

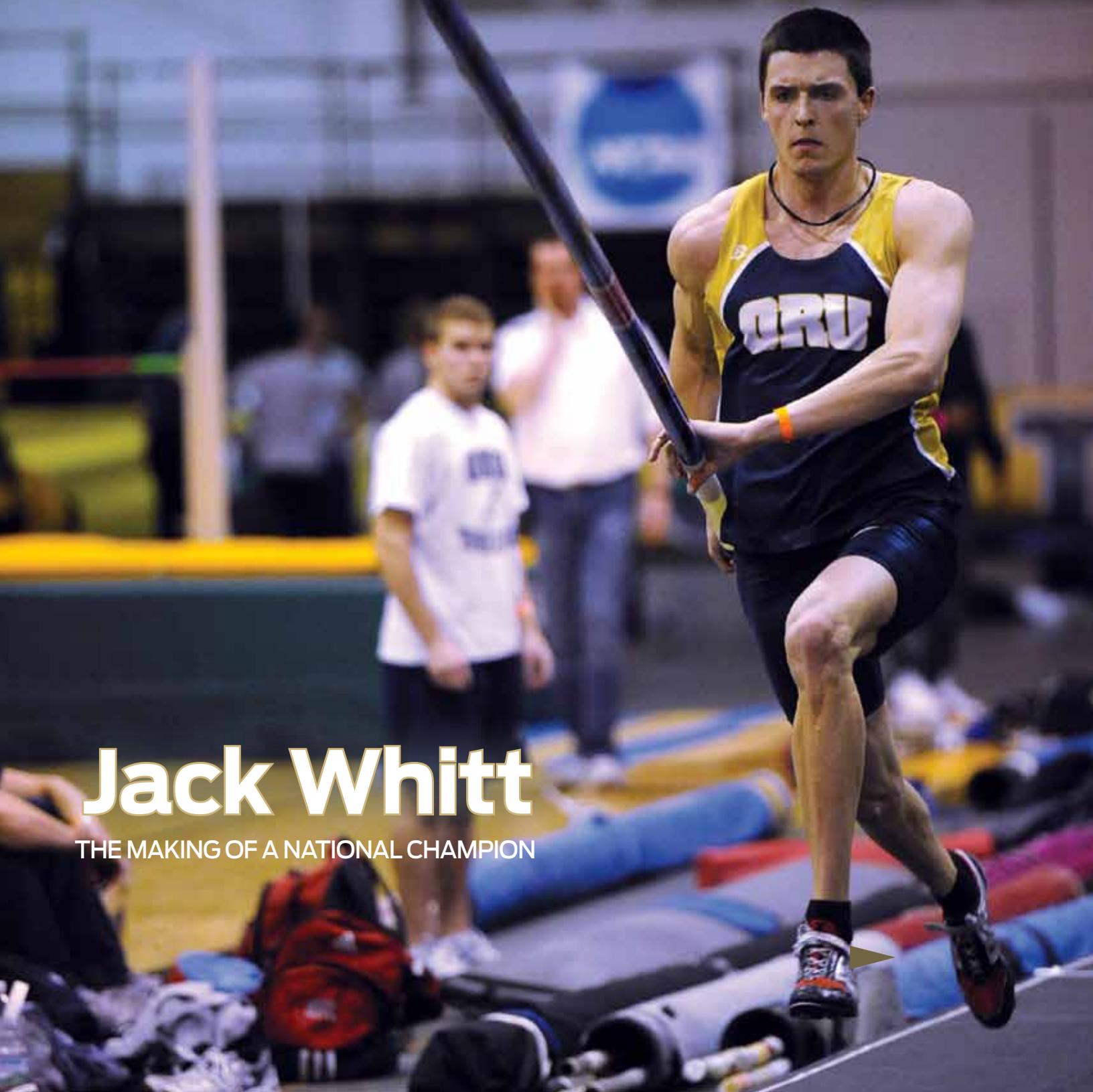
SUMMER 2012

# Excellence

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

## Jack Whitt

THE MAKING OF A NATIONAL CHAMPION



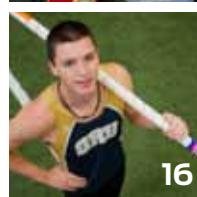
## In Remembrance of Me

Communion is part of the very fabric of ORU. At Homecoming 2012's Vespers service, this sacred ritual brought alumni and students together to remember once again the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



# Excellence

SUMMER 2012  
VOL. 24 NO. 2



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# Rise Up and Recruit

**BARN RAISINGS.** Is that a phrase you know? From out of America's agrarian past, it is a quaint old term so marinated in community and good will that it makes the heart warm just to meditate on it. Barn raisings were a combination of state fair, homecoming, agricultural necessity, and Christian charity. They worked like this: When a guy needed his barn built, he would get the frame laid out on the ground and his neighbors would come and lift it into place, then roof it and put on the siding. It was hard work and great fun. There would be plenty to eat and afterwards, there would be a hoedown.

I don't know that anyone (except the Amish, perhaps) still does barn raisings. We should. Hardly anything is more rewarding than working together toward a common goal and sharing in the gratification of seeing it actually happen. The barn was the owner's to be sure, but he knew that it was his because of his neighbors' gracious cooperation.

Well, I'm calling on all ORU alumni to help in a good ole fashioned barn raisin'. It can be great fun. We are building the enrollment at ORU faster than anyone imagined. We have pulled out of the slide the university was in just a few years ago. This fall's enrollment numbers are excellent, so now it's time to look ahead to 2013 and work toward another increase.

All is well at ORU. Good accounting practices, a well-run university, a wonderful model of 21st-century shared governance, and morale that is sky high. The growth is happening and we are thrilled. We just want more — more excitement and more of these wonderful students. You can recruit in good conscience, knowing that you are matching



**ORU's College Weekend** gives prospective students an inside look at classes, chapel, and social activities as well as the admissions and financial aid processes. The next College Weekend takes place Nov. 8-10, 2012. Get details at [collegeweekend.oru.edu](http://collegeweekend.oru.edu).

excellent students with a world-renowned Christian university that will prepare them body, mind, and spirit to go into every person's world, and when they get there, to be redemptive healing agents on divine orders.

I guess you could say we are not so much doing a barn raising as a "student raising," or maybe a "world-changer" raising. However you say it, we need you to come alongside. Send us their names, tell them how to find us online, and tell all prospective students where to find a great university that turns out championship alumni . . . JUST LIKE YOU.

Come on over and give us a hand. The best is yet to come.

Your Servant at ORU,



**MARK RUTLAND, PH.D.**

President

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

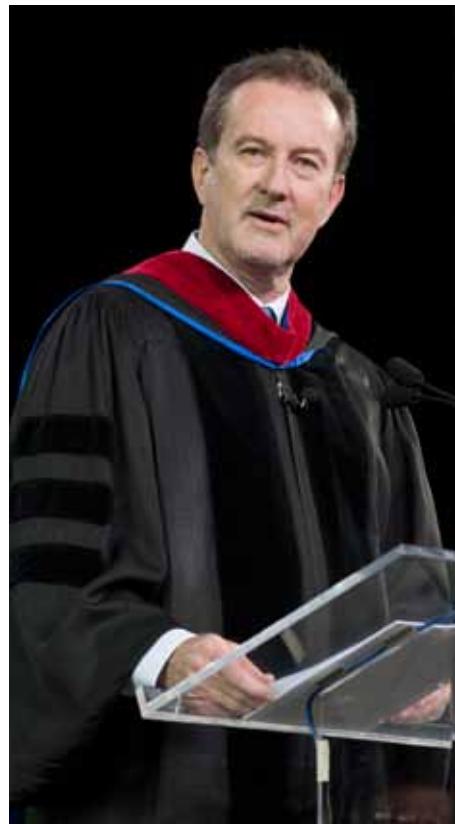


*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

# 2012 Commencement

**ORU AWARDED 651 DEGREES** (including eight dual degrees) to 642 graduates.

**Laura Egstad became ORU's 25,000th graduate** on May 5 and was congratulated by Dr. Mark Rutland (left) and her grandfather, Dr. William Jernigan, ORU's dean of Learning Resources.



**Best known as the producer** of the “X-Men” trilogy and other popular movies, Ralph Winter had wise words for the Class of 2012. “Make no mistake: We are people of the journey. That is how God shapes us and our character for the destination. We long for and hope for the ending, but it’s already decided. The journey is what shapes us into God’s image.”



**Rita Bennett**, widow of the Rev. Canon Dennis Bennett, accepted a posthumous doctor of divinity degree on behalf of her husband. Rev. Bennett, author of *Nine O'Clock in the Morning*, is considered one of the key figures in the Charismatic Renewal.



## Student Association President

Jentre Olsen's response speech, "Rhymin's Not a Crime," brought down the house. Scan to view!



# 2011-12 Highlights

## INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM,

ORU students proved to be intellectually alert as well as concerned about the welfare of those in need.

**The Branding and Promotions** class joined the fight against human trafficking by producing educational materials for Truckers Against Trafficking, and earned a Zenith Award from the Public Relations Student Society of America for their efforts.



**Fifty-five College of Education** teacher candidates and a dozen faculty and staff members brought color and inspiration to Chouteau Elementary in March. In just one day, they painted 110 murals inside and outside the building, working with patterns that had been traced on the walls by Chouteau teacher Elizabeth Sublett.



## The Anna Vaughn College of Nursing

held a mock disaster drill on campus in February, joining forces with the Tulsa Fire Department, Tulsa Police Department, Tulsa-area hospital nurses, and LifeTeam AirEvac. One group of students acted as disaster victims while another group served as rescue responders.



**The debate team**, introduced last fall, has enjoyed enormous success. The Joseph Jackson/Sarah Sandford duo took first place at the National Parliamentary Debate Association's Junior Varsity Division National Tournament, held March 9-11 in Kansas. Pictured: Josh Wagoner, Sierra Koelling, Sarah Sandford, Rachel Curylo, Charlie Meadows, and Joseph Jackson.

**The Students in Free Enterprise team** won fifth in the nation at the SIFE USA National Exposition, held May 22-24 in Kansas City, Mo. One of their projects involved collecting 198,000 pounds of canned goods for Campbell's Let's Can Hunger Challenge.

# Up, Down, and All Around Campus

## Farewell, Braxton

Time took its toll on Braxton Hall, one of ORU's three original structures, so it was torn down this summer. Braxton served as a residence hall for women until 2006.



## Talk about progress!

Ground was broken in January 2012 for the new Armand Hammer Alumni-Student Center and construction is ahead of schedule. The grand opening is tentatively scheduled to take place in January 2013. This 28,000-square-foot building will feature a giant video wall (12 feet high by 21 feet wide), Internet café computer stations, game stations, eateries, Alumni Relations and Student Association offices, and more. Go to hammercenter.org for videos, photos, and other updates.

## Presidential Search Update

The selection of the next president of Oral Roberts University is anticipated in early 2013 with the new president assuming responsibilities no later than July 1, 2013. CarterBaldwin Executive Search is assisting the Presidential Search Committee in its work. Confidential applications and nominations will be accepted until the position is filled. More than 100 individuals have been recommended thus far — many by alumni — and candidate screening is ongoing. For more information or to find out how to nominate a candidate, go to [oru.edu/presidential\\_search](http://oru.edu/presidential_search).

Read Nathan Porter's story on the new Engineering Lab at [alumni.oru.edu](http://alumni.oru.edu).

# GEB America Debuts in October

ORU's TV network revamps and renews its commitment to help people live well.

BY JEREMY BURTON 06-MMGT

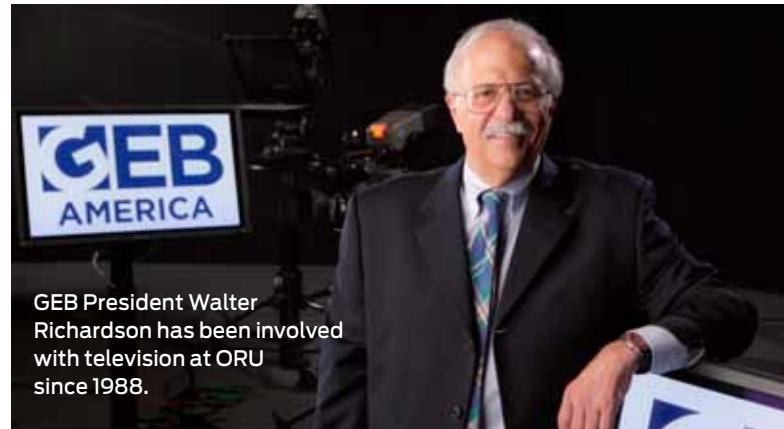
**The Golden Eagle Broadcasting** television network, founded by Chancellor Oral Roberts, is being reborn as GEB America. More than 14 million television households and countless thousands of others who watch through social media and the Internet will see what's new, beginning on Oct. 1.

"This is an exciting time to launch GEB America and further propel the vision of Oral Roberts, who founded the network over 16 years ago," said GEB President Walter Richardson. "We want our programming to impact the world and change people's lives — spirit, mind, and body."

Viewers will notice a number of new programs on air, including some recently added: The Blessed Life with Robert Morris, pastor of Gateway Church in Dallas, Tex.; It's Supernatural with Sid Roth; Breakthrough with Rod Parsley; and several gospel programs from Bill Traylor and Pathway Enterprises Broadcasting Network. GEB America is continuing strong partnerships with shows featuring ministers such as Kenneth Copeland, Joyce Meyer, Joseph Prince, and Joel Osteen.

Oral Roberts University is partnering with GEB America by developing television tips to help people live well; these will air throughout the day. Professors and staff from the College of Business, College of Nursing, Athletics, and other areas will give advice on health, careers, faith, relationships, and other timely topics.

Viewers will have the opportunity to follow the network on Twitter and Facebook. And through a new Web site, [gebamerica.com](http://gebamerica.com), pastors and educators will offer fresh insights and encourage-



GEB President Walter Richardson has been involved with television at ORU since 1988.

ment for living well.

The station's new visuals are intended to stir up a sense of nostalgia for viewers by bringing authentically American images — the nation's landscape, family photos, or Old Glory flying over Main Street — to their screens.

"As a mother of a 4-year-old little girl, making sure that we honor God with our programming is so important to me," said Amy (Massey) Calvert 96, vice president of Sales and Marketing at GEB. "We want our programming to empower and educate our viewers with the information they need to live well." GEB's reboot will have another positive effect, Calvert added. "The excitement around the all-new GEB America will focus more eyes on the great things happening here at ORU." ●



8 | [alumni.oru.edu](http://alumni.oru.edu)

"WE WANT OUR  
PROGRAMMING TO  
EMPOWER AND  
EDUCATE OUR  
VIEWERS WITH THE  
INFORMATION THEY  
NEED TO LIVE WELL."

— AMY (MASSEY) CALVERT 96  
Vice President, Sales and Marketing

## VIEW GEB AMERICA ON

DirecTV Channel 363  
Tulsa TV 53/Cox Cable 23  
Sky Angel  
SES Americas

WATCH LIVE AND GET TIPS AT  
[gebamerica.com](http://gebamerica.com)

TELL GEB AMERICA WHAT YOU  
THINK AND INTERACT AT



@GEBAmerica

[facebook.com/GEBAmerica](http://facebook.com/GEBAmerica)

# The Facebook ‘Miracle’ and the 40+ Year Remember the Titans? Reunion

BY PAUL PALMER 72

**When I was “volunteered”** into coordinating what was originally to be the 40-Year Reunion for the ORU Class of 1972, little did I know the blizzard of 2011 would keep a lot of 1971 grads at home, or that what started out as a one-class reunion would grow into a celebration of the first seven years of ORU and the first five graduating classes, 1968-72.

I believed Facebook was the key to a successful event. When Smith College used Facebook as a communication tool for the first time, some thought it would suppress attendance because the “connections” had already taken place; why spend the time and money to go to the reunion? Their experience was the exact opposite. They had the largest percentage of alumni ever to attend a class reunion. The graduates said the Facebook connection just made them more excited about seeing their friends in person. ORU’s alumni response mirrored the Smith College experience.

It all started as a seemingly easy project: Scan the 1969 *Perihelion* to create a “digitized” copy of what I think is the best yearbook ever published “in this or any parallel universe” (kudos to Dr. Mark Rutland for the phrase). I posted the first group of photos, including one of Jim Hatcher and Linda Requard (later Hatcher) taken at a Christmas carol sing in Timko-Barton Lobby. I received a very nice comment from Linda immediately. And thus it began. The digitized ’69 *Perihelion* was soon joined by every book from 1965 to 1972. As more photos were posted, more “friends” were discovered and a new group was formed, “You Know You Went to ORU between 1965-1972,” that ultimately included more than 250 members.

As time went by and more grads were committing to come to the reunion, I started inviting others who were at ORU during the 1965-72 period. The 2012 Homecoming, after all, was not only celebrating the pioneering students, but also those dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators who caught President Oral Roberts’ vision and worked to make it a reality. The response was tremendous. Ultimately Dr. Carl Hamilton, Ruth Rooks, Dr. Paul McClendon, Dr. John Tuel, coaches Bernis Duke and Lavoy Hatchett, Kathleen Green (sister of Evelyn Roberts and switchboard operator at ORU for decades), Joyce Bridgeman, and many others attended.

I have asked fellow classmates and other alumni (Greg Berg, Jan Dargatz, Bill Hull, Cinda [Burrus] Bothell, Jim Shelton)



The indefatigable Paul Palmer, reunion organizer extraordinaire, was still going strong at Homecoming 2012's last event, the post-game reception.

to tell how Facebook and other new technologies contributed to our reunion and made it, if not the most successful, then one of the most successful reunions in ORU’s history. You can read their thoughts at [alumni.oru.edu](http://alumni.oru.edu). ●

## Remember the Titans?



1968-1972 Class Reunions  
**THE FIRST GENERATION**

THE THEME OF THE WEEKEND BECAME “REMEMBER THE TITANS?” THE QUESTION MARK IS CRUCIAL, PAUL SAID, “BECAUSE WHEN WE WERE STUDENTS WE WERE THE TITANS, NOT THE GOLDEN EAGLES.”

# Here Comes The Scum

BY HANNAH COVINGTON, CLASS OF 2014

## **They call themselves Am Herratz, Hebrew for “scum of the earth.”**

**T**hey found a Scripture that reads, “When we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.”

Bingo. Equal parts anomaly and sarcasm — perfect for the new name of this push-the-envelope wing at Oral Roberts University.

Today, the initial group of guys is known ceremoniously as the “founding fathers.” First Corinthians 4:13 stands as their holy verse.

From 1982 to 1991, this bunch of ORU misfits made a name for themselves as intramural royalty, earning a certain reputation in the process.

This year’s reunion marks the twelfth time that Ratzers have traveled from across the country to get together. Richard “A. C.” Griffith (1982-86) said it’s an ongoing joke that Am Herratz reunions have been in existence longer than the wing itself.

During its brief existence, the wing strove to carve out memories by doing the unexpected. Curtis Stoddard (1984-88) called it their “silliness” coming out. By 1991, this creative silliness had added up to repeated Honor Code violations and failures to adhere to policy and procedure. That year, the wing was disbanded by administrators.

Call it creativity. Maybe even call it the inevitable product when charisma and cockiness collide. Whatever “it” was, it sure made for some good stories.

Take the time during Griffith’s years on Am Herratz when he and his wingmates gave late-night furniture shoppers more than they may have bargained for.

That night, a bevy of Ratzers lounged languidly on sofas, watching some late-night television. A

furniture store ad came on, announcing a sale beginning at 11:30 p.m. They laughed.

“Who would go shopping at 11:30 at night? That’s silly,” Griffith remembers them saying.

Then they looked at each other.

“Well . . . we would.”

Sporting their bathrobes, 20 guys proceeded to amble out of E. M. Roberts Hall. Sister wingers threw down stuffed animals from Claudius Roberts Hall. The guys went to that sale, tried out the beds. Then, all 20 Ratzers fell asleep in a bed while customers walked around them. Thankfully, the salesman thought they added a nice touch to the floor display. . . .

Time has left some things unaltered. A sense of belonging and brotherhood immediately come to mind.

“On the floor, you had a responsibility to care for the guys and pray for them,” Griffith said. “It was an easy transition from being young men to older men to keep caring for each other.”

Several years ago, Griffith had to make the difficult decision to close a restaurant he owned and operated in Bellingham, Wash. It had been a life-long dream to open his own business. On the day of the closing, he had some unexpected visitors.

“I had two Ratzers unannounced show up just to help,” Griffith said. “Those kinds of friendships make all the difference in life.”

Maybe it’s fitting that after all these years, the Am Herratz reunion should have its largest turnout at their first gathering back in Tulsa.

“I get to come back and see this band of brothers that I ran with all those years,” Stoddard said. “I feel very honored to be part of the scum of the earth.” ●

*This article (edited here for space) was published in The Oracle prior to a landmark event: an ORU-hosted Am Herratz wing reunion. Read the full article at [alumni.oru.edu](http://alumni.oru.edu).*

# MABEE CENTER



Am Herratz alumni were invited back to campus in April for a wing reunion. Ratzer A. C. Griffith (back row, fifth from left) referred to the wing's good-natured antics during their 1982-91 tenure as "ways to have fun within the rules." The administration, however, begged to differ.



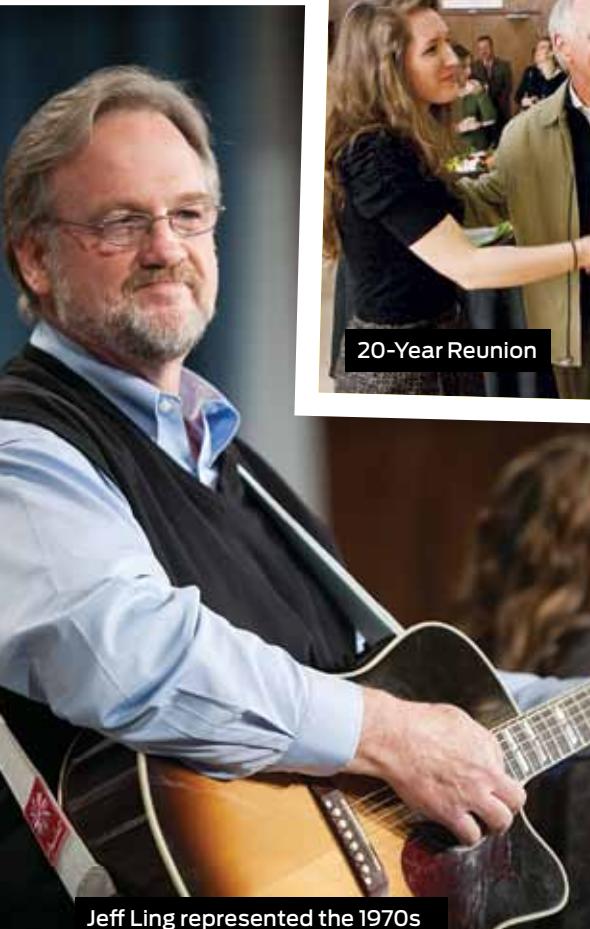
Tim Amstutz:  
Pound the  
ivories and  
praise the Lord!



10-Year Reunion



30-Year Reunion



Jeff Ling represented the 1970s  
on the Vespers worship team.



20-Year Reunion



40-Year Reunion





Dominique Morrison's last Homecoming game was the ORU men's 22nd straight home victory, a 61-51 win over Western Illinois.



# Alumni Enjoy a Warm Welcome at **HOMECOMING**

## **NO SNOW.**

Sounds like a small thing, but after the "Snowmageddon" that was Homecoming 2011, a lack of the white stuff was a welcome relief. And it caused droves of alumni to swarm the campus for the more than 40 events that catered to every affinity group, from sports fans and engineering grads to lawyers and women RAs.

One group, the 40-plus reunion alumni, took the theme "It's Where You Belong" quite seriously. Theirs was one of the most eagerly anticipated gatherings, thanks to the innovative — and relentless! — marketing efforts of Paul Palmer 72. Using "You Know You Went to ORU between 1965-1972," a Facebook page he created, Palmer rallied former students from ORU's early years and organized not just a reunion dinner, but a cluster of gatherings. (Read more on page 9.)

Seeing who was here is lots more fun than reading a long article, so enjoy our photo gallery! ●



Led by Kevi Luper and her 31 points, the ORU women put away Western Illinois, 84-69.



Monica (Osnes) Amstutz and her husband, Tim, rocked Vespers, 1980s style.



Alumni Homecoming Banquet



The Homecoming King and Queen:  
Jordan Lewis and Cady Kendall



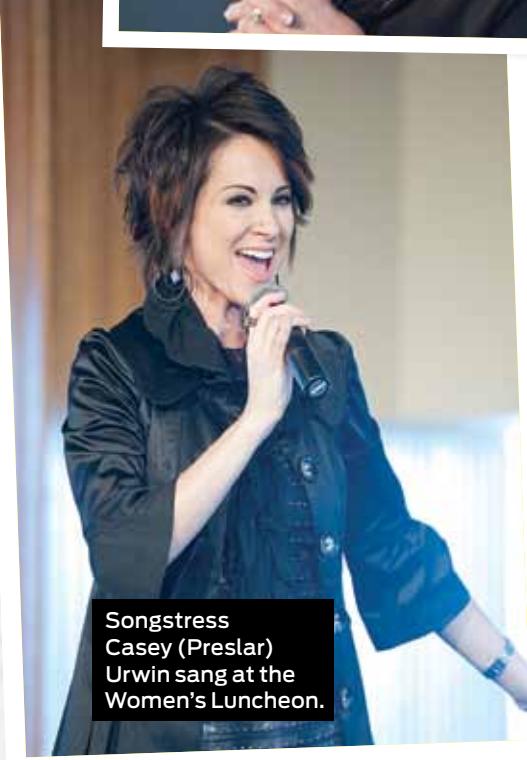
Larry Stockstill spoke at Vespers.



Sharon Daugherty  
was the featured  
speaker at the  
Women's Luncheon.



Legal Professionals Reunion



Songstress  
Casey (Preslar)  
Urwin sang at the  
Women's Luncheon.



Post-game Reception: Last chance  
to catch up with friends.

# Three Alumni Honored with the 2012 'Alumnus of the Year' Awards

The Alumni Association has been presenting these awards since 1999 to alumni who have served "quietly and faithfully" as well as to those who are widely recognized for their work.



## LARRY STOCKSTILL

Distinguished Service to God  
Class of 1975, Theological and Historical Studies major

After spending a post-graduation year as ORU's associate chaplain, Larry Stockstill and his wife, Melanie, moved to West Africa to serve as missionaries in Nigeria

and Ghana. In 1978, they returned to Louisiana and Stockstill's home church, Bethany World Prayer Center; he succeeded his father, Roy Stockstill, as senior pastor in 1983 and was subsequently succeeded by his son Jonathan in 2011. Bethany is known for its strong support of local and foreign missions, its cell groups, and its response to Hurricane Katrina. "Katrina changed our lives," Stockstill said. "For me it was . . . a turning point in outreach to the community." Bethany created a virtual city for hundreds of refugees, many of whom stayed on the church campus for months and many of whom were led to Christ. Stockstill remains on Bethany's staff as a teaching pastor and is involved in worldwide church-planting efforts. He is also at the forefront of an initiative called Remnant, a movement to restore integrity in the church at large.



## JEAN CACERES-GONZALEZ

Distinguished Service to the Community  
Class of 1983, Spanish major

As an ORU student, Jean Caceres-Gonzalez had traveled on missions to orphanages in Brazil and Mexico and felt called to start a home for children in need. In 1989, she established His House Children's Home, a nonprofit residential program and child placement agency for abused, neglected, and drug-exposed children in Miami, Fla. The 2010 earthquake in Haiti added a new dimension to His House's outreach. "For two years, we had been taking care of teenage boys that crossed the border because of abuse, gang violence, and dire poverty," Caceres-Gonzalez said. Observing His

House's success, the U.S. government asked Caceres-Gonzalez to provide temporary care for orphaned children arriving from Haiti. "We received hundreds of Haitian orphans," she said. "They were very sick and very traumatized. We would go out to Miami International Airport, bring them onto campus, meet their medical needs and serve them." Close behind were the prospective adoptive families. "We ministered to hundreds of parents as well."



## RICK PEARSON

Distinguished Service to the Alma Mater  
Class of 1977, Business Administration major

"I always wanted to fly," said Rick Pearson, a native of Ontario, Canada. As a student with a pilot's license, he started a small charter business and flew student missions teams to ministry sites on weekends. He also played bass guitar in Souls A'Fire Choir. After graduation he served on the ORU Board of Regents for 21 years, providing spiritual and financial support to his alma mater. "Being on the board was not a job; it was a calling that most of us took very seriously because we believed in the mission of ORU," Pearson said. As a board member, he took part in several ORU-related missions trips and crusades, praying for others and sharing his testimony. "The bottom line was, I wanted to be on the 'front line' of what God was doing in ORU. I wanted to see Him move, heal, deliver — and He did, everywhere we went." ●

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING  
ACCEPTED FOR THE **2014 ALUMNUS OF  
THE YEAR AWARDS**. SUBMIT NAMES  
ONLINE VIA THE "ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR"  
LINK AT **ALUMNI.ORU.EDU**.

# Whitt Secures National Pole Vault Championship

BY ANDREA GRAFF 12

**I**t's not very often you hear someone include "Olympic tryouts" in their summer plans. But Jack Whitt, an overachieving pole vaulter at Oral Roberts University, is not just someone. He's a three-time All-American and the NCAA's 2012 outdoor champion. Going to the Olympics is a goal he's dreamt about since middle school.

Whitt competed in the Olympic Trials in Eugene, Ore., held June 22-July 1, and finished eighth. He was selected as the alternate for Team USA because he had achieved the Olympic "A" standard of 18' 9.25" earlier in the year.

"Obviously, the Olympics are a really big deal," Whitt said. "I would hope it's every kid's dream who plays a sport involved in the Olympics to become a part of it."

Whitt started pole vaulting in the seventh grade, but he made the decision to become serious about it as a sophomore in high school. He decided to quit the other sports he played — basketball, baseball, and football — in order to focus solely on pole vaulting. This new, focused approach proved effective through his stats.

In his first sophomore-year meet, Whitt jumped 11' 6", but by the time the summer was over, he'd jumped 16'.

"That's what really put me on the map," said the exercise science major. "After that, I broke the state record with a 17' 10.75" vault."

Ironically, the state record Whitt beat was set

by ORU's track and field coach, Joe Dial, in 1981. Whitt says there's a healthy sense of competition between him and his coach.

"It's kind of a weird relationship. We have this little rivalry because I've almost matched everything Coach Dial did in college," Whitt said. He's reached the same milestones at the same stages of college and achieved heights that are uncannily close as well. Although there's a competition of sorts between the two, the Norman, Okla., native has great respect for his coach.

"The main reason I chose ORU was because of Coach. I wanted to go to a school where I knew I'd succeed at pole vaulting," Whitt said.

And boy, has he. (See sidebar.) From Summit League Athlete of the Year to All-American to NCAA champion, Whitt has brought ORU the best possible national attention. And twice now, the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association has named Whitt to its All-Academic team, which proves his commitment to excelling academically as well as athletically — even when it's difficult.

"During the season, it can be hard because we're gone a lot. But luckily, the professors are really understanding and helpful. I've never had a teacher not be [understanding]," he said.

Preparing for meets involves long-distance runs, short-distance runs, power runs, plyometrics, hills and sleds, weightlifting, and of course, jumps. Whitt's daily workout usually lasts three hours. Though the workouts are tough, Whitt says they're made much more enjoyable by the H. A. Chapman Indoor Practice Facility that opened in 2009.

"It's a blessing," Whitt said. "In my opinion, we have one of the better facilities in the country as far as a runway. Pole vaulting-wise, you can't really beat it."

With one last year of collegiate competition ahead of Whitt and always another height to reach, it's likely that his rivals will continue to find him hard to beat as well. ●



Whitt finished first at the Wichita State Track-It Buster Invitational in April, clearing 17' 6".

## JACK WHITT, 2009-12

### ORU Accomplishments

Summit League Top-30 Contributor  
(30th Anniversary Celebration)

Two-time Texas Relays Champion

Three-time Summit League Champion (Indoor)

Three-time Summit League Champion (Outdoor)

2012 London Olympic Team USA Alternate

Summit League Championship Record Holder  
(Indoor and Outdoor)

Three-time Summit League Athlete of the Month (Jan. 2010, May/June 2011, May/June 2012)

ORU Record Holder (Indoor: 18' 1", Wichita State Herm Wilson Invitational, Jan. 11, 2012. Outdoor: 18' 6.5", NCAA Championships, June 8, 2012)

### 2011-12

2012 NCAA Outdoor National Champion

2012 Outdoor NCAA All-American

2012 Outdoor USTFCCCA\* All-American

2012 Summit League Outdoor Field Athlete of the Year

2012 Indoor NCAA All-American

2012 Indoor USTFCCCA All-American

2012 Summit League Indoor Field Athlete of the Year

### 2010-11

2011 NCAA Outdoor Runner-Up

2011 Outdoor NCAA All-American

2011 Outdoor USTFCCCA All-American

2011 Indoor NCAA All-American

2011 Indoor USTFCCCA All-American

2011 Summit League Indoor Field Athlete of the Year

2011 Summit League Outdoor Field Athlete of the Year

### 2009-10

2010 Indoor NCAA All-American

2010 Summit League Indoor Field Athlete of the Year

2010 Summit League Newcomer of the Championship

\*U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association

# New Coaches for 2012-13

## BASEBALL

Ryan Folmar (head coach)  
Sean Snedeker (pitching coach)

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wade Mason (assistant)

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Misti Cussen (head coach)  
Krista (Ragan) Binam (assistant)  
Royce Samuels (assistant)  
Kyron Stokes (Director of Operations)

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

Randy Williams (assistant)

## TRACK AND FIELD

Shawn Venable (assistant)

## MEN'S TENNIS

Mark Milner (head coach)

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

Beverly Dawson (head coach)



**THE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACHING STAFF** consists of Krista Binam, Misti Cussen, Kyron Stokes, Royce Samuels, Bojan Jankovic, and Daniel Steward (trainer).



**RYAN FOLMAR**  
served as an  
assistant coach  
under head coach  
Rob Walton for  
nine years.



## Luper Breaks More Records

ORU made the switch from the Summit League to the Southland Conference on July 1, but the Summit will not soon forget Kevi Luper. As a junior in 2011-12 she broke four records, adding more luster to an already-dazzling career.

Luper became the league's all-time leading scorer on Feb. 4, passing ORU's Krista Ragan (1996-2002) and her 2,105 points. By scoring 41 points that night against North Dakota State, she also broke a 27-year-old record for most points scored in a single game in NDSU's Bison Sports Arena.

Exactly two weeks later (why waste time?), Luper became ORU's all-time career scoring leader during an overtime win against IPFW, exceeding Vivian Herron (1985-89)'s 2,192 record. And, she took over the top spot on the career steals list that same night, bumping Kim Ogden (1984-88) and her 372 steals into second place.

One more year to go . . .



2012 graduate Dominique Allen was a member of Great Britain's Summer Olympics basketball team. She was the first-ever ORU women's basketball player to compete at the Olympics.

## MISTI CUSEN

has set a high bar  
for the women's  
basketball team.

The 2012-13 schedule  
includes defending  
national champion Baylor  
and five other teams that  
qualified for the NCAA  
Tournament.

Check out the all-new [ORUGoldenEagles.com](http://ORUGoldenEagles.com) for the full story on ORU's new coaches, sports schedules, and how to get tickets for men's and women's basketball games.

# ORU Retires Binam's Number

**The player credited** with taking Oral Roberts University women's basketball to new heights between 1996 and 2002 reached a new altitude of her own in January, figuratively speaking.

Krista (Ragan) Binam was honored as ORU Athletics retired her No. 11, hoisting a framed facsimile of her jersey to the rafters of Mabee Center to join Richard Fuqua's No. 24 and Anthony Roberts' No. 15. This was something of a repeat performance for Binam. Her high school number was also retired, and that jersey hangs in the Indianola (Okla.) High School gym.

"It is hard to explain how honored I am to have my number retired," Binam said. "I am extremely blessed to have had the opportunity to play with great teammates and be coached by the best. For the university to do this for me is indescribable. Coming to ORU 13 years ago, I never dreamed it would happen. I hope this is the first of many more women's jerseys to hang from the rafters in the Mabee Center."

After putting two years of season-ending injuries behind her, Binam went on to become the all-time leading scorer in the Summit League (formerly the Mid-Continent Conference) with 2,105 points — a record that stood until it was broken by ORU's Kevi Luper in 2012. In 1999, Binam led the Golden Eagles to their first-ever conference title and NCAA Tournament appearance. She was also a two-time conference Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, a two-time Tournament MVP, a four-time All-Conference selection, and a 2001-02 Kodak All-American. She entered the ORU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006.



"I am so thankful to ORU for the opportunity to come back and work for such a great university," Krista Binam said. "ORU has been and still is home to me. I could not be more excited to come back and have a chance to do what I love at a place that I love."

## Hall of Fame Inducts Three

Three former student-athletes were inducted into the ORU Athletics Hall of Fame on Jan. 28: Tim Gill (men's basketball, 1994-98), Jeff Stallings (baseball, 1997-2000), and Prince Mumba (men's track and field, 2002-06). Former women's basketball head coach Debbie Yow (1981-83), the fourth member of this year's class, will be inducted during the 2013 ceremony.



Several members of the Hall of Fame pose for a photo during halftime of the ORU vs. UMKC men's basketball game. The newest members are Jeff Stallings (far left), Tim Gill (second from right), and Prince Mumba (far right).

## All-Americans 2012

### BASEBALL

#### Jose Trevino

- Four-time Freshman All-American (Louisville Slugger, National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association, Baseball America, and Perfect Game)

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

#### Dominique Morrison

- Associated Press Honorable Mention All-American
- CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major All-American

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

#### Kevi Luper

- College Sports Madness Second Team Mid-Major All-American

### INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

#### Jack Whitt

- U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association First Team All-American
- NCAA First Team All-American

#### Clive Chafausipo

- U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association First Team All-American
- NCAA First Team All-American

### OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

#### Jack Whitt

- U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association First Team All-American
- NCAA First Team All-American

#### Clive Chafausipo

- U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association First Team All-American
- NCAA First Team All-American

# Living Out the Mission

**Kelli Hansbauer**, one of the newest members of the Oral Roberts University Board of Trustees, is grateful for her time at ORU and how it prepared her to make a difference in the world.

BY NATHAN PORTER, CLASS OF 2013

**K**elli (Bass) Hansbauer vividly remembers attending chapel as a student at ORU and the tremendous impact that so many of the alumni speakers had on her. Now the script has been flipped, and Hansbauer has the opportunity to pour into the lives of students on the same path she embarked on not too long ago.

Over the past 18 years, Hansbauer has been extremely successful in the field of marketing — in particular, digital marketing — and has had the privilege of working alongside many of the nation's leading corporations. Last fall, this 1994 graduate was appointed to the Board of Trustees and is thrilled to have a new position of influence in the university. In an interview last spring, she said she hopes to use her unique skills and experiences to "help optimize marketing efforts related to university growth and development, as well as help bring concepts of innovation in education to the attention of the board and university."

During her student days, Hansbauer said, she was heavily involved in spiritual life on campus — as a spiritual life dorm director and as a speaker at a number of different annual conferences that ORU hosted. She believes these opportunities fostered her leadership abilities while giving her the opportunity to publicly communicate her faith.

Hansbauer said she also made a special effort to participate in the various off-campus outreaches ORU offered. Some of her most memorable experiences occurred while she was volunteering at homeless shelters and other practical ministries in the community. "We did weekly outreaches that went into some of the

worst areas in Tulsa," she said, outreaches that kept her aware of the real problems plaguing real people around her.

In addition to the spiritual growth she experienced, Hansbauer appreciates the academic preparation the university gave her. As an organizational/interpersonal communications graduate, she believes the emphasis the department placed on public speaking and written communication skills made her much more marketable in the workforce.

"Having that foundation was incredibly critical to the building of my career," Hansbauer said, adding that the "ORU bubble" helped her create consistent habits that she has maintained throughout her work life. And the ORU mission continues to influence her actions.

"Even as I am doing business and marketing," said Hansbauer, "my ministry is to the people I'm working with, and to reach them with the love and knowledge of Christ."

She also strives to live a life that can be an example to those around her in a practical way. "There have been numerous times throughout my career that I've had the way that I've handled my work cause someone to ask, 'What makes you different?'" Hansbauer said.

Along with hard work and character, Hansbauer believes that innovative ideas are essential. She is not a fan of innovation and creativity that seeks to overproduce the gospel, but rather that which stems from an authentic faith. She particularly emphasizes innovation that supports strengthening families, communities, and education.

Speaking of family . . . Hansbauer and her husband, Tobias, are in the process of completing a domestic adoption, and hope to complete a second adoption from Ethiopia in the future. ●

“EVEN AS I AM DOING BUSINESS AND MARKETING, MY MINISTRY IS TO THE PEOPLE I'M WORKING WITH, AND TO REACH THEM WITH THE LOVE AND KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST.”

— KELLI HANSBAUER

(photographed with  
husband Tobias)



# Establishing A Lasting Legacy

## Bormans Remember Son, Brother with Scholarship Fund

BY CYNTHIA CARNEY, CLASS OF 2014

**S**hortly after receiving Jesus Christ into their lives, Loyal and Ilene Borman embraced the vision of Oral Roberts University and encouraged their children to enroll. Five of them complied. Only one, Michael, chose a different path.

Michael Borman received scholarship offers from Iowa State (in baseball), Creighton (in basketball) and Purdue (a full-ride in football). He not only graduated No. 1 in his class from Purdue, but was also a three-time all-state athlete in football, basketball, and baseball. Through coaching and teaching, he dedicated his life to serving others in his community. Tragically, this industrial engineer, gifted athlete, and teacher passed away in 2002 at the age of 34 from injuries sustained in a car accident.

When family members think of Michael, they think of a brilliant, humble, and soft-spoken man who lived a life of excellence. His brother Dan, a senior account executive at CIGNA Healthcare in Plano, Tex., remembers

“HAD I NOT HAD A SCHOLARSHIP, I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GO TO COLLEGE, AND I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN IT.”  
— Loyal Borman

his younger brother Michael saying throughout his life that he wished he had attended ORU. That wish did not come true, and yet, Michael Borman’s presence will be felt by future generations of ORU students through a scholarship fund established in his memory.

Loyal Borman understands the importance of scholarships. While working his way through school, he received a partial scholarship his freshman year and another scholarship his

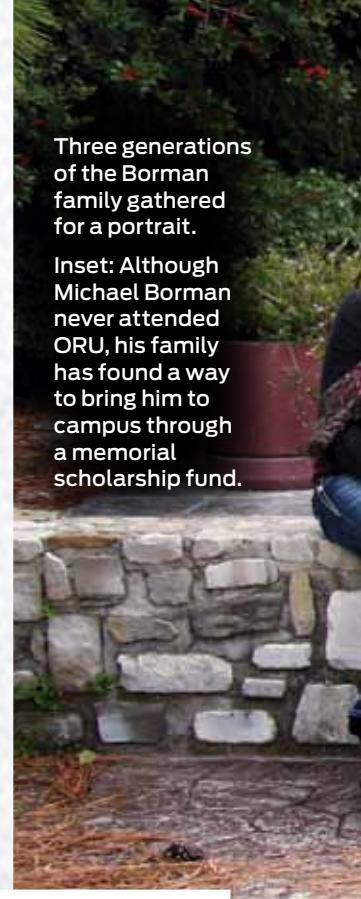
junior year. “Had I not had a scholarship, I would not have been able to go to college,” he said, “and I have never forgotten it.”

In 2007, the Borman family began establishing a scholarship fund in the College of Business to honor Michael. “By setting up the scholarship in Michael’s name, he gets to be a part of the experience of ORU as well,” said Dan Borman.

The Michael D. Borman Memorial

Three generations of the Borman family gathered for a portrait.

Inset: Although Michael Borman never attended ORU, his family has found a way to bring him to campus through a memorial scholarship fund.





Scholarship Fund will reward junior and senior business students with leadership potential and a strong academic record. The Bormans hope recipients will pursue a life of service and excellence in their communities, as Michael Borman did. "We were all grateful for the academic and leadership-based scholarships earned at ORU. The scholarships provided ongoing accountability to strive for academic excellence and a solution to student loans that overwhelm most graduates today," said Dan Borman.

Dan Borman said he and his siblings feel certain they would not be where they are today without the influence of business professors like Terry

Unruh, Ray Gregg, and Dr. Rinne Martin. "The scholarship is also to honor them," he said. "They really are the foundation for the success we have had. They poured into us and deserve to be recognized."

Five Borman children and three of their spouses graduated from ORU debt-free between 1989 and 2010: Dan Borman, Steve and Jayne (Robertson) Borman, Tony and Jennifer (Borman) Bastian, Tom and Lisa (Borman) Shaughnessy, and Andrea Borman.

"The professors are knowledgeable personally about each person in their class. They don't do it for the pay or glory; they do it because they love people," said Jennifer Bastian. "The

information I got from them helped me to develop as a whole person. Giving someone else an opportunity to go to a school that meant so much to our family, with Mike's name on it, brings the whole thing full circle."

The Bormans are energized at the thought of helping the next generation. "As alumni, why would we not want to pay it back? We have a responsibility to pay it back and pay it forward," said Dan Borman. "We would like to see other students graduate debt-free."

Excited about the future of ORU, the Borman family intends to keep adding to the Michael D. Borman scholarship fund, and challenges other alumni to pay it back and forward. ●

# Pop Quiz



## What is it?

- It comes around every year.
- It keeps ORU solvent so we can actively engage students to hear God's voice, excel in academics, and go impact their world.
- It keeps the lights on and the water running.
- It will help ORU raise faculty salaries to more competitive levels.
- It bridges the gap between tuition and the true cost of an ORU education.
- It subsidizes academic programs and scholarships.
- It finances maintenance of campus buildings and grounds.
- It guarantees a national championship in basketball. (Okay, not really. We just threw that one in there to see if you're paying attention.)
- If its goal isn't met each year, words like "deficit" and "debt," so recently retired, could once again crop up in conversations about ORU.

## IT'S VISION KEEPERS

A \$2,000,000 campaign to support the Annual Fund of Oral Roberts University.



### Why should you care about it?

Because you know the truth of Matthew 9:37: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." You know the world needs an ongoing stream of ORU's Spirit-empowered graduates to help save the lost before it's too late. And ORU has to keep its budget balanced in order to carry out its mission.

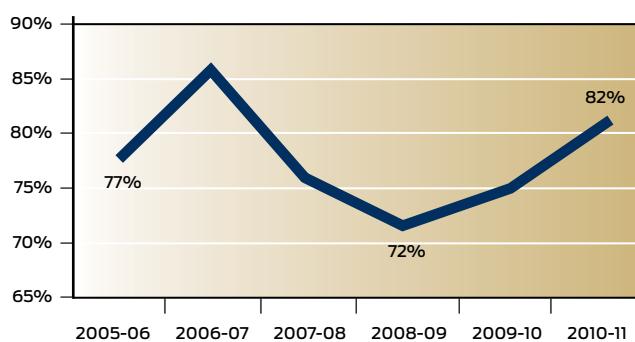
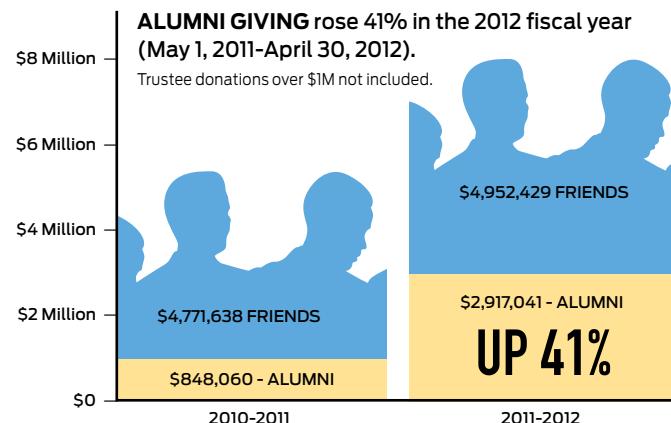
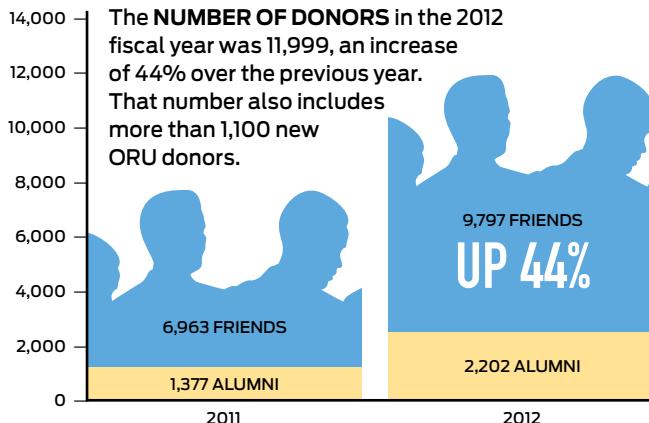
### What can you do about it?

Say "Yes, I want my alma mater to stay strong. I want ORU to be there for this generation and future generations of young people whose passion is serving God with their whole hearts." Use the envelope enclosed in this issue to bring us one step closer to that \$2,000,000 goal. Or go online ([oru.edu/give](http://oru.edu/give)) to make your gift. **Do it before you forget!**

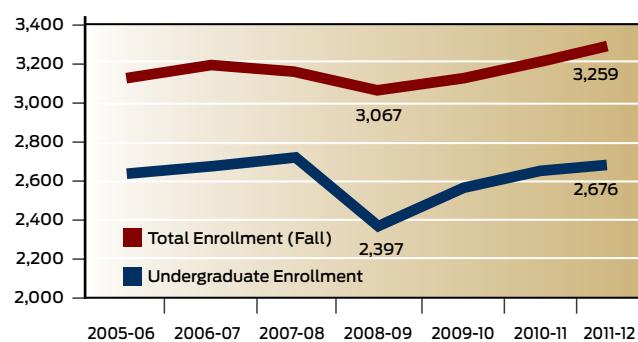
# Donors, Dollars, and Students:

## Where ORU Stands

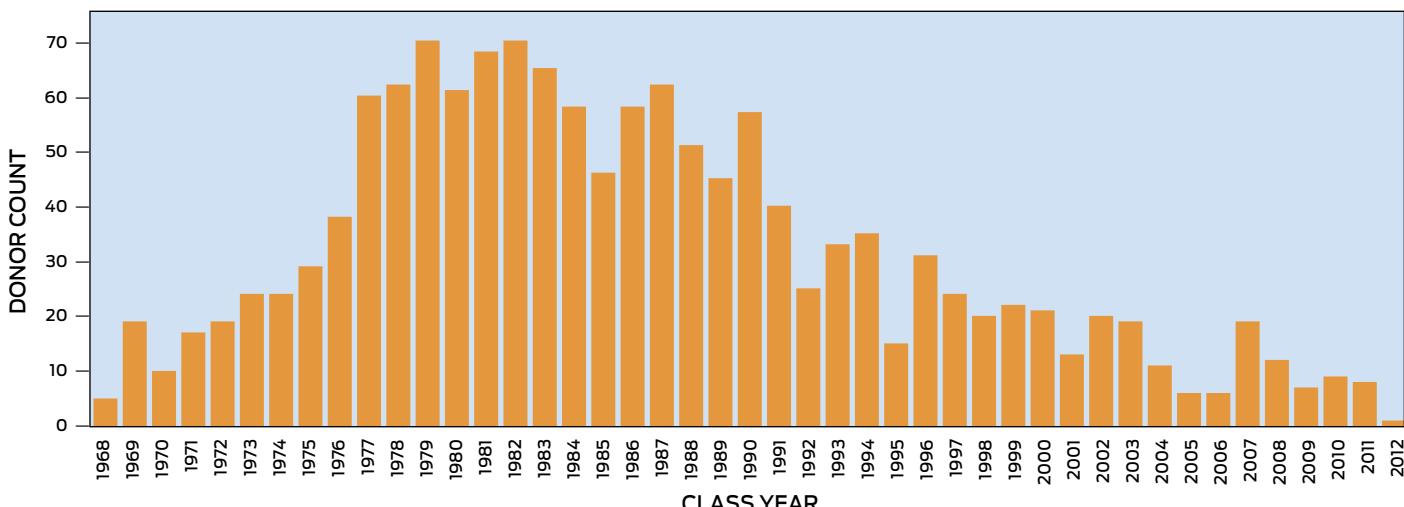
The news is good (and getting better all the time). We need **your** help to keep it going!



The freshman-to-sophomore **RETENTION RATE** has been increasing since 2009.



**ENROLLMENT NUMBERS** have been moving in a positive direction since 2009.



Every ORU class, from 1968 to 2012, made gifts to the **ARMAND HAMMER ALUMNI-STUDENT CENTER PROJECT**.

# Now on the Leaderboard

**IF YOU'VE EVER WONDERED** who's in charge of your Alumni Association, wonder no more. Twenty-three of your fellow graduates have committed their time and resources to help Oral Roberts University maintain a standard of excellence for current and future generations.

These are your newest representatives on the Board of Directors:

**Segment 1 (1968-79):** Bill Middleton

**Segment 3 (1980-89):** Paige (White) Bostwick

**Segment 5 (2010- ):** Jennifer Cook

**At Large (representing various colleges and graduation years):** Ron Bryce, Blake Fite, and Johnie Hampton

**Appointed:** Stephen Loi

To read more about all 23 board members and their mission, go to [alumni.oru.edu](http://alumni.oru.edu).



BOSTWICK



BRYCE



COOK



FITE



HAMPTON



LOI



MIDDLETON



Chapel  
College of Business Power Luncheon  
Anna Vaughn College of Nursing Tea  
Departmental open houses  
Freshman Honors Seminar  
Career Expo  
1965-73, 1983, 1993, and 2003 class reunions  
Legal Professionals Dinner  
Health Professionals Dinner  
Vespers!  
Kids Olympics  
5K Run  
Alumni-Faculty Basketball and Volleyball Games  
ORU Update  
Women's Luncheon with Lynette (Troyer) Lewis  
Golden Eagle basketball (New conference  
rivalries begin!)  
Alumni Banquet  
Alumnus of the Year awards  
Post-game Reception

Join us in February for the biggest ORU alumni gathering of the year! We have plenty of events planned with you and your best memories in mind.

What's happening with the Armand Hammer Alumni-Student Center?  
Come check it out ...

**STAY TUNED!**

# Greetings FROM MATT

**May 5, 2012** marked a major milestone for Oral Roberts University as graduate No. 25,000, Laura Egstad, walked across the Mabee Center stage. The great thing about that day was that you and I, as alumni, were a part of this momentous occurrence. Though most of us weren't at the ceremony, at one time we put on a cap and gown and became vital members of the ORU Alumni Association. While I am grateful for the established foundation at ORU and thankful to have been a small part, I am even more excited about our alma mater's bright future and my chance to be involved in ORU's coming success.

As I have said many times in the past, our mission as an Alumni Association is to know you, touch your life, represent you, and inform you. We are hard at work on new initiatives to strengthen our association, which will result in a stronger ORU. Several of these initiatives are focused on re-engaging with you, the incredible alumni of ORU. If you have suggestions for how board members can help you, please visit the alumni Web site where you'll find our contact information.

I'd like to ask each one of you to pray for ORU — its administration, faculty, staff, and students. And if you haven't done so, show your support with a financial gift. I look forward to seeing you at Homecoming 2013. ●

*Matt Rearden*

**MATT REARDEN 97**  
Chair, ORU Alumni Association  
Board of Directors  
mrearden@cfl.rr.com

## ALUMNI NEWS

### 1970s

**David Wagner 73** has been promoted from senior vice president to Tulsa region president at Schnake Turnbo Frank PR. He joined the firm in 2010.



**Earl Burson 74** received the Gerald Wilkins Award as City Manager of the Year (Harrah, Okla.) on Sept. 15, 2011 in recognition of his outstanding performance in the field of city management over the past

21 years. He was honored for his knowledge and integrity, adhering to and accepting the International City/County Management Association Code of Ethics, his loyalty to the community he serves, excellence at grant writing and economic development, and more.

**Carole (King) Liston 77** became a 2012 APEX Grand Award winner (Awards for Publication Excellence) for "Frantic Chase," her article on the 2011 Joplin, Mo., tornado. Of nearly 3,400 entries, only 100 Grand Award winners were selected. Read Carole's article via the link on this site: <http://www.apexawards.com/apex-2012grandawardcomments.htm>. Carole is the editor of the *Joplin Tri-State Business Journal*, [joplintristate.biz](http://joplintristate.biz).

Oklahoma oil painter **Margee (Golden) Aycock 78** put on a one-woman show called "Oklahoma, The Place that I Call Home," July 16-Sept. 16, in the Governor's Gallery at the Oklahoma State Capitol Building. This project was sponsored in part by the Oklahoma Arts Council and Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition. About 30 of Margee's paintings were on display. Her style is that of the Post-Impressionists. In addition to painting, Margee participates in the Tulsa Arts and Humanities Council's Artists in the Schools program and is an artist in residence at Kaiser Rehab and the High Risk Pregnancy unit through Hillcrest Hospital's Arts in Healing Program. She works on commission and can be reached by e-mail at [yahoo.com](mailto:yahoo.com). Margee and husband **Scott 77** (family therapist/singer/songwriter), parents of Jesse, 29, and Dylan, 27, live in Tulsa.

### 1980s

**Robert Patrick 81** was named the 2012 Foreign Language Association of Georgia K-12 Teacher of the Year, the state's highest foreign language honor. Last year, the Georgia Classical Association selected him to receive the Georgia Classical Association Teacher of the

Year award. Robert has been teaching Latin at Parkview High in Lilburn, Ga., since 2005. He earned an M.Div. in Theology and Pastoral Studies from Emory University and a doctorate in Latin and Classics from the University of Florida.

**Grady Carter 83** is a psychiatrist and associate professor of psychiatry at Mercer University School of Medicine in Georgia. He has been appointed assistant dean of Academic Affairs. His wife, **Rossana (Tinoco-84)**, is an internist and an assistant professor at MUSM. Their children are Eli, 13, and Emma, 10.

'83

**Jennifer (Votaw) Crow** has written a new book. *Perfect Lies: Overcoming Nine Hidden Beliefs That Stand between You and a Healthy, Joy-Filled Life* was released by publisher Tyndale Momentum in August. In the book, Jennifer talks about having a life that looked perfect on the outside, while inside, she was fighting fears and negative thoughts that caused serious health problems. She describes how she overcame the "lies" and how others can also be set free. Go to [jennifercrow.tv](http://jennifercrow.tv) to learn more about the book and about Jennifer's Beautiful Dream Society, which she created to help end human trafficking in Lesotho, Africa.



## Lifelong LINKS

**Dawn Davis 84** was named Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year in Illinois in April. Dawn, who has taught physical education for more than 25 years, was given the honor by the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. She also has a master's degree in physical education (1989) from Louisiana State University, a master's in administration, and achieved the highest certification for a teacher when she received National Board Certification in 2010. At ORU, Dawn was named Outstanding Physical Education Major in 1984.

**John Fischer 84-MBA** (Healthcare Administration) is the new senior vice president of Operations at Archbold Memorial Hospital in Georgia. He will oversee multiple clinical and non-clinical departments inside the Archbold system, to include affiliate hospitals and long-term care facilities.

1985 graduate **William Bock III**, a partner with Indianapolis-based Kroger, Gardis & Regas LLP, was a speaker in February at the University of Michigan Law School's Sports Law Society conference, "Going for the Gold." This was a symposium on the many legal issues surrounding the Summer Olympics. William has substantial experience in athletic drug testing matters and sports eligibility disputes. Since September 2007, he has served as General Counsel to the Colorado Springs-based United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the independent entity charged with the responsibility to investigate and prosecute instances of drug use in Olympic and Paralympic sports by U.S. athletes. William also represents USADA in prosecutions of athletes accused of violating sports drug testing rules.

**Bryan Sanders 85-JD**, chair of the Department of Social Sciences at Evangel University, was selected for inclusion in the 2012 edition of the *Marquis Who's Who in America* biography compilation. Bryan also serves as a professor of government and legal studies and oversees the pre-law program. He is the faculty adviser to the campus Pre-Law Society and College Republicans Club and has had numerous journal and magazine articles published. He has published one book, *A Legal Primer for Church Discipline*. A 1982 graduate of Evangel, he returned as a faculty member in 1990.

**Col. Edwin Ahl 86-M.Div.**, the Fort Riley, Kan., Garrison Chaplain, has retired. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1969, served in Vietnam, left the military in 1972, earned a bachelor's degree, joined the National Guard, felt called to become a chaplain, and came to ORU to earn his M.Div. In January 1988, he returned to active military duty as a chaplain for the U.S. Army. Edwin also served in Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi

Freedom. He has a doctorate in theology from Andersonville Theological Seminary.

**Joanne (Timms) Chilcotte 86** married Ernie Chilcotte on June 19, 2010. They live in Sterling, Va., with their three dogs. "We are very involved with our church in Sterling and are excited to be serving Jesus!" says Joanne. She would love to hear from her ORU friends.



**Doug Ott 88** has released a new CD, "Cello for the King - As the Spirit Moves," containing 18 hymns of worship. The original song "As the Spirit Moves," Doug said, was composed live. When Doug was at ORU, he was interviewed on one of the TV programs. "At that time, they did a segment on me getting a business degree, and involved in music (ORU orchestra), as they both might be used someday. Well, that day has come, but I would add one more area: ministry. I want this instrumental CD to bring others closer to Christ as they listen to the songs during their devotions, meditation, driving to work . . . as I believe the Lord can even use it for healing in one's emotions, as well as physical healing."



'90

**Renee Riddix-Hilliard** wrote to tell us that in December of 2010, she had "the awesome opportunity" to do medical missions in Haiti. For the last 10 years, she has practiced as a clinical pharmacist (Pharm.D.) for the pharmaceutical industry, hospitals, and in long-term care consulting. In Haiti, Renee served the medical needs of 100 adults and children every day, working alongside 24 Americans on the medical team (most of them nurses). "I have never worked harder in my life!" she said. She also trained a Haitian pharmacist (they are not educated to doctoral level there, Renee said). In addition, she "held, hugged, and prayed for many children," prepared a lot of medications, and helped physicians decide on treatment regimens for their patients; "they relied on and trusted me," Renee said. In October 2012, Renee will return to Haiti for a different mission: helping out at a Christian school with some volunteers from her church.

**Rick Birkner 89** is the new vice president of hospital-based specialties at Mercy Clinic in Missouri. He earned his master's degree in health administration from St. Louis University. Before stepping into his new position, Rick was the vice president of Esse Health in St. Louis. He has been in the health care field for 22 years.

**Roger Gerstenberger 89, 90-MBA** has been appointed headmaster of Metro Christian Academy in Tulsa.

## 1990s

**Bobbi (Reilly) Sheahan 91** is the editorial coordinator at Future Horizons International, the world's leader in books, DVDs, and conferences about Autism and Asperger's Syndrome. FHI published Bobbi's third book, *What I Wish I'd Known About Raising a Child with Autism* (Sheahan and DeOrnellas, Future Horizons, 2011) to critical acclaim, and the book was a silver medal finalist for the prestigious IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award and a finalist for both the Autism Society's Literary Excellence Award and the About.com Readers' Choice Award. Bobbi is a columnist for *S.I. Focus* magazine and a regular contributor to *Autism Asperger's Digest* magazine, as well as a popular conference speaker on the topics of autism, homeschooling, and adoption. She recently co-hosted "Autism As They Grow" on Special Needs Talk Radio. She lives in Plano, Tex., with her husband, Ben, and their four children (Evelyn, Bella, Olivia, and Joseph), and she loves to catch up with her classmates.



In February, **Justin Baker, M.D. '97** received one of the 2012 Hastings Center Cunniff-Dixon Physician Awards for outstanding leadership and research on palliative care for children.

Justin holds three positions at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis: director of the division of Palliative and End-of-Life Care, attending physician in the Quality of Life Service, and director of the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program. He is one of the few physicians in the U.S. with triple board certification in Pediatrics, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. According to a press release from The Hastings Center, Justin "has aided many families as they battle pain, suffering, and psychosocial distress in the face of a child's advancing cancer and has cared for hundreds of children and their families through his inpatient, outpatient, and hospice-based care."



## 2000s

**Kristin (Steve) Schriks '00** has a new CD called "Beloved Hymns." This is a pre-release edition album with four songs that will be part of her complete album release. Hard copies can be purchased on her Web site, kristinschriks.com, and on cd-baby.com, and digital versions are available on iTunes and Amazon. Kristin and her husband, **Michael '01, '05-MMGT**, and their children live in Georgia where Michael was recently involved in opening a new hospital.



**Calvin Moore '02, '04-MBA** has joined Tulsa Community College Foundation as director of Development. He was confirmed by the TCC Board of Regents in early March and joined the TCC team on March 27. Calvin served as Regional Director of Development and Major Gift Officer at ORU for 7 years. He will report to the VP of External Affairs and serve on an executive team that includes the director of Marketing and director of Public Relations.

**Leah (Workman) Wietholt '07** was one of six Tulsa-area women to receive a 2012 Pinnacle Award. Leah's award was in the Corporate/Business category. These awards are presented every March by the city of Tulsa Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women. Leah is a Certified Fraud Examiner and the owner of Workman Forensics. Read more about the Pinnacle Awards at cityoftulsa.org, and more about Leah and her work at workmanforensics.com.



## OBITUARIES

**Cheryl D. Arnold**, a 1975 ORU graduate (education), passed away on Nov. 21, 2011. She was 59.

**Charlene Kahele-Lee**, a 1986 ORU graduate, passed away on June 13 of complications from cancer. She was 48. Known to her fans as Charlene Lewis, the telecommunications grad was a popular Tulsa radio personality who worked for several stations during her career, including KCFO, KVOO, KBEZ, KXOJ, and most recently, KRMG. She is survived by her husband, David, and their daughter, Abigail.

**Ramsey Marzouk (1986-88)**, a Youngblood wing member who studied business at ORU, passed away on March 6. He was 44. As a student, he was involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters. He is survived by his wife, Therese, and their three children.

**Larry A. Murphy**, a 1983 ORU graduate who earned a degree in business administration, passed away on May 10 at his home in Vermont. He was 51. Larry was an accountant and tax preparer. He is survived by his wife, Ann, daughters Valerie and Alyssa, two granddaughters, his parents, and other relatives.

**Arlene (Chumbley) Powell**, a 1971 ORU graduate (English literature), passed away on Jan. 4. She was 62. She taught English at Union Public Schools in Tulsa.

**Susan Settle**, a 1986 graduate of the O. W. Coburn School of Law, passed away on Sept. 20, 2011, in Maryville, Ill. She was 50.



**Joy (Winstead) Hill**, a 1982 ORU graduate (music education), passed away on Feb. 10 after a four-year battle with cancer. She was 54. Joy taught music at Christ for the Nations in Dallas, Tex. She is survived by her husband, Larry, and their three daughters: Lauren (Mrs. Johnny) Gonzalez, Amber, and Kristin. Joy was the Junior Sweetheart at Homecoming 1981 and Homecoming Queen in 1982.



**Dick Acres**, former head coach of the men's basketball team, passed away on June 14. He was 78. Acres led the ORU men's basketball program from 1982-1985 and took the then-Titans to the NCAA tournament, the second appearance in school history. In his three seasons as head coach, Acres won 58 percent of his games and claimed the 1983-84 Midwestern Collegiate Conference championship. His sons **Mark** (who completed his ORU degree in 2000) and **Jeff '85** were major contributors to the team's success. Acres is survived by his wife of 52 years, Sandi, sons Mark, Jeff, and Matt, and six grandchildren.

**Chuck Stophel (1986-87)**, a 17-year heart transplant survivor who valiantly battled cancer twice in his life, passed away on June 28 at the age of 45. Chuck was a champion of the organ donation cause. He and his wife, **Sara (Rinehart)**, who had experienced heart problems of her own, traveled the country to share music ministry and their testimonies. For the past three years, Chuck had been working at ORU, most recently as the Student Services group manager in the Financial Aid office. He is survived by Sara and their three sons, Creston, Nikolai, and Asher.

## Faculty/Staff/Students

Rising senior **Alexis Brownlee**, a pastoral Christian ministries major from Shawnee, Kan., suffered a seizure and passed away on June 10 while on a missions trip to Romania. She was 20. In Romania, she was teaching English to children, participating in street dramas, and evangelizing. She is survived by her parents and three siblings.

# Saying Goodbye to Members of the ORU Family

A tragic plane crash on May 11 took the lives of three 2012 Oral Roberts University graduates and a former professor.



**Most of us didn't know Austin Anderson, Garrett Coble, Stephen Luth, or Luke Sheets**, but we wish we had. Learning about their legacy of energy, enthusiasm, intelligence, talent, and passion for God, we recognize qualities that all of us want to possess.

Reading the comments from friends and newspaper interviews with family members, and seeing the videos and photos that say so much about what each man did in his too-few years on earth, we admire and appreciate them for the way they made their lives count.

We hear how Anderson, a former Marine who served two tours of duty in Iraq, somehow rose above the pain of burns covering 90 percent of his body and helped Hannah Luce, ultimately the sole survivor of the plane crash, to safety, and we join the Luce family in thanking God for his heroic efforts. (Luce, a 2011 ORU alumna, continues to recover from her injuries.)

Why did this happen? We don't know. What we do know is that Anderson, Coble, Luth, and Sheets are as precious and important to their Father as to their earthly families, and they're in His care now — where all of us who know and love God will join them someday. A simple article like this cannot contain all that these men meant to those who knew and loved them best, and it certainly can't sum up their lives, but here is a glimpse of who they were.

Anderson, Luth, and Sheets received ORU degrees on May 5. Anderson and Luth were on the cheerleading squad. Luth was a wing chaplain; he and Sheets were roommates and shared an interest in swing dancing. Sheets, the pilot of the plane, was a licensed commercial pilot. Coble, an associate alumnus and former marketing professor at ORU, was months away from receiving his doctorate; he participated in countless missions trips all over the world — including 15 with Teen Mania — and was engaged to be married, as was Anderson. Anderson and Luth were just beginning new jobs with Teen Mania Ministries; they were on their way to a TM event in Iowa when the plane made an emergency landing and hit a line of trees in a Kansas field. Coble was committed to helping children. His devotion to the El Nino Emanuel orphanage in Peru continued after his death as friends were encouraged to direct memorial gifts to this ministry. Contributions in Sheets' memory go to the ORU Missions department, and those to honor Anderson are funding an ORU scholarship for veterans. The Stephen J. Luth Scholarship/Memorial Fund has been established at Central State Bank in Muscatine, Ia.

Anderson's fiancée, Elizabeth Thaxton, told *The Enid News and Eagle* that his favorite quote from the movie *Braveheart* was: "Every man dies, but not every man truly lives."

Let it be said that Austin, Garrett, Stephen, and Luke truly lived . . . and now are fully alive, but greatly missed. ●

# Jaman's Legacy

**JAMAN ISEMINGER**, a 2005 ORU graduate who pastored Bethel Community Church in Southport, Ind., was shot on May 19 at the church and died a short time later at an area hospital. His wife, Amanda (Morse), a 2004 ORU graduate, agreed to share some of her thoughts and feelings about Jaman, and what she considers to be his legacy, with *Excellence* readers.

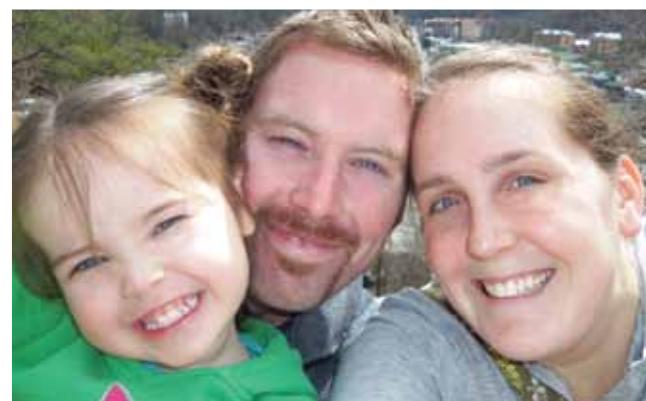
BY AMANDA (MORSE) ISEMINGER

All I knew of my brother wing RA was his name — Jaman. When we walked away from the first meeting, we both went to our friends, believing the next year was going to be rough. Little did we know that meeting was going to change the next eight-and-a-half years of our lives.

Jaman and I got married, in Maryland, on Jan. 1, 2005. The next week, we were in Indianapolis, and he was the associate pastor of Bethel. We weren't really sure what to expect — okay, I wasn't sure what to expect. That year brought us closer together as a couple, but everything surrounding the church was a challenge. I remember reading a book that year by Gene Edwards, called *A Tale of Three Kings*. The idea that struck me the most was, whose leadership are you sitting under, and what are you going to do with that leadership? Will you submit to the Father? Ultimately, Jaman and I walked away from those first couple years as pastors having made and endured some major and minor mistakes.

The good news is that the Father is faithful. Jaman became part of a group of pastors, based out of Indianapolis, called Loving Accurately Ministries. This is where our lives changed. Jaman found an amazing support group in these men, and it is where he began to fulfill God's calling in an even greater way. He felt the Father calling him to be a "leader of leaders," although he wasn't totally sure of what that meant.

This idea is actually one of the things we talked about that Friday night before he was killed. We had talked about him taking a sabbatical from Bethel, allowing his co-pastor, Derek, to take the reins. We enjoyed time as a family, having gone to a state park earlier in the day. We sang and danced with Belle, our daughter. We went out to dinner, played at a playground with Belle, and visited with our friends. That night, he and I stayed up late watching a movie, making out the grocery list for the next day. We had goals and plans for our future, but Saturday morning, all of that changed.



Belle, Jaman, and Amanda enjoyed a vacation in Gatlinburg, Tenn., a few weeks before Jaman's death.

I don't want to get into the details of that Saturday. Most reading this are probably aware of the story. But, I would like to reiterate truth. Jaman's death was not a part of God's plan. There was nothing said/done, by Jaman, which brought this about. The Father I know loves His sons (position, not gender) unconditionally. I have, time and time again, felt the Father close to me. I know He has never left my side, especially when I feel the most alone.

There has been a void left in my life, and in my daughter's life. She knows Daddy is with Jesus. She knows Jesus is real, because He beats up her monsters. She still misses Jaman. My buffer and "gap-filler" is gone. I miss the times he could make me laugh, especially when I was not interested in laughing. There was one roommate date that I remember him grabbing a banana, putting it between his fingers, and acting like a dinosaur, complete with sound effects. I was embarrassed, and everyone else in the car was laughing. But it is those memories that make me smile.

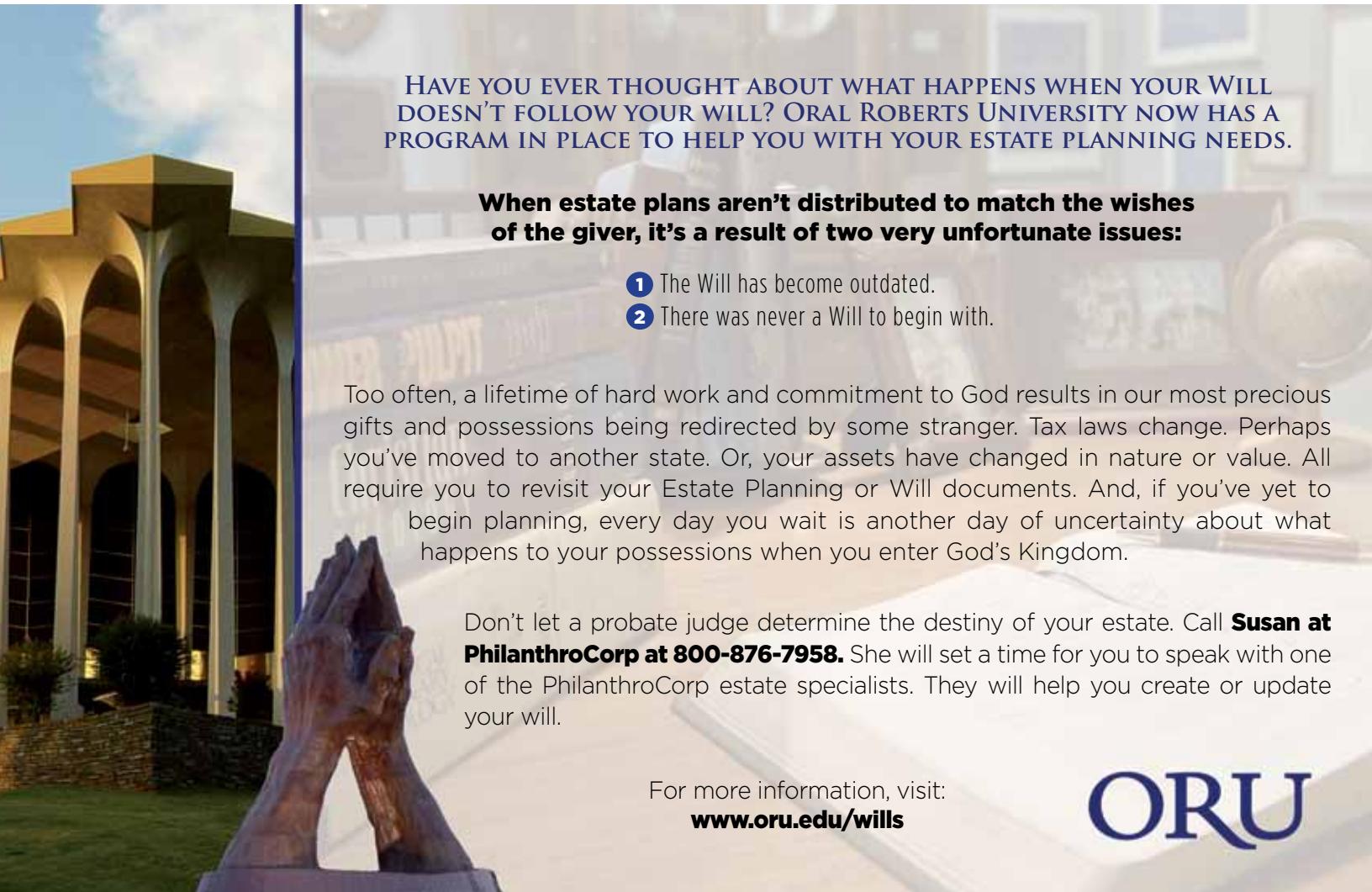
The Father is faithful. He has never let me go and I know He isn't ever going to let me go. At some point, the pain that I feel will not be as sharp. My life will move forward. The Father will continue to speak to me, move in and through me, and I will impact those He places in my path. Matthew 16:24-26 says, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world, but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?" Jaman's line had been, "Follow me as I follow the Father." This is Jaman's legacy. This is what I can tell Belle: her daddy followed the Father, and is now worshipping the One he is in love with. Meanwhile, I will strive to love her, and others, as He commanded — unconditionally and without regard for self. ●



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A composite image featuring a photograph of a modern building with a glass facade and a prominent arched entrance on the left, and a bronze sculpture of two hands clasped together on the right. The background is a soft-focus view of a city skyline under a cloudy sky.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR WILL DOESN'T FOLLOW YOUR WILL? ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY NOW HAS A PROGRAM IN PLACE TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR ESTATE PLANNING NEEDS.

**When estate plans aren't distributed to match the wishes of the giver, it's a result of two very unfortunate issues:**

- 1** The Will has become outdated.
- 2** There was never a Will to begin with.

Too often, a lifetime of hard work and commitment to God results in our most precious gifts and possessions being redirected by some stranger. Tax laws change. Perhaps you've moved to another state. Or, your assets have changed in nature or value. All require you to revisit your Estate Planning or Will documents. And, if you've yet to begin planning, every day you wait is another day of uncertainty about what happens to your possessions when you enter God's Kingdom.

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For more information, visit:  
[www.oru.edu/wills](http://www.oru.edu/wills)



The ORU logo is shown in its signature blue, stylized font.