

winter2010

# excellence

*for oral roberts university alumni and friends*



## Hail and Farewell

At the end of 2009, ORU installed a new president, Dr. Mark Rutland (right), and said goodbye to its inimitable founder, first president and chancellor, Oral Roberts.

## Key Contacts

**David Wagner 73**  
President and Chairman  
Alumni Foundation  
Board of Directors  
918/495.7312  
dwagner@oru.edu

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

**Natalie (Kilgore) Adams 88**  
Director, Alumni Relations  
918/495.6588  
nadams@oru.edu

**PUBLISHER**  
ORU Alumni Association

**EDITOR**  
Debbie Titus 77 George

**CONTRIBUTORS/Writers**  
Rhae Buckley, Debbie George, Jeanette  
Hanscome, Dr. Michael Hirlinger, Daniel King,  
Danielle Parker, Dr. Mark Rutland.

**PHOTOGRAPHY/PHOTOS PROVIDED BY**  
Dr. Michael Hirlinger, Duncan Hull, Daniel King,  
Jeremy Loud, Reuben Maher, Matt Mintie, Don  
Monteaux Photography, Oral Roberts Ministries,  
Bill Sherman – *Tulsa World*, Don Wilson, ORU  
Athletic Media Relations, World Compassion Terry  
Law Ministries.

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**DIRECT INQUIRIES TO:**  
**ORU Alumni Association**  
alumni@oru.edu  
alumni.oru.edu  
918/495.6610  
**ORU Development**  
development@oru.edu  
orugift.com  
800/822.8203

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The purpose of *Excellence* magazine is to share  
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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

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# excellence

YOU'LL FIND IT AT ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY



Photo courtesy of Oral Roberts Ministries. All rights reserved.

When it came to vision, Oral Roberts was always ahead of the curve.

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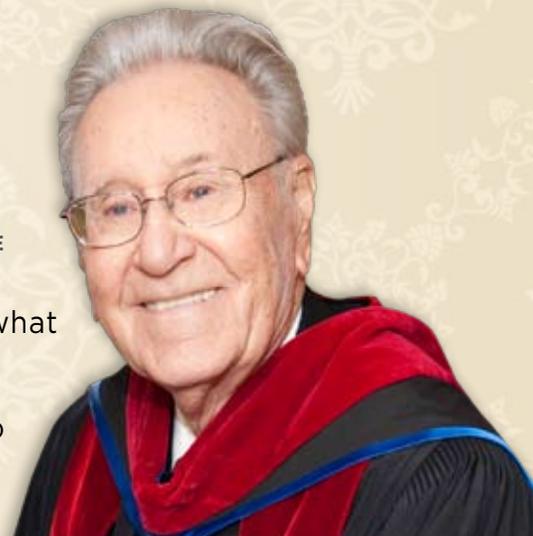
It's a new day at ORU.

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# The Long Road Home

BY DEBBIE (TITUS-77) GEORGE

On an incredibly foggy January morning, just two days shy of what would have been Oral Roberts' 92nd birthday, 170 young men and women trooped from ORU's Christ's Chapel to the LRC to take part in a competition that could change their lives.



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1. The early Roberts crusades were held in churches and auditoriums, and later in tents, or "canvas cathedrals." 2. The young Roberts family. Standing: Ronnie and Rebecca. Seated: Richard, Evelyn, Oral and Roberta. 3. Roberts is joyful as he and members of his ministry's Board of Trustees break ground for ORU. Front row: Nick Timko, Dr. John Barton, Oral Roberts, Cecil Stanfield, Saul Yager, Demos Shakarian, Oscar Moore. Back row: Manford Engel and Bill Roberts.

By the end of the day, they would have answered essay questions and been interviewed by faculty members, all in hopes of being awarded a full-tuition Whole Person Scholarship for the 2010-11 academic year.

Yes, there are still plenty of teenagers and twenty-somethings who dream of pursuing a whole-person education so that they will be effectively prepared to take God's love and healing power to their generation.

None of these prospective students were even born when ORU opened its doors in 1965. Many of them know little or nothing about ORU's founder or his history. And

yet, those who enroll next fall will join the 37,000-plus alumni who have already taken part in what the 1966 Perihelion called "one of the most revolutionary experiments in the history of education," revolutionary because "we believe that truth and wholeness, the ultimate aims of education, are embodied in the Person of Jesus Christ."

No one believed it more than Oral Roberts, who finished his work on earth on Dec. 15, 2009. His belief in who Jesus is and what He can do enabled him to build God a university whose alumni shall carry on his healing ministry "'til the Lord's return, and count for eternity!"

## WHERE IT BEGAN

Born in a log house in Bebee, Oklahoma, on Jan. 24, 1918, Granville Oral Roberts was the fifth and last child born to Ellis and Claudius Roberts, a preacher/evangelist/farmer and his wife. Roberts had what some would consider two strikes against him from the very beginning: he stuttered, and he was raised in poverty. Working in his favor, however, was the example set by his faith-filled parents. Ellis spent hours studying the Bible — memorizing a good portion of it — and would walk for miles to fulfill a preaching engagement. Claudius, whose schooling was scant, loved reading and passed that passion on to her son.

Roberts learned to live by faith at an early age. To make ends meet, his family hoed corn, picked cotton, milked cows . . . and trusted God to keep their bodies and souls together. As a teenager, Roberts became fed up with his situation and decided to change it. He ran away from home and did his best to reject his parents' faith. Rooming at a judge's house in Atoka, he burned the candle at both ends: going to school (where he was president of his class, editor of the school paper and a starter on the basketball team), serving as a reporter for the Ada Evening News, putting in time as a handyman, maintaining a social life (he was pretty popular) and in his

Jewel came to him one day and said, "Oral, God is going to heal you." A short time later, he was saved. Then brother Elmer was inspired to take him to a revival for prayer. Before they reached the tent where Rev. George Moncey was holding his meetings, Roberts heard God speak to him, saying, "Son, I am going to heal you and you are to take My healing power to your generation. You are to build Me a university and build it on My authority and on the Holy Spirit." He was indeed healed that night. Over a period of months, his strength returned, and he began sharing the pulpit with his father. It was the beginning of a ministry that would impact the world.

four gospels and Acts three times, on his knees. By the end of those thirty days, he had a clearer picture of who Jesus is, and he understood what it meant to be like Jesus and heal people as He did. And later, reading 3 John 2, he became convinced that God wants people to be whole in every area of their lives, beginning with their souls.

His whole ministry changed. He began to see people the way Jesus saw them — hurting, broken, in need of God's love and healing power. The power of God began flowing through him, specifically through his right hand, and his meetings were marked with miraculous healings as thousands lined up for prayer.



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"spare" time, studying the law books in the judge's library. Roberts' dream was to become a lawyer, and eventually run for governor of Oklahoma.

That dream seemed to go up in smoke when the 17-year-old collapsed on the basketball court one night, hemorrhaging from his lungs. His coach took him back to his parents' homewhere doctors came and delivered a shattering diagnosis: tuberculosis. In those days before wonder drugs, Roberts took what medicines were available and began to waste away.

Ellis and Claudius never gave up hope, praying without ceasing for Oral's healing and imploring their son to accept Jesus as his Savior. The tide began to turn when Roberts' sister

Claudius Roberts had always told her son to "obey God," and that he did — to the best of his ability, and despite what his critics had to say — throughout his life. Taking God's healing power to his generation meant preaching, teaching and healing the way Jesus did. He started down that road in 1936. To "get his learning," he took classes at Phillips University in Enid and Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, and read hundreds of books in addition to the Bible. By the age of 29, he had pastored four churches and conducted numerous revivals. Still, something was missing. The healing ministry he had envisioned was not happening. Turning to God, he was told to spend thirty days reading the

## CHANGE IS GOOD

One of the hallmarks of Roberts' ministry was his flexibility. From meetings in the big tents, auditoriums and stadiums to radio and television, books, magazines and letters, and the Abundant Life Prayer Group, he willingly changed with the times (exception: ORU dress code) and sought the most effective ways to minister to hurting people. And during those busy years between 1936 and 1961, as he traveled around the world to conduct crusades — often gone for three weeks out of every month while "his darling wife," Evelyn, was at home with their four children — he had in the back of his mind God's command to build a university.

In 1960, God gave the evangelist these words that are familiar to every ORU student: “Raise up your students to hear My voice, to go where My light is seen dim, My voice is heard small, and My healing power is not known, even to the uttermost bounds of the earth. Their work will exceed yours, and in this I am well pleased.” Then, in 1961, Roberts told his office staff and trustees of the Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association that he would build what came to be called ORU. Some doubted it could be done and some strongly objected, but “the man who obeyed God” moved ahead. He had found a 160-acre spread in 1952 at 81st Street and South Lewis Avenue that was owned by an oil family.

chartered by the state of Oklahoma, and plans for additional buildings began to move forward. Dr. John D. Messick was hired to design the academic program, Frank Wallace became the chief architect, faculty was recruited, students were accepted and the “quest for the whole man” was on!

### UPS AND DOWNS

It’s been anything but smooth sailing since 1965. Deservedly or not, ORU’s founder drew plenty of criticism for his words and actions.

The seed-faith message that Roberts preached for years was seen as nothing more than a fundraising scheme by his detractors, who labeled him “the father

medicine and the City of Faith Medical and Research Center opened amid much fanfare. By 1990, three of the four had closed and the law school had been transferred to CBN (now Regent) University in Virginia Beach. Failures? Unrealized dreams? Or concepts that were ahead of their time? Dental and medical school alumni testify that they’ve implemented the concepts learned at ORU in their practices, and many have been involved in domestic and overseas missions. And the transplanted law school? It’s still going strong.

### ‘WE REMEMBER . . .’

Scores of alumni filled two memorial Web sites and sent e-mails with their



4. When the Learning Resources Center first opened, the Ford Foundation called it “one of the most creative facilities on the American campus today.” 5. Lovenia James, Eleanor Reece and Claudius Roberts (the founder’s mother) attended the groundbreaking for the four-acre Ralph L. Reece Memorial Gardens, which surround the Prayer Tower. 6. The first student body, 1965-66. 7. Students from the 1960s have plenty of stories of close encounters with their president. 8. In the president’s office on LRC 6. 9. Roberts posed outside his office with tennis coach Bernis Duke (third from right) and members of the men’s team. 10. Billy Graham and Oral Roberts took part in the World Congress on Evangelism, held in Berlin in 1966.

By early 1962, Roberts had purchased the land (plus 20 adjoining acres) and begun clearing it for the construction of the first three buildings: Braxton Hall, Shakarian Hall, and Timko-Barton Hall.

As Roberts said many times, he had no idea how to build a university. Then, while walking on the property one day, he began praying in the Spirit, and as he prayed, God told him what he needed to do to build ORU.

What many younger alumni don’t realize is that before there was an ORU, the property at 7777 South Lewis (a street number Roberts requested) was home to a School of Evangelism.

In 1965, the shift was made from this school to a full-fledged university,

of the prosperity gospel.”

At times, as one alumnus pointed out, Roberts didn’t realize that what sounds normal when shared with a few friends can sound crazy to the general public. Case in point: The 900-foot Jesus. When progress slowed on the City of Faith complex in 1980, Roberts spoke of seeing a vision of Jesus towering above the 600-foot-tall clinic, demonstrating that He was bigger than the financial crisis Roberts was facing. That prompted newspaper cartoons depicting a “900-foot Jesus Crossing” sign.

Another case in point: The “God will call me home if I don’t raise \$8 million for medical missions” plea. “Would God really kill him over this?” people asked.

The schools of dentistry, law and

comments about Roberts after news of his passing was released.

An alumnus from the 1990s remembered lying on the ground, looking up at the Praying Hands. “I would hear God encourage me that He can use anyone who is willing and obedient, just as Oral Roberts was.”

Anne McPherran Smith Stover, M.D., said she’s far from Tulsa, but as a two-time ORU grad (1980, 1988-MD), she remains “a kingdom girl, praying for my patients in my small family practice in Ohio.”

It was Roberts’ teachings on the whole-man concept, said Douglas Daniels, D.M.D. 85, that he absorbed, and that he encourages his team and patients to follow. Leyser Q. Morris-

Hayes 82 said her ORU education “is the very foundation for my practice of law.”

In 1986, at a summer missions program meeting, said Jackie Myles 89, “a call and hunger for the nations was birthed into my heart. . . . I am fulfilling that mandate.”

“I am thankful for his obedience and faithfulness to God in not giving up when everything was against him,” said Ken McCray 85, whose family is in full-time music evangelistic ministry. “If he had, I might not have the family and ministry that I have now.”

A 1977 graduate, Patti V. Jones, said she has used her ORU education to establish a Christian school for the Deaf and Deafblind in Bogota, Colombia, where

on a mission to do God’s work and they so wanted ORU graduates to be life changers and light in a dark world.”

In a letter to “Brother Roberts,” 1981 MBA graduate Neal Bratschun said, “To say your work and ministry have impacted our lives is an understatement; an intertwining is more like it.”

### THEY KNEW HIM BEST

When you ask Richard Roberts, ORU’s second president, to talk about his father’s greatest impact, he immediately identifies “his obedience to God. His mother said to him, ‘Stay little in your own eyes and obey God and you’ll bless the world.’ That is advice that he

the Bible. He read it through countless times and had a gift for identifying key concepts and sharing them in language that people could understand. “I want people to remember the powerful truths that God revealed to him,” Richard said. As the founder’s son, a three-time ORU graduate and president and CEO of the Oral Roberts Ministries, he knows them well — truths, he said, “such as ‘God is a good God; ‘Expect a miracle,’ that Jesus Christ is the same today as He was in Bible days, that He saves and heals and delivers and sets people free, that there is a devil in this world but God has given us the power of His Son Jesus’ name to rebuke him. That we can plant seed and God will multiply it back



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she has ministered for 27 years.

“To know that God had me in mind when He gave you the vision of ORU is humbling,” said Torrian Scott 07.

“We were taught to think, live and worship outside the box, by faith,” said ’93 graduate Stephanie Cooper-Shelvin.

Roberts “was just a regular person . . . who allowed God to use him to do great things for the Kingdom of God,” echoed Ruth Barclay 90, who once visited the president’s home for dinner. “His life should inspire us all to step out and do the things we think are impossible.”

More agreement from Sandy Roten Maccioli 81, the first female president of the ORU Student Association. “They (Oral and Evelyn) were just regular folk

followed and that’s the advice that he has given to me that I’ve tried to follow all my life. I think his obedience has been the key over the years to the success of him doing what God told him to do. That’s why his ministry lasted.”

Richard also believes there is encouragement to be found in Roberts’ humble origins. “It means that you can reach your goals, you can attain those dreams that God has placed in your heart no matter where you start from,” he said. “Yes, it’s difficult to get to where he went from where he started, but not impossible. I believe God showed him something that was tailor-made for him.”

Roberts chose from the very beginning of his ministry to follow his father Ellis’ example and become a student of

in ways we need it most.”

There is no doubt in Richard’s mind that his father’s healing ministry will go on. “I can’t speak for others,” he said, “but I know it is continuing through me, because I always believed for a double portion of the spirit that had been upon him, and it has now come upon me.” Once at odds with his father, Richard accepted the Lord at age 19, a decision that brought healing to their relationship. At that point, Richard said at his father’s memorial service, “I joined his ministry, and I have been with him every step of the way until he drew his last breath on earth and his first breath in heaven.”

What Roberts prayed for his son, Richard said, was “that I would stay

obedient to God and that I would answer that call of preaching and teaching and bringing God's healing power to people in need, helping to meet their needs through faith on a daily basis through our ministry. And I'm believing the same for my children, that they will fulfill the call of God on their lives, no matter what that call is."

Daughter Roberta, who is married to fellow ORU grad Ron Potts, cautions against putting her father on a pedestal, "because with his great abilities and the great things that he did, he also had great faults. He wasn't shy about telling you that he had tremendous faults. The only reason he accomplished what he did was because he wanted it so much." All

With two ORU degrees of her own, including a juris doctorate, Roberta admires her father's lifelong pursuit of knowledge. "What formal education he got, he got at a huge sacrifice," she said. While pastoring a church, "he took as many courses at the same time as he could possibly afford and fit in. And then once he got to the point he couldn't take formal classes, he educated himself" — mostly through reading. "He read widely," Roberta said, "all kinds of different books, news magazines, and when he first started building ORU, he read the philosophers — Kant, and the existentialists. I don't know how he got through it."

What emerges from his children's

## ORU LEADERS ON OR

Dr. Mark Rutland is the last ORU president who will receive a personal blessing from the university's founder. "The laying on of hands and the prophetic prayer that he prayed at the inauguration was so touching and so moving to me," Rutland said during an interview shortly after Christmas break. "It makes one want to do better, be better and take the university to the best place that it can be."

What was especially liberating, he added, was that Roberts told him, "Don't change."

"That's very characteristic of his graciousness and generosity," Rutland said.



11. Marshall and Rebecca (Roberts) Nash, Richard, Oral and Evelyn, Ronnie and Roberta pose with the Rev. Billy Graham at ORU's 1967 dedication. (Marshall and Rebecca were killed in a plane crash in 1977. Ronnie passed away in 1982.) 12. Roberts built University Village, a retirement community just down the road from ORU, with his mother in mind. She lived there until her death at age 89. 13. The World Action Singers and Reflection (in the dark suits) were mainstays of Roberts' television ministry. 14. Remember, alumni: Make no little plans! 15. This was one of Roberts' favorite photos of himself and his darling wife, Evelyn. 16. When the chancellor turned 88, alumni and friends swamped him with birthday cards. 17. Roberts and Rutland — No. 1 and No. 3.

of us can do likewise, she believes. "We have to be willing to pay the price that he paid for God to use us like He used Dad, and most of us are not willing to do what it takes. But we can all do what God has called us to do."

Roberta considers "building ORU" the biggest challenge her father ever faced. "Philosophically it was a challenge because so many Christians — good Christians, godly Christians — believed that to educate yourself was really an ungodly thing, that you couldn't possibly serve God and be educated. And Dad's idea was totally the opposite — that you could not serve God as well if you were not educated. Dad realized that without an education, you have no entrée" into what he came to call "every person's world."

remembrances is a picture of a man of relentless drive and extreme focus. "Dad was consumed — and I mean consumed — with what he was supposed to do for God," said Roberta, who also serves on ORU's Board of Trustees. "When you're consumed that way, you push everything else out. Those are tough sacrifices to make, and people around you don't always appreciate it and don't always understand it, and you've got to be willing to take the criticism that follows." Speaking of the countless weeks that her father was away from home during her childhood, Roberta said, "One of these days I'm going to meet those people in heaven, those total strangers that would not have been there but for my dad's sacrifice."

"It might have been a temptation for the founder and chancellor to say, 'Come here and be like me.' Instead he said, 'Come here and be yourself.'"

Although the current president is heeding that admonition, he also realizes how important it is to imbue current and future students with the founder's DNA. That includes equipping them to "go into the world and serve where their service is most needed in every aspect of life," to raise them with "a sense of awareness to, sensitivity to and responsiveness to the Holy Spirit," and instilling a desire in them to be "world-class givers."

Rutland is aware that with all Roberts accomplished in his lifetime, there's still plenty of room for the students to exceed him. "If I understand the char-

acter and nature of the man, he would say, "Write better than I did, express it more clearly than I did, preach it under a greater anointing than I had," Rutland said. "I never found him to be a petty person regarding his records, but a gracious and generous spirit motivating others to go beyond."

As much as Roberts is loved, appreciated and respected at his namesake school, he won't be canonized. "His memory is to be blessed," Rutland said, "but our eyes as believers, and the eyes of this university, are ultimately on the same person his eyes were on, and that's Jesus Christ."

Mart Green didn't meet Oral Roberts until November 2007, a time when

he calls "dragons": long-term debt (now erased), deferred maintenance (well underway), declining enrollment (on the rise), and deficit (slowly fading). More work remains, but Green is encouraged.

"The crowning moment for all of us was at the inauguration — to see Oral there to be honored and for him to see the new president, and for him to see ORU a lot healthier than it was years ago," Green said. "I do feel that when Chancellor Roberts passed away, he saw that ORU was in good hands."

In one conversation, Roberts told Green, "Some of the ways I did things, they need to change, they need to be done differently.' It wasn't the *why* he

someday. Now that I am here, it is a blessing to know that he heard God's voice to create a university like this and obeyed. ORU does not have a sub-standard stigma just because it is Christian. He gave us an example that you can be excellent and successful in the secular world and be a Christian."

Ramond Walker is a senior from Memphis, Tenn., majoring in graphic design video. He recently won first place in a design competition for a church branding project. He said, "One of the greatest things has been to not only see his ministry and vision, but to see the fullness of it in my life. Being here the last four years has taught me what it means to be healed and whole



*Oral Roberts' Memorial Service*

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the future of ORU hung in the balance. In a matter of weeks, however, Roberts took Green's measure and decided he and his family could be trusted to take care of ORU.

"He was encouraging and he was supportive," Green said in a phone conversation. "I was thrilled by that, just because he'd been at this for a long, long time and I just came in at the very end. And to be grafted in so quickly — he embraced me as well as my family. That's what gave me the strength to make it. It's not been an easy two years. There have been a lot of hard things along the road. Without his support I'm sure I would have been faint of heart."

As Board Chair of the trustees, Green has helped ORU tackle what

did things," Green said, "it was the *why*. And I think the 'why' is that mission. Our job as trustees is to continue to find new and innovative ways to do the mission and apply it to today's world."

### STUDENTS SPEAK

Most of the 3,140 current students have had very little contact with the founder, but when you ask them for their thoughts on Oral Roberts, it's clear that they understand what he was all about.

"My family came from Africa, so the name of Oral Roberts was always around," said Pratik Ghelani, a junior business administration major. "It was a dream my parents had in their hearts that their kids were going to go to ORU

in my spirit, body and mind. I don't have to necessarily start a huge ministry or business, but in my everyday life, I remember the things I have learned here and the legacy Oral Roberts has left and apply."

Theatre arts major Chelsea Spack, a junior from Chesterfield, Mo., believes that "we cannot escape the legacy of Oral Roberts. His life was a giant step of faith. He lived so fearlessly. His vision has been ingrained in our lives. It inspires me to listen to the voice of God and be bold to do things, even though they may seem impossible."

"Oral Roberts set a foundation for us to explore academics as well as grow in our walk with the Lord when he began this university," said Landon

Galloway, a graduate theology student from Tupelo, Miss. “He taught us that we are to go, and that is what I plan to do. I want to bring a message of healing and hope in whatever setting I am in, whether it be academic or spiritual.”

Oklahoman Jennifer Smith, a senior majoring in international relations, was an award-winner at the Midwest Model United Nations conference in February. “Oral Roberts’ life taught us that God gives us dreams that require faith and perseverance,” she said. “So it is with a strong and determined faith that I can move forward into the next stage of my life — life after ORU.”

### WHAT’S LEFT TO SAY?

He brought Pentecostalism into the mainstream and was one of the fathers of the charismatic movement. His emphasis on the Holy Spirit, including his “Holy Spirit in the Now” class, reminded Christians of how essential this third member of the Trinity is in the life of a believer.

He was made for TV. (And if you were an ORU student in the audience during one of his TV tapings, you know that he hated empty seats.)

He loved sports — specifically, basketball. “The sports page is the only Bible that some people read,” he used to say. He knew that having a successful sports program could open doors to sharing the gospel. He built the Mabee

### ‘THEIR WORK’

When Billy Wilson, vice chair of the ORU Board of Trustees, interviewed Roberts at Homecoming in 2009, he asked him if he had a message for ORU alumni.

Looking at the camera as if he were looking into the eyes of the alumni, Roberts said, “I would ask you if you really heard me when I said God told me to raise up my students to hear His voice, to go . . . and in that He is well-pleased, that you’re going beyond me. That’s what I would say to you: did you hear, and are you doing it?”

“I think the students have been doing that,” said Roberta Potts, “but I be-



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18. Pat Robertson gave the opening prayer. 19. Marilyn Hickey, chairman emeritus of the ORU Board of Regents, shared a personal word. 20. Kelly Wright 07 sang the National Anthem. 21. Richard Roberts read personal messages from Joel Osteen, Dr. Paul Yonggi Cho, Benny Hinn, Dr. Robert Schuller, Dr. Paul Crouch and Billy Graham. 22. Roberta and Richard, Roberts’ two surviving children, sang “Don’t Turn Him Away.” Photo by Kelly Kerr

Photos 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 13, 15, and 22 courtesy of Oral Roberts Ministries. All rights reserved.

Danielle Parker 07 contributed to this story.

Plenty, but here are just a few final thoughts about our founder and chancellor . . .

He loved to preach. He never went to seminary, but his sermons were all-Bible and definitely memorable, especially “The Fourth Man.” Millions were saved through his outreaches and he personally laid hands on and prayed for close to two million people.

He was colorblind. His altar calls in the 1950s were integrated, and after an incident at one of his tent meetings, he refused to hold meetings in places that enforced segregated seating.

His love for Israel, proclaimed to the millions who followed his ministry from the 1950s on, influenced generations of Christians to support that nation.

Center to provide a first-class venue for ORU’s teams, and is widely credited with driving up interest in basketball in football-obsessed Oklahoma.

He was a faith healer who believed that “every healing art is an instrument of God” (Roberts, 1976 *Perihelion*). The City of Faith was built to merge God’s healing streams of prayer and medicine. Although the center closed in 1989, its influence cannot be denied. The role of prayer in medical care has been the subject of numerous research studies in the past 20 years, and many secular medical schools now offer courses (some required) on religion and spirituality.

lieve each of us could do it more, and better. We could get out to a wider scale of people we influence. And I’m speaking of myself here, too.

“In 2010,” she continued, “I think God’s voice is heard smaller than it ever was. His light seems to be dimmer. But we have the education, the entrée into all kinds of worlds.”

Into *every person’s world*. And when we as alumni do what ORU trained us to do, God is indeed well-pleased.

As was the man who has gone home ahead of us — that charismatic, complicated, generous, flawed, innovative, restless human being called **Granville Oral Roberts**.



# Something Good is Happening!

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 5:1-2 NIV).

Most of us remember that familiar refrain from the Oral Roberts television broadcasts: "Something good is going to happen to you . . . this very day." Well, we can all celebrate as something good is always happening at ORU. We rejoice in the elimination of all long-term debt, the increase in enrollment, the campus improvements, the work being completed to address deferred maintenance, and many other activities.

We continue to celebrate all of the fine academics, athletics and other tremendous programs that help to develop servant leaders who are wholly prepared to go and take God's love throughout the world.

And now with our new university president inaugurated and on fire with a heart for God's glory, ORU is poised for even greater accomplishments.

ORU has weathered many storms and tough times. We know the challenges we've faced just over the last two years which have been chronicled and expounded upon in various media around the world. We also as individual children of God have weathered our own personal tough times and storms of life. Why do we have to go through tough times? Is it our sinful nature? Is it our pride? Might it be the only way God can get our attention? I do know that when we are weak, He is strong. His strength and power are made perfect in our weakness as it explains in 2 Corinthians 12:9.

It is in the midst of the storm that we realize God is our only way. We see



*Buckley (far left) represented alumni at the inauguration of Dr. Mark Rutland.*

His glory and grace and power and love for us, His children.

God's spirit was very evident on campus in September during all of the inaugural events. With the joy at overcoming the mountain of long-term debt and the excitement over all the changes that have taken place, on top of the hope and expectations for the future, it would be easy to say we've arrived. But, there is still so much to be done. Now our beloved founder's earthly assignment is accomplished, and his glorious, heavenly life has begun. We students, alumni, faculty and staff have all been inspired by the life of Oral Roberts. I know I'm dating myself, but I still can hear him saying, "God is a good God," "Breakthrough from Heaven in '77," "God won't be late in '78" and "God is bigger than any problem we will ever face." We need to continue to pray and remember that God is our only way, our source for everything.

Let's not wait for the storm to acknowledge His leadership.

Philippians 4:6-9 says, "Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you."

I cannot say this enough: Thank you, alumni, for staying faithful by praying for ORU and financially supporting its God-given mission to bring light to the world for God's glory.

**RHAE BUCKLEY 80**  
CHAIR, ORU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# Wholeness (Luke 5:17-26)

**Lowered by ropes into a crowded room**, suspended as it were between caring friends and a loving Savior, the man lay helpless on his bed of affliction. His twisted, useless body became the object of attention for every eye in the room. Would Jesus heal him? Could Jesus heal him? Yet when Jesus spoke, a wave of disappointment undoubtedly swept through the room.



*Dr. Rutland presented participation certificates to the students who came to campus for the Whole Person Scholarship Competition in November.*

“Man, your sins are forgiven.” Surely the men on the rooftop were disappointed. They had not carried their handicapped friend, hoisted him up to the roof and lowered him into the room to hear “your sins are forgiven.” They wanted him healed. A physical healing. A miracle.

Perceiving their doubts, Jesus then spoke the words they wanted to hear. “Arise, take up your bed and go into your house.”

Now the miracle. The afflicted man did exactly as Jesus said. He rose up, took up that upon which

he lay, and departed to his own house. Immediately, as he went he glorified God and the onlookers who were amazed, also glorified God. An instantaneous miracle of physical healing.

Not quite. There is a process here. It is easily missed and many read right over it. Before Jesus healed the man’s body, He healed his spirit. “Man, your sins are forgiven.” Jesus knew that before that man could receive and sustain a physical healing, he needed an inner healing. “Forgiveness” was the word he had to

hear before he could hear “Rise and be healed.”

We dare not assume from this that all with handicaps need inner healing and forgiveness. Jesus is not mass-producing miracles. Each person was unique to Jesus, uniquely hurting and uniquely healed. The woman at the well. The rich young ruler. The woman taken in adultery. Jesus met each one at the point of his deepest need with miraculous and healing love.

From the broken and wounded Jesus wants to make whole persons. Sometimes physically. Sometimes emotionally. Sometimes instantaneously. Sometimes in process. Always miraculously and by His grace.

I have personally experienced His healing and transforming love and I am still experiencing it. How wonderful to be part of a community of faith like ORU, so totally devoted to the process of wholeness in all that implies. This university is perhaps unique in its commitment to the goal of seeing whole persons sent into a broken world with the message of the gospel.

**MARK RUTLAND, PH.D.**  
PRESIDENT



# One Fine Day

An enthusiastic crowd composed of students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, former regents, ministers, supporters, government officials, and representatives from other colleges and universities filled the Mabee Center in September to salute ORU's new leader.

BY DEBBIE (TITUS-77) GEORGE



With more pomp and circumstance than the campus has witnessed in decades — outside of Commencement ceremonies — Oral Roberts University conducted the inauguration of its third president, Dr. Mark Rutland, on Sept. 25.

In the words of Board Chair Mart Green, one of the primary architects of the much-improved ORU, it was “a day to celebrate our future and our past.”

It was indeed.

In the days leading up to the ceremony, parties with the new president took place all over campus, at CityPlex

Towers, and at the Hilton across the street: an ice cream social for undergraduate students, and receptions for commuters and graduate students, alumni, parents, ministers, Tulsa business and community leaders, and friends of Athletics. There was also a reception for former Board of Regents members, hosted by Chancellor Oral Roberts, Mart Green and Dr. Rutland, and an inauguration dinner, held the night before the big day. On the morning of the 25th, platform guests and representatives from various academic institutions joined other ORU friends

and staff for a brunch; the ORU Guitar Ensemble, pianist Don Ryan '72 and faculty member Dr. Paul Vickery — a 1989 master of divinity graduate who portrayed Bishop Francis Asbury — provided music and entertainment. A picnic for faculty and staff took place shortly after the installation ceremony.

Along with Web streaming, the Public Relations office used Twitter to tweet highlights of the ceremony itself. (“The event is beginning, with Mart Green welcoming everyone.”)

The primary highlight for many was having the founder, chancellor



and first president on hand to bless the new leader. When ORU opened in 1965, who would have thought Roberts would be here 44 years later to take part in this event . . . to hear the affectionate shouts of the crowd (especially the ORU students) as they marked his entrance and exit with a standing ovation?

Memories of ORU's past were brought to the surface in the person of Dr. Jimmy Buskirk, former dean of the School of Theology and Missions. He gave the invocation, thanking God for "Your marvelous generosity to Your university," for the founder, and for "his darling Evelyn, who stood by his

We the students are excited about the new direction that is being taken towards meaningful progress, relevance, and change."

The faculty was represented by Dr. William Epperson, president of the recently reinstated Faculty Senate. He praised Rutland for what he brings to ORU chapel services — "a deeper vision of the body of Christ, the church throughout history and its heritage of teaching and artistry."

Rhae Buckley 80, chair of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, expressed confidence in Rutland's leadership. "As alumni, we know the importance of following Chancellor

"Dr. Rutland comes to you with a pastor's heart and a missionary spirit," Walker said of the man who once served as his associate pastor. "He is uniquely qualified . . . a Spirit-anointed preacher, effective evangelist and missionary educator."

Following one of many rousing roars of approbation from the Mabee Center crowd, Rutland made his way to the podium and made it clear that he knows what ORU is about and has no intention of undermining the foundation. He and the Board of Trustees, he said, "have explored what it means to serve and lead together a university that believes in healing and that re-



side and whose spirit we still feel on this campus."

Marilyn Hickey, who chaired the former Board of Regents for 19 years, set the stage for Rutland's address with the reading of Joshua 5:10-6:2.

She was followed by Dexter Sullivan, Student Association president. He saluted the new president, saying, "Dr. Rutland embodies the leadership that ORU needs in this season. God has gifted him to us, and for that we are unendingly grateful. (He) is a man of vision, a man of leadership, a man of resolve, and one of unfeigned integrity.

Roberts' original vision, the founding vision," he said, "and we know that Dr. Rutland is also committed to that same vision."

Salutations also came from Dr. Paul Corts, president of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor, Oklahoma State Senator Gary Stanislawski (a 1996 ORU M.A. graduate) and Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry (via video).

Rutland was introduced by Dr. Paul Walker, pastor emeritus of Mount Paran Church of God in Atlanta, Ga.

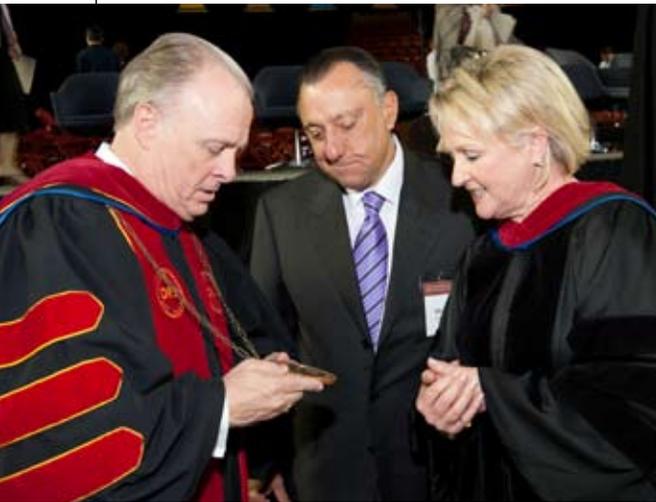
**CAPTIONS (left to right):**

"We are united under a leader that transcends us all," said Dr. Rutland in his address. "It humbles us to understand that it is His pillar of fire, His cloud, His sword, His leadership, His calling, His university. We follow Him."

Chancellor Oral Roberts' blessing of Dr. Mark Rutland: ". . . I see you leading this campus in the glory of God. I see you relating to all the faculty, the board, the students, ministering to them by the power of God and the holy Word of God. I see you anointed by the Holy Ghost, set apart for this special ministry. . ."

Dr. Rutland shows off the clock that was presented to him by Alumni Board Chair Rhae Buckley (far left) on behalf of the Alumni Association.

Dr. George Gillen, a longtime faculty member from the School of Business, prepares to march in with the Presidential Mace.



spects the healing work as the finished work of Christ . . . We have come to the conclusion that we serve a healing God and that He is a God of mercy and grace.”

There was more reassurance in these words: “I am deeply aware that I come as a Johnny-come-lately to a great university already in progress, a tank that is moving across the prairie. I may jump on and ride for a season. I probably will not change the tank much nor help it nor hinder it. It was here before I got on and it will be rolling when I get off.”

**CAPTIONS (left to right):**

Trustee and 1969 graduate *Jacque Cardone* and her husband, *Michael*, a 1970 graduate, get a closer look at *Dr. Rutland's* presidential medallion, which was designed by 2001 graduate *Tim Jurgensen*.

*Larry Wayne Morbitt*, a 1974 graduate, sang *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Alumni *David* and *Becky Grothe*, shown here with their daughter *Anna* (Class of 2010) and *Shelley Fenimore*, hosted the Parents Reception.

The community leaders reception was held on the recently redecorated 7th floor of the Graduate Center, where a portrait of *ORU's* founder and first president, *Oral Roberts*, and his wife, *Evelyn*, is prominently displayed.

*Roberta Roberts Potts* 73, 87-JD, her father, *Chancellor Roberts*, and *Dr. Rutland* pose for a photo before the ceremony begins.

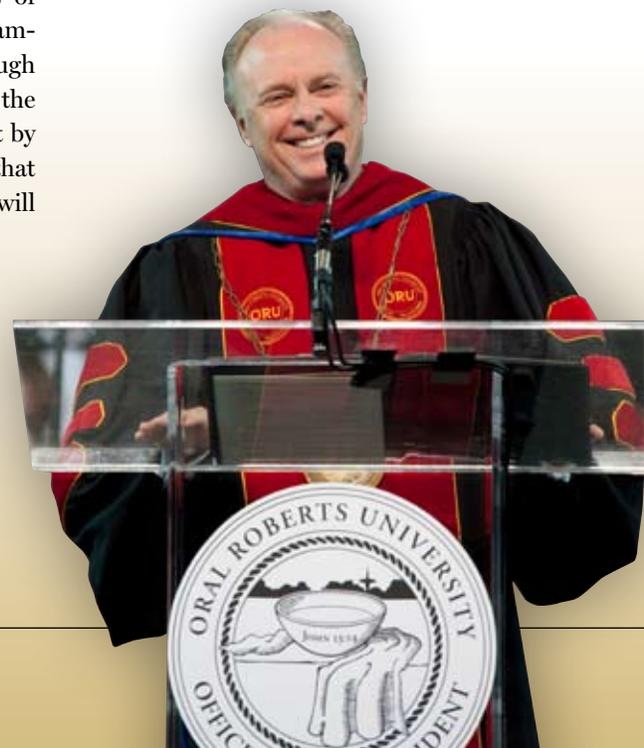
Taking up the story of Joshua from *Marilyn Hickey's* scripture reading, *Rutland* talked about the parallels between the Israelites' experience and *ORU*. There are four great truths to be gleaned from both situations, *Rutland* said: an abiding vision, one ultimate leader (the Lord God), inevitable struggles and opposition, and above all, “a God of healing grace and miraculous power.”

The crowd responded to this address with a hymn of praise to God, “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,” followed by a benediction from the *Rutlands' pastor* from Lakeland, Fla., *Reggie Scarborough*. With words of honor for the founder, the *Green family* and the *Rutlands*, *Scarborough* acknowledged that “at the end of the day, it is not by our might, it is not by our power, but it is by Your Spirit” that anything worthwhile has been or will be accomplished at *ORU*.

As the orchestra struck up “Procession of the Nobles,” one of the noblest of all the faculty, undergraduate business chair *Dr. George Gillen*, led the platform party out of the arena, presidential mace held high and eyes focused on what lay ahead.

. . . and printed on the floor beneath the stage, out of sight but not out of mind, were the words that held special meaning for the *ORU* community on this day — words that fans cling to during tight basketball games, but that apply to all aspects of *ORU* life:

*Expect A Miracle.*





## Alumni and Friends Expect Great Things from **New President**

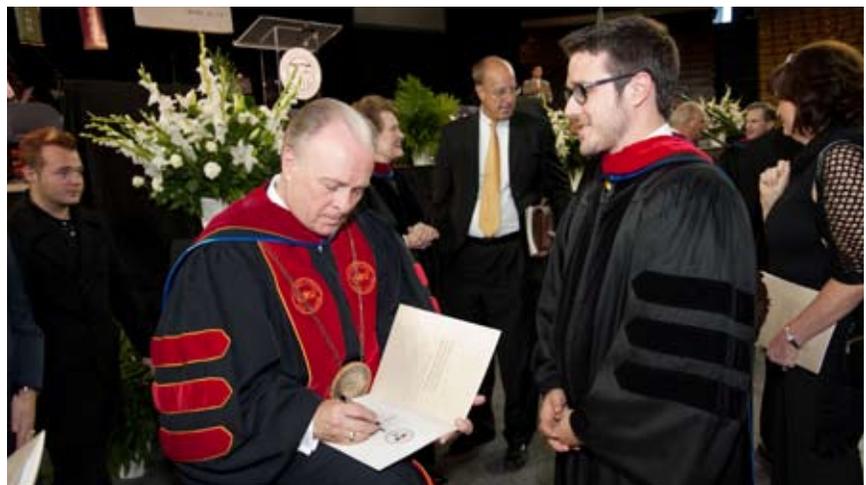
BY DANIELLE PARKER 07

The twenty-fifth day of September was more than the inauguration of Dr. Mark Rutland. It was the beginning of a new season of hope and anticipation for many connected to Oral Roberts University.

“My husband and I have been so encouraged to see what God has done,” DeEtta Hughes 81, 84 M.A.Ed. said. “We just know that God’s hand is in this. It’s exciting to see Him and know that He is faithful, and I know even more exciting times are yet ahead.”

During the festivities, alumni and friends traveled from near and far to take part in receptions, dinners, brunches, meetings and, finally, the official inauguration ceremony. For many, it was their first opportunity to personally meet and hear from the new president.

“He really is here to serve,” Max 74 and Carol (1973-74) James said. “For a president and someone of that stature to come in and say that is what I



*Dr. Rutland autographs a program for trustee Cameron Strang, a 1998 graduate.*

am going to do with such humility is refreshing.”

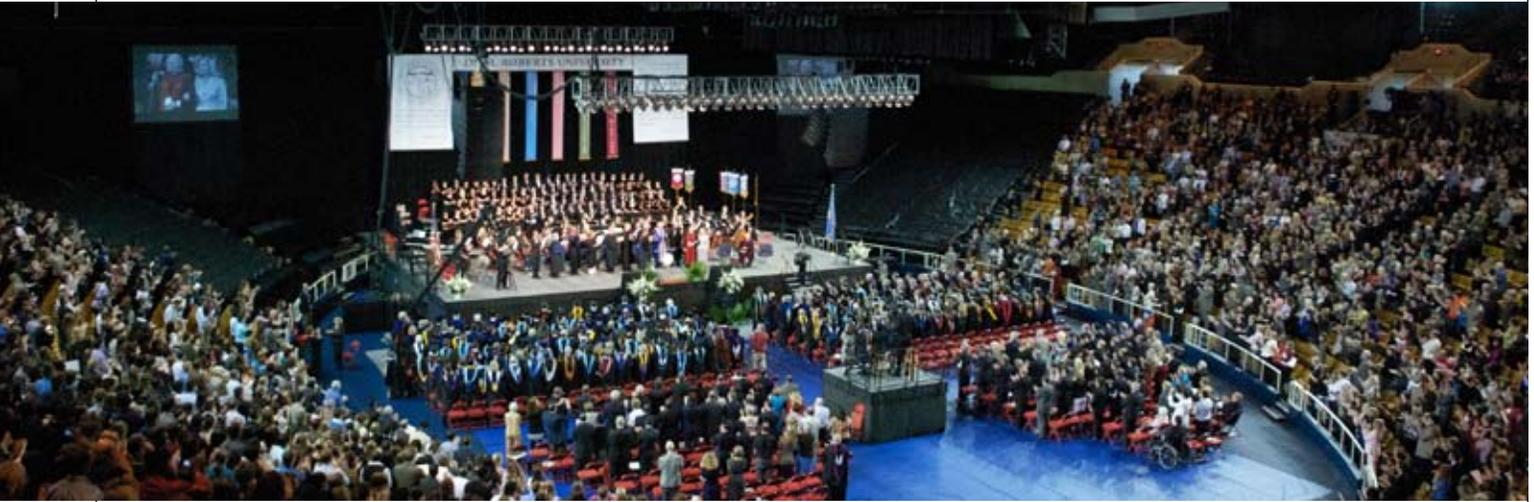
Rutland’s appointment as ORU’s third president was the result of a 14-months-long search. He was the only candidate to meet all 35 criteria necessary for the Board of Trustees’ approval.

“Board of Trustees Chair Mart Green and the search committee had a long list of what to look for in our next president,” trustee Rev. Billy Wilson said. “When Dr. Rutland was

hired and we went down the list, we checked every one of those things off. There were only a few names in all of America that we thought were capable of coming to ORU in this critical moment and leading us, and at the top of that list was Dr. Mark Rutland.”

Board members were confident that they had found not only a president for the university, but someone who could lead by example.

“When students come to ORU, four years later, we want them to



be mentally alert, spiritually alive, physically disciplined, socially adept and professionally competent,” Board Chair Mart Green said. “And we thought, ‘Shouldn’t our next president embody those same characteristics that we are asking of our students?’ And Dr. Rutland is that.”

The same confidence the board had in selecting Rutland has been passed on to the campus, as well as to alumni and friends.

“I see God raising up students from all over the world,” Alumni Board member Sam Chacko 00, 03 M.Div. said. “Alumni are getting back on board. It is exciting because with that turnaround, we will begin to see more students coming, and giving increase, because of this.”

The ORU community is not the only group optimistic about Rutland at ORU. Ministers and community leaders all over, particularly in the state of Oklahoma, anticipate a new level of spiritual and academic success from the new president and the university.

“I feel that the Holy Spirit has arrived here,” Bishop Edward J. Slattery of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tulsa said. “There will be a great contribution to the whole

community and ORU would bring about that unity. I am confident that Dr. Rutland will do great things, but it won’t be him; it will be the Holy Spirit working in him.”

Rutland and his wife, Alison, also expressed their expectancy and

excitement for what God will do through the students, the faculty and staff, the alumni and the university as a whole.

“We are delighted to be here. We approach the task humbly and gratefully,” he said.

## Alumni Reception Sponsors

These are the individuals and companies whose gifts helped us put on an outstanding Alumni Reception during inauguration week. Thank you!

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# Living for the Kingdom

BY JEANETTE HANSCOME

## A profile of '76 grad Steve Schaefer

Because of his fascination with Scripture and its message, Steve Schaefer has repeatedly explored the land of the Bible. His experiences include hot-air ballooning over eerie Cappadocian rock formations in Turkey, trekking through the ancient “rose red” city of Petra in Jordan, sloshing through Hezekiah’s serpentine aqueduct in Israel, and scaling Jebel Musa (traditionally identified as Mount Sinai) in Egypt. But he now invites readers to embark on a different kind of biblical adventure in his new book, *Living in the Overlap: How Jesus’ Kingdom Proclamation Can Transform Your World*.

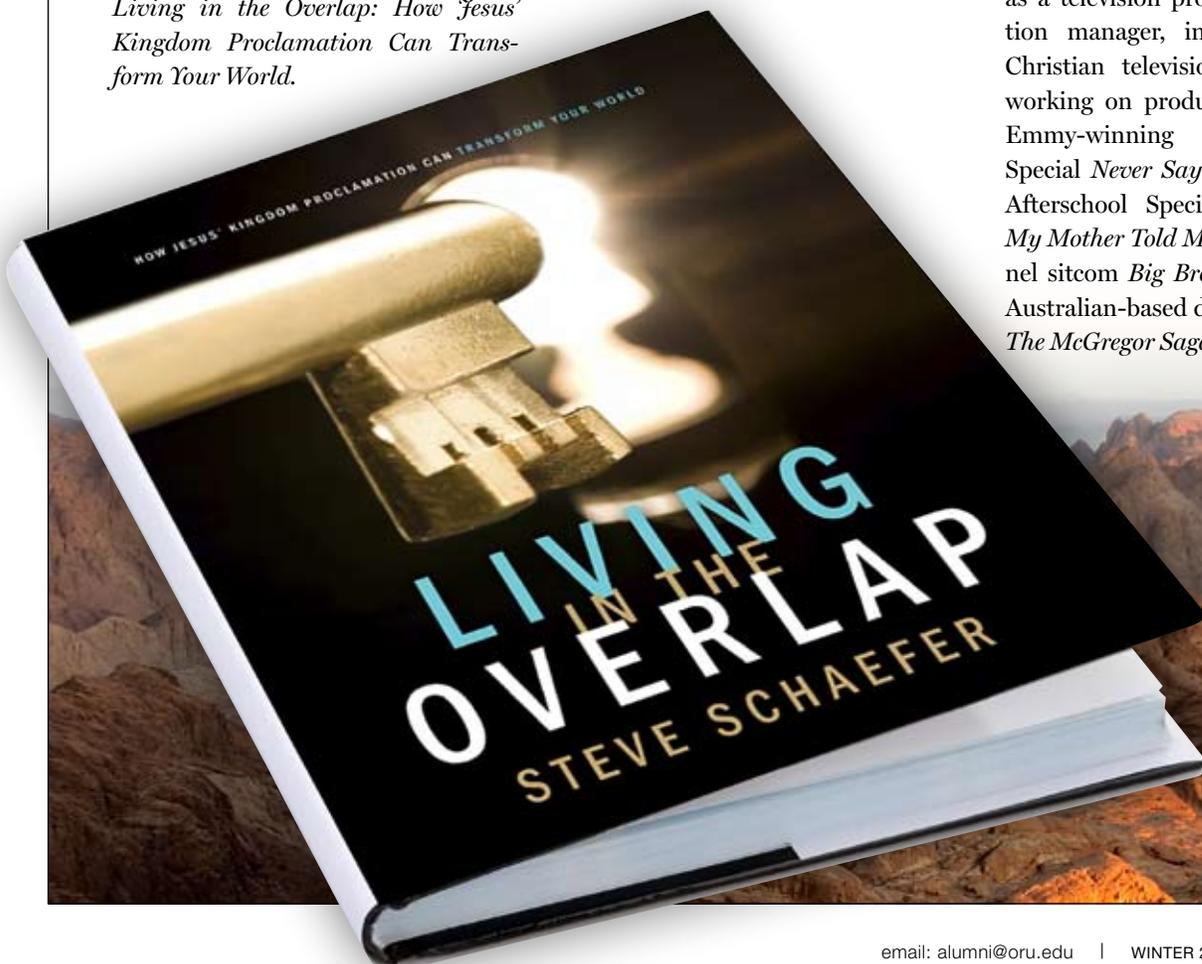
Schaefer grew up in a Christian home and accepted Jesus as his Savior at age ten. His family attended a small Baptist church in Pennsylvania. But when he got involved with the Christian youth group Campus Life in high school, he met kids whose love for Jesus blew him away. Their faith in God helped them cope with everything from taking tests to losing loved ones. He began to want what they had.

Shortly after midnight on New Year’s Day of his sophomore year he made a decision that changed his life.

“I watched the ball drop in Times Square on television as we rang in the New Year, and I felt that this was a time for a new beginning,” he says. “I got out my Bible and came to John 8:36 which says, ‘So if the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free’ (LB). I wanted the freedom I had seen in my Christian friends. So I got on my knees and told God I wanted Him to be in the driver’s seat of my life.” That began his adult life of faith.

After high school, Schaefer attended Oral Roberts University where he majored in communication arts and minored in theological and historical studies. One of his textbooks, George Eldon Ladd’s classic *A Theology of the New Testament*, introduced him to the Bible’s teaching about the kingdom of God as an “already” and “not yet” reality, sparking a lifelong fascination with the subject.

After graduation he began a career as a television producer and production manager, initially working in Christian television, and eventually working on productions such as the Emmy-winning CBS Schoolbreak Special *Never Say Goodbye*, the ABC Afterschool Special *Terrible Things My Mother Told Me*, the Family Channel sitcom *Big Brother Jake*, and the Australian-based drama *Snowy River: The McGregor Saga*.





But he continued with his theological studies, earning an M.A. from Regent University's School of Divinity, where his studies deepened his understanding of Scripture's kingdom theme, a theme he feels is frequently misunderstood.

"The kingdom of God was Jesus' central message but two important things about it seldom get the attention they deserve," he says. "First, people often overlook the Old Testament background, the fact that there are eighteen key kingdom characteristics predicted by the Old Testament prophets. And second, people often overlook the New Testament teaching that the kingdom arrives in two stages. Stage One arrived with Jesus' first coming. That's when people could begin to experience the kingdom benefits predicted in the Old Testament. Stage Two will arrive at Jesus' second coming when all the kingdom benefits will be experienced in their fullness. This has major implications for those of us living between the two comings of Jesus."

Why is there a lack of familiarity with Jesus' kingdom message? Schaefer suggests that part of the problem is that many people lack an understanding of Scripture's big picture. The kingdom of God was not just the central theme of Jesus' teaching; it's a theme that permeates the Bible's entire story.

### Steve Schaefer

A popular speaker and teacher, he currently works as a managing producer in the International Programming department of CBN WorldReach, a ministry that produces evangelistic television programs and conducts humanitarian activities around the world.

Photo by Don Monteaux Photography



The better we grasp the big picture, the better we can appreciate the Bible's teaching about the kingdom. And this in turn provides a focus and balance to our own spiritual journeys.

His book outlines the Old Testament prophecies about the kingdom, then shows the already/not-yet fulfillment revealed in the New Testament. He then discusses the benefits and challenges of living in a kingdom that is both here and still coming. He believes that when we grasp Christ's kingdom message we are better equipped to deal

with doubts, share the gospel more effectively, understand divine healing, and become the kind of Christians God can truly use.

Schaefer has pursued graduate-level studies at Jerusalem University College in Israel. He loves to read and is an inveterate traveler, having spent time on every continent except one. "When the first Barnes & Noble opens in Antarctica, I'll be there," he says.

*Schaefer's book is available through [www.winepressbooks.com](http://www.winepressbooks.com).*



# THIS LITTLE GIRL'S GOT TALENT

BY DANIELLE PARKER '07



**ON OCT. 1, 2008**, 4-year-old Kaitlyn Maher rushed onstage to congratulate Neal E. Boyd, the season three winner of the hit show “America’s Got Talent.” As soon as he saw the little child coming toward him, he scooped her up in his arms and let her wave to the millions of people watching. As the confetti fell all around her, she could not help but smile. This was a dream come true, a prayer answered. Kaitlyn had gotten her sparkles.

A few months earlier, Kaitlyn was riding in the car with her parents — Reuben, a 1997 alumnus, and his wife, Alison — to her first “America’s Got Talent” audition. “I’d really like to see the sparkles come down,” she said. Her dad knew she meant the confetti that came down during the show’s finale once the winner was announced.

“My wife and I had pretty realistic expectations,” Reuben said. “The probability of a 4-year-old making it

anywhere past the first round of a national talent competition is astronomically small.”

With the odds against her, Kaitlyn thought she should ask God to step in and help.

“I prayed, ‘Dear Lord, please help me to see the sparkles come down because I really would like it,’” she said.

That simple prayer, a big voice, and an adorable personality carried Kaitlyn past the auditions in New York and

Las Vegas and all the way to the Top 10 in the competition. Between both live and TV audiences, Kaitlyn sang in front of millions of people without an ounce of stage fright.

“I was not nervous at all,” she said. “I would think about being up in heaven and happy things, like birthdays and Christmas and my daddy smothering me with kisses.”

Before spring 2008, Kaitlyn had only sung in front of family and friends. But it was not long after her mother posted a clip of Kaitlyn singing “The Star-Spangled Banner” on YouTube that the 4-year-old was standing before the “America’s Got Talent” judges. Although she was eliminated after her performance of “I’ll Be There,” Kaitlyn was invited back to open up the finale, singing “A Moment Like This” with the Top 10 contestants. God had answered Kaitlyn’s prayer.



Since then, she has performed at the White House for the 2008 Lighting of the National Christmas Tree for then-President George and First Lady Laura Bush and at the 2009 National Cherry Blossom Festival chaired by First Lady Michelle Obama. She has performed on the Today Show and Access Hollywood, was featured in People magazine, and was selected by Compassion International to become its first-ever International Child Ambassador to help in the fight against global child poverty. Additionally, Kaitlyn starred in her first Disney movie, 2009's "Santa Buddies," and in November and December of 2009 was in Vancouver, Canada, to film her first lead actress role in the upcoming Disney movie, "The Search for Santa Paws." However, Kaitlyn, now age 5, has never had selfish ambitions when it comes to her singing. "We try to emphasize to her that the world is so much bigger than her," Reuben said. "And yet, even as small as she is, she can make a profound difference in the

world. We are teaching Kaitlyn that when she sings it is not just about how many people she can get to clap. It's a bigger picture. Every time she sings, God is using her to bless someone, and that is really becoming engrained in her."

Before "America's Got Talent," she would sing for her "friends" at a local nursing home. She spent last Thanksgiving and Christmas singing for wounded soldiers at the VA Hospital and then Walter Reed Medical Center. Not for publicity, but for the simple pleasure of making God smile and blessing others.

"It makes me get cheerful as soon as I read the Bible, and so when I sing to God, I make Him cheerful too!" she said.

In December 2009, Kaitlyn released her debut album, "You Were Meant to Be," an inspirational CD featuring a couple of songs written by her

and her family.

"It makes me feel glad that I can bless people and help them when they are having a bad day," she said.

One of the most memorable stories of just how much God was using Kaitlyn's singing to reach the lives of others came from a fan who was dealing with a life-threatening illness.

"This person was struggling with cancer and expressed to us that they had lost the will to keep on living," Reuben said. "After hearing Kaitlyn sing, they said it helped wake them up every morning and put them to bed at night to listen to her songs. Kaitlyn realizes that there are people that her singing really does bless."

Whether she is recording an album, singing onstage or just lulling her little brother, Ethan, to sleep, Kaitlyn knows God is smiling, maybe even bigger than she was when she got to see her "sparkles." Kaitlyn's journey is proof that you never know what you can accomplish . . . until you have the simple faith of a child.



*Kaitlyn's first album release, "You Were Meant To Be," was a collaborative effort by the entire Maher family.*



*Kaitlyn takes a snapshot with her dad, Reuben, after singing in front of 40,000 people at the Washington Nationals major league baseball game.*

# No Foo-ling

BY DANIELLE PARKER '07

ORU professor has a Scifoo experience at a Google-style summer camp



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUNCAN HULL

In July, a Who’s Who of the world’s leading scientists, technologists, Nobel laureates and other intellectuals gathered for the 2009 Science Foo Camp. Among this prominent group of about 200 invited to attend was Oral Roberts University’s mathematics professor, Dr. Andy Lang.

Science Foo Camp, also known as Scifoo, is an informal, unstructured, invitation-only, technology “unconference” organized by O’Reilly, a leading publisher of books on information technology, Nature Publishing Group and Google. Although Scifoo guests are never told why or how they were invited, Lang believes it was his consulting work for Nature’s Second Life, a 3D virtual world, that made this opportunity available to him.

“As a professor, I not only teach but I do research as well, which is what I do for fun,” he said. “I do Internet pro-

gramming, and I also teach Second Life workshops at the Eighth Floor, where teachers and professors around Oklahoma go for professional development.”

The invitation brought Lang to Googleplex in Mountain View, Calif., for a one-of-a-kind event to rub shoulders with some of the world’s best recognized scientific minds.

“These are some pretty cool people that go to this,” Lang said. “There are some Nobel Prize winners, billionaire investors, policymakers and science communicators. On the shuttle Sat-

urday morning, I sat next to Bill Nye ‘The Science Guy.’ Everybody was really friendly and personable, so you didn’t know if you were talking to a post-doc or a Nobel Prize winner.”

The three-day unconference had no set agenda. Instead, attendees collaborated to create one upon arrival, and then teamed up to present at parallel sessions throughout the weekend.

*Above: Science Foo Camp was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Dr. Andy Lang, as he was one of only 200 people around the world to be invited to the event.*



“From the outset, I knew I wanted to co-present a couple of talks early on the first day so that I could relax for the rest of the meeting,” Lang said. “It wasn’t that kind of conference where you go and only present your expertise. I co-presented two talks — the first one with a guy from Hungary on virtual worlds — and I presented another session with a guy from England on teleology, metaphysical naturalism and the origins of supernatural belief. I have co-presented before, but it was interesting because the audience was a little different than normal. On my second talk, Tim O’Reilly was there and also a Nobel Prize winner was in the audience.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUNCAN HULL

Dr. Lang (left, blue-striped shirt) participated in the collaborative effort to plan and teach sessions at the Scifoo “unconference.”

“Oftentimes you don’t do things because you ask the question ‘Why?’ but you should really ask yourself ‘Why not?’ instead,” he said. “This happened in a session for a new search engine, when someone said, ‘That’s a lot of data. You aren’t going to collect all of that data, are you?’ And the speaker said, **‘Sure, why not?’ Don’t limit yourself. Just say ‘Why not?’**”

Along with presenting a few sessions and sitting in on plenty more, Lang received a few free goodies, including a Google Wave account, a new communication and document tool for the Web that was not available to the public until the end of the year.

“I am interested in using it for communicating science,” he said. “In the future I plan on collaborating with some of the people I met at Scifoo using Google Wave.”

While some of the parting gifts were tangible, Lang also walked away with a few things to challenge him long after Scifoo was over.

“One thing I learned: don’t think too small. Dream big dreams,” he said. “You could see the result of that

through the people at the conference. That right there is a message I can give to my students.”

Lang said his experience is one that will last a lifetime, and the les-

sons learned are inspiration for his future endeavors. And who knows? Perhaps he will be back again to Scifoo in 2010.

## AOY 2011

Nominate a fellow alumnus for a 2011 Alumnus of the Year award. Categories are Distinguished Service to God, to the Community, and to the Alma Mater. Deadline for nominations is July 1, 2010. Find the link at [alumni.oru.edu](http://alumni.oru.edu) under Alumni Board.

# Empowerment to the People

**What does it mean to be a Spirit-empowered Christian in the 21st century?**

The Empowered21 event, taking place at ORU this spring, will provide answers to that question.

BY DANIELLE PARKER 07

“**F**our hundred years ago, we had the First Great Awakening in America; 300 years ago was the Second Great Awakening; 200 years ago was the Holiness Movement across America, and then about 100 years ago, we had the Azusa Street Revival. But what is the Holy Spirit going to do in the 21st century?”

This was the question that arose during a 2008 Oral Roberts University Board of Trustees meeting. The newly installed leadership had gathered to discuss the vision and future of ORU.

“We felt it was vital for ORU to understand itself within the realities of the 21st century and who we are to be as Spirit-empowered Christians going into every man’s world now in the 21st century,” said Rev. Billy Wilson, Board of Trustees vice chair and chair of the International Center for Spiritual



David Roebuck (far right), the archivist for the Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.), makes a point during an E21 conversation in Dallas, Tex.

Renewal. “What does it look like to be Spirit-filled and Spirit-empowered in the 21st-century world?”

It was not long before board members realized they were speaking of something much bigger than where the university was headed. These men and women were laying the founda-

tion for Empowered21: Global Congress on Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21st Century.

“We have really limited ourselves to what God had done in the 20th century instead of looking to what God is doing now and what He is hoping to do in the 21st century,” Board of

## These are just a few of the worship leaders who will coordinate worship at E21:



**KARI JOBE**  
Recording artist and worship pastor, Gateway Church, Southlake, Tex.



**GLENN PACKIAM**  
Associate pastor, New Life Church, Colorado Springs, Colo.; director, New Life School of Worship; songwriter; co-founder, Desperation Band; 1999 ORU graduate



**JONATHAN NELSON**  
Award-winning songwriter and pastor of worship and arts, Faith Center International Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.



**KEN REYNOLD**  
Integrity Music artist and worship pastor, Resurrection Life Church, Grandville, Mich.



**MARCOS WITT**  
Composer/singer, Latin Grammy Award-winner and associate pastor for the Hispanic congregation, Lakewood Church, Houston, Tex.



Dr. Tom Mathew, ORU theology dean, and ORU student Richelle Voth at the Dallas meeting.

Trustees member Rob Hoskins said. "I believe we are on the verge of a new wave of spiritual empowerment."

April 8-10, 2010, thousands will gather on the campus of ORU to see that wave wash over the body of Christ. Radical worship, dynamic ministry, more than 192 breakout sessions, engaging, life-changing experiences — Empowered 21, or E21, is intended to be an event like no other.

The event will be the culmination of many months of conversations between leaders, scholars and young adults from all over the country and across the globe. Conversation participants met separately in these three categories to discuss their interpretation of the Holy Spirit in this day and age, and in October the groups met to piece all of their findings together.

"Here we had those that had gone before us, those who are coming up right now, and those that are learning," said Dexter Sullivan, ORU Student Association president and student cabinet representative. "We had old eyes, current eyes and fresh eyes all looking at the same issue. So it brings balance to each group as we are progressively moving along to make

this event beneficial and effective for everyone."

Globally, more than 350 leaders, scholars and students — made up of all backgrounds, ages and denominations — have participated in over 15 different conversations.

One of the main purposes of E21 is to determine new methods of communicating the power of the Holy Spirit to younger generations while maintaining the same eternal message.

"There is a gap between the language of my parents' generation with the Charismatic movement and our generation," Anna Miller, an ORU junior and conversation participant, said. "We both desire the same things and have the same core values, but there is a lot of passion and intent that has been lost when we talk about the Holy Spirit."

E21 is a means of bridging that gap, and in turn presenting the gospel in a powerful way, triggering a world-wide awakening to the Holy Spirit.

"By understanding that God's principles are what matters, not our methods, we can truly connect with a generation that is looking for something that relates to them," said Josh-

ua Craft, an ORU senior and conversation participant. "We are discussing how to change the future, so that the message of Christ can be as powerful as ever for my generation and those to come. By truly empowering these future generations, the principles that God has laid in place will become ever clearer for those around us."

And this is just the beginning. E21 is to be more than an event or a conference. Through the worship, the ministry and the fellowship, E21 is designed to ignite a passion for God in this generation so they can carry the torch on to the next.

"We do not see the April Congress as an endpoint for E21," Wilson said. "We actually see it more as a launch point for ongoing conversation, ongoing intergenerational dialogue and action toward the future. It is going to be an exciting time. It is a history-making time in many ways as people literally from around the globe will converge on Tulsa to look at the future of the Spirit-filled movement."

To learn more about E21, visit [www.empowered21.com](http://www.empowered21.com).



### LOOKING FOR A JOB? Join the Golden Hire Network.

Members have instant access to thousands of jobs listings. The main feature is ORU's online database, a search engine of more than 2,000 employers from 45 different states and dozens of countries around the world. In addition, "alumni employers can post jobs and search through online résumé books to find potential candidates," says Career Services Director Allison Jones.

[www.orugoldenhire.com](http://www.orugoldenhire.com)  
918/495.6912 • [careers@oru.edu](mailto:careers@oru.edu)



*Student leaders from across campus, including Student Association President Dexter Sullivan (far right), prophesied and spoke words of encouragement over the vision and leadership of ORU.*

## Where Two or Three Are Gathered . . .

**T**hroughout the second annual Day of Prayer and Fasting, all those connected to ORU were asked to fast and pray concerning the vision of the university, the new leaders, alumni, faculty and the student body. The Sept. 10 event ended in the Holy Spirit Room of Christ's Chapel with two hours of fervent prayer and worship led by students of the past and present.

"I think in having all generations come together, there is an impact that no one can come against," senior Brittany Loeber said. "This unity is going to create an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to move through ORU at this new plateau."

Just as Oral Roberts was obedient and faithful to the calling that God placed on his life, Suzanne Behr 83 encouraged each person present to listen to God's direction and guidance, and then follow it. And in that the vision of ORU is fulfilled.

"If you leave this university and you have not learned how to hear God's voice, we — the faculty, the alumni — have not done our job," she said. "We are here to raise up students to hear God's voice and bring His light into every dark place. We are all to go and bring that light."



*On bended knee, lying facedown or with hands held high, students, alumni and faculty were invited to express their worship and prayer to the Lord in their own special way.*



# Enrollment on the Rise

BY DANIELLE PARKER 07

“I think the best is yet to come for ORU. I am very excited about its future,” Dr. Mark Rutland, ORU’s new president, said on his first day in office. “The ambience, the morale, the finances, the facilities — everything is just rising.”

One of the many things on the rise here at ORU is enrollment. When classes began in August, the university welcomed more than 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students to the campus — 3,140 to be exact, 73 more than in the fall of 2008.

The Class of 2013 made up for a large 2009 graduating class (673 students) and fall 2008’s smaller entering class (768), as more than 900 freshmen and transfers joined the student population — an increase of 17 percent. The announcement of a new president, the Whole Person Scholarship Program, and campus-wide renovations are just a few of the factors credited with attracting these new faces to ORU.

According to Dr. Nancy Brainard, vice president for Enrollment Management, specific initiatives to increase enrollment began more than a year before the 2009-10 school year did. The Whole Person Scholarship Program provided a huge recruitment opportunity, drawing hundreds of prospective students to the campus to compete for full- and partial-tuition scholarships.

“The quest for the whole person really embodies what ORU is about.



Sierra Koelling, one of this year’s Whole Person Scholars, talks with a candidate for the 2010-11 awards. New-student enrollment at ORU increased by 17 percent this fall.

We all want to be more intellectually alert, physically disciplined, socially adept and spiritually alive,” Brainard said. “That message is powerful. It’s attractive. And now ORU can get that message out of what we are trying to do here, and lead with that.”

And as a result, more than 60 percent of the students who were offered a scholarship through the competition enrolled this fall. With the competition now in its second year, ORU administration is expecting an even larger turnout of Whole Person Scholarship nominees.

“Last year, we had two competition days. This year we are having three,” Brainard said. “It was our first year doing this and I would hope we would continue to grow and be more successful.”

While some of ORU’s initiatives are only a few months old, Brainard

believes the student population will see the results of these investments come the fall of 2010. The new [www.oru.edu](http://www.oru.edu)’s redesign and re-launch has already begun to get more people taking a closer look at ORU.

“The Web site was the culmination of many months’ worth of research, focus groups and effort,” Brainard said. “We all know the primary method by which people gather information about an organization or business now is through the Web, and we want that which is on our Web site to be consistent with the direction that we are moving and going.”

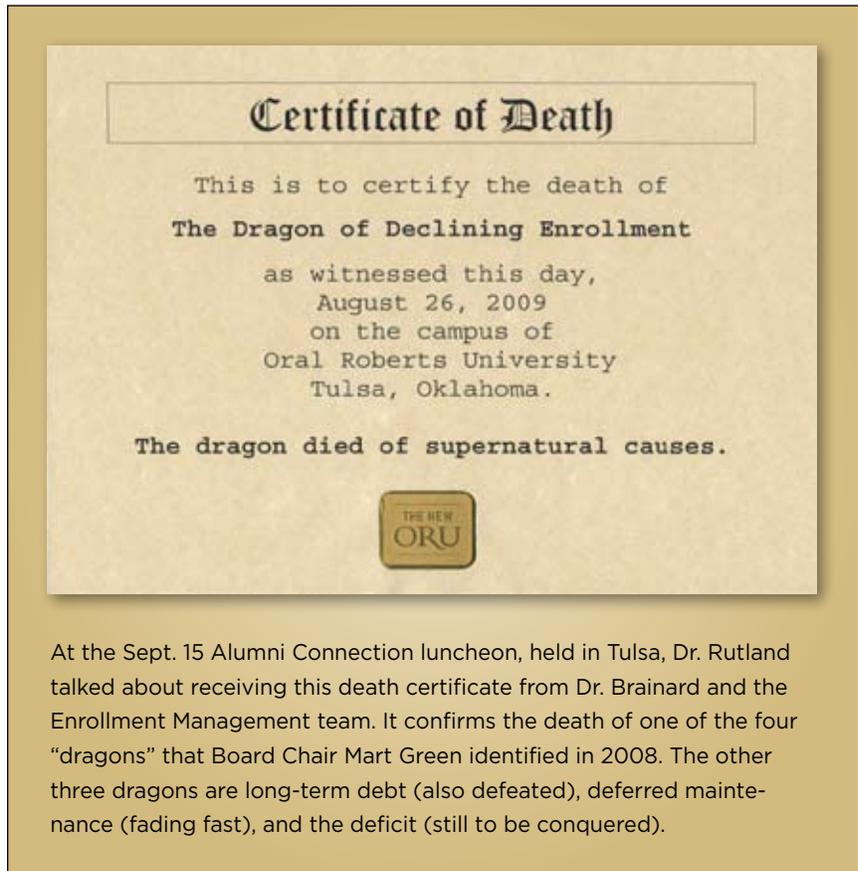
Improvements to the buildings and grounds attract the attention of guests as soon as they step on campus, while the new signage, new visitor parking spaces and the new Admissions Welcome Center offer prospective students easy access to the

campus and admissions counselors.

“The renovations that have been done help future students know their experience is something that is valued by the university,” Brainard said. “The feeling that you get when you walk in gives a completely different impression.”

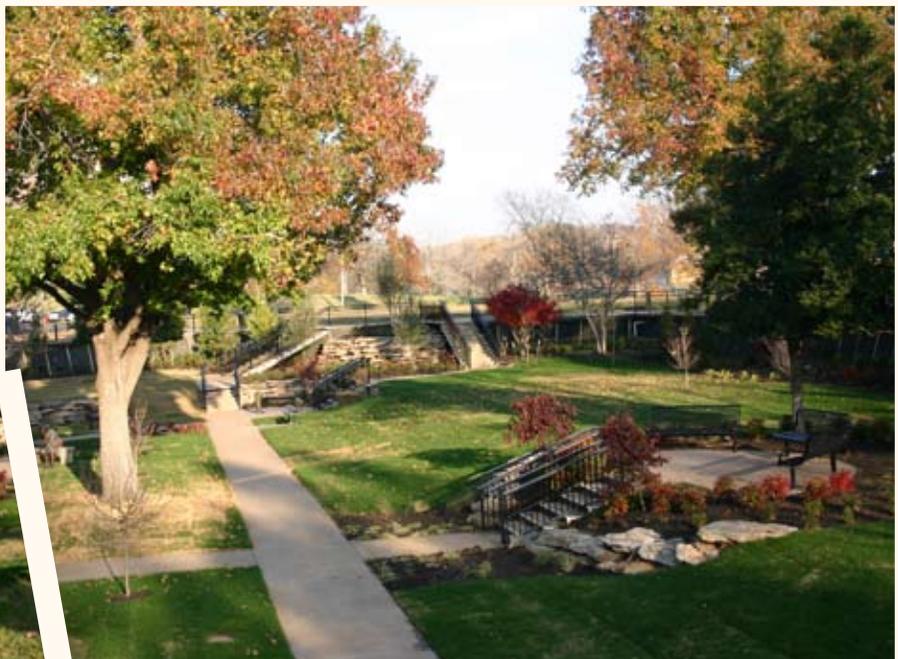
With this year’s enrollment up, Brainard said efforts continue to increase those percentages of new undergraduate and graduate students and retain those that are here. As the numbers rise, so does the opportunity to fulfill the vision of the university.

“Our intent is to grow and serve as many students as we possibly can along the way, continuing to grow the student population,” Brainard said. “ORU has the unique opportunity in the kingdom of God to influence a generation of young people that will change the world. Momentum and the positive turn that we have experienced, I believe, will propel us in the right direction in the future.”



## Prayer Gardens

The revamped Prayer Gardens, completed in late November, have new plantings, boulders, tables and benches, wrought-iron railings and water features. The original fountains were filled in with dirt.





# The Gift That Goes

It happens every Wednesday and Friday chapel. The auditorium erupts with shouts. Students stand up, clap and lift their hands. Some even jump up and down. It is not the announcement of a dress code change or cancelled classes that ignites such excitement. **It is time to give.**

BY DANIELLE PARKER 07

Dr. Mark Rutland announced at the first chapel of the 2009-10 school year that a missions offering would be collected to bless missions projects around the world at each service.

“None of the chapel offerings are spent here at this campus for any program or project,” Rutland said. “These are all missions offerings that go to domestic and international missions.”

Throughout the fall semester alone, more than \$50,000 was given through chapel offerings. Contributions have finished the roof of a Bible school in India that had been lost



Photo provided by World Compassion Terry Law Ministries

Monies raised from chapel offerings purchased nearly 4,000 pairs of shoes for Iraqi children, who would have otherwise spent the winter barefoot.

after a monsoon, provided close to 4,000 pairs of shoes for Iraqi children and purchased 10 computers and a printer for the Oaks Indian Mission in Oklahoma. On Nov. 18, ORU invited Oaks Board President Edward Gibeau and his students to chapel where they received the gift.

“When the president mentions offering, people are jumping up and screaming. I see the enthusiasm because the students see the results,” Dr. Thomson Mathew, dean of the School of Theology and Missions, said. “When people come together, small gifts can make a big difference.”



Photo provided by World Compassion Terry Law Ministries

Rob Fouch 06 joined World Compassion team members as they personally delivered thousands of shoes to children in Iraq.

By giving students the opportunity to give, Mathew believes they are discovering the very principles on which this university was built.

“First, this is to help the students connect with the needs of the world and be a part of the solution. We want our students to feel that sense of burden and concern for the needs of the world,” Mathew said. “Secondly, we want to train our students in the

gift of giving. Thirdly, we exist to train our students to hear God’s voice and go. But before they graduate and go, we want them to have a taste of going through their giving.”

Projects are reviewed and selected by the Chapel Missions Offerings Committee comprised of Dr. Rutland, Dr. Mathew and faculty members from the School of Theology and Missions.

Projects for the spring semester include purchasing a boiler for a Romanian YWAM ministry, translating Bibles into the Swahili language for Nigerians, providing satellite equipment for Gathering Hearts for Honduras (a ministry operated by ORU alumni Gary and Cheryl Kuney), and supplying funds for a building to train 300 Christian ministers in the Philippines.

## ORU Team Takes Top Prize

**T**he domination continues! This fall, the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature (O.I.L.) delegation from Oral Roberts University was awarded and recognized as the Overall Best Delegation for the fifth time in a row at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City. The ORU delegation competed against delegations from Oklahoma State University, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Tulsa and other state colleges in Oklahoma.

O.I.L. is a student-run mock government that replicates all three branches of the state government of Oklahoma and provides students from higher education institutions across the state an opportunity to write, debate and pass legislation about issues they believe are important. Besides the mock legislature, O.I.L. also contains a mock executive branch, a moot court and a newly formed press corps.

Several members of the Oral Roberts O.I.L. delegation captured numerous individual awards. Following are the individual results:

### Best Senate Delegate

- 1st Place - Jessica Craig
- 2nd Place - Pamela Rachel



Once again, a team from ORU has earned the top award at the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature.

### Best House Delegate

- 1st Place - Andrew Ahles
- 3rd Place - Rebekah Johnson

### Best Senate Freshman

*(First-time O.I.L. participants)*

- 1st Place - Jentre Olsen
- 2nd Place - Dana Ranalli

### Best House Freshman

- 1st Place - Wes Hill

### Best Senate Legislation

- 2nd Place - Dana Ranalli and Becky Knight

### Best House Legislation

- 3rd Place - Rebekah Johnson

Andrew Ahles, delegation chair and a junior New Testament major at ORU, stated, “O.I.L. is a great experience because it gives everyone the opportunity to dialogue with dif-

ferent political and social viewpoints. The delegation does not select people based on their political beliefs, but rather encourages delegates to know where they stand on an issue and why. O.I.L. provides practical experience in cooperation, leadership, and respect which will prove invaluable later in life, whether pursuing politics or not. We had a hard-working and dedicated delegation and I am extremely proud of every member.”

Dr. Michael Hirlinger, the new chair of history, humanities, and government and the faculty advisor for O.I.L., concurred, saying, “I have been absolutely impressed with this group since the first day we met and have been blessed to be a part of such a motivated group of individuals.”



# Meet the Trustees

*In this issue, we learn more about Mary Banks and Rob Hoskins.*

## MARY BANKS

**Position:** Founder and President of W.O.W. Consulting Group  
**Degrees:** B.S. in psychology, master's degree in management. Board member since January 2008.

BY DANIELLE PARKER 07

Being a 1980 alumna, Mary Banks had a sincere appreciation for the time she spent at Oral Roberts University. She counts those four years of her life as some of the most rewarding and spiritually fulfilling. So when the opportunity arose for her to give back to her alma mater as a Board of Trustees member, she was more than willing.

Initially, Banks had asked to be on the ORU Board of Reference. For that reason, her phone call from Board Chair Mart Green inviting her to be a trustee, she admits, was a bolt from the blue.



Mary Banks

As president and founder of W.O.W. Consulting Group, a career coach and businesswoman, Banks' main objectives include financial stability for the university and career preparation for the students.

"My personal goal is to assist the university in becoming financially

healthy again," Banks said. "I also want to provide opportunities for our students to be able to go into the world very well-qualified and connected with organizations and companies that can benefit from having someone with their background."

Upon graduating, Banks remembers stepping out into the "real world" and feeling a sense of shock. However, it is this experience that Banks believes will help her to relate to current students, ensuring they enter their next stage of life well-equipped in every area.

"Of course, having been an alumnus of the school, I know what it is like leaving the ORU haven, and I understand the challenges you face in demonstrating your faith in what can be at times a very hostile society," she said. "I believe having that perspective

*"He wanted people that had a heart for the school, but who also had a background that would be supportive of the goals of the school," she explained. "I think he saw the opportunity to have a very diverse board in terms of experience. And that is consistent with the vision that God gave Oral Roberts, which was to teach our students to go into every person's world."*



Before joining the Board of Trustees, Banks (seated, second from left) was a member of the ORU Alumni Board of Directors.

gives me a unique ability to stay focused on the things our students will face, making sure we have, within the university, a way to respond so they are better prepared for what God has for them in the future.”

As they are prepared to step into every person’s world, Banks is adamant that students must develop their spiritual sensibilities, along with their professional competence. Through the foundation already in place, she hopes to support ORU’s original mandate.

*“I think that is so important in our world today that we have men and women of God who really know how to hear God’s voice,” Banks said.*

“It is very important that we keep that front and center. I believe by being a part of the Board of Trustees, I can help to shepherd Oral’s vision, making certain that it does not dim over the years to come.”

One of Banks’ core goals is to not only help raise up students, but to sustain alumni as well so they too can be intertwined with the excitement and expectancy that are evident on campus.

“I want our alumni to know that it is important for them to be involved with this university,” Banks said. “It is important for them to give back to this university. And even for those who may not have experienced the university in the same way that I did, it is important for them to get to know the university again. It’s important for us to be connected to things that God is doing in the world, and I definitely believe that He is doing something special at ORU.”

## ROB HOSKINS

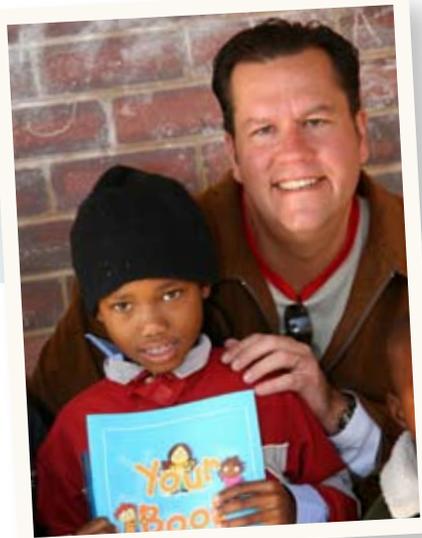
**Position:** President of OneHope Inc.  
**Degrees:** B.A. in anthropology;  
Board member since January 2008.

BY DANIELLE PARKER 07

As president of the global ministry OneHope Inc., Rob Hoskins has always been aware of Oral Roberts University’s reputation and the impact its students were making around the world, but until last year he had not imagined he would become integrally involved with the future direction of the university.

“It has been my practice in recent years to pray through Ephesians 1:17-18 every morning,” Hoskins tells, “and one morning in November 2007 while praying, the Lord impressed on my heart, ‘You are going to be involved in higher education.’ At that time I had no clear idea what this meant and didn’t know of the recent events that had transpired at ORU. But just two days later I received a call from Mart Green, and as he shared with me his burden over and response to the school’s unfolding crisis of finances and leadership and asked for my prayerful consideration to serve on a new Board of Trustees, God’s word to me from Ephesians quickly came into focus.”

Within a few weeks Hoskins was on his way to the initial convening of the newly formed ORU Board of Trustees, and as he set foot on the campus he had an overwhelming sense both of the huge task and historic opportunity before them.



Hoskins shared school supplies and words of hope with elementary children during a recent trip to South Africa.

*“The eyes of my heart were opened to see that this had the potential to be one of the greatest opportunities of this century for the Spirit-empowered Church to be propelled forward in a relevant and powerful way by the next generation.”*

Chancellor Oral Roberts’ original mission and mandate was to go into every man’s world, to go into those places that God’s voice is not heard. To Hoskins, that means the 2,600 people groups and the nearly 1.2 billion people of the world who have not had an adequate witness to Jesus through His Word. “It thrills me to know that the heart and thrust of Oral Roberts University, with renewed passion, is to be a Christ-centered institution of higher education committed to excellence for the *whole person*, equipping



Hoskins (third from left, standing) and Banks (second from left, seated) and their fellow trustees, January 2008

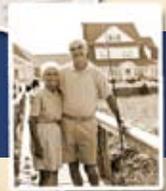
students both academically and with Spirit-empowered theology so in turn they can permeate their world — not only through ‘classic ministry’ positions but through marketplace missions (e.g., medicine, politics, business — virtually every field) — with the transforming power of the gospel.”

As the son of missionaries, Rob Hoskins grew up on the mission field of the Middle East and France, where he caught his parents’ great passion for reaching the lost. For the past two decades he has served alongside his father, Bob Hoskins, who founded OneHope in 1987. OneHope is committed to affecting destiny by providing God’s Word in a relevant, engaging way to all the children and youth of the world, and to date has reached more than 590 million children and youth in 125 countries and 82-plus languages. Rob Hoskins’ years of experience with global outreach have perhaps uniquely prepared him to bring the global perspective to the ORU board at this critical juncture.

He concludes, “I have been struck by the quality of ORU’s student body, alumni and the faculty. Oral’s mission

statement to create *whole people* that will go into every man’s world is being fulfilled through the lives of these

students, and we are seeing God move in an extraordinary way throughout the earth.”



## Give and You Shall Receive



A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a gift that provides you with financial rewards for a lifetime. Gift annuities are also a great way to supplement retirement income with guaranteed payments for life - payments that typically provide a much higher rate of return than CDs.

In addition, you will receive an immediate income tax deduction and partially tax-free payments. These are great benefits to enjoy, all while knowing that your CGA is creating a future gift that will further God’s Kingdom by helping to fulfill the mission of Oral Roberts University.

For more information about gift annuities, contact John Cherry at (918) 495.7224.

# Alumni Association Board of Directors



Holly Moore



Chris Busch



McLane Layton



Carol McLeod

For your reference, these are the members of the ORU Alumni Association Board of Directors. Names in italics are those who were elected (or re-elected) last fall.

**SEGMENT 1 (1968-79)**

Joanne Crain 77  
Gene Steiner 71

**SEGMENT 2 (1980-89)**

*Holly Moore 86 M.A.Ed.*  
Steve Nussbaum 83

**SEGMENT 3 (1990-99)**

Noel Keller 98  
Mike Meleen 93

**SEGMENT 4 (2000-09)**

Sam Chacko 00, 03 M.Div.  
*Joey Odom 03 (re-elected)*

**AT LARGE**

Camella Binkley 80  
Terry Blain 83  
*Chris Busch 73*  
Gene Gregg 80, 82 M.A.Th.

Max James 75  
Joel LaCourse 84, Vice Chair  
*McLane Layton 79, 82 JD*  
Joleen Minyard 89

Thanks to changes in the Alumni Association Constitution, which were approved by voters last spring, the board now includes appointed directors who are selected by the sitting board. They are:

Patricia Apy 78  
Rhae Buckley 80, Chair  
Brent Coussens 83, 85 MBA  
Taci Darnell 88  
Dil Kulathum 90  
Carol (Burton) McLeod 77  
Matthew Rearden 97, Treasurer  
Jeff Ross 93, Secretary  
Robin Tull 81

*Go to [alumni.oru.edu](http://alumni.oru.edu) for contact information.*

## Looking Sharp

With the help of alumni and friends, ORU is gradually moving toward the prestigious “All Steinway School” designation, which will draw international recognition and enable the university to continue attracting the highest caliber students and faculty. This 9-foot grand piano, the first of what ORU hopes will be many new Steinways, was unveiled in the first chapel service of the academic year. It was signed (see inset photo) by music department alumnus and world-class pianist Larry Dalton prior to his death last spring. Pictured are some of the musicians who are enjoying ORU’s new Steinway: Joy McLeod, a sophomore piano major, Karl Utz, a junior sacred music major, and music faculty Dr. Scott Quant and Joyce Bridgman.





# Weatherproof

The new indoor practice facility allows ORU athletes to come in out of the cold.

**R**ight on schedule, ORU opened its new indoor practice facility last fall. Friends and supporters gathered on Dec. 2 to dedicate the mammoth structure, known as the H. A. Chapman Practice Facility. The ceremony also marked the naming of another of Athletics' newer edifices: the Burkhart Family Strength and Conditioning Center (opened in 2006).

Together, the Chapman and Burkhart buildings comprise the Golden Eagle Sports Complex, a \$2.5 million project that "started as a dream" in 2003, according to Athletics Director Mike Carter.

Donne Pitman and Jerry Dickman, trustees of the H. A. and Mary K. Chapman Foundation, and the Burkhart family — Jim, Jere Lynn, Mike and Susan — were thanked and applauded by numerous ORU representatives and honored with framed jerseys.

Baseball head coach Rob Walton calls the building "our field of dreams" and said it is "one of a kind" in the nation. Track and field head coach Joe Dial pointed out that the promise of the facility last spring helped him recruit two outstanding pole vaulters, Jack Whitt and Dusty Gehrke.

Those on hand for the dedication included ORU Board Chair Mart Green,

Oklahoma State Senator Gary Stanislawski (ORU Class of 1996), Tulsa City Council Vice Chairman Rick Westcott (ORU Class of 1989), and members of the Golden Eagle Champions Club, who provided seed money for the complex.

ORU President Mark Rutland closed the ceremony with a prayer of dedication. The Chapman trustees, the Burkhart family, and other guests then took turns throwing out a ceremonial first pitch and swinging the bat. The baseball team ran some infield drills and pole vaulter Jack Whitt demonstrated why he was the top high school pole vaulter in the nation as a senior. Tours of the strength and conditioning center were also offered.



Director of Athletics Mike Carter welcomed guests to the dedication.



*Donne Pitman and Jerry Dickman, trustees of the H. A. and Mary K. Chapman Foundation, were also present at the dedication.*



*Mike Carter (far left) presented framed jerseys to members of the Burkhardt family: Jim, Jere Lynn, Susan and Mike.*



*Junior shortstop Tyler Saladino, one of head coach Rob Walton's premier recruits for 2010, demonstrates his power at the plate.*



*Jack Whitt, who achieved a personal best of 18'-0.25" at the Texas Relays last spring, is raising the bar (and expectations) for the ORU track team.*



*The H. A. Chapman Practice Facility, designed by architect Ed Bates, has 35,000 square feet of space to benefit the baseball, soccer and track teams.*



NOTES FROM ALUMNI

1970s



**SHIRLEY (WHIPPLE) STRUCHEN 70** is the executive director of the Religion Communicators Council, an 80-year-old nonprofit interfaith association of professional communicators. Last summer, she was invited to become an Honorary

Life Member of the World Association for Christian Communication. WACC promotes communication for social change by working with faith-based and secular partners in 120 countries. WACC has granted honorary life membership to only nineteen individuals. The honor is for "communicators who have served WACC, religious communications and the cause of communication rights throughout their careers and whose work is characterized by dedication, integrity and achievement."

**MARK JUMPER 78** received his Ph.D. in humanities on May 17, 2009 at Salve Regina University of Newport, R.I. His dissertation is titled "Jus Post Bellum (Justice After War): Contours of Construction." Mark is pastor of Hope Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Grayslake, Ill. (Chicago area). He is also moderator of the Presbytery of Mid-America. He is married to Ginger, who Mark says served as his COACH during the six-year degree process! The Jumpers have seven home-schooled children, ages 7-17, and live in Waukegan, Ill.



**JODI (FRIESEN 78) MURRAY** was named Metro Christian Academy's "Teacher of the Year" in May. (MCA is in Tulsa.) In November, she was honored at the Oklahoma Learning Disabilities Association Conference; she is the Oklahoma nominee for the "Samuel Kirk Educator of the Year" award.



**JEFF RICKARD 79** practices law with Alexander Hawes, LLP, in San Jose, Calif. and was honored to receive the 2008 Trial Lawyer of the Year award from the Santa Clara County Trial Lawyers Association. Jeff graduated from Santa Clara University School of Law in 1985. He has one son, Ryan, 18, who started college in Santa Barbara this fall.

1990s



**JOY LEA PALAZZO 98** and husband Stefan announce the birth of their second child, son Stefan Thomas, born on Oct. 26, 2009. "Luca is enjoying being a big brother to Thomas," says Joy of their older son.

**GEORGIA (PAUL) TAYLOR 99, 04 M.A.ED.** married Michael Taylor on June 5, 2009 at Victory Christian Center in Tulsa, Okla. (Michael is taking classes at ORU and is scheduled to graduate in



2014.) They met through the family of a student of hers at Victory Christian School where she taught 5th grade for 8 years. Georgia currently works for the ORU eAcademy, an online school for students in grades 3-12. Michael moved to Tulsa from Kansas and started his own automotive repair business, called On Location. He will travel to the location of the vehicle and fix it on the spot. The Taylors are thankful for the love and support of their friends and families, and give all the praise to God for bringing them together. Their wedding photographer was **BETSY (WAGNER) GREGORY 01** whose Web site is [www.betsygregoryphotography.com](http://www.betsygregoryphotography.com).



**SHAUNA (SHOTTON) WORTINGER 00** and her husband, Travis, welcomed their first child, Devin James, on Nov. 25.



**RYAN SHAUGHNESSY 02** and his wife, Michelle, recently moved back to Nebraska where Michelle and her family are from. On Oct. 29, they had their first child, a baby girl named Grace Diane. They are living in Omaha and would like to connect with ORU alumni in Nebraska. The past six years, Ryan has been working for MassMutual Financial Group in the New Hampshire office. He recently transitioned to MassMutual's Omaha office. Ryan says he would love to hear from fellow alums through Facebook or LinkedIn.

**JORDAN GUTHMANN**

**06** has joined Waller & Company Public Relations Inc., a Tulsa-based public relations firm, as a senior account manager. His duties will include creating and managing PR and media campaigns, editorial marketing to local, regional and national publications, planning special events and leading media relations efforts. While he was at ORU, Jordan completed a community relations internship at St. John Medical Center. He also served as a media contact for ORU's athletic program as a student sports information director, where he composed and distributed press re-



leases, maintained the ORU athletic department's Web site and developed annual media guides for all intercollegiate sports.

**LINDA RAYNES 06** is a second-year AmeriCorps member serving in the Dover Housing Authority in New Hampshire. She helps to run an afterschool program specifically aimed at at-risk, low-income elementary students. In September, she won the national AmeriCorps Video Contest. Her video, "Use These," which highlights national service, won the grand prize in the competition.



## Obituaries



**JOHN CHENEY** (known as Jack), a 1973 ORU graduate with a bachelor's degree in business administration, passed away on April 16, 2009 at his home following a brave battle with leukemia. He was 57. At ORU, Jack was an outstanding pitcher on the baseball team (1970-73). In the record book, he is still #1 in shutouts (10), is tied for second with most complete games (21), is sixth in ERA (2.48), and is in the top two in two other categories. In 1973, Jack and his teammates became the first ORU baseball squad to qualify for postseason play. They went 23-8 and competed in the NCAA District 5 Playoffs (Midwest Regional). Jack is survived by Starr, his wife of 36 years, his mother, son Jason and daughter Jantia and their spouses, three grandchildren, and other relatives.

**CUAN FARQUHARSON,**

who graduated with a bachelor's degree in finance in 2008 and an MBA degree in May 2009, passed away on May 15 in Tulsa. He was 24. Originally from Durban, South Africa, Cuan was a member of the men's tennis team.



**TED C. HANSON**, a 1994 graduate who earned a master of arts degree in theological and historical studies, passed away on Oct. 23. He was 71. Ted was also a graduate of Glassboro State College who described himself as "a teacher by profession, an electrician by trade and a pastor by calling." He was the president of Ted Hanson Ministries. Ted is survived by his wife of 50 years, Carol, daughter Barb, and other loving relatives.

**CHARLES WESLEY HODGE**, a 1998 graduate who earned his D.Min. in biblical counseling at the age of 65, passed away on Aug. 22 after a brave and difficult battle with Lou Gehrig's disease. He and his wife, Margaret, celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary two days before his passing. Dr. Hodge served as director of the Counseling Department at Victory Christian Center in Tulsa before retiring in 2002. He is survived by five children and many other loving family members, including ORU alumni **MARK 85-DMD** and **KATHLEEN (KIRK-80) HODGE, DAVID 80, 85-MBA** and **ANNE (HODGE-1978-79) LINDER, TIMOTHY HODGE (1981-82)**, and **MARTHA (HODGE-93)** and **JOHN 88-M.DIV., 89-MA TICHENOR III**, as well as granddaughter Sarah Hodge, a freshman at ORU.

**JAMES MICHAEL JOHNSON, M.D.**, a 1979 ORU graduate, passed away on Dec. 2. He was 52. James earned his M.D. degree at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in 1983. He practiced Family and Emergency Medicine for

many years in communities across Oklahoma. Most recently, he served as medical director of Physicians At Home. In his newspaper obituary, it said James was "extremely knowledgeable of the Word of God and loved to pray with and for his patients." He is survived by Rebecca, his wife of 26 years, one daughter, his parents, a sister and brother and other family members.

**PHILIP MATHIS**, a 1982 graduate who earned a B.A. in New Testament, passed away on Nov. 12, 2009, from lymphoma. After earning his M.Div. at Fuller Theological Seminary, he and wife Dana moved to Dallas to plant a church, the first of three. They later pastored in Waco, Tex., before moving to Colorado Springs, where they have lived for 12 years. Phil also had a successful career in the insurance industry alongside his ministry work. He is survived by Dana, four children (Stephen, Joshua, Micah and Karena), his parents, three brothers, and many other loving family members.

**DR. ROBERT AIKMAN**, who served as chief of staff of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the former City of Faith, passed away on Dec. 12. He was 69.

**NONA ASKEW**, former member of the ORU Board of Regents, passed away on July 13. She was 90. Nona and her husband, John, were longtime partners of the Oral Roberts Ministries and faithful supporters of ORU for more than 40 years. Nona joined the Board of Regents in 1965 and served for many years. In 1998, she received an honorary doctor of laws degree from ORU. John passed away in 1994.

**VINITA JUNE OLIVER**, 79, passed away on Oct. 19, 2009, after a long illness. Mrs. Oliver was the wife of Dr. Clarence Oliver, dean emeritus of the ORU School of Education. She is survived by her husband, two sons, a daughter, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

# 'PASTOR BILLY JOE DAUGHERTY *is my hero*'

As his pastor fought non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, 2002 alumnus Daniel King wrote him this letter of appreciation. We reprint it here, with his permission. (Daugherty passed away on Nov. 22.)

OCTOBER 17, 2009

Dear Pastor Billy Joe,

Thank you! I want to take a moment to let you know how much I appreciate you. Today at your son's wedding, tears came to my eyes when you walked out onto the stage. I started thinking about how much you mean to me.

When I was six years old, my parents moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma and became members at Victory Christian Center. You have been my pastor ever since. Now I am thirty and so thankful for everything you have taught me over the years. Here are some of the lessons I have learned from watching you.

You taught me ministers should be harvest-minded. Both in Tulsa and around the world, you go after souls. I have never seen a service at Victory where someone did not get saved. 'Souls' has remained your primary focus. Your example has inspired me to go to the nations and you have a part in every person who receives salvation in our services.

You taught me ministers should be visionary. You went from one Victory Bible Institute to almost 1,000 IVBIs (*International VBIs*) to setting a goal to plant 10,000 IVBIs. As the work grows, your vision just gets bigger and

bigger. I am inspired by your example to believe God for big things.

You taught me ministers should give generously. Every month, for over twenty years, Victory has supported my parents on the mission field. They are only one of many missionaries that Victory has supported over the years. The amount that you have been able to give to the mission field over the years is absolutely amazing. Thank you!

You taught me ministers can live debt-free. In our modern age, few are able to live debt-free, yet Victory has been able to build millions of dollars worth of buildings without a dime of debt. What a miracle! I am sure that the buildings could have been finished much sooner if you had submitted to the yoke of debt, but slowly and steadily God provided, and now Victory has such tremendous financial freedom.

You taught me ministers should live holy lives. Over the years, so many talented and anointed ministers have fallen because of sin, but you have remained steadfast, an example to the body of Christ.

You taught me ministers should live conservatively. Some ministers have used money inappropriately, but over the years you have lived a conservative lifestyle, always focused on giving to others instead of flaunt-



*King had his photo taken with Billy Joe and Sharon at ORU's 2005 Commencement ceremony.*

*Someone tied this rose and note to the ORU Prayer Garden railings in late November to honor the Daughertys.*

ing wealth. In this time where many question the motives of some ministers, I think your way of living speaks volumes.

You taught me a minister's wife can be anointed too. I have always admired the way that Pastor Sharon ministers alongside you. When I was praying for a wife, I asked God to give me a girl like Sharon Daugherty or Daisy Osborn. God gave me Jessica, and now we minister together around the world.

You taught me ministers can have Godly families. So many PKs end up hating God and the church, but all your kids are serving with you in the ministry. From you I learned that God does not just call individuals, He calls entire families. Jessica and I are believing God for our children to be mighty in the Lord.

You taught me ministers should remain committed to the truth. I remember hearing you preach at a meeting in Florida where many pastors from a wide variety of denominations were present. I know some of them did not believe in healing, yet you preached a strong healing message and gave God an opportunity to prove His Word with signs and wonders. Over the years you have been a strong defender of the faith. Thank you.

You taught me ministers should reach out in love. You always reach out in love to other denominations and Christian groups. Instead of drawing lines in the sand, you draw circles of love.

You taught me ministers should always speak positively. I have never heard you say a negative word about another pastor in town or against someone who has hurt you. Pastoring is one of the hardest jobs in the

universe, but you do the job with such grace that it looks easy.

You taught me ministers should never get bitter. I can't count the number of times that I have heard you tell the story of the preacher who told you, "If you don't get bitter, you are going to make it." This advice has kept me going many times. It is amazing how often the opportunity comes for me as a minister to get bitter, but I just remember your advice and keep working at forgiving people.

You taught me ministers should honor those who have gone before us. I have seen how you have honored Oral Roberts, T.L. Osborn, Freda Lindsey, Dick Mills, and other great men and women of God who have served God faithfully. Because you have honored others, many will honor you.

Pastor Billy Joe, you demonstrate love through your life and actions.

Thank you for your Godly example. You inspire me to follow God wholeheartedly. I appreciate you more than words can tell.

With Love,

*Daniel King  
King Ministries International*

The 57-year-old Daugherty, who held three degrees from ORU — B.A. 1974, M.A., 1992, D.Min., 2002 — was the founder of Tulsa's Victory Christian Center, Victory Christian School, Victory Bible Institute, Victory World Missions Training Center, and the Tulsa Dreamcenter. His ministry has produced hundreds of Bible training centers around the world. Daugherty is survived by his wife, Sharon 76, son John 07, son and daughter-in-law Paul 08 and Ashley, daughter Sarah Wehrli 00 and son-in-law Caleb 00, daughter Ruthie Sanders 02 and son-in-law Adam 04, and his mother, Iru.



*Daugherty and Chancellor Oral Roberts at an ORU chapel service in late 2007. The two men were sharing leadership responsibilities for the university at that time.*

# ORU

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
7777 SOUTH LEWIS AVENUE  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74171

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

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## Want to change the future? **Act now.**



**In November, 140 students — many accompanied by their parents — came to ORU to participate in the Whole Person Scholarship Competition. This was the first of three competitions that will lead to the selection of twenty-five Whole Person Scholars for the 2010-11 academic year.**

In these times, it's more important than ever that we prepare the next generation to uphold the Bible-based beliefs we all share. The good news: there are hundreds of young men and women who want to come to ORU for a one-of-a-kind whole-person education. The not-so-good news: we have a long way to go to reach our goal of raising \$4 million by April 30, 2010 for the **Whole Person Scholarship Program**. Every dollar we raise, up to \$4 million, will be doubled. And \$8 million will help us attract, enroll and retain the best students — students who will learn to hear God's voice and act accordingly.

**Make a difference for decades to come.**

Support the Whole Person Scholarship Program. Give now at [alumni.oru.edu](http://alumni.oru.edu) (Make a Gift).