

# theCommuniQue

communication, arts and media alumni magazine  
fall/winter 2009

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ORU





Professor Laura Holland  
department chair

The semester certainly started off right: new president, debt free, ongoing campus renovations, new chapel format and increased enrollment. It was at the inauguration ceremony that we witnessed a history-making moment: Founder and Chancellor Oral Roberts laying hands on Dr. Mark Rutland and passing the torch to the new president to carry on the vision of the university and lead it to grand new heights.

In addition to the university receiving a boost, the communication, arts and media department also received a shot in the arm in the form of a new faculty member, Dr. Laura Sherwood, who comes to us from the University of Nebraska. Bringing with her years of broadcast and teaching experience, students will greatly benefit from her expertise.

With a \$1.5 million budget, the first floor media area was renovated to include a new classroom, conference room, student publications headquarters and faculty offices. Students oohed and ahed over the striking new look upon their August return.

The performance arena has also thrived this fall. On-campus theater performances have included The Oedipus Cycle. Director of Theater Courtney Sanders received the 2009 Ruth Arrington Outstanding College Theater Educator Award from the Oklahoma Speech Theatre Communication Association. The ORU influence continues off campus as well. Courtney is cofounder with fellow faculty member and alumnus Chris Crawford of The Playhouse Theatre, a professional theater company in Tulsa. In the area of dance, Living Water Dance Company, hosted by Director of Dance Amy McIntosh, held a contemporary dance concert at Tulsa Ballet’s Studio K and is preparing for the fall dance concert called, “The Indwelling.”

Additionally, the campus newspaper, The Oracle, will soon be online. Stay tuned to look for that happening in the spring.

In conclusion, I’d like to thank you, faithful alumni, for your prayers and support, standing in the gap during an uncertain time. That diligence is paying off with a vibrant campus and a promising future. It is at this moment in the university timeline that the journey is just now getting exciting.

*Laura Holland*

The Communique is a product of the Oral Roberts University communication, arts and media department for its alumni.

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

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

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Wallace’s story on page 9  
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# quiet on the set

joshua polite scripts his way to greatness

Nothing is more powerful than a man on a mission. For one man that mission is reaching the lost and hurting of the world. This man realizes touching the lost requires one thing he hopes to provide in magnitude: money.

This man, Joshua Polite, is a 27-year-old media renaissance man. From camera work to writing, he has done it all. The 2005 graduate earned a degree in broadcast journalism. Since then he has worked for Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irving and the 24-hour sports TV network ESPN as well as on projects ranging from pastor of The Potter's House T. D. Jakes' feature film "Not Easily Broken" to real estate tycoon Donald Trump's "Celebrity Apprentice."

Obviously Polite wants to gain notoriety for his work, but the mission behind his desire is certainly honorable.

"Some people pretend . . . [money is] not a factor," Polite said. "I won't lie; you make a lot of money doing this. I have a lot of friends on the missions field or who want to start businesses. They want to do a lot of things for the kingdom. I would love to be able to finance those things."

Before money can pour in, the inspiration must come and be brought into the tangible. For Polite, this is crafting a story into a screenplay. Polite is rewriting his script "Blood and Prayers" after pitching an 80-page start.

Polite attributes his passion for the industry to his upbringing in a film-intensive home. His father, Richard Polite, produced content for television networks MTV and Nickelodeon. He left that position when Josh was six years old to work on Christian films.

"I kind of grew up on the set; it's like the family business," Polite said. "When I was twelve I got to meet and hang out with ["Hope Floats" actors] Sandra Bullock and Harry Connick Jr."

Polite doesn't carry on selfishly toward his mission; he impacts those around him as well. The youth pastor at Rosedale Park Baptist Church in Detroit, Mich., Dennis Talbert, has witnessed Polite's life of excellence both on and off the set.

"Josh is a kid who's never met a stranger and who's passionate about missions," Talbert said. "If he had the dollars, he'd be on the mission's field forever. He has an incredible ability to mix with all cultures, types and races of people."

Polite has planned out his short-term and long-term goals. Short term, he's finalizing his first screenplay. But for the long term, he has bigger objectives in mind.

"That's my thing; I want to change the world," Polite said with a noticeable passion in his voice. "People think that's really crazy. Everyone says, 'I want to change the world,' but I really, truly, want to change the world. I want to start a movement." ● story/aaron tiff

With the hope to finance the advancement of the kingdom, Josh Polite works in the money-rich movie industry. Polite now embarks on turning an inspirational story into a screenplay. photo/joshua polite



# creative bent

j. p. jones creating inspiration for others

While most children were dreaming about becoming a fireman or an astronaut, J. P. Jones knew at a young age her future career would involve art. Ever the creative dreamer, this 2006 graphic design major is now the Web designer for Kenneth Hagin Ministries at Rhema Bible Training Center, among her lengthy list of career ventures on the side.

Though Jones has only been out of college for a few years, she already owns and co-owns three thriving businesses: Paige1Media, which specializes in print design; Collipsis Web Solutions, concentrating on Web design and development; and Paige1Publishing, designed to help emerging authors publish their works. As a designer, she has worked with over 30 different ministries and clients from around the world, creating inspiration in her wake.

Her clients definitely rave about her.

“Her work is absolutely amazing,” client Ruth McGill, founder of Ruth McGill Ministries, said. “Everyone who sees my Web site just loves her creative work. They want to know who did it, and I’ve never ever had a negative comment. I can give her an idea—doesn’t matter if it’s a good idea, but she keeps the guts of it and makes it a great idea.”

This young woman led her yearbook staff to over 100 awards, personally won the prestigious international 2008 and 2009 Communicator awards and scored the 2008 and 2009 Graphic Design USA award from over 10,000 entries. Jones attributes much of her success to her education and involvement. Jones actively sought out all of the additional experience she could find. This included serving as the editor of the university yearbook for four years, three as editor in chief.

“Hands-on experience with the yearbook, managing a staff played a huge role in contributing to my success,” Jones said. “To be able to do and not just hear – participation was key. I learned everything I could possibly learn. I worked with the yearbook the whole time I was there and attended publication lectures.”

In addition to her day job, Jones teaches as an adjunct at the university. She actively seeks to enrich students’ lives and educational experiences through a lively classroom, her blogs and by using her connections to hook students up with practical internships.

“I really enjoy the opportunity to come back to teach the students from the perspective that I’ve been in their shoes recently, and I know what’s out there. So I can better prepare them,” Jones said. “You have to work with excellence, and you have to be faster than the competition. Designers tend to take their time. If you can be faster and better, you will succeed.”

Jones remembers first and foremost her work is a ministry, and God is the author of her success.

“To me, success is doing something you love and affecting the world the way God wants you to,” Jones said. “I can see God’s hand of favor upon everything I do. Nothing that I do is in my strength; it’s all in His. Without His help I could never be successful.”

Jones may be an entrepreneur who has won numerous awards and a mentor who has helped countless students, but her legacy is much more. She puts her heart into her work and leaves a mark everywhere she goes, creating inspiration and touching lives along the way. ●

story/jenica stubbs



designer and more

As Web designer for Kenneth Hagin Ministries, J. P. Jones enhances the Christian design world with her artistic ability. Because of her creativity, experience and formal training, Jones launched three thriving businesses, and she gave all glory to God. "Without His help I could never be successful," Jones said. [photo/jason holland](#)



## ad-renaline rush

chad shockley drives full throttle

Graduating high school at age 16 and graduating Oral Roberts University at 20, Chad Shockley has an obvious drive second to none. The 2004 advertising and public relations graduate continues to climb the ladder in the advertising world, and it all started with his first job the Monday after graduation.

With a hope to understand corporate America, Shockley, a fifth-generation pastor's kid, declined following his family tradition. He traded this in to minister to the advertising world.

"I wanted to work in corporate America to understand what people go through and how to relate to them day to day," Shockley said.

By following his call, God opened several doors for Shockley in the advertising world.

After a few years in the industry, Shockley, driven to be successful, took a job in Texas. This served as the springboard to his biggest account yet.

"I moved from Tulsa to Dallas in 2006 and started working for one of the top digital advertising agencies in North America," Shockley said. "I started working on an account as a senior account executive."

After paying his dues by spending long hours

in the office, and because of his winning spirit, Shockley was offered a job with one of the largest brands in the world.

With the desire to minister to corporate America, Chad Shockley advances via God's favor. Continuing with momentum, Shockley recently joined an Atlanta digital agency, Maxmedia, as a senior account director. photo/meredith shockley

"I was asked to step into a larger role as an account manager on their Diet Coke business," Shockley said proudly. "Within a few months I had taken over all account director responsibilities."

Shockley's drive toward success was obvious from his work for Diet Coke. It was apparent to the people around him. Coca-Cola Senior Media and Interactive Manager Stephanie Eaddy noticed his unmatched motivation.

"Chad came to work for us at a time where we needed a little more hands-on leadership," Eaddy said. "He brought a lot of enthusiasm and passion to the company."

Shockley had a lot on his plate while working for Coca-Cola. "I was responsible for the day-to-day relationships," Shockley said. "I was in charge of making sure that they were happy at the end of the day. That we delivered on the goals and objectives of the program. It was my responsibility, all while managing a \$2.5 million budget."

Shockley has held positions that 20-year-olds don't typically hold; from this he has learned a lot about keeping that drive in check.

"At the end of the day, it's just a consumer product [Coca-Cola]," Shockley said. "You have to be content where you are and know that God has you in a place for a certain reason, and you must find a balance of doing things that have meaning." ● story/caillin boewe

After paying his dues by spending long hours

After paying his dues by spending long hours

Life after graduation can be terrifying when a graduate doesn't know their next step. For print journalism major Rachel Wegner, life after graduation in 2007 was a smooth transition. She was immediately hired at the university, working for Excellence, the alumni magazine, and she was surrounded by her friends and church family – not much of a stretch.

However, God had a new direction for Wegner. On her 24th birthday, one of the founders of 24-7 Prayer and a facilitator for Campus America, Pete Greig, spoke in university chapel about promoting prayer. The next day Wegner interviewed Greig for an article. Little did she know the impact of this routine interview.

“It was pivotal,” Wegner said. “It was one of those interviews where what he was saying was speaking to me personally.”

Soon after meeting with Greig and Executive Director for Campus America Rustin Carlson, a journalist position opened at Campus America in Kansas City. After her job interview, her heart was burning with passion for this new challenge. Leaving her current position was risky, but she was convinced it was God's direction, clearly a time of stretching.

“I'm not a big, fast decision maker,” Wegner said. “Not up until recently did people believe that I was a big risk taker. But God was like ‘Forget that, I'm telling you to go.’”

Wegner made her decision to work with Campus America as their chief storyteller. But here's the dicey part: her position is not paid, so Wegner has to trust God for her provision, a true stretch of faith.

“Okay, God, if this is really what You're telling me what to do, I'm going to go and trust You,” Wegner said.

# pressing in 24-7

rachel wegner never lets up

Now Wegner is moving full force in her work with Campus America, writing testimonials for their Web site and newsletter, helping with various jobs, like shipping orders from 24-7 USA's online store and gathering video and photography.

“My heart is to tell stories of people who are in the Kingdom of God and also to tell stories of what God is doing,” Wegner said. “My heart is wrapped up in what God is doing in these college campuses.”

One of her overseers, Carlson, has been able to watch Wegner transition into this new position.

“It was challenging, but she stuck with it, and, frankly, it was a good test of her commitment,” Carlson said. “She's gritty. She sinks her teeth in and won't let go.”

Wegner has truly experienced God's faithfulness as He stretched her away from her comfort zone and into the unknown of a new ministry. ● story/yoana sampayo

To support Rachel Wegner as she serves at 24-7 and Campus America, contact her at [rachel.wegner@campusamerica.org](mailto:rachel.wegner@campusamerica.org).

Going out on a limb, Rachel Wegner works for Campus America as a journalist. Even without the promise of a salary, Wegner moves to Kansas City to answer the call of God on her life through her ability to craft stories showcasing God's people in action. photo/thema muncy





### beyond bridal

With the desire to minister in her corner of the world through Something New, Mindi Wallace Linscombe operates a bridal boutique in Colorado Springs. Outfitted with passion and a dream, Wallace had touched the lives of many brides during a stressful time in their lives. "In the business sense, I think we are impacting the bridal industry with our approach to the bridal experience. We make each girl feel unique." Wallace said. photo/rachael macphee

# something new

## mindy wallace takes ownership

From the day she got her driver's license, 2003 organizational interpersonal communications grad Mindy Wallace Linscombe would drive to her local Barnes and Noble and look through the latest bridal magazines. Now, years later, she is the owner of Something New, a successful Colorado Springs bridal boutique.

After graduation Wallace did not go straight into the wedding industry. She spent a year teaching high school Spanish and adult English as a Second Language in Vail Valley, Colo. and then planned on applying for graduate work in ESL at every state school in Colorado. She miraculously received a full ride scholarship to the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, without even applying. After graduate school, she was offered a job at the Association of Christian Schools International to do fund development, grant writing and communications. Wallace's dream to own her own business led her to embark on something new.

During Wallace's time at the university, she became close to a bridal shop owner who repeatedly insisted she open her own shop someday. After getting married, Wallace discovered a lack of bridal shops in the Colorado Springs area and decided to take action.

"After being a bride in Colorado Springs, I did a bunch of

market research and saw a great need for another bridal shop, one that would exceed everyone's expectations and bring a positive image to bridal," Wallace said. "Much time was spent in preparation and a lot in prayer. I also would never have done it if my husband, ORU grad also Jordan Linscombe, didn't fully support the idea. I am fortunate to have such a strong husband that has encouraged me to follow a dream."

Wallace's experiences at ORU taught her to continually submit her spirit, mind and body to the Lord and fully equipped her to go into every woman's world.

"My world is women, women that need Jesus just as much as I do," Wallace said. "I try to listen to their stories, serve them and show them that they are valuable. They are more than just a customer to me, they are God's creation, full of beauty. I'm so thankful for the level of professionalism that was established from my professors, because I accept nothing but the best now when it comes to running my own business."

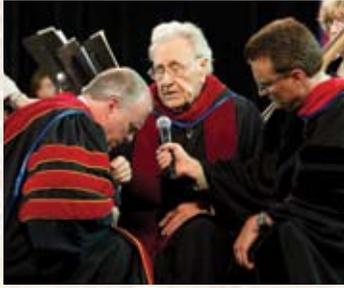
Besides helping brides select the best dress for their weddings, God has used Wallace in many ways in the bridal industry.

"I have gotten to encourage so many people from all walks of life," Wallace said. "Every morning I say a prayer that God would use my words and actions to make someone feel special that day. Every day there is a moment where I am able to provide a listening ear, encourage someone not to give up and even occasionally pray with a client."

Wallace's successful life and career was not given to her; she had to overcome obstacles along the way.

"I'm just an ordinary girl from Rockford, Illinois," Wallace said. "Over the years, I have had many personal obstacles to overcome, one of them being a 50 percent hearing loss that has made me have to work harder to seek understanding for my entire life."

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inauguration  
photo/jeremy loud

#### inauguration

As the third president of the university, Dr. Mark Rutland was elected to carry on the original mission, to educate the whole person in spirit, mind and body. The ceremony took place

at a packed Mabee Center. Classes were canceled in order for the entire academic community to attend. With a strong background and extensive experience, Rutland has a lot to offer the university.

● story/caitlin boewe



chapel facelift  
photo/chris pulman

#### campus upgrades

Numerous campus upgrades took place over the summer and fall semester. The Prayer Gardens were modernized with stonework and a peaceful water feature; benches

were also added so students can sit and pray. Christ's Chapel received a facelift with a sharp new stage, carpet and upholstery. The Mabee Center, Johnson Stadium and Timko-Barton also received improvements. ● story/caitlin boewe



Kathleen Johnson  
photo/courtesy ORU

#### alumna awarded

Telecommunications graduate Kathleen Johnson is a professor at Gaylord College. She has extensive knowledge and more than 20 years' experience in broadcast, network, cable, satellite and new media. Johnson has received honors including a national Emmy nomination, four regional Emmy awards, seven Telly awards and the highly respected Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio-Television News Directors Association. ● story/caitlin boewe

Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio-Television News Directors Association. ● story/caitlin boewe

# comin' in live

## laura sherwood impacts airwaves

Growing up a shy and insecure girl in rural North Dakota, Laura Sherwood often found solace running down a gravel road near her home.

One cloudy day during her junior year of high school, an all-too-familiar run became a life-changing experience. It started to rain, and being upset from a difficult day at school, Sherwood's tears streamed down her face from the overwhelming pressure of teasing from her classmates. As the rain stopped, she stood in silence, looked up to the heavens and saw a rainbow. The rainbow revealed the grace and perfection of God smiling down on her.

"At that very moment, I caught a glimpse of how Christ saw me," Sherwood said.

"He saw me in truth."

It was in that moment she felt accepted and realized it didn't matter what others thought of her. She felt secure in Christ, a pivotal moment that would ultimately bring her into God's will for her life. Her journey would take her to unimaginable heights.

Upon entering ORU as a sophomore, Sherwood majored in telecommunications (television).

"I fell in love with television," Sherwood said. "I thought 'Wow! Could you actually get paid for doing something like this? Something you enjoy doing?'"

The 1978 graduate never planned to enter the broadcasting field full-time again, but God had other ideas. Sherwood attended the University of



Nebraska at Kearney and earned her master of arts in education. While she was at UNK, God created an opportunity for her as a teaching assistant and adjunct in the communications department. Walking into her first day of class, she was nervous, but once she started teaching, she was hooked.

“They wouldn’t have to pay me for this,” Sherwood said. “I’d do it for free.”

Her love for teaching would eventually lead to a full-time position as an assistant professor of broadcasting and manager/adviser for KLPR, UNK’s campus radio station. She led her students to a first-place victory in the entertainment category of a Broadcast Education Association competition. It was then she enrolled in online courses at Regent University and earned her Ph.D. in communications.

As she begins a new chapter in her life as an ORU assistant professor of mass communications, Sherwood is fully confident and eager to make learning fun as well as encourage her students in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Sherwood is teaching Media Law and Ethics, Public Relations Case Studies, Broadcast News Writing, Campaign Strategies, Newsgathering Workshop and Writing for the Media. She hopes to guide students to discover the purpose God has for their lives. In addition, Sherwood strives to provide them support needed to succeed.

Senior Jenica Stubbs has experienced Sherwood’s support firsthand.

“On the first day of prayer and fasting this year, we spent the first half of class taking prayer requests and praying for them in depth,” Stubbs said. “I was in tears by the end of class and was so touched. She shares her life with us, and I believe she has made it a personal goal to be a mentor to every student in the class.”

Sherwood is delighted to be back at the university in a new capacity and hopes her life will be a testament of how being faithful to God will bless one beyond all wildest dreams. That shy and insecure girl is long gone. God has given her the confidence to achieve the unimaginable.

“God has a purpose and a plan for me, but I never imagined it would be such a blessed and fulfilled life,” Sherwood said. “God is the God of the masses, but He is also an individual God . . . with a plan that only you can achieve . . . No one else can fulfill the plan God has called you to do.” ● story/monica martinez



courtneay sanders  
photo/box photography

outstanding educator

Theater Director Courtney Sanders was named 2009 Ruth Arrington Outstanding College Theatre Educator by the Oklahoma Speech Theatre Communication Association. After completing an ORU drama, theater and film degree, she earned a University of Arkansas fine arts in acting master’s. Sanders has directed on-campus productions “The Comedy of Errors,” “Three Days of Rain” and “The Mousetrap.” ● story/caitlin boewe



oru campus  
photo/chris pulman

oru sundays

As a method to gain prime exposure, the university creatively launched “ORU Sundays” nationwide. On one chosen Sunday in September, pastors dedicated about 10 minutes during their morning service to share with their congregations about the university and to distribute handouts, resources and brochures. Audiences were also provided time to inquire about admissions and an opportunity to donate to the university. ● story/caitlin boewe



living water dance company  
photo/maranda blumenthal

living water dance

Founding Director of Dance Amy McIntosh hosted the Living Water Dance Company concert performed off campus at the Tulsa Ballet’s Studio K. Tulsa Ballet’s pre-professional ensemble performed contemporary dances choreographed by McIntosh. The concert featured tap artist Heather Fick, jazz artist Sheri Sprague and Rachel Bruche-Johnson’s dance for camera short films. ● story/caitlin boewe

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Little did Wallace know, her first wedding dress sale would be to a future employee. Sayo Parham, a customer from Japan, became good friends with Wallace over the months before her wedding and would visit the shop regularly. She eventually started helping out at the shop when needed and is now a full-time employee and successful bridal consultant.

“Mindi is like my mentor,” Parham said. “I have never met someone so sweet and respectful. She just totally loves the Lord and loves people and is able to really listen to their needs and get excited along with them.”

Even with the economy in a downward spiral, Wallace’s business is thriving and holds the 2009 Best of Colorado Springs award from the largest wedding Web site, “The Knot.”

“I opened my shop on my 27th birthday, and it has doubled its projected goals since the day we opened,” Wallace said. “That success has come during a time when our country is at an economic halt, a time of fear in the future and a time of worry about money. That success comes from the Lord and a team of people that believed in a dream. I often remind myself that we beat the odds, meaning the odds were not necessarily set out for me to have it easy.”

Wallace’s ability to make clients feel special brings something new to the wedding industry.

“Even if I’m touching one life at a time, it’s worth it,” Wallace said. “In the business sense, I think we are impacting the bridal industry with our approach to the bridal experience. We make each girl feel unique and specialize in customizing to meet their needs. No other bridal shop does that the way we do.” ● story/bailey kennedy

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playhouse cast  
 photo/michele zemechnik

playhouse theatre

ORU professors and alumni have teamed up and started a new Tulsa-based theater company. Professors Chris Martin, Chris Crawford and Courtney Sanders along with alumna Nichole Cates started The Playhouse Theatre.

Featuring ORU students, they performed “Lend Me A Tenor” and “Boy Gets Girl” followed by “It’s A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play.” ● story/caitlin boewe



chales zwick  
 photo/chris putman

e-blast

Interested in staying informed and up to date with the ORU communication, arts and media faculty such as assistant professor Charles Zwick? University news, events and alumni features are periodically e-blasted to the email of participating alumni. Alumni may sign up to receive the e-blasts by sending their email address to

Communique Adviser Chris Putman at cputman@oru.edu. These e-blasts are another way to stay connected with ORU. ● story/caitlin boewe