Excellence

Spring 2001

A Magazine For Oral Roberts University Alumni And Friends

Nearly 30 years after our initial accreditation, we're still

Building on the Dream

Into Every Man's World

ORU Alumni

If you saw our program, *Something Good Tonight-The Hour of Healing*, this past year, you no doubt heard me talk about the prophecy that was given over me at the beginning of 2000. The prophecy was that I would be the opposite of Joseph. Whereas Joseph had seven years of plenty followed by famine, I would have seven years of famine followed by plenty. Well, on Jan. 27, 2000, I ended my first seven years as president of ORU. It's interesting to me that the next month, in February, our ministry income jumped up and has continued to stay up. We were up at least fifty percent in our income for most of 2000.

As you know, ORU has a debt of about $30 million. We talked about that on the program last year, but we also talked about the need for the Body of Christ to get out of debt. I think it is a tragedy that some eighty to ninety percent of Christians are in debt. How are we going to finance the end-time harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God when we're in debt? As for us, we're going to get out of debt. And once we're out of debt, we'll never be in debt again.

Last summer, it appeared we would have to borrow $2 million to get through. I drew a line in the sand and poured in cement and said no, we're not going to do it. We made it through the summer without borrowing. In fact, this past fiscal year, we were able to reduce our indebtedness by $2.5 million. Praise God!

I think that was a landmark day, the day I made that decision. I think it got heaven's attention.

We now have a balanced budget here at ORU. That was another tough call, but we're making it. We have a strong development office, with good people in the field raising funds for the University and the ministry through wills, trusts, annuities, and other investment vehicles. Golden Eagle Broadcasting is helping us spread the good word about ORU, and is operating entirely in the black. CityPlex Towers' lease rate is over sixty-five percent, which means that it, too, is in the black and beginning to contribute more to ORU's coffers.

The best advice my father ever gave me is the same advice his mother gave him: Obey God. He's given me a steady diet of that all my life, and he continues to do so to this day. "Richard," he says, "you have to do what you believe God is telling you to do. You have to do it in the way that God shows you."

Well, I know God wants us to get out of debt. That will free us up to do a better job of carrying out our mission. We have the people, the plan, the prayer support, and the potential to change the world in ways we've only dreamed about. Will you stick with us, and continue to help us fulfill the calling that all ORU students and alumni share?

Sincerely,

Richard L. Roberts
President and CEO

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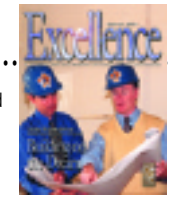

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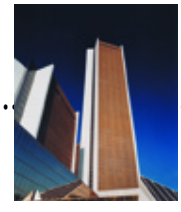

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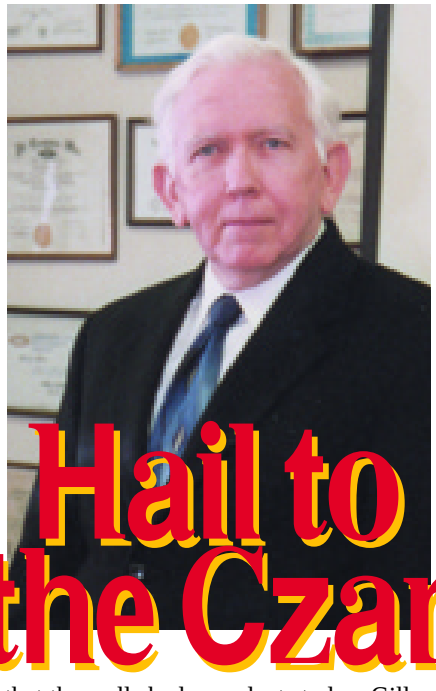
Hail to the Czar

By Joy (Steiner) Moore (2000)

"My students say I look the same as I did 35 years ago, except I have white hair," laughs Dr. George Gillen, the "Czar" of the Oral Roberts University Undergraduate Business Department.

Dr. Gillen arrived at ORU in 1965 after coming across a newspaper article that announced the founding of a new university in South Tulsa. With four years' experience teaching economics at Southwestern Kansas, Gillen drove out to the ORU campus and met the provost, Dr. John D. Messick, who stated the need for an economics teacher. There weren't enough business students for a full-time business teacher, however, so Dr. Messick asked if Gillen wouldn't mind setting up the campus bookstore as well. And Gillen was here to stay.



Thirty-five years and some 14,000 students later, Gillen is the only founding faculty member still teaching at ORU full-time. His office walls are covered with awards and plaques of recognition from over the years—he has won the Outstanding Faculty Award three times (in the School of Arts and Sciences in 1975 and 1986, and in the School of Business in 1995, at which time he went on to win ORU Professor of the Year), and he has been the only chairman of Undergraduate Business in 35 years.

Gillen has fond memories of ORU's early days. He remembers arriving at his classrooms at times to find that the walls had been recently painted; the Learning Resources Center wasn't yet finished when the school opened. The original school desks that were delivered to the University were for elementary and junior high school students and were much too small for college students, so the faculty had to go to Tulsa public schools and load up secondary school-sized desks for the University to use until the full-sized desks came in. If a professor didn't like his classroom, he could move and not tell anyone. It was easy to find classrooms that were free because there were so few students—enrollment was about 250—so the classrooms weren't as tightly booked as they are today.

Because of ORU's small size, "We were all very close to each other," Gillen remembers. "There was a lounge on the third floor of the LRC, and the entire faculty and staff would go there at lunch, and we had the most wonderful, interdisciplinary cross-pollination in those days. The music people were there, the scientists were there, and the English people—and we used to have some very, very lively discussions on the economy and politics, morality and religion—it was just wonderful."

That same thread of unity ran among the faculty and students as well. "Even though the students weren't all business majors, they knew us, and we knew them….That was the wonderful thing that we had in those first three or four years—social collegiality between the faculty and the students."

Today, Gillen still keeps in touch with a lot of his former students, but especially the ones from those first few classes, mainly by e-mail. He has seen students go on to do everything from starting a Christian youth camp, to teaching business as a college professor, to retiring at 29 as a millionaire. And in the past four or five years, he's found himself teaching the second generation—actually teaching the children of his former students from the 1960s and '70s.

When asked about the differences between students of the 1960s and students today, Gillen is quick to respond. "In those early days, anything you said was gospel; there was no challenge, only acceptance. But in the year 2000, students will challenge anything and everything, and there's probably more of an attitude of 'Prove what you say is true.' Teachers have to present the material in an inductive way, so the students cannot dispute the conclusion."

There have been many changes in the business world as well, and Gillen has found that instead of teaching economics, marketing, and management from the standpoint of the United States like it was taught 30 years ago, everything now has to

be taught through a global, interactive approach. The importance of teaching international economics has skyrocketed, especially with the increase in technology and instant communication such as e-mail and Internet usage.

But adapting his teaching to go with the trends of the age is really no problem for Gillen. He feels called to be in the teaching profession, as he has since he was a small child. "Since I was in grade school, I always wanted to be a teacher," he says. "When I was in high school [at Tulsa's Central], I was able to teach some of the chemistry labs, and I would go early and set up the labs. A lot of my teachers urged me to go into teaching, so I was almost scripted to go into teaching since I was a child. And I hated summers because I *loved* school."

Born and raised in Roxanna, Ill., Gillen moved with his family to Tulsa during junior high school. He attended Oklahoma State University and the University of Tulsa, receiving his B.S., M.B.A., and Ed.D., all at TU. He also completed a year of post-doctoral work at Cambridge University in England in 1973.

Away from school, Gillen is actively involved in his church, Grace Lutheran. He has been an elder, an assistant pipe organist, and a baritone soloist in the church, clinching the soloist position in 1999 in Tulsa County's Lutheran production of Handel's Messiah. He also serves as an economic analyst for Tulsa's KTUL Channel 8, occasionally appearing on the evening news to give economic explanations for a variety of local, national, and even international events.

President and Mrs. Richard Roberts pay homage to Dr. Gillen at the president's 50th birthday party in November 1998.

"My nickname is 'the Czar' because I've always wanted to be the economic czar of the world in terms of policy," he jokes. That nickname became the source of fun at President Richard Roberts'50th birthday party in 1998, when, while serving as the emcee (as he had some 30 years earlier at Chancellor Oral Roberts'50th birthday), Gillen was teased by President Roberts and First Lady Lindsay Roberts, who wanted to bow down and "honor the Czar." In Gillen's words, he's "finally arrived."

As a member of the President's Council at ORU, Gillen feels that his place is to help the University avoid repeating mistakes that were made in the past. "I've got that historical background that the others don't have," he explains. "We've avoided a lot of mistakes because I remember that we tried a certain procedure in, say, '67, and it didn't work then, so let's not even go down that road."

Gillen is, without a doubt, a man full of ORU facts and interesting history. And whether or not he's the economic czar of the world, surely no one would dispute the fact that he has built a curriculum and department reputation over 35 years that has bred success in multitudes of ORU graduates.

"I hope that my legacy has been that I've taught students to think objectively and inductively. Thus, they should not come into a managerial position or even an analysis of some economic question with preconceived conclusions. I hope that what I've taught students to do, is to get the facts first. Then, no matter how painful it is, base a conclusion on the analysis of the facts.

"I have no regrets," Gillen says with an endearing smile. "I'm very happy with all the thousands of students that I've taught in all those years."

Joy Moore is the Assistant for Communications in the ORU Office of Ministerial Relations.

Something Good on the Air

Oral Roberts has always understood and embraced the positive potential of television. From the days of his crusades to Contact! specials to Sunday-morning half-hours to hour-long live broadcasts, ORU's founder and chancellor has used TV to demonstrate God's healing power...and to showcase God's University.

After stepping down as president in 1993, Roberts did not go quietly into retirement. While he was maintaining a busy speaking schedule and writing books, he had a vision for a new TV network that would be "a beacon of light in a dark world."

KWMJ TV 53, now known as KGEB, hit the airwaves on Jan. 24, 1996, Roberts' 78th birthday. KGEB and the Golden Eagle Broadcasting (GEB) network, says general manager and president Walter Richardson, are "committed to what we call Family Safe® programming. We've created an environment that is family-safe."

The TV station reaches the Tulsa area and the satellite network covers all 50 states. Both the station and the network can also be seen on the Internet. "It's not uncommon for us to get e-mail from viewers from Australia to Hong Kong," Richardson said.

On Aug. 12, 1999, GEB became even more accessible when it debuted on Dominion Sky Angel, a 33-channel, 24-hour-a-day, nationwide, Christian TV and radio broadcasting service. Sky Angel is unique among Christian broadcasting delivery systems because it is beamed directly from the satellite into viewers' homes via a low-cost 18-inch dish antenna and receiver. Viewers purchase a receiving system and pay a monthly subscription fee of $9 to receive the programming. Sky Angel's mission is to build up a Christ-centered television platform that cannot be influenced or interrupted by secular interests with a bias against Christian-based programming. Unlike most cable and satellite systems, Sky Angel does not require the channels that it carries to pay for the airtime on the system. In exchange, the networks have agreed to help spread the word about Sky Angel and to encourage Christians to support it by subscribing to the programming.

Sky Angel was the brainchild of Robert W. Johnson. In 1980 he received the vision of using high-power direct broadcast satellites (DBS) to create an independent, nationwide communications platform that would provide uplifting, Judeo-Christian-based TV and radio programming alternatives. "I realized that this was the last opportunity the Christian Church would have to control the use of a telecommunications system capable of reaching virtually every home in America and eventually across the globe," said Johnson, the founder, chairman, and CEO of Dominion.

Everything is under control.

In 1981, Dominion (then called Video Satellite Systems) filed for a license with the Federal

Communications Commission to own and operate new high-powered direct broadcast satellites. Dominion received its license and construction permit in 1984, and went on the air on Dec. 10, 1996. As one of the pioneering licensees, Dominion received its DBS orbital position at no cost. In 1996, the last such position was auctioned by the FCC for $682 million.

Dominion had a connection to ORU before it added GEB to its lineup. Robert W. Johnson, Jr.(85), is the company's vice president of accounting and finance. Kathy Johnson (87) is vice president of programming. Nancy (Johnson-A) Christopher is assistant vice president of publicity and public relations.

Christopher says her sister jokes that "she helped fund ORU during her senior year with the amount of fines she had to pay due to missed chapel services." Today, Johnson has a new attitude about chapel, thanks to GEB.

"I truly think some of the things you learn in chapel you don't appreciate until you're out there in the real world," she said. She also enjoys watching the footage from the chancellor's early crusades, and the faculty and alumni feature segments on *Something Good Tonight.*

Evangelist Kenneth Copeland (A) was a guest on Something Good Tonight last year.

Students gain valuable hands-on TV experience while working with ministry programs.

"If you think Golden Eagle is just going to be the DAIRS program via satellite, you're wrong," Johnson said, referring to the Dial Access Information Retrieval System. "From ministry to movies, it's quite an exciting channel.

"If you want to stay connected with ORU, then you must get GEB," she added. "You can get it right now, anywhere in the nation, via Sky Angel."

In addition to original programs *Something Good Tonight--The Hour of Healing, Make Your Day Count*, and ORU chapels, GEB also airs health and wellness programs, classic movies and sitcoms, outdoor shows, sporting events, Christian music, and specials aimed at adults, teens, and children.

The flagship program is, of course, *Something Good Tonight* . "With any type of a program stream, you have to have something that draws attention to the rest of your lineup," Richardson explained. "Since President (Richard) Roberts began the program three years ago, it has created a different dynamic for us that we never had. Stations will call us (about picking up the program). So much of the airtime that we do receive on cable systems does not cost us anything because we're providing a program that's making a difference."

GEB also serves as a recruiting tool for ORU. The ministry programs that appear on the network contain ads for ORU. The fact that ORU, unlike most universities, has a satellite network is also attractive to students who want to obtain hands-on experience in a network environment.

The network operates in the black because of a programming partnership arrangement involving Oral and Richard Roberts, Joyce Meyer, Kenneth Copeland, Marilyn Hickey, Creflo Dollar, Billy Joe Daugherty, Kenneth Hagin, Jr., and Robb Thompson. All these partners share in the network expenses.

Everyone at the University who's involved with the network, Richardson said, "believes GEB is the fulfillment of the ORU goals and principles." GEB, like ORU students and alumni, can go where God's light is seen dim, His voice is heard small, and His power is not known...all across America.

For more information about Sky Angel, call 1-800-759-2643 or visit their Web site, www.skyangel.com.

The ORU women's basketball team travels to Central Mexico to represent their university, their country, and their God

By Jessica Hill

Each summer, more than 300 ORU students travel the globe as part of missions and music ministry teams. In August, a very special team went to Central Mexico with not only their Bibles, but their basketball shoes.

The ORU women's basketball team traveled to Mexico City, Cuernavaca, Puebla, Chilamacingo, Ixmeguilpan, and Acapulco on a two-week missions trip that included six exhibition basketball games against the Mexican National Team (ages 19 and under) and other regional all-star teams.

Although the games were officiated in Spanish and the ORU women had to rely on hand signals to communicate, they fared well in their games. "The Mexican teams were more physical, and there were no over-the-back foul calls, but the players were great sports," said senior Christine Kelley. "We really enjoyed playing them." ORU lost their first game, but won the rest, giving them a 5-1 record against the Mexican teams.

Before the trip, the team had basketball trading cards made with their pictures on the front and a Bible verse written in Spanish accompanying their statistics on the back. Each girl had 2,000 personalized cards to hand out to fans and people they met on the trip.

Other ministry opportunities occurred with the National Team, which spent four days with the Golden Eagles. The teams traveled together on buses to games and the ORU team was able to pray with several Mexican players to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior.

"We used salvation bracelets and a translator to share the gospel message with some of the girls," said senior Jennette Bolovinos. "We got to explain how God can be like your best friend and how He can be like a father. It was the first time I had led anyone in the salvation prayer, and it was definitely a life-changing experience."

Said fellow teammate and senior Dana Whittaker, "The trip helped me both spiritually and mentally. It really helped the team bond together and get to know each other. I think that will carry over to this season."

"Many relationships are continuing via e-mail between the ORU women and the

Mexican team members," said women's basketball head coach Jerry Finkbeiner. "One Mexican player we met on the trip is attending Bacone College here in Oklahoma this year. She may be an NCAA student-athlete prospect in the future."

In addition to playing basketball and sharing their faith, the group also took time to enjoy the Mexican culture and do some sightseeing. They visited the Floating Gardens, Geribaldi Square, and the Aztec Pyramids, and watched the cliff divers in Acapulco. They also shopped in several outdoor markets. Since few of the women had traveled outside the U.S. before, these were valuable experiences.

"We really enjoyed the Mexican people," said Kelley. "At one of the games, they gave us leis, and three of us sang the American National Anthem with a Mexican military band. The people are very proud and very formal and traditional."

The Mexican Basketball Federation hosted the ORU team, which consisted of ten players, three coaches, and two managers. Last winter, the Federation allowed ORU to host a basketball tournament in Cancun, Mexico. The "Fun in the Sun Classic," Dec. 17-19, featured ORU, Florida Atlantic University, Duke University, and Arkansas State University. ORU finished second behind Duke, and Krista Ragan was named to the All-Tournament team.

The NCAA allows universities to take trips like August's once every four years. Coach Finkbeiner and his staff are currently making plans for the 2004 trip, which the coach hopes will be to southern Europe. The team has already begun fund-raising and prayer for the event.

Says Coach Finkbeiner, "This trip was a great experience for the girls, and I know it will result in more confidence, experience, and poise both in their personal lives and in their play.

"These women will carry a lot of memories away from ORU basketball, but a trip like this may be the highlight. It is about so much more than just winning. It is about using your talent for God."

(Editor's Note: If you would like to contribute to the fund for the 2004 missions trip, please contact the Women's Basketball Office at 918-495-7134.)

Jessica Hill is Assistant Director of Public Relations at ORU.

Third Annual AMC Is 'Refreshing'

As autumn descended upon Tulsa, ORU welcomed home some familiar faces for the 2000 Alumni Ministers Conference, an annual time of refreshment and rejuvenation exclusively for alumni ministers and their spouses. A total of 124 alumni, faculty, and staff turned out for the Oct. 2-4 event, ready to receive from the Holy Spirit through the various speakers and ministry times.

"This conference is very important to us and edifies us for the ministry," said Steve Jones (83-M.Div.), pastor of New Creation Fellowship in Tarrant, Ala. "This, in my opinion, was the best of the three [conferences]."

Sponsored by the ORU Office of Ministerial Relations, the conference was held in the Holy Spirit Room of Christ's Chapel and featured sessions by President Richard Roberts, Lindsay Roberts, Dr. Thomson Mathew, Dean of the ORU School of Theology and Missions, and Dr. Frank Hultgren, Faculty Chaplain.

"We feel extremely privileged and honored to offer this time for our alumni ministers to come back home to the ORU campus once a year and receive a fresh boost toward the original purpose and plan that God called them to," said David Wagner (73), Director for Ministerial Relations.

Alumni ministers attended the live television taping of *Something Good Tonight—The Hour of Healing*, as well as a student chapel service, and participated in an anointed communion service during one of the sessions. President Roberts laid hands on the alumni ministers, and was joined by Dr. Hultgren in praying for an increase in anointing to be bestowed upon each of the ministers' lives.

"The Alumni Ministers Conference provides an opportunity to hear from the Lord in a place that represents my 'roots' in ministry," said Ken Bell (76), Associate Pastor of Grace Chapel in Tucson, Ariz. "Both my wife and I love coming here to gain spiritual strength."

If you are an alumni minister and are not yet on the Office of Ministerial Relations' mailing list or would like to receive regular e-mail updates, call (918) 495-7240 or write to minrelations@oru.edu.

ORU is still taking the road less traveled…and finding ever-greater success.

When you ask President Richard Roberts what he would most like to accomplish at ORU in the year 2001, his natural response is, "Get out of debt." Go a little deeper, though, and he'll tell you, "I want to see us stay true to our founding purpose, and to make sure that we are still strong on academics, strong on the power of prayer, and strong on physical education and aerobics."

The whole man concept lives on. Its appeal, it seems, is getting even stronger, as enrollment at ORU continues to climb. ORU was the primary focus of a Sept. 8 Associated Press article by Kelly Kurt, who interviewed several students about why they chose to come to ORU. Robert Thompson told her, "This university was the only university I saw that was interested in graduating someone who was complete."

President Roberts is not surprised by ORU's upsurge in popularity. He gives full credit to the enrollment management staff, but says, "There is a turn, in my opinion, in the country toward education with a spiritual emphasis. I think it's important to recognize that more and more, people want their children in an environment where they feel that they're safe, where there's good security, where there's a good, sound, solid education, and where there is faith in God. ORU is such a place. In fact, that is the uniqueness of ORU. People want that…and they seem to want it more and more."

Can ORU handle the ever-increasing number of students? Roberts says it can. "We were designed to be able to take care of 5,500 students studying on campus; that would be residential students as well as commuter / graduate students." Because distance learning, the relatively new Bible Institute, and modular and fast-track programs don't require additional housing, "we've got plenty of room," he said.

During the mid-1990s when enrollment was hovering around 4,000, Shakarian Hall was virtually vacant, save for a handful of students on the third floor. The lower two floors were used for storage. Now that enrollment has jumped to 5,368, with about 4,200 of those students on campus, ORU is being forced to address a welcome problem: a shortage of rooms for women students. After looking at the cost of building a new residence hall – about $15 million--the president decided to retrofit Shakarian.

"More women are going to college in America today, which has been documented on college campuses all across the country," Roberts said. "Our female population this year is 58 percent. It seemed that the natural thing to do was to take the oldest dorm--and Shak was the first dorm built--and retrofit it." By putting restrooms and showers in each room, ORU realized a net gain of six rooms, bringing the total to 76 rooms on the two floors.

The hall is being renamed for Gabrielle Christian Salem, the daughter of Harry and Cheryl Salem and niece of President and Mrs. Roberts. Gabrielle died of a brain tumor in November 1999 at the age of six.

"I'm honored to name the hall after a little girl who not only loved the Lord, but who stood for excellence in her own life, in her singing ministry," Roberts said. "Even in the last year of her earthly life, she sang in 100 services, carrying around her little medicine bag like a backpack." The new hall, he said, will be "state of the art, absolutely magnificent." (Check the ORU Web site for a preview.) "I'm expecting the young ladies to be able to move into it in August of this year."

Our newest recruit? No, it's the Regents' Auction, held each November.

Roberts recognizes that this project is just the beginning. "I think as time goes by, we're going to have to do some retrofitting in the other dorms to bring them

up to speed. That's somewhere down the road. We've made enough improvements to them now that they're in good shape. Even my own father (founder and chancellor Oral Roberts) said he has not seen the campus in this kind of shape in the past 15 or 20 years. It just looks great."

Less visible but even more important are the changes that are taking place in the classrooms. ORU moved up from Tier 3 to Tier 2 in U.S. News and World Report's college rankings last fall. "I think it's an indication that we're being taken seriously by the academic community," Roberts said. "I'd like to see us move up to the first tier, the top tier, although we don't exist for that alone."

ORU is getting ready to launch a full-fledged honors curriculum this fall. Last spring, the ORU Honor Society affiliated with a national organization, Gamma Beta Phi. Last fall, the History Honor Society, Phi Alpha Theta, re-joined the national society. With several honors courses already in place, new courses are being developed, including a theology/chemistry cross-pollination course, and an honors seminar that brings together English and music. In 2000-01, Undergraduate Theology has allowed academically prepared students to start taking certain upper-division "honors" courses in lieu of some general education courses.

Eventually, ORU plans to offer full academic scholarships to a limited number of "Fellows," and to designate one honors wing for men and one for women.

The president believes that "we need a strong honors program. I think that can only help us."

Roberts has been getting more in touch with the academic side of ORU in the past year and a half, thanks to his enrollment in the Executive Doctor of Ministry program. He'll complete the coursework this spring and begin his applied research project next fall in preparation for Commencement 2002.

"I knew the program would be beneficial," he said, "but I did not know how beneficial. It is, in my opinion, the most practical schooling that I've ever received.

"I think I had a good understanding of the academic stance of our faculty, having gone through as an undergraduate and then in the '80s having done a master of arts. Now, in the D.Min. program, I can tell you that our faculty is everything that they're cracked up to be. They're strong, spiritual men and women, and they're highly qualified academically."

Marilyn Hickey is in her tenth year as chairwoman of the ORU Board of Regents. What, we asked, is the role of the board? "We're involved in policy, support, principles, and getting back to the core values--the direction Oral Roberts had in his heart at the beginning. We want to see the success of the school in enrollment, academic standards, athletic achievements, and spiritual standards. We want to see the students succeed. I think every regent has a heart for the students." What touches her the most about ORU? "The vision. I sit on that platform at graduation and cry the whole time. Seeing those graduates and knowing they're being scattered all over the world…that's the passion of the vision."

Being a student and serving as ORU's president and CEO would be enough to fill any man's plate, but Roberts also hosts the nightly *Something Good Tonight--The Hour of Healing* with his wife, Lindsay, which has been on the air since September 1997 and has recorded almost 44,000 healing testimonies. Roberts concedes that "balancing television is difficult, especially with the family, and especially when the children (Jordan, Chloe, and Olivia) have homework. That's hard. But God has given us the grace to do it, and we're seeing results."

The president is also traveling less; he says he's cut back by about 25 percent. He recognizes the need to take time off and to prioritize. "I have a responsibility first of all to the Lord, then to my wife and children. Then, I have a heavy responsibility to the University. God has given me a very strong staff of leaders who are doing a good job, and I am able to delegate more now than I did seven years ago, and that's helped."

Among those who support him are the members of the President's Council. When he created it several years ago, he said, he "wanted elements from every area of the

The president addresses students at ORU's new Ministry Training and Development Institute.

University, both faculty and students as well as staff, and the ministry. I wanted a council where University and ministry leaders would be able to receive updates, and have an opportunity for input, and to have a dialogue. I also get great thoughts and great ideas from those people. So, it's been a very healthy experience, as is the Vice Presidents' Council."

When it comes down to it, however, the president realizes "the buck stops with me. But I have a group of leaders who fairly well know me and know my heart, and most of the time they know which way my heart's going to go."

Hosting *Something Good Tonight* with his wife, Lindsay, is one of the president's many responsibilities…and joys, thanks to answered prayer requests and guests like country superstar Randy Travis (far right).

There are lots of reasons why the mood at ORU these days is upbeat. Faculty salary adjustments and raises, customer service training, cash recognition awards for both faculty and staff, the annual Christmas gift of extra days off, an occasional "business casual" day, the number of new tenants at CityPlex, a steady increase in ministry income, a true balanced budget, and improvements in athletics have all contributed to the feeling that, in the words of a song sung in chapel, "we're gonna make it—all things are possible!"

Faculty morale, Roberts has noted, "is at the highest level that I have ever witnessed. I think everyone sees a bright future. We've come through the dark days; we've survived. David said, 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.' We've walked through the shadow of death at this University and we've survived. And we're getting better. We're getting stronger, we're coming out of debt, and we're pushing toward 10,000 students. We're going to be world-changers, continuing to send our students into every person's world."

This alumnus wants other alumni to be a part of the good things that are happening at ORU in this new century. He applauds them for carrying out the mission of ORU, but says that "now I think it's time for them to turn a portion of their focus back on their alma mater and remember what ORU did for them, how it prepared them, and to turn and sow seed back into their alma mater and make certain that others have the same kind of opportunity that they had."

ORU--Holy Spirit blessed, seeking out the best of the human trinity

ORU--Ordained by holy destiny. May your torch still burn at the Lord's return, and count for eternity

Keep On Learning

The American Society for Engineering Education has launched a Web-based continuing engineering initiative, Learnon.org (http://www.learnon.org), which is designed to assist professionals in their quest to access the most current knowledge and training in all fields of technology and engineering.

Learnon is a free online repository of continuing engineering education and distance learning courses provided by about 70 of the nation's top engineering colleges and universities (including MIT, University of California-Berkeley, and Johns Hopkins) and 20 professional societies. The more than 4,500 engineering and computer-related courses are available in traditional classroom settings or in multimedia formats including video, Web-based, and CD-ROM.

The Alumni Association is providing a link to Learnon from our Web page. Just double-click on the Learnon banner.

learnon.org
continuing engineering education
learn more. learn now. learn on.

One More Time, From The Top

It's been a real roller coaster ride these past two years for the largest and most visible arm of the ORU endowment fund. As the new century dawns, however, the former City of Faith is proving that when you merge prayer and hard work, you can do just about anything.

Thanks to a relentless management team, CityPlex Towers has become the address of choice for an eclectic mix of business concerns: cancer treatment, architectural engineering, insurance, oil and gas, benefit administration, law, publishing, software development, dental, office supply, digital watermarking, pain institutes and clinics, specialty hospitals, a health and wellness center, phone answering…and not a small number of ORU alumni who are in business for themselves.

The "white elephant" at 81st and South Lewis was responsible for nearly 85 percent of the office-space net absorption in the Tulsa metropolitan area in 1999. CityPlex, in fact, represents more than 10 percent of the entire Tulsa office market.

Austin Neal, Director of Marketing, and David Ortenburger, General Manager, came to CityPlex in the summer of 1995. At that time, they were working for Property Company of America, which had the job of finding tenants.

"It was scary, really, because it's such an unusual project," Neal said. "It's not traditional office. I said, boy, I'm not sure we can lease this."

"The bottom four floors are roughly 180,000 square feet each, which is bigger than most office buildings in the city of Tulsa," Ortenburger said. Talk about a daunting task. In those early days, he added, "you could walk into rooms and flip on the lights and the desks were still there, the half-eaten package of M&Ms. It looked like the people just left about 20 minutes ago. It was very quiet."

"Yeah, it was really quiet," Neal agreed--quiet and underfunded. "Early on, we'd get these deals done and then figure out a way to get 'em paid for. There was no major-league money to put into this project in '95. We were excited by the challenge, but at the same time,…"

"we had to be creative," Ortenburger finished.

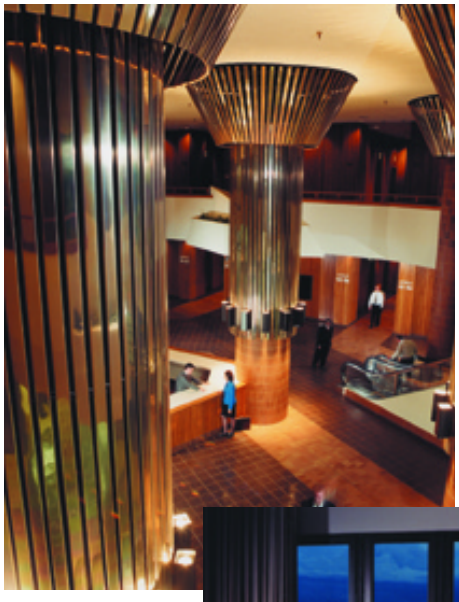
"All we could do was jump on it and slug it out every day and see where we got," Neal said.

ORU created its own management company, Tower Realty, in 1997. Neal and Ortenburger decided to stay on.

It was actually in 1996 that things began looking up at Tulsa's tallest and largest office complex. A company called Commercial Financial Services Inc. moved in and eventually wound up leasing 800,000 of CityPlex's 1.973 million square feet. In just two years, CFS completed construction on many of the former clinic and research towers' unfinished floors, pouring millions of dollars into the infrastructure.

"At our peak, we were roughly 88 percent leased," Ortenburger said.

"We had almost 7,000 people in this building, which is larger than most cities in the state of Oklahoma."



Was it all too good to be true? It appeared so when CFS declared bankruptcy in late 1998. To the outside world, it looked like the end for CityPlex. What the outside world didn't know, however, was that "we still had between 40 and 50 tenants - a pretty impressive group of tenants," Neal said.

"When CFS went down, a lot of the real estate community was of the opinion, well, the first time (they leased it up) had to be a fluke; they'll never do it again."

"And we have," Ortenburger said. "It's really turned out to be a blessing for the University in that we have diversified the tenant base and the rates are up, so once we get it filled back to that level, the cash flow will be greater."

"And no one tenant," Neal added, "if they happen to move or go down the tubes, can hurt us like the loss of CFS did."

"Our charge here," Ortenburger pointed out, "is to turn this project into an endowment for the University."

"And that's what it's going to be," Neal agreed.

Because it was once a medical center, CityPlex has attributes that are unique in Tulsa offices. The power feeds, fiber optics, and backup systems were originally designed for a hospital which, as Neal points out, "can't be down; you've got surgeries and life support." The advantage for today's businesses is obvious. "If a company is 'down' for a few minutes, they're losing hundreds of thousands of dollars. They can come to CityPlex and virtually eliminate that possibility."

They can also come to CityPlex and spread out.

"If some of our tenants went into a typical suburban office building," Neal said, "which is about 80-100,000 square feet, they could be landlocked overnight and have no place to go. We're able to stack them in here and leave them room to grow. We've had tenants expand before they could even move in."

The list of amenities that CityPlex offers would be tough to match elsewhere. Management, maintenance, and security are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays. The entire complex is sprinklered and monitored 24 hours a day. The food court and buffet line, located in the former hospital tower, serve three meals a day, Monday through Friday. Still in operation is the 30,000-square-foot Fitness Center, with a 1/7-mile jogging track. CityPlex has two auditoriums for its tenants' use, seating 325 and 125, respectively. Two on-site early-learning day care centers are handy for tenants who have children. A convenience store, nutrition shop, pharmacy, and shoeshine stand are other nice extras. "It's basically a city within itself," Ortenburger said.

The crown jewel of the complex remains the 60th floor. This floor has housed church services and a number of community meetings, but it's most popular as a site for

banquets and other events, including ORU functions such as the Board of Regents annual auction.

As of December 2000, CityPlex had a 65 percent occupancy rate and was doing better than breaking even--good news for ORU's budget, which benefits from the overflow.

Up until last fall, Tower Realty had not been actively marketing the medical space. "We wanted to get our arms around the office space first," Neal said. There are fourteen floors in the hospital tower that are not being used by the Hillcrest orthopedic hospital or Cancer Treatment Centers (CityPlex's longest-lived tenant). That's about to change. Several prospective medical tenants are in serious negotiations with CityPlex at this time. One tenant has leased 50,000 square feet of medical space; another 100,000 square feet could be snatched up in a matter of weeks.

Most tenants sign leases for five years or more, with an option to extend for an additional five years.

"Five years is our minimum," Neal said, "and we've had no resistance to that whatsoever. Once people get in here, they can see, 'My business can be here for a long time.'"

At present, the 20-story tower has two empty floors, but those are spoken for. The 60-story tower has eight full floors and several half-floors available.

"Everything is finished with the exception of 14 floors in the hospital tower," Neal said. "Those floors are in various stages of completion. None of them ever got the floor covering or paint or anything like that." That will change as new tenants move in.

There's a new 800-car parking lot out front, and the side lots have been redone. The white fins that wrapped around the sides and back of the towers have been removed. The fountain was downsized and is flowing again after a ten-year hiatus.

The good news about CityPlex is spreading. Local brokers routinely bring prospective tenants to the complex. Ortenburger finally has a few minutes to think about landscaping, to spruce up the grounds. A new marketing campaign, launched last year, tells local, regional, and national brokers why CityPlex is worth checking out--and has resulted in new deals. Newspaper ads regularly announce new tenants.

Rates have gone up since CFS left, and will go up again in the future, Ortenburger said, as the market will bear. CityPlex is actually in a better position than most office complexes, because of lower operating expenses.

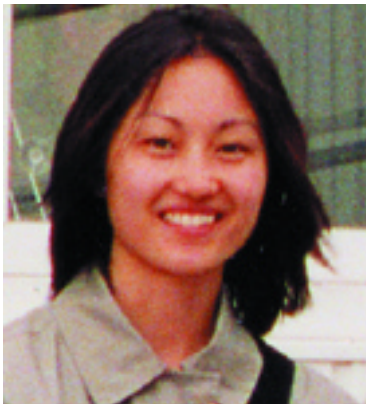
"When you're doing 80-85 percent of the net absorption in all of the metropolitan area, obviously there are some landlords that are a little concerned," Ortenburger said. "The talk out there is basically, 'I wish those guys would hurry up and finish leasing it up so we can do some leases.'"

We're working on it, Tulsa, we're working on it.

Check out the new alumni Web portal!
Go to www.zgoldeneagles.com.

More Than A Survivor

Krista Hemme
Senior • Mass Media Communications Major
Luverne, Minnesota



When Krista Hemme heard that ORU wanted to send some students to help with the World's Fair/EXPO 2000, held in Hanover, Germany, last summer, something clicked.

"I just knew I was going on this trip, because it was my heart's desire to go to Europe," she says. "At the same time, I had this heart for missions. I'd been saving money (for a trip), so God just really prepared it ahead of time."

EXPO 2000, billed as the largest World's Fair in history, had two components: the Channel of Hope and the Pavilion of Hope. The channel was coordinated by a Canadian organization that handled satellite and Internet broadcasts of the event. Several ORU students shot and edited footage and produced and hosted programs that were translated for daily broadcast into seven languages.

The Pavilion of Hope was Krista's home base from May 24 to June 28. Some of her duties included running the camera in the amphitheater, helping in the master control in the TV edit suites, and running the sound board.

"I wasn't as much in the ministry part as I thought I was going to be, but God uses everybody, and He has everything working together in clockwork fashion," Krista says.

Krista discovered that most of the people she met had never heard of ORU. They were surprised "that there was such a thing as a Christian university,"

Krista explains, "because all the universities in Germany are government-run. They're completely secular."

What was it like to live and work in another country? "It was a total trust walk with God," Krista says. "In America, I'm comfortable. I know how to communicate with people, how to get what I want. But when I went to Germany I didn't know enough German to communicate efficiently, so I had to trust God that He would send people to help me and would give me wisdom in how to communicate.

"Another big thing was losing my independence," she adds. "My entire life, I've depended just on me. I've thought, I don't need people to help me. When I went over there, I just knew that without people, you can't survive, because they're going to have qualities and strengths that you don't have."

Krista's dream is to become a reporter, and she's already on her way. She has an internship at KOTV-Channel 6, and says her EXPO experience "has really helped me grasp my working situation." She is also the assistant news editor of The Oracle.

Can Christians change the media for the better? Krista says yes, through "preparation and prayer." For her, ORU is a preparation ground. "God's giving me the weapons I'm going to need for that battlefield.

"You just have to be a light, and know who you are in Christ, and be willing to stand up for what's right."

The Big Break

Ryan Tedder
Senior • PR/Advertising Major, Business Minor
Colorado Springs, Colorado

A chance encounter at a Planet Hollywood restaurant in Nashville last summer has set Ryan Tedder's music career on fire.

A waiter told him about an open audition being held to find entrants for an MTV talent showcase. Since it was free, Ryan decided to go ahead and try out. One week after the July 9 audition, he got a call from New York, asking him if he wanted to be on TV.

"I thought it was a joke at first," he admits. After all, auditions had been held in every major U.S. city, and Ryan was one of only five selected to perform live on MTV.

It was 'N Sync's involvement with the contest, Ryan says, that got his attention. The band's Lance Bass hosted the 30-minute MTV broadcast on Aug. 18. When the show was over, Ryan's performance of one of his own songs, "The Look," received the most votes from the judges and fans. Hello, recording contract. Ryan is currently working through the details of finalizing his record deal with Freelance Entertainment, Bass's label, and has been invited to open up for 'N Sync's stadium tour next summer.

Ryan describes his music as "soulful pop," and cites influences from the Beatles to Babyface to dcTalk. "I definitely have a distinct style," he says. "But I'll write with other people to kind of push me past my own limitations.

"I have enough songs to fill a CD that are all of a certain style, but I don't want to just hand them these songs. I'm forcing myself to write other stuff--a country song, alternative, different things."

Ryan, who plays a number of instruments, considers himself a singer/songwriter. "I'm not good enough to go into a studio and be a studio musician. I'm good enough to write and perform my own stuff."

He thinks that helped him win the contest. "I was the only person who played an instrument," he says.

The irony of all this is that Ryan had decided, early last summer, to "try the music thing" for a couple of years, and if it didn't work out, go on the mission field as so many of his aunts and uncles have done, or go into advertising, which is his major.

At the time of the audition, Ryan was doing an internship at DreamWorks SKG in Nashville, singing on demos. "I was already breaking into the music scene in Nashville," he says. "DreamWorks was talking to me about a writing deal and an artist deal. I was getting interest from a number of labels in Nashville."

Ryan returned to campus last fall and hopes to complete his degree, although his new career might prevent that. "I love ORU and I love dorm life," says the EMR resident. "I started playing my stuff for other people mostly after I got to college. Most of the stuff I've written has been at ORU. I have to thank Timko-Barton and the piano rooms."

Ryan's goal, he says, is "to have a stretch of 5 to 10 years of success and--truthfully? By the time I'm 30, I'd like to reclaim my anonymity and settle down with my wife and kids.

"I just want to do what I'm good at and take it to the highest level possible."

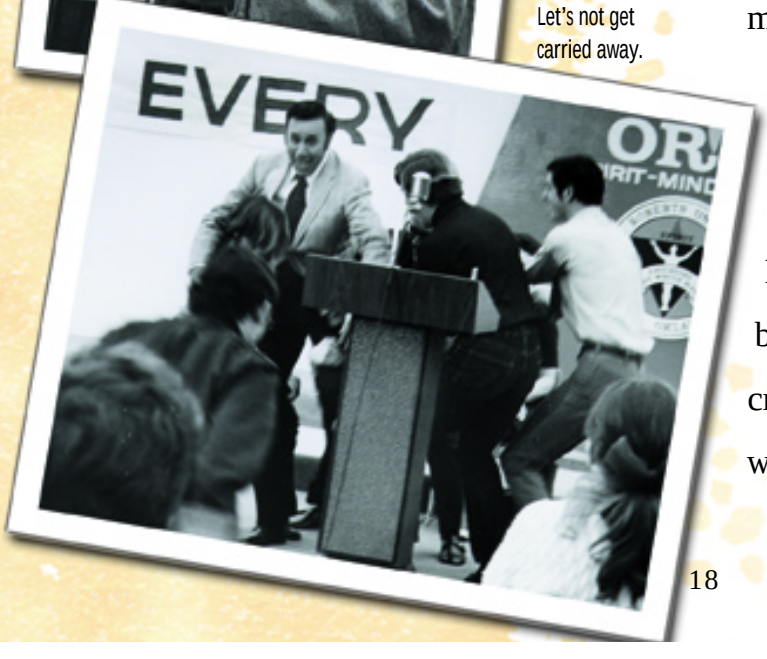
A Time To Remember

The 1970-71 academic year.

The All-School Picture is taken inside the Health Resources Center, while across campus, construction continues on what will become the Mabee Center. The Titans--the varsity squad, that is--finish at 21-5. Peggy Trebilcock is the Homecoming Queen. A tornado hits ORU, driving students into the Sub. All of these events are duly recorded in the Perihelion for that year, but they pale in comparison to what happened on March 31, 1971…the day that ORU became, in the eyes of the world and the academic community at large, a full-fledged university. It was the day that ORU received its initial accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

No one is more qualified to describe the events leading up to that day than ORU's founder, first president, and chancellor, Oral Roberts. Here, in his own words, is the story of that remarkable time in ORU's short history.

Oh Happy Day!



Let's not get carried away.

The Dynamics of How ORU Got Accredited in Only Its Sixth Year

By Chancellor Oral Roberts

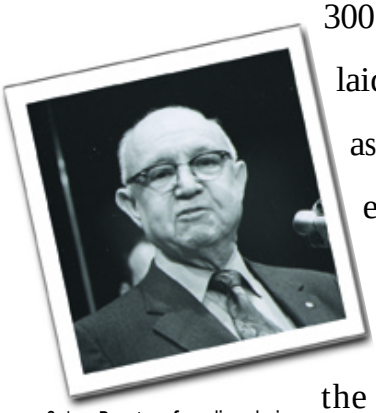
The coveted regional accreditation of Oral Roberts University by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, covering the Midwest from Minnesota and Illinois in the north to Oklahoma and Texas to the south, became my highest priority as founder/president.

In our very first year--1965-66--ORU was approved by what later became the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education, which in effect would have been sufficient for the transfer of students' credits to all state universities. But our aim was for excellence, and we immediately set

forth to more than meet the criteria for regional accreditation by North Central.

Under the expert guidance of our nationally renowned dean and provost, Dr. John Messick, a former dean and president of both state and private universities in North Carolina and Vermont and a long-time personal friend of the Pentecostal faith, the faculty went to work to accomplish this in rapid order.

In the first place, the Lord had directed me to build on excellence in every area of ORU. With a high number of Ph.D.s for a starting university (beginning with 300 freshmen), a curriculum was laid out, administrative duties assigned, student participation employed, and with my full backing, the race was on. By our fifth year of operating under the high demands of Oklahoma accreditation, we were ready. I went over every detail of our visit to North Central in its Chicago headquarters. It was there that I got a big surprise.



S. Lee Braxton, founding chairman of the Board of Regents.

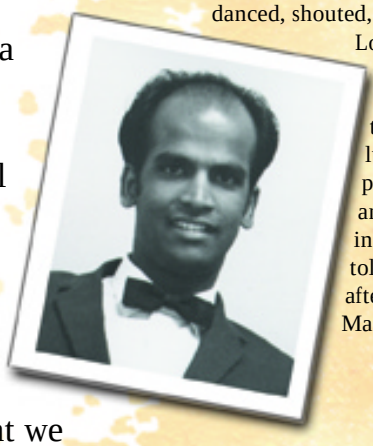
First, the officials told Dr. Messick and me in our formal meeting, they were highly impressed that we had met all their requirements in full. I was overjoyed. Then the ax fell. They learned that Dr. Messick, an old

Alumni remember…

I guess we had all been in suspense, waiting for the outcome of the accreditation process, especially us seniors. When chapel began, Oral and Evelyn were sitting on chairs behind the podium. I remember us whispering, trying to read OR's face--was he happy, sad, or what? He got up to speak and kept us in suspense by telling what all this would mean if it had been approved, etc., and how new applications would have to be made if not. Then he gave the news: full accreditation. Everyone jumped to their feet, OR broke down and cried. After some more talk, OR announced that we would have the rest of the week off; the following weekend was Easter. A group of guys gravitated to the front of chapel and as the service ended, grabbed OR and carried him out. The rest of us walked out with the happy news of accreditation, a longer Easter vacation, and for us biology majors, an extension of our field trip to Big Bend National Park in Texas!

Christina (Nystrom) Sjostedt
Class of 1971

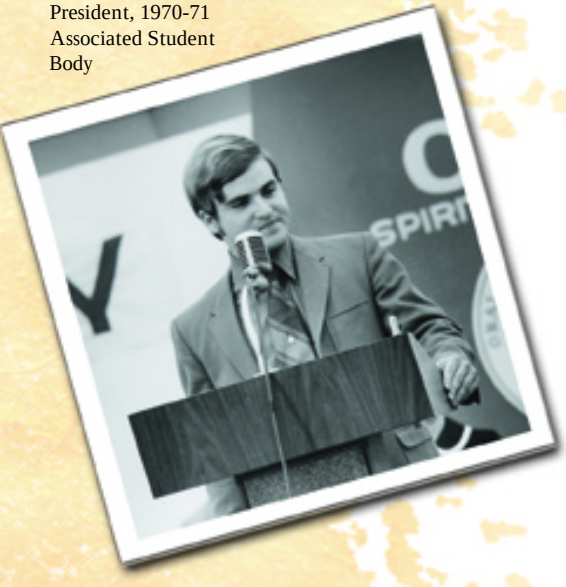
I was there in 1971, working as the assistant registrar, when the accreditation news was announced in chapel. We all clapped, danced, shouted, cried, and praised the Lord. The president gave us the day off. Charles Ramsay, Jr., took us all out for lunch at Goldies. We put a dinner napkin and more tomato sauce in his cheeseburger and told him about this only after he paid the bill.



Mathews Chacko (70)

President Roberts had a very somber look on his face. Some of us thought maybe we weren't going to make it. Don Ryan (72) was playing the piano. Oral went to the mike and made the announcement, and the place just went crazy. They asked me to come up and speak. One thing I remember saying is, "It's really great to know that our degree is just as accredited as one from 'Hahvahd." Everybody went nuts. It was a wonderful time to be at ORU. Everything changed after that. Before I came, I don't remember thinking that we might not be accredited. It's one of the few decisions that I never had second thoughts about.

Charles Redd (71)
President, 1970-71
Associated Student Body



Faculty and staff remember…

Dr. Hamilton had called in the good news that morning, but no one knew it except OR himself. OR led into his announcement by asking, in a very solemn way, what would we do if things shouldn't turn out right. Everybody got very solemn, too, and began to think that, after all, we hadn't been accredited. At the very end of his message, however, he announced that we were accredited! He did so with a shout, and the whole campus exploded! I leaned over to OR and said, "If you really want to bless them, let them out early." As I recall, it was just before spring break, and OR took the hint and announced immediately that school would be dismissed several days early, much to the chagrin of some of the faculty who had exams planned. But the kids were delighted! At that point, it became manifest what we all knew in our hearts, that ORU was destined to be a great Christian University until Jesus comes!

Brother Bob Stamps
Chaplain, 1970-81

experienced hand at higher education, had done most of the work on our submission, instead of sharing enough of the load with our faculty. No fault on results, but fault on procedure. Reluctantly, they told me, the president of ORU, they had to turn us down.

When I asked for their guidance they told me plainly to have the faculty share equally (or more) with the provost in our next submission a year from then. That entailed telling Dr. Messick that while his expertise was appreciated, he had to put the faculty to work with him; although less experienced than he, the faculty would give a more comprehensive view of the offerings of the University which North Central had clearly demanded.

Well, that was an interesting year. It was my responsibility to see this was carried out in detail, sitting in on meetings, listening to individual faculty members' expertise, and reconciling Dr. Messick to guide them but allow them to do the actual work.

In our 1971 meeting with North Central officers, we were met with sober faces. They took me aside and while declaring they were pleased with the results they had studied under the new procedure, they wanted my absolute assurance every faculty member had had

equal input with the provost, also adequate input from student leaders.

They told me that to their knowledge, only one other starting university had received regional accreditation as early as the sixth year, that we had a chance for full accreditation in our sixth year, and to return to Tulsa and await their decision.

My feeling was that they wanted to accredit us but not to expose themselves to criticism. I saw their dilemma. We met ALL their requirements, but it was highly irregular to grant accreditation to any university that early.

The entire campus felt the tension as we waited.

By this time Dr. Carl Hamilton, whom I had sent to the university for his Ph.D., a young educator who had been editor of our Abundant Life magazine and in full harmony with my ministry, had been under Dr. Messick's training for two years to succeed him. (Dr. Messick was now past retirement age.) He was now the second dean/provost and had undertaken the final meetings with North Central before the date of their decision.

I was on my way to chapel, then conducted on the fifth floor of the LRC, when Dr. Hamilton phoned from the Chicago meeting that the vote

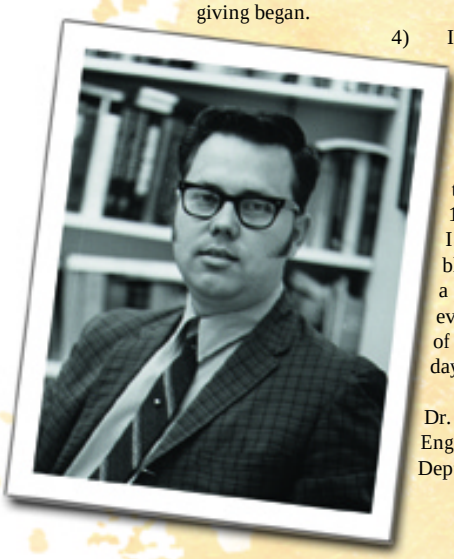
Things that stand out in my memory of that day include:

1) Oral sitting with the faculty on the right side of the 5th floor LRC during the preliminaries. I remember him as being very upbeat, and it was clear that a positive announcement was coming.

2) I think he gave historical perspective, thanked those who had worked so hard to obtain this, and then made the announcement, which included the following key bits of information:

- Not only were we granted full accreditation, but there were no restrictions. It was for a full 10-year period, the longest possible.
- Oral was told that only one other school, part of a state system, had been granted accreditation in a shorter period of time.
- Administrators normally flew coach to save money, but on the return flight (from Chicago), they flew first class all the way.

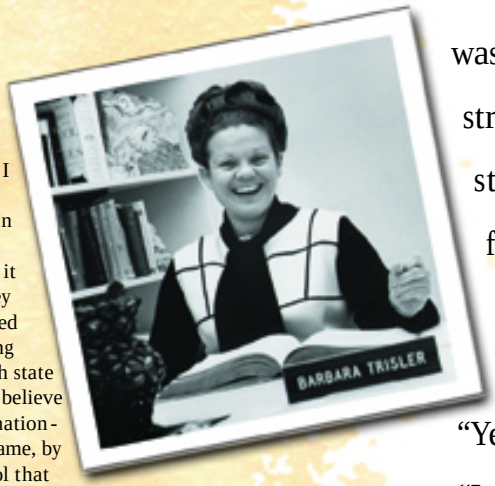
3) Oral dismissed classes for the rest of the day. This was, as best I recall, the first time classes had ever been dismissed for a celebration (I came in 1967). Campus-wide celebrations and thanksgiving began.



4) It seemed that enrollment jumped the following year. We were soon at the 2,000-plus level, quite a contrast to the 700 students in 1967.

I feel tremendously blessed to have been a part of that key event. It was truly one of the most significant days in ORU history.

Dr. Nate Meleen
Engineering/Physics Dept.



When I told my faculty friends at Arizona State University that I was coming to teach at ORU in 1968, their first question was, is it accredited? They were very worried about me coming here. I said, with state accreditation, I believe they'll do well nationally. And so I came, by faith, to a school that was not accredited. I remember the excitement that Oral exuded at the moment of telling us. Accreditation confirmed to me that the school (would have) a national reputation, and that God did provide both academically and spiritually. We (the faculty) were all behind the whole thing. There was no question that we would get accredited. We felt that we were really on top of it.

Dr. Barbara (Trisler) Silvers
Modern Foreign Languages Chairperson

My recollection of that great day is that when the announcement was made, President Oral Roberts with great emotion shouted, "Hallelujah!!" And students picked him up on their shoulders and carried him around the room while we all clapped a praise to the LORD!! Accreditation was very important to me as I felt it was not only the accrediting association but also God's "accreditation" in a miraculous way. I was very proud of Oral and of ORU and thankful to be part of it all. It seemed a validation of Oral as founder, and of ourselves as administrators, faculty, staff, and students, that, having taken that "leap of faith" to come to a university with no track record and no accreditation, we had indeed all heard from the Lord.

Dr. Paul I. McClendon
1964-1985: Former Director of Learning Resources, professor, and chairman of Communication Arts

Dr. Paul McClendon (left) & Dr. John D. Messick stand in front of the skeleton of the Learning Resources Center, which was later named for Messick.

was unanimous in our favor. It was difficult to keep a straight face as I entered chapel and preached to the student body, now numbering about 1,000. I could feel their anxiety. So much was at stake. Finally I stopped and said, "Do you want to know the verdict from Chicago?"

"Yes!" they shouted.

"We are now fully accredited by the highest accrediting body in higher education."

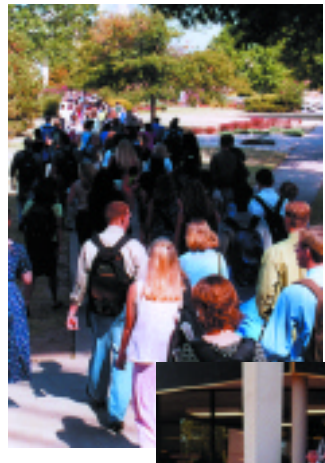
There was pandemonium. Young men picked me up and carried me on their shoulders as tears ran down my cheeks. God was with us. His University had achieved the impossible: accreditation in only six years! We were on our way.

Today ORU is accredited to the doctoral level and was recently declared by the Oklahoma Regents as the largest private university in the state, bypassing two other private universities more than 100 years old each.

I believe God wanted this and He's done it. Thanks to everyone involved, and especially do I give all the glory to our Founder from above.

WHAT'S HAPPENING at ORU

ORU's Most Wanted: Top-Quality Students



What happens to Christian teenagers when they go to a secular college? More than half of them stop going to church and/or no longer identify themselves as "born-again."

Steve Henderson (72), founder of Christian Consulting for Colleges and Ministries (C3M, est. 1995), is one of those concerned about what he views as "a horrible loss to the kingdom." In fact, he is writing his dissertation on the relationship of type of college attended to pre-college and post-college religious commitment.

He cites a study done in the early 1990s for the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities by McGuire and Associates in cooperation with the National Research Center for College and University Admissions. The study showed that of an estimated 335,000 high school seniors who identified themselves as Christian, only about 65,000 attended any type of Christian college. The other quarter-million or so, which attended secular colleges, have been shown in other studies to typically regress in their religious values and behaviors. There are some exceptions to this behavior, of course, but it is becoming more common for secular college students to leave the faith they had when entering college--in most cases, leaving the Christian faith altogether.

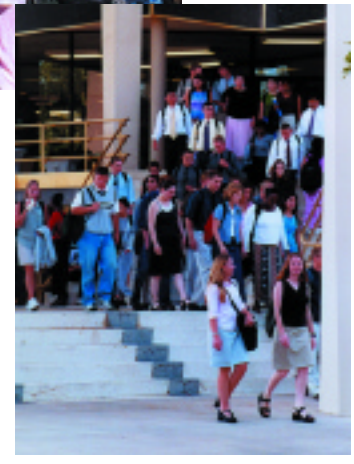
"Anumber of studies have shown that changes in values during the college years, in most cases, become the person's values for their lifetime," Henderson said. His research has shown that in large measure, "Christian values are scorned and ridiculed in public schools," and that "No matter how you slice it, one of every two Christian kids who goes to a public institution, after just four years, will no longer identify himself or herself as a Christian--and that is self-reported information. It is probably much worse!"

"This reality drives us (C3M) and spurs us to keep doing what we're doing," he said. C3M has worked with more than 80 colleges and universities throughout the U.S. and Canada, including ORU, and with other ministries. "My plea to alumni of Christian colleges, and my personal plea to ORU alumni, is to help be the eyes and ears for quality Christian kids who are college-bound, so we can get them some materials so they can consider a Christian college," Henderson said.

"No Christian college is perfect," he acknowledges. "Getting with the wrong group is still possible, even at a Christian college. And not every non-Christian college faculty member is out to ruin Christian students. But at secular schools, there is peer group pressure, complacency, and typically little support of Christian values in or out of the classroom.

"The reason we're doing what we're doing is to help Christian colleges figure out how to cut into that quarter-million kids, the majority of whom may be lost to the kingdom in the long term. Think of the challenge in these terms: it appears we're losing for the kingdom more than double the amount of students each year that we're attracting--twice as many as are going to Christian colleges."

Why don't more Christian teens go to Christian colleges? "There's certainly a difference in cost," Henderson said, "but the cost savings [of going to a secular school] may not be worth the real price in terms of losing our kids."



In Henderson's opinion, "Every Christian student should attend a Christian college for at least one to two years--preferably getting their degree from a Christian college. Those first few years away from home are a critical time when they'll be reviewing their own personal values, most often with little family involvement. If they do that in a Christian environment, they have a far better chance of reflecting their family's values because of the solid support options from fellow Christian students and caring Christian faculty and staff."

If you know of any college-bound Christian students who should consider ORU, contact the Office of Admissions at 1-800-678-8876 or send an e-mail with all the contact information to admissions@oru.edu. If you would like to communicate with Steve, go to www.christianconsulting.net, call (501) 444-0440, or leave a message with the ORU Office of Admissions.

This excerpt was derived from audited statements, which may be reviewed in the Alumni Office.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

July 31, 2000

ASSETS	
Cash & cash equivalents	$ 637,123
Other receivables	1,687
Investments	403,631
Equipment (net of accumulated depreciation of $14,064)	9,986
Other	29,702
Total assets	$ 1,082,129
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	$ 4,535
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	302,630
Temporarily restricted	380,814
Permanently restricted	394,150
Total net assets	1,077,594
Total liabilities & net assets	$ 1,082,129

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For year ended July 31, 2000

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
REVENUES				
Contributions				
Cash	$327,869	$215,193	$12,600	$555,662
In-kind services from the Univ.	236,292	-	-	236,292
Interest income	29,305	-	8,568	37,873
Other income	83,646	-	-	83,646
Net assets released from restrictions	188,392	(188,392)	-	-
Total revenues	865,504	26,801	21,168	913,473
EXPENSES				
Program services				
General Univ. support	188,392	-	-	188,392
Univ. facilities & equipment	-	-	-	-
Publications & other	119,904	-	-	119,904
Management & general	351,604	-	-	351,604
Fundraising	54,005	-	-	54,005
Total expenses	713,905	-	-	713,905
Increase in net assets	151,599	26,801	21,168	199,568
Net assets, beginning of year	151,031	354,013	372,982	878,026
Net assets, end of year	$ 302,630	$ 380,814	$ 394,150	$ 1,077,594

How Your Money Was Spent

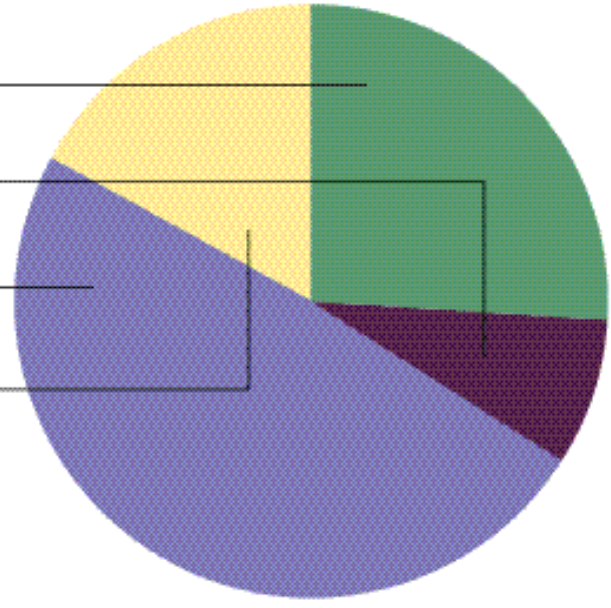
(Fiscal Year 1999-2000)

General University Support
$188,392 26%

Fundraising
$54,005 8%

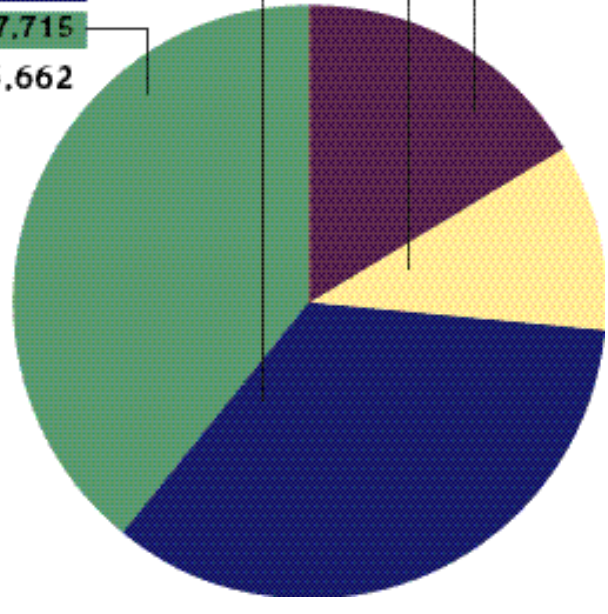
Management and General
$351,604 49%

Publications
$119,904 17%



Donor Category Report (Fiscal Year 1999-2000)

Donor Category	No. of Constituents	Amount Given
$1 - $500	1,326	$90,726
$501 - $1,000	95	$56,495
$1,001 - $5,000	112	$190,726
$5,001	21	$217,715
Total	1,554	$555,662



Donation History

1990-2000 (fiscal year)

Donations (cum.)	$4,686,158
Matching Gifts (cum.)	$3,000,000
Total All Gifts	**$7,686,158**

These are condensed statements that are derived from the audited financials.

CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

August 1, 1999 -- July 31, 2000

	2000	1999
ASSETS		
Cash & short-term investments	$ 3,806,926	$ 3,818,228
Accounts receivable—net of allowances for doubtful accts.	5,072,221	3,292,523
Prepaid expenses & other assets	1,018,759	1,087,218
Loans to students, net of reserve for loan losses	19,663,777	19,780,408
Long-term investments—at cost, or market value at date of gift		
Securities—at cost, which approximates market	5,674,012	5,597,442
Endowment trust, net of notes receivable	4,340,127	4,357,193
Real estate and bldgs, net of accumulated depreciation	58,387,698	60,483,458
Land & other	426,240	426,240
Educational plant, net of accumulated depreciation	68,804,887	69,806,599
Rock, mineral & artifact collection value at date of gift	2,425,235	2,425,235
Total assets	$ 169,619,882	171,074,544
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	$ 6,300,469	$ 3,716,004
Deferred revenue	1,842,249	1,259,653
Life loans	368,209	358,949
Notes payable	34,465,710	36,039,688
Obligations under capital leases	5,541,445	6,196,612
Refundable federal student loans	13,505,050	13,316,949
Total liabilities	62,023,132	60,887,855
Net assets	107,596,750	110,186,689
Total liabilities & net assets	$ 169,619,882	$ 171,074,544

CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

August 1, 1999 -- July 31, 2000

	2000	1999
Revenues, gains & other support:		
Tuition & fees	$ 36,228,032	$ 33,519,006
Sales & services of auxiliary services	14,727,258	14,243,075
Less: Scholarships & fellowships	(15,691,330)	(15,018,799)
Net tuition, fees & sales & services of auxiliary services	35,263,960	32,743,282
Contributions & bequests	12,660,980	11,502,444
Other revenue	10,924,687	12,908,088
Total revenues, gains & other support	58,849,627	57,153,814
Expenses & losses:		
Education & general	39,923,861	36,005,126
Auxiliary enterprises	11,316,178	11,682,760
Depreciation	2,646,225	2,754,823
Interest on indebtedness	3,521,233	4,695,682
Other expenses	4,032,069	6,360,682
Total expenses & losses	61,439,566	61,499,073
Decrease in net assets	(2,589,939)	(4,345,259)
Net assets, beginning of year	110,186,689	114,531,948
Net assets, end of year	$107,596,750	$110,186,689

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
Financial Report Summary
For the year ended July 31, 2000

Fiscal year 1999–2000 proved to be exciting for Oral Roberts University, with a record enrollment of 5,252 students served and 5,368 students served in the fall of 2000. This resulted in the growth of revenue generated through tuition and fees by 8 percent, or $2,709,026 over the previous year, while scholarships and fellowships awarded by the University increased by 4.5 percent, or $672,531.

Sales and auxiliary services increased 3.4 percent, or $484,183, while contributions and bequests in the amount of $12,660,980 exceeded the 1999 figure by $1,158,536. Other revenue received contributed to an increase in total revenues of $1,695,813 over the previous year.

A commitment was made to increase educational investment in student programs, faculty, and staff. This increase, along with an increase in general expenses, was offset by decreases in interest and other expenses, and an increase in contributions from affiliated companies, resulting in a slight decrease in total expenses.

With the decrease in net assets at $2,589,939, it is important to note that depreciation accounts for $2,646,225 of expenses. The loss of a major tenant at CityPlex Towers, a major office and medical complex owned by the University's endowment, resulted in a loss of endowment income. However, since March 1999, approximately 584,507 square feet of additional space has been leased, once again moving the property into a profitable position. This provides substantial growth and income opportunity for the University's endowment.

Notes payable decreased by $1,573,978, compared with the previous year, while investment in capital improvements was approximately $3,497,421, providing enhancements primarily in buildings, equipment, and library resources. The University enjoys a favorable debt-to-asset ratio, with total assets, net of accumulated depreciation, at $169,619,882.

In February 2000, President Richard Roberts launched an effort to eliminate debt for the University, while raising support to renovate a women's residence hall to help accommodate the growing student body. As of July 2000 notes payable and capital leases were reduced by $2,229,145, while as of December 2000 approximately $3,000,000 had been raised for the residence hall. This campaign has been well received and is expected to substantially increase revenues, while decreasing the debt.

The University is in the midst of a strategic planning process involving all areas and constituent groups of the University family. This extensive planning effort is expected to chart the course for a bright future, securing the assets necessary not only to provide a whole-person education for its students but also the growth of an endowment large enough to help support the mission of ORU.

Year After Year, We're Here For You. The Alumni Annual Fund Makes That Possible.

What is the Alumni Annual Fund? It's something that nearly every university has. In ORU's case, it's the unrestricted gifts that keep the Alumni Foundation in business. Who is the Alumni Annual Fund? You are. It's alumni gifts that pay for alumni programs and services.

In the past year, the Alumni Annual Fund paid for Excellence magazine; Spotlight newsletter; Homecoming publicity, organization, and activities, including the President's Banquet; Alumni University; the Alumni Web page, which includes the Online Directory, Alumni Registry, and Jobtrak; coordination of the Wing Backer program (a service and ministry to ORU students) and Golden Eagle Business Connection monthly luncheons; partial funding of the annual ORU Faculty Retreat; about 650 Bibles for graduating seniors; cash appreciation awards for ORU faculty and staff; chapter meetings in major U.S. cities; the Homecoming brochure, the Alumni Board of Directors ballot and other special mailings; and the first annual Continuing Medical Education conference.

In 2001, our Alumni Annual Fund goal is $300,000. This will ensure that we can provide all the services you received last year, plus new services (including a new continuing education conference at Homecoming 2001).

Why should you support the 2001 Alumni Annual Fund? Because...

No matter how much you give, you get a whole lot back.

Well, you know, we all want to change the world*. That includes Tom Newman (80), fifth Beatle wanna-be and co-founder and president of Tulsa-based Impact Productions. This former Victory Christian Center missions director had given up on doing it through drama, but a trip to Toronto, Canada, in January 1982 changed his mind.

"I'd been hearing a lot about a dramatic presentation called 'Toymaker and Son,'" he said. The writer, Colin Harbinson, was the director of the Youth With A Mission base in Toronto. Accompanied by 100 or so youth, Newman went north to see what all the fuss was about.

"I can't tell you what happened except I couldn't stop crying," Newman said of his reaction to the drama. "When I became a believer, I'd given up on drama. I didn't feel there was any real contemporary expression in the body of Christ for youth."

This Impact evangelism campaign points out some of the bold claims of the Bible and poses the question, "What if it's true?"

Newman came to the Lord at a Church of God in Korea during a stint in the Army near the end of the Vietnam War. "I loved that church," he said, "but it was total isolationism: break your rock and roll records. That was okay. I was willing to do whatever because I had a miraculous conversion on May 1, 1975. I was 20 years old and it just revolutionized my life."

Newman, whose long hair and beard are long gone, describes himself as a former rock-and-roller who played the lead in every school play back in Lima, Ohio. After college, though, he said, he didn't want to have anything to do with church drama. "I thought, it's bathrobe-and-donkey mentality, frankly." So he wasn't prepared for what happened in Canada. "I'm watching this drama--it's on a rough gym floor, no special effects, no lighting, it's a hodgepodge of music from Vangelis to Pink Floyd. And," he whispered, "I can't stop crying. It was the most moving moment of my life. When I saw that show, everything I was born to do, everything that I'd always loved--drama, Jesus, rock and roll--everything hit."

Harbinson came up to him at the end of the show, put his arm around Newman's shoulders, and said, "'As I've watched you here, God spoke to me and told me that if you'd like to do the show, then I am to release it to you.' I came back and told Billy Joe (Daugherty, pastor of Victory), it's awesome. This show has rock and roll, it has dancing. You know how conservative Billy Joe is," he laughed. "But you know, he said, as long as you're not doing something ungodly and it will save people…. He gave us the green light."

The first show was in May 1982 at Victory, then located at 41st and Sheridan. A crowd of 400 came,

Newman said. “They asked if we could do it again the following weekend. The place seated 1,100, and we had to turn people away. It just got worse and worse. We got too big.”

The next step was taking the show overseas in September 1982, to England, where it was a big hit. Back in Tulsa, Newman said, “we had gotten just enough wind under our sails to try something outrageous. We rented the Mabee Center--the whole arena. We didn't know any better.” The first show was so popular, they did a second show that night. There was no admission charge, Newman said, because “it had nothing to do with money; it had everything to do with passion. I think about 1,100 people got saved that night.”

On the trip to England, Newman said, “God really spoke in a supernatural way to me and the team. It's the first time I heard in my spirit, 'Tom, I want you to reach a sight and sound generation with the gospel.'”

Tom on the cross in “Toymaker.”

Less than a year after the Mabee Center performances, Newman realized that “Toymaker” was going to require a full-time commitment. To this day, Daugherty remains Newman's preeminent spiritual advisor, but in 1983, the two men agreed that God had another plan. Newman and friends Andrea Jobe and Roger Nix (83) founded Impact Productions, whose mission, in part, is “to reach a sight and sound generation using the media of art, film, music, and live performance to communicate the truth of the Gospel and to cause a transformation in society and individuals worldwide.”

For the first few years, “Toymaker” (eventually known as “The Masterpiece…A Toymaker's Dream”) was the company's primary focus. By the time the show had its last performance in May 1998, this story of how the Toymaker (God) created and lost his Masterpiece (man) and became a toy in order to bring back his creation had been enacted all over the United States and in about two dozen other countries. Newman originally played the Son, but stepped down in 1986 to focus on other projects.

In 1991, Impact had gone in another direction, producing four television commercials for churches to use as evangelistic tools. Dozens more commercials followed, including “Got Jesus?” and “All Dressed Up.” Some of them got the attention of the media, including CNN, the BBC, and Entertainment Weekly, and even resulted in one memorable story on the ABC Evening News with Peter Jennings in 1998.

In 1998, Impact released “Resurrection,” an hour-long television movie based on a Max Lucado story about a Roman guard's search for truth following the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The movie, which has since won two awards for television excellence, sounded like a slam-dunk to Newman, but TV stations weren't interested in buying it.

“The reality hit me,” Newman said. “I had investors I had borrowed from to make this film. We started calling pastors, who started calling the stations, and the next thing we knew--not on purpose--we'd formed a whole syndication network.”

That network, Newman believes, is the strength and the uniqueness of Impact, which now has 165 employees (55 are ORU alumni) and five major divisions: Impact Entertainment, Creative, Animation, Impact Media, and Media Outreach. “We have more

than 3,500 churches that we're in communication with about every item from a new commercial series to a new film campaign," Newman said. "You want to know the pulse of America's pastors? A lot of them," he confides, "are on the edge of quitting. They're tired. They need refreshing."

Newman is concerned about pastors because he's concerned about the church. "If the church loses its ability to be relevant," he said, "it will stop reaching our culture. When we stop being salt and light to the culture, it's over. We (at Impact) have a hard task. It's imperative for us to reach a sight and sound generation, but just as important, we have to bring the church into the 21st century. We have to help pastors, encourage pastors to stay relevant.

TOP: "Old Folks," part of the "People Like You" church campaign that stresses church is for all people in all stages of life.

BOTTOM: A clip from "Resurrection," featuring Mark Steele (left) and Robert Jobe.

"The most frustrating part of my job today," he continued, "is when I get ready to make a new set of commercials. I can make commercials that every pastor will buy because I know what they like. I call that feeding them. Or, I can lead them. I can develop spots for our culture that will attract people to the church because they will cause that seeking in them to come alive. So it's a real dilemma, lead or feed? Well, you've got to do a little of each."

Impact's recent projects include "You Are Special," a direct-to-video children's film based on Max Lucado's best-selling children's book. The video hit number 12 on the Billboard Top Music Videos chart in January. They also produced an award-winning children's series titled Pahappahooey Island. Impact promoted the film "Mercy Streets" last fall. Newman describes it as "a great transitional film." It is the story of two brothers --one an ex-con, one a minister--who, after being forced to switch roles, learn to deal with hate and guilt and to seek redemption.

The highly anticipated "Left Behind" movie, which was first released on video last fall, debuted in theatres on Feb. 2. It is also being promoted by Impact. "We have an exclusive distribution agreement ," Newman said. "Currently, the movie is scheduled to open in over 700 screens nationwide.

"We did a premier event, a special screening of 'Left Behind' last fall. Some said, there should be an altar call. Others said, it's too heavy-handed. You can't win when it comes to entertainment. Everybody has a different idea of what you're supposed to do. What you try to do is stay true to what God's asked of you.

"There are people on all different levels when it comes to being receptive to the gospel of Christ. We're going to nudge them toward whatever level is closest to them, move them forward in that process (of finding Him)."

Newman gets upset with the church for its oftentimes superior attitude. "There are so many people in the world that are never going to go inside a church because they feel ostracized, because they're not living

right, and they know that much. They don't know *how* to live right." He points to some of the filmmakers he met at a Sundance Film Festival. "You could ask them all the questions you wanted to after they showed their films. Sure enough, you'd see a lot of really bad films that exploit flesh and different issues like homosexuality. But when you'd ask, 'What were you trying to communicate?' the response was, "I wanted to share my life with you.'

"As a Christian filmmaker, I look at the same thing, only it's the good thing, Christ, that's happened in my life. I realized, this is not me fighting against them, this is a matter of spiritual warfare. They've been blinded to the love of the gospel. We can't blame them. If anything, we have to blame ourselves for being so ineffective at reaching them."

The Newman family (L to R): Eric, Susan, Jordan, Jared, Tom, and Cheryl.

One of Newman's favorite scriptures is Mark 4:10-13 (Message Bible), in which Jesus says to His disciples, "You've been given insight into God's kingdom--you know how it works. But to those who can't see it yet, everything comes in stories, creating readiness, nudging them toward receptive insight…."

"That's what I want to do," Newman said. "That's the mandate for me. This is reaching a sight and sound generation. We need to communicate stories. Jesus was only religious with religious people, with the church. But when He was with fishermen, He talked about fish and nets. He was never condemning.

"Where the church gets so condemning--if you produce something that doesn't have an altar call or doesn't clearly present the Word, then Jesus isn't in this. It's interesting to me to see how the church responds to film and to television and even to good-principle things. It's never quite enough (for some of them) unless it goes for closure.

"I love to see people born again, believe me. I'm an evangelist, first of all," Newman declared. "Some of our productions (at Impact) will be pure gospel. Some will be nudging people toward the truth, the way Jesus did. I think we need a lot more of that, frankly."

Newman thought back to his days at ORU, sitting around with guys like Mike Orsillo (79), Larry Hrovat (A), Rob Koke (82), and Robert Owens (81), dreaming about how they were going to reach the world. And no, he's not surprised at where he is today. "If anything," he admitted, "I think we all wish we were a little bit further ahead by this time. It's like, you wake up one day and you're 45."

"Toymaker," it should be said, lives on. The cast toured with it again last summer in China, and Impact is turning the show into a full-length animated feature for a spring 2002 release.

Newman stays busy overseeing the continuing renovation of the Impact building near 41st and Harvard, reading the scripts that flood his desk, accepting awards like the six Addys that Impact received in January from the Tulsa Advertising Federation, waiting for another new Beatles CD to come out…

There's no end in sight. But, don't you know, it's gonna be all right**.

*, **--"Revolution," John Lennon & Paul McCartney, 1968.

Alumni, please note: The majority of the following news was received between Sept. 1 and Dec. 1, 2000.

1970s

• **GARY 70 and CHERYL LONGSTAFF 71 KUNEY** are now living and ministering in Honduras with four of their five children. This has been a dream of Gary's since he went to Chile with then-President Oral Roberts in 1966. Gary worked at ORU for 20 years after graduation and then at St. Francis Hospital. Cheryl also worked at ORU for some time. In Honduras, the Kuneys are independent missionaries, working through a local church and also through a human services department.

• **JEFF SANDERS 74** has a new address.

• **CLIF 75 and JAYNE LINDEN-77 GORE** are excited to tell you that they now have a son at ORU, Clifton Samuel Gore III (Sammy). He is a freshman Christian Ministries major. The Gores are both teachers residing in North Carolina. They also have two daughters, Sarah Jayne, 15, and Jessica, 12. They'd love to hear from old friends.

• **BOB WEBBER 75** has a new address.

• **KEN RUPKALVIS 76** is living and teaching band in San Antonio, Tex. He retired from the Army Band in 1996. He'd like to hear from other Class of 1976 music majors. Kenrup@flash.net

IN MEMORIAM

Beverly G. Hubbard

Aug. 9, 1947 – July 4, 2000

Although Beverly was a member of ORU's first class, she didn't finish her degree in sociology until 1977; she often joked about being on the "12-year plan." Those who knew her and loved her marveled at her travels around the world, her ability to speak Polish, her acquaintances and friendships with famous people, and her indignation over any and all injustices.

At ORU, Bev was a member of the World Action Singers, a cheerleader, and active in the Russian Club. At the time of her death, she was but a stone's throw away from completing her master's in Teaching English As A Second Language. For the past 12 years, she worked for Reaching Hands, Inc., a Tulsa agency that serves the elderly. She was the agency's first director of development.

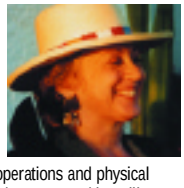
Bev truly was a student all of her life, but she was also a teacher. What she taught those of us who loved her was that we should always stand up for what is right, no matter the personal cost, and always be ready and willing to lay down our lives for the sake of Jesus Christ.

IN MEMORIAM

Deborah (Gouge) Colwell

April 2, 1954 - July 24, 2000

Debbie's offbeat, off-the-wall sense of humor infused her artwork, her relationships, and all other parts of her life. It also stood in sharp contrast to the health problems that dogged her from high school till her death, and to the numerous operations and physical setbacks that could not succeed in pulling her down. A plaque in her home summed up her attitude: "When you get to the place where God is all you have, you know He's all you'll ever need."



After graduating from ORU in 1978, Debbie spent many years working at OREA as a designer, art director, and creative director for publications. She taught university-level graphic design for 7 years, and won numerous awards for her work, including several ADDYs from the American Advertising Federation. Professionally, Debbie will no doubt be best remembered as The Queen of Cards, her specialty greeting card company. One of her cards was showcased in the 1999 Neiman Marcus holiday catalog. Debbie is survived by her husband, Tim, their son, Matt, and other close family members.

• **DEBRA LEWIS 78 GROSCH** received her M.Div. from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va., on May 27, 2000.

• **RUSS 79** and Heidi **SMITH** welcomed Jocelyn Marcia into the world on Oct. 30. Jocelyn's happy siblings are Joel, 13, Joshua, 10 (11 by now!), and Joyanne, 7.

1980s

• **MARK BARDEN 80** has moved back to his hometown of Charlotte, N.C. On July 1, he became the director of Missions/Outreach for the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. His wife, Barbara, is Minister of Education at Myers Park UMC. Their son, Christopher Mark, is in third grade. Mark would love to hear from Overcomers and Oracle staff!

• **PHILLIP CARSON 80** went to grad school after leaving Tulsa and earned his master of accountancy and juris doctorate from the University of Georgia. He is a CPA and an attorney. He has been living in Chicago for 15 years. He would like to hear from fellow alumni in the area.

• **ANN SHURTS 81 TATLOCK** wrote a Christian fiction book titled A Room of My Own, which was published by Bethany House in 1998. Ann received her M.A. from Wheaton.

• **DAVID BESS 82** received his doctor of ministry degree from the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary on May 19, 2000.

• **CAROLE POTTS 82 BOWMAN** lives at

• **RUTH HELTON 82** is teaching English as a Second Language in the Twin Falls, Ida., School District. Friends, please get in touch.

• **GORDON MARTIN 82;88-MBA** is the chief executive officer of AFN, LLC (America's Fiber Network). AFN is a facilities-based network service provider that supplies high-capacity broadband access to primary, secondary, and tertiary markets. Its initial footprint of 7,000 route-miles spanned 13 states and Washington, D.C. AFN's headquarters is in Tulsa. Previously, Gordon was president of carrier services for Williams Communications.

• **BILL McCONNELL 82** is now on the music faculty at Oklahoma State University teaching, among other things, Sophomore Sight-singing and Ear-training.

• **JEAN CACERES-GONZALES 83** reports that her Opa Locka, Fla., organization, His House Children's Home, has been awarded a state appropriation of $250,000 for the renovation of two empty buildings that will be turned into a four-plex home for children. Due to lack of space, His House turns away as many as 50 children a month, and has been operating over capacity for the last seven years.

• **CARYL BEAN 83;86-MBA** and **RON 84;86-MBA LIPNICK** are enjoying their children, Braedon, 10, and Mariah, 6, and are home-educating them. They'd love to hear from Korfers (aka korfball alumni).

• **DAVID MORSE 83** says hello to former Youngblood and Power wingmates. He's in his eighteenth year of teaching, and mentioned something about eight kids. (Write for answers.)

• **CINDY ELMER 84 DURR** and husband Rodney have a son, Jonathan Elmer, born May 8, 2000. His adoption was finalized in August.

• **TIMOTHY KING 84** married Tammy L. Walker on Oct. 23, 1999. Tim is now running his own business, TNT International, from their hometown of Winchester, Va.

• **TAMI VERMEER 84** and Tom **KOLAR** announce the birth of their son, Josiah Thomas, on July 15, 2000. He joins three-year-old sister Hannah Mae. Tami loves being a mom and staying home, occasionally still doing some substitute teaching.

• **JEFF SEILER 84** is still living in Sedalia, Mo., where for the last 1 1/2 years he has been teaching psychology at State Fair Community College. He would enjoy hearing from any old wingmates (EMR 3E) or debate or student government friends.

• **DARRELL BAKER 85** received his juris doctorate from William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, Minn., on May 21, 2000. At that time, he was an account manager for Transition Networks, Eden Prairie, Minn.

• **TRICIA SEELY 85 DALLEY** became a Navy nurse after leaving ORU, met a wonderful Christian man, and now has two beautiful children. Gary is an internist; Tricia works in medical research. Tricia would love to hear from classmates.

• **ISABEL LICHTENBERG 85 DAVENPORT** left for Toulouse, France, for 6 months, because of her husband's work. She'd like to hear from alumni in the area.

• **CHAUNCEY MOTLEY 85** is on the ministry staff of a small church in Wilmington.

• **BILL 85;99-MA and LISA HERMAN 89 SHULER** write that Bill is traveling and speaking as they prepare to move to Washington, D.C., and start a "Dream Center" to reach the inner city for Jesus and pray for our nation's leaders.

IN MEMORIAM

Alicia Galvan Zapata

Nov. 27, 1945 – Aug. 18, 1995

Alicia earned a B.S. in Business and a B.A. in Spanish from ORU in 1985. Her sister, Evangeline (Galvan-86) Duenas, wrote that Alicia was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in 1993. "She fought the good fight and ran her race here on earth. She founded a work in Mexico alongside her father, which remains to this day and has exploded beyond what she could have imagined. She was and still is a giver. Her time at ORU was a time of refreshment; as President Oral Roberts would say to many students, 'This is your time in the desert.' Her family misses her presence here on earth, yet we take comfort that she is with our LORD and someday we too shall see HIM and her. Oral Roberts University stands for excellence; likewise, Alicia was excellent in many areas."

• **JUAN MARK GALLARDO 86** wants to hear from Unity and Am Herratz alumni. He is working with Christian Vision USA in Miami Lakes, Fla., and says God is doing great things.

• **LINDA WINSTON 86 JOHNSON** just celebrated 10 years of marriage. She has three daughters: Esther, 8, Carla, 6, and Jana, 4. They attend Union Public Schools in Tulsa. Linda would love to hear from former classmates and wingmates.

• **MICHELLE MAYNE-ANTAL 86** is married to Timothy and has two children: Ashleigh Caitlyn, 7, and T. Blake, 6.

• **TIMOTHY MIHUC 86** has a new address.

IN MEMORIAM

David James Novinski

Born Jan. 26, 1956

David was a member of the Class of 1986. He majored in psychology at ORU.

• **LISA WIBERG 86** is the retail/video accounting manager at Moody Bible Institute.

• **BRIAN BUCKS 87** still lives in Nebraska. He works for a company based in Maryland that provides training to electric utility companies. He's able to work out of his home and travel to client sites.

• **KIRBY 87** and **SUZETTE SMITH 89 CLEMENTS** write from Brooklyn, N.Y., that Suzette graduated from medical school and is now a podiatrist. She is completing her surgical residency. One week prior to graduation, she gave birth to Gabrielle Alexis. She and Kirby also have a son, Kirby III.

• **SAM HOOD 87** is married to **JENNIFER HURT 88**. They have three children: Kyle, 10, Connor, 7, and Korry, 5. Sam works for a Dallas-based AV Control Systems manufacturer as technical support manager. Jenni's back teaching third grade. Greetings to all old friends!

• **PETER NORVILLE 87** and his wife, Kristin, welcomed Dane Spencer on Aug. 15, 2000. He joins Luke, 7, Aubrey, 5, and Bryn, 3. Peter is in sales at First Data Resources in Omaha, Neb.

• **VERONICA ROSAS 87** says hello to any Asylum/Committed buddies. She's back in Texas after spending 5 years in Pensacola, Fla. She works with Together in the Harvest Ministries.

• **JIM MISENER 88** married Chikako Itoh on Aug. 5, 2000. Jim was promoted to supervisor at United Parcel Service last summer.

• **EMERSON NORDMARK 88** is a detective with the Anacortes Police Department in Washington. His wife, Catherin (no "e"), is the Marketing and Communications supervisor with a company called Dri-Eaz. They have been married for more than 2 years and have 3 dogs.

• **TIM SANKOWSKI 88** has been married for 7 years and has a daughter, Jennifer, who is 3. He's been self-employed in the construction field for the past 6 years.

• **PHILLIP BOHL 89** received his master's in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University on May 27, 2000.

• **BRENDA CHIN 89** says hi to all social work grads and China veterans. She's married with a 2-year-old daughter and is currently staying at home. Her husband works in Silicon Valley.

1990s

• **KIRSTEN HANEY 90 LaCOURSE** is a stay-at-home mom, having taught elementary school for 6 years. Her children are Benjamin, 6, Alyssa, 4, and Tyler, 2. She'd love to hear from friends.

• **BRAD 90** and **ANN LANNING 90 STEELE** are living in the Atlanta area, having moved there in January 2000. Their third child, Lauren, was born in July. She joins Sarah, 6, and Lanning, 2 1/2. Ann has been homeschooling Sarah.

• **LYNN STEFFAN 91 CHERRY** and husband David welcomed Daniel Warren on July 10, 2000. The Cherrys moved to Round Rock, Tex., in September 1999. David joined the staff of Shoreline Christian Center in Austin, where the pastor is **ROB KOKE.**

• **SHARON WILDT 91** and **SEAN (A) FULLERTON** now live at

• **MARCY EUBANKS 91 GOLDSON** became a Christian school director on Oct. 23, 2000. Her school houses children from Pre-K through fifth grade.

• **ELIZABETH MOSSHOLDER 91 HINSON** married Todd Allan Hinson in 1992. They currently live in Ellicott City, Md. Elizabeth is a senior seminar coordinator at the University of Maryland School of Public Affairs, Office of Executive Programs. She plans and conducts post-graduate level Public Interest Finance and Development seminars for Fortune 500 leaders and top federal government officials. She is working on her master's in Human Resources Management at UM. She and Todd have a daughter, Rebecca, 5, identical twin boys, Patrick and Elliott, 3, and fraternal twins, Ian and Chloe, born June 30, 2000.

• **BETH BREWER 91 HOLDERNESS** and husband Rick are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Joshua David, on June 8, 2000.

• **ARON NOLL 91** and his wife are doing a yearlong internship in Germany. Aron is earning his master's degree in Intercultural Studies from Western Seminary in Portland, Ore. Aron is in a band with a guy who worked with Six Pence None The Richer and hopes to make it big time like them someday.

• **RANDY 91** and **DEBBIE COLTRAIN 91 ROBISON** have a new address.

• **STEPHANIE SAWYERS 91 WILLIAMS** would love to hear from Sorority, SOS, or Am Herratz (1988-91) alumni.

• **ERIC JAMES GRAF 92** received his M.Div. in Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary on May 19, 2000.

• **CHRIS 92** and **SUZI TROY 93 RAPP** announce the birth of their daughter, Lauren Avery, on July 6, 2000. The Rapps live in West Palm Beach, Fla.

• **LESLIE BOHN 93** has been working the past 2 1/2 years in marketing for Yahoo! (formerly broadcast.com). She'd love to hear from friends.

• **ERWIN GOODWIN 93** is working for alumni **RICK FENIMORE** and **TERRY FISHER** at Trinity Chemical Industries. He became the assistant controller on Aug. 21, 2000. He will be taking the Becker CPA Review in the spring and sitting for the May exam.

• **SUSAN GOLEY 93 MARHOFER** got married in 1994 and has two beautiful girls, Mariah, 4, and Mikayla, 2. Her husband works at a missions organization in town and she's at home with the girls, enjoying every minute.

• **KRISTY POSTLEWAIT 93 MORRIS** and her husband, Rogue, have been married for 2 1/2 years. They bought and moved into their first home at the end of July 2000. They are involved in their church, Lenexa Christian Center, where Rogue sings in the choir and Kristy works with the children.

• **JASON SPANICH 94** started a new job on Oct. 2, 2000. He is with the same agency, the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System, but in a different division--Capital Trial. He represents clients that are charged with the death penalty and can't afford their own lawyer.

• **SHERINA ARNOLD 95** has a new address.

• **MARYANN CONAGHAN 95** teaches history at a junior high school in New York.

• **HEATHER S. EVANS 95** married Scott Farris on Aug. 19, 2000. She still works at KOTV Channel 6 as the Special Projects producer.

• **ROBB 95** and **ANGELA FOWLER 97 HIGDON** have a new baby girl, Lydia Marie-Frances, born on May 23, 2000. Her older brother is R.J., who is 2. The Higdons have moved to Washington, where Robb works as a sales rep for Bristol-Myers Squibb. Angela is a stay-at-home mom.

• **RACHEL McGLONE 95** finished her master's degree this past August.

• **DESIREE PONDT 95** has a new address.

• **MARK SZEWCZUL 95** is living in the Dallas area. He completed his master's degree at Texas A&M.

• **DAN THORNTON 95** and his wife, Jannel, just celebrated 4 years of marriage. Dan would love to hear from old friends, especially from Goodfellas 91-93 or Sonics 93-94.

• **MARTIN CRICHLOW 96** is working for Texas A&M University at Galveston. He says God has blessed him with a great job and allowed him to live by the beach, so he can't complain!

• **MIKE JOCKTANE 96** is in Gabon, Central Africa, where he is involved in planting churches and doing the work of the ministry. Friends, please write.

• **WENDY BEASLEY 96 RATCLIFF** has a new daughter, who was 7 months old last October, and a new address.

• **ANGELA GOODMAN 96 TYLER** has been married for four years and lives in Flint, Mich. She homeschools their 11-year-old, and also has a daughter who was 18 months old last September. God has been very good

to us over the years, she says.

• **ADRIANE EVANS 97 ADAMS** and husband **DRAKE (A)** are thrilled to announce the arrival of their daughter, Aislinn Rose Marie, on Feb. 22, 2000. The Adamses live in Tulsa. Friends, please keep in touch.

• **TOBEN BLALOCK 97** and his wife, Victoria, were married in ORU's Christ's Chapel. As of September, he was doing contract computer networking jobs in the Watergate in Washington, D.C.

• **DAVID T. BROWN 97** and his wife, Sharon, celebrated their third wedding anniversary on Nov. 29. David started a new job at the American Youth Soccer Organization, heading up all their publications and PR. Sharon enjoys her HR job at Mattel. They live at the beach in L.A. County and love every minute of it. David spends his extra time surfing or repairing boards. They attend Believer's Family Fellowship in Torrance, Calif., where David is part of the praise and worship team and Sharon is in the drama group.

• **RACHEL BURKE 97** returned to the U.S. last summer after 2 years with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Kenya, East Africa. It was an incredible time, she says, preparing the Duruma Church for the New Testament that just arrived in their language last August. Rachel is now studying for her master's in Bible translation at Wycliffe headquarters in Dallas. She was hoping to end up in Indonesia by early 2001.

• **TODD CESA 97** married Tiffany Harrison in April 2000. They are both flight attendants for American and met while flying. God definitely brought us together, Todd said. He added that they enjoy traveling and getting involved at their church and are able to be a light to their co-workers and passengers daily. Friends, please get in touch.

• **CHRISTY CROMWELL 97 FOSTER** has been teaching private clarinet and saxophone lessons. She has also been playing for Cafe Bismarck's swing dances in a jazz combo called the Swingin' Eights. And, she works at Java Dave's, 71st and Memorial.

IN MEMORIAM

Kelvin Royal
Born Aug. 29, 1974
Class of 1997

Kelvin died at his home of an aneurysm. He was a teacher at Academy Prep Center for Education in St. Petersburg, Fla. He earned his ORU degree in Mass Media Communications-Radio Broadcasting. His memorial service was held on Nov. 7, 2000.

• **LARISSA LINDBERG 97 WIEBE** says she's doing well in Vancouver, the Great White North. She'd love to hear from friends.

• **FELIX 98** and **LeNISSA BENNETT 2000 ANYOMI** write that Felix is pursuing his Ph.D. in Biochemistry at Oklahoma State University, and LeNissa is working as a buyer for OSU.

• **HEATHER PAULEY 98 BERGER** has started a public relations and marketing firm, called Berger and Berger, in Tulsa. The firm offers public relations expertise and other marketing services including media buying, event coordination, reputation management, speaking engagement bookings, graphic design, and copywriting.

• **DAVE GROVES 98** became a father in August of a little girl.

• **BRIDGETT SANDERS 98** still works at First Union Securities, Inc.

• **ALTHEA TAIT 98** has been a dorm director at ORU for almost 3 years; her new assignment this year is Shakarian Hall. She goes to TU part-time for her M.A. in English Literature.

• **JAMES BRAY 99** has a new address.

• **HELEN KREBS 99-M.DIV.** is attending school in Jerusalem. She is learning Modern Hebrew through a Semitic language program, working on another M.A. degree.

• **GLENN PACKIAM 99** is working in the worship department at Pastor **TED HAGGARD**'s New Life Church in Colorado Springs.

• **TERESA SHOBE 99** is in her second year of teaching ninth-grade English at the inner city high school she graduated from in 1995. She says it is a mission field in its own right, and God is blessing her there.

2000s
WELCOME, ORU
CLASS OF 2000! Please send us your news!

• **NANCY UDEZUE 2000** is working on her D.Min. at Regent University School of Divinity.

ASSOCIATES IN MEMORIAM

Mark Aaron DePetris
May 7, 1981 – Sept. 30, 2000

Mark was the son of Rich (77) and Pam (74) DePetris. He attended ORU during the 1999-2000 academic year. He died from injuries sustained in a car accident.

• **LEROY GAIN (1983-86)** and his wife have two children. Leroy is a design engineer in fuel systems and his wife is an accountant at Caterpillar Inc.

• **PAUL SUNGRO LEE (1990-91)** and his wife have been missionaries in East Africa since 1996. They were commissioned by Agape Presbyterian Church in Seattle. They are in charge of 360 churches, 70 nursery schools, and several pastoral training centers in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Congo, and Zambia. Web site is www.eaptc.org and e-mail is

• **JENNIFER LORD-KOURAICHI (1993-95)** got married on June 28, 2000. She says married life is great and she loves living in D.C.

• **CARLO RINALDI (1985-87)** married Sheri Pearson on June 10, 2000.

• **DAVID M. SHELBY (1975-77)** transferred to Purdue University and completed a B.S. in Ag Economics in 1980 and an MBA at Indiana Wesleyan University in 1997. He is the CFO of Kerkhoff Group, LLC (family business consulting).

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. James Beck

We just received word last fall that Dr. Beck passed away in January 1998. According to Don McGee, D.M.D. (77;82), "Dr. Beck was one of the first professors hired when the School of Dentistry was started in 1978. He taught Radiology in the Department of Oral Medicine. He was a brilliant man who always had his office door open to help students, no matter what their needs were. I vividly remember him having his lunch of carrot sticks and other fresh vegetables each day in his office. He was very much into nutrition. Years later he developed severe Parkinson's disease and had to be institutionalized when his wife could no longer care for him. I was often deeply saddened when thinking about Dr. Beck, that he had to spend his later years in that condition. But through his salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, he now has a new body and lives in the presence of our God."

Wise Words

Last fall, Dr. John Korstad, biology department, received an e-mail from Hoyt Gazaway, M.D., a 1983 alumnus who practices medicine in the Atlanta area, in response to an e-mail concerning a departmental picnic. With Hoyt's permission, we are sharing his comments with you.

What I wouldn't give to come to a picnic on the shores of Lake Evelyn this Saturday. I miss ORU so very much. Please encourage the students to savor the blessing of going to school in an environment permeated with God's greatness, His love, and His grace. Tell them to thank God each day for professors who love God, who love them, and desire that each student fulfill God's wonderful plan for their life.

Tell them to race to chapel and to realize what a blessing it is in the busyness of life, to be still and to know that He is God. Tell them to never miss a wing devotional, a chance to hear from God and to minister to a brother or sister in need.

Oh, if I could return to a Sunday-night vespers service, the place I received my calling to ministry from God. I'll never forget taking communion that evening, and everything around me somehow fading away, as God spoke to my heart and said, "You will be my minister through medicine to a lost and hurting world, meeting people at a time of desperate need." God has been faithful these past 17 years and has truly done exceedingly, abundantly above all that I could have ever asked or hoped for. Not because I deserved it, but because I humbled myself (pride is a detestable thing to God), forgot about MY goals, MY plans, and said, "Lord, please use me…don't let my life be about hay and stubble…let it count for eternity."

I've had many successes, and I owe it ALL to my Savior. I have a wonderful godly wife, six beautiful, healthy children, a great surgical practice with two wonderful godly men, and many material blessings (traps)…but the greatest thing in all my life is KNOWING HIM. The greatest success is not successfully removing a breast cancer, or an inflamed appendix--it's seeing a grown man realize his need for a Savior and having him kneel on a cold exam room floor and pray to receive Christ…

I know why Jesus loved children so much…help me, Lord, to be more like a child. Tell your students not to wait for a degree to begin to minister. People desperately need to know of God's amazing grace.

I appreciate you and the entire staff so much. I thank God for you regularly in my prayer time, and pray that God will continue to bless you with all wisdom and grace.

Alumnus of the Year 2002

Who will be honored?

That depends on whom you nominate!

Categories are Distinguished Service to God, Distinguished Service to the Community, and Distinguished Service to the Alma Mater.

Nominations deadline is July 1.

For more details, check our Web site (alumniweb.oru.edu); click on Board and click on Programs and Services.

Or, call Alumni Relations at (918) 495-6610.

Remember, the deadline is July 1, 2001! Don't delay! Nominate someone today!

During a ministry trip to Jakarta, Indonesia, in July, Pastor Billy Joe Daugherty (74;92-MA) had the opportunity to meet several alumni for lunch and share some informal fellowship. Pictured, from left to right: Min Ern (David) Tjong (95), Ridwan Bachtra (90:93-MBA), Paul Tjong (93;95-MBA), Robert E. Kusnadi (96), Billy Joe, Johanna Johe Pangemanan (90), Hary K Nugroho (94;95-MBA), and Rebecca Cynthia Devi Susanto (94).

Welcome to the ORU Alumni Association, Class of 2000!

We want to remind you to stay in touch with us. Keep your address current by going to the online directory (alumniweb.oru.edu), or call us at (918) 495-6610.

Remember, too, the many benefits we offer you through the Office of Alumni Relations. These include:

- The Alumni ID Card. A one-time fee of $20 gives you access to the Aerobics Center and the library. (You'll need to come to campus to get it, since it's a photo ID.) Helpful if you live in Tulsa, but also helpful if you're just in town for a visit.
- Golden Eagle Business Connection Luncheons. This Tulsa-area program is a good way to make contacts with other alumni in the business community. Get career advice, encouragement, or even job leads. GEBC is now held the second Tuesday of every month. Call us for details.
- Homecoming. Enjoy open houses, banquets, Alumni University, basketball games, visits with professors, and so much more.
- Web Site. Use Jobtrak to find a new job. Use the Alumni Registry to leave a message for a friend. Use the Directory to update your information. Read the newsletters, Oracle articles, and Calendar to keep current with campus events. Find out who represents you on the Alumni Board of Directors. Review the Alumni Association Constitution and Bylaws. Check ORU sports scores.
- Alumni Receptions/Gatherings. From time to time, we host alumni meetings in major cities. Watch our Web site and your mailbox for upcoming events in your area.
- Publications. We keep you informed about what's happening at ORU and with your fellow alumni. Read all about it in Excellence and Spotlight.

Once again, welcome to the Association! We're looking forward to your letters, calls, and visits.

“We were on our way.”

March 31, 1971

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