Dear Alumni and Friends:

So many wonderful things are happening at your university that we feel this is one of the finest moments in Oklahoma Christian's history. I hope the news in VISION and in our electronic AlumNews helps you stay connected and proud of your university. The local and worldwide impact of OC is truly amazing. On March 28, we will celebrate the transformation of the campus with the dedication of Lawson Commons, including the 100-foot Freede Centennial Tower, the 8,000-square-foot McGraw Pavilion, and dozens of new trees and extensive landscaping. The entire development was declared an official Oklahoma Centennial Project. Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry, key legislators and many other special guests will attend the ceremony beginning at 11 a.m. If you are in the area, please join us for this historic occasion.

On the night prior to the dedication, we anticipate having approximately 500 alumni and other supporters at our annual Associates Dinner, which honors people who provide $1,000 per year to help fund scholarships for OC students. Our guest speaker will be Argus Hamilton, a nationally-syndicated humorist who has been called the “Will Rogers of the Baby Boom.” In addition to his speech at the Associates Dinner, he plans to spend time on campus with our students as well.

Those of you fortunate enough to have studied under or to have known Dr. Kim Gaither will be pleased to know that Oklahoma Christian has named its biology center the Dr. Kim Gaither Center for Biology. Kim, who died of breast cancer in 2005, was one of the most courageous people I have ever known. She was greatly loved, admired and respected by her students and colleagues at OC, who miss her deeply. She took learning and teaching seriously and she did both very well. More importantly, Kim loved others and lived her faith. She still inspires us today.

The Dr. Kim Gaither Center for Biology will be located in the planned new wing of OC’s Herold Science Hall. The science facility initiative, which will cost $5.8 million, will be completed in three phases. To date, $3.6 million has been raised. The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc., in Ardmore has committed $1 million toward the initiative. Two families also anonymously gave a total of $1.2 million for the project, and hundreds of others have contributed to create this legacy in memory of Dr. Gaither.

We were all deeply saddened recently by the untimely death of Dr. Anthony “Tony” Alley, who courageously fought a very aggressive form of brain cancer for more than a year. Tony’s colleagues and students are in the planning stages of building a monument to celebrate his remarkable life as a jet fighter pilot and educator, and his contributions to Oklahoma Christian. A tribute to this amazing Christian man begins on page 10.

In the last edition of VISION, I outlined some of the exciting renovations at Enterprise Square. Dr. Nathan Mellor, head of the Academy for Leadership & Liberty, has initiated a number of new programs. One of those programs, entitled “Peace through Business,” enhances our already-strong nation-building efforts in Rwanda. In July, the Academy will bring 15 Rwandan businesswomen to OC. They will spend three weeks receiving formal business training and another week shadowing successful Oklahoma City businesswomen. Our intent is to empower these women who are so vital to Rwanda’s future economic success. As you may know, we have 20 outstanding Rwandan students currently attending OC; we will add 10 per year in the future.

In another exciting project that you’ll hear more about soon, we have engaged one of the largest and most respected higher education marketing research and branding agencies, LipmanHearne, to evaluate and make recommendations to enhance the university’s image both internally and externally. The research phase of the program is currently underway and many of you will be asked to participate in their surveys. Upon completion of the research, LipmanHearne will develop messages to help us tell the OC story more effectively.

Thank you for all you do for Oklahoma Christian. We never forget that without your support, we could not continue to provide high-quality Christian higher education to so many outstanding young men and women.

In His Service,

Mike E. O’Neal, President
FEATURES Spring 2008

3,2,1 Blast Off!  Diana Kniffin and her adventures at NASA.

Erin Engelke  
Making an impact through World Neighbors.

Academy of Leadership & Liberty

Dr. Tony Alley  
Tribute to a beloved OC professor.

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VISION Alumni Magazine of Oklahoma Christian University (USPS 405-420)  
Volume 9, No. 1, Spring 2008

POSTMASTER send address changes to:  
VISION, Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100

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4  Randy Hatfield  
Alumnus leads international education project in Pakistan.

9 Jennifer Ma  
Alumna designer for Summer Olympics.

14 Academy of Leadership & Liberty

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

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

28 Baseball Returns to OC  
Eagles win first game back on diamond since 2001.

On The Cover:  
Diana Kniffin (03) in front of a shuttle simulation at NASA.
Someday she’ll have a big corner office in a high-rise building. She’ll be on the corporate fast-track in charge of big events, big campaigns and big deals. She’ll be on the move. She’ll always be reaching for the next goal.

Such were the dreams of Erin (Richards) Engelke when she came to Oklahoma Christian to pursue a degree in public relations. Just a few years after her graduation in 2000, the corner office has worked out, as well as the big events, big campaigns and big deals. But instead of a high-rise office building in corporate America, Erin’s office better resembles a grass hut in a third-world village. And instead of promoting a new product, candidate or event, Erin’s work helps stamp out poverty around the world.

As vice president of marketing and communications for World Neighbors, Erin is responsible for the public image of the international relief organization that was founded in 1951. World Neighbors works in 18 countries helping people develop, manage and sustain their own programs. World Neighbors does not give away food or material aid. Instead, it provides training so that people gain the skills to work together for change.

If you visit Erin at the World Neighbors headquarters in Oklahoma City, she will expertly and passionately tell the stories of the people of World Neighbors as she winds through the building that is outfitted with straw huts, dirt-colored concrete flooring and bamboo walls.

She tells the story of a Philippine family on the brink of starvation who now thanks World Neighbors for showing them...
how to contour farm. Now, this family has enough food to eat all year, and has a surplus to sell at the local market.

She tells the story of a woman in Kenya who waited in line for hours to show a visiting World Neighbors executive her chubby healthy baby, a baby that might have been malnourished and ill if her mother hadn’t learned valuable nutrition tips from World Neighbors.

As Erin points to pictures that line the walls of the World Neighbors headquarters, she also tells the stories of women who live in extreme poverty – whether in Burkina Faso, East Timor or Bolivia – who have the opportunity to learn about their own health, food safety, water sanitation, earning income for their families, and other measures that are improving their quality of life.

Before Erin joined World Neighbors, she enjoyed success in the Oklahoma City PR market working at a bank and then at an advertising firm. She remains busy with organizations such as the Public Relations Society of America, Women in Communications (where she served as president in 2007) and Junior League.

She also serves on a Missions Sunday planning committee at the congregation she attends, Memorial Road Church of Christ.

Erin came to Oklahoma Christian in 1996 from her home state of Idaho as a committed communication major. She jokingly recalls how she wasn’t sure she would make it through the program when she stepped into her first class with Dr. Philip Patterson.

That sinking feeling of doom and panic is a sentiment not lost on any of her fellow alumni who have also experienced the rigor of the mass communication department. But Erin persevered and progressed through the program, taking advantage of internships in public relations and media sales. She was the editor of the Talon student newspaper. She now calls Dr. Patterson an important mentor and friend. The sentiment is mutual.

“Erin is the model of the student we want to create in the mass communication department. She learns quickly, adapts to a changing environment well, and above all is a wonderful ambassador for Oklahoma Christian University and for the cause of Christ in the way she conducts her life in the professional arena,” said Dr. Patterson, distinguished professor of mass communication. “We knew Erin would succeed when she left here, and the years have only validated our beliefs. Despite her young age, women across the metropolitan area look up to her as a role model for a woman in the communication field.”

Her preparation at OC and her experience helped her land the job at World Neighbors. Less than two years later, she was named vice president for marketing and communications and given a $750,000 budget to manage. In her role, Erin makes sure the message and brand of World Neighbors is consistent, and its message is shared across all mediums, including the social media of MySpace and Facebook.

Erin and her husband, Jason, live in Edmond with their toddler son, Gabriel. They are expecting a baby girl this spring.

With a young family and a demanding job, Erin says she appreciates that World Neighbors is a family friendly place to work, as well as a place that connects her to moms and her other neighbors around the world.

By Dawn Shelton (90)
Across the World
Hatfield Leads U.S. Education Project in Pakistan

Ideally, this interview might have happened in person, in a little café in Islamabad, Pakistan. The subject, OC alumnus Dr. Randy Hatfield, would chat with me about his work while important people stopped at our table to greet us.

Time zones, passports and schedules, not to mention budgets, prevented this scenario. But there’s always email. And Facebook, where I finally caught up with Randy to set up our electronic Q and A.

Randy graduated from Oklahoma Christian in 1985 with a BA in American Studies and minors in Spanish and political science. He received a master’s degree in international development from American University, and has a doctorate in social policy and administration from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

For the last 20 years, he has worked in Pakistan – for the Aga Khan Foundation, World Vision and currently, USAID-Pakistan, where he has served as education office director since 2006.

It’s an impressive job in a fascinating part of the world that doesn’t get a lot of positive press in the U.S. That’s why we wanted to know more about him.

VISION: Describe your work and your office.
R: I currently serve as the Education Office Director, USAID/Pakistan. The work is extremely challenging. We work in tiny cubicles in a crowded building on the embassy compound. The work is fast-paced, where ideas have to be formulated very quickly under a ton of pressure. Pakistan is a popular place in the world and hence the challenges and demands are significant. The exciting element of our work is helping to identify development needs where U.S. foreign assistance to Pakistan can best serve the greatest needs for the Pakistani people, particularly (in my case) the field of education. More than half the adult population cannot read and close to 79% of youth ages 10 to 16 are out of school. Literacy among females in rural areas is very low, at only 3%.

V: What is something you wish Americans knew about Pakistan?
R: The media presentation of Pakistan as of late has been rather harsh. The Economist Magazine, in one recent issue, claimed that Pakistan was the most dangerous place to live. While there are pockets of danger and possible threats, in general, these situations are often isolated. People here are more concerned about the pockets of danger and possible threats, in general, these situations are often isolated. People here are more concerned about the economy, rising food prices, scarcity of utilities, and a better education and even mere survival. In general, Pakistanis are normal people who want a “good” life, just like Americans.

V: Tell us about where you live. Or perhaps, compare your current living conditions with the lovely dorms back at OC, or growing up in Hennessey, Oklahoma. Maybe just answer whether it’s really different?
R: I live in one of the older neighborhoods in Islamabad. The house is a two-story, three-bedroom square block that looks like something out of a 1950’s architecture magazine. The yard is gigantic and I have a tiny citrus orchard with orange, lemon and lime trees. I also have three banana trees. That is quite a contrast from growing up in a house across the road from wheat fields in Oklahoma.

So the living for expatriates is very good, in fact a lot better than we might expect in the States. They say, though, Islamabad is 15 kilometers away from “real” Pakistan where people are not living in such nice quarters.

V: Is it difficult to stay in touch with folks back home?
R: Yes, it is difficult to keep in touch. There is approximately a 10- to 11-hour time difference for one thing, so that is one hurdle to communicating “real time.” I send e-mails, but I know that this doesn’t really replace being with friends and family.

V: Can you name the countries you’ve visited?
R: USA (smile), Venezuela, Germany, Austria, Australia, United Arab Emirates, England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Croatia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Kenya, Uganda, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Turkey, Greece, Barbados, Switzerland, and Wales, plus layovers in Korea, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, and The Netherlands.

V: Favorite vacation spot?
R: So far, I would have to say Croatia and Italy. Great atmosphere, food and people!

V: What do you recall about your OC years, and what did you learn that has served you well in your career in the diplomatic service?
R: I think Pa (Ralph) Burcham inspired a lot of us to have confidence to travel around the world on mission trips. Regardless of the effectiveness of these trips, for me personally, the chance to look outside of Oklahoma at the rest of the world perhaps has given me the most opportunity for introspection. As the saying goes, “the wise man travels to discover himself!” The diplomatic service requires patience and understanding of people of the world and the trips that I took during the summers of my college days provided an excellent platform for later service abroad.

By Dawn Shelton (90)
Across the World

Hatfield Leads U.S. Education Project in Pakistan

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the Sixth-Annual OC Associates Celebration

ARGUS HAMILTON

Thursday, March 27, 2008

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♦ "Will Rogers of the Baby Boom"
♦ Official comedian of the Oklahoma Centennial

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Alumna’s career in orbit at NASA

Space Shuttle Atlantis roars to life on Launch Pad 39A, set on a path to link with the international space station.

Smoke billows beneath the shuttle as the final seconds tick down. Millions of gallons of water rush to deafen the sound. As the crowd stands three miles away, the closest anyone is allowed, the sound shakes the onlookers and sets off every car alarm within miles.

One of the spectators is OC alumna Diana Kniffin (03), who works full-time for NASA in the IT Security Office at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Even though this is her sixth shuttle launch, it still excites her as much as her first.

Diana’s love for NASA began long before she came to Oklahoma Christian to pursue a degree in computer science. When she was eight, she informed her father that she would someday work for the space agency. A mural of an astronaut floating in space hung on a bedroom wall of her childhood home.

“NASA has always been a place that inspired me,” she said. “They were on the frontier of exploration and that was always very exciting for me.”

In 2002, following her junior year at OC, Diana’s dream to work at NASA became a reality. She was chosen as one of 36 university students out of 5,000 applicants from across the nation to take part in the agency’s summer internship program.

As the top candidate for Kennedy Space Center, she spent 10 weeks developing software using C and C++ to improve the launch control system, CLCS. This was her first opportunity to gain real-world experience to enhance the knowledge she was gleaning from the classroom.

It was during this summer that Diana experienced her first shuttle launch, STS 111.

“That was an amazing opportunity. Getting a chance to see your work product in action is absolutely incredible,” she said. “The launch is so powerful and so loud. You cannot even imagine the amount of energy used as it is lifting off the ground. Your chest
Today, she is still amazed that something so powerful is taking people into space and that she has a part in each mission. Diana has been there for five more shuttle launches, and she tries to watch each one from a different location at the Kennedy Space Center. In her eyes, seeing the shuttle launch is something that will never get old.

Diana and 11 co-workers in her area work under the supervision of the Kennedy Space Center’s IT Security Manager, Henry Yu. Their team is responsible for monitoring the KSC network along with ensuring the security and integrity of the IT systems.

“Diana has demonstrated an immense technical knowledge base, a tireless work ethic, and a can-do attitude in all tasks,” Yu said. “Diana is a natural-born leader with great potential to lead through personal influence … and the quality of her work is exceptional. She performs like a seasoned veteran and has made an enormous impact in the area of IT Security at KSC.”

Diana says that work in her field never offers any two days that are the same. The team is focused on constantly evolving the security techniques in order to better protect NASA’s data.

“We monitor network traffic that looks out of the ordinary. We do incident response and investigations trying to keep the bad guys out of our networks. Our main job is protecting NASA’s information and making sure that our computers and systems are configured securely so we can keep our data safe and launches successful,” she said. “You are only as good as the people out there trying to get your information. It’s never mundane, it’s never boring, and it’s always challenging.”

Following the Columbia disaster in 2003, NASA implemented the use of high definition cameras to monitor the shuttle during launch and view any debris that may fall off the tanks and strike the vehicle. These new imagery systems increase the capability to monitor the ascent environment and detect damage early so that the astronauts can make on-orbit repairs if necessary.

These HD cameras are located on the ground at KSC, along Florida’s eastern coast, and on the space shuttle’s 50 foot robotic arm so inspection can continue once the shuttle has docked with the International Space Station. The information from the cameras allows decisions regarding mission management, including the safe return of the crew, to be made by NASA.

“IT is now an integral piece of the launch criteria, which is an exciting role for our IT Director,” she said.

The preparation Diana received during her time at OC has continued to benefit her during her tenure at NASA. Her education focused not only on the general understanding of software and computer algorithms, but also on the aspects of teamwork and group dynamics.

“I think the greatest experience you can learn at college is how to work with a team and how to work with people,” she said. “You can do all the studying you want to learn the material and gain book smarts, but that won’t help you as much in the real world as simply understanding people and knowing how to work as a team.”

Diana gained another important thing from her time at Oklahoma Christian; she met her fiancée, Brad Oglesby. The couple will tie the knot this summer. After graduating from OC, Diana earned a master’s degree in software engineering from the Florida Institute of Technology.

Diana recently spent four months away from her position at KSC on an extended assignment with the Office of the Chief Information Officer at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C.

After participating in the NASA FIRST (Foundations of Influence, Relationships, Success and Teamwork) Program, a one-year leadership program for the agency’s future leaders to shadow senior leadership while developing their own skills, Diana made contact with leaders in the Washington office that opened the door for her next opportunity.

The new assignment allowed her to see a different perspective of the agency, to see what takes place outside her own area.

“While I’m sure Diana enhanced her skill sets and gained valuable experience while on this detail, our headquarters’ staff learned a great deal about Diana,” said Jerry Davis, NASA’s deputy chief information officer for IT security. “Diana is the standard by which the next generation of up-and-coming leaders will be measured against. Diana has all the critical attributes required to lead any enterprise.”

The detail allowed her to see how the agency is run and view the “big picture” of how all of NASA’s 12 centers fit together and how they all function from day to day.

This was Diana’s second NASA-related trip to Washington. Following her internship in 2002, Diana was selected to make a presentation regarding her summer with NASA to congressional representatives.

NASA is the place Diana wants to be for the remainder of her career. It fits her and has fulfilled everything she dreamed it would be.

“My career goals are definitely here at NASA,” she said.

On the morning on February 20, the Space Shuttle Atlantis and her crew safely returned home after a 13-day mission that took them more than five million miles.

Meanwhile, the Space Shuttle Endeavour already was poised on Launch Pad 39A to make its next voyage. Diana and the team at Kennedy Space Center IT Security continue their tireless work to keep this and all future missions safe.

And Diana stands ready to watch another heart-pounding launch.

By Allison Shumate (05)
Alum brings the luck of the Eagles to the Irish
Every four years, the world comes together for the Summer Olympics.

Billions of people tune in to watch the opening ceremonies – the parade of countries, the lighting of the torch and, later this year, the work of a former OC art student.

Alumna Jennifer Ma (93) is the chief designer of visual and special effects for the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games. She is part of the seven-person core creative team working to put together an event that will be seen by an estimated four billion people worldwide.

“We are now done with the creative process, which took almost two years, and are now in an implementation phase, with a mad dash towards the finish line,” Jennifer said. “Only four months away!”

The Summer Olympics will be held from Aug. 8 to Aug. 24 in Beijing, China. For Jennifer, the event is more than an incredible opportunity; it’s a homecoming. She was born in Beijing before moving to Oklahoma as a 13-year-old.

“The bottom line is to showcase the innovation of the Chinese people,” Jennifer recently told Fast Company magazine. “Everyone wants to project a very modern image – one that will stun the world.”

Jennifer now lives and works in New York City. Her latest project (besides her Olympic work) is now showing there as part of the Everything is Museum exhibition at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

Her work also has been featured in venues such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the Tate Modern in London, and the Centre Pompidou in Paris. Her projects have appeared in Newsweek, the Wall Street Journal and other mainstream and industry publications.

Though her talent and creativity are unquestioned, Jennifer is quick to say that she owes much of her success to OC’s renowned art and design program, particularly professors Michael O’Keefe and David Crismon, who are both successful professionals in their own right.

“I’m doing more than I ever anticipated,” Jennifer said. “Without OC, I wouldn’t be doing this. It laid great foundations for my career.”

by Wes McKinzie (98)
On January 15, one of OC’s most popular and accomplished professors, Dr. Tony Alley, passed away after a year-long battle with brain cancer.

Alley, the nation’s premier expert in computer modeling and animation instruction, taught computer graphics, interactive multimedia and 2D and 3D animation at Oklahoma Christian.

His book, Exploring 3D Animation with Cinema 4D R9, is one of the foremost texts on the technology that energizes movies like The Incredibles, Monsters, Inc., and Toy Story.

But his knowledge and expertise didn’t define Tony. His career with the U.S. Air Force, where he was a tactical reconnaissance pilot who rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel, didn’t define him.

He was defined by his love of God, his servant heart, and his passionate energy, kindness and compassion. Those traits made a lasting impact on his family, his friends, his colleagues and, of course, his students.

The article below, excerpted from the Talon student newspaper, celebrates the man and the caring professor that Tony was.

To hear from Tony himself, and to read more of what so many others have to say about this remarkable man, go to www.oc.edu/tonyalley.

Flying high-speed low-altitude reconnaissance, jumping out of airplanes with the Army, serving with the Royal Air Force.

“It’s been a phenomenal life,” Associate Professor of Art Tony Alley said last year.

Alley did all of these things during the course of his life. Alley passed away January 15 after a year-long battle with brain cancer. Though Alley did many different things in his life, his passion was teaching. He loved to be with his students and helped make their experience at Oklahoma Christian a better one.

“Teaching has really lifted my spirits. I just really love working with students and teaching is such a great part of my life,” Alley said.

Alley worked with his students individually as well as their friend, not just one of many faces passing through his classrooms every day.

“He made me feel welcome at this university when I didn’t know anybody. He cared about all of his students to the degree that he offered to take people to his home if they couldn’t go home for Thanksgiving,” sophomore Sara McCord said. “He was sincere about it. He really wanted you there if you couldn’t go home.”

Alley not only made students feel welcome in his classroom, but also had an open-door policy about his office.

“Dr. Alley was my advisor and my friend. With his direction, I was able to find where I wanted to go in life, both spiritually and academically,” junior Philana Phillips said. “His office was an open door. Sometimes I would just go in there to talk to him, rather than ask him anything specific. It made my day just to be able to spend a few minutes with him.”
Alley took care of all his students individually. He made an effort to make sure every student understood what he was teaching.

“I had a computer graphics class with Tony Alley. It was a good class, especially for me since I was struggling with it. He helped me out a lot and gave me guidance,” McCord said. “He was also my advisor, and so he took a lot of time with me outside of class to talk with me about the things I was having a hard time with in school, and some of it didn’t have anything to do with his class. He still wanted to help me, even if it didn’t have anything to do with his class or his department. That was my favorite class of the semester, and it was because he was teaching it.”

Many other students enjoyed his classes from the first day.

“Dr. Alley’s classes were the highlight of my day. I only had him as a professor once; that was back in 2005, before any news of the cancer. I knew from the first day of class that he was someone that I could trust and look up to, and that if I ever had a problem, or needed a pick-me-up, he would be there,” Phillips said. “You might say I got ‘good vibes’ from him, and I was right. In class, he wouldn’t be looking over your shoulder every second to make sure you were doing everything perfectly. Instead, he seemed to be right behind me just in time to help me with a problem I was having.”

Alley also helped Phillips make connections outside of Oklahoma Christian that will help her in her future career.

“He got me involved in SIGGRAPH, an organization for people in computer graphics and interactive technology, and I was able to attend the annual conference with him and two other students. SIGGRAPH opened many doors for me that I never thought possible, such as career opportunities, learning experiences, and networking,” Phillips said.

“Without Dr. Alley, I doubt I would have ever even known about SIGGRAPH, let alone been able to go the conferences. I owe so much to him.”

Despite the difficult situation Alley was in for the last year of his life, he never let his situation affect how he interacted with his students.

“He never stopped asking what he could do for me, or any of the other of his students. He didn’t like seeing us sad; he wanted us to realize that he had lived a full life and that he was getting to go home,” Phillips said.

Alley’s whole life focused on his passion for teaching and helping other people.

“He had a passion for computer animation and technology, and it showed,” Phillips said. “He meshed that passion with his love for other people, especially his students, and he created a legacy that will last forever in the hearts of those who knew him.”

By Kimberly Sikes (09)

Memorial garden planned in Alley’s memory

Shortly after Dr. Alley’s funeral, a special announcement was made about a campus memorial being planned by several of his colleagues.

Although still in the planning stages, a concept is being developed for the Tony Alley Memorial Garden that, once complete, will honor Tony’s memory, and beautify an area of campus that is just outside of Alley’s former office. The garden will ultimately provide an outdoor space that can be used as a quiet, contemplative place for students and faculty.

“The idea came out of a collaboration of a meeting with several faculty members and administration,” said David Crismon, professor of art and design. “The impulse is to have something visible and tangible that the students and OC community can use on a daily basis and in the future.”

“We need as many people to help as possible,” Crismon said.

“We’d like help from students and donors. The project is only limited by money and resources.”

“The people in Art & Design wanted something that you could see,” Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences David Lowry said. “We got to thinking about the area outside of Tony’s office, and we thought that would be wonderful place for a memorial.”

Many students and professors were touched by Alley’s impact and are eager to see the memorial constructed.

“He was a mentor of mine,” senior Matthew O’Laughlin said. “One of the important things for me to see was that the person who was in the line of work I was pursuing was the kind of person that I wanted myself to be.”

If you would like help honor the life of Tony Alley by making a donation to the Tony Alley Memorial garden, visit www.oc.edu/tony today.
Many people take for granted the gallons of water used each day, while thousands of people in other countries have little or no water.

Wishing Well hopes to inspire people to be a part of the solution to this problem by raising funds to build wells for fresh water in Africa.


“The emphasis of Wishing Well is change. Changing the culture here and changing lives over there,” Groves said. “Our first goal is to enact social change here in America in response to the humanitarian situation in Africa, and our second and probably most poignant goal, is to raise the money to go and build clean water wells in Africa.”

Groves has received a larger response than he expected from OC’s students.

Over the past two years, Wishing Well has found creative ways to raise money and awareness about the issues in Africa, and many people have gotten the chance to do their part and find a way to get involved.

OC freshman Brianna Gaither made bracelets and sold them to raise hundreds of dollars for Wishing Well. OC senior Loren O’Laughlin also helped the organization by putting an art fundraiser gallery together.

“It takes the talents of the entire campus to bring this together,” O’Laughlin said. “One of the things that is so cool about Wishing Well is that it’s not exclusive. Everyone is important.”

Through these efforts, plus special musical performances and other ways of getting the word out and raising money, Wishing Well has made a difference.

But Groves hopes the initiative can make an even bigger impact through a planned documentary. Later this year, he and eight others plan to go to Rwanda for a video shoot.

“We picked Rwanda because it has one of the lowest water accessibility rates,” Groves said.

The documentary is designed to raise awareness about the Wishing Well group and to help Africa. The footage also will be used to develop a curriculum for churches to use in youth groups.

“The documentary will focus not just on the death toll and the heartbreak, it will try to bring to light the humanity of it,” Groves said. “I’m trying to make these people real, human and not just a statistic.”

By Sarah Gogarty (09)

Wishing Well hoping to quench African thirst

After many fundraisers and a lot of hard work, Schools for Schools at Oklahoma Christian University has raised more than $15,000 for the Gulu Senior Secondary School in Northern Uganda.

The Schools for Schools committee has raised money to supply teachers, furniture, libraries, labs, technology and plumbing since last September.

“Schools for Schools is about thinking globally. It’s about seeing a need and acting on it, even if it is across the world,” said Schools for Schools Coordinator Chelsea Jones, a senior from Gresham, Ore. “It is about advocating for freedom from poverty and access to education as well as helping grant them the education we so often take for granted.”

The organization raised the funds through a combination of $1 coloring sheets, t-shirt sales, CD sales, a benefit dinner and concert, a silent auction and donations.

Schools for Schools volunteer Kay Lynn Gunn is thankful for the students’ willingness to give to this cause.

“I think it’s such a blessing, what we have here,” Gunn said. “I thoroughly enjoy seeing the giving hearts of all the students here and seeing people willing to give time and money when they think that they don’t have it.”

The United States has eight districts with 20 schools, each raising money for eight high schools in Uganda. Because Oklahoma Christian raised more than $10,000, four students had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., for a conference in February.

If Oklahoma Christian raises the most money in its district, a student from the university will be able to travel to Uganda to visit Gulu Senior Secondary School.

“We’re proud of the way OC has responded, and we’re thankful for their generous donations,” Jones said. “It’s been awesome to be a part of something that’s helping to provide that for these students. This is a small step to think more globally and to think outside of ourselves and our world. It’s really not about us.”

Schools for Schools raises money for Uganda
**The 5th Annual Mike McDonald**

**Fun Run**

5K Run on April 12, 2008

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

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**Road Show**

Oklahoma Christian University

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.

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**Where Are They Now?**

Look up your old college buddies in OC’s official alumni directory, with updated contact information for more than eight thousand of our school’s finest.

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New Academy Renewing Leadership Efforts

Walking through Enterprise Square with Dr. Nathan Mellor, executive director of OC’s Academy of Leadership & Liberty, requires an active imagination.

Mellor, who joined the OC community in the fall of 2006, is excited about the future of the 60,000-square-foot facility, which closed in 2001.

Although the plans are only on paper, he guides people through the building as if it were already complete. Walking through the hallways of the facility, Dr. Mellor points to classrooms that have yet to be built and talks of how the renovated facility will be an important tool for OC’s future growth. Based on the progress that has been made in the building’s renewal over the past year, it would appear Mellor’s excitement is contagious.

“I think we are starting to get some momentum,” Mellor said about the renovation. “On November 29, we launched the Heart of America Campaign and I think people are beginning to see how the renovation of Enterprise Square plays an important part in OC’s future.”

The Heart of America campaign, which was launched in conjunction with OC’s recent hosting of former White House press secretary Tony Snow, is an ambitious effort. Led by such proven leaders as OC alumnus Mark Stansberry and retired U.S. General Tommy Franks, the $10 million campaign will fund the renovation of Enterprise Square and provide an endowment for the future of the Academy of Leadership & Liberty.

While OC’s Academy of Leadership & Liberty is less than two years old, the concept has been an important part of OC’s history for five decades. Through the years, OC has sponsored numerous efforts to promote the principles of liberty and the value of freedom. The Academy of Leadership & Liberty consolidates all of the various efforts of the past into one program.

In addition to hosting events such as Snow’s recent visit, OC’s Academy of Leadership & Liberty is also responsible for programs designed for junior and senior high school students such as the Southwest Youth Leadership Conference, the Oklahoma Leadership Academy and Business Week OC.

The newest program, Peace Through Business, is a collaborative effort with the Institute for the Economic Empowerment of Women (IEEW), the government of Rwanda and OC’s MBA program. It will provide a four-week training program tailored for female business leaders from the nation of Rwanda.

In addition to Mellor, the Academy’s staff includes Christopher Malan, Piper Johnson, Jenn Gill, Kathy Hoffhines and Col. Pendleton Woods.

“We have a team of first-round draft picks,” Mellor said. “It is difficult to imagine working with men and women who are more dedicated to the mission of OC and who are doing more on a daily basis to make a difference in the world.”

To learn more about The Academy or learn more about the future of Enterprise Square, visit www.oc.edu/academy.
Academy Kicks Off With Successful Event

Former White House Press Secretary Tony Snow addressed an audience of more than 1,200 people at Oklahoma Christian in November.

The crowd interrupted him several times with applause and appeared to feel at home with the 52-year-old family man, especially when he mentioned that he loved being on a stage where he could say the word “God.”

“Oklahoma Christian University and the Academy of Leadership & Liberty were truly blessed to have Tony Snow,” said OC president Mike O’Neal. “The response from this event has been overwhelming and the Academy of Leadership & Liberty is looking forward to continuing a tradition of excellent speakers for the Distinguished Speaker Series.”

At the VIP dinner before the lecture, the Academy of Leadership & Liberty honored two outstanding individuals with the “Pendleton Woods Distinguished Service” award.

The first, Col. Pendleton Woods, is an ex-POW that currently serves as a philanthropist and as the director for the Center for American Ideals at the Academy. He has been active in the Oklahoma City community for more than six decades and remains a key figure in the planning and coordination of the Military Hall of Fame.

The second recipient, Mrs. Lou Phillips, has worked at Oklahoma Christian University for many years as an assistant to the president. Her various roles earned her recognition as one of “The 50 Who Made a Difference” at Oklahoma Christian.

“Her service to OC is truly commendable,” said Christopher Malan, the Academy’s managing director. “There are very few who have taken the initiative to get things done like she has.”

For more information about the event and about the Academy of Leadership & Liberty, go to www.oc.edu/academy.
1954
Don Shackelford retired from teaching at Harding, but still teaches as adjunct faculty. He also teaches on-line for Regions University. Don has written a commentary on Isaiah and will have one on the book of Job come out next year. He is Old Testament editor for Resource Publication Commentaries. Don and his wife Joyce have celebrated 53 years of marriage, including have five children, fifteen grand children and one great-grandson. Don has also served many years as a missionary one great-grandson. Don has also written a commentary on Isaiah and will have a second book has recently been published. It's called “what-ifs” in life. Contact info: s.hammond@sbcglobal.net

Neil and Sandy (Sexton) McElroy have retired to Las Vegas after almost fourteen years as minister of the Rosebud, TX Church of Christ. Contact info: tomkheener@juno.com

1969
Phillip and Roensuk Joy (Voraritskul 68) Rogers are living in Irving, Texas. They have three grown children, and recently brought home an adopted son from Thailand named Daniel Rogers (4).

ZoaAnn (Williams) Turner celebrated her 60th birthday with family and friends on November 16, 2007 at the Family Life Center, Brin Street Church of Christ, Terrell. ZoaAnn is Vice President for Academic Affairs at Southwestern Christian College, Terrell, TX.

1974
Andrew K. Benton, president of Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA, has been named chair of the Board of Directors at the American Council on Education (ACE), the major coordinating body for all the nation’s higher education institutions. Benton will serve a one-year term. Before becoming ACE Board chair, Benton served as the Board’s vice chair from 1999-2007. Most recently, he chaired the search committee that selected Molly Corbett Broad as ACE’s next president. Maintaining an informed and educated citizenry is one of the foundational characteristics of a free and democratic society,” said Benton.

Tom Keener is now the minister of the Mart, TX Church of Christ after almost fourteen years as minister of the Rosebud, TX Church of Christ. Contact info: tomkheener@juno.com

1976
Carolyn (Kemplin) Kilpatrick and husband James officially adopted a sibling group of four: Crissy Elaine (11), John David (8), Thomas Carl (6), and Andrew James (3) on National Adoption Day, November 17, 2007. Carolyn teaches German at Centennial High School in Frisco, TX. Contact info: dwkeak@sbcglobal.net

1977
Rhea (Holmgren) Buckingham and husband Larry are the proud grandparents of Brodie Douglas Buckingham born to our son Tyler and his wife Kristie November 25, 2007. Contact info: rhea_buckingham@transcanada.com.

1979
Susan Hammond has been designated to serve as Deputy Public Affairs Officer of Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) in Kabul, Afghanistan. CSTC-A is a joint command that trains, equips, advises and mentors the Afghan National Security Forces. This is Sue’s second deployment in the Navy Reserve. She will serve until January 2009. Contact info: Susan Hammond, CSTC-A PAO, APO AE 09356 / shammond@sbcglobal.net

1980
Shirley (Brogan) Johns now lives in Indianapolis, Ind. Her 2 sons, Kyle and Ryan, are both married and Ryan and his wife, Lana, are expecting a baby. Please remember them in prayer and Ryan, who is in the Army and soon to be deployed. Her daughter has just turned 16. Shirley teaches 8th grade Language Arts at an inner city middle school. Contact info: johns_sha@hotmail.com

1981
Col. Paul Hestand, US Army, is serving a 12 month tour in Iraq. His wife of 27 years, Dori (Grilland ’82) and two children, Zac (25) and Hilary (22), both graduates of UNLV, await his safe return, where they reside in North Las Vegas, NV.

1984
Marcy Bryan’s second book has recently been published. It’s called “Scared Silly” and is a humorous and godly approach to beating the “what-ifs” in life. Contact info: www.marcybryan.com / marcyjoybyran@gmail.com.

Laura Ely announces the birth of her first grandchild, Gracie Jane Nichols, born on December 12, 2007. Parents are David and Sara (Tooley) Nichols. They live in Highland Village, TX. Contact info: laura.ely62@yahoo.com

1985
Lisa (Pennis) Sizemore and husband Jason have moved to The Woodlands, TX. Lisa is a stay at home mom, and Jason is a petroleum engineer. They have 3 daughters, Caroline (17) Channing (15) and Cathleen (13). Jason and Lisa just celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary.

1994
Mark Thomas was on the Oklahoma State Quarter Selection Committee and traveled to Denver on January 8 to the U.S. Mint to participate in the “First Strike” ceremony, along with Governor Henry and the entourage. Contact info: mthomas@okpress.com.

2007
Lisa (Pennis) Sizemore and husband Jason have moved to The Woodlands, TX. Lisa is a stay at home mom, and Jason is a petroleum engineer. They have 3 daughters, Caroline (17) Channing (15) and Cathleen (13). Jason and Lisa just celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary.

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1998
Mark Stansberry accompanied an official Oklahoma Centennial delegation hosted by the White House, which included congressional representatives and officials from the Oklahoma Centennial Commission. OC alumnus and trustee, Mark Stansberry, is pictured here with Blake Wade (Executive Director of the Oklahoma Centennial Commission), Congressman Tom Cole, Congresswoman Mary Fallin, Congressman Frank Lucas, and Janet Eissenstat (White House Official) singing “Oklahoma” as they prepare to cut the cake at a White House reception honoring Oklahoma’s Centennial. Mark A. Stansberry served as event chairman. “Oklahoma is the State of Excellence for the 21st Century. Our state is going to continue to make a global impact throughout the years ahead. It is great to be a part of this event and to be an Oklahoman!” stated Stansberry, event chair.
**1987**

Brian and Connie (Taylor) King announce that Brian has accepted a position as the Public Relations Representative for Cherokee Home for Children in Cherokee, Texas, and Connie (Taylor) is a Kindergarten Teacher for the White Settlement ISD. Contact info: 304 Birchwood Lane Fort Worth, Texas 76108 / 4kings88@sbcglobal.net.

Chris and Sheri (Holmes) Shanks will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary February 13, 2008. Chris is a board member and Senior VP of Ford Meter Box, and Sheri is domestic engineer of household affairs. She was recently awarded “Volunteer of the Year” from the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Women's Committee. They have 2 boys, Ryan (13) and Colton (10). They live in Fort Wayne, Indiana and attend the Southwinds Church of Christ.

**1989**

Kelli Mitchell, Stefanie Price, Devonne Carter & Brenda Sikes In the Fall of 1985 a new class of Freshman started their semester on the OC campus, among them, Kelli Davis, Stefanie Lockhart, Devonne Mitchell and Brenda Olson. These four women remained friends until they had all graduated by the Spring of 1989. To celebrate their 40th birthdays all in the summer until they had all graduated by the Fall of 1989 a new class of Freshman started their semester on the OC campus, among them, Kelli Davis, Stefanie Lockhart, Devonne Mitchell and Brenda Olson. These four women remained friends until they had all graduated by the Spring of 1989. To celebrate their 40th birthdays all in the summer of 2007 and their friendship, they cruised the Caribbean in October of 2007. 

**1991**

Tracy (Norsworthy) Glover and husband Jonathan welcomed their daughter, Reagan Elizabeth, on October 15, 2007. Reagan was born 2 months early weighing 2 lbs 7.7 oz and was 15 3/4 inches long. After a 37 day stay in the NICU, Reagan came home to stay with her family on November 20. She joins her brother Kyle (4). Contact info: tglover02@gmail.com

**1992**

Daren and Kristi (Sorensen) Mitchell have moved to Marshalltown, Iowa, where Daren is the Youth Minister for New Hope Christian Church and Kristi works as a Lead Teacher for Noah’s Ark Pre-School. They have 4 kids: Alex (14), Linden (10), Kyla (9) and Jared (8). Contact info: 212 S. 9th St. Marshalltown, IA 50158 / daren@newhopechristianchurch.net.

**1993**

Ron and Heather (Wolken) Blankship announce the birth of their son, Quinn Nathaniel, on May 18, 2007. Ron got to deliver the baby when the midwife didn’t arrive in time. Quinn joins protective big sisters Kiera (4) and Ciana (2). Contact info: 4701 Passaic Court, Huber Heights, OH 45424 / ihblankship@yahoo.com / ronblankship@yahoo.com.

**1994**

Heath Jones, Assistant Professor of Music and renowned saxophonist, recently recorded tracks for Mr. Walter Safety Songs. Heath joined the Oklahoma Christian faculty in 2000, and is an active professional performer in the Oklahoma City area, serving as President of the Oklahoma chapter of the International Association for Jazz Education. Heath has performed on saxophone with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Lesley Gore, Frankie Avalon, Jim Neighbors, The Temptations, and various other road show acts.

**1995**

Grant Davis announces new daughter, Eden Grace, born March 30, 2007. She has two brothers, Will (8) and Ben (6).

Wendy Dickinson joyfully announces the adoption of Caroline Elizabeth, born on April 27th, 2006 and joining the family on November 13, 2006. Her adoption will
be finalized in November. Wendy is currently 5th grade team leader at Bailey Elementary. Contact info: 4047 Young Street; Pasadena, TX 77504-2900 / wdickenson@pasadenaisd.org

Cali Michelle Caldwell

Kerri (Taylor) Vogel and husband Jeremy are proud to announce the birth of their son Benjamin William on November 25. Ben joins big sister Brooke (2). Contact info: jvogel3@cox.net.

1996

Todd and Traci (Jolly 95) Messer was promoted to the Vice President of a Chase bank in Houston, Texas. Contact info: tmesser01@hotmail.com.

Donald Parker has moved to Arlington, Texas, to start work as a Transportation Planner for the North Central Texas Council of Governments. He recently completed his Master’s Degree in Regional and City Planning at the University of Oklahoma. Contact info: 1509 Misty Glen Tr., #922, Arlington, TX 76011 / thepun-nects.com.

April Tate has been named to the “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers” for the second year in a row. She has taught 4th grade in Coppell, Texas for the past seven years. April recently began working on her Master’s Degree at Lamar University. Contact info: atate@ coppellisd.com.

Matt and Mindi (Hayter 98) Miller welcome Ella Claire, born July 2, 2007. Ella joins big brother Logan and big sister Kylie. Contact info: mattandmindi@cox.net.

Jim and Jennifer (Fredin) Theisen welcome Joy Marie, born on February 6, weighing 6 lbs 9 oz, 18 1/4 inches long. She joins big brother Jacob (8). Contact info: ftwskies@sbcglobal.net.

Aric and Amber (Merchant 01) Bramlett are happy to report that Aric is back from serving a one year tour in South Korea. Contact info: 172 Crestview, FL 32536 / merchantamber@yahoo.com.

Dave and Jennifer (Jensen 00) Compton announce the birth of their daughter Sarah Anne “Annie” on January 12. She weighed 7 lbs 1.5 oz and was 20 inches long. Mom, Dad and big brother Mac are all very excited she’s finally here. Contact info: jennifer.compton@oc.edu.

Jennifer (Dawson) Hodges married Britt Hodges in 2001 and they now have 2 boys: Ethan (4) and Ryan (2). Jennifer is a licensed Interior Designer for Curtis Group Architects, LTD in Dallas, and was recognized as the Designer of the Month for Avonite Surfaces in April 2007. Contact info: 1605 Steenson Drive, Carrollston Texas 75007 / jhodges@curtis-grouparchitects.com.

Paul Kelsey and his wife would like to announce the birth of their third child, Lila Victoria. She was born October 12, 2007 and joins big sister Addison (4) and big brother Levi (2). They live in Pleasant Grove, AL where Paul teaches fourth grade. Contact info: pkelsey530@yahoo.com.

Matt and Maria (Otte 99) McManamey now have 2 daughters, Anita (5) and Elena (2), and have recently started their own business. Maria stays with the girls at home and manage the business, while Matt works for Cessna in Engineering Standards. Contact info: maria@mc2imaging.com.

Jay and Julie (Crosley 02) Morgan were married on December 15, 2007, in Oklahoma City. They live in Oklahoma City where Jay is an accountant with Chesapeake, and Julie is working on a teaching degree in elementary education.

Ronnie and Amanda (Talley) Petersen are happy to announce that their birth mother gave them Luke Stephen on August 14, 2007. Luke joins their other 3 children and completes the family perfectly.
Classes and discussions on topics related to evangelism, missional churches, recruiting and training volunteers, worship, ministering to marriages and families, youth, children and women’s ministries, and a lot more.

www.oc.edu/Quest

Conference focusing all forms of local church ministry on transformation.

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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
MILESTONES

Contact info: amanda_leah_p@yahoo.com.
Gary and Amy (Crooks 99) South-erland live in Jacksonville, Florida where Gary is now the Associate Minister for the Jacksonville Beach Church of Christ. Contact info: 520 4th St N, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 / dayufman@gmail.com.

Kim Bunger Walden left her job in the marketing department at Oklahoma Christian University after 8 years to pursue her business, Insomnia Interactive, and be a stay-at-home mom to their two children, Molly (4) and Oliver (8 months). Contact info: kim@twistedsilver.com.

Ben and Misty (Green 00) Gleaves currently live in Woodward, Oklahoma, where Ben is the Preaching Minister at Fifth Street Church of Christ. They have three wonderful sons: Bryce (11), Ashton (2), and Max (5 months). Contact info: mbgleaves@hotmail.com.

Brad Leonard and his wife Vanessa welcome Hayden Byron, born on October 4, 2007. She weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 19.75 inches long. Claire Julianna (2) is the proud big sister. Contact info: jwwooldridge@sbcglobal.net / katie@mcduff.com.

2000
Clint and April (Wooldridge 04) Everhart would like to announce the birth of their daughter Heidi Beth on January 20, 2008. She weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 19.3 inches long. She was born in Chemnitz, Germany where Clint and April are missionaries and will be until the summer of 2009.

2001
Josh and Krista (Johns 03) Blanche welcomed Ashley Michelle into their family on February 4, 2007. She has been such a blessing to the family and will be a future eagle someday!

Gerald Burnett has been married over two years, and is presently teaching middle school choir in Duncanville, TX. He sings part time with the Dallas Opera Chorus in their production of Porgy and Bess. Contact info: g_note_97@yahoo.com.

Steven and Ginefer (Pelfery) Christy had a little girl, Abigail Denise Marie, on October 2, 2007. Ginefer teaches art at Millwood Public Schools, and Steven works in IT Services at OC. Email: genny@alumni.oc.edu.

With great joy and great sorrow, Jon and Marissa (02) Dodson announce the birth of their twins. Lennox Ehlrid and Callum Mansel entered this world 9 weeks early on September 22, 2007. On September 27, at five days old, Callum passed away due to wounds inflicted during a traumatic birth. Lennox came home 31 days later and continues to surpass growth milestones with flying colors. Contact info: jandmdodson@yahoo.com.

2002
Crystalyn (Starks) Fillmore was promoted to Captain in United States Army. She also received a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from University of Cincinnati in August, 2007. Contact info: crystallin.fillmore@us.army.mil.

Ashley Kittredge married Steven Merkel on March 17, 2007. Ashley and Steven both currently reside in Edmond, Oklahoma. Ashley is a registered nurse at Children’s Hospital.

Jayna Perry married Matt Hooker on September 1, 2007 at the Fort Gibson Church of Christ in Fort Gibson, OK. Jayna is working in advertising sales and marketing for Roll Call, Inc. in Washington, D.C. Matt, a graduate of Virginia Tech, is a Lieutenant and a designated pilot in the United States Navy currently stationed in Arlington, VA. Contact info: 1021 N. Garfield St. Unit 712 Arlington, VA 22201 / jayna.perry@gmail.com.

2003
Martha and Mark (Trombly 01) Ferrell announce the birth of their son, Seth Craig, on September 22, 2003. He weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Jaybird (Reed 98) and Krista (Hanna 99) Dowd are proud first-time parents to their son, Brayden James, born on September 10, 2003. Brayden was 7 lbs. 11 oz. and 20 inches long.

Meredith (Hedges) and Julian Hernandez were married on September 23, 2007, in Baltimore, Maryland. Meredith is a Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist and Julian is an Account Executive with a Marketing firm. The couple lives in Annapolis, Maryland. Contact info: virginia-mere@yahoo.com.

Ginny is a stay-at-home mom to their two children, Macy (2 1/2) and Charlie (1). Contact info: g_note_97@yahoo.com.

Bess. Contact info: g_note_97@yahoo.com.

Heidi Beth Everhart

Contact info: aprilbeth80@alumni.oc.edu.

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Larissa Ruth Mansfield

Chad Mansfield is pleased to announce the birth of daughter Larissa Ruth on July 3, 2007.

Seth and Katie (Kelsey 02) McDowell have moved to Frisco, TX. Seth recently became the pulpit minister for the Shawnee Trail Church of Christ and Katie is a stay-at-home mom to their two children, Macy (2 1/2) and Charlie (1). Contact info: sethmcdowell@sbcglobal.net / katie@mcduff.com.

Barrett and Rachel (Maple) Huddleston would like to announce the birth of their son, Ethan Phillip, born on September 23, 2007. He weighed 8 lbs. and was 21 inches long. Proud grandpar-

Ashley Michelle Blanche

4th, 2007. She was 7 lbs. 11 oz. and 19.3 inches long. She was born in Chemnitz, Germany where Clint and April are missionaries and will be until the summer of 2009.

Gerald Burnett has been married over two years, and is presently teaching middle school choir in Duncanville, TX. He sings part time with the Dallas Opera Chorus in their production of Porgy and Bess. Contact info: g_note_97@yahoo.com.

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Kennedy Ann McKee

hotmail.com.
Matt and Beth (Brophy 99) McKee announce the birth of their daughter, Kennedy Ann, on October 15, 2007. She joins big brother Carson (2).
2003
Jared and Rebekah (Mears 99) Kite announce the birth of their daughter, Avari Elizabeth on September 2, 2007. She weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21 inches long. Steve and Debbie Tripplett and Diana Grove are the proud grandparents, and Tara Triplett and Susan Mindel are proud aunt and uncle.

David Sparks would like to announce that he and his wife, Michael Hefner, completed a two month Mission trip to Oaxaca, Mexico where he was working on Video and Audio editing for the Church. He now serves as a Priest at Zarahemla Restoration Branch in Blue Springs Missouri. Contact info: Michael_Hefner2003@yahoo.com / 913 E College St Independence Missouri 64051.

Nkere and Gracie Reed would like to announce the purchase of their first home in Haslet, TX. Nkere was recently interviewed for quarterly article USA Football. Contact info: emt032000@yahoo.com.

Ben and Monica (Baggett) Thompson live in Memphis, Tennessee. Ben completed his Master of Arts in Counseling and accepted a position as a Mental Health Counselor for Christ Community Health Services. Monica was recently promoted to Product Coordinator and works for RemitDATA, Inc. Contact info: 4290 Fizer Ave, Memphis, Tennessee 38111 / monica.thompson@alumni.oc.edu.

2004
Jonathan and Amy (Graham) Bartee are proud to announce the birth of their son Alexander Graham on June 23, 2007. He is welcomed by big brother Caleb. Contact info: amy.bartee@alumni.oc.edu.

Matthew Boydstun graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a BS in Funeral Services. He also passed the National Funeral Board Exams and is now a Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer, currently employed as a Funeral Director in Del City, OK. Contact info: matthew.boydstun@sci-us.com.


Angela Sawyer married Brian Kopy on Saturday, September 8, 2007 on the campus of Oklahoma Christian. Angela is an Administrative Assistant in the OC MBA department and Brian is an Inside Sales Rep for Petra Industries. They are currently residing in Edmond, OK.

Philip Snell was joined in marriage to Lisa Kristine Ratzlaff of Wichita, KS on December 15, 2007. Philip and Lisa currently reside in Wichita, KS, where Philip works as a structural engineer at Spirit AeroSystems. Contact info: philipsnell@gmail.com.

2005
Jordan and Christi (Rettig 04) Parmer joyfully announce the birth of their son, Luke Dennis Parmer, on November 14th, 2007. He weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21 inches long. Jordan is a software developer for ESRI in Redlands, California. Christi was a fourth grade teacher until the birth of Luke when she became a stay-at-home mom. Contact info: 128 S. Colorado Ave., Edmond, OK 73034 / jordan.parmet@gmail.com.

Grant and Brei (Ziegler 04) Cornell welcome the newest addition to their family, Cash James Cornell, born September 2, 2007. He weighed 4 lbs and 12 oz and was 17.5 inches. He joins big brother Jagger.

2006
Jason and Michelle (Storck) Jones are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Brian Alexander. He arrived on September 30, 2007, weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19 and 3/4 inches long. Contact info: micjones@hscc.unt.edu.

Matthew and Mandy (Essary 01) Stansberry announce the birth of their daughter, Vivian Mae, born on November 19, 2007. She weighed 8 lbs 6 oz and is 20 inches long. Contact info: mandystansberry@yahoo.com.

Mark Tripplett and wife Lindsay welcomed Madison Grace to their family on September 26, 2007. She weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. Steve and Debbie Tripplett and Diana Grove are the proud grandparents, and Tara Tripplett and Jordan Grove the proud aunt and uncle.

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Philip Snell was joined in marriage to Lisa Kristine Ratzlaff of Wichita, KS on December 15, 2007. Philip and Lisa currently reside in Wichita, KS, where Philip works as a structural engineer at Spirit AeroSystems. Contact info: philipsnell@gmail.com.

David Sparks would like to announce that he and his wife, Chelsea, are currently pursuing the adoption of a child in Ethiopia. David works as an Operator at Shell Chemicals and serves as Vice President of the Shepherd Economic Development Corporation, while Chelsea works at Shepherd I.S.D. as a registrar. Contact info: http://adoptethiopia.blogspot.com /chelseandavid@hotmail.com

Matt and Mandy (Essary 01) Stansberry announce the birth of their daughter, Vivian Mae, born on November 19, 2007. She weighed 8 lbs 6 oz and is 20 inches long. Contact info: mandystansberry@yahoo.com.

Mark Tripplett and wife Lindsay welcomed Madison Grace to their family on September 26, 2007. She weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. Steve and Debbie Tripplett and Diana Grove are the proud grandparents, and Tara Tripplett and Jordan Grove the proud aunt and uncle.

Michael Hefner completed a two month Mission trip to Oaxaca Mexico where he was working on Video and Audio editing for the Church. He now serves as a Priest at Zarahemla Restoration Branch in Blue Springs Missouri. Contact info: Michael_Hefner2003@yahoo.com / 913 E College St Independence Missouri 64051.
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 barbecue. As the host, you get to decide!

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

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

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

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**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*
Bill and Sue Antwine are the personification of the OC mission. They met and married as a result of their time at Central Christian College, as Oklahoma Christian University was known before the school’s relocation to Oklahoma City. Bill and Sue have been intimately involved with the university from its beginning.

Bill recalls with a smile the first time he saw Sue. She was a senior in high school and visiting her sister at Central Christian College. It wasn’t until the following academic year that Bill and Sue would actually meet as classmates in David Howten’s Introduction to Business class.

Bill speaks warmly of Sunday car rides with Harold Fletcher, OC’s first full-time faculty member. Bill would tag along with Dr. Fletcher from Bartlesville to Shidler, Oklahoma, where Dr. Fletcher would preach, and Bill would spend the day with his older brother. Sue says her choice of a Christian college wasn’t really a choice at all.

“Somewhere along the line, Daddy became acquainted with Central Christian and that’s simply where we went,” Sue said.

Sue’s father, Royce Mires, had a tremendous impact on Sue, her sisters, and Bill as well. So much so that the sisters, as co-trustees of a charitable remainder trust established by their father Royce, established the Royce and Mary Mires Memorial Scholarship Endowment at Oklahoma Christian University.

Mr. Mires’ impact on Christian education will be felt on this campus for generations to come. Bill and Sue are very proud of this fact and have followed Mr. Mires’ example once again by establishing the Bill and Sue Antwine Scholarship Endowment for Nursing.

Oklahoma Christian is indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Mires, and so many others like them, who have imbedded a love for Christian education in the lives of their children.

After meeting and marrying as a result of their time at Central Christian, Bill and Sue sent all four of their children to OC as students: Susan Ball, Kerry Antwine, Myra Stanhope and Cynthia Kay. In addition, many of the Antwine’s grandchildren have attended Oklahoma Christian.

When you speak with Bill and Sue, it doesn’t take long to figure out just how proud of their family they truly are.

One of their greatest pleasures is spending time with their children and grandchildren each summer during family vacation. Family is of the highest importance to Bill and Sue. Once you understand how precious family is to Bill and Sue, you understand why Oklahoma Christian is so deeply honored to recognize Bill and Sue Antwine for their love and support of this great university.

Through their estate plan, Bill and Sue have provided for OC and a ministry of their local church, as if the university were one of their children.

“Bill and Sue are the epitome of loyal alumni,” OC president Mike O’Neal said. “They are the perfect picture of OC’s mission accomplished. As students themselves, then parents of students, grandparents of students, and now estate benefactors, their impact on OC’s past, present and future will be felt until the Lord returns. OC is deeply honored to be included in such a wonderful way in the Antwine’s estate plan.”

“It is humbling for those of us who carry out this mission to know men and women like Bill and Sue Antwine,” Director of Planned Giving Stephen Eck said. “When people think so much of a work that they provide for it in the distribution of their estate, it is an affirmation of their deeply held beliefs about issues of ultimate importance. Such gift plans recognize the eternal nature of OC’s work and give us courage to continue this life-changing mission.”

For more information on how you can include Oklahoma Christian University in your estate plan, please contact the Office for Planned Giving at (405) 425-5118.
**OC Partners with Apple**

Oklahoma Christian announced last month that the university will begin providing Apple’s MacBook to incoming freshmen and faculty who attend a new student orientation this summer.

Current students will be offered a program where they can trade in their used laptops for a new MacBook. Included with each MacBook will be the student’s choice of an iPhone or an iPod touch.

“Oklahoma Christian has been a technology leader in campus mobile computing nationally,” Chief Technology Officer John Hermes said. “In 2001, OC became the first completely wireless campus in Oklahoma and one of the few in the country. That program has helped ensure that students had the technology necessary to combine digital fluency with the strengths of a liberal arts education.”

The MacBook initiative enhances OC’s learning opportunities and its ability to better meet the needs of current students by assisting faculty with additional ways to deliver academic content through iTunes University.

OC’s wireless network, which covers all campus buildings and residential areas, allows users to access information from anywhere on campus.

“Looking to the future, OC must keep pace with the technology needs and expectations of students and faculty,” Hermes said. “Given the technologically advanced state of our students, this new platform satisfies their desire to access academic content outside the classroom. We are excited about this new phase of mobile learning at Oklahoma Christian and will continue to search for ways to enhance teaching and learning.”

**OC Names Biology Center for Professor**

Oklahoma Christian has named its biology center the Dr. Kim Gaither Center for Biology in honor of the popular biology professor who died of breast cancer in 2005.

“Dr. Gaither was one of the most courageous people I have ever known,” said OC President Mike O’Neal. “She was a model of one who took learning and teaching seriously and who did both very well. She cared for her family, she cared for her students, and she cared for her colleagues and friends. We miss her deeply.”

The Dr. Kim Gaither Center for Biology will be located in the planned new wing of OC’s Herold Science Hall. The science facility initiative, which will cost $5.8 million, will be completed in three phases.

To date, $3.6 million has been raised. The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Inc. in Ardmore has committed $1 million toward the new construction of the science facility initiative. Two families also anonymously gave a total of $1.2 million for the project.

“What a thrill this is for our entire family. Kim loved her experience as a student and her career as a faculty member. The university has made a profoundly positive impact on our lives,” Kim’s husband, David Gaither, said. “OC’s science program is first-rate with great faculty and top-notch students. What has become crystal clear to me over the last couple of years is the enormous impact Kim had on the lives of her students and colleagues.”

Kim graduated from Oklahoma Christian in 1981, returned there to teach in 1988 and was serving as professor of biology at the time of her death. She received the Gaylord Chair for Distinguished Teaching in 2004.

She was an active member of Quail Springs Church of Christ, where she taught youth Bible classes and participated in many outreach activities. In addition to her husband David, she is survived by her children, Luke and Brianna, who currently attend OC.

**Mike McDonald Fun Run in April**

Join the OC community on Saturday, April 12, to honor the memory of Mike McDonald by participating in the fifth-annual Mike McDonald Fun Run.

McDonald led OC’s advancement and alumni relations programs before passing away in December 2003 after a long battle with cancer. The 5K run is a celebration of his life and commitment to his family and OC.

The event includes a children’s carnival, inflatables, and kids fun run immediately following the adult run. The 5K fun run begins at 10 a.m. with check-in and pre-race entertainment at 9 a.m. under the McGraw pavilion at Lawson Commons.

The entry fee (which includes lunch and a t-shirt) is $20 for adults and $10 for OC students and children under 18. Non-runners who want to support the endowment can participate in a 5K walk at the event.

Every dollar raised from the Fun Run goes to support the Mike McDonald Endowed Scholarship.

For more information, to register or to make an online donation, visit www.oc.edu/funrun or call the OC Alumni Office at (405) 425-5110.

**TeamOC Fitness Initiative**

Oklahoma Christian recently unveiled TeamOC, a new initiative to encourage fitness and wellness. The goal of TeamOC is to create opportunities and educate the campus about the discipline and benefits of fitness.

One of the challenges TeamOC poses to the community is to participate in the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon on April 27. Last year, the OC community entered more than 180 participants, including the fastest marathon relay team.

The goal this year is to have 300 participants from TeamOC in the Memorial Marathon. Events include the full marathon, half marathon, relay team, and a 5K run/walk.
PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS TRAVELS TO RWANDA

Dr. Nathan Mellor, executive director of the Academy of Leadership & Liberty, and Dr. Don Drew, professor of management at Oklahoma Christian, traveled to Rwanda in February to meet with government officials and business leaders to discuss the new Peace Through Business program.

The program, which was launched last year in Afghanistan by the Institute for the Economic Empowerment of Women, will bring 15 Rwandan women to Oklahoma Christian for three weeks of business training.

In the final week of the program, the women will be matched with an Oklahoma City businesswoman in a compatible industry.

“Our greatest desire was to see how Oklahoma Christian University and the government of Rwanda can work together in making the Peace Through Business program a success,” Dr. Mellor said. “We want the students that attend our program to be able to bring back what they have learned and pass it on to other Rwandan women. It’s the pay it forward mentality.”

The Peace Through Business program is accomplished through the cooperation of the U.S. State Department, the Rwandan government, the Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women, the ROC Foundation, Oklahoma Christian University and the Academy of Leadership & Liberty.

OC LAUNCHES LOW-INCOME TUITION PROGRAM

As college tuition continues to climb and federal and state aid fail to keep pace, students and their parents are finding it increasingly difficult to finance their college education.

The rising cost of tuition puts a particularly heavy strain on low-income families and may prevent those students from attending a college or university. And those who can qualify for loans frequently incur large debts that create further financial strain on the family.

To help make college more affordable for low-income families, OC’s Office of Student Financial Services has developed a scenario of aid packages to help make an OC education affordable for students from low-income families.

“Thanks to state and federal aid grants, several scenarios exist that will allow us to guarantee some needy students full tuition next year,” said Clint LaRue, director of student financial services. “We believe that finding innovative approaches to assisting students with their tuition costs is vital if we are to realize our mission of transforming lives for Christian faith, scholarship and service.”

OC’s 2008-09 tuition of $14,690 remains well below most other high-quality, private, four-year universities. Additionally, approximately 96 percent of OC students receive much of their tuition costs back through scholarships and grants.

“The OC administration and board remains sensitive to the concerns of families and students who struggle to afford private higher education, and we are doing all we can to assist them while maintaining our unrelenting commitment to excellence,” said OC president Mike O’Neal.

OC ASSISTS SOUTHWESTERN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

One of OC’s sister schools, Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, suffered a devastating fire in February that destroyed the Evans Administration Building.

The facility housed the college’s main phone switch and computer network equipment.

In the wake of the fire, Oklahoma Christian donated 15 laptops to SWCC to help replace the computers lost by its staff and administrative team.

Oklahoma Christian, which has many alumni and current students from Southwestern, also took a special collection to assist the recovery at SWCC.

A team of information technology and network services professionals traveled to Terrell to help the college with its communication needs.

To help with the effort, send a check made out to Oklahoma Christian with “Southwestern donation” in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to: Oklahoma Christian University Advancement Office / P.O. Box 11000 / Oklahoma City, OK 73136-1100.

STUDENTS SELECTED FOR MUSICAL REALITY SHOW

OC students Robin Taylor and Raymond Mobley were chosen to represent Oklahoma City in the NBC musical reality special, “The Clash of the Choirs.”

The show featured five celebrity singers who returned to their hometowns to assemble a choir of amateur singers. Country singer Blake Shelton directed the Oklahoma City choir against choirs from Cincinnati, Houston, Philadelphia and New Haven, Conn.

“We’ve been blessed with many talented performers at Oklahoma Christian, and they have performed in lots of venues, particularly in the summer when we travel around the U.S.,” OC professor of music Dr. Ken Adams said. “But this is a unique opportunity to not only participate in a major show, but to see firsthand what goes into the production of a network program. And with that type of exposure, who knows? Maybe they’ll be discovered.”

The Oklahoma City Choir advanced to the show’s final night and won third place behind the choirs from Cincinnati and Philadelphia. The choir took home $50,000 in charity money for the Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program and Oklahoma-based Project Rebuild.

STUDENTS EARN SCHOLARSHIPS TO D.C. PROGRAM

Three OC students have been selected for the 2008 Fund for American Studies scholarship program.

The scholarship recipients, Emily Williams, Daniel McCormack and Jonathan Cannon, will intern in Washington, D.C., and take classes at Georgetown University through the Institute on Comparative Political and Economic Systems.

Mark Stansberry, one of OC’s funds for American Studies board members, is a 1976 ICPES graduate.

“It seems like only yesterday that I attended the ICPES program at Georgetown. As the first OC graduate of the program, I take great pride in the students that have been awarded scholarships,” Stansberry said. “Jonathan, Daniel and Emily are student leaders who will be great representatives of Oklahoma Christian. They not only excel in the classroom, but shine in their commitment to a better world through their involvement in many organizations and activities.”

Williams is a junior majoring in marketing. She is currently a marketing intern for M-D Building Products where she assists in product packaging and arranging displays.

McCormack is a junior pursuing a degree in political science and history. His accomplishments include the 2006-07 Dean’s Award for the College of Arts and Sciences.
Cannon is a senior majoring in print journalism with a minor in political science. He has been involved with the Vienna Studies program, hurricane relief missions, the D.O.W.N ministry, and with the Talon student newspaper.

**OC Student Takes First in Science Competition**

OC senior Lindsey Addington was awarded “Best Overall Presentation” at the Fall Technical Meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science.

The presentation, entitled “Levels of Phosphorylated CaMKII in the Rat Hippocampus After Traumatic Brain Injury,” was also awarded first place in the Biomedical Sciences Section.

Addington completed her research for the project this summer at Pepperdine University in Dr. Michael Fokert’s laboratory.

Senior Sarah Manley won second place in the Biomedical Sciences Section for work she did during the past two summers at Oklahoma Christian.

“Our science students each year make outstanding presentations,” said Dr. Bill Luttrell, OC associate professor of chemistry. “I am always so impressed with the work our science students do here at OC and in research labs all over the country during the summer months. They are worthy of the recognition that comes their way.”

**Business Students Excel in Simulation**

Three students in the College of Professional Studies, Amanda Hillman, Derek Spies, and Roxanne Maloy, recently ranked in the top 100 in the world in the Business Strategy Game.

The simulation is part of the course work in Seminar in Business, the capstone course for business students. More than 1,200 teams from around the world participate in the contest.

**English Department Receives Honors**

For the sixth consecutive year, the OC students of the Rho Mu chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the national English Honors Society, have been accepted to present their work at the national conference.

Ten students, the most ever accepted, attended the conference in Louisville, Ky. For the sixth year, every OC student who applied to present work at the national conference was accepted.

OC’s student presenters were John Barker, Taylor Boston, Becka Farr, Rebekah Folger, Amy Hardin, Kate Long, Victoria Masten, Paul Mitchell, Marcie Tunnell and Taylor Walling.

Mitchell also had a poem and scholarly paper accepted for publication by the national honors society.

**Broadcast Students Earn Awards**

OC mass communication student Brian Trumbly had two pieces make it to the finals of the national competition for the National Broadcasting Society/AERho. The awards were presented in Los Angeles earlier this month.

In addition, Trumbly, Titus Ellis, Chase Estes and Marcus Ross won awards in the state broadcast competition sponsored by the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters.

**Student Studies Abroad in Costa Rica**

OC student Luke Roe is spending the semester studying abroad in San Jose, Costa Rica, through a program with the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities.

Roe, a junior Spanish major from Franklin, Tenn., sends this excerpt from his journal:

“It’s incredibly incomprehensible the diversity that a Costa Rican roadside has to offer. For the first time in my life, I was able to witness the slow, thoughtful movements of a sloth, see a bird creating its hanging nest and watch a troop of monkeys pick fruit off a tree for their lunch.

“We stopped at a small roadside restaurant for lunch. I had an amazing talk with some of the other students traveling with me about religion and missions work and other things that have been burning holes in my mind the past few days.

“As we wove through the mountains with full stomachs and a warm sun shining down on our faces, I began to forget that I missed home so much and realized that God was truly showing me something out of this world.”

**Professor Elected House Committee Chair**

Rep. Ken Miller, an economics professor at Oklahoma Christian, recently was named chairman of the Oklahoma House Appropriations and Budget Committee.

Miller has served for the last year as vice chairman of the committee. As chairman of the Appropriations and Budget Committee, Miller will play a vital role in hearing the first round of budget bills through committee this session, and will have a key part in determining how the state will spend taxpayer dollars.

“Rep. Miller’s economics background will serve him well as the chairman of the House Appropriations and Budget Committee,” House Speaker Chris Benge said.

“I have full confidence in his abilities.”

**Heath Jones Records on Children’s CD**

Oklahoman Christian professor and renowned saxophonist, Dr. Heath Jones, recorded tracks for the children’s CD, Mr. Walter Safety Songs.

Jones is an assistant professor of music at Oklahoma Christian, where he earned his bachelor of music education degree. He also owns a master of music degree from Baylor University, and a doctor of philosophy degree in music education from the University of Oklahoma.

“Mr. Walter,” an OC alumnus who is a songwriter, actor, entertainer, playwright and recording artist, was the recipient of the 2000 Firefighter of the Year Award for his service as fire chaplain.

Mr. Walter Safety Songs is available for purchase at Digstation.com, CD Baby, iTunes Music Store and other retail Internet and in-store markets.

For more information, go to www.MrWalter.com.
HEATH TRAVELS TO CHINA

OC physical education professor and track and field coach Randy Heath was selected by the People to People Citizen Ambassador Program to serve on a physical education delegation trip to China in December.

The 31-year Oklahoma Christian teaching veteran was one of 12 physical education professionals to make the trip.

The delegation exchanged ideas and customs with their physical education counterparts from China. The group focused on areas such as child wellness, elementary physical education and women’s sports in China.

The tour group also enjoyed first-hand glimpses of the Great Wall of China and the venues for this year’s Summer Olympics in Beijing.

“I was excited to see China and learn about it because I had never been to that part of the world. I have seen three Olympic venues previously, so seeing a fourth was a great opportunity for me,” Heath said.

ADAMS CONDUCTS PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA

Dr. Ken Adams, OC professor of music, will conduct the orchestra for the run of 20 performances of the musical “Peter Pan” in April and May at the Pollard Theater in Guthrie, Okla. The music director of this resident professional theater is OC alumnus Bart Varner (’00).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY ACADEMIC LEADERS

OC’s academic leaders serve as role models and teachers both on our own campus and within their disciplines.

Recently, both Dr. Allison Garrett, vice president of academic affairs, and Dr. Phil Lewis, dean of the College of Professional Studies, published academic works.

Garrett co-authored “Leveling the Playing Field in the Pharmacy Benefit Management Industry” with Robert Garis. The article was published in the Valparaiso Law Review.


ETHICS SYMPOSIUM HOSTS SHERRON WATKINS

Sherron Watkins, the former vice president of corporate development at Enron Corporation and known worldwide as the “Enron Whistleblower,” spoke at the second-annual J.J. Millican Ethics Symposium in December.

Watkins gave students, faculty, administrators, alumni and CPAs valuable insight into the causes and process of Enron’s downfall.

Watkins covered three key ethical lessons from Enron – the warning signs that were present at Enron Corporation, how to protect yourself should you find yourself in her shoes, and how to safeguard an organization from ending up like Enron. At the heart of her message was “All you need is love (and courage).”

The free event was sponsored by Devon Energy; Murrell, Hall, McIntosh & Co., PLLP; Grant Thornton; Chesapeake Energy; and the OC Accounting Club in the School of Business Administration.

LEADERS HAVE ‘EXECUTIVE CONVERSATIONS’

OC’s Executive Conversations series brings successful leaders from the state and beyond to Oklahoma Christian each month to share their insights with members of the university’s faculty and staff.

Recent speakers have included Tom Ward, CEO of Sandridge Energy, David Rainbolt, CEO of BancFirst Corporation, and John H. Admire, a retired major general in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Bridge Program helps students succeed at OC

The Bridge Program, established at Oklahoma Christian in 2006, is designed to provide extra assistance to those students with lower than average ACT scores to help them succeed at the college level.

Tutoring, specialized classes and mentoring are just some of the aids that students receive through the program.

Students in the Bridge Program participate in a class designed specifically to help them build study skills and learn to organize their time. For the fall 2007 semester, the Bridge Program launched two new initiatives: the Math Advisory program and the Peer Mentoring program. Both of these initiatives provide more opportunities for Bridge students to excel.

“Our goal is to provide the student with the support he or she needs to succeed at the college level,” said Virginia Smith, the director of OC’s Bridge Program.

The new Math Advisory program provides extra tutoring in smaller class-type situations. Students receive one extra hour of tutoring per week.

The Peer Mentoring is also a one-hour weekly session in which students interact with upperclass students from the education department. These upperclass students provide mentoring, tutoring and helpful planning strategies for each individual student.

Thirty-two students participated in the program during the 2007 fall semester. There was a 78 percent retention rate for this semester.

“These students are glad to be here,” Smith said. “They have enough drive to move mountains, and they demonstrate that daily.”
Eagles win first game back on diamond

Oklahoma Christian rang in the renewal of its baseball program the right way last month with a 5-4 win over Peru State (Neb.) at Dobson Field.

An energetic crowd of around 500 spectators saw the Eagles win their first game back on the diamond since the program went on hiatus following the 2001 season.

After former head coach Max Dobson launched the new era by throwing out the ceremonial first pitch, the Eagles proceeded to score a run in every inning but the first.

With the game tied at 4-4 in the sixth inning of the seven-inning contest, Josh Balch's sacrifice fly scored Ryan Harper with the eventual winning run. Relief pitcher Riley Jones, who retired the last 11 batters he faced, earned the victory on the mound.

The big day ended in dramatic fashion with a wild finish to the second game of the doubleheader.

The first home run of the new era – coming off the bat of Nick Hollrah – sparked a five-run rally in the final inning that gave the Eagles a 14-14 tie. The game was called due to darkness.

Oklahoma Christian will hold a special dedication ceremony for Dobson Field on Saturday, March 29 prior to that day’s 1 p.m. doubleheader against St. Gregory’s (Okla.). For more information on OC Baseball, go to www.oceagles.com/baseball.
Eagle Connect 2.0, your one-stop shop for networking with other alumni, catching up on the latest OC alumni news, finding out about and registering for upcoming events, submitting Milestones and photos, maintaining your alumni profile, and much more!

➤ connect.oc.edu

LOG ON & SIGN UP TODAY!

Show Some Spirit!

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

UShopOC.com

We ALL Shop OC!
Golfers Ranked No. 1 Again

The OC golf team opened the year ranked No. 1 in the NAIA national poll, marking the fourth-straight year the Eagles have risen to the top spot and the fifth year overall (2003).

OC also is ranked No. 1 in the Golf World/NIKE Golf NAIA Coaches’ Poll.

At press time, the Eagles had competed in six tournaments this year, winning three and placing in the top three in their other events, including the Texas-San Antonio Roadrunner Invitational, a tournament with 12 NCAA Division I schools.

OC’s Rhein Gibson and Axel Ochoa each have won individual titles this year, while teammate Bruno Buccolo has won two tournaments.

Oklahoma Christian boasts eight straight top-four finishes at the NAIA National Tournament. The Eagles placed third in 2007 with Buccolo placing fifth individually.

Lynn Picked to Coach National Team

OC head golf coach David Lynn has been selected to coach the United States golf team at the 2008 World University Games in Sun City, South Africa.

Lynn will lead a team of three NAIA players and three NJCAA players in the event, scheduled for Sept. 2-5. Lynn is responsible for choosing the three NAIA participants.

The World University Games feature teams comprised of college athletes from countries all around the world. The event is held every other year.

“I am extremely honored that my fellow NAIA coaches selected me for this honor,” Lynn said. “I consider representing the NAIA and the United States to be the highest honor a coach can have. I look forward to competing for the gold at the World University Games.”

Robison Named New Women’s Soccer Coach

Oklahoma Christian hired Randall Robison as its new women’s head soccer coach in January. He takes over a program that won the Sooner Athletic Conference championship in 2006 and lost in the conference title game last year.

“I’m very excited to be at OC,” Robison said. “I look forward to the opportunity and challenge of getting this program where it should be.”

Robison comes to OC from Westmoore High School, where he went 52-28-2 in six seasons at the helm. Robison’s teams recorded four straight 10-win seasons from 2004 to 2007.

Before his time at Westmoore, Robison helped guide the Tulsa Union High School girls to a 12-2-1 mark in 1993 and the Norman High School boys to a 12-1-1 record in 1995.

In 1996, he helped the University of Oklahoma women’s soccer program get off the ground. The Sooners were co-Big 12 academic champions during Robison’s time in Norman from 1996 to 1999.

Robison, a graduate of Northeastern State University, also made brief assistant stops at Oral Roberts University (Okla.) and East Central University (Okla.). He and his wife Ginger have been married 14 years and have two children: Blake (10) and Rachel (7).

Runners Earn All-America Honors

OC cross country runners Jordan Powell and Sylvia Chirchir each finished 10th at the NAIA National Cross Country Championships in November.

It marked the first time in OC history that runners from the men’s and women’s teams earned All-America status in the same year.

Powell, a junior from Edmond, entered the company of Mike Herndon (6th, 1979) and Steve Guymon (10th, 1982) as Eagles to finish in the top 10 at the national championship. He becomes the 10th All-American in Eagle cross country history.

Chirchir, a freshman from El Dorat, Kenya, finished the course in a time of 17:58. Her placing was higher than any Lady Eagle runner in school history and joined Peggy Murphy (20th, 1991), Tara Collins (19th, 2005) and Kate Hudgens (29th, 2006) as OC All-Americans in cross country.

“Things could not have gone any better today for our runners,” OC head coach Wayne Strohman said. “We saw two historical performances from two of our runners. Sylvia ran so well all season. This was an excellent way for her to end one of the best individual seasons in our program’s history.”

Soccer Players Tabbed As All-Americans

OC men’s soccer players Adam Barnes and Bryan Cochrum earned NAIA All-America honorable mention in November.

This marked the ninth-straight year OC had at least one All-America honoree in men’s soccer.

Barnes joined Matt Clark as the Eagles’ only three-time All-American. Clark was a four-time selection from 2002 to 2006.

Barnes, a senior from Yukon, Okla., and Cochrum, a junior from Arlington, Texas, both earned All-Sooner Athletic Conference honors (Barnes-first team, Cochrum-second team) and were named to the NAIA All-Region VI team.
OC LEADS WAY ON ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

Oklahoma Christian had three of the nine NAIA student-athletes named to ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America teams in the fall.

NCAA Division II and III student-athletes also are eligible for selection to the college-division Academic All-America teams, which are selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America. OC’s Kristin Brown and Cassie Tyler, who both carry 4.0 grade point averages as biology majors, were two of the three women’s soccer players in the entire NAIA to earn Academic All-America honors.

OC’s Adam Barnes was one of three NAIA student-athletes named to the Academic All-America team for men’s soccer. Barnes, a native of Yukon, Okla., is a mathematics major with a 3.97 GPA.

Brown, Tyler and Barnes also earned ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America honors last year. All of three of them also were honored as NAIA Scholar-Athletes in each of the last two years.

In cross country, Katie Marshall, Josh Wayland and Ryan Westrup also earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors. At least one OC cross country runner has received the honor for seven straight years.

Marshall is a junior interior design major from Norman, Okla. Wayland, a marketing major, hails from Olathe, Kan. Westrup is a junior biology major from Piedmont, Okla.

CAGERS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

There are more on-court and off-court honors to come for OC’s basketball teams, but women’s players Charlotte Heron and Cressi Bryant started the parade with their selection to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District VI Second Team in February.

Heron, a junior from Southampton, England, holds a 4.0 grade point average as a political science major. Bryant, a sophomore biology major from Edmond, Okla., also carries a flawless 4.0 GPA.

OC ENJOYING RECORD-SETTING YEAR

Several athletes have written their names in the OC record books this year.

In the fall, women’s soccer player Kristin Brown equaled Piper Coalson’s career goal-scoring record (54), capping a career that included a spot on the 2005 All-America team and numerous academic honors.

On the basketball court, Lady Eagles Haley Myers and Lindsey Gipson tied records with perfect shooting performances. Myers hit 5-of-5 three-pointers at Wayland Baptist in January to equal Katie Faris’ single-game percentage.

Lindsey Gipson made 11 of 11 free throws against WBU to tie the single-game percentage record held by Julie Ross, Rachel Martin and Gipson herself. Gipson’s 18 free throw attempts against Park (Mo) earlier in the year tied Kim Golden’s single-game mark.

In men’s basketball, Kyle Tefft nabbed seven steals against Texas College to surpass the school record held by Terrance Gaines and Brady Page.

The early stages of the track and field season saw two records fall. Rachel Snider eclipsed Renee White's time in the 800 meters at the University of Nebraska Adidas Classic Indoor Track Meet, then ran even faster the next week at the OC Invitational to establish the new indoor standard of 2:19.55.

Sylvia Chirchir shattered Tara Collins’ school record in the 5,000 meters with a 17:53.03 performance at the University of Arkansas Tyson Invitational in February.

THOMPSON WINS TULSA RUN

Mark Thompson, instructor of physics and assistant cross country coach at Oklahoma Christian, won the Tulsa Run 15k race in October.

Thompson finished the 15k race in 46:04, 17 seconds ahead of Joseph Gray of Stillwater. After running neck-and-neck for 42 minutes with Gray, Thompson was able to pull away.

“We were kind of trading surges back and forth for about the last five kilometers, but I felt great,” Thompson said. “From 4k to go, I kind of upped the tempo. Finally, with a kilometer to go, it was time to go. I still felt good.”

OC ATHLETES REACH OUT

The OC softball team got into the spirit of the season in December by banding together to paint a house through Habitat for Humanity.

The Lady Eagles braved a cold and rainy day to serve a south Oklahoma City family in need.

“We had an absolute blast and it was a great way to get to know our new teammates. Despite the cold and rain, everyone kept a great attitude; we have a wonderful group of girls,” said senior second baseman Alissa Hejl. “The owners of the house were very kind and thankful for our time. It was extremely motivating to meet the people that we were helping and it was also a reminder of how blessed we all are.”

OC’s basketball teams also got involved in the community. The men’s team worked on a fitness initiative at Chisholm Elementary School and assistant coach Curtis Janz taught a Bible class on youth coaching at Memorial Road Church of Christ.

Both teams also participated in the Relay for Life at Oklahoma Christian in the fall. The women’s team raised money for breast cancer awareness in February through an initiative of the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association in addition to other service efforts.

Oklahoma Christian is an NAIA Champions of Character institution. The NAIA is dedicated to the core character values of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship.
ALPHA GAMMA OMEGA members each dream of their special “Endless Summer.”

ALPHA SIGMA PHI athletes kick up their heels to express that they are “Having a Ball.”

KAPPA PHI DELTA space women come “Down to Earth” to entertain the crowds.

ZETA RHO CHI pac man wobbles across stage as a star of their show, “Videomania.”
PHI GAMMA DELTA member bites the dust as other members use music from Queen to bring “News of the World” to OCC.

DELTA TAU OMEGA uses their “Good Times Machine” to tell of the past, present and future.

Spring Sing: Club Participants

Worries forgotten as curtain rises

Worries concerning long hours of practices and even shorter hours of sleep were completely forgotten as the curtain rose for the fourteenth-annual Spring Sing. Despite the grumbling over grades and complaining about hours, laughter could be heard during the long hours of practices. Club unity was most evident during these times of cooperation. The excitement of show time made up for all the work and even for all the waiting during and between shows.

“Hey There, Good Times!” was the main theme for the production. Clubs used their creativity to express their interpretations of good times as anything from doing laundry to joining the army. A variety of costumes filled the halls. Circus animals, cave women, space women and football players did not even look out of place among the throngs of performers.

Each of the four performances by each club was judged on five categories. The categories included: music, costume, choreography, theme and overall performance.

Not every club could be labeled a winner, but each club could confess they experienced “good times” that made the whole effort worthwhile.
You can update your alumni information on Oklahoma Christian’s website. Visit www.oc.edu/alumni to update your name, address, email and other information.