

English and Modern Languages Department



English and Modern Languages students have had an outstanding opportunity to participate this month. Chris Cook, Jean Voltaire and Eric Smith presented scriptures in Spanish, French, and German at the Twelfth Annual Cultural Event at ORU on February 15th. Then, on the 16th all of the Modern Languages clubs meet together along with a newly formed club for Study Abroad. David Belousov, Rachel Whitlock, and Victoria McKitrick (our Cultural Center and Language Lab Coordinator) have advertised this meeting in many classes. Students have formed a panel to present study abroad to ORU. On February 19th Dr. Joann Allen and Dr. Kay Meyers accompanied students to participate in the Texas Regional meeting of the Society for the Study of American Women Writers.

The meeting focused on a single primary text by an



American woman writer, Mercy Otis Warren. Students who participated in this event were Gretchen Knurr, Alycia West, Rachel Whitlock, Amber Earls, Corinna Moreno, Elroy Haylock, Hannah Covington, Lauren Wells, Chelsea Dean, and Rebekah Hardy. It would be fitting to share some pictures of our February with you. Robert Frost might have been inspired by scenes like these photos to declare, "Whose woods these are I think I know. His house is in the village though; He will not see me stopping here to watch his woods fill up with snow."

Music Department

On January 18, 2011, **Joyce Bridgman**, Piano Coordinator for the ORU Music Department, flew to NY City to personally hand-pick four, brand new grand pianos for the university at the **Steinway & Sons** factory in Queens, NY. Hosted by Bryan Elmore, Steinway representative for Saied Music in Tulsa, and his wife, Laura, Ms. Bridgman's whirlwind trip was filled with amazing experiences she will never forget. From witnessing the kind and skillful craftsmen who build every piano by hand to being whisked away to Steinway Hall in Manhattan where she enjoyed playing several iconic pianos, Ms. Bridgman physically realized the decades-old dream to have the best pianos in the world at ORU that she and Oral Roberts shared. She describes her trip humbly by saying, "It was a glorious experience - selecting four 'singing' Steinways for ORU to be used for the glory of God."



On Wednesday, March 2, 2011, ORU will officially become an All-Steinway School and the four pianos Ms. Bridgman selected will be showcased in Christ Chapel during a special celebration chapel service. Words will never adequately express the eternal gratitude we feel to all the donors and faculty who made this three-year endeavor become reality sooner than humanly possible. We are witnessing another miracle at ORU!

Communication, Arts, and Media Department



This spring a group of dance majors will be traveling to New Mexico State University to participate in the American College Dance Festival. Our ORU dance students will be given the opportunity to move outside of their experience while training at ORU and be exposed to the dance field and their peers from other college dance programs. They will be given opportunity to network with professionals and future employers, while being a witness with their lifestyle, character, and choreographic content of the works we share at the concerts. It is a life changing experience for a dancer to be a part of this festival and greatly prepares them for graduating and entering the dance field. It also gives us a voice as ORU dance,



allowing others to learn about who we are and our mission of faith/art integration. We will be taking one faculty piece and 2 student works to be presented at the adjudicated and informal concerts.

History, Humanities, and Government Department

Dr. Solomon Gemedo and Professor Sonny Branham, professors from the History, Humanities, and Government Department, joined other select ORU faculty members, and ORU students Sarah Mirembe and Treena Boswell, in late November for a student forum. They discussed the theme "One People, Different Experiences, One Purpose" with a large number of ORU students. The topic was "Bridging our Differences to Enhance the Kingdom".

Among the topics discussed and questions raised were:

- Is it possible to embrace our culture/heritage and still unite as a people?
- Why do racial and tribal issues still affect our behavior or discussion in the 21st century?
- Is there a way for the church to come together as one body in order to fulfill its mandate?
- Are all or any of the aforementioned issues present at ORU? If so, how?
- Can these issues be fixed in order to have a stronger university?

Dr. Gemedo particularly spoke to racial and tribal issues, while Professor Branham gave insight on political and governmental policy that is prevalent today. The outcome of the forum for generally all in attendance was that there is a foundational need for all to be able to respect, embrace, and admire the University and society's diversity; and we should dedicate ourselves to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ regardless of differences.

Elizabeth Khaleghi, writing in an assignment for Professor Branham, related "I really enjoyed hearing the opinions of everyone in the audience as well as the panel. I enjoyed and related with the topic of dealing with other cultures within the classroom setting, and I especially enjoyed the discussion about being culturally competent in dealing of people with other cultures who are in class with you".

Panel member Dr. Marsha Livingston concluded with a number of significant points: we should have respect for one another; think the best of others; listen actively; become familiar with foreign policy issues; be culturally sensitive; and lastly put people before our own pursuits. Tammy Schnieder from the Missions Department enlightened all with the admonition that to be a true Christian, we must be color blind.