

# Excellence

SUMMER 2001

A MAGAZINE FOR ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



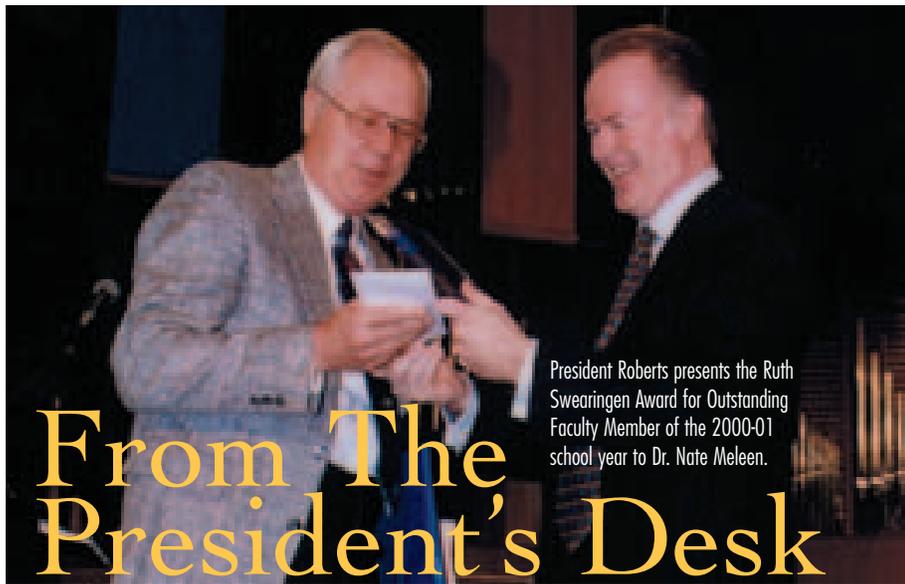
## Creating an Atmosphere of Excellence

Life on the Outside

The Beloved Dr. George

Still Smiley





President Roberts presents the Ruth Swearingen Award for Outstanding Faculty Member of the 2000-01 school year to Dr. Nate Meleen.

# From The President's Desk

Anticipation is building as we prepare for the fall 2001 semester. Our new Gabrielle Christian Salem Residence for Women will open in August, and our new University-wide honors program will get underway.

We also have another exciting event to look forward to this fall: the demolition of the Classroom Center and the start of new construction! Yes, we're tearing down ORU's original gymnasium and replacing it with a top-of-the-line Student Center.

For the past three years, I've been talking about raising the bar at ORU and making us better and stronger than we've ever been before. The dormitory renovations and the honors program are part of that. This new building is one more element of the "atmosphere of excellence" that we're creating on campus. We are investing in the lives of our current students, and doing the things we need to do to attract more of the outstanding students who belong at ORU. We don't want to give prospective students any reason to choose another school over ORU. We want to provide everything they could ask for in a Christ-centered university: rigorous academics, leadership training, character-building and spirit-strengthening activities, a physical-fitness emphasis, and the best of the current technology.

Can we do it all? With God's help, we can. With your prayers and support, we can. With an invigorated faculty, we can.

I wish I had room on this page to name all the faculty members who have stepped up in the past few years and said, "I'm willing to do more. I want to help take ORU to the next level." Let me name one: Dr. John Korstad, our honors program director. He was the 1999-2000 Outstanding Faculty member for the entire university. In his speech at the April 3 Honors Banquet, he said, "I love teaching at ORU. I've never come (to campus) one day that I haven't enjoyed it. God's given me a joy."

I also want to mention biology professor Dr. Richard Couch. He didn't sit around and wait for the "official" honors program to begin. Six years ago, he created an Honors Biology course. "It rejuvenated my enthusiasm for teaching," he said. "It was and is a real treat to have students that know how to study, know how to work, and are willing to do both to achieve at a higher level than the average student in any class we have."

As you can see, we're moving forward. We're doing what needs to be done. These are exciting days at Oral Roberts University, and I want all of our alumni to get involved with what God is doing at 7777 South Lewis.

We're making no little plans here!



Sincerely,  
  
 Richard L. Roberts  
 President and CEO

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Called and Committed to Supporting and Serving

#### Segment I (1968-72)

Doug Foster  
 11756 E. 128th Pl. S.  
 Broken Arrow, OK 74011  
 Home: (918) 369-5407  
 Office: (918) 573-3953  
 doug.foster@williams.com

Natasha Washington  
 11130 Stratford Pl. #411  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
 Home: (405) 748-5819  
 nwashington@oklahoman.com

#### Segment VII (1996-2000)

Vanessa Horn  
 108 E. J St.  
 Jenks, OK 74037  
 Home: (918) 291-2022  
 Office: (918) 594-2224  
 vanessa.horn@afnnet.com

Don Steele  
 11333 County Rd. #177  
 Bullard, TX 75757  
 Home: (903) 894-5658  
 Office: (903) 593-8144  
 DSteele362@aol.com

#### Segment II (1973-77)

David Barton (Chairman)  
 P.O. Box 397  
 Aledo, TX 76008  
 Office: (817) 441-6044  
 scarlett@profamily.com

Ryan Bangert  
 5711 Preston Oaks Rd. Apt 1012  
 Dallas, TX 75240  
 Home: (972) 392-3123  
 rrbangert@yahoo.com

Larry Nowicki  
 4932 S. Oak Ave.  
 Broken Arrow, OK 74011  
 Home/work: (918) 451-2297

**School of Business**  
 Wendy (Pruet) Whitlow  
 10281 S. 92nd E. Ave.  
 Tulsa, OK 74133  
 Home: (918) 254-5552  
 wendywhitlow@aol.com

#### Segment III (1978-82)

Greg Ford  
 P.O. Box 52794  
 Tulsa, OK 74152  
 Home: (918) 865-8356  
 Office: (918) 359-3333  
 greg@gregford.org

#### School of Dentistry

Dr. Don McGee  
 2201 West Lake Brantley Dr.  
 Longwood, FL 32779  
 Home: (407) 774-1349  
 Office: (407) 843-0295  
 Dmcgee1@CFL.RR.com

Rhae Buckley  
 8325 Todd Creek Circle  
 Westchester, OH 45069  
 Home: (513) 777-4720  
 Office: (513) 771-1133 x302  
 Rhae\_Buckley@ryder.com

#### School of Education

Sharon Ware  
 Covenant Consulting, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 702003  
 Tulsa, OK 74170  
 Office: (918) 831-7231  
 SharynDouglass@cs.com

#### Segment IV (1983-87)

Robert Vander Lugt  
 2403 Stirrup  
 Alexandria, VA 22308  
 Home: (703) 704-5347  
 Office: (202) 639-6540  
 rvanderlugt@velaw.com

#### School of Law

Joan McLane Layton (Zanone)  
 6404 Woodridge Rd.  
 Alexandria, VA 22312  
 Home: (703) 354-3319  
 Work: (202) 224-5754  
 mclane\_layton@nickles.senate.gov

Dr. Scott Cordray  
 4125 S. Chestnut Ave.  
 Broken Arrow, OK 74011  
 Home: (918) 451-7066  
 scottcordray@msn.com

#### School of Medicine

Dr. Clay Powell  
 901 Cranes Ct.  
 Maitland, FL 32751  
 Home: (407) 475-5379  
 Charles\_C\_Powell\_MD@mail.fhmis.net

#### Segment V (1988-91)

Dan Borman  
 7328 Native Oak Lane  
 Irving, TX 75063  
 Home: (972) 373-9275  
 Office: (214) 855-0525  
 dborman@genambenefits.com

#### School of Nursing

Paula Sterns  
 2942 Hastings Dr.  
 Grand Prairie, TX 75052  
 Home: (972) 641-8815  
 P\_sterns@yahoo.com

Susan Gimotty  
 12972 S. Summit  
 Olathe, KS 66062  
 Home: (913) 397-9792  
 tec3071@teachercreated.com

#### School of Theology

Gene Gregg  
 401 E. College St.  
 Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
 Home: (918) 251-0791  
 Office: (918) 254-9622  
 ggregg@tpsitsulsa.com

#### Segment VI (1992-95)

John Bolin  
 5953 Leather Dr.  
 Colorado Springs, CO 80918  
 Home: (719) 593-9109  
 Work: (719) 265-3151  
 jbolin6432@aol.com

# Excellence

MAGAZINE

# Table of Contents

Summer 2001 Vol. 13, No. 2

From the President's Desk.....  .....2

Faculty Favorites

Dr. George Thyvelikakath: Just The Right Chemistry .....  .....4

The Smiley Sisters, Near and Far .....  .....8

The New Honors Program: Shaping Tomorrow's Christian Leaders .....12

Student Union .....16

Sports Spot.....  .....20

What's Happening at ORU .....  .....22

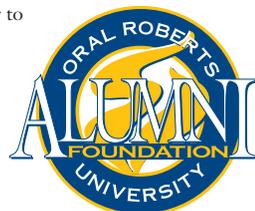
Homecoming 2001 Went Deep in the Heart.....24

Gretchen Wagner's Life on the Outside.....  .....26

Alumni News .....   .....32

Publisher .....ORU Alumni Foundation  
 Editor .....Debbie (Titus-77) George  
 Contributors ..... *Writing:* Debbie (Titus-77) George,  
 Jessica Hill, Joy (Steiner) Moore (2000),  
 Gretchen Wagner (2000), Marshal Wright (83;89)  
*Photography:* Shari Bjelke, Vernon Hale,  
 Don Wilson (77), Dorothea Heit  
 Support Staff.....Winnie Perdue, Diane Brown  
 Art and production.....Mark Combs, JC's Trading & Supply Co.  
 7802 S. Hwy. 97, Sapulpa, OK 74066 • 918/224-7033

*Excellence* is published and distributed three times a year to alumni and friends by the Oral Roberts University Alumni Foundation. Direct all inquiries to:  
 ORU Alumni Foundation  
 P.O. Box 702333, Tulsa, OK 74170-2333  
 Phone 918/495-6610 Fax 918/495-6650  
 Web site: [alumniweb.oru.edu](http://alumniweb.oru.edu) or [www.zgolden eagles.com](http://www.zgolden eagles.com)  
 E-mail: [alumni@oru.edu](mailto:alumni@oru.edu)



For 24 years, ORU students have made their way to Dr. George Thyvelikakath's door.

Like the children in the Chronicles of Narnia who walked through the wardrobe door and were forever changed, it is probably safe to say that not one ORU student, having been in this man's presence, has failed to be changed by the encouragement he so freely dispenses.

What brings students to his door? It may be that his name alone is so intriguing, or that he has such an interesting persona, having come from India. Or it may just be that "Dr. George," a well-respected and brilliant chemist, is so filled with love for Oral Roberts University that students in every undergraduate department, from Psychology to Undergrad Theology, are infused with a burning desire to keep pursuing their calling after even a brief exposure to this man's unquenchable enthusiasm.

As a professor of chemistry, Dr. Thyvelikakath challenges his students to think of chemistry as nothing more than the food they eat and the air they breathe. "The study of chemistry is the study of you and your surroundings," he says.

And as the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences since May 1998, Thyvelikakath's goal has been to improve the chemistry within the broad spectrum of majors that fall under his ultimate supervision. "Irrespective of major, we want our students to take with them transferable skills," he says. "We want our communication arts students to have the analytical skills and our engineering students to have the communication skills. We want our students to turn out to be integrated people; otherwise you end up with scientists who are full of knowledge but who cannot communicate that knowledge, and the same applies for other professions."

Thyvelikakath, originally from Cochin, Kerala, India, has always had a great love for studying science. After receiving his bachelor of science degree from Kerala University in 1965, he came to the United States in 1967 to study electro-organic chemistry at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, where he eventually earned his master of science degree. He had



FACULTY FAVORITES

**Dr. George  
has just  
the right  
chemistry**

just started his Ph.D. studies at New Mexico State University when, within months, several of his close friends died of cancer. His interest in oncological chemistry (the study of cancer) was sparked, and he developed a desire to research and find a means of eliminating the disease. He began reading papers on oncological chemistry and was so impressed by the writings and research of professors at Oklahoma State University that he moved to Stillwater and earned his Ph.D. in medicinal organic chemistry, with specialization in oncology, at OSU.

It was while teaching and completing postdoctoral work at the University of Arkansas in the mid-1970s that Thyvelikakath, who was born and raised in a Christian family, decided he wanted a deeper spiritual walk. "I began to think about the spiritual side," he says. "I experienced a sudden change in my attitude and wanted to go to work at a university where I could grow spiritually as well as advance professionally. And I wanted to go to a university where people believe in the power of prayer. I was looking for those two specific things, and I found them at ORU."

So in the fall of 1977, Thyvelikakath and his wife, Mary, moved to Tulsa, where he took a position at ORU as an assistant professor of chemistry. He moved quickly through the ranks, achieving tenure in 1982, and becoming a full professor in 1983. He originally developed and taught a course called "Chemistry and Cancer" (now called Oncological Chemistry) and gave lectures on "Chemical Carcinogens" in the School of Medicine, but teaching chemistry to undergradu-

ate students has always brought him special joy.

"If a horse is thirsty, it will drink," says Thyvelikakath. "A good teacher will 'make the horse thirsty,' presenting the material in a way that makes the students hungry and thirsty for learning."

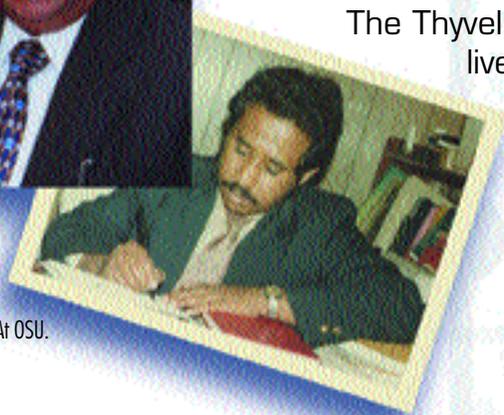
Thyvelikakath has done just that, teaching and counseling hundreds of ORU students. He has received recognition for his actions: a Certificate for Meritorious Service to the Science Teaching Profession from the State of Oklahoma in 1978; ORU's Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year in 1980; inclusion in *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in Frontiers of Science and Technology*, and the *Directory of Distinguished Americans*; and other awards.

"My main passion is teaching," Thyvelikakath shares with his trademark excitement. "When I stand in front of kids, I'm a different person. I believe I'm standing in front of the future, in front of tomorrow. What a joy to teach them what I know, especially from a Christian standpoint!"

The Thyvelikakaths live in



With his wife, Mary, at the 2000 continuing medical education conference banquet.



At OSU.

Broken Arrow. Theirs was an arranged marriage back in India, and they have been happily married for more than 27 years. He is active in the India Association of Greater Tulsa, an organization uniting about 300 families of Indian heritage within the metro area. The group has raised \$50,000 to go toward relief efforts in their native country since the India earthquake occurred in January, killing an estimated 50,000 people. The earthquake took place 800 miles north of Thyvelikakath's hometown, and

none of his family members were injured; however, he says that the rebuilding will be very slow.

Thyvelikakath endured an earthquake of sorts in his own life during the past year, having undergone two major surgeries since December. He is thankful, however, that there is no sign of cancer, the disease that he has dedicated so much of his life to researching.

"I have been healed," he said in May, just before leaving on a trip to India. "God has healed me through prayers. I am going to India to witness for Christ to the many people there who prayed for me."

After taking it slow for a few months, Thyvelikakath has regained his energy and has been working, he says, "from morning till evening." That's good news for ORU. After all, there are more students to teach.

"I'm in love with our mission statement," Thyvelikakath says. "I love the thought that we are educating students in mind, body, and spirit, and then sending integrated people into the world to meet needs. We are moving in the direction of character-building more than ever before. We are stressing the importance of integrity and of having a strong value system and work ethic. We live in a fast-growing, multi-cultural, multi-linguistic, technological, ever-changing society, and a solid Christian education has to be there."

Since 1960, the amount of knowledge in the world has doubled every five years. Thyvelikakath believes that by the year 2020, knowledge will double every 73 days. And he is convinced that his school has a major part to play. "It is good that we are becoming so advanced, but when you have too much knowledge, the key question is *how* the knowledge is being used. In the School of Arts and Sciences, we need to teach our kids the *right* knowledge."

So Thyvelikakath is working to improve the overall spectrum of the more than 50 undergraduate majors he oversees. He encourages faculty members to do research and stay abreast of new developments in their fields, and continually issues assessments to evaluate how well each department is doing. He also chairs an ongoing effort to evaluate and upgrade general education courses, specifically Humanities, which has undergone eagerly embraced modifications in the past three years.

The years he has devoted to the discipline of chemistry have given Thyvelikakath a unique outlook on life and humanity—one that focuses on the composition and breakdown of oneself.

"The object of the game is to discover *who* you are and *what* your surroundings are. You then need to do something good for your fellow man according to God's call on your life.... I wish for all students to exceed above me," Thyvelikakath says. "I would love to work for *them* someday. My ambition is for one of my students to someday find a cure for cancer or AIDS or to eliminate cholesterol build-up. It would make me proud to be able to say, 'Look, he is my student! I have fulfilled God's call. Now my life is complete.'"



Always dashing and debonair.



At Commencement in 1998.



# How estate tax repeal affects you

By Marshal Wright (83;89-MBA) Associate Professor, School of Business

Many people believe that the repeal of the estate and gift taxation system in the United States will result in a reduced need to plan for their estate.

This is not the case! The basic estate planning questions related to the transfer of the property of the estate will still remain. Furthermore, the repeal will, in many instances, create the need for more (and different) planning by shifting the tax exposure from the transfer tax system back to the capital gains/income tax system. Yes, estate planning will still be vitally important, especially for Christians who want to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to them.

## Estate Planning: It's Stewardship

Most people go through life trying not to think about one area of their future: what happens when they die. As Christians, we may feel that we have resolved that issue because we have our spiritual affairs in order. We don't take much time--if any--to consider what happens to our material possessions and finances after we're gone.

People often reason this way: "When I'm gone, I'm gone. I don't have much to leave, so why should I worry about getting my estate in order?" Or, not believing anything can happen to them now, they say, "I can take care of that planning when I am older, or when my health starts to deteriorate."

These ways of thinking are flawed. God expects us to take care of the material possessions He has entrusted to us. Most Christians understand this idea of stewardship as applied to the concept of lifetime financial planning. However, many Christians do not understand that the single largest act of financial stewardship often occurs when transferring the estate on to the next line of beneficiaries, which may include children, grandchildren, the church, and other charities and ministries. What's important is that the estate is planned so its distribution will glorify God and provide for the greatest use of the assets for His kingdom.

## The Right Time

When should you start thinking about estate planning? Some of the "trigger events" include:

1. Getting married and having children. Guardianship and custodianship are a concern.

2. Having elderly parents and/or grandparents that may rely upon you.
3. Purchasing a home or other substantial asset.
4. Receiving an inheritance or gift.
5. Making a gift or donating a charitable contribution
6. Other planning that's done in the normal course of your investment and financial planning.

It's best to work with a professional when developing your estate plan. He or she can guide you through the decision-making process and assure that your desires will be accomplished efficiently and in accordance with the law.

Three general principles to remember concerning stewardship and estate planning are:

1. *We cannot shirk our responsibility as stewards, no matter how little we have.* God expects us to use our assets in a godly manner while we are alive, and to leave a legacy that extends our stewardship after our death.

2. *The Bible clearly addresses the issues of inheritance and stewardship.* Take time to study God's word as it relates to finances, taxation, inheritance, and stewardship. You will find that it has much to say that will be of tremendous benefit as you put your plan in place.

3. *Although we are to live within the expectation of Christ's second coming, as stewards we also need to plan for our lives here on earth until the Lord returns.* Godly stewardship is the only effective way to handle our resources. Any other method leads to disastrous financial results.

## Haggai's Message from God

*Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it" (Haggai 1:5,6, NIV).*

Do you ever feel as if the money you make goes into a bag full of holes? That's one reason why you need to plan now for the future. Planning gives us focus to live out our years in the way God intends. Deuteronomy 8:17,18 (NIV) explains:

*You may say to yourself, "MY power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your forefathers, as it is today.*

That covenant relationship with the Lord is the reason we must practice godly stewardship of our finances, including the realm of estate planning.

*Marshal Wright also holds a juris doctorate from Regent University. This article is his first in a series of articles on estate planning. Future articles will address Planning for Incapacity, Transferring Assets, The Tax Implications of Estate Planning, and Charitable Giving through the Estate.*



## Life after basketball can be downright dangerous

# FIRING LINE

Beth and Kit in March 2001.

The women's basketball program at ORU has many strengths, but, alas, teaching its players how to dodge AK-47-wielding carjackers is not one of them.

Or is it?

During a late-night Homecoming weekend interview, Beth (Smiley-77) Becker, who actually faced the scenario described above, said that being a Titanette helped prepare her for all *sorts* of challenges.

Becker and her twin sister, Kit (77) Marshall, were members of one of ORU's early women's basketball teams, coached by Peggy Beck. Beth came to ORU in the fall of 1973, followed by Kit in the fall of 1974. The 1973-74 school year was the first time the Aledo, Tex., siblings had gone their separate ways, and it gave them both a new perspective and a glimpse into their future.

"It was so totally different to come in (a year later), because I'd always been the leader," Marshall said in the rapid-fire conversation style that the sisters share. "I can remember saying to Beth when we were high school seniors, 'Beth,



**'God, what if I mess up?'**

enough of this. You cannot continue to let people stomp on you! I will not always be there for you. Just step up to the plate and you can do it.'

"So, when I transferred in as a sophomore, Beth's made her circle of friends, she's active and involved. All of a sudden, I'm not the one forging the road. And Beth had blossomed. She had come into her own."

"I decided when I came up here that I was not going to sink, I was going to swim," Becker said. "And so I did."

It didn't take long for the Smileys to get on the same page. Although they lived on different wings, both were athletics chairmen who preached the importance of being well-rounded people.

"I remember my first semester, I spent a lot of time in the gym," Becker said, referring to the Health Resources Center. "So that first semester, my grades weren't wonderful. And I realized," she laughed, "that I probably shouldn't spend as much time over there playing basketball!"

The sisters began their basketball careers in seventh grade. Their devotion, however, didn't extend to actually *owning* a basketball.

"In 1989, the Christmas before we went to Africa," Becker said, "my husband gave me a basketball. I'm thinking, What am I going to do with a basketball in Africa? 'Oh, thank you, this is really neat, my very

first basketball. I always wanted my very own.”

“I still don’t have my own,” Marshall interjected. “I have to borrow my daughter’s.”

“When we got to Africa,” Becker continued, “there were some missionary guys who would meet every Tuesday afternoon to play basketball, and they invited me to come play because they knew I played. I checked with the wives to make sure it was okay.

“I couldn’t believe God did that. That, for me, was my outlet, because by then I had started homeschooling.” The Beckers have three sons: Caleb, Joshua, and Scott.

“When God sent me into special ed,” Becker said, “I didn’t think it would be that valuable, but the teaching was certainly good preparation. Although, I can remember starting my oldest son in kindergarten, thinking, ‘God, what if I mess up?’ And, mind you, kindergarten is NOT THAT HARD!”

Marshall, a social work major, said that Titanette basketball was hard work—by choice, especially since scholarships weren’t offered until the 1976-77 season, after the Smileys had left the team. “At that time, we were still able to play intramurals and be on the varsity team.” And, of course, both sisters played every intramural sport offered. “That was really tough, if you chose to go that way,” Marshall admitted. “You’re up here to get an education first—or, that’s what our parents told us.”

In 1977, the Smileys graduated from ORU and separated again. Marshall and her husband, Hugh (A), returned to Texas, and Becker stayed in Tulsa while her husband, David (78;82-M.Div.), finished school.

Beth with a pastor’s wife in Zambia.



Still crazy after all these years? In 1978 with sister Laura.

With the Titanettes—oops! Eagles—at Homecoming 2001.



“David had a very vivid vision, sitting in class here in seminary,” Becker said. “God just took him out of the classroom. When he ‘came back’ to the room, he was looking around, wondering if anyone had seen what he just saw! It was at that point that God defined the call on his life as mission work, and that we were going to start in Kenya.”

The Beckers spent about six years in Kitale, Kenya. Today, the family is in Lusaka, Zambia, working with Pentecostal Holiness churches, among others, in the area of leadership training and development. Zambia is where the AK-47 incident occurred.

About a year ago, Beth, Caleb, and Joshua were driving the ten miles home from a youth group meeting in town. Since carjacking is a common problem, Becker was alert to the traffic. A car behind her suddenly accelerated and pulled up beside her, and someone in the car fired an AK-47 across the hood of her Rover.

“I have a radio in the car,” Becker said,

“and I said, ‘Caleb, call your dad,’ and I got out of there! David said, ‘Get to the police post.’ I did, and when I pulled in, the policeman went running in and ran back outside with *his* AK-47.”

Sister Kit deals with a different kind of fireworks in her job. She’s the director of development for WallBuilders, founded by fellow Aledoan, David Barton (76). Marshall has been working at WallBuilders, a national pro-family organization, since it began in 1987. She and Beth went to high school with Barton and began helping him with research in 1987.

Barton had accompanied his wife, Cheryl, to a Concerned Women of America meeting in Washington, D.C. Several months before the meeting, God told him to find out when SAT scores in America started to fall, and when school prayer was

removed. He presented this information to a congressman who said, "Let's just assume that one affects the other. Someone needs to research that."

Both Kit and Beth were living in Aledo and had started their families (Kit's two children are Stephanie and Andrew), so they worked part-time for Barton and babysat each other's children. Barton's first book, *America: To Pray or Not to Pray*, was the result of their and others' research.

Sports have remained a part of the sisters' lives. In Africa, Becker has been involved with the basketball program at the American international school. In Aledo, Marshall has previously coached and is now assistant coach for girls' basketball and volleyball at the Christian school Barton helped start. Yes, their love of the game remains, but as Marshall said, "This was a hobby, if you will. It wasn't our lifelong passion." Becker, though, stretched out her playing days by being on sisters Laura (80) and BJ (82)'s intramural teams at ORU for five years.

Besides homeschooling a 15-, 13-, and 9-year-old, Becker handles all the bookwork and correspondence for their ministry, known as Emmaus Road Ministries. "I feel like I wear lots of hats over there, and sometimes it gets real stressful, trying to juggle it all," she said, "but gosh, I had lots of training at ORU!"

Marshall's pace hasn't slowed much, either. She's on the school board and Chamber of Commerce committees, teaches in children's church (ages 2-6), and writes for the local newspaper. Ask her how she feels about the life she's living, and she'll tell you, "I

know for sure I'm where God wants me to be. How do we know how long we're supposed to be anywhere? I don't know. What I'm doing has its stressful moments, but God stretches us. And I know that all my life experiences are being used and will be used in the days to come. It's exciting to be able to say, 'Well, God, here I am. Use me, and whatever you want me to do, I'm just quite happy about it.'"

"What's exciting is to look back," Becker said, "and see how God prepared you and the things He took you through. Not everything is wonderful about living in Africa, but I love it and I love what I'm doing. I have a lot of peace and joy about it."

That peace slipped away after the car-jack attempt, but Becker

knew where to turn. One day, her Bible reading was Psalm 91--"the psalm God gave me when we went to Africa," she said. "The whole thing fits, even to the cobra and the lion, because we certainly have those there! I wondered, was this scripture just for Kenya, or did it still apply?"

"As I was reading that scripture, the Lord just magnified it. It was like I could see those wings that had been covering us when we were in that situation. It was like I could feel Him saying, 'My angels are there to watch over you and protect you, and it still applies, even for Zambia.'"

You can be sure there's a Beth Smiley Becker look-alike in Aledo, Tex., urging those angels on.



Beth's family last Christmas: Scott, Beth, Grandma, David, Caleb, and Joshua.

Stephanie, Kit, Hugh, and Andrew, 2000.



**"What's exciting is to look back," Becker said, "and see how God prepared you and the things He took you through."**

Focus on the women.” That’s what God told Lu Dunbar to do in 1995. Her obedience to that command resulted in the creation, in 1997, of Royal Treasure, a nonprofit organization that reminds affluent women of the essential role they have to play in furthering the work of the Kingdom.

Jesus himself relied on women to support His efforts (Luke 8:1-3). After reading those verses, Dunbar asked herself, “Where are those women today? What’s keeping them from putting their treasure, time, and talents into God’s hands?”

As a fund-raising veteran of twenty years, Dunbar knew that when it comes to giving, men look at the bottom line; women want to feel connected to the group they’re supporting and may take longer to make their decisions, but involve ten others in the process. She discovered, through research, that most people—79 percent—give because they want to make a difference, or they feel a responsibility to share their good fortune (69 percent), not because they want the tax benefits (11 percent). The challenge, for her, was to open women’s eyes to the positive influence they could wield and the satisfaction they could derive from giving.

“Women know *why* they should give,” Dunbar said in a phone interview from her home in Marietta, Ga. “They’re trying to figure out *how* and *where*.” Royal Treasure, with “no hidden agendas” and no product line, provides a safe environment where women can learn to make wise financial choices. “We help women determine their spiritual DNA. We ask, what is the purpose God uniquely designed you for?”

At Royal Treasure conferences, women write their own personal mission statement—“a single sentence,” Dunbar said—and “look at their giftedness. Where those two things—the mission and the giftedness—come together is where you invest your stewardship.”

One of Dunbar’s greatest concerns is for women to be well prepared to handle financial matters. Statistics now show that the average age of a widow is 55, and most widows will live another 30 years beyond that.

“When people think of an inheritance,” Dunbar said, “they tend to think in terms of children and grandchildren. Most inheritances, though, are lateral—husbands to wives.” The fact is, 90 percent of all women, at some point in their lives, will be solely responsible for their own finances.

“Some people don’t want to face their own mortality,” Dunbar said, “and, they think someone else will take care of everything.” But if a woman doesn’t understand her financial situation, it’s easy for someone to take advantage of her when she is alone. “I’ve seen it happen too many times,” Dunbar said.

Why should women be well informed? Women 18 years of age and older now control about half of the investment wealth in the United States. Women own 43 percent of stock portfolios valued over \$50,000 and 45 percent of investments in other markets. The inter-

generational transfer of wealth between 1998 and 2052 is estimated to be between \$41 and \$136 trillion, and women will handle most of it. More and more women are establishing and running successful businesses. Women need to be confident and competent in stewardship matters.

There are many reasons why women don’t deal with finances or participate in decisions on how family money—and how much of it—should be given to charity. “They think it’s too complicated or too overwhelming,” Dunbar said, but in her opinion, “they are more competent than they give themselves credit for; they just lack confidence. When women get with other women who have figured out how to manage their finances, they say, gosh, if *you* can do this, maybe I can too.”

Another issue is fear. “Women are afraid they won’t have enough money to live on when they get old. They need to establish a finish line, so they won’t miss the joy of giving now.”

Then there’s age. Many women under 40 put it off until “tomorrow because they are busy with career and/or family. It’s important to learn now since it will put you so much farther ahead,” indicates Dunbar.

Although Royal Treasure deals with affluent women, Dunbar believes the message is the same for all women.

“Will you be a part of what God wants to do? We can change the world for Christ. I don’t know anything much more exciting than that.”

Dunbar has many stories to tell about the women she’s met. One woman had been the president of a petroleum engineering company when she was 25. She got married and allowed her life to be absorbed in her husband’s.

One day, the Lord told her husband to finish all of his current projects before his birthday, because He had something special for him. The man did as instructed...and died in his sleep on the night of his birthday. The wife had relied on her husband to deal with their finances, so she had to find her identity all over again and begin to manage her affairs.

“We shouldn’t leave it to somebody else to decide where our money goes,” Dunbar said. “God created us as stewards. We are to grow and manage and give as effectively as possible.

“It’s like the parable of the talents; we shouldn’t bury them.”

At Homecoming 2002, the Alumni Association will hold a brunch for women on Saturday, Feb. 2. Lu Dunbar will be the featured speaker. The topic of her talk will be “A Woman’s Divine Privilege.”

For more information on giving, go to [www.gatheringweb.com](http://www.gatheringweb.com) (The Gathering), and [www.newtithing.org](http://www.newtithing.org) (NewTithing Group). To teach children about handling money, Dunbar recommends Neale S. Godfrey’s *Ultimate Kids’ Money Book* (for ages 9-12), and the curriculum for teenagers developed by Crown Ministries; go to [www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org). Royal Treasure is at [www.royaltreasure.org](http://www.royaltreasure.org).





“An honors program,” said Dr. Ralph Fagin, “not only engages the honors Fellows and Associate Fellows in a journey toward excellence, it reminds all students, faculty, and staff that if we use the phrase ‘Build Me a University,’ it’s God’s University, and that puts a great burden on us to live up to that.”

“Plus,” the vice president of Academic Affairs continued, “if we’re taking God’s healing power and the saving power of the gospel to people, we have to be credible. Our level of trustworthiness is related to competence and excellence, and an honors program challenges us to attain those qualities.”

The honors program “will attract students to ORU, and equip them to a greater degree than we’ve ever been able to equip them before,” Dr. Fagin added. “We keep going back to ORU’s founding principles. The honors program is one of the new ways to implement the founding principles.”

As ORU’s chancellor, Oral Roberts, said in 1967, “We are striving for ORU to be...strong enough academically to challenge the most earnest scholar,” even while it is spiritual enough to “draw him to his knees in worship and praise to God.”

Despite its ever-growing enrollment, ORU is missing out on many students who are looking for more rigorous academics.

“Some of the top high school students are choosing other outstanding public and private universities over ORU,” said Dr. John Korstad, honors program director. “We want those students to seriously consider coming to ORU, and to know that our honors program is going to be second to none.”

“Some students have felt that God was calling them to ORU, but they didn’t come because we didn’t have something like the honors program to offer them.”

The ORU faculty did not wait for the “official” honors program to begin. In the past few years, professors developed and taught honors sections in subjects such as English and biology.

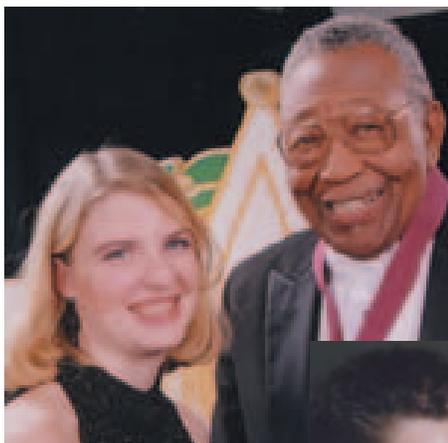
In February 2000, ORU achieved a long-awaited affiliation with a university-wide national honor society, Gamma Beta Phi. Membership in ORU’s chapter went from 70 in 2000 to 290 in 2001. In the past two years, faculty members and students have also revitalized inactive honor societies, giving ORU a total of fourteen societies.

In October 1999, ORU joined the National Collegiate Honors Council and the Great Plains Honors Council. Korstad and Dr. John and Kay Tuel attended the NCHC meeting in Orlando; Korstad attended last year’s NCHC meeting in Washington, D.C. All three returned with valuable information and helpful contacts with honors program directors at other universities, including many in the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities.

In October 2000, ORU students attended their first national Gamma Beta Phi meeting in New Orleans, where they accepted the challenge to get involved with a Boys and Girls Club. Throughout the past school year, members of the ORU chapter helped children from the Broken

Arrow club with after-school activities, including homework. When ORU junior Alex Aguilar called the national office to report on the chapter’s activities, said Dr. Korstad, “They told him, ‘You’re the first club to do this. We want you to write this up for the national newsletter.’”

“ORU has never had a university-wide honors program,” said Dr. Debbie Sowell, Dean of Instruction, in a report prepared last fall. Citing faculty members



Outgoing Honor Society president Amber Natale escorted John W. Montgomery, equal opportunity advocate, at the Oklahoma Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony in November.

Matthew Feske and outgoing Student Association president Marsha Griffin at the Honors Banquet.



who have helped push the honors program to the foreground, she said, “All have recognized the potential of challenging students of superior intellect through a rigorous version of the ORU experience...to a degree never realized before. The potential benefit to the University and God’s people defies simple quantification.”

This fall, the program’s first interdisciplinary seminar, Artistic Expression, will be offered to the top sixteen honors students (known as Fellows). It combines art and English and takes the place of English 101. In the spring of 2002, the second seminar, Philosophy of Science, will be offered. This course combines theology, engineering, biology, and chemistry and will take the place of one three-hour humanities course.

Future seminars will blend humanities and theology; history and math; business, computer science, education, engineering, nursing, pre-med, psychology, and social work; and literature, music, HPER, and theater. Honors Research, a combination of the student's major area and one other discipline, will replace Senior Paper.

Honors students will be afforded some privileges in recognition of their achievements. The first floor-lower section of the new Gabrielle Christian Salem Residence for Women is being set aside for female honors students, while the second floor of Wesley Luehring Hall has been reserved for the men. Quiet hours, an "honors atmosphere," and social activities with the brother/sister wing will be emphasized.

Honors students will take part in a Senior Paper Reception, receive special recognition at graduation and hooding ceremonies, and have their honors designated on their transcripts and diplomas.

Special opportunities for service, leadership, and social interaction



Dr. Korstad, honors program director

Working with a Boys Club student.

ORU Honor Society "mentors" pose with their "mentees."



a Fellow/Mentor recognition dinner.

The first sixteen Honors Fellows, all freshmen, have been chosen for this fall. ORU expects to have 30-40 Associate Fellows. All Fellows are required to have solid academic credentials and application packets, minimum SAT or ACT scores of 1280 or 29, respectively, letters of recommendation, demonstrated leadership skills, and evidence of church and community service.

"This will be our first year for the program," said Dr. Korstad, "and we're going to be perfecting some things." One of the notable strengths of the program is that faculty mentors will be assigned to each Fellow. "The relationship should be almost like Jesus working with His disci-

ples," Korstad said. "That's the model that we as Christians should follow."

Another goal is to give students better preparation for graduate programs and national scholarships. "We want to groom more of them for Rhodes, Marshall, and Fulbright scholarships," Korstad said. "Three of our students have come close (to getting them) in the past two years. I know our students are worthy."

Some might wonder if non-honors students will feel left out when the program gets rolling. Korstad sees the opposite happening.

"This is not an elitist group," he said. "This program is going to be used as a model"--especially the mentoring, leadership, and service aspects. "If it works well with 100 students, it can be expanded University-wide."

Korstad does see the first class of Fellows bonding. "It will be a case of iron sharpening iron, of students challenging each other." He also believes that when other students see the program's perks, they'll work harder in an effort to get involved.

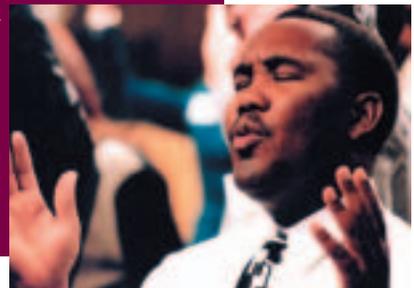
Alyson Hall, incoming Gamma Beta Phi president, agrees. "There are a lot of people who want a challenge. To have a program like this, with the benefits that come with being involved in it--I think it's going to be great.

"Something that keeps hitting me," she added, "is, we're in college now, and this is our training ground for the rest of our lives. It's not high school anymore. People need to take this seriously. I think people who are in an honors program and honor society understand that it is important, and that this is what's preparing us for life. It's our last stop before 'Hello, world!'"

The honors program will expand as the years go by. ORU expects to have as many as 128 Fellows in 2005-06. This will require more scholarship money, dorm space, library resources, faculty mentors, instructors, and funds to bring in special speakers and send students to regional and national meetings.

As part of ORU's burgeoning "atmosphere of excellence," the honors program is poised to take this 36-year-old "daring new concept in higher education," as Oral Roberts called the University in 1965, to even higher ground.

Make plans now to attend the fourth annual Alumni Ministers Conference, Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2002. For more information, contact the Office of Ministerial Relations at [minrelations@oru.edu](mailto:minrelations@oru.edu) or at (918) 495-6264.



# Board puts approved changes into effect

The Alumni Board of Directors election held last fall resulted in the re-election of three board members, the election of four new board members, and overwhelming approval for a question concerning amendments to the bylaws of the Constitution of the Alumni Association.

David Barton (76), Greg Ford (80), and Paula Sterns (77) were re-elected for Segments II and III and the School of Nursing, respectively.

Doug Foster (71), Rhae Buckley (80), Dan Borman (89), and Gene Gregg (80;82-M.A.Th.) were elected to serve in Segments I, III, and IV and the School of Theology, respectively.

The constitutional changes proposed by the Alumni Board were approved by a vote of 883-40, resulting in the incorporation of the new Alumni Association mission statement into Article II-Purposes (see full copy of the constitution on the alumni Web page).

Other changes include:

- The seats for the seven graduate/professional school directors will be changed to at-large seats and will be elected from among the full membership of the association.
- The immediate past chairman of the board is no longer an honorary, nonvoting member of the board.

- The board chairman's term has been extended from one year to two years.
- The chairman-elect position has been changed to vice-chairman. This person, like the chairman, will be elected by the board. If the chairman is unable to complete his term, the vice-chairman will become the new chairman and finish the term in progress.

The board also decided at its Feb. 15 and 16 meeting to move its leadership election from February to September or October, depending on the meeting date. To accommodate the new election date, the board voted to extend the term of office of chairman David Barton through October 2001. Chairman-elect Bob Vander Lugt will also serve through October; his title has been changed to vice-chairman (see next paragraph). He will move into the chairman's seat at the September 2001 meeting.

As allowed by Article VI of the constitution, the board will establish a leadership team composed of a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer. Any member of the board, regardless of his length of service, will be eligible to run for a leadership position this September.

Several members of the Alumni Board expressed a desire to communicate with their constituents via e-mail. At present, the Alumni Relations office has about 1,650 e-mail addresses on file, and assumes that many of those addresses could be obsolete since alumni, by and large, do not update their e-mail addresses as faithfully as they do their postal addresses.

The next Alumni Board of Directors election will take place this fall, following the Oct. 5-6

board meeting. There will be openings to fill in Segments I (1968-72; one slot), V (1988-91; one), and VII (1996-2001; one). Three at-large seats will also be open.



Jay Betz, Bob Vander Lugt, and David Barton at the February Golden Eagle Business Connection luncheon.

After 16 years on staff, Dawn Hoskey (85), Dean of Women, is leaving ORU.

"I go out with excitement," she said. "I've been really praying about departure for the past two years. It was just time to go.

"ORU was a season and a chapter in my life that the Lord had for me. I would never change it. He has blessed me beyond what I could ever imagine."

Hoskey started out as a residence hall director, then moved up to administrative assistant to the associate dean of students and associate dean of women before becoming dean in 1994.

This onetime physical education major said that after graduation, she thought she would stay in Tulsa and get a teaching job. But in the mid-1980s, schools were cutting P.E. programs.

"At the end of the summer, I still didn't have a job. Then I saw that there was an opening in Student Affairs."

"It's been the greatest joy and pleasure for me. I've loved every minute of it," is how Brenda Coomer (92), Women's Chaplain since 1992, described her tenure at ORU. When Coomer announced her impending departure at the last chapel of the year, "It was very emotional for me," she said. "It wasn't easy to say goodbye."

Coomer said she and her husband, Chad (91;96-M.A.), and their children, Cameron, 7, and Mikayla, 4, are planning to stay in Tulsa. "My predominant focus will be ministering to women, particularly at women's conferences." Coomer will also be consulting in other arenas, such as churches. It's clear that she's excited about the possibilities.

"I knew it was the timing of the Lord to move on. It's difficult, though," she said, "because this has been like my family. It has been such an honor to serve President Richard and Lindsay Roberts. President Roberts said to me, 'You will always be considered like a member of the family.' That means the world to me."

On the other hand, Coomer said, "My greatest role is that of being a wife and a mother. Cameron and Mikayla are so happy with the thought of my being at home more."

Dawn Hoskey (far left)

Hoskey and RAs at April 27 RA Banquet

# Hoskey, Coomer say goodbye

Hoskey says she had several opportunities over the years to take other jobs, but "I just loved what I was doing with the students."

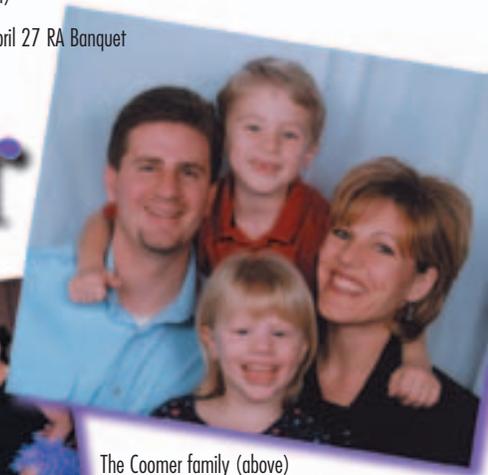
The Toledo, Ia., native has a box of mementoes that contains letters of thanks from former students. "I just got one the other day," she smiled. "Just to get one would have been worth the 16 years, but there are a couple of dozen. What's humbling is to get a letter from someone you didn't know you helped. I didn't expect the Lord to use me in some of the ways He did."

Hoskey will miss the fun stuff, like RA retreats and parties and skits, but not the dress code. She hadn't yet nailed down a new job back in June, but don't be surprised if she winds up with a hammer in her hand.

"I'd like to be in business for myself," she said, citing one option, "as a landscaping consultant or in home improvement. I've built a couple of decks. It's a craft that I love."

One of the things Hoskey said she gained at ORU was "the confidence to see myself as God sees me." And now, she concluded, "I'm at the threshold of a new part of my life. Anything is possible."

To contact Dawn, write [dawnfaith007@yahoo.com](mailto:dawnfaith007@yahoo.com).



The Coomer family (above)

Coomer with the spiritual life dorm directors at the 2001 Chaplains' Banquet.

As the women's chaplain, Coomer put together an impressive list of achievements. She established a mentoring program utilizing local alumni, provided ongoing leadership training for student leaders, set up a chaplains' alumni fund, and provided a wide variety of ministry opportunities for the women at ORU, among other things. However, it's the ten manila folders she keeps at home, the ones filled with thank-you notes, that testify best to the impact she had on students' lives.

Even so, Coomer pointed out, "Sometimes we have to do what we've never done before in order to see what we have never seen before." Brenda Coomer is looking forward to carrying the vision of ORU to a wider world.

You can contact Brenda at [brendacoomer@gbronline.coms](mailto:brendacoomer@gbronline.coms)

# Strike the right balance

Alyson Hall  
Junior \* Elementary Education  
Fresno, Calif.

You might say that Alyson Hall is following in her mother's footsteps at ORU by majoring in education. Hall, however, is also making her own special mark through her involvement in Gamma Beta Phi, the ORU honor society.

This daughter of Joyce (Klapstein-69) and Steven Hall served as secretary of the club this past year. Next year, she'll be the president.

Gamma Beta Phi is just one element of ORU's plan to enhance its academic reputation. Coupled with the new honors program (debut: August 2001), the club will raise awareness of the importance of doing one's best in the classroom. Equally important will be their focus on giving something back to the community.

Hall says that next year club members will work with Big Brothers and Big Sisters. "Gamma Beta Phi's objective is education," she said of the national organization's mandate. "They want all of our service projects to be education-based. We had students going out every week last year, working with kids through the Boys and Girls Club. It's exciting for us as college students to be able to put aside our lives and help the kids that need us."

Gamma Beta Phi requires that members attend at least two meetings and perform one hour of service each semester. "We had students who went out more than one time last year because they loved it," Hall said. That's a trend she hopes will continue.

Hall herself is naturally suited to projects that involve kids. She traces her interest in children to the time she spent babysitting as a teenager. "Kids are really where my heart is," she said. "When I went to apply for summer missions this year, I said, which one's going to have the most to do with kids?" She left in May for Cape Verde, Africa, where her team worked mostly with orphanages and church groups.

Last spring, the honor society decided to add two officers to its executive committee: a vice president for graduate honors students and a director of publicity. "I think it's important to keep the undergrads and graduate students involved with each other," Hall said. When it comes to visibility, "I think a lot of people are still thinking, Gamma what? But we're working on that." Treasurer Jeremy Wright is developing a Web site, and Hall hopes to procure a bulletin board in the GC stairwell. Something they're doing must be working, though, since membership grew from 45 in 1999 to 290 in 2000-01, making Gamma Beta Phi one of the largest clubs on campus.

Hall attended her first national Gamma Beta Phi meeting last fall. "I'd never been to one like it before," she said. Parliamentary procedure was the order of the day; "Oh, my word! It's so formal!" Hall thought. She also marveled at the people "who were so passionate about it. It was their life, which is good. That's what makes a really good club. It was interesting seeing that and seeing how if you really put time into (the society), it can be more productive and it can help a lot."

At the same time, Hall believes that neither honor society perks nor being a book-worm should be a student's main focus.



Hall at the Honors Banquet, where she gave the benediction.

"There are some people that *do* study a lot, and that is their life. But there are also a lot of us who say, 'Yeah, studying's a big thing, but you have to have a balance between how much you study and how much you have fun.'"

"That's something that started hitting me a year ago. If you study all the time, then you miss the whole college experience. And if you don't study, you might not be here too much longer!"

Hall says she has always been a good student, thanks to her parents. "My parents read to me ever since I was a little girl. My mom said she used to put books in my crib when I was taking a nap, and she'd come in later and I would be looking through them.

"I've always loved to read, and I think that was a big thing. My parents just always encouraged me to do my best. 'Even if you don't get an A,' they said, 'if that's your best, then we're proud of you.' Having that encouragement has really kept me going."

Hall hopes that the members of Gamma Beta Phi can offer the same kind of encouragement to other ORU students. "I think it has to start in our classes," she said, "by being good examples and showing that it is important to work hard, and that we can do well if we put our minds to it--not to make people feel like, oh, I'm not smart enough to be in that (the society), but to inspire people to work hard so they can be involved."

# CSF awards Leadership Scholarship

Since it began in 1988, the Crusader Scholarship Fund has helped nearly 200 ORU students stay in school. The economic impact of that assistance has exceeded \$2.5 million. The emotional impact has been even greater.

“It will change my life entirely,” said Rachel Pisors, the latest beneficiary of a CSF award. Her scholarship for 2001-02, announced by Jim Stovall (81) March 23 on *Something Good*

*Tonight: The Hour of Healing*, is worth \$7,500. For the 2000-01 school year, seven students received CSF scholarships totaling \$15,000.

In the past, CSF has made smaller awards, from a few hundred dollars to \$1,500, to as many as thirteen students each year. Last year, the fund’s board of directors--Stovall, Dave Crowell (80;81-MBA), Rob Campbell (81), Dan Barlow (82), and Greg Sparlin (81)--decided to create what they call a “Leadership Scholarship.”

“We are seeking the next generation of the CSF,” Stovall explained, “other alumni that will try to make a larger impact. We thought that if we had a larger impact, we could recognize leadership and find people who would want to give back.”

Stovall said the criteria for the Leadership Scholarship go far beyond academics. “We chose someone we thought was going to express traits of leadership and make a difference now and in the future.”

Pisors, a senior this fall, is majoring in Spanish and minoring in missions. She first came to ORU in 1996, left after two years to go to Mexico for one and a half years “to learn Spanish and get some missions experience,” she said, then returned to ORU last fall. “I was having a lot of financial difficulties last fall, and was considering dropping out of school.”

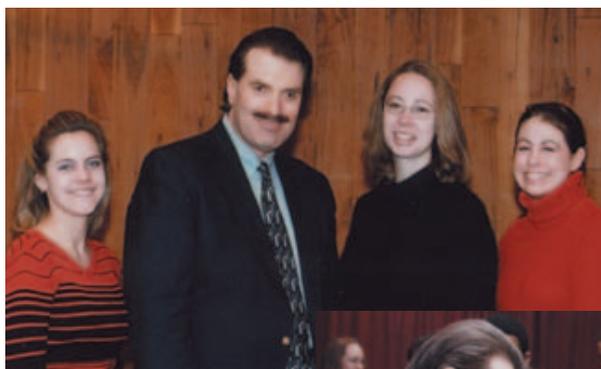
Then, her department chairman chose her to apply for the CSF scholarship. “I filled out the application in faith,” she said. “I really didn’t know what was going to happen.”

After graduation, Pisors wants to do full-time missions work with the Hispanic people. Her brother, Jesse (96), received two CSF scholarships when he was at ORU.

Stovall and his wingmates came up with the idea for CSF when they were students, and promptly forgot about it until they were all together at Crowell’s wedding some years later.

Stovall with scholarship finalists (left to right) Stephanie Smith, Rachel Pisors, and Stephanie Strack.

Stovall signs books after chapel.

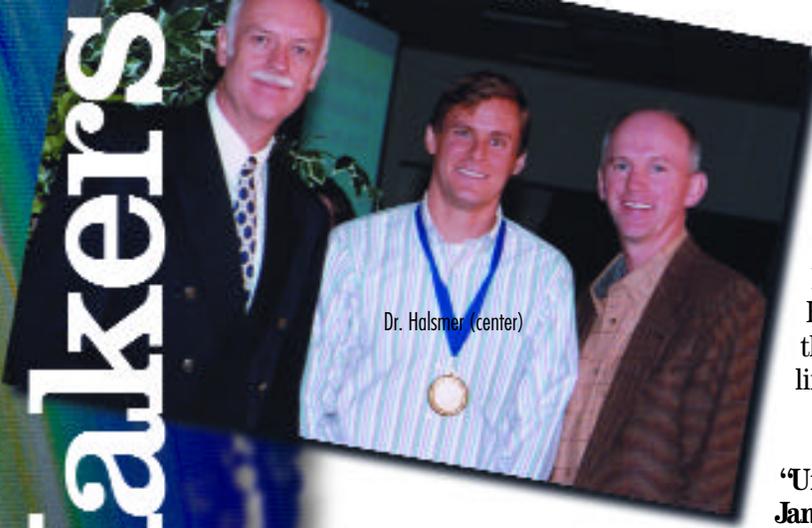


“We started it with our own money,” Stovall said, “and we started small. It always amazes me what happens when you just remember that commitment (you made).”

“I’m just grateful to be a part of it. It’s like somebody handed us the ball on the goal line and we were there to take credit for a lot of things we didn’t do.”

When you talk about ORU, Stovall continued, “it’s not buildings, it’s not faculty, it’s not staff--those are what make the product possible. The real product of ORU is people like Rachel, and I cannot think of a better investment than that.”

Every dollar raised by CSF goes directly into scholarships.



Dr. Halsmer (center)

## Faculty Recognition Awards for Professionalism in the Classroom\*

Nov. 20, 2000

“A pole vaulter uses a pole to reach extraordinary heights,” said engineering and physics chairman **Dr. Dominic Halsmer**, who won one of two University Faculty Assembly awards. “The pole is often used to lift the bar to those high standards...I am like this...pole;...I lift up a standard and...assist the student to soar.”

## “Understanding the Culture Wars”\*\*

Jan. 13, 2001

“I wish America was a democracy,” said conference speaker **David Barton (76)**, pointing out that 92 percent of the people are against flag burning and 79 percent are against partial-birth abortions, but the court allows both. “The founding fathers would shoot me for that, because they had a republic (in mind)—Article 4 of the Constitution forbids us from becoming a democracy—they didn’t want us to get close to becoming a democracy. But I would love it if we were a democracy because that would mean the people are in charge. And we aren’t. We aren’t under the rule of law, we’re not under the rule of the people. We’re under the rule of an oligarchy—that’s what Thomas Jefferson called it—elected judges that don’t account to the people, and they tell us what we have to believe.”



David Barton

## College Republicans

Jan. 25, 2001

“I believe our greatest problem is alienation,” said **Rep. Steve Largent (R-Okla.)**. “It’s disappointing that in this country, we celebrate alienation, with TV programs like Jerry Springer’s. That is a sad commentary on our culture. People of faith, however, have the solution to this alienation. The solution is reconciliation. Second Corinthians 5:18 says that responsibility belongs to us.”

## Executive on Campus

Feb. 5, 2001

“Tulsa lost 40,000 jobs in the mid-1980s, primarily in the oil industry,” said **Tulsa mayor Susan Savage**. “It took ten years to turn that around. Tulsa is now a leader in technology and aerospace.... We have made this a very attractive place to do business.”



Rep. Steve Largent



Mayor Susan Savage



**April 17, 2001**

"I've never believed government's purpose was to guarantee success, but to guarantee opportunity," said **U.S. Sen. Don Nickles (R-Okla.)** . "The number-one priority of government," he added, "is the protection of our freedom." On getting involved in politics, Nickles said, "Find somebody you believe in, and if you don't find anybody, run. The best way to become a candidate is to work with candidates."

### **Christian Philosophers Society**

**March 8, 2001**

"Pentecostals have confused the secular and the profane," said **Dr. Michael Palmer** , chairman of the department of Biblical Studies and Philosophy at Evangel University. "(Building) the temple takes great artisanship.... What would it be like to have a community of people who are reflecting the creativity of God?"

### **Society for Pentecostal Studies 30th annual meeting**

**March 8-10, 2001**

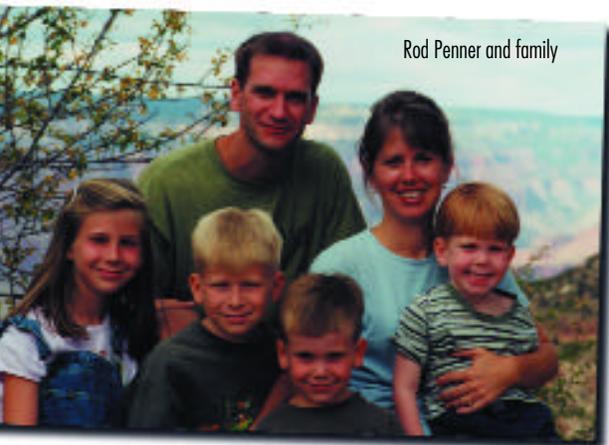
In his paper, "A Reconstruction of Word of Faith Theology," **Derek Vreeland (99-M.Div.)** examined the tenets of condemnation, positive confession, healing, and prosperity. "The integrity of scripture," he said, "is the true foundation of faith theology." The problems come from "anti-intellectual tendencies" and "a disregard for scientific exegesis." The answer, he suggested, is a refinement of the four tenets. "We don't need another evangelical theology."

### **Choose L.I.F.E.**

**April 5, 2001**

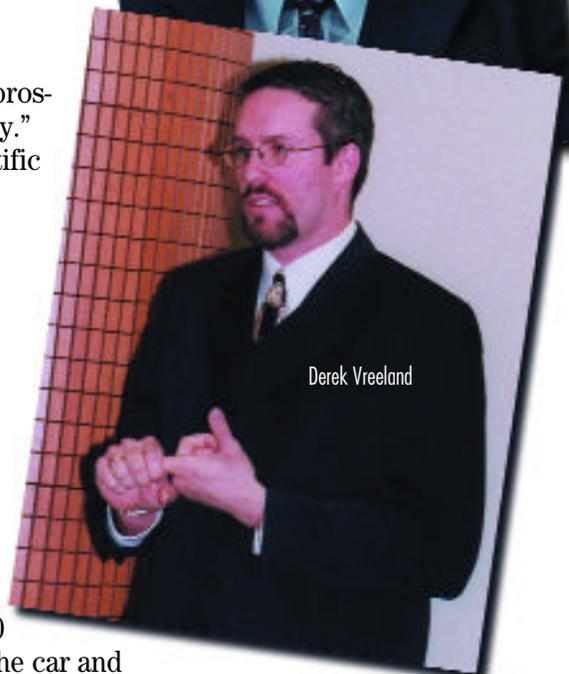
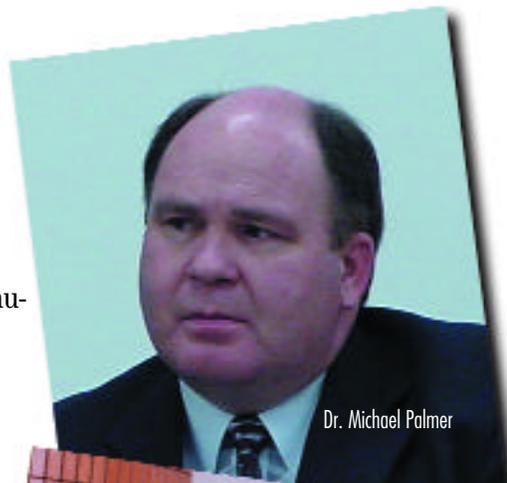
"I spend ten hours a day working in my studio, isolated," said photorealist **Rod Penner (86)** . The search for the perfect

image to paint is constant. "We take a lot of weekend trips to small towns," Penner said; on one trip, one of his four children begged, "No, Dad, no more photos!" "I'll just walk the streets and maybe take 100 shots. A lot of times, I jump out of the car and take one shot, and that shot works as a painting. Taking the photo is the beginning of the creative process."



**April 18, 2001**

As a multitasker, said Dove Award-winner **Margaret Becker** r, "It's a big discipline not to be overly committed. I deliberately shut off--unplug the phone, turn off the TV, get on the mountain bike. I'm doing things now that feed my soul...like, sitting at a restaurant with friends, laughing a little too long and a little too loud."



\*Nineteen awards totaling \$2,700 were given. The ORU Alumni Foundation provided \$2,500.

\*\*Funded by the ORU Alumni Foundation.



# V - A - R - S - I - T - Y ! C - L - U - B ! Varsity Club!

When you think of ORU athletics, familiar faces come to mind: Richard Fuqua (“the man who built Mabee Center”), Julie Suchy, Anthony Roberts, Laurie Livesay, Mike Moore, Revis Ward, Colin Bent, Kris Johnson, Peter Van Lingen, Ashley Aldrich, Bob Zupcic, Valerie Doss, Bryan Norton, Jari Hemmila, Diego Alvarez, Juliana Moser, Garth Robinson, Debbie Cone.

Thanks to the efforts of these athletes and many others too numerous to list, ORU has earned a prominent place on what Oral Roberts once referred to as “the only bible that some people read: the sports pages.” From a trip to the Elite Eight in basketball, to College World Series appearances, to finishing second in the nation in men’s golf, to numerous conference and tournament championships, the Titans/Lady Titans and Golden Eagles have given students and alumni good reasons to cheer.

Why, then, has it taken so long for ORU to start a Varsity Club?

“This is something that I have wanted to start since I took the job six years ago,” said Mike Carter, director of Athletics. “I believe we now have

the infrastructure in place to support such a group. And with the return to prominence of athletics at ORU, this is the time to congratulate our former athletes and acknowledge their accomplishments, which laid the groundwork for our current programs.”

Now that the club is finally off the ground, its mission is clear: “...maintaining the fine tradition of Oral Roberts University Athletics.” The club’s goal is to link former and current student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and support personnel “into a unified entity” so that they can help maintain and advance “the traditions and spirit of ORU Athletics,” “rekindle old friendships and build new ones,” and provide

financial support through membership dues and fundraising events. Club members will also vote each year on inductees into the ORU Hall of Fame.

“Around Homecoming,” said Rhett Brooks (84), a member of the club’s organizing committee and son of former Athletics director Bob Brooks, “we hear a lot of athletes say there’s no way for them to stay in touch with Athletics or the coaches they played for. That’s because ORU, like so many other colleges, has frequent turnovers in coaching. This (club) is a way to build a bridge, to have a home, to still be connected.



“We want to foster good relationships with our former athletes. We don’t want them to think they’ve been forgotten. Some might ask, ‘What are you trying to get from us?’ It’s not that. It’s, what can we do for them?”

“I think the club is a way of saying, ‘Once your playing career is done, you’re still a member of the family.’”

Brooks says some of the events being worked on for next year include alumni games, a golf outing, a Hall of Fame banquet, and a social gathering.

The first organizational meeting for the club was held at Homecoming in February. "We discussed the need and got input on what the club should be," Brooks said. "We decided it should be a division of the Golden Eagle Club."

At the second meeting in April, the group elected officers and approved organization and mission statements. The officers are: Gordon Helm (75;78-baseball), president; Michael Hairston (81-track), vice president; Martha Garrett Brewer (83-gymnastics), secretary; and Terry Unruh (77;80-baseball), treasurer.

"I am hoping that the Varsity Club will allow more former athletes the opportunity to network with one another and with our fabulous alumni, staff, and faculty," said Hairston, who was named to the Oklahoma Runner All-Century Team last year. "As always, in the ORU fashion, we wish to extend a welcoming hand, informative conversation, and a warm heart to those that have been out of contact with the University for a long period of time.

"This is also a grand opportunity to raise our fan (cheering) base at all of our sporting venues," he added. "Later on, we would like to give our former athletes the opportunity to share with current athletes within their sport during hall meetings and/or devos."

The club is in the midst of its first membership drive. For a yearly \$50 basic membership fee, members get a pass for themselves and their immediate family members to attend one home game/match per sport that year, a subscription to the club newsletter, a decal for their car, and a souvenir hat or T-shirt. For an additional \$50, the pass will be good for every home game/match in every sport that year for the athlete and his immediate family.

New graduates receive a special deal in their first five years out. Year one membership is free. For the next four years, the fee is \$25 per year. "We want to encourage them to keep in touch," Brooks explained. As undergraduates, he added, "they're already members of the Varsity Club." One student-athlete will serve as an advisory member on the executive committee.

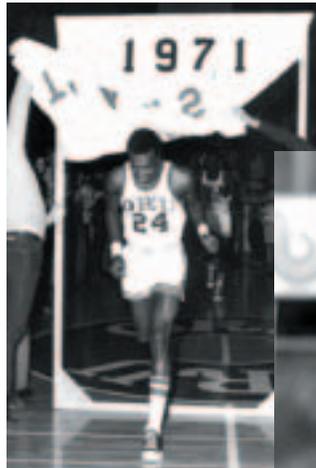
Cheer and yell leaders and other support-group members will be offered associate membership. They can pay dues and receive all the benefits of membership, but will not be allowed to vote or hold an office.

All Varsity Club members are considered members of the Golden Eagle Club and are entitled to all the benefits of that club.

Brooks believes the club will have a positive effect on current athletes. "It will make them aware of our history," he said.

For former athletes, Brooks said, the message is a simple one: "You always have a place here. We appreciate what you did then and we want to have you back now."

For more information, contact Rhett Brooks at [western-rb@ionet.net](mailto:western-rb@ionet.net) or write to ORU Varsity Club, c/o ORU Athletics, 7777 S. Lewis, Tulsa, OK 74171.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING at ORU

## New building will enhance student services, academics

On April 25, President Richard Roberts announced in chapel that ORU will tear down the 36-year-old Classroom Center and build a new \$17.5 million Student Center, to open in 2003.

ORU, with 4,503 part-time and full-time students enrolled in 2000-01, ranks as the largest private university in Oklahoma. Enrollment has increased 23.6 percent since 1994. (ORU served another 865 nontraditional students last year, for a total enrollment of 5,368.) Last year, about 2,500 students lived on campus.

Four campus leaders, including the president, recently discussed why ORU needs a new Student Center and how it fits into the Alumni Association's "Shaping Tomorrow's Christian Leaders" campaign.

**President Roberts:** In the annual Student Satisfaction Inventory, students regularly mention the problem of "the campus runaround." In April of 1999, I said we were going to solve that. The new Student Center will give our students easier access to the offices they need to deal with on a regular basis, such as Student Accounts. If we streamline the business side of student life, our students will spend less time standing in lines and have more time to focus on academics. And, of course, the new center will include "extras," such as a food court. We're also going to expand the parking area and create a climate-controlled walkway connecting the Student Center to the LRC/GC.



I've never been as excited about a project in my life. God's going to use this building to attract students to this campus.

**Dr. Ralph Fagin, Vice President for Academic Affairs:** Classrooms are our biggest need, from the academic point of view. When we look at the continuing education arm of the institution, which includes the modular programs, we recognize that we need smaller, wired classrooms that can be set aside for these students--rooms that can double as conference/meeting rooms. Along with being high tech, we want to be "high touch" and "user-friendly." The modular classrooms help those students build an identity as a team, which

enhances their learning experience. The new Student Center will give us more flexibility to create this type of classroom.

**Dr. Jeff Ogle, Vice President for Student Services:** The new Student Center will free up space in the GC that can then be used for purely academic purposes. We'll be able to move forward with the installation of more Internet access and other audio/visual features in our classrooms. Something else to consider: In order to reach our design size of 5,500 students served on campus,

we need to double our graduate and professional student population. That will require not just more modular-style classrooms, but enhanced student services. I think the net result of better services will be better retention. Another result will be better use of our time and resources to recruit the best students.

**David Ellsworth, Vice President of Operations and Finance:** We're facing a lot of challenges on campus. Our buildings are getting older and need to be modernized. We need more classroom space. Our roads are too small, and our parking is inadequate. Because of these issues, we are now in the process of redesigning the master plan for the campus. The new building should give us room to grow, as well as a place to put some comfortable, high-tech meeting and conference rooms that could be used for "events" like our School of Business' Executive on Campus program.

Hundreds of students flock to Club Rush Night each September to meet representatives from ORU's nearly 50 organizations and to sign up for the one or two that will help them learn and grow (and let them have some fun, too).

There is one very special program, however, that doesn't make the Club Rush scene: the VIPs. Its members are handpicked from a pool of students who are recommended for the program by academic deans or previous program members. Since its inception in 1994, the VIP program's main goal has been to provide the ORU Alumni Relations office with student ambassadors/representatives who can build a bridge between current students and ORU alumni. "Vicarious Intelligent Persuaders" (or VIP) students work to remind alumni of their positive experiences at ORU and to help them find ways to reconnect with their alma mater.

"We serve as a liaison between the alumni and the student body," explains Brandon McGriff, president of the VIP program for 2000-01. "We are living proof to the alumni that ORU hasn't strayed away from its founding purpose and that their alma mater is still doing what it's done for more than 30 years: impacting this world for Christ."

"I've found that many alumni who come to ORU events haven't had much recent contact with ORU students," says Nina Tukarski, a junior psychology/pre-med major. "The impression that we VIP students make is the impression they will have of the entire student body."

VIPs spend about 10 hours every month working alumni events, meeting and socializing with alumni and guests at Golden Eagle Business Connection luncheons, Executive

ORU VIP Rachel Wesley escorted Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating at the Oklahoma Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony.



Sausage king Jimmy Dean (second from left) poses with VIP Mackenzie Smith (far left), spiritual life dorm director Sarah Callahan (second from right), and VIPs Matt Lawrence and Melissa Jones (kneeling).



McGriff with David Boren, president of the University of Oklahoma, at the Oklahoma Hall of Fame banquet.

Members of the 2000-01 VIP program.

Tukarski (left) helps out at Homecoming.



on Campus seminars, Homecoming, the Alumni Ministers Conference, Alumni Board of Directors meetings, the Regents' Auction, and other functions. In every case, VIPs are expected to employ business and personal

etiquette and begin to build good working relationships with the alumni they meet.

"I've learned not to be intimidated by people in important positions," Tukarski says. "As VIP students, we learn how to carry ourselves in front of actual VIPs."

Some of those actual VIPs (Very Important Persons) have included eight inductees into the 2000 Oklahoma Hall of Fame. In addition to working their usual ORU events, this past year's VIPs served as escorts for the inductees and each of their eight presenters at the induction ceremony in November 2000. They were hailed "the best group ever" in comparison to all the students who have ever assisted with the annual event.

Besides helping to host events, VIPs assist the Alumni Relations office by making telephone calls, doing public speaking, and improving overall public relations in the alumni realm. At some of their semimonthly Thursday-night meetings, they gather at the homes of ORU alumni who share not just their secrets of business success, networking, and leadership, but how they integrate their work with their Christian faith. Past mentors have included Tim Redmond (84), Suzanne Behr (81), and Mark Lewandowski (88;92-MBA).

"It's an awesome opportunity to get to know who's gone before us and what they've accomplished," McGriff says. "And these alumni are concerned about our success and encourage us to cultivate our gifts right where we're at."

Ten ORU students served in the VIP program during the 2000-01 academic year. Nominees go through a rigorous screening process, including the completion of a detailed application and several interviews; even then, the number of students selected depends on the quality of students available. VIPs fulfill a one-year commitment to the program, which is designed to complement academics and the students' busy lives.



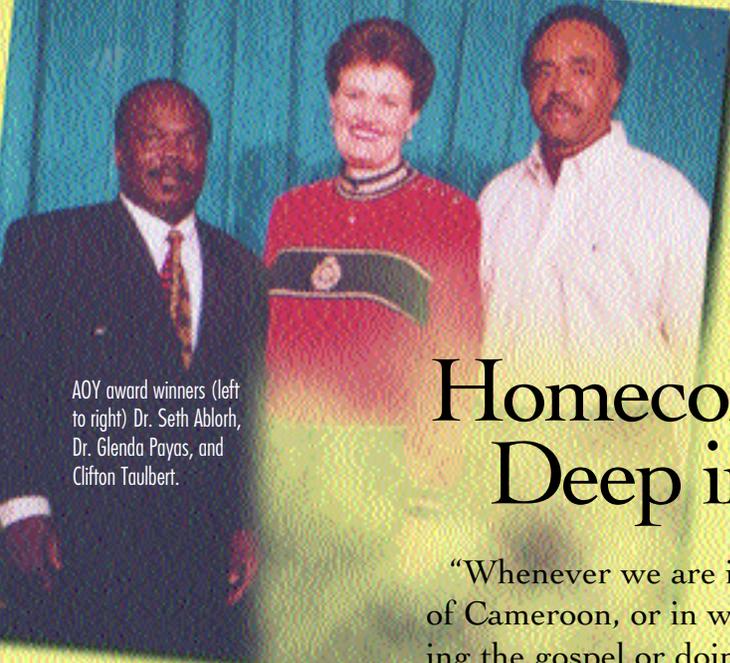
Because no scholarships are given, the VIPs' work is completely voluntary. Their reward is a year's worth of valuable learning experiences.



"The essence of the VIP program is that it gives students a platform where we can freely express and polish our talents in a professional setting," says McGriff. "It's here that we can develop our potential and groom ourselves for the real world."

# Could I persuade you...?

VIPs are people of influence



AOY award winners (left to right) Dr. Seth Ablorh, Dr. Glenda Payas, and Clifton Taulbert.

# Homecoming 2001... Deep in the Heart

"Whenever we are in the bush of Ghana or regions of Cameroon, or in war-torn areas of Congo, preaching the gospel or doing surgery, I remember that we are carrying on the great commission of our leader. We've seen God manifested in many places--breaking bondages, healing the sick, and above all, bringing many to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ."

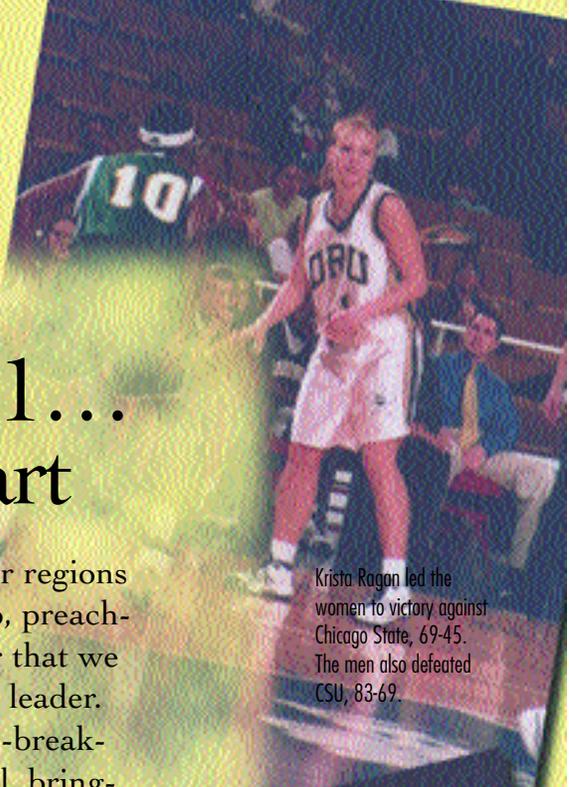
--Dr. Seth Ablorh, *Alumnus of the Year for Distinguished Service to God, founder of Manna Mission Hospital in Ghana*

"I've tried, over the years, to learn how to let my life be lived in a way to please Him, and I find that when we reach out to build the lives of others, we indeed do that."

--Clifton Taulbert, *Alumnus of the Year for Distinguished Service to the Community, author of Eight Habits of the Heart and other best-sellers*

"When I was asked to serve on the Board of Regents of ORU in 1993, that was a wonderful feeling. Yet, the thought of the fiduciary responsibility at that time was overwhelming. But in my spirit, I knew that God called ORU into existence. So I aligned myself with that, and it was one of the best things I ever did."

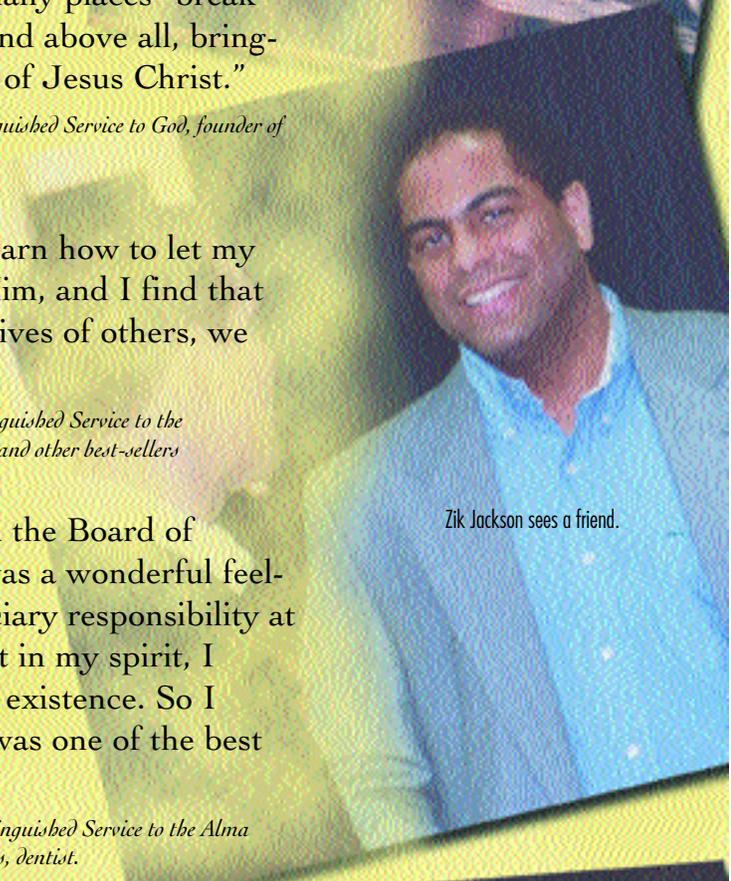
--Dr. Glenda Payas, *Alumnus of the Year for Distinguished Service to the Alma Mater, former chairman of Alumni Board of Directors, dentist.*



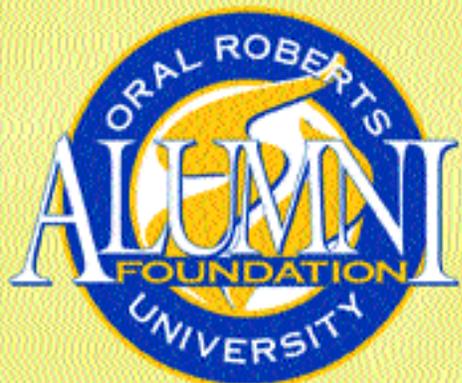
Krista Ragan led the women to victory against Chicago State, 69-45. The men also defeated CSU, 83-69.



Dr. Jacqueline Fincher, a featured speaker at the continuing medical education conference.



Zik Jackson sees a friend.



Enjoying the meal.



On Jan. 12, Alumni Board of Directors chairman David Barton (right) presented a check for \$216,000 to David Ellsworth, Vice President of Operations and Finance. The check represented alumni gifts made in the year 2000 for the residence hall renovation project. An Oklahoma foundation doubled those gifts, making them worth \$432,000.



# A New Place To Call Home

The new Gabrielle Christian Salem Residence for Women will be ready when students arrive for move-in on Aug. 8. That was hard to believe in mid-May, on the rainy day when these photos were taken.

Back then, most of the interior painting was finished, but the "to do" list was long: finish the pods that contain each room's shower and toilet; lay carpet; install the furniture; finish the lobby and the computer room; install all new windows on the third floor; and finish the exterior of the building.

Is this new "home away from home" going to be beautiful? You better believe it.

# Life On The

By Gretchen Wagner (2000)

Walking across the Mabee Center stage on May 5, 2000, to receive my diploma, a large banner caught my attention: "Raise up your students to hear My voice," it read. Oral's well-known words struck me, reminding me one last time of the calling God had on each of our lives to minister and evangelize "to the uttermost bounds of the earth." Little did I know that just a month later I would be living where that light was dim, where that voice was heard small, where that power was not known. Little did I know of what life would be like outside "the bubble" of conservative Christian culture.

I was ready to get out, much like any other senior. After 4 years of midnight curfews and 4-inch hemlines, I was anxious to experience real "freedom." And it wasn't just getting out of ORU. I was ready to get out of Tulsa, ready to move on to the next chapter in my life. God hooked me up with a job at the second largest public relations firm in New York City, an opportunity I couldn't pass up. I was accepted into a 4-month internship program, beginning mid-June. God miraculously provided an affordable apartment in Queens, just a 20-minute subway commute from my job in Manhattan. My roommate, a Christian girl from California, had heard about me through a mutual contact in New York. Never having actually communicated with each other, we ended up subletting rooms in the same apartment by default. Too many circumstances like that convinced me, more or less compelled me, that God's timing was imminent. With hurried good-byes, I packed two very over-stuffed suitcases and flew to New York.

I really had no idea what to expect. Only one thing was for sure...I didn't know anyone in New York City. That fact alone could have been grounds for a completely miserable transition, but I chose to see it as a chance to start fresh. No one knew me there. No titles, no reputation, no preconceptions. It was my chance to find out who I really was, outside the confines of

a Christian school, Christian friends, and a lot of rules mandating right and wrong. It was time to see if everything I had always believed was really a part of who I was, or if I had just done a good job of living what I had been spoon-fed for the past 21 years.



Wagner with summer roommate Larissa.

I see stars! Wagner with Saturday Night Live's Jimmy Fallon.



I actually thought my job would consume most of my time and energy. I convinced myself that even though New York was the "city that never sleeps," I was here to work and learn and take God's calling very seriously. My monthly budget included \$700 for rent, \$100 for groceries, \$63 for a subway card, and \$40 for my cell phone. I calculated a whopping \$3 surplus per month, which would be allocated to an entertainment fund, maybe I'd save up for one of New York's \$9.50 movies.

My internship was mentally stimulating. My new friends were grads from Yale, Brown, Columbia, Bates, and UNC-Chapel Hill. Feeling a bit like a fish out of water, I soon found out there was a lot I didn't know about life, a lot my sheltered world had never taught me. The days and weeks flew by, and I found myself at the end of the internship and accepting

a full-time offer to stay at Ruder Finn as an account executive.

All in all, I've learned a lot from the corporate world. My job includes a lot of consulting work, mostly for upper-level executives of everything from pharmaceuticals to power companies. Mergers and acquisitions, spin-offs, hostile takeovers, branding and positioning, restructuring, and corporate reputation management--these are the buzzwords that I eat, sleep, and breathe. Every day is a chance to expand my skill-set, to learn from my peers, and to understand how my business degree applies to the real world.

With few responsibilities outside of my 9-6 job, the past eight months have afforded me lots of play-time. I hit the tourist traps first... *The Late Show*, *Saturday Night Live*, Times Square, Central Park, Yankees games, Broadway shows, Long Island beaches, etc. I'm now discovering the jazz

# me Outside

clubs, skiing in the Poconos, and the trendy places you won't find advertised in any yellow pages. Any of my friends will also tell you that I am unabashedly star-struck. Jeb Bush, Jimmy Fallon, and Julia Stiles are on my list of recent acquaintances, and I've had close encounters with Ricky Martin, Lance Bass, Macy Gray, and 98 Degrees.

When I sit and think of the ways my life has changed since leaving ORU, I can write lists. (I did.) I could write a book. (I think I will.) Fact is, I had no idea just how different things would be once I got out of "the bubble." First off, there's no financial aid for rent. Quiet hours begin every night at 10, thanks to 40-year-old neighbors and hardwood floors. I carry an umbrella; I watch the Weather Channel. I eat breakfast foods at breakfast time. My fish stay alive for more than a month. And I actually "get" the Dilbert comic strips.

Now that the subject of current events refers to more than what Saga is serving for dinner, I've had to face up to lunchtime discussions on my opinion of the death penalty, stem-cell research, and RU-486. My friends have challenged me to know why I believe what I believe. It came as a shock that after so many years of being a Christian, my personal belief system lacked scriptural backup. I've now taken up reading God's Word pretty fervently, finding out what the Bible says about issues from drinking and sexual purity to politics and the sanctity of life.

The way I choose to lead my life here speaks volumes to non-believers who have been turned off from God by hypocritical Christians. My biggest fear is that my own "human-ness" will keep someone from being open to His love, grace, and forgiveness. So along with the incredible freedom I feel comes an incredible amount of responsibility for my actions. The Bible says, "to whom much is given, of him much will be required." I see this time in my life, living in New York, as one of God's most amazing gifts to me. I know I'm here for a rea-

son. Striving after the "much is required" part is what gets me up every morning. I can't even begin to fathom how God might use every experience here, every connection, as a chance to witness His love to someone.

I think my friend Angela, who also recently transitioned from ORU, summed it up best when she said that living in New York City was no longer the "spiritual joyride" we experienced in Tulsa. Overall, I am most deeply and wholly convinced that everything comes down to my personal relationship with God. The time I spend with Him makes or breaks the idea of my daily surrendering to Him. My new church is truly my "family," and fellowship with other believers has been so vital to my survival here, but my real desperation is for intimate fellowship with God. That is why prayer is so fundamental, so critical, so lifeblood to me now. Because if I was not in constant communication with my Savior, it would be very easy for me to fall away from Him. It's only by His grace that we don't. I pray daily that God will keep me faithful to what I know is right and true, and that He will guide me through decisions that used to be so black and white and have now taken on a shade of gray.

Throughout my four years at ORU, guest speakers would stand on the stage of Christ's Chapel and proclaim "there's just no place like ORU." They were right. I can't tell you how much I took for granted and how easy it was to complain about the very things that I now miss more than anything. The ORU "experience" is something my friends here will never understand. But I know that those four years trained me, molded me, and equipped me for where God has brought me. And that wouldn't have happened at any other school. So all things considered, I am genuinely happy. And when I say happy, I mean this is the most challenging, perplexing, stretching, yet at the same time, the most exhilarating, fulfilling, and simply freeing time of self-discovery I have ever experienced. And I'm loving it.

## Living in New York City was no longer the "spiritual joyride" we experienced in Tulsa.



With co-workers from the "Corporate Restructuring and Reputation" group.



At a West Point Army vs. Air Force game with Kara, Larissa, and Katie.

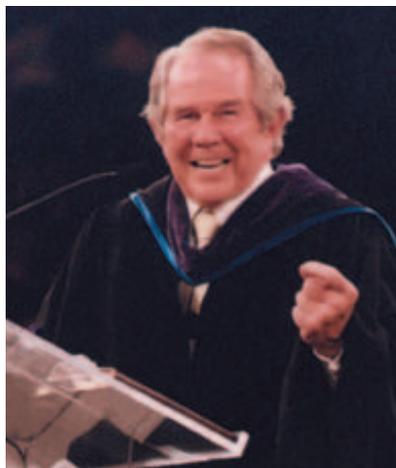
# COMMENCEMENT

May 5, 2001

“Their works will exceed yours...”



Tulsa's friend of the homeless, Mother Grace Tucker, said, "You can call me *Doctor Mother Tucker*" after she was given an honorary doctor of divinity degree.



Keynote speaker Pat Robertson told the 700 graduates what's expected of them: "to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).



(Left to right) Alumni Christy and Ray Wilkerson, Kit Marshall, Dr. Brenda Dukes, and Tim Redmond handed out Bibles to new graduates.

For more than two years, President Richard Roberts has talked about "raising the bar" at ORU in every area, especially in academics.

Well, it's happening. ORU's commitment to creating an "atmosphere of excellence" is growing. New honor societies and academic clubs have been springing up all over campus. A total of 303 students graduated with honors in 2001. Participation in state and regional academic competitions, such as Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature, Model United Nations, and Public Relations Students Society of America, continues to grow and earn recognition for ORU. The jewel in the crown, the new honors program, will debut in August with sixteen Fellows and high expectations.

Another 700 ORU graduates have scattered to the four corners of every man's world, but the standard they raised will not be abandoned.

Godspeed, Class of 2001!



Former tennis great Margaret Court received an honorary doctor of laws degree.



"We are about to discover what we are made of," said student respondent Jacob Knepper, who graduated summa cum laude.

# 2003 Alumnus of the Year

It's too late to make nominations for 2002, but there's plenty of time to nominate someone for 2003!

Submit the name of an alumnus along with a one-page letter explaining why this person deserves to be named "Alumnus of the Year" in the category of Distinguished Service to God, to the Community, or to the Alma Mater. You may also send background materials, such as résumés or newspaper or magazine articles.

The criteria are:

## *"...to God"*

Excellence in fulfillment of Oral Roberts' vision for students to go into "every man's world" through full- or part-time ministry in a church, missions organization, or ministry.

## *"...to the Community"*

Excellence in serving the community and society, including those outside the kingdom of God, by bringing God's voice, light, and power into their world; and excellence in meeting unique challenges presented by their environment.

## *"...to the Alma Mater"*

Excellence in his/her field of service, contributions to the total life of the University, and spiritual impact on students, the ORU community, and fellow alumni. (While nominations in this category may be based in part on outstanding or faithful financial support of ORU, this is not a prerequisite.)

Furthermore, in each category, quality and longevity of service and ministry may be considered, and those who have served "quietly and faithfully" will be on equal footing with those who are widely recognized for their work. Each nominee's life and conduct should reflect Christ's character as revealed in Scripture.

Nominations are due on July 1, 2002, in the Office of Alumni Relations. Questions? Call Alumni Relations at (918) 495-6610.

# Wing Backers give back to ORU

By Jessica Hill, Assistant  
Director for Public  
Relations

Remember the good old days of late-night talks in the dorms, flag football, camping trips in the great outdoors, and watching movies with your wingmates? Thought those days were over? Not necessarily. ORU's Wing Backers are reliving their glory days at ORU while helping current students have some glory days of their own.

The Wing Backer program started in 1987 with a handful of alumni. Today it has grown into the most popular alumni program on campus, with well over 100 Tulsa-area alumni involved each year.

Throughout the school year, you might find Wing Backers hosting barbecues, parties, and sleep-overs at their homes, speaking at dorm devotions, attending hall meetings, sending notes of encouragement to wing residents,

chaperoning wing retreats, baking cookies or providing food for wing functions, and praying for students.

Arthur (92) and Noell Greeno have been Wing Backers for five years. They've enjoyed the antics that come with spending time with college students as well as the blessings. One year after a heavy snowstorm, they went sledding behind the ORU campus, and then had the wing over to their house. The group decided to bless the Greenos' neighbors by shoveling their driveways, and in the process, grateful residents blessed them in return by donating enough money to buy pizza for the whole wing.

For last year's Super Bowl, the Greenos packed 72 ORU students into their home. One year, to show their appreciation, a wing made them a scrapbook of the year's activities, filled with photos from retreats and events. Photos of ORU students with the Greeno children are also displayed in their home.



“Even if you touch  
just one life,” she says,  
“it is all worth it.”

“Wing Backing has been a great experience for us and for our two children,” says Arthur. “The key to a great Wing Backing experience is a good relationship with the wing’s RA and a commitment to make time for the students.”

Carrie Witham (80), coordinator of the Wing Backer program, says that some of her special memories from Wing Backing are lots of bridal showers and weddings, helping with papers, and just knowing that she may have inspired someone or helped someone through a rough time.

Witham says that besides working with the students, one of the best things about Wing Backing is being able to give back to ORU in a tangible, active way. "Even if you touch just one life," she says, "it is all worth it."

For many alumni, Wing Backing is not only fun; it's a tool for ministry. That's why you'll also find them discipling students and encouraging them to read the Word daily, to get plugged into a local church, and to pray for each other. "We loved getting involved with ORU and with the students, but what really motivates us is seeing the students on our wing bear fruit in their Christian faith," says Lance Luck, who, with his wife Gina, has been a Wing Backer for seven years. (The Lucks, by the way, are not ORU alumni.) "We view our participation in the Wing Backers program as a spiritual responsibility. Working with students and with the women's basketball team, we've seen a lot of personal development and even salvations," says Lance.

"This is a great opportunity for Wing Backers to fulfill their own call to ministry through the program, as well as to help students find and fulfill God's call on their lives."

*If you're interested in becoming a Wing Backer for the 2001-02 school year, contact Carrie Witham at 918-254-7767 or cwitham@ba.k12.ok.us. "The Alumni Office and the program coordinators are available to help Wing Backers with ideas for events, games, and retreats," says Witham. "There is training in the fall and lots of support from fellow Wing Backers, the Alumni Office, and the Student Affairs Office. We even put together a training manual with lots of information about the program and some great ideas for wing activities."*

# HOMEcoming 2002

## February 1 & 2

**Hurry up and write it down,  
Make plans now to come to town.**

**The men and the women play UMKC,  
We're going to beat them;  
we'll do it for free.**

**The food at the banquet—yum, yum, yum,  
Chances are good we won't leave a crumb.**

**Class reunions will make you nostalgic,  
So get out the hair gel and  
paste down your cowlick.**

**Come see Dr. George, Dr. Lew,  
and the Czar,  
If you're feeling generous,  
buy them a car!**

**The weekend won't be as corny  
as this rhyme,  
But last time we checked,  
bad poems weren't a crime.**



**See you at  
Homecoming!**

**Will we spot  
you at  
Homecoming  
2002?**

# ALUMNI News

PEOPLE • PLACES • EVENTS

## 1970s

• **JOHNNY RIGSBY 70** works for a large bank. He has a daughter and two sons; his oldest son was killed in an auto accident in September 1996. He also has three grandchildren. Friends and classmates, please write.

• **ANITA BLACKWELL 70 ROBERTSON** and AL (A) moved to the Grand Lake area after living in Tulsa for 33 years. AL is self-employed and Anita is one of five concept designers for DaySpring Cards, the largest Christian greeting card company in the world. They have two children, Alisa and Aaron, who are both married, and one grandson, Max. The Robertsons recently celebrated 32 years of marriage.

• **SALLY MOORE 71 SHELTON** and **JIM 73;77-MA** both work at ORU. Sally is on the library faculty and Jim teaches undergrad theology. Sally is working on an M.A. in theological and historical studies. Son John was a senior at ORU this past year; Joey and Jenny will enroll in the next two years.

• **CONNIE TROTT 72 ATKINSON** and **TIM** got remarried in July 2000 after 22 years of divorce. Tim is a naturalopathic doctor and has a clinic and wellness center in Jenks. Connie is a sophomore English teacher at Victory Christian School. Daughter Angi lives in California. Daughter Stephanie lives at home and "feels the calling of God to go to China," Connie said.

• **JEANIE LAWSON 75 McELWEE** would love to hear from friends.

• **MARY PAYNE 76 GIBSON** and George say their oldest child, Adam, is getting married in October. Son Johnny is playing college baseball and son Ryan is in high school, playing football and baseball. Mary would love to hear from former music majors circa 1987-1990.

## IN MEMORIAM

Marilyn Bonebrake Lapointe  
Class of 1976

Marilyn, who was a telecom major at ORU, died in April.

• **MARK MATHIS 77** still lives in the Kansas City area and has two kids.

• **JIM 77** and **SANDY BURKHARDT 78 RAMLET** recently celebrated their 18th anniversary. They were present at the birth

of their adopted son, Corey, who arrived at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa in November of 1998. (Photo was taken in July 1999.) They'd love to hear from their friends.

• **SUSIE RICHARDSON 78 SHAPIRO** went back to school for her M.S. and family nurse practitioner. She'd like to hear from 1978 nursing school alumni.

• **LISA HERR 79 BERG** and Arthur have four children: Aaron, 15, Annica, 8, Maggie, 6, and Isaiah, 5.



## 1980s IN MEMORIAM

Todd Pettygrove  
June 7, 1958 – May 10, 2001  
Class of 1980

Todd was a religious education major at ORU. As a student and after graduation, he was active in music ministries as a singer, worship leader, and songwriter. One of his friends at ORU, Patti (Fisk) Taylor, said Todd was a "very influential and popular student" who had a gift for raising up other people to become leaders. Todd had been living in California for the past 15 years or so. He is survived by his wife, Lisa, and their four children: Ely, Abby Rose, Luke, and Mary. A trust fund has been set up for the family at St. Peter Orthodox Church,

• **JEROME 80;84-DEN** and **ALMA RHOADES 84-MED ALFORD** are still with the Indian

Health Service at Gallup Indian Medical Center. Jerome is the director of the Advanced General Practice Residency as

well as chief of staff of the hospital. Alma is the chief of the Family Medicine Department. They have three children: Ben, 15, Annette, 12, and Brian, 10. All are very involved in



church activities and participated in a missions trip to Zimbabwe in 1999.

• **MALCOLM 80;83-LAW** and **ANDREA WOODLEY 84 ANTHONY** have been married for 12 years. They have two daughters, Kate, 9, and Elizabeth, 6. Malcolm is senior partner of the Anthony, Berry, DiRito and Goode law firm in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. He is also a recently accepted member of the Alliance Defense Fund, a group of attorneys defending religious freedom nationwide. Andrea volunteers her CPA skills for many organizations and teaches algebra at their daughters' school. In January and February, Andrea and her sister, **MICHELLE MANN 89**, went to Albania and Kosovo to do audits and accounting seminars for ministries.

• **JEFF** and **KATHY RINER DUNN 80** celebrated their 20th anniversary in June 2000. They have three children: Rebekah, who just finished her freshman year at ORU, Leah, 15, and Mark, 7. Kathy is a full-time mom. Jeff is editorial director of RiverOak Publishing, a division of Eagle Communications (Harrison House, Honor Books).

• **PATRICK BRYANT 81** works in film and television and is married. He says life is good.

## IN MEMORIAM

Russ Krausfeldt  
Nov. 10, 1960 -- May 13, 2001  
Class of 1982

Russ was a telecom major at ORU. He leaves behind wife Lisa and their three children, Ryan, Jonathan, and Michelle. In the Chicago Tribune's online guestbook, several ORU friends left tributes. "He was such a remarkable young man; it seemed to me that he was wise well beyond his years," said Scott Sweedler. "Russ was a remarkable Christian and he loved the Lord mightily. He set the example for many of us and he was always thoughtful and prayerful in his counsel." David Wooten said, "Russ Krausfeldt was truly a remarkable man, the type most of us encounter seldom in our lives. He was full of life, and added life to all those he encountered. He was a truly unique and benevolent spirit."

• **GREG "Frog" THOGMARTIN 82;87-M.Div.** recently completed a 3 1/2-year tour as a chaplain in the U.S. Army at Ft. Leonard

Wood, Mo. In June, he began serving with the 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade in Ft. Wainwright, Alas. He and Julie, who celebrated 16 years of marriage last August, have five children: Allison, Levi, Amanda, Megan, and Rebekah.

• **BRUCE BEHNKEN 83** and Emma work with Calvary International in Metro Manila, Philippines. Their Asian team of seven couples and one single works with fourteen Calvary Bible Institutes in Asia. The Behnkens teach in the Philippines and in Saigon, where they help coordinate one-year training institutes. About 80 pastors and church leaders graduate each year in Vietnam, 120 in the Philippines, and 45 in Indonesia. The Behnkens' daughter is a sophomore at ORU, taking computer courses for creative access missions in Southeast Asian restricted nations.

• **RANDY 84** and **STEPHANIE ALLTON (A) DOMINGUEZ** celebrated their 16th anniversary in April. They have two children, Tiffany, 11, and Wesley, 5. Randy is the dean of distance learning at Tulsa Community College. Stephanie is a stay-at-home mom.

## IN MEMORIAM

Kendall Durfey  
Aug. 1, 1962 - Jan. 27, 2001  
Class of 1984

Kendall was the son of Ellen and the late Dr. Tom Durfey, former chairman of communication arts at ORU. At the time of his death, Kendall was an engineer for Oklahoma State University radio broadcasts, working for Educational Television Services on the OSU campus. Kendall was one of ten men who died when a plane carrying members of OSU's basketball program crashed as it returned to Oklahoma from Colorado. He left behind his wife, Patricia, their daughter, Ashlee, and other close family members.

• **BO 85;90-M.A.Th.** and **CHERYL 86;90-M.A.Th. BRYANT** have two children, Nathan and Sarah. Bo is a children's pastor at University Park Church in Ft. Worth, Tex. The Bryants would love to get together with alumni in their area.

• **BRAD 85** and Jeanette **SCHWARTZ** want to thank their ORU alumni friends and families for their prayers and support during a very difficult pregnancy (6 months of bed



rest). The twins, Gabriella Grace and Emmaline Joy, are doing wonderfully. Big sister Katelyn, 8, is proud of them

too.  
 • **BILL 85;99-M.A. and LISA HERMAN 89 SHULER** were building a new home in Lorton, Va., this past spring and hoping to move into it in July. "Our desire," they said, "is to bless the inner city pastors, conduct evangelistic outreaches, and develop leadership Bible studies on the road to establishing the D.C. Dream Center.

• **JOHN STERRETT 89** is working on his Ph.D. in systematic theology at the University of Aberdeen.

• **TIM TAYLOR 89** is a part-time Assemblies of God music minister at Blue Springs Assembly, and a computer programmer for Kansas City Power and Light. His wife, Tami, owns a business called Tunes for Tots. They have three children: Luke, 14, Leslie, 11, and Levi Christian who was 8 months old in May.

### 1990s

• **DAVID 90** and Shelley **GOSCHA** have two children, Zoe Noel, 2, and Isaac, 6. David is an Army captain and attorney in the JAG Corps

• **DAVID BAHM 91** and his wife, Jennifer, moved into their new house in January. If you're in the area, stop by and see his art studio.

• **FELICIA "FLEA" RAMSEY CHRISTENSON 91** and her husband have three kids, which she homeschools. Flea also says she cares for more pets than she wishes to, and smocks and sews for extra income.

• **TONY DAVIS 92** and his wife, Yvette, have two sons, Reed and Connor. They relocated to St. Louis last year and love it. Tony works in sales and marketing for Enterprise Fleet Services. He wisely said that his wife works even harder as a stay-at-home mom.

• **RAYMOND HUANG 92** and his wife, Sharon, founded a charitable youth organization in January 2000. Raymond was appointed Singapore's programmes chairman for the United Nations' International Year of Volunteers 2001 and has been able to get involved in national-level programs to involve both Christians and pre-Christians. ("I stopped calling them non-Christians," he said.)

• **SOPHIA MIRANDA ESTRELLA 93** and Fred have been married for 6 years. They have two daughters, Jazmyn, 3, and Marissa, 2. Sophia is a supervisor to case managers who work with juvenile delinquents. Fred is a night auditor at a hotel. Friends, please write.

• **ESTHER FANSLER 93** married Michael Ross on April 29. She says she has been on several missions trips, works with teenagers, and volunteers at the Dream Center in Los Angeles. She is a corporate recruiter.

• **TAMARA TALLENT 93 HAHN** got married in September 2000 to Craig. She's working for Countrywide Home Loans as an area manager. ("Using that B.S. in marketing!" she said.)

• **STACEY DALRYMPLE 93 ROGERS** and husband Vance have a daughter, MacKenna, who is 2 1/2. Sometime between December and February, Stacey said, they're going to China to pick up the newest addition to their family--"a dream come true for us," she said.

• **JEFF 93 and HEIDI LARSON (A) ROSS** announce the birth of their son, Parker Jeffrey, on Feb. 26. Big sister Bailee, 2, "is now learning how to share with her new little brother," Jeff said.

• **FAITHE BROOKS 94;97-M.A. Ed.** is an associate minister and director of women's ministries at her church, and is also itinerant as an evangelist.

• **JONATHAN SWITZER 94** is a part-time pastor and a full-time IT recruiter. He and Carol have two sons, Jonathan, 2, and Christopher, 4 months.

• **TANA VOLLENDORF 94** recently graduated cum laude from the Mississippi College School of Law.

• **Father DAVID 94 and MICHELE SOIREZ (A) ZAMPINO** joyfully announce the birth of their sixth child, Teresa Louise, on Jan. 8. She joins David, Jr., 10, Maria, 8, Thomas Becket, 6, Elizabeth, 4, and John Paul, 2. David is working toward a Ph.D. in systematic theology at Marquette. Michele has spent five seasons with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Chorus. Friends, please write.

### IN MEMORIAM

Michael Wilson King  
 Aug. 19, 1953 - Dec. 26, 2000  
 MBA Class of 1995

Michael's wife, Carolyn, says he was diagnosed with a brain tumor in September 1996, shortly after he'd laid groundwork for his own company to the glory of God, Paraclete, Inc. At the time of his diagnosis, he was a systems consultant for Systems & Programming Resources, for Client AMOCO. He was an instructor at the University of Tulsa for one term. It was during training for the Tulsa Run that the tumor manifested itself, but Michael completed the run in 1997 and 1998--after undergoing two brain surgeries. He and Carolyn had five children.

• **TIMMIRIA BROWN 96** lives in Charlotte, N.C., and works as a publication specialist for an investment company. Previously, she spent three years as a national writer for NBC News.

• **BARBARA ELWELL 97 and AARON (A) NUETZMANN** announce the birth of their daughter, Alivia Grace, on Feb. 10. They also

have two sons, Skylar and Nicholas.

• **MATT REARDEN 97** graduated from Florida State University College of Law on April 28. He takes the Florida bar exam in July. Then, he begins his new job at International Speedway Corporation in Daytona Beach, as associate counsel and securities administrator.

• **DAVE GROVES 98** and wife Rebekah are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Victoria Danielle, on Aug. 30, 2000. The family resides in Broken Arrow.



• **RUSTON MILES**

**98** has joined forces with Banner Creative Group to form a new technology and multi-media marketing firm, villa\*one. He is president and chief architect of the new firm. Previously, he was a technology architect at MCI-WorldCom, heading the Y2k technical committee. His new agency provides Web design, Web site hosting, interactive CD-ROMs, audio and video production, 3D animation, and more. www.villaone.com  
 • **MARK SHEAD 98** encourages Men of God alumni to check out the new Web page at <http://www.emenofgod.com>. (It's great!)

• **ALVIN SIMMONS 98-M.Div.** is preparing to take his comps exam in October and is working on a dissertation for his Ed.D., which he hopes to receive in May 2002.

• **CRYSTAL SANCHEZ 99** works in television and film in New York City as a freelance production coordinator and script supervisor. Her recent work includes the Tony Awards, VH1's Vogue Fashion Awards, music videos and commercials, the U.S. Open, and other TV productions.

• **THOMAS SHAUGHNESSY 99** married **LISA BORMAN 2000** on July 9, 1999. Thomas is a financial planner for Mass Mutual in Bedford, N.H. who also has offices within Triangle Credit Union in Manchester and Nashua, N.H., where he does financial services for the members. Lisa works for Retirement Alliance as a pension administrator.

• **JENNI SPENNER 99** got engaged to Wade O'Connor on March 18. They've set a (tentative) May 18 wedding date. Jenni is the advertising coordinator for Tyndale House Publishers in Illinois.

### ASSOCIATES

• **REBECCA FULLINGIM BLANCHARD (1997)** has been married for a year. She graduated from Biola and has started work on her master's in education. She plans to teach high school history.

### IN MEMORIAM

Mary Burditt  
 Nov. 27, 1944 - Dec. 25, 1988  
 Attended ORU 1965-66

Mary's daughter Toye Ahland wrote to tell us about her mother. Toye says she has lots of pictures of Mary's classmates and letters from them. You can contact Toye at

• **CLAYTON CLOUGH (1987-92)** would love to hear from old wingmates.

### IN MEMORIAM

Maxine Delmont  
 Sept. 17, 1962 - July 11, 1995  
 Attended ORU 1983-84

Maxine's husband, Mark, says Maxine died in an automobile accident in New York just five days after their tenth anniversary. They had three children, Jonathan, Anthony, and Lorraine. "Maxine was a devoted wife, loving mother, active missionary, and committed teacher," Mark says. He'd love to hear from friends, especially old members of Souls A'Fire Choir and small group.

• **KINGSLEY KEYS (1993-95)** says check out the Youngblood Web site at [www.ybalumni.com](http://www.ybalumni.com). He's directing fifth grade band at two schools in Springfield, Ill., and co-directing the Lincoln College Jazz Band.

• **MARGIE OLVERA (1990-93)** married Gordon Garrison on April 28 in Tulsa. She says they're very involved in their church's children's bus ministry.

• **LAURA PETERS (1987-89)** is the production director and afternoon drive jock (Laura Chase) at WTWB 1570AM, Southern Gospel Radio. Her pastor at Tree of Life Church and The Secret Place is Shirley Arnold, former women's pastor at ORU. Laura has one daughter, Hosanna, 7.

### IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Beverly Schmidgall  
 Died Feb. 25, 2001  
 Attended ORU 1967-71

Bev passed away in Derby, England, at the age of 51. At ORU she was a communication arts major who excelled in drama and music, and was an award-winning debater. In 1969 she became a full-time missionary, joining

Terry Law and 12 other alumni to form Living Sound, a musical missions team that sang and preached in dozens of nations. Bev established her own ministry in 1979 and focused on Eastern Europe, often traveling the famed Siberian Railway until she found a town that would receive her preaching.

Within days of the 1986 nuclear disaster in Chernobyl, Bev was on the scene. She also spent almost 2 years in war-ravaged Croatia and Bosnia. ORU awarded her a doctor of divinity degree in 1988.

# It had to be God

Here's a story from the latest issue of *Communique*, which goes to communication arts graduates.

"During the pre-production period of 'The Diary of Anne Frank' (performed in February), we needed several sound effects for the play," said Dr. Ray Lewandowski. "There were a couple that eluded our search, until one day when I pulled the ten 33 1/3 sound effects records I had stored on the top shelf of the bookcase in my office.

"After pulling the records down, and finding some possible cuts we could use, I noticed a large, square package up on the shelf. I pulled the package down, opened it up, and saw two 33 1/3 sound effects records for 'The Diary of Anne Frank.' Each was in 'new' condition and played beautifully. The mailing date on the package was Sept. 26, 1967. I ordered these when I first did the show at ORU in '67.

"We found what we needed and the show performed well. God is good; He was able to supply our need 34 years after I originally purchased those records!"

God's mysterious ways continue to amaze us...



## INTRAMURALS TOP TEN 2001

### Women

1. **Destiny**
2. **Passion**
3. **Lambda Phi**
4. **Imago Dei**
5. **Coram Deo**
6. **Rock**
7. **Red**
8. **Standard**
9. **Moriah**
10. **Adonai**

### Men

1. **Covenant**
2. **Full Armor**
3. **Youngblood**
4. **Old School**
5. **Heirborne**
6. **Fred Creek**
7. **Lifeguard**
8. **Semper Fi**
9. **Kingsman**
10. **Temple**

## DEVOTED FANS

A blizzard on Dec. 15 couldn't keep Golden Eagles fans Dr. Brian Welch (79) (back row, far left), his wife, Suzanne (second row, far left), daughter Andrea, an ORU junior this fall (seated beside her mom), daughter Jana (front row, far right, and "hopefully an up-and-coming Golden Eagle," says her dad), and their friends from attending the

ORU vs. Drake basketball game. The two-car caravan drove through the snow--at one point, they had to pull over and wait out a whiteout--and kept in touch with two-way radios. Unfortunately, ORU lost the game. (But, we'll get 'em next time.)



## **Position Announcement**

### **ORU Director of Development and Estate Planning Services**

The director reports to the Vice President for University Relations. Responsibilities include planning, directing, coordinating, and marketing the comprehensive development program of ORU including the areas of (1) annual gifts, (2) capital campaigns, (3) major donor/prospect initiatives, (4) corporate and foundation support/sponsorships, (5) special projects/programs, and (6) estate planning services. Supervising a team of regional directors across the nation and a support staff on campus, the director will translate the University's vision into significant achievement in fundraising. The director works closely with the vice president and other directors in University Relations, as well as with administrators, faculty, and the president, in a team-based approach. In addition to training and developing a strong development staff, the director will incorporate University faculty and staff in the fundraising process and will be responsible for personally cultivating and soliciting major gifts.

#### **Professional Qualifications**

The preferred candidate is expected to have significant experience in development for a comprehensive university and/or a Christian ministry. A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university is required, while knowledge of ORU and/or Oral Roberts Ministries is helpful. The ideal candidate will exhibit:

- Dynamic, creative, and energetic leadership qualities with a desire to further the mission of ORU through an aggressive development program
- Successful experience in managing professional staff and organizing fundraising events
- Broad experience in institutional development programs including annual gifts, capital campaigns, major donor development, corporate/foundation relations, and estate planning
- Successful track record of significant major gift cultivation and solicitation
- Proven ability to be a team player working effectively with the president, vice presidents, administrators, faculty, and development staff
- Strong communication, computer, presentation, organizational, analytical, and interpersonal skills
- Experience in the creation and publication of print and media marketing materials
- Willingness to travel widely and attend university and community functions.

#### **Application/Information**

For more information and a complete description of the position, contact: George E. Fisher, Vice President for University Relations, Oral Roberts University, 7777 South Lewis Ave., Tulsa, OK 74171; (918) 495-7312; Fax (918) 495-7229; e-mail: [gfisher@oru.edu](mailto:gfisher@oru.edu).

## **Mission Statement of the ORU Alumni Association**

The mission of the Oral Roberts University Alumni Association is to support the University and serve its alumni. We support the University by promoting interest in, securing financial commitment for, and advancing the accomplishment of the mission of Oral Roberts University. We serve the alumni by providing information, programs, and activities to encourage them to fulfill their calling to "go into every man's world" with the light and healing power of God.

Approved by alumni, Fall 2000

**Interested in  
running for the  
Alumni Board of Directors?  
Please contact  
Alumni Relations at  
(918) 495-6610,  
[alumni@oru.edu](mailto:alumni@oru.edu),  
or (918) 495-6650 (fax).**



# Out With The Old, In With The New!

See page 22.

ORU Alumni Foundation, Inc.  
Oral Roberts University  
P.O. Box 702333  
Tulsa, OK 74170-2333

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Tulsa, OK  
Permit No.777