

summer 2007

excellence

for oral roberts university alumni and friends



Through the Looking Glass
SEE WHAT'S NEW AT ORU (PG. 14)

What Are We Made Of?

In today's culture it seems we always hear the same message or a variation thereof: "Get it now"; "Dog eat dog"; "Every man for himself"; "What's in it for me?"; "To each his own"; "It's all relative." It seems that the concepts of genuine character and absolute truth are lost in the get-all-you-can, do-it-your-way philosophy that has found acceptance with more and more people around the world.

People hunger for success and fulfillment. Many seek fulfillment through personal development programs and self-help books, most of which teach the way to succeed is to transform yourself by putting into practice the daily discipline of knowing what "successful" people are made of and making yourself like them by repeatedly applying these systems. Folks are left empty as a result. These systems are worthless unless we are fully grounded in knowing what we are really made of and then fulfilling God's purpose for making us.

We are blessed to have attended ORU. We have already learned the principles and discipline of educating the whole person — body, mind, and spirit. We also know God made us and shows us how to live a fulfilled life. As it says in 1 Corinthians, "The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man" (chapter 15, verses 47-49 NIV).

Now, there is nothing wrong with developing ourselves to be the best we can be. There are many sound personal development programs built upon biblical principles. But we should

remember that God made us to bear the image of Jesus. With that in mind we can live in confidence, knowing we bear the image of the heavenly Man and are helping people all around the world to know this heavenly Man . . . the strong, loving Savior.

ORU graduates have had the opportunity to learn and develop those qualities that the world longs for, and most are working to bring God's word in a variety of ways. Many are pastors and missionaries, doctors and nurses, teachers and business leaders, and mothers and fathers, just to name a few of our callings. Yes, ORU alumni are making a difference all over the world. It's now up to us to help the current residents of 7777 South Lewis prepare for *their* place in the world.

On this page, you'll see a list of ways you can "give back" to our alma mater. Your wisdom, experience, contacts, prayers, and resources can be put to very good use — and as we used



Rhae Buckley (left) joined Alumni director Natalie Bounds and former Alumni Board of Directors chair Bob Vander Lugt at the Dallas alumni barbecue. (See page 23 for details.) Prospective students were also invited to the barbecue, which gave alumni an opportunity to help with recruitment.

to sing at basketball games, "count for eternity!"

Thank you for supporting ORU in its mission (which we share) of bringing God's love and healing power — both so desperately needed — to a hungry world.

Rhae Buckley 80
Chairman, Alumni Board of Directors

Ways YOU Can Make A Difference

- > Give a qualified student an internship
- > Hire a qualified new grad or alumnus
- > Man a table at a College Fair
- > Attend an Admissions coffee talk and encourage prospective students
- > Sponsor an alumni city event
- > Come speak to a class about your job
- > Serve on a departmental advisory committee
- > Promote ORU at your church or in your community
- > Attend ORU sports events and cheer on the Golden Eagles
- > Take part in ORU's Fall Outreach (collecting nonperishable food items for local food banks)
- > Make a gift to the Alumni Foundation (through the mail, by phone with credit card, online, in person)
- > Run for the Alumni Board
- > List ORU as a beneficiary in your will
- > Attend Homecoming; serve on a planning committee
- > Use your talent to help ORU save or raise money (see Scott Howard's story on page 5).

Contact us at alumni@oru.edu or 918/495.6610 if you'd like to help in any way.

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Cover photo by David Riley Associates.

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.

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

excellence

FOR ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Summer 2007 | Vol. 19, No. 2



page 5



page 16

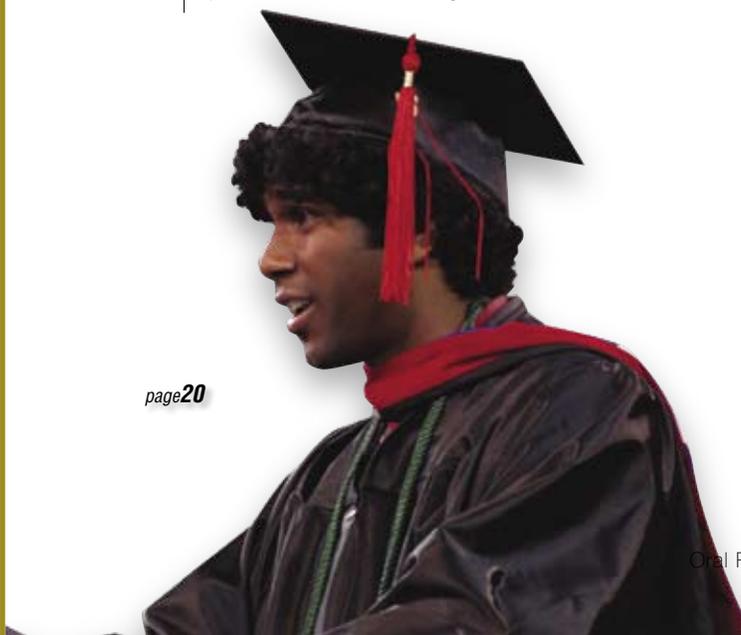


page 18

FEATURES

- 5 A Roof Under His Feet**
That's how Scott Howard keeps a roof over others' heads.
- 8 'Come Visit My List Plan It'**
Won't you accept Jennifer Tankersley's invitation?
- 10 The Fabulous Baker Boys**
How Justin, Josh, and Jeremy became the doctor, the diplomat, and the agent.
- 14 Paving the Way for Change**
As the new provost, Dr. Mark Lewandowski represents just one of the recent changes at ORU.

page 20



DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Your Voice**
- 4 Presidential Perspective**
- 16 On Campus/Off Campus**
 - Dr. Andrea Walker
 - Campus News
- 21 The Eli Report**
 - New coaches, "new" league, big honors, cheaper tickets
- 23 Lifelong Links**
 - City Events
 - Homecoming '08
 - Frank Garner
 - Alumni Maps
 - Calendar of Events
 - Alumni News
 - Obituaries

WINNER'S CIRCLE

July was a very good month. *Excellence* received the 2007 Grand Award in the Magazine category from the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association.

The Common Grounds annual fund campaign pieces also received a Grand Award in the category of Smaller Brochure/Flyer/Booklet.

And, the ORU Web site received the Grand Award in the category of Web Design.

Congratulations to the many, many people who have worked so hard on ORU publications and the Web. These projects are truly a large-group effort.

Staying Ahead of the Curve

There's a quote that's been credited to Gen. Eric Shinseki, former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army: "If you don't like change, you're going to like irrelevance even less."

I don't think the general was directing his words to those of us in higher education, but I believe we should heed those words just the same.

As you'll see when you read the article on page 14, ORU has recently been through some big changes. We've split the School of Arts and Sciences into two schools, appointed a new provost and two new deans, made some promotions, created some new positions, and brought a former chairman out of retirement.

Why all the changes? Look around. Universities are changing the way they do business. "Business" is an appropriate term since more schools are bringing in business leaders to serve in their top academic posts. Marketing, strategic planning, budget management, and fundraising are more important than ever.

But don't think that ORU is sacrificing its mission for the sake of increasing enrollment or balancing the budget. Not on *my* watch! What we're doing is responding to students and parents who want to know that the degrees we offer are really relevant (and worth the money), and that ORU students get the practical experiences necessary to prepare them for life after college. Our answer to both concerns is yes, but we need to revamp the way we communicate these truths — and review and update our programs so they'll be even more relevant.

I believe ORU is a unique and special university. It draws students who want to devote their lives to serving God. The question is, how do we attract students who are a perfect fit for

ORU and who want the programs we offer?

That's one reason why I asked Dr. Mark Lewandowski to come talk with me this spring. He has had a successful business career and understands the importance of marketing. Since he became dean of the School of Business in January 2005, MBA program enrollment has doubled and undergraduate enrollment in business majors has increased by about 100 students.



The president and first lady preside over a university that has undergone significant changes in academic leadership and structure.

Dr. Lewandowski and I talked about the changing face of higher education. The for-profit organizations that have entered our arena aren't offering liberal arts programs like ours. They're asking, "What do students want to study?," creating programs to meet those needs, and aggressively going after students.

Online degree programs are very popular now. We plan to begin offering our own in the near future to accommodate the needs of working adults

and overseas students who can't move to Tulsa to earn a degree. That's one way to attract students who are right for us.

Another way is to address perceptions. When students hear the words "School of Arts and Sciences," do they assume there's nothing distinctive about any of our majors? That's why we created the School of Science and Engineering and the School of Arts and Cultural Studies, and named Dr. Dominic Halsmer and Dr. Wendy Shirk as the respective deans. Both schools will have a more clearly defined identity and leaders who will be more directly involved with recruitment.

I appreciate Dr. Lewandowski's willingness to take on the responsibilities of chief academic officer of ORU. We will benefit from his energy and enthusiasm. I'm also glad that ORU can continue to rely on the experience and talents of Dr. Ralph Fagin, who stepped into a new academic administration assignment this spring. He has served ORU faithfully for more than 35 years.

As was mentioned in the last issue of *Excellence*, we're hosting a Higher Learning Commission site visit on Nov. 5, 6, and 7. The site team will evaluate what we've done in the past ten years and make specific recommendations concerning our accreditation. As you know, every university goes through this every ten years. With the strides we've made in the past decade, I believe we will receive a good report. And at our next review, I believe the report will be even better. Change can be intimidating, but positive change is a good way to avoid irrelevance.

Richard L. Roberts
President and CEO

A Roof Under His Feet

He dreamed of a career down under (the water, that is), but God had a higher purpose for Scott Howard's life.

BY DEBBIE TITUS '77 GEORGE

Living on the 1970s-era ORU campus in the landlocked state of Oklahoma, Scott Howard — he of the likewise-landlocked state of Nevada — developed a love for scuba diving, of all things, thanks to the influence of HPER instructor Terry Schollmeier. So with his graduation approaching, Howard was excited to learn about an opportunity to do the marketing for a dive ship operation. It sounded like a perfect fit for a scuba enthusiast who was about to complete a business degree.

Unfortunately, the job evaporated before he could begin, forcing Howard to consider other, perhaps more traditional, options. One thing was certain, however. He knew he *didn't* want to go into the family business.

"It was the absolute last thing I was ever going to do with my life," this 1979 graduate insisted during a visit to campus in June.

No, Howard was *not* going to become a roofer.

So today, of course, he's the president of Commercial Roofers, Inc., in his hometown of Las Vegas.

Perhaps by now his name is sounding a little bit familiar. Howard . . . hmm . . . Howard Auditorium? You bet. Howard's father, "Little Bill" Howard, was an ORU regent in the 1960s and the primary contributor to ORU's fine arts building, which opened in 1973.

Despite his family's involvement with the university, Howard was not totally sold on ORU. He looked at other schools, explaining that he "didn't particularly like Tulsa.



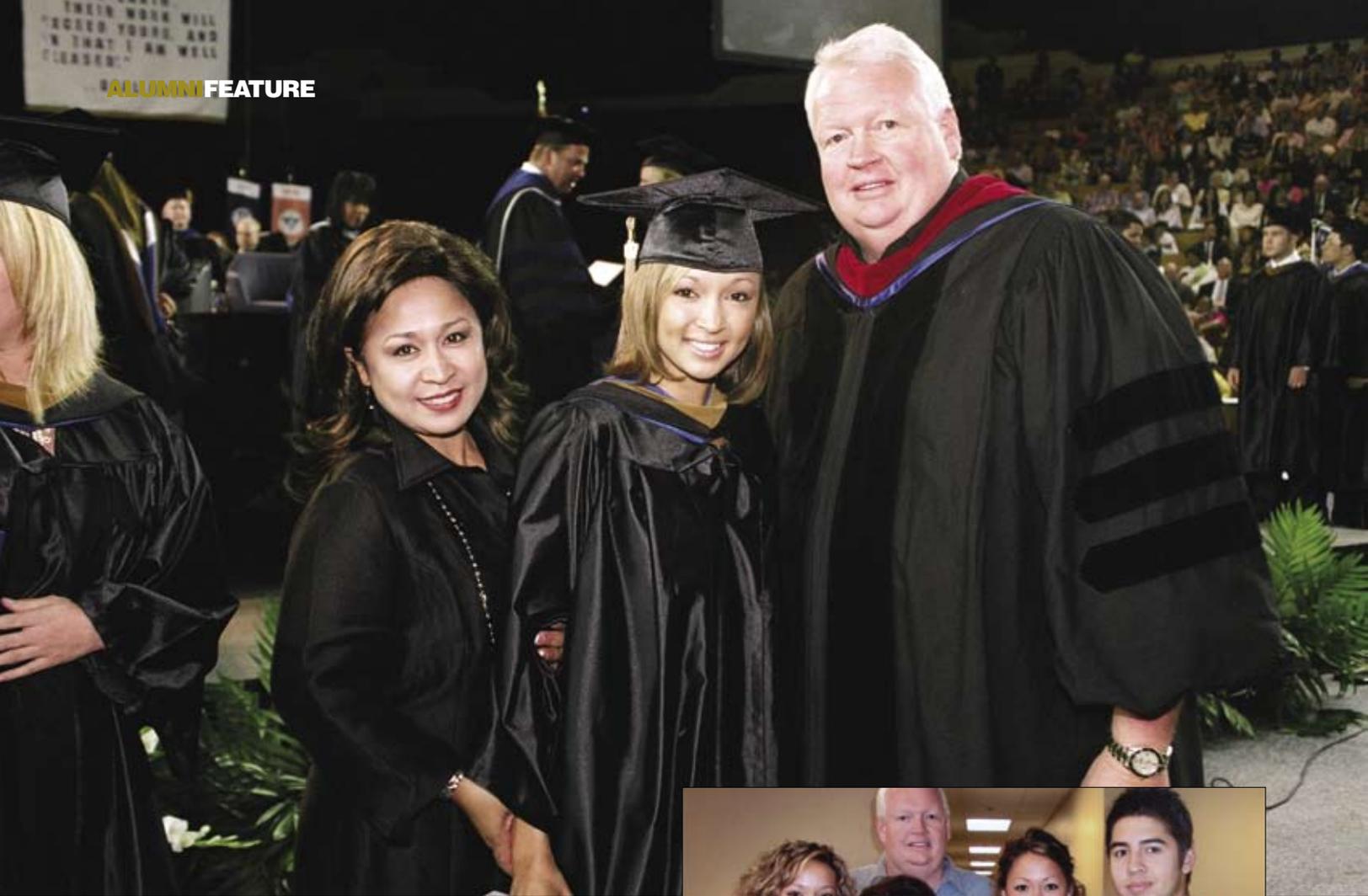
Howard stands atop the roof of one of his company's projects, and behind him is another: Project CityCenter in Las Vegas, the largest private construction project in the U.S.

There wasn't much here then" — an understatement if we ever heard one. In the end, however, he decided that ORU really was the place for him, and business was the only possible major.

"I was always involved in business," he said. "In junior high and high school I was in student government, and I was always the treasurer." He chuckled when he said, "I think I figured out that the one with the money holds the power."

Commercial Roofers is one of the largest and most experienced commercial roofing contractors in Nevada.





Above: At Commencement this spring, Janet and Scott were beaming as Lindsay received her business degree from ORU.
 Right: Lindsay, Scott, Janet, Angela, and Angela's husband, CJ, gather for a photo at the grand opening of Commercial Roofers' new offices in June 2006.



Don't misunderstand. Howard has never been about power. A self-described Type A personality, he says instead that he's "always been driven — driven into leadership." He has served as the treasurer of his church for 18 years, an appropriate job for someone who's always had "a financial mind" and a heart for ministry.

On the face of it, then, the tragic MGM Grand Hotel fire that occurred in November 1980 would not seem like an event that would determine the course of Scott Howard's life, but it did. His father and grandfather ("Big Bill"), the ones who started the family roofing business in 1950, obtained a contract to do new roofing when the hotel was being rebuilt.

"They needed somebody to help out," said Howard who, despite his determination not to be a roofer, had "always been involved" in construction. "So I went down there." During the course of the project, a friend called the office and asked for a roofing estimate. Howard took the call and told one of the senior managers, who promptly said, "Why don't you do it? You know how to measure a roof." Not

knowing where this would lead, Howard complied and sold the roof that day. "The next day, I came into the office and there were six estimate requests on my desk," he said. He describes his ultimate "descent" into the roofing business this way: "I slipped and slid and fell into it."

Assuming it was God who pushed him, Howard found himself questioning the wisdom of that nudge in early 1996.

The family business had been sold to a national company in 1987. Howard was asked to stay on as a project manager and was later promoted to regional manager. Responsible for more than 250 employees, he was proud of the work ethic that made his branch the company's most profitable. Things seemed to be going well — right up until the bottom dropped out.

"I got a call from the CEO in April 1996, saying that the company was going bankrupt." Howard was in shock, but he knew where to turn, and so he prayed. "I asked God, is

there something else you want me to do?" No answer. "I felt absolutely no direction from Him for the first time in my life." The only thing he heard was, "Do the right thing." Not exactly the direction he was seeking.

Then, it appeared that things might be turning around just a little. In July, another company came in to buy what was left of the bankrupt company. They asked Howard to stay on and to help close out the old bankrupt company. They even offered him a piece of the new company. *Okay, I can do this*, Howard thought, feeling a sense of responsibility to the employees who were left.

During these months, Howard struggled with financial issues — namely, his tithe. "I thought maybe I could do less," he said. The company owed him thousands of dollars in back pay, bonuses, and expense reimbursements. "As I studied and prayed," he said, crediting also the lessons he learned at ORU, "it was clear to me that I was still to give on my income, and not count a loss against it.

"'Do the right thing' came back to me. I knew it was right from the depths of my soul."

Just when Howard thought the worst was over, along came the last Thursday in October 1996, a day he says he will never forget.

"The president of the new company came and said, 'I've got good news and bad news. The good news is, we want to sell you the Las Vegas operation. The bad news is, we're overextended and need to close the Las Vegas office.'"

Howard jumped at the chance to buy back the family business — the Las Vegas branch of the larger company — but it was hardly a bargain, considering the debt and the difficulty of securing loans, obtaining bonding, and making payroll with no money in the bank. And yet, "God was there every step of the way," Howard said. "He multiplied back what I had sown. People I didn't know interceded on our behalf." The bank reversed its decision to turn down a loan. "Suppliers said, 'Whatever you need, we will give you.'" It obviously paid to have a reputation as a man of integrity. Into Howard's lap fell "jobs I had no business getting, but that I needed."

On the brink of disaster, on the verge of a miracle (as Oral Roberts used to say), Commercial Roofers, Inc. "never came close to missing a payroll," Howard said. The company, in fact, received the industry's highest honor by being named "National Roofing Contractor of the Year" for 1999 — "a direct reflection of God's favor on us," as Howard sees it. The staff has grown from 40 to about 225 and revenues have gone from \$3 million in 1997 to more than \$35 million.

One of the keys to the company's success, Howard believes, is how they give back to the community. They've

done work for St. Jude's Ranch for Children, the Convoy of Hope, the local zoo, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association and set up a scholarship fund at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Howard has also gone the extra mile for his alma mater.

"I had stayed away from ORU," he admitted, referring to the years following his graduation. But when it was time to find a college for his two daughters (son Sean is at UNLV), "ORU came to mind immediately. It was a safe, Spirit-filled environment where they could get a quality education."

He brought his older daughter, Angela, to a College Weekend and had a chance to meet some current students. In the process, he said, "I remembered why ORU is such a special place."

During Angela's freshman year, her dad came to campus and noticed the roof leaks in Christ's Chapel. He decided to volunteer his time to do a survey of all the roofs on campus. Little did he (or ORU) know how valuable that survey would prove to be.

In April 2005, ORU's campus was hammered by a horrendous hailstorm. Imagine the damage to all those roofs! The insurance company, learning of Howard's survey, asked him to be involved in the repair process as a consultant and "owners' representative" (Is this sounding a little like Pharaoh's daughter and Moses' mother?), and so he devised specifications, evaluated the bids, and helped choose the companies that would do the work. (No, not his own; they're not licensed to work in Oklahoma.) In fact, for more than a year, Howard traveled to Tulsa nearly every other week to supervise the roofing work.

Howard thinks there's a lesson in all this for ORU alumni. "It would be great if a lot of alumni would look at their talents. I used my talents to benefit the school to the tune of almost \$3 million."

And he's not done helping. This spring, he joined the Board of Regents, becoming one of two new members he describes as "Spirit-filled business people who have a heart for the school."

That definitely describes Howard, who watched daughter Angela graduate in 2006 and daughter Lindsay cross the stage this spring.

Oh, and in case you were wondering . . . the roof of Howard Auditorium does *not* leak.

There's more: Before she met her future husband 26 years ago at church, Janet Howard made a list of ten things she was looking for in a husband, including "ORU graduate, tall, blond, parents and grandparents still married." "I was all ten," Scott says. And they've been married for 25 years.



When God said, "Build Me a University,"
He wasn't just talking about *buildings*.
He was talking about *students*.

And that's what

ANCHOR
HARBOR
THE 2007-08 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

is all about.

The Alumni Foundation is proud to support
the hard-working ORU faculty and other
campus leaders as they build up
our students — spirit, mind, and body.

ORU students are **BUILT TO LAST**.

Help us ensure quality construction by
making a gift to the Annual Fund.
Watch your mailbox for the September
mailing, or give online today.

<http://alumni.oru.edu>

Click on "Make A Gift."

Thank you!

Active with sports, music,
clubs, and jobs throughout school
and college, Jennifer didn't know "busy" until
she became a wife and mother of three: Campbell, 6, Clark, 4,
and Claire, 2, in their backyard with Mom and Dad.

But this elder of two daughters had good training while
growing up in rural Kansas. "My mom . . . introduced me
to lists as a young girl when every Saturday was devoted to
chores around the house." As a child Tankersley was "always
looking for the next thing to do." So, her list of activities grew
along with her.

"I started piano lessons and band in elementary school,
played several sports in middle school and high school, partici-
pated in student government in high school, and usually held at
least one job." And at ORU, "I continued . . . to fill life to the
brim."

After leaving home and starting college, Tankersley says
she acquired a keen understanding of how her decisions today
would affect her life tomorrow. "I learned what it was to be
an adult and to be responsible for my present and my future."
Now, true to her major of international community develop-
ment, Tankersley wants to help those around her manage their
present and future.

In Phase 2, Tankersley plans to sell components of a List
Plan It Life Manual: binders, dividers, hole punches, and
printed lists. Eventually, in Phase 3, she will offer more
organizational services and advice to those who cannot afford
a professional organizer.

"Though List Plan It is still in its infancy, I feel strongly
that it is a concept that many people appreciate and will want to
be a part of. I am excited about this new chapter of my life and
cannot wait to see the progression that List Plan It will make."

JENNIFER AND HER HUSBAND, TREY (A JAG IN THE NAVY), ARE 1995
GRADUATES. SAMPLE LISTS, A NEWSLETTER, AND MORE INFORMATION
CAN BE FOUND AT LISTPLANIT.COM.



The Fabulous Baker Boys

BY JADELL FORMAN '90

“Family trips were never painful.”

That’s how the eldest of the three Baker siblings summarizes growing up in his middle-class Milwaukee home. Sure, there were affable competitions during card games and ping-pong matches. But these siblings — Justin, Josh, and Jeremy — say their parents taught them to care for each other . . . and pursue excellence.

“Our parents led us . . . to simply do our best,” says Jeremy. “They always encouraged us out of love, and it truly worked.”

Now ORU grads and excelling in their chosen fields, the brothers support one another as they trek through the dissimilar worlds of medicine, the foreign service, and the FBI. But when the doctor, the diplomat, and the agent hit the golf course, there’s still a bit of sibling rivalry. “We’re all getting into golf,” explains Jeremy. “And Josh and I can finally keep up with Justin . . . We all get along and have a great time together. Overall, I think we accept the fact that we are different people in different careers and places in life.”

Make Mine Medicine

Stellar examples in the medical community influenced the career direction of Justin Baker, a 1997 graduate. Ever since he can remember, Justin wanted to be a pediatrician. “My mother tells me of the times at my pediatrician’s office when I would crawl onto his lap and tell him, ‘When I grow up, I am going to take care of kids just like you do.’”

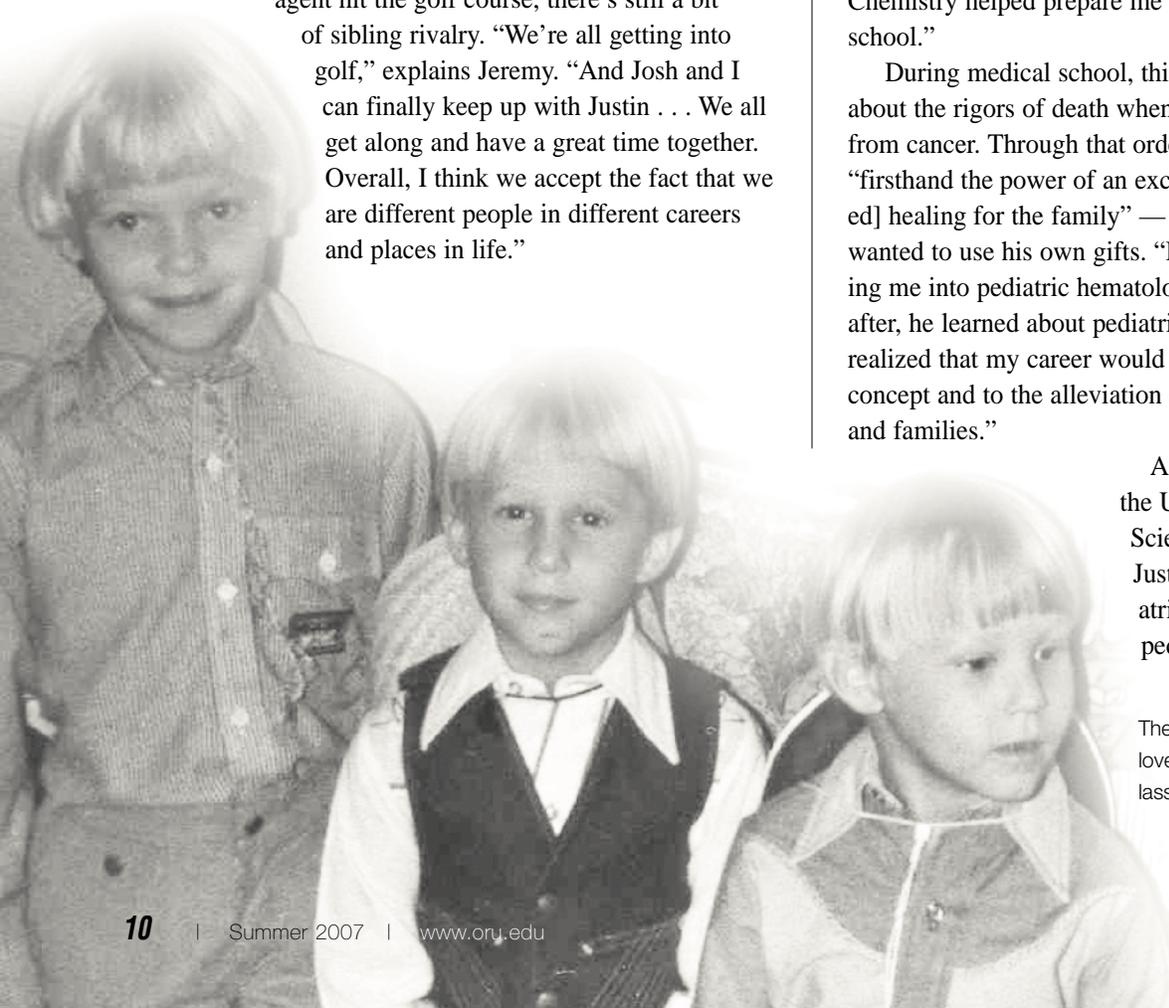
Once grown up enough to go to college, Justin started looking for “a smaller, Pentecostal, evangelical school that had a good program in biomedical chemistry.” After meeting Dr. George Thyvelikakath at a College Weekend and obtaining a Presidential Scholarship, Justin started his studies at ORU. Justin says Dr. George became his mentor and suggested biomedical chemistry, which Justin found to be a “very difficult” program that paid off.

“Many of the chemistry courses drove me crazy, but I was way ahead of the curve when I got to medical school. The in-depth study required for courses such as Physical Chemistry helped prepare me for the rigors of life in medical school.”

During medical school, this aspiring pediatrician learned about the rigors of death when his grandmother passed away from cancer. Through that ordeal Justin says he experienced “firsthand the power of an excellent oncologist [who provided] healing for the family” — a perfect example of how he wanted to use his own gifts. “I knew then that God was leading me into pediatric hematology/oncology.” Shortly thereafter, he learned about pediatric palliative care. “I quickly realized that my career would be dedicated to promoting that concept and to the alleviation of suffering for dying children and families.”

After finishing his studies at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Justin completed his general pediatric residency in San Antonio. A pediatric hematology/oncology

The Baker brothers grew up learning to love each other, do well in school, and lasso their unique talents.





Grown and establishing families of their own, Justin (left) and Josh (right) celebrate with Jeremy at his May 2003 wedding in Des Moines.

whether to offer the vendor one-half or one-fourth of his asking price.”

As a U.S. diplomat, Josh’s job duties have included camel hawking, translating various languages, and driving an armored vehicle. One of his favorite quotes comes from another diplomat who started young, Italian Daniele Varé: “Diplomacy is the art of letting someone else have your way.”

Josh is convinced that God let him have His way. “I used to think that it was a combination of the (Star Wars)

Force and my mother that I ended

up at ORU. However, I now realize that the Lord knew exactly what He was doing and how to do it.” Josh promised his mother that he would give his elder brother’s university a shot for one semester. “The warmth and optimism of the people hooked me. I found an academic freedom I had not previously known compared to other schools where friends were studying. I found the ability to choose my own course, go read whatever I wanted, etcetera. I felt very fortunate to work directly with the professors to determine what I should have been and should not have been studying.”

Josh created a degree with three majors, one minor, and 29 syllables. “I graduated in three years with a major in world history, Spanish language and literature, French language and literature, and a minor in Russian language and literature.” Still having space in his brain for another language, the gifted linguist simultaneously earned an associate’s degree in Japanese studies from Tulsa Community College.

After a few odd jobs and a master’s degree in political science and international relations from Moscow State University of International Relations in Russia, Josh traveled to Morocco to study Arabic. He returned to the U.S. in 2001 and joined the State Department the next year where he met his future wife, Natalie, on the first day of orientation. After stints at embassies in Turkmenistan and Pakistan, he’s back in Washington.

Now married, he and Natalie will soon study Arabic in D.C. and then Tunisia until they go to Libya in 2009. In the meantime, he mingles with many areas of the U.S. government in D.C.

fellowship took him to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis.

Now conducting end-of-life research, he focuses on decision-making and symptom control for kids with tumors. He’s one of the few U.S. doctors triple-boarded in General Pediatrics, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, and Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

“I help children and families through the inexplicable horrors of early childhood death due to cancer,” he said, explaining that he “finds great strength” in his family life. His wife, Monica (Livas-98), and children Lillie, Abbie, David, and Danielle, “keep me squarely grounded and daily remind me of the many blessings I have received from God.” As for the “faith foundation” that supports him through emotionally and technically challenging work, Justin credits his parents and home church, along with his ORU studies and experiences. “ORU prepared me beautifully for what I am doing now,” he said.

‘Having His Way’

Josh Baker followed his elder brother to ORU but then blazed his own trail.

Four years after graduating from ORU in 1998 and about 29,000 miles from Tulsa, Josh found himself counting camel molars in the Karakum Desert. The assignment: “Determine



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

1. Justin and Monica in Puerto Vallarta. Justin met Monica through brother-sister wing events. Today they have four children: Liliana, 6, Abigail, 4, David, 2, and Danielle, 6 months.

2. Liliana and Abigail Baker, dressed for a dance recital.

3. Danielle Baker, 6 months old.

4. Attending a wedding in Islamabad, Pakistan, Josh says he and Natalie are "ready to break it down to some hip-hop banghra!"

5. Jeremy, a current Alumni Board member, met Amy at ORU. They married just before he joined the FBI.

6. David Baker, 2 years old.

"Every day, I collaborate with people from the Department of State, Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Council, Department of Defense, and Capitol Hill who graduated from the best universities with the strongest government programs." Finding himself on par with his colleagues, he's certain "... ORU prepared me well."

Agent of Change

Originally, Jeremy Baker wanted to attend one of the Midwest colleges offering him a football scholarship. But a bout with mononucleosis caused him to reconsider. "I began to realize that a Christian university would be great for me. The door to ORU opened the widest with an offer that was too good to pass up," including a chance to keep alive his athletic ambitions as a walk-on for the track team.

When he was considering how to focus his studies, Jeremy remembered his friend's father who had majored in

finance. "I really wanted a great job like he had," and so he decided to pursue a CPA license. Then, Jeremy said, "Mr. Ray Gregg introduced me to the fact that many FBI agents are CPAs."

Before applying with the FBI, the 2001 graduate worked for two years as an auditor with a global accounting firm. Not totally satisfied with that career, he gave more thought to his instructor's words. "The government needed CPAs and linguists at the time, since the war on terror was ramping up. And ORU had equipped me well in both fields."

Despite the opportunities available with his employer, Jeremy says, "I could not help feeling that God was clearly calling me to the FBI — to use my talents for Him and to serve the United States. I wanted a job where I could feel like I did at ORU — that I was able to glorify God with my body, mind, and spirit."

Jeremy went through the FBI Academy and graduated with the class's physical fitness award. "Before ORU, I had never run more than one mile at a time. So, I owe that honor to my alma mater."

Jeremy says that besides using his mind and body to do an excellent job, “I try to approach my work as a ministry as well, taking people off of destructive paths and offering new lives of hope [to those who] desire to change.”

Speaking for the three siblings, Jeremy says, “ORU opened all of our eyes to diversity in people and geographic areas. All of us have lived in multiple states and/or countries since graduating from ORU.”

For almost three years, Jeremy and his wife, Amy (Palmer-03), have lived in Memphis, with Justin and his family living down the street — an opportunity for these two brothers to bridge the age difference and become even better acquainted.

As Jeremy considers his future with the FBI, he keeps family in mind. “I think it would be incredible to someday work overseas for the FBI in the same embassy that my other brother, Josh, a diplomat, would work in.”

While the Fabulous Baker Boys blaze their own particular trails around the world and within their professions, they educate each other and gain an appreciation for the others’ efforts. As Dr. Justin Baker says, “I cannot tell you how proud I am of the work these guys do, but I’m much more proud of the people they have become.” This kind of respect across professions illustrates the rewards of both nonstop, liberal arts learning and never-ending brotherly love.

Contact: Justin is at 198 Cross Breeze Dr., Cordova, TN 38018 or justin.baker@stjude.org. Josh is at mrjoshuabaker@yahoo.com, and Jeremy is at bak11938@yahoo.com.



“I’ll never forget my college graduation. I was a straight-A student, valedictorian, star quarterback. It was one of the best movies I ever made.”

Bob Hope
ORU Commencement Address
May 1, 1983

Better than a make-believe movie.

2009 Alumnus of the Year

Nominate star alumni at alumni.oru.edu

Paving the Way for Change

New leaders, new assignments, new schools — ORU is taking the future by storm.

BY DEBBIE TITUS 77 GEORGE

If you've ever driven east on 81st Street in Tulsa, on the section between Lewis and Delaware avenues, you remember The Hill — the incline that was so much fun to climb, especially in the wintertime when it was slick with ice.

Well, that hill has been lowered by about 16 feet. The two-lane portions of 81st Street (between Lewis and Harvard avenues) have been widened to four lanes and turn lanes were added at Delaware, so the drive past the south side of campus is much improved.

Dr. Mark Lewandowski has had a bird's-eye view of the roadwork from his new sixth-floor office in the Graduate Center, but he hasn't had much time to do more than glance out the window now and then. Since his May 9 promotion, ORU's new provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs has been involved in a realignment of ORU's administrative structure.

Earlier this spring, President Richard Roberts called upon Dr. Lewandowski to discuss "the changes in a very demanding and competitive business environment called education," Lewandowski said during an interview in early July. "The organizations that are getting into education now are for-profit organizations, so they're running higher ed from a business model." That, he said, means "heavy investment, accountability of the faculty, and programs that are based on current needs of the market and not historical, cultural habits."

During his talks with the president, Lewandowski said, "I gave him lots of ideas," including the creation of new administrative positions, "but at no time did we discuss who would fill those roles. I was very satisfied in my job as dean of the School of Business," a position he had held since January 2005.

Dr. Ralph Fagin, a 1970 ORU graduate, had served as the university's chief academic officer since 1998. Dr. Lewandowski describes him as "the hardest-working guy on campus." When Dr. Fagin told the president in May that he would like to step into a new role, that of vice president for Academic Administration, a change was made. In this role,



Standing (or sitting) still is not Dr. Mark Lewandowski's style. Neither is "doing things the same way and expecting different results."

he oversees long-range planning, instruction, institutional research, library and learning resources, and Higher Learning Commission compliance. And the change is working well.

Fagin "deserved an opportunity to breathe," Lewandowski said of his colleague. "But more importantly, the job of administrator of a university is bigger than one man. The president provided an enormous amount of leadership, but Ralph was handling an enormous job. Where most universities use two or three senior executives, Ralph was doing it by himself. So my role as provost does not *exclude* Ralph, it partners *with* Ralph, and we have very distinct and different responsibilities.

"My job," he continued, "is to help President Roberts in carrying out the vision and help lead the university into a successful positioning for the future. Ralph's job is to provide the administrative support and backbone for us to be able to accomplish change and still maintain the high status of accreditation across the university and across the different schools."

Coming from a highly successful career in the corporate world (*see the fall 2004 issue of Excellence online*), Lewandowski would describe himself as a change agent. "My job was to go in and turn a company around and be the person willing to make the tough changes that, historically and culturally, had never happened."

Within two weeks of his appointment as provost, Lewandowski, under the direction of President Roberts, announced some sweeping changes that he hopes will position ORU to be “radically successful in the future while maintaining the close, tight-knit family culture that Oral Roberts started in 1965 and that the faculty expect.”

Those changes include:

- The School of Arts and Sciences has been split into two schools: the School of Arts and Cultural Studies, with Dr. Wendy Shirk as the dean, and the School of Science and Engineering, with Dr. Dominic Halsmer as the dean. Dr. Shirk once taught in ORU’s communication arts and graduate business departments and most recently served as a consultant to the university. Dr. Halsmer had been chair of the engineering, physics, and physical science department.
- Dr. George Thyvelikakath, former dean of Arts and Sciences, is returning to teaching in the chemistry department.
- Dr. John Matsson is the new chair of engineering, physics, and physical science.
- Dr. Marshal Wright has agreed to serve as interim dean of the School of Business until a permanent dean is selected.
- Carol Blan has stepped down as chair of undergraduate theology; the new chair is Dr. Ed Watson. The department, formerly freestanding, has been incorporated into the School of Theology and Missions.
- Laura Holland, who was serving as chair of communication arts, has been named executive director of Performing Arts. Her focus will be on launching the new Dance Performance and Musical Theater majors. Dr. Ray Lewandowski has returned to serve as communication arts department chair for one year, and to mentor his eventual replacement (to be named).
- Dr. Jeff Ogle has been promoted to Vice Provost of Academic Advancement. Dr. Nancy Brainard has been promoted to Vice Provost of Student Services.

“My motto is, ‘To thrive, not merely survive,’

Lewandowski said, “and I really, truly believe in order to thrive, we cannot continue to do everything like we’ve been doing it.”

To attract more students, Lewandowski believes ORU must have “sizzle” — “the right excitement, the right energy.” That’s why, he says, the School of Arts and Sciences was split in two, with each half assigned to a dean who could “sell” what their school is offering. The other reason for the break: “to give the schools a distinctive appearance that represents those students they’re going after.” To wit, the School of Arts and Cultural Studies will include: art; communication arts; English; history, humanities, and government; modern languages; and music. The School of Science and Engineer-

ing will encompass: behavioral science; biology; chemistry; computer science and mathematics; engineering, physics, and physical science; and health, physical education, and recreation.

Lewandowski expects the deans to become “very involved” in student recruitment, and expects one of Dr. Brainard’s areas, Enrollment Management, to recruit what he calls “the right students” — ones who are interested in already-existing programs.

Lewandowski’s directive to Dr. Ogle is to become even more focused on an area with great growth potential: online degree programs. Pending approval by the Higher Learning Commission, ORU will be ready to launch master’s programs next year in management, business administration, and education as well as a doctoral program in education. (ORU has been offering online courses since 1999 in fields such as business education and theology.)

Anyone who thinks ORU will now settle into a groove for the next decade or so might want to think again. The new academic leader is already asking, what comes next? “You’re always trying to think three, four, five years ahead,” he explains. It’s all about “understanding trends, what’s going on, what’s happened, where you are in an industry cycle.” Yes, it seems that education, too, is cyclical. “If you didn’t look at the entire education sector, you wouldn’t see for-profit companies leading the way in many areas. If you’re going to position yourself for success for the future, you’ve got to see who it is that’s driving success now. And that’s the model that you better be able to compete with five years from now.”

Of course, Lewandowski notes, the model is always changing so ORU has to be able to say, “This program is now outdated,” and have a new program ready to roll out.

Whatever the model or program, you can count on one thing: The mission won’t change.

“The fact that we aligned our programs, our faculty, our degrees, our culture to our mission, makes us very unique and special,” Lewandowski says. “It’s what makes our students so special, it’s what makes our faculty so precious, it’s what makes our product offering different from any other in the world.”

At the time of this interview, it was too early to talk about any other major changes that the president and the provost might be considering, but Lewandowski was willing to hint at things to come.

“One goal is to build a modern and exciting general education curriculum which attracts students as much as or more than their major courses,” he said. Another is “to develop a university-wide faculty culture that embraces change as an important, exciting, and necessary part of ORU.”

More changes to come? You can count on it.

Like Father, Like Daughter

BY JENNIFER RAYNES 06

Being called “Doctor” takes a little getting used to. Especially when you share the same name as a colleague. And especially when that colleague is your dad.

That was the case for Dr. Andrea Walker, the daughter of beloved psychology professor Dr. Larry Walker. Following in Dad’s footsteps, in the fall of 2006 Walker joined the behavioral sciences faculty at ORU. Though she says the transition was natural, she admits it was odd to have two Dr. Walkers on the Graduate Center’s second floor — and even odder that she was one of them. “It’s kind of strange to have people calling me ‘Dr. Walker,’” she says. “When people talk to me and call me ‘Dr. Walker,’ my reaction is to look behind me and see if [my dad] is coming down the hall!”

The 2006-07 school year was a unique one. It marked Walker’s first year to teach at ORU and her father’s last. At Commencement, Larry Walker was named Faculty Emeritus and officially retired from his long-held position at the university.

Given her dad’s popularity among numerous generations of ORU students (and, yes, even Walker, a 1993 grad, had her dad as a professor), Walker certainly has some big shoes to fill. But so far, she’s doing just fine. In fact, she’s doing more than teaching psychology, having found her niche in conducting psychological research. Recently, she contributed two chapters to a textbook published by the Association for Death and Education Counseling (ADEC). And not just any textbook; *the* textbook for grief counselor certification.

“What this book does is to prepare students to take that test [for ADEC certification],” Walker says. “This will not be one of those books that just sits on the bookshelf. It is going to be utilized.” In those key chapters, Walker offered her scholarly insights on the topics of culture socialization and end-of-life decision-making; both were significant aspects of her dissertation research on grief and bereavement.

What drew Walker to the topic of grief? After all, death isn’t a subject most people want to talk about, much less research. But Walker doesn’t see it as all that bad. “Grief embodies so much when it comes to dealing with transitions . . . your sense of self in relation to others and what that means about your own identity.” For her, talking about grief



Andrea Walker has contributed two chapters to a textbook that will help students nationwide prepare for the grief counselor certification test.

means talking about dealing with change — something about which she herself wants to learn even more. “I don’t tend to handle change that well. . . . I was drawn to it because it would help me to do that better.”

No doubt Walker is learning a great deal about the topic, as she writes about her findings any chance she gets. The August 2007 issue of *Death Studies Journal* included an article she penned chronicling her dissertation research on grieving rituals among the Creek Indian tribe. She has yet another journal article that has been accepted for publication and an article and a book review in the works. There’s also a plan for a research project — possibly

involving ORU students — on the prevalence of bereavement among college students. Dr. David E. Balk from City University of New York-Brooklyn, Walker’s dissertation chair at Oklahoma State University, provided her with statistics about grief prevalence in other studies and suggested they collaborate on the project.

“Other studies have found that the prevalence of grieving and bereavement in college students is anywhere between 25 and 35 percent of the entire student population,” Walker asserts. That surprising statistic, along with her high level of involvement with young people as an instructor, prompted her to want to conduct her own research. If it was considered “a relevant enough problem [for students],” she says of the prospective findings, “that study could ultimately result in a peer counseling program here at ORU.”

Armed with innovative ideas and a passion for academic research, Walker says publishing scholarly works is simply a natural step as she settles into the classroom. “I just think of [research] as part of academics, as something I’m supposed to do as an academician.”

Even if she’s not yet accustomed to the title of “Doctor,” it’s clear that Andrea Walker is a shoe-in for the role. (Must be those psychology genes from Dad.)

Here's News to You

Bite-Size

When the Oklahoma Aquarium opened in 2003, it seemed logical that some of ORU's science students — namely, those taking Marine Biology — would become involved with the facility.

Who would have thought that *engineering* students would wind up making a major impact? And by working with *sharks*, no less?

When mechanical engineering majors Nathan Francis and Aaron McCready and electrical engineering major Kevin Nunkoosingh were sophomores, someone from the aquarium came to speak to their Engineering Seminar class and threw out an idea for a design project: a device that would measure the strength of a shark's bite. Two years later, the three students decided to make this their senior project.

"The aquarium has the two largest bull sharks in the world [in captivity]," McCready noted, and bulls are known for being the world's most aggressive sharks. Any device the students devised would have to be tough enough to survive the sharks' twice-weekly feeding times — the best time to get them to bite, said McCready.

The gnathodynamometer (there's a mouthful!), to put it inelegantly, is "two big flat plates on the end of a pole," McCready explained. In between the bulletproof glass-covered plates are sensors, and inside is a concealed compartment that contains the electronics, complete with inter-



One of the Oklahoma Aquarium's bull sharks takes a bite out of the gnathodynamometer, which was designed by three ORU students.

nal memory. Plug it in, download the data, and you've got your bite force. (These two sharks, by the way, have a bite force of 100 pounds. Not quite a world record, but intimidating enough to keep you out of the water when they're feeding.)

The device, which cost about \$1,000 and took 640 hours to create, caused quite a stir. In April, the aquarium's PR director set up a Media Day that attracted reporters from the NBC, ABC, CBS, and FOX network affiliates, as well as the *Tulsa World* and KRMG radio. The students took part in a live interview at Channel 8, and FOX ran their piece on the national news.

"We wanted to come up with something that had real-life value," McCready said. A project that helps biologists understand sharks and leads to the design of better shark-protective gear and shark deterrents would certainly be that.

Unbridled Success

When Dr. Mark Lewandowski took over as dean of the School of Business in 2005, one of his goals was to see the school receive full accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs. (The ACBSP is a specialized accrediting body focused on teaching excellence.)

After more than two years of work, which was led by Dr. David Dyson, the school received word that the goal had been realized.

"Congratulations! The Board of Commissioners of the Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Commission met on April 26-28, 2007, and granted Full Accreditation with no notes or conditions for your business programs," the official letter said.

This accreditation applies to both undergraduate and graduate programs. ORU's first Periodic Report will be due in 2009 and every two years after that. The ten-year reaffirmation will be due in 2017.

Causing A Stir

Through a series of coffeehouse receptions, ORU Admissions has been reaching out to prospective students, their parents, and even ORU alumni.

"It makes a significant difference to have alumni represent ORU and share their experience," said Trinnin Olsen, Southwest Territory manager. "For some of the trips, I am able to let the students know how many alumni live in their area. This really helps them to feel connected" and tells them that "ORU is a college that others in their area recognize."

So far, most of the events have been held in Texas and Arkansas, and have attracted anywhere from 15 students and parents to more than 100. (That's a lot of coffee!)

At the Austin event, Charles "CJ" Rich and Max and Carol James took part. "They were such a pleasure to meet and did a phenomenal job talking with students," Olsen said. "We kept getting comments that the prospective students really appreciate having alumni at the event so that they could see the product that ORU produces." Mark and Paula Sterns hosted an event in Fort Worth, attended by 40 students and parents.

If you would like to assist in the recruitment effort, contact Angie (White) Classen, assistant director of Recruitment, at 800-678-8876, 918/495-6221, or awhite@oru.edu.



At the Admissions coffee talk in Houston, two prospective students hold up ORU pennants.

Bio Lab Opens

April 20 was a day to celebrate as ORU hosted an open house for the new Biotechnology Core Lab.

Fundraising for the lab began in January 2006 and was completed in August 2006. The Helmerich Foundation offered a \$60,000 challenge grant, which ORU matched.

"This lab is going to springboard us to the next level," said Dr. Hal Reed, biology department chair.

Dr. Paul Peterson, one of the many alumni who contributed to the project, contrasted the new facility with the lab he remembered. "Many of the instruments that were available when I was training here [as an undergraduate] are back on a shelf in the closet, collecting dust, because they literally are meaningless now."



Peggy Helmerich, President Roberts, Dr. Paul Peterson, and biology chair Dr. Hal Reed take part in the ribbon cutting at the new Biotechnology Core Lab.

That won't be a problem for today's students. "You see the same type of equipment in this lab that you see in a major biomedical center," said Dr. Reed.

Biology student Stephanie Lawrence was able to obtain a summer internship due in large part to the experience she had already gained on the new equipment. "It makes me marketable," she noted.

The \$120,000 (grant plus match) made it possible to purchase a real-time PCR machine, cell culture and bacterial hoods, an ultraviolet spectrophotometer, ELISA plate reader, and many other items that are being used in a new course, Methods in Biotechnology.

Com Arts Expands

The communication arts department is adding two new majors this fall: Musical Theater and Dance Performance.

Musical Theater is designed to develop the intellectual, aesthetic, and creative potential of students through drama, music, and dance as a liberal study and prepare students for graduate study in musical theater.

The Dance Performance program will prepare students physically, intellectually, and spiritually to become dance artists of excellence, to both lead and influence the current culture and impact the dance world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amy Roark-McIntosh will direct this program. She holds a B.F.A. in dance and an M.F.A. in dance performance/choreography.

Maxwell Speaks

Dr. John Maxwell probably knows as much about leadership as anyone on the planet. He's made it his life's work. ORU students had the chance to benefit from what he's learned in his 60 years when he served as the keynote speaker at the fifth annual Ignite leadership conference, called "New World Order," in February.

In chapel that Friday, he spoke about men and women of faith from Bible times running a lap with today's believers. "What would happen if they could run one lap with me, and in running that lap with me, they could only say one thing of encouragement to me?" Maxwell asked. "And . . . if I could summarize their life in one sentence, one statement, one thought, one idea that would epitomize the life that they lived while they ran that race, what would they say to me?"

Singling out Rebekah, future bride of Isaac, Maxwell noted that when she watered the camels of Abraham's servant, she didn't say, "What's in it for me?" She was "just loving, caring,



John Maxwell, playing the part of Abraham's servant, gives the thumbs-up sign to Rebekah as she fetches water for his camels.

reaching, serving, adding value, no strings attached," Maxwell said. She could have said, "I don't water camels," but she didn't.

"Rebekah, as she ran that lap with you and me, would say, 'Serve others with a generous spirit,' period. Wow!"

The other Ignite speakers and performers were Dr. Tim Elmore (a Maxwell protégé), Lynette Troyer Lewis, Pastor Terry Henshaw, Napoleon Kaufman, and the Jeff Deyo Band.

Well-Loved

M. Ray Gregg, perennial faculty favorite from the School of Business, received the new Harold and Edna Paul Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year award at the annual honors chapel in April.



Is there an ORU professor better known or more appreciated than Ray Gregg? It's no wonder he received not one, but two Faculty of the Year awards.

Gregg, who has been teaching at ORU since 1973, also received the Faculty Member of the Year award from the School of Business this spring.

The “Outstanding” award is named for founding faculty member Dr. Harold Paul, a former history, humanities, and government department chair, and his wife, Edna, the department’s long-time secretary, who, in the words of the award, “left a legacy of academic excellence and spiritual leadership.” The winner receives \$1,000 and a trophy.

Degrees of Change

The University of Oklahoma and Tulsa Community College are working with ORU to help students get the degrees they want.

ORU and TCC signed an articulation agreement last fall that allows TCC students to transfer up to 72 credit hours to ORU. An entire associate’s degree from TCC can be credited toward an ORU bachelor’s degree. (Such an agreement had been in place for nursing and social work students.)

The agreement signed with OU will make it easier for ORU students to gain entry to five of OU’s health programs: bachelor’s-level degrees in communication sciences and disorders, nutritional sciences, and radiologic technology; master’s-level degrees in occupational therapy; and doctoral-level degrees in physical therapy.

A qualified student can spend two years at ORU taking the appropriate general education and science courses and then move into one of OU’s bachelor’s programs, or spend three years at ORU before going after one of the graduate degrees. Programs are offered at OU-Tulsa and the OU Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City.



Articulation agreement signing: (L to R) ORU’s Dr. Ralph Fagin, Dr. Kevin Rudeen (OU College of Allied Health), Dr. Gerard Clancy (president, OU-Tulsa), and President Richard Roberts.

Here We Go!

“We were not sent to ORU to simply get a degree. We were sent here to go into every person’s world and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. What a great purpose!”

So said Pradeepan X. Jeevamanoharan (pictured on pg. 3), a cum laude graduate who gave the Student Response at Commencement on May 5.

Those were just a few of the inspiring words that graduates could take away from this, one of the biggest days of their lives. There was also a video message from founder and chancellor Oral Roberts, who said, “I believe in you. I pray for you every day of my life. You’re always on my heart.”

Alumnus Joel Osteen gave the main address. He told the graduates to ask themselves: “One hundred years from now, will it have made a difference that I lived?” Tell yourselves, he said,

that “I’m going to leave this place better off than it was before.”

Osteen, Maj-Kristin Svedlund, Bishop Keith Butler, and Tony Orlando received honorary doctorates. Faculty Emeritus awards went to Dr. Howard Ervin, Doug Latta, Dr. Larry Walker, and Carol Maples Wilson.



Joel Osteen, author of the bestselling *Your Best Life Now*, told new grads to leave the world “better off than it was before.”

Scaling the Heights



It's a new day in ORU Athletics. We're members of a "new" league, we've got three new assistant coaches, new grads get a break on basketball ticket prices, and, well, you really need to read on to find out the rest . . .

REACHING THE SUMMIT

ORU is no longer a member of the Mid-Continent Conference. Nope, that's all in the past. On June 1, the Mid-Con changed its name to the Summit League.



Founded in 1982 as the Association of Mid-Continent Universities, the name was changed to Mid-Continent Conference in 1989.

Summit League members include ORU, Southern Utah, Centenary, Western Illinois, Missouri-Kansas City, Oakland (Michigan), Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, North Dakota State, South Dakota State, and Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne.

OLD AND NEW

Eric Ely, who served as an assistant women's basketball coach from 1998 to 2004, has returned to ORU.

"I am thrilled to be back at Oral Roberts University and to be able to work alongside coach [Finkbeiner] again," Ely said. Ely replaces Dave



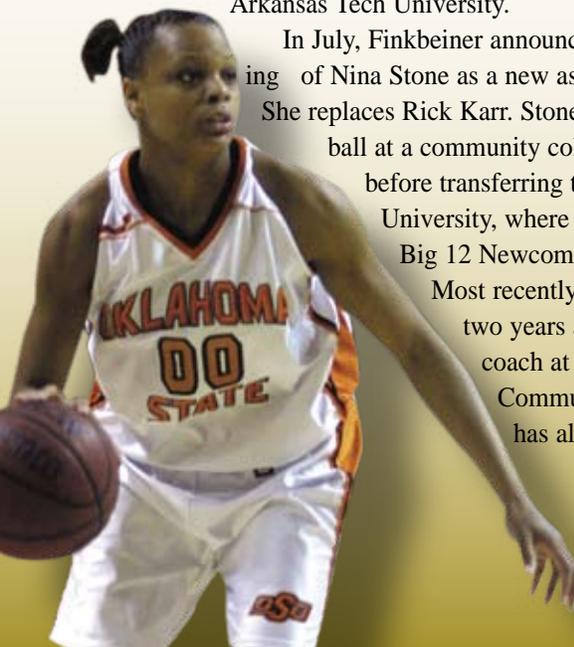
ERIC ELY

Wilbers, who accepted the head coaching job in May at Arkansas Tech University.

In July, Finkbeiner announced the hiring of Nina Stone as a new assistant coach. She replaces Rick Karr. Stone played college ball at a community college in Illinois before transferring to Oklahoma State University, where she was named Big 12 Newcomer of the Year.

Most recently, Stone spent two years as an assistant coach at Daytona Beach Community College. She has also played pro-

< NINA STONE



fessional basketball for the Baloncesto Superior League in Puerto Rico.

"I'm very excited to have the opportunity to work with this program that has such a great tradition," Stone said. "I feel blessed to be a part of this team."

'A FINE ADDITION'

Chris Crutchfield has joined the men's basketball coaching staff. He comes to ORU from Texas Christian University, where he served as an assistant coach last season and director of operations the previous year. In all, he has seven years of Division I coaching experience, along with two seasons as a junior college head coach.



CHRIS CRUTCHFIELD

Crutchfield replaces Corey Williams, who accepted a similar position at Oklahoma State in May, before moving yet again to Florida State University.

"Chris is a fine addition to our staff," said Sutton. "He has great connections all over the country and especially in Texas, an area which has become so important to our program. He's also been a head coach and brings a wealth of knowledge to our staff."

In related news, the former director of Operations, Steve Upshaw, has been promoted to director of Student-Athlete Development, and Conley Clarke has been added to the staff as the new director of Operations.

NEW GRADS SCORE BEST PRICES

Are you ready for some ORU basketball?

The start of the season is still a couple of months away, but it's never too early to nail down a good seat. And if you're a recent grad who lives in the Tulsa area — well, step right up and take advantage of a great deal.

ORU Athletics is continuing its tradition of offering a significant discount on season tickets to new graduates, meaning those from 2005, 2006, and 2007. Ticket prices start at \$25 each.

For other grads and fans, regular adult season tickets for men's games are \$219 each. There is also a "Family Fun Zone" — five tickets in the end zone for \$449. Women's season tickets start at \$39 each.

Men's and women's basketball season tickets can be purchased by contacting the Mabee Center Ticket Office at 918/495.6000 or by logging on to www.orugoldeneagles.com.

Athletics has an all-new Web site that includes special features such as a photo store, mobile options (download the fight song as a ring tone!), video streaming, and more.

TWICE IS NICE

Mable Kunihira and Shaun Smith are keeping a track tradition alive. At the NCAA championships in June, each attained All-American status. Kunihira, of Uganda, accomplished the feat in the 1,500-meter run, while Smith, who comes from Jamaica, earned his award in the 800-meter run. This is the second All-America award for both Kunihira and Smith.

In the past five years, ORU track athletes have accumulated a total of fifteen All-America honors.



MABLE KUNIHIRA



SHAUN SMITH

EYE ON THE BALL

Pamela Ontiveros, the first ORU women's golfer ever to advance out of regional play, was named to the All-Central Regional Team by the National Golf Coaches Association. A junior from Torreon, Mexico, Ontiveros placed 50th at the NCAA Golf Championships in Daytona Beach, Fla. She reached the Championships after finishing as one of the top two individuals at the NCAA Central Regional in Ann Arbor, Mich., where she finished tied for ninth overall.

She was also named the 2007 Mid-Continent Conference Athlete of the Year after leading the Golden Eagles to their tenth consecutive conference title, and set a school record with a 74.4-stroke average.

The women's golf coach, Lance Watson, was named Mid-Con Coach of the Year for the

< PAMELA ONTIVEROS

seventh straight season.

The Golden Eagles baseball team won their tenth straight Mid-Con Conference championship this spring and advanced to the NCAA Regionals, played at Wichita State. ORU lost to Arizona in their first game, 4-3, and then to Wichita State, 11-4, in their second game.

WHAT? AGAIN?

For the second year in a row (and sixth time overall), ORU has captured the Mid-Continent Conference Commissioner's Cup. All it took was eight first-place finishes and four second-place finishes to nab the trophy.

ORU finished first in volleyball, men's basketball, men's tennis, women's tennis, baseball, women's cross country, women's indoor track and field, and women's golf. The second-place finishes were in men's indoor track and field, men's golf, men's outdoor track and field, and women's outdoor track and field.

The Golden Eagles also picked up the Dr. William Steinbrecher Men's All Sports Award and the Dr. Helen Smiley Women's All Sports Award. ORU has won the men's award three straight years and eight times in school history, and has claimed the women's award four times.

The Commissioner's Cup is given annually to the institution that collects the most combined points in relationship to placement in conference-sponsored sports between its men's and women's athletic programs, while the all sports awards are given to the member institutions that accumulate the most points in male and female sports. The men's award is named for a Valparaiso University Athletics director who guided the Crusaders from 1979 to 2004. The women's award is named for a Western Illinois University Athletics director who headed up WIU athletics from 1994 to 2001.



ORU's Mike Carter (left) receives the Commissioner's Cup from Summit League commissioner Tom Douple.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch . . .

It's becoming a tradition, one that alumni love. And it's all due to the kindness and generosity of Ted and Betty Gellert, whose hearts are as big as Texas.

It's an alumni city event like no other!

The Gellerts own Double D Ranch in Mesquite, Tex. On June 3, they opened the gates to about 160 people — alumni and their families, prospective students and their families, the Alumni Office staff, and the Admissions Recruitment team. Children enjoyed pony rides, petting goats and other animals, and kiddie rides, while adults and children alike had fun with paddleboats and took part in a hayride.

Was there food? Oh, yes, lots of it. It wouldn't be Texas without barbecue and all the fixins'! It's a sure thing that no one walked away hungry from the air-conditioned dining hall.

This was the third time since 2003 that the Gellerts have hosted and sponsored an alumni event at their ranch. It was the first time, however, that prospective students were on the invitation list.

"It was really, really amazing," said ORU recruiter Trinnin Olsen. "The students absolutely loved talking to alumni. It made them feel connected." Some of the students arrived late, but even then, they were asking if there were still some alumni there who could talk about their ORU experience. "The parents said, 'Thank you so much for inviting us. This was so great. Please keep us informed of other events like this.'" One student filled out an application at the event, and some alumni signed up to help recruit. "It's a comfortable atmosphere," Olsen said of the barbecue. All in all, "it was priceless."

"I want to thank all the alumni who made those 'new faces' welcome," said Alumni director Natalie Bounds. "No doubt, they will decide to come to ORU because of your friendliness!"

On hand to help welcome one and all were current Alumni Board of Directors chair Rhae Buckley, former Alumni Board chair Bob Vander Lugt, and Mark Sterns who, along with wife Paula, has been very active in assisting with student recruitment through the years.

Once again, a million thanks to Ted and Betty Gellert, the hosts with the most!

Clockwise from left: Ricky Broughton, Mark Sterns, and Trey Tucker — the new Three Amigos? • Hot day, cool water, nice boat. • "It's okay here at the ranch, but no goats on the table when we get home!" • Hay! Let's take a ride!



Bigger and Better

That's Homecoming 2008, Feb. 8 and 9! We intend to respond to your requests and give you more of what you're looking for.

Instead of individual department open houses, we're bringing ALL the departments together for one BIG event, complete with hors d'oeuvres and music. See many of your favorite faculty members — all together in one place! That's Friday the 8th at 4:30 p.m.

If you arrive earlier in the day (and we hope you'll come for chapel), you can enjoy the music department's **Faculty Showcase** from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Music Ministries is scheduling a knockout of a reunion. And with Lauren Kitchens and Monica Amstutz planning it, you KNOW it's going to be great.

Faculty members are looking for alumni who can share their hard-earned wisdom with today's ORU students, so let us know if you'd like to be considered to speak to a class. Or maybe you just want to sit in on a class. Let us know that, too, and we'll put you in touch with the right people.

Our ever-popular **Post-game Reception** is being co-sponsored by Athletics, so look for something bigger and better than ever before.

You can also count on our traditional Homecoming events: chapel, the Alumni Connection luncheon (formerly GEBC luncheon), the 10/20/30-year reunions, Vespers, alumni vs. faculty basketball, School of Business events, a Women's Luncheon, men's and women's basketball, the President's Banquet, and presentation of the Alumnus of the Year awards.

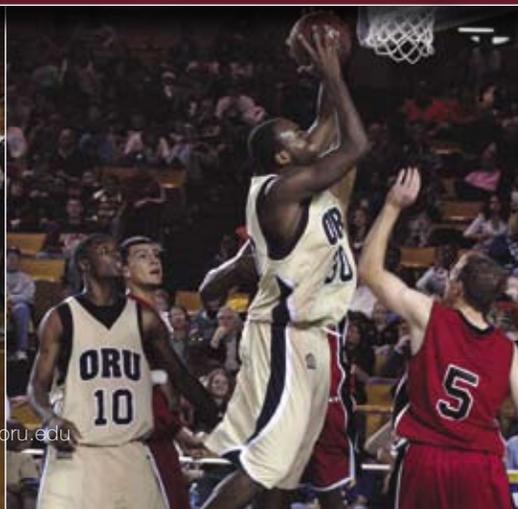
If you haven't been back to campus in many moons, this is the year to make your triumphant return. Use Face Place, our online alumni community, to contact old friends and encourage them to join you. You'll also be able to track who's coming to which event at our online registration page.

We'll be watching for you!

More details to come. By the way — we need volunteers to hand out registration packets, plan the reunion dinners, emcee events, speak in classes, etc. Drop us an e-mail if you can help: alumni@oru.edu. Sign up for Face Place (if you haven't already) at <https://webapps.oru.edu/homecoming>.



Mark your calendar! Homecoming • February 8 & 9, 2008



Here's My Story

What Face Place Means to Alumni

I recently was in charge of my 30-year Nursing Class Reunion, and Face Place helped me connect with former classmates. I did have to strain my brain to remember a few classmates!

The pictures are fun also. They show how we all have matured and how nature always wins. (Why does gravity work so well?)

We had a great reunion in February 2007. We are a family of unique alumni, and God is continuing to use and touch each of us. Seeing what God has done in our lives and families through good and bad stuff was awesome! Reigniting these friendships was invaluable and brought so much joy.

Reignite your great memories of ORU by checking out Face Place. Sign in, and let your friends find you! — *Joanne Crain 77*

To join Joanne and hundreds of your fellow ORU alumni in the Face Place forum, go to alumni.oru.edu.

Joanne (back row, second from right) reconnected with School of Nursing classmates at their 30-year brunch during Homecoming.



HLC Requests Input

Oral Roberts University is seeking comments from the public about the university in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The university will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit Nov. 4-7, 2007, by a team representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. ORU has been accredited by the Commission since 1971. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college:

Public Comment on Oral Roberts University
The Higher Learning Commission
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60602

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; comments will not be treated as confidential.

All comments must be received by October 4, 2007.

Don't Let It Get Away From You

As the old adage goes . . . "People Don't Plan to Fail. They Fail to Plan." Unfortunately, many individuals today neglect to plan, mistakenly thinking that estate planning is only for the very wealthy. Not realizing that anyone who owns anything has an estate, many people fail to even draw up a simple will, leaving the disposition of their assets and even the choice of a guardian for their minor children to the state.

▶▶ Know the Facts . . .

- ▶ 70% of Christians do not make any plans concerning their resources.
- ▶ Of the 30% who do plan, 65% of those plans are not current because of changes in life and tax laws.
- ▶ We invest 80,000 hours (in an average lifetime) into building our resources, but less than 2 hours on planning how to transfer them.

▶▶ Good stewardship takes planning . . .

We know that God commands us to be good stewards of the things He has given us. ORU wants to provide you with the necessary knowledge that integrates your faith, family, and financial concerns into your stewardship plan.

Our goal is to assist you with prudent financial and estate planning tools. There is no charge and you are under no obligation for utilizing our free professional services. This is our way to plant a seed back into your life that will affect generations to come. For more information, contact Chris Miller, ORU's Director of Development and Estate Planning, at (800) 822-8203 or e-mail at development@oru.edu.





Garner Scores with National Designs

If you're a football fan, you've seen the new red, white, and blue NFL logo. Originally created by Frank Garner for NFL Network, the National Football League sports its fresh look on other stations as well. "I see it all over the place," says Garner, "on any network that carries NFL — CBS, FOX, ESPN."

As broadcast design director at WinnerComm/SkyCam, Garner creates design solutions for many sports shows — from ESPN Classics to the latest golf tournament. "It is pretty cool watching your design come to life as it is showcased in front of a million or more viewers." And in an industry where much of an artist's work doesn't get used or has a short lifespan, scoring a design for a national sports league is quite a touchdown.

Throughout his life, Garner has been taking note of good design all around him. "Everything with good design, including God's design in nature, has always been an inspiration" . . . including ORU's architecture. When he got his first look at the campus, Garner was 'amazed and shocked' by the building designs.

Along the way, the Praying Hands statue inspired him to take a sculpting class. But instructor Stu Branston wouldn't provide enough bronze to build such an elephant-sized sculpture. "So," Garner said, "I built a miniature elephant."

Garner says coming to ORU was the best decision he ever made. "I met my future wife, Kerry, and lifelong friends, and [got] a great education."

FRANK AND KERRY GARNER ARE 1990 GRADUATES. YOU CAN CONTACT FRANK AND SEE MORE OF HIS WORK AT WWW.FRANKGARNER.COM.



Garner and wife Kerry (Johnson) have two boys, Brandon, 10, and William, 9.

Wi We Love Alumni

... because you care about ORU students!

In April, we introduced the "**ORU UNPLUGGED**" campaign. Our goal was to raise \$200,000, to be combined with \$100,000 from ORU and used to install 50 more wireless hotspots around campus. ▶▶ At press time, we had raised \$143,626! That number includes matching funds offered by several alumni and friends, including the Alumni Board of Directors. And the gifts are still coming in. ▶▶ **Thank you, alumni**, for helping us provide this much-needed feature. Given the virtual omnipresence of wireless devices, ORU is making a smart move.



Here, There, and Everywhere

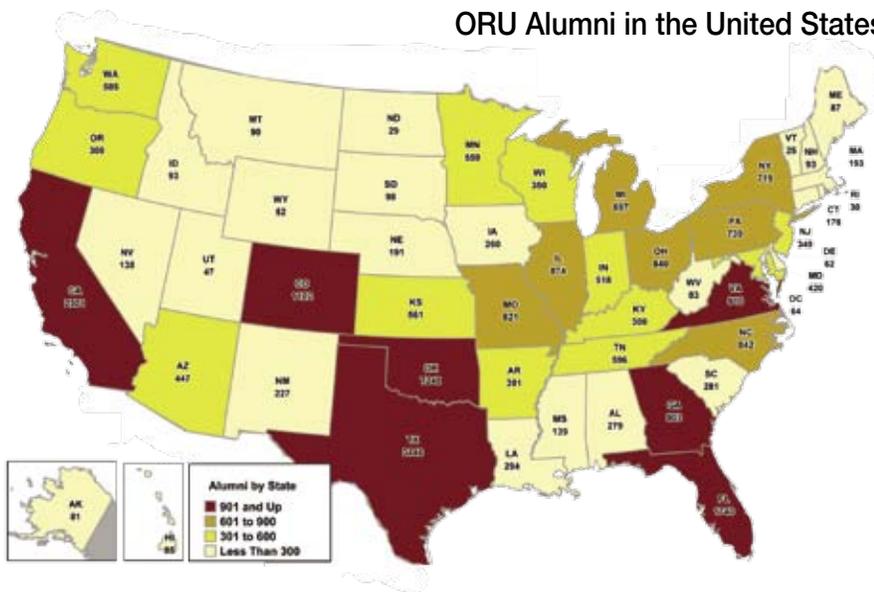
That pretty well describes where ORU alumni are making their homes these days. As you can see by looking at these maps, we've got the U.S. covered. And when it comes to the world at large, we've managed to establish a beachhead in quite a few countries.

When you add missions outreaches to the equation, ORU alumni have been to a large number of the "green" countries. Keith Wheeler has even carried his cross to Antarctica — which, strictly speaking, is a continent, not a country. (Yes, we are at least as smart as your average fifth grader.)

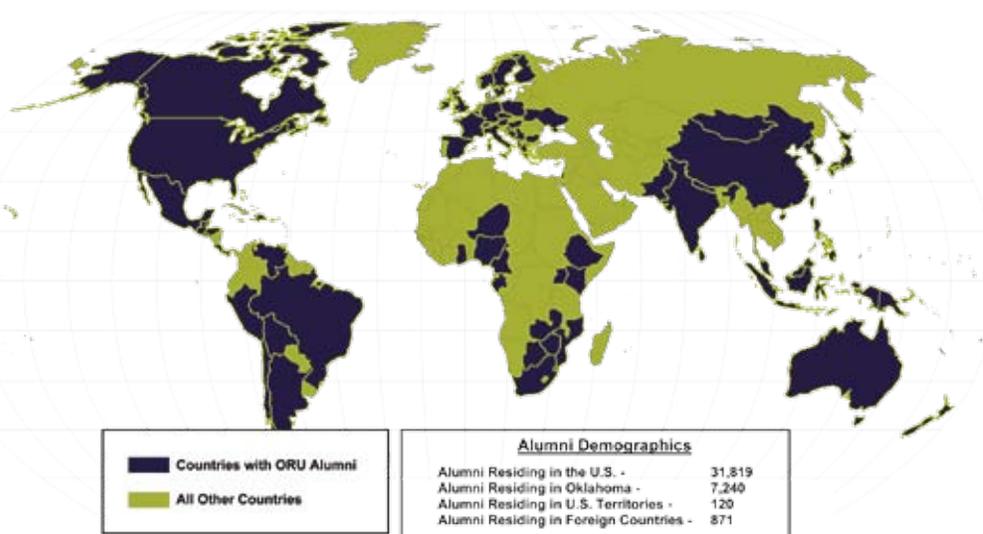
These maps represent our alumni population as of spring 2006.



ORU Alumni in the United States



ORU Alumni Across the World



***You were always
together ...
always there
for each other.***

**Be together again
in our upcoming
Alumni Directory.**

Even if it has been years since you last made contact, you can still reconnect with long-lost friends. We are currently compiling an Alumni Directory, an invaluable resource with personal, academic, and business information on all of our alumni. Don't miss your chance to be included. Be sure to provide your updated information when contacted.

Calendar of Events

Fall 2007

September

- 3** Labor Day (no classes)
- 13-15** Alumni Board of Directors meeting
- 29** **Music Department presents "An Evening in the Gardens," a 5 p.m. concert followed by a 6:30-7:30 reception in Timko-Barton Lobby. Call 918/495-6610 or go to alumni.oru.edu to RSVP. Featuring Don Ryan, Kelly Ford, and Richard Sutliff. (Bring chair/blanket.)**

October

- 12** Fall Break begins after last class. Missions teams are sent out!
- 22** Classes resume.
- 31** Fall Outreach (nonperishable foods collected for local food banks)

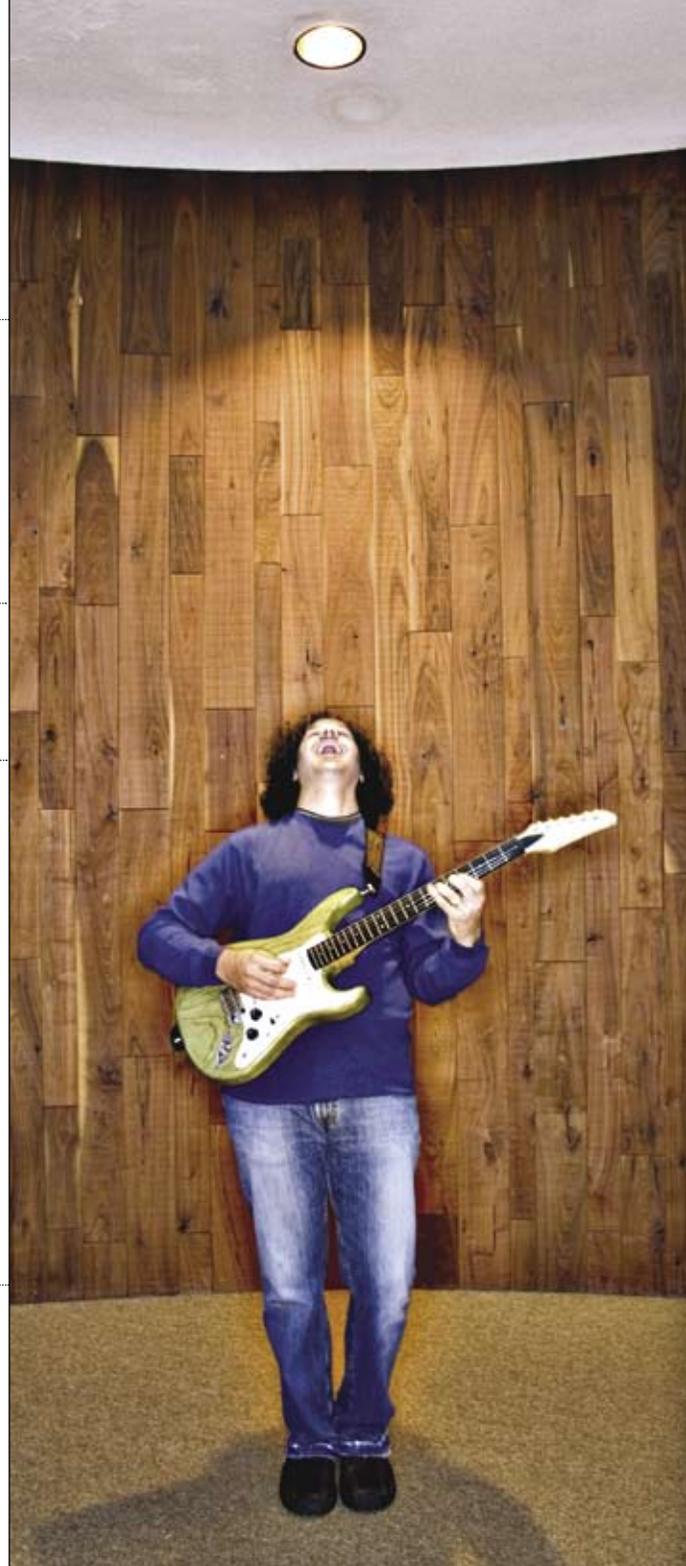
November

- 3** Women's Basketball exhibition: ORU vs. Missouri Western University, 2:05 p.m. Men's Basketball exhibition: ORU vs. Rogers State, 7:05 p.m.
- 5-7** Higher Learning Commission site visit. This will determine the renewal of ORU's accreditation. Go to <http://selfstudy.oru.edu> and see what we've done to prepare for this visit.
- 8-10** **College Weekend, the best way for prospective students to get a taste of ORU.***
- 9** Men's Basketball regular-season opener vs. Southwestern Oklahoma State, 7:05 p.m.
- 10** Women's Basketball regular-season opener vs. Cameron University, 2:05 p.m.
- 20** Thanksgiving vacation begins after last class.
- 26** Classes resume.
- 30** Family Christmas Concert, Mabee Center

December

- 7** Fall classes end.
- 8-15** Final exams

**Register early for College Weekend! Go to oru.edu or call 1/800.678.8876. The spring College Weekend is March 27-29.*



SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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1970s

At a March 10 awards ceremony, the Oklahoma Center for the Book honored **Clifton Taulbert 71** with the state's highest literary award. The Arrell Gibson Award for Lifetime Achievement annually recognizes an author whose body of work contributes to Oklahoma's literary heritage. Taulbert's first book, *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*, started as a narrative history for his son, **Marshall 04**. Later, the book became a major motion picture. Two more memoirs followed, along with three children's books and two "Habits" books geared toward character development. His most recent title, *Eight Habits of the Heart for Educators*, quickly found a place on educators' bestselling lists. In addition to speaking at schools, Taulbert promotes harmonious community around the globe through his company, the Building Community Institute. www.cliffontaulbert.com

Larry Wayne Morbitt 74, appearing in *Phantom of the Opera* in Las Vegas, has a new address.

Clifton 75 and **Jayne (Linden) 77 Gore** are celebrating 32 years together. They both teach public school students in North Carolina. On July 29, 2006, their son, **Sam 04**, married Skye Frith. (Sam's sister, **Sarah Jayne 03-04**, is standing next to Sam in the photo below.) Sam is youth pastor at Highest Praise Church and works at the Early College High School in

Whiteville.

Debbie (Church) Walsh 77 completed an MPA in non-profit management at High Point University, and graduated May 5, 2007. Pictured with husband Dennis, she says, "I couldn't have done it without him." At the end of April, the Prison Fellowship office where Debbie worked was closed. She will now be spending time catching up on family projects and working from a home office with the family foundation that she and Dennis founded to assist small nonprofits and Christian ministries with technology and organizational development.

Tom Santo 77 wrote to say, "I wanted to share my appreciation to the university community for the solid foundation that was provided to me during my experience at Oral Roberts. After graduation I volunteered to work with children overseas via Dr. Hartman of the education department. The seemingly onetime experience turned into more than 15 countries and five continents. After teaching special education for 18 years I am now employed as the principal of Zane North Elementary School for the last eight years. Recently our school was designated as a National School of Character, the first public elementary school in the state of New Jersey to receive this honor." In April, the school was featured on Action News in his area.

Mavis (Sermons) Waters 77, 81-MBA has become a well-known jazz singer in Washington, D.C. In February, at the 21st annual Wammies (Washington Area Music Awards) — a ceremony that recognizes achievements by D.C.-area musicians — Mavis worked with blues musician Daryl Davis and company to perform a tribute to the late Ruth Brown, an R&B singer whose career began in the 1950s. Mavis works for Sun Microsystems and performs weekly in D.C. and Old Towne, Alexandria.

1980s

Randy Wade 80-MBA received his Ph.D. in organization and management from Capella University in April 2007. A college professor of business since January 1980, Randy has taught at Tarkio College in Missouri, Emporia State University in Kansas, and Rogue Community College in Grants Pass, Ore. He has also been an adjunct professor at Southern Oregon University and Northwest Christian College. Currently, Randy serves as chair of the business technology department at Rogue. His wife of 33 years, Sue, received her master of arts in teaching 2 years ago and is the G.E.D. director for at-risk youth for the Grants Pass School District. Classmates may remember their two rambunctious boys from their days in Graduate Student Housing. Back then, Gabe was 4 years old and Eric was 2. Now Eric is married and a support technician for the city of Grants Pass. Gabe teaches high school social science in Grants Pass and is getting married this summer. The Wades say, "We would love to hear from our

old friends. Or better yet, come visit. J. Mark and Cindy, where are you?"

John C. King, M.D., a **1983** medical school graduate, became a full professor of rehabilitation medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 1999. He was recently awarded the 2007 Distinguished Clinician Award by the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. On Sept. 1, he became the president of the Association of Academic Physiatrists. John and his wife, Mary Sue, have four grown children who all live in San Antonio. "Go, Spurs, go!" says John.

Julia-Isabel Davenport 85 created a national award for small businesses. The Community Megastar Award recognizes the community outreach efforts of micro-businesses. Owner of Maximize Your Publicity, an Arizona-based public relations firm, Davenport equips leaders of nonprofits and small businesses to effectively create their own community outreach opportunities. In addition to speaking, she has written two books, *2007 Publicity Planner* and *How To Maximize Your Publicity*. For more information, visit maximizeyourpublicity.com.

Bryan Sanders 85-JD has been selected for inclusion in the 2007-08 edition of *Who's Who in American Law* and will be profiled in the 2007-08 edition of *Marquis Who's Who in American Education*, "a journal celebrating the men and women whose excel-



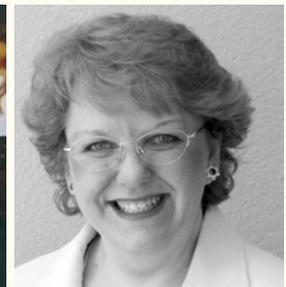
GORE 75, 77, 04



WALSH 77



WATERS 77



DAVENPORT 85



SANDERS 85

Notes From Alumni

lence and dedication continue to maintain the highest standards of American education.” Bryan has been a member of the Evangel University (Springfield, Mo.) faculty since 1990. Currently, he is professor of government and legal studies. He also has his own conflict management consulting business, Hollingsworth, Sanders & Tow, LLC. Bryan serves as a deacon in his church, Praise Assembly of God, and has taught Sunday school classes on a variety of topics, including Biblical Conflict Resolution. He and his wife, Virginia, have two adult children.

James Bear 87, a financial planner and Safe Money Advisor™, is the founder and president of J. Alan Financial (based in Champlin, Minn.). He is offering his safe money ideas to the over-50 crowd as one of the newest columnists for *Minnesota Good Age* newspaper. Bear has 20+ years of financial expertise, focused primarily on seniors. His articles are available in print, online (at www.mngoodage.com), and by contacting J. Alan Financial.

Bob Beard 88, 99-M.A.Ed., former director of Alumni Relations at ORU and current director of Development at Tulsa Community College, put ORU on the board of Monopoly’s Oklahoma Centennial edition. He tells us that he created “the look, feel, and components of the game from top to bottom.” ORU fills the space that Pennsylvania Avenue holds on the original board; it’s worth \$320, the highest property value. And Beard points out that the Oklahoma edition is not a knock-off but the real

deal, with “the true trademarks of Monopoly.” Beard said he had been praying for a witty invention that would help fund his children’s college education, and he laughed when this idea came to mind. Unable to shake it, he contacted Hasbro, the maker of Monopoly, and eventually, the deal was done. (Read more of the story on the alumni Web site.)

Former Telenews sports anchor **Philip T. Hicks 88** is moving to the Springfield/Branson area in August. An evangelist and comedian, Philip’s first book and life story is entitled *The Cross & the .357 Magnum*. Philip encourages people “to walk in transparency and accountability before God, family, and others.” As a children’s minister, Hicks portrays “Cuz’n Philburt and Wilburt the Pig.” Combining comedy, illusion, and pig tricks performed by a potbelly pig, Hicks presents Bible truths. Last year he and one of his performing pigs flew to Mississippi and brought God’s love and laughter to Katrina victims. www.amerryheart.com

Jennifer (Rayfield) Shults 88 is married to Brent Shults and has three children: stepdaughter Ashton, 11, Anna Beth, 3, and Dalton, 2.

1990s

Kate (Ireland) 95 and Doug 96 Baggett have three children: Karah Elizabeth, 6, Hannah Grace, 4, and Joshua William, 2, and would be happy to hear from fellow alumni.

Cheryl (Isner) Hynes 96 has recently completed a master’s degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Oklahoma. She is currently working with OU Physicians, Bedlam clinic, managing acute and chronic diseases for the uninsured and underinsured. She and her husband, Brendan, are active at Tulsa Harvest Church.

Matt Rearden 97 and his wife, Amanda, have a new baby, Ava Bailie, born on April 26 at 1:33 p.m. Matt says she is healthy and adjusting well. Big sister Mackenzie, 2½, is also well. Matt is one of the newest members of the Alumni Board of Directors.

Pam (McLellan) Shavey 97 and her husband, Chad, write, “We are excited to welcome our first baby boy, Jack William Shavey. He is beautiful and a gift straight from heaven.” Jack arrived March 10 at 6:28 p.m. Pam is a CPA with a juris doctorate from Regent University.

2000s

Gretchen Wagner 00 has been promoted to vice president at Rubenstein Communications, Inc., a public relations firm in New York City. In a March 20 announcement, president Steven Rubenstein wrote, “Gretchen has distinguished herself through her work in the areas of music, television, and comedy. . . . Her success is fueled by an incredible work ethic, sincere curiosity, and a thorough approach.”

Daniel King 02 married Jessica Shen on April 21, 2007. They met while on a missions trip to Congo, Africa. They are living in Tulsa and will continue to minister around the world through “massive miracle crusades.” Their goal is to annually lead 1 million souls to Jesus.

Chris Rife 03 has been promoted to commercial loan officer at Midwest BankCentre in St. Louis, Mo., where he is responsible for underwriting loans, developing new business with commercial customers, and maintaining relationships with existing clients. He joined Midwest in 2003 as a credit analyst and was promoted to commercial loan associate in 2004. He is a volunteer with Rebuilding Together (a national nonprofit organization that rebuilds and repairs the homes of those in need) and Junior Achievement.

In April, **Chris Crawford 04** won three prestigious awards at the national-level competition of the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival in Washington, D.C. First, his



SHAVEY 97



WAGNER 00



KING 02



MCMILLAN 04



BABIARZ 05

winning performance as Rev. Shannon in "The Night of the Iguana" (a play by Tennessee Williams) earned him a \$3,000 scholarship. He also won the Mark Twain Prize for Comic Performance, and earned the Shakespeare Theatre Acting Fellowship, which is an acting internship with the Washington, D.C., Shakespeare Theatre Company. In a May 13, 2007, interview, he told the *Tulsa World* he's overwhelmed by these honors and the resulting professional stint. But eventually, he plans to return to Tulsa and start a theater company because, although he loves acting and performing, he also loves producing and writing.

Jennifer McMillan 04 is a pharmacy technician and a youth supervisor at her church. She plans to attend Regent University and earn a master's in government and law. In November 2006, she wrote, "I had the awesome privilege of meeting former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and his wife, Janet, at their home with students from the Regent School of Government. It was an awesome gathering! Their friendliness and love for God was very special to me." She urges her friends to "please, please get in touch with me!" via phone, e-mail, or snail mail.

Carla Tapia Babiarz 05 is pursuing her M.Div. degree for ordained ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary and expecting to graduate in May 2008. Now living in Madison, Wisc., Carla is doing her pastoral internship at a parish in Verona. She sends her best regards to alumni and gives God glory for all that's being accomplished in her life.

Rob Case 06 (he attended ORU from 1979 to 1982 and later returned to complete his degree), wife **Jan (Baugher 81-83)**, and three of their five children are returning to China. The first time around, they spent 2½ years in the country. This time, the plan is to remain for 4-5 years. Rob is a foreign language teacher, and Jan will continue to teach Lyssa, 18, Meagan, 14, and Ryan, 11. (Their other children are Angela [Case] Gonsalves, 21, and Jeremiah, 17.) Rob and Jan would love to hear from old ORU friends. (Note: If you write to them, they say, please limit discussions to their lives, not their work, since their status there is sensitive.)

Associates

This coming November, **Phil Boatwright (70-73)** celebrates 20 years of reviewing films from a Christian perspective. He writes, "I credit my professors and fellow drama department classmates at ORU for aiding me in spiritual and artistic growth." Besides reviewing movies, "I also suggest video alternatives. The most

endearing films, like parables, nourish the spirit. . . . I delight in bringing such movies to the attention of my readers." Phil is the editor and film reviewer for pre-viewonline.org and a columnist for baptistpress.com. www.moviereporter.com and

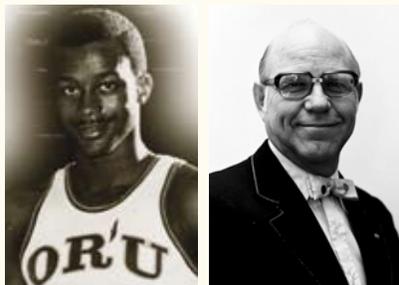
Obituaries

Sam Ray Compton, Jr., a double-degree graduate of ORU (biology in 1977 and biomedical chemistry in 1978), died peacefully in his sleep sometime during the night of July 5. Since graduation, Sam had become a violin-maker who loved researching and teaching the art of violin-making. He was a vice president of the Violin Society of America and the Catgut Acoustical Society, and was principal second violin in the Rockbridge Community Symphony Orchestra. He and his wife, Susan, had been married 31 years, having wed in the ORU Chapel on April 24, 1976. Susan said she would love to hear from members of the old Disciples wing.

Arnold Dugger (74-77), the snazzy dresser from the Bronx who brought a style all his own to ORU basketball, passed away on July 2 at his home in the Poconos. He was 52. Dugger was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005. In an interview, he said, "I wanted the people to come out here in the snow and rain, to go home and say, 'I'm looking forward to seeing what this kid will do the next day.' I wasn't just coming out here to score and play ball, I came out here to entertain, okay?" Sharing the spotlight with Anthony Roberts, Dugger was one-half of a dazzlingly talented duo that took the Titans to the NIT in 1975 and 1977. "I can't describe all the moments and memories and glory I had at this school," Dugger said in 2005. "We put on a show here, man. We made these people happy."

Beverly Ross, a 1994 master of divinity graduate, passed away on May 5 of a brain tumor. She was 62.

Dr. Robert Miller, former professor and chairman of the Department of Administrative Dentistry at ORU, passed away on April 26. He was 83. Dr. Miller founded Health Teams International, a medical missions organization, in 1986. He organized the missions program in the dental school and developed portable equipment that could be used in the field. **Dr. Mark Tiernan 83**, who has a dental practice in Tulsa and has participated in dental missions since his graduation, had this to say about Dr. Miller: "I used his organization exclusively for procurement of the dental equipment for all of my mission work. He was always a GREAT supporter! He encouraged my mission work and was always faithful to do a writeup of where we were going or where we had been. He was a TREMENDOUS man of God and inspired MANY in the dental school to continue the work of "taking God's voice where it is heard small" all over the world. What an inspiration! His love for God and a lost and dying world was amazing!" "Dr. Robert Miller was soft-spoken and patient," said **Dr. Ron Lamb 69**. "His positive and assertive eloquence captivated all around him when he was telling one of his many stories. His love for people and compassion for mission work motivated him to launch health teams to some of the most remote and unreached people groups in the world. Bob was dedicated to God, family, and dentistry, which inspired everybody around him. That made him a wonderful mentor and example for students and faculty at the ORU dental school. He will be so missed by all of us who knew and loved him."



DUGGER 77

MILLER



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P.O. BOX 702333
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74170

alumni@oru.edu
<http://alumni.oru.edu>

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At her request, Marilyn Hickey has returned to the ranks of regular regents, having served as chair of the ORU Board of Regents since 1988. "She has given and given and given of her time, of her resources, of her creative ideas and insights and ideas for this university for these many years," said President Richard Roberts. Pastor George Pearsons, an ORU alumnus who is senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church in Fort Worth, is the new chair of the Board of Regents. *Read more about Commencement on page 20 and about other recent changes at ORU on page 14.*