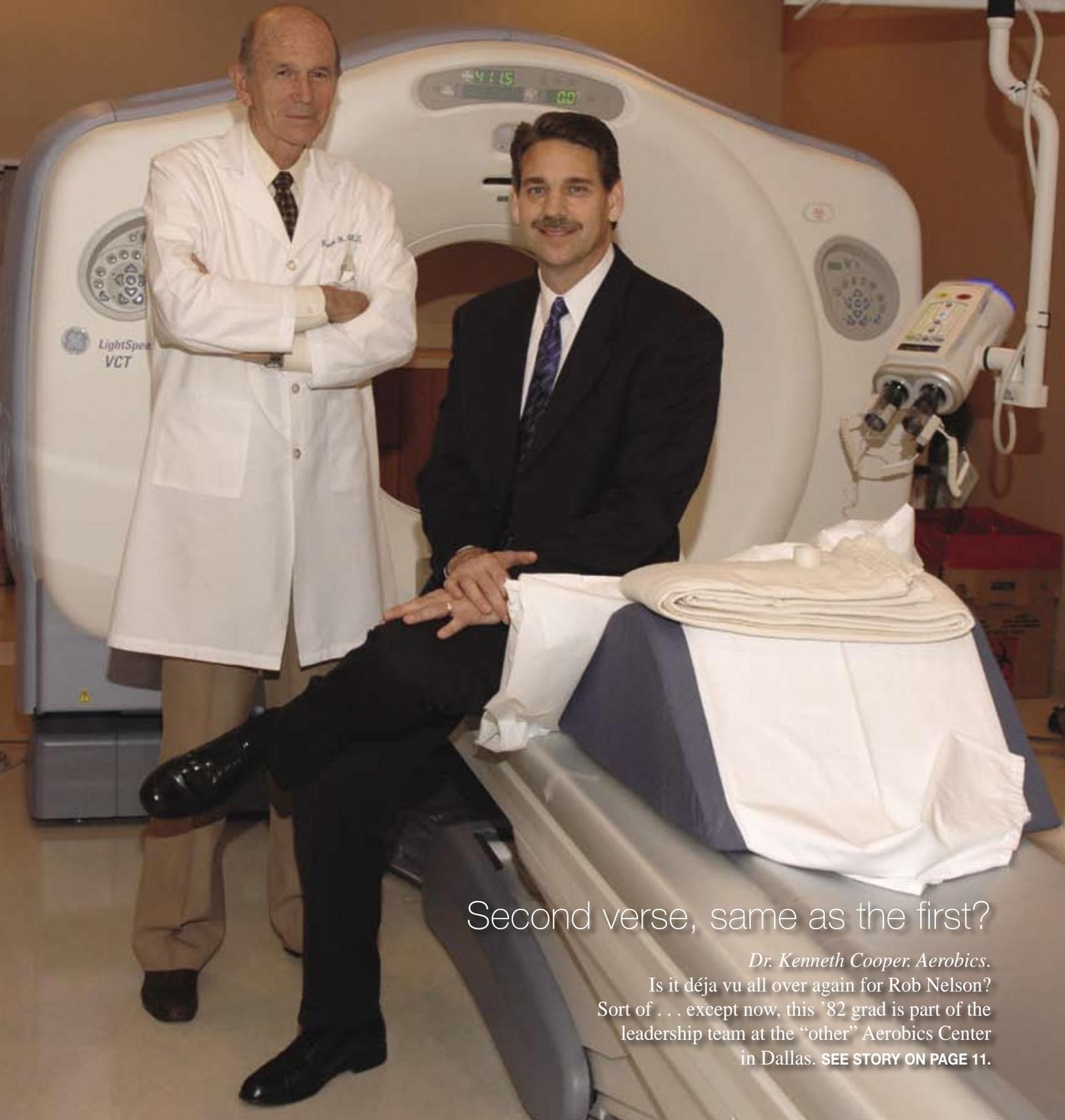


spring 2007

excellence

for oral roberts university alumni and friends



Second verse, same as the first?

Dr. Kenneth Cooper. Aerobics.

Is it déjà vu all over again for Rob Nelson? Sort of . . . except now, this '82 grad is part of the leadership team at the "other" Aerobics Center in Dallas. **SEE STORY ON PAGE 11.**

Our Life, Our Passion

God's master plan for this world was wonderful. In it, there was no ugliness, only beauty. Human beings were perfect in every way, and in perfect communion with Him.

Thanks to the devil's intervention, the plan did not work out as planned (although God had another plan all prepared). And so today, we live in a world full of falsehood and deception. Various polls and news reports tell us that trust of anyone in authority is at an all-time low. In addition, the fundamental truths folks used to count on seem to be evaporating into the mist of relativism. So, what should we Christians do in response to all of this? Jump on the bandwagon? Jump off the bandwagon and withdraw from society? Retreat into the safe zone and wait for Jesus to return? Does Jesus want us to sit back and wait for His return?

Christ's mission did not end with the Resurrection and ours does not end with our salvation. Jesus appeared to the disciples and many others so that people could witness the truth of the Resurrection. Jesus passed the mission of sharing the saving truth on to us, assuring us that the Holy Spirit would empower us for the task ahead. As Christ promised, the Holy Spirit empowers us for this mission. Sometimes we forget and get tricked off track by the master deceiver as we try to work under our own power.

To successfully live and accomplish this mission, we need to remember to make Jesus our first passion. *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength"* (Mark 12:30).

We also need to make sure we are doing what we do for God's glory and not ours. We need to give all

of the credit to God, making the name of Jesus well-known and not seeking glory for our own. We need to remember to submit and let God work His will through us. *"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God"* (1 Corinthians 10:31).

ORU provides the opportunity for students and alumni to put their hearts, hands, and feet to their faith in service to God as they serve others in churches, businesses, their families, and missions all around the world. Students and alumni demonstrate their love for God because of who He is, not just for what He does.

Jesus continues His mission through us today. Wherever we are, the Holy Spirit empowers us, and Christ's mission continues as we work to bring His saving grace to the world.



Former Alumni Board member **Dr. Scott Cordray 85** made a difference by using his medical skills in Niger. He was a member of the medical and dental team that took part in President Roberts' Miracle Healing Rally in January. PHOTO BY MIKE BERNARD 80

This truth was brought home to us in January when the Alumni Office received this e-mail (reprinted below with permission).

Don't doubt that we are making a difference.

Rhae Buckley 80
Chairman, Alumni Board of Directors

Dear friends,

I just wanted to express my gratitude for a concert of the Collegians I ended up in just by accident when one was held in the American Protestant Church of The Hague, the Netherlands. Being a desperately lonesome teenager of 18 I was struck by the warmth and friendship the then-young men and women from ORU extended to me. Coming from a non-Christian family with a lot of problems I was close to committing suicide. Coming home after the concert, I played the record that I bought I don't know how many times. It marked the beginning of my walk with Christ, now almost 40 years ago. Although I'm Dutch, I kept coming back to the American Protestant Church where other Christians gradually began to disciple me (it took them another 3 years before I understood the Gospel well enough to bow my knees).

It might surprise you to hear from somebody after so long, but I hope you will pass this message to those among your students who are now participating in the Collegians to let them know that the wonderful music they make in the Power of the Holy Spirit DOES make a difference in the lives of people wherever they go. I remember one young lady from those days who was so very kind to me after that remarkable concert: Honey Bee Powell. I remember that name because to Dutch ears it is a rather unusual name. If there's a possibility, please forward this greeting to her also to say hello and most of all THANK YOU.

I now have a family and a wonderful Christian wife. We now belong to a charismatic-evangelical church in the city of Eindhoven.

Love in Christ, Hans Kindt

**Alumni Relations Staff
Key Contacts**

David Wagner 73
President and Chairman
Alumni Foundation
Board of Directors
918/495.7236
dwagner@oru.edu

George Paul 69
Associate Vice President
Alumni and Development
918/495.7324
gpaul@oru.edu

Chris Miller 95, 05-MMGT
Major Gifts Director
918/495.7436
cmiller@oru.edu

excellence

FOR ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Spring 2007 | Vol. 19, No. 1



page 5



page 11



page 20

Natalie (Kilgore) Bounds 88
Alumni Director
918/495.6588
nbounds@oru.edu

Winnie Perdue
Alumni Events Coordinator
918/495.6627
wperdue@oru.edu

Publisher
ORU Alumni Foundation

Editor
Debbie Titus 77 George

Contributors/ Writers
Rhae Buckley 80, Jadedell Forman 90,
Debbie Titus 77 George, Jennifer
Raynes 06.

Photography/Art
Kristen Carollo, Staff Photographer.
Other photos provided by: David Barton
76, Mike Bernard 80, Mathews Chacko
70 M.Div., Misti Cussen, Maria Hanson
86, Dr. John Korstad, Rob Nelson 82, Dr.
Hal Reed 75, Devyn Starck/The Oracle,
Dr. Mary-Alice Trent, ORU Athletics
Media Relations, Outreach Ministries.

Cover photos by Kristen Carollo.

Art and Production
Waller & Company Public Relations

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

Direct all inquiries to:
ORU Alumni Foundation
P.O. Box 702333
Tulsa, OK 74170
Phone: 918/495.6610
Fax: 918/495.6650
Web site: alumniweb.oru.edu
E-mail: alumni@oru.edu
Questions or comments?
Contact the editor at dgeorge@oru.edu.

**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."*

FEATURES

5 Homecoming and the Alumnus of the Year Awards

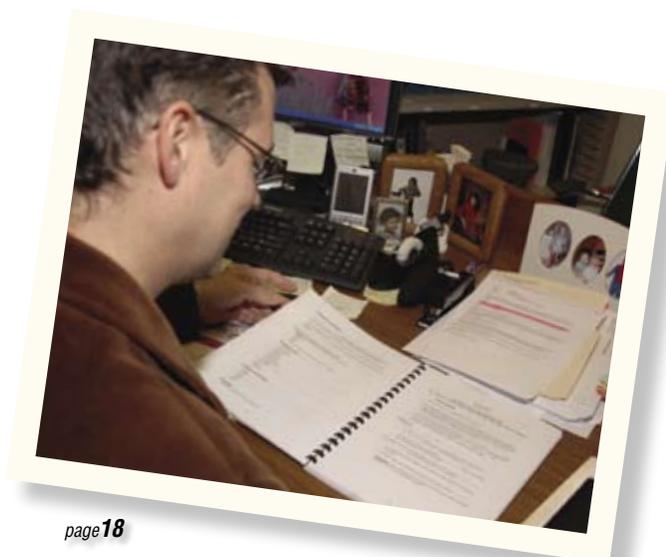
A look back at a wonderful February weekend.

11 Point Man

Rob Nelson continues to take fitness very seriously . . .
as president and chief operating officer of
Cooper Aerobics Enterprises, Inc.

18 Innovation for All Seasons

Dissatisfied with the curriculum, Dr. Edward Watson
created his own . . . and won an award for it.



page 18

DEPARTMENTS

2 Your Voice

4 Presidential Perspective

14 On Campus/Off Campus

- Hope for New Orleans
- HLC is coming soon
- New alumni directory
- ORU wins CHEA award
- Diversity conference
- Ervin retires
- Alumnus of the Year 2008
- Face Place — sign up!

20 The Eli Report

- Women's basketball plans Israel trip
- Hall of Fame adds two
- 2006-07 basketball concludes

25 Lifelong Links

- Alumni Foundation Annual Report
- Wireless campaign
- City Events
- Alumni Board — who's new
- Alumni News
- Sterns company's move
- Newman and Winters deal
- Obituaries

On the front cover:

Inside the Cooper Clinic GI Imaging Center, Dr. Kenneth Cooper (left) and Rob Nelson are pictured with the LightSpeed VCT Scanner, which GE describes as "the world's first clinical volume CT system, a revolution in CT scanning with significantly increased coverage and high-resolution imaging." It performs CT angiography, a special form of computed tomography that permits visualization of the coronary arteries.

Unlocking the Harvest

In 1962, 7777 South Lewis was merely a “field of dreams.” Few would have looked at that pasture — a few cows, a few trees, and a ranch house — and envisioned the future of a university. But my father did. Now, more than 40 years later, we realize only God could have known that South Tulsa — an area that once featured a working cattle ranch — would later become a thriving educational, economic, and spiritual

rants and shops. And due to the fact that we give the Wal-Mart across the street (many ORU students affectionately refer to it as “their second home”) so much business, the store hosts an “ORU Appreciation Night” every year to thank us for our patronage. Even within our own doors, we’re doing our part to help Tulsa’s economy to thrive by employing more than 2,000 Tulsans at ORU and OREA.



Richard and Lindsay were presented with the Key to the City by the Tulsa City Council on Oct. 12 to acknowledge ORU's economic, educational, and spiritual contributions to the local community.

community. Over the years, ORU has planted seeds into the city of Tulsa, and now we are seeing a harvest crop up all around us.

Business is booming around the 81st and Lewis area, no doubt because of the influence of our campus. Stop by the popular Nordaggio’s coffee shop (owned by **Tor Nordstrom 96**) across from campus any night of the week and you’re pretty much guaranteed to find some of our students studying there. Faculty, staff, and students frequent local restau-

Ultimately, though, it’s not the economy we are concerned with boosting. God has put us in Tulsa, Oklahoma to be a light to the lost and hurting people in our city, and it’s a mission that ORU doesn’t take lightly. Every week, hundreds of our kingdom-minded students voluntarily take time out of their schedules to participate in service outreach projects all across Tulsa. From constructing new homes with Habitat for Humanity to mentoring teenaged mothers at the Margaret Hudson School,

ORU students are devoting their time to spreading the love of Christ through 30 different practical and relational ministries. These students are a living example of sowing and reaping.

We always prayed that ORU would make a positive impact here in the community, but recently, we were humbled when the City of Tulsa took notice and honored ORU for our many contributions to the city. This past fall, Lindsay and I were invited to a City Council meeting where we accepted the official “Key to the City” on behalf of the university. We were so grateful to be acknowledged in this way. I later told the City Council that we are only doing what God has called us to do. Giving back (sowing seeds) is a natural extension of who we are as a ministry and as a university.

You as alumni know better than anyone that here at ORU, we are equipping students with a “global perspective” and a vision for souls across the world. But at the same time, we must be practical; we cannot neglect the mission field all around us. We need to “Think Globally, Act Locally,” as the saying goes. Whether you’re a homemaker in a small town or ministering to thousands in a foreign country, I believe God has called you to be fully “there” and make a difference in your current position.

ORU wasn’t seeking after the Key to the City. It was a natural by-product of what we here at the university have been doing all along. It all comes back to sowing and reaping. South Tulsa was “just a field” 45 years ago; just look at the harvest now.

Richard L. Roberts
President and CEO

Homecoming 2007

We still have so much in common . . .



The urge to go on and on about the Class of '77 30-year reunion is pretty irresistible. So is the urge to talk about nothing but Vespers. These were not the only Homecoming events that took place on Feb. 9 and 10, however — although they were two of the largest — so we'll fill you in on some of the other events that kept alumni hopping all weekend long.

Here's how we celebrated our Common Grounds . . .

It always begins with chapel, which is appropriate. This year, alumni got to see the new worship team in action — more volume, more energy, same spirit. President Richard Roberts kept the morning moving by showing a video of his recent Miracle Healing Rally in Niger, a nation that is less than 1 percent Christian.

As soon as chapel ended, the Holy Spirit Room filled with alumni who wanted to enjoy a good lunch and hear what **David Barton 76** had to say about America's centuries-long fight against terrorism. Over in the Regents' Dining Room, business school alumni gathered for their annual Power Luncheon, while nursing school alumni from 1977 met for lunch in the Fireside Room.

The afternoon was a blur of open houses, a nursing tea, an ePortfolio demonstration by the School of Education, a

book signing, talks by honors program alumni and Alumni Board members, and an engineering/physics alumni advisory board meeting — lots of helpful advice for this department “from the field.”

That evening, nearly 200 Class of '77 alums and guests descended upon Timko-Barton Lobby and filled the room with conversation and laughter. **Carol Burton McLeod** emceed, **David Grothe 78** (he shoulda been a '77) provided music, and classmates **Debbie Matthews Edwards, Paula McGregor Sterns, and Jay Betz** shared their stories. The hit of the evening was former ORU chaplain Bob Stamps (now Dr.), who spoke about his journey post-ORU and how God has brought him and his wife, Ellen, “through the slog” to higher ground.

The Classes of 1987 and 1997 were having their own celebrations on the Mabee Mezzanine and in the Holy Spirit Room. A long and rewarding day ended with “Vespers — '70s style!” as promised; **Don Austin 76** and **Bobby Hamilton 76** were back to lead it, with musicians **Mark Liston 76, 81-M.Div., Kathy O'Neal 77, Susanne (Turner-85, 86-MBA) Johnson, Esther (Winton-A) Brumit, and Lynn (Bernsdorf-78, 84-MSN) Clutter. Wayne Jacobsen 75**, the driving force behind this service, introduced special speaker Dr. Stamps. With the message, the music, Communion, and the intimate atmosphere of Timko-Barton Performance Hall, the standing-room-only crowd could not have asked for more.



Vespers



Law School Reunion



30-Year Reunion



20-Year Reunion



Women's Luncheon



President's Reception



After-Game Reception



ALUMNIEVENTS

Then came Saturday, with another opportunity to hear Stamps speak. Some notable quotes: “Jesus, in order to become like us, had to live like us . . . He lived every day in the world, swatting flies, aching in His joints.” “*You don’t have to pray through; Jesus has gone through.*” “To pray in Jesus’ name is to pray in that relationship He has with His Father.” “*The closer you get to God, the more you realize how much you didn’t know about Him. There’s always that mystery we’ll never know.*” “Worship is God getting what He wants — it’s not words, liturgies, prayers — it’s you.” “*The least desirable person in your church is loved as much as you are.*” “It isn’t a separate love God has for your enemies, it’s the same love.”

All across campus, from 9 a.m. until nearly midnight, alumni found people to talk to, friendships to renew, healing, hope, and understanding. Common ground.

Dr. Randy Juengel 87, whose son, Brady, is a freshman biology major at ORU, toured the new biotechnology lab and said, “It’s wonderful to have that type of technology available to the students. What I’m learning now in practice, these students are learning in class.” Another bio grad, **Dr. Mary Christian 89**, concurred. “It’s neat to see that we have the technology to be competitive with other institutions.”

Over at the business open house, **Nobel Macaden 06**, an MBA student at Baylor, said, “It’s like a breath of fresh air to be back in this supportive environment where I grew so much.” The Class of ’09’s Nathan Livermore also appreciated Homecoming. “It’s an honor to see the past,” he said, “because I’m the future.”

Freshman Janae Voelker is the future of ORU women’s basketball. She was the leading scorer with a career-high 14 points as the women defeated Southern Utah, 60-52, on Saturday afternoon. Hours later, the men would make a similar strike on the SU men. ORU’s Caleb Green led all scorers with 21 points as

the Eagles won for the 12th time in their last 13 games, 79-57.

There were more winners at the President’s Banquet that evening: Alumnus of the Year awardees **Mathews Chacko, Maria** and **Bruce Hanson**, and **David Barton**. In his annual address to alumni, President Richard Roberts reiterated that “we are not going away from the call God placed on this place. . . . It is certainly the adventure of our lives, and Lindsay and I are united in it.”

Student Association president Trey Tucker struck a humorous chord with alumni as he stood at the podium, looked around, and said, “I had no idea our cafeteria could actually look this nice.” On a more serious note, he added, “We look forward to getting out and doing what you’re doing . . . [and] to someday sit in your spot and hear about what those students are doing at that time.”

Whatever the generation, we sense that ORU grads will always have plenty in common.

What Comes Next?

It’s the question every student wants answered: “What’s life *really* like after ORU?” Thanks to one particular event during Homecoming, current honors students got a little heads-up on what to expect once they turn their tassel.

On Friday, a panel of twelve ORU alumni spoke to an honors program class, sharing stories about what they’ve accomplished since graduation, as well as their hindsight advice on what they *wished* they had done at ORU.

“Take the initiative in your education,” **Aimee Raile 05** urged students. Raile, who earned two undergrad degrees at ORU and is now in a master’s program at the University of

Jessica and Luke Spencer-Gardner (center) and friends; rooting with the Maniacs; Biology Alumni Council meeting; Phil and Kathy Cooke (center) and friends; Carol McLeod’s book signing; the Niger Healing Rally; Nursing ’77 alumni; and Lauren Kitchens (center) with D’Lynn Everett and Kristine Amador.



Tulsa, assured students that that extra work isn't in vain. "Everything I've learned, it's come back later."

Adam Willard 05, a French instructor, echoed Raile's suggestion that students make the most of their education. Having also earned two degrees, Willard encouraged students, especially those who hope to go into ministry, to "diversify" and hone their skills in the secular realm as well.

Alumni were most eager, however, to talk about the experiences they *didn't* expect after ORU. **David Burkus 05** warned students that even with a college degree, finding a job after graduation isn't always easy. It was obvious that Burkus was only half-joking when he told them that if they didn't have a degree with a specific job description attached (e.g., accounting), they were likely going to end up working retail at the mall. "It took me thirteen months after graduation to get [a corporate] job," he said.

"God *does* give us a lot of surprises," **Jared Buswell 05** said of life in the "real world," but he assured the class that ORU was helping instill in them the one thing they need most for success after graduation: integrity. "People don't care about my grades [after college]," Buswell said, "but they *do* care about my character."

Keeping It Real

FFPPTT. FFPPTT. You know what that sound is? It's the sound of peas flying at your head. And they, according to **Lauren Kitchens 88**, are keeping you from achieving your potential. "You've got pea shooters in your balcony!" Kitchens exclaims with urgency. Humming the *Chariots of Fire* theme song and mimicking a runner's stride in slow motion, she

swiftly dodges imaginary peas pelting her from all directions.

Had you attended the Women's Luncheon at Homecoming, you would have witnessed this hilarious scene firsthand. Kitchens, most recently a Los Angeles radio morning show host, riveted audience members with her animated humor and refreshing vulnerability. In her message, "Seven Pressing Principles for a New Year and a New Life," Kitchens admonished her audience to "be real" about the problems in their lives, unafraid to be the first to display such candor.

"I've kinda been known my whole life for telling things I shouldn't tell," Kitchens said in her southern drawl. But she hoped her honesty would help her audience see they were all dealing with the same things. "People grow from seeing your underbelly, not your perfections."

Seeing as one of Kitchens' majors was music, the luncheon wouldn't have been complete without her crooning an *a capella* version of "Blessed Assurance." The song set the mood for her message: assuring women that the Lord is indeed redeeming those pesky problems and imperfections. "[God's] building something big in your life," Kitchens said, "but it's not always fun and glamorous." Sharing personal stories about her mother's death, Kitchens knew others could relate to the sense of loss, and she encouraged them to be honest about their struggles — to not let those things deter them from running "the race."

With inspiring candor and lively anecdotes, Kitchens was a hit with the 60 luncheon attendees.

Penny (Stayton) Shaida, a '77 alumna, was impressed by just how well Kitchens was able to tailor her message to the audience. From '70s alumni to recent grads, Shaida said that Kitchens touched on issues that were relevant for women of all ages. "She spoke to a wide generational gap. It was wonderful!"

David Barton speaks at Friday's luncheon; honors program alums and Alumni Board members; Brother Bob (second from right) with '77 alumni; 20-year reunion; Caleb Green, the game's leading scorer; president with AOY honorees; chapel worship; and Pam Peterson, Diane Peterson, and Denise Westfall at the Women's Luncheon.



The Unexpected Rewards of Giving In

BY JENNIFER RAYNES 06

Jacob did it — and broke his hip. He is famous for his struggle with God. Yet how many others have had their own wrestling matches with the Lord, if only metaphorically? Taking on the Almighty is no picnic. Someone's eventually gotta give . . . and it's *not* going to be God.

In 1978, **Mathews Chacko 69-M.Div.** was living in “Jenks, America” with his wife, Rachel, and children James, Elizabeth, and Mary-Sheba, and working as the registrar at ORU. On April 10, Chacko says, he found himself struggling with God in the middle of the night. For five hours, he fought long and hard over a call that, initially, he refused to accept. The Lord, he said, was calling him to return to his native country, India.

“I started to roll around and tell the Lord it was a mistake,” Chacko recalls. But as the night went on, it became clear that God was going to have His way no matter what. All it took was Chacko's obedient response — “Okay, Lord, you win” — for God to immediately reveal a step-by-step “blueprint” for the entire ministry Chacko would be doing in Vennikulam, Kerala, India.

What began as a hastily scribbled (but detailed) plan in a notebook has today turned into the thriving K-12 English Residential School, Bethany Academy. Untapped potential is what Chacko, who was honored during Homecoming for his Distinguished Service to God, sees when he looks at India. With over a billion people in the country, Chacko believes that one of India's most valuable treasures is its citizens. And he is doing his part to “mold the future generation of [the] country” through the work of Bethany. Infused with the flavor of his alma mater, Chacko gave the academy the motto of “educating the whole person,” upholding high standards and providing holistic training for its 750 students.

Looking at the list of Bethany's alumni, all that training seems to be paying off. From an engineer in Michigan to a marketing manager in Kuwait to an aeronautics student in Germany, Bethany Academy alumni can be found doing significant work all over the world and achieving their full “potential life capacity.”

In addition to directing Bethany, Chacko also co-founded and serves as the managing director for PowervisionTV, which received a license from the central government. It is India's first



“ORU enlarged my vision. There's no question about that.” According to Chacko, even after 28 years, Bethany Academy has not strayed from the initial “blueprint” God revealed to him when he was working for his alma mater.



and only evangelical TV station, broadcasting from India the message of Christ. More than 50 million people across Asia tune in every day. Working closely with Rev. Dr. K.C. John, “the most young, dynamic Pentecostal preacher in India right now,” Chacko is excited to be involved in mass evangelism projects within his home country.

Yet, even with a thriving ministry, he will readily attest that living as a Christian in India is far from easy. His home state, Kerala, is run by a freely elected Marxist government, and the Hindu religion dominates much of the nation itself. “We are witnessing a wave of hatred and escalating persecution of the Christian community,” Chacko says, referring to frequent harassment and threats they receive from radical Hindu and Muslim groups. “In India, being a Christian is not a luxury. You have to work,” he asserts. “[...] we are a threat to Hinduism and any other religion, so they want to eradicate us.”

But Chacko has no intention of backing down in the face of persecution. In fact, another vital ministry of Bethany is a one-year Bible school that trains and sends out evangelists and church planters to minister in some of the most intensely anti-Christian regions of the country. Persecution, Chacko believes, is inevitable. “But we do not look at all [the] negative information. We look at God and we are not afraid.”

Focusing on the fruit they have already seen, Chacko and his students are going to continue to do whatever it takes to preach the Gospel. Persevering through hard times, Chacko believes that the cost of ministry is nothing compared to the eventual reward of experiencing God's move in his home country. “I see evidences and hear the rumbling of a great harvest of the souls for the kingdom of God all over this great land. The revival is going to take place in India as it never [has] before. This country is going to be filled with the knowledge of the Living God. The Mathews Chacko family is ready to pay the price.”

Small-Town Saints

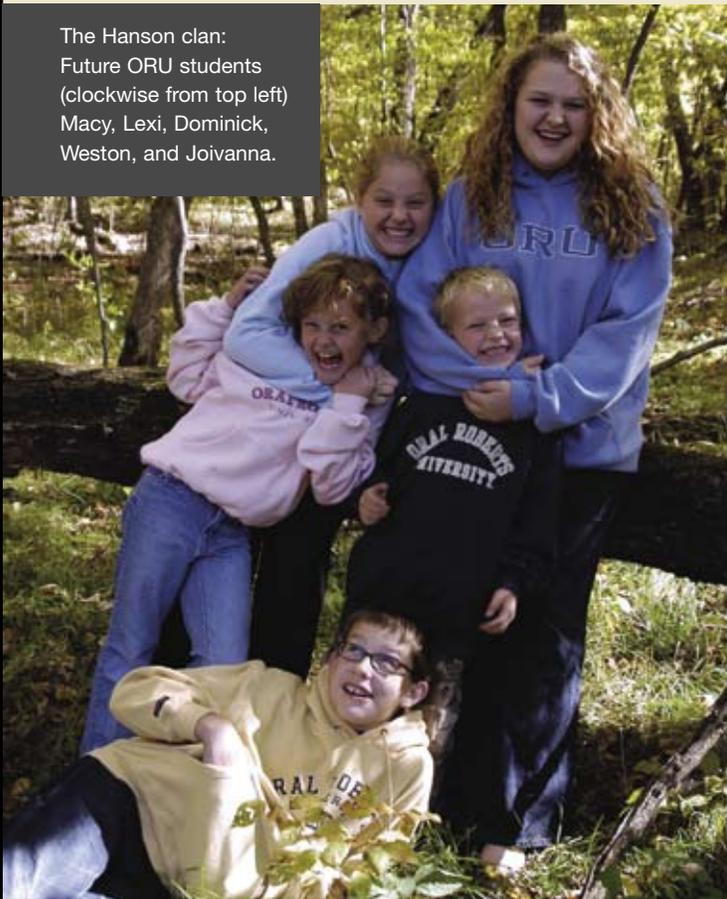
BY JENNIFER RAYNES '06

A small town is one of those rare places where everybody knows everyone else (and their personal lives), where it's not unusual to order "the usual" at the local diner, and where residents value the calm, quiet life as the good life.

In the small town of Willmar, Minn., however, there's one house that's anything but calm and quiet. Shaking up the rules of small-town living, Bruce and **Maria (Duinick-86) Hanson** and their five kids have no trouble finding ways to make "loud fun" and laughter a big part of their daily lives. Indoors, it's jokes at the dinner table and knitting (hey, it's more intense than you think!) in the living room. Outdoors, on their eighty acres of land, it's paintballing, snowmobiling, and camp-outs in their motor home. But if Lexi, Macy, Weston, Joivanna, and Dominick Hanson know how to have some good, clean fun, it's only because they learned from the best.

"[Bruce is] one of the funniest people I know," Maria says of her husband. "It's a rare day that goes by that I don't laugh at or with him about something."

The Hanson clan:
Future ORU students
(clockwise from top left)
Macy, Lexi, Dominick,
Weston, and Joivanna.



Married 20 years and still going strong, Maria and Bruce tied the knot the day before her graduation!



It's clear that the Hansons seem to know a thing or two about staying lighthearted amidst the busyness of their everyday routine. Bruce runs Hanson Communications, which owns and operates telephone companies in Minnesota and South Dakota, and Maria is a devoted, stay-at-home (or at the school play, or youth group...) mom. In addition to raising the Hanson clan, Maria also devotes her time to hosting retreats and leading workshops at various women's conferences in the Minnesota District of the Assembly of God. Four years ago, she pioneered the annual "Bridging the Gap Quilt Retreat" and has hosted and spoken at the event every year since its beginning. "I want to make sure the quilting and knitting section of heaven is full!" Maria exclaims with a laugh.

So, what is it that makes this small-town family so special? How about their generosity? Faithful supporters of ORU's mission, Bruce and Maria were honored during Homecoming this year for their Distinguished Service to the Alma Mater. The Hansons firmly believe that "to whom much is given, of him much is required," and it's up to the alumni to give back. "A lot of alums are extremely successful," Maria notes. "[...] Our education was quality, and hopefully most of us learned that Seed-Faith works. Now it's our turn to step up to the plate and make sure ORU continues to provide a quality education and stays true to Oral Roberts' vision for the university."

But financial contributions aren't the only way the Hansons are "sowing a seed" into Maria's alma mater. Their oldest child, Lexi, is looking forward to attending ORU this coming fall, and Bruce and Maria expect to see the others follow in Mom's footsteps in the years to come.

They may be just another "normal family," as Maria says, but they are making an undeniable difference at ORU through their giving. So, if you ever happen to find yourself in Willmar, Minn., you might want to stop by and say "thanks" for helping keep ORU's vision strong. And don't worry about finding the house. The laughter, the paintballs, the "noisy fun" . . . you can't miss it.

One Brick at a Time

BY JENNIFER RAYNES '06

If you aren't convinced that God has a sense of humor, just ask David Barton what his *least* favorite subject was when he was in school. "I hated history," he says of his younger years, "[...] and I absolutely did not like politics."

Yet, in an ironic twist, **David Barton '76** has since carved out a career for himself where he spends his days actively involved in government, researching history and reviving a long-lost picture of America's roots.

Although he may never have intended it, Barton's voice is a powerful one on today's political scene. Honored during Homecoming for his Distinguished Service to the Community, this former high school principal and basketball coach currently serves as the president of WallBuilders, a grassroots organization that educates citizens about the impact of God, Christian faith, and biblical principles on America's founding.

Taking a suggestion from his father, Barton drew the name WallBuilders from the story of Nehemiah, where the Israelites gathered together to reconstruct the walls of Jerusalem. "I really felt like we ought to encourage people to rebuild the walls, rebuild the stuff that's been torn down, and get this [nation] back to where it used to be," he says of his hope to redeem America's moral foundations.

From the chapel to the classroom to Capitol Hill, Barton speaks to tens of thousands of people in his 400-some speak-



With a powerful influence in the political arena, *Time* magazine voted Barton one of the 25 Most Influential Evangelicals in America. (Barton is seen here during an interview with PBS in 1998.)



No stranger to the White House, Barton and his wife, Cheryl, pose with two fellow Texans: President George and First Lady Laura Bush.



ing engagements every year. During his presentations, Barton shares history from WallBuilders' collection of 70,000 original documents from the Founding Era, asserting that the original intent of the Founding Fathers was to keep biblical principles part of every aspect of society and public policy. Additionally, Barton hosts pastors' conferences in Washington, D.C., to help foster awareness in churches about the numerous issues concerning family and faith being debated in Congress today.

For many, Barton's thesis is quite intriguing, considering it represents the complete opposite of everything they have been taught about American history. Even Barton himself had to experience his own paradigm shift before accepting it. "At the time in which I grew up, nobody talked about [the Founders being Christians]. As a matter of fact, [government] was secular and Christians were supposed to do religious stuff and stay out of the secular stuff." Needless to say, Barton's push for Christians to become active in the political arena is uniquely compelling — and effective. In 2005, *Time* magazine named Barton one of "The 25 Most Influential Evangelicals in America" for his influence in transforming the way that citizens view the connection between religion and government.

In addition to his work with WallBuilders, Barton served as the vice chair of the Texas Republican Party and as a political consultant for the Republican National Committee. He has received numerous awards for his work in media, education, and government, including the George Washington Honor Medal, the highest award given by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Considering his humble beginnings and initial distaste for politics, Barton himself is still amazed when he surveys his career. "Frankly, I've got no business doing what I'm doing," Barton says. "There's no way a kid from Aledo (Texas), a town of 200 people, should be messing with the White House." But he is, influencing thousands across the nation to become salt and light in the civil arena and incorporate biblical principles throughout society.

Point Man

Rob Nelson continues to take fitness very seriously.

BY DEBBIE TITUS 77 GEORGE

Growing up in Klamath Falls, Ore., **Rob Nelson 82** hung out with some kids who would ultimately affect the course of his life.

“This whole family was sold on ORU,” Nelson said of his friends. So when first **Randy Sterns 75**, and then **Mark 78, 80-MBA**, and then his best friend, **Jon 82**, chose to go to ORU, Nelson chose to follow.

“I didn’t even look at going anywhere else,” Nelson said, and for perhaps the last time in this future accounting major’s life, he didn’t check out the cost. “My friends go, I’m going with ’em” was his attitude. What he eventually figured out was that it was *God’s calling* on his life to go to ORU, although he “didn’t know what I was going to do [once I got there],” he said.

In no time, Nelson felt right at home. Living in E.M. Roberts Hall and Towers on the White Horse and Crimson Tide wings . . . late-night studying at the Saint Francis Hospital cafeteria (“cheap food!”) . . . intramural football . . . scavenger hunts . . . basketball games . . . chapel . . .

. . . and a little thing called AEROBICS. That’s noteworthy because of where Nelson is today. He’s the president and chief operating officer of Cooper Aerobics Enterprises, administrator of the Cooper Clinic, and treasurer of Cooper Concepts.

Who better than an ORU graduate to work alongside the man who invented the word aerobics and started the whole world on a physical fitness movement, the man for whom ORU’s Kenneth H. Cooper Aerobics Center is named?

“It’s great to be able to work in this atmosphere,” Nelson said, referring to the park-like 30-acre campus in Dallas, Tex., that has become known for its cutting-edge approach to preventive medicine, health, and fitness. Driving onto the grounds, motorists need to watch out for joggers . . . and ducks, which came with the property.

There’s a clinic that offers patients an all-day preventive physical exam. “We do exams more thoroughly and more quickly than anyone,” Nelson said. Each doctor sees just four patients a day and a large number of those patients come from out of town for a head-to-toe exam.

There is also a fitness center (where Nelson works out regularly), spa, guest lodge, research institute, and the new GI/Imaging Center, offering what has already proven to be lifesaving CT and nuclear scanning.

Nelson admits that at ORU, he did aerobics because it was required, but over the years, he has come to value exercise. “People don’t realize — when you hit 40, things change,” he said. “If you don’t have [fitness] near and dear

TALK ABOUT BEING RIGHT AT HOME . . .



to your heart, then you're going to have some challenges."

Long before he heard of aerobics, Nelson fell in love with flying, a passion that actually led to his job at Cooper Aerobics. Here's how it happened . . .

In 1977, Nelson earned his private pilot's license. Following his 1982 graduation from ORU, he took an accounting job at Coopers and Lybrand in Tulsa and met his wife, **Erin (McGinnis-81)**, at Victory Christian Center. They moved to Dallas in 1985. Between 1984 and 2000, Nelson earned eight ratings, including a flight instructor rating. In 1986, he began giving flight instruction, mostly on weekends.

Nelson worked in banking for twelve years as he and Erin welcomed two children: Natalie, who just finished her freshman year at ORU, and Nathan, who will attend ORU this fall.

In 1995, Nelson was facing a job transfer, so he started looking for "a different opportunity." And "out of the blue," he said, he got the opportunity to interview at Cooper Aerobics, thanks to an introduction by one of his student pilots. After meeting with Dr. Cooper and his son, Tyler, Nelson was hired as a controller. "Having the ORU background made it — how ironic!" he said. "It was pretty cool that I knew all about aerobics points."

The job was a good fit because "I very much believed in the message — in prevention," Nelson said during a talk in his office. He's in ORU dress code, and has the department of someone who practices what Cooper Aerobics preaches. "I wanted to be in an industry where I could see the impact on people's lives more directly."

The job is a good fit for other reasons as well. Nelson says Dr. Cooper is "a visionary" (not unlike ORU's founder) and

"a fine Christian" with strong values. And in an employer-employee relationship, Nelson will tell you, "When you have the same values, you can get on the same page very quickly."

In describing his position, which includes oversight of business divisions, finance, human resources, information technology, public relations, marketing — and Cooper Aerobics at Craig Ranch, part of a 2,500-acre master-planned development — Nelson confirms that "God has surpassed my wildest dreams. It's a calling to be here and doing what I do."

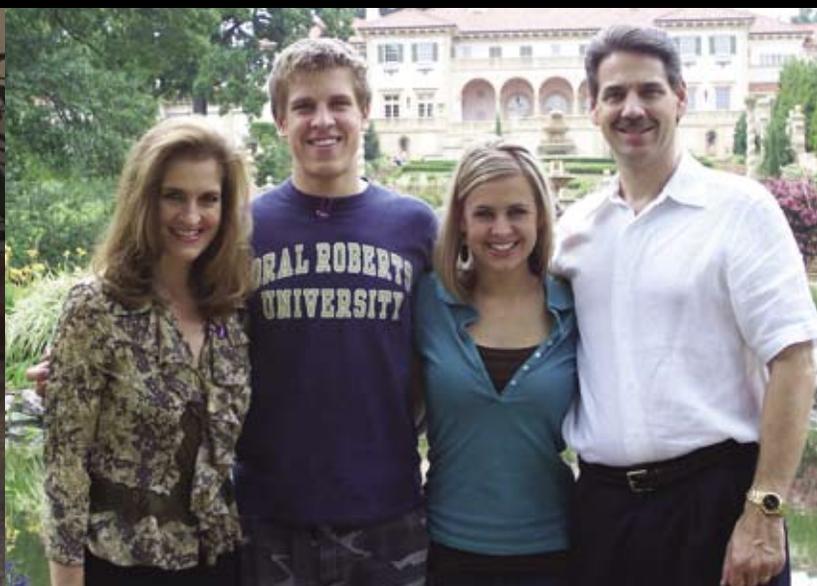
This is not to imply that Nelson's life has been turbulence-free. Just as he was transitioning to Cooper in 1995, he was diagnosed with a malignant melanoma on his leg. At such times, he said, you ask yourself, "Who does my life belong to?" and learn how to really "stand on God's promises." All those lessons from ORU, those chapel messages, come to life. "What you've buried in your heart," Nelson emphasized, "is what gets you through."

During his banking days, Nelson dreamed of becoming an airline pilot. "That was always in the back of my mind," he confessed. "But you have to start all over on a career ladder. I got so established in my [banking] career, I didn't want to start over. And the lifestyle really wouldn't have suited me, being gone so much. I like to fly, but I don't like to go anywhere!" he laughed.

Is there a trace of wistfulness in his voice when he talks about Cooper Aerobics and the possibility that the company will someday need a jet, and "I'll be able to fly it"? Maybe not . . . although he *does* intend to get his business jet and Citation jet type ratings someday. "Flying does not rule my life," he stressed, but it's been in his blood since, as he says, "the Lord put the interest" in him at age 5.

The plain truth: Nelson loves his job.

Erin, Nathan, Natalie, and Rob visit Phillbrook on a trip to Tulsa.



Something else you might say is in his blood is life principles that he can attribute to growing up in a Christian home, where he grew to love the Bible. His favorite passage is 1 Chronicles 29:11-12, which talks about God's greatness and power and acknowledges that wealth and honor come from God. Those verses, he said, told him, "It's not about me."

With genuine humility and gratitude, Nelson says, "God's been good to me all my life." If he could speak to alumni who don't have that view of God in their own lives, this is what he would share:

- If you're willing to do what's in front of you, the Lord will take care of the future.
- Ask God what He's put in you; that's what He wants you to do.
- God ordains your circumstances to develop your character.

- Care about other people. Exceed their expectations. It's all about people.

When Nelson considers where he is in God's plan, he believes he is "called to be right here [at Cooper Aerobics] until the Lord shows me something else." Confident in that belief, he can focus on other matters outside of work, such as getting Natalie and Nathan through college and, with Erin, leading Crown Biblical Financial Studies, which teach adults God's way of handling money. He and Erin are also involved in short-term missions through their church.

Perhaps taking a cue from his high-energy boss, Nelson doesn't see retirement in his future. "I see myself working and being productive," he said, and that could include becoming more involved in missions work.

"Right now," though, he said, "this is in front of me. I wonder what's next."

Catching Up with Dr. Cooper

ORU knows Dr. Kenneth Cooper as "the father of aerobics." He's also a personal physician to the President and has led the fight against trans fats. Yet he's as down-to-earth and approachable as a beloved relative.

A very young 76, Dr. Cooper is up to speed on the latest studies on obesity in America and statistics on health care spending, and as devoted as ever to preaching the gospel of health and fitness.

"I went into medicine for one reason," he said. "I want to help people when they need help the most. My vision was finite but the Lord's was infinite." He thought about becoming a full-time missionary to China, but says, "I didn't have the calling." However, "I am a medical missionary, just not the kind you think."

He has a radio show, a podcast, a newsletter, a Web site (cooperaerobics.com), a line of nutritional supplements, a 30-acre campus focused on health and fitness, and a residential community (Cooper Life) scheduled to open this fall. Oh, and "I try to keep up with the medical literature," he says as we talk in his ultra-modest office, where there is no shortage of reading material, awards, or photos of Cooper with famous statesmen and athletes. A doctor to the core, he catches up on his dictation on the weekends.



Dr. Kenneth Cooper is living proof that one man can make a difference. He has awakened Americans to the dangers of trans fats, and driven millions to exercise regularly and eat healthy foods.

Cooper scored a coup last year when he convinced the governor of Texas to "do something here in the next two years that will wake up America." He proposed monitoring fitness levels of Texas youth and recommended mandatory Physical Ed classes in all 8,000 Texas schools. "I'm a fighter," Cooper says, "but also a realistic person," so to get such an overwhelming response so quickly amazed even him.

The fight against childhood and adult obesity has been a passion of his for many years. In 2002, he began working with PepsiCo and encouraged them to eliminate trans fats, which can lead to heart disease. That same year, Pepsi's Frito-Lay division announced it was removing trans fats from

Doritos, Tostitos, and Cheetos. "It cost Pepsi financially, but now they are on the forefront of companies making healthier products," Cooper said.

ORU is into healthier products, too, meaning students who choose to make aerobics a lifelong habit. The payoff? Better health and fewer dollars spent on medical care as they age.

And to think it all began with a simple doctor's appointment. "When [Oral] and I first met [in 1972], we discussed the importance of physical fitness for a healthy life," Cooper said.

A conversation that still has ORU students running for their lives . . .

Dig Down Deep

There's much more to ORU than meets the eye

(More than) 'Worth it'

Bundled up on a blustery October morning, 155 ORU students shuffled into buses, curled up with comfy pillows, and prepared to get the rest that they were bound to get much less of in the week ahead. At 6 a.m., the group had a seventeen-hour bus ride before them, with six more eight-hour work-days of intense physical labor after that. Their destination: New Orleans. Their mission: Bringing hope.

In 2005, Outreach Ministries sent a team to Long Beach, Miss., to help with Hurricane Katrina clean-up efforts. Back then, numerous relief organizations were coming in to help, but as Community Outreach coordinator **Scott Davis 05** notes, things change once the issue leaves the media spotlight. "Most people duck out after a few months, but the real work is now, in the midst of hopelessness." Junior Phil Lundrigan agreed. "There's still a lot more that needs to be done. There [are] houses that need to be rebuilt . . . There's people that need our help. It's just what we [need to] do. It's our calling as Christians."

When Outreach Ministries decided to go back, they chose to go where Katrina hit the hardest. For senior Drew McDaniel, seeing the destruction was an eye-opening experience. "It was a little love tap on the chin to be there and see the effects of what happened there, even a year later . . . That's something I would have never been able to do without actually being



With names like "The Purple Pirates" and "The Yellow Yodelers," Outreach Ministries introduced some fun into the trip by creating a friendly competition between the four bus groups.

there — driving down the highway seeing wreckage on either side."

Partnering with St. Louis-based Service International, ORU students gutted houses, which according to junior Josh Bibeau meant "pretty much [tearing] everything out from start to finish, including every single nail, so that all that's left are the two-by-fours that separate the walls."

Despite the strenuous workload, students were determined in their task. "Even on the last day, on the last house, we didn't want to stop," freshman Jennifer Nold recalled. "[It's] all

because of the people's response to us. We knew they were thankful and it caused us to want to return that."

Bibeau said, "Every house we went into we got to pray over and we got to pray with the homeowner [as well]. Really utilizing that we are Oral Roberts University and we *do* have a mandate from God to bring healing [and] to bring restoration."

It seems a long bus ride, sweltering conditions, and hard labor were nothing compared to the reward of seeing lives changed. "They had nobody and we were that somebody for them," Lundrigan said. "It was pretty priceless . . ."

Goal's in Sight

It's been almost ten years since the Higher Learning Commission, part of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, came to campus for a reaccreditation visit. In that time, says ORU's Dean of Instruction, Dr. Debbie Sowell, the university has taken some giant steps.

"ORU is a different place than it was ten years ago," Dr. Sowell says. She and **LeighAnne (Shepherd-98) Locke** are co-chairs of the steering committee that has been preparing for the HLC's Nov. 5-7 visit since 2004. "Students and faculty are not only a community, they are also a virtual community. ORU has regained much of the leadership in technology that it enjoyed during its early years.

Winning the national CHEA award (see story on page 16) for electronic assessment through ePortfolio is a good indicator of this re-emergence of technology.

“The report that will be submitted to the HLC,” she continued, “will be the first of its kind. All of the evidence and artifacts will be embedded in the institutional report electronically. Reviewers will need only a click of the mouse to see a piece of evidence.”

Sowell and Dr. Linda Gray are editing the self-study, a comprehensive document that will top 100 pages and focus on five criteria: Mission and Integrity; Planning and Preparing for the Future; Student Learning and Effective Teaching; Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge; and Engagement and Service. This report will be submitted to the HLC this summer.

In addition to writing their chapters of the self-study, each of the five criterion committees gathered evidence to show that what’s highlighted in the report is legitimate. Most of these documents (letters, newspaper articles,

New Alumni Directory

(Soon, you’ll have no excuse for losing touch with your old friends!)

The process has begun. A completely updated ORU Alumni Directory — with personal, academic, and business information — is mere months away from becoming a reality.

When you receive your directory questionnaire from Harris Connect, fill it out and return it as quickly as possible. (Both hard-copy and online versions will be available.)

Thanks for working with us to make this the most complete directory ever!



Alumni got reacquainted at the D.C. event last fall.

reports, papers, etc.) and multimedia items (audio, video, PowerPoint, etc.) will be available in two forms: hard copy and virtual. **Sally Shelton 71** is in charge of the hard-copy room. The virtual resource room, created by

Dr. Andy Lang of the computer science and mathematics department, is being managed by **Dr. Ken Weed 86**.

The self-study Web site (<http://self-study.oru.edu>) gives alumni and other constituents an opportunity to see what work has been done and what remains to be done, as well as a history of the accreditation process at ORU, beginning in 1971. Visitors may also click on the Feedback link and share their thoughts with the steering committee.

“The process of accreditation is vital to the university’s future,” Locke says, “in that it gives us a time to honestly analyze every area of the university and decide where we want to take our future. We have a chance to perform a self-evaluation and identify areas where we can make the university even better.”



Missions professor Dr. Chin Do Kham is a perfect fit for the HLC self-study category of “Engagement and Service.” He is preparing students to become “missions strategists” so they can make a positive impact in communities around the world.

Progress Rewarded

In January, ORU officials went to Washington, D.C., to accept the 2007 “Award for Institutional Progress in Student Learning Outcomes” from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

CHEA defines student learning outcomes as “the knowledge, skills, and abilities that a student has attained at the end (or as a result) of his or her engagement in a particular set of higher education experiences.”

This is the second year that CHEA, a private, nonprofit organization that grants recognition to the nation’s primary accrediting bodies, has offered this award. Judging was based on four criteria: articulation and evidence of outcomes; success with regard to outcomes; information to the public about outcomes; and using outcomes for improvement.

“Given the current debate regarding the role of student learning outcomes in accreditation, Oral Roberts University serves as a solid example of the enormous progress that institutions are making through the implementation of comprehensive, thoughtful and effective initiatives,” said Judith Eaton, president of CHEA, in a press release.

The CHEA award “is a confirmation that we’re on the right track,” **Dr. Ralph Fagin 70**, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, said. “It enhances our reputation and raises the value of an ORU degree.”

United We Stand

“Are we really a united states?” A thought-provoking challenge from Dr. Mary Alice Trent, an ORU English professor, as she discussed the societal issues that plague America today. While some may think the U.S. has risen above the issues of racism, ageism, and sexism, Dr. Trent sees it dif-

ferently. Even in contemporary society, discrimination remains “the proverbial ‘elephant in the room,’” Trent asserts. “It’s there, but we don’t talk about it.”

What’s the solution? Given that “God was the one who created this diversity,” Trent believes *Christians* should be leading the pack when it comes to fostering reconciliation among diverse groups. That’s what prompted Trent to pioneer the Conference on Christianity, Culture and Diversity in 2005. On Nov. 10 and 11, 2006, ORU hosted the second annual conference at CityPlex Towers, where dozens of attendees from thirteen North American universities came “to the table” to honestly discuss diversity, discrimination, and reconciliation issues.

“What an agenda! What a task to be involved in!” plenary speaker Dr. David Gushee exclaimed concerning the task of embracing diversity. Gushee said celebrating people’s differences isn’t always a high priority in the Christian community — but it should be.

“We have so many preconceived notions about what diversity is,” Trent said. “Anything that is unknown or foreign is intimidating, just by its nature.” Gushee, Trent, and other speakers sought to “redefine” the term from a Christian perspective. For speaker **Clifton Taulbert 71**, a more fitting definition of what it means to embrace diversity is simply a “journey toward oneness” to which all believers are called.

At one of the talk-back sessions, it was college students who advocated “the need for a new mindset” when it comes to diversity issues. Student Association president Trey Tucker ended the forum by urging attendees to take their cue from Scripture and become “all things



ORU’s ePortfolio, an electronic tool that helps assess what students are learning, led to the CHEA award win. The School of Education was the first to implement ePortfolio at ORU (in Fall 2003), so education grad **Cara Ojeda 05** and **Gerry Landers 74**, Technology director for the school, were among the first to master the program.



Representing various departments including English, History, Theology, and Nursing, a number of ORU faculty members sought to “light a candle in the shadow of racism” by presenting at the conference and later, in a related faculty-led forum on the topic of diversity.

to all men” (1 Corinthians 9:22) in order to effectively witness to diverse populations.

Attendees were full of hope for the reconciliation of all peoples. As Dr. Kay Meyers, ORU professor and conference presenter, pointed out, the “melting pot” nature of the U.S. has made living amongst a mosaic of people a normal part of life. “Americanness,” she said, “is another word for diversity.”

Ervin Retires

Already something of a campus celebrity, Dr. Howard M. Ervin now has a perpetual place in the halls of ORU. On Dec. 5, in honor of his 40 years of service and recent retirement, the School of Theology and Missions unveiled the newly named “Howard M. Ervin Preaching Lab.”

Dozens of students, faculty, and staff gathered just outside the lab to “celebrate his life and ministry,” said emcee and theology dean Dr. Thomson Mathew.

A student said class with this senior professor of Old Testament Studies was like “storytime on this kind of level,”

raising her hand to measure a place at the top of her brain. That meant he had an example, a story, history, context, and the ability to weave the ancient Old Testament topics into a living tapestry of faith. A staff member said that whenever he came by her desk, she hung on every word and “didn’t want him to ever leave.”

But he’s not one for unnecessary lingering, being known as the first one to adjourn any given meeting he attended. On the other hand, leaving the classroom isn’t as easy for him. “It’s difficult, after 40 years of teaching, to cease abruptly,” he said, referring to a recent fall that necessitated his retirement at age 91.

Throughout two days of festivities, faculty and staff attempted to honor him with words that encapsulate his legacy. But how does one summarize Ervin’s illustrious academic life?

Numerically, he has five degrees and held five job titles at ORU over the course of four decades. Before moving to Tulsa, he pastored two churches in New Jersey, and then took three years to

decide to accept Oral Roberts’ invitation to teach at ORU.

Historically, Ervin has been involved with the university since 1963, when he and Roberts discussed its founding and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, among other things. In a recent letter, Roberts thanked Ervin for his years of service and called him a “close, close friend.”

Others called him mentor, father, grandfather, scholar, professor. But he repeatedly referred to himself in less-glowing terms, “an old rat in a bar,” and with a quiet pensiveness that recalled previous decades, “something of a fixture.”

Gathered and poised to receive his parting words, the audience silently listened to his traditional and insightful few. “We live in one of the most dangerous and opportune times. You’re called to witness and preach in that context. Pray, and pray without ceasing.”

What are your memories of classes you had with Dr. Ervin? E-mail us at alumni@oru.edu and tell us your stories, or send notes of appreciation. We’ll post them on the Web and share them with Dr. Ervin.



Dr. Ervin receives a DVD from Dr. Mathew, School of Theology and Missions dean. It contains comments from faculty, staff, and students concerning Ervin and the investment he made in their lives.

Innovation for All Seasons

BY JADELL FORMAN 90

Dr. Edward Watson 94-M.A.Th. didn't make it to class on Tuesday, Jan. 16. A weekend ice storm left his steeply inclined driveway precariously slick. On Wednesday, this assistant professor of biblical literature successfully eased down the drive for a day at the undergraduate theology department.



Not finding the curriculum he wanted, Watson (center) created his own. Senior missions major Allison Huth (left) uses her workbook notes for other classes. "It's such a blessing," she says.

That evening, getting the family vehicle back up the driveway proved impossible. So, with wife and two kids in tow, Watson parked on the street, figuring everyone could climb the hill to the house. But the rock-hard, slippery yard made this impossible.

Watson told his family to stay put while he walked three houses down the street to a less-vertical yard and hiked up their shared hill and across to his garage. Emerging with a rope tied to a sled, he lowered the sled down the hill and pulled up each family member.

This kind of proactive ingenuity isn't unusual for Watson. Last autumn, he won a 2006 Faculty Award for

Professionalism in the Classroom. The awards, sponsored by the Alumni Association, acknowledged him for Innovation in the Classroom, particularly his self-developed curriculum for Old Testament Introduction and New Testament Introduction.

According to Watson, "[T]his award in innovation was precipitated by dissatisfaction with available curriculum in the biblical arena." He had been searching for curriculum that was both ministerial and academic. Not finding this balance in any existing material, he created his own. "It's how I would teach the Bible," he says with a shrug.

Watson started by organizing his notes into a PowerPoint presentation for both Old Testament Introduction and New Testament Introduction. These visual aids expanded into two supplemental workbooks. He reports, "My students have responded very positively to these accommodations." They do indeed.

In his classroom, students lean forward in their seats, following his PowerPoint with pen in hand and filling in the blanks of their workbooks. This former pastor comfortably engages the class — strolling, gesturing, posing questions, encouraging dialogue.

One of his former students, senior missions major Allison Huth, says, "The supplement books that Dr. Watson used were so helpful to me. I was able to pay more attention to the information that was being lectured rather than on just trying to get all the information written down."

During his own undergraduate years in Arkansas, Watson pastored his hometown church and realized, "I better know my stuff." And so, after graduation and for the next six years, he helped to pioneer two churches (in Indiana and Arkansas) and pastored at another (in California), using vacation time to attend ORU's modular seminary program.

"ORU offered an amazing opportunity for me to continue in full-time ministry while still attending classes and working toward my master's degree in theology." After this season, he concentrated on earning a Th.M. in biblical literature from Duke University (1996) and a Ph.D. from Baylor University (2005). Despite opportunities to stay at Baylor, Watson made his availability known to ORU. They offered him a position, and he accepted.

"It was always my heart's desire to come back to ORU to teach . . . ORU's in my blood. It was here that I fell in love with teaching, and I wanted to be the kind of professor that's at ORU."

Who still embodies the *vision*?



Our university was founded for the purpose of raising up students vitally connected to God by first hearing and then going — bringing God's light, Word, and power to neighborhoods, churches, and fields of study. Annually we honor such alumni who are ...

STILL LISTENING. STILL GOING.

Nominate your fellow alumni for our next Alumnus of the Year awards.

Go to alumniweb.oru.edu.

Nominations are due by July 1.

David Barton, Bruce and Maria Hanson, and Mathews Chacko received the 2007 Alumnus of the Year awards.

Remember me? Remember me? Remember me?

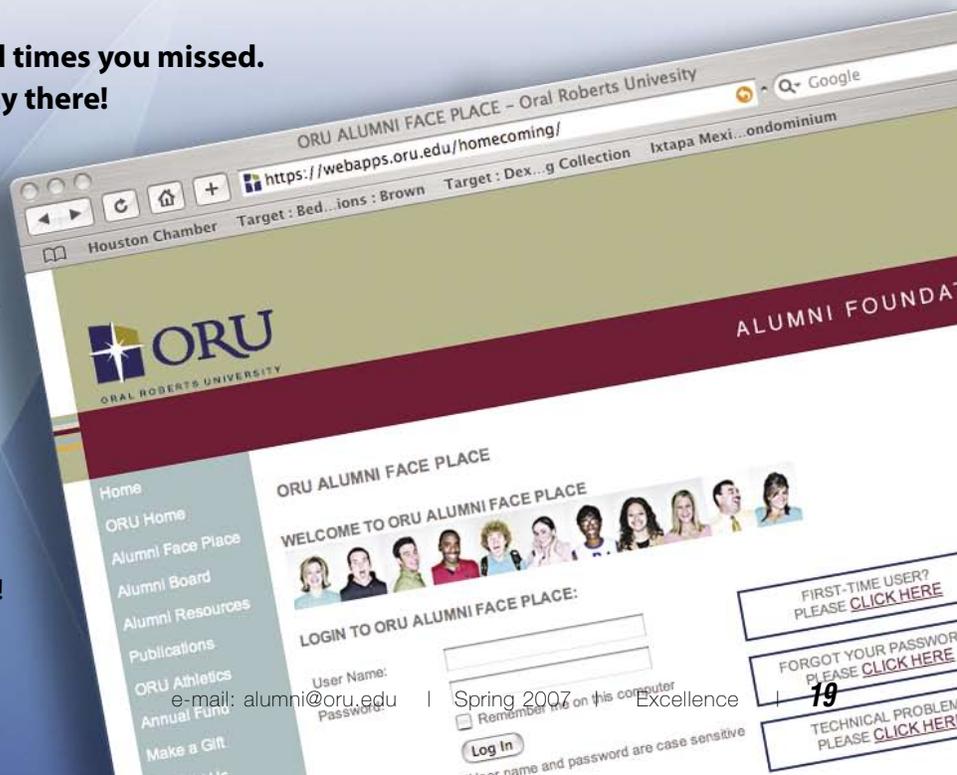
Let's face it. You probably aren't as good as you'd like to be about keeping up with your friends from ORU. It's okay. We're pretty sure your friends will forgive you. (They understand.) But, it is always nice to hear from someone you haven't heard from in years. ***So, why not get back in touch?***

**Get ready to hear about all those good times you missed.
How? Just go online and you're halfway there!**

Visit alumni.oru.edu and click on Face Place, a remarkable little communication feature created just for you and your fellow grads. All you have to do is fill out a simple registration form, which will give you instant access to alumni all over the world. Put up pictures of your family, send messages to old friends, and find out what's new with your college pals as well as your alma mater.

Well, what are you waiting for? All of those friends can't wait to hear from you. Just a few clicks of a button and you're there!

Thank God for technology ...





During the ORU women's 2004 basketball missions trip to Mexico, they gave wheelchairs — donated by Joni and Friends — to these two children.

‘Not Your Typical Road Trip’

Members of the ORU women's basketball team have caught the vision and taken off running. To the mission field, that is . . .

BY JENNIFER RAYNES '06

Even after making four trips to the NCAA Tournament — more than any other Mid-Continent Conference team — for most of the players the real “highlight of their career,” according to head coach Jerry Finkbeiner, has been the missions experiences they have been involved in while at ORU.

Given the global missions focus of the university, Finkbeiner decided to take advantage of an NCAA rule that “allows teams to take one international trip every four years” and use the trips as an opportunity for ministry. During fall break in 2004, Finkbeiner led the team on a sports evangelism tour into Cancun and Cozumel, Mexico, where they

played against local college teams, conducted children's basketball clinics, and shared their testimonies with the nationals. Perhaps the most amazing result of that trip, however, took place within the team itself. “I know for a fact that a lot of girls accepted Christ through [that] tour, so for them, the spiritual landmark is a mission within a missions trip,” Finkbeiner said.

With the next opportunity for an international missions adventure set to take place in 2008, Finkbeiner has his sights set on one location in particular: the Holy Land. “Israel is a hot spot for basketball right now,” he says. Sensing “a pull towards that part of the world,” Finkbeiner knew he couldn't ignore the spiritual need and the unique opportunities present in the Middle East.



No stranger to the mission field herself, this past summer, assistant coach Misti Cussen led a team of eight girls comprised of (primarily Division II) players from across the country to Delhi, India, for a three-week sports ministry mission. The team traveled under the banner of Campus Crusade for Christ's Athletes in Action program. The program's "global vision for evangelism," Cussen said, "is what we like to do with [ORU's] women's basketball program anyway. We love to travel internationally, we love to do sports evangelism . . . so, [the trip] was just a fit."

In Delhi, Cussen's team hosted basketball clinics, played "friendly matches" against other college teams, and had the opportunity to share their testimonies at halftime. ORU player Jamie Fithian, who was on the trip, found India to be an experience that strengthened her own spiritual life. "It [was] a time — even though you're playing basketball and other things — just to refocus totally on God and realize that everything you do while you're there is for God."

As with past trips, making time for ministry, fostering spiritual maturity, and building team chemistry among the players will be the primary objectives of the 2008 Israel trip, Finkbeiner says. He is also hoping for "recruiting possibilities" to add more international players to ORU's team. "We're literally an international university and our program is reflective of that," Finkbeiner says of his American/Brazilian/Australian team mix.

So, what's the result of interactions between such diverse team members? According to Finkbeiner, it's paradigm shifts all around. "It makes [players'] worlds become bigger" when



Being treated with almost "celebrity" status, the members of Cussen's team were quick to turn the attention away from themselves and use it as an opportunity to share the gospel in front of more than 2,000 students at halftime.

they form relationships with people from a variety of cultures.

Being stretched and challenged on the mission field doesn't just apply to team bonding, however. Finkbeiner anticipates the atmosphere in Israel to be much more intense than Mexico in terms of both ministry and basketball. He expects six hours of each day will be spent in practice, "geared towards winning a basketball game" — in addition to the actual games themselves. But Finkbeiner is confident the girls' hard work will pay off in the end. Winning games, he says, will make their audience more receptive to ministry.

Although most of the trip will be spent on the court, Finkbeiner is adamant about maintaining an "intentional spiritual focus"

throughout. "Yes, it's a basketball tour, yes, it's a cultural event, but right there with it is our own growth as a team spiritually." That "away from home . . . together" dynamic, Finkbeiner says, frees players to "get at the heart of some issues . . . and address them. We're so busy in our lives here, it's hard to do that sometimes."

Having witnessed the spiritual transformation of previous missions team members, Cussen believes the players going to Israel will be deeply impacted by the "opportunity to be where our faith started, just to be in the footsteps of Christ and be where He was and where His ministry took place." And as Fithian can attest, a missions experience can remind us of our true purpose. "I just think that any time a team can get away and serve someone else, you're going to have amazing results. You take the focus off yourself and you focus on the team and the people you are trying to reach. . . . You remember why God created us, and that's to share [His] Word."

JUMP ON BOARD!

Coach Finkbeiner is asking alumni, fans, and the Tulsa community to help his team take advantage of this opportunity to go to Israel in 2008. Some alumni have made early commitments, but additional funds will be needed to underwrite a portion of the cost.

The plan is to recruit up to ten "financial partners" who would donate at least \$5,000 each toward the cost of the mission. These partners would have an opportunity to travel with the team to Israel (at travel cost).

For Finkbeiner, it's "the more, the merrier." He anticipates that the travel party, with players, coaches, and partners, will be between 40 and 50 people. "That just makes it a bigger 'family experience.' Sports/missions trips such as these," he added, "create memories that last a lifetime."

But it's definitely not a free ride for the girls; all involved will need to raise a certain amount on their own. "I really believe, if we paid for the girls, it wouldn't mean as much to them," Finkbeiner said. In order for the players to "have something at stake, they too need to sacrifice and save for the funding of the trip."

The price of the trip will likely total between \$60,000 and \$70,000, Finkbeiner said. Although the figure sounds daunting, he is confident that "God will provide just as He has in years past for our program and for this mission opportunity."

If you would like to partner with the women's basketball team for the 2008 Israel trip, contact Coach Finkbeiner at jfinkbeiner@oru.edu.

Nothing But the Best

With game lights dimmed and spotlight blazing, the Jan. 27 Hall of Fame induction ceremony began. Eleven of the thirty-one current Hall of Famers walked onto the Mabee Center court, accompanied by a recitation of their accomplishments. Then, smoke effects billowed from the west tunnel as the announcer raised his voice.

“Now, let’s meet the 2007 Class of the ORU Athletics Hall of Fame . . . ”

Keeping Company with Greatness

BY JADELL FORMAN 90

Angela Manuel 98 steps onto the court. “Our first inductee ran track at ORU from 1994 to 1998. . . .” With right arm raised high, she waves enthusiastically and smiles widely.

“My dearest, dearest friends are from here,” Manuel later states during an interview. Outside the ORU Athletics office, Manuel stops at the 1996-97 basketball team photo and points

out three friends. “That’s my roommate’s husband. And they just went to that guy’s wedding. And this guy was there.” Despite this enduring affection and obvious enthusiasm for her alma mater, Manuel’s college experience didn’t start out warm and fuzzy.

Originally wanting to attend a large track school like the University of Florida, Manuel chose ORU at her mother’s insistence. Consequently, Manuel let her parents know about every little thing she didn’t like at ORU. But those friendships grew on her. And so, within that first year, she “fell in love with the place.”

During college, Manuel qualified three times for the NCAA Championships. She was a three-time All-American — twice in the 100-meter dash and once in the 55-meter dash. Manuel holds the Mid-Continent Conference records for the indoor 55-meter dash and indoor 200-meter dash and is the ORU record holder in the 55 meters and 100 meters.

After graduating and taking a year off post-college, Manuel started running professionally, was a semifinalist at the 2000 Olympic Trials, and made the 2001 World Championship team. Over the next five years, while running track, she developed yet another important friendship — this time with track star Jerome Davis, a Hall of Famer at the University of Southern California. The two married in 2005 and now have a ten-month-old son, Edward. Currently, Manuel coaches at a Los Angeles high school alongside her husband.

About her nomination, she says, “I feel like I am among greatness being in the company of the Hall of Famers.”

Before joining that company, Manuel took a day to recount her years as a student athlete. “The walk down memory lane was definitely sweet,” she said. “I could remember every inch of the track — all the blood, sweat, and tears.

“I thank God for such an opportunity to be involved with such a university [and] for blessing me with the opportunities to represent this school.”

You can contact Angela at ajmanuel7@msn.com.



Former teammates and track stars Garth Robinson and Angela Manuel were inducted into the ORU Athletics Hall of Fame during a basketball halftime ceremony. After the game, they and former inductees signed autographs for fans.



Remembering Dreams, Realizing Goals

BY JADELL FORMAN 90

"I miss chapel," Garth Robinson 96 says with a slight Jamaican accent. Although this former ORU track star flew into Tulsa for his Saturday, Jan. 27 induction into the ORU Athletics Hall of Fame, he's determined to join the current student body for their Friday, 10:50 a.m. service.

Arriving on campus, the Olympic medalist remembers his college days on the way to Christ's Chapel. "This is the first time in ten years I've walked up this hill." As he said during an earlier phone interview, "I always like to remember my beginnings."

Running with ORU track from 1993 to 1995, Robinson is one of the most decorated track athletes in the history of ORU's program. He's a five-time All-American — twice in the 4x400 relay, twice in the 200-meter dash, and once in the 4x100-meter relay. He is the only collegian to qualify for three events (indoor 55-, 200-, and 400-meters) at the 1995 NCAA Indoor Championships. During his ORU career, he qualified for nationals a total of seven times.

After college, in the 1996 Olympics, he won a bronze medal for his native Jamaica, running the 4x400-meter relay. Later that year, he clocked the tenth fastest time in the world in the 300 meters. In 2000, he competed in the Olympic Trials. More recently (2005), Robinson was the M.A.C. (Metropolitan Athletic Championship) winner in the 60 and 200 meters in New York City.

Born in England, and raised in Jamaica since the age of six, Robinson had dreams and goals for his life. "I always felt I had a career in track and field."

Robinson considers ORU an essential starting point for both his athletic and professional success. "ORU was a platform for launching my career in track and [developing] my academic powers . . . Every time I think of ORU, I think of the school that allowed me to see my dreams come true."

Robinson's post-graduation dreams included competing nationally, signing a one-year contract with Nike, and running two years (1998-2000) for a sports club in Germany. But before moving overseas, he made a quiet farewell visit to campus. "I didn't think I'd be back for a long time. So, I jogged around the school, border to border."

These days he's at a school in New York City — not as a competitor but as a teacher and coach. Robinson coaches girls' track and boys' soccer, teaches physical education for grades 9-12, and oversees student internships at Bronx Academy for Health Careers.

Of all his goals, Robinson says, "I never dreamt of being in the Hall of Fame . . . It's a great honor."

You can contact Garth at gbsprint@yahoo.com.

We're Back. . . Again!

This spring, the men's basketball team made it to the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row (and fourth time overall), scoring back-to-back appearances for the first time in ORU history.

The women's team went back to the Big Dance, too, for the fourth time in eight years.

How'd they do it? The men won the Mid-Continent Conference regular-season title and defeated Oakland in the tournament finals, 71-67, on March 6. Senior Caleb Green, three-time conference Player of the Year, was the tournament MVP. His 28 points on the 6th made him the Mid-Con's all-time leading scorer, with 2,490 points. Teammate Ken Tutt scored point #2,000; that made Tutt and Green only the seventh pair of teammates in NCAA history to reach the 2,000-point milestone.

The women, who were the #3 seed in the tournament, pumped up the defense over three games and finished by beating Oakland, 72-55, in the finals. Senior Elisha Turek, the Mid-Con's Player of the Year, was named MVP of the tournament.

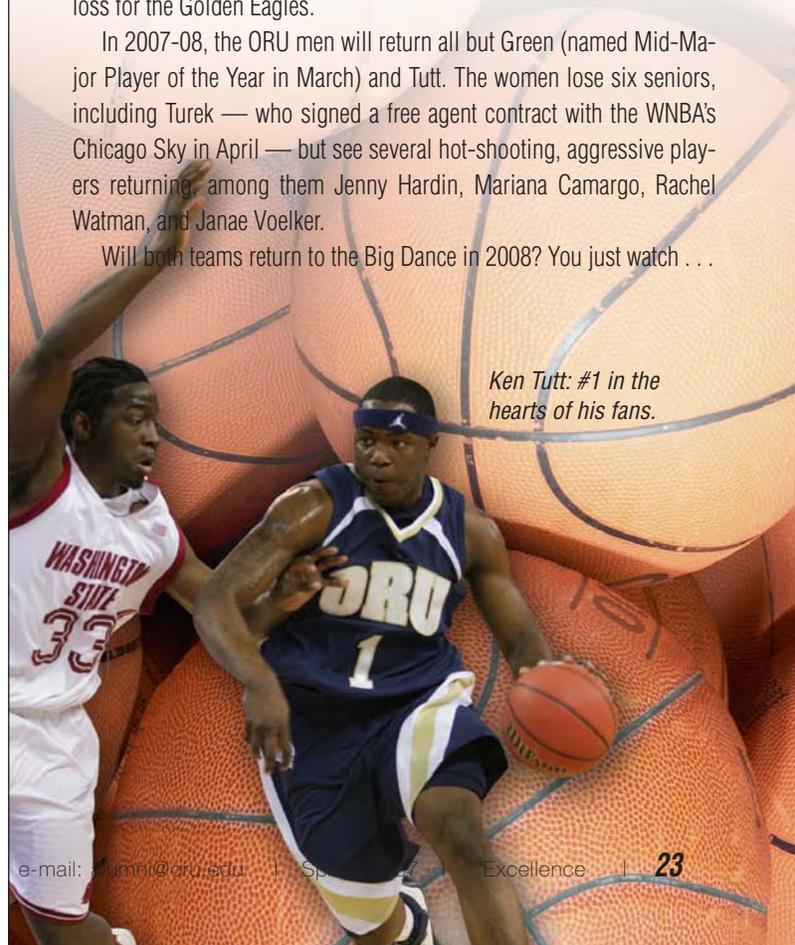
As a #14 seed in the NCAA Tournament, ORU's men took on #3 seed Washington State in Sacramento on March 15 and actually led throughout the first half of the game. By the end, Green had added 13 points to his career total (putting him over 2,500 points) and Tutt had 19 to lead all scorers, but ORU fell, 70-54.

Two days later in Minneapolis, the ORU women faced 11th-ranked Purdue, a team that had been to the Big Dance fourteen years in a row. Despite Turek's 16 points and 55th career double-double, it was a 63-42 loss for the Golden Eagles.

In 2007-08, the ORU men will return all but Green (named Mid-Major Player of the Year in March) and Tutt. The women lose six seniors, including Turek — who signed a free agent contract with the WNBA's Chicago Sky in April — but see several hot-shooting, aggressive players returning, among them Jenny Hardin, Mariana Camargo, Rachel Watman, and Janae Voelker.

Will both teams return to the Big Dance in 2008? You just watch . . .

Ken Tutt: #1 in the hearts of his fans.



The ORU Alumni Foundation Annual Report

Financial Report Summary

For the year ended April 30, 2006

The ORU Alumni Foundation was created in 1989 for two reasons: to further the connection between alumni and the university, and so that a significant financial commitment could be realized from those that desired to further the mission of the university.

This year, the foundation raised a total of \$690,143 in contributions. That figure is up 19 percent from last year, primarily due to a Memorial Scholarship set up in memory of Evelyn Roberts and a Summer Renovations campaign in the summer of 2005. With the Summer Renovations funds, we were able to provide new carpet for Claudius Roberts Hall, the Learning Resources Center, and the Graduate Center, fresh paint in the dorms, and new mattresses for the dorms, among other things. We also raised more than \$200,000 for Unrestricted funds, which allowed us to fund the annual Faculty Retreat, give Bibles to graduating seniors, hold City Events for alumni in Dallas, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., and fund our annual Homecoming events. Outside of alumni contributions, the university provided \$116,431 of the foundation's operating budget this year. Two additional sources of income included alumni ID sales and the affinity Mastercard. With contributions, in-kind services from the university, and other income, the foundation had total revenue of \$965,007.

Expenses of \$951,583 reflect an increase over the prior year of 41 percent. Most of the expenditures were for Departmental requests which involve funds raised by various faculty departments for academic purposes. Although it appears that more funds were spent than what actually came in, there are no time restrictions on how quickly these funds must be expended, so some of these expenditures are from funds raised in prior years. These Departmental requests funded purchases such as computers and lab equipment and conferences for faculty to attend, and also included the Evelyn Roberts Memorial Scholarship and Summer Renovations disbursements. Our Unrestricted fund expenditures decreased by 6 percent, primarily due to the timing of our publication and mailing costs of *Excellence* magazine.

By the time you read this report, we will have almost completed another fiscal year. Our focus for fiscal year 2007-08, which begins May 1, will be to raise funds to increase the wireless availability on campus so that ORU can stay in step with current technology.

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

Statement of Financial Position

April 30, 2006

With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended April 30, 2005

Assets	2006	2005
Cash and cash equivalents	\$717,830	\$709,851
Pledges receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$2,192 and \$7,608, respectively	19,732	14,185
Other receivables	19,052	12,136
Investments	461,370	484,796
Other	59,120	54,735
Total assets	\$1,277,104	\$1,275,703

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$4,764	\$16,787
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	200,564	146,583
Temporarily restricted	704,955	752,882
Permanently restricted	366,821	359,451
Total net assets	1,272,340	1,258,916
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,277,104	\$1,275,703

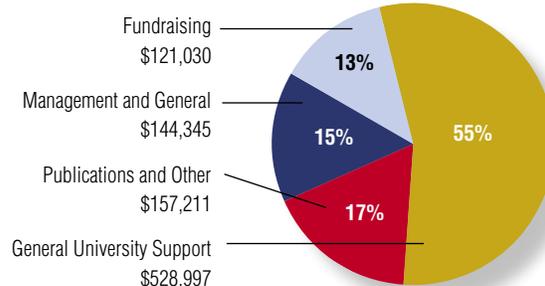
Statement of Activities

April 30, 2006

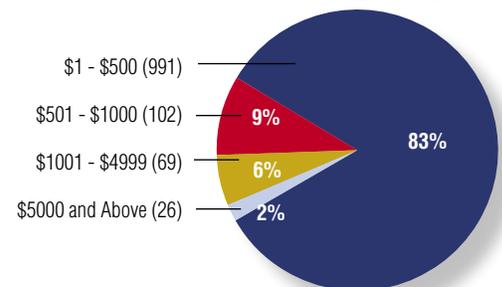
With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended April 30, 2005

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	2006 Total	2005 Total
Revenues					
Contributions					
Cash and pledges	\$203,055	\$479,718	\$7,370	\$690,143	\$578,548
In-kind services from the University	116,431	-	-	116,431	104,857
Interest and dividend income	20,193	-	-	20,193	20,645
Realized and unrealized investment income	65,117	1,352	-	66,469	7,825
Other income	71,771	-	-	71,771	68,498
Net assets released from restrictions	528,997	(528,997)	-	-	-
Total revenues	1,005,564	(47,927)	7,370	965,007	780,373
Expenses					
Program services					
General University support	528,997	-	-	528,997	226,032
Publications and other	157,211	-	-	157,211	219,289
Management and general	144,345	-	-	144,345	146,954
Fundraising	121,030	-	-	121,030	84,915
Total expenses	951,583	-	-	951,583	677,190
Increase (decrease) in net assets	53,981	(47,927)	7,370	13,424	103,183
Net assets, beginning of period	146,583	752,882	359,451	1,258,916	1,155,733
Net assets, end of period	\$200,564	\$704,955	\$366,821	\$1,272,340	\$1,258,916

How Your Money Was Spent



Donor Category Report



ORU Unplugged

A campaign to cut the cords and increase wireless access on campus

Technology exists to make life a little easier, offering faster, more convenient, and more innovative ways to reach our goals. *(After all, life is stressful enough. Why make it harder than it has to be?)*

Relying on old technology, though, is so yesterday. A university like ORU needs to take advantage of the latest innovations available if it wants to stand out from the crowd.

Incorporating wireless networking on campus is just one of the ways ORU is working to remain relevant to its students. Not familiar with wireless? To put it simply, wireless networking is technology that allows electronic devices (laptops, handhelds, etc.) to access the Internet without having to be plugged in.

As members of a generation that's constantly on the move, today's college students (and prospective students) have become accustomed to receiving "instant" information. According to Scott Carr, ORU's Chief Information Officer, "High school graduates interested in

Oral Roberts University are currently living in an environment that allows them to text-message friends instantly via their phone, PC, and wireless devices; surf the Internet at high speed; purchase downloads of music, television programs, and now movies; and live their lives online via social networks." Wireless technology makes it happen.

And it's not just a fad. It's something that media-savvy young people take into account when they are choosing a university. So, ORU's level of technology can influence their decision to set foot on campus — or not. "It may be a more difficult decision for prospective students to give up what they have at home now to come to a place that hasn't kept up fully with the technology," Carr says. "We would much rather their decision be based upon the ORU experience, and quality of their education in a Christian environment."

"Relevant" is an adjective every university wants to own. For ORU, that

means continuing to meet or exceed the demand for cutting-edge technology.

And guess what? ORU is already on its way. Wireless hotspots can be found in the Quad Towers Fishbowl, the library, the Prayer Gardens, the Eagles Nest, the Academic Lab, the Graduate Center third-floor pit, the LRC Computer Lounge, the Music Technology lab, and several GC classrooms. Some of those hotspots have multiple access points. The goal is to add 50 hotspots.

This project is about far more than just the obvious convenience the technology can provide. Alumni Relations director **Natalie Bounds 88** says this campaign "will show the students that the ORU alumni are partnering with the university out of a desire to see the students succeed in everything they do. Providing innovative technology for their academic advancement is just one more way we can support our students."

In the millennial whirlwind of technological innovation, ORU students can't afford to get left behind. Supporting this upcoming wireless campaign is an incredible opportunity to see them soar to new heights on the winds of change.

What does this mean to you?

Go to www.alumni.oru.edu/wireless.



City Events

Los Angeles Area November 7 and 8

At a pre-game indoor tailgate party, twenty-one alumni and guests exchanged family news while enjoying burgers with all the trimmings at Hannon Loft on the Loyola University campus. The Alumni Relations staff had a good time chatting with alumni, including former basketball players **Bill Hull 70** and **Melvin Reed 69**. ORU Athletics director Mike Carter and his wife, Paula, were also in attendance. Carter talked about what's been happening in his department. Men's assistant basketball coach Corey Williams gave what was described by one Alumni Relations staffer as "wonderful insight" into the men's program, including recruitment, play-

ers, and expectations for the rest of the season. The Alumni staff shared campus updates, followed by a lively Q&A session. The laughter and fellowship continued with cheers for the men's basketball team as they played Loyola Marymount. (Final score: Loyola 68, ORU 65.)

The following evening, ten guests met for dinner at the Claim Jumper Restaurant in Mission Viejo. Alumni director Natalie Bounds says there were "lots of questions about changes to the campus, dress code, and if certain faculty were still there." And alumni shared "an earful of stories on the kinds of pranks and fun they had as students." All in all, alumni "enjoyed hearing about how God's presence is as strong on the ORU campus as ever."

Updates and conversation continued until the servers began counting their tips and the busboys were gathering the last of the cups and saucers.



Washington, D.C. December 9 and 10

About forty alumni braved maddening Friday-night traffic to have dinner with ORU Alumni Relations staff at JR's Stockyards Inn in McLean, Va. Q&A afterwards included questions from "What's up with the dress code?" to "So, what's Dr. Gillen doing these days?"

Dr. Ralph Fagin 70 and his wife, **Darlene (Toll-74)**, joined the group at JR's. He shared the enthusiasm that is prevalent on the campus.

The next day, before the ORU vs. Georgetown game in Washington, D.C., President Richard Roberts joined more than 100 alumni and guests at the Verizon Center's Johnny Walker Coaches Club for a pre-game party and lunch. (Final score: Georgetown 73, ORU 58.)



Who's On Board?

These are the men and women who represent you on the Alumni Board of Directors. Feel free to contact them with your thoughts and ideas.

Segment 1 (1968-79)

Joanne Crain
jcrain2@juno.com
Max James
max1carol@aol.com

Segment 2 (1980-83)

Rhae Buckley, Chair
rhae.buckley@mercyships.org
Gene Gregg
ggregg@pressgroup.com

Segment 3 (1984-87)

Steve Nussbaum, Vice Chair
golferdoc1@aol.com
Brent Coussens
brent.coussens@williams.com
Joel LaCourse
joel.lacourse@cox.net

Segment 4 (1988-92)

Dil Kulathum
dkulathum@cs.com
Steve Tumpkin
stevetumpkin@yahoo.com

Segment 5 (1993-97)

Jeffrey Ross, Secretary
arshowhomes@comcast.net
Jason Ophus
jason@ophus.org

Segment 6 (1998-2002)

Josh Allen
jallen.realestate@cox.net
Jeff Burritt
jeffburritt@yahoo.com

Segment 7 (2003-07)

Joey Odom
joeyodom@gmail.com
Mike Minyard
mminyard@oru.edu

At-Large (representing all classes, all schools)

Jeremy Baker
bak11938@yahoo.com
Gene Steiner, Treasurer
gpsteiner@yahoo.com
Mary Banks
MerryB2001@aol.com
Terry Blain
tblain@bokf.com
Joleen Minyard
jminyard@cox.net
Don Ryan
donaldmusic@cox.net
Matt Rearden
mrearden@iscmotorsports.com

New in '07



LaCourse



Odom



Rearden



Tumpkin

HIGH-CALIBER CAUSE

WE HEAR IT TIME AND AGAIN: ORU TURNS OUT QUALITY GRADUATES . . . LIKE YOU.

Your ORU Alumni Association welcomes you to consider running for a position on the Board of Directors. As a board member, you can influence the continuation of your alma mater's important and meaningful mission.



"I'd like to see ORU continue to turn out graduates of the highest caliber.

Serving on the board gives me the opportunity to get a greater perspective of my alma mater and to be an agent of influence in its direction."

— Donald Ryan '72

Would you like to join Don Ryan and the rest of the board? Let us know.

ORU Alumni Association
phone: 918/495.6610
e-mail: alumni@oru.edu

More information about board member responsibilities is available at http://alumni.oru.edu/programs_services/board.

Notes From Alumni

1960s

Bill Kuert 68 M.Div. and wife **Barbara (Fisher) 71** continue their work as missionaries in Kenya, East Africa, where they have been since 1978. Bill is the moderator (team leader) of the Assemblies of God missionary body (13 families) in Kenya. They keep busy working with the Kenya Assemblies of God. "It is our joy to be their partners in the great ingathering of souls...taking place in Kenya. When we first arrived in Kenya there were 300-400 churches. Now, there are over 3,200 congregations." They are currently in the U.S. on deputation until July. "We are raising our funds to return for another four-year term."

1970s

The Jacobsens, **Wayne 75** and **Sara (Fought) 75**, celebrate 32 years together and live in Moorpark, Calif., where they enjoy their two-year-old granddaughter. Sara is head counselor at a public high school, and Wayne recently released his seventh book, *So You Don't Want to Go To Church Anymore*. His writings can be found at lifestream.org, and his weekly podcast "for people thinking outside the box of organized religion" can be found at thegodjourney.com. The Jacobsens, who were responsible for bringing "Brother Bob" and

Ellen Stamps to Homecoming this year, always enjoy hearing from old friends.

Kim Dean May 76 recently finished his book, *Authentic Christianity — Starting Strong and Staying Strong* (available at xulonpress.com, amazon.com, or from Kim for \$12). Kim and his wife, **Bev (1975-76)**, founded Liberty Christian Fellowship and just celebrated their 20th year of leading "this thriving congregation" in the Kansas City area, and their 30th year of marriage.

In 2005, **Gary Fitsimmons 78** completed his Ph.D. in Library Science at Texas Woman's University. For the last eight years, he has been director of Library Services at Cisco Junior College in Cisco, Tex., and says he is "looking forward to new opportunities in my library career. Anyone know of a university looking for a library director?"

United Marketing Solutions named **Kurt Stowers 78** as director of operations. According to a Yahoo! Finance press release, UMS "is a national leader in franchising in the multi-billion-dollar direct mail industry." Calling Stowers "an executive with significant experience in executing successful strategies for franchises within this industry," the release listed his experience: franchise development consultant in the U.S. and Canada for Cox Target Media; director of Canadian Operations for Valpak of Canada,

Ltd.; and regional financial director in the U.S. and Canada for Cox Target Media. In addition, Stowers served as an independent business consultant for 18 years within 18 industries.

Correction: Kit (Smiley) Marshall 77's husband, Hugh, works for an Oklahoma company that sells to gas drilling rigs; he does not sell gas drilling rigs.

1980s

Last November, Dr. **David Cole 80, 92 M.A.Th.** spoke at an ecumenical meeting in Rome, Italy. According to Cole, "The event was sponsored by Centro Pro Unione, one of the strongest ecumenical study centers in the world." The center is operated by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, a Catholic order that regularly holds interdenominational conferences on various expressions of the Church in order to promote Christian unity, Cole said. This event celebrated "100 years of Pentecostal-charismatic contributions to the body of Christ since the Azusa Street revival." Cole's lecture "centered on the work of the Holy Spirit from a Pentecostal-charismatic perspective — how the Azusa Street revival and all that came from it invited the greater Church to experience once again the dynamic manifestations of the Spirit's presence and power — including the baptism and gifts of the Holy Spirit.... Through my remarks," Cole said, "along with the other presentations and the discussions that followed, scholars and leaders from many church

backgrounds and nations were challenged once again to take into account what God has done, and is doing, through the renewal of the last century that is represented so forcefully by ORU and its alumni around the world." Cole and wife **Julie (Jernigan) 83** taught at ORU during the late 1980s and early 1990s. The couple lives in Oregon where Cole serves as president of Eugene Bible College.

Michael Hairston 81 appeared in the Dec. 15 issue of *Sports Illustrated* and in the December issue of *TulsaPeople*. *SI* featured Hairston in the "Faces in the Crowd" anniversary edition, mentioning his first appearance (Nov. 10, 1986) and chronicling his commitment to fitness over the last 20 years. *TulsaPeople's* feature, "Shaping the Future," mentioned Hairston's participation with 100 Black Men of Tulsa, a group "working to inspire local youth through mentoring, support, and example." Whether reading to elementary students, holding "rap sessions" with middle- and high-schoolers, or inviting a student to see him in action at his day job, Hairston finds fulfillment in the mission. "It stirs the soul in each one of us when we work with these kids."

After a 20-hour flight and a 9-hour drive, **John Taylor 81 M.Div.**, along with his wife and two daughters, continues his yearlong ministry in India. They write: "Daily, we engage visitors with tea, talk, games, and prayer. Kathy is the consummate host-



KUERT 68



COLE 80, 92



HAIRSTON 81



OTT 88



WASHINGTON 94

ess. This is an important part of our witness and ministry. We participate in several fellowships where John often preaches and teaches in Hindi, Nepali, or English. Lydia and Emily spend two evenings each week teaching English at a public school. Several have started coming to our Friday fellowship.” Among other projects, the Taylors “have begun work on a new Bible-content primer for teaching nomadic, buffalo-herding Muslim Gujjars how to read and write in their own language.” They roam the jungles along the Himalayan foothills where the Taylors live.

Dr. Carl Luther 83 and his wife, **Carol (Erwin) 83**, have been working intermittently with Mercy Ships since 1999. Last October, both accepted staff positions — Carl as HealthCare program administrator and Carol as an administrative assistant. The Luthers have two grown sons, Eric and Chris.

Dr. Robert B. Blair 86 received the 2006-2007 Robert McLean Distinguished Associate Professor Award (\$15,000) in August from the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Upon retiring as District Attorney, **Ori White 86** was honored by the Texas Legislature. The Legislature stated, “[I]n handling many of

our state’s most visible murder cases, District Attorney White has shown himself to be a passionate and eloquent prosecutor with an impressive record of success...” As a prosecutor, he was also instrumental in the exoneration of an innocent man who had been on death row 17 years. In an ABC News *Nightline* interview, White said, “As prosecutors, we need to always remember that we ultimately answer to God.” White now owns a litigation practice in Fort Stockton, Tex., and represents clients throughout the Southwest. White says he still shares the Good News and worships the Lord Jesus every day. He would love to hear from his ORU friends.

Maritza Torres-Adrover 87 applies her M.B.S.-pharmacology degree to her work as an associate director for Quality Assurance at Watson Laboratories, Florida Operations. She and her husband, Luis, have a son, Jean-Luis, 4, and are active members of Stirling Road Baptist Church in Ft. Lauderdale. She writes, “I serve the Lord in children’s ministry. We travel a lot (weekend trips) for relaxation, and I love reading a good Christian book.”

Faith Lambert Maddox 88 received her MBA (with concentrations in management and human resources) in 2005 and is now the campus director for three campuses of Indiana Institute of Technology in

Higher Ground

Higher Power Aviation, founded in 1994 by **Mark Sterns 78, 80-MBA** and Joe Poore, has moved from a landlocked, 11,000-square-foot space in Grand Prairie, Tex., to an expandable 58,000-square-foot facility on eight acres in Fort Worth near DFW Airport.

The company, which serves pilots seeking a type rating or retraining, made the big move last August. Sterns, HPA’s president, said he and chairman Poore had tried to buy the new building for one-and-a-half years. They needed more space because “classes were overflowing,” Sterns said. The timing was perfect, as their lease at the old location ran out on Aug. 31.

HPA has a staff of 25, complemented by about 60 contract instructors. The company provides FAA-approved instruction to pilots at airlines that don’t have their own simulators, corporations, and sports teams; and to U.S. Navy and Air Force pilots, FAA inspectors, and private individuals. Most of Southwest Airlines’ new pilots gain their B737 type rating at HPA.

“If a pilot is flying for an airline,” Sterns explains, “they have to go for retraining at least once a year. They have to keep their skills up.” Others come to HPA to earn a rating that will help them land a new job.

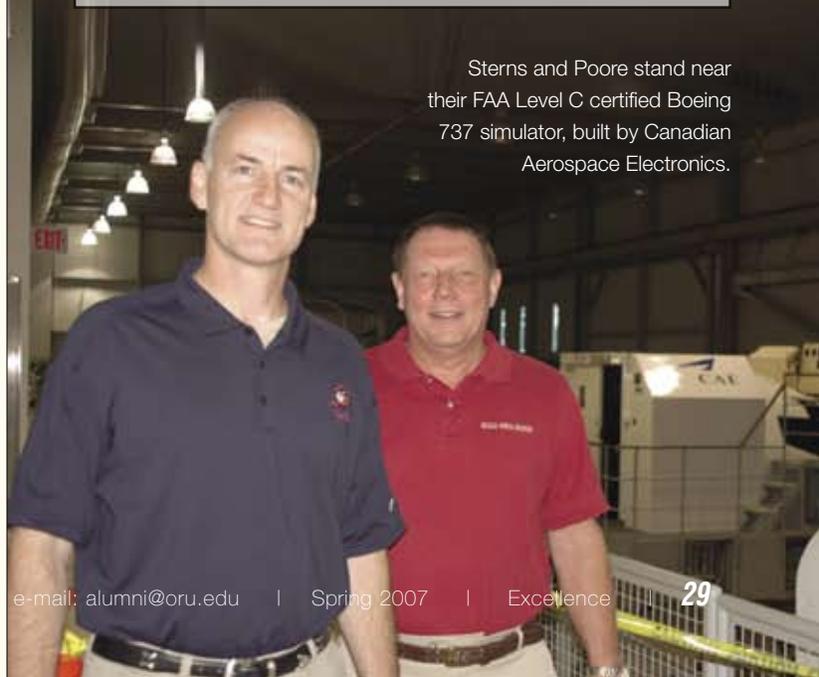
The new facility offers a B737 Classic simulator, four full-flight simulator bays, more classroom space and briefing rooms, a student Internet lounge — the “Not Quite Ready Room,” and a cafeteria called the “Takeoff Galley.” Trainees are treated to root beer floats every Wednesday and lunch at the Texas Rangers’ ballpark every Thursday.

The name “Higher Power” was Poore’s idea. Some students didn’t understand it, until they heard Sterns pray before those ballpark luncheons. “Higher Power!” they then said. “Oh — I get it!”

Sterns and Poore stand near their FAA Level C certified Boeing 737 simulator, built by Canadian Aerospace Electronics.



PFANSTIEL 98



Notes From Alumni

Central Indiana. She is also the church ministries coordinator at Life Church in Fishers, Ind., where she attends with her husband, Randy.

After serving the State of Florida as the Emergency Coordinator and point of contact for their seniors during the 2004 hurricanes and providing response and recovery efforts during the 2005 hurricanes, **Doug Ott 88** was asked by the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service in early 2006 to serve as the program manager for the Katrina Private Non-Profit Reimbursement Program, reimbursing Florida's nonprofit organizations (including churches) that assisted the more than 50,000 Katrina evacuees that poured into Florida. Federal funds were approved for this unprecedented program. "It has been a pleasure serving the various churches and organizations that stepped up to the plate, assisting those evacuees coming from another state," Ott said. He lives in Tallahassee with his wife and their two sons.

Six years after **Ron King 89** and wife **Angela (McWhorter) 91** started Higher Impact Designs in their home, they received honors from the Oklahoma Minority Supplier Development Council. Higher Impact, a Tulsa-based design company, was one of four companies honored last October in Oklahoma City. As King told the *Tulsa World*, their company is "a full-service design shop that can develop a client's marketing concept," along with a compre-

hensive array of branding materials. www.higherimpactdesigns.com.

1990s

Natasha Washington 94, features copy editor at *The Oklahoman* in Oklahoma City, received two awards Dec. 7 for entertainment and headline writing as part of the Oklahoma Salute to Excellence Awards ceremony in Tulsa. Washington won two of six awards presented to *The Oklahoman* for outstanding coverage in several categories. She won first place in the Division 1 Entertainment/Criticism category and second place in Division 1 Newspaper Headlines category. Washington also was presented with two proclamations honoring her achievements from Oklahoma State Sen. Judy Eason McIntyre, D-Tulsa, and Oklahoma State Rep. Jabar Shumate, D-Tulsa, on behalf of the Oklahoma State Legislature. Journalists from across Oklahoma are invited each year to participate in the statewide competition which honors excellence in the coverage of African Americans in the community. The event was sponsored by the Tulsa Association of Black Journalists, an affiliate of the National Association of Black Journalists.

Tim 97 and **Lisa (Mast) 97 Hart** moved to Norman (in July 2005) so Tim could go back to school to pursue a Ph.D. in strategic management at OU. Lisa, after finishing her pediatric residency through the OSU Osteopathic School of Medicine (also in July 2005), joined a pediatric clinic

in south OKC. Katharine Joyful (born July 9, 2004) is an absolute riot and keeps her parents on their toes.

Philip Pfanstiel 98 and wife **Tamara (Hallman) 99** welcomed son Luke Churchill on March 27, 2006. He joins siblings Nathaniel, 6, Susannah, 3, and Abigail, 2. Philip teaches fifth and sixth grade Leadership in Mansfield, Tex., and is busy with several writing projects. Do you remember his column from *The Oracle*? Check out new stuff at <http://blog.philipfiles.com>. Tamara loves being a stay-at-home mom during the week, and works as an Emergency Room nurse on Saturdays. The Pfanstiels would love to hear from ORU friends.

2000s

Brian Bessey 00 and wife **Sarah (Styles) 01** write, "We welcomed our beautiful daughter, Anne Styles, on Aug. 18, 2006. We moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, from Texas in 2005. Brian is now a full-time divinity student at Regent College. Sarah is a marketing manager at a local credit union (and is now on a year of maternity leave).

Donnie Duntley 01 and wife **Andrea (Olson) 01** are pleased to announce the birth of their twin boys, Reagan Andrew and Kiefer Allen, on Aug. 22, 2006. Donnie has been a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley in Tulsa for six

years. Andrea "retired" after six years as a social worker for the Department of Human Services, also in Tulsa. They would like to reconnect with their ORU friends; e-mail them at donnie.

No longer in Tulsa, **George W. Paul 02** has moved to Los Angeles and welcomes visitors. "So, if you're in the area, look me up."

Selah Davis 03, one of the founders of the Ignite leadership conference, and **Michael Hirsch 04**, who started the Adopt-A-Block ministry at ORU, were married on April 23, 2006, outside St. Louis, Mo. Today, Michael is the director of the Ministry Academy internship program at the St. Louis Dream Center of Joyce Meyer Ministries. Selah is the director of Development for Mercy Ministries in St. Louis.

David Lauka 05 married Jill Davis the summer after graduation. Currently, David attends graduate school in Biblical Archaeology at Wheaton College.

Associates

Paul Kelley (1976-80) writes, "Thanks to God's grace and healing power, I have survived two heart attacks [and] Hurricane Katrina." He and wife Beverly make their home in Petal, Mich., where they attend Petal United Methodist Church. They have three grown children, two step-



DUNTLEY 01



DAVIS 03, HIRSCH 04



LAUKA 05



KELLEY



ALLEN

sons, and three grandchildren. Since 2002, Kelley has been the Internet manager at Toyota of Hattiesburg. Previously, he worked for Mississippi Power Company in Fleet Management for 19 years, and as a substitute teacher. Kelley remembers two quotes from Chancellor Roberts: "Be part of the solution, not part of the problem" and "Go where His light is seen dim." Kelley says, "I try to live my life accordingly every day."

Obituaries

Nicole Boyd Devitt, a 1991 ORU graduate who majored in organizational/interpersonal

communication, passed away in December. She was 36. She is survived by her husband, Michael, and their six children: Michael, Monique, Jessica, Jordan, Kyle, and Kaitlyn.

Joy Maynard, who earned a master's degree in Christian School Education from ORU in 1985, passed away on Jan. 11 at the age of 59. She was the band director at Claremore's Will Rogers Junior High School for 19 years. At one time, she had coordinated the ORU Educational Fellowship. Joy was married to Dr. Mark Maynard, associate professor in the ORU School of Business (undergraduate), for 37 years.

Jessica Drake, a drama/TV/film major and honors student at ORU from 2003 to 2005, was killed on Nov. 6 in Fresno, Calif. As a freshman, she had a leading role in the play "Charley's Aunt."

Dr. Johnny Mac Allen, associate professor in the Communication Arts department, passed away on Nov. 24. He first joined the ORU faculty in August 1991 and had a long and rewarding career in both higher education and broadcasting. His book, *Excelsior: Upward and Onward: The Power of Self-Affirmation*, can be found at amazon.com. This is what some of his ORU colleagues had to say about him: "Dr. Allen was a gracious and wise man who lived to teach. His

goal was for his students to learn life lessons from his classes as well as the content. He was a man with razor-sharp wit and a deep appreciation for the value of education. Many students have benefited from his presentation that he gave each semester entitled *The tassel is worth the hassle*. He believed in the goodness of people and challenged each of his students to reach for high standards and dream big dreams. We will miss his wonderful, deep voice sharing with us the latest 'nugget of knowledge' that he discovered daily." The department is establishing a memorial scholarship in his honor. For details, contact **Laura Holland 74**, department chair, at lholland@oru.edu.

Newman, Winters Ink New Deal

Tom Newman 80, founder of Impact Productions, and **Tom Winters 80, 83-JD**, have created a new company that will have a new impact on Hollywood.

Impact Entertainment is now involved in a multi-year first-look deal with The Weinstein Company (TWC), a multimedia enterprise launched by Bob and Harvey Weinstein (who founded and previously served as heads of Miramax Films). The deal involves producing and acquiring theatrical and direct-to-video titles for the faith-based community. Films under this deal will be produced by Impact Entertainment and distributed theatrically by TWC and on DVD by Genius Products, LLC.

Two projects currently on the drawing board are adaptations of Joyce Meyer's *The Penny*, and Max Lucado's *The Christmas Candle*.

In making the announcement, the Weinstains said, "Tom Newman and Tom Winters have spent their careers both serving and building strong and meaningful relationships in the religious community and we are committed to working with them to create a slate of quality films that appeals to this growing audience."

Newman, selected as ORU's Alumnus of the Year for Distinguished Service to God in 2006, said, "After years of working under the studios' radar, it's an exciting day when a great film company, such as the Weinstains', sees the untapped potential for this underserved market."

Go to www.impactprod.org for more information.



Winters and Newman have inked a multi-year deal with Hollywood's Weinstein Company.



ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 702333
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74170

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

TULSA, OK
PERMIT NO. 777



“Give thanks to our God”

. . . for the chance to celebrate Vespers once again! The location wasn't the same, but everything else about this service brought back wonderful memories of worshipping God at ORU. And when it was over? No one wanted to leave . . .
(See more Homecoming coverage on page 5.)