

### English and Modern Languages Department

Getting to live and study abroad is a wonderful way to “go into every person’s world,” and this semester nine ORU students are taking coursework overseas in countries including Korea, Thailand, France, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. Traveling to foreign countries is memorable; however, actually being able to settle in and live in a foreign country provides a perspective not experienced by mere travelers. Studies are rigorous, and students must have self-discipline to succeed in the research-oriented atmosphere (not classroom-centered education) inherent in many foreign universities. Beyond their academic studies are opportunities to visit historical and cultural sites as well as to experience day-to-day life as the locals do. It’s nearly impossible to return from studying abroad and not be a more educated and confident individual—more open to the world and more understanding of God’s plan for each person’s role in it. The English and Modern Languages Department is excited about its growing study abroad program and the new co-directors, Brenda Calderon and Lori Kanitz.



Katie Miller, studying at Oxford, visits Stonehenge.

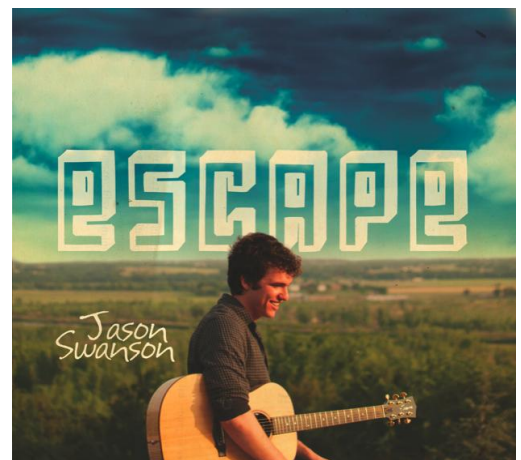
### Music Department

Outstanding guitarist and ORU Chapel sensation Jason Swanson is a big name on campus. After several months of dedicated practice and many long hours in three different recording studios, this senior Music Technology major has recently released his debut album, “Escape.” Featuring songs for solo guitar, Jason’s CD is comprised of an equal array of familiar cover songs and captivating originals. Song selections cover multiple genres, producing an album with appeal to all.



First introduced to guitar by his father, Jason has been playing for over ten years. As his skills

developed and he began to master the ordinary guitar techniques, Jason began to take a unique approach to guitar playing. Thinking outside the box, he strives to create an all-in-one sound. By imitating a complete rhythm section, fashioning full-sounding harmonious fills, and still allowing the melody to rise above, he is able to simulate the fuller sound of a guitar ensemble. Jason is inspired by and appreciates musically well-written songs, no matter the style, and endeavors to exhibit the same through his own artistic interpretations. Be sure to check out Jason’s debut album, “Escape,” on iTunes and visit his website at [www.jasonswansonmusic.com](http://www.jasonswansonmusic.com).



## Communication, Arts, and Media Department

We are very thankful to be able to announce that there is a competitive parliamentary debate squad at Oral Roberts University again. We have been praying for it for so long and now we are seeing the fruit of our labor. We have sent many of our alumni into the harvest fields of law and government without a tractor. They are now going to be more prepared to support and defend their beliefs and to become known as the people who listen before they respond. Two teams competed in a tournament consisting of 22 universities in Hutchinson, KS, the 23rd and 24th of September. One of the teams (Joseph Jackson and Charlie Meadows) took 3rd in the novice division and Joseph Jackson received Best Novice Speaker in the tournament.

We want to encourage you to hang on to the dreams that God has planted in your mind. He says that the vision is for an appointed time. Now is our time. The gift given to the university will meet expenses for the next few years. Our goal is to be able to offer scholarships to our team members so that they will be available to compete instead of using those weekends to work to pay for their education. If you would like to help toward that goal or give us the ability to increase the number of students competing more quickly, please let us know. The restricted account is set up through the Alumni Association and if you will designate your gifts toward that fund we would be greatly honored. We desire to win and honor God and the legacy of the university by going into the competitive debate world as a voice that shall be heard.

The debate program is chaired by Dr. Agena Farmer, Assistant Professor of Communication. The Communication, Arts and Media Department is housed in the Graduate Center on the second floor and is chaired by Laura Holland.

## History, Humanities, and Government Department



In annual observance of Constitution Day, Oral Roberts University brought to campus a religious/civil liberties attorney. The History, Humanities, and Government Department hosted Senior Counsel Kevin Theriot of the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) on September 22nd. He spoke on the topic, "Do Christians Still Have the Right to Engage the Culture?" Currently, he heads the ADF Church Project, which focuses on litigation pertaining to church free speech and religious autonomy matters.

Since joining ADF in 2003, Theriot has litigated and won numerous cases upholding the religious liberty and First Amendment rights of clients across the nation. His legal efforts continue to focus on defending churches around the country in their efforts to spread the Gospel. Theriot's article on protecting religious speech, "Prince or Pauper: Religious Proselytizing and the First Amendment," was published in the *University of St. Thomas Journal of Law and Public Policy* in 2009. Theriot, himself an ORU alumnus, is headquartered at ADF's regional office in Kansas City.