FF academy team in Sweden. He played against other academy teams across Europe, giving him the opportunity to compete and train at a very high level.

All-American golfer Bruno Buccolo competed in one of the U.S. Open Sectional Qualifier tournaments, finishing just five strokes away from advancing to the U.S. Open.

Former major champions Corey Pavin and Justin Leonard finished just two strokes and five strokes ahead of Buccolo, respectively. Leonard competed in the same group as Buccolo.

“I would grade the experience as a 10,” Buccolo said. “Justin Leonard was a really nice guy. He gave me some good advice and it helped that I played so well. I didn’t feel any pressure, I just played and it was a lot of fun.”

Buccolo finished second among all amateurs in the sectional field and 11th overall.

**GREENS RETIRE AFTER YEARS OF SERVICE**

The end of May brought the end of an era in the Oklahoma Christian University athletic department. Longtime staff members Stan and Betty Green retired after a combined 34 years of service to Oklahoma Christian.

Stan came to the university in 1989 and worked as public relations director before becoming OC’s first full-time sports information director in 1997.

Overall, Stan worked in the sports information industry for 38 years, winning more than 70 awards from the College Sports Information Directors of America and the NAIA. He is a member of the NAIA and CoSIDA halls of fame.

“I’ve had a very charmed life. For me, it was never going to work. It was always fun; no two days were alike,” Stan said. “Oklahoma Christian is a unique place. You have the opportunity to work with good people who have our best interests at heart and you can’t ask for much more than that.”

Betty played an important role in OC’s athletic department for more than 16 years. She worked as an administrative assistant for the men’s basketball program and in the athletic director’s office. She also managed basketball game day operations and helped organize OC’s annual Cage Camps, the biggest basketball camps in Oklahoma.

“Stan and I have worked together since 1968 and we’ve been able to enjoy the same things,” Betty said. “I’ve had the best job on campus. I’m going to miss working and being as involved. I’m going to miss the players, the people and all the good stuff about working here. It’s been a fun ride.”

**SEAT JOINS ATHLETIC STAFF**

OC alumnus Dave Seat joined the OC athletic department as Athletic Communications Coordinator in June.

Seat served under longtime Sports Information Director Stan Green as a student assistant from 2004 to 2007. Seat graduated from Oklahoma Christian in December 2006 with a bachelor’s degree in public relations and advertising.

He is currently enrolled in OC’s master
of business administration program.

The Edmond, Okla., native is the son of OC alumnus and Board of Trustees member David Seat and OC alumna Mary Lynn Seat. His older brother, Rob, was an all-conference basketball player at Oklahoma Christian before graduating in 2000.

Rob’s wife, Katie (Jacobsen) Seat, played three seasons on the Lady Eagle softball team and graduated in 2001. Dave’s sister, Carrie Gotcher, is a 2002 OC graduate.

**HALL HIRED AS BASKETBALL ASSISTANT**

Oklahoma Christian recently hired Matt Hall as the school’s new women’s basketball assistant coach. Hall joins Oklahoma Christian after spending three years as the head boys coach at Wellston High School.

Hall was the head boys coach at Little Axe High School before his time at Wellston. He grew up in Cushing, Okla., and played collegiately at Carl Albert State College and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He received his degree from Southeastern in 1994.

“Matt is an outstanding coach,” OC head coach Stephanie Findley said. “He believes in fundamentals and is an excellent teacher of the game. His teams are known for defense and discipline. He also has a great personality which will help him in both coaching and recruiting.”

Hall and his wife Kim, a 1995 OC alumnus, are active members of Memorial Road Church of Christ. They have two kids, Max, five, and Ellie, 18 months.

JOIN OCWA!

The Oklahoma Christian Women’s Association unites women to serve and support Oklahoma Christian University in its mission to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

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

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

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

**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:**

- Annual Member: $24 / year
- Professional Member: $48 / year
- Second Mile Member: $200 (Supports OCWA Endowment Fund)

If you are interested in starting an OCWA chapter in your area or becoming a member, please get in touch with OCWA Coordinator Christine Merideth at (405) 425-5122 or at christine.merideth@oc.edu.
1. Strange antics and strange costumes are the order of the day as Michele Shaw is required to sing a song on the floor with her fellow fish. 2. Banding together for mutual encouragement and fellowship, a school of fish find something to smile about. 3. Good to the late bite, Elaine Hager’s dessert gets eaten in a Fishly fashion. 4. Elvis Presley appears in the cafeteria dressed for the occasion as Charlie Banks performs for an audience at lunch. 5. Fish Day ceremonies close with honor bestowed by Jacque Cleverdon and Charlies Banks, Chosen as Mr. and Miss Fish, they are doused with water, followed by flour, syrup, and other Fish Day ingredients. 6. Dressed with the expertise of her upperclassman peers, Stephanie Autrey takes her initiation in stride. 7. Trying to get a head start on the day’s activities, a freshmen girl diligently seeks to please upperclassman Rod Arndt.
Fish Day fun finds frolicking freshmen

On the morning of September 15, 1977, members of the freshman class awoke at the insistence of their upperclassmen superior to be dressed and outfitted for Fish Day initiation. Wearing their clothes according to the artistic sense of the upperclassman, the “fresh fish” also wore hats of brown paper sacks adorned with appropriate remarks. Each sporting an onion, freshman “apple,” the fish carried plenty of gum, candy, and a sense of condescending service to appease their classmates.
Once again, I hope you’ve enjoyed reading this issue of VISION magazine half as much as we’ve enjoyed putting it together. We’ve traveled across the country interviewing and taking pictures of OC alumni working in a diverse array of professions. In this issue of VISION, we’ve profiled a rocket scientist, a school teacher, a flight instructor, an academic dean, a medical doctor, and a full-time minister, just to name a few.

OC alumni are leading successful churches, businesses, families, schools, and just about anything else that can be led. But then again, so are graduates from most other universities of OC’s caliber. The more alumni I meet, the more I realize what it is that sets our alumni apart from the alumni of so many other institutions of higher learning.

Whether you make your living as a doctor, teacher, minister, rocket scientist, pilot, or any number of professions in between, the majority of OC graduates I meet share a common connection in that you are all, in your own way, are striving to bring hope to the world.

If I had more time, I could write a book on all of the ways OC graduates are bringing hope to our world. I don’t think it’s an accident either that so many of our alumni are infecting the people around them with the hope of something bigger than themselves. On the contrary, I believe the hope-bringing work of so many OC alumni is a direct and deliberate result of the life-changing, Christ-focused education we received as OC students.

While I’m certainly proud to call myself a graduate of this great institution because of the first-class education I received as a student here, I’m even more proud to be a part of such a large family of students and alumni whose lives bring the gift of hope to a world that desperately needs it.

Michael Mitchell (04)
Director of Alumni Relations

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