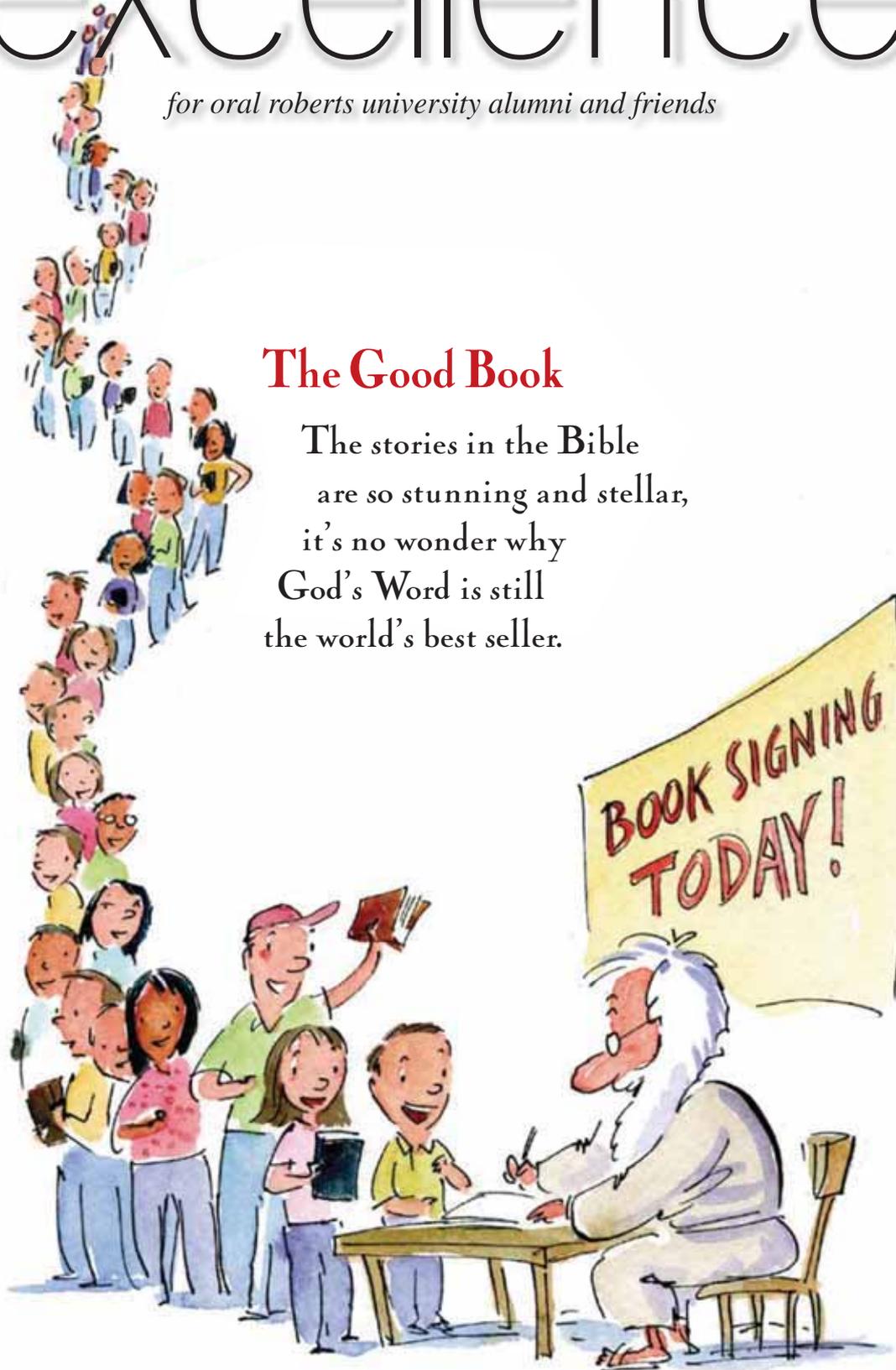


excellence

for oral roberts university alumni and friends

The Good Book

The stories in the Bible
are so stunning and stellar,
it's no wonder why
God's Word is still
the world's best seller.



ORU alumnus Marty Nystrom's *Don't Mess with Moses* presents familiar Old Testament stories in a style that children will love. SEE STORY ON PAGE 5.

Anchors Away!

If you read the president's letter this month, you'll see that there have been all kinds of changes at ORU and in the city of Tulsa.

I'd like to tell you about some other changes that directly affect us, the Alumni Association.

Kevin Bish, one of our fellow alumni, served as the director of Development at ORU for several years. In May, Kevin took another job in Tulsa. He was replaced by another alumnus, Chris Miller, who had been serving as director of Ministerial Relations at ORU. Tim McKittrick, most recently our Alumni director, moved over to Ministerial Relations on July 5, and the search began for a new Alumni director.

Fortunately, we didn't have to wait too long to replace Tim. Natalie Bounds (Class of '88) moved back to Tulsa from Maryland and started work on Sept. 14.

I had a chance to talk with Natalie at our Alumni Board dinner on Sept. 13, and at other times during our two days of meetings. I can tell you that I love her energy. Her love for ORU is evident. Many months before the job opening came up, she had called the Alumni Office to ask how she could get involved. She has some great ideas that I believe will really help us in getting more of our other alumni involved with the campus and the association.

After being at the board meeting in September, I am energized! Several of the vice presidents came to speak to us, and hearing about the progress

that ORU has made — especially in the financial area — was very encouraging. It was also good to see the “facelift” that ORU received this summer, with the new landscaping and improvements to LRC 3. We had a chance to tour the new strength



Katie Bohrer, an organizational/interpersonal communications major, was headed for Texas A&M . . . until she and her dad visited ORU and heard Terry MacAlmon leading worship in chapel.

and conditioning facility at Johnson Stadium, which opened last spring. Very nice! I'm looking forward to seeing Phase 2 in a few short years.

What about the students, you ask? During our luncheon on Friday, we heard from Katie Bohrer, a junior from Plano, Tex., majoring in organizational/interpersonal communication.

Katie is a Head Resident Advisor who really appreciates the leadership training she's received at ORU. After she graduates, she says, she wants to start a ministry and “speak to youth about God's love for them and how that is manifested through

His plan for their lives.” Katie was originally an education major, but after praying and seeking to find out what God really wanted her to do, she changed her major. “I found who I am at ORU,” she will tell you, “and I am not even close to done growing and changing.”

If you ever wonder if ORU is worth your prayers and support, please come back to campus. Please come to Homecoming in February (or at any other time of the school year) and talk to students like Katie. Trust me: You'll believe in ORU more than you've ever believed in it before.

The students have turned that “ORU bubble” analogy on its head. What student leaders told new students at orientation in August is that ORU is a harbor, and like ships under construction, they can prepare in this safe harbor for the time

when they will be launched into service.

ORU is still a great place to get your sea legs.

E. Rhae Buckley 80
Chairman, Alumni Board of Directors

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excellence

FOR ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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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."

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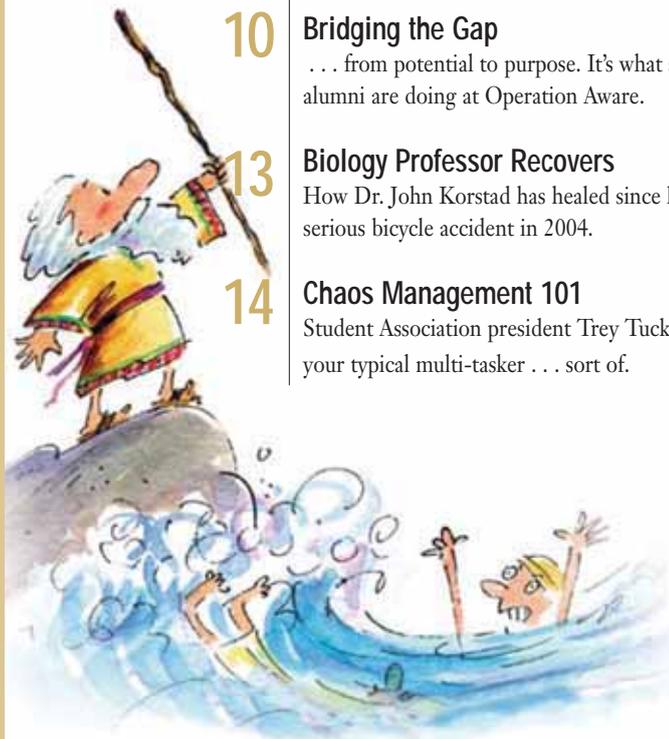
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On the front cover and this page:
Excerpt from *Don't Mess with Moses!*
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Let's Make Some Waves

When I was considering what I should talk about in this issue, I wasn't sure where to start. There's one of our most recent success stories -- the fact that we raised \$60,000 (almost entirely from alumni) for a new Biotechnology Core Lab to qualify for a matching \$60,000 grant from the Helmerich Foundation.

As ORU has been making improvements, so has Tulsa. They're building a new arena downtown, and there's lots of talk about turning the Arkansas River into a recreation and entertainment destination. Jenks built a new aquarium a few years ago, and a shopping/restaurant/movie theater complex called Riverwalk Crossing.



The president and first lady helped cut the ribbon when ORU's new Chick-fil-A opened in August.

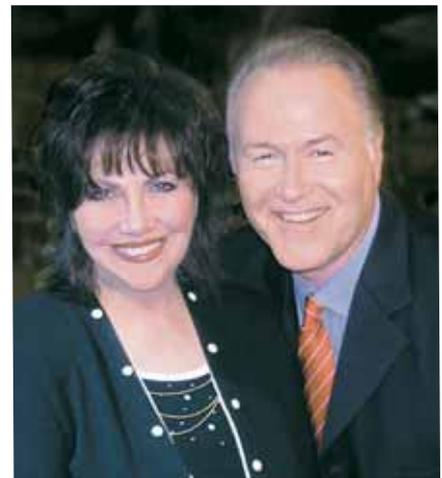
And there are the renovations we completed this summer -- the new Hava Java coffee shop, the Green Cuisine "healthy foods" café, the new wall covering and carpet on LRC 3 and GC 3, and our new Chick-fil-A.

There are the changes we've made to the ORU Web site to make it more user-friendly. And there's all new weight equipment at the AC; some of the older equipment has been moved to the dorms. Basketball season has begun. At the faculty retreat in August (which alumni help sponsor), our Athletics director, Mike Carter, joked that this year's theme is, "Ken and Caleb are back." That would be Ken Tutt and Caleb Green, the two seniors who anchor the team and produce the most on offense and defense.

With all this talk about change, you might wonder if anything around here is still as you remember it. One visit to the campus will tell the story.

When it comes to what really matters, ORU hasn't changed. Yes, we've spent millions of dollars in recent years on campus improvements and on our technology infrastructure. There are lots of new faces on the faculty, new majors, and a stronger emphasis on honors, service learning, writing across the disciplines, and Christian worldview. But the heart and soul of ORU? It's still there. We still want our students to listen to God, find out what He created them to do, and then go out and do it! As freshmen and other new students

learned at orientation this year, ORU is like a harbor: it's where we build the boats and make them seaworthy. But those boats aren't meant to stay in the harbor; they're meant to sail on. You alumni know what I'm talking about. You docked here for a few short years, and now you're out in the world where things can be going along just fine -- until a rogue wave flattens you. Experience and your time at ORU, however, taught you that Jesus will always be there to set you back on your feet. Lindsay and I want our current students to have that same assurance. We want ORU to be here for this generation and generations to come. As this world becomes more treacherous, ORU graduates -- men and women of light -- become more valuable. A university like ORU is not a luxury; it's a necessity. Lindsay and I pray you



Good things are happening at ORU, giving Richard and Lindsay good reason to smile.

will recognize this truth and continue to support us with your prayers, positive comments, and gifts. With all of us pulling in the same direction, we really can change the world.

Richard Roberts

Richard L. Roberts
President and CEO

Write-Brained

Marty Nystrom Gets Literally Creative

BY JADELL FORMAN '90

For decades, songwriter and former World Action Singer Marty Nystrom 80 has been utilizing his right-brain creativity to pen worship songs. Many people know him as the songwriter of "As the Deer." What many don't know is during that time Nystrom was also writing a children's book.



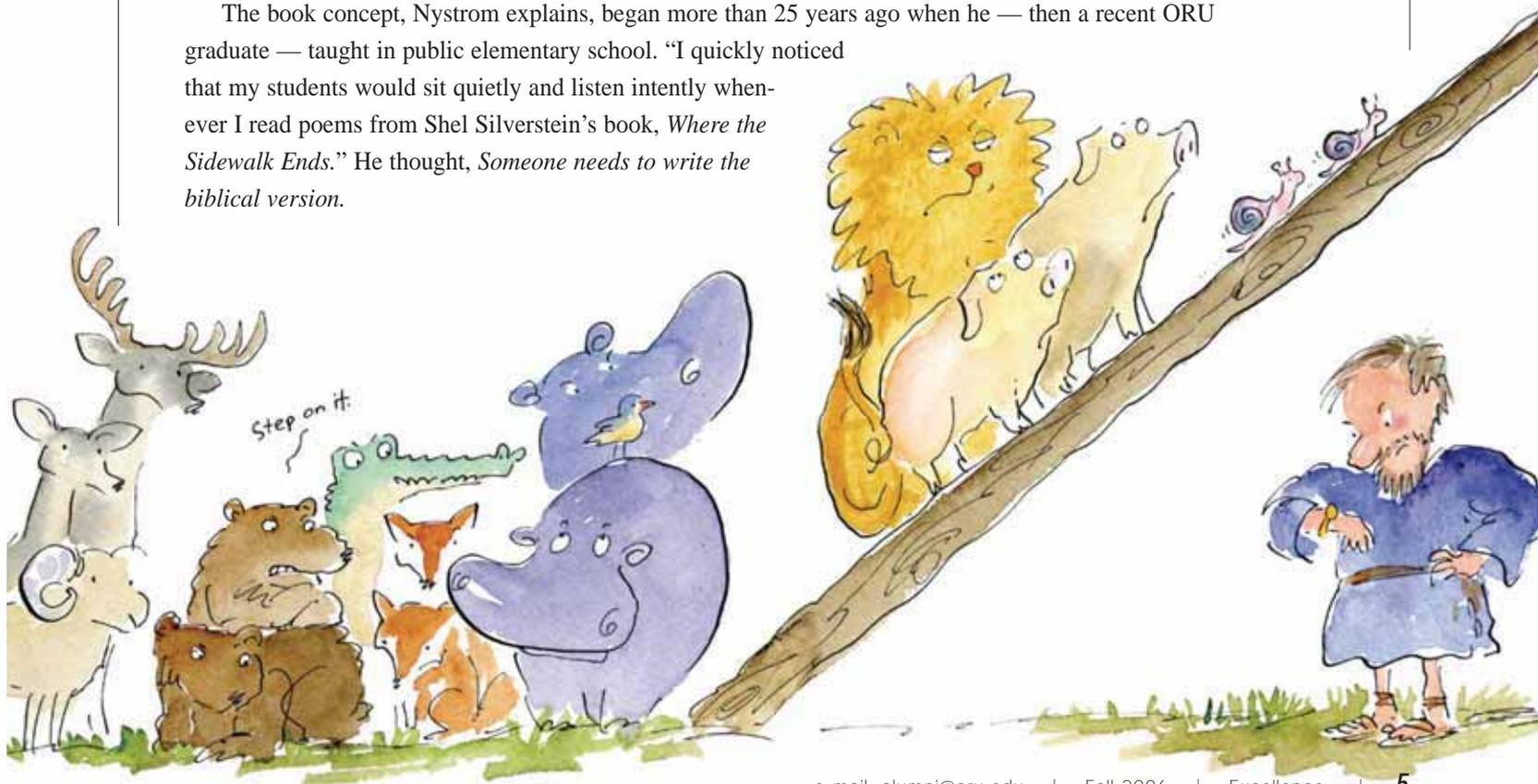
MARTY NYSTROM

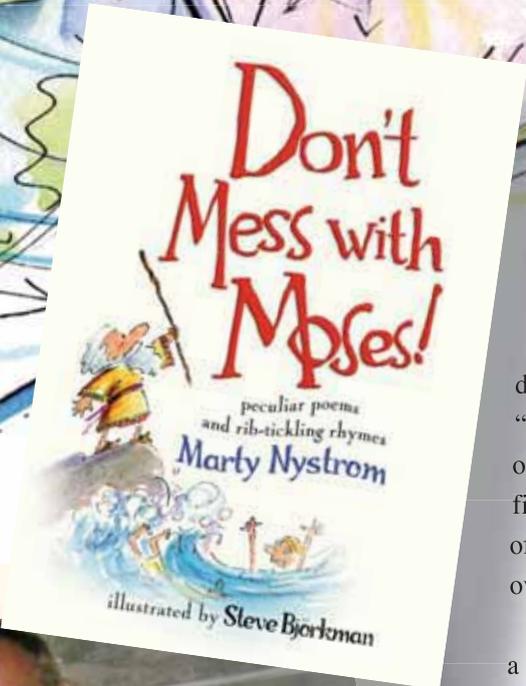
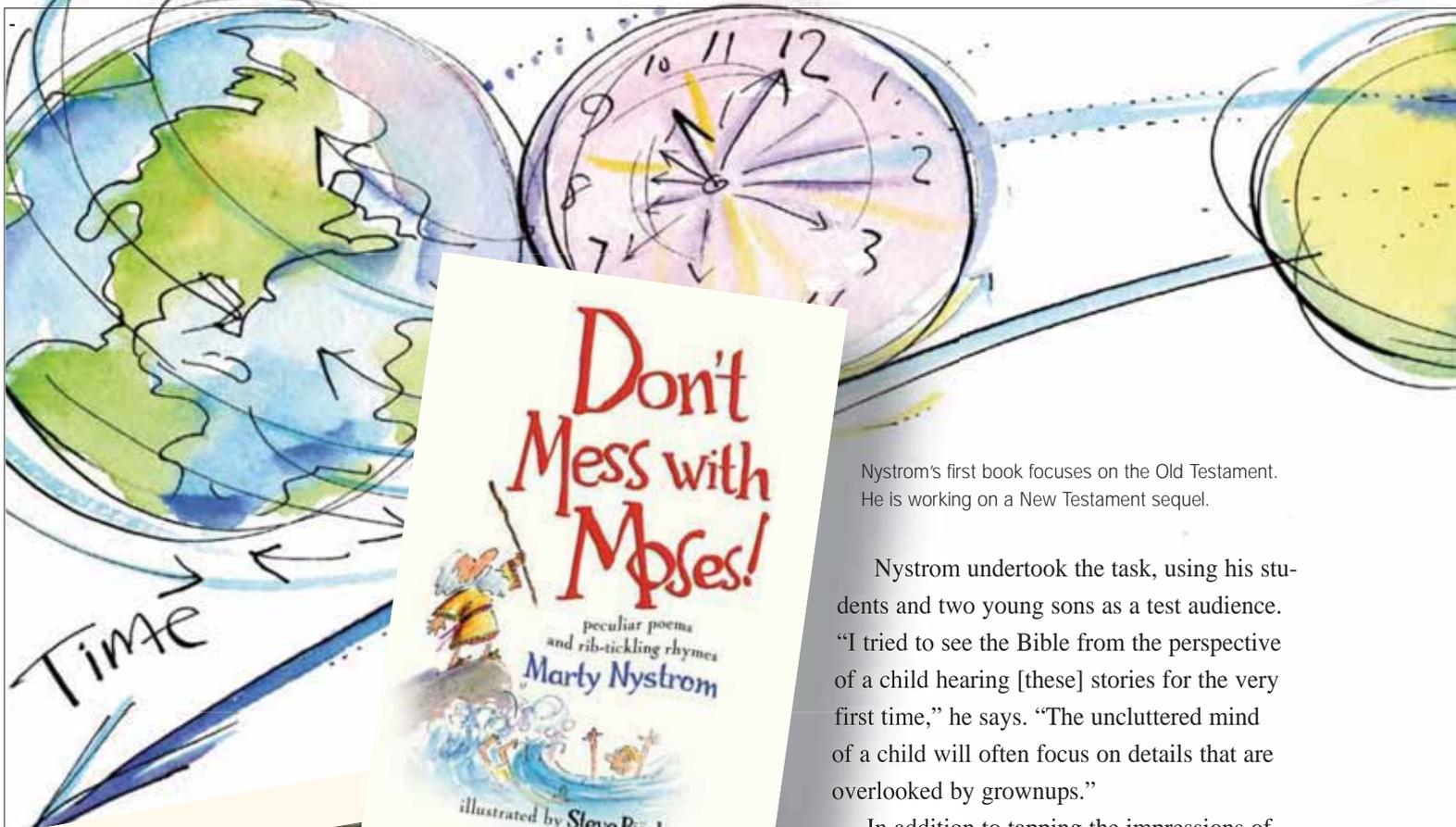
Last July, *Don't Mess with Moses: Peculiar Poems and Rib-Tickling Rhymes*, hit the shelves. This fully illustrated collection of poems and rhymes is designed to pique children's interest in the Bible.

Throughout this first book that focuses solely on the Old Testament, Nystrom shares his unique perspective on familiar stories. For example, in one rhyme, an Israelite wife is packing several suitcases for her family's exodus and imagines her frustrated husband asking, "You think this trip'll take us forty years?"

Adding another dimension of delight and memorable meaning to each poem are watercolors by seasoned illustrator Steve Björkman. The people, animals, and objects further enliven Nystrom's words. The splashes of color and character offer endearing and entertaining imagery.

The book concept, Nystrom explains, began more than 25 years ago when he — then a recent ORU graduate — taught in public elementary school. "I quickly noticed that my students would sit quietly and listen intently whenever I read poems from Shel Silverstein's book, *Where the Sidewalk Ends*." He thought, *Someone needs to write the biblical version.*

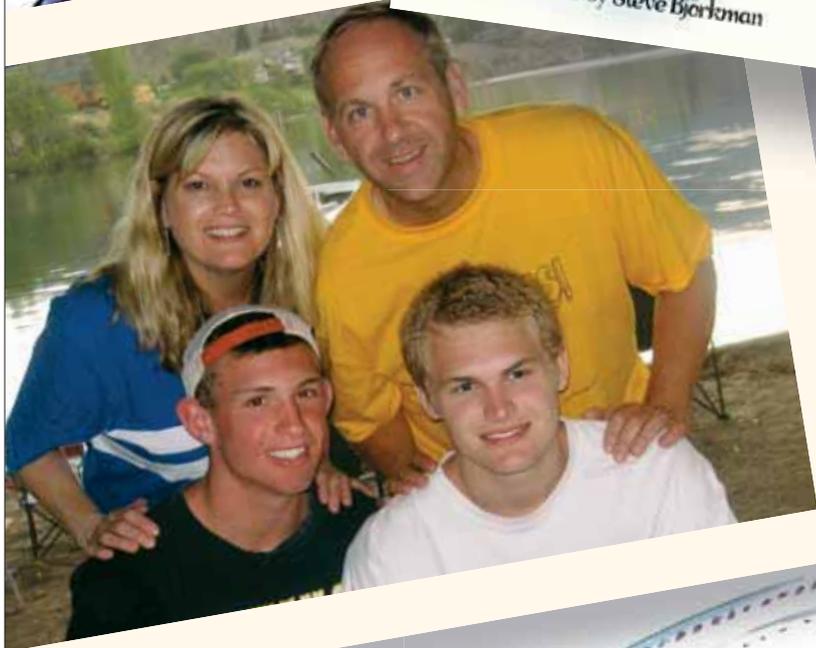




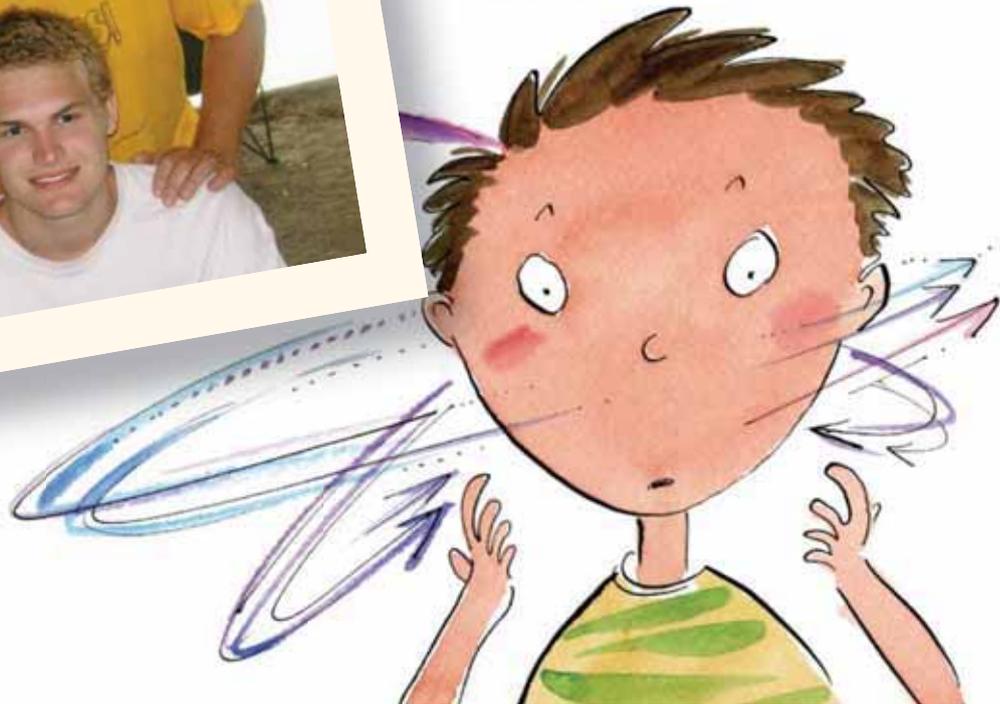
Nystrom's first book focuses on the Old Testament. He is working on a New Testament sequel.

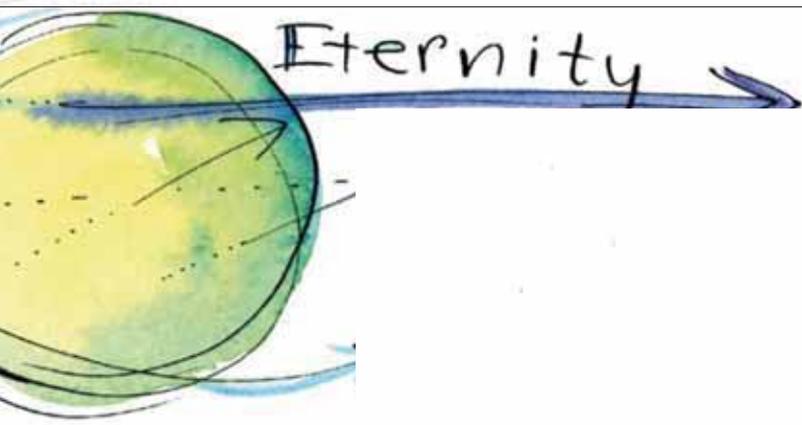
Nystrom undertook the task, using his students and two young sons as a test audience. "I tried to see the Bible from the perspective of a child hearing [these] stories for the very first time," he says. "The uncluttered mind of a child will often focus on details that are overlooked by grownups."

In addition to tapping the impressions of a young audience, Nystrom reverted to his childhood, sort of. "I tried to recall the initial impressions and reactions that I had when I first heard these fascinating stories in Sunday school or at family devotions around the dinner table."



Each summer, Jeanne, Marty, and their sons Benjamin, 16 (left), and Nathan, 19 (right), go camping in eastern Washington, as seen in this August 2006 photo.



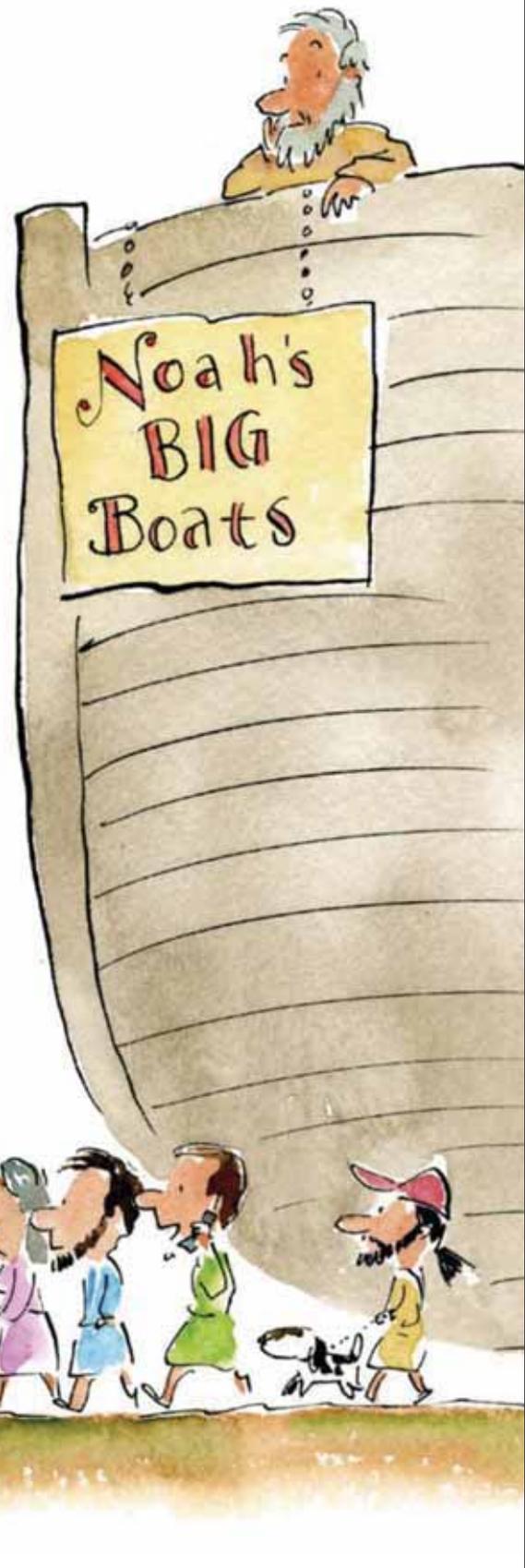


This right-brained writer quickly credits the laughter and creativity within his childhood home for nurturing his imagination. “I could write a large volume about the comical things that have happened to my family through the years,” Nystrom says. “My father was a practical joker who often resorted to creative discipline.” One example: “Rather than scold us for missing the school bus, he would take out his dentures, put on a crazy hat, and drop us off at the front of our school while shouting, ‘Taxi! Taxi!’ out the car window.” The ensuing embarrassment was enough to encourage Nystrom and his seven siblings to make sure they caught the school bus from then on.

These days in his own home, communication craziness can be an unintentional result of his “running over” creativity. He explains, “I typically have melodic and lyric ideas cycling through my mind and spirit at any given time....” Consequently, when his “supportive” wife Jeanne asks him to take out the garbage, he might respond with his latest poem idea. “How about, ‘Manna for breakfast, manna for brunch, and yes, you guessed it, manna for lunch’?”

To view pages and learn more about the book, go to web.mac.com/martynystrom.

Excerpt from *Don't Mess with Moses!* Text © 2006 Marty Nystrom. Illustrations © 2006 Steve Björkman. Published by Standard Publishing. Used with permission.





Wheeler Finds Pleasant Pastures

BY JADELL FORMAN 90

Cherie Wheeler 87 was seeking God. When she and husband Keith 88-MDiv went to speak at a church in Arkansas, they seated themselves in the front row. During worship, the pastor looked at Cherie, she says, and told her he had a word for her.

He said she was like a wild horse fenced in. He saw her running up and down the fence, trying to get out. And he said God wanted her to know that He's the one who put the fence around her.

Wheeler did indeed feel fenced in at home mothering their two young children. Frustrated with her situation, she knew the importance of that role and yet, she wanted to be "out there" in the world ministering alongside her cross-carrying husband. (*See Excellence, Spring 2005.*) She had traveled with him and helped lead teams overseas many times before, but now with two young children and the nature of their ministry it was proving difficult to be as involved.

"Sometimes we look on the other side of the fence, and feel like the grass is greener, somehow, some way."

She found comfort within a scripture. Psalm 16 told her about boundaries being pleasant and the land within being good. That scripture combined with this pastor's supernatural insight confirmed what she suspected was God's plan for her: to concentrate on raising Hannah and Josiah, and encouraging those with whom she came into contact on a daily basis.

"Sometimes we look on the other side of the fence," she says, "and feel like the grass is greener, somehow, some way. But really, if you looked over at your neighbor's yard, and if their grass was greener, it's probably because they worked harder on it. And mine would be just as green if I would only put the time into it."

Putting this belief into action, Wheeler purposed to recognize the pleasant places within her world and concentrate on what was directly underneath her feet instead of longing for other pastures.

In addition to her home, Wheeler's pasture now includes Metro Christian School in Tulsa. Five days a week, she teaches high school Bible class and leads community service projects while Hannah, 16, and Josiah, 13, attend their Metro classes.

Eleven years later, how's the wild horse doing?

"Oh, I'm exhausted now," she says with a bright smile and laughter, referring to her new teaching responsibilities. And then with a sparkle in her eyes, her voice softens. "I've come to a place where I'm finding those pleasant places where God has me."

If Wheeler looks outside her boundaries anymore, it's merely for encouragement, such as what she's found looking

to one of her heroes, Mother Teresa. "I loved her thinking. Sometimes in the West, we think so huge — that things have to be bigger to be good. But her mentality was not big, ever." Wheeler points out that Mother Teresa started by ministering to one person at a time and ended the same.

What does the lifestyle of this diminutive nun mean to this Western mother? "Simplicity and purity of devotion to Jesus. Loving Jesus and loving people. It is continuing to believe that every life matters, every person matters," Wheeler quickly responds. "It is seeing Jesus in every person and finding Him in every moment and that every task can be a gift to Him. It's not skipping over the one person to get to the ninety-nine. It's what Jesus said: leaving the ninety-nine to get the one."

For Wheeler, that means the one inside her fence, and not the one beyond her reach.



Wheeler is concentrating on raising her and Keith's children — Hannah and Josiah — and ministering to those people God places in her path.

Bridging the Gap from Potential to Purpose

BY JENNIFER RAYNES '06

Sporting a bright pink jacket and employing an animated puppet named “Impulsive Puppy,” there is no doubt that Liz Gustafson '03 is in her element as she makes silly faces with a group of kindergarteners at Emerson Elementary in North Tulsa.

The purpose of today’s lesson is teaching students to recognize their emotions. Gustafson holds up a piece of paper against her face so that only her eyes are visible. “Raise your hand and tell me what I’m feeling just by looking at my eyes.” As Gustafson opens her eyes wide, ten little hands shoot into the air. “Surprised!”

Across town at Marshall Elementary, an active discussion is brewing among a group of 11-year-old students. The topic? Typical “fifth-grade problems.” Instructor Wes Pebsworth '03 forgoes a standard classroom lecture in favor of using more innovative teaching methods such as group brainstorming and asking students about their own

Gustafson draws students in with her warm smile and dynamic teaching style.



experience with the topic. With a myriad of opinions often unsolicited by “grownups,” the children are eager to share about the problems they face and learn Pebsworth’s three-step technique for solving them.

Gustafson and Pebsworth’s stories are just a few examples of what takes place every day in schools across northeastern Oklahoma thanks to Operation Aware. The Tulsa-based non-profit has provided drug and violence prevention for more than 450,000 children in Oklahoma since 1979, and currently boasts six ORU alumni on staff. According to Desiree (Thomas) Doherty 79, the executive director, “prevention educators” like Gustafson and Pebsworth visit a classroom once a week for eight weeks and focus their instruction on “strengthening a child’s resilience and skills to help them resist . . . negative peer pressure and . . . make healthy and responsible choices.”

With age-appropriate lessons covering everything from drugs and alcohol to relationships, Operation Aware’s program starts with pre-kindergarten and goes up through high school. Steve Hahn 00, the manager of Curriculum and Instruction, says, “We start early with the kids so they’re prepared . . . when the rubber meets the road [and their] friend

is saying, ‘Do you wanna try this?’ We equip them [to make the right decision].”

The *Second Step* curriculum is designed for students in pre-kindergarten through second grade to learn how to manage their emotions, display empathy to others, and recognize true friends. From third through eighth grade, students in the *Core* program learn progressively more about developing healthy self-esteem, avoiding peer pressure, and the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use. The sixth-grade curriculum includes a unique component where students visit a hospital to learn what happens to someone who has overdosed on drugs. Hahn says that because students get to see numerous visual aids (such as organs afflicted by various drug-related diseases), the resulting effect of the trip is “very impacting.”

The key idea underlying all of Operation Aware’s programs is that prevention is indeed the best investment in the lives of young people. Before coming on staff with Operation Aware, Pebsworth worked in a home for troubled boys. Seeing young residents immured in patterns of addiction, Pebsworth says he now has “a huge appreciation for prevention as opposed to treatment.” Shelly Harwell 02,

Pebsworth takes time to connect with students at Marshall Elementary. “We’re not hit and run; we build relationships with the kids. Those kids know us.”



ALUMNI FEATURE

who previously worked with Mercy Ministries Australia, agrees. “[It’s better] targeting them before they face some of the main struggles they will face in life . . . not only targeting them and equipping them, but building in them . . . a confidence.”

Abounding in creativity and enthusiasm, the prevention educators are convinced that their involvement with Operation Aware is truly making a difference. Among the ORU alumni on staff, it is evident that the mandate for students to “go where His light is seen dim” still resonates among them years after graduation. Harwell believes that ORU helped prepare her for the work she does now at Operation Aware. “We were very fortunate that we were equipped [at ORU] and now we can be that light [to the kids].” Compelled by the same sense of calling, Brenda Miranda OO, O2-M.Ed. says one of the most powerful lessons she gleaned from ORU was “the whole mindset that your life can impact others.”

Doherty believes Operation Aware is not only impacting the lives of individual students, but the entire atmosphere of classrooms and schools where it is taught. “It’s amazing

that God has opened the doors for us to be able to do the work like we do. Teachers . . . tell us the stories of how their students incorporate and apply the Operation Aware lessons, and that’s where it matters.”

With their incredible influence reaching more than 30,000 children every school year, the future of Operation Aware is as bright as the light they bring to their students. Kayla Robinson, Marshall Elementary School principal and Operation Aware board member, believes the organization has not “even reached their full potential as a nonprofit. I think we will see it just grow and grow and venture into even bigger arenas over the next couple of years.”



Six of Operation Aware's staff are ORU alumni. Pictured L to R: Steve Hahn, Desiree Doherty, Brenda Miranda, Liz Gustafson, Shelly Harwell, and Wes Pebsworth.



Biology Professor Recovers after Trauma

BY JADELL FORMAN 90

July 20, 2004. Amidst the forest and lakes of remote northern Michigan, Dr. John Korstad is teaching a summer session of undergraduate limnology (the study of inland waters). For the ninth summer, he and wife Sally are settled into the faculty lodging area at Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies.

Early in the session, after a busy day of teaching and scuba diving, Korstad must hurry home to help Sally welcome dinner guests. He hops on his bicycle for the downhill ride on a gravel road. He has a helmet, but doesn't use it for this familiar, half-mile trek.

His memories are intermittent from here.

According to a student, Korstad bikes fifty feet before this student calls out a friendly greeting. Taking his eyes off the road, Korstad somehow jams the front wheel askew. The jolt sends him flying headfirst over the handlebars onto rocky ground, knocking him unconscious.

Korstad awakes to find himself lying on the ground. An Au Sable director, who is also a trained emergency medical technician, is next to him. "Don't move, John. Just relax." Korstad recalls, "I just wanted to get back on my bike and [get] to the cabin." Lastly, he remembers helicopter paramedics strapping him onto a gurney.

Semi-conscious during a three-day stay at a Traverse City hospital, he has sustained a severe concussion with multiple broken bones between his left eye and ear. Cerebral fluid has been leaking from that ear. Not yet diagnosed, an optical blowout has caused his eye to sink. His left auditory nerve has been severed. He has broken his right thumb and impacted his right knee.

Traverse City doctors determine they must send him to the University of Michigan Hospital for surgery. Arriving via ground ambulance, Korstad is bewildered and confused but "overwhelmingly peaceful." Upon further examination, his fractures appear to be healing on their own, and UMH doctors decide to forego surgery.

Once the spinal fluid has stopped leaking and he can walk with a cane and Sally's help, UMH releases him on July 29. Three doctors tell the family that John shouldn't have lived.

People usually die when an impact is severe enough to crack the brain case and allow cerebral spinal fluid to leak for an extended period of time. After about ten days of follow-up visits with doctors, the Korstads return to Au Sable to pack their belongings and say good-bye.

In Tulsa, Korstad gets an immediate appointment with his close friend, Dr. Ray Townsend, an ophthalmologist. This visit starts a series of referrals, appointments, and surgeries. The first two operations, to rebuild the eye socket and sever and reattach the eye muscles, correct his vision to 20/20.

"I was amazed and overjoyed when I could see [normally] again almost immediately after the second surgery," Korstad

says, having had double vision for seven months. But other things are not normal. His first two weeks back in Tulsa, he habitually picks up the phone and thinks it's dead. *What's wrong with the phone?* he wonders, only to realize something is wrong with *him*. Dr. Scott Cordray 83 diagnoses a complete loss of hearing in the left ear and provides a referral.

Korstad has also lost some balance and thinking capacities. After eighteen months with several specialists, he receives a clean bill of mental health and regains most of his balance, but not his hearing.

Despite the fact that he'd like to be completely healed by now, Korstad has hope for restoration. "I know God didn't cause this accident. I sense the Lord saying, 'John, do what I've told you to do. And trust Me.'"

Part of Korstad's trusting and doing involves retraining his brain in order to compensate for the left side's loss of balance. Even so, he twisted his knee and tore his meniscus in August 2005 — an injury repaired by Dr. Paul Peterson 75, an orthopedic specialist. The saga continues.

"I'm still 'rehabbing' on my own," he says. A regular at ORU's Aerobics Center, he enjoys using the cardiovascular machines and lifts weights. Plus, "I ride my bicycle every chance I get, because I appreciate the outdoor exercise. Don't worry," he adds. "I always wear my helmet now."

For Dr. Korstad the bottom line is, "I'm thankful to be alive and to be in the Lord's service."



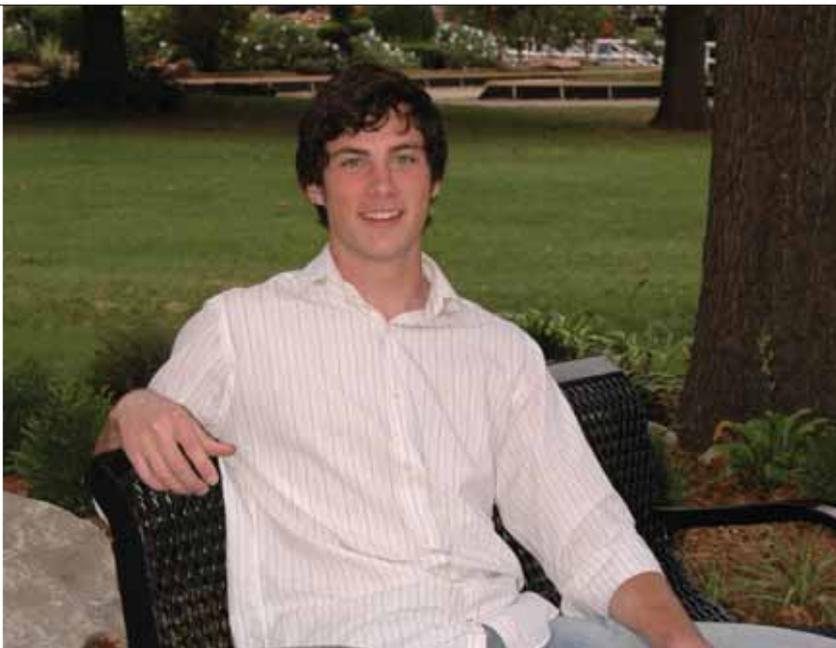
More than two years after his traumatic accident, Korstad (shown here with wife Sally 96-M.A.Ed.) says, "I'm grateful for the prayerful support of family, friends at church, and the faithful ORU community."

Chaos Management 101:

Tips from a True Multi-Tasker

BY JENNIFER RAYNES '06

"It's not that serious." Those four words help Trey Tucker, the current president of the Student Association, keep his feet on the ground. According to Tucker, the phrase demonstrates his desire to retain the bigger picture and not get caught up in the petty problems or hype that surrounds him.



As SA president, Trey Tucker has set the vision for student involvement this year by encouraging students to "Leave Your Mark."

Aside from his new role in the SA, Tucker has received quite a bit of attention as one of the prominent faces in the new "It's About You @ ORU" marketing campaign. Featured on everything from admissions brochures to "megagraphics" in the LRC, a refreshingly humble Tucker just laughs at his recent "celebrity" status on campus: "It's funny . . . I don't make it a big deal and it doesn't become one."

As a marketing major with an extensive list of extracurriculars under his belt, Tucker admits he is quite "comfortable with chaos" in his life. Having sported an array of titles

ranging from spiritual life dorm director to missions assistant team leader to marketing coordinator for the Ignite student leadership conference, Tucker is the perfect role model for campus involvement. As SA president, Tucker's vision for the year is to "help promote ownership" of the school among the students, encouraging them to make the most of their time at ORU by getting plugged in with various programs on campus. In August, Tucker helped launch *The Harbor*, an exciting new freshman orientation program designed to help students catch that vision of involvement from the start of their college experience.

Although Tucker has kept his schedule full of activities at ORU, he admits to having already wrestled through the issues of his own "driven" nature before he even got here. Growing up, Tucker says that his family "held the bar high" when it came to emphasizing excellence and hard work. Despite the fact that his parents encouraged balance, Tucker often found himself overworked during his teen years. Constantly staying late at the church to work on projects for his youth group, Tucker remembers the night his dad said enough was enough. "He just said, 'Trey, stop it!' He helped me understand the nature of why I was doing [all of that work]."

That experience was a major turning point for Tucker, one that helped him determine the origin of his sense of worth. "I always worked harder and stayed longer than everyone else. I felt like I had to; that made me feel valuable. . . . That's where a lot of my identity came from." Reflecting on his father's advice, Tucker has since discovered that "worth simply comes from being yourself and knowing the Lord," a revelation that he admits came with a great deal less pressure than basing his identity on the hard-working persona.

Today, Tucker still maintains a fast pace, but that familiar motto, "It's not that serious," exemplifies his laid-back attitude and ability to "trust in the Lord and choose peace" amidst hectic surroundings. As for his post-ORU plans, Tucker is on the lookout for opportunities to start up and invest in various companies. Eventually, he says, he would like to pursue "entrepreneurial ventures in design" as well as attend graduate school, travel, and work with missions organizations.

Armed with a greater sense of true purpose and peace, Tucker will no doubt continue on the path of accomplishing great things — even if the road does prove a bit more chaotic than originally expected.



Brimming with Expectation

ORU has always been conducive to dreaming big. We know that you made “no little plans” while you were here on campus — and it’s no different for today’s students. Overflowing with passion and zeal, the students of 2006 are keeping mission at the forefront of their minds as they gear up to go into every person’s world.

Sound like you during your ORU days? We thought so.

That desire to do big things for the glory of God is a uniting factor that current students and alumni have in common with one another. The only difference is, you are already on the path to greatness and the students are still in a phase of preparation. As a successful alumnus, you are in the best position to support this generation of world-changers. By giving to the Annual Fund, you can spur them on to great things. Go to <http://alumniweb.oru.edu> and click on “Common Grounds” to make a contribution and invest in the future of the university.

Share your common grounds and fuel the fire of ORU’s newest visionaries.



Annual Fund 2006
{Not your daily grind.}

WARM IT UP AT
ALUMNIWEB.ORU.EDU

(Job) Searching for Hidden Treasure

BY JENNIFER RAYNES 06

Do you remember playing in the sandbox as a kid? Some games proved to be disappointing, like the day you realized that, contrary to playground rumor, you could not dig your way to China.

Other games, however, were much more successful. Who knew that your search for buried treasure would turn up 42 cents in shiny coins? As an adult, you still hope to make an equally exciting (perhaps more practical) discovery. For numerous ORU students and alumni seeking career assistance, the

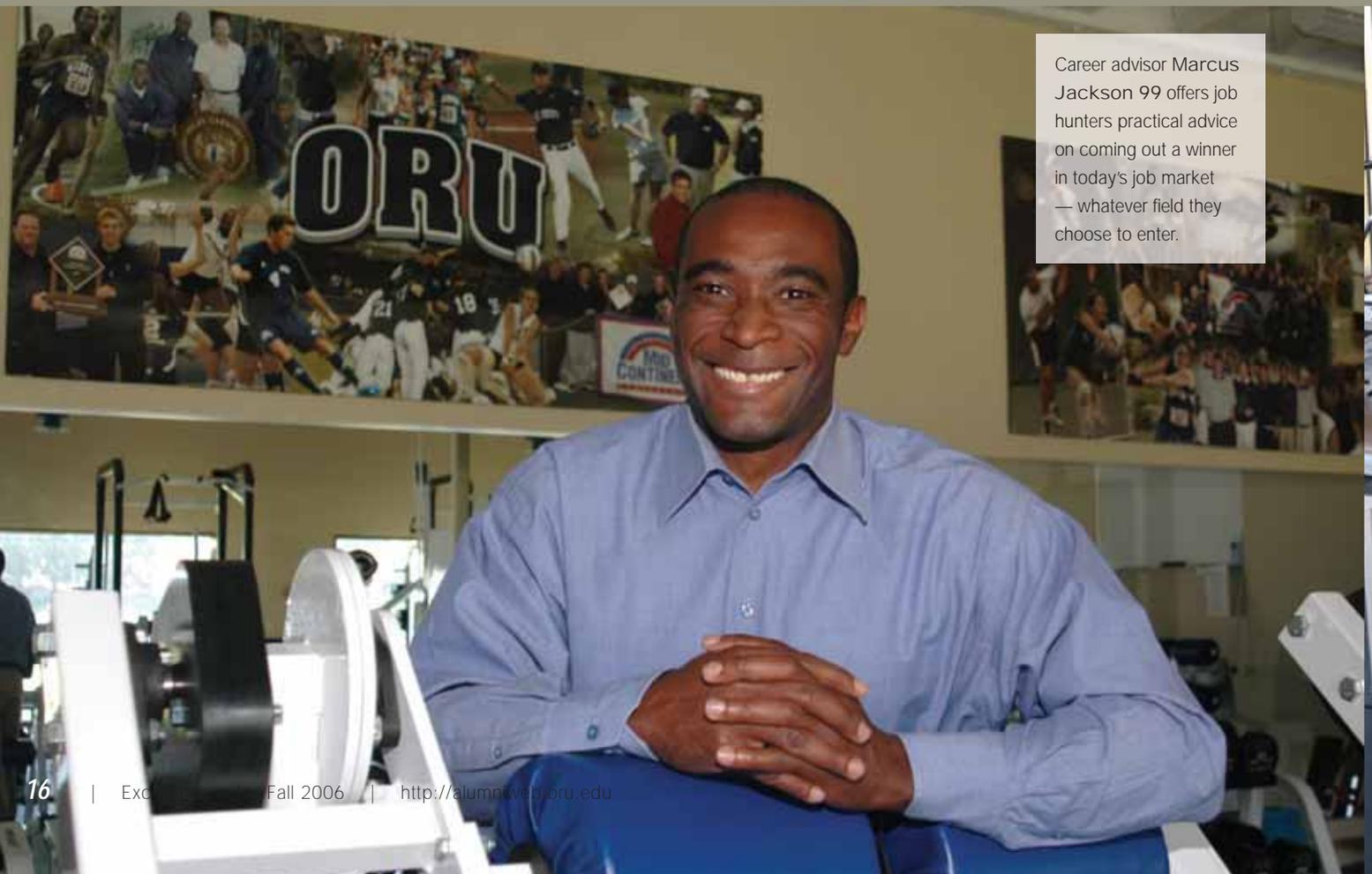
College and Career Guidance Center (CCGC) has proven to be the very treasure they were searching for.

A “hidden gem” here at ORU, the CCGC serves as an integral part of the university experience for those who choose to utilize its services. CCGC director John Brown and career counselor Marcus Jackson 99 provide students and alumni with the resources they need to develop their résumé, search for jobs, and network within their chosen field.

Brown maintains that “today’s workforce is extremely transient” — a harsh reality for both current students looking into future careers, as well as alumni who need to be willing to learn and adapt “as the needs of

commerce and society change.” The CCGC provides numerous opportunities for students and alumni to receive the most current information about their chosen career field. While the staff consider one-on-one career counseling to be “the most important service” they provide, the CCGC also hosts a number of events including on-campus recruitments, workshops, career expos, and conferences.

Tonya Flud 06, an internal compliance auditor for Williams Companies, says she owes much of her success in finding “the perfect job” to the services that the CCGC provided. Flud found out about the job through an e-mail the CCGC sent to her professor about Williams conducting interviews on the



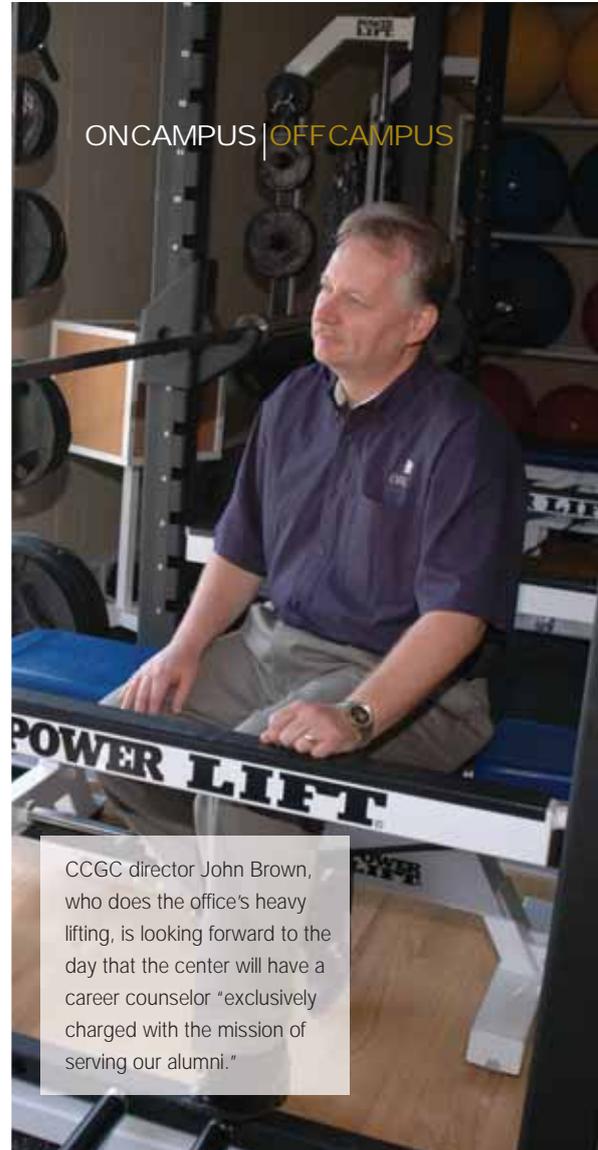
Career advisor Marcus Jackson 99 offers job hunters practical advice on coming out a winner in today's job market — whatever field they choose to enter.

ORU campus. Not only did Flud find her current position through the help of the CCGC, she also received several job offers from other employers she had met at CCGC's Career Conference in March. Eager to share her success story, Flud calls the CCGC a "vital resource" for those who choose to take advantage of the opportunities available.

One of the most useful career tools that the CCGC provides for alumni is a job searching database through *College Central Network*. This database is an excellent option for ORU alumni who live outside of Oklahoma and are otherwise unable to take advantage of the CCGC's services in person. Through the database, employers can post job openings specifically for ORU graduates, and alumni are able to search jobs by career field, type of degree, or location. Once registered, alumni can upload their résumé (which is reviewed by the CCGC) and apply to positions directly through the database.

Students or alumni who wish to utilize the CCGC's career services must first establish a placement file and are encouraged to take the Career Direct Analysis, a unique assessment that measures an individual's values, interests, personality traits, and skills. The purpose of the test, according to Brown, is to determine "God's unique design for our individual lives." The results of the assessment provide individuals with over 30 pages of information to aid them in determining their personal call and career path.

According to Brown, alumni will always be able to find assistance in updating their résumé or changing careers through the CCGC. David Lawrence '06, a publicist for Strang Communications, secured his job with the help of the CCGC and says that he plans to continue utilizing the resources of the CCGC as an alumnus. "It's in my best interests to stay connected. They have my best interests in mind."



CCGC director John Brown, who does the office's heavy lifting, is looking forward to the day that the center will have a career counselor "exclusively charged with the mission of serving our alumni."



One of administrative assistant Donna Bratschun's greatest strengths is greeting job seekers with a smile.

Preparation Pays for Future-Focused Alumnus



Lawrence was primed for success, having acquired invaluable job hunting skills in the CCGC.

A self-professed "futuristic" thinker, David Lawrence '06 sought out the services of the CCGC when he was only a freshman. After taking a gifting test in the office, Lawrence told director John Brown, "I really want to get plugged in [to planning my future]. Advise me on how I can start now." Lawrence started meeting with Brown on a frequent basis in order to gather information about the job market and to have Brown review his résumé. The one-on-one career counseling relationship that Lawrence had with Brown lasted through Lawrence's four years at ORU. Lawrence considered his time spent in the CCGC with Brown an "investment" that he believed would make his post-graduation experience the best that it could be.

Lawrence's intentionality certainly paid off when he landed a job as an account executive/publicist for Strang Communications, a position where he serves as a marketing consultant for Christian authors. In regard to securing his current position, Lawrence says, "It was all because of College and Career . . . [John Brown] is definitely a master at teaching you how to position yourself and market yourself."

Lawrence highly recommends that students and alumni take advantage of the services at CCGC and invest in a relationship with one of the career counselors so they can "start enjoying their life sooner."

On Top of the World

Faculty, staff, and students help make ORU a rising star.

Pulling Rank

According to *U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Colleges 2007,"* ORU is in the top tier of Universities-Master's (West), ranking 51st overall among 123 schools. Some notable scores that ORU received in the sixteen categories were 9th for its percentage of full-time faculty (87 percent), 24th for its student/faculty ratio of 14:1, and 29th for student selectivity.

Dr. Cal Easterling, director of ORU's Office of Institutional Research, speculates that "ePortfolio, *Excellence* magazine, and ORU's prominent sports programs may have contributed to our increase" in the ranking of the university's overall academic reputation, since they drew more attention to ORU.

Dr. Ralph Fagin, executive vice president for Academic Affairs, says that "while we are pleased that ORU was ranked in the top tier of our region, we realize that these rankings do have limitations." Dr. Fagin notes that the *U.S. News* rankings only measure a school's "input" variables (quantitative measurements), and thus place little emphasis on the *quality* of work that ORU students are generating. "You can tell the quality of the tree by the type of fruit it produces," Fagin asserts, "and [with ePortfolio] we are way ahead of the pack on measuring the output of our students." (Read more about ePortfolio online in the Fall 2004 issue of *Excellence*.)



Speaking of academic excellence . . . several biology department faculty members paused between classes in September to pose with the thermometer that indicated the successful completion of the Biology Core Lab fundraising campaign. With \$60,000 in hand, ORU qualified for a matching grant from the Helmerich Foundation. (Front row: Sarah Myer '94, '95-M.Ed. and Dr. Wendy Stout. Back row: Dr. Caroline O'Farrell '93, Dr. Joel Gaikwad, and Dr. Hal Reed '75, department chair.)

"Our students [will have] a major competitive advantage in the years to come," Fagin believes, once university rankings move more toward measuring the quality of output variables.

ABET Seal of Approval

Continuing to prove ORU's commitment to excellence in academics, the engineering major recently received reaccreditation from the internationally recognized Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). With its three concentrations in computer, mechanical, and electrical engineering, the major first received accreditation by ABET in 1993.



More than just theory. Students get hands-on engineering experience in Dr. Robert Leland's Mechanics of Materials class. (Pictured, L-R: James Wanjiku, Rosa Rivas, Ernest Stranz, Dr. Leland, Jon Asper, Justice Ojaka, and Robbie Johnson.)

According to department chair Dr. Dominic Halsmer, when ABET surveys a university's program, they typically point out flaws or suggest improvements for areas of weakness. Thankfully, however, ORU did not receive any "deficiencies or concerns" to remedy. Now, Halsmer said, instead of

working to fix problems, faculty and staff can devote their time to maintaining the strength of the program.

Last fall, when ABET representatives were on campus surveying the major, they were impressed with ORU's innovative ePortfolio assessment process, as well as the quality of interaction

between professors and students. The department's enviably low student-faculty ratio helps create a dynamic in the classroom that Halsmer refers to as "a mentoring-type relationship." Learning from ORU's quality professors, Halsmer asserts, "students get more than just engineering. They get training in life."

Roberts Edits Worldwide Encyclopedias

BY JADELL FORMAN 90

Dr. Mark Roberts safeguards Christian legacy.

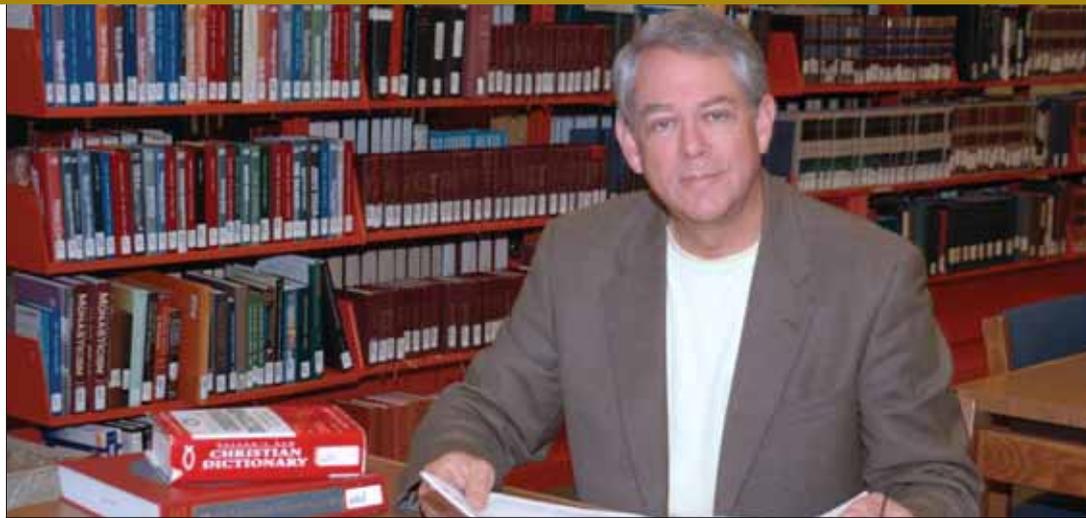
As director of ORU's Holy Spirit Research Center, Roberts (no relation to the chancellor) preserves materials of the Pentecostal-charismatic movement. Additionally, he now preserves a wider legacy: "the whole of the Christian family — throughout time, throughout the world."

In April, Roberts accepted posts as associate editor for two new encyclopedias — *The Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization* and *Encyclopedia of Christian Literature* — to be released in 2008.

"I think it's good for the university to have faculty helping produce major reference works that pertain to contemporary, worldwide Christianity."

In addition to seeing his work as good for ORU, Roberts considers his work "an act of worship" and believes that Christians have a duty to witness to God's works in His world. "Today we need to tell the truth about why life is as good as it is in parts of the world the gospel of Christ has influenced. Nobody else is going to document this if Christian scholars don't. And we all ought to feel passionate about telling this story, even if we don't think of ourselves as reference-book lovers."

Accordingly, *The Encyclopedia of*



For your reference. Dr. Mark Roberts and his works reside among the encyclopedias at ORU's Reference Library.

Christian Civilization will tackle the mammoth task of chronicling "... the effect of Jesus Christ and the gospel around the world for two thousand years." In short, the reference book will recount how the estimated 18 billion Christians who ever lived on earth have contributed to a Christian civilization expressed in various areas such as human rights, architecture, and literacy.

The Encyclopedia of Christian Literature will chronicle Christianity's literary legacy and the high value it places on the written word. This work will contain essays on major genres and more than 300 most influential writers from the first to the twenty-first centuries.

Roberts' publishing background provided the initial connection to these

projects. While an acquisitions editor at Nelson Reference in Nashville, Roberts contracted *Nelson's New Christian Dictionary* with renowned encyclopedist George Thomas Kurian. The two became friends. At present, Roberts has also agreed to assume Kurian's editorial responsibilities for revisions of that dictionary and of Oxford University Press's two-volume *World Christian Encyclopedia* upon Kurian's pending retirement.

"One of my desires is to see Pentecostal-charismatic interests properly represented in these kinds of reference works, which will include contributions from ORU scholars and writers. I think that's worth something. And in the providence of God, here we are."

'A New Deyo' in Outreach

Hurricane Katrina and similar natural catastrophes had an unforeseen effect on Dennis Russell, who served as director of Outreach Ministries for six years.

It drove him to resign from ORU this summer in order to pursue a calling to assist in disaster relief efforts. With Russell's resignation, Tammy Deyo 03 has taken the wheel and hit the ground running as the program's new director.

Students involved in Outreach Ministries (the combined departments of ORU Missions and Community Outreach) were sad to see Russell go, but happy to hear that someone they knew well would be taking over. Nathan French, a member of the Missions student staff, said, "I was thrilled to know that Tammy Deyo, my former [missions] team leader . . . would become the new director." French is looking forward to a new year working with the Missions "family," confident that Deyo "will continue to build upon . . . the legacy that Dennis Russell left."

Deyo has more than seven years of experience with ORU Missions,

including a three-year stint as assistant director (2003-06). She and the new assistant director of Missions, Blake Stice 04, and Community Outreach program coordinator Scott Davis 05, form the new Outreach Ministries leadership team. Anticipating their influence and direction this year, Deyo says of Stice and Davis, "There could not be two better people to sit where they are sitting. They love what they do and they are absolutely called."

This year's theme for Outreach Ministries is encouraging students to "Go After the One," an idea based on the words that Jesus spoke in Luke 15:4 regarding a shepherd leaving 99 sheep in order to save one sheep who has gone astray. Deyo believes that when students keep this focus of "the one" in mind, it "condenses the vision into something practical and tangible."

Jason Onarecker, a member of this summer's soccer missions team

to Costa Rica, really took this theme to heart. "I finally understood the idea that missions is a lifestyle and a mindset. Missions goes on every day whether I am in the middle of spring semester, at home for Christmas, or in the rainforest of Costa Rica. Seeking after 'the one' is a continuous process."

Deyo's vision for Outreach Ministries in the coming years is to develop both local and foreign "outreaches based around academic disciplines, to where students can couple academics with the gospel." This summer, ORU Missions pioneered this vision by sending out special-emphasis teams to minister through their skills in education, business, and international community development. Deyo says that in the future, she would like to get more professors and deans involved with the outreaches, as well as offer trips incorporating "the fine arts, engineering, and agriculture."



Young, fun, and "Kingdom-minded," Deyo says the trio has a "great dynamic" as a team. (L to R: Davis, Deyo, and Stice.)

2008 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

“Raise up your students to hear My voice, to go where My light is seen dim, My voice is heard small, and My healing power is not known, even to the uttermost bounds of the earth...”

— ORU'S FOUNDING VISION

Our vision is the same — but we all have different paths to take us there.

Do you know of an alumnus who has chosen a unique path and has made a difference in his or her field? 🍁 Here at the Alumni Association, we are looking for people who have truly taken Oral Roberts' mandate from God to heart and have embraced the university's standard of excellence into their lives. The Alumnus of the Year award is bestowed upon alumni who have provided Distinguished Service to God, to the Community, and to ORU. 🍁 If you know of one or more alumni who have impacted lives through their service in any of these three areas — even if their work is outside of the public eye — please tell us their story.

To send a nomination, just go to <http://alumniweb.oru.edu>, and click on “Make an Alum of the Year Nomination.” Tell us briefly about your nominee and why you believe he or she should be recognized. Feel free to make multiple nominations; the more stories we hear about, the better! And who knows? They might just get featured here in *Excellence* anyway!

Putting on a New Face

John F. Kennedy once said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

Keeping the future of the university in mind, ORU made a number of changes to campus over the summer. According to David Ellsworth, executive vice president for Finance and Operations, the style of the renovations corresponds to trends favored by this new generation of students. Ellsworth believes "it's important to make [students] feel at home and that they're part of a community" while they are at ORU.

Most students first noticed the changes on the third floor of the LRC, which now houses a new Hava Java coffee shop, complete with a TV and leather couches and chairs, and the Green Cuisine, an "earthy" food service venue that offers a variety of healthy food options. Outside the LRC, new garden areas and benches provide areas where students can study or hang out between classes. The Aerobics Center boasts all new workout equipment, and the infamous "Pit" area on the third floor of the GC has stylish new upholstery.

Students in Claudius Roberts, E. M. Roberts, and Quad Towers got quite a shock when they realized that they no longer need to walk all the way to the AC to work out. The study areas on the first floor of these six dorms (which served as computer labs for a number of years) now function as "fitness areas" complete with treadmills and step machines available for student use. According to junior Danielle Appledorn, the fact that she and her friends can "just go downstairs and work out, even in the middle of the night" is a major plus.

Senior Carolyn Wurster said that of all the renovations, she most appreciated the practical setup of the new Hava Java. "[In the old Java Stop] you always had to wait in a long line and then you were late for class every time you got a coffee. Now, there's a lot more space and they can serve more people in the morning without it getting too crowded."

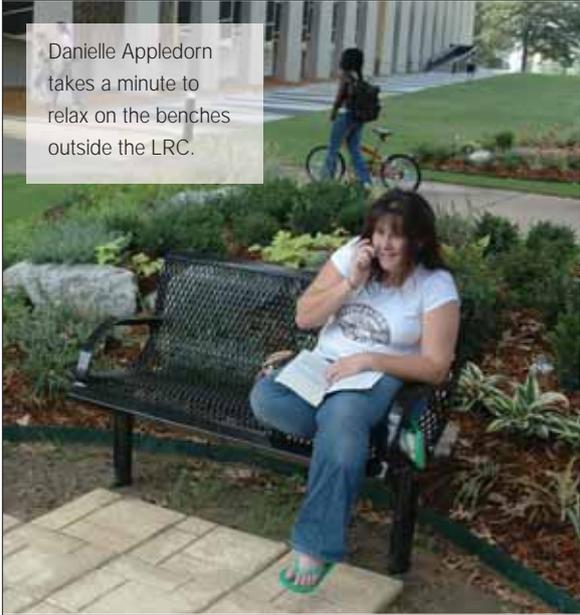
For most students, however, the most exciting change on campus was the transformation of the old Eagle's Nest snack bar into a Chick-fil-A. Freshman Kendyl Foster said she most enjoys the convenience that having a Chick-fil-A on campus provides. "I think the best part of it all is that we can use our Sodexho bucks (a modern equivalent of meal tickets) to pay for it."

Sophomore Ian Kiefer said that although he already knew about most of the changes that Sodexho was planning to make last summer, he was pleasantly surprised by the Chick-fil-A. "Finally," he said, "we have a fast food restaurant that is worth going to on campus!"

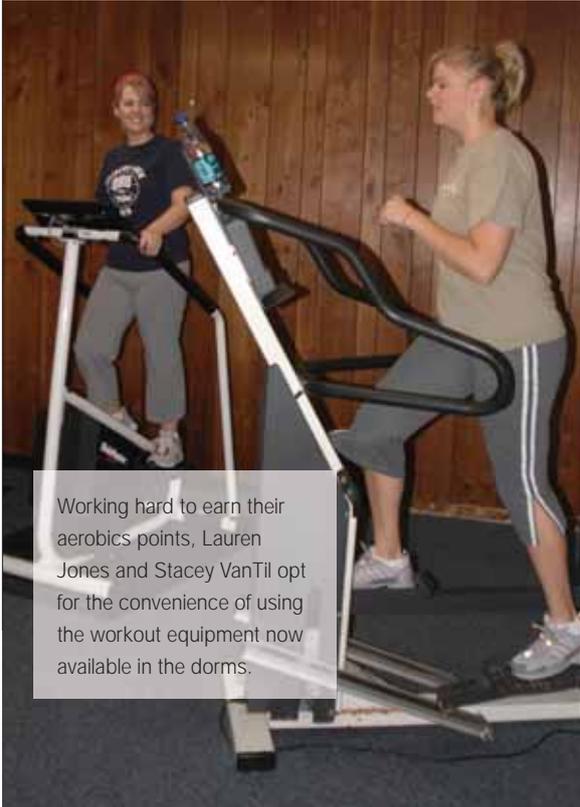
According to Tim Philley, associate vice president for Auxiliary and Contract Services, some of the ideas for the food service renovations were a direct result of focus groups in which students were able to voice their opinions to Sodexho. Philley said the decision to contract with Chick-fil-A was due in part to suggestions made by students, but also because the chain's values and high standards align with those of the university. Arthur

Greeno 92, owner of two other Chick-fil-A locations in Tulsa, was brought on as the restaurant's operator consultant to ensure that "Chick-fil-A Express is upholding the standards of a Chick-fil-A."

Many students, like Ian Kiefer, think the improvements "make ORU look more attractive to prospective students." Kiefer believes the renovations serve as a type of indirect promotion for the school, because the campus is now more likely to "catch the eye" of those who may otherwise never have considered coming to ORU.



Danielle Appledorn takes a minute to relax on the benches outside the LRC.





Nathan French and Gale McCommons grab a quick cup of coffee at the new Hava Java shop on LRC 3.



Kendyl Foster and Ian Kiefer take time to study and relax in the Pit on GC 3.



Paving the Way for Success

New Alumni Relations director finds favor everywhere, but chooses to make ORU her home (again).

BY JENNIFER RAYNES 06

For an 18-year-old, traveling 1,330 miles alone from Ocean City, Md., to attend school in Tulsa, Okla., can be quite a scary venture. Especially if you're the first person in your family to ever go to college.

That was the case for Natalie (Kilgore) Bounds 88, the new Alumni Relations director, when she first arrived on the ORU campus as a student. The second oldest of five siblings, Bounds says that in high school, "everything I did was college-oriented." After seeing ORU's World Action Singers on TV, Bounds exclaimed, "I want to go there!" From that point on, Bounds made it her goal to be the first in all of her extended family to move away from home and pursue the "whole new world" of college.

Even while she was still a student, favor seemed to be the defining mark of Bounds' experiences. An ever-busy business administration major, Bounds worked with a variety of programs on campus during "some of the greatest years" of her life, from the Student Association, to the Registrar's Office, to the International Student Admissions Office, to Career Planning and Placement. While pursuing her MBA at ORU, Bounds served as assistant to Dr. Frank Romanelli, who was dean of the School of Business. It was a position that testified to the favor on her life since she didn't even have to apply for it. "Almost every position [I received] I was recommended [for]," Bounds said. "It seems like everywhere I've ever gone, it's been that way."

After ORU, Bounds moved back to Maryland and almost immediately took a job (again, by recommendation) where

she was "automatically over people" as a Community Sales Manager. Her biggest successes have been in the sales realm, both in real estate (primarily land acquisition) and advertising. Consistently winning awards for "Top Sales" in the various positions, Bounds asserts, "Everything I learned at any of those jobs always brought me to the next level and I've used something from every single one." Although she had to

make a quick decision when it came to accepting the Alumni Relations director position, she believes that her previous experiences prepared her to take on her new role. "I really feel as if it all led to me coming back here."

How is it working out so far? "It's been so much fun, it doesn't even feel like a job!" Bounds said. Still in the learning phase, she is getting oriented to her new position, but already has some ideas in mind for helping alumni stay connected. Perhaps, Bounds said, it was due to the distance between Maryland and Oklahoma, but she herself got lost in the shuffle as an alumna. To make sure that doesn't happen to others, Bounds wants to focus on reaching out to younger alumni who in the past have fallen "off the map" like she did. "We're thinking if we can cultivate that relationship

[early on] and keep in close touch with them, it's a long-term investment that will pay off down the road."

Excited to take on the challenges of her new position, Bounds is "one hundred percent behind the university" and where it is headed in the coming years. "I love when the chapel speakers come in and say, 'I've been everywhere, but there's no place like ORU,'" Bounds said with a smile. "I always felt that [way]. ORU was a great experience for me. You always get the sense that it's the best."

You can contact Natalie at nbounds@oru.edu or 918/495.6588.



Bounds wants to reach alumni who have lost touch with the university.

Notes From Alumni

1970s

Troy Wells '70 coaches high school basketball at Martinsville High School in Virginia. His team won the state championship, beating a team that had an 85-game winning streak, and that had won two state titles. Troy and wife Patty (Blankenship) '69 have four sons and two grandchildren. Patty teaches seventh-grade English. L. Christina (Nystrom) Sjostedt '71 and husband Sven have moved to Wisconsin. Even so, Chris says, "...our mailing address is still in Minnesota, as we seem to be more in a state of denial, than in any of the other fifty!" Chris started law school in September. She hopes to have her J.D. by the time she celebrates her 40th anniversary of graduating from ORU.

Tim Hoover '71 has released his first solo album, *Street of Dreams*. Chuck Workman, host of "The Saturday Evening Jazz Show" (WICR.FM 88.7, Indianapolis), said, "Tim Hoover's recorded vocal debut is auspicious, to say the least. Coming from choral groups, Hoover clearly shows he has natural jazz feelings on his *Street of Dreams* release. He is harmonically hip and is not afraid to take a chance, anchored by Larry Dalton and the tastily swinging Ken Fary Trio." Though a licensed mental health clinician with Indiana University's Department of Psychiatry, Tim has devoted much of his life

to music — singing in church choirs in his youth, traveling the world in his twenties with Terry Law and Larry Dalton's Living Sound, and currently singing with the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir. The album can be purchased at online stores.

Clifton Taulbert '71's latest book, *Eight Habits of the Heart for Educators*, has become one of Corwin Press's bestselling titles. Recalling his formative years in the Mississippi Delta, Taulbert shares stories about the Eight Habits — nurturing attitude, dependability, responsibility, friendship, brotherhood, high expectations, courage, and hope — and how educators can implement them in their own life and school. Taulbert is the president and founder of The Building Community Institute, based in Tulsa. He is a speaker and award-winning author. www.clifontaulbert.com
Bruce Ursin '75 is a United Methodist pastor currently serving in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Bruce and wife Susan Lichty '75 have two children, Christina, 23, and David, 17. Former ORU chaplain Bob Stamps and wife Ellen recently led several worship services and meetings at Bruce's church. Bruce says, "They are as dynamic as ever!"
In January, Kit (Smiley) Marshall '77 began working as Community Liaison for Emergency Preparedness and Grant Writing for Parker County, Tex. She says, "I am networking all over the county and recruiting

Party Planners, Unite!

If you graduated in **1977, 1987, or 1997**, it's time to start planning your party! Yes, you'll be celebrating your 30-, 20-, or 10-year reunion at **Homecoming 2007, Feb. 9 and 10**. What we need are volunteers to serve on the reunion committees — to make sure the parties are grand! Contact Alumni Relations (alumni@oru.edu or 918/495.6610) to volunteer.



SJOSTEDT '71



HOOVER '71



MARSHALL '77



JUMPER '78

Notes From Alumni

volunteers, speaking to groups on emergency preparedness in an effort to save lives in case of a catastrophic bioterrorism event.” Then in May, the people of Aledo, Tex., elected Kit as their new mayor with 77 percent of the vote. Kit’s husband, Hugh, works for an Oklahoma company selling gas drilling rigs in north-central and eastern Texas. The Marshalls have two children. Stephanie O4 works in Dallas. Andrew is a senior at West Texas A&M.

After 24 years of service, including the last 21 on active duty, Mark Jumper 78 retired from the U.S. Navy as a commander in the Chaplain Corps. His final assignments were the Naval

Chaplains School in Newport, R. I., and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Salve Regina University (Newport) and is senior pastor of Hope Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Libertyville, Ill. Mark and wife Ginger have seven home-schooled children.

Robert J. Fouch 79, a certified public accountant, has been named vice president-controller of the partnership and its various subsidiaries and affiliates at Alliance Resource Partners, L.P. In his new capacity, Robert assumes responsibility for directing the Tulsa company’s accounting, tax, and financial reporting

functions. Robert joined Alliance in 1981 and has held a variety of accounting positions of increasing responsibility, most recently serving as assistant controller.

1980s

Doug Myer 80 celebrated his fifteenth anniversary with Ruth Anne on June 15. The couple has two sons, Jesse, 12, and Joshua, 8. The family lives in Broken Arrow, Okla., where Doug’s marketing firm, RDM Creative Services, will celebrate its ten-year anniversary in March. Prior to starting his company, Doug worked in advertising and video production in Oklahoma and Missouri. The

Myers are active in their church, Christian Chapel, and home school their children.

David Westerfield 80 is director of communications for Shreveport-Bossier Community Renewal (sbcrc.us). After Hurricane Katrina, the nonprofit entered a partnership with The Fuller Center for Housing, founded by Habitat for Humanity’s Millard Fuller. The two organizations, committed to building sixty houses for evacuees, have already built twenty-five units. Westerfield states, “I would encourage ORU alumni and students to go to the Web site (fullercenter.org) for up-to-date information and then get involved in this tremendous effort.” About his work thus far, he says, “It’s been a rewarding way to help families who lost everything in the hurricane.”

Jim Stovall 81 has finished writing *The Ultimate Life*, a sequel to *The Ultimate Gift*, which has been made into a movie. Both the new book and movie will be out this fall. John Taylor 81-MDiv, along with wife Kathy and daughters Emily, Grace, and Lydia, is living in India for a year. As a missionary of Literacy and Evangelism International, he will be developing primers, training teachers, and conducting a leadership institute. The family returns to the States on June 12, 2007.

www.literacyevangelism.org. Ron Luce 83 landed on the cover of *The New York Times*.

Have You Moved? Changed Your Name?

ORU



To:

If so, please let us know. We don’t want you to miss a single issue of *Excellence* (or any other news we send out from time to time, such as updates on alumni benefits and Homecoming). Write to us (alumni@oru.edu or ORU Alumni Foundation, P.O. Box 702333, Tulsa, OK 74170), call us (918/495.6610), or fax us (918/495.6650). Better yet — come by our office! We’d love to see you! We’re on LRC 6.



TAYLOR 81



WOOD 83



CARNEY 84



HARRISON 87

About Face!

Where are you? What have you been doing? You can fill us in — and make your info available to fellow alums — on a secure site by completing your profile on Alumni Face Place, our new online community. Just go to alumniweb.oru.edu/faceplace, follow the simple instructions, and write on! Post photos. Leave messages for friends. Plan events. Get the old gang together for Homecoming '07. Reconnect with the people who meant so much to you during some of the most amazing years of your life!

The international newspaper featured Luce in an Oct. 6, 2006, story titled, “Fearing the Loss of Teenagers, Evangelicals Turn Up the Fire.” The story includes a cover photo of Luce kneeling with and praying for teens at an Acquire the Fire youth conference in Massachusetts. In 1986, Luce and wife Katie 84 founded Teen Mania Ministries, a Christian youth organization that challenges teenagers to take a stand for Christ in their schools, communities, and throughout the world. www.teenmania.com or www.acquirethefire.com Duncan Wood 83 is married with four children and practicing law in Edmonton, Alberta. He writes that he “would love to hear from old friends.”

John Carney 84 has, for the second consecutive year, placed in the Inland Press Association’s nationwide Local News Writing Contest. Carney, city editor for the *Shelbyville* (Tenn.) *Times-Gazette*, won a third-place award in 2005 in personality/individual profile stories in class A (news-papers with circulation less than 10,000). In October 2005, in the same category and class, he won a second-place award. His award-winning story in 2006 was a profile of a Shelbyville woman who was tracked down by a childhood friend after more than fifty years apart. In September 2005, Carney was honored by the Tennessee School Boards Association with its Horizon Award for outstanding coverage

of education. Carney has worked for the *Times-Gazette* since 1985. He is also a United Methodist lay-speaker. He serves as a board member and active volunteer with Mountain T.O.P. (Tennessee Outreach Project), a missions program that places volunteers from across the U.S. in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee for week-long home repair or children’s programming projects. Since 2003, Carney has taken four foreign mission trips — one to Nicaragua and three to Kenya — with LEAMIS International Ministries. He hopes to travel to Bolivia with LEAMIS next year. In September 2005, Thomas Harrison 87 founded Media Embassy, offering advertising, marketing, and media crisis service. He says, “I worked in media and ministry more than 25 years. Help

the media understand what the problem is, and the crisis is half over.” Harrison provides clients with a 24-hour phone number for crisis-management moments, such as a moral failure or bus accident.

Ross McCordic 88 MD, a medical missionary in Jordan, writes that his hospital is going under the knife in order to fix leaks, clogs, wires, windows, and more. Ross reports that one patient, an 11-year-old boy, tends the younger children like a “mother hen,” and wants to work there as a nurse’s aide one day. The mobile unit of the ministry is “up and running” with an apartment headquartered four hours from the hospital. Ross and three others dedicate three days per week to visiting former patients of the hospital who see love through “compassionate, persistent medical



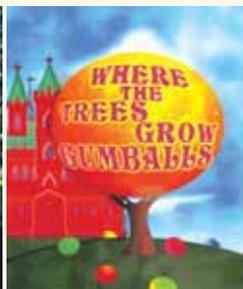
MARPAUNG 89



FORMAN 90



CATALANO 92



LOMBARDO



DAVIS CULBERTSON



ROBERSON

Come join us as we celebrate our



at Homecoming 2007, Feb. 9 and 10!

Maybe you were in your office just yesterday and you couldn't help but notice how your new boss reminds you of your RA from sophomore year. Maybe you just picked up your son from football practice and you were reminded of how you and your old roommate used to "dominate" on the field in intramurals. Ever wonder what happened to your old RA or roommate? Well, now is your chance to find out!

HOMECOMING 2007 is an excellent opportunity to reconnect with former wing-mates, people who participated with you in clubs or student leadership, and even those people who, without their company, you might never have stayed awake in that one certain class.

Are you eager to relive some old memories or see some of the changes we've made to the campus since you graduated? There are a number of departmental receptions and reunions that you can attend for free. In addition to these events, you can watch the Golden Eagle basketball teams in action for only \$6 per person (that's a two-fer). For a complete schedule, keep an eye on your mailbox for the Homecoming 2007 brochure.

Curious what ORU students are like now? You can ask them yourself! Alumni have the opportunity to bring their families for an all-you-can-eat meal in the cafeteria for only \$3.75 per person. While you're there, be sure to talk to current students and get the scoop

on whether they call it "Sodexo" or "Saga."

If you were a graduate of the Class of '77, '87, or '97, there's a special reunion being held in your honor. Tickets for these 10-, 20-, and 30-year reunions are \$20 per person and include dinner and a time of fellowship with your fellow classmates. ***FLASH:*** The three alumni from each reunion class who convince the most fellow alumni to share their current e-mail addresses with the Alumni Office will win an iPod! That's nine iPods!

The President's Banquet, an annual Homecoming tradition, is open to all alumni free of charge. You will receive a complimentary ticket when you register. As always, alumni will receive a 20 percent discount on selected items in the bookstore during Homecoming, as well as a discounted rate on hotel accommodations from the Southern Hills Hilton and Embassy Suites.

Join us on February 9 and 10 for Homecoming 2007 and see for yourself exactly how much we all still have in common . . .



Late-Breaking News . . .

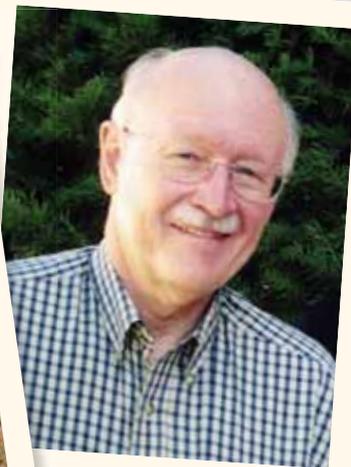
We're bringing in some special speakers and planning some extra-special events for Homecoming 2007!

Former ORU chaplain (1968-1981) Bob Stamps will take part in the Class of '77 reunion dinner on Friday night, and in a 1970s-style Vespers service that same evening, which is open to all (especially those who "remember when"). On Saturday morning, Brother Bob will lead a teaching/sharing session that is also open to all who would like to come. Known as Dr. Robert J. Stamps since completing his doctorate in 1986, Brother Bob recently retired from the United Methodist itinerancy and is staying busy speaking and teaching across the U.S. and around the world.

On Saturday, we are happy to welcome back Lauren Kitchens, who will speak at our Women's Alumna Luncheon on the 60th floor of CityPlex Towers. Most recently co-host of a popular Christian radio show in Los Angeles, Kitchens has two degrees from ORU (communications-88 and music-89), an M.A. from Regent University, lots of media and college-level teaching experience, and plenty of stories to share about her walk of faith. Entertaining, inspiring, intriguing — you'll be glad you added this luncheon to your Homecoming "Fun Things To Do" list.



LAUREN KITCHENS



BOB STAMPS

care." Ross and wife Dawn have three sons: Joshua, Kyle, and David.

C. Ted Linn 89 writes, "To all Shekinah-ites and friends: I am currently a ninth grade physical science teacher at Branson High School in Branson, Mo. Although it is my fourth year there, it is now my fifteenth year teaching science. I have been coaching track and football at various levels during that time as well. I e-mail our fellow Shekinite and former activities chairman J. P. Morgan quite often, but would like to hear from other former roommates and wingmates. And the article in the ORU magazine about the history of our wing was great! You could tell by the spellings and pronunciations that those times are now legendary. The Okra lives!"

Christian "Chris" Marpaung 89 works in marketing with a Dutch pharmaceutical company at their Indonesian affiliate. He and wife Fang Ding (a Chinese Indonesian) have a seven-year-old son, Samuel Derren. Chris would like to hear from friends, including his former roommate, Daniel Won-Ho Cho.

1990s

Jadell Forman 90 returned to ORU as Communications Staff Writer. You'll notice her byline in this issue of *Excellence* and at alumniweb.oru.edu. Since 1994, she has been writing professionally and working in publishing and marketing. When not writing for University Relations, Jadell collects aerobics points and attempts to finish her own book projects of Christian inspiration and nature/conservation.

Sharon Butler 92 married Paul Catalano (A) in May 2001. They are living in Tulsa where Sharon is a government contractor and Paul is attending

law school. Their son, Zachary Phillip, was born in December 2005. Sharon would love to hear from old friends — Sigma Tau Sigma (Kris and Kathy Aragona, Shari Evans). slbcatalano@yahoo.com. Chris Royael 92, 97-MDiv, 05-EdD and wife Amy (Keys) 96, 00-MA, moved to Victoria, Tex. Chris works at Faith Family Church, pastored by ORU alumni Jim 87 and Tamara (Osteen) 84 Graff. Amy is the elementary principal at Faith Academy. They have two daughters: Madeleine, 4, and Chloe, 2.

2000s

Christina May Lewis 01 and husband David (1994-96) will be moving to East Africa in November. Through Into All the World (www.iatw.ca), the couple will be starting a school. Christina writes, "We will be working in a land where there is very little hope. Hope for this life and for eternity is what we are striving to bring to this land where the gospel message is not believed by over 98 percent of the population." They would like to reconnect with their ORU friends.

After earning his master's in public administration from American University in Washington, D.C., in 2004, Virgil Beato 02 is now an assistant project manager for Abstinence Between Strong Teens, Inc., in his hometown of Miami, Fla. In this position, Virgil motivates students all over Miami-Dade County Public Schools to rebel against the culture of sexual promiscuity and live an abstinent lifestyle until they're in a married relationship. Additionally, he is responsible for administering and funding the ABST Abstinence Club Program. Using his previous ORU College Republicans experience, he is mobilizing several high school abstinence clubs this school year to conduct on-campus abstinence

Notes From Alumni

awareness events for such events as Senior Prom and Valentine's Day. Each ABST-affiliated club will be equipped with literature that warns against the ineffectiveness of condoms, the dangers of pornography addiction, and the negative effects of cohabitation. According to Virgil, "The best part of my job is mobilizing each of these clubs to challenge the status quo of their peers." Virgil plans to use previous fundraising experience to host the president of the Florida Family Policy Council, who will speak to the abstinence clubs about how the institution of marriage helps build society's social and economic fabric. Virgil would love to hear from all fellow College Republicans, wingmates, and classmates at ORU.

Mike Minyard O6 moved from Tulsa to Greensboro, N.C., after graduating this past May. He took a job as a real estate trader for a Christian-based company named Swartz & Brough, Inc. Real Estate Investments. The company focuses on helping low-income families become homeowners. Mike is also an assistant boys' basketball coach at High Point Christian Academy, where the head coach is former ORU basketball player Chad Wilkerson O0.

Associates

Sheri Bell-Rehwoldt (1980-82) attended the 22nd annual Highlights Foundation Writers Workshop at Chautauqua, N.Y., July 15-22. Interested in various children's genres, Sheri has written two activity books, has her first picture book coming out in 2007, and is currently working on a middle grade novel. Participants came from four countries and twenty-eight states to hone skills in children's writing with faculty from *HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN*, a national publication for young people ages two to twelve.

G. Jack Lombardo (1995-97) and his wife, Angelina, saw the birth of their third daughter, Destiny Faith, on June 15. One week later, Jack released his first novel, *Where the Trees Grow Gumballs*, illustrated by Becky (Perdue) Schaefer O2. You can view the cover and read a description at amazon.com.

Obituaries

Kevin Hine, a 1981 graduate, passed away on July 30. He was 47. Kevin majored in history at ORU. At the time of his death, he was an associate vice president at Morgan Stanley.

Dr. Evelyn Davis Culbertson, former director of ORU's music education program and a professor emeritus, passed away on Aug. 4. She was 91. She was a member of the ORU faculty from 1965 to 1980.

Don Roberson, director of Student Resources at ORU, passed away on Aug. 16 after suffering a heart attack. He was 46. He began working at ORU in 1996 and was responsible for the Bridge program, Disability Services, and the Academic Peer Advisor program.

Online or in the Mail ?

If you'd rather not receive *Excellence* in your mailbox, just let us know. We'll be happy to send you an e-mail when the current issue is available online. Just e-mail us at alumni@oru.edu.

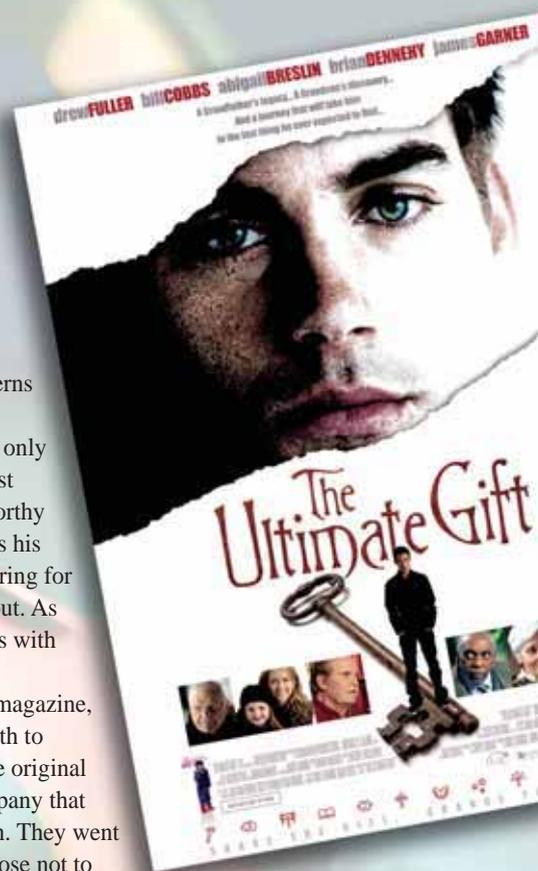
Look! Up on the Screen! It's Jim Stovall's New Movie!

Share the Gift. Change the World. That's the message of Jim Stovall 81's new movie, *The Ultimate Gift*, based on his book of the same name. The movie came to Tulsa for an exclusive, invitation-only screening on Nov. 8 and was given the full red-carpet treatment.

As reported in the spring issue of *Excellence*, *The Ultimate Gift* concerns a young man who expects a large inheritance from a dead relative . . . only to be told that there are tasks he must complete before he'll be deemed worthy of this gift. Of course, the real gift is his realization that being a giver and caring for others is what his life should be about. As Stovall puts it, "All receiving begins with giving."

In a column he wrote for a local magazine, Stovall confessed that his book's path to popularity was a circuitous one. The original publisher was gobbled up by a company that had no interest in his work of fiction. They went ahead and released the book, but chose not to waste time promoting it. Somehow, the book found its way into the hands of financial advisors, lawyers, schools, and faith-based groups, and has now sold more than 3 million copies worldwide.

The movie version of *Ultimate Gift* will be released nationwide in 2007. It stars James Garner, Lee Meriwether, and Brian Dennehy. See a trailer of the movie and find out more about the book at www.theultimategift.com.



Game On!

Check out the 2006-07 men's and women's basketball schedules. So many games, so many cities...and there's also the Web to help you keep track of how **YOUR** teams are doing! (The address is www.orugoldeneagles.com.)

Will the women win the Mid-Con championship? Will the men return to the NCAA Tournament? Watch and see . . .

2006-07 Men's Basketball

| Day | Date | Opponent | Site | Time |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Thu. | Nov. 2 | Langston (Exhibition) | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Nov. 4 | Central Okla. (Exhibition) | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Fri. | Nov. 10 | Loyola-Marymount | Los Angeles, Calif. | 9:05 |
| Wed. | Nov. 15 | Kansas (<i>Jayhawk TV</i>) | Lawrence, Kan. | 7:00 |
| Tue. | Nov. 21 | Louisiana-Lafayette | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Nov. 25 | Panhandle State | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Tue. | Nov. 28 | Tulsa (TU) | Tulsa, Okla. | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Dec. 2 | Akron | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Mon. | Dec. 4 | Lamar | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Dec. 9 | Georgetown | Washington, D.C. | 12:00 |
| Sat. | Dec. 16 | Chattanooga | Chattanooga, Tenn. | 6:00 |
| Tue. | Dec. 19 | Montana | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Fri. | Dec. 22 | Arkansas (<i>ARSN</i>) | Fayetteville, Ark. | 7:05 |
| BYU Holiday Classic | | | | |
| Thu. | Dec. 28 | Seton Hall | Provo, Utah | 6:00 |
| Fri. | Dec. 29 | BYU | Provo, Utah | 8:30 |
| Sat. | Dec. 30 | Liberty | Provo, Utah | 6:00 |
| Thu. | Jan. 4 | Western Illinois* | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Jan. 6 | Valparaiso* | Mabee Center | 3:05 |
| Thu. | Jan. 11 | Southern Utah* | Cedar City, Utah | 8:00 |
| Sat. | Jan. 13 | UMKC* (<i>MetroSports</i>) | Kansas City, Mo. | 7:05 |
| Thu. | Jan. 18 | Chicago State | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Jan. 20 | Centenary* | Shreveport, La. | 7:00 |
| Thu. | Jan. 25 | Oakland* | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Jan. 27 | IUPUI* | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| <i>(Hall of Fame Night)</i> | | | | |
| Thu. | Feb. 1 | Valparaiso* | Valparaiso, Ind. | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Feb. 3 | Western Illinois* | Macomb, Ill. | 7:00 |
| Thu. | Feb. 8 | UMKC* (<i>MetroSports</i>) | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Feb. 10 | Southern Utah* | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Thu. | Feb. 15 | Centenary* | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Feb. 17 | ESPN Bracket Buster Series | Mabee Center | TBA |
| Thu. | Feb. 22 | IUPUI* | Indianapolis, Ind. | 6:00 |
| Sat. | Feb. 24 | Oakland* | Rochester, Mich. | 5:00 |
| Sat.-T | March 3-6 | Mid-Con Tournament% | Tulsa, Okla. | TBA |

* - Mid-Continent Conference Game
% - at John Q. Hammons Arena (UMAC/Tulsa, Okla.)
All Home Games in Bold.
All times Central and subject to change.

2006-07 Women's Basketball

| Day | Date | Opponent | Site | Time |
|--------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Sat. | Nov. 4 | #Northeastern Okla. | Mabee Center | 2:05 |
| Sat. | Nov. 11 | North Dakota State | Mabee Center | 2:05 |
| Sat. | Nov. 18 | Central Arkansas | Conway, Ark. | 7:00 |
| Mon. | Nov. 20 | Tulsa | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Wed. | Nov. 22 | Southern | Mabee Center | 1:00 |
| Sat. | Nov. 25 | Texas | Austin, Tex. | 2:00 |
| Wed. | Nov. 29 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Dec. 2 | !Oklahoma State | Tulsa, Okla. (TU) | 1:00 |
| Wed. | Dec. 6 | Wichita State | Wichita, Kan. | 7:00 |
| Thu. | Dec. 14 | Texas Tech | Lubbock, Tex. | 7:00 |
| Sat. | Dec. 16 | St. Gregory's | Mabee Center | 2:05 |
| Thu. | Dec. 21 | Creighton | Omaha, Neb. | 7:05 |
| Fri. | Dec. 29 | Evangel | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Dec. 30 | Central Arkansas | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Jan. 6 | *Valparaiso | Mabee Center | 12:05 |
| Mon. | Jan. 8 | *Western Illinois | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Jan. 13 | *UMKC | Kansas City, Mo. | 4:00 |
| Mon. | Jan. 15 | *Southern Utah | Cedar City, Utah | 8:05 |
| Fri. | Jan. 19 | Texas-Pan American | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Mon. | Jan. 22 | *Centenary | Shreveport, La. | 7:00 |
| Sat. | Jan. 27 | *IUPUI | Mabee Center | 2:05 |
| Mon. | Jan. 29 | *Oakland | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Feb. 3 | *Western Illinois | Macomb, Ill. | 4:00 |
| Mon. | Feb. 5 | *Valparaiso | Valparaiso, Ind. | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Feb. 10 | *Southern Utah | Mabee Center | 2:05 |
| Mon. | Feb. 12 | *UMKC | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Feb. 17 | Chicago State | Mabee Center | 2:05 |
| Mon. | Feb. 19 | *Centenary | Mabee Center | 7:05 |
| Sat. | Feb. 24 | *Oakland | Rochester, Mich. | 2:30 |
| Mon. | Feb. 26 | *IUPUI | Indianapolis, Ind. | 6:00 |
| Sat.-T | March 3-6 | ^Mid-Con Tournament | Tulsa, Okla. | TBA |

- Exhibition Contest
* - Mid-Continent Conference Game
! - Bertha Teague Classic (Tulsa, Okla.)
^ - at John Q. Hammons Arena (UMAC/Tulsa, Okla.)
All Home Games in Bold.
All times Central and subject to change.

Your Golden Eagles!





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Oh, to be an ORU student again . . .

. . . with more food options than you could imagine! Arthur Greeno 92, owner of two Chick-fil-A restaurants in Tulsa — and now the operator consultant of ORU's restaurant — was on hand when the campus's former snack bar became a Chick-fil-A restaurant this summer. Read about all the changes we've made on page 22.

