Dear Alumni and Friends:

These are amazing times at Oklahoma Christian, which continues to be a dynamic center of faith, learning and the exchange of ideas. Our undergraduate and graduate programs have never been more vibrant with a wonderfully diverse and talented body of students. And in just the past few months alone, we have initiated a number of outstanding events that have brought national figures and national and international interest to the campus.

Last March, we welcomed Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry and many other dignitaries to the campus to dedicate the beautiful new Lawson Commons. The entire development was declared an official Oklahoma Centennial Project and has greatly enhanced the living environment of our students.

As we have mentioned before, we have established a partnership to help meet the long-term needs of the Rwandan government’s Vision 2020. Our current efforts in Rwanda include four specific initiatives – Rwanda Presidential Scholars, Peace Through Business Rwanda, Rwanda Outreach & Community Foundation (ROC) and Wishing Well. We have 30 outstanding presidential scholars from Rwanda attending OC this fall. You can read more about the Wishing Well initiative beginning on page 2 and the Peace Through Business program on page 19.

Our other international programs continue to strengthen with a record number of OC faculty and students studying in Europe, Latin America and Asia this past summer. Here are just a few examples: Nursing professors accompanied 13 students to Honduras for the HonduraServe Healthcare Missions Program. Dr. John Fletcher, chair of the music department, and four OC students taught English at the University of South China. Business professor Jody Jones and his wife, Lisa, led 27 students in Europe for six weeks as part of our European Studies Program. These programs allow students to study, travel and serve as part of their world-class education.

Our academic accomplishments continue to demonstrate the high quality of our students, faculty and staff. We are particularly proud that our chapter of the history honor society, led by Dr. John Maple, has been named the top chapter in the nation for 13 straight years. Our Soundings publication, put together by our students under the leadership of Dr. Peggy Gipson, was named the best literary journal in the nation by the English honor society. We also had communications and art/design students win national first-place awards over the past year. These are just a few of our academic highlights on a national level. I hope the list of accomplishments you read on page 29 brings you great pride as an OC alum.

OC recently has welcomed many outstanding speakers to campus, such as Ken Blanchard, Pat Boone, Ambassador Paul Bremer, Truett Cathy, Gen. Tommy Franks, Jack Kemp, Tony Snow, Don Soderquist, Ken Starr, James Q. Wilson, and others to promote the values of free enterprise, leadership, and liberty. An exciting new program, “iDebate: Developing Leaders with General Tommy Franks,” brought 48 outstanding high school students from 32 states debating vital issues facing the nation and local communities. This on-campus program was highlighted on national television by Fox News. Read more about the event on page 19.

We hope you will stay connected with your university and participate in as many of these exciting programs as you can. And, as always, we continue to lean on you for support and prayers.

In His Service,

Mike E. O’Neal, President
FEATURES Fall 2008

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OC students reach deeper into the heart of Africa. www.wishingwellafrica.com

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Successful leader honored as outstanding alumnus.

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31  News/Sports
Informations on the latest happenings and accomplishments at OC.
From the red plains of Oklahoma to rolling hills of Rwanda, Oklahoma Christian University students and alumni carry a mission and a message to bring clean water to the people of Africa.

In the fall of 2006, then-freshman Ryan Groves brought the concept of Wishing Well, founded by his brother on the campus of Pepperdine University, to Oklahoma Christian.

At OC, Groves found other students committed to the cause of bringing clean water to the villages of Africa. Soon, a movement began.

Groves says the impact of Wishing Well on the Oklahoma Christian campus and involvement has been immeasurable.

“Three years ago, Africa was only heard about as a mission field for the extreme,” Groves said. “Since Wishing Well started, we’ve seen the plight of the poor and suffering worldwide brought to the center stage of student attention. Those who get involved find themselves not only with a greater understanding of our global community, but appreciate even more the community around them.”

Continued on next page
The mission of Wishing Well is not only to bring clean water to Africa, but also – in the words of Joshua Burgin (08) – “to change apathetic hearts and truly build a community.”

For this reason, rather than relying on traditional volunteer participation and fundraising, Wishing Well invites people to donate their gifts of creativity – whether in art, music, crafts or photography – to raise awareness and funds.

Since its inception at OC, Wishing Well has hosted several events on campus, including gallery shows, documentary screenings and concerts. This past summer, six of Wishing Well's core members went to Rwanda to see firsthand and document the difference accessible, clean water can make in the lives of Africans.

“We were able to capture not only the dire circumstances of those without clean water sources, but also stories of hope,” Burgin said.

The group witnessed the immediate impact a simple water pump could bring to individuals and entire villages, and captured the powerful images through photography and video.

The images, taken by professional photographer Esther Havens, already have been displayed in galleries in New York, taking the message of Wishing Well to audiences far beyond the original, small gatherings on the OC campus.

Also, video taken by OC senior Chase Layman will be used to create a documentary that will reach a wider audience than ever imagined, thanks in part to help from connections they made in Rwanda.

Meet Jean-Bosco.
Jean-Bosco is a short, solemn boy with a camouflaged smile. His feet are calloused and hard, smattered with dirt, crusted with dust.

He claims he’s 15, but looking at him you’d think he was 12. JB (Jean-Bosco) is very quiet, at least around mzungu (foreigners), and he mostly answers with mumbles and raising his eyebrows.

When I asked him if we could follow him on his water walk and go to his house, he shyly agreed. We came to a small scum pond, methodically set down his jerry can, careful to make sure the leaky side was facing up, so as not to drain all the water he’d worked so hard to carry here.

JB told us he will boil the water he brought for his family. He explained that, when he boils the water, scum and visible bacteria come to the surface, and he tries to splash it off the top in an attempt to clean the water.

Then JB said he needed to leave for school soon. He goes to school in the afternoons some days, in the morning on others. Not wanting to make him late, we headed back to the dig site.

One of the boys told me he can make up to four trips a day, wanting to make him late, we headed back to the dig site.

On returning, we saw that JB had changed out of his tattered, too-big shirt and brown shorts into a somewhat smaller, less dirty blue polo and khaki shorts. Suddenly, he didn’t look so bad.

In a strange twist of fate, the group met both Ben Affleck and his business manager, who were impressed by the mission of Wishing Well and are currently in talks with the group to help promote the documentary.

Making contacts like these and with humanitarian agencies in Africa, and capturing the powerful stories of those affected by the water crisis, made the less-than-glamorous trip more than worthwhile for Wishing Well's members.

With renewed passion and an understanding for the change that can and needs to be made in Africa, the momentum of this movement is only growing.

Wishing Well gives much credit to the support and confidence placed in them by the OC administration, specifically President Mike O’Neal and Dean of Student Life Neil Arter.

“They internalized the issues and opened doors for our ideas,” Burgin said.

Groves adds that Dr. Nathan Mellor and Dr. Brian Bush from OC’s Office of University Outreach “believed in our potential to do something great even when no one else took notice.”

“What God has done at Oklahoma Christian through Wishing Well is ignite a spark to give hope to the nations,” Groves said.

“We ask for prayers and that you will help tell the story of the 1.2 billion people without water to your own community, and see what amazing things God will do when people step out in faith.”

To learn more about Wishing Well’s upcoming events and find out how you can be involved, visit their website at www.wishingwellafrica.com.

By Ann White (04)
November 7-8, 2008

- Class and Club Reunions
- OCWA Pancake Breakfast
- Golf Tournament
- Homecoming Musical
- Homecoming Banquet
- Campus Connect event for high school students; register online at www.oc.edu/connect
- Homecoming Carnival and Lunch
- Saturday Basketball Doubleheader
- Concert by national recording artist Derek Webb
- Silent Auction to benefit the Tony Alley Memorial
  www.oc.edu/tonyalleyauction

RSVP Today  www.oc.edu/homecoming
Jeff Dimick

Successful leader honored as outstanding alumnus
Jeff Dimick wears many different hats. His day job is with Boeing. On most Saturdays, you can find him with Tevia, an elderly Russian man with whom he walks to the grocery store.

You can also find him out rock climbing with the men from his congregation or traveling to the Ukraine for his next foreign mission. But no matter which hat you find him wearing, there is a common thread: he is spreading hope.

A Kansas native, Jeff graduated from Oklahoma Christian in 1983 with a bachelor’s degree in math/computer science. After graduating from OC, he obtained his master’s degree in theoretical mathematics from Oklahoma State University. An internship with Hughes Aircraft Company, now Boeing, during his time at OSU started him on a 23 year career with the organization.

In January 2008, he transitioned into a new position after completing an 18-month project on GPS systems. This new project, which he would only describe as a ground systems project for the government, should take him about the same amount of time. Then he’ll be ready to move on to something else.

According to Jeff, as soon as he begins working with a new group or department on a project at Boeing, he looks for the person who can replace him and take over the leadership role when the job is complete.

“I have come into projects that people have been working on for eight or 10 years, and they simply have the right people doing the wrong jobs,” Jeff said.

He likes to turn over the reins on projects because he knows his colleagues have a more extensive knowledge of the individual projects and can lead effectively once everyone is in the right place.

Being in a management position also has caused Jeff to think about how he can share his faith in Christ with his coworkers. He does all he can to bring each of his employees a sense of worth and accomplishment — this is the way he brings hope into the workplace.

Another way Jeff spreads hope is through his work with the Hilltop Community Church of Christ in El Segundo, California. In 1994, he came to the congregation when there were only 12 members, but the feeling that God was calling him to this work led him to join the congregation and help it grow.

This congregation ministers to everyone, with a mission of helping other people understand how the good news of the gospel can transform their lives.

It’s obvious that Jeff is serious about his faith, spreading hope, and important topics like faith, purity, and our relationships with God. Former OC alumni director Michael Mitchell sees how Jeff is having such an immense impact on so many people in all areas of his life.

“Jeff is one of the most deeply spiritual people I’ve had the opportunity to meet. He has a passion for mentoring other men and you can’t help but be touched by that passion when you are around him,” Michael said. “I’ve had the opportunity to spend time with Jeff this past year and every time we’re together, he asks me how I’m doing spiritually. Our conversations regularly turn to important topics like faith, purity, and our relationships with God. It’s obvious that Jeff is serious about his faith, spreading hope, and helping other people understand how the good news of the gospel can transform their lives.”

Jeff feels that God is bringing all these opportunities to him and he believes that, just as Christ brought hope to many, it is his duty to try to do the same for others. It has become his personal motto: “God manufactures the wave. We just ride it.”

By Allison Shumate (05)
Heroes come in all forms. They serve in harm’s way in distant lands to protect our freedoms. They put their lives on the line by rushing into burning buildings or confronting crime.

They raise us from the time we’re babies. They lend a helping hand, even when no one’s watching.

They teach us and mentor us so we can become who God wants us to be.

Joy Rainey (00) is a hero. Like countless OC graduates, she throws everything she can into her life and career in order to serve others and glorify God.

Joy makes an impact on young inner-city kids through her role as a teacher at Western Village Academy in Oklahoma City. Teachers like her – along with mentoring relationships with OC and other organizations – have helped Western Village move from an “at-risk” school with low test scores to one of the top charter schools in the nation.

But her heart for young people goes beyond the classroom. She has served as a foster mother to two children from Western Village and reached out to families who face challenges many of us can’t fathom.

Joy doesn’t consider herself a hero; she’s just doing what God has called her to do. Here’s a glimpse into how that calling has impacted Joy and made her who she is today:

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I wanted to be a teacher pretty much from birth. I used to line up my stuffed animals and teach them. When I got a younger sibling, I would make her sit and do “homework” that I spent hours making up for her before she could go out and play. From a young age, I loved my teachers and wanted to be just like them.

Why did you want to become a teacher at Western Village?

At OC, we had a practicum at Western Village. When we would come back to OC, people would tell stories about how the kids plotted to steal candy from their teachers, went to the bathroom on the playground, and other vulgar behaviors. They would say, “I’m never stepping foot in there again after this practicum!” I definitely understand that point of view. But I always said, “I’m going to teach there someday.” I never wavered in that desire. I have stayed in the teaching profession at the same place because God has called me to be an encouragement and a spiritual light in the lives of many of the families I have worked with for so long.

What kind of impact does OC’s relationship with Western Village have?

OC is such a huge blessing to Western Village. To give an hour of undivided attention to any kid (especially some of the kids we have here) is such a big deal. Kite Day is the kids’ favorite day of the year. Flying kites, jumping around and screaming in Hardeman Auditorium, eating outside with your buddy … it’s any kid’s dream come true!

Who were some of the teachers you had here at OC who influenced and impacted you the most?

Dr. Vincent really made an impact on me. He made learning come alive and gave me the desire to give that gift to my students. Dr. Cleveland really helped me, too. My favorite class period at OC was an unplanned discussion about dealing with an issue that
might arise in class that would never be covered in a textbook. He showed me by example that day that even the best thought-out lesson plans sometimes have to be altered or thrown out the window when real, applicable learning is happening. I also remember Dr. Miller sharing about a year when she had multiple students pass away. I never knew how much that would help me later in life, when I lost a former student due to gang violence.

**How do you think you’ve changed as a teacher from when you first began?**

Oh, man. I cry a lot less. My first year here, I cried every week; some weeks, I cried every day. I used to think that if I just loved the kids more than anybody had ever loved them, I would be the best teacher ever. Now I know it takes a lot more than the idea of love to get through to the kids. I am able to stand up for myself in confrontational situations in a Christ-like way and I’m more confident in my teaching. This has earned their respect for the most part over the years—a respect you can’t have here until you’ve been around a while. Now I know it takes effort and time to establish the type of rapport necessary to have an impact here.

**What do you think have been the most important lessons your students have taught you?**

I learn so much from them on a daily basis. One thing is that people are always watching what I do. Every move and word counts. This is a constant reminder to me of what God expects from me. Knowing that my words and actions are surely going to be duplicated by many kids, I have to constantly strive to be a Godly example. They have also taught me that you have to forgive (especially the kindergarteners—they forgive so quickly and so thoroughly) and that life is a lot happier and less complicated when you are a forgiving person.

**Aside from those lessons, what is the most rewarding part of your job?**

The most rewarding—and humbling—part of my job is knowing that God believes in me enough to put me in a position to help people who are in such need of help and, oftentimes, so challenging to help. It feels great knowing that I am able to be an instrument of God and that I have found His purpose and calling for me. My purpose and calling may change some day, but the faith these experiences have built up in me will help me trust and be confident in the Lord no matter where He leads me.

**What are your long-term goals?**

My long-term goal is just simply to serve God in any way I can. I hope that by doing this God can bless people through me and they can develop the desire to do the same. I want to share the gospel with others and equip them to do so as well.

*Interview By Wes McKinzie (98)*
Lyle Harms, a longtime member of the Board of Trustees, estimates he has made the 200-mile round-trip drive from his home in Ponca City, Oklahoma, to the OC campus about 200 times.

He has driven to meetings, lectures, functions and games, and to visit students, faculty and friends. He’ll make the trip again for this year’s Homecoming to become an official Eagle.

Lyle will be named an honorary alumnus during the Homecoming Banquet on Nov. 7 in recognition of his service to the university that began 58 years ago.

A retired mechanical engineer with Conoco, Lyle and his wife, Mary, have been dear friends to Oklahoma Christian. Lyle was instrumental in helping OC establish the engineering program in the 1980s.

“The Lord placed me in the right place at the right time to be involved. As I said to Mary many times, ‘How often and how many engineers have the privilege of being involved in the beginning of a new engineering school?’” he said. “How many engineering schools are there in Oklahoma and how long has it been since one started?”

“Then, to see a grandson (Ryan Harms) graduate from the school with honors and be successful in his career really shows Mary and me how good God has been to us,” he said.

Lyle looks forward to a future masters program in engineering, predicting it to be a significant blessing to Oklahoma Christian academically, financially and spiritually.

He is impressed that the engineering school has an evangelistic thrust and is also reaching out to emerging nations, such as Rwanda, with international students who will help with infrastructure and engineering projects in their home countries – armed with their OC degrees and experience.

Lyle notes that engineering jobs are much easier to come by today (for OC grads especially) than they were in 1950 when he set out on a new career. But he managed to land a job and it wasn’t long until he was approached by a local preacher who was raising
funds for a brand-new college, Central Christian College.

He remembers that he proudly donated some of his $300 monthly salary to the school.

“I was in big money,” he joked.

He became more involved in Christian higher education after he married Mary in 1955. As a young girl, she had her heart set on attending Abilene Christian. But World War II led to a lack of scholarship and loan money so she was unable to go.

Together, they poured their resources, time and love into Oklahoma Christian and later sent their son, Larry, and daughter, Janice Hendricks, to OC.

In 1994, Lyle and Mary traveled to Portland, Oregon, as Oklahoma Christian prepared to restart Columbia Christian College, which had been closed for one year, and transform it into Cascade College.

Those were good times for the Harms, even though they smile when they think of the “high-working standard that was beyond imagination” that was set for them by their team leader, Macie Jackson (“a regular dynamo,” they call their dear friend).

Jackson and the Harms were among a core team of Oklahomans that also included Dr. Mickey Banister, Dr. Kevin Jacobs, Dr. Arlis Wood, Ralph Burcham, their families and others who temporarily moved to Portland to meet a near impossible deadline to open the campus in time for classes in August 1994.

While bunking in a dormitory two months at a time, Mary and the other ladies did jobs such as moving a large number of the books out of the library so the building could be updated. In 1996, they spent seven months living on campus in an old house while Lyle was in charge of building a new dormitory.

The goals were met eventually. The experience remains one of the most rewarding and pleasant memories Lyle and Mary have of Oklahoma Christian.

The Harms also recount all of the ways that OC has blessed their lives. There was the eight months or so in the early 1970s that

Guy Ross, former executive vice president, drove to their Ponca City congregation to preach. Dr. Jim Baird repeated this same service several years later. And there are friendships too numerous to adequately recount.

“The small part we have had in the life of OC and Cascade has been a greater blessing to us than we have been to the school as we have seen, enjoyed and loved the personnel, students and graduates. The spiritual service to the church and evangelistic efforts to expand the worldwide kingdom of God is a reason for great rejoicing and giving God all of the glory for OC,” he said.

Lyle Harms joins an esteemed list of beloved OC friends who have been named honorary alumni since the award was established in the 90s. That list includes Avanelle Baird, SR Bryant, Dr. Max Dobson, Dr. Harold Fletcher, Coach Dan Hays, Kurt Hermanson, Sue Vaughn Hobson, Macie Jackson, Dr. Stafford North, Lou Phillips and Dr. Jim Wilson.

Surprised, honored and a bit reluctant to become an honorary alumnus, Lyle notes that he and Mary work better behind the scenes. But he will impart a bit of advice for his soon-to-be fellow OC alumni.

“Be involved, be a booster and a financial supporter. Repay the investment OC has made in each of you spiritually, financially and emotionally,” he said. “The best way to do that is to orient your children to attend OC, then send them there to receive the same blessing you received.”

That is advice Lyle and Mary have exemplified with their lives.

By Dawn Shelton (90)
In March, Governor Brad Henry and many other state and local dignitaries dedicated Lawson Commons, which features the 100-foot Jose Freede Centennial Tower, the 8,000-square-foot Jack & Wanda McGraw Pavilion and extensive landscaping.

The new three-tiered mall area connects facilities dedicated to learning, living, athletics, and social life – student residences on the west to the Mabee Learning Center on the east, and the Gaylord University Center on the south to the Payne Athletic Center on the north.

The entire development is an official Oklahoma Centennial Project and has greatly enhanced the students’ living environment.

Lawson Commons is named after two distinguished OC graduates, Richard (66) and Pat Lawson (67), who pledged $30 million to the university in 2004, the largest alumni gift in OC’s history.

The Lawsons applied what they learned at Oklahoma Christian to build a leading software company with global reach. More importantly, they recognized the value of their Christian-based education and have generously given back so future generations can enjoy the benefits of a superb education from Oklahoma Christian.

The Freede Centennial Tower at Lawson Commons, which now serves as a focal point on campus and the surrounding area, is named after Mrs. Jose Freede. Freede is a well-known Oklahoma City philanthropist and has raised millions of dollars for worthy causes around the world. She continues to volunteer her time and support to non-profit organizations, including Oklahoma Christian.

The McGraw Pavilion, named in honor of Jack and Wanda McGraw, serves as an outdoor space for events for students, alumni and friends of the university. Jack, a West Texas oil man from Midland, was a church elder for almost 30 years and served both as a director for the Midland Christian School and an Oklahoma Christian trustee.

He and his wife, Wanda, literally blessed thousands – missionaries, students, educators and the less fortunate – with their time, love and resources. Jack’s own words say it well, “The Bible says you are blessed to be a blessing to others. I love Christian education because it blesses so many people.”

“The Lawsons, McGraws, and Mrs. Freede are great examples of people who are helping Oklahoma Christian grow and prosper,” President Mike O’Neal said. “Their love and dedication allow us to continue to offer our students a strong education and more inviting campus.”
Dr. Stafford North, distinguished professor of Bible, has authored a new book on the history of Oklahoma Christian entitled “Soaring on Wings Like Eagles: A History of Oklahoma Christian University.”

The book, due to be released at Homecoming in November, traces Oklahoma Christian from its beginning in 1950 as a 97-student junior college in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, to a 2,500-student, internationally-recognized university in Oklahoma City.

This history includes chapters on the university’s presidents, faculty and staff, board of trustees, donors, students, and some of its successful alumni serving in various fields around the globe.

The book recounts key decisions affecting the course of the university, its facilities, curriculum, and the story of its national academic accreditations. Other chapters detail the university’s athletic programs, musical and theatre presentations, and student life.

The theme of the university’s strong religious commitment runs throughout the book, and two particular chapters focus on the university’s spiritual life and missionary spirit.

Above all, “Soaring on Wings Like Eagles” is a story of success. From a struggling start, Oklahoma Christian has become important not only in the lives of the some 25,000 students who have attended, but also in the lives of those they have touched throughout the world.

Pick up your copy of Dr. North’s book at Homecoming 2008!

In addition to Dr. North’s history of Oklahoma Christian, several people with OC connections also have recent or upcoming book releases.

**Dr. Bill Luttrell**

Dr. Bill Luttrell, an associate professor of chemistry at OC, recently collaborated with a team of editors, authors and technical reviewers to produce “Toxicology Principles for the Industrial Hygienist.” Luttrell has spent three decades in the field of industrial hygiene and toxicology.

**Dr. Burt Smith**

Dr. Burt Smith, associate professor of marketing and management, accomplished a goal he’d set in 2004 with the publication of his first book, “The Great Game of Networking.”

Smith’s book is designed as a how-to manual to assist professionals at all levels with their networking efforts. He promises to help the reader get at least one idea that will enhance his or her networking skills, or he will refund the purchase price.

**Harold Shank**

Harold Shank’s latest book, “Listen to the Heartbeat - What the Bible Says About the Heart of God,” is due to be published by College Press in December.

The book asks the question “What makes God smile?” as it explores ideas from the scripture about the heart of God. Shank (72) is an Old Testament professor at OC.

**Bruce McIntyre**

Another alumnus, Bruce McIntyre (94), released his first book in July. “Resilient Life” is a practical guide and a source of inspiration for people who have experienced a crash in their health, relationships, finances or career. It shares a message of hope on the journey from bitter reality to resilient living.

For more info and other OC authors, visit www.oc.edu/authors.
In the past 50 years, Oklahoma Christian has transformed from a two-year college with 207 students to a comprehensive, four-year, accredited university with more than 2,000 students and three graduate programs.

In 1956, Central Christian College in Bartlesville officially announced the plans to move to Oklahoma City. After much planning and fundraising, the Oklahoma City campus opened in 1958 on a 200-acre site near the intersection of Memorial Road and Eastern. The “Oklahoma Christian” name soon followed.

While the name, location and curriculum have changed significantly in a half-century, the motivation and ideals have remained intact. Although it is impossible to fit 50 years of history into a few pages, here are some of the highlights … from then to now.

The campus facilities have experienced the most dramatic changes in the past 50 years. Once just seven buildings, the OC campus as current students know it is comprised of more than 20 buildings, along with the Thelma Gaylord Forum, Lawson Commons, the McGraw Pavilion and the Freede Centennial Tower.

Campus housing in 1958 consisted of two dorms. Housing is now comprised of 10 residence halls and six apartment complexes. Today, the 1,800 living spaces allow almost 80 percent of the student body to live on campus, creating a tight-knit community atmosphere. In 2006, the university completed a $34 million housing project, creating the University House for sophomores, and two new complexes with male, female, and married apartments. The new residence areas include many state-of-the-art features, conference rooms and fitness facilities.

Overall, Oklahoma Christian is now home to three colleges (Biblical Studies, Arts and Sciences, and Professional Studies), 14 academic departments, 60 majors plus 30 additional study areas, three graduate programs (Ministry, Divinity, and Business Administration), and 20 study-abroad and off-campus learning options.

Approximately 130 students participate in study-abroad programs each year, including both summer and semester-long terms. The first bachelor degrees were awarded in 1967; this past April, 267 students received bachelor’s or master’s degrees.

When the first buildings on campus were opened, the sidewalks were not completed, so any time it rained, administrators were forced to take off their shoes and wade through mud to get to their offices. The sidewalks have since been completed, but weather is still a challenge.

When this past winter’s ice storms caused power outages in the apartments and academic buildings, the faculty could be seen in the halls of the Gaylord University Center having review sessions for final exams. Flexibility was required by both students and faculty, as many tests had to be scheduled for alternative times and locations.

For years, Oklahoma Christian has been considered a technologically-advanced university. Dubbed by several media outlets in the late 50s as “America’s most modern college campus,” OC has continued to follow that path and was ranked the 18th “Most Unwired College Campus” in a recent Intel survey.

Beginning in 2001, each fulltime student received a laptop upon enrollment. As technology advanced, the university has stayed on the leading edge. Beginning this fall, students received a MacBook and their choice of an iPhone or iPod touch, and had the option of upgrading to a MacBook Pro.

While students once waited in line to use one phone that served all the dorms, today’s students can be in constant communication with friends, family and professors through their MacBooks and iPhones.

Great leadership is another aspect that remains the same. James O. Baird was president of the university during the move from Bartlesville, and was instrumental in the university’s success in Oklahoma City. Current president Mike O’Neal continues that legacy today as Oklahoma Christian transforms lives for Christian faith, scholarship and service.

To see where OC has come in just the past 50 years since the move to Oklahoma City is amazing. One can only imagine the great strides the university will continue to make in the next 50 years and beyond.
Dewight Mitchell (60) vividly recalls the red-clay mud that had to be traversed to reach the library in 1958 – 50 years ago this fall. “The sidewalks between the student center and the library had not been completed, so they placed two 2x12s between them for us to walk on,” he said. “The parking lots were not paved so we often had to help each other get in and out.”

Dewight was one of 180 students who began classes that year at the brand-new Central Christian College campus in Oklahoma City. Though his most vivid memories are of the dedicated faculty and the life-long friends he made during his two years there, he also recalls the daily challenges of attending classes at an almost-finished campus.

“The dorms were not quite finished so four other boys and I lived upstairs in a house in Edmond,” Dewight said. “The boys and the sophomore girls were scattered around town while most of the freshman girls lived in a big house on Kelley. W.O. Beeman, who was instrumental in the move to the new campus, developed a carpool system for getting everyone to class. I remember eating sandwiches for a week because the kitchen wasn’t completed.

“Windows on one side of the student center didn’t have glass for several weeks and we often snuck through the open window because it was a shortcut,” he said. “Right after the glass was installed, one of my friends almost walked through it.”

The challenges presented by the early weeks of school seemed to unite the students, Dewight said. He clearly recalls Dr. George Benson flying in each Monday and landing his small plane on the northwest corner of the campus.

“I still remember some of his lessons. He has had a big influence on my life,” Dewight said. “He also had a way of connecting with the business community and was largely responsible for the Gaylords becoming involved in Oklahoma Christian.”

But minor inconveniences like the mud, the windowless student center and having to live off campus in strangers’ homes just enriched the experience for Dewight and his classmates.

“Some of my dearest friends are people I met at OCC. We have traveled together from Branson, Mo., to Alaska,” he said.

“I am still in awe of the vision of Dr. James O. Baird and his staff, and all who worked so hard to establish Oklahoma Christian during those days – to deliver it from that muddy beginning in Oklahoma City to the beautiful campus we have today.”

Both of his daughters attended OC and he can track 19 OC graduates from one of his grandfathers.

“OC was a blessing to me,” Dewight said. “I developed a spiritual foundation that has sustained me through the years.”

By Ron Frost
Missionaries from the churches of Christ, including many OC graduates, have been traveling to Brazil for 48 years. In October, another team will make the journey.

Five OC alumni are part of a nine-person team that has committed to a five-year stay in Niteroi, a city of around 1.5 million people.

OC graduates Zane (06) and April (Cusic 04) McGee, Brent (00) and Jill Nichols, and Wes (01) and Carrie (Seat 03) Gotcher will participate in the mission through Continent of Great Cities, a group that focuses on recruiting, training and caring for missionaries in South American countries.

Although the team found Continent through various avenues, almost everyone had mission work on their to-do list.

“In September 2005, I specifically wrote in my journal that this is what I wanted to do,” April said. “Then, in March 2006, a door opened. Three years later, I am going to Brazil, so I’m definitely on God’s plan.”

The Nichols and McGees were officially accepted on to the team in November 2006; the Gotchers committed in June 2007. Overall, the team has compatible personalities and a variety of talents.

“We have come to appreciate the team concept a lot,” Wes said. “We have so many different skill sets that are complementary to each other, so it’s just neat seeing that God gave us all different skills that are contributing to the same work.”

In January, the group moved to Dallas for training, which included team building, interpersonal workshops, missions strategy, urban evangelism and intensive language classes four days a week.

The team also made efforts to connect on their own through various activities, including running in the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon in April.

During their time in Dallas, the team developed a detailed plan for the mission. The first year is for establishing contacts, adjusting to the culture and learning about the city. By the six-month mark, the group will start looking for the right place to locate the church. The inaugural worship service is set for around the one-year mark.

Language classes will continue to be a crucial part of their training during the first year in Niteroi. Another key part of the plan is for each couple to live in a different part of the city so they naturally run into different groups of people.

“We are planning to live in different apartment complexes so that we go to different grocery stores and have different neighbors,” Brent said. “We hope that this way we come across a larger group of people and have a bigger sphere of influence.”

Although the city was chosen by Continent of Great Cities, Niteroi does not have an established church of Christ, so the location of the church will be up to the team.

“We are going to do the research and find the place where the church will be the most effective,” Brent said. “In a city that big, one church isn’t going to be enough, but we want to have a central place to get the ball rolling so it can eventually grow and reach other people in the community.”

Brazilians are typically open to learning and receptive to the ideas of Christianity, and as a result, the group plans to start a school of Bible.

“This really works in Brazil. In the U.S., people wouldn’t be as interested,” Carrie said. “In other cities in Brazil, they have just announced it and the people came. They are really eager to learn about the Bible.”

The initial five-year stay could become longer for some people on the team. They are committed to making sure the church is stable.

Despite the excitement of the upcoming challenge, the group is still sad about leaving their families.

“It is an interesting mix of emotions,” April said. “We are very excited, but I can’t pretend that I’m not sad about leaving.”

For the Nichols, having the support of their families has made it easier.

“Our families are starting to get excited about it and wanting to be involved. That makes it easier, but we are all going to miss our families severely,” Jill said. “I think all of our families are planning to come visit at some point.”

The biggest challenge for the team has been fundraising. Each couple has a supporting congregation, but some in the group still need help.

“Without the financial support of a whole lot of people, this wouldn’t be possible,” Jill said. “The hardest part is not being able to physically thank every person who has helped us.”

If you want to help support the Niteroi Mission, you can email the group at info@niteroimission.com, or visit the group’s website at www.niteroimission.com.

By Jana Miller (09)
GEORGIA
IN THEIR HEARTS

Associate Professor of Youth Ministry Dudley Chancey and OC students Jared Beverly, Drew Chancey, Amanda Peery and David Skidmore took part in a domestic mission campaign in the south Georgia town of Donalsonville over the summer.

As part of an attempt to revive a local congregation, the group helped raise almost $40,000, conducted Bible studies, worked with the members to give the inside of the church building a facelift, and saw the work blessed by baptisms.

There are more initiatives to come, including building a playground and exploring a mother’s day out program as an outreach to the community. This page features the students’ reflections on their mission experience.

David:

When people asked me where I would go this summer, not many knew of Donalsonville, Georgia. Donalsonville is a place that is not famous for a lot, and it even reminded me of a little town called Nazareth. When Jesus showed up in John 1, Nathanael said to Philip about Jesus, “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?”

“Come and see,” Philip said.

This summer, I found the love of Jesus in the unexpected. The generosity of the church in Donalsonville was beyond compare. They are people who love to serve Jesus together, and they welcomed us into their midst with open arms. We spent time with the teens in the youth group, had movie nights for the teens in the community, spent hours listening to the wisdom of the elders, and trying to encourage all the people of the church.

In the final month, we spent almost every morning eating breakfast and studying the Bible with a high school freshman who became a Christian this summer. The entire experience was not perfect. As you can imagine, we had our share of ups and downs this summer, but what I learned is that Jesus still has a heart for the small towns nobody knows about. Jesus still loves Nazareth.

Jared:

I think the main thing I learned is how to invest in people. I felt like I was being thrown into the unknown at first, but once I met some people and found my place, it became easier. Not easy, but easier. Service is not something completely alien to my experience, but formal ministry like this was new. It is all about the people.

Before school started for the youth group, my fellow interns and I took out the lone male of the group to breakfast every morning, where we read through Mark and Acts. My order was always the longest, but the waitress always remembered it because we made connections with them, too. They enjoyed seeing friendly faces fingering fine food and humble hearts seeking to understand the Bible. We all watched the youth group’s only boy grow over the summer as he delved into the Word, and I knew I was growing, too.

I made a lot of friends in Donalsonville that I am not going to forget. I had never been skeet shooting before then. I had never eaten butter beans before. I had never swum in a saline pool. I had never preached, led singing, and taught class all in one morning before. I have never been buffeted by so many gnats before (seriously, they’re horrible). I made a lot of memories, and I shared them with a lot of great people.

Drew:

Georgia was an interesting experience. It was a good experience. Donalsonville holds a different culture, and that is not better or worse. It is simply different. So, that means Edmond is just as different.

Everyone’s values were ultimately the same: the value of family, the value of being good people, and the value of desiring others to know Christ. The people there have very polite and respectful mannerisms. I love that about Donalsonville.

I believe everyone learned a lot from one another. Appreciation for differences was gained. All in all, the people there were great to me and the other interns who spent time there this summer.

Amanda:

For the short time I was in Georgia, I began to understand much more about this diverse community than I thought possible. My interactions with the brothers and sisters there strengthened my faith and taught me how to work with a unique group of followers of Christ. I learned humility and joy are a result of patience and love for one another. The friendships that came from it proved to be much more of a blessing than I imagined. I was overwhelmed with the hospitality and warmth I received.

I think it is extremely important for a person to expand their views of the church by working with several different churches of all sizes and cultures. It not only will help others see a new approach to ministry, but it will challenge and strengthen your faith. After this summer, I feel more equipped to work with a congregation of any size. It was a peerless learning opportunity.
Oklahoma Christian University’s Academy of Leadership & Liberty and the Hatton W. Sumners Foundation present:

Thursday, October 23, 2008

The Distinguished Speaker Series featuring Governor Mike Huckabee

www.oc.edu/academy

Box 11000 Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100 800.877.5010
Peace Through Business

Fifteen selected businesswomen from Rwanda participated in the comprehensive entrepreneurship program, Peace Through Business, on OC’s campus in July and August.

The women received three weeks of instruction from OC professors in business management, including theory of economics, advanced management techniques, leadership, marketing and strategic planning.

After three weeks of intense study, each of the participants received week-long mentoring from a local woman business leader before returning to Rwanda.

The Peace Through Business program was initiated by the Institute for the Economic Empowerment of Women (IEEW) and Oklahoma Christian.

“The women of Rwanda are a rising economic and societal force in their nation,” OC president Mike O’Neal said. “We are proud to work with IEEW in giving these women the business knowledge and education necessary to help revitalize their country.”

The White House and State Department contacted Terry Neese, a founding director of the IEEW, in 2006 and asked her to develop an entrepreneurship training program for female business owners in Afghanistan.

As a board member of OC’s Academy of Leadership & Liberty, Neese partnered with OC to replicate in Rwanda the success that the IEEW experienced last year with Peace Through Business – Afghanistan.

OC professor of business Dr. Don Drew served as the academic advisor for the program. Drew and Dr. Nathan Mellor, Vice President for University Outreach and Chief of Staff, traveled to Rwanda in February to teach 30 Rwandan businesswomen the introductory session of the program and to choose the women who participated.

The program seeks to foster stronger relationships between the people of the United States and Rwanda and, as a result, a deepening commercial and social bond between the two nations.

It also helps Rwanda achieve greater equity in business between men and women by identifying and equipping for success women who are talented and inspired to lead in the business arena.

Program participants will be expected to “pay it forward” by taking what they have learned, applying it at home and sharing it with other women entrepreneurs.

iDebate: Developing Leaders with General Tommy Franks

Vital issues facing the nation and local communities were debated by 48 outstanding high school students from 32 states on the OC campus in August.

The new program, called “iDebate: Developing Leaders with General Tommy Franks,” was highlighted on national television by Fox News Channel. Judge Andrew Napolitano, senior judicial analyst at Fox News, moderated the debates.

The final debate featured judges Jack Kemp, a former congressman, cabinet secretary and presidential candidate, and New Mexico governor Bill Richardson, who is a former congressman and was secretary of energy under President Bill Clinton.

The winning students received a $2,500 scholarship to the university of their choice.

“This is an opportunity to develop young leaders who are well-informed about our communities’ issues, who are able to communicate a vision for a better future, and who can work with people from all walks of life,” General Franks said. “Students learn about the difficulties and complexities of leadership and come to appreciate the importance of communication in solving problems. These students and others like them will decide whether the 21st Century is one of optimism or regret.”

“It is important to give talented young people the skills and opportunity to wrestle with the big questions of our time,” said Dr. Nathan Mellor, Vice President for University Outreach and Chief of Staff at Oklahoma Christian.

iDebate was sponsored by the Academy of Leadership & Liberty, the National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) and the General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum.

The program was designed as a leadership development camp for the students, who were instructed in strategic thinking, planning and communications. The students also received practical training in the art of persuasion, gained in-depth knowledge of various public issues, gathered valuable team experience and developed relationships with other up-and-coming leaders.

They were trained by National Center for Policy Analysis’ professional analysts and debate coaches, university professors and university debate students. Students also worked with Franks and other leadership experts.
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 Whom?

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 barbeque. As the host, you get to decide! Contact Amy Gower in the Office for Alumni Relations at 405.425.5110 or Amy.Gower@oc.edu.

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 success where students will eventually play host to the dinners as alumni.

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
1956
Andrew H. (Andy) Martin
Andy retired in 1995 as project elect engineer at Rocky Flats, a nuclear site at Denver. He and Judy, married 56 years, raised three children in Bartlesville, Houston and Denver. They have eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Andy is a deacon and the assistant director of the senior adults at Applewood Baptist Church in Lakewood, CO. andyjudy_623@msn.com

1974
Carol (Rister) and Rick Copeland; copeland@ocnl.com
All employed by Alaska Canopy Adventures in Juneau; alumni and current students shared dinner at the home of Abby (Copeland) Burt. From the left, Debra Bush (OC junior), Deb’s sister, Tabitha Bush Gentry (Cascade grad), Abby Burt (OC 04), Angie Risley (OC 03), Carol Copeland (OC 74) and Abby’s mom, Kayla Sherry (OC sophomore).

ALUMNI & STUDENTS FROM ALASKA

Steve Turkish is the executive vice president of Ultimate Financial Solutions LLC in New York for the last three years. buckmook@aol.com

1975
Timothy Howard
The Howards have moved to Searcy, AR. Tim is pursuing a doctor of pharmacy degree through the University of Florida while employed as a pharmacist at Rx Express Pharmacy in Searcy. Tim serves on the Board of Visitors for Harding’s new College of Pharmacy. timrh53@yahoo.com

1976
William Lawrence just celebrated 30 years of working with the Northwest Church of Christ in Shoreline, WA, as an evangelist and an elder. He has his wife have three children: a daughter in graduate school at Pepperdine University, a son in his junior year at the University of Washington, and a daughter in 11th grade at a local high school.

1978
John and Lori (Brown 79) Miller
After 20 years as an in-house attorney at two financial institutions and two-and-a-half years as president of his own software development company, John is now a Counsel in Bryan Cave, LLP’s office in Kansas City, MO. Lori works for the Clay County highway department. Their son Nick is a youth minister in Wichita, KS and Brandon is an OC student. janthurmiller@yahoo.com

1978
Pattie (Thurmond) Mathis was awarded the 2008 Educator of the Year Award for the Slam Dunk for Life Foundation. She helped develop and pilot a new program for elementary school students. She serves on the board of directors for a new foundation, MOST-Motivating Our Students in Texas, to supply this pilot program to at-risk public schools. pdmathis@satsrrr.com

1982
Leah (Vanhooser) and Brad (81) Ave
Leah graduated from the Oklahoma City University College of Law, with honors, in May 2007, passed the bar examination, and joined the Oklahoma Bar in September. She is an associate at Whitten Burrage Priet Fullmer Anderson & Eisel, where her emphasis is in employment law. Leah lives in Edmond, OK, with her husband Brad, and teenagers, Adam and Hana. lavey@whittenburragelaw.com

1985
Doug and Kim (89) Rice
Doug, a technical service representative, was named to CITGO Petroleum’s President’s Club in June for his work in Lubricants Marketing. He and his wife Kim live in Edmond, OK, with their three daughters: Amanda (16), Meghan (13), and Rebekah (10). Kim began teaching second grade at Oakdale School in Edmond this fall. drice9@cox.net

1986
Penny (Stafford) and Nelson (89) Eubank
Nelson is now the vice president of business operations for Cox Communications in Cleveland, OH. Penny is now a full-time mom to Carissa (11) and Nathan (7). Previously, she was part of the faculty in OC’s Department of Communication. Their new address is 7365 Arbor Court, Olmsted Township, OH, 44138. penny.eubank@cox.net

1988
Emma Grace Kremeier
Emma Grace Kremeier, was born on April 8, 2007. The Kremeiers’ daughter, Emma, was born on April 8, 2007. susanstarrkremeier@hotmail.com

1989
Susan (Starr) Kremeier
The Kremeiers’ daughter, Emma Grace, was born on April 8, 2007. susanstarrkremeier@hotmail.com

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 Meredith at (405) 425-5122 or at christine.meredith@oc.edu.
1991
Richard Hopkins
Rich has qualified for the 2008 World Championship Public Speaking for Toastmasters International, winning against seven other speakers from California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, and British Columbia. He will compete in Calgary, Canada on August 16. This is Rich’s second trip to the championship; he took the bronze in 2006. rich.hopkins@gmail.com

1992
William Collier
In May 2008, William was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He is an associate professor of cognitive psychology (with a research focus in the psychology of music) in UNCP’s department of psychology and counseling. william.collier@uncp.edu

1995
Brent Simpson
Brent and his wife Angie are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Presley Addison, on April 23, 2008. Living in Dallas, TX, Brent is brand manager for Essilor of America and Angie is enjoying her new role as mom.

WESLEY PAUL LARUE
Colleen (Wortham) Stofan
Colleen and her husband Duane added another son to their family on October 9, 2007. Sean Aaron joined big brother Owen Patrick (6). For the last 10 years, the Stofans have lived in Portland, OR, where Duane is a software engineer with Intel and Colleen is a full-time mom. email@thestofans.com

Tara (Wolfenbarger) Smith
The Smiths have relocated to Tara’s hometown of Sentinel, OK. Randy is the new high school baseball coach, and Tara is enjoying staying home with their boys, Cooper (3) and Brisco (2). She also is helping her mother publish the weekly paper, The Sentinel Leader. Our new address is P.O. Box 114, Sentinel, OK, 73664. tarakaye@hintonet.net

1997
Clint and Marilyn (Hinds) LaRue
The LaRues proudly announce the birth of their son, Wesley Paul, on August 15, 2007.

1999
Ginny Coleman
After getting her MDiv from ACU in 2006, Ginny moved to the country of Laos, where she currently works for Joma Bakery Cafe as marketing manager and graphic designer.

The Blanchard Family
Dave and Caryn (Hale) Blanchard
Dave completed a masters of divinity degree from Abilene Christian University on May 10, 2008. He now serves as the fulltime youth minister the Livonia church of Christ in Livonia, MI. Dave and Caryn have three children: Lily (6), Elijah (3), and Micah (1). lilyspad7@yahoo.com
**Angie (Klameth) and John (00) Ricketts**
The Ricketts announce the birth of their daughter, Addison Kay, who was born June 20, 2008. She weighed 5 lbs., 2 oz. Angie and John grieve the loss of their son, Bryce Thomas, who was born at rest on June 20. John is now the distribution consignment center supervisor at Feed the Children in Oklahoma City. jaricketts@cox.net

**2000**
Deanna (Flournoy) Stephenson
Deanna married Aaron Stephenson on November 3, 2007. Their ceremony was held at Perkins Chapel on the campus of Southern Methodist University. Deanna and Aaron reside in Plano, TX; she works for Ralph Lauren in Dallas and Aaron is the director of leasing for The Karahan Companies in Plano.

**Dustin and Heather Sims**
The Sims proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Megan Brooke, on May 22, 2008. dbasims@yahoo.com

**Zann Tracy McMahan**
In June, Zann completed his residency at Great Plains Family Medicine in Oklahoma City, OK. Zann is now in private practice. His clinic, McMahan Family Medicine, opened in August in north Edmond, OK.

**Matt and Holly (Cline) Brock**
live in Mount Dora, FL, with their daughter Sadie. Holly teaches Pre-K at Christian Home and Bible School, an 800-student private school and children’s home. Matt is the vice president for development at CH&B.S. New address: 2351 Sabastian Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757. matt.brock@chbs.org; hollysbrock@gmail.com

**Melody (McCoy) Rabbitt**
Melody and her husband Tim announce the birth of their son, Treyton James Rabbitt, on March 14, 2008. He joins stepbrother Trevor (16) and stepsister Andrea (13). mathlover05@peoplepc.com

**John Clifton and his wife**
Ashlee announce the birth of their daughter, Kaylee Anne, on February 23, 2007, in Yokosuka, Japan. They live in Yokohama, Japan, where John works as an IT specialist and Ashlee is an English teacher. johnwclifton@hotmail.com

**Jennifer (Coffman) and Ryan Witherspoon** announce the birth of their daughter, Adelynne Kate Witherspoon. She was born July 8th, 2008 weighing in at 7 lbs 6 oz. They reside in Oklahoma City.

**2001**
Chris Smith moved his law practice to City Place Building in downtown Oklahoma City; opening an office under the name “Chris Smith Law, P.L.L.C.” He is “Of Counsel” with the Oklahoma City litigation firm of Burch & George, P.C. Phone: (405) 239.7711. chris@chrissmithlaw.com

**2002**
Crystalyn (Starks) Fillmore
Crystalyn, a captain in the U.S. Army, is serving her second tour in Iraq. She is scheduled to return to the states in September 2009. crystalln.fillmore.us.army.mil

**Rachel Nighswonger**
Rachel was a contestant on Wheel of Fortune earlier this year. rachel.nighswonger@raytownschools.org

**Adam and Heather (03) Hoffhines**
In June, Adam successfully completed his graduate school training and dissertation defense, earning his Ph.D. in Cell Biology from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. adam.hoffhines@ouhs.edu

**Erin (Gaddie) and Phil Wolke** announce the birth of their son, Carson John, born on August 25, 2007. Phil works as an independent insurance agent in Piedmont, OK and Erin is the counselor at Hilldale Elementary School in the Putnam City School District. Address: 10301 Chancellor Dr., Yukon, OK 73099. erinwolke@hotmail.com

**Mardee and Lindsay O’Donnell** were blessed with the birth of their first child, Evan Joseph, on March 1, 2008. Mardee graduated from the Oklahoma College of Optometry at Northeastern State University in May. After graduation, he, Lindsay and Evan moved to Holdenville, OK where he entered practice with Robert L. Irby, Jr., O.D. Lindsay is a full-time mom and bookkeeper for the optometry office. Their new address is 620 Ramsey Dr., Holdenville, OK 74848.

**Tamra (Townesly)** married Mark Blankship on March 15, 2008, in San Antonio, TX. Tamra is the director of children’s ministries at MacArthur Park Church of Christ and Mark is vice president of construction lending at Compass Bank. New address: 14810 Oak Briar, San Antonio, TX 78232. tamra.blankinship@gmail.com

**2003**
Amy Davenport was selected as the 2007-08 Teacher of the Year at Ben Milam Elementary in Midland, TX. She teaches second grade. amyjo.davenport@gmail.com

**Heidi and Adam Picker (03)**
Chelsea Kaye Picker was born February 16, 2008 in Tauranga, New Zealand. Adam and Heidi have been living in New Zealand for two years and have recently returned to Edmond, OK.

**Bradley & Diana Oglesby**
Diana (Kniffin) and Bradley Oglesby (02)
Diana and Bradley were married on June 7, 2008. The outdoor ceremony and weekend celebration
MILESTONES

Eric Thornton married Jean Harris on May 17, 2008. Their ceremony was held in the White Garden at Clark Gardens Botanical Park in Weatherford, TX. Eric is the youth minister at South Main Church of Christ and Jean is a Spanish teacher at Weatherford High School. They reside in Weatherford. youthguy80@gmail.com

Travis and Kiala (Snider 07) Powell were married on August 17, 2007, in Guthrie, OK. Until moving to Daytona Beach, FL, in August 2008, Travis was an activity director at Tealridge Retirement Community and Kiala was a student life assistant at OC. travybear80@gmail.com

Nichole (Broyles) and David Brookman (04)
The Brookmans announce the birth of their first child, a boy named Ryan Samuel, on April 7, 2008. He weighed 7 lbs., 3 oz., and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Preston Watterson
The Watterson family is proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Ava Nicole, on July 28, 2008. She weighed 7 lb., 12 oz., and was born on July 28, 2008. Her older brother, Chase, is three years old.

Jonathan (JC) and Courtney (Hutcheson 00) Curtis announce the birth of their first son, Dax Coleman, on January 22, 2008. Courtney is an Accountant at Jay Parks and Associates, CPA. JC is a Graphic Designer at OC.

THE CURTIS FAMILY

April Stephens graduated with her masters degree in Music History and Literature from Texas State University-San Marcos on May 9, 2008. She now attends the University of Arizona, where she received a teaching assistantship, to

Eagle Connect 2.0

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!
The untimely death of Bobby Murcer on July 12 saddened the OC family. One of the all-time favorite Yankees, Murcer’s legacy and popularity lasted long past his remarkable baseball career. He was a five-time All-Star and spent nearly 40 years with the Yankees as a player and announcer.

A member of Memorial Road Church of Christ, Bobby’s continued devotion to his faith and his family set him apart as a genuine superstar role model for young people. He was diagnosed with brain cancer in December 2006 and his courageous battle with the disease has been an encouragement to many others with similar illnesses.

“Bobby Murcer was one of the most godly and humble men I knew, especially considering his many amazing years of fame,” OC president Mike O’Neal said. “We are deeply grateful for the way he and Kay have befriended Oklahoma Christian University and have used their considerable influence for good and for righteousness. Bobby’s passing will leave a huge void in the hearts of thousands who knew and loved him. We thank God for sharing him with us for 62 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kay and their children and grandchildren.”

Former White House Press Secretary Tony Snow was only on the OC campus for a few hours, but he touched the lives of many during that time. Last November, Snow was the Hatton W. Sumners Distinguished Speaker at a special event attended by alumni, students, faculty, staff, and people from the surrounding community. Snow spoke openly of his faith in God and in the future of America.

“Tony Snow was an inspirational person who demonstrated his love for his family and his nation throughout his career. He was a man of faith who fought his battle against cancer with courage and grace,” OC president Mike O’Neal said.

Snow passed away on July 12 at age 53. The OC community offers our condolences to Snow’s wife, Jill, and their three children.
In 2005, Oklahoma Christian’s administration recognized the need for a nursing program to combat the nursing shortage facing the state.

The following March, OC received approval from the Oklahoma Board of Nursing to begin the process of admitting students to a nursing program that fall. Since this time, the program has prospered.

Thanks to a great deal of work from the program’s leaders and the university as a whole, an accreditation visit from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in November 2007 led to full five-year CCNE accreditation status.

According to Linda Fly, OC’s Director of Nursing, this accreditation fulfilled a leap of faith the students took with the program. The students had faith in the faculty that they would be able to gain accreditation and continue to build the program and make it stronger.

OC Nursing met another milestone this spring with the graduation of its first 17 nurses. Fly said watching these students graduate and participate in what she hopes will be the first of many pinnings—a ceremony to welcome new graduates into the nursing profession—truly was an amazing and gratifying experience.

“We nurture these students like they are our own children. You pour your heart into them and you get to see the progress they make along the way,” she said.

The new graduates are already demonstrating the program’s quality. With one student left to test, OC was at an 87.5 percent pass rate. This exceeds the Oklahoma average of 82.7 percent and is close to the national average of 88 percent.

A shining example of how OC’s nursing is setting itself apart from other programs is through its medical missions focus. Students are required to take a four-hour course in health care missions and Christian service. This mission work must take place at either a culturally-diverse impoverished area in the United States or at an international site.

One choice that is becoming very popular with the students is HondurasServe. This past summer, nine students traveled to Honduras and worked in various villages, clinics and hospitals. Over a four-day period, the group sees more than 200 patients in the mountain areas alone, and countless others in the local hospitals.

Fly says this experience is eye-opening to her students. They are surprised to learn that these hospitals have a mortality rate of more than 50 percent. The rate is so high because, by the time patients reach the hospital, they have unsuccessfully tried to receive care at a number of other levels.

This piece of the curriculum, which combines the teaching of technical skills with the teaching of compassion and Christian focus, allows OC’s students to integrate their faith into their future profession.

Fly knows that, to continue the growth of the nursing program, the faculty and instructors must continue to learn. That is one reason she is pursuing a doctoral degree in nursing. She was one of just six students to be chosen for a new program at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

With 114 nursing students enrolled at OC this fall, up from 72 students only two years ago, the program is poised to produce even more quality nurses who not only offer excellent care, but also offer their patients the love of Christ.

By Allison Shumate (05)
The OC Road Show, a collaboration between OC’s Admissions and Alumni Relations offices, is a new program designed to promote Oklahoma Christian to prospective students and reconnect alumni to the university in informal home settings across the country. Alumni hosts open their homes and provide appetizers, snacks and refreshments for the OC Road Show, which helps OC Admissions staff focus on what they do best—connecting with prospective students.

We hope you’ll take the opportunity to host an OC Road Show. To get more info about hosting or to see if a road show is coming to your town, go to www.oc.edu/roadshow.

Order your copy today! Harris Connect Customer Service 1.800.877.6554 - inquiry@harrisconnect.com

Vision is still Oklahoma Christian University’s alumni magazine, but you’ve never seen it like this before. All of the same OC news and stories are now available in an easy-to-read online format. Find out what great things OC alumni have been doing in their time since college. See Christian higher education at work in the world. And see why, after all these years, you should still be proud to be an Eagle!

www.oc.edu/vision
For more information about OC accomplishments, activities and other news, go to news.oc.edu.

OC RANKED IN AMERICA’S BEST COLLEGES

OC has been named a “Best University – Master’s” in the West region in U.S. News and World Report’s 2009 edition of “America’s Best Colleges.”

This is the 10th consecutive year that U.S. News has ranked Oklahoma Christian in its America’s Best Colleges Guidebook.

Last year, Oklahoma Christian was elevated to a higher category known as the master’s group due to a growing number of graduate students and the addition of several new graduate programs. OC moved up five spots from its initial 2007 ranking in this higher category even though it is a newcomer to this category and not as well known by its peers.

“We’re very pleased to be ranked as a best college in the West,” OC president Mike O’Neal said. “Our master’s programs continue to grow in scope and stature, so we expect our rankings to climb higher of the overall quality and exceptional professors we have teaching in these rigorous programs. Our undergraduate program is certainly one of the most outstanding in this area. The real proof is how well our graduates perform in the marketplace.”

OC STUDENTS WELCOME NEW LAPTOP, IPHONE PROGRAM

OC has been a national leader in campus mobile computing since 2001 when it issued laptops to all students and became the first completely wireless campus in the state – and one of the few in the nation. Since that time, the mobile teaching and learning initiative has seen great gains in student learning capabilities, providing increased communication and connecting students to learning resources.

In March, Oklahoma Christian announced plans to move from a PC-based one-to-one student laptop program to Apple MacBooks. The MacBook systems were provided to students with both major operating systems, Mac OS X and Windows Vista. Current students welcomed this change and 84 percent opted to pay an upgrade fee, returning their university-issued PC laptop for the new MacBook.

As students returned to campus beginning Aug. 23, they were issued an iPhone or iPod touch. Oklahoma Christian is one of the first universities issuing these mobile devices.

“We hope these changes to our mobile computing platforms will continue to enhance student learning and expand communication to our students,” Chief Technology Officer John Hermes said.

The university also will launch several new and updated web applications with these new mobile devices.

“The iPhone will take the university’s one-to-one program to the next level,” said Luke Hartman, OC’s academic multimedia specialist. “The InTouch application will give students a mobile portal to course information, campus events, and local entertainment in the palm of their hands. The iPhone will work well for students even when they are away from the campus-wide wireless infrastructure – keeping students ‘in touch’ no matter where they are.”

Faculty also will benefit from the new initiative as the Apple MacBooks make it easier for them to create multimedia courseware. The iPhone or iPod will help push educational resources such as discipline-related podcasts to students to supplement or enhance their learning.

“It is our intention at Oklahoma Christian to provide our students with not only the latest technology, but with the tools needed to be continuous, lifelong learners and productive citizens wherever life may lead them,” President Mike O’Neal said. “Even more important than the technology is the faculty’s role in teaching the students to discern what is important in a time of information overload, to think critically, and to apply their education most effectively in service to their families, their employers and their global communities.”

For more on OC’s mobile learning partnership with Apple, go to www.oc.edu/apple.

EXECUTIVE VP LEAVING OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Alfred Branch will leave the university in October to enter private business.

Branch, a 1984 OC graduate, has been a member of the university’s senior management team since 1999 and served as acting president from 2001 to 2002. Prior to joining Oklahoma Christian, Branch was an executive with Trammell Crow Company in Oklahoma City.

“Al has been a tireless and dedicated servant leader,” President Mike O’Neal said. “Through his efforts, Oklahoma Christian has stabilized and improved its operating performance and experienced unprecedented growth. He oversaw new programs, numerous construction projects and campus improvement without compromising the university’s financial future. Oklahoma Christian is in excellent financial, spiritual and academic condition, and much of the credit for that goes to Alfred and his wife, Judy.”

Branch will return to the real estate business as president of Moriah Properties, Inc., of Midland, Texas. Moriah is a privately-held real estate investment, operating and development company owned by longtime Branch family friends Dale and Cary Brown.

Branch will continue to reside in Oklahoma City. His role with Moriah Properties will allow him to continue to work with Oklahoma Christian on the management and development of the university’s real estate investments and major construction projects.

“We are so very proud of our work with Oklahoma Christian over the past nine years,” Branch stated. “This university has been a wonderful asset to the Oklahoma City area and community for 50 years. OC is well positioned for future growth and will no doubt continue to provide an outstanding educational experience to its students. OC makes a difference in the lives of our students and it has been a pleasure to have served this great institution.”

OC NAMES NEW VICE PRESIDENTS

Oklahoma Christian recently named three administrators to vice president positions.

Dr. Nathan Mellor, who joined Oklahoma Christian in 2006, is the
Vice President for University Outreach and Chief of Staff. Mellor also has served as assistant professor of leadership in the university’s School of Business Administration and as executive director of the Academy for Leadership & Liberty on the OC campus.

He has overseen several major programs in his role with the Academy, including Oklahoma Leadership Academy, Business Week OC, Peace Through Business Rwanda, the Southwest Youth Leadership Conference, the Hatton W. Sumners Distinguished Speaker Series and the newly-launched $10 million Heart of America Campaign to revitalize Enterprise Square and promote leadership education.

OC alumni Neil Arter and Risa Forrester each have been promoted to vice president from their prior positions as dean. Arter is Vice President for Student Life and Forrester is Vice President for Enrollment Management.

Arter has worked in other positions on campus in various roles for more than 15 years. The 1990 OC graduate became OC’s dean of students in 2002. He was honored as Employee of the Year in 2001, and under his leadership, the Office of Student Life has earned recognition for its programs that have boosted student retention rates.

Forrester, a 1996 OC grad, has served as dean of enrollment and marketing since 2006. She began her career at OC in 1996 as an admissions director.

- Oklahoma Christian has had the top CPA exam pass rate in the state for 11 of the past 13 years.
- OC biochemistry student Lindsey Addington won first place overall for her presentation at the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences convention.
- Many of OC’s art and design students won national awards in the Brass Ring competition, which included submissions from students at more than 20 universities around the nation and was sponsored by Oklahoma Christian. OC’s first-place winners were Sarah Baker, Jessica Beethe, Josh Burgin, Marc Hobelman, Renee Lanpher and Philana Phillips.
- OC student Brian Trumbly won two awards – one for first place and one for second place – at the National Broadcasting Society Awards. Trumbly and Marcus Ross also won first-place awards at the state level.
- Meagan (Johnson) Harris, a recent communications alumna, won an Edward R. Murrow award to go with the Emmy she already has.
- Laura Oestmann, an electrical engineering major at OC, was selected to work on the International Space Station with Pratt & Whitney last summer.
- OC student Nicklaus Little had the highest score in all of Oklahoma and Arkansas in a competition that features what is known as “the world’s most difficult mathematics exam.”
- OC engineering students Stephen Swanson and Justin Matlock won two of the three top awards at a regional paper competition.
- OC’s chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, was named the top chapter in the nation for the 13th straight year.
- OC’s Accounting Club won the campus accounting club competition sponsored by the Oklahoma Society of CPAs for the second straight year. The club is sponsored by Elaine Kelly.
- Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, named OC’s Soundings publication the “Best Literary Journal” at the national convention.
- Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Allison Garrett will receive an award in November for an article she and another professor wrote on the pharmaceutical industry.
- An article co-authored by Assistant Professor of Education Dr. Caren Feuerhelm was named the outstanding article of the year by the Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education.
- Dr. Ryan Newell, psychology and family studies chair, and Dr. Holly Osburn, assistant professor of psychology, both serve as officers of the Oklahoma Psychological Society.
- OC library director Tammy Willis has been elected president of the Christian College Librarians organization.
counselor before becoming director of admissions. Her leadership and initiatives helped Oklahoma Christian achieve four straight years of record enrollment.

OC’s other vice presidents include Jeff Bingham (Finance), Dr. John deSteiguer (Advancement), Dr. Allison Garrett (Academic Affairs), and Jay Jones (University Services).

PROFESSOR SERVING ON NATIONAL COMMITTEE
Professor of Communications Dr. Phillip Patterson will be the private school representative on a panel that will formulate questions for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (the “Nation’s Report Card”).

The NAEP will make its first-ever attempt to assess American students on their knowledge of history in 2012. Patterson, who is president of the National Christian Schools Association, will represent the 8 million private school student community on the panel.

NAEP is under the Department of the Census and is empowered by Congress to assess the nation’s students on an annual basis.

BUSINESS PROFESSOR HONORED BY AMA
Dr. Burt Smith has been named the American Marketing Association’s Member of the Year by the Oklahoma City Chapter. Smith, OC professor of business, is the author of the book, “The Great Game of Networking,” and is an accomplished entrepreneur. He is the past president of the American Marketing Association (AMA) and a former board member for the OKC Chamber of Commerce.

Smith is a National Chapter Excellence Award Winner, and was among 39 Oklahomans honored in the Journal Record’s “Achievers Under 40” Centennial Class.

His academic interests include organizational design, marketing management, strategy, small business, branding, and customer satisfaction. He is the co-sponsor for the Marketing Student Advisory Council and the student AMA chapter.

“I work at OC because I love serving the mission,” he said. “I really feel called to be here.”

BENTON TOURS ROUTE 66
Pepperdine University president Andy Benton, an OC alumnus, made a 2,400-mile trip on Route 66 over the summer.

The purpose of the trip was to explore what people are saying along “America’s Main Street” about their nation, institutions, communities, and families.

Benton met with educators, parents, business people, and church and civic leaders at stops in Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona before returning to California.

“I have been given a wonderful opportunity to serve at Pepperdine for nearly 25 years and am midway through my one-year term as chair of the American Council on Education,” Benton said. “If I can use that vantage point to comment on what such a significant portion of America would like to say to those of us privileged

FLETCHER TO BE INDUCTED INTO OKLAHOMA HIGHER ED HALL OF FAME
The Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame recognizes and honors individuals for outstanding meritorious service to higher education in Oklahoma. This year, they will induct Dr. Harold Fletcher, Oklahoma Christian University Professor Emeritus.

Fletcher, composer of the school’s alma mater, became a member of OC’s faculty in the institution’s inaugural year in 1950 (as Central Christian College in Bartlesville) and continues to teach classes today. He has taught music history, literature and theory. He also directed the university’s Chorale, and wrote and directed many of OC’s musicals.

He and his late wife Mary Helon have a legacy of faithfully supporting and enhancing OC through their lives of faith, intellectual openness, inquiry, learning and devotion to the arts. In 2005, Oklahoma Christian dedicated the Harold and Mary Helon Fletcher Center for Music in their honor.
to help shape the education of the world’s future leaders, I will feel the journey has been productive.”

**OC SENDS EXCHANGE STUDENT TO KOREA CHRISTIAN**

Marshall Wade, a senior accounting major at Oklahoma Christian, is the first student to be selected for OC’s exchange program with Korea Christian University. He also is the first American exchange student at that university.

Marshall participated in OC’s Pacific Rim study abroad program in 2006. He will be studying in Seoul until December.

Oklahoma Christian is in its second year of hosting exchange students from KCU. KCU student Hyun Byung Kwon is studying at OC this year.

**OC RECEIVES $100,000 ENGINEERING GRANT**

OC’s School of Engineering is receiving a three-year grant of $100,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop curriculum that improves the retention of engineering students.

The project is led by Wright State University in Ohio and includes Oklahoma State University, the University of Tulsa, and universities in California, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

The new approach involves the introduction of a new freshman engineering mathematics course along with a restructuring of the early engineering curriculum.

Taught by engineering faculty, the new ENGR 101 course includes student interaction components that are application-oriented and hands-on, and that address the math topics used in the core entry-level engineering courses. These include the traditional physics, engineering mechanics, electric circuits and computer programming sequences.

The ENGR 101 course replaces traditional math prerequisite requirements for the core course so students can advance in the engineering curriculum without first completing the required calculus sequence.

**NORTH TEXAS ALUMNI EVENTS**

The North Texas Alumni Chapter continued its tradition of sending Dallas-Fort Worth area students off to OC with its annual “Eagle Exit” event in July.

Alumni Mark (78) and Susie (79) Jackson hosted the event, which featured a performance by OC’s Summer Singers. The alumni chapter also presented scholarships to incoming OC freshmen.

The next major event for the North Texas Alumni Association will be a leadership retreat for OC students on Jan. 30-31 at the home of Richard (66) and Pat (67) Lawson. The Lawsons also will host a Road Show on Jan. 31.

For more information or to get involved with the North Texas Alumni Association, contact Krista Glover (94) at klglove@hotmail.com.
**SPORTS NEWS**

**2007–08 ATHLETIC YEAR IN REVIEW**

The 2007–08 athletic year saw the return of OC baseball, the golf team’s continued national excellence, conference and regional tennis championships, and a slew of All-America and academic honors for OC’s athletes.

The fall season was highlighted by standout individual performances in cross country and tennis. Jordan Powell and Sylvia Chirich both placed 10th at the NAIA Cross Country National Championships. Chirich’s finish was the highest-ever for an OC woman while Powell’s finish tied for the second-highest in OC men’s history.

On the tennis court, OC’s Esteban Flores won the Intercollegiate Tennis Association regional singles championship and combined with Juraj Surovy to win the doubles title. Jennifer Le and Gabriela Nastasa captured the women’s regional doubles crown for the second straight year. Flores and the Le-Nastasa team both placed fifth at the ITA national tournament.

Though OC’s soccer teams didn’t duplicate their national tournament runs from the previous year, they both posted strong finishes. A year after winning the Sooner Athletic Conference championship, the Lady Eagles came up just short of winning the SAC tournament. The Eagles, led by All-Americans Adam Barnes and Bryan Cochrum, qualified for the regional tourney before losing in the semifinals.

The basketball season was a year of transition for both the Eagles and Lady Eagles after both lost deep senior classes. OC’s women, paced by third-team All-American Kailan DeCamp, finished 32nd in the national tournament. The Eagles fought through injuries to go 6-2 in February and show signs of a bright future behind third-team All-American Jason Taylor.

First-team All-American Tracy Washam and newcomer Christin Dobbs helped lead the softball team to its first 30-win season since 2003, including two victories over eventual national champion Lubbock Christian.

On the baseball diamond, OC won its first game since 2001 in memorable fashion. Led by fantastic freshman Jordan Price, the Eagles won eight home games and extended their winning streak to nine straight years under Coach Stephanie Findley. They take pride in performing at a high level off the court,” Coach Stephanie Findley said. “It is an expectation that is work the players put into their studies.

In track and field, the 4x800-meter relay team of Curtis Pratt, Cole McAllister, Eric Poole and Josh Wayland earned its third-straight All-America honor with a thrilling third-place finish at NAIA Indoor Nationals. Wayland and Powell also claimed indoor All-America honors before Charlotte Heron’s second-place finish in the high jump at NAIA Outdoor Nationals gave her All-America status for the second year in a row.

The spring season saw the OC men’s team win the conference and regional titles and advance to its first national tournament since the Eagles’ 2003 national championship campaign. Flores and Kyle Tefft earned All-America honors on the men’s side while Le’s spot on the women’s first team made her a four-time All-American.

The OC golf team had another spectacular year. The Eagles were ranked No. 1 in every poll and extended their run of top-four finishes at the national tournament to nine straight years under SAC and NAIA Region VI Coach of the Year David Lynn. Their runnerup finish was the third in program history (2001, 2005).

All five OC golfers who competed at nationals made the NAIA All-America team, with seniors Bruno Buccolo and Rhein Gibson becoming four-time All-Americans. Buccolo, who also earned a spot on the All-Nicklaus Team as one of the nation’s top 20 college golfers (including all of the NCAA and the NAIA), graduated as the winningest golfer in OC history with 10 tournament wins.

**OC EIGHTH IN NAIA WITH 12 SCHOLAR TEAMS**

Oklahoma Christian tied for eighth nationally with 12 NAIA Scholar Teams, a designation given to teams with cumulative grade point averages of at least 3.0.

As in 2006-07 (the first year of the award), OC’s scholar team total topped the state of Oklahoma, the Sooner Athletic Conference and NAIA Region VI by a wide margin.

OC had 12 of the 27 scholar teams in Oklahoma (44 percent), 12 of the 32 scholar teams in the SAC (38 percent), and 12 of 44 teams in the region (27 percent).

Twelve of OC’s 13 athletic programs met the scholar team standard, led by women’s basketball with a 3.63 GPA. The GPAs of five OC programs placed them in the top 10 in their respective sports. Baseball, men’s basketball and women’s basketball all ranked third nationally, while men’s track and field was sixth and men’s golf ranked 10th.

In addition to the scholar team honor, the women’s basketball team placed third nationally on the Women’s Basketball Coaches’ Association academic honor roll.

“I’m proud of the team and the hard work the players put into their studies. They take pride in performing at a high level off the court,” Coach Stephanie Findley said. “It is an expectation that is passed on from team to team as our young women move through our program. We are very excited to finish in the top three nationally.”

OC produced 24 NAIA Scholar-Athletes this year, led by ESPN The Magazine Academic All-Americans Kristin Brown, Cassie Tyler and Adam Barnes.

**GIBSON WINS STATE AMATEUR**


Gibson beat Poteau’s Zachary Pool 7&6 in the semifinal round, tying for the second-largest margin of victory in the six-round tournament. He then defeated the University of Central Oklahoma’s Andrew

4x800 Relay: Cole McAllister, Curtis Pratt, Josh Wayland and Eric Poole
LYNN STEPS DOWN FROM GOLF POST

After a run of nine straight top-four finishes at the NAIA National Tournament, David Lynn has resigned as OC’s head golf coach.

Lynn departs Oklahoma Christian with one of the best resumes in the school’s athletic history, highlighted by the Eagles’ national runnerup finishes in 2001, 2005 and 2008.

The 1996 OC graduate guided the Eagles to 34 team tournament titles and 33 individual tournament titles during his nine-year career.

Lynn leaves Oklahoma Christian to focus full-time on his job at Philippiades Capital Management. He has worked with the company since December 2005 in addition to his coaching duties at OC.

“It was an extremely difficult decision for me to leave Oklahoma Christian, but the opportunity in front of me to better myself and my family was too good to turn down,” Lynn said. “The people at Oklahoma Christian are what make OC so special and that is what I will miss being a part of. I want to thank the administration for the support I received and for the opportunity to daily impact young peoples’ lives in a positive manner.”

CLINE NAMED GOLF COACH

Kelsey Cline has been named Oklahoma Christian’s new golf coach. Cline comes to OC after a stellar playing career at the University of Oklahoma from 1997 to 2001.

“We are extremely excited to have Kelsey lead our golf program,” OC director of athletic operations Chuck White said. “We have a tradition here that we are very proud of and I am confident Kelsey will keep us among the nation’s best.”

Cline was an All-Big 12 and all-region selection at Oklahoma, where he was the Big 12 Tournament runnerup as a senior in 2001. He tallied five career top-10 finishes for the Sooners before graduating in 2001.

The Mustang, Okla., native qualified for the Byron Nelson Classic of the PGA Tour in 2002 and 2003. He was also named the 2002 Tight Lies Tour Champion.

MILLER RETURNS AS TENNIS COACH

Kris Miller has rejoined OC’s athletic department for his second stint as head coach of the Eagle and Lady Eagle tennis program.

He served in the same role at Oklahoma Christian from 1987 to 2003, a stint highlighted by the men’s team winning the 2003 NAIA National Championship. He accumulated a 288-114 record (.716) on the men’s side and a 95-43 mark (.688) with the women’s team.

Miller, who has served as a professor of biology at Oklahoma Christian since 1994, returns to OC’s head coaching post after being an assistant at the University of Oklahoma.

In his first tenure, he produced 31 male and 17 female NAIA All-Americans, plus 17 NAIA Scholar-Athletes. Miller’s coaching tree includes four current NCAA Division I head coaches in Eastern Illinois University’s John Blackburn, Southern Illinois University’s Dann Nelson, the University of Tennessee’s Sam Winterbotham, and Wichita State University’s Chris Young.

Miller was named Wilson-ITA National Men’s Coach of the Year in 1996, 1998 and 2003. He also earned 2000 National Coach of the Year honors in women’s tennis as he simultaneously turned the Lady Eagles into an NAIA power.

Miller, an OC alumus, earned his master’s degree from the University of Oklahoma and his doctoral degree in biochemistry from the OU Health Sciences Center. His wife Robyn chairs OC’s School of Education.

OC WINS TOP HONORS IN NATIONAL CONTESTS

Oklahoma Christian won top national honors in two categories in the NAIA Sports Information Directors of America publications contest.

OC won first place for its men’s and women’s basketball guide, and swept the top two places in the “Multi-Sport Brochure” category for its spring sports guide and fall sports guide, respectively.

Competing nationwide against schools from the NAIA and from NCAA Division II, the university also earned several awards from the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Oklahoma Christian placed second with its fall sports guide and seventh with its basketball guide. OC’s cover designs took top honors in both categories.

The guides were produced by OC director of athletic marketing and communications Wes McKinzie and athletic communications coordinator Dave Seat. Other contributors included Jonathan Curtis, Rachel O’Donnell and Scott Hill (cover designs), and Steven Christy, Judson Copeland and J.L. Davis (photography).

For game recaps or other sports news, visit www.oceagles.com.
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.
NAC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
a closer look at National Alumni Council Members

**Charles Villines**

Member: Charles Villines

Childhood Ambition: Be a science teacher or a pharmacist.

Fondest Memory: Being on the enrollment team at Central Christian.

Wildest Dream: Flying without an airplane.

Proudest Moment: The birth of my children, the time at Central Christian.

Biggest Challenge: Owning and managing our pharmacy for 30 years.

Perfect Day: Saturday mornings with Kay.

Indulgence: Homemade ice cream.

Inspiration: So many, but Herb McDowell, my teacher, at CCC.

My Life: Full, rich, and blessed.

My School: Oklahoma Christian.

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**Dan Miller**

Member: Dan Miller

Childhood Ambition: Doctor, writer.

Fondest Memory: Marrying Ellie.

Wildest Dream: Heaven.

Proudest Moment: Graduating from medical school.

Biggest Challenge: Accepting everyone dies. Some time and doctors can’t change that.

Perfect Day: Ellie, children, grandchildren, and I, all together, having fun.

Indulgence: Chocolate.

Inspiration: Many—reading, music, discussing issues, asking “what if?”

My Life: Incredibly blessed.

My School: Central Christian College, now named Oklahoma Christian University.
SPRING SING 1988
Back-up vocalists and host and hostesses performed several acts together to assist stage preparation between club shows.

The annual Student Senate Retreat is the first Senate function at which senators can meet each other and learn about Parliamentary Procedure.

Toy building blocks were one of Theta’s creative toy projects that were performed on stage in “Toyland.”

The cast of “The Unsinkable Molly Brown” poses in their costumes for the smaller-than-usual cast photo.
Homecoming queen, Gayla Crull, with escort Tom Everett, stand in recognition during the halftime activities.

During one of their practices, the Symphonic Band exhibits their character by having a good time.
I hope you look back on your time at OC with fond memories like mine.

I hope you miss the singing in Chapel and cheering for the Eagles in the Nest. I hope you enjoyed going back to the dorms each night to catch up with friends and roommates. I did not mind curfew nearly as much as I thought I would!

I hope you remember Earn Your Wings, candlelightings, late-night study sessions, Spring Sing practices, meals in the Caf, and late nights playing flag football. More than anything, I hope you look back and remember the people you met during your time here.

You see, I love OC because I love the people who make it what it is. I love the professors. I love the friendships I have made here and have kept since. I love the connections I have made with people around the world because I attended Oklahoma Christian University.

As I begin my work in the Alumni Office, I know my job here is to help you stay connected to OC. I am excited about that task and am looking forward to reconnecting with you over the memories we share and the school we love.

So, please, come back for Homecoming November 7th and 8th. Make time for the Mike McDonald Fun Run and Spring Sing next spring, and Family Fun Night next summer. Spend some time on campus or join us for a First Friday. Call your old roommate and plan a trip to meet a former professor for coffee. You will not regret it ... I promise.

Katy Watson
Director of Alumni Relations

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

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

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

NEW REIGN IN JAPAN
OC’s a cappella singing group, New Reign, had the opportunity to sing, minister and recruit students in Japan earlier this year. Will Coleson, Bryson Holley, Jesse Leake and Raymond Mobley (pictured) joined fellow group members Clair Crowe, Emilee Holley and Abbey Merritt on the trip.

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