

Fall 1998

Excellence

A MAGAZINE FOR ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



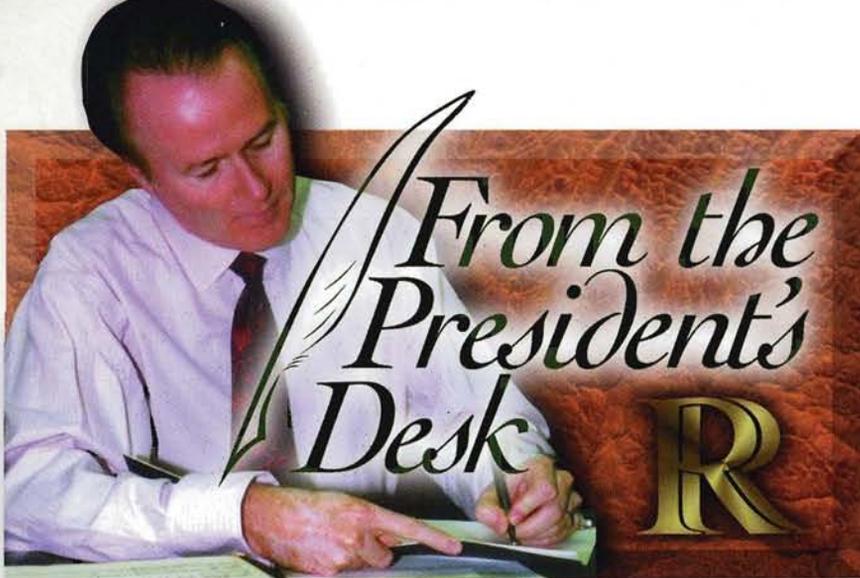
CARDONE

Everything Old Is New Again

Also in this issue:

When the Game Is Over
She Loves A (Christmas) Parade
Summer Missions Review
The Art of Serving God





In my annual "State of the University" address in August, I reviewed the past year at ORU. We had a lot to celebrate! The continuation of our accreditation by North Central was at the top of our list of praise reports, but there were many, many more blessings demonstrating how God is working all over our campus.

Back in June, the members of International Charismatic Bible Ministries decided that it was time to make ORU "their" university, and so they pledged their financial support in the amount of \$1.2 million! Praise God for their desire to keep ORU going strong.

We've placed more than 100 new computers in the dormitory computer rooms, thanks to a donation by a local company, and we are on target to reach our goal of providing a computer for every faculty member's use by the end of the semester. Our library will have a new computer system in place by December.

We've reorganized our Student Accounts and Financial Aid offices. In talking with students and members of our faculty, I've heard that Registration ran more smoothly this year than it has in a long time, and that's the kind of progress we like to see!

I think my most popular announcement was that the Humanities format is being revised! Those classes will rely less on videos and more on live teaching. Our faculty is working on that now.

I'm teaching a course this semester entitled, "Charismatic Life and the Healing Ministry." It meets on Thursday mornings at 10:50 in Baby Mabee. If you're in town, feel free to drop by and sit in.

We've installed a new satellite dish in preparation for an exciting project: the Golden Eagle Broadcasting Network. Ten other national ministries are going to join with us. Eventually, the network will provide 24-hour programming, including ORU courses and promotions to help recruit students. We will market the network to cable systems across the country. This will be a "golden opportunity" to make an enormous impact with the gospel. We hope to be on the air in the next few months.

The Alumni Foundation's \$1 million matching-gift campaign continues! If you haven't yet made a gift, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. The deadline for this matching-gift drive is Dec. 31, 1998. In the campus news section of this magazine, you can read about all the projects that alumni gifts have made possible in the past few months. But there's more work to do. At press time we were just over the halfway mark. We need less than \$500,000 to meet the challenge.

I'm excited about what God has in store for us this year. From reading this magazine, I know He is also working in the lives of our alumni in amazing ways. I challenge you to keep fulfilling the call that He has placed on your life. And thank you for your continued prayers and support of Oral Roberts University.



Sincerely,
Richard L. Roberts
 Richard L. Roberts
 President and CEO

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you have questions, comments, suggestions, or criticisms you'd like to share, please contact your representatives. They'd also like to hear from alums who would like to run for the board in the future, or who have other names to recommend.

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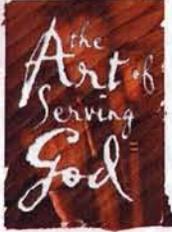
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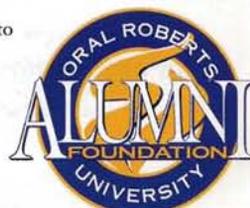
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

at

ORU

From Across the Campus

ORU received word in June that the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools voted to continue its accreditation. Included in this decision was a go-ahead to pursue affiliations with Livets Ord (Word of Life) University in Uppsala, Sweden, and Peniel College of Higher Education in Brentwood, England. In addition, ORU received permission to offer two new graduate degree programs: a doctor of education (Ed.D.) and a master's in management (M.M.). The Ed.D. has two tracks: chief executive in a public or a Christian private school. The M.M. has two concentrations: human resource management and nonprofit organizations.

Dr. Marshal Wright (83;89-MBA), assistant professor in the School of Business, is one who has helped the school's dean, Dr. David Dyson (73;78-MBA), develop the new master's program and create its curriculum during the past three years. "The unique aspect," Wright said, "is that the new program is qualitatively oriented, whereas the MBA program is heavily weighted toward quantitative aspects of business. Some MBA students have had to take 27 hours of leveling courses. There are no leveling requirements for this degree. It's very appropriate for someone coming out of a non-business background. With this program, there is now a way to get them business training at a graduate level, in areas such as leadership, communications, management, and entrepreneurship."

The new 36-hour program won't formally begin until January 1999, but several students are

already taking courses that will apply toward this degree. For more information, contact Robert J. Quintana, Graduate School of Business admissions coordinator, at (918) 495-6117 or 1-888-900-4678. (E-mail: bquintana@oru.edu)

The School of Theology and Missions also has something to shout about: a reaffirmation of accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools of the U.S.A. and Canada. All of the school's degree programs—master of arts, master of divinity, and doctor of ministry—received full approval. According to Dr. Jerry Horner, dean of the school, the fact that ATS didn't request any significant changes after the site visit "was a strong affirmation" of the programs. The next comprehensive examination will take place in 2008.

The 1998 \$1 million matching-gift campaign has resulted in some major improvements on the ORU campus. These include: recarpeting Wesley Luehring and Claudius Roberts Halls, buying new mattresses, remodeling parts of the library and moving the reference area and circulation desk from the third to the fourth floor, upgrading the cafeteria, remodeling the Career and Disabilities Services Center and the Counseling Center, repainting dorms as needed, putting new roofs on the Personnel building and Power Plant and partially reroofing the Aerobics Center, remodeling the Eagles Nest snack bar, and installing a new carillon in the Prayer Tower.

Something else that's brand-new at ORU this year is the Eagle Card. In the words of one student, "It's like an ID card and ATM card in one." This photo ID can be

used all over campus—for doing laundry, checking out books, getting into the AC or sports events, using snack and soda machines, and eating meals. The money comes from a student's paid-up board account. Students have a choice of three plans: 10 meals/week in the cafeteria and \$300 in cash; 17 meals/week in the cafeteria and \$150 in cash; or 19 meals/week in the cafeteria and no cash. Those who opt for one of the first two plans can eat their remaining meals in the Eagles Nest or the Grad Center's Deli. And when the money in the first two plans is used up, students can put more money in their account and continue to use the card instead of carrying around cash. Since no receipts are issued, a student must keep track of how much he has spent.

Students have more meal options than ever before in the cafeteria, along with a new food-service area and easier access. Menus have been altered to accommodate students' tastes and now include vegetarian and low-fat dishes, traditional meals, and a bake shop. The "Wild Pizza," Home Cookery, and Chef's Stations are other popular additions. The Deli has also been remodeled.

DID YOU KNOW?

ORU's community outreach department received a Citizen Leadership Team Award from the Tulsa City Council last spring, in appreciation for the All-School Work Day held in the Irving neighborhood, a low-income area. More than 800 students, faculty, and staff cleaned, painted, and distributed food and clothing.

Administrative Changes

In the words of Dr. Ralph Fagin (70), "Dr. Robert Voight has finally succeeded in convincing the administration to reduce his workload." He has stepped down as Dean of Instruction and will focus his energies on part-time teaching and maintenance of the faculty records. Dr. Debbie Oltman, who



Dr. Debbie Oltman

was named associate dean of the School of Arts and Sciences last spring, has left that post to become the new Dean of Instruction. She will also continue to serve as chairman of the department of Mathematics and Computer

Science. Dr. David Connor (73), director of Grants and Research Development, has agreed to serve in a dual role as well; he is the new associate dean of Arts and Sciences.



Where does the time go?

ORU held its 31st annual commencement on May 2. About 650 students—an eight percent increase over 1997—walked across the stage to receive their

diplomas. Creflo Dollar, Jr., founder and pastor of World Changers Christian Center (Ga.), was the keynote speaker. He and Dr. Carl Hamilton, Bible teacher Joyce

Meyer, partner and former ORU regent Nona Askew, and Indiana pastor Dr.

Paul Paino received honorary doctorates.



On A Mission From God

How many universities can you name that routinely send a large number of students to places like Chad/Cameroon, China, the Czech Republic, France, Ghana, Guyana, India, Israel, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Peru, Russia, South Africa, Tibet, Turkey, Uganda, the Ukraine, and Zambia for one or two months every summer? How many college students do you know who, in addition to doing their schoolwork, can figure out ways to raise between \$2,400 and \$2,900—in less than eight months—for such trips? If you said “ORU” and “226,” then you’ve really been keeping up with the program.

“The main thrust of ORU missions,” said missions director Jeff Rigler (94), “is to facilitate the mandate upon ORU, the ORU vision to go where God’s light is seen dim and His voice is heard small. We also want to expose the students to what life is like on the mission field, so that they might get a heart for full-time missions.”

In the past two years, the summer missions program has added another component: medical missions. The missions office finds sites that have medical facilities and personnel already in place, and then sends students to work alongside professionals, doing basic first aid. The teams go to remote villages that have no access to medical care. Last summer, there were four such teams: two in Ghana, and one each in Nepal and Peru.

According to Rigler, interest in missions is stronger than ever at ORU. “God is really renewing the students,” he said, and the effects of that renewal “have to have an outlet.”

“A year ago, a student asked me, ‘Were a lot of your friends interested in full-time missions when you were at ORU?’ I thought about it and realized that they weren’t. Now, the students are more open to, and more interested in, full-time missions.”

Summer missions involvement has increased from 189 students in 1996 to 209 in 1997, to 226 in 1998. Spring and fall break missions are also attracting more and more students. Rigler says even more students would go out in the summer, if it weren’t for the cost.

“At the start of last year, we had more than 300 sign up. By the end of the year, we were down to 226. We lose a good number because of finances.” The primary fund-raising method is writing support letters to family and friends; the missions office pays the postage for a student’s first 100 letters. Events such as bowl-a-

thons and car washes help. And the Philip Hayden Memorial Scholarship Fund, a matching fund, puts some students over the top when other fund-raising avenues have been exhausted.

This year, the missions office is determined “to do a better job of communicating with supporters—not just asking for money, but for prayer support,” Rigler said. “We also need to let people know how missions is transforming students’ lives.”

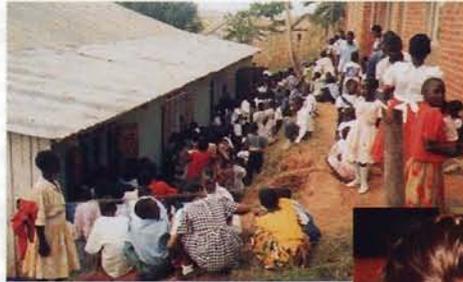
Proof of that is in the reports that students gave after returning from the field. Here is what three of them had to say:

“Adoniram Judson was the first missionary to the Burmese people,” said Kari Hill, who went to Myanmar. “For the six years he lived with them, he only saw one convert, and said (that) getting a Buddhist saved is like taking food from a tiger’s mouth. While ministering in Myanmar this summer, we only saw one person come to the Lord. She was a devout Buddhist, but had an aunt who was praying and invited her to hear us minister. Her conversion experience was glorious, and she got filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. She was so excited to go back and tell her family and friends about what Jesus had done for her.”

“Three years ago, an ORU missions team trekked on the same mountain as we did and passed out tracts along the way,” said Rocky Soward, part of the Nepal team. “Two people accepted Christ as a result of those tracts and shared them with their families. Now they have built a church and are leading others to the Lord.”

Michael Homan also went to Nepal. He said, “We were conducting a conference on the border of Bhutan, one of the countries most closed to Christ in the world. During this time an underground pastors’ meeting was being held where an estimated 90 to 95 percent of all the known pastors in the whole country were in attendance. We were able to share with them and pray with them, encouraging them to reach the lost. It reminded us of the meetings held by the early church (and) how they met together in the upper room, prayed, received the Holy Spirit, and changed the world.”

Your prayer support is desperately needed for ORU’s fall break, spring break, and summer missions teams. If you would like to provide financial support as well, contact Jeff Rigler in the missions office at (918) 495-7731. E-mail: jerigler@oru.edu.



CARDONE

Everything Old Is New Again

by Debbie (Titus-77) George • Photos by Chris LaFrance

"Reman. It's What We Do." That's the company slogan. But CARDONE Industries does much more than remanufacture auto parts. This is a company that has built an entire culture based on doing things God's way. The driving force behind "CARDONE Culture" is Michael Cardone, Jr. (70), who is carrying on the work that his father began.

At age 55, Michael, Sr., decided to leave the company he and his four brothers were running and create a company his son could one day inherit. In 1970, he and Michael, Jr., opened M. Cardone Industries, Inc., in a Philadelphia storefront. With one product and a staff of six, the company gradually added customers and product lines, survived a fire that destroyed its original building, and expanded to more than 20 plants. (There's a warehouse/reshipping plant on the West Coast, too.) With a workforce of 3,700, the company recently moved into a state-of-the-art distribution center, CARDONE World Headquarters, which houses distribution, core handling, processing and inventory, and corporate offices.

For Michael Cardone, "going into everyman's world" has meant the world of business, and God has blessed his efforts. Every Cardone employee can recite the mission statement: To be the best remanufacturer in the world. Everyone knows the company's commitments: Honor God in all we do. Help people develop. Pursue excellence. Grow profitably. And the goal to create a product that is "as good as new or better" is well understood. So, where does "CARDONE culture" fit into all this? Just ask the "Factory Family Members."

Automotive industry veteran Ken Mullen, executive vice president for Sales and Marketing, has been at CARDONE for less than two years, but he can plainly see that "the culture we have, which is basically derived from Christian values, ... is definitely being reinforced." He enjoys working at CARDONE for two reasons. "First and foremost, most of the people here are ministry-minded. They minister to their fellow employees and in their communities with their actions as well as with their finances. Second, it's a company that has a real desire for growth—not only in terms of financial growth, but also in growing people as individuals, and developing their full potential."

Where do the ministry and growth come from? They're company policy.

CARDONE hired its first full-time chaplain in 1979, partly because more and more employees were coming to their supervisors for informal counseling and for

prayer. The chaplaincy (today's Spiritual Life department) also grew out of a need to communicate with workers, many of whom don't speak English.

"We needed interpreters," Cardone said. "We hired some retired pastors who were bilingual. They really didn't come in as chaplains, but we realized they could develop a relationship with these people." Today, the company's 17 language groups are served by eight full-time chaplains who represent the Cambodian, Haitian, Indian, Spanish, and African-American cultures.

Spiritual Life oversees seven weekly, voluntary "unity meetings" (chapel-type services) held in the plants from 6:45 to 7:15 a.m.; a coed sports program; English as a second language classes; the Cardone Foundation; "Help You Buy," which helps employees buy their first home; and the Care Fund, which provides emergency assistance for employees.

Seven churches have been planted in the Philadelphia area as a result of the unity meetings. (Services were originally held in the plants.) The Portuguese and Indian churches are more than 20 years old. The Cambodian, Russian, Spanish, Pakistani, and Vietnamese churches have been around for at least seven years.

"We are passionate about the well-being of our people," said Pastor Abraham Oliver, Spiritual Life director. "It's our philosophy that if a person is in crisis in his home, it will affect his production. And we are production-driven! If a person is going through a death circumstance or cancer, or whatever, and you put them on the line to do their repetitive work, they'll be thinking about their problems. So our target is to keep this person spiritually and physically whole.

"Michael and I recently visited the home of an employee who died. (This man's widow) said if it hadn't been for opportunities at CARDONE, she could never have encouraged their four daughters. All of them graduated from college! She and her husband never went beyond 8th grade. That's a great testimony."

The quality that CARDONE emphasizes has made the company the largest privately held remanufacturer in the world. Auto parts remanufacturing is a \$40 billion/year industry. "There are more people employed in remanufacturing in the U.S. than are in the steel industry," Cardone pointed out.

Michael, Sr., was a pioneer in the industry. He was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame in 1994. But when he began the present company, it wasn't an easy sell.

Joe Beretta (76), one of more than two dozen ORU alumni who work for CARDONE, is the company's chief operating officer.

"I think the thing that convinced me (to come here) was Mr. Cardone himself," Beretta said. "He had a real gift of sharing a vision, of painting a picture of some-



Mark Spuler (72)



Joe Beretta (76)

thing that wasn't. If you could see the building that we started in! I was either real stupid or he was real convincing. He convinced me that this industry in general was going to be an up-and-coming industry, and that this particular company was going to be based upon godly principles. It was appealing to me because it was kind of like an experiment, almost. Can a Christian business work? Can a nontraditional type of business work?

"Remanufacturing. Who, at that point in 1976, had even heard of it, including me? In most of our product lines, we were the first."

Many CARDONE employees have been with the company for years, working their way from the bottom to the top. And the workforce isn't what you might expect in this industry; women are as visible as men.

One of the first women to work at CARDONE was Jacquie (Martin-69) Cardone, Michael's wife of 29 years and mother of their three children. "I enjoyed being part of something that was just beginning," she said. In the early days, "we worked from dawn till dusk, and I learned all aspects of the business." She filled a variety of jobs, from switchboard operator and bookkeeper to secretary and receiving clerk. The experience came in handy when she was put in charge of space planning and interior design.

At first, she said, "each office only needed one desk and one filing cabinet, and the main question was, what color do we paint the walls?" The job quickly became more complex as the number of workers multiplied from 6 in 1970 to 250 by 1978. And from 1974 to 1978, nine new plants opened. The former French major had a full plate with new babies at home and thousands of square feet of space to design.

When the World Headquarters was being prepared for occupancy in 1994 and 1995, Jacquie used her knowledge of the employees and their jobs and made some forward-thinking choices. Eschewing the corner-office mentality, she created a design that gave a greater sense of openness to the whole corporate-office scheme. She was also sensitive to the message that the design would send to customers. "I knew we needed to decorate in a manner that was clean, and that didn't look extravagant. I wanted the office environment to communicate our values."

Another consideration was, "What will work for the next 20 years?" and, "Which colors and what type of furniture will best contribute to employee satisfaction?" Her plans also left plenty of room for expansion—a necessity for a company that continues to grow by leaps and bounds.

Another woman who is putting her talents and education to good use at CARDONE is Heather Eames (94). Like many employees, her first job was

in customer service, answering phones. Today she's Product Manager for water pumps and two other divisions. In four short years, she has made the company philosophy her own.

"What we are and what we try and live by in the marketing department is, we want to be No. 1, be experts on a product line," she said. "If anybody has a question

or needs direction, we want to... know all the background, the competitors, the marketplace. In my opinion, I am directly responsible for the success or failure of the product line. Everything that we do on a daily basis could change the marketplace."

Heather Cawston (95) also started in customer service. And in her opinion, she "moved up faster here than I would have anywhere else." As Program Distribution account manager, she negotiates deals with the buying groups to which all CARDONE customers belong. Then, she goes out

on the road with their salesforce and helps present the deal to the customers.

Late nights, weekends, and constant travel aside, Cawston loves her job. "It's very challenging. If you work hard and prove that you're loyal and trustworthy, they will move you up. I like it because I'm not a number. They know who I am; they know about my life. And my VP and my immediate boss make sure I get a life.

"I've learned a lot so far," she continued, "but I have a long way to go. Being the only woman (in an area of the industry such as hers) can be a challenge. If you don't know what you're talking about, you won't be respected."

Like his father before him, Cardone takes care of his people. CARDONE pays 100 percent of its employees' health-care plan. Last year, Cardone and his family formed the Employee Stock Ownership Plan, making all employees shareholders in the company. Sharing the ownership is one way to ensure that the culture survives. Another is for the boss to practice what he preaches.

"I look at leadership as servant leadership," Cardone said. You can see the truth of this in his office: no window, a round table instead of a desk, and none of the usual trappings of power. And outside his door, the nameplate reads simply "Michael."

"I feel it's a privilege and an honor to be part of this, and helping people—not only our factory family members but also our customers and our suppliers. These are God's children, and I believe the greatest role I can have in life is to be a servant."

That attitude has helped propel the company to the top, but there's more to its success. Mark Spuler (72), Chief Development Officer, and his wife, Janeen (Martin-72), were employees #11 and #12. That makes Mark an expert of sorts on the company's growth.

"One, it's the hand of God," Spuler said. "Because I don't think we're that smart. Sometimes I think we're smart, and then I realize we're not. Two, we really work hard at what we do, and keep our heads down. We're not looking at other people. Three, I



think it's a natural outgrowth of doing something well. The testimony of your business is, do you have customers? So the growth is the result of the testimony of the business."

And as the company grows, so does its philanthropy. Michael, Sr., and his wife, Frances, generous in their giving, made sure their company did the same. Today, the Cardone Foundation continues their work. Jacquie Cardone, chairperson of the foundation, said that two of their goals are to build Philadelphia's inner city and surrounding communities, and to educate grant applicants so they'll be more successful in obtaining the funds they need.

"It's one big circle," Jacquie said of the effect of CARDONE's giving. "Employees see the organizations they care about being blessed, so they become more dedicated. That, in turn, blesses the company, and the company can bless them. They give more, the company gives more, and the organizations receive more."

It's not just the desire to give that has grown; it's the employees themselves. Fatima Carreira, a factory family member for 23 years, started as a wiper motors assembler, worked up to tester and product manager, and is now director of Employee Relations and union shop steward.

"My job is not easy!" she laughed. "On one side I have the employees, relying on me to help them. On the other side I have the company trusting me..." But "in the end," she admitted, "it's not so difficult, because I know Michael wants what is right."

The employees know that, too. Their faith in him and in the company was obvious this year when they voted—virtually unanimously—for a new, five-year union contract.

Even as the company grows, however, Cardone is concerned about the future. "I think it could double in the next three to five years," he said. "How do you continue to impart the culture to these people? I'm not willing to give up our culture for the sake of the growth of the business. Yet I believe we can do both."

"Businesses our size today should be merging, selling out, being acquired. That's not what we're going to do. We're going to stay privately held, a family business."

Michael Cardone III (96) joined the marketing department this year and will be working on the international side of the business. (The Cardones' son Ryan is spending this year with the "Master's Commission," an Assemblies of God program of intense Bible study and inner-city evangelism. Their daughter, Christin, is married to Dan McClave, an engineer at CARDONE.)

The company recently went through one of the most rigorous quality certifications in the industry: QS9000. CARDONE is the first remanufacturer in the U.S. to receive this certification. A team of inspectors asks employees questions such as, "What is your mission?" If even one person can't answer the questions, the company fails. CARDONE

received QS9000 on its first try. Does this mean the company is fulfilling its mission?

Joe Beretta believes they're on target. "Being a more precise person, though," he said, "I have to say, we're human beings here. Figuring out what the objectives mean, and balancing out all the various tensions—it's a difficult job.

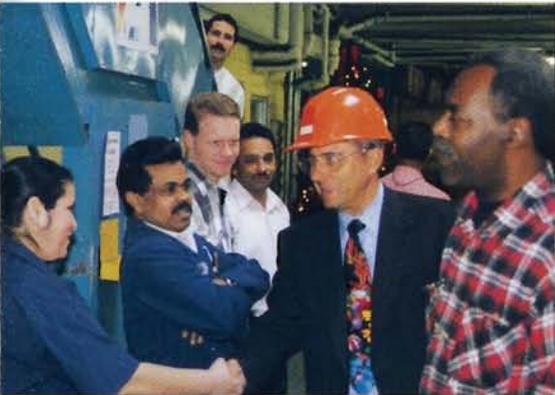
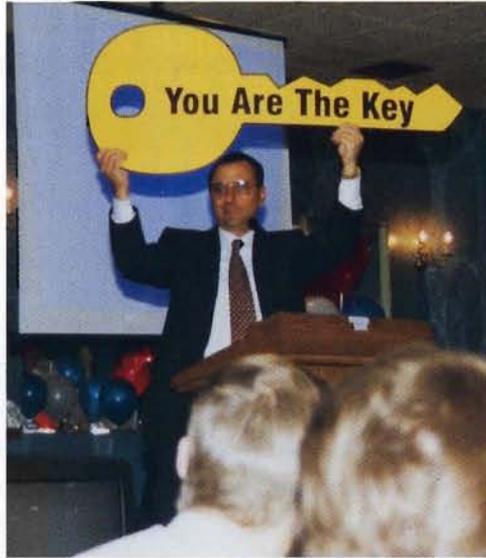
You can't let the accountants say, 'Hey, all I know is you have to slash \$5 million out of this budget.' It becomes difficult because you're trying to cut other things that don't necessarily affect the people. You don't cut your family.

"What cascades from our 'Honor God in all we do' is respecting people as equals. It doesn't mean you don't ask them to get work done, but that you consider their needs as people, and not as machines putting out goods."

Putting people ahead of profits fits right in with Michael Cardone's agenda.

"My dream," Cardone said, "is to be the most effective witness for God in business that I can be. I want to be able to face the Lord on the Day of Judgment, and He tells me I did okay with what He gave me.

"I want to use every talent that He's given me, every resource, to glorify Him, because I know what He's done in my life, and I could never repay Him for all He's done for me."



Michael Cardone — His Faith and His Successful Business

by Oral Roberts

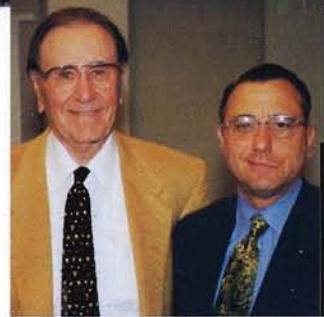
Just before Michael Cardone graduated from ORU in 1970, he and his father, Michael, Sr., a founding member of the ORU Board of Regents, started CARDONE Industries with little money but a lot of faith.

Young Michael worked at his dad's side, helping lay the spiritual principle of seed-faith to all their plans and efforts, and with all the workers they hired. It was a business, but spiritual in its methods of operation.

I've been there several times, and Michael has shared with me: "Going to ORU prepared me first in my spiritual life, then in practicing seed-faith, and learning my way through the ORU business department. Also, I married my wife, Jacquie, a beautiful ORU girl. I literally applied what I learned at ORU."

My impression of CARDONE Industries is that Michael's spirit, based in God's Word, permeates the entire organization. Michael unashamedly puts God first and hires the kind of worker who is open to the power of God. Michael is a giver, and through seed-faith is a receiver. I've never known a man who counts more on his giving to the Lord to bring him and his company so many harvests. And as an ORU board member, Michael is one of the mainstays of the University, its present and its future.

I'm proud of Michael and his family. I'm proud of them because they love Jesus above all else.



Do you ever wonder what ORU students are like these days--why they chose ORU, how they cope with the academic pressures, what they're doing for others, what they want to do after they graduate? In this issue (and in future issues), we will present brief profiles of some of the "whole men" and "whole women" who are helping ORU maintain its reputation as a unique center of learning.

No Regrets

Name: Blake McLaughlin
Class: Senior
Major: Biology/Premed
Hometown: Tulsa, Okla.



Like many teenagers, Blake McLaughlin did not want to go to "the family school." He didn't want to follow in the footsteps of his grandparents, Warren and Eileen Straton, who came to ORU in the 1960's to teach art, or his mother, Cathy (Straton-70) Robertson, or his father, Gary McLaughlin (70), or several of his other relatives.

Wheaton College was one of his top choices. And he nearly went to the Air Force Academy. Then, just two weeks before the fall semester began, the funds to attend ORU became available, and he became an ORU student.

"God's hand was totally in it," he says now. "This is exactly where God intended me to be. I have no regrets."

Blake says he has always had an affinity for medicine, but it was a pre-ORU missions trip to Tijuana that convinced him his course was right. "That whole week, God was speaking to me about missions. Some medical students from a local university had come to provide care, and I was able to jump in and help them out with what they were doing. That was one of those integral steps" that convinced him to become a doctor.

Interestingly, Blake says God is leading him towards being "a missionary who happens to be a physician, rather than a physician who does missions. That's what I'm responding to right now. That's why I get up in the morning."

As far as a specialty is concerned, Blake wants to be a family physician, "not only to meet the physical needs of people but also the spiritual and emotional needs. I think that's something that's been instilled in me here: the whole-person and whole-family aspect."

He's had a small taste of what his future holds. Aside from Tijuana, he's been on five other missions trips to Mexico, and to Turkey, China, and Peru. He coordinated ORU medical missions trips to Latin America last summer and will do so again next year.

And what is his dream? After a long pause, he said, "I feel like I'm in the midst of it right now, that I'm living out part of my dream."

Last-Minute Details

Name: ZuShanna Francis-Scott
Class: Senior
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y.



“When I was in 11th grade,” said ZuShanna Francis-Scott, “my mom looked in a college directory and saw a write-up about ORU and photocopied it. I didn’t look at it. She insisted that I come to ORU. I said, “I don’t want to go to a Christian university.”

ZuShanna had seen a lot of hypocrisy in the church, and thought a school like ORU would offer more of the same.

And so, ZuShanna applied to and was accepted by four other universities. But at her mother’s urging, she finally read the write-up on ORU. This sounds like a great school! she thought. “I said, “Mom, why didn’t you make me read this before?”

Within the space of a week, ZuShanna had applied to ORU and been accepted. Arriving on campus nearly two weeks late, she nevertheless was quickly enrolled. She describes those first three months as “the best semester I ever had,” despite the fact that she spent many nights in tears. “God moves you away from the comfortable things, and He causes you to lean on Him,” she explained. Back at home, she could say, “Mommy! Pray about this.” At ORU, she found herself saying, “Okay, Lord, I don’t know what’s going on!”

“Here, you have to get into the Word,” she said. “You have to rely on your relationship with Jesus Christ, not on what anyone says. It’s more personal. He becomes more real to you. He causes you to run to Him.

“When I get out into the workforce, everything isn’t going to be great. I have to know that I’m still going to keep my joy, I’m still going to believe in Christ no matter what I see, whether the people are saved or not saved. I’m going to have to stand my ground.”

Growing up, ZuShanna lived in three states and saw people with guns, met gang members, and spent several months in a homeless shelter. She’s able to look at those experiences and say, “There’s no questioning God. He has to be real. I was never mugged or robbed. No one ever tried to get me to do drugs or join a gang. God totally protected me. The things I’ve been through, I know God brought me through.”

ZuShanna “never heard of Oral Roberts or ORU” until a year before she enrolled. Now, she tells her unsaved friends back home, “If I had gone to any other school, I would have dropped out. Everyone here isn’t perfect, but there are so many people here praying for you, loving on you, and just so giving. It’s been awesome.”

Anything Can Happen

Name: Omer Coleman

Class: Class of 1998

Major: Church Ministries/Evangelism

Hometown: Kansas City, Mo.

What does it feel like to graduate from college debt-free? Ask Omer Coleman. He's probably the only member (or at least one of the few) of the Class of 1998 to do so.

How did this come about? Well, a billionaire named Ewing Marion Kauffman decided to establish a scholarship foundation called Project Choice back in the late 1980's. He challenged classes at Westport High School (Omer's school) and two other Kansas City-area schools to finish their studies and go on to college. Those who signed a contract and kept their agreement to graduate on time, stay off drugs, and avoid teen pregnancy, received a free ride to college: tuition, room and board, books, and even money to get them home during school breaks.

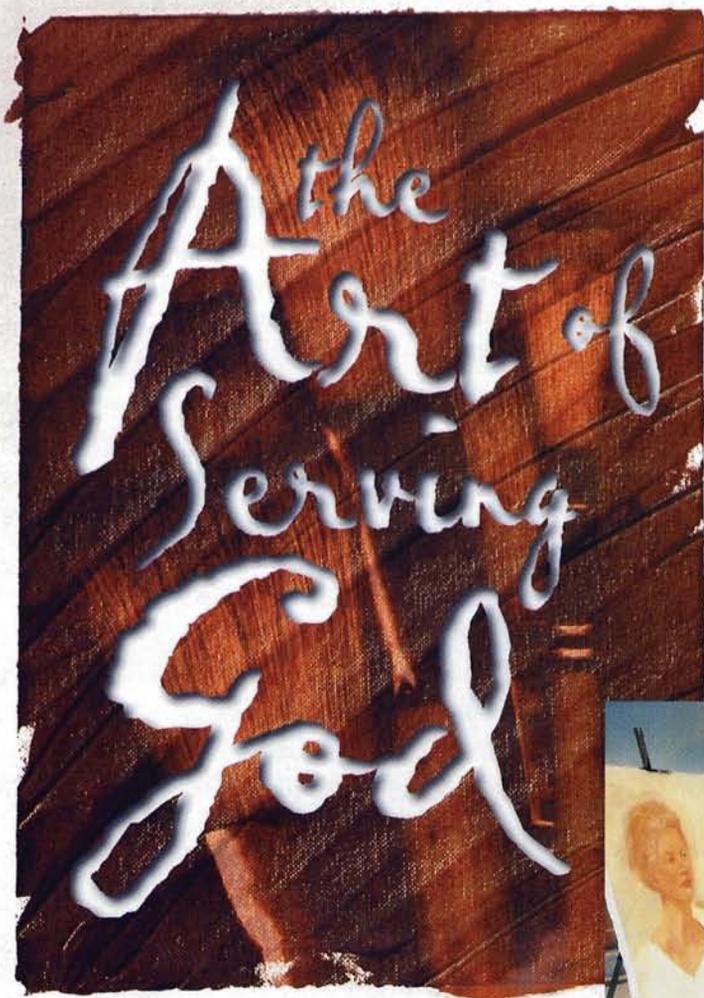
"It was an opportunity that you don't want to pass up," Omer said. And it involved more than being handed a check. While the students were still in high school, the foundation provided counselors and employment and educational programs and arranged visits to college fairs. After enrolling in college, students had to go full-time, maintain a 2.0 average, take regular drug tests, and avoid pregnancy. During his five years at ORU (yes, he changed his major), Omer was visited each semester by someone from the program who would "talk about what was going on in my life," he said.

Omer believes he made the most of this gift. At ORU, "I had the ultimate training in ministry, and in hands-on experience," he said. "I went on two missions with music ministries (the Midwest and Jamaica, the East Coast and Grenada). Those were life-changing times, experiences I'll never forget. And with music ministries, the doors opened to singing on TV with President Roberts."

Omer's senior paper was on worship evangelism, something that he wants to do in the future. "I feel I'll be doing a combination of preaching, teaching, and music," he said. He also wants to spread the word that praise and worship can have an enormous impact on the life of a believer and of a church. "My goal is to put together workshops and seminars and go to churches and teach about praise and worship," he said. "Healing and deliverance can happen in the midst of worship. Anything can happen when God shows up."



Omer (left) presents a CD to the Prime Minister of Grenada in 1997.



by Margee (Golden) Aycock (78)

During the 1998 Homecoming celebration (and my 20th-year reunion), I began to reflect on my life after ORU. And as I heard again those old familiar words, "Go into everyman's world..." I asked myself if I had been successful in that call within the profession I chose.

I believe that in every occupation there are opportunities to spread light, and I have been fortunate to use painting and art as avenues to spread that light.

I am an Impressionist oil painter. The nature of my profession is often very solitary, but it has taken me down some interesting roads. My first job was the outcome of volunteer work obtained through



ORU's volunteer program and involved teaching art to juvenile delinquents. That job led to a job working with the Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau, where I was asked to develop programs that would build children's self-esteem through the arts.

My own personal style of evangelism is a more quiet, conversational, one-on-one way of reaching people. The programs that I developed really afforded me the opportunity to get to know the kids and talk with them about their lives and needs.

This year I became part owner of Arts Ltd. Gallery and Artists' Way Gallery at Windsor Market in Tulsa. I sell landscapes, portraits, and still life through the galleries and still have time to work with children. I am involved in a program with the Department of Justice where I work with a team of artists, poets, drama folks, and photographers who take the arts to "at-risk children."



The purpose is to open up dialogue with kids about the dangers of drugs and gangs and to talk with them about other options they might have. The neat thing about the program this year is that it has opened up a chance for the children who are Christian in our group to share their own faith with their peers.



Through the years of working with children of all ages, several have gone to church with us, some have become real friends, my husband gave one of them away at her wedding, and one of them even called to ask if I'd be interested in illustrating some Christian children's books that she is writing!

I hadn't really stopped to think about all this till the week after Homecoming, but in reflecting over the past 20 years, I can really see God's hand on my life and the big difference that attending ORU has made on my life. Who woulda thought one could follow the Great Commission on an art degree?

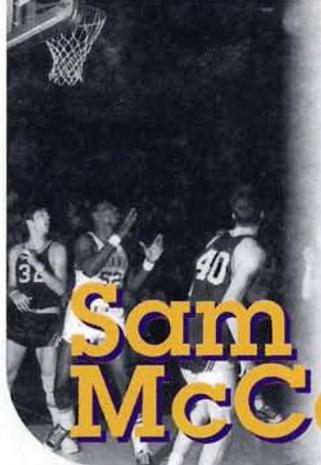
Do you have a story to share? If so, send it in. We'll print as many as we can. (Include photos if possible.)

Do I Feel A Draft?

Or, What Happens When You Don't Get Into the NBA

by Debbie (Titus-77) George

The ORU basketball media guide can tell you just about everything you want to know about the Titans/Golden Eagles. What the book *can't* tell you is what happened to the 188 men who have played for ORU. We talked to four former players who've found a good life after basketball.



SAM McCAMEY (1970-72)

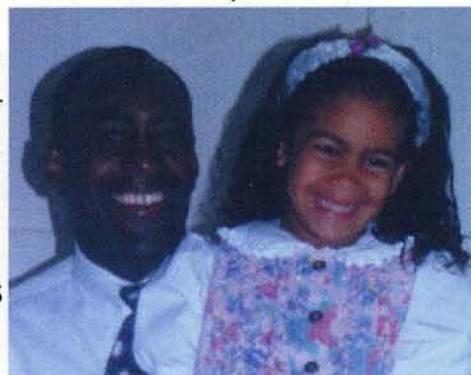
Sam McCamey has the distinction of being ORU's first NBA draftee. Selected by Boston in the eighth round in 1972, his most impressive accomplishment, actually, was graduating in four years despite going to three different colleges. That had been his dream from the very beginning.

There were other dreams, too. "I wanted to teach, and to work with kids," he said. (He earned a master's in education from the University of Tulsa.) "But the only thing I knew that I wanted to do was play professional basketball. I wanted the chance."

In 1972, he made it through rookie camp and veterans' camp before being cut. Boston invited him back in 1973 and that time, he made it through the exhibition season. After playing one year with Athletes in Action, he had a tryout with the Portland Trailblazers and was cut just before the first regular-season game. "That was a downer," McCamey said, "but I felt really good I made it that far."

McCamey still thinks about becoming a coach someday, but for now, his focus is on his family and his job. He has two sons from his first marriage. His wife, Petrina, is the associate athletics director at the University of California-Irvine. Their daughter, Samantha, McCamey said, "might be the President one day."

A banker for the past 13 years, McCamey is the assistant vice president of global payment services at Sanwa Bank in Monterey Park, Calif. His department handles the bank's wire transfers and payment obligations. When he began his banking career with Allied Irish Bank in New York, he had no knowledge of banking, and so he started at the bottom. "My career has been challenging, not dull," he said. "I never held back. I've always been open to opportunities." His philosophy, "If you're a good listener and a hard worker, you can do just about anything," has served him well.



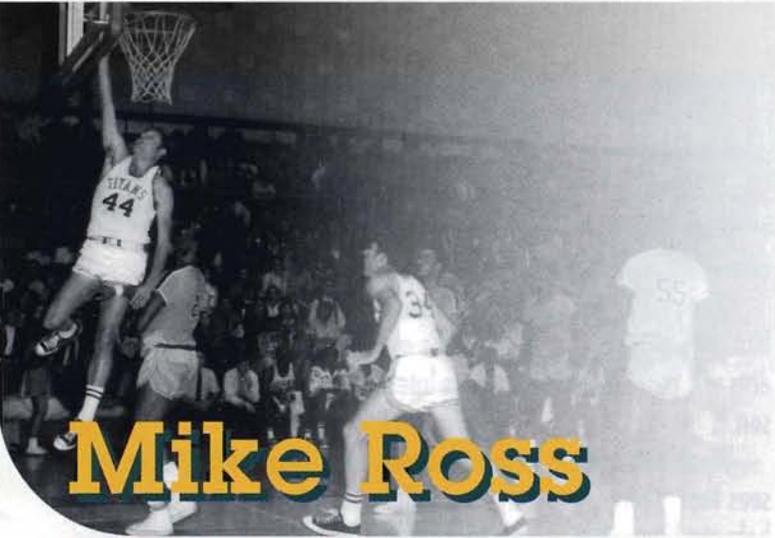
So has his basketball experience. "It has been like an internal motivator in terms of helping me cope with decisions. When I start something new, I have drive and motivation—that competitive edge."

When McCamey transferred to ORU in 1970, he was looking for-

ward to more than his first plane trip. This Alabama farmer's son wanted to get farther from home, "to grow and develop as a young man" and trade laboring in the cotton fields for something better.

"It comes so fast," he said of the success those early Titan teams had. But then it's over, and you have to move on.

"I'm not content," he admitted when pressed. "My ultimate dream was to play NBA ball. But at least I had opportunities to try."



Mike Ross

MIKE ROSS (1968-70)

What was a nice Catholic boy from St. Louis doing at ORU in 1968? That's what Mike Ross wondered when he heard someone speaking in tongues during his first ORU chapel service. Nudging his best friend and teammate, Ralph Fagin (70), he whispered, "We're packing."

Needless to say, both Ross and Fagin endured to the end. Fagin went on to become ORU's vice president for Academic Affairs. Ross is the president and CEO for Union Planters Bank in St. Louis, the third largest bank in St. Louis with assets of \$2 billion.

"I kind of felt I would someday be running a pretty good size business," Ross said in his understated way. "It was a goal."

After graduation, he entered law school at the University of Tulsa. When his father died during that first year, Ross went home and rethought his career plans. A friend encouraged him to get into banking. By 1982, he was senior vice president of the Bank of St. Louis. In 1983, he and a friend formed Capital Bank Corporation and began buying banks as well as starting their own. He was chairman, president, and CEO until 1995, when they sold out to Union Planters Corporation of Memphis.

"I went to ORU for all the wrong reasons," the 6'6" former center said, "but they turned out to be all the right



reasons. I went for the scholarship, and because of Ralph, who is my friend for life."

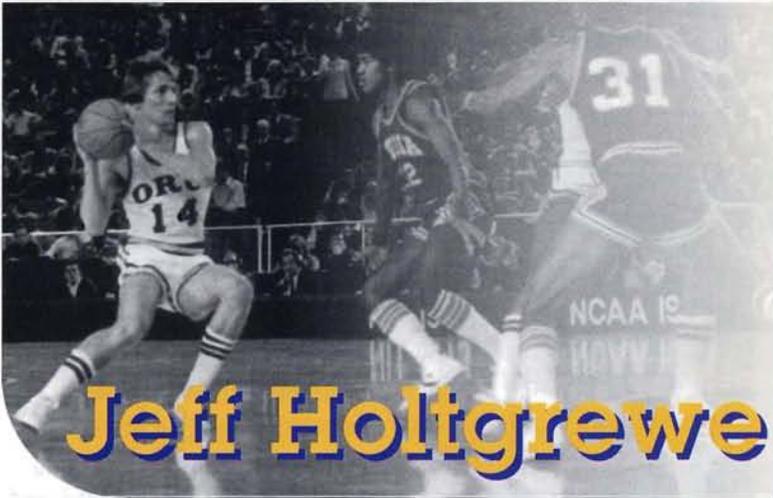
Ross was recruited by eight or nine colleges, but said ORU was different. "It was the only school I went to visit where the attitude was, What can Oral Roberts do for you? I was impressed by that message. And quite honestly, they lived up to it.

"It wasn't difficult," Ross said, to move from basketball to real life, because on campus, "people knew us, but we weren't stars. And Ralph and I thought of ourselves more as students than basketball players."

Ross and his wife, Lee, have three daughters. The family is active in their church, and Ross has a strong voice in the community through his work on several boards.

"I'm very satisfied," is how Ross describes his life. "I have built for myself a good reputation in the business with the position I have. And it's not over yet. I'm still going to build."

So his days as a Titan are forgotten? Not on your life. Check out the 8x10 glossies on the walls of his office.



Jeff Holtgrewe

JEFF HOLTGREWE (1974-78)

Arriving at ORU in 1974, Jeff Holtgrewe was happy to play basketball, but education was his real focus. He was premed/predentistry before finally choosing to go to medical school. This was mostly thanks to the influence of Dr. James Winslow, Jr., former City of Faith CEO and physician for the basketball team...and to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

"I had a passion for athletics and reaching out to athletes," Holtgrewe said, explaining why he chose orthopedic surgery. When his playing days were over, he was ready to prepare for his life's work.

After medical school graduation, Holtgrewe did a one-year general surgery internship at the University of Oklahoma Tulsa Medical College, a four-year orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Colorado, and an arthritis surgery postgraduate fellowship at Johns Hopkins University. In 1988, he joined a group practice in Denver and had the opportunity to serve as a physician for the Denver Nuggets

professional basketball team.

In 1992, everything changed. Holtgrewe came down with a rare form of encephalitis that left him unable to practice medicine or surgery for a few years. Some men might give in to self-pity, but Holtgrewe used the time to get involved with Christian men's groups, teach at his church, and become active in home cell groups. His children also benefited from his time off. "How many men get a respite for a few years just to enjoy their family and watch their children grow up?" he pointed out. He and Betsy (MacWherter-78;82-MBS) have also homeschooled three of their children.

"I knew that while I was not able to practice medicine day to day, God could use us as a family to reach out to a hurting world," Holtgrewe said. "It's our heart's desire to be obedient to Him and do what He would have us do. We're involved, as a family, in ministry in our church, in the inner city, and on short-term missions trips."

In eight years at ORU, Jeff and Betsy believe they received a solid foundation, "not just education-ally, but spiritually," Jeff said.

"We were both involved in the chaplaincy program. We had all those years to grow and mature in our relationship with Christ.

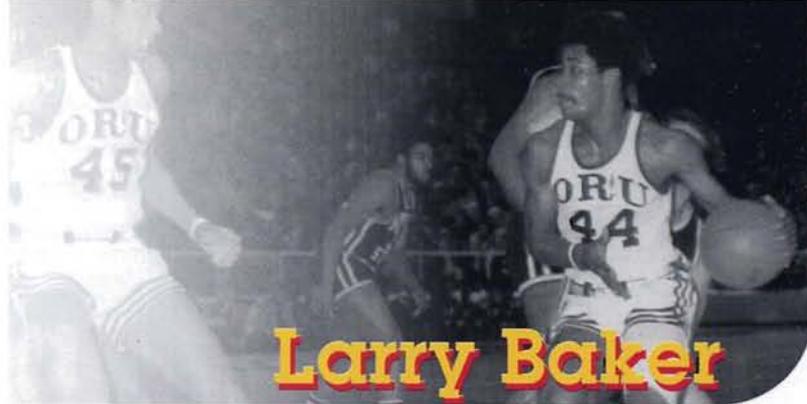
"When I graduated from ORU, I knew that I had a responsibility. I knew God wanted me to use medicine as a platform to go into 'everyman's world' with the gospel. For me, God made it very clear that I was to reach out to the Jewish people specifically."

Twenty years after playing his last game, Holtgrewe remains grateful for his sports experience. "To get to my level of basketball ability took a lot of practice and hard work and long hours. I had to discipline myself to make time for daily quiet times with the Lord, and to study to become a doctor. In medicine, I've had to call on those lessons of self-discipline I learned playing basketball."

Holtgrewe still considers medicine "a platform to reach people for Jesus Christ," so he's happy to be practicing once again, with Cornerstone Orthopedics in Denver, Colo. And the most beautiful sound to him these days is not that of fans applauding his moves on the court, but of a nurse saying to a patient, "Dr. Holtgrewe will see you now."

LARRY BAKER (1969-73)

Larry Baker has been a man on the move these past 25 years. He began as a recreation director for the Tulsa Housing Authority; finished his master's degree in education counseling at Northeastern State University and became program coordinator for the adolescent unit at Hillcrest Hospital in 1985; headed up the adolescent program at Brookhaven Hospital; and settled in briefly as program coordinator for PacifiCare Insurance at Tulsa Regional Medical Center.



Today, Baker is back at Hillcrest, serving as authorization supervisor. His department authorizes services for Blueinc/Sooner Care Services and makes sure bills are paid.

From reading all this, you might think that Baker's heart is in administration. It's not. His real passion is working with kids.

"I'm real good with them," he said. "I relate to them well. And I like to think I've touched the lives of a lot of the kids. Sometimes parents will come back to me years later and say, 'You really helped my son.'"

When Baker looks back at his own early years in Tennessee, he sees that "there was always a significant teacher or other person to help me financially or with education. After experiencing that, I said, 'If I ever get in a situation where I can help someone....' I wanted to reach down and pull someone up."

Last summer, Baker started a free basketball clinic for kids at Central High School in Tulsa. In the clinic as in all his work with kids, including the YMCA's Little Dribblers program, Baker said he tries "to give them the foundation of Jesus Christ." And not just the kids. "One of the prerequisites of the clinic was, the parents must participate."

Baker said when it comes to his future, "I leave that up to the Lord." For now, he's just enjoying his life with his wife, Debra, and their three children. He still attends the occasional ORU basketball game, and only gets slightly irritated when today's players don't know who he is. "I want to say, 'Without me, you wouldn't be here!'" he jokes.

With an ex-athlete's pride, Baker still works out three days a week. And he admits that when he plays ball these days, he still hates to lose.

Not to worry. Larry Baker is a winner in anyone's book.

(Note: In a future issue, we'll feature former women athletes.)





News in Brief

Thirty-two ORU athletes were named to the Mid-Continent Conference's spring academic All-Conference team. To be eligible, an athlete must have at least a 3.0 career GPA and have completed at least one academic year at his or her current institution.

Two of the 32, members of the men's golf and tennis teams, had perfect 4.0's. Women's golf had the highest team GPA. The number of players who made the team, and their sports, are as follows: women's basketball, two; men's basketball, three; baseball, six; women's track and field, six; men's track and field, three; women's tennis, two; men's tennis, four; women's golf, five; and men's golf, one. The average GPA of all ORU athletes last year was 3.03.

Soccer is on the rise! The men competed in the Mid-Continent Conference in 1997-98. Beginning in the fall of 1999, the women will be conference members as well. The Lady Golden Eagles began preparing for that event this fall by scheduling games against all its conference rivals. The team also hosted the first-ever ORU Classic, featuring the University of Tulsa, Colorado College, and Oakland University.

ORU's soccer complex has seen some major improvements in recent years. Thanks to gifts from alumni and friends of ORU, the University has spent \$85,000 to install new lights on the field, making night games possible.

The women's basketball team has a new assistant coach. Eric Ely comes to ORU from Mt. Vernon Nazarene College in Ohio, where he was head coach for the past two seasons. As a player, he had professional tryouts with the Los Angeles Lakers and Detroit Pistons.

Pitcher Derek Dixon signed a minor-league contract with the Baltimore Orioles in June. He was 12-2 for the Golden Eagles last season, with a team-best 3.05 ERA. Catcher Mike Dean was a third-team All-American selection for the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association. He was also a first-team All-Conference selection, Mid-Continent Conference Player of the Year, and a second-team All-American selection for *Collegiate Baseball*.

WINNER TAKE ALL

After only one season in the Mid-Continent Conference, ORU was awarded the Commissioner's Cup for 1997-98.

ORU's seven conference titles—in volleyball, men's indoor track, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's golf, and baseball—were the most won in a single season in the league's history.

ORU also won the Men's All Sports Award. The Lady Golden Eagles placed third in the final Women's All Sports Award standings, finishing just seven points back of first-place Youngstown State.

Men's Basketball 1998-99

November		
2	NEXT LEVEL SPORTS#	
9	ATHLETES FIRST#	
14	at Texas Christian	7 p.m.
18	at Arkansas State	TBA
21	at Denver	4 p.m.
28	TEXAS A&M	
December		
2	TEXAS	
5	at IUPUI*	TBA
7	at Valparaiso*	7:35 p.m.
12	at Tulsa	TBA
22	ARKANSAS STATE	
29	vs. Cal Poly-SLO+	TBA
30	Championship/Consolation Game+	TBA
January		
2	WESTERN ILLINOIS	
4	CHICAGO STATE	
7	at UMKC*	TBA
14	at Oakland	TBA
16	at Youngstown State	7:40 p.m.
19	DENVER	
23	SOUTHERN UTAH*	
28	at Chicago State*	TBA
30	at Western Illinois	TBA
February		
4	IUPUI*	
6	VALPARAISO*	
	--Homecoming	
11	at Southern Utah*	7:35 p.m.
13	UMKC*	
18	YOUNGSTOWN STATE*	
20	OAKLAND	
28-March 3	Mid-Con Championship, Moline, Ill.	

#Exhibition game; *Mid-Continent Conference game; +All-College Tournament (Cal Poly-SLO, Oklahoma, ORU, Western Kentucky). HOME games in CAPS. All home games begin at 7:05 p.m.

Women's Basketball 1998-99

November		
9	LITHUANIA#	4:45 p.m.
13	OK FLYERS#	7:05 p.m.
17	OKLAHOMA STATE	7:05 p.m.
19	Belmont	7 p.m.
22	Georgia	2:30 p.m.
28	Arkansas	7 p.m.
30	EVANGEL COLLEGE	7:05 p.m.
December		
3	Valparaiso*	7:35 p.m.
5	IUPUI*	3:30 p.m.
8	CAMERON UNIV.	7:05 p.m.
12	Wichita State	7 p.m.
20	Cal State-Fullerton	6 p.m.
22	Cal State-Northridge	6 p.m.
January		
2	WESTERN ILLINOIS*	4:05 p.m.
4	CHICAGO STATE*	4:45 p.m.
7	UMKC*	5 p.m.
14	Oakland	5:30 p.m.
16	Youngstown State*	5:20 p.m.
18	BELMONT	7:05 p.m.
23	SOUTHERN UTAH*	4:05 p.m.
28	Chicago State*	5:15 p.m.
30	Western Illinois*	1:30 p.m.
February		
4	IUPUI*	4:45 p.m.
6	VALPARAISO*	2 p.m.
	--Homecoming	
10	Southern Utah*	5:15 p.m.
13	UMKC*	4:05 p.m.
18	YOUNGSTOWN ST.*	4:45 p.m.
20	OAKLAND	4:05 p.m.
26	Mid-Con Tournament, Moline, Ill.	TBA

#Exhibition game; *Mid-Continent Conference game. Home games in bold.

Karen Robinson ('74) loves a parade. She also loves Christmas. Fortunately, she has found a way to combine those two passions these past four years by working on the "Grand Illumination Parade" in Norfolk, Va.

How did the former director of ORU's Holy Spirit Research Center wind up with a walkie-talkie in her hand? It all began when she couldn't convince her grown-up friends to attend the annual parade with her. Seeing a volunteer-recruitment ad in the paper, she thought, Well, that's what I'll do. I'll just work the parade.

Her first year, she handled pre-parade entertainment. Two years later, she was vice-chairman of the steering committee. Last year, she was in charge of the whole shebang.

"When they asked me to be vice-chairman," she said, "they said, What you'll be doing is training to be chairman. I said, Okay, but don't leave me. Then last year, the two people who talked me into it left! That's where I really turned to God and said, Lord, please help me with this. And it was wonderful, because I had such a great group of people to work with."

As chairman, Robinson supervised weekly meetings, beginning in August. Each of the two to three dozen committee chairmen would give a progress report. But these were not your typical boring meetings.

"My other job (besides planning) was to keep them enthused," Robinson said. "Because you can get burned out real quick! I would do door prizes. I'd tell them to dress Christmasy—even in the heat of August! That

was the one thing I emphasized: We've got to have fun. 'Why are we here? We are here because we love parades!'"

The parade is always held the week-end before Thanksgiving, and serves as a kick-off to six weeks of "Holidays in the City" activities.

Just before the

parade begins, the crowd does a countdown that triggers the illumination of downtown buildings that have been lined with 12 to 15 miles of white lights. The 1997 parade had 1,000 people filling more than 100 units, including floats, marching bands, drill teams, and motorized units. (And all units

must be lit up in some way; you can't have a "grand illumination" without lights!) Pleasing (and controlling) a crowd of 110,000 spectators took 200 volunteers and the help of the police department and city officials. And it works. The

parade, televised live, has been named one of the top 20 events in the Southeastern U.S. by the Southeast Tourism Association.

Last year's parade was the thirteenth annual. "There was all this talk among unbelievers about bad luck," Robinson said. "I kept saying at every meeting, 'No, there's a Higher Power, and His name is God, and He will be in charge of this parade.' Of course, you're not supposed to say things like that! The neat thing is, over the four



Bringing Bright Lights to the Big City

years, I've gotten a lot of my Christian friends involved. Last year, at the beginning of our last briefing on the morning of the parade, I said, 'When this meeting is over, a few of us are going to get together and pray over the day and just ask the Lord to be with us.' I thought a few of the Regent University people would come, and some of my church friends. The room ended up being so full! Some people came up later and said, 'Thank you so much for having that prayer. I feel so much more at rest.' We all ended up having the most fun that day. All of the leadership said this was the best parade ever."

When she's not doing parades, Robinson is the library liaison to the College of Communication and the Arts, and Special Collections and Archives librarian, at Regent University. She loves her job, but admits that she always wanted to work in the secular world. After spending 12 years at ORU, she earned her second master's degree (in communication) from Regent and fully intended to pursue a career in that field. To get her foot in the door, she would volunteer. She did two internships at the City of Virginia Beach public information office and was a volunteer for five years at WHRO, the local public broadcasting station, where she



worked as talent for pledge drives.

"Some people avoid things like public TV or the secular working world because,

Oh, it's not Christian. And yet, that's where the Lord *wants* us to go. So many Christians have a tendency to just live within their cul-



ture. What kind of salt are you being then?"

The night of the parade, Robinson walks the route several times with her walkie-talkie and cell phone in hand, looking for hot spots and gaps in the parade. "There are places where the crowd will start encroaching on the parade route," Robinson said. "The Downtown Norfolk Council kept saying, 'You're ambassadors for the city, so keep smiling.' I told my Christian friends, 'We're also ambassadors for Christ.'"

This year, Robinson is the corporate liaison, working with the companies that sponsor the parade. That means a little less involvement, but her goal is the same as it has been the past four years.

"I want everyone who comes to have a really great time. I want it to be festive, and safe." And "even though it seems like it's all glitter and lights and fun," Robinson believes, "they can't help but think about Jesus."

DID YOU KNOW?

ORU's chapter of the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society was named outstanding chapter in the organization's regional biology competition last spring.

A Fond Farewell

Radhika Mittapalli (96-MBA) has been serving as our assistant director for Alumni Relations since 1995. Her responsibilities have included the VIP program (a bridge-builder between students and alumni), alumni chapter events, Wing Backers (Tulsa-area alumni who "adopt" a dorm wing or floor), Homecoming planning, and most recently,



Summer Spruce-Up coordination. In the course of carrying out her duties, Radhika has endeared herself to the many students, alumni, faculty, and staff members that her life has touched. In August, she left Alumni Relations to accept a new position, customer care associate, with Williams Telecommunications in Tulsa.

We are sorry to lose her talents, her sweet spirit, and her graciousness, but we know that God has wonderful things in store for her.

Thank you, Radhika, for everything you've done for ORU, and God bless you!

One Million Ways to Help ORU

The \$1 Million Matching Gift campaign is in its final days. With a deadline of Dec. 31, we need one last, big push to reach our goal.

Please consider making one last gift to this year's campaign so that we can finish strong. Remember: All gifts to the foundation are tax-deductible. And every unrestricted gift you make before Dec. 31 will be matched by our corporate donor.

To Clarify...

In the last issue of Excellence, we included the Alumni Annual Report, which showed how much money alumni had given to ORU in the previous fiscal year. We want to make it clear that the report includes only those gifts that were made through the Alumni Foundation. The report does not include gifts made to the University or ministry through other channels (e.g., gifts made in response to letters from Chancellor Roberts or President Roberts).

Summer Spruce-Up

The sixth annual Summer Spruce-Up held July 25-30. More than 100 alumni and



about 200 of their family members came to Tulsa and made Colossians 3:23 come to life. In the following article, Greg Butler (79) shares his thoughts about this intense week of work.

After reading the summer issue of Excellence magazine, I began to question what I have been doing for the Lord. I don't have a

special ministry, and I haven't gone on any missions trips. "So what have I been doing?" I asked myself. I can answer that question now, thanks to Spruce-Up week.

This year was the first time I had participated in Spruce-Up. I made new friends, developed a different level of relationship with the ORU faculty, strolled down memory lane, and gave back to God by planting seeds in students' lives.

As the week progressed I began to make new friendships with people who had been at



ORU when I was a student; somehow, our paths had never crossed. Twenty years melted away for an evening as we alumni stayed up until 1 a.m. writing a "23rd Psalm for Painters" on the painting crew.

These friendships gave me a clearer picture of ORU. I was able to see where ORU came from and where it has progressed to. It is comforting to know the vision goes on and on.

Furthermore, Spruce-Up week gave me a chance to give back to God. By painting and cleaning dorm rooms, I was able to make stu-



dents' college life a little brighter for the next year. I was planting seeds in the lives and careers of these students.

Without people investing in ORU, there would not have been an ORU for me to attend. I want the new students to have an ORU as nice as I had when I attended there. Just as people planted seeds in my life, I want to do the same for the new students.

Sometimes we think we are really working for the Lord if we go overseas on a missions trip or work in some kind of ministry that is well-known. Yet, as the song "Thank You" by Ray Boltz says, "Sacrifices made unnoticed on the earth in heaven now proclaimed." I know three students who are aware of what the 1998 Spruce-Up team did on campus this summer. They were so thankful that we would work to give them a nice place to live for the year.

I can't wait for Spruce-Up 1999. My children



are looking forward to going and working. So I am doing something for the Lord. To paraphrase Isaiah 6:8, "...I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will spruce up for us?' Then said I, 'Here am I; send me.'" Please, alumni, answer the call. You won't be sorry you did.

Revisit Your Vision

It's never too late to do what you said you'd do. Just ask Jim Stovall (81) and his wing-mates who set up the Crusader Scholarship Fund more than 10 years ago. "The hardest part of CSF was making a commitment, then sticking to that commitment," Stovall said. "The rest of the experience has been a rewarding way for my college friends and I to remain a part of each other's lives." Because CSF has helped dozens of ORU students remain in school, the value of their aid is equal to a \$2 million gift.

If you and a group of your ORU friends once said, "Someday, we're going to (fill in the blank), you can do it! You can keep the promise you made to yourself, and stay connected to your friends at the same time.

CSF is throwing down the gauntlet. Will you revive your dreams and make them happen? If you need some help getting started, contact Alumni Relations.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR (4 Positions) OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Oral Roberts University is seeking entry- and mid-level development officers to assist in ongoing development efforts in various regions throughout the United States. Regional Directors report to the Director of Development and Estate Planning Services. Responsibilities include prospecting, contacting, cultivating, and soliciting of ORU alumni and friends for gifts, pledges, and estate planning.

Regional Directors must accept and support the purposes and goals of ORU.

Qualified candidates will have a bachelor's degree, strong communication and interpersonal relationship skills, and computer software skills. Previous work-related experience is preferred, but not required. Extensive travel is required.

Open regions include: California/Pacific Northwest, Oklahoma, Florida/Alabama, and Arkansas/Tennessee.

Please send application, resume, and reference information to: Personnel Office, ORU, 7777 S. Lewis, Tulsa, OK 74171, or call (918) 495-7163. Applications are available online at www.oru.edu.

Cast Your Vote!

By the time this magazine hits your mailbox, chances are that you will have already received an Alumni Board of Directors ballot. Please vote for the alumnus of your choice and return the ballot to us as quickly as possible. In the past, "voter turnout" has been shockingly low, and

we need your help to remedy that situation. It only takes a minute to read two or three brief paragraphs and make a choice. If you have a question about the candidates, please don't hesitate to call our office for more details. We will do everything in our power to make it easy for you to cast your vote. (Need a pen? Just kidding.)

Don't delay. Vote today (or whenever you receive your ballot). Thank you for participating in the democratic process.

Many Happy Returns



Homecoming 1999

"I long to return to my own land, because it is my own and I know every foot of it."
--Jesse Stuart (taken from *Head O' W-Hollow*, published and copyrighted by E.P. Dutton &



Co., Inc., New York, 1936)

When was the last time you came home? Did you drop off your child this past August for the

start of a new school year? Did you take part in Spruce-Up this summer? Did you watch a friend (or a child!) graduate in May? Did you make it to Homecoming in February?

Perhaps you haven't been back since you graduated in 1969, 1974, 1979, 1989, 1994, or



one of the years before or in between. If that's the case, it's time you came back to ORU. You don't want to miss this chance to see the friends who were (and probably still are) as near and dear to you as your own flesh and blood.

To paraphrase Jesse Stuart, you know every foot of ORU—every room, every step, every hill, every valley, every hope and dream sheltered by these futuristic walls. You were there. You've been gone, but you can come back. We want you home.



Homecoming 1999, February 5 and 6. We're looking forward to many happy returns.

W e ' r e e x p e c t i n g

Many Happy Returns

H O M E C O M I N G 1 9 9 9

(especially those celebrating their 30th, 20th,
10th, and 5th reunions!) for

*Homecoming 1999,
February 5th and 6th!*

Come join us for an unforgettable weekend!
And watch your mailbox for the Homecoming brochure
and registration information.

Oral Roberts University
Alumni Foundation
7777 South Lewis Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74171

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