

Music Department

The Music Department has received approval from their accrediting body, the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) to offer the Bachelor of Science in Music with an emphasis in worship beginning Fall Semester 2010. A worship degree has been offered in the Communication, Arts and Media Department in conjunction with the Music Department for the past four years. The new worship degree will allow for a greater depth of learning in the areas of music, applied study, worship and communication arts. According to Dr. Randy Guthrie, Chairman of the Music Department, "ORU will join a very select group of less than ten schools in the nation as the only charismatic/Pentecostal school to offer such a degree." This degree will supplement the current worship leadership minor offered by the Music Department. The department is excited about the future of the degree and its potential to train and raise up a future generation of worship leaders.

Communication, Arts, and Media Department

Our 2010 graduate Jenna Schario has received the Public Relations Student Society of America National Gold Key Award.



The National Gold Key Award was created in 1983 to acknowledge outstanding PRSSA members. It is the highest individual honor awarded by the organization and recognizes outstanding academic excellence in public relations and leadership.

Schario, who earned a B.S. in Media with an emphasis in public relations and advertising, is now the communications and awareness manager for the Alzheimer's Association, Oklahoma and Arkansas Chapter. "I am excited to have received this award from PRSSA and believe it recognizes the collective efforts of ORU students, the faculty and area professionals who want to advance the profession of public relations," Schario said. "It also comes at a great time as I bridge from college student to a professional career."

As a junior at ORU and serving as PRSSA's membership director, Jenna helped double the club's membership. As seniors, Schario and fellow student Elissa Peterson co-chaired the campus' first-ever PRSSA regional conference. Schario recruited sponsorships and speakers for the event which gave attendees an inside look at the sports and entertainment industries. The event drew more than 50 students, faculty and chapter advisors from multiple states, colleges and universities. Cristi Freudenrich, ORU Chapter of PRSSA faculty advisor, recommended Schario for the award. "Jenna recognizes the knowledge which can be gained from interacting with public relations practitioners. To that end, she worked diligently in her PRSSA roles to connect students to industry professionals. Her efforts along with an outstanding academic record made her a strong candidate for this honor. I am extremely pleased the committee recognized her leadership and accomplishments."

Gold Key Awards will be presented during the PRSSA Awards Ceremony and Dinner scheduled for October 18 at PRSSA's national conference in Washington, D.C.

English and Modern Languages Department



ORU hosted a second Teachers' Institute on Diversity, financially supported by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council. The theme was "At the Intersection of Race, Gender, and Culture: Oklahoma's Black Wall Street, Latina Women, and Diverse Faces of American Immigration." The 16 teachers who participated were from the following areas: Norman, Bartlesville, Owasso, Jenks, Broken Arrow, Beggs, Muskogee, and Tulsa. The teachers represented grades K through high school and all disciplines.

Along with being the grant writer, Dr. Mary Alice Trent served as the Institute's Director and also as part of the lecture series, along with Dr. Paul Vickery and Dr. Joann Allen, who were also lecturers. Dr. Trent's presentation focused on Black Wall Street and the Tulsa Race Riots of 1921; Dr. Vickery's talk covered American immigration with ties to Oklahoma; and Dr. Allen's presentation celebrated Latina Women and their identity. Each lecturer made relevant connections to the classroom during his or her presentation.

The Institute included a trip to the historic Greenwood District in North Tulsa, the home of Black Wall Street and the Tulsa Race Riots of 1921. The Institute concluded with each teacher making a presentation that she or he can use in the classroom this fall.

History, Humanities, and Government Department

The History, Humanities and Government Department recently launched a new Leadership Studies Degree Completion Program designed for working adults. This exciting new program allows students who have earned 65+ college credits to complete a degree in 12 – 18 months by attending classes one night a week. There will be four eight-week classes offered during the fall, spring and summer semesters, for a total of twelve courses per year.

The program promotes academic excellence and facilitates the strengthening of conceptual, scholarly and professional competencies for use in leadership roles. Our mission is to promote the best in leadership, knowledge and practice to improve the quality and diversity of leadership in organizations and communities – regionally, nationally and internationally.

The curriculum is designed to emphasize inquiry, understanding, skill development, practice and reflection. In-class study, class exercises, service projects, leadership workshops and leadership development programs provide an environment where students can study and develop an understanding of leadership. Leadership Studies students will pursue a rigorous program of study in leadership theory, organizational communication, public and private sector leadership, church leadership, conflict resolution, ethics and administrative theory.

The faculty members who teach in the Leadership Studies degree completion program come from a wide variety of notable academic fields. Faculty members from business, communication, humanities, political science, public administration, science and theology teach the program.