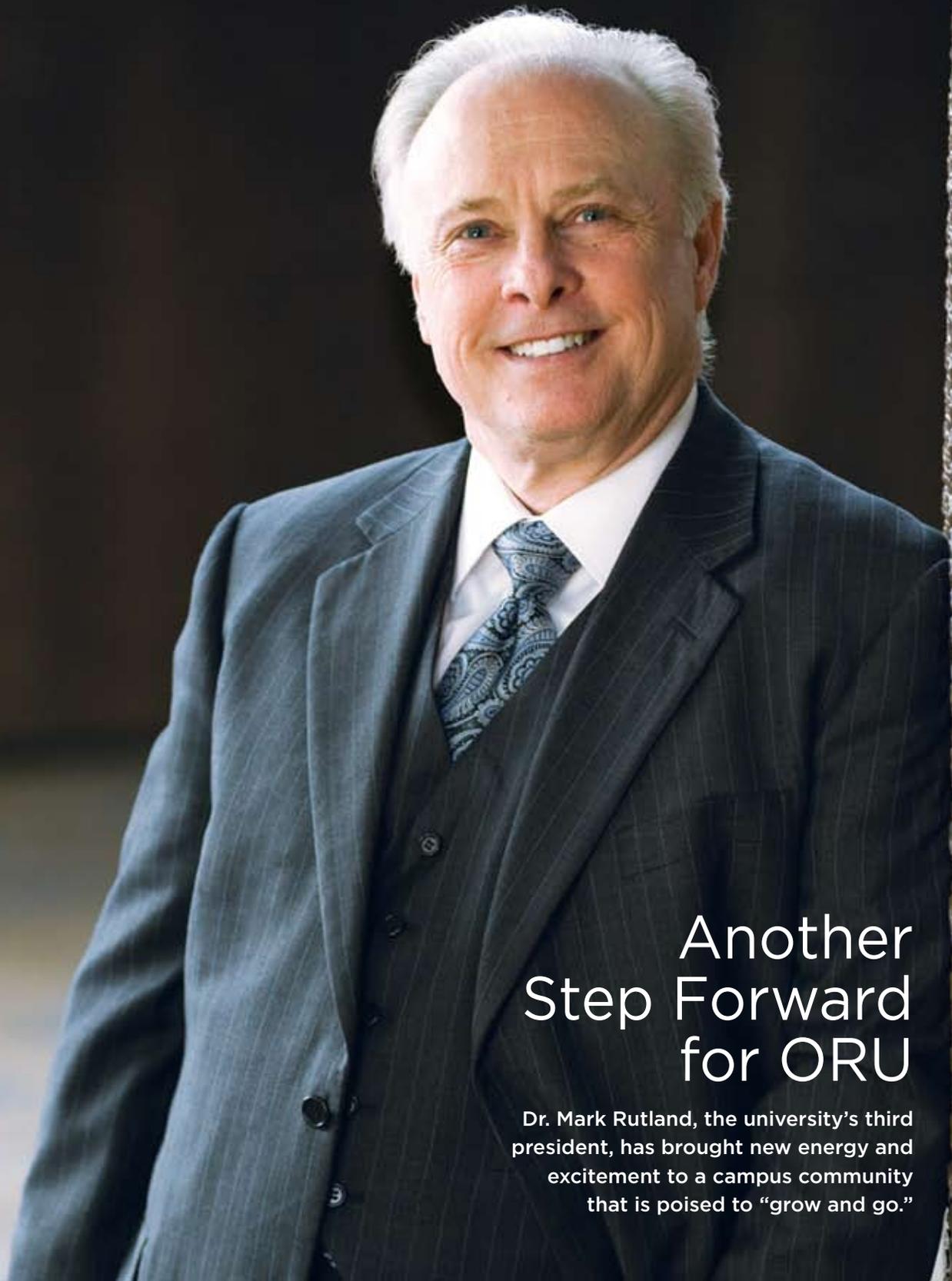


summer2009

excellence

for oral roberts university alumni and friends



Another Step Forward for ORU

Dr. Mark Rutland, the university's third president, has brought new energy and excitement to a campus community that is poised to "grow and go."

Can We Expect Miracles to Continue Happening?

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us..." (Ephesians 3:20 NKJV).

Many of us have testimonies of how God has worked in our lives in such a way that we would not have believed it except for the fact we witnessed it. We may not be able to explain how we are still alive and well after catastrophic accidents. Others cannot explain how they were able to achieve unfathomable feats against all

problems of deferred maintenance, outdated electrical systems, dilapidated dorm rooms — and the list goes on and on. In a very short time, ORU's debt has been virtually eliminated. The deferred maintenance is being eradicated, dorm rooms are being brought up to date — and the blessings go on and on.

How did all of this happen? God's people were faithful. Donors were faithful in giving. Faculty and staff remained faithful to their calling. All remained faithful to pray for ORU and ORU

has remained faithful to its founding principles.

I am reminded of a recent sermon by an ORU alumnus who said, "Faith is a spiritual force." It's what we must all focus on. We must not focus on the problems that are in front of us. We need to focus on the victory God wants to reveal to us. God has given us His word to guide us and His Spirit to live inside us. We have to let Him direct us and light our way. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105 NIV).

We also need to be transformed each day by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2) and allow our faith to grow. The seeds are inside us; the rain of His Spirit will bring it out. Our faith will be rewarded not just

ORU has experienced a miraculous renewal that can be seen in technology upgrades, building renovations, and even stronger academics, athletics, spiritual life programs and student services. This renewal can be traced back to the faith of those who believed that God wasn't done with His university.

odds. We could go on and on about the many miracles and blessings God has provided His children.

When I reflect back on my childhood, my teen years, my college years and the years since, I can testify to countless works of God. I remember miracles and blessings I have witnessed that cannot be explained by human wisdom. The only way that I or anyone else can wrap our brains around such works is by acknowledging that all of them are for God's glory and His purposes . . . and simply leave the details up to Him. We just have to have faith.

All of us have witnessed a miracle in the rebirth of ORU. Less than two years ago, the university was faced with colossal debt, unimaginable



Rhae Buckley has been on the Alumni Board since 2000. Outside of his ORU involvement, he serves as vice president of Human Resources with Compassion International, a Christian ministry that rescues children from poverty in 25 countries.

with victory over any issue we face in our lives here on earth, but with the ultimate victory: life everlasting in heaven.

ORU has experienced a miraculous renewal that can be seen in technology upgrades, building renovations, and even stronger academics, athletics, spiritual life programs and student services. This renewal can be traced back to the faith of those who believed that God wasn't done with His university.

Thank you, alumni, for staying faithful by praying for your alma mater and financially supporting its God-given mission to bring light to the world for God's glory.

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MISSION STATEMENT
The purpose of Excellence magazine is to share
alumni stories and recent university news with
alumni and friends of ORU, thereby demonstrat-
ing that the mission of ORU is being carried out
on a daily basis all over the globe – "in every
person's world."



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

ORU

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2009 | vol. 21 no. 2

excellence

YOU'LL FIND IT AT ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY



PHOTO BY SCOTT HARRISON

In the developing world, many walk three hours each day to get water . . .
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PHOTO BY DAVID DAUGHERTY/EPIC IMAGES

Seth Silvers prays before heading up on stage to
speak at a Thirst Youth Conference in June 2008.

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Corrections

In the spring '09 issue, there was an incorrect date
on pages 3 and 45. Dr. Rutland's first ORU press
conference was held on Jan. 28, not Jan. 29.
We regret the error.



The Spirit of Newness

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF “NEWNESS.” One is transitory, the fleeting smell of a new car, the restless longing for baubles that quickly lose their shiny fascination. Obsession with such so-called newness breeds immaturity, hinders commitment and steals joy.



There is much that is new about ORU, but as Dr. Rutland will tell you, the vision and the mission remain the same. Photo by Jeremy Loud

Novelty is a tyrant demanding the first blush of excitement while mocking endurance and perseverance as the antique virtues of pedestrian souls. The end of such “newness” is that joyless Athenian discontent which “spends its time in nothing else but to tell or to hear some new thing” (Acts 17:21).

Yet one of the most precious promises of God is newness. He makes us new creations, puts a new song in our mouth, weaves new cloth, fills new wineskins with new wine, and some day will grant us new bodies to walk a new earth under new

heavens. He suffers us to enter the very holy of holies by a new and living way and summons us to newness of life. To those who overcome, He will give a white stone in which will be written a new name. Indeed, the blessing of God can be summed up in one grand, glorious sentence: “Behold, I make all things NEW.”

Christ lends to everyday life the newness of the first dawn. Such newness transcends fashion, defies fads and never fades.

This day, even now as you read these very words, rejoice that His love for you is new and undimmed by the

years or the tears or your faults or your failures. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Newness, different from and contrary to the Oldness of the Law (Romans 7:6). Age does not make us old; the law does. The Spirit makes all things new.

Today I have a new job. I am the new president of ORU, sitting behind a desk in my new office, writing to new friends and constituents. There is a Spirit of Renewal all over the campus. Renovation. Refreshment. Every sign of new energy abounds at ORU. It is fun to see, and a delight to all on the campus. Millions, literally millions of dollars of work is being done on the buildings, classrooms, dorms and labs. Christ’s Chapel is being beautifully refurbished and new landscape now dots the campus like islands on the lawn. From the Prayer Tower and the Gardens to the Learning Resources Center to the 7th floor of the Graduate Center, the Spirit of Newness is everywhere.

The rich history of this great university, the founding vision of Oral Roberts and the heritage of Charismatic spirituality are treasures never to be lost or compromised. Indeed, the Spirit of Newness makes the very best things new. This campus is flush with new energy, new hope, and new life. This is the dawn of a “New Day” at ORU.

Sweeter far than new things is the Spirit of Newness which we all sense so richly in the air. Come back to ORU. Visit the old campus you love so much, and sense the “New ORU.” Delight again at the inner knowledge, the great biblical truth that He makes all things new.

MARK RUTLAND, PH.D.
PRESIDENT

‘Water changes everything’

The staff of charity: water, including ORU alum Nicky Yates, knows this to be true.

BY RACHEL WEGNER 07

A long line of African women and children with yellow water jugs atop their heads walk for hours in blazing heat to find water for their families. After reaching their destination, they submerge their jugs into filthy water that is contaminated with parasites and animal waste. Filling their jugs, they turn around and begin the long journey home with 40 pounds of water in tow. Each day, they are forced to spend precious hours finding water, which inhibits their ability to work, seek education and care for their families.

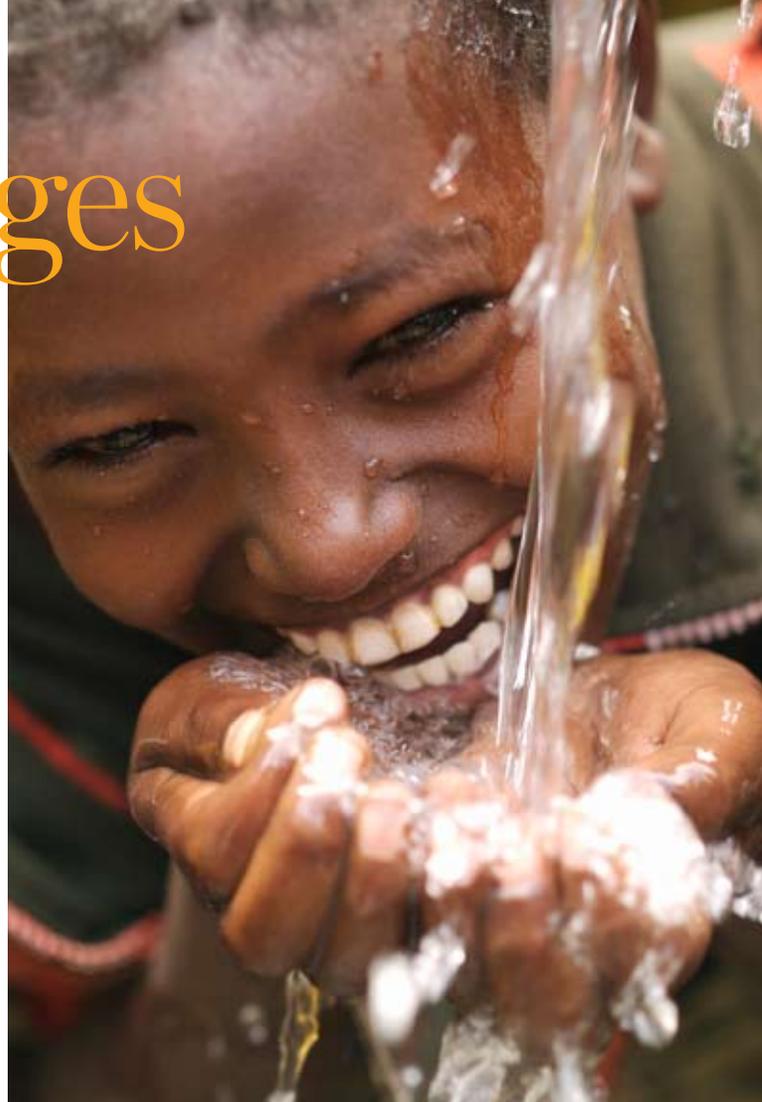


PHOTO BY SCOTT HARRISON

Such is the plight of over a billion people around the world who have no access to clean, safe drinking water. As a member of the team behind charity: water, Nicky Yates, an '04 psychology graduate, is working to alleviate this situation. A nonprofit organization based in New York City, charity: water facilitates projects that provide clean drinking water to those who desperately need it.

In its nearly three-year history, charity: water has accomplished over 1,200 water-related projects in 14 countries, providing things like water wells, water towers and water purifiers. Over 650,000 people have been impacted by charity: water, which puts 100 percent of public funds toward water projects. Even as a young organization, it has garnered attention from major media outlets such as CNN, ABC and NBC.

A NEW BEGINNING

Yates first moved to New York City in 2005 to attend New York University and pursue a master's degree in psychology, with a specialization in forensic psychology. Although the transition from her childhood in Alabama and her time at ORU to the Big Apple was jarring, she felt the diversity of cultures she experienced at ORU prepared her in many ways. She also felt her faith took deep root at ORU.

“One of the big things I learned at ORU was what I believed and why I believed it,” Yates said.

During her second year of graduate school, Yates began working for the New York County District Attorney's office as a child victim specialist, completing her degree in 2007. During that time, Yates heard about charity: water

through a friend and spent time volunteering for them. As she was transitioning out of her job at the DA's office, she was invited to join the charity: water staff full time as the communications/volunteer coordinator, a job made possible after the nonprofit received a \$1 million grant.

Although she admitted it was humbling to be handling tasks unrelated to her master's degree, such as shipping, Yates has discovered a passion for her job at charity: water. She now acts as an executive assistant to its founder, coordinates volunteer efforts and often travels to its many water projects around the world.

“It's been amazing,” Yates said. “The more I've gotten involved, the more I love the passion, the mission and the unconventional methods we use to get the word out and run our organization.”



AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH

With social media and multimedia tools at its disposal, charity: water has many ways to raise awareness and funds for its cause. At its annual “charity: ball” in December 2008, the group mounted a photography series that showed Africans and Americans alike holding up cups full of filthy water. The series was also featured at Chelsea Market in New York City from March to May 2009. By

placing familiar and unfamiliar people in an identical situation, charity: water hoped to convey that whatever their circumstances, people are people.

For most Americans, “seeing an old woman in Ethiopia struggling to find her water is a little more bearable than [watching] an 80-year-old woman on Park Avenue” do the same, Yates said, because Americans don’t see this happening on a daily basis. “It’s showing that they are just like us and it’s not

this huge disparity. It’s putting it more in context.”

In April 2009, charity: water took advantage of an opportunity to gain support via Twitter. Actor Hugh Jackman was offering to donate about \$73,000 (\$100,000 AUD) to a charity, based on the best “tweet” explaining why a suggested charity should get the money. Ultimately, he chose to split his donation between charity: water and Operation of Hope.

THE FACTS

- More than **ONE BILLION** people in the world do not have access to clean drinking water. That’s **ONE IN SIX** people.
- Unsafe water and a lack of basic sanitation cause **80 PERCENT** of all sickness and disease, killing more people every year than all forms of violence, including war.
- Many people in the developing world, usually women and children, walk more than **THREE HOURS EVERY DAY** to fetch water that is likely to make them sick.
- Of the **42,000 DEATHS** that occur every week from unsafe water and a lack of basic sanitation, **90 PERCENT ARE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5.**



The charity: water Web site (www.charitywater.org) offers video and photo documentaries of well drilling and the stories of the people who are impacted by their efforts. The site also hosts satellite views of their water sites via Google Earth.

SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL KINGDOM

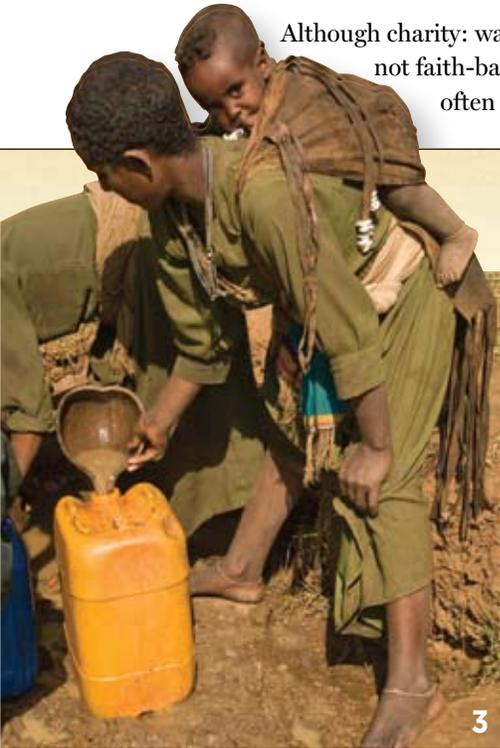
Although charity: water is not faith-based, it often funds

water projects with faith-based organizations around the world. As a whole, it manages over 1,200 water projects on a global scale, a task that Yates notes demands much of their 11-member core team.

“It’s a little daunting to know that you’re playing a hand in the development of an organization you see lasting another 30 years and raising millions of dollars,” Yates said with a laugh. “It’s odd to think that what I do now can have a large role in shaping this

organization years later.”

As charity: water continues to step up its game, Yates feels she is fulfilling the vision of ORU by going into every person’s world and offering more than just a cup of clean water. Her true motivation is the love of Christ, which pushes her through the long hours of work and travel. In the end, she hopes that what she is contributing will create a lasting impact on the world as she knows it.



3



4



5



6

1. Nicky Yates’ career path has taken her in an unexpected-but-exciting direction. PHOTO BY SCOTT HARRISON
2. In Murinja, Rwanda, many children must walk up to 3 hours one way to gather water, missing valuable time in school. PHOTO BY ESTHER HAVENS
3. This spring in Gasi Spring, Amhara, Ethiopia, is the water source for more than 600 people. In September 2008, charity: water funded a spring protection system for the village, providing clean, safe water for nearby communities. PHOTO BY SCOTT HARRISON
4. The staff celebrated the selection of charity: water as one of two charities to which actor Hugh Jackman made a donation. The contest was held over micro-blogging site Twitter. PHOTO BY ASHLEY HERMAN
5. In Ethiopia alone, where one-fourth of the nation does not have access to clean water, charity: water has funded more than 300 projects. PHOTO BY SCOTT HARRISON
6. A few local children in Berberati, Central African Republic, respond to their new spring protection system by giving Yates plenty of love. PHOTO BY ESTHER HAVENS





Rutland takes the *Reins*

The new president is excited about where ORU is headed.

BY DANIELLE PARKER 07

The day began like any typical one. He brushed his teeth, combed his hair, had his breakfast. His assistant, Cody Miller, briefed him on the day's schedule. He was still the president of a university with about 3,000 students. A picture of his wife, Alison, still hung in his office. However, this particular day, he was hundreds of miles from Lakeland, Florida. It was July 1, and Dr. Mark Rutland was now the president of Oral Roberts University.

Rutland compared his first-day-of-school jitters to the sensation a player may feel in the last few seconds of a game.

"Here's the go-to guy on the basketball team. They are down by two points, seconds left to go, and they are going to throw him the ball to shoot that three-pointer," he said. "If he makes it, they win. If he misses, they lose. Don't tell me he's not nervous. But there is all that mixture of energy, excitement, people that are watching, the possibility of, 'If we win this, we go there.' If it paralyzes you, it's no good. And the same thing is true in leadership."

And there were certainly no visible signs of paralysis on Rutland's first day. He hit the ground running, meeting with board members, department heads and staff to begin implementing

initiatives discussed over the past few months.

"It's just not my style to sit and maintain something," he said. "I enjoy the feeling of improving things, of being a part of making something better. I want to be a part of something that is moving, going and growing, where there is excitement and energy. I feel that here, and I think that it will gain."

The Texas native and first-generation college graduate grew up with political aspirations that were especially strong throughout high school and in college — at the University of Maryland, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation, and at



Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where he received his master of divinity. Yet, over the years, Rutland also felt a tug at his heart toward the ministry.

He continued his studies at California Graduate School of Theology, obtaining his Ph.D. in international church growth. In a short while, Rutland began his work as a missionary, traveling across the world and founding Global Servants, a worldwide missions and evangelism-focused ministry. After spending some time as the pastor of a Florida church, he was asked to become the president of Southeastern College in Lakeland, Florida.

His decade of successful service at Southeastern (1999-2009) may be attributed to Rutland having no preset concept of what a university president should or should not look like. By being himself, the only person he said he knows how to be, Rutland found his niche as an interconnected and relevant leader.

“I LOVE BEING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE,” HE SAID. “AS A RESULT, I WAS A VERY UNCONVENTIONAL PRESIDENT. I NEVER WORKED AT A COLLEGE UNTIL I BECAME THE PRESIDENT OF ONE. I WAS MUCH MORE A STUDENT’S PRESIDENT THAN I WAS AN INSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT. THAT MAKES FOR A DIFFERENT FEEL.”

Along with his many ministry endeavors, Rutland has also penned 13 books, including his latest, *Most Likely to Succeed*.

“My call inside the ministry has evolved, sometimes as a pastor, sometimes as a missionary, sometimes as an educator,” he said. “My feeling was always that I was doing the same thing. Whether you play second base or pitch, it is still baseball. Right now being a president of a university is what God has me doing, and I hope, until I am finished.”

Rutland has said that when he was first approached by Board Chair Mart Green to consider the ORU job, he

wasn’t interested. Over time, however, he “came to an awareness of His purpose,” as he once put it, and made his decision to come to ORU.

“In leadership, where lightning strikes is where need and opportunity intersect,” he said. “You can have plenty of need, but if there is no opportunity to change it, the need just swats your boat. But when need and opportunity cross, right in that intersection, that is where the excitement and energy happen. And there was plenty of need and no shortage of opportunity, and that intersection is what attracted me.”

With such tremendous possibilities before the university, Rutland would





like to see ORU become the Christian university of choice around the country and the world.

“ORU is known, and it’s known internationally,” he said. “There are young people in villages in Zimbabwe that know about ORU, that don’t know where Oklahoma is. So, there is a weight to the brand. We have to put the shine back on it, and we’re going to promote that brand everywhere.”

As ORU transforms, Rutland explained he has no intention of uprooting the foundation upon which the university was built.

“When I hear the words Oral Roberts University, the first thing that comes to mind is its preeminent position in charismatic leadership,” he said. “ORU — in terms of a lot of things they tried, did, succeeded at, experienced, and experimented with — was pretty cutting-edge.

“There is a great heritage here,” he continued. “The founding vision is brilliant. We are going to embrace and honor that which is to be honored, but we have to get our eyes focused on a visionary strategic plan to grow this university.”

Rutland said he does not take his responsibility lightly. Whether it is increasing enrollment numbers, managing the university’s finances or providing open and clear communication, the new president comes into office with a commitment to the success of the university.

“I want others to think of ORU as a spiritual, vital university that contributes to the lives of its graduates and to the spiritual leadership of the world, even beyond the United States,”

he said. “An international influence for excellence, for leadership and for authentic spirituality — I want that to be the phrase that comes to mind when they think of ORU.”

Along with the Board of Trustees, it is Rutland’s hope to expand what the



Dr. Rutland met Obi Chidebelu-Eze, a '92 grad, in Atlanta.



university has had in place since the very beginning.

“What we are keeping intact is the founding vision,” he said. “That’s non-negotiable. We are who we are, and we are a spiritual university with a world-view. We intend to continue to embed our graduates in every man’s world.”

“Raising up students to hear God’s voice” is still the objective, according to Rutland. Under his leadership, men and women will continue to fulfill the mission of ORU, going to every man’s world as whole people.

“When we talk about the ‘New ORU,’ what people are talking about is the spirit of newness. That is consistent with the very best of Christianity. Think of all the places where that

is referenced in Scripture. ‘The man in Christ is a new creation.’ ‘He makes all things new.’ They are talking about the spirit of newness, freshness, vitality, enthusiasm, new ideas, and creative ways of doing things. All of those things are part of the ‘New ORU.’”

But at the core, above the renovations, the administration, the media, and so on, Rutland said his desire is to support and uplift the students — what he believes is his main purpose for being here.

“Deep in my heart, I think of myself as the president of the university and the pastor of the students,” he said. “I don’t do the counseling or their weddings, but I take very seriously that pastor/mentor role. I want to invest in their lives. I am not here because of the buildings or because of the finances. Those have to be fixed, but I am really here because of the students.”

What can everyone anticipate from the new president? As he is led by the Holy Spirit, Rutland desires to be a fair and open leader with a servant’s heart.

“Students can expect a level of firm, loving, gracious and accessible leadership. Alumni

can expect more communication. Faculty and staff can expect honesty about where we are. When I have to make hard decisions I’ll make them, but I will be as clear and transparent as I know how to be with the decisions and direction that we make. I will always be here for them. I want to be as accessible to all those groups as I can be.”



Elimination of debt, an unexpected increase in enrollment, an improved campus — these are key ingredients of what Rutland believes is the beginning of an exciting future for the university.

“I think the best is yet to come for ORU,” he said. “I am very excited about the future. . . . The ambience, the morale, the finances, the facilities — everything is just rising. I think we can and will become the preeminent Christian university. We are going to be slim and trim, and I think we are going to rock and roll.”

ORU friends Paul and Delia Russell spoke with Dr. Rutland at an event in Houston.



As of May 30, the Class of '69's Larry Dalton has another new address — his last and best — but his music and his impact on friends and fans won't be going anywhere anytime soon.

THE SONGS Live On

When a friend asked Dalton if he used MIDI technology (Google it!) to compose, he said no, he preferred to do it all by hand.

If you were at Steinway artist Larry Dalton's June 10 memorial service in Tulsa, or you checked out the many tributes on Facebook, you know that a lot of people weren't just well-acquainted with him; they considered him to be their best friend. They were in awe of his musical talent, but appreciative of his laidback, never-met-a-stranger disposition.

Many of those "friends of Larry" enjoyed sharing biscuits and gravy with him at the Savoy, one of his favorite Tulsa hangouts, at one time or another, or they put him up in their guestroom

for a few days (or weeks, or months) at a time. Longtime friend Terry Law said the 63-year-old pianist was afraid of flying, but it didn't prevent him from traveling all over the world to perform

or to visit with friends.

Like his fellow prodigy, Mozart, Dalton began playing piano at the age of 3. He became the pianist at his father's church in Big Stone Gap, Va., a short time later. By the time he reached high school, his talent was already awe-inspiring. He performed with a gospel quartet after he graduated and then came to ORU, where he was asked to play piano for Oral Roberts' crusades. It was at a crusade in Canada that he first met Law and told him about ORU. Law joined Dalton on campus in 1968.



Jim Stovall 81 had a good reason for setting up this fund. “Larry may have been the most prominent figure that has ever graduated from ORU,” he said. “There are people that knew his work around the world. He was, in my mind, a great example of going into every man’s world.”

The scholarship, to be given this fall, will go to “a music student that epitomizes what Larry did,” one who has the talent and ability to touch the world with their music and “make a difference for a lot of people,” Stovall said.

“Whether it’s Christian or classical or show tunes, Larry never took a backseat to anyone,” he added. “Larry was one of the best musicians in the world, and I want young people to look at him as an example of excellence as they study, and perhaps look at their music in a new way” — as a vehicle to take them around the world.

To make a gift, mail checks made out to “Crusader Scholarship Fund” to ORU (see address in “The Steinway Initiative” box) and write “Larry Dalton Scholarship” on the memo line.

“We would talk about our dreams, about doing something for God,” Law said. What they ultimately did was put together a music ministry group called Living Sound that circled the globe to spread the gospel. The performers changed through the years, but not the mission.

“We had an agreement,” Law said at the Tulsa service, which featured a musical tribute from dozens of Living Sound alumni and other friends who had traveled many miles to honor their friend. “We will not be simply a music group. We will commit ourselves to tell-

The Steinway Initiative



Larry Dalton had been working with the ORU music department on its Steinway Initiative. He wanted to see ORU become an All Steinway School, an honor accorded to those schools that provide only Steinway pianos for their music students. Of the \$2 million goal, \$1.5 million will be used to purchase new Steinways and \$500,000 will go into an endowment for ongoing maintenance and service. Fundraising began in earnest in mid-March. As of August 18, \$60,600 had been raised.

In a letter to alumni in 2008, Dalton said that “becoming an All Steinway School shows that ORU is committed to restoring excellence in the department of music, both now and for the future.”

To contribute, go to alumni.oru.edu and click on Make A Gift. Be sure to check the “Larry Dalton Memorial” box on the form. Gifts may also be mailed to: ORU, 7777 S. Lewis Ave., Tulsa, OK 74171. Write “Larry Dalton Memorial Fund-Steinway Initiative” on the memo line of your check.

ing people everywhere we go about Jesus.’ I don’t believe I’m that great a preacher. But I do believe Larry’s music was of such excellent quality that he attracted people to come, and he built the audience for me to preach.”

One of the qualities friends admired about Dalton was his lack of pretense.

“There was no ‘big shot’ and ‘little shot’ to Larry,” said his college roommate, Steve Alley 69. And “when he was with you, he was with you. He wasn’t looking off . . . wondering, ‘Who am I missing?’”

Dalton was an “inactive” member of Mensa, but the mind was always working. A composer, arranger and conductor as well as a pianist, he amazed friends with his ability to produce stellar music in no time flat — not just for the piano, but for all the other

instruments, too. He worked with a number of big-name performers and orchestras over the years including the Signature Symphony at Tulsa Community College, whose popular Christmas concerts were a Dalton tour de force.

Equally at home in small country churches and imposing cathedrals, in friends’ living rooms, vast concert halls and Vatican City, Dalton “could hear and visualize his music and more than that, he lived within it,” said Living Sound alumna Honey Bee (Powell) Anderson 73.

Along with his love of music, “he loved to see people get saved,” said Don Moen (70-71), another Living Sound alumnus. “He was an evangelist.”

Blending music and ministry, Larry Dalton’s life was indeed a life well-lived.



A WHOLE PERSON LEGACY

Among the first to receive the Whole Person Scholarship, freshman Seth Silvers is following in the footsteps of his parents, who both trace their spiritual roots back to ORU.

BY RACHEL WEGNER 07

At the tender age of 17, Karen (Hazard) Silvers '77 packed her car and headed to ORU, a place and a culture that was largely unknown to her. Raised in a small ranching town in Colorado and a brand-new Christian, she was in for an experience unlike any other in her life.

PHOTO BY DAVID DAUGHERTY/EPIC IMAGES

All to Jesus. Seth leads students in prayer at a Thirst conference in November 2008.





All in the family. The Silvers clan gathers for a family photo outside their home in Fort Collins, Colo. Top row, L to R: son Caleb, parents Mark and Karen, son Levi and his wife, Brittany, Seth. Bottom row, L to R: Caleb's wife, Brittany (yes, there are two!), Stevie (wife of Elliott), son Elliott, daughter Autumn and her son, An'don.



A spirit of adoption. Seth's team worked extensively with Laugh Out Loud Ministries, which reaches out to the many orphans in Belize — a country from which it is difficult to adopt children.

Photo by David Daugherty/Epic Images

“There were more people in my dorm than there were in my whole town,” she said. “It was culture shock, but it was exciting for me because that’s where I felt like I was supposed to be. [ORU] is where I really grew up.”

Karen embraced the experience of being a member of the first class in the Anna Vaughn School of Nursing. Although it was a difficult road to acceptance in the local medical community, her class laid the foundation for many successful nursing classes to follow.

Mark Silvers (73-75) first visited ORU as a high school student for a College Weekend and felt a strong confirmation from God that he was supposed to attend ORU. With only \$85 in his pocket, he set out for Tulsa. When he arrived on campus, his financial aid had not yet been approved. Undeterred, he managed to work out an arrangement with the financial aid office and began his studies as an art major. He dove headlong into spiritual life at ORU, serving as a wing chaplain during his second year.

“The best way to describe it was like 24-7 church camp, in a good way,” Mark laughed. He later transferred to the University of Tulsa to continue his art studies. “I look at the two years I had [at ORU] as two of the best and most fun years of my life. I loved it. I feel like it laid a foundation for everything that I did from then on.”

PASSING ON A LEGACY

Shortly after a fateful meeting in the Aerobics Center, Mark and Karen began dating and were married a year and a half later. Now, five children and a few decades out, the couple is excited about sending their youngest son, Seth, to ORU. He is among the first group of students who received the Whole Person Scholarship. After a campus visit in fall 2008, Karen and Seth were able to see firsthand the many positive changes being made at ORU.

“I immediately felt that same incredible peace on the campus that I had when I went there,” Karen said. “I

didn’t want to be presumptuous, but it felt like the perfect fit for him.”

Seth returned to campus a few months later for the Whole Person Scholarship competition. Applicants for the scholarship were nominated and advanced based on how they exhibited the “whole person qualities” of being spiritually alive, intellectually alert, physically disciplined and socially adept. A dynamic young man with a heart for ministry and missions, Seth received a full-tuition scholarship, which is renewable for up to four years. The concepts of body, mind and spirit are ones he says he works to keep central to his life.

“My relationship with God is my top priority,” Seth said. “When you accept the call to be a follower of Christ, to be countercultural, that’s going to affect your mind and how you handle your emotions. The decision I’ve made to become a true disciple of Christ has affected all areas of my life.”

With plans to study pastoral care ministries, Seth already has a head



start in ministry as the founder of Thirst, a ministry that unites youth groups across Northern Colorado. For the past two years, he's shared and spoken at many youth groups and networked with youth pastors via Thirst. He's also interned with his father, who works as a youth pastor as well as being an artist and art teacher.

Seth has also gone on mission trips to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina hit and to Tijuana, Mexico. In March 2009, he went on a mission trip to Belize with a team from his Christian high school. On the trip, the team of about 30 helped with construction of an orphanage, built relationships with locals and delivered water filtration tools to two villages in the Belizean jungle. He was deeply moved by his experience and returned from the trip a changed person.

"In Belize, one of the most impacting things was the simplicity of life," Seth said. "The Belizean people find what they need in life to survive and they prioritize their whole life around those things. Here in America we decide at an early age what we want in life and begin to shape our life around acquiring those things. This last year the Lord has been teaching me so much about necessities versus wants. Jesus is a necessity, and seeing the Indians in Belize and their lifestyle inspired me to come back into a culture that accessorizes Christ and treat Him like a need in my life."

WITH GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Seth and his parents expressed their deep gratitude for the opportunity he has to attend ORU because of the Whole Person Scholarship. To

them, it is proof of God's faithfulness and provision that comes with following His leading. At the start of this new chapter in his life, Seth said he looks forward to the community life of ORU and the many opportunities he'll have to network, learn, be challenged and grow.

"I'm extremely expectant that God's going to do amazing things that ORU's never seen," Seth said. "For the next four years, I'm excited that God's going to have me there to meet with people, to make new friendships that will last my whole life and that I'll be able to grow closer to Christ in those relationships. I am excited about getting educated and prepared for my life in the ministry."

Nominate a student for a Whole Person Scholarship! Go to www.oru.edu/wholeperson.



Seth's dad, Mark, is a professional artist and teacher. "Long's Peak" is one of his original works. (See more at www.marksilvers.com.)

Going About His **Father's Business**

As a pastor, former professor, broadcasting exec, consultant and chief operating officer for a major restaurant chain, you may call him a man of many talents, but be sure to address Dr. Steve Greene as “dean.” On July 6, the Memphis State University and Southeastern Louisiana University graduate stepped into the role of dean of the School of Business and is gung-ho about teaching his students Christian principles in business.

Greene began teaching when he was 23. After a decade in education, he started a consulting career that evolved into an advertising agency. From there, Greene spent the next few years developing his expertise in business and marketing.

“I have 30 years’ experience making a difference in the business community,” he said. “I became the executive vice president for Granite Broadcasting, managing 23 TV stations. Before coming to ORU, I was chief operating officer for Camille’s Restaurants here in Tulsa.”

In one way or another, Greene said he has been teaching all his life. So when the opportunity arose for him to be an adjunct professor at ORU in 2007, he knew this was where he was meant to be.

“The very first time I stepped foot on the parking lot of ORU, I had such a strong witness of the Holy Spirit,” he said. “There were no thunderclouds or audible voice, but I got a peace that God was calling me here.”

Along with his duties in the business school, Greene also serves as the senior pastor for Bixby Community Church. Referring to himself as a business pastor, Greene said he has a passion to minister to younger generations.



Greene listens to a question concerning fall enrollment. Projected numbers, he said, were looking good for the School of Business.

“When I was younger, it was all about success,” he admitted. “It was a 25-year drive to be successful. But one day I made a switch. I wanted to move from success to significance. I want to leave a legacy.”

Because of this fresh perspective, Greene believes that this time around he will have more to offer his students than what the textbook provides.

“I am back in the classroom because I have something that I did not have when I first began teaching,” he said. “Every moment in the classroom, I have the opportunity to be significant. As we use the gifts God has given us, we can impact the world by impacting one student. I so believe in the mission of ORU. To finish my career at ORU is a blessing, because I get to do what I have been trained to do and am called to do.”

With a firm grasp of the university’s vision, Greene hopes to instill godly principles that students can take with them for the rest of their lives.

“The school is concerned with business ethics; we do business as Christians and lead our students spiritually by example,” he said. “In the domain of business, I have strived to operate the way God does. If we train them to do things that way — being transparent and living with integrity — we have helped our students.”

Happy 80th, Coach Duke!



Tennis team alumni from all over joined friends, family, and current and former faculty and staff in the ORU Fireside Room on April 18 to help Bernis Duke, tennis coach emeritus, celebrate his 80th birthday, which was on April 14. Former players who attended (and their country, state or city of origin) included: (standing, L to R) Leet Sommerfeld (Pittsburgh, PA), Roy Brammer (South Africa), Roy Stewart (South Africa), Nicole Cameron (Australia), Eric Wedemeyer (Arkansas), Duncan Fourie (South Africa), Craig Panhofer (South Africa), John Hixon (Tulsa), Regon Styles (South Africa), Byron Alp (South Africa). Seated, L to R: Garrick Little (Australia), Marshal Wright (California), Coach Duke, Jeff Owen (St. Louis), Grant Gordon (South Africa). Present but not pictured: Jurgen Van Staden (South Africa), Gerald Bowen (Texas), Josef Solc, Ph.D. (Czechoslovakia).



Better and Better

Paint, carpet, tile, upholstery, flowers, trees, sidewalks, fences, walls, doors,

Thanks to another \$10 million gift from the Green family, the ORU campus enjoyed another extreme makeover in the summer of '09.

Deferred maintenance is one of the four “dragons” that Board Chair Mart Green has said ORU must defeat in order to achieve “mission with economic sustainability.” The other three dragons are debt, declining enrollment, and deficit. The debt is virtually gone. Enrollment has begun to climb; there are 73 more students on campus this fall than in the fall of '08 — a 17 percent increase. The deficit remains to be erased.

A few of this summer’s projects are still being completed, like the chemistry labs and the baseball stadium updates, but the majority of the work was ready for inspection by the 3,140 students who have chosen to make ORU their college home this year.

ALL DORMS: New shower curtains; washers and dryers.

AEROBICS CENTER: New flooring; renovated locker rooms and restrooms; lockers and pool painted; classroom paint and carpet; new ADA workout rooms.

CHRIST’S CHAPEL: >> 3,271 seats reupholstered; new stage design; paint; waterproofing.



CLAUDIUS ROBERTS HALL: Paint; interior repairs.

E. M. ROBERTS HALL: New sprinkler system; interior repairs.

GABRIELLE HALL: New steps to the upper parking lot.

HAMILL STUDENT CENTER: New tile floors, paint, carpet, tables and chairs in cafeteria. Sodexo funded renovations to the kitchen area, including new appliances.

INTERNET CAFÉ/CHICK-FIL-A: New flooring.

J. L. JOHNSON STADIUM: Panels replaced; new paint; air conditioning units upgraded.

LRC/GC: New Admissions Welcome Center on LRC 3; new tables and chairs for classrooms; remodeled and enlarged chemistry lab (still in pro-



The new landscaped, stamped-concrete walkway between Quad Towers and Hamill Student Center is a big hit with students.

PHOTO BY DANIELLE PARKER '07

appliances . . . you name it, we've done it.



Phase 1 of the Fred Creek improvement project (pictured here) has been completed on the eastern side of the campus. Work will continue through next spring on sections southwest of the Graduate Center and near Christ's Chapel.

cess); paint/carpet/ceilings/lighting/remodeling for Communication Arts, Oracle and Perihelion offices on LRC 1; Counseling Center moved to remodeled LRC 5; LRC north porch resurfaced and fountain renovated; interior repairs and exterior drainage improvements; LRC entry wall painted and restored; carpet and paint for Math/Computer Science; new carpet for Business computer lab; carpet, paint, refurbishing, and restroom remodels on GC 7; remodeled ADA restrooms on LRC 2.

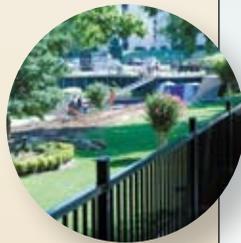
MABEE CENTER: Stained concrete on entry-level floors. Hail-damaged roofs were replaced via insurance money.

MICHAEL AND FRANCES CARDONE HALLS: All-new bathrooms. Michael: New hallway walls (high-impact sheet-rock) and new workout room.

MISCELLANEOUS: IT upgrades; new landscaping; new sidewalks; new landscaped pedestrian walkway between Quad Towers and Hamill Student Center; new campus signs; refurbished chiller; power washing of buildings and windows; new prospective-student parking spaces near the LRC; new overlay on Lake Evelyn Drive, the drive from the Praying Hands to Lot H, and parking lots G and F2; sidewalk drainage addressed.

PRAYER GARDENS:

Redesigned. New wrought-iron railings.



» **QUAD TOWERS:** New air conditioning units; new doors and new flooring at lobby entrance; new beds; new carpet; interior repairs.

SUSIE VINSON HALL: New workout room.

» **TIMKO-BARTON:**

Paint, tile, carpet throughout.



Using funds from their 2005 Cancer Treatment Centers of America grant (\$100,000 per year for 10 years), the **ANNA VAUGHN SCHOOL OF NURSING** completed renovations that were initiated last summer. There are new glass doors at the school's main entrance on GC 3.

New and returning students are benefiting from the many improvements that Renewing the Vision funds made possible.

Renewing the Vision Wrap-Up

The results of the \$25 million Renewing the Vision matching campaign that were reported in the spring 2009 issue of *Excellence* have been revised. The magazine went to press before we could report that additional gifts had been received in time to be included in the tally.

With unpaid pledges factored out, the preliminary total of giving to the campaign, as reported on June 3, was \$22,138,595. These gifts came from 15,796 donors.

The ORU trustees, who had agreed to match every gift dollar-for-dollar, decided to go above and beyond their original commitment. They gave \$24,280,001. And since every trustee dollar was earmarked for debt retirement, ORU's long-term debt was reduced from \$25 million to \$719,999.

Renewing the Vision funds are being used for scholarships and other financial aid; technology upgrades; university and departmental refurbishment, renovations and other plant and equipment upgrades; academic upgrades focused on faculty and staff development; and resources that will enhance student recruitment and retention.





The Vision at Work

More than 700 chairs started out in boxes, packed and stacked tight in the main lobby of the second floor of the Learning Resources Center. Yet in about two hours, the new furniture had been moved and arranged in its proper place, thanks to the hard work of some ORU alumni at the second annual Working the Vision Day.

“We wanted to give back. We believe in the purpose and vision of the university,” Sherri said. “It’s like we are planting seeds for the next generation.”

David 05 and Janna (Korstad-05) Burkus organized the first “Working the Vision” day in 2008, where alumni helped move furniture and books in

**TAKE A SEAT.
ANY SEAT WILL DO!**



Jed Cravalho 02 (left), director of Facility Services, and his staff were a few of the helping hands that contributed some sweat equity.



These are some of the 50-plus individuals who “worked the vision.”

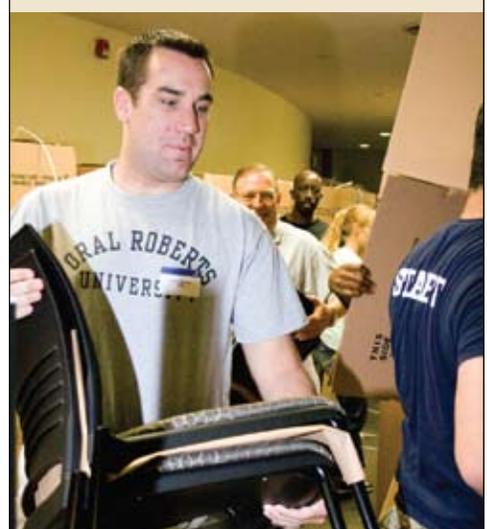
On July 25, local ORU alumni and their families, along with some faculty and staff members, spent their Saturday morning hauling chairs into classrooms as far away as the fifth floor of the Graduate Center.

Moving furniture was not the only reason alumni set their alarm clocks a little earlier. Reggie 82, 86-DMD and Sherri (Laughlin) Thomas 82, 86-MD showed up and brought their four kids along as well to be a part of the vision of ORU.

the library. They were more than willing to get involved again this summer.

“The new vision is pulling alumni back,” David said. “The event last year got a lot of alumni here taking ownership. When people come back and actually see the campus, they can see for themselves what is going on at ORU.”

For the 50-plus members of this workforce, the physical exertion was well worth the effort. They could see that their contribution to the campus was one that incoming students will enjoy this semester and for years to come.



David Burkus, organizer of the first “Vision” day, was back for more.

Class of '09: Called to Hear, Go, Work and Exceed

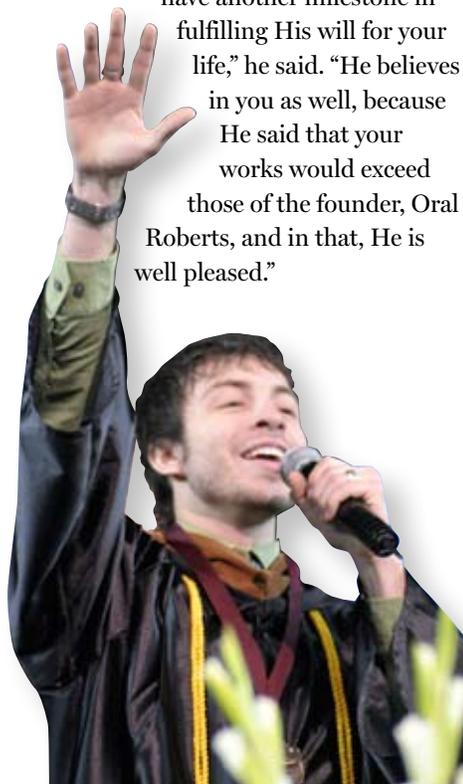
May 2, 2009. Six hundred seventy-three men and women entered the Mabee Center as students and left as graduates, as one season of their academic journey ended and another was about to begin.

Interim President Dr. Ralph Fagin reminded those in attendance that although it was a day for graduates, faculty, friends and family to celebrate, it was also a day for the world to rejoice.

“This is their day,” he said. “They are waiting on you — the disenfranchised, the lonely, the heartsick, the illiterate. You have been raised up to go to them.”

In seeing such a well-equipped group step out into “every man’s world,” Fagin said, this day must bring God great pleasure as well.

“He sees this commencement service as an opportunity for you to have another milestone in fulfilling His will for your life,” he said. “He believes in you as well, because He said that your works would exceed those of the founder, Oral Roberts, and in that, He is well pleased.”



The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented by Interim President Dr. Ralph Fagin to David Green, who received the honor on behalf of his late mother, Marie Green.

With his theme centering on hearing the voice of God, Bill Hybels, author and pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in Illinois, gave this year’s Commencement address.

“Your life matters in the overall redemptive drama of what God is doing in planet earth,” Hybels said. “There is a kind of a mission that God has in mind for you, and when you find it and get on it, you will feel the power of the Spirit released in your life on a day-to-day basis. The way you get from where you are now to that day when you are in the zone, feeling the smile of God and saying, ‘I was born for this,’ is probably going to come from a whisper. Whispers matter.

Graduating senior David Palomares, along with Music Ministries and the music department, led praise and worship during graduation.

Keep the ambient noise level of your life down so the still, small voice of God can be heard.”

Along with the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees awarded, the late Marie Green, grandmother of Board Chair Mart Green, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. And, 1981 ORU alumnus Stephen Mansfield, author of the New York Times bestseller *The Faith of George W. Bush* and *The Faith of Barack Obama*, was presented with an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

Fagin once again addressed the graduates, giving them the charge to observe the mandate given to Chancellor Oral Roberts, heeding the call to hear, go, work and exceed.

“You have a rendezvous with destiny,” he said. “You have been called to a dying, crying, sighing generation. The proof in the ORU education is to go.”

The directive was reinforced by Joshua Michael Martin, who gave the Class of 2009 Response.

“I challenge you all to utilize the whole-person education we have received at ORU. Use your life in service to this mandate: ‘Until the whole world knows.’ Sacrifice all you have for the solution the world needs. ORU is in its finest hour. Especially during this time of great change, the whole world will be watching to see if we will succeed.”



Meet the Trustees

In this issue, we tell you more about two of the newest trustees: Tulsan William Bartlett and Cameron Strang, who resides in Orlando, Fla.

WILLIAM BARTLETT

Position: Co-founder of Callidus Technologies (now Callidus Technologies by Honeywell); chairman and CEO (retired)

Degrees: B.S. from Denison University (Ohio); MBA, Emory University (Atlanta). Board member since January 2009.

Like many in the Tulsa community, William Bartlett's initial interest in ORU can be traced back to the basketball program — specifically, to the early 1970s, when Richard Fuqua and his teammates reigned supreme.

“I loved those early teams,” Bartlett said. “They were so competitive. And of course, you could not help but be impressed with Oral Roberts. He says, ‘Only with God could you do what’s been done here,’ which speaks to the relationship he’s had with the Lord.”

Fast-forward a couple of decades. Bartlett, a co-founder, chairman and CEO of Callidus Technologies, is, as always, in the market for smart employees who love to solve problems. Thanks to another co-founder, Dr. Richard Martin, who at that time was an ORU engineering professor and a Callidus consultant, there's a pipeline to some excellent prospects.



Bartlett and his wife, Rita, at his retirement party in December 2008.

“When we started Callidus, it was my absolute intent that this company be founded on Christian principles,” Bartlett said. “We were looking for people to join us who not only were smart, but who had a strong value system. And there's no place better than Oral Roberts University to go for that person. . . . They're bright, they have great attitudes, and they have a very strong value system, which is perfect for our environment. Over the years, we've hired many ORU graduates, and all have performed admirably.”

Fast-forward again, this time to 2008. Through his involvement with the State Chamber of Commerce, Bartlett meets Dr. Ralph Fagin, ORU's interim president, and asks for an introduction to Board Chair Mart Green. “I want to shake his hand and thank him for what he and his family have done” at ORU, Bartlett explained. A few weeks later, the three men met for lunch.

“I'm so excited about the moves you're making with the board, because I don't think Dr. Roberts had it wrong,” Bartlett told Green. “I believe that his Board of Regents was necessary for the funding of the university. But I think we've been around long enough now to get a board that has academic expertise, and spiritual expertise, and financial expertise, and operations expertise, so that there can be shared governance.”

A short time later, Green asked Bartlett to join the board. “And we are moving at jet speed in terms of the direction that the school is taking, and all positive from what I can see,” Bartlett said.

Bartlett comes from a long line of entrepreneurs, so it's not surprising that in 1989, he and some colleagues attempted to buy the John Zink Company, where he had worked for 20 years (and served three terms as president). Coming in with the second highest bid, he took his wife Rita's advice, switched gears, and found backers for Callidus. The highly successful company was bought by Honeywell in 2008.

Bartlett also has a long history of supporting missions work, including a prison ministry that has taken him on field trips behind bars.

“I've been in the prisons deep enough, when the last door clanged shut, I knew if there was a problem, I wasn't coming out,” he said.

The issues he'll face on the board, safe to say, shouldn't be quite as risky.

CAMERON STRANG

Position: Founder and CEO of Relevant Media Group

Degrees: B.S. in Mass Media Communication (emphasis: print journalism) and a business minor. Board member since January 2009.



When 1998 graduate Cameron Strang contacted Board Chair Mart Green, thanking him for his investment in the university, he had no idea that simple e-mail would soon lead to an invitation for him to be an integral part of what is being called “the new ORU.”

Founder and CEO of Relevant Media Group and publisher of the nationally recognized RELEVANT magazine, the 33-year-old Strang is the youngest Board of Trustees member. And with college-aged students being his target audience, this former student has the drive and strategy necessary to support the vision of ORU.

“It is not common for a university to have someone my age on its board. This speaks volumes about the leadership in place,” he said. “I hope to bring that vantage point and represent a different generation, being a connection point and advocate for the students.”

Much has changed on campus in the decade or so since Strang attended ORU, and with everything that has taken place in the last 18 months, he is enthusiastic about returning to the place where he started out.

“I am excited to give back to the school I went to,” he said. “I jumped at the chance to be a part of what is happening at ORU. We have a huge opportunity in front of us. I love the heart behind this new season at ORU. The board is taking the spiritual foundation that was already in place and combining it with strong financial governance

and a high standard of academics.”

Although Strang had a great experience at ORU, he admits that after graduation, he became a disconnected and uninvolved alumnus. Yet, as he has been included in the operations and decision-making in months past, he, as a former student and current board member, can be confident in his investment in the university.

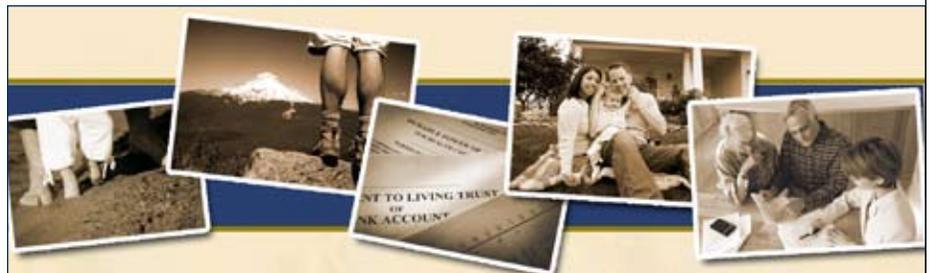
“We all know alumni have been hesitant to give in the past,” he said. “The university was in survival mode. But I can tell the alumni that is no longer the case; the ship is no longer sinking. You can trust that ORU is good soil. Your finances are no longer being thrown at debt, but [are] going toward growth and maturing the university. This is the time for alumni to come out of the woodwork and support ORU.”

As a trustee, Strang’s focus will target consistent progression in marketing, student affairs and media, all areas that he has seen success in, which he hopes to bring here as well.

“For ORU to impact the culture is in the DNA of the school,” he said. “Oral was an innovator, the way he used media to reach people. I believe [ORU] can be strong and world-leading in several areas, not only theology, but business, science and especially communications.”

With renewed vision and inspired leadership, Strang said he is thrilled to see where ORU is headed.

“This is a very exciting new direction,” he said. “I believe we are going to start to see ORU emerge and carve its unique place as a nationally and world-known university. I am incredibly optimistic.”



What if My Will is Out of Date? Where do I Start?

A last will and testament is one of the most important documents an individual will ever prepare. Yet in many cases, estates have not been distributed according to the wishes of the individual simply because the estate plan was outdated.

- Have you moved to another state?
- Have tax laws changed?
- Have your charitable interests changed?
- Has the size of your estate increased markedly?
- Has anything changed in regard to your children’s needs or marital status?

Oral Roberts University can help you create or update your existing will. Visit our website at www.orugift.com and click on “Estate Plan Organizer”. This tool will walk you through the estate planning process quickly and easily in about 30 minutes.



Sports Sampler



In 2009, Mark Serrano's 13.77 strikeouts per nine innings ranked second nationally.

Dominique Morrison started all 31 games for ORU in 2008-09, a school record for a freshman.

Here's a little taste of what took place in recent months . . . and what's to come.

About a month after the spring semester ended, ORU Athletics received word that the Summit League Commissioner's Cup would remain in Tulsa for the fourth straight year (and eighth year overall). The Golden Eagles had four first-place and three second-place finishes, which helped them clinch the league's top award. For the tenth time, ORU also received the Summit's Dr. William Steinbrecher Men's All Sports Award.

Six weeks later, the news came that ORU has been selected to host a league-high three championships during the 2009-10 school year: women's golf, men's and women's tennis and baseball.

When it comes to individual and team honors from this past spring, these are some highlights:

- Right-handed pitcher Mark Serrano of Downey, Calif., drafted by the Cincinnati Reds, earned three All-America accolades along with Summit League Player and Pitcher of the Year honors. Serrano is one of four Golden Eagles to be drafted by the majors this year (Jerry Sullivan, Andre Lamontagne and Juan Mar-

tinez are the other three), and one of thirty ORU draftees since Rob Walton became ORU's head coach in 2004.

- Mass media communications major Katie Stoeber, a senior from Tulsa, now holds ORU's pole vault record with a height of 13-09.75. Her 3.67 GPA placed her on the women's all-academic track and field team selected by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Association.
- The President's Cup, awarded to the top male senior athlete, went to Alexander Dargel of Hamburg, Germany, a men's tennis standout. Tulsa's Christy Carter, who was the Summit League's Golfer of the Year, received the First Lady's Cup.



- Golfer Scott Stiles, a Canadian marketing major, was tabbed by the Golf Coaches Association as an All-America Scholar. He was also the MVP of the Summit League Championships and earned Academic All-League and Commissioner's List of Academic Excellence honors.
- In their final season, basketball's Robert Jarvis of Humble, Tex., and the big man inside, Marcus Lewis of Long Beach, Calif., were named first-team All-Summit League. Dunk specialist Kevin Ford of Portland, Ore., who has one more year to play at ORU, and Dominique Morrison of Kansas City, Mo., made the All-Newcomer team. Morrison also impressed CollegeInsider.com, who put him on its 21-player Mid-Major Freshman All-America team.
- The women's golf freshman class was ranked best in the nation by Golfstat, the official statistics provider for the NCAA. This class, said head coach Lance Watson, "provides us with a foundation to stay strong over the next three years." The 2008-09 team won its 12th straight Summit League championship and now holds the nation's longest consecutive championship streak in women's golf.

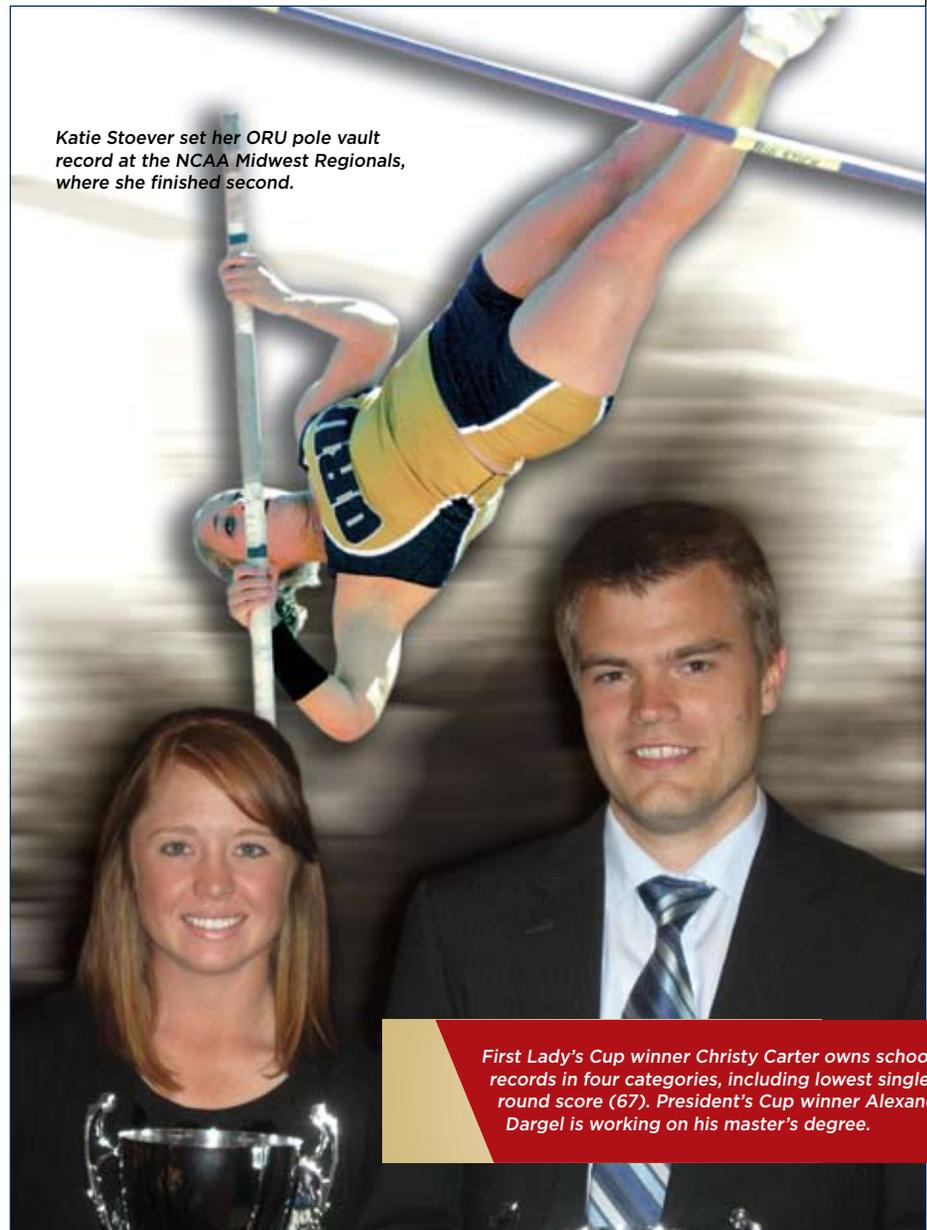
After the women's basketball season ended, Manchester, England import Georgia Jones was named the Summit League Newcomer of the Year. This summer, Jones and fellow Brit Cristal Turner competed for their country at the World University Games, while Dominique Allen played for the Under-20 Great Britain team at the European Championships. All three return this fall for their sophomore season. Men's basketball's Kyron Stokes, a rising sophomore and full-blooded Belizean, also gained some valuable international experience this summer while playing for the Belize National Team.

Anticipation is up and ticket prices are down as basketball season approaches. The men open at home on Nov. 2 with an exhibition game against British Columbia. Southeastern Oklahoma will be the women's first opponent in a Nov. 3 game at Mabee Center. Both teams hope to improve on last year's record: the men were 16-15, the women were 13-17.

Alaska's Damen Bell-Holter and North Carolina's Hunter McClintock, Michael Craion of Kansas City, Mo., Warren Niles of Cincinnati, Ohio, and

Javier Nasarre of Barbastro, Spain, are the recruits who join nine returning players on the men's side. For the women, two Oklahomans — Jaci Bigham and the much-decorated Kevi Luper — along with Savanna Buck and Alex Adekunle of Texas and Brittany Eskridge of Mill Creek, Wash., have signed on. Luper was named Gatorade Oklahoma Player of the Year, The Oklahoman's Super 5 Player of the Year, and Jim Thorpe Player of the Year.

Check the schedules and read more about Golden Eagle Athletics at orugoldeneagles.com.



Katie Stoever set her ORU pole vault record at the NCAA Midwest Regionals, where she finished second.

First Lady's Cup winner Christy Carter owns school records in four categories, including lowest single-round score (67). President's Cup winner Alexander Dargel is working on his master's degree.



New Athletic Addition to be an ORU Advantage

BY DANIELLE PARKER 07

A new 35,000-square-foot indoor practice facility, opening in September, puts the finishing touches on the two-phase Golden Eagle Sports Complex project.

The first phase — an edifice housing a strength and conditioning center, baseball offices and the Grand Slam Donor Hospitality Room — was completed in 2006. The economic downturn and the Fred Creek project slowed work on Phase 2. In the last few months, however, the privately funded \$1.2 million project has hit its stride, according to Athletic Director Mike Carter.

Sitting northeast of the stadium, the practice facility will cater to the

baseball, track and soccer teams. It features an artificial surface infield, including a pitcher's mound and bases and three batting cages, and can house indoor track and field training and events with its pole vault area, long jump/triple jump pit and high jump pit.

"The building is primarily for use during inclement weather," Carter said. "Also, moving those track activities from the Aerobics Center to this new building will help relieve a lot of the traffic there."

ORU's newest addition does more than free up space in the AC, of course. It gives the university one more attribute that appeals to current and future athletes.

"It is going to help in the development of our student athletes as well as aid recruiting, as evidenced by the number-one pole vaulter in America signing with ORU," Carter said, referring to Jack Whitt of Norman, Okla. "It really adds to the energy already on campus."



Construction on the indoor practice facility was nearing completion in early September. Athletes on the baseball, track and soccer teams will be using this new building.

Daydream Believer

At the Past and Present Alumni Board Members Breakfast, held during Homecoming 2009, **1973 grad Chris Busch** read an autobiographical essay that we thought would resonate with many alumni. Enjoy.

My field of dreams was next to a sewage plant. Today the sign says “New Brighton Water Pollution Control Facility,” but everyone in town called it the sewage plant. I had the best view of it, with 200 yards separating the plant from my bedroom window.

This was steel country, and Steeler country, complete with billowing smokestacks, polluted rivers, and tough-minded immigrants. I’d often gaze out my back window at the field for any sign of an impromptu football game.

Once in eighth grade, I got into a tackle game with some senior high ruffians. All arms and legs, I was loping across the middle with my fingers stretching toward the spiraling pigskin when Pudgee DeMarco introduced me to the clothesline tackle. A few seconds of unconsciousness later, I was back in the game. The puking from the mild concussion didn’t come until later.

In a ditch next to the field, I’d shoot pellets at birds on phone lines while dreaming about my future — wife, children, career, everything exhilarating and intimidating to a young boy.

My mother had five siblings, my father four. College was not a part of the culture of either family, but contrary to tradition, my parents envisioned, hoped and expected my brother, sister and I would get degrees.

From the age of 7, we “went to church” with Kathryn Kuhlman each



Busch, the founder and president of Light-Quest Media, Inc. and BizDreams LLC, served as ORU’s Student Association president in 1972-73.

Sunday morning. The Sunday school director, a partner with Oral Roberts, told my parents about a new school Oral was building. By Thanksgiving 1967, my brother and I were in Tulsa to attend a Youth Seminar, now called a College Weekend.

That weekend I knew I was called to ORU, and like most things I’ve been called to, I resisted but ultimately capitulated. In August 1969, I rolled onto campus with my satchel of dreams. I learned math, physics, business and the like, though I was always more interested in the human laboratory called ORU.

I heard Billy Joe Daugherty once say that some students went through ORU, but for others ORU went through them. I was in that latter group. I spent seven years, after

my initial four, marinating as an employee during the ORU campus golden age.

I came to ORU as a dreamer. I left as a dreamer and a doer.

In the years since, I’ve experienced success and failure, joy and despair. But when clotheslined by life, I’ve always managed to gather the grit to get back in the game.

That passion springs from hope.

Going through ORU conveys an education. But when ORU goes through you, it imparts a living deposit of hope, a DNA strand from its founder.

That hope, which undergirds the spirit of this university, is now rising on campus once again.

I am grateful for everyone who patiently nurtured hope over the decades — faculty, administrators, staff, board members, alumni, students . . . faithful people who breathed on the embers during difficult times.

Today, I rejoice with alumni everywhere in the resurgence of hope at ORU and how that will impact future generations.

Thank you, God, for Oral Roberts University.

Chris and his wife, Linda (Salisbury 74), live in Tulsa and have three children: Christina Cook 00, Kimberly 03 and Ryan 07. Chris’s older brother, Gary 72, 79-MBA, and younger sister, Sharon Daniel 77, are also ORU grads. During his employment at ORU Chris served as vice president for Business Affairs. He was a two-term chair of the first Alumni Board. Find him on Facebook, Twitter, and his blog, www.chrisbusch.com.

Homecoming 2010

FEBRUARY 12 & 13

In 140 words or less (because 140 characters just won't cut it)

• **CHAPEL**

- School of Nursing and School of Business luncheons
- Past & Present Student Association Members reunion
- Alumni Advisory Council meetings
- Freshman Honors Seminar (alumni share their story with students)
- Departmental/affinity group reunions and receptions
- **CAMPUS TOURS** — *you won't believe all the changes!*
- 20/30/40-year class reunions
- Souls A'Fire reunion
- Past & Present Alumni Board Members Breakfast
- Speed Networking

• **ORU UPDATE WITH MART GREEN AND DR. MARK RUTLAND**

- Alumni-faculty volleyball and basketball games in the AC

• **WOMEN'S LUNCHEON WITH ALISON RUTLAND**

- Grad Theology Luncheon
- Women's RA Tea

• **ALUMNI BANQUET AND ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

- Men's Basketball vs. IUPUI
- Post-game Reception
- **WING CHAPLAINS REUNION**
- Campus Run
- Open Houses
- Women's Basketball vs. IUPUI

*Come to play. Come to pray.
Come to stay. Come to
say hey to your friends!*



Follow us on Twitter for
140-characters-or-less updates!
<http://twitter.com/OralRobertsU>

We'll also keep you informed
through Facebook (enter
"ORU Alumni" in the Search box)
and at alumni.oru.edu.

And, of course, there will be a
Homecoming brochure in your
mailbox sometime this fall.

We also need volunteers to help with
various events. Call or e-mail the
Alumni office at 918/495.6610 or
alumni@oru.edu and sign up.

Alumnus of the Year 2011

Who will be honored with an AOY award in 2011? That depends on who you nominate! Go to alumni.oru.edu and submit names of deserving alumni in one, two, or all three categories: Distinguished Service to God, to the Community, and to the Alma Mater. Deadline is July 1, 2010.



NOTES FROM ALUMS

1970s



REV. GINNY PHILLIPS ALLEN 75 B.M.ED. completed the process of transferring her ordination as a Southern Baptist Minister (M.C.M. and M.Div.-Southern Baptist Theological

Seminary 1979) into the United Methodist Church as a Full Elder (May 2009). She serves at First United Methodist Church of Denham Springs in Greater Baton Rouge, La.

THOMAS CHALK 77-MBA was hired last fall to serve as senior vice president of sales and marketing by Secure64 Software Corporation, whose headquarters are in Greenwood Village, Colo. In his new job, Tom is responsible for all sales and marketing activities for the company. Before joining Secure64, Tom was the director of global strategic sales at Symantec Corporation. Earlier in his career, he held senior sales and marketing positions at Level 8 Systems, Compuware Corporation, Platinum Technology and NCR Corporation.

1980s

DEBBIE (CLARK) MCELROY 80 is the performance improvement manager in the Quality and Safety Division at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa, Fla., where she has been employed for 20 years. Debbie received her master's degree at the University of Oklahoma in 1985. She is a licensed clinical social worker in the state of Florida as well as a national certified case manager. Her most recent challenge was completing a Black Belt Certification in Six Sigma, a statistically driven performance improvement methodology. Debbie met her husband, Bob, at St. Joseph's Hospital, where he works in biomedical clinical engineering. They reside in Tampa with their 3-year-old shih tzu, Miss Sparkles, and love the outdoors, especially beach activities and sunsets.



GERALD DEMAREST 81, M.DIV.-85 received the doctor of ministry degree on May 16 from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa. He currently serves as senior minister of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Monongahela, Pa. (fcmnon-gahela.com).

CORNELL MCGEE 81 says, "Hi to everyone from the 1980s, especially Fortress, Crusaders and Agape guys!" He is recently unemployed after 25 years in the auto industry and "loves being out of work!" He and Catherine (Inglend) have been married for 22 years and have two daughters, Molly and Annie, at Appalachian State University, and a son, William, in high school. They reside in Weddington, N.C. Cornell writes, "God has blessed through kids ministry and a singing group, www.seedsoffaitth.info," and says he would like to reconnect with brother wing and sister wing friends. "Call or write . . . Love to all."



ANDREW ZWICK 82-MBA received a 2009 Distinguished Team Service Award for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Employee Recognition Program on June 24. "I have been in this field for many years and



it is truly gratifying to be recognized in this manner," Andrew said. He is an environmental analyst (planning) in the Radiation Division. This division's responsibilities entail administering the ra-

diation programs for the state of Connecticut. That includes providing regulatory control over users of radioactive materials, x-ray machines, and other radiation-producing devices. The programs' major objectives are to evaluate the radiation exposure of workers and the general public and to reduce it to the lowest practicable level.

1990s

OBI CHIDEBELU-EZE 92 spent 10 years as a research scientist for Kimberly-Clark Corp. in Roswell, Ga. He has been issued five U.S. patents and has six pending. In 1999, he left the corporate world and started Dove Publishing, Inc. (www.dovepub.com). Employing his gift of writing, he has authored and published two children's books: *The Tales of Tortoise* and *The Lion That Finally Roared*. The stories in *Tortoise* are designed to help children age 5 and up make better choices in life. *Lion* was written to inspire children to discover their purpose and destiny. Obi and his wife, Mia, live in Atlanta with their two children, Jonathan and Jordyn.



ROBERT MORRIS 93-MA writes that since May 2008 he has been translating the New Testament and commentary on the New Testament from Jewish sources for a Messianic Jewish

publishing house. He lives in Medina, Tenn., with his wife, Jeanne, and their daughter, Virginia. Their older son, Joe, is a chiropractor in north Florida, married with two children. Their younger son, Carl, died in 2007, leaving behind a daughter that Robert and Jeanne keep on weekends.

TERRI DAVIS 96 moved from Indonesia to Taiwan in August 2008 where she is now teaching middle and high school math. She says living in Asia has been one of the most rewarding and challenging things she's ever done. She would love to hear from other Class of '96 alumni.

Becoming a Board Member: A New System

Last spring, alumni voted to approve changes in how Alumni Association Board of Directors members are selected. Most directors will continue to be elected by ORU graduates through annual elections, but a small number of them will be appointed by the board that is serving when openings occur. To run for office or be considered for appointment at a future date, contact Alumni Director Natalie Bounds-Adams at nadams@oru.edu or call 918/495.6610. The revised Alumni Association Constitution can be found at alumni.oru.edu.



JURGEN VAN STADEN 99 joined the team of security professionals at True Digital Security, Inc., a Tulsa-based computer and network security and forensics firm. After qualifying as an attorney and spending time with the High Technology Crimes Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, Jurgen completed his master's degree in computer science at the University of Tulsa's Institute for Information Security. He has one daughter, Charlie, who is 2.



Spencer-Gardners live in Shawnee, Kan.

2000s

ANNIE (SINGLETON) BRIDGES 04 and her husband, **ROBBIE 03**, had their first child, Josiah Jeffrey, on Nov. 25, 2008. Annie says Josiah was born with Cystic Fibrosis and spent his first month in the NICU. "In spite of all this, God continues to show Himself mighty in and through Josiah's life," Annie said. "Already, people have been touched by the peace that Josiah has, even as an infant. We know God is healing him and, in the meantime, He is giving us all a greater measure of faith than we ever imagined possible!"

LUKE SPENCER-GARDNER 05 and his wife, **JESSICA (BOAN-06)**, celebrated the birth of their first child, Ella Grace, on Sept. 12, 2008. The

WILLIAM HUBBARD MA-06 first came to ORU in 1976, left in 1979, began a career in law enforcement, and returned to ORU in 2005 to finish his degree in practical theology. Today, he is a police officer in Taos, N.M., assigned to the Patrol Division. On Dec. 12, 2008, he was honored at the 9th Annual Law Enforcement Awards Presentation of the United States Attorney's Office, held at the Los Angeles Police Department headquarters. Bill received an award for contributions he made to an investigation into an international child pornography ring. Bill has been in law enforcement for 30 years. He is the author of the true-crime story *Substantial Evidence*. He and his wife, Debbie, live in Red River, N.M.

RACHEL WEGNER 07 moved to Kansas City, Mo. in May 2009 and took up a job as a writer for the 24-7 Prayer Movement. She is primarily involved in the Campus America (www.campusamerica.org) initiative, which seeks to establish 24-7 prayer rooms on every college, university and seminary campus in America. Currently, the Campus America team is working to establish a year of unbroken prayer in 2010, which will be a collaborative effort of the many campus prayer rooms across the U.S. The greater 24-7 Prayer Movement has taken hold globally in over one hundred nations and countless prayer room locations. Rachel is also an active member of the Boiler Room church and community in Kansas City. She would love to hear from fellow alumni and old friends.

She also blogs at www.redemptiontakinghold.wordpress.com.



On July 10, alumni from the ORU School of Medicine's Class of 1984 came to campus for a reunion. Pictured (back row, L to R) are: Jim Elsbree 78, 80-MBS, 84; Don Colbert 80, 84; Keith Vaughan 84; Jim Anderson 78, 80-MBS, 84; Bob Abell 84; John Hutchison 84; Paul Higbee 84; Jeff Baker 80-MBS, 84; Chip Mershon 84; Stephen Murray 78, 80-MBS, 84; and Richard Knapp 84. Front row, L to R: Lisa (Landon) Anderson 84 (who hosted and sponsored the event), Alma (Rhoades) Alford 84; Carol Howard 84; and Cyndi McKinney 84.



Never to Be Forgotten

Dr. Howard Ervin once called himself “something of a fixture” at ORU. To the campus community, he was a pillar of the university’s theological education.

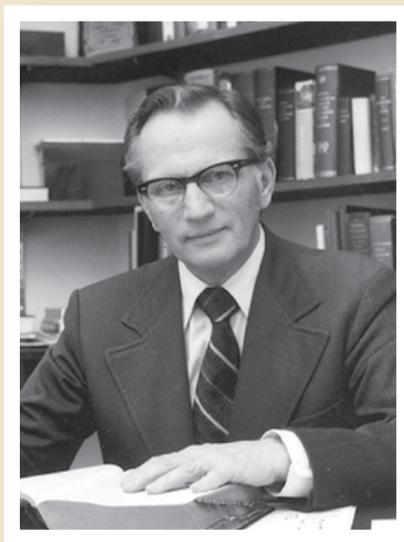
BY DANIELLE PARKER 07

Those who knew and loved and respected Dr. Howard Ervin came together on Aug. 15 to mourn his passing and celebrate all that he meant to so many. Along with the indelible mark he left on the lives of countless ORU students, Ervin was a key player when it came to helping those in more traditional denominations understand and accept the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Ervin joined the ORU faculty on Sept. 1, 1966 and retired on Dec. 5, 2006 at the age of 91. By the time he left the classroom for the last time, he had served as a professor of graduate theology, the assistant dean and dean of the original ORU seminary, and chair of undergraduate theology.

“I had him as both a professor and a colleague,” Dr. Larry Hart 70, ORU graduate theology professor, said. “He was an internationally respected scholar, yet he was also a warm and friendly gentleman. He brought to this university authentic spirituality, sound scholarship and genuine concern for his students.”

Outside of ORU, Ervin was known for his ecumenical endeavors among many denominations in the U.S. and around the world. It was his solid theological background and position at ORU that enabled him to reach across the aisle, denominationally speaking — most notably, as a participant in the International Roman Catholic/Pentecostal Dialogue that had begun in 1972.



The ORU library and Holy Spirit Research Center have books, tapes, CDs and videos containing Dr. Ervin’s teachings on a variety of subjects, dating from the 1960s to the 2000s.

“The Pentecostal and Charismatic movement did not have a lot of trained, scholarly voices in the ’60s and ’70s,” said Daniel Isgrigg 00, 07-MA, author of Ervin’s biography, *Pilgrimage into Pentecost: The Pneumatological Legacy of Howard M. Ervin*. “He had a Th.D. from Princeton University, so he had the credentials to talk about the spirit of baptism from an academic standpoint. That made him accepted by the non-Pentecostal denominations and made his message more popular with them.”

In his lifetime, Ervin pastored two Baptist churches, earned five degrees and authored six books. His 1968 book, *These Are Not Drunken As*

Ye Suppose, is recognized as the first scholarly defense of the Pentecostal experience.

“He was sort of the forerunner of Pentecostal scholars,” Hart said. “Dr. Ervin was one of those pioneers who believed that careful scholarship and the charismatic movement belong together.”

He is remembered as a man that loved sports, had a large vocabulary and an even larger heart, was distinctly educated and had a desire to see the church as a whole experience the working of the Holy Spirit.

“Dr. Ervin expected excellence in academics and insisted that we listen to the message of the Holy Spirit,” Dr. James Shelton 73, ORU undergraduate theology professor, said. “He demonstrated that you could be a top-rate scholar and be a spiritual person too. Dr. Ervin provided us a role model to be firmly Pentecostal, firmly scholarly and firmly ecumenical.”

Ervin’s legacy lives on in his students, his colleagues and his brothers and sisters in Christ, now that he has “grasped the hand of God,” as it said in his obituary.

“Bricks and mortar will pass away, but what is built in the human character will never fade,” Shelton said. “That was Dr. Howard Ervin.”

Dr. Ervin passed away on Aug. 12, 2009. Read more about him and his legacy at alumni.oru.edu.

ORU

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Back to School? That's Cool!



"Do I get aerobics points for this?"



Some of this summer's multi-million-dollar renovations were still in progress when students and families arrived in August, but that didn't dampen anyone's spirits. The Alumni office served free lemonade as new students, assisted by student leaders, emptied their cars and filled their dorm rooms with touches of home. In those rooms, students found a gift from the Alumni Association: salt and pepper shakers (to complement the micro-fridges that were installed last year) and a note that said "Welcome to ORU" from the Classes of 1968-2009. The day after move-in began, the Alumni office welcomed alumni back to campus at a Legacy Breakfast in the newly renovated cafeteria. It was attended by 180 alumni and their offspring. More than ever before, alumni are sending their sons and daughters to ORU. That's because it's a great time to be an ORU student!

Saga: new tables/chairs/carpet/tile/kitchens!