

theCommunique

communication arts alumni magazine
spring 2007

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Laura Holland
Communication Arts Department Chair

This spring, we have exciting things happening. I'm sure you have noticed the *Communique* has a different look. That is because its publication has become a project for Chris Putman's Publication Workshop. She sent this last issue to a statewide competition, and it received Best in State ranking.

In the Organizational/Interpersonal area, we are considering offering an online major. We are also establishing an advisory board and would welcome any input from alumni.

For the first time this year, we hosted the Broadcast Journalism School at ORU. Mark Labash coordinated the event, and it was a success with 47 students attending. Abilene Christian University and Oklahoma Baptist University participated and walked away with a greater appreciation of the field of Broadcast Journalism. Israel Balderas, 1994 graduate, was the main speaker for the conference. He recently received his law degree and is working in media law in Washington, D.C.

This spring, the Drama area, in partnership with the Music Department, produced the Oklahoma

premiere of "Little Women: The Broadway Musical." We constructed most of the Civil War era costumes. So, if you are looking at this show to produce, I know where you could rent the costumes. Our Worship Arts major gained 47 students for the freshman class. They are all eager to learn ways to guide people into God's presence.

Now for the big news of this semester. We are adding two new majors to Communication Arts. Last December, President Roberts suggested we should look into offering a degree in Dance Performance. My response was we had been praying for a program like this for years. We realized with a dance degree, we already had classes for a degree in Musical Theatre. So this fall, we are adding a Bachelor of Arts in Dance Performance and a Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre. Many drama alumni have responded: "Now they do this" or "Why didn't it happen when I was there?" I feel like I need to say to all the alumni who have mixed emotions about our new programs, God's timing is perfect. You experienced at ORU what you were supposed to for His plan in your life. We all have a part in the growth of this department and its impact on our world. Help us continue by praying for the faculty as we develop Oral's vision to "go into every man's world."

Pray about helping set up more scholarships for every area of the department, and invite more alumni to join our advisory boards. Alumni, including myself, have made a contribution in the growth of this department and, therefore, should rejoice in the growing impact. n

The *Communique* is a product of the Oral Roberts University Communication Arts Department for its alumni.

To be informed of University updates, contact Alumni Relations concerning address changes at alumni@oru.edu.

To receive job listings or post an open position to recruit alumni applicants, email Dr. Even Culp at eculp@oru.edu.

To provide feedback on the magazine or submit story ideas on successful alums, contact cputman@oru.edu. We would like to hear from others in the field.

Special thanks To:

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Cover: LeAnne Taylor
story on page 8

"The unique aspect about dancers is that their life is their witness."

- Laura Holland

Communication Arts Department Chair

Premiering this fall, the long-awaited bachelor degrees in Dance Performance and Musical Theatre have caused excitement in the Communication Arts Department. The University will teach dance and musical theatre from a Christian perspective, separating it from many dance programs.

The new dance major provides classes for careers in dance, choreography, dance-studio management, tour-company management and religious performance. Students in this major will learn ballet, jazz, modern dance and theatre dance. In addition, a dance company will travel to festivals and competitions. Through a diversified dance education, the program will prepare students in every area to become outstandingly gifted and, in turn, influence the current culture.

"For 30 years, there have been prayers for the door to be opened for a dance major," Communication Arts Department Chair Laura Holland said. "When it's God's timing, it really is God's timing."

The Musical Theatre program combines dance classes with already existing drama and vocal music classes. Some of the courses include Introduction to Theatre, Directing and Musical Theatre History. It will develop the creative and intelligence potential of students through drama, music and dance and prepare students for graduate study in musical theatre. Previous experience is required for the musical theatre program.

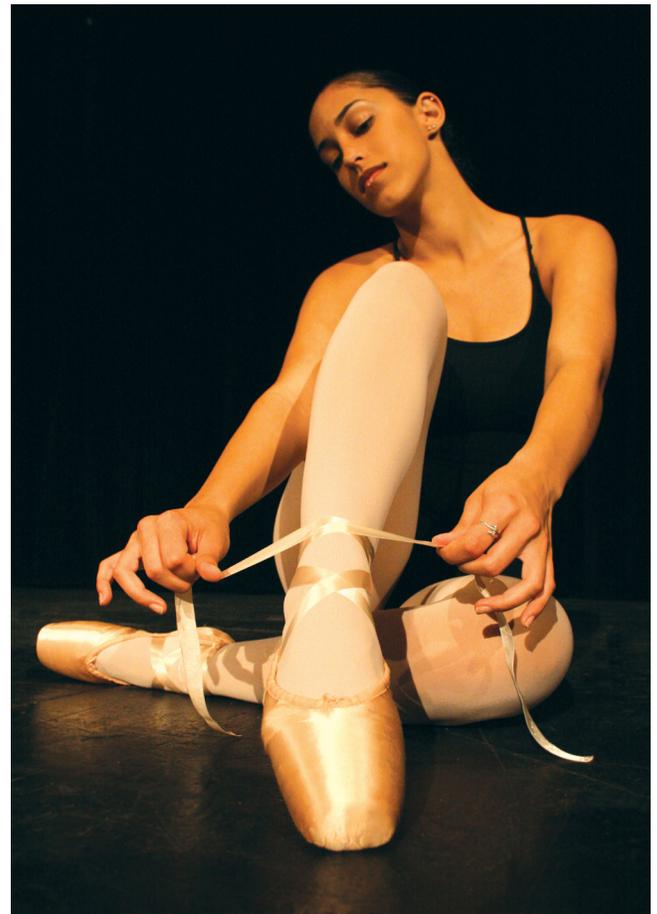
Auditions will be held throughout the summer and possibly again in the fall for both of the new majors. Thirty to 40 students are expected to enroll. The goal of the new programs goes deeper than simply acquiring students and teaching them what they need to know.

"It is a safe place for them to get their training," Holland said.

Freshman Jessica Greene is ecstatic about the news and is auditioning for the Dance Performance major.

"I never expected anything like this to happen here, especially while I was attending," Greene said.

When utilized wisely and with discretion, dance can send a life-changing message and touch hearts.



Tying up loose ends, freshman Gianelle Hernandez prepares to take the stage. Auditioning for the new Dance Performance major, Hernandez becomes in step with her calling. photo/kristin threadgill

footloose

oru announces new major

"The unique aspect about dancers is that their life is their witness," Holland said. "That's the difference in our dance program."

Dance competitions will be influenced in new ways. Dancers will carry a message into every man's world.

"By competing, we will be able to go places that were hard to reach by being examples of Christ's love," Greene said. "Dance can communicate so many different messages. I believe it can emulate raw, human passion unlike any other art form. It glorifies God, the Creator, who gave us the ability to move and articulate such beauty." n story/candace cook

a new creation

jonathan martin employs his genius

“Jonathan is such a creative genius..., a true original.”

- Mark Steele
CEO, Steelehouse Productions

The back door to 1996 graduate Jonathan Martin’s office leads to a shop that stores models from fictional creatures and spaceships to the beginnings of a scale model of the New York City skyline. Several models were from one of Martin’s recent projects, a mock-up movie trailer based on the script for his original film entitled “Seeing the Invisible.” The story centers on a character named Sam, who discovers he has special powers.

“It’s about the inner lying messages of faith,” Martin said. “It’s allegorical. His powers inspire and help people. He’s an example of what a Christian should be.”

Martin has been building Jonathan Martin Creative since 1995 with his father Charles Martin, who serves as vice president. JMC primarily works in creative themes and set design and has done projects for many notable companies such as Impact Productions. JMC designed a set for Impact Production’s national release of the film “One Night with the King.” JMC has also created sets for churches such as Tulsa-based Victory Christian Center. One of Martin’s well-known works is the “Pahappahooey Island” children’s series that runs on TBN on Saturdays. The series has several segments and a cast of puppets.

Tucked unassumingly into a business plaza in southeastern Tulsa, the headquarters for JMC are remarkably

small for the magnitude and professional quality of the projects it produces, including the recent movie trailer. With the help of Your Visual Image, a design firm founded by ORU graduates, the trailer captured cutting edge special effects and 3D elements.

“We basically did the impossible,” Martin said. “We had to pull off a highly visual film on a small budget.”



Above it all, Jonathan Martin towers over New York City. The scenic replica is being created for Trinity Broadcasting Network’s backdrop for their new set this summer.

The purpose of the trailer is to garner the interest of potential investors into the film’s full production.

“The whole thing is about demonstration,” Martin said. “Hollywood gets scripts every day. Even if it’s a good one, the odds of it turning into a film are slim. You do everything you can short of [producing] it. It increases your odds.”

Mark Steele, 1991 graduate and CEO/Executive Creative of Steelehouse Productions in Tulsa, has

often worked with Martin.

“Jonathan is such a creative genius,” Steele said. “Jonathan is a true original. He has a very specific picture of what he intends to create, and he does what it takes to realize that picture.”

Although Martin has faced many challenges in building his company, he has learned many lessons.

“Be patient and wait on the Lord,” Martin said. “Listen to Him because He’ll guide you. He’ll show you the way that you’re to go.” [n story/rachel wegner](#)



larger than life

Along with his nearly ten foot mobile robot, mastermind Jonathan Martin adds dimension to the movie screen. The intricately designed robot was one of many creations Martin has both envisioned and brought to life. "It's not good enough to dream or talk," Martin said. "At some point, you have to actually make a physical decision to put something to paper." photos/kristin threadgill

“Ultimately, when my career is over, I will have wanted to further the Kingdom of God by empowering other writers and media members to leave their fingerprint on the message that God has given them.”

- Jesse Carey
Relevantmagazine.com



Intensely focused, Jesse Carey fine-tunes the most important details. As online content producer at Relevantmagazine.com, Carey is the mastermind behind what material is published. photo courtesy/jesse carey

keeping it relevant

jesse carey hooked in

Few people have their work viewed by hundreds of thousands of people each month and find a job they absolutely love at a company perfectly suited to their interests. With a goal of impacting his culture, 2005 alumnus Jesse Carey found both to be true in less than two years after graduation.

Recently, Carey became the online content producer at Relevantmagazine.com. He is in charge of all material displayed on the Web site that averages up to 500,000 visitors each month. At a company breaking barriers in the field of media outlets, he aims to reach the newest generation of young adult Christians.

“Relevant magazine’s purpose is to impact culture and to be a voice of our generation for progressive Christians,” Carey said.

While this may sound like a tall order, it is right down Carey’s alley.

“Ultimately, when my career is over, I will have wanted to further the Kingdom of God by empowering other writers and media members to leave their fingerprint on the message that God has given them,” Carey said.

According to senior associate editor Tia Stauffer, Carey’s skill set is not merely confined to putting material such as podcasts and video updates on the Web site.

“Jesse isn’t contained to one title,” Stauffer said. “He helps in a lot of different things we have our hands in. Whether it is in his normal activities, a screenplay or advertising, Jesse contributes in many different areas.”

One of the new additions to Relevantmagazine.com was completed with the re-launching of Relevant TV. With cutting edge features, the online TV site is an innovation poised to make the media world take notice

as it offers fully seamless, high-quality music videos available on demand.

“We really want the Web site to continue to transform into an online destination instead of just a place to visit,” Carey said.

Carey’s zeal for his work keeps his motor running and fuels his will to succeed.

“If you are passionate about your profession, just go after it,” Carey said. “Don’t be afraid to be too edgy; the Gospel is edgy and can be done in cool ways that are outside the box.” [n story/daniel mckenna](#)



“From giving a warm smile to giving a word from the Lord, I am here for God’s purposes.”

- Doreah Dean
Sony Pictures Entertainment

out my senior year at ORU,” Dean said. “Once I asked the Lord what He wanted me to do and where He wanted me to go, it was a done deal. Before graduation, I was offered a position with Sony Pictures Entertainment in the area of my interest, and I am currently working in International Theatrical Creative Advertising.”

For Dean, working at Sony has proven to be a great career step in the communications world. Ignacio Darnaude, executive vice president of her department, believes Dean has been an asset to the company.

“Having Doreah at Sony Pictures is a true blessing,” Darnaude said. “Her kindness warms the whole department. We are lucky to have her as part of our team.”

Two weeks after receiving her degree, Dean began working with and making an impression on Steve Mosko, president of Sony Pictures.

“Doreah did a terrific job assimilating into our organization,” Mosko said. “She was quick to learn and showed the highest ethical standards.”

None of the excitement of this working world would have been possible without her time at the University.

“The most valuable lesson that I took with me from ORU into not only my job but my life in general is living by faith,” Dean said. “Our life is centered on trusting God to fulfill His divine plan. As long as we are led by the Holy Spirit, we can know that the Lord will bring us success in every area of our lives.”

Dean’s work often fuels her drive to succeed.

“I am constantly working on the various branches of my purpose,” Dean said. “I garner inspiration from the different projects that I’m working on to gain direction and momentum to accomplish my life’s goals.”

Dean leads a gratifying life that allows her to integrate her work and faith every day.

“I serve two purposes at Sony,” Dean said. “The latter being marketplace ministry, and, in that regard, God uses me on a daily basis. From giving a warm smile to giving a word from the Lord, I am here for God’s purposes.” [n story/esther king](#)

In the forefront of Sony Pictures Entertainment, Doreah Dean thrives in her working environment. At Sony, Dean devotes her time to many areas including project management, finance, accounting and marketing. photo courtesy/doreah dean

picture of excellence

dean impacts sony by faith

With a plan of action, 2005 graduate Doreah Dean’s ambitious nature propelled her to success. During her internship with Sony Pictures Entertainment, Dean developed relationships her senior year at the University that later opened the door for securing a job at the company. Her responsibilities include project management, finance, accounting and marketing.

“I networked and maintained those contacts through-

Anchor in the storm

leanne taylor shines on airwaves

“Every day you face adversity, but it draws us closer to God.”

- LeAnne Taylor
co-host, “Six in the Morning”

Beep. Beep. Beep. Beep. The alarm clock rings at 3:30 a.m. LeAnne Taylor, wife, mother, activist and anchor has begun another day.

Taylor grew up in Oklahoma, held the title of Miss Tulsa, graduated in 1984 and has soared to new heights.

Taylor was hired to work for a television station right out of college, an opportunity unheard of in that day.

“There is no doubt that God has His hand on my life,” Taylor said.

Throughout Taylor’s career, she has aimed to put her family first. Working as co-anchor of the Channel Six show “Six in the Morning” allows her the opportunity to be home early in the day so she can serve in the PTA and pick up her children from school.

“All those hats and titles are important,” Taylor said. “It is a challenge every day to find a balance.”

Taylor is no stranger to the challenges life can sometimes bring. In 2003, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Even so, cancer never stopped or slowed her down. She did not miss a day of work throughout her ordeal. Taylor’s co-workers testify to her determination and courage in the face of such a grim circumstance.

“She has a great passion for life,” producer Gordon Osberghaus said. “She is strong.”

Taylor’s co-host, Casey Norton, admires her dedication to helping others.

“LeAnne is passionate about breast cancer aware-

ness,” Norton said. “She spends hours every week talking to viewers about health and the cancer care process.”

Regarding advice for someone who may be battling breast cancer, Taylor stresses positive thinking and good confession.

“The Bible talks about a cheerful heart doeth good like a medicine,” Taylor said. “When you speak things, it’s very powerful. Every day

you face adversity, but it draws you closer to God.”

Taylor’s co-workers applaud her work ethic and witness in the workplace.

“She is one of the most amazing people I have ever met,” Osberghaus said. “She always has a smile on her face. She is always willing to pick somebody up when they are down.”

Taylor leads a life without limits. She is cancer-free and feels what the enemy meant for her harm, God has used for good. [n story/chris guynn](#)



Mulling last minute over notes, LeAnne Taylor prepares to give the morning news live on air. During her bout with cancer and each day since, Taylor courageously does what she loves. [photo/kristin threadgill](#)



taylor made

Fully awake, LeAnne Taylor faces the cameras to relay news to Tulsa households. As co-host of "Six in the Morning," Taylor had remained mindful of the Lord's participation in her success. "There is no doubt that God has His hand on my life," Taylor said. photo/kristin threadgill

"I am reaching all corners of the world, touching them all."

- Ebony Mackey
media supervisor,
Bahamas Faith Ministries Intl.

She is on the forefront of reaching the nations with the Gospel. Her work is seen on television across the globe. For 2005 graduate Ebony Mackey, working a normal job has never been on the agenda. In her hometown of Nassau in the Bahamas, or "Where God lives," as the locals would say, she is advancing the Kingdom one sermon at a time.

Mackey is the supervisor of the media television department for Myles Munroe's ministry, Bahamas Faith Ministries International. Her job description includes directing, camera work and editing for the program's broadcast to stations in the United States and South Africa.

"I am touching people I haven't even seen," Mackey said.

During her time at ORU, Mackey worked for Munroe as a photographer whenever the ministry came through town. After graduation, she freelanced in Tulsa for one year, working hard but barely paying the bills. When a project opened up in the Bahamas, Mackey jumped at the opportunity. She was then asked to stay and was hired full time. Working for the ministry has opened many doors. For Mackey, preaching the Gospel is all in a day's work.

"I am reaching all corners of the world, touching them all," Mackey said. "[God is] using my hands to get the Gospel out, and I am not



Focused on the task at hand, Ebony Mackey edits footage in the studios of Bahamas Faith Ministries International. In addition, Mackey is gaining experience in directing and camera work at the organization. photo courtesy/ebony mackey

myles ahead

ebony mackey carries the message

even moving. I am sitting in front of the computer editing programs."

Close friend and 2006 graduate Julia West will never forget the effect Mackey had on her life. Mackey impacted people on and off campus with the message of her actions.

"She is an awesome woman of God," West said. "She is very passionate about what she does. She is highly intelligent. She cares about the prosperity of the souls of people."

For the next five to 10 years, Mackey has big dreams on the drawing board. She plans to launch Purpose Productions, a company that will produce movies based on Bible stories people do not dis-

cuss as often, like the account of the woman with the issue of blood. Despite the certain steps she might take, she looks to the One who gives her guidance.

"Once you abide in Him, God can do anything for you," Mackey said. "Once you keep at it and keep seeking God, God has no choice but to answer. You must abide your whole life. Once you do that, He will take care of you."

God is using Mackey's communication skills to advance the great commission. Her commitment to excellence and His anointing on her combine to carry the Gospel into every corner of the world. **n** story/rhema muncy



"I love my job because it opens doors to talk to people."

- Gladys Trasorras
account executive, KXOJ

Preparing to broadcast, Gladys Trasorras awaits her cue to go on air. Aside from radio, Trasorras is involved with other branches of the media including the Internet and television. photo courtesy/gladys trasorras

on air alive

gladys trasorras blasts broadcast

Gladys Trasorras, a 2005 graduate, was a bright student who happened to be seeking ideas for her senior project. As she took a tour at Tulsa's KOTV, Lori Fullbright, crime reporter, stood up in the middle of the newsroom and yelled, "Can anyone speak Spanish in here?"

Trasorras, the only Spanish speaker present, timidly raised her hand and was quickly rushed into a van to in-

terview a Spanish-speaking woman who had been held at gunpoint. Trasorras did so well at the interview that Fullbright offered to shoot her senior project right there. Before leaving, she was offered a job.

Although this was an incredible transition for Trasorras, the method of delivery was not all that uncommon. In fact, God had been directing her path each step of the way.

Trasorras, a single mother, was formerly living in Miami, Fla. with no money. In a dream, she saw she was destined to attend ORU.

"I called ORU by faith," Trasorras said. "I didn't even think they'd accept me. I filled out the application, and lo and behold, I got accepted."

After receiving her degree in broadcast journalism, she went on to assume several positions in various areas. One of them included becoming an account executive for Tulsa Christian radio station KXOJ.

"I love my job because it opens doors to talk to people," Trasorras said. "The thing I love is that I'm not in an office nine to five trapped in front of my computer."

While working with Trasorras for the Web site, Tulsa.TV, Diane White accounted for the fact Trasorras has built an outstanding reputation.

"Gladys has a lot of integrity," White said. "She's very open about talking about her faith. She walks it."

With all her accomplishments, Trasorras still has big plans for the future. Some of them include writing an inspirational book and becoming a motivational speaker to reach single women and students. Whatever paths she chooses to walk, Trasorras is sure to touch the lives of many along the way. [n story/samuel stephens](#)

"It's about the connections that God wants to make in your life to help you grow spiritually."

- Judi Nation
scripting editor, TV Guide

Judi Nation, a 2006 graduate, has already exceeded her expectations. She landed a steady job in the field of her interest before receiving her diploma last May. Like many Mass Communications Strategy students, Nation was on the receiving end of Dr. Culp's mailing list highlighting relevant job openings, when one in particular caught her eye, Tulsa-based TV Guide Incorporated.

"I had plans that were totally different," Nation said. "I was going to leave Tulsa. My plans were to go to grad school and study writing, and God was like, 'No, I have a different path for you.'"

That path landed her in the position of scripting editor with TV Guide, which she describes as media traffic.

"When information comes in, we put it in the order that it needs to be, including the advertising," Nation said. "Everything has to be on schedule. With TV, it has to be down to the second."

Nation is responsible for setting up the screenplay. She produces a master schedule for the shows set to air and previews channels to check for accuracy. As a public relations and advertising major, Nation did not originally set out for a career in broadcasting, but is grateful for the education ORU gave her.

"The best thing about the major is it's not really one-sided," Nation said. "You get a well-rounded approach, and it makes you more valuable, more desirable, for potential employers. A lot of the time when we're in school, there's a lot of emphasis on [getting] a job that specifically applies to what you studied. But, if you have a different job, you'll apply what you know and it's still relevant."

Eventually, Nation wants to expand into other areas and apply the knowledge she has already attained.

"There are different things that interest me too, not just communications," Nation said. "I would like to go into entrepreneurship and apply marketing and advertising skills there."

As Nation continues to work in communications, she finds the chance to reach out to others. In the process,



Standing tall, Judi Nation positions herself to succeed at TV Guide. Day to day, Nation is kept busy with scheduling and previewing media as scripting editor. photo/kristin threadgill

guiding light

judi nation shines on job

she is often impacted as well.

"God connects us; that's the point of being here," Nation said. "It's about the connections that God wants to make in your life to help you grow spiritually. That's what I got out of my spiritual growth at ORU: connections, divine connections." n story/jessica render



"ORU gave me the perspective that relationships are the most important thing in life."

- Lindsay Goodier
multimedia editor and writer, The Oklahoman

personality have endeared her to her colleagues at The Oklahoman, including NewsOK.com graphic designer Brian Mays.

"Lindsay is a forward thinker with fresh ideas," Mays said. "She's capable of bridging the gap between traditional paper journalism and the new realities of on-line/digital journalism."

Following graduation from the University in 2005, Goodier worked four months at her home church, North Church in Edmond, Okla., helping to launch an outreach and missions program. With the financial support of her church, Goodier traveled to the Philippines to work as a missionary. She assisted children in island villages destroyed by typhoons. Goodier's time in the Philippines proved to be an eye-opening experience.

"I think my most interesting day there was when I rode a boat in shark-infested areas of the Pacific Ocean in order to help with a crusade in a village island," Goodier said. "Before the crusade, I was able to eat the delicacy of monkey and sleep on the floor of a hut surrounded by hermit crabs."

Returning home from the Philippines was a culture shock for Goodier, but she plunged back into American life without hesitation. Within two months, she landed a job with The Oklahoman. Goodier's departure from the mission field has not ended her work in furthering the Kingdom, however. Her job with The Oklahoman presents daily opportunities for sharing the Gospel.

"Other than living my life passionately for God, I've found that writing about incredible things God is doing in the community makes a big impact," Goodier said.

Two years after earning her degree in print journalism, Goodier still keeps in touch with close college friends and instructors who enriched her time at ORU.

"ORU gave me the perspective that relationships are the most important thing in life," Goodier said. "If we can't learn to get into people's lives—whether they know Christ or not—we will never be able to really impact this world." [n story/megan spees](#)

On the spot, Lindsay Goodier lies on the cutting edge by modernizing print media at The Oklahoman. As a multimedia editor, Goodier converts tangible print and video into an online format. photo courtesy/lindsay goodier

just her type

lindsay goodier makes imprint

She is at the forefront of this generation's journalists, marrying multimedia resources with print. At the headquarters of The Oklahoman, Oklahoma's largest state-wide newspaper, multimedia editor and writer Lindsay Goodier brings news to life for Web-savvy readers.

Goodier is responsible for putting stories from The Oklahoman and video from News9 in Oklahoma City online. She is also in charge of the podcast studio and writes for Look@OKC, a publication produced by The Oklahoma Publishing Company for college students and other adults under 30. In addition to her multimedia skills, Goodier's sense of humor and outgoing

duty calls

james allen answers

Most students graduate and land a job or progress to graduate school. The destiny of 2004 graduate James Allen was somewhat different.

Allen, a soldier in Iraq, has served as a cannoneer on a 155mm Howitzer for five months.

“Iraq was the furthest place from my mind,” Allen said. “Yet now my life is changed forever.”

The peace Iraq has brought to Allen’s life is undeniable.

“I think I will see life in a different light,” Allen said. “People out here have it very hard, and yet they continue to persevere.”



Full of fire, James Allen serves valiantly on the line of war in Iraq. At 6’ 4”, Allen truly holds his head high as God directs his steps. photo courtesy/james allen

Allen’s friend, 2005 graduate Clifford Paulick, values the influence Allen has been in his life.

“As a man and a Christian, James has exemplified what it means to struggle well and overcome,” Paulick said. “He has been a conduit for God’s blessings in others’ lives.”

In Iraq, Allen has been challenged

each day to stay true to his faith and calling.

“I vow that as I continue the last throes of this deployment, I am going to become proactive in pursuing God,” Allen said. “I hope that as my priorities become more focused that I will begin to see the future that Jesus has for me.” [n story/drew macalmon](#)



Aiming to keep her composure, Leslie Goshko prepares to take the stage. When she is not performing, Goshko enjoys teaching at a Tulsa-area high school. photo/brooke engen

A stage manager shouts, “Five minutes everyone, five minutes,” and the excitement rises. A hush comes over the audience before the stage explodes with an array of colors accompanied by song and dance.

tripping the light

leslie goshko dances her way to top

It is Broadway and the stage many dream to perform on is a reality for 2003 graduate Leslie Goshko.

Recently, Goshko entered the Big Bopper Dance Topper contest. The winner would receive a trip to New York to perform in the Broadway musical “Hairspray.” Once the audition tape was sent, many watched as she reached the top position.

Goshko was elated when she received the good news.

“I was on top of the world,” Goshko said. “Really it was unparalleled to anything I have experienced.”

A day before her debut, Goshko and her husband flew to New York. In her rehearsals and performance,

she was impacted by working with other professionals.

“I think it’s very inspiring to see others doing those types of shows eight times a week,” Goshko said.

One of Goshko’s greatest influences and fans, ORU staff member Anne Phillips believes she is an example for others to follow.

“What God can do for one, He can do for others,” Phillips said. “Her inspiration [is] an encouragement for others to never give up.”

Goshko urges others to pursue their dreams like she has.

“Know who you are, know what you want, and go after it,” Goshko said. [n story/lauren jones](#)

dance/military



Ready and willing, Oral Communication instructor Rhonda Gallagher helps students create their ePortfolios. Her assistance allowed her to receive an award for mentoring. photo/kristin threadgill

An employer interviews a college graduate for a position with a thriving corporation. Instead of submitting a resume and work samples on

data for destiny

rhonda gallagher helps ORU fulfill potential

paper, the candidate offers a URL address for a Web site that provides access to his or her career portfolio.

Students at the University regularly use ePortfolio, a system that enables students to store relevant data for their resumes. ORU recently gained national attention for ePortfolio when it received the Council for Higher Education Accreditation Award for Institutional Progress in Student Learning Outcomes.

Dr. Ralph Fagin, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Cal Easterling, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment, pioneered the development of ePortfolio. Oral Communication instructor Rhonda Gallagher also plays a

vital role in maintaining the system. She was honored for her work with the ePortfolio Award for Outstanding Service to Students.

With ePortfolio, ORU offers an advantage to graduates seeking work.

“Students market themselves for future employment,” Gallagher said. “ePortfolio is a stepping stone to a much brighter future.”

For sophomore Jesse Prier, ePortfolio is a tool to fulfill his potential.

“I am excited that ePortfolio is going to help me with future employers,” Prier said. “As a result of the success of ePortfolio at ORU, Gallagher, among others, is to be thanked and greatly celebrated.” n

story/mona kelly

from every angle

matthew burgos focuses on calling

When his alarm sounds on Monday morning, 2006 alumnus Matthew Burgos awakes eager to tackle the challenges of the week. He hits the ground running, driven by his passion for people and a relentless determination to succeed.

“People get me energized,” Burgos said. “I love working with people. Sometimes I don’t even go to sleep because of the excitement, thinking about God giving me another chance to work toward my future.”

After graduation, Burgos completed a video editing internship at Mayo Clinic’s AV/Video/Photography Department. Ernest Hain, sec-

tion head and coworker, remembered Burgos’ contagious optimism.

“His energy and fresh insight was enjoyed by all who worked with him,” Hain said.

Currently, Burgos does production work for businesses, churches and production companies around New York City. His aspirations include expanding his upstart media solutions company. He hopes to use it as a vehicle to help organizations and churches impact audiences with innovative presentations. Additionally, Burgos plans to attend graduate school to hone his marketing skills for future business ventures. In all



Shooting for an area event in New York City, Burgos showcases his talent. In addition, Burgos is enlarging his media company that services various organizations. photo courtesy/matthew burgos

his endeavors, Burgos focuses on the One who created his talents.

“I want to show not my earthly works, but the work God the Father has done through me.” n

story/michael johnson

"...we are hoping that alumni will catch the same vision we have for helping these kids."

- Jim Putman

Founder, F. A. Putman Memorial Scholarship

Two scholarships, the F. A. Putman Memorial Scholarship and Weston Christian Moser Memorial Scholarship, emerged in the Department this academic year.

Oklahoma State University instructor Jim Putman started three scholarships when he and his wife, ORU instructor Chris Putman, lost their fathers.

"We keep a constant eye out for opportunities to plant our seed on fertile soil," Jim Putman said. "We feel the heart of the ORU student is very fertile, and whatever we invest in them will have worldwide impact."

The first recipient of the Moser Memorial scholarship, junior Rhema Muncy, demonstrates many qualities sought by the scholarship committee.

"I've had Rhema in three classes," Chris Putman said. "She is an excellent student and has a sweet, pure heart. Seed will take deep root in this young lady."

University faculty and alumni believe in students by assisting them both academically and financially.

"The heart of ORU students is far different from other students we have taught," Jim Putman said. "Although we are not ORU grads, we are hoping that alumni will catch the same vision we have for helping these kids."

The Department and alumni began scholarship funds in the names of Dr. Johnny Mac Allen and Dr. Ray and Carole Lewandowski, longtime professors at the University. Once funds are endowed, awards will be given to students. The kindness of donors will remain an un-



As a scholarship recipient, junior Rhema Muncy exhibits many admirable traits. As she makes her mark, Muncy proves within her lies fertile ground. photo/kristin threadgill

planting seeds

alumni urged to water soil

forgettable part of the lives of recipients.

"They have inspired me to dream beyond the confines of my mind and trust in the fact that God is preparing to do something amazing with my life," Muncy said.

To start a fund or make a donation to current scholarships, please contact ORU Alumni Relations at alumni@oru.edu or (918) 495-6610. [n story/aurora jones](#)



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