

theCOMMUNIQUE

communication, arts and media alumni magazine
spring/summer 2010

- 2 this is no act
jayce o'neal
- 4 no small beginning
michael johnson
- 5 making a write turn
rhema muncy
- 6 something good
oral roberts

ORU



this is no act

Jayce O'Neal shines in the darkness

As a fifth-grade student, Jayce O'Neal aspired to be the legendary adventurer Indiana Jones. However, once learning Indiana Jones was an actor, O'Neal's career choice was established. This 2001 Drama Television Film graduate has taken his degree from Oral Roberts University and has run with it.

Being the first from his family to graduate college, O'Neal took his education seriously. After completing his bachelor's degree, instead of moving to Hollywood like most aspiring actors, O'Neal moved to the East Coast to attend Regent University. Soon O'Neal completed two master's degrees, one in Communication and one in Counseling, as well as a doctorate in Strategic Leadership. It was listening to the prompting of the Holy Spirit that led him to the East Coast, and it was the East Coast that served as the red carpet to O'Neal's acting career.

"As an actor you don't often know how it's going to happen or what it's going to look like," O'Neal said in regard to movie parts.

Lights don't often talk. Instead we are supposed to shine.

- Jayce O'Neal

O'Neal's circumstances and obstacles presented him with one option: to look to God for His direction, guidance and healing, which is exactly what O'Neal did.

"When I graduated all of my friends were going to Hollywood," O'Neal said.

"As an actor it seemed like a logical step to take, but I felt that God was leading me to finish my degree on the East Coast, which is ironic because going there is what opened up the doors for some of the things I'm doing now."

Since graduation O'Neal has made it onto the big screen. He has acted on television in shows including CW's "One Tree Hill" and Discovery Channel's "FBI Files." O'Neal has also acted in movies. He played the lead role in "House of Fallen," a movie that is loosely based on the Book of Enoch. With his experience and dedicated work, O'Neal has proven his God-given talent.

"Jayce is one of the most dedicated, hardworking and talented individuals I have come across in my 40 years in show business," owner of Hutson Talent Agency Sylvia Hutson said. "He is always ready and willing to do what it takes to make the job a success."

In addition to acting, O'Neal is accomplished in the publishing field. He has published two books including "Crazy Circus World" and "100 Answers to 100 Questions Every Graduate Should Know." O'Neal has two books set to release within the year, one titled "No Girls Allowed" published by Tyndale and a 365 day devotional. Education Publishing Concepts' book producer Jerry Watkins has worked with O'Neal.

"He [O'Neal] does what he says he's going to do," Watkins said. "He does it very quickly, and he does it well."

O'Neal uses his career as a chance to be a witness by showing and living a godly lifestyle. Oftentimes while on set or behind the scenes, God sets the stage for O'Neal to impact others in the industry.

"You have a chance to tell stories that need to be told and in some ways bring about a personal revelation," O'Neal said. "It opens their eyes and carries the power of influence."

He takes his work very seriously and lets his life shine as an example for the Lord.

"The best thing I can do is let my walk do the talking," O'Neal said. "[It's] how I conduct myself and how I interact with people, because people notice and see there is a difference."

● story/caitlin boewe

For more information visit jayceoneal.com



shining for the Lord
With a desire to use movies and books to tell a necessary story, Jayce O'Neal uses his career to be the salt and light in the movie industry. Because of the nature of his work O'Neal realized that prayer is a must. "You have to be plugged into God," O'Neal said. "I really don't know how someone does it if they are not." photo/marilen sarian

cover photo/marilen sarian



no small beginning

michael johnson using his gifts

Michael Johnson did not have time to leisurely analyze his next step after earning his degree in Mass Media Communications in May of 2008. In a mere two weeks, he was thrust into work at Full Counsel Ministries, in North Little Rock, Ark., which was no small beginning.

Although Johnson did not have time to test the waters, he was not lacking in experience. Johnson was the chief administrator for the gospel group Souls A' Fire for three years at the university. With Souls A' Fire, Johnson booked two international worship tours, as well as local and domestic ministry engagements.

"It [the experience] was amazing and great training ground for me," Johnson said. "I was truly blessed to have the experience."

The real world doesn't come with automatic respect. Because of his young age, Johnson feels it is sometimes difficult as the Worship Leader, but he does not let that stop him from living out his call.

"I feel like I am such an integral part of what goes on here in the ministry," Johnson said. "After seeing the fruit of my labor, others seem to recognize that as well."

After a year and a half at Full Counsel, Johnson has seen a big change in the congregation's response.

"It [praise and worship] has become more of a real exchange for us rather than just something we do when we come together," Johnson said.

With a "come and celebrate" approach, Michael Johnson leads the Full Counsel congregation to worship God for what He is doing in their everyday lives. Johnson uses his creative mind to bring the church together. photo/kristin threadgill

Johnson is also the Marketing/Mass Media director. His job description covers a lot of territory, again no humble beginning.

"[I do everything from] developing and implementing marketing strategies and campaigns, coordinating the television production team on marketing and event promotions and overseeing the Web pages," Johnson said.

Johnson's creativity has led the ministry to reach communication goals. This is recognized by support staff member Felicia Anderson.

"He's an 'Imagineer,'" Anderson said. "His imagination has endless possibilities. The commercials and products he produces are second to none."

Among Johnson's products is his recently released Christmas album, which received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

"People love the CD," Johnson said. "They all want to know when I am releasing a new project."

Regardless of his next step, it is obvious Johnson is an anointed man who from the beginning has chosen God's work.

"I'm glad he allowed God to use him," Anderson said. "Being in ministry is a part of his inheritance."

Johnson sees the ministry of Full Counsel as not only his inheritance but also his legacy.

"I am 100 percent dedicated to seeing this ministry be everything God has called it to be, everything that this world needs it to be," Johnson said. "I don't say I am in full-time ministry; it's more like 'all-the-time-ministry.'" ● story/francesca barger

With graduation comes the anticipation of great prospects. For some, these opportunities materialize as planned, but for others, the future holds an unanticipated turn in the road. For 2008 Print Journalism major Rhema Muncy, life after graduation brought her to an unexpected place: her home state of Colorado.

Now a special sections reporter at the Loveland Reporter-Herald in Loveland, Colo., Muncy is responsible for layout, photography, writing and editing for her newspaper stories.

Muncy's position as ORU editor in chief of the Oracle helped to prepare her for her position today, teaching her to manage a publication. Muncy also credits the university for teaching her skills from how to serve in a work environment to recognizing that it is God who opens and closes doors.

While Muncy did not plan to return to Colorado, she has found herself rooted in the community. She hopes to eventually establish a ministry magazine for Get The Word Out and become a journalism professor. Until then, she is involved in several activities including helping to administrate Tent Longmont, a movement for 24 hours of worship and prayer in Colorado.

"That lifework is much more important than me achieving strategic career moves," Muncy said.

Muncy's daily writing assignments are as unexpected as her life's journey. She interacts with people in the community from cancer survivors to dog rescuers. It is there she finds the most rewarding aspect of her work: getting to know her community. Muncy considers her role as a journalist as an opportunity to be a beacon to God.

"As a Christian, I have even higher standards," Muncy said. "It's

making a write turn

rhema muncy journalist at heart

my job to really step into other people's shoes and try to present their perspective in a very real way."

Muncy's editor at the Loveland Reporter-Herald, Jade Cody, sees evidence of the experience ORU gave her with newspapers. He credits this for sharpening her skills and giving her a can-do mentality.

"Professionally, over the last year she has really developed," Cody said. "Whenever something new or unexpected comes up, she is always ready for it. She is always hungry to learn."

Despite her unexpected turns, Muncy contends God is continuously at work in her life. She intends to continue to follow His direction wherever He leads her—expected or not.

"You yourself can plan things, but God always orders them," Muncy said. "I like to be someone who has an open palm and tries not to accept things according to my own imagination. When He replants us, it's always for a richer experience than where we were before." ● story/becki hardy

Dedicated to her work, Rhema Muncy embraces the constant unplanned challenges journalism brings her way. In addition to her position as a reporter, Muncy is a graduate student at Colorado State University pursuing a master's in Public and Technical Communications. photo/amber kilgore





billy joe daugherty
photo courtesy/vcc

faithful friend

Founding pastor of Victory Christian Center, Billy Joe Daugherty “graduated to glory.” Daugherty pastored the 17,000 member church and established several works throughout the city, including the Tulsa Dream Center, International Victory Bible Institute, Victory Christian School and Victory World Missions Training Center. Daugherty served as interim

president of ORU in 2007, and he touched the lives of many during his lifetime. The avenue that circles the Praying Hands on the ORU campus is now known as Billy Joe Daugherty Circle, to honor the memory of the ORU alumnus. ● story/caitlin boewe



usher nick wagoner
photo/chris pulman

buckets of blessings

As a way of going into every person’s world, ORU students, faculty and staff took part in a missions offering at every chapel service to the tune of over \$97,000. Funds were given for a new roof for an India school house, over 9,000 pairs of shoes for Iraqi children, technology for the Oaks Indian Mission, open heart surgery for a Chinese orphan and for Haiti relief. Support has also been given

toward purchasing a boiler for a Romanian YWAM ministry, translating Bibles into the Swahili language for Nigerians, providing satellite equipment for ministries in Honduras and providing funds for a building to train 300 Christian ministers in the Philippines. ● story/caitlin boewe



illustration courtesy/ORU

empowered21

The three-day global conference on Holy Spirit empowerment in the 21st century took place in April. The conference pursued uniting

Christians for a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit. Scholars and ministry leaders as well as young Christians met to focus on the future. ORU students participated in this event led by Christian leaders including Jack Hayford, Lisa Bevere, Billye Brim, Ron Luce, Billy Wilson and Mark Rutland. Throughout the conference, worship was led by today’s top worship leaders including Paul Baloche, Desperation Band, Kari Jobe, Jonathan Nelson and more.

● story/caitlin boewe

something good

oral roberts leaves a legacy

The late Oral Roberts was a man of many titles: founder, chancellor, educator, scholar, evangelist, businessman and television personality. He founded his namesake university in 1963 and authored over 130 books. Roberts, an evangelist from his teen years when he was healed of tuberculosis, held tent meetings and revivals, erected the City of Faith medical center and broadcasted Christian television programs. Many destinies were changed by God through this man.

Roberts started the Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association, a Pentecostal ministry, and the Abundant Life Prayer Group, a 24-hour-a-day prayer line eventually housed in the Prayer Tower on the campus of the university. Since the founding of the prayer group in 1958, they have received more than 22 million phone calls for prayer as well as praise reports and miracles in response to prayer.

Roberts’ dedication to fulfilling God’s call in his life affected an entire generation. It is reported he laid hands on more than two million people in his tent ministry days. He provided inspiration to an era. He was a theological revolutionary who challenged the faith of many. He taught people to believe in the impossible. His greatest desire was to see his students accomplish more.

Stepping down from the presidency of the university did not negate the impact Roberts had on his students.

Senior Communications major Jenica Stubbs had a personal connection to Chancellor Roberts. Her mother was diagnosed with cancer as a teenager, and her grandparents brought her mother to undergo surgery and treatment at the City of Faith Hospital. Roberts visited and prayed for her mother, and when the doctors performed the surgery, they found no traces

of cancer. Her mother went on to become a wife and international missionary.

“Oral Roberts has absolutely impacted every area of my life,” Stubbs said. “I wouldn’t exist if it wasn’t for him.”

The incredible faith Roberts showed could not have transpired without God.

“Chancellor Roberts was one of the brilliant spiritual lights of the 20th century and a giant of the Christian faith,” current ORU President Dr. Mark Rutland said on the day of Roberts’ passing. “At the core of his legacy is a great university that bears his name. Like millions worldwide, I am mourning his passing and am grateful for his visionary life and contributions.”

Touching many lives, both literally and figuratively, it isn’t surprising the news of his passing had such an impact.

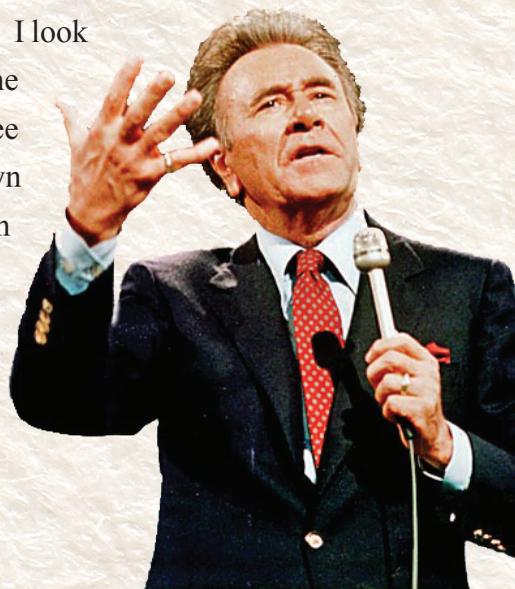
“The influence and impact of Oral Roberts and his ministry are beyond measure,” Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry said. “His faith, compassion and charity have left a legacy that will be felt for generations to come.”

Oral Roberts was a hope for all who sought his spiritual guidance. He was a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

“Oral Roberts was a man of God and a great friend in ministry,” evangelist Billy Graham said. “Just three weeks ago, I was privileged to talk to Oral over the telephone. During the short conversation, he said to me that he was near the end of

his life’s journey. I look forward to the day that I will see Oral and Evelyn Roberts again in Heaven - our eternal home.”

● story/amy lecza



songs for a new world actors/singers
photo/ORU photography

music and drama

The university music and theater departments teamed up to present “Songs for a New World,” a contemporary musical composed by Jason Robert Brown and directed by assistant professor and director of ORU theater

Courtney Sanders. Unlike most performances, this show was a cross between a musical and song cycle, and it had no particular plot or storyline. It consisted of a series of songs connected by a common theme. Featuring several dramatic vignettes with songs to support each, this performance was created in an abstract format. One of the themes presented in the musical was “Finding God.” ● story/caitlin boewe



dr. even culp
photo/chris putman

blast away

Curious about the people of the ORU Communication, Arts and Media Department such as secretary Jo Bierman? Interested in staying informed about faculty such as Dr. Even Culp? These two favorites were featured in e-blasts this spring. ORU faculty features are periodically e-blasted to the e-mail of participating alumni. Alumni can receive the e-blasts in their personal inbox, making it easy to

stay connected. Register by sending an e-mail address to Communicate Adviser Chris Putman at cputman@oru.edu. E-blasts are a unique way to stay up to date with the department faculty. ● story/caitlin boewe

The Communique is a product of the Oral Roberts University Communication, Arts and Media Department for its alumni. All stories are written by Publication Workshop students under the direction of adviser Chris Putman. To receive the free magazine or to update an address, contact Alumni Relations at alumni@oru.edu. To receive e-blasts, provide magazine feedback or submit story ideas on successful alums, contact the adviser at cputman@oru.edu. To receive job listings or post an open position to recruit alumni applicants, e-mail Dr. Even Culp at eculp@oru.edu.

Professor Laura Holland,
Communication, Arts and Media Department Chair
Chris Putman, The Communique Adviser
Caitlin Boewe, The Communique Editor in Chief

The Communique, % Chris Putman, LRC 126C,
7777 South Lewis Ave., Tulsa, OK 74171.
Graphic/courtesy StockExpert, fonts/courtesy dafont.com

photo illustration/courtesy ORU photography

THE NEW ORU

Oral Roberts University
Communication, Arts and Media Department
7777 S. Lewis Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74171

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tulsa, OK
Permit No. 665



professor laura holland
department chair

It's been a bittersweet few months. Only weeks after the baton was handed off by ORU founder Oral Roberts to the new reigning president at the inaugural ceremony, our beloved chancellor passed on. With Dr. Mark Rutland now at the helm, it seemed clear that Oral had been given the okay to go on home. Under the new president, the university is growing healthier than it has been in decades. The buildings and grounds have received long-awaited attention, the \$55 million long-term debt has been paid off and the budget is moving toward being balanced.

With the university as a whole moving forward, so has the Communication, Arts and Media Department. On-campus theater performances thrived with the musical production "Songs for a New World" under the direction of assistant professor Courtney Sanders and musical direction by Richard Sutliff. Our second show was an original play created out of a special seminar class titled "Viewpoints," a physical acting technique the students learned and then used to create a play posing the question: What does it mean to be a Holy Spirit Empowered Artist? Our spring dance concert Convergence, directed by Amy Roark-McIntosh, was performed for the first time at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.

The Public Relations Student Society of America Spring Conference, headed up by Media Instructor Cristi Freudenrich, was hosted by the university and held on site, which was a first. The event included relevant workshops for public relations students and guest speakers from the real world. Branding and Promotions and Principle of Public Relations classes, taught by Assistant Professor of Media Chris Putman, adopted nonprofit clients. Students practice their newly acquired skills to build promotional packages for the clients' takeaway. Professional-in-residence Journalist Kevin Armstrong is steadily moving toward an online presence for the campus paper, the Oracle.

In addition, our Media, Art and Organizational/Interpersonal areas hosted an alumni/professional advisory board event and received valuable assessment and feedback of our programs. And, the visual and graphic arts area continuously displays outstanding student art work in a newly created gallery in the stairwell of the Learning Resources Center.

As we press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling, the department, as well as the university, shows excellence in all that we undertake. Remember us and our progressive journey in your prayers as we hold you, dear alumni, close to our hearts. We love hearing from you, so all of you. . . don't be strangers.

Laura Holland