

FALL 2004

Excellence

FOR ORAL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



Change in Command

In the School of Business, Dr. Mark Lewandowski (left) and Dr. David Dyson prepare for a transition. See page 13.

Changes, Challenges, Commitments

As Christians, now more than ever, we are bombarded by the social and cultural challenges of today. It is easy to be distracted and lose our focus of fulfilling God's purpose for our lives. We stay on track by taking time and remembering the glorious promise that God has given us. We also need to sincerely reflect on this year of blessings, changes, and challenges, for our country and for Oral Roberts University. Through it all God has used you as His hands, feet, and heart to meet needs here and around the world. Just some of the blessings that have occurred through your generosity include:

- Industry leaders in a variety of areas who learned to love Jesus from ORU attendance.
- A robust student enrollment and a lively student body.
- A vibrant lifelong learning experience focusing on learning and building Christ-honoring careers.
- A strong Alumni Foundation that has raised several million dollars in financial support and countless prayers.
- Support for faculty training and salaries.
- Countless souls, because of your love and witness, have declared their faith in Jesus Christ and joined His eternal fellowship.

God has blessed this Alumni Foundation and our alumni family through your being here. Thank you for your involvement.

What's next?

Well, many challenges are ahead. For example, while our annual giving remains strong, we have not reached our full potential. That is important since in faith, the annual budget for our support of ORU, its faculty, and alumni is based on projected donations.

Without that financial support, the board members and Alumni Association staff may have to rethink how funds will be allocated during the year — potentially eliminating many beneficial programs and services.

The monies provided by our Annual Fund campaign, which have augmented our Alumni Foundation budget, have enabled ORU to complete many campus projects, even as the university continues to pay down the debt and solidify the endowment fund. As alumni, we will continue to help support our alma mater financially and leverage our giving for the challenges ahead.



But did you know they could sing?

Dr. Agena Farmer (left) and new communication arts chair Laura Holland 74 performed during the "Faculty Follies" portion of the 2004 Faculty Retreat. Thanks to support from the Alumni Foundation, the Student Association, and the university, faculty members did not have to pay a cent to attend this year's event.

What can you do?

We share this information to add to your understanding and, we hope, motivate you to join us (or continue your support). We believe that God will continue to meet needs through your generosity.

Would you consider the following action points?

1. Consider adding the ORU Alumni Foundation to your Christmas list this season.
2. In your quiet time with our God, please reflect on how He has blessed you this year, and seriously consider raising your giving goals.
3. Lastly, please take a look around at those near you. Are you looking at someone that you need to get to know better? That person may already believe in Jesus, or they may be in need of knowing Him as their Savior. Why not resolve to REALLY get to know them? As great as the experiences we've had at ORU, we need to continue to be known also as a community of caring people who carry each other's burdens, building eternal relationships with Jesus Christ and with one another.

In the next several months we will continue to ferret out ways that all of us can grow in God-honoring commitment and alumni involvement. In the meantime, if you have questions regarding the financial opportunities that lie ahead or regarding anything involving your Alumni Association, please contact one of the board members. They stand ready to assist and be of service to you.

May God richly bless you this day and throughout this year.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1,2). ■

E. Rhae Buckley 80
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**Find your board representative's e-mail address at <http://alumniweb.oru.edu/board/board.html>.*

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Excellence is published and
distributed three times a year to alumni
and friends by the Oral Roberts
University Alumni Foundation.

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**Excellence Magazine
Mission Statement**

*The purpose of Excellence magazine is
threefold: to make alumni aware of what
their former classmates are doing, to tell
alumni what is happening today on the
Oral Roberts University campus, and to
share the good news about alumni
accomplishments with faculty, staff, and
friends of the University. Excellence
magazine is proof positive that the
mission of ORU is being carried out on a
daily basis all over the globe —
"in every person's world."*

COVER PHOTO BY KRISTEN CAROLLO.

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ORU Embarks Upon ‘Year of Fulfillment and Overflowing Faith’

Back in 1995 and 1996, as some of you may remember, I was invited to lead crusades and mass healing services in Zambia. During one service, a young boy named Prince Mumba gave his life to Christ and heard about ORU for the very first time. He didn’t really know what or where ORU was, exactly, but he knew in his spirit that he was going to go there someday.

Fast-forward to the present: Prince did indeed find his way to ORU, was accepted, and enrolled as a full-time student. But that’s not the end of the

story! As one of the top twelve 800-meter runners in the world, he went to Athens, Greece, in August to represent his home country, Zambia (and ORU!), at the Olympics. There was a whole write-up on him in the *Tulsa World*, where he was allowed to share his entire testimony. Of course, Prince was not the only ORU presence in Athens. Your fellow alumnus, **Madeline Manning Mims (A)**, also was there, serving as a chaplain for the U.S.A. team. And **John Rigas ’86**, one of our former tennis players, was the coach of Greece’s tennis team.

The favor of God is evident in so many of your lives, and it is my honor to claim you as ORU alumni. As I

we are now in the best position we’ve ever been in to receive God’s blessing.

I also shared with the students, on Aug. 17, the passage about Gideon’s army in 1 Chronicles, chapter 12. I reminded them that we are part of an army too, and being part of an army (or, an ORU student, for that matter) requires some important qualifications, which I trust that you are still exercising in your daily lives. We must be ready and armed for warfare with the Word. Like Gideon’s troops, we need to have an understanding of the times — to be “in the world, but not of it.” This involves being aware of what’s going on in our nation and in the world. YOU were born for this moment! And I urge you, as I urged the students — be involved in the world around you. Vote! Stand up for what you know is right and pleasing in the eyes of God, and don’t be double-minded in your thinking. Listen to the Holy Spirit. He is there inside of you to guide your steps.

You’ve heard me say this before, but when I came to ORU as a student, I still thought my destiny was to become a nightclub singer and a professional athlete. But God found me at ORU, and I found my life in Him. I had no clue that I would someday become the president of this university. And as president, I am thrilled to hear about the exciting opportunities God is showing you too.

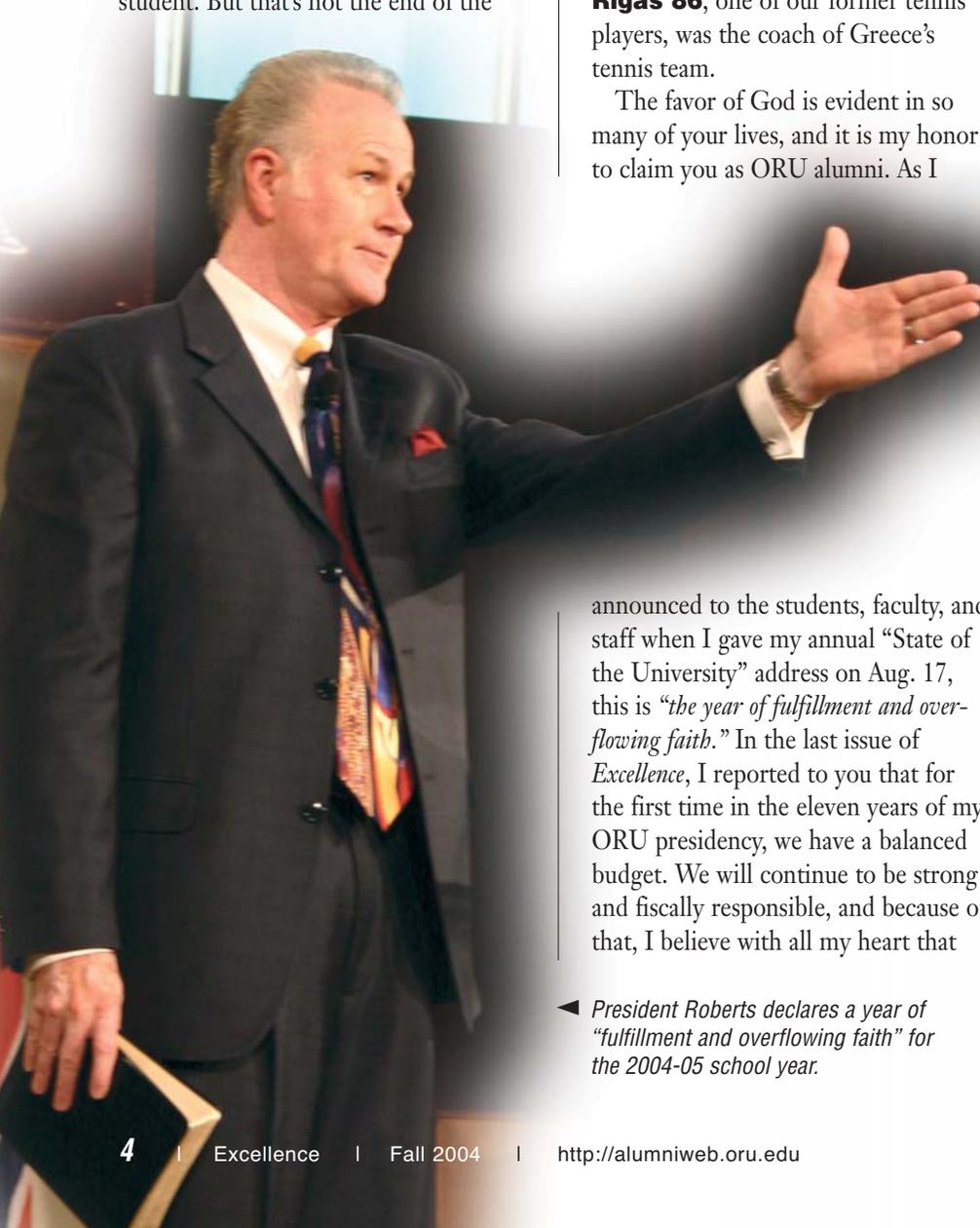
I encourage you to live one day at a time for Him, and enjoy your journey to greatness in Him. ■

Richard Roberts

Richard L. Roberts
President and CEO

announced to the students, faculty, and staff when I gave my annual “State of the University” address on Aug. 17, this is “*the year of fulfillment and overflowing faith.*” In the last issue of *Excellence*, I reported to you that for the first time in the eleven years of my ORU presidency, we have a balanced budget. We will continue to be strong and fiscally responsible, and because of that, I believe with all my heart that

◀ President Roberts declares a year of “fulfillment and overflowing faith” for the 2004-05 school year.



Shelf space

By Debbie Titus '77 George

Back in 1951, a man named C. Glen Catt moved to Michigan and opened a small grocery store called, appropriately enough, Glen's Market.

That one store grew into a chain of 29, and Catt's grandson Tim Freeman knows why. "He treated customers and associates fairly...and showed them respect," he said. It's an example that Tim and his brothers, **Tom 91** and **Paul 94**, have followed in their own work . . . which is operating their own chain of grocery stores as Freeman Family Enterprises, founded in 1999.

Tim started working at Glen's when he was 15 — "stocking, bagging, sorting bottles," he said. "All of us (his brothers and sisters Laurie, Sarah, and Jessica) worked there." Tim and his wife, **Sarah Hughes 89**, moved back to Tim's hometown of Gaylord, Mich., a year after he graduated from ORU,

*Grocery store magnate
Tim Freeman 88 puts a
lot of stock in his faith,
his family, and his work.*

and he returned to Glen's, starting in the produce department at \$6.90 an hour and gradually moving up to night manager, grocery manager, and assistant manager. By the time the Glen's chain was sold in 1999, Tim was a district manager responsible for 13 stores.

Tim wouldn't say that he started at the bottom in this business, but he definitely had to work for what he received. "I think going through those things, you know what your associates are dealing with," he said — valuable lessons for the future entrepreneur.

Freeman Family Enterprises, which also includes alumnus **Mike Wolford 92**, now owns seven Save-A-Lot stores in northern Michigan, as well as a Christian bookstore, The Word. The work ethic that the brothers learned from their grandfather, it's safe to say, lives on.

The Save-A-Lot store in Gaylord, Mich., is one of seven that Freeman Family Enterprises owns.





“When Tom and Mike visit the stores, they’re working the trucks and redoing the front wall,” Tim said. “It’s really a hands-on company . . . I think because we all went through that (working our way up), we’ve benefited from it.” Not that it was an easy ascent. “I remember being passed up for promotion [at Glen’s]. I’d say, ‘Come on! It’s our company!’ But really, I didn’t have it rough.” His five children shouldn’t relax, though. “My poor kids,” he laughed. “They’re going to get the same thing.”

The Freeman clan has lived in Gaylord since 1978, when father Denny was transferred there by Glen’s. It was Dad, a supporter of the Oral Roberts Ministries, who insisted that all of his children go to ORU for at least one year. Tim earned a degree in business management, but he hadn’t planned on going home and using it at Glen’s. “My dad mostly discouraged it,” he said. By Tim’s senior year, however, both father and son agreed that it would be a good idea.

At FFE, Tim is the president, Tom is vice president, and Paul is the chief financial officer. But don’t be fooled. “We’re very, very *not* title people,” Tim said, joking that “we tell our friends, if they see us wrestling in the parking lot, we’re just making a decision.”

When the brothers opened their Gaylord Save-A-Lot in 2000, they called Mike Woldford and asked if he wanted to come run it. Why Woldford? It’s those old college ties — specifically, the Am Herratz wing ties. Tim, Tom, Paul, and Mike all lived on the wing, and it continues to be a major part of their lives.

▲
The Tom Freeman family. Back: Jaclyn and Tom. Front: Michael and Theresa.

“The guys on that wing completely changed my life,” said Tim. “They had as much impact on me as the university did. We were a group of 35 brothers. Last year, I was looking through my sophomore-year photo album. It’s amazing how different we were and the bond we had and still have.”

The *new* Freeman “wing” consists of the 150 employees who are keeping the Save-A-Lot stores in a growth mode. “We battle with Super Wal-Mart, Glen’s, and Meijer,” Tim said, explaining that Save-A-Lot is “a limited-assortment grocery store, not huge. It’s challenging right now, but as far as the grocery business as a whole, when the economy is down, people don’t eat out as much.” That said, Tim doesn’t believe the economy is as bad as some say. Whatever its true condition, “People are always going to find a way to get food,” he said.



▲
Mike Woldford’s family includes Paige, Brooke, and wife Danielle.



The Tim Freeman family consists of (from left) Nick, Alexis, Sarah, Tim, Sommer (front), Scott, and Steven.

Tim says that the company will definitely continue to grow as new locations become available, but they won't open stores for the sake of boosting numbers. "I met with someone from Save-A-Lot recently who said we were the second largest Save-A-Lot retailer in Michigan. We don't want to be the biggest; we want to be the best that we can be."

The brothers, who all have business degrees, aren't big fans of management how-to books. Their style, Tim says, can be summed up as "have fun and make good business decisions. We have a pretty loose culture" — plenty of paintball, bowling, and golf outings — "but we're extremely professional when it's time to make decisions."

Known for his good humor, Tim is also serious when it comes to his faith. He and Sarah, their pastor and his wife, and another couple planted a Free Methodist church,



The Paul Freeman family. Back: Heather, Gavin, and Paul. Front: Ryley and Jacob.

Gaylord Family Fellowship, in 1997. The church built a permanent home in 2002. "That's been a real exciting part of our lives," Tim said. "Sitting around the table that night in 1997, none of us felt qualified to do it, but we all felt called to do it."

There's more evidence that Tim is someone who is attuned to that still, small voice. When he came to his first College Weekend at ORU, he said, "I just knew that was where I was supposed to go." And once he enrolled, "from day one, I knew that was where I was supposed to be."

There's at least one thing he doesn't know for sure yet, though: if his children are supposed to go to ORU someday. But it's pretty plain that he trusts God enough to tell them Himself.

For this hard-working, hard-playing family man, you sense that half the fun is just waiting to see what's down the next aisle. ■

A Note from Tim — Am Herratz, which means "scum of the earth," was a wing located on EMR 3 South from 1982 to 1991. The name of the wing was taken from 1 Corinthians 4:13 by two of the founding "Ratzers," David Booker and Eric Watt. During the 9 years on 3 South, Am Herratz dominated intramural sports, winning five all-school championships. The relationships that were developed at ORU have continued for over 20 years with several different reunions across the country. Any "Ratzers" are asked to contact **A.C. Griffith 86** at acratzer@yahoo.com to get reconnected with friends and receive information about our 2005 reunion plans.

Brothers to the end! From left: Mike Wolford, Tom Freeman, Paul Freeman, and Tim Freeman. ►





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Doc IRAQ

Donald “Skip” Mondragon (81, 85 MD) spent the last year as a doctor and then OIC (Officer In Charge) of the 21st CSH (Combat Support Hospital) North in Mosul, Iraq. Recently, he talked with Excellence about his experience — including how it’s deepened his faith, his love for his family, and his appreciation for our country.

EXC: You were in Iraq for almost a year (April 2003 through February 2004), helping set up the 21st CSH and then caring for injured soldiers and Iraqi citizens. What was a typical day like for you in the 21st?

MONDRAGON: Before I assumed my OIC duties, I was the hospital’s sole Internal Medicine specialist, and my typical day involved taking care of the sickest patients. We mostly saw non-combat related illnesses and injuries until August, and then combat injuries became far more predominant. We treated Iraqis, including all EPWs (enemy prisoners of war), detainees, and some civilians.

After I became OIC, I spent far less time in direct patient care and more time in meetings, reviewing policies, interacting with VIPs, and making plans and preparations to turn our hospital over to our replacements and to return home. As OIC, I was the spokesperson for the hospital, which gave me

the opportunity to show VIPs the wonderful job performed by the many talented and dedicated members of our hospital.

EXC: Is Iraq as bad as the media reports?

MONDRAGON: Media reports tend to be very biased, typically revolving around bombings, deaths, and severe injuries. Yes, Iraq is dangerous! But you don’t hear about the improvements of Iraqi schools, the improved status of women, the opening of small businesses, oil production, electric power, phone service, and enhancements to hospitals, clinics, and medical schools, to name a few.

EXC: What was it like being the OIC?

MONDRAGON: Initially, I had no interest in this job, but after four days of focused and prolonged prayer and discussions with my wife, Sherry, I asked to be recommended for the job.





© DIMITRI DOGANIS



I set three main goals as OIC: 1) No loss in our excellent level of patient care, 2) Preparations for a seamless transfer of the hospital mission to our replacements, and 3) Every member of our hospital to return home safely.

All three were accomplished, hallelujah!

EXC: You've written about the unexpected anger you had when you returned home. Where did that anger come from?

MONDRAGON: I had to take inventory when I recognized I was angry to find out why. At least two friends I shared with told me that anger can often be from pain and loss. I began to realize that I had suffered many losses and much pain. I'd missed a year out of my family's life — that was tough.

EXC: How did being away affect your family?

MONDRAGON: Military families pay a tremendous, and often unrecognized, price when family members are deployed. Families must still carry on with their lives and responsibilities with the uncertainty and possibility of injury or death to their

▲ *The Mondragon family (minus son Adam) gathered on the morning of March 18, 2003, to say their goodbyes. Skip left shortly after for Iraq, via Kuwait. Front: Jonathan and Angeli. Middle: Chris. Back: Joey, Skip, and Sherry.*

loved one. My family had to adapt their lives to my absence. Celebrations, such as our wedding anniversary, birthdays, and holidays, were especially difficult for all of us. I would generally write to Sherry, my wife, almost daily and to each of my five children two or three times weekly. After June 2003, e-mail became a mainstay to hear from others. Phone calls were infrequent, perhaps every few weeks at best. One highlight was being able to have a webcam visit while Instant Messaging on Christmas day!

EXC: What surprised you the most about your time in Iraq?

MONDRAGON: I was most surprised by my view of commanders of our combat units. To see the kindness, compassion, and concern of these leaders when dealing with their sick and injured soldiers allowed me to see them as caregivers.



I was greatly impressed by the kindness and tenderness exhibited by the command staff of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Major General David Petraeus, Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), is an amazing man!

I was also impressed by the courage displayed by so many soldiers. I remember one young infantryman who came to our hospital in hemorrhagic shock after suffering wounds that literally blew off both of his legs from an RPG (rocket propelled grenade) attack. Later, when loading this soldier and his buddy (who had lost a hand in the same attack) onto the ambulance to transport them to their plane, both were effusive in their thanks. They repeatedly told us, "Thank you. We love you." This left me and the others caring for them feeling, "Wow, we are merely doing our job. You men risk your lives on the front line each day." I was told that the soldier who lost his legs was standing with his prostheses to greet his unit when they returned to Ft. Campbell in February.

EXC: Explain some of these initials after your name. MD is self-explanatory, but what about MPH, MC, and FACP?

MONDRAGON: Ah, what do all these initials mean? MPH = Master's of Public Health, MC = Medical Corps, and FACP = Fellow, American College of Physicians.

EXC: How has your faith helped you, both in Iraq and returning home?

MONDRAGON: My faith provides hope, comfort, purpose, and courage to deal with situations. I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God loves me and He desires for all men to know Him. When we crossed over the Iraqi border from Kuwait, I had a powerful sense that God not only meant for Saddam Hussein to be deposed, but for the gospel of the Lord

Jesus Christ to be spread. Many times I turn to scripture or to a song for comfort. One of my favorites is the 91st Psalm. I often turn to it in times of crisis and doubt. God had spoken to my heart from the story of Esther, and the words of "perhaps such a time as this" before we left for Iraq. When I was pondering my role to serve in the 21st CSH, these words would come back to me.

EXC: What would you say were some of the greatest lessons you learned while in Iraq?

MONDRAGON: I was affirmed repeatedly of the privilege of being an American. By virtue of my being born an American, I enjoy privileges, opportunities, freedoms, and comforts that most of the rest of the world can only dream about.

I also took away a newfound appreciation for God's love and protection, my wife, my children, the importance of "promoting" others, rather than oneself, and the amazing results of coordinated teamwork.

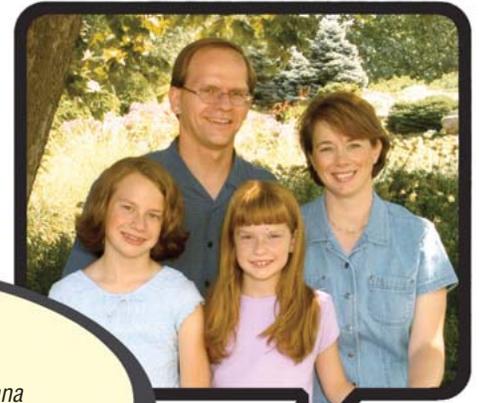
EXC: Finally, what did you do during your leave? After being away for an entire year, what did you look forward to doing?

MONDRAGON: I spent time relaxing, reading, enjoying day-to-day activities with my wife and children. I was also able to attend the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships in March and then the Olympic Wrestling Trials in May. Both provided the opportunity to spend time with my children. I took my son, Chris, and my daughter, Angeli, to the NCAAs and my son, Jonathan, to the Olympic Trials. I also managed to go through several boxes in the garage! ■

If you'd like to read more about the 21st Combat Support Hospital in Iraq, you can view a recent NOVA special about the operation at www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/combatdocs/.



I'm Glad You Asked



Chene Tucker, an awesome woman of God and a fabulous social worker!
— Denise Noble 91

1) Toothbrush for clean teeth and fresh breath. 2) Toilet paper, no explanation necessary! 3) My family, they constantly fill my love tank!
— Denise Noble 91

In this election year, with so many big, important questions to ponder, we thought it would be fun to ask alumni what they think about . . . well, just look below, and you'll see.

Who was your favorite professor at ORU?

Dr. George Gillen. He always had an exuberant and interesting personality. I didn't always agree with his economic policies, but he expressed himself vividly and entertainingly. I remember one year, when he won Faculty Member of the Year, he got a Burger King crown and wore a robe around the halls.
— Terry Breunig 82

Charles Zwick, who to my amazement is still teaching at ORU. He exemplified the self-sacrificing, there-because-he-loves-God servant that nearly every professor I had at ORU exhibited. Well done, Mr. Zwick, you're a good and faithful servant.
— Clay Jacobsen 78

What are your three everyday essentials and why?

The basics: God, family, work.
— Terry Breunig 82

Number one — time spent with Jesus, whether in His Word, in dialogue throughout the day, or sharing Him with others. Without Him — life just wouldn't be the same. Number two — a hug, a kiss, an "I Love You" to and from my wife and two daughters. Reason number one has blessed me with the greatest family I could ever have imagined — the joy of my life. Number three — Pepsi and M&M's . . . can't seem to get through a day without them.
— Clay Jacobsen 78

What are you currently reading?

I'm reading a lot of the Tim LaHaye books and am very impressed. He's not saying that this is how it's going to happen, but it's one possibility of what could happen. He puts the end times in a day-to-day context that makes it tangible and easy to understand.
— Terry Breunig 82

Sisterchicks do the hula
— Denise Noble 91

2nd Corinthians and Richard North Patterson's *Balance of Power*.
— Clay Jacobsen 78

What game show would you do well on and why?

Jeopardy — I love trivia and have never lost at Trivial Pursuit!
— Jeremy Baker 01

Wheel of Fortune. It is way too easy and people can't seem to avoid the "Bankrupt" space on the wheel, but I'm sure that I could.
— Curtis Stoddard 88

What celebrity would you most like to share the Lord with, and why?

The musician Dave Matthews, because he has such a cult following among college students and has a lot of influence over them.

— *Matt Pinnell 02*

Michael Jackson — I feel that he is one of the most lost individuals out there and could positively influence the world if led to the Lord.

— *Jeremy Baker 01*

Eddie Murphy . . . he is so funny, but his mouth is a real problem. I would love to have him on our side.

— *Curtis Stoddard 88*

What's the strangest thing you ever did or thought as a child? (Or as an ORU student?)

That I would never get old (30), and nothing in my life would change. As an ORU student, I thought that was the beginning of my life, but that keeps changing too.

— *Tiana Londoff 93*

I bought a goldfish and thought he would survive swimming around in just a plastic bag. But unfortunately, it did not work.

— *Natasha Washington 94*

I thought that I would know when I was “grown up”! (When I grow up I'm gonna . . .)

— *Liv Bandlien 01*

What is your favorite ORU cafeteria memory?

Once, as part of a missions awareness program, we showed up for lunch to find no silverware available — and the foods being served were not finger

foods. I was annoyed at first myself, but then when I saw how annoyed everyone else had become, I realized the humor in the situation — and the lesson we were being taught.

— *John I. Carney 84*

What is your most prized possession?

My father gave me his old briefcase. He gave me his work ethic, so it's kind of a reminder of that.

— *Matt Pinnell 02*

My wedding ring.

— *Curtis Stoddard 88*

What is your dream job?

A syndicated newspaper columnist. I have a blog, <http://www.lakeneuron.com/blog>, but nobody pays me for it.

— *John I. Carney 84*

What was your favorite cartoon show as a kid?

“The Bugs Bunny/Road Runner Hour”

— and I still love watching Looney Tunes whenever I get the chance.

— *John I. Carney 84*

When you're stressed out, what junk food do you inevitably reach out for?

Chocolate, chocolate, mocha!

— *Liv Bandlien 01*

What is your coolest experience in life so far?

My husband surprised me with a cruise for our 10th anniversary and we snorkeled for the very first time. It was an amazing experience and unforgettable trip!

— *Denise Noble 91*

There are so many, from saying “I do” to God's greatest gift to me, holding my daughters just seconds after being born, being awakened by our puppy lying over my head, to hitting a perfect 280-yard drive on a long par five. The coolest experience is knowing that in each of these moments, Jesus was with me.

— *Clay Jacobsen 78*

If you could have dinner with anyone dead or alive, who would you choose and why?

C. S. Lewis — I'd love to be able to talk to him about his faith, his creativity, and the relationship between the two.

— *John I. Carney 84*

Fill in the blank: If I weren't doing what I'm doing now, I would have been a great _____ because . . .

Lawyer, because I love history and I love to argue my points!

— *Jeremy Baker 01*

I'm currently a lobbyist for the American International Automobile Dealers Association, but if I weren't doing that, I'd definitely be a movie producer.

— *Matt Pinnell 02*

Morning Drive DJ on the radio because I am funny and obnoxious and can make funny prank phone calls.

— *Curtis Stoddard 88*

If you have a question you'd like to ask, or if you'd like to be included in a future “I'm Glad You Asked!”, e-mail dgeorge@oru.edu.

DYSON, LEWANDOWSKI Anticipate New Roles

▲ Dr. Ray Lewandowski and his wife, Carole, shared a break with their son Mark at the Faculty Retreat. ORU's newest Dr. Lewandowski is serving as associate dean this fall in the School of Business in preparation for taking over as dean on Jan. 1, 2005.

Throughout his nearly nine-year tenure as dean of the School of Business, **Dr. David Dyson 73, 78 MBA** has been a strategic planner. That has translated into what he considers his greatest accomplishment — “a great faculty team” — as well as the Master of Management degree (added in 1999), the Executive on Campus program, and an assessment system that measures student learning against a national norm.

More than two years ago, Dr. Dyson began laying the groundwork for his boldest stroke yet by speaking with a number of alumni who hold graduate degrees about “leveraging their business experience with the local and national business community” in a manner that would benefit the school.

Those discussions resulted in what Dyson says will “help bring to life plans that I have had for some time to try to take the School of Business to the next level.” This summer, with the blessing of the administration, he brought alumnus **Dr. Mark Lewandowski** on board — to serve as associate dean this fall, and to take over as dean on Jan. 1, 2005.

Dyson believes he has devised a winning strategy, because the future dean is someone “who has a heart for the ministry and is interested in developing the School of Business and helping the students and faculty reach their full potential.”

Why has Dyson chosen to step down as dean? He says he wants “to be able to impact the students’ lives by having a longer-term, more dynamic relationship that is the opportunity of the professor . . . I’m eager to be back in the classroom and have the opportunity to share some of the wisdom I have learned over the last 15 years in administrative roles.” He will also leverage his skill set and experience on strategic planning with the university, and assist Dr. Ralph Fagin, Academic Affairs executive vice president, in ORU’s accreditation process.

In Dr. Lewandowski’s case, his appointment was timely. He earned his B.S. (1988) and MBA (1992) from ORU and his Ph.D. (1995) from Walden University. For a short time, he combined teaching at ORU (earning Outstanding Business Faculty Member for 1994) and consulting for companies such as Outback Steakhouse and Baker Oil Tools. One client,

Johnson Brokers and Administrators, was so impressed with his work they asked him to take over one of their companies, Provider Medical Pharmaceutical. After PMP was bought by National Medical Health Card, Lewandowski spent three years there in senior management, doing mergers and acquisitions all over the country. He loved the job, despite the 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily schedule and constant travel. Then came a heart attack this past April that he was fortunate to survive, and his decision to make a career change.

One morning in June, he was in his office, praying, “Lord, if you want me to change jobs, you’ve got to make the phone ring.” He hadn’t told anyone his intentions. “That day at 11 o’clock, I got a phone call asking me to come back [to ORU]. So here I am. I couldn’t be more pleased.”

The new dean will focus on enlarging the School of Business’s national presence, and on “making our top students a resource that companies look to and will want to hire.” Another goal will be attaining accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Business and Programs; that’s an effort Dyson will spearhead.

Lewandowski believes in giving back. (While at PMP, he hired and mentored 26 ORU graduates from a variety of disciplines.) It’s the reason he has returned to ORU.

“I could never have accomplished my personal goals without the help of so many well-trained ORU graduates, and the foundation and mentoring I received in the School of Business from George Gillen, Rinne Martin, Eugene Swearingen, David Dyson, and several others. These are people that sowed into my life. Now it’s my turn to come back and sow into others,” he said, expressing his pleasure at joining ORU’s leadership team.

“This is a better place than it was 20 years ago,” he stressed. “And it will be a better place 10 years from now than it is now.

“It’s my hope for School of Business alumni that they will see the regeneration within the school and say, ‘I need to be a part of that.’” ■



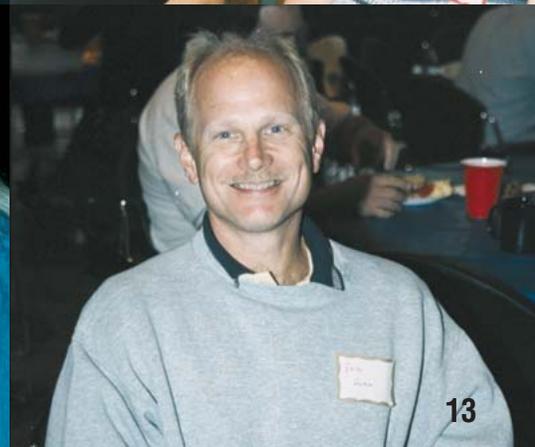
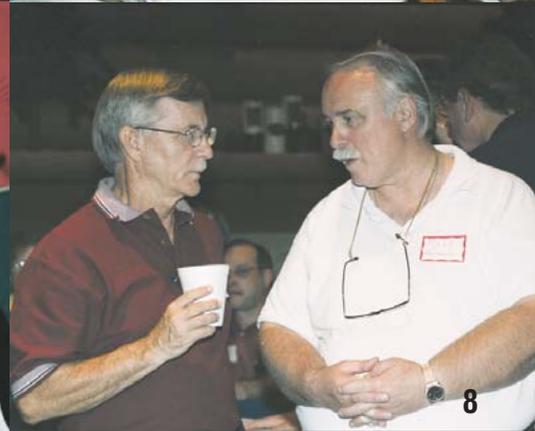
LET'S GET AWAY FROM IT ALL!

Perhaps Camp Loughridge doesn't have quite the same cachet as some other exotic locales, but for the Oral Roberts University faculty, it was warm and friendly and a world away from the everyday. And even with a topic like ePortfolio (see page 18) taking up a lion's share of the agenda, these ready-for-anything academicians found plenty of time at their Aug. 5 and 6 retreat to enjoy some delicious food, cooler-than-usual temperatures, praise and worship, a communion service, a rip-roaring talent show (featuring the irrepressible George Gillen), kayaking, and a challenging ropes course (way to go, Mark Roberts!). If you think these folks had too much fun, you have only yourself to blame. After all, the Alumni Foundation foots most of the bill for this event. Yes, Camp Loughridge is a mere 15-minute drive from campus, but when was the last time you saw a log cabin at ORU?





1. Jerry Eshleman (Undergrad Education) attempts to win a prize during Faculty Follies.
2. Margaret Sehorn (Modern Foreign Languages) understands perfectly.
3. Drs. Daniel Grimes (Undergrad Theology), Hallett Hullinger (Grad Education), and Bill Collier '77 (Chemistry) make merry music (and tell corny jokes) at most of the retreats.
4. Drs. John Matsson and Xiaomin Ma find some elbow room while talking with their colleague, the recently returned Dr. Sophie Liu. (All are Engineering, Physics, and Physical Science faculty.)
5. About 20 feet above the ground, Dr. Mark Roberts (director, Holy Spirit Research Center) successfully "walked the plank."
6. Dr. Daobin Zhang (Engineering, Physics, and Physical Science) is one of three professors in his department who are from China.
7. Dr. Julie Huntley (Grad Business) checks in — gladly, as we can see.
8. Drs. Lanny Endicott (Behavioral Sciences) and Mark Maynard (Undergrad Business) are probably discussing service learning, the program that Endicott directs.
9. Do they have to draw you a picture? It's Nathan Opp and Doug Latta (both Art).
10. Susan McMurray and Rhonda Gallagher (both Communication Arts) relax on the porch.
11. Charlene Huntley (right), sister of Julie, joined the School of Education faculty this year.
12. Susan Carr (Computer Science and Mathematics) assembles her lunch . . . without a calculator!
13. Fat cells know better than to bother HPER's sinewy chair, Dr. Fritz Huber.





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17

- 14. Still caring after all these years — that's Charles Zwick (Communication Arts).
- 15. Out for a stroll: Dr. Ken Weed 86 (Chemistry) and his son, Jonathan, and Dr. Mark Hall (English), his wife, Rachel, and their daughter, Kathryn.
- 16. Dr. Ken Preston (chair, Computer Science and Mathematics) and Dr. Dominic Halsmer (chair, Engineering, Physics, and Physical Science) are collaborating on a one-act play: *Two Chairs in Search of a Table*.
- 17. Wasn't that fishers of men? . . . Very early in the retreat, Dr. Ralph Fagin 70 (Academic Affairs) lowers the aquatic population at Camp Loughridge.
- 18. Do you think Dr. Fagin is looking a little hirsute these days? Amazing what a relaxing retreat can do for you . . .
- 19. Dr. Larry Hart 70 (Grad Theology) gives a devotional before communion is served.
- 20. *Can I buy a vowel?* Faculty members have to assemble the phrase "Oral Roberts University Golden Eagles." Robert Kiel (Behavioral Sciences) and Brenda Calderon (Modern Foreign Languages) are happy to be on the winning team.
- 21. *Michael, row the boat ashore* . . . Faculty and their families spend time on the lake on Friday afternoon.
- 22. President Richard Roberts is revved for a new academic year.
- 23. On a humid Friday afternoon, Dr. Randy Feller 81 (Behavioral Sciences) keeps a close eye on his daughter, Laura — and she does a good job of holding onto the rope.



18



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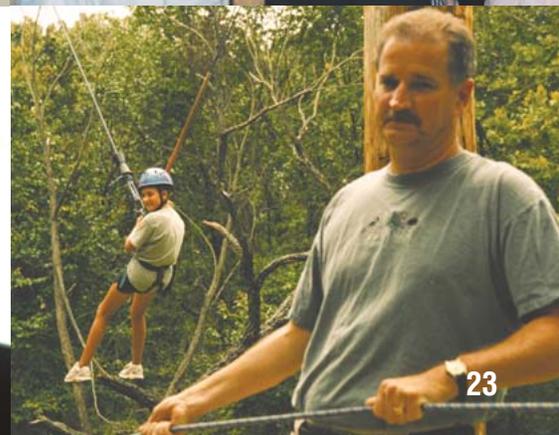
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23

Bringing Honors to Washington

Washington, D.C., honorable? Hmmmm . . . that's subject to debate.

But our nation's capital is definitely getting an influx of *honors*, beginning with **Jamie Curtis 04**, one of the first graduates of the ORU honors program. Curtis, who graduated this spring with a degree in government (pre-law emphasis) and history, is currently working for the State Department in D.C. as a Congressional Liaison for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

Before that, of course, she was at ORU, taking classes, bonding with fellow honors students, and helping form the new program designed to nurture and stretch academically gifted students.

“My experience in the honors program [at ORU] was fulfilling and challenging all at the same time,” Curtis says.

“The program had just started, so there were lots of kinks to iron out. However, the people that I met and worked with were just amazing. The relationships I made that came from those years are what I cherish the most. I wouldn't be the person I am today without it.”

According to Curtis, honors students at ORU aren't exactly different from the other students, just collectively dedicated to academics. “We used to get tired of people poking fun at us, thinking we were nothing but a bunch of nerds. The truth about honors students is that, despite the higher scores on the ACT or SAT, they are dedicated to being that whole person, striving to not only get all their aerobics points, but also working hard for those As!”

She continues, “Honors students are normal kids, with a slight tendency



The whole family turned out for Curtis' graduation from ORU.

to take things a little more seriously. But they love going to the basketball games, being stupid in the dorms, hanging out with friends . . . all of those things.”

In Washington, D.C., Curtis doesn't have much free time for basketball games anymore. She admits that it's a difficult place where “even navigating the sidewalk can seem overwhelming,” but God and her experiences at ORU have helped keep her in balance.

“One thing I learned at ORU that has carried me through this adventure is who I am — I am a child of God,” Curtis says. “That simple statement has been so powerful in my life. Any time I found myself terrified out of my mind — leaving my family behind, not finding a job right off the bat, trying not to overstay my welcome at a friend's house — I would remind myself that God is in charge and I, as His child, don't have to worry about a thing!

“The short and long of it is that my dream has been to work in D.C. since I was in high school, but more than that, to work for the Lord in D.C. I would not be here if it hadn't been for ORU — the faculty that supported me, the friends, the people that encouraged me to know the Lord more and more.”

Now that she has an honors degree, what honors does Curtis expect to find in her professional life?

“I have absolutely no idea!” she laughs. “My dreams are to work in D.C., to effect change, and to have a family, but how those will come to pass is beyond me. Everyone is different — some like to be part of the planning process, others prefer to let God surprise them. I'm definitely one that likes to be surprised. I don't know where I'll be in a year and, in spite of my gut reaction to worry, I choose to be okay with that. It's what I like to call peaceful uncertainty!”

An honorable state to be in, Washington, D.C., or not. ■

From Snapshot to Surround-Sound Expanding the vision with ePortfolios

By Laura B. Raphael

The old joke goes that teachers grade papers by throwing them across the room and seeing where they land. Those by the easy chair: C. Those by the window: B. And the one or two that make it to the front door? A+.

Portfolios — individual collections of projects, papers, and other work in a class — are designed to give a more accurate view of a student's growth than the usual one-shot grades. Educators say it's like having a hologram instead of a snapshot of what a student has learned.

But what happens when the hologram becomes a surround-sound, big-screen movie of not just one student, but the entire student body, and the school itself?

Welcome to the wonderful world of ePortfolios, the latest innovation that is transforming how Oral Roberts University educates its students.

▼ *Students like Cara Ojeda, a social studies education major, are making great use of ePortfolios.*

More than a fancy container, ePortfolios ensure that ORU's mission is accomplished

Beginning in the fall of 2003 with a pilot program in the School of Education and expanding to all incoming freshmen this fall, electronic portfolios — “ePortfolios” — will be required for each ORU student. Individual ePortfolios will feature significant samples from all classes across the curriculum and will include a variety of tests, papers, projects, and other assignments.

There are several important features of the ORU ePortfolios, however, that make them one of the most exciting educational innovations to come along since ORU was founded forty years ago. (Really.)

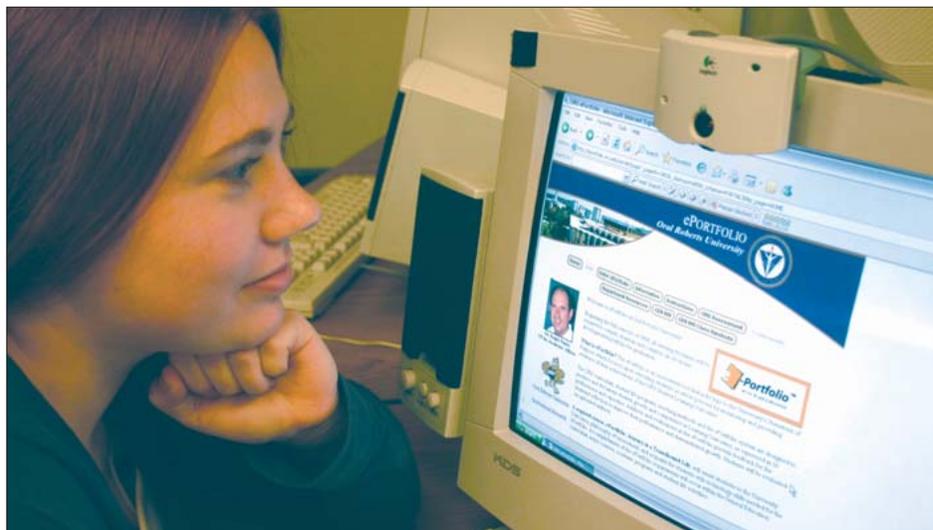
First, every ePortfolio entry will be tied to the mission of ORU, through one of 16 general proficiencies linked to four main learning outcomes: i.e., that students will become spiritually alive, intellectually alert, physically disciplined, and socially adept. (Please see chart on page 19.)

“We’re trying to prove that students are gaining competence and growth in the learning outcomes that we value, the ones that are directly tied to our overall mission,” Dr. Ralph Fagin 70, executive vice president for Academic Affairs, said. “Everything flows from the mission; this is just a tool that will give students an opportunity to demonstrate how they are gaining in these four learning outcomes that come directly from the mission.”

How are sophomore nursing majors doing in communication skills?

But ePortfolios are not just for individual students. Information from every ePortfolio can be combined, compared, and separated according to various questions. Called “the aggregation and disaggregation of data,” this process is particularly exciting to Dr. Fagin and others because it will allow ORU professors, departments, and administration to immediately identify strengths and weaknesses at various levels — student, student groups, and university-wide.

“A student will get feedback on a certain outcome, so they will know how they’re doing, but what the ePortfolio system also does is help us summarize the data and then break it down,” Fagin said. “For example, how are our English majors doing compared to our engineering majors, how are seniors doing, how are our international students doing? We’ll be able to break down the data according to demographic groups as well as the 16



general proficiencies. How are our students as a whole doing in communications skills? What about biblical knowledge?"

The feedback will be invaluable, particularly in developing future curriculum and responding to needs that the system will reveal. "We'll be able to say, we have a gap here, or we're doing better here, or this is working well and maybe we can duplicate it in this way," Fagin said. "That's the bottom line of the ePortfolio system: to assess how we're doing and to determine how we can improve at the student level, the department level, the school level, the university level."

Playing — not just talking — a good game

Finally, what makes the ePortfolio system at ORU unique is the remarkable and, in some cases, unexpected benefits for faculty, students, and the university itself.

The seemingly simple process of developing learning outcomes and proficiencies demanded that departments work together more closely, which has led to strengthened relationships among faculty members, not to mention a clearer shared vision of what ORU students should look like at the end of their four years.

<i>Student Learning Outcomes</i>				
<i>Proficiencies and Capacities</i>				
	Spiritually Alive	Intellectually Alert	Physically Disciplined	Socially Adept
	A. Biblical Knowledge	A. Critical Thinking	A. Healthy Lifestyle	A. Communication Skills
	B. Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit	B. Information Literacy	B. Physically Disciplined Lifestyle	B. Interpersonal Skills
	C. Evangelistic Capability	C. Global and Historical Perspectives		C. Appreciation of Cultural & Linguistic Differences
D. Ethical Behavior	D. Aesthetic Appreciation		D. Responsible Citizenship	
	E. Intellectual Creativity		E. Leadership Capacity	

"Sometimes you can talk a good game, but the critical question is, are you actually doing it? Just by setting this up, we've already improved," Fagin said. "We're increasing our writing assignments, our service learning opportunities, our Christian worldview experiences. We're beginning with the end in mind, and that has given all of us — faculty, students, and all university staff — a more intentional direction and focus."

Ultimately, the purpose of ePortfolios is to enhance what has been the hallmark of ORU education since the beginning: educating fully developed men and women to take God's message to the world.

"Every year, President [Richard] Roberts tells parents, 'Send me your students and in four years I'll send them back, only better,'" Fagin said. "This system will help us document that growth — not only document, but deliver." ■



ROME, ITALY, MAY 2004 • Julian Campbell, a senior from Jamaica majoring in evangelism and broadcast journalism, said she and her summer missions team met this woman and her child at a train station. "She was asking for money to buy food for her baby," Campbell said. "We gave her money, ministered, and prayed for her." The Italy team was one of 21 sent by ORU all over the world last summer. Campbell said her month-long trip was "life-impacting and life-changing," and that she realized "no matter the language barrier, love is an effective tool." She has a deeper appreciation for "the diversity that God created," and would love to go on another missions trip. "The foundation of ORU is missions," Campbell asserted, and added, "I cannot live for myself. I have to live for others." For more on 2004 Summer Missions, and on how ORU selects its sites, go to <http://alumniweb.oru.edu>. ■

Welcome Back, Dr. Liu

By Elaine Lau, Class of 2005

The engineering, physics, and physical science department had its first-ever female faculty member in the spring of 2001. Female engineering students were ecstatic, and everyone in the department came to love and appreciate Dr. Sophie Liu. When Dr. Liu had to leave to go home to Singapore in 2002, many were sad to see her go, for she had added a new dimension to the department.

Mourning has turned to joy, however, because Liu is back on campus this fall.

“I was just simply answering God’s call,” said Liu, when asked the reason for her return. “God showed us signs to move. I am learning not to question God but instead, trust His guidance, as He always gives the best to His children.”

Once again the only female faculty member in the department, Liu is teaching Network Analysis II, Electromagnetic Theory, and Engineering Computational Methods. She said that God has put her “in this special position” so He will guide her to “be a role model to female engineering students.”

Originally from China, Liu received her bachelor of science in radio and electronics from Sichuan University in 1982 and then her master of engineering from Xidian University in 1992. She and her family (husband Chun Biao and son Michael) moved 12 years ago to Singapore, where she obtained her Ph.D. from the National University of Singapore in 1996 and their two younger sons, Fred and Felix, were born.

Liu taught in her homeland of China and then at the School of Engineering at Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore before coming to ORU in 2001. She taught at the School of



Liu and her husband, Chun Biao, are the proud parents of three boys: Michael (standing), Fred (far right), and Felix.

Computer Engineering at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore for two years before returning to ORU this fall.

Liu first learned about ORU on the Internet. Seeing a job opening in the engineering, physics, and physical science department, she decided to apply. Once on campus, Liu recognized several elements that set ORU apart from other schools. She said there is a sense of deep trust between the faculty members, who all possess “a heart of prayer” and “a generous heart.”

One of Liu’s concerns was that ORU students would not understand her strongly accented English. To solve the problem, she created an environment where teacher and students could learn from each other, and told her students to correct her if she mispronounced a word.

“I was so touched that they (students) always understood me as a for-

eigner,” said Liu. “They gave me the encouragement and corrected me when needed.”

Dr. Dominic Halsmer, departmental chair, said he was more than happy to be welcoming Liu back on staff.

“I know she is a great teacher because I heard firsthand from her students, who were the beneficiaries of her expertise,” he said. “I also observed her in the classroom, and I am confident that she knows her stuff. She will add a missing dimension to our department and serve as a role model for young women in engineering. She also has plans to assist us in the recruitment of engineering students, especially from Asia.

“Dr. Liu is a strong Christian who is very involved in her church, and in outreach to those in need,” Halsmer added. “She is a blessing to students and faculty alike.” ■

ORU Gets Technical with \$500,000 Foundation Grant

*“Technology grant money has defined my job at ORU,” remarked **Don Eland 75, 84**, assistant professor and director of the MultiMedia Institute.*

Over the past 10 years, the Sanders family (Dr. Robert Sanders taught at ORU in the computer science and mathematics department for 15 years) has made gifts in amounts of up to \$500,000 each year through the Linden Root Dickenson Foundation. Eland said these gifts “have allowed us to leverage ORU’s technology commitments and have attracted the interest of students, faculty, local businesses, and other necessary supporters. Judging by programs I have seen at other top schools, ORU has maximized the impact of technology purchases and made good use of seed money from [these grants].”

Last year, purchases made with a \$500,000 grant — coupled with funds from other sources — included enhancements that provided wireless local area networks, computers and

projection systems for classrooms and modular programs, multimedia field production equipment, enhanced library holdings, high-usage printers, laptop computers for honors fellows, and equipment to support ORU’s ePortfolio initiative (the university-wide system through which all students track their progress in becoming “whole people” — spiritually alive, intellectually alert, physically disciplined, and socially adept).

For the 2004-05 school year, along with continued enhancements to the infrastructure, the grant will afford hand-held computers for honors fellows and for six honors program faculty members.

“The impact of the Sanders grant has rippled throughout the entire university,” said **Dr. Ralph Fagin 70**, Academic Affairs executive vice president. “We have made great strides in our general computing labs, with multiple specialized labs that require cutting-edge equipment, electronic library holdings, and unexciting-yet-essential infrastructure to support the technology that is necessary for an education in the 21st century.” ■



Wide Open SPACES

**We've got lots of those on the Alumni Board of Directors!
This must mean — you guessed it — that it's time for another election.**

New directors are needed for these segments:

Segment II (1979-82) — one opening
Segment III (1983-86) — one opening
Segment IV (1987-90) — one opening
Segment VI (1995-99) — two openings
At Large (all years, all schools) — three openings

The 21-member Board of Directors serves as your voice on campus. Before they can speak up, however, you need to make your voice heard by casting your vote.

Go to <http://alumniweb.oru.edu> and click on Vote. Make your selection(s) by midnight Dec. 5 and watch the Web page for the results.

Some of our segment elections have been squeakers, so believe us when we tell you that your vote counts.

Just ask the alumni who lost by five or six votes . . .



◀ *In this photo (from left), honors program fellows Jami Harris and Lisa Trussell, scholar Charlotte Wenzel, fellow Heather Ellsworth, and scholar Shalimar Tiwari are attending an honors seminar called “Faith and Civilization.” This class meets at Nordaggio’s, a favorite coffee retreat of ORU students. For the past four years, the Sanders grant has enabled ORU to provide laptops for honors fellows.*

Going Up?

By Debbie Titus 77 George

“Soar With Us” is the all-sports theme that ORU Athletics has adopted for the 2004-05 season. It seems especially appropriate for men’s and women’s basketball when you consider what the teams accomplished last year and how many honors-laden players are returning.

Coach Finkbeiner (left) says that Elisha Turek (below) “is always the first one to practice and the last one to leave. She works extremely hard.”

Neither coach is brash enough to predict a trip to the Final Four for his team, but both are more optimistic about their teams’ prospects than at any other time during their tenure.

Climb Every Mountain . . .

Women’s head coach Jerry Finkbeiner found an unusual way to prepare for the new season: He climbed Mt. Fuji (6,500 of the mountain’s 12,387 feet, anyway).

“Japan is kind of like the new frontier of women’s sports, of women’s basketball,” Finkbeiner said, explaining the primary purpose of his summer trip. Seeing that Japan’s national basketball team was going to the Olympics for the first time, Finkbeiner decided to begin developing some contacts.



ORU's winningest women's coach ever is always thinking ahead. He arrived at ORU in 1996 with a five-year plan that included going to the NCAA tournament — which the women did twice, in 1999 (their first trip ever) and 2001. They came within one point of going again last season, losing in the Mid-Continent Conference tournament final to Valparaiso by a 64-63 score.

"The next step that we're continually planning for and recruiting for is not only to win our conference tournament, but to win in the NCAA tournament," Finkbeiner said. The question is, can they not only win the tournament but "get through that first round and maybe the second round [of the NCAA tournament] and become a nationally known team? It may seem like that's a lofty goal, but that's what drives us day to day."

It helps to have returning players like junior Leah Cannon, who was second in the U.S. last year in assists per game (8.4) and Mid-Con tournament MVP, and Mid-Con Newcomer of the Year Elisha Turek, who led ORU in scoring (14.5 points per game). Alycia Seay, Jamie Fithian, Claudia Louis, Maureen Obudho, Julia West, Jessica Boan, Katie Langford, and Sarah Davidson round

out the squad of returnees.

"This may be the best returning team we've ever had," Finkbeiner said. He also has high hopes for his new players: walk-on freshman Katie Fichtner, freshman Jeri Gilmore, and three junior college transfers — Tiffany Johnson, Claudia Pereira, and Ebony Haliburton — who he said "will have a chance to make an impact."

Ford Every Stream . . .

Finkbeiner describes their preconference schedule as "probably the hardest we've ever had from top to bottom." It includes a Dec. 9 game at Texas Tech. With this game, he said, "We'll see what we're made of. The girls are excited about the opportunity because any time you play a top-10 team, it's a no-lose situation. They're a good standard to measure against."

At the Fun in the Sun Shootout in Mexico (Dec. 19 and 20), ORU will face Memphis, who made it to the second round of the 2004 WNIT, and could also face Western Kentucky, a WNIT quarterfinal finisher. Other early-fall match-ups include Texas State, the University of Tulsa, and Oklahoma State.

Yes, the women should have their hands full this fall. But Finkbeiner believes "we're ready for a schedule like this. I think . . . if we should fall short of our early-season goals, we have enough experience to not crash and burn, to know that it's a long season and the conference is where it's at, anyway. Even if we were to upset some of these high-profile teams early, it won't mean anything if we lose the last game in March."

That "last game in March" will be taking place in Tulsa for the first time since ORU joined the Mid-Con. Both the 2005 (March 5-8) and 2006 conference tournaments will be held at the new Union Multipurpose Activity Center. Finkbeiner doesn't consider it a home-court advantage, although, as he says, "it's nice to stay in your own surroundings. And it'll be easier for our fans to see us, obviously, than it has been in the past."

March is still four months away. Between now and then, fans can expect to see "a team that has high expectations out of the gate," Finkbeiner said. "In years past, we've kind of been a slow-starting team. This is a more seasoned team that's going to be able to get some good things happening earlier for us."

And chemistry counts. "Our team chemistry has probably been our best strength," Finkbeiner added. "The girls — who they are, how they feel about each other, what they sacrifice for each other for the team good — those kinds of things can overcome the intangibles that you just can't plan for."

◀ *Since 2002, Australia's Leah Cannon (right) has given Finkbeiner and all her team's fans plenty of reasons to smile. Last year, she was second in the nation in assists per game.*



Follow Every Rainbow . . .

The NCAA allows teams to make one trip to Hawaii every two years. The ORU men will be part of an eight-team field at the Rainbow Classic, Dec. 20-23 in Honolulu.

As attractive as that trip sounds, it's been trumped by the news that ORU is one of 64 teams that will play in ESPN's third annual Bracket Buster Series on Feb. 19. This will be ORU's first appearance in the series.

"This is a great opportunity for our program," said men's head coach Scott Sutton. "It will give us a chance to showcase our team heading into the final weeks of the regular season, and we will also get a quality nonconference opponent to come back to the Mabee Center next year." (The 2005 road teams will host their 2005 opponent during the 2005-06 season.)

How did this happen? Last year's numbers no doubt helped: a 17-11 record, a tie for second in the Mid-Con, and an eight-game winning streak. Then there was the publicity generated by *wunderkindern* Caleb Green and Ken Tutt.

"You don't ever expect freshmen to come in and produce like they produced and be so consistent throughout the year," Sutton said. "Ken was incredible. It was almost like he got stronger as the season went on, which is extremely unusual for freshmen. You keep thinking they're going to hit a wall, and I kept thinking, this cannot continue, and he just got better. And Caleb — he went through a period where teams started double- and triple-teaming him, and he had a few games where he wasn't quite as productive, but for the most part, he had an outstanding season as well."

Green, a center, and Tutt, a guard, made ORU the first school in 73 years to have two freshmen selected for First-Team All-Conference honors. Green was also named Second-Team

All-District 12 by the National Association of Basketball Coaches. Tutt was named Mid-Major Freshman of the Year by CollegeInsider.com and Mid-Con Newcomer of the Year and won the Basketball Hall of Fame's Edward S. Steitz Award for having the best 3-point field-goal percentage/number of field goals made combination.

Green and Tutt will be joined this fall by fifth-year senior Luke Spencer-Gardner, who redshirted in 2003-04 due to an injury. "He understands that he's going to have a little rust when he comes back, sitting out that long," Sutton said. "But he's the type of guy that's going to work as hard as he can." Spencer-Gardner, considered the best defensive guard in the Mid-Con, is expected to become ORU's all-time assists leader this year. He needs 65 to tie Arnold Dugger's 501 record. "He's an ultimate team player," Sutton added.

Also returning are Jonathan Bluitt, Matt Gastel, Eric Fowlkes, Yemi Ogunoye, Andrew Meloy, and Mike Morgan. Schuyler Thomas tore his Achilles tendon this summer and will miss the season. "We were expecting him to have a good senior year," Sutton said, expressing disappointment, "but at the same time, it opens up opportunities for some of our younger players."

New this year are second-team junior college All-American Larry Owens, 6'-10" junior center Mickey Michalec, junior guard Chris Riouse, and freshman guard/forward Moses Ehambe. Sutton, who had praise for all four players, singled out Owens, saying he is "an extremely talented basketball player . . . a guy that will make our team very versatile. He'll be a lot of fun for our fans to watch."

Till You Find Your Dream

The Golden Eagles will need all the fire power they can get this season, especially when they play at

Indiana on New Year's Eve. Indiana "probably has one of the top 10 or so programs in the country," Sutton said. "It'll be great for our players to go play in an atmosphere like they have and will prepare us for the Mid-Con."

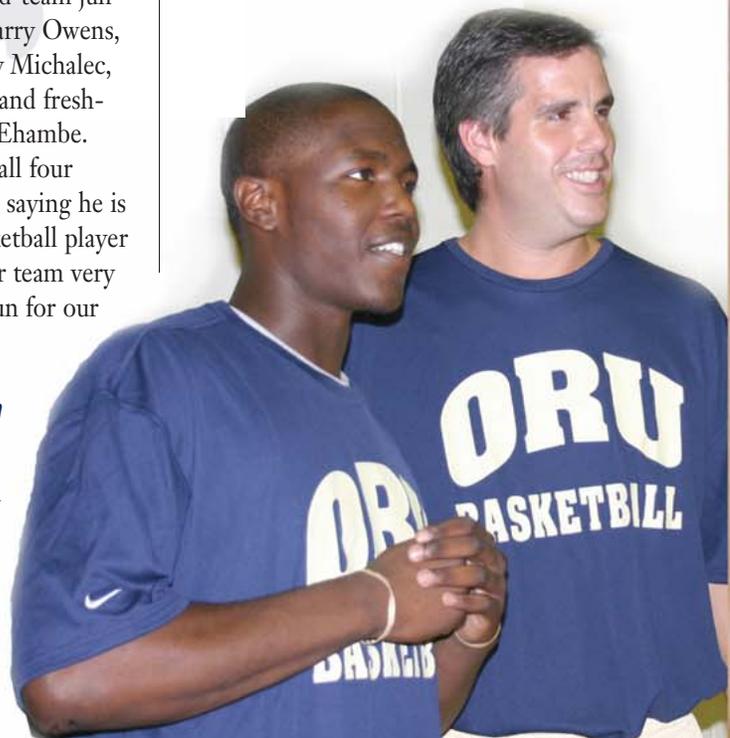
Before Indiana, they have to get past teams such as Northern Arizona, St. Louis, Loyola, University of Tulsa, and Georgetown. And after Indiana, it's conference time — and the Mid-Con, Sutton says, is getting stronger every year. That doesn't worry him — much.

"Hopefully this year, we'll take the next step, and that's to get to the NCAA tournament. I think we have a great opportunity with the team we have coming back and the newcomers, and also having the tournament here in Tulsa.

"There's a lot of optimism about this team — and there should be," Sutton said. "If things go right and we stay healthy, we have a chance to have a great season."

You can catch Golden Eagle sports action live on the Internet at www.orugoldeneagles.com. Check the Web page for broadcast information and for the men's and women's 2004-05 basketball schedules.

▼ Along with his many other awards, Ken Tutt (left) was Second-Team All-District 12.



Coach Sutton is looking forward to his team's first exhibition game. Both the men and the women will play at the Union Multipurpose Activity Center on Nov. 3 — the women at 5 p.m., the men at 7:35 p.m.

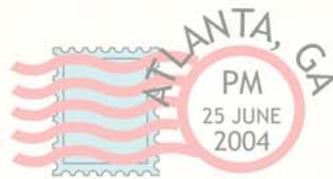
From coast to coast, it was

A Summer to Remember...

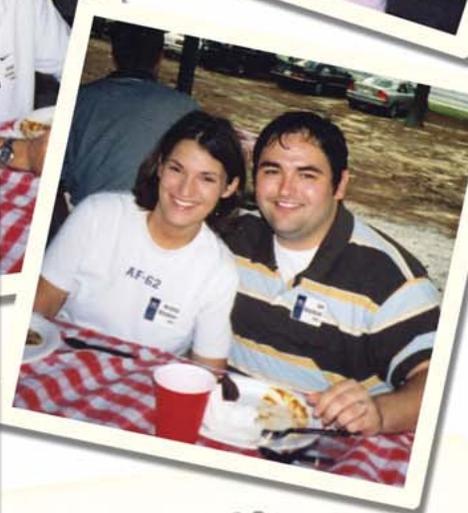
Dear ORU Alums,

The Atlanta event was great! ...despite a few sprinkles that came and went. Our event was at the beautiful Stone Mountain Park, where we catered a picnic dinner for alumni and guests. We had 35 in attendance. Everyone telling stories about their time on campus was enjoyable for all. After dinner, we gave away door prizes and then met at the bottom of the mountain. We scattered our blankets and lawn chairs and enjoyed a clear evening with a huge laser light and fireworks show!!! Some had driven two hours or more to be there for the event. All in attendance were glad to see other alumni who lived in the area. And, in case you were wondering: While we were there, the devil did NOT go down to Georgia. (Neither did the Charlie Daniels Band, who popularized that song.)

You shoulda been there,
Bob Beard



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My Fellow Alumni, Denver is fabulous! We had 22 alums from the area, all enjoying an evening of dinner and delicious PIE! We had our own private room, where alumni from as far back as '78(!) were there to talk and reminisce--all of them asking about how ORU and Oral and Evelyn were doing these days. Everyone enjoyed all the Golden Eagles merchandise we brought for door prizes... In Colorado Springs, our dinner event was at New Life Church. We had an intimate meeting with some very impressive alums who said they enjoyed all the university updates and were so glad to see each other. We didn't leave until 10 p.m.! (They wanted to do the "Titan Train.")

You HAD to be there...

Bob Beard



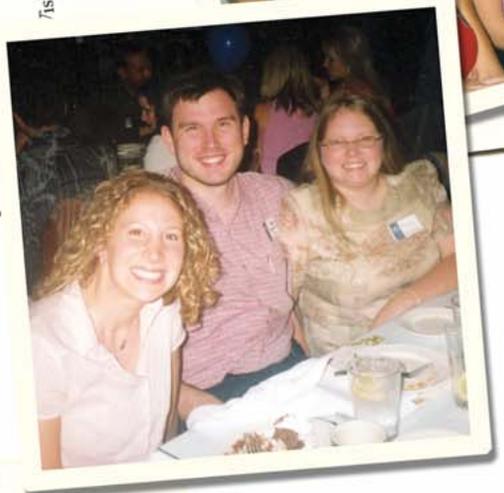


Dear ORU Alums,
 At our Los Angeles event, we had a night to remember near Hollywood at Marie Callender's. (Leave it to Winnie Perdue to find a Marie Callender's in LA...) We watched Californians roll in who had driven for hours to come and reconnect with fellow alumni. It was so good to see these alums come together after so long and talk about the things that make ORU great. We enjoyed steak and, of course, pie. The door prizes were a hit, and Marie stayed up late that night, locking the door behind us at midnight!!

Live from LA-LA Land,
 Bob



Visit us on the Web at <http://alumniweb.oru.edu>



Mis Amigos!
 The evening of our San Diego event was a lovely time spent on an open patio at one of the city's finest Mexican restaurants. About 22 of your fellow San Diego alums enjoyed chatting over chips and salsa. The flan was awesome! We were serenaded by a mariachi band, which made our time even more festive, if you can imagine. Everyone was excited to hear about ORU's excellent ranking in the U.S. News and World Report College Guide. Also, some L.A. alums had so much fun at their event the night before, they couldn't resist joining us for our San Diego fiesta.

Hasta la vista!
 Señor Roberto



Visit us on the Web at <http://alumniweb.oru.edu>



Notes From Alumni

1970s

L. Christina Nystrom 71 Sjostedt and husband Sven built a house in western Wisconsin last winter and moved there in June, but have since decided to move back to Minnesota. This fall, Chris wrapped up her term on the ORU Alumni Board of Directors, but has decided to run for another term. She also hopes to start law studies soon, saying, "I believe the Lord has shown me that there are too few Christians working in what would be my specific area of law." Sven is still working at Target headquarters in Minneapolis.

Randy 76 and Deanna Cliff 76 Harrison moved to Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, in August, where they took a teaching job at West Africa Alliance Seminary of Abidjan. They have three children: Daniel, 22, Christy, 20, and Rachel, 14.

Dale Murphy 76, his wife, Cheryl, and their two children, Ginger and Hayden, have been residing in a "Mayberry-esque" town in Colorado for the past nine years. Dale works as a well site geologist.

Scott 77 and Margee Golden 78 Aycock want to hear from old friends. For the past 20 years, Margee has been a practicing artist and painting instructor. She is part owner of a local gallery, is an Arts

and Humanities Artist in the Schools teacher, and has just started an online gallery at www.stores.ebay.com/margaretaycockimpressionistoils. Scott is still working as a marriage and family therapist, singer/songwriter, and host of a radio show, "Folk Salad," on the local NPR station, KWGS; the show is on Sundays at 7 p.m. and can also be streamed on the Internet. Photo below includes sons Jesse and Dylan and Dylan's girlfriend.

Kim Hiscox 79 and her husband, Garry Law, live in West Des Moines. Kim has served on the Board of Directors of Amnesty International-USA Group 277. She was involved in organizing one of many campaigns designed to secure the release of Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrihim (her former professor at The American University in Cairo) from imprisonment for his human rights activities in Egypt. Kim's contacts with U.S. representatives and senators helped bring Dr. Ibrihim's case to the U.S. Department of State. Ibrihim was acquitted last spring after almost 3 years of arrest, imprisonment, and repeated prosecution. Kim says, "I have a great deal of respect and admiration for the stand that he and his wife have taken to protect the rights of women and Christians in Egypt." Kim is employed by the National Child Safety Council as an advocate for child protection.

1980s

Kim Oswald 82, 89 MSN obtained her education specialist degree in adult human performance and development in May 2002 and a doctorate in education leadership in August 2004, both from Drake University. Her dissertation was titled, "Nurses' Perceptions of Spirituality and Spiritual Care." She writes, "Presently, I work at the Iowa Heart Center, P.C., a cardiology practice. I continue to be deeply committed to lifelong learning. God is so good!"

Christopher Bozek 87 has been teaching English in Japan for more than 11 years, the last 5 at Hokkaido University of Education. He lives in Iwamizawa, population 83,000, and belongs to a nondenominational charismatic bilingual church in Sapporo. In May, he wrote, "I work on a yearly contract and, due to changes in the national university system, this may be my last year at the university. I am praying and seeking God as to what He wants for my future. I do not know if I will stay in Japan or move back to the U.S.A." Photo below is of "Chip," his colleague, and students who graduated from the English department in 2004. Chip says he buys a new kimono every year for graduation.

Kent Bailey 88 and his wife, Michelle, have a new son, Brent, born Jan. 4, 2004. Kent writes, "After some success in TV, film, and commercials and as a talent agent, God steered me in a new direction. I traded my membership in Screen Actors Guild for teacher certification. I now teach 8th grade American History for Tucson Unified School District. I have been active in leading Bible studies and being a kids camp director for five years at our church and am about halfway through my second master's degree — M.Div. from Phoenix Seminary." Friends from Bad Company, Vatican, and communication arts department can write him

Kevin Cooney 88, wife Atsuko, and their children, Aiyana and Kian, have moved to Jackson, Tenn. Kevin has accepted a tenure track position as assistant professor at Union University.

Bobbi Reilly 88 Sheahan and her "brilliant software designer husband" Ben have two daughters, Evelyn and Isabella. In 1991, Bobbi graduated from Baylor Law School and then went on to pursue a career in litigation. She became a name partner in a law firm before retiring to become a part-time author and "post-career trophy wife." Bobbi's Texas automobile insurance reference book is in its third edition.



SJOSTEDT 71



HARRISON 76



AYCOCK 77



HISCOX 79



BOZEK 87

1990s

Lisa Butkiewicz 92 has landed the film rights to G.P. Taylor's dark Christian fantasy novel, *Shadowmancer*. Fortitude Films, the company she and a partner founded, estimated the film's budget to be between \$75-\$100 million. She hopes to have the movie out toward the end of 2005 or early 2006. Lisa was featured in the August 2004 issue of *Charisma* magazine (page 43).

Eddie 92 and **Larissa Hilbert (A) Hornsby** celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary recently and moved to a new home. Eddie received his master of education degree in school counseling this May from Xavier University. He teaches science at Mt. Healthy High School in Cincinnati. Larissa is still working for the Kroger Company and also in their church nursery at Faith Chapel in Goshen. They write, "We would like for our friends to know that God has truly blessed us, and we are anticipating great things to come in Jesus' name."

Camille Young 92 Penny wrote again and sent in the photo below. "I was looking at my senior picture in the 1992 year-book," she said, "and I still look the same. Beautiful and not a day older." You may write to her or husband **Victor 93**

Deana Davis 92 Spyres and husband **Steven "Eric" (A)**

have three children, Riley, Jackson, and Gigi. Deana worked as a freelance producer and assistant director for commercials and children's shows until her daughter was born in 2002. She is currently busy "chasing toddlers" and says she is "blessed to be entrusted" with part of her parents' ministry, where she "produces and mails newsletters for several hundred missionaries globally." Eric works as a clinical education coordinator for the Emergency Medical Services Authority in Tulsa and planned to attend medical school this fall. Eric is also on the Special Operations Team for the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office.

Lynda Fritel 93 Slininger and her husband, Rob, are enjoying their first child, Bellamy Rose, born Aug. 23, 2003. Lynda is a stay-at-home mom and loves it. Rob is a First Sergeant currently being deployed to Iraq with a Signal Battalion.

Wendy Harrison 96 Murakami and husband **Josh 00** are happy to announce the arrival of their baby daughter Chloe, born on June 26. Wendy writes, "Everything from the pregnancy to the delivery was fabulous. She is truly a miracle."

Robin Hatfield 96 Osborn and husband Rick welcomed the arrival of their new baby girl, Sara Elizabeth, on July 16. They



TULSA, OKLAHOMA, AUGUST 2004 —

Bob Beard 88, 99 M.A.Ed., formerly director of Alumni Annual Fund and Programs, has been promoted to director of Alumni Relations. He "replaces" **George Paul 69**, who had continued to serve as director even after his promotion (in 2002) to associate vice president for Alumni and Development — a position Paul continues to hold. The Office of Alumni Relations moved this summer from LRC 605 to LRC 616. The phone number remains the same: 918/495-6610. Beard's direct line is 918/495-6588.

also have two boys, Stephen and Andrew. Robin writes, "We are all doing well and adjusting with the Lord's help. I would love to hear from any of my nursing buddies or wingmates from Chosen."

Joy Lea 98 married Reverend Gabriel Stefan Palazzo. She writes, "The wedding was wonderful and both sides of our family were able to make it from all over the world (he's Italian)! . . . Stef is the associate pastor of River of Glory Church in Plano, Tex. My commercial litigation/law practice with Gardere Wynne & Sewell in downtown Dallas is quite challenging, but my true and growing passion is our work with the church that is keeping me busy in all of my spare time!" They love married life.

Aaron 98 and **Kelly Opperman 99 Snavely** write that they "would love to hear

from our ORU friends."

Merchelle Burkhalter 99 graduated this past May from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., with a master of divinity.

Darius Gould 99 writes, "Hello to all my fellow alumni. Life after ORU has not quite gone as I would have planned it, but I believe the Lord will still have His way. I was pursuing a career in information technology, but the economy and being laid off interrupted those plans. I have experienced God's faithfulness in sustaining me through financial difficulties. I am now embarking on a new venture. I have started a Web site called www.SayAmen.net. It offers a service to churches that want their sermons available for listening online. It's my prayer that it will be a benefit for both churches and for the community. Tell your church about this and join me in this venture."



BAILEY 88



SHEAHAN 88



PENNY 92



SPYRES 92



SLININGER 93



LEA 98

Notes From Alumni

Joy Pittman 99 was a delegate representing Oklahoma at the Republican National Convention in New York City. Joy was on the "Protecting Our Families" subcommittee, chaired by Mississippi governor and former RNC chairman Haley Barbour. She said that the subcommittee, which dealt with social issues, was harmonious, conservative, and pro-life. The platform section was very similar to the language in the 2000 platform. The main Committee on Resolutions (Platform Committee), which was writing the 2004 Republican Platform for the delegates to approve, was chaired by Tennessee senator Dr. Bill Frist. Joy's brother, **Greg 96**, is an adjunct professor in the ORU Undergraduate School of Business. They are both graduates of the University of Tulsa College of Law as well.

2000s

Richard Coleman 00, 03 MDiv is the missions director at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church. He developed his love for evangelism and world missions while at ORU. He says his desire is to see more Christians, particularly African-Americans, involved in global missions. (Currently, African-Americans make up less than 1 percent of the American missions force.)

Genard Hajdini 00 obtained a master's degree in business management with a concentration in organizational change and devel-

opment from Regent University in May 2003. He moved back to his home country, Albania, and currently teaches biology, chemistry, philosophy, and economics for grades 9 to 12 for Quality Schools International at Tirana International School.

Hillary Renfrow 00 married Chris Jarrard on Sept. 20, 2003. They planned to celebrate their one-year anniversary by traveling to Scotland. Chris works for American Airlines. Hillary manages the apartment complex where they live in Valley Ranch, home of the Dallas Cowboys.

Ryan Tedder 01 loves it in L.A., but he says he also misses "the quality friends" he had "living in EMR for four years, and the 'non-craziness' of Tulsa. L.A. is fun, but it's also insane." He is making it big as a music producer/writer for Interscope Records and Sony. Some of his work, ranging from hip-hop to Christian, has made the charts in the States and in the U.K. He is also in a band called Republic, which tours and plays regularly at the House of Blues in Hollywood.

Thomas 04 and Lauren 04 Gancarz were married one week after they both graduated. Lauren writes, "Thank you to our ORU friends for making our college experience so rich and memo-

orable. This fall, Thomas begins his full-time position with Young Life, a youth ministry to high school kids. Also this fall, I begin my job teaching middle school vocal music in the Broken Arrow school district. We are excited to stay in the Tulsa area! We'd like to say hi to all of our ORU pals and give a shout out to Armor!"

Associates

Jennifer Wynn Armstrong 1996-99 writes, "I am in Springfield, Mo., working for the largest fully accredited public school district in the state. I am an Addy award-winning studio vocalist and perform with the Springfield Regional Opera and the Springfield Little Theatre." She would love to hear from girls that were on Imago Dei.

Obituaries

Florian Chess, a 1985 graduate of the O.W. Coburn School of Law, died on April 13, 2004, in Austin, Tex. He was 46.

Michael Foster died suddenly of diabetic ketoacidosis on April 11, 2003. A founding member of the wing Heirborn and an intramurals enthusiast, Michael attended ORU from 1989 to 1993 and left to join the United States Army in the field of counterintelligence, going on missions in

Belgium, Hungary, Turkey, France, and other locations. He married **Justine Hood 94** on July 4, 1998. When Michael received a medical discharge from the army, he and Justine moved back to Tulsa, where Michael finished his degree in literary writing in 2002. Justine says, "The past year has been quite a growing experience for me. God has been so faithful, and because of Him I am happy again. Our two children are such a blessing. Alden is four and Lillian just turned one. I am blessed to be able to stay home with them and be mommy. I so appreciate all the prayers and support I have received. My friends from ORU have made such a difference in my life . . . Michael was a man of integrity and loyalty and always put his family first. He is greatly missed, but we know we will see him again in heaven where there are no tears." You can visit his memorial Web site at www.michaelfostermemorial.com.

Mark Goodwin, D.M.D., born Sept. 21, 1959, passed away on Aug. 19, 2004, in Tulsa. He was a 1985 graduate of the Michael Cardone, Sr., School of Dentistry and had established a practice known as South Tulsa Dental. He is survived by his wife, Sara, daughter Jordan, and sons Nick and Sammy, as well as his parents, two brothers, and many nieces and nephews. His family says, "He had a passion for dentistry and to make people smile."

Ozella M. Willis, a 1982 graduate of the O.W. Coburn School of Law born on Feb. 15, 1934, is deceased. ■



GOULD 99



COLEMAN 00



HAJDINI 00



GANCARZ 04

e-mail: alumni@oru.edu
<http://alumniweb.oru.edu>



Shades of Yesterday, alumni!

It's almost time for Homecoming 2005!

Here are the top ten reasons why YOU should join us . . .

1. It's not until February (11 and 12), so you've got at least 3 months to get into tip-top shape. (No, we're not keeping track of aerobics points, but go ahead if it motivates you.)
2. There are no hurricanes in Tulsa. (Except TU, and we play them in December.)
3. Catching up with friends who have been on missions in Third World countries will make remodeling the guest bathroom seem so much less urgent.
4. Free parking for everyone!
5. People will be excited to see you, and you'll have a chance to talk about yourself endlessly without feeling guilty. (You might even get your story published in *Excellence* magazine!)
6. You can personally congratulate Bob Beard on becoming the new director of Alumni Relations (and ask him why he chose "Shades of Yesterday" as our 2005 Homecoming theme).
7. VIP seating at chapel. (Attendance will not be taken!)
8. Find out which of your former professors still have hair.
9. If you're married, you can show off your spouse. If you're single, maybe you'll meet your spouse there! (Exhibit A: Paul and Beth Aquino)
10. Golden Eagles basketball!!!

And now, a bonus brainteaser: What do the following items have in common: harvest gold, a parasol, and Jackie O's sunglasses? (See clue in Reason #6 above.)

If, for some reason, you need *more* reasons to come to Homecoming, visit our Web site (alumniweb.oru.edu) and see exactly what's happening on February 11 and 12. With apologies to the English department, it's gonna be good.



Alumnus of the Year 2006

Who will be chosen?

Help us decide! Go online (<http://alumniweb.oru.edu>), click on "Alumnus of the Year 2006," and use the form to nominate the alumnus of your choice. Deadline is July 1, 2005.

SAVE . . . AND GIVE!

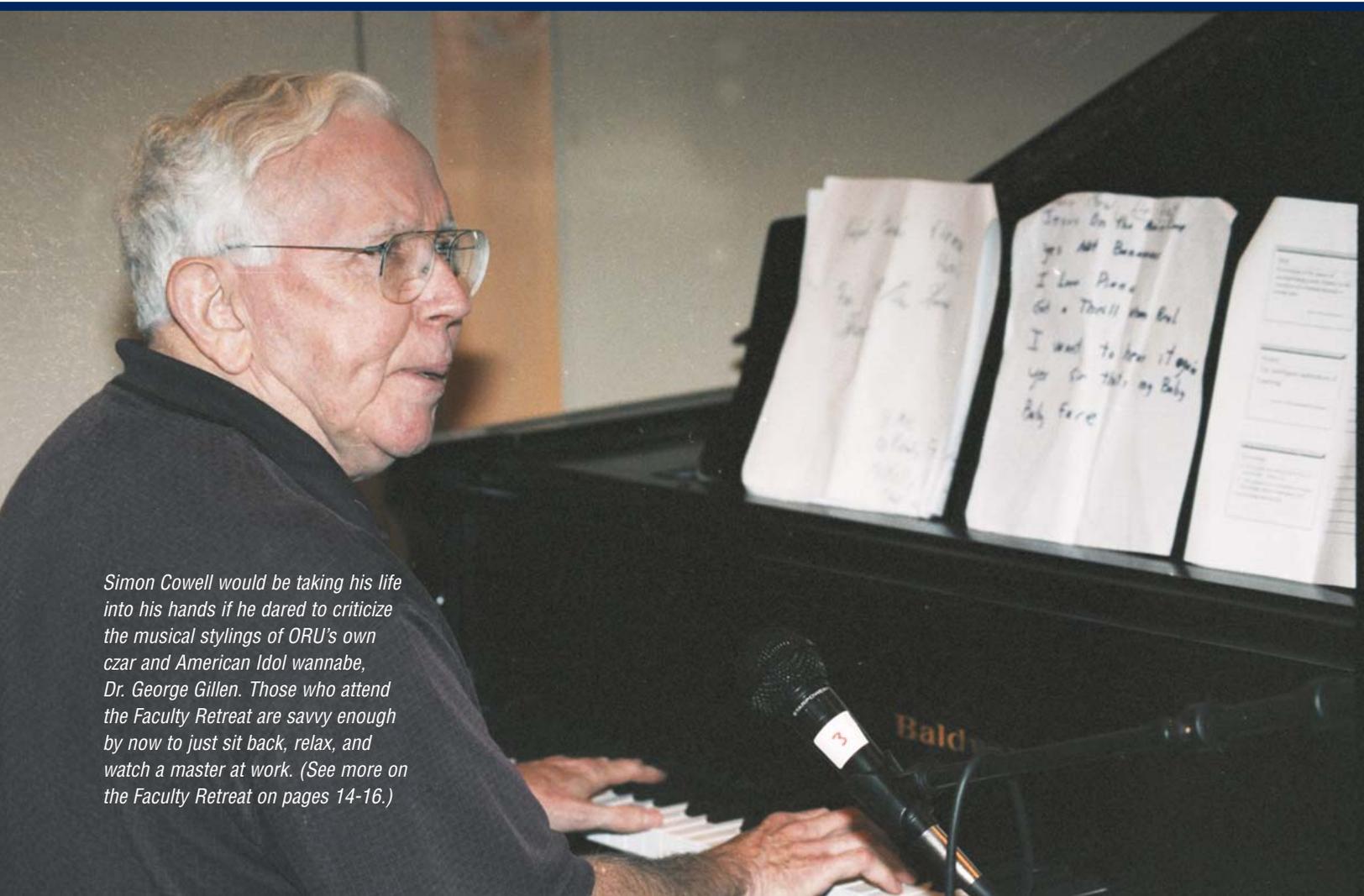
Yes, you can multitask at the Alumni Book Source. You'll get a discounted price on a wide range of books, DVDs, CDs, audio books, Bibles, gifts, and more, and a portion of the amount you spend on each purchase will go to the Alumni Foundation. The foundation funds and supports programs for ORU alumni and students. Everyone benefits!

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Simon Cowell would be taking his life into his hands if he dared to criticize the musical stylings of ORU's own czar and American Idol wannabe, Dr. George Gillen. Those who attend the Faculty Retreat are savvy enough by now to just sit back, relax, and watch a master at work. (See more on the Faculty Retreat on pages 14-16.)