

summer 2011

excellence

for oral roberts university alumni and friends

THE ARMAND

HAMMER

ALUMNI-STUDENT CENTER

LET'S BUILD A
LEGACY TOGETHER



Another Dream is Coming True at ORU.



Headed in the Right Direction

Impact. It happens to you and comes from you. If you are anything like me, Oral Roberts University was a place of incredible impact. It was the place where we grew up, experienced God's presence, prepared for our futures, and made lifelong friendships.

ORU's impact on my life began in 1993. I was a 17-year-old kid from Ormond Beach, Fla., who made the 1,200-mile trek to Oklahoma with only a few belongings, lots of nerves, big dreams, and huge expectations. My ORU experience was filled with great opportunities, incredible relationships, and preparation for my future. I had no idea those four years would so profoundly impact the direction of my life!

My wife, Amanda, and I, along with our three children, now reside in central Florida. We firmly believe in ORU and the incredible impact it continues to have on this generation. I'm passionate to see students experience ORU and grow into amazing young people who are poised and ready to impact their worlds.

It is a tremendous honor to represent you on the Alumni Association Board and to now serve as your Board Chair. I joined the board in 2007 with the purpose of giving back to the place that gave so much to me. Little did I know that, along with each of you, the following months and years would be a roller coaster of emotions surrounding this place we love so much. The transformation of ORU has been nothing short of miraculous. Through it all, we know God had a plan and this revitalization of ORU is a testament to His grace and love.



Meet the Rearden family: Ava, 4, Amanda (holding Austin, who celebrated 6 months in June), Matt, and Mackenzie, 6.

While Homecoming 2011 was a cold, snowy winter wonderland, it thrilled me to see alumni from all walks of life brave the elements to be a part of this great event. It is still amazing to hear our president, Dr. Mark Rutland, remind us all that ORU is free of long-term debt. Great things are in store for ORU.

You will see on page four that we announced the construction of the Armand Hammer Alumni-Student Center. As you can see, "Alumni" is in the name of this great building and we are counting on you to help us realize this long-awaited campus hub. We are not only sustaining, but we are **moving forward!** Alumni are a vital part of that movement and we must seize this moment to have a positive impact on our school.

Our mission as an Alumni Association is to know you, represent you, and inform you. Your Alumni Board is dedicated to seeing ORU succeed and making sure you, the alumni, are a huge part of that success. If you have not been back to the campus lately, I would encourage you to visit. If you have not prayed for ORU, its administration, faculty, staff, and students, please do so. If you have not sown back into this great place, take a moment to give back to a place that gave so much to you. ORU made an impact on you; now it's your turn to make an impact on ORU.

MATT REARDEN '97
CHAIR, ORU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Key Contacts

Jesse Pisors 96, 05-MA-Ed.
Director
Alumni and Ministerial Relations and
Annual Fund
918/495.6610
jpisors@oru.edu

George Paul 69
Director
Major Gifts and Development
Services
918/495.7324
gpaul@oru.edu

PUBLISHER
ORU Office of Alumni Relations

EDITOR
Debbie Titus 77 George

CONTRIBUTORS/Writers
Debbie (Titus) George, Jesse Pisors, Matt Rearden,
Dr. Mark Rutland, Phyllis Shelton, Ciera Trisch.

PHOTOS/IMAGES PROVIDED BY
Michael and Jacque Cardone, Hal Donaldson/
Michael Nene/Convoy of Hope, Don Eland, Johnie
Hampton, Mark Moore, Dr. Paul Osteen, Phyllis
Shelton, Bill and Lisa Shuler, Don Wilson, ORU
Athletic Media Relations, ORU Photo Library,
Aflame Oochee and Matt Rearden.

Alumni-Student Center logo created by **Candace
Jackson 04** and enhanced by Hampton Creative

Front cover adapted from concept drawing
by Hampton Creative, courtesy of **Johnie
Hampton 91**

ART AND PRODUCTION
Waller & Company Public Relations

Excellence is published and distributed to
alumni and friends by the ORU Office of
Alumni Relations.

DIRECT INQUIRIES TO:
ORU Office of Alumni Relations
alumni@oru.edu
alumni.oru.edu
918/495.6610
Facebook: www.facebook.com/orualumni
Twitter: www.twitter.com/orualumni

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



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

ORU

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2011 | vol. 23 no. 1

excellence

YOU'LL FIND IT AT **ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY**



The floor of the Observation Deck features a quote from the chancellor's last book, *The Ultimate Voice*. **Page 17**

FEATURES

5 COMING SOON: THE ARMAND HAMMER ALUMNI-STUDENT CENTER

Plans advance for a long-awaited addition to the ORU campus.

8 ODYSSEY ON ICE

Homecoming 2011 gave new meaning to the term "Chill out."

10 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Here's why Dr. Cheri Schneider, Bill and Lisa Shuler, and Dr. Paul Osteen received the 2011 awards.

13 OPPORTUNITY LOST... AND FOUND

Whole Person Scholarship recipient Aflame Oochee traveled a difficult road to reach ORU.

DEPARTMENTS

2 YOUR VOICE

New Alumni Board Chair Matt Rearden says ORU is headed in the right direction.

4 PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

A new Student Center... at last!

15 CAMPUS CURRENTS

- Campus renovations
- Prayer Movement
- Prayer Tower changes
- D.Min. anniversary
- Buskirk Professorship



ORU Trustee Hal Donaldson and Convoy of Hope respond to disasters, such as the earthquake in Haiti. **Page 20**

20 TRUSTEES

- Meet Hal Donaldson.

22 THE ELI REPORT

- New soccer complex, stadium renovations, All-Americans, Hall of Famers, and more.

24 LIFELONG LINKS

- Letter to Alumni
- New Board members
- Couples' Conference
- Alumni News
- Obituaries



A New Student Center . . . At Last

Etta James' jazz classic "At Last" is one of my favorites. I suppose that is hardly a surprise since it has been a worldwide favorite of millions since she recorded it in 1961. Others have tried it, from Christina Aguilera to Beyoncé Knowles, but there is only one Etta James. The lyrics evoke in us a sense of something longed for and waited upon with an inner ache. Love, a cultural shift, a baby? I suppose it would be different for everyone.

For Oral Roberts University, and especially for the alumni, I think the longed-for "next step" is the Alumni-Student Center. With seed gifts of \$8 million in hand from the Armand Hammer Foundation, the Cardone Family Foundation, and other alumni and friends, the time has come to build. *At last.*



In April, faculty and staff gathered in the mini-museum on the sixth floor of the Graduate Center "to celebrate what God has done this past year," said the president. The list included finishing the fiscal year in the black, upcoming campus improvement projects, renovations to the Prayer Tower Observation Deck, and the soon-to-be-built Armand Hammer Alumni-Student Center.

The official announcement was made in the Homecoming chapel on Feb. 4, 2011. The University community is grateful to Michael and Jacquie Cardone and, of course, to Michael Hammer. With those families leading the way, this building will now, at last, be built. There will be no long-drawn-out capital campaign. We are going to give the alumni and friends a window of opportunity to add to the amount already given in this "private phase." Until Oct. 1, 2011, ORU will be

energetically seeking contributions for this much-needed building. After that we will build for what we have. No debt will be incurred on this building. A nice building can be built for the \$8 million we already have. Now, with the generous and timely support of alumni and friends, we will determine the level of "sophistication" of the building, as Michael Cardone put it.

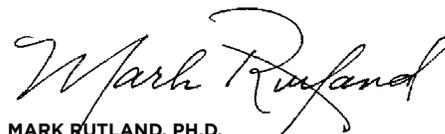
Michael and Jacquie Cardone eagerly agreed to chair the alumni campaign. Michael said, "This is exactly what the alumni have been waiting on. Now it's here. Really here. We are going to build this building. With the help of the alumni, we will build a first-class building that we can be proud of. This beautiful building will be an enduring blessing to the campus and students of ORU." He went on to say, "This building will be the alumni legacy to the University."

We eagerly invite participation at any and every level.

- The Cornerstone Gift: Michael Hammer, in honor of his father
- Founder's Level: For at least \$1 million, donors will join the Cardone Family Foundation as Founder's Givers.
- Chancellor's Level: \$100,000
- Chairman's Level: \$50,000
- President's Level: \$25,000
- Dean's Level: \$5,000
- Partner's Level: below \$5,000

All donations of any amount will be welcome and the names of all donors at every level will be prominently displayed in the building. We want your name on that list. Alison and I have already contributed and will add to it as the campaign goes forward.

We want to make this new building a center of life and community at ORU, a truly impressive center. In order to do that, we are asking every alumnus to please help us take the total up, way up. In October, we will announce the grand total. And start to build. *At last.*


MARK RUTLAND, PH.D.
PRESIDENT

Coming Soon!

campus feature



THE ARMAND

HAMMER

ALUMNI-STUDENT CENTER

ORU will break ground for this long-awaited building in early 2012.

BY DEBBIE (TITUS-77) GEORGE

Michael and Jacquie Cardone have a stronger connection to the future Armand Hammer Alumni-Student Center than most people probably realize.

As cheerleaders in the 1960s for the ORU Titan basketball team, the couple spent a lot of time in the old Health Resources Center — ORU's original gym — which stood on the plot of land

where the new Alumni-Student Center will rise next year. In fact, the son of an ORU founding regent and the young woman from Arkansas met at cheer-leading practice.

Jacquie said “there was not much on campus” back then when it came to entertainment or places to gather with friends. If students wanted to get together outside of class, there was the

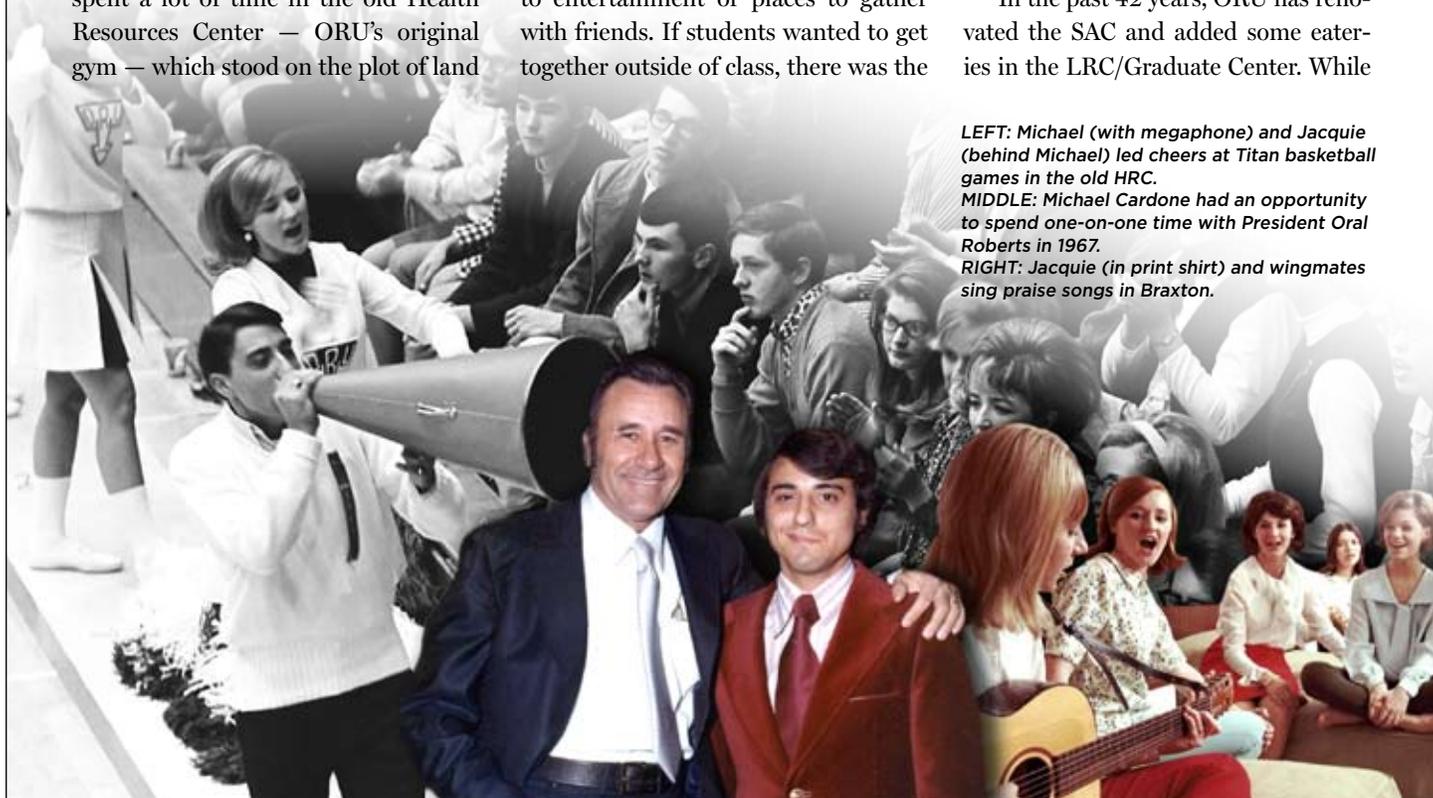
library — and Timko-Barton, which served as cafeteria, chapel, and theater for occasional movies. It wasn't until May 1969 that the Student Activities Center (SAC) opened. In the basement was a small space, known as “the Sub,” where students could socialize.

In the past 42 years, ORU has renovated the SAC and added some eateries in the LRC/Graduate Center. While

LEFT: Michael (with megaphone) and Jacquie (behind Michael) led cheers at Titan basketball games in the old HRC.

MIDDLE: Michael Cardone had an opportunity to spend one-on-one time with President Oral Roberts in 1967.

RIGHT: Jacquie (in print shirt) and wingmates sing praise songs in Braxton.





Hava Java, located on LRC 3, is a place to grab a quick coffee or snack on weekdays, mostly between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

much appreciated, these outlets offer limited seating and limited hours — hardly adequate for a student body of more than 3,200. And the “Starbucks generation,” as Jacquie calls today’s students, need and expect more.

Although they loved their own ORU experience, the Cardones see the need to have something different for the current generation. That’s what motivated them to serve as co-chairs of the new Armand Hammer Alumni-Student Center campaign.

Jacquie, a 1969 graduate, understands the importance of a space where students can simply have fun, but she believes the new building can offer much more, what she calls “fellowship for a purpose.”

“The fellowship that will happen in this place is a basic principle of the early church,” she said, referring to Acts 2:42 (“They devoted themselves . . . to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer”). “In the Student Center, students will form relationships and friendships that they wouldn’t make on their dorm wing. They’ll meet people from all over ORU who will inspire them to do greater things.” The very atmosphere

of the building, she said, “will help them think more creatively about how to go into every person’s world.

“We can do things together that we couldn’t do by ourselves,” she added, referring to companies and ministries that students and alumni might go on to establish. As an alumna and the mother of two graduates (Michael III 96 and Ryan 02), she foresees alumni coming into this building and finding new inspiration for their own lives.

Thanks to seed gifts from the Armand Hammer Foundation, the Cardone Family Foundation, alumni, and friends, ORU has the first \$8 million in hand. The Cardones are helping to raise additional funds before the Oct. 1 campaign deadline to ensure that the building lives up to ORU’s standards of excellence. “Oral did what only he could do: he built ORU,” Michael, a 1970 graduate, said when he and Jacquie sat down for an interview in late April. “The Green family did what only they could do: they gave ORU a second

What’s Going Inside

The **Armand Hammer Alumni-Student Center** will be a place where students can gather to socialize, relax and connect, seven days a week, without leaving campus. Centrally located between the LRC and the residence halls, the Student Center will offer food outlets; wireless access and multimedia components; open spaces with comfortable furniture where students can connect with friends, study or play games; offices for Alumni Relations and the Student Association; and spaces for prayer and worship activities. All this in a building that can be home to hundreds of students . . . without feeling crowded.

QuickFacts

- The Alumni-Student Center will be built debt-free.
- Gift/pledge deadline: Oct. 1, 2011
- Pledge fulfillment deadline: April 30, 2012
- Donors’ names will be prominently displayed inside the new building.

There are naming opportunities for those who make large gifts. Contact George Paul in the Development office at 918.495.7324 or gpaul@oru.edu.

chance. Now we alumni need to do what only we can do. That’s take ownership of ORU’s future.”

Michael pointed out that, as Board Chair Mart Green likes to say, ORU has defeated its dragons.

- \$55 million long-term debt has been paid.
- \$40 million has been spent on deferred maintenance and projects.
- Enrollment is strong and stable.

The time has come to construct ORU’s first major building in more than 30 years — the first designed for all students. (Athletics has constructed two buildings for baseball and track athletes in the past decade.) Michael and Jacquie are asking alumni to join them in making the Alumni-Student Center part of the alumni legacy to the University that changed their lives.

“As I stand back and say, what’s the



The Cardones spoke with Dr. Mark and Alison Rutland in April during one of their many trips to Tulsa for meetings with alumni.

difference between ORU and other Christian colleges and universities, it's our vision statement," Michael said. "Anybody who comes here, and no matter what their feelings are about ORU today, they all have this seed in them: Oral's vision from God to 'Raise up your students to hear My voice.' It's us, the alumni, that God called Oral to raise up. We are the purpose and product of that vision. And this project, the Alumni-Student Center, will be a statement of each alumnus' commitment to the University's future."

For the past several months, the Cardones have been meeting with alumni, corporations, and other prospective donors to solicit contributions for the center.

The response from alumni has been very positive. "We've had great reactions from alumni," said Jacquie. "They're pleased that 100 percent of the funds will go to the building, that the building is being built debt-free and is being built for the benefit of students and alumni. We see a renewed confidence in ORU's future because of new leadership and financial stabilization."

Michael concurred. "Everybody we've talked to about the building is excited. They're also catching the vision that this project is bigger than just the building. It's going to have much more meaning be-

yond and a big impact on ORU's future. The care and concern alumni have about keeping ORU's vision has been overwhelming. The reality is, alumni are the product of the vision and are now the Vision-Keepers."

The Alumni-Student Center will give ORU a major recruiting tool at a time when competition for students is fierce; improve

overall student retention; send a signal that the University is on the move once again; and, Michael hopes, attract new donors.

Jacquie referred back to Starbucks and how it changed the way people interact with one another. The coffee shop giant, she noted, "encouraged people to come and sit, just be there."

"Starbucks created a student-friendly environment," Michael chimed in.

"The Alumni-Student Center," Jacquie went on, "will be a place where students can come and fellowship, have community, and have fun. It's the social part of the 'whole person.'"

As the name clearly states, this is not just a student center; it's the Alumni-Student Center, a gathering place built by alumni for current and future alumni. The Cardones believe alumni will make special gifts toward the building before Oct. 1 and make this the most successful alumni fundraising project to date.

"Our role is to find and empower and engage people to give, do some fundraising, and talk to their social network," Michael said. "It's not just alumni financial support, it's their networking support. You can't give? Find somebody who can. Sometimes a lead is worth more than a gift. We need alumni, families, dorm wings, sports teams, churches, and corporations to make gifts. And most importantly, we need

alumni to spread the word and talk to at least ten other alumni and other potential donors about this project, and about ORU's turnaround.

"Jacquie and I see the alumni as the Levites, carrying the vision and looking for more Levites, more Vision-Keepers, to join us. We're targeting our own list of friends; alumni need to do the same. Together we can build an Alumni-Student Center we'll all be proud of."

The Cardones want alumni to realize that ORU's future depends on God and on those who will fund it. The primary responsibility belongs to alumni.

"This is the only place I know of in the world that teaches 'go into every person's world' the way ORU does it," Michael said. "And no one understands the vision better than alumni." It's time for alumni to step up and make ORU one of their primary charities, he added. "We're going to have to take that on."

"Taking it on" is not a foreign concept to the Cardone family. Three generations have been involved with ORU, starting with Michael's parents and uncles. Through extraordinary gifts, service on the Board of Regents and Board of Trustees, and as members of the student body, the Cardones have made a significant mark on ORU. Now Michael and Jacquie are asking fellow alumni to do the same, beginning with the Alumni-Student Center project.

"You need to make your commitment today, either with a check or a pledge," Michael implored. "The building is in the design stage now and what you do today is going to directly impact the size and scope of it."

Michael sees the Alumni-Student Center as a catalyst to kick-start ORU's next stage of development. "Next stage?" you ask. Yes, the University that teaches its students to "make no little plans" has some big plans of its own.

To make a gift or pledge, go to oru.edu/give. Read more at hammercenter.org.



Odyssey ON ICE

AT HOMECOMING 2011, MANY WERE COLD; FEW WERE FROZEN.



The Homecoming theme, “Revitalized,” was chosen to reflect the many positive changes that have taken place at Oral Roberts University in the recent past.

Some of the changes to the physical campus, as it happened, were buried under 17 inches of snow when alumni arrived for the Feb. 4-5 weekend. Not to worry; there were plenty of interior improvements to marvel over, along with a definite sense of renewed hope for ORU’s future.

The snow forced the cancelation of several events, but not the 30-year reunion dinner, which was opened up to alumni from the 10- and 20-year reunions. Alumni from other years also turned out to hear keynote speaker “Brother Bob” Stamps. An ’81 alumna shared these impressions of the evening:

“Old friends like Peter Reinecke, Suzanne Behr, Coach Bernis Duke, Nancy Ayres Reynolds, and Mitzi Bronson Berry, along with Brother Bob and Ellen Stamps, helped to make the evening

a great success and memorable for all. It was amazing to listen to the words of what made each ORU experience unique, and although the perspectives varied, one constant remained true: prayer, vision, and a deep passion to know God. All of us were changed through our time at ORU in ways that will impact each of us for eternity.”

Especially meaningful that evening, she said, “was Brother Bob’s talk on catching the train the second time around. Delivered in his trademark impassioned

style, the message was loud and clear: 'If you missed the train the first time around, it will come a second time, so be looking for it.' Although many of our lives have taken unanticipated detours, God not only knew about those detours but He actually planned around them . . . It is not too late" — not too late to get back on track with His plan.

The noon communion of the 1970s and 1980s was revisited in the form of an 11 a.m. service on Saturday. Mike Yoakum, a '78 grad, was among the many alumni and students who attended.

"What a delight it was to once again find myself in Kennedy Chapel," he said, "surrounded by a hundred or so kindred souls who'd gathered for 'noon' communion. As in the days when we were students (and staff) at ORU, the service — Bob Stamps' brainchild —

began with an extended time of worship to an acoustic guitar set." (Thanks, Allen Voth!) "There followed a time of reflection, a brief homily from Brother Bob, and the main attraction: the Table of the Lord."

Several alumni, Yoakum said, talked about what communion at ORU had meant to them. Some couples "traced the genesis of their relationship to their involvement in this liturgically rich slice of spiritual life on campus." Brother Bob's stories "spoke volumes about the profound depth of the ordinance we'd all observed so gratefully through the years," Yoakum added. After the service, "many lingered for a time of ministry and fellowship. How blessed we all have been to share in such a rich heritage!"

That heritage was enough to draw alumni from across the U.S. and as

far away as Germany in spite of snow and sub-zero temperatures. It might have been cold outside, but inside . . . in Christ's Chapel where Bill Shuler preached . . . the cafeteria where the Alumni Banquet was held . . . Zoppelt Auditorium where Board Chair Mart Green and Dr. Mark Rutland spoke . . . the 60th floor of CityPlex Towers where Diana Green headlined the Women's Luncheon . . . and Mabee Center, where the women's and men's basketball teams were victorious and alumni gathered after the men's game to spend a few more precious moments together . . . inside, it was warm indeed.

Read more about Homecoming at alumni.oru.edu in the News Archive.

Homecoming 2011 — REVITALIZED!



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

1. Students react when Dr. Mark Rutland announces plans for a new Student Center.
2. The 30-year reunion dinner was held in the East Banquet Room at Mabee Center.
3. Grads from 1971 and their guests gathered in the Trustees Dining Room on GC 6.
4. Former tennis coach Bernis Duke and Chris Thompson look through a copy of an old ORU Bulletin at the Alpha Year Reunion.
5. At the Health Professionals Dinner, Mark and Doreen Babo greeted a former ORU School of Medicine professor, Dr. Harold Harder.
6. Longtime ORU chaplain "Brother Bob" Stamps, who led a communion service earlier in the day, catches up with Provost Ralph Fagin at the Alumni Banquet.
7. Ellen Stamps shares a word with Dr. Rutland. She pronounced the blessing at the Alumni Banquet.
8. During the College of Business Power Luncheon, Don Feltham spoke with Dr. George Gillen.
9. The Homecoming Queen and King, Moriah Lamb and Charlie Greene, brought a touch of royalty to the men's basketball game.
10. What fun to page through old photo albums and "remember when" you were an ORU student!
11. Stephen Gible was in good company at the Legal Professionals Dinner, held on the Mabee Mezzanine.
12. Diana Green (center) was the keynote speaker at the Women's Luncheon, held on the 60th floor of CityPlex Towers.



THE 2011 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

This year, the Alumni Association honored four alumni for carrying out the mission of ORU with excellence.

Dr. Cheri Schneider

Distinguished Service to the Alma Mater

When you grow up a few blocks from Oral Roberts University and your father was one of the first three faculty members hired by the school, where else would you go to college? Dr. Cheri (McClendon) Schneider, daughter of former communications professor Dr. Paul McClendon, always knew the answer.

“I just assumed I would go to ORU,” Schneider said. “I didn’t even apply to other colleges.”

Her interest in medicine, she believes, began with her family’s visit to a leper colony on a trip to India when she was young. As college enrollment approached, she looked into the ORU nursing program that was just starting, but ultimately chose pre-medicine. She completed her bachelor’s degree in biology in 1979 and her ORU medical degree in 1983.

Living on campus as an undergraduate, Schneider said one of the things she appreciated was meeting people from a variety of church backgrounds.

“What I found at ORU was the meaning of the body of Christ,” she said. Her focus wasn’t on who belonged to which denomination, but on enjoying people “for who they were and what their walk was. I just knew they were authentic Christians.”

Another aspect of ORU that appealed to Schneider was the “body, mind, and spirit idea,” and striving for excellence in each area in order to become a whole person.

After medical school, Schneider completed her residency and launched

her family medicine practice with a group of physicians in Kansas. Later, she moved to Georgia to marry Dr. Michael Schneider, an anesthesiologist, and started a family. Despite her distance from campus, her attachment to the school — through financial and prayer support — remains strong.

“I stay connected because it’s a different place,” she explained, pointing to ORU’s mission. “I think alumni should plug in because they want to continue to see students reaching their world in the same way they did.”

When Schneider was working on her bachelor’s degree, she took an elective that didn’t seem to have anything to do with her major: sign language. “I just took it on a whim,” she said, smiling at the memory.

Years later, living in a community with a school for the deaf, the significance of that class hit home. “I ended



The Schneider family (L to R): Jonathan, 15, Chris, 14, Cheri, Connie, 12, Charis, 17, and Michael.

up being one of the few physicians in town who could communicate with the deaf without having an interpreter,” Schneider said. “The class ended up being a really interesting addition to my life.”

And Dr. Cheri Schneider’s enduring interest in ORU has added more than words can describe to the lives of the students on the campus she once called home.



Bill and Lisa Shuler

Distinguished Service to God

For those who knew Bill Shuler at Oral Roberts University — as a student, community outreach director, missions director, or University chaplain — it’s not a stretch to imagine him as the pastor of a church in the Washington, D.C. area.

“In my early days,” he said, “I thought I’d go into law or politics. Washington, D.C. draws all of that together to allow me to fulfill the calling that’s upon my life in the very arena of politics and law.”

Shuler answered the call to ministry when he was a sophomore at ORU. He went on to earn a B.A. in evangelism (1985) and an M.A. in practical theology (1999). He met his wife, Lisa (Herman-89), a communications major, when she was serving as the booking manager for three ORU music ministries teams.

Shuler’s tenure as ORU’s chaplain came to an end in 2001, leaving the couple and their three daughters to wonder what was next. Bill and Lisa considered several options, relying on God’s direction through prayer.

“One morning, I was awakened at 3 a.m.,” Bill said, “and Washington, D.C. was all over my heart.” He ran to his home office and began writing down what he felt God was saying about their future. “I knew,” he said, “that God was leading us to come to the nation’s capital.”

They arrived on Sept. 1, 2001. Ten days later, they were at the Capitol, praying for the nation’s leaders in the wake of the terrorist attacks. Bill spotted a building for rent a short distance away. He told Lisa, “I want to be a part of the healing of our nation in what has just happened.” They rented the building, started a prayer ministry, and even-



The Shulers lead a Friday-night worship service for Capital Life members.

tually launched Capital Life Church, a congregation that meets at Rosslyn Spectrum in Arlington, Va.

One difficulty, Bill said, is that political positions “are constantly in flux, so the challenge is to lead a church that’s transitional in its attendance.” On the other hand, D.C. offers unique opportunities. “We had people like U.S. senators coming in to be members of the church.”

Lisa was asked by a friend to lead a Bible study at the White House for women who worked for President George W. Bush, while Bill was invited to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women.

In 2009, Bill began writing a weekly article — attracting 100,000 readers per week — for Fox News. He has also served as a U.S. Senate guest chaplain.

“I think the best thing one person can do in life is to find out what God’s calling is and then go after it with all that’s within you,” said Bill.

The events of 9-11 convinced Lisa that “we were not here (in D.C.) by accident. To this day, we’ll remind ourselves of those early days so that we’ll never lose sight of what God called us to do in Washington, D.C.”

Politics, music, ministry, communications — they’ve all come together for Bill and Lisa Shuler.



Dr. Paul Osteen

Distinguished Service to the Community

When Paul Osteen was 7 or 8 years old, he caught a glimpse of his destiny. His mother, Dodie, was a nurse. “She never practiced,” Osteen said, “because she raised children, but she had this pair of bandage scissors in the bottom drawer of one of the rooms in our house.” Osteen would take the scissors in the palm of his hand, and “something about that just felt right,” he said.

Osteen’s father, Pastor John, had an equal amount of influence on his son’s life. When Paul was 12 years old, his father took him to South Africa. It was a trip he would never forget. “I felt like God put in my heart that ‘You’ll be back one day doing medical missions here.’”

When Osteen was ready for college, a friend who was on the ORU baseball team encouraged him to enroll. Osteen arrived at ORU in 1974 and stayed for 8 years, completing his bachelor’s degree in 1978 and his medical degree in 1982. “Every year was a great year,” he said. “I wouldn’t trade those years for anything in my life.”

In 1999, Osteen was practicing general and vascular surgery in Little Rock when his father, senior pastor of Lake-wood Church in Houston, died suddenly. “Driving home from his memorial service, back to Arkansas,” Osteen said, “I felt like the Lord spoke to me.” The message: Return to Texas and help out at his father’s church however he was needed.

After spending several years in pastoral ministry, Osteen was invited to go to Africa on a medical missions trip. It convinced him that he still had the gifts and talents of a surgeon. “It’s almost like God said, ‘You put your Isaac on the altar, but I want to give it back



The Osteen family includes (L to R) Olivia, Sophia, Jackson, and Georgia, and parents Jennifer and Paul.

to you,” Osteen said.

Since then, Osteen and his wife, Jennifer, who is a nurse, and their children have made numerous trips overseas, spending months at a time working in mission hospitals and orphanages in underserved nations.

Osteen loves using his God-given gifts and talents to care for others, but what excites him most is “to see them enter into the kingdom to accept Jesus as their Lord. Because medicine is just a tool to reach people for Jesus.”

GET READY FOR

Homecoming

2012

The dates are
February 10 and 11, 2012.

Mark your calendar!



Ooceed pays close attention in professor Sonny Branham's American Government class.

Opportunity Lost ... and Found

Known to one and all as “Ooceed” (pronounced “O.C.”), Afame Ooceed never gave up on his dream of attending college.

At a school like Oral Roberts University, with its vast array of nations and cultures represented, asking a simple question such as “How did you get to ORU?” can spark an incredibly interesting conversation. That’s certainly true in the case of Afame Ooceed, a Whole Person Scholarship recipient whose life story is full of God’s miraculous power.

Abandoned by his mother on the streets of Maiduguri, Nigeria, when he was 2 days old, Ooceed’s story had a sad beginning. With no family to truly call his own, he passed through many homes in his early years. As a 7-year-old, he became a house servant to a Muslim family. It was while serving this family that Ooceed began attending school, learning to read and catching a glimpse of what his future could be like if he was willing to work hard — and he was. What he didn’t know was that in four short years, his life

would be forever altered.

While running household errands one night, Ooceed noticed a crusade taking place in the streets. He heard a Nigerian evangelist talking about hell, and how Jesus could save people from a life of suffering. “Come up and give your life to Christ,” the evangelist said.

“I wanted something better,” Ooceed said, “so I went up and prayed. I experienced an unusual peace I had never known before.”

From that moment on, Ooceed considered himself a servant of the Lord — a very unpopular notion in northern Nigeria with its predominantly Islamic population.

The Muslim family Ooceed served would beat him every week when he returned from church, but that did not deter him. He would pursue the life he knew the Lord had for him, a life that would involve following in the footsteps of Johns Hopkins Hospital

neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson. After reading Carson’s autobiography, *Gifted Hands*, in Sunday school, Ooceed’s mind was made up. He would become a doctor.

“I wanted to be just like Ben Carson,” Ooceed said. “I saw similarities between my life and his. He had a great influence over me.”

Forced to drop out of school after sixth grade because of the cost, Ooceed did not give up his dream. He borrowed books from friends who were in school and studied on his own. At the age of 15, he left home and began working construction. “I wanted an opportunity to work and get some savings and serve God and go to church without coming back and being beaten up,” he said. He would work during the day and spend his nights on building sites, reading by the light of a gasoline lantern. At 17, he took and passed the high school equivalency test and went



on to pass Nigeria's annual college entrance exam, which Ooceeh said is taken by more than a million people each year.

Ooceeh finished in the top eight percent on the college exam, qualifying him for entrance into the M.B.B.S. program, the Nigerian equivalent of the U.S. pre-medicine program. Just one problem: he had no money for college. "I lost the opportunity," he said with regret.

Two years later, after saving his money, Ooceeh took and passed the exam again but was still short of funds. "I lost the opportunity," he repeated. Undeterred, he plowed ahead. "I was learning how to seek the will of God."



When former ORU medical school professor Dr. Stephen Tines saw Ooceeh's story in the online version of *The Oracle*, he arranged for Ooceeh to meet Dr. Carson (center) over spring break at a medical conference in Dallas. On the left is Carson's wife, Candy.

This time, he gave himself four years to save up money for school and at the age of 25, passed the exam again. With only enough money to cover a few weeks of schooling, he was turned away.

"I was tired," he said. "I asked myself, what kind of life is this?" And then, Richard Roberts came to his church and talked about Oral Roberts University. Intrigued by the possibility of going to this school, Ooceeh wrote to the Admissions office, met all the requirements, applied, and was ac-

cepted for the fall 2008 semester. So what happened? Again, no money. He missed the opportunity.

It looked as if Ooceeh would never realize his dream of attending college. "But God was at work," he said. "He was orchestrating some things."

Three preachers with ORU ties — Kenneth Copeland, Bill Winston, and Myles Munroe — came to his church and talked about ORU's impact on their lives. Then Ben Carson himself came to speak. "Listening to him live brought a new wave of faith within me," Ooceeh said. He applied to ORU once more and was accepted for the spring 2010 semester. Could he find his opportunity this time?

The U.S. Embassy turned down his request for a visa, then reversed their decision. Church members took out a loan to help pay for his plane ticket to the U.S. In Atlanta, customs officials would not let him proceed to Tulsa because he was seven weeks late for the spring semester; minutes later, they changed their minds.

With one change of clothes, his suitcase of books, and absolutely no money, Ooceeh arrived in Tulsa. He was indeed too late to enroll, but not too late to take part in the Whole Person Scholarship event. Taken in by the parents of an ORU alumna, he was able to stay in town and receive the phone call that signalled the beginning of another new chapter in his life.

"I prayed for 10 years for my miracle to happen," Ooceeh said. It came with the news that he had been selected to receive a Whole Person Scholarship. How did he react? "I passed out!" As



Ooceeh heads to chapel with his fellow students. He served as a Resident Advisor last year and will do so again in 2011-12.

he said on the ORU TV program *Face to Face*, "It was the first time I realized that joy can make someone unconscious."

Dr. JoAnn Allen was Ooceeh's professor for English Composition 102 last fall. It was the first English class Ooceeh had ever taken. "He was remarkable," Allen said, "both because of his history and the arduous route he had to take to get to ORU and because of his tenacity and willingness to do whatever it takes to fulfil his dream of becoming a surgeon like his personal hero, Ben Carson."

It's not easy for an international student to adjust to a new culture, a different language, and the rigors of college classes, but Ooceeh is determined to succeed. He plans to finish his four years at ORU, go on to medical school, and realize his dream of becoming a doctor.

"All glory to God," said Ooceeh. "My life truly is a miracle, and it's all because of Him."

‘Living and Learning’

The current round of renovations will have a major impact on residence halls and academics.

When Tim Philley surveys the ORU campus these days, he is understandably pleased with what he sees.

“Deferred maintenance has come down,” said the executive vice president and chief operations officer. “The dollars we have invested have helped significantly.”

Since 2008, ORU has spent about \$40 million to address maintenance issues, renovate buildings, and purchase new equipment. In 2011, there is another \$10 million to spend on improvements.

“It’s about ‘living and learning,’” Philley said, and putting ORU in the best position to compete for students. “Students care about dorms and food service — the living environment. So this year, we’re doing a lot of housing upgrades. We need to continue to pour more into the dorms.”

Those upgrades include new HVAC systems to lower humidity and cool the air; new carpet, beds, mattresses, desks, and dressers; elevator upgrades; bathroom remodels; and a new hot-water tank.

For the “learning” side, many improvements are “behind the scenes,” as Chief Information Officer Mark Bender would tell you. Some of these include extending the campus wireless mesh, increased storage capacity for e-mails and attachments, increased Internet bandwidth, and iPhone/Android apps to access real-time campus information.

Faculty members have received iPads and are gearing up to use this new technology in the classroom. Select professors will be able to leverage the iPad check-in/-out carts

for students during class. In addition, virtual desktop computers will be installed in labs and study areas. This new technology will also enable students to do lab work from their personal computers 24/7.

Some of the most dramatic changes are taking place in engineering and communications.



PHOTO: DON IELAND

Owen Hawbaker, a MultiMedia Institute student, helps professor Charles Zwick install various components of the new HD video studio.

The computer engineering and electrical engineering labs are being remodeled and the machine shop will move to a larger space with better ventilation on the east side of the LRC/GC.

These renovations “will modernize labs and workshops and provide equipment and software that matches the talents of our students and faculty,” said Dr. John Matsson, engineering department chairman. “The engineering curriculum will be enhanced with class projects, senior projects, and research projects where the students will be using advanced instruments and

machines that will prepare them for their engineering careers and make them attractive in the job market.”

The communication, arts and media department has taken a quantum leap when it comes to television production. ORU’s original TV studio on LRC 1 has all-new equipment, including high-definition Ikegami cameras (with one mounted on a Jimmy Jib for mobility), a Ross production switcher, a Mira server, a broadcast-level intercom system, an ETC lighting dimmer system, LED lighting fixtures, a green screen, and more. The switch from

analog to digital/HD is complete, and the area is now tapeless.

“We’re up there with the top schools in terms of equipment provided for career training,” said Roger Bush, the department’s director of media facilities. The training that ORU students receive on this new broadcast-quality equipment will be priceless.

In January, ORU became an All Steinway School with the purchase of thirty-seven Steinway pianos. (*Read more in the next Excellence.*) ORU has also remodeled space on GC 3 to create a new biochemistry lab.



A Call to Prayer

BY CIERA TRISCH, CLASS OF 2013

God instructed Oral Roberts to “Raise up your students to hear My voice,” and that is exactly what he set his mind to do on the campus of ORU. The desire to hear the voice of God has been as strong as ever these past two years, and students are yielding themselves to the Lord out of a yearning for a deeper relationship with Him through prayer.

During her freshman year at ORU in 2009-10, international relations major Rebecca Butcher began to help develop what is now known as the ORU prayer movement. Today, she is one of its leaders.

Butcher said God was initiating corporate prayer months before she came to ORU. “The Lord was preparing the students’ hearts to bring night-and-day prayer to the campus of ORU. This prayer movement was the result of God using His students.”

On any given night of the week, Monday through Friday, you may find upwards of 40 students gathered in



Each prayer team is accompanied by a worship team, usually consisting of at least three people. Pictured are members of the worship team that play during the pre-chapel prayer segment.



Rebecca Butcher, Whole Person Scholarship recipient, began co-leading the ORU prayer movement in 2009 and continues to oversee it today.

the Prayer Tower for corporate prayer. Together, they engage in praise and worship and pray out scripture for a spiritual outpouring to occur on the campus of ORU. “A large aspect of what we are in search of is for this movement to encourage students to cry out in repentance,” Butcher said. “Our focus is centered on listening to the Holy Spirit and praying for the things God lays on our hearts; those are not always easy things.”

The prayer movement started with Acts 2 as its guideline. There, the church was birthed out of prayer and was fueled out of repentance. The heart of the prayer movement is that in the

same way Acts 2 describes the disciples being unified in prayer and in their expectation that God would move in response to their prayers, so would the students of ORU.

With all of the prayer meetings focused on scripture, the student prayer and worship leaders are trained on how to pray out of God’s Word and repeat back to God what He has already promised He will do. In doing so, they believe God will fulfill His word.

“The prayer movement has taught me that there can truly be a system to how we pray,” said sophomore Laura Johnson. According to Johnson, the prayer movement is a major reason why



The prayer movement is centered on praying out scripture. Students find scripture that they believe is relevant to the nightly prayer focus and use it as a foundation for their prayers.

she is an international community development major today. “Getting involved in the prayer movement was one of the best decisions I could have made when coming to ORU. The Lord really changed my direction in life once I learned to hear His voice,” she said.

Students, faculty, administration, and alumni have all been a part of the spiri-

tual awakening taking place through the ORU prayer movement. “Being able to work directly with administration has been a blessing. They encourage the vision we have for this prayer movement and are praying for us all of the time,” said Butcher. “The students are really grasping the vision too, and the prayer movement is connecting

everyone together.”

Many residence halls have taken the initiative to come together as wings — with someone praying at all times — and engage in 24/7 prayer. Other wings have made it a priority to have daily communion with one another consistently for two weeks at a time. Tremendous things are happening in residence halls and across campus alike, simply because students want to hear the voice of God.

Those involved in the movement believe in the vision God gave to Oral Roberts and hope the prayer movement will help other students believe, too. “We are sitting under the mantle of Oral Roberts’ vision, to be raised up and hear God’s voice, and we are directed to listen to that voice and go change the world,” Butcher said. “Our job as students is to prepare ourselves spiritually to be able to go. Ultimately, the best preparation that we can receive comes through interceding together.”

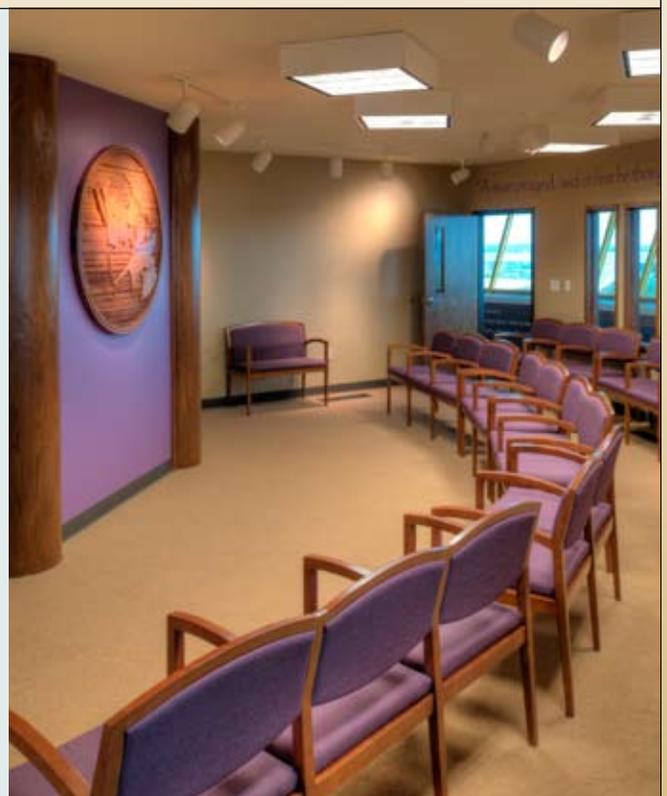
Prayer Tower Observation Deck Now Open

Renovations to the Observation Deck of the Prayer Tower, supervised by ORU First Lady Alison Rutland, have been completed. The Observation Deck closed last September and reopened in April.

As visitors walk the Observation Circle, they will find seven “prayer portals” where they can pause for prayer and meditation. There are also four new “Upper Rooms” — prayer rooms that each hold three to six people — and a 30-seat chapel. Individuals and groups can reserve the Upper Rooms and chapel for blocks of time from Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. Reservations can be made online (oru.edu/upperrooms) and should be made at least two working days in advance.

The Observation Deck is open to the public Monday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. To comply with city fire codes, no more than 30 people may be on the Observation Deck at one time.

On the wall of the chapel is an etched-wood medallion featuring a familiar image: Oral Roberts praying for a small child.





Dr. Buskirk and Dr. Mathew (seated, fourth and fifth from left), former and current faculty, and alumni celebrated the D.Min. program's anniversary during a Homecoming luncheon.

D.Min. Program Turns 30

BY CIERA TRISCH, CLASS OF 2013

A decade. Such a simple phrase encompasses so much history. For the doctor of ministry program at Oral Roberts University, however, there's more than one decade to celebrate. In 2011, the program marks its thirtieth year and has now awarded 369 degrees.

In 1981, God laid it upon the heart of William McKinney, a friend of ORU, to help get the first charismatic doctor of ministry program in the world off the ground by making a gift of \$100,000. ORU had already received initial accreditation for the program in 1980 from the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, giving it the status of programs offered by Fuller Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary.

Originally under the direction of the College of Theology and Ministry's founding dean, Dr. Jimmy Buskirk, and Bishop Mack B. Stokes, the program began on Oct. 19, 1981 with just

four students. These four would set the tone for the types of leaders that would graduate with D.Min. degrees in the years ahead.

D.Min. students come to ORU from a variety of ministry backgrounds. Most are pastors, ministers, or chaplains. The program requires them to study for three years and develop their knowledge and skills in church ministries and leadership or the pastoral care and counseling concentration. Dr. Thomson Mathew, the current dean of the College of Theology and Ministry, believes the students who complete this program are better prepared to excel in their ministries.

"Our goal is to develop ministry leaders who can function at the highest professional level," Mathew said. "Whether our students are leaders in the church, pastors and ministers, or if they are working with outside ministries, we want them to be healers; we want them to excel."

ORU's doctor of ministry program is global in scope. More than 130 degrees have been awarded to international students. Over the course of the three-year program, students study Bible, theology, and practical ministry. Then, they spend a period of time in reflection and write dissertations based on their own real-world ministry experiences.

Mathew said the work the students produce is his pride and joy. "As a dean, to see graduates in key positions across the world using what they've learned here is what I love. Our graduates preach at healing crusades,

are seminary heads and megachurch pastors. It's a joy to see them all moving up in their ministry abilities. The success is not the size of the congregation; it is the quality of the ministry."

The current director of the doctor of ministry program, Dr. Kenneth Mayton, said the testimonies of the students are his favorite aspect of the program as well. "Our students spend three years investing into each other's lives, and that's a blessing to me," Mayton said.

Mayton has seen the program change tremendously over the course of 30 years. At first, it was for pastors only. Now it caters to a broader

group of ministry professionals. Originally enrolling students from a small number of denominations, it has broadened its denominational appeal. And from an initial focus on church ministries and leadership, the program has expanded to include concentrations in pastoral care and counseling.

"We've evolved a lot over the last three decades, but I'm excited for what the future of the program is, too," Mayton said. Currently, the Graduate Theology department is discussing a Ph.D. program, which would give students the option of pursuing an academic doctorate. "I think the addition of a Ph.D.

program would just make ORU more diverse," Mayton said. "It potentially allows for ORU to offer more to our students."

ORU's president, Dr. Mark Rutland, is also excited about the prospective Ph.D. program. "It has to start with a dream, vision, or idea," Rutland said.

Thirty years after it, too, was simply a dream, the doctor of ministry program continues to shape ministry leaders into world-changers. "For the last three decades, our graduates have lived out Oral Roberts' vision to go into every person's world," said Mathew. "We're excited for what the students to come will achieve, too."

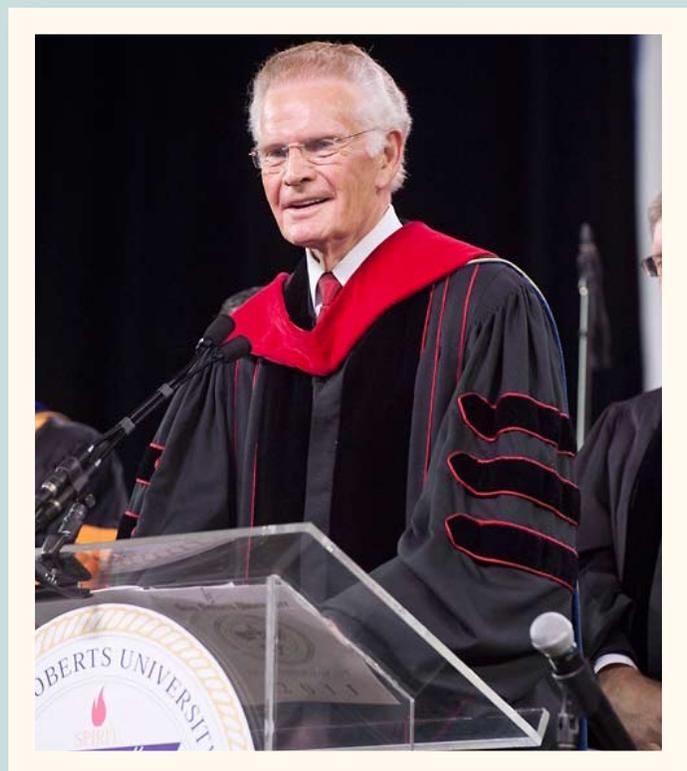
Announcing the Buskirk Professorship Project *'Giving honor where honor is due'*

Oral Roberts University is establishing the Jimmy Buskirk Professorship in Graduate Studies to honor the founding dean of ORU's College of Theology and Ministry. Dr. Buskirk served at ORU from 1976 to 1984.

The Buskirk Professorship will provide funding that further strengthens three areas of the seminary: the Master of Arts academic programs, the Master of Arts professional programs, and the Master of Divinity program. Students will benefit from greater academic preparation and hands-on training as they ready themselves for Ph.D. studies or the practice of ministry.

To contribute to the \$1 million Buskirk Professorship project, please use the enclosed envelope. You may also give online at oru.edu/give; write "Buskirk Project" in the "Other Information" box.

Funds raised for the \$1 million Jimmy Buskirk Professorship in Graduate Studies will be held in a temporarily restricted account until such time that full funding is received. At that time, an endowment will be established.



Dr. Jimmy Buskirk gave the closing prayer at Commencement in April.



There's Always Hope

Communities in crisis look to Convoy of Hope for help.

BY DEBBIE (TITUS-77) GEORGE

When he was 12, Hal Donaldson's entire world turned upside-down.

A head-on collision with a drunk driver took the life of his father, Harold Donaldson. Immobilized by the injuries she suffered in the crash, Betty Donaldson had to rely on other family members and her church to help care for her children, which included Hal and his three siblings. Far from wealthy, the Donaldsons struggled for a time as many single-parent families do, but their faith in



This is Donaldson on location at a distribution site in Haiti after the earthquake.

God did not waver. If anything, the experience of those years stirred up compassion for people in need . . . and led Hal and his two brothers, Steve and Dave, to create Convoy of Hope.

"It started in California with one-truck events," Donaldson said in a phone interview. And this mission to feed and minister to others quickly

grew. One day, he said, "we decided to take multiple trucks into a really needy area in California, so it became almost like a caravan. So someone said, why not call it Convoy of Hope?"

Since its founding in 1994, Convoy of Hope has established its headquarters in Springfield, Mo., and become an answer to prayer in 120 countries,

PHOTO: JAMES PAULS

Convoy of Hope was quick to respond when Joplin, Mo., was ravaged by a tornado this spring.

not only feeding millions of hungry people each year but also sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

One of Convoy's priorities is working with local churches.

"We're not an organization that throws food off the back of a truck," Donaldson explained. "Wherever possible we work through local churches. We have thousands of churches that would consider themselves partners with Convoy of Hope. We work very hard to keep those relationships strong."

Those relationships, he said, are formed before one of Convoy's city-wide outreaches or before a disaster strikes.

Disasters. There have been quite a few of those in recent years. Convoy has its own 24/7 command center that monitors disasters around the





PHOTO: MICHAEL NENE

Donaldson and a Convoy response team headed for Iowa in 2008 when the Mississippi River flooded the Midwest.



Donaldson hands out groceries at a 2004 outreach in Springfield, Mo.

world. “When a disaster pops up on the large screens and reports start coming in,” Donaldson said, “our people jump into action based on what they have determined is the level of the disaster.”

Convoy is connected to the National Weather Service, he added, so in the case of hurricanes, “we get a pretty good sense for where that

hurricane is going to hit.” Trucks loaded with supplies race to the scene and form “a circumference or radius” around the potential disaster area. As soon as the hurricane passes, Convoy moves into the area, usually with police escorts, and works closely with FEMA and emergency management.

In the case of Haiti, Convoy was in the country three years before the earthquake struck. Millions of meals, thousands of personal hygiene kits, and thousands of water purification units were distributed after the earthquake. Convoy is still there, feeding nearly 50,000 children a day and working with partners like *Relevant* magazine to rebuild schools.

An earthquake in Chile. Floods in Mexico, Pakistan, and the Philippines. Floods and tornadoes in the U.S. A volcanic eruption in Guatemala. An earthquake and tsunami in Japan. And most recently, the devastating tornado in Joplin, Mo. Where was Convoy of Hope in the past 18 months when these disasters struck? On the scene, every time, bringing manpower and supplies . . . and more.

“A lot of great organizations are feeding stomachs,” Donaldson noted, “but at Convoy, we feel we’ve been called to feed stomachs and souls. When people come to our outreaches, to a disaster site or children’s feeding, one of our goals is to create a connection — connect that person to a local church, civic organization, or maybe even a government program, but create a connection that will help that person receive ongoing care.”

It might sound as if Donaldson has little time to devote to anything outside of this work, but he has his

priorities in order.

“One of the things God has done,” he said, “is to bring an amazing team to Convoy. This organization has been built around a God-given cause, not a personality. It will continue to feed millions of people when God says my time is up.”

Serving on ORU’s Board of Trustees “was something I really wanted to do,” Donaldson said, partly because of his longstanding friendship with Board Chair Mart Green and also because he believes in ORU’s vision and mission.

“It’s been exhilarating to see God work among the administration, the faculty, the Board of Trustees, and the students, and to see people working together for a common cause, a common mission. It’s brought me great satisfaction to be a small part of it.”

His role on the board has included service on the finance and public relations committees. He also considers it his job to serve as “an outspoken advocate” for ORU and to pray daily that God’s will is accomplished.

Doing God’s will. It’s not rocket science, Donaldson will tell you.

“I believe that Christ intended our faith to be simple and that we tend to make it more complex than it needs to be. He said, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself and love God with all your heart.’ I’m trying to live that out as best I can. Not perfect by any means, but I’m trying.”

Hal Donaldson is the founder and president of Convoy of Hope. He has served on the ORU Board of Trustees since 2008. Read his bio at oru.edu.



Past, Present, Future

ORU Athletics honors former athletes, cheers current athletes and coaches for setting records and reaching milestones, and looks ahead with new building and renovation projects.



The Case Soccer Complex is named in honor of Mike and Patsy Case, prominent philanthropists in the Tulsa community.

The Big Build-Up

ORU Athletics is in the midst of a \$1.1 million capital campaign. Of that amount, \$600,000 will be designated to fund the new Case Soccer Complex. Improvements to the existing field, located east of the Aerobics Center, will include a 1,000-seat stadium encased with stone masonry, wrought-iron fencing outlining the field, a press box, relocation of the scoreboard, and a new practice field on the complex's north side.

Athletics will complete upgrades to J. L. Johnson Stadium when the \$500,000 goal is met. Projects include waterproofing the seating area, renovating the players' and coaches' locker rooms and the concession stand, and creating a new players' study, recreation room, and hospitality room near the third base line.

Work on the soccer and stadium projects began this summer.

For the first time since the building opened in 1972, Mabee Center's arena is getting a new floor. It will be com-

posed of the highest available grade of maple. Work begins Aug. 1 and will wrap up in about six weeks.

The center's general manager, Tony Winters, said the original floor, designed to last 15 years, lasted for 40. (The new floor, we're told, will still feature the phrase "Expect a Miracle.")

Other Mabee Center improvements will include refinishing concrete on the inner hallways, a new ceiling grid, and repairs to the exterior steps.

Kevi Can

Is there anything Kevi Luper *can't* do?

Associated Press All-American Honorable Mention Team and Summit League Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year (second year in a row for all three awards). Helped the women's basketball team achieve a program-best 13-0 conference win streak, win the Summit League regular-season title, and make it to the Women's National Invitation Tournament, where the Golden Eagles

finished in the final 16 after defeating Texas Christian University and Tulane. (It was ORU's best showing since the 1982-83 season.)

This, however, was Luper's greatest achievement: she officially became the first player to lead the NCAA in both points and steals in a year by averaging 23.7 points and 3.7 steals per game.

"I feel very excited and blessed that I was able to make NCAA history," Luper said. "I could not have done it without my teammates, coaches, family, and God. This is something that I worked very hard to achieve, and I am overwhelmed that I was able to accomplish it."

What will Kevi do for an encore? We can't imagine, but we can't wait to find out. Get your season tickets now. (Call Mike Minyard at 918-495-7213.)



Luper put up 36 points against North Texas in early November. Last season, she scored 30 or more points six times.



Fierce! It's the only way to describe the entertaining play of freshman Steven Roundtree. He was a starter in all 35 games, averaging 12.1 points and 6.4 rebounds.

Players Achieve All-American Status

Kevi Luper was one of seven ORU athletes to earn All-American accolades this year. Here are the other six:

- **DOMINIQUE MORRISON**, a junior from Kansas City, Mo., earned his second Mid-Major All-American title for his considerable skills on the basketball court. Rivals.com has already named him to the 2011-12 Preseason All-Mid-Major Team. Morrison has 1,406 career points, which ranks him at No. 11 in the ORU record books.
- **STEVEN ROUNDTREE**, an explosive 6'-8" forward in men's basketball, made the Mid-Major Freshman All-American team and was also named Mid-Major Freshman of the Year by CollegeInsider.com. He became the first freshman to win

The newest Athletics Hall of Fame members are (L to R) Kim Ogden (women's basketball, 1984-88), Michael Rogers (baseball, 1998-2002), Greg Sutton (men's basketball, 1988-91), Becky Dreher (volleyball, 2001-04), and Bill Brogden (former men's golf coach, 1976-86). Ogden and Sutton were 2010 inductees. Rogers, Dreher, and Brogden are the hall's Class of 2011.

Summit League Newcomer of the Year honors since Ken Tutt took the title in 2004. Roundtree is from Jacksonville, Fla.

- Pole vaulter extraordinaire **JACK WHITT**, a sophomore from Norman, Okla., earned All-American honors in both the indoor and outdoor seasons and finished second in the NCAA Outdoor Championships. With a jump of 18'4½" in April, Whitt achieved a personal best. He finished the season ranked second in the nation.



In 2010, Jack Whitt became the first freshman in ORU history to earn All-American indoor track honors. He made All-American again this year.

- **MARVIN BONDE** is a two-time track All-American. The senior from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, was named the 2010 Outdoor and 2011 Indoor Summit League Track Athlete of the Year.

- **T. J. BENNETT** and **ALEX GONZALEZ** were named to the Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American team. Bennett, who made the team as the third baseman, is the first ORU position player to earn freshman All-America honors since Kelly Minissale in 2005. Gonzalez was the Summit League Pitcher and Newcomer of the Year and MVP of the Summit League Tournament. The last ORU pitcher to earn freshman All-America honors was Jerry Sullivan in 2007.

Sutton, Walton Reach Milestones

Two ORU coaches made some history of their own this season. In his twelfth year as men's basketball head coach, Scott Sutton surpassed former head coach Ken Trickey (1969-74, 1987-93) and became the leader in wins, notching No. 215. It happened at Homecoming when the Eagles beat North Dakota State, 81-73.

Rob Walton won "Coach of the Year" honors in the Summit League for the fifth time in his eight years as ORU baseball's head coach. In an April 3 game at San Diego State, Walton secured his 300th career win as the Golden Eagles scored the victory, 11-7.





From Skeptic to Believer

An ORU alumna shares her seed-faith story . . . and issues a challenge to her fellow alumni.

Dear Alumni,

I was a Prayer Partner before I was a student. I found Oral Roberts' book *Miracle of Seed-Faith* in my grandmother's bedroom the summer I was 17 and looking forward to my senior year of high school and applying to the University of Tennessee for college. I'll be honest and say I tried seed-faith out of skepticism, as I had never heard of Oral Roberts. Little did I know the first seed I sowed that summer would change my life forever. It worked immediately. I tried it again. It worked again. My skepticism vanished.

Through a series of astonishing miracles — mostly financial, as we had no college savings — I wound up at ORU in the fall of 1971, just six years after it was opened. For example, the first of August we were still \$350 short after I had been granted all the financial aid available to me. That same week, my father received a bonus from his company in the amount of \$345. That was the first and last bonus he ever received from his company and he worked there 34 years. The money miracles I experienced while at ORU would fill a book, and all my needs have been met to this day. After starting my business during a recession in 1991 and watching God's miracles to keep it going these 20 years, I can tell you that seed-faith has carried me through and is the sole reason I am still in business.

For many years, I personally sowed seed-faith at the beginning of each month BEFORE paying any bills, whether there was money to pay them



Shelton arrives in Encinitas, Calif., after an exhausting seven-city fall tour in late 2010 "to train agents," she said, "that the fastest way to help state budget deficits is by selling long-term care insurance through employers in order to reach the most people in the most efficient way."

or not, because I knew the money would come.

While attending the ORU Alumni Ministers Conference in early October 2000, I felt led to begin giving 10 percent of the business's gross. The business was \$400,000 in debt after suffering the worst year ever in what was a 10-year-old business at that time. Within a few weeks, a \$30,000 need was filled in 48 hours. A year later, the debt had been slashed by two-thirds, gross income was up 27 percent, and net income exceeded a 200 percent growth over the previous year. Best of all, the seed-faith giving for the business had increased 1,600 percent! There was no turning back because as Oral Roberts said, "You cannot outgive God."

Not a day goes by that I don't think about the impact Oral Roberts and

ORU had on my life. Over the years, I have given copies of *Miracle of Seed-Faith* to my numerous employees. My business is known within my industry as having a standard of absolute excellence, a reflection of the role model I saw in Oral Roberts.

On a visit to ORU in 2003, my eyes were riveted on the banner in Christ's Chapel with the vision God gave to Oral Roberts. ("Raise up your students . . .") The question popped in my mind, "Have our works exceeded his?" Soon thereafter, the Lord gave me a vision of a way we, the students and alumni, could band together to honor Oral Roberts and show him just how greatly the call God placed on his life has been carried out. A devotional with a collection of stories that illustrate a specific miracle of seed-faith in alumni lives would speak volumes

to the heart and mind of the man who has had such a profound effect on our lives. I thank all of you who responded to the call over the subsequent years to show Oral Roberts examples of how the vision for ORU has been fully carried out.

There was no other title than *His Harvest*, as this collection of amazing stories provides tangible evidence of the harvest of a lifetime of planting his seed into ORU. It went to him as an 89th birthday present in January 2009. The way he loved us is so evident in the letter I received a week

later that I had to share it with you. (See the letter below.)

However, God wasn't done with this book. The vision I had back in 2003 was not only to give it to Oral before God called him home, but to share it with the students and faculty of ORU, to help sustain the seed-faith lifestyle at ORU. Thanks to Dr. Mark Rutland, that happened at Homecoming in 2010 as he allowed it to be given out at chapel and the Alumni Banquet and made available at the information desk in the LRC. So in case you missed it, here is your chance

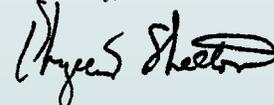
to receive this collection of amazing stories written by the "fruit" of Oral Roberts: the alumni of Oral Roberts University. The chapters include:

- When It IS About the Money (financial harvests)
- Seeds Aren't Always Financial
- Seed-Faith and the Christian Business
- God Will Make a Way When There Is No Way
- The Legacy of Oral Roberts

Finally, I personally want to congratulate all of you who stepped up and responded when Mart Green challenged us to help solve ORU's financial crisis through the Renewing the Vision campaign. To see that much debt *eliminated* in a year is truly evidence that God's hand is completely covering ORU. However, **we can't stop now.**

We are so grateful to the Green family for stepping in when they did, but their vision is for **all of us** to carry ORU forward so that generations of our children and grandchildren can experience the incredible inspiration of the legacy of Oral Roberts. The only way they can get it is to come to Oral Roberts University. I challenge each of you to continue sowing regular seeds into ORU so that this precious fruit will continue to be harvested until Jesus comes!

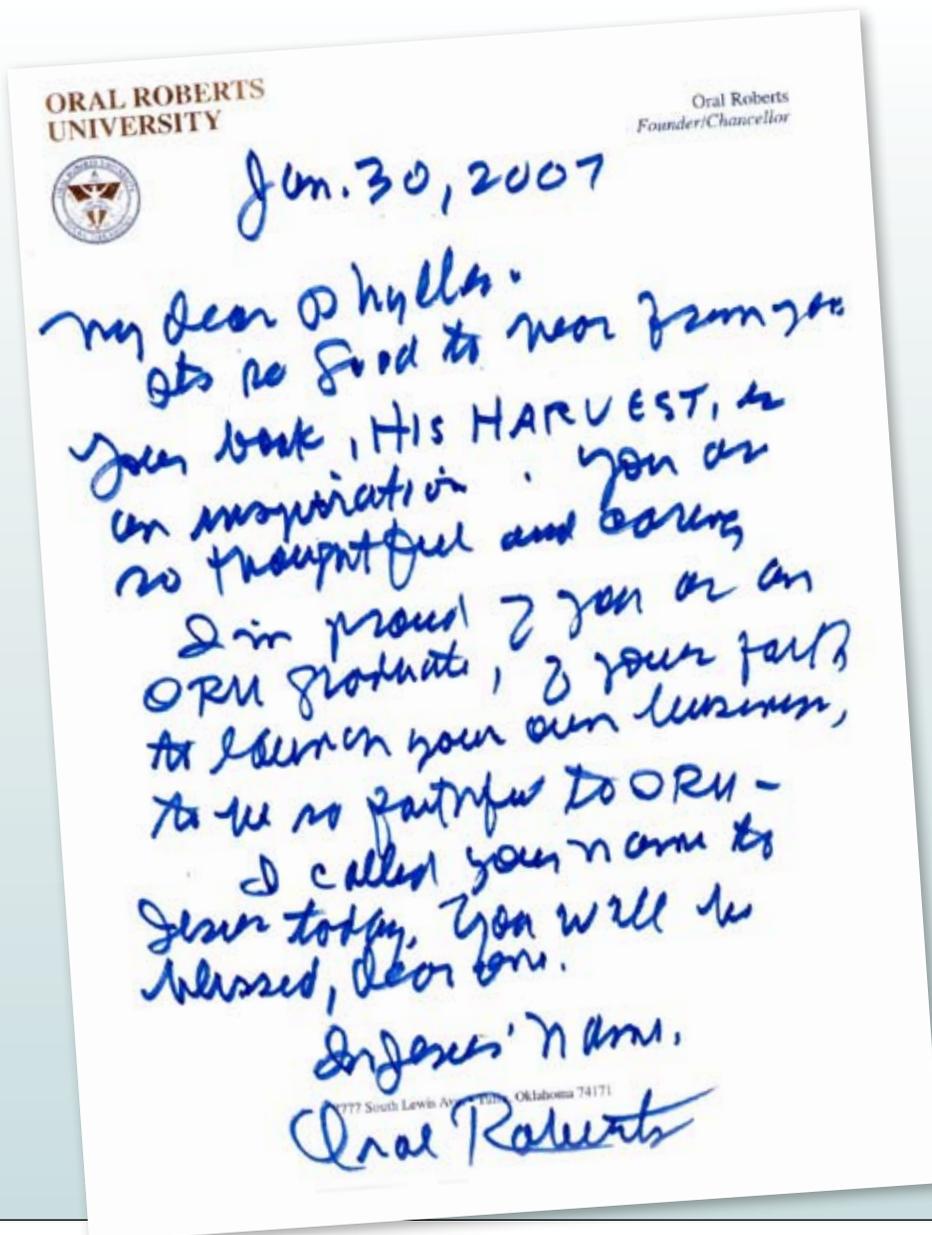
Sincerely,



Phyllis Shelton, Class of 1976

For your free copy of *His Harvest*, e-mail alumni@oru.edu.

Phyllis Shelton is the founder and president of LTC Consultants, a company that specializes in long-term care insurance sales training, consumer education, and marketing materials. She and her husband, Bill Pomakoy, live in Tennessee.



New Members Join Alumni Board



Rob Thompson



John Croyle



Greg Berg



Guy Chism



Martha Cole

The Alumni Association Board of Directors welcomed nine new members following the fall 2010 election. They are:

SEGMENT 1 (1968-79)

David Bender

SEGMENT 2 (1980-89)

Greg Berg

SEGMENT 3 (1990-99)

John Croyle

SEGMENT 4 (2000-09)

Rob Thompson

SEGMENT 5 (2010-)

Anna (Grothe) Zarlengo

AT LARGE

William Everette

APPOINTED

Guy Chism

Martha (MacWherter) Cole

Sandra (Marquardt) Price

To read bios and find contact information for all of your representatives, go to alumni.oru.edu and click on "Alumni Board-Current Alumni Board."

ORU Couples' Conference OCTOBER 21 & 22, 2011

SAVE THE DATE...

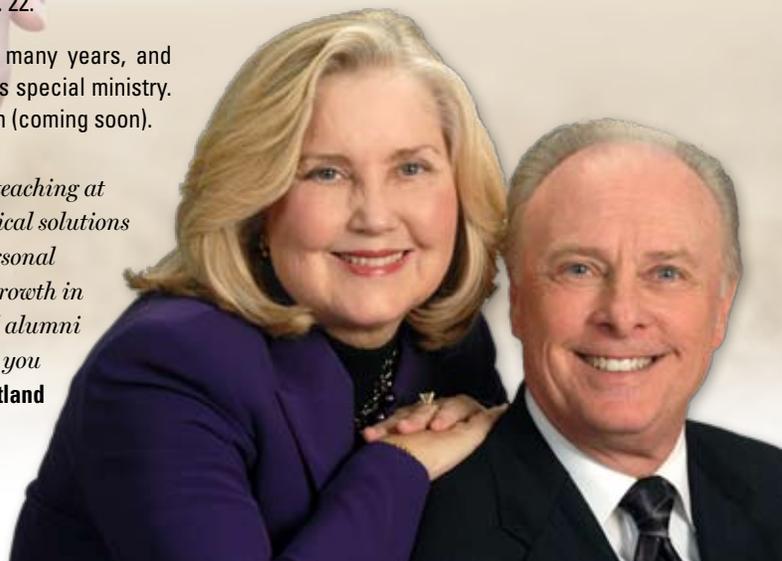
We are excited to announce a very special free event that will be held on the campus of Oral Roberts University this fall.

ORU president Dr. Mark Rutland and his wonderful wife, Alison, will be hosting a Couples' Conference on Oct. 21 and 22. This event will be absolutely FREE! (Travel and lodging costs will be the responsibility of each participant.) The conference will begin at about 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 21 and will conclude no later than 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Dr. and Mrs. Rutland have led Couples' Conferences around the world for many years, and hundreds of marriages have been blessed, restored, and renewed through this special ministry. Watch your e-mail, mail, and Facebook (ORUalumni) for registration information (coming soon).

"You will definitely laugh. . . you may cry. . . and you will identify with the teaching at this conference. This unique event will combine fun and laughter with practical solutions to the challenges common to all couples. We will share candidly from our personal experiences. Our desire is that you will see more clearly the possibilities for growth in your relationship. Alison and I extend this warm invitation especially to all alumni of ORU. You mean so much to us and to this University and we want to give you what people have paid to attend in many countries." — Mark and Alison Rutland

*Hosted by
Dr. Mark and Alison Rutland*



NOTES FROM ALUMNI

1970s

DR. GARY DAVID MILLER '72, associate executive director of the Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, received the William D. Schaeffer Award from Printing Industries of America. This award recognizes an individual's focus on advancing environmental awareness and action in the graphic communications industry. From 1985 until 2009, Gary was assistant director at the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (formerly the Waste Management and Research Center) and twice served as acting director. Prior to joining the Institute, he was assistant professor of civil engineering and environmental science at the University of Oklahoma. From 1979 to 1985, he was also assistant co-director of the National Center for Groundwater Research at OU, where he earned his M.S. in environmental science and a Ph.D. in engineering.

MIKE '74 and **BETH (GILLILAND) '76 ASH** sent us the photo below. It was taken in June 2009 at the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. Pictured (L to R) are **ROBIN '78** and **DEES (HOBBS-'76) HODGES** of Edmond, Okla., **WAYNE '78** and **JUDE (CORDA-RO-'76) MCDANIEL** of Lawrence, Kan., and Mike and Beth, who live in Sedalia, Mo.



1980s

MARK BARDEN '80 was named Communicator of the Year by the United Methodist Association of Communicators at their annual meeting in San Francisco last October. He is currently director of Communications for the Western N.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church based in Charlotte, N.C. He also published a 16-page photo spread, which he photographed, in Catherine Ritch



Guess' book *Because He Lives*. Based on the lives of Joseph and Marilyn Chan, a Cambodian couple who fled during Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime to return years later as missionaries, the book was selected for the 2012 United Methodist Women's Reading List. Pictured: Mark and Barbara and son Chris. mlbarden@aol.com



DON '80 and **KATHLEEN (HARTZLER '81) MILLER**, former brother and sister RAs, are living in Granby, Colo., near their two sons, David, 25, and Levi, 19. Don works with their son David in a business they started two years ago. Both sons are pursuing career and educational goals. Previously, the Millers served as missionaries and filled ministry positions stateside. Kathleen has written three recently released hardcover gift books. *Dog Devotions* is a collection of 31 glimpses of an intimate relationship between a caregiver and a dog. The devotionals sketch the joys and importunities of having a dog. *ABC Blessing Book for Boys* includes 26 blessings. Each letter of the alphabet is associated with a man in the Bible and a blessing he experienced. *ABC Blessing Book for Girls* is similar with each letter of the alphabet associated with a woman in the Bible and a blessing she experienced. The *ABC Blessing Books* provide blessings that God wants passed on today. All three books are available through Amazon and other outlets. Contact Kathleen at kathleenmiller.org.



J. SCOTT ROBERTSON, PH.D. '80 received the Texas Psychological Association's 2010 Outstanding Contribution to Public Service Award. By coordinating assistance through psychological, civil, and religious organizations in Guatemala and the U.S., he helped various community groups in Guatemala to live healthier lives. The photo above shows Scott (in red shirt) in Guatemala. Scott lives and works in Lubbock.



Last winter, several ORU alumni gathered in Virginia Beach, Va., to celebrate **BOBBY PETROCELLI'S** 50th birthday. Pictured are (front row) **BETH AQUINO '82**, **PAUL AQUINO '83**, **JOE LIBERATORE '83**, and (back row) **BOBBY PETROCELLI '82**.

GARY '85 and **TINA (1984-'87) MCINNIS** are pastoring a church in Laurens, S.C. Their three children — Brittany, Brett, and Bethany — are serving the Lord in different mentoring capacities in their colleges. Gary is publishing his first book, *Jesus in Jacob*. Tina said she and Gary have recently been stepping out to minister in other churches. They would love to hear from fellow alumni. tinamcinnis5@aol.com



DOUG OTT '88 played his cello — solo — during an open house at the Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee, Fla. The occasion was Inauguration Day for the state's new governor, Rick Scott. Doug frequently plays his cello in churches and for special events. He has played for two other state leaders in the past year: former governors Sarah Palin (pictured with Doug above) and Mike Huckabee. At each of these events he played hymns, worship, and patriotic songs. On May 20, he recorded his first "live" CD called "Cello for the King" at Evangel Assembly of God in Tallahassee. Contact Doug at dougottconnect@gmail.com and on Facebook ("Doug Ott" or "Cello for the King").

BOBBI (REILLY) SHEAHAN '88 has produced her third book, titled *What I Wish I'd Known About Raising a Child With Autism: A Mom and a Therapist Offer Heartfelt Guidance for the First 5 Years*. The book was published by Future Horizons, the world's largest and most authoritative publisher of books about autism. Bobbi and her co-author, Kathy DeOrnellas, Ph.D., hope to help parents,



teachers, relatives, and loved ones understand their children who have or may have an autism spectrum disorder. You can learn more or get in touch with Bobbi at bobbisheahan.com. Bobbi and her husband, Ben, have four children: Evelyn, 8, Bella, 7, Olivia, 5, and Joseph, 2.

1990s

DENISE GRIGGS 93, 94-MA has written two children's books. One is *The Wise Steward Book, For Children Only* with worksheets that explain principles and purposes of money. The second is *Biblical Creation: As Told by the Wise and Majestic Oak Tree*. In it her nephews learn the principles found in Creation and discover a very valuable lesson about themselves. Both can be viewed at Denise's business Web site: glasstreebooks.com. Contact Denise at dgriggs@glasstreebooks.com.



Personnel Specialist Petty Officer First Class **ROGER J. MARTINEZ**, United States Navy, was honored last October with the Defense Meritorious Service Medal from the United States

Department of Defense. This is the third highest medal given by the United States Armed Forces Personnel. Roger, a **1994** graduate of the College of Business, served in Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He distinguished himself by his "exceptionally meritorious service" from Dec. 3, 2009 to Nov. 19, 2010 as the Al Anbar Resident Office Non-Commissioned Officer-In-Charge, United States Army Corps of Engineers. During his time in Iraq, PS1 Martinez provided logistical support, leadership, and mentoring for more than sixteen Department of the Army civilians, twenty-one Iraqi nationals, and eighty-two civilian contractors, ensuring that the Al Anbar Resident Office fulfilled its mission of oversight of more than forty-five infrastructure revitalization and reconstruction projects (totaling in excess of \$260 million) that were critical to the U.S. Army's strategic vision of bringing stability to the Al Anbar Province and improving the lives of the Iraqi people.

2000s

DEBRA WILLIAMS 00 married Anthony Oliva in March 2008. They had their first child, Chloe Madison (pictured below), on March 30, 2010. Debra has been a reading coach for the past five years and says she loves it. The family lives in Miami, where Debra and Anthony are the children's directors at CitiChurch. Write to them at theoivas@yahoo.com.



GRETCHEN (VEROUGSTRAETE) 01-MBA and **JAVIER 01-MBA MENA** were featured in an article in the Michigan Catholic newspaper preceding their speaking engagement at a conference held at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. Read the article here: themichigancatholic.com/?s=Mena. Contact the Menas at gretchenmv@gmail.com.

DR. RACHEL (FRITZ-03) KENNEDY, a family practice physician, has joined Gill Family Medicine and the Parkway Medical Center Staff in Decatur, Ala. Rachel graduated summa cum laude with her D.O. from Oklahoma State University and completed her residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She and her husband have two daughters. In a Parkway Medical Center Web release, Rachel said, "I am passionate about caring for families and offering preventative care. I know that medicine is my ministry."

MARIA SHEAD 04 married Clayton Whitson on July 17, 2010. The Whitsons are living in Tulsa where Maria teaches fourth grade at Victory Christian School and Clayton works in the tiling business.



SCOTT EMERINE 05 was named the chairman of the Bristol Tennessee/Virginia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for 2011 at the chamber's annual awards luncheon on Jan. 26. Scott is the co-owner of Branding Iron Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations. The Bristol TN/VA Chamber is a five-star accredited chamber with more than 700 members. Branding Iron is a full-service agency located in Johnson City, Tenn. Scott attended ORU from 1998-2000 and completed his degree in 2005. brandingironadvertising.com

BILL HUBBARD 06-M.A. was installed as the director of the Special Investigations Division of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety on Feb. 21. He has been a police officer for 32 years and had hoped to someday attain a leadership position "that would allow me to widen my area of influence and better fulfill the vision that Chancellor Roberts had for our graduates," he said. In 2009, Bill and his wife, Debbie, had the opportunity to visit Chancellor Roberts at his home in California. The chancellor "prayed for the direction" of Bill's life and career. Bill sees his promotion as an answer to prayer.

ANNA GROTHE 10 married **STEPHEN ZARLENGO 09** on July 23, 2010 at Victory Christian Center in Tulsa. Anna is the daughter of **DAVID 78, 98-M.A.** and **BECKY (WILSON-77)** and Stephen is the son of **GARY 80, 82-M.A.** and **DIANE (TOMEI) 80**. Anna and Stephen reside in Tulsa. Stephen received his M.A. in theology from ORU in April. Contact Anna, one of the newest members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors (Segment 5, Class of 2010), at ajzarleno@yahoo.com.

DAVID STILES 10 is a staff auditor in the Tulsa assurance division at HoganTaylor, the largest accounting firm in the Oklahoma-Northwest Arkansas region. He served as an assurance intern with HoganTaylor in the summer of 2009.

ASSOCIATES

ROBERT H. MORRIS (1991-93) has a new Web site, seekerfaith.com, offering a book that has been in the works for several years: *The Faith of a Seeker*. He describes it as "a serious effort to

What's happening with you?

Let us (and your ORU friends) know!

Send us an e-mail (alumni@oru.edu) or use the online form (found at alumni.oru.edu). We'd like a photo, too!



bridge the divide between divine creation and evolutionary science, and between biblical criticism and charismatic experience." Contact Robert at roberthuntmorris@gmail.com.

LINDA REARDON (1974-76) wants to get in touch with ORU friends, including those who were in the music department or on 2 Blue. Contact Linda on Facebook or by e-mail at lkeys6@gmail.com.

FACULTY

Dr. R. Henry Migliore, former dean of the ORU College of Business, and his wife, **MARI 87**, went to Israel in April 2010 and had dinner with **DAVID 73** and **BARBARA CERULLO, CLARENCE WAGNER, JR. 77-MBA**. Clarence's sister Ann, **SAMIR ABUZNAID 82**, and one of Samir's sons, Ayser. Pictured are Dr. and Mrs. Migliore, Ayser, Samir, Clarence, and Ann.



Landmark day. Gov. Mary Fallin, the first female governor of Oklahoma, gave this year's keynote address at Commencement, held April 30 in Mabee Center. Elected in 2010, it was also her first Commencement address since taking office. She called ORU "one of the great gems of Oklahoma." There were 675 graduates this year, earning a total of 692 degrees at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels.

Run, alumni, run!

We knew aerobics would pay off someday . . .

For last October's Tulsa Run, the Alumni Relations office formed a team that represented ORU well. Most impressive was 1996 grad Burt McLachlan who finished 30th overall out of a field of 4,249 with a time of 54:50.

Others we know of who ran in the 15K, as part of the alumni team or on their own, were Alumni Director Jesse Pisors 96, 05-MA, Suzanne Behr 81, Brent Coussens 83, 85-MBA, Kyle Jones 01, Martha King 99, Preston Bostwick 93, Paige Bostwick 94, 05-M.Mgt., Paula Lee 77, Amber Magnuson 07, Pamela Gordineer 93, and Donnie Duntley 01. Tonya Helm from Student Accounts and Steve and Lovely 93, 06-MA Thannickal (pictured) ran in the 5K race.

Would you like to be part of an alumni team this fall? If so, contact Jesse at (918) 495-6610 or jpisors@oru.edu.





Obituaries

LUKE AUSDEMORE 07 passed away on Oct. 5, 2010 in San Diego. While free-diving for lobsters in Mission Bay (San Diego), he lost consciousness underwater and was later pronounced dead at UCSD Medical Center. He was 25. Luke received a bachelor's degree in business from ORU. His family described him as an encourager, entrepreneur, and exceptional friend. Luke is survived by his parents,

JAN 79-MBA and Barbara, his sisters, **ANGEL 99** and **JAMIE (AUSDEMORE) HUMPHREY 03**, his brother-in-law **ELI HUMPHREY 03**, and many others.

REV. CRAIG BOLDEBUCK 05-M.DIV. passed away on Oct. 4, 2010 in Tulsa. He was 56. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Melissa, son Jonathan, and daughter Erin.

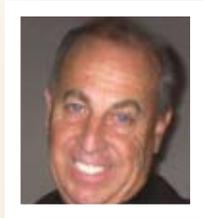
JAMES H. "GUAM" BRYAN died on Aug. 22, 2010, after a lengthy battle with prostate cancer. He was 58. Jim obtained his bachelor's degree in New Testament literature in 1977 from ORU and completed a nursing degree in 1984 from Georgia Southwestern College. The remainder of his life he was an R.N. in the community of North Kohala on the Big Island of Hawaii. He is survived by his wife, **TRISH (GRIFFIN-77)**, and his son, Yonah. Contact Trish at trishgriffinbryan@yahoo.com.



VALERIE (GLOVER 00) GARZA passed away on May 6 in Japan from complications associated with her heart arrhythmia. She was 32. Valerie earned a social work degree from ORU. She married **ALEX GARZA 00** right after graduation. Valerie obtained her teaching license, spent time teaching in Texas, applied for and was accepted by the Department of Defense, and went to Sagami-hara, Japan, to teach elementary school. After witnessing the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, the Garzas were inspired to start a nonprofit, Isaiha Institute International. Valerie's family is continuing the work she started to aid the children of Sri Lanka. The Garzas' son, Israel, was born in September 2008. Valerie is also survived by her parents, Charles and Deborah, and siblings Kimberly, Joanna, and David.

EVEREE (OAKLEY) GONZALEZ, a native of Bog Walk, Jamaica, died of cancer on June 2, 2011 in Broken Arrow, Okla. She was 38. Everee and her husband of 10 years, Jaime, established Evangel Fire Ministry. Through this ministry, the couple raised funds to provide shoes, clothing, and school supplies for children in Jamaica. Everee earned a bachelor's degree in HPE/K-12 in 2000 and a master's degree in management in 2003. As a member of ORU's track team, the 400-meter event was her specialty.

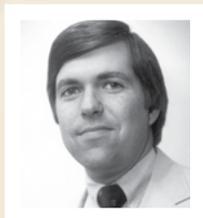
FRANK J. KAMAS 85-JD passed away at his home in Wichita, Kan., on Aug. 24, 2010, of sudden heart failure. He was 55. Frank practiced law in Wichita for the past 25 years. His passions included hunting, fishing, flying, and being with his friends. His family described him as a fun-loving free spirit who lived to help people.



GLENN GORDON POWELL (1965-73) passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 28, 2010, at the age of 64. He had suffered from cardiovascular disease. In this life, he founded and owned Fox Chase

Properties, building and remodeling homes. At ORU, he was on the karate team and also on the first baseball team. Glenn was married to **ARLENE (CHUMBLEY-71)** for more than 39 years. He is also survived by daughter Tabitha and son Travis and two grandsons.

CATHIE STEWART-GUTCHES passed away on Jan. 14, 2011, after suffering a sudden and unexpected brain hemorrhage. She was 56. Cathie graduated from ORU in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in management. She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Pete Gutches, her son, Zack, and her parents. Cathie earned her degree as a CPA and worked at Hewlett Packard for 22 years until her retirement in 2005.

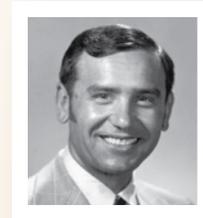


BILL TECHANCHUK passed away on May 4, 2011, at his home in Virginia Beach, ending a multi-year struggle with cancer. He was 61. At ORU, Bill earned his bachelor's degree in history in 1971 and

was on the soccer team. He was on staff at ORU for many years and held a variety of positions: assistant dean and dean of men, associate dean of Student Affairs, director of Admissions, and director of Alumni Relations and Student Recruitment. He also served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, including a term as board chair. In recent years, Bill was an elder and pastoral staff member at Wave Church, served on the Orphans Tree

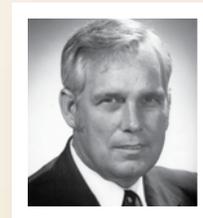
board with his fellow alum, **GEORGE STEINER 71**, and traveled to Russia eighteen times in 12 years to care for orphans. He is survived by his wife, **GAYE (WARD-73)**, his son, Billy, and daughter-in-law Nichole, mother Elsie, brother **DOUG 74**, and grandchildren Savannah, Sophia, and Sydney.

The **REV. DR. ANDREW J. WEAVER**, a 1970 ORU graduate who earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, passed away on Oct. 22, 2008. A 1978 graduate of Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, he was a United Methodist pastor, a research psychologist, the co-author of several books, and author of numerous scholarly articles.



DR. BILL BASANSKY, former professor of Russian and German at ORU in the 1970s, passed away on Sept. 9, 2010. He was 78. Born in Ukraine, Dr. Basansky spent part of his youth in Nazi

concentration camps. He and his family came to the U.S. in 1949. He and his wife of 56 years, Bea, established colleges and churches in countries that at one time outlawed Christianity. Basansky returned to Ukraine dozens of times through the years, dispensing humanitarian aid there and in other former Soviet states. He is survived by his wife, sons **ERIC 78** and **JERRY 83**, and others.



BOB BROOKS passed away on April 5, 2011, at the age of 79. He was ORU's first Sports Information director, beginning in 1969, and later was named director of University Business Affairs and

Relations, and director of Athletics. In all, he spent 17 years at ORU (1969-83 and 1991-94) and was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009. He was involved in the formation of the Midwestern Cities Conference in 1979 (ORU's first conference affiliation) and served as its first president. (The MCC later became the Horizon League.) He was also involved in returning ORU to NCAA Division I status in 1991 following two years at the NAIA level. Brooks is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary, children Ginger Howard, Carolyn Schwartz, **RHETT 84**, and Matt, and others.

THOMAS RICHARD MAYER, who once taught Russian at ORU, passed away on Oct. 20, 2010. He was 68. Holding degrees in Russian and in law, he taught at Victory Bible Institute's worship school and law classes for Kaplan University. He was an active member at Victory Christian Center, a musician, and a volunteer attorney at the Dream Center in Tulsa. He is survived by his wife, Yvonne, daugh-

ter **JACQUE MEDENBLIK 94** and her husband, **KEITH 96, OI-MA**, and sons Pat and Matt.



DR. JOHN MERRIMAN, the first professor hired to teach in the ORU School of Medicine, passed away on Feb. 7, 2011, at the age of 86. Merriman was recognized as an innovative cardiologist in his native

Ontario, Canada. He developed the world's first in-hospital cardiac rehab program in 1967, prescribing exercise for heart-attack patients. Merriman received a lifetime achievement award from the American Academy of Orthopedic Medicine in 2005. He was also very active in medical missions, traveling to Honduras annually for 20 years to provide free care. He is survived by his wife, Emily, and children Jeff, Helen, Peter, and Heather.

DR. JOHN E. NORVELL III passed away on Nov. 22, 2010. He served as chairman and professor of



anatomy in the ORU medical and dental schools (1976-1987) and professor of anatomy in the medical school (1987-90). Following a brief stint on the faculty of a medical school

in Puerto Rico, he returned to ORU in 1992 and became an adjunct professor of anatomy in the biology department. He retired in 1999. A native of Charleston, W.Va., Norvell was chairman of the Oklahoma State Anatomical Board from 1978 to 1989. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary, sons John and Scott and their wives, and eight grandchildren.

WILLIAM ERBY SHAW, a founding regent of ORU, died on Oct. 23, 2010. He was 96. He received an honorary doctor of laws degree from ORU in 1979. Shaw was a real estate developer and a home builder as well as an International Director of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship.

Now Appearing in Oklahoma City: *Passages*

A new exhibit at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art uses animatronic historical figures, films, and other interactive elements to trace the history of the English Bible.

Passages contains more than 300 items from the Green Collection, the 40,000-plus biblical texts and artifacts purchased by the Green family for an eventual Bible museum. Hobby Lobby President Steve Green, brother of ORU Trustees Board Chair Mart Green, began the collection in late 2009. Dr. Scott Carroll, one of the world's foremost scholars on ancient and biblical texts, is the collection director.

The exhibit continues through Oct. 16 (okcmoa.com). Read more about the Green Collection at alumni.oru.edu and explorepassages.com.

FALL COLLEGE WEEKEND Nov. 3-5, 2011

The upcoming College Weekend will present a great opportunity for prospective ORU students to meet current students and faculty, explore majors, and experience campus life. The \$60 registration fee includes a student's stay in the dorm and meals. Those who register by Oct. 14 will pay a discounted rate of \$50. Parents are also welcome to attend. For more information and to sign up, go to collegeweekend.oru.edu.

The Whole Person Scholarship event will take place on the morning of Nov. 3, right before the start of College Weekend. We welcome nominations to the Whole Person Scholarship Program! Prospective students may be nominated by a school official, church official, or a member of the ORU alumni, faculty, staff, or student body. For more information or to nominate a deserving student, please visit wholeperson.oru.edu.



A Cost Effective Way to Give



On December 17, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, which includes an extension of the IRA charitable rollover.

The new tax bill extends the IRA rollover throughout 2011. Those who are age 70 ½ and older can make charitable gifts directly from their IRA accounts without paying income taxes on that money.

The gifts are limited to a maximum of \$100,000 in each year and must be made directly to the charitable organization (gifts to donor advised funds and supporting organizations do not qualify).

Learn more! Visit: www.oru.edu/ira



ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
7777 SOUTH LEWIS AVENUE
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74171

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

TULSA, OK
PERMIT NO. 665

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

www.facebook.com/orualumni

www.twitter.com/orualumni



It's Good To Be Home.

You see a lot of familiar faces at Homecoming,

including former ORU chaplain Bill Shuler and his wife, Lisa. Bill was the chapel speaker (a very familiar role for him!) and he and Lisa received the "Alumnus of the Year" award for Distinguished Service to God at the Alumni Banquet. Read more about the Shulers and Homecoming 2011 (better known as Snowcoming!) beginning on page 8.

BILL AND LISA SHULER FILM AN ORU VIDEO CLIP AT THE POST-GAME RECEPTION.

