

### English and Modern Languages Department

#### Sigma Tau Delta Chapter Awarded National Grant

The English and Modern Languages Department is pleased to announce that its English honor society—Sigma Tau Delta—received a \$500 grant from the International English Honors Society for its service project, “ORU Veterans’ Writing Workshop.” Last semester, faculty sponsor Dr. Kay Meyers worked with students Becki Hardy (Sigma Tau Delta member and project director) and Hannah Covington (chapter president) to write a grant proposal for a workshop to demonstrate the value of journaling to ORU student veterans recovering from traumatic events and to spread awareness about the struggles veterans face.

With roughly 17% of returning troops suffering from depression, treatments like narrative therapy help successfully reintegrate our nation’s newest student veterans. Sigma Tau Delta plans to give back to ORU veterans who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq by partnering with the ORU Student Veterans Organization to conduct the workshop on how student veterans can benefit from journaling about their experiences and to provide each ORU veteran a moleskin notebook and copy of *Portable MFA in Creative Writing*, which explains the writing process and how to construct personal narratives. This workshop will use the power of language and writing to help ORU live up to its designation as a “Military-Friendly Institution.”

Sigma Tau Delta chapters nationwide applied for grants, and from a large pool of applicants, ORU’s chapter was selected to receive the maximum award. The awards committee commented that they were “very impressed” by the project and will recognize ORU at the annual convention in March.

### Music Department

International students are not hard to find on the campus of Oral Roberts University. With over sixty countries represented, remarkable diversity has emerged and is evident throughout the ORU community, including the Music Department.

Being surrounded by a new culture, discovering new social aspects, all while focusing on their studies, international students face many challenges. Juliane Lapidus, a junior piano performance major, transferred to ORU from a university in Germany in the fall semester of 2011. She was amazed how the ORU community feels like a family and astonished by the support and guidance the faculty provide through interaction with students. Professors often discuss God’s calling on their students’ lives and how to focus education in the right direction.

Music minor Emily Hong is a junior from Taiwan. She is recognized by many as the piano accompanist for the Chamber Singers and Ladies and Gentlemen of Jazz. Encountering an experience similar to Juliane’s, Emily was also impressed by the interaction in classes. Less emphasis is placed on individual achievements and competition, and students are guided to support each other’s ministry callings.

Emily and Juliane are just two of the several international students in the Music Department. They bring diversity and cultural history that has and will continue to enrich the lives of the people they meet.



(Juliane Lapidus and Emily Hong)

## Communication, Arts, and Media Department

In the fall of 2011, Mr. Jiwon Kim began his career at ORU teaching foundations and illustration courses. Jiwon comes to ORU from his hometown of Seoul, South Korea via a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design and Drawing at Western Illinois University. Continuing his education, Jiwon completed a Master of Arts in Illustration Design and a Master of Fine Arts in Graphic Design at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Mr. Mandel Chenoweth is another new face at ORU, teaching a wide range of art education courses. Mandel has over 25 years of teaching experience in the Kellyville school district. During that time, Mandel grew the program ten-fold, and earned teacher of the year awards six times. Mandel is currently reviewing the art education program with ORU's College of Education with an eye toward updating curriculum and increasing opportunities for student teaching.

Mr. Stu Branston (affectionately known as Mr. B) retired at the end of the 2010-11 academic year. Mr. B returns this spring as an adjunct instructor for ceramics. Mr. B is also busy upgrading the safety, cleanliness and operability of the ceramics facilities and equipment. While almost a full-time job in itself, Mr. B still has found time to begin a new series of ceramic pieces, and vacation with his wife and family in Hawaii. Welcome back, Mr. B!

Doug and Norma Latta have recently released a new book, *Faces of Truth: A Collection of Historical Biographies*. In this extensive collection of illustrations and biographies, the Lattas encourage the viewer to be inspired by the subjects' legacy and to remember their source of strength. The book introduces a new perspective of many of our nation's most famous historical personalities by opening a window to God's plan for their life. For more information, please visit the book's website, [www.facesoftruth.com](http://www.facesoftruth.com).

## History, Humanities, and Government Department

Over 40 ORU students and three faculty members from the History, Humanities, and Government Department recently participated in a significant and rewarding practical political experience by campaigning for Rep. Michele Bachmann in the Iowa Caucus. The campaign trip was sponsored by the ORU College Republicans.

ORU students gave up a significant portion of their Christmas break to travel to Iowa and take part in the campaign from Dec. 29 until Jan. 3. "I felt the Iowa trip was a great learning experience for our students. Even if they are not going to run for public office, they can very well work for a local, state, or national campaign because of the things they learned there," said Professor Beverly Garrison. "One of the valuable things, I think, was the ability to work with a diverse group of people. Not only were they a diverse group but the campaign workers were diverse as well. They certainly got a good picture of how you work on a campaign." Campaign activities included making phone calls, walking door-to-door distributing campaign literature, and participating in rallies and promotional activities including making commercials for television. All of the Iowa television stations covered the ORU experience of the campaign.

ORU's Dr. Winston Frost and College Democrats President Jonathan Townsend were hits with the media on the trip, with Dr. Frost giving a number of interviews relating to his attending law school with the candidate. The uniqueness of Jonathan's role with the College Democrats also got significant media attention. ORU Professor Sonny Branham, faculty advisor to the College Republicans, also went on the trip.

