

SPRING 2013

Excellence

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY



Presidential Promise

Dr. Billy Wilson has his heart and mind set on the “globalization of ORU.”

The Wall of Sacrifice currently honors the memory of Austin Anderson, Alexis Brownlee, Garrett Coble, Jaman Iseminger, Stephen Luth, and Luke Sheets.



"...Death is swallowed up in victory."
1 Corinthians 15:54 (KJV)



WALL OF SACRIFICE

This wall is a tribute to those from the ORU family who gave their lives while taking the healing message of Jesus Christ to the uttermost bounds of the earth.

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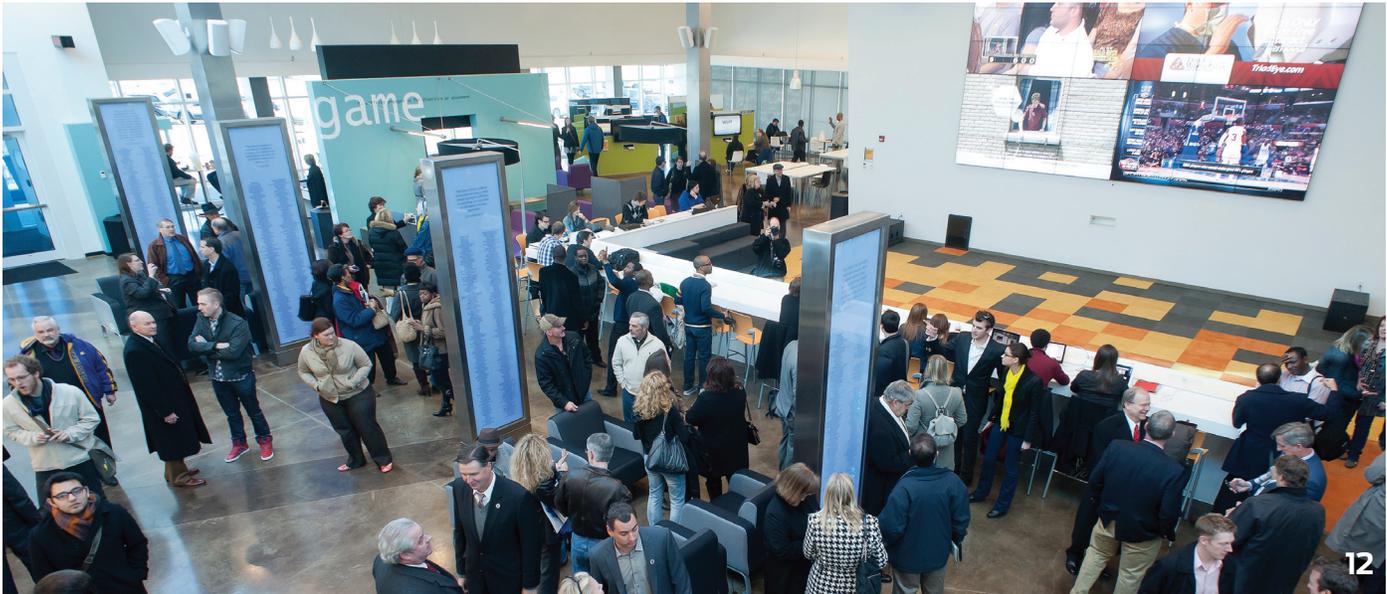
MISSION STATEMENT
The purpose of *Excellence*
magazine is to share alumni stories
and recent university news with
alumni and friends of ORU, thereby
demonstrating that the mission of
ORU is being carried out on a daily
basis all over the globe —
"in every person's world."



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

Excellence

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New President Will Focus on ‘Globalization’

BY DEBBIE (TITUS-77) GEORGE

Dr. William “Billy” Wilson is no stranger to Oral Roberts University. He has served as vice chair of the Board of Trustees since the new board was installed in January 2008. He also spearheaded Empowered21, the “Congress on Spirit-Empowered Living in the 21st Century,” which ORU hosted in 2010.

Now, as the fourth president of ORU, Wilson is not only committed to safeguarding the mission of ORU — “To build Holy Spirit-empowered leaders through whole-person education to impact the world with God’s healing” — but to ensuring it is carried out, as the vision statement says, “to the uttermost bounds of the earth.”

The concept of globalization is destined to become the hallmark of Wilson’s tenure. It will extend, he said, from his travels to meet with constituents, to ORU extensions in other nations, to a stronger emphasis on whole-person-infused distance learning and a fresh look at missions.

“The missions paradigm has changed,” Wilson noted. “Now, people are sent *from* everywhere *to* everywhere. We believe God is calling ORU to intersect what the Holy Spirit is doing around the world and help build leaders that are Spirit-empowered to bring God’s healing to our generation *from* everywhere *to* everywhere.”

To help realize that calling, Empowered21, or E21, is returning to campus, where it will function as an ORU initiative, serving the global movement. The 2010 Congress was preceded and followed by “conversations” among leaders, scholars, and next-generation members of the

global Spirit-empowered movement who sought to discover new vocabulary and a greater understanding of Spirit-empowered living for new generations in this new century.

The vision of E21, “That every person on earth would have an authentic encounter with Jesus Christ through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit . . . by Pentecost 2033,” is an extremely ambitious goal, and one that Wilson said fits with ORU’s mission statement and with the school’s maxim: “Make no little plans here.”

E21’s vision, Wilson said, is “the kind of big dreaming that we need at ORU.” He intends for ORU to be “a service institution to the Spirit-empowered community around the world,” which includes Charismatic Catholics, historic Pentecostal denominations, significant local churches, universities, and others. Wilson, who will stay on as co-chair of the Global Council, said the university will be involved in leading a large E21 Global Congress in 2015, in Jerusalem. “One of our goals,” he said, “is to have one Spirit-filled person from every nation on Planet Earth at the Congress, and unite the movement to pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.”

Speaking of big dreams . . . Wilson firmly believes that “vision brings provision” and “finding God’s heart and vision for the future of ORU will allow donors to invest in the accomplishment of that vision.” He also believes the “circles of development” must increase, reaching beyond the United States.

“We are approaching the 50-year anniversary of this university,” Wilson said, referring to the arrival of ORU’s first class in 1965. “We don’t





Dr. Wilson met with the press shortly after the Board of Trustees announced his selection as ORU's fourth president.

plan to go away. We're here. We need everyone's help to go into the future strong."

Wilson agrees with what a friend of his once said, that "after the age of 40, it should all be about the next generation." One of the reasons the 54-year-old Wilson was willing to accept the ORU presidency was "to invest these years of my life in new generations. I want to call the alumni to do that with me. We need them. And yet, we will be looking beyond just the alumni for people who share this vision of impacting the world with Spirit-empowered leaders to help us do this."

In the months since the Board of Trustees tapped Wilson to become ORU's new leader, he and his wife, Lisa, have been on a listening tour at ORU, meeting with groups of students and with the faculty of every college. The tour will extend to other on- and off-campus constituencies, including staff and alumni.

"I don't believe any one person has all of the inspiration, and all of the vision, and certainly not all of the wisdom to be able to lead ORU," Wilson stressed, "so we need the collective wisdom, the collective understanding, even the collective inspiration, of the ORU family."

Lisa Wilson said that after visiting each college, "I wanted to be involved in every one we visited. There's so much excitement and passion in each college for what they do." At Western Kentucky University, she majored in history and minored in government with a certification in teaching/secondary education. She has a master's degree

in Christian education and has taught most grades from elementary to high school, but her primary focus during 35 years of marriage has been the ministry. "I'm a minister's wife," she said, supporting her husband and "making sure he's able to do all that he needs to do." That won't change at ORU. In addition to co-teaching The Spirit-Empowered Life class with her husband, Lisa foresees a relational role, connecting faculty and students with the president's office "in a family-type support environment."

"Relational" is a word that Wilson also uses to describe his leadership style: "highly relational and highly professional." During his tenure, he said, "We will seek to do things at the very highest level of excellence, but also be family. I don't believe you have to compromise one for the other." This is in keeping with his education and ministry experience. He holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Western Kentucky University and a master of arts and doctor of ministry from the Pentecostal Theological Seminary. Wilson has spent more than 30 years in ministry leadership with the Church of God movement and in broad Kingdom efforts.

The presidency of ORU was not a position that Wilson sought or expected to be offered, but once nominated, he agreed to pray about it.

"I wanted to make sure this was God," Wilson explained. During this period of prayer, "a number of things — providential, prophetic, and otherwise — led Lisa and me to believe that indeed this is God's will."

Now, he is equally certain that ORU's best days — and opportunities to impact the nations through strategic partnerships, distance learning, media, and world-changing alumni — lie ahead.

The president and his wife also have a special word for ORU alumni.

"Our prayer for our alumni is that they would not forget what God said to them while at ORU. They heard His voice. God still has a dream for their life. And we're praying they'll go for that dream, and be all they can be. We're here to serve them, we'll be praying for them, and we'll be listening." ●

If you have questions or comments to share with the Wilsons, you may send them to president@oru.edu.

2013 '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.

Graffs Focus on Giving Back

BY ANDREA GRAFF 12

When asked about why they chose Oral Roberts University, most students reply with the typical “It’s a family thing,” or “God led me here.” But Jim Graff’s story is different.

The 1983 graduate was on his way to Arizona to play college baseball when his van broke down on the Will Rogers Turnpike. He hitchhiked to the ORU campus, banking on the fact that “Christians are supposed to help people, right?”

Once he got a look at the baseball stadium, he decided to try out. He earned a walk-on spot on the team and chose to stay, a decision that forever changed the course of his life. Not long after that, Jim met Tamara Osteen, daughter of the late Pastor John Osteen.

After years of friendship and months of dating, the two were married in 1985. Together, they embarked on a mission to take the call of Oral Roberts and of the church seriously: to go where God’s light is seen dim and His voice is heard small. That place was Victoria, Tex.

The Graffs have pastored Faith Family Church in Victoria, a multicultural church of 4,000 in a city of only 60,000, for more than 23 years. Jim is also the president of the Significant Church Network, a network of pastors dedicated to

building effective churches in America’s smaller cities and towns. He views its mission as his life goal.

“In addition to pastoring my church, I want to focus on the areas of the world where the church is needed most,” he said.

Dr. Chris Royael, longtime ORU faculty member and now employee of FFC, believes the Graffs are succeeding in this undertaking.

“They’ve spent their lives building environments where people experience God’s goodness. They’ve equipped pas-

tors in small-county America feeling overlooked and unprepared to make an impact. Together, they’ve fulfilled ORU’s vision,” he said. And it led to their Alumnus of the Year award for Distinguished Service to God.

The Graffs are grateful for the time they spent at ORU, claiming it as “the foundation, without which nothing would’ve been built.” They both view their lives as a way to give back.

“It’s a joy for us to attempt a lot for God because He has done so much for us,” Tamara said. ●



The Graff family: Geoffrey, Andrea, Jim, Emily, Tamara, and Michael.

AOY Recipients See Role as Helping Next Generation of Students

BY ROY-GENE MACININCH 12

Ask Gordon Helm or his wife, Linda, about their involvement with Oral Roberts University, and they'll both say essentially the same thing. As Gordon puts it, "ORU has a long history of educating quality students who choose to live their lives for others and for God's purposes. We want to do our part to see this continue by supporting the professors, staff, and students."

As joint recipients of the 2013 Alumnus of the Year award for Distinguished Service to the Alma Mater, the Helms have made concerted efforts to look for opportunities to support ORU by serving on an athletics committee, hiring ORU interns, mentoring new teachers, and supporting the Golden Eagle and Champions clubs. Gordon is also a trustee.

And as scholarships were significant factors for both in their academic pursuits, contributing to them is very important to the Helms. "Somebody helped us, so we're trying to help them too," Linda said.

Born in Grand Chain, Ill., Gordon came to ORU in 1971 on a baseball scholarship. He was a member of ORU's first baseball team to compete in NCAA regional competition and received the President's Cup award for top student athlete.

Linda Birney was a pastor's daughter who grew up in San Antonio. Her father passed away when she was in high school and her mother encouraged her to attend ORU, which she eventually did, thanks to multiple scholarships. She and Gordon married in December 1974 and graduated in 1975.

Several moves and jobs followed, including a position in budget management



Since graduating from ORU, Gordon and Linda Helm have made a significant impact on the students who came after them.

at ORU for Gordon, who completed his MBA during this time, and teaching jobs for Linda, who earned a master's degree in secondary education and ultimately enjoyed a 28-year teaching career.

In 1991, Gordon joined Helmerich & Payne, Inc., a Tulsa-based oil and gas drilling company. He currently serves as vice president and controller.

"In my mind, possibly one of the biggest drivers of my involvement with the university is in my capacity as senior manager at Helmerich & Payne," Gordon said. "I believe in our graduates and I believe in the product of ORU. One of the biggest things I've been able to do is to bring in ORU students and show them the business world. It's also been a good opportunity for the company to experience the product of ORU. They've always impressed the people of our company."

Linda retired from Jenks High School in 2012, where she launched the Jenks Chinese exchange program, helped begin the Jenks Alternative Center, and spent her last four years training Language Arts teachers for grades 7-12, many from ORU.

"Gordon and I both came to ORU on different scholarships, and our daughter, Jennifer, also came as a tennis player," Linda said, "so we especially love the Whole Person Scholarship and the athletic scholarship programs. ORU played a major role in both of our coming-of-age stories. We want to help give that same opportunity to other students and athletes." ●

We are now accepting nominations for the 2015 AOY awards! Go to the left menu of alumni.oru.edu and click on "Alumnus of the Year."

The Reluctant Enrollee

BY DEBBIE (TITUS-77) GEORGE

Stephen Mansfield had a scholarship to play football at Iowa in 1976 when his mother decided he should go to Oral Roberts University. “She broke about 46 state and federal laws to apply for me,” Mansfield joked.

Months before the fall semester was to begin, still determined to go to Iowa, the unsaved teenager got into some trouble and prayed that desperate “God, get me out of this and I’ll do whatever You want” prayer. An acceptance letter from ORU arrived the next day.

Oral Roberts himself preached the sermon that led to Mansfield’s conversion (on his third day on campus), and the rest is literally history. This new Christian was majoring in Bible when a book he read on “how Harry Truman used history to lead” convinced him to change his major. Mansfield was just beginning to tap into his own leadership potential, serving as an RA. Majoring in history, he said, “has been an amazing preparation for everything that I’ve done.”

His body of work — what earned him the Alumnus of the Year award for Distinguished Service to the Community — includes pastoring for 20 years. At Belmont Church, he was involved in ministering to the Kurds who settled in Nashville after the first Gulf War, and in forming a nongovernmental organization (NGO) to make trips to Iraq to teach and preach the gospel.

“That was my first real taste of discipling a nation outside of the four walls of the church.”

What came next was a writing career, beginning with an award-winning book on Winston Churchill and accelerating with the amazing success of *The Faith of George W. Bush*. An appearance on



Stephen Mansfield, a 1981 ORU graduate, met with the senior mullah of Kurdistan on one of his many international trips.

CNN’s Paula Zahn show, alongside Bush speechwriter David Frum and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and tangling with a by-remote, anti-Bush guest, did nothing but whet his appetite for more such opportunities.

“When I walked back into that green room,” he said, “I thought, ‘Game on! I like this. I like the fact that the discussion I just had is going all over the world.’ I enjoy the thrust and parry of ideas.”

Many more books have followed, along with the establishment of The Mansfield Group, created “to launch strategic ventures and do good in the world.” Mansfield lives “a very international life,” offering leadership consulting in the political and corporate realms.

The late Dr. Harold Paul, one of Mansfield’s history/humanities professors, struck a chord when he said, “You

will be shaping this society.”

“Something went off in my soul. I always knew that I would one day transition out of the pastorate and begin to work in politics, perhaps mentor leaders worldwide, and that’s exactly what I’m doing now,” Mansfield said. “The breadth of my experience at ORU has allowed me to have a broader impact than I ever would have had otherwise.”

Help us tell people about your connection to the university. Link to ORU from your personal biography, blog, or organization’s Web site by using this link: www.oru.edu. Then tell us you’ve done so by posting on our Facebook wall or sending us a note on Twitter.

We pulled out all the stops and set our

Dreams in MOTION

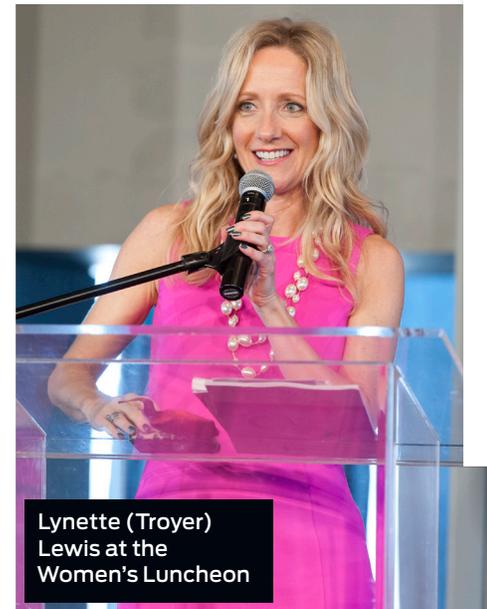
Has there ever been an Oral Roberts University Homecoming like Homecoming 2013? We'd say "No!"

Think about it. We celebrated the grand opening and dedication of the debt-free Armand Hammer Alumni-Student Center (exactly one year after ground was broken). The Board of Trustees announced that Dr. Billy Wilson had been chosen to serve as ORU's fourth president. We honored five alumni with Alumnus of the Year awards: Jim and Tamara Graff, Stephen Mansfield (accompanied by his wife, Beverly), and Gordon and Linda Helm.

In addition to the 20-, 30-, and 40+ class reunions, there was a multi-year reunion dinner for graduates from 2000 through 2012. Another new event was the Alumni Business Showcase, bringing to campus representatives of organizations that are owned by alumni or have alumni in key leadership roles. We reprised our popular Vespers service, and marked the last Dr. Mark Rutland-led ORU Update. Lynette (Troyer) Lewis sparkled as our Women's Luncheon speaker, and the men's and women's basketball teams muzzled the Lions of Southeastern Louisiana.

While alumni were sure to tour the new Hammer Center or observe the amazing transformation of the former Athletes Dorm/Personnel Building into the Stovall Administrative Center, they also participated in dozens of other events, from open houses and advisory council meetings to professional development sessions, the 5K Run, the Saturday-night Alumni Banquet, and the post-game reception.

All in all, it was a weekend that will live on in our hearts and minds for years to come. ●



Lynette (Troyer) Lewis at the Women's Luncheon



Glenn Packiam and Don Moen rocked Vespers.

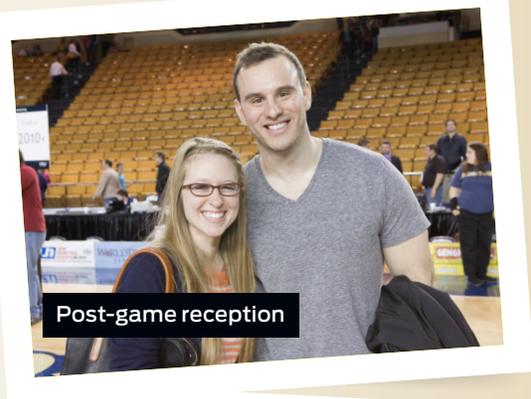


Post-game reception

2000-2012 Reunion



Legacy Parent Breakfast



Post-game reception



20-year Reunion



Alumnus of the Year honorees



Alumni Banquet



30-year Reunion guests applaud Dr. Mark and Alison Rutland.



Dr. Carl Hamilton, ORU's former provost, was honored at the 40-year+ Reunion.

2012-13 Highlights

OPEN FOR FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP

Just one year after ground was broken, the new Armand Hammer Alumni-Student Center opened its doors to the Oral Roberts University community. Alumni, students, faculty, staff, and guests — including lead donor Michael Hammer — were on hand for a weeklong celebration that coincided with Homecoming, a Board of Trustees meeting, and the announcement of ORU’s next president, Dr. Billy Wilson. The Feb. 1 building dedication took place in chapel, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony outside the Hammer Center’s main entrance.



Michael Hammer (center, in blue shirt) is the grandson of Armand Hammer, for whom the center is named. Michael provided the lead gift for the building through the Armand Hammer Foundation.



TRUSTEES BOARD ADDS SIX

Five of the six newest Board of Trustees members, elected during the board’s April meeting, are Oral Roberts University alumni.



DANIEL DE LEÓN



HOLLY MOORE



EKO NUGROHO



MATT REARDEN



NEAL STENZEL



MARK STERNS

Joining the board will be:

- Daniel de León, senior pastor of Templo Calvario in Santa Ana, Calif.
- Holly Moore, vice president of Growing Leaders in Atlanta, Ga.
- Eko Nugroho, owner and founder of Dreamlight Studios and Dreamlight World Media in Indonesia
- Matt Rearden, vice president for Business Affairs, SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc., in Orlando, Fla.
- Neal Stenzel, CPA, board member/minority interest owner, GammaBrite LLC, Denver, Colo.
- Mark Sterns, founder, co-owner, and president of Higher Power Aviation in Fort Worth, Tex.

Nugroho has two ORU degrees: a B.S. in management information systems (1991) and an MBA (1993). Rearden, a 1997 ORU graduate, earned a degree in finance and has a law degree from Florida State University. He has been serving as chair of the Alumni Association Board of Directors since February 2011 and represented alumni on the Presidential Search Committee. Moore, a 1986 graduate of the Anna Vaughn College of Nursing, has been on the Alumni Board since 2010. Stenzel majored in accounting and received his ORU degree in 1987. Sterns (1978-business administration, 1980-MBA) also served on the Alumni Board, from 1985 to 1987.

LEFT: The blue columns contain the names of those who donated to the building project, going back to the original announcement in 2001.

Stovall Gift Transforms Former Dorm

Few alumni have a relationship with a campus building quite like Jim Stovall's with the former Athletic Dorm, or Moyers Hall, as it was formally known.

When Stovall, a 1981 Oral Roberts University graduate, was in high school, he spent his summers working construction jobs. And one of those jobs was unloading truckloads of sheetrock — “a nasty job in Oklahoma in August,” he points out — for the ORU dorm. “So I was actually more familiar with that building than I really wanted to be,” Stovall said with his trademark dry humor.

That was the only direct connection he had with what later became the Personnel Building, but in October 2012 the three-story structure took on his name.

Correction: The building is indeed called the Stovall Administrative Center, but in making a major gift to help pay for renovations, Jim and his wife, Crystal (Smith-81), declared that its name reflected love and appreciation for Jim's parents, George and Florene, whose ties to Oral Roberts' ministry go back to 1955. George Stovall started in the mail department at the Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association and worked his way up to executive vice president. When he retired in 2011, he had spent the previous 25 years running University Village, the ministry's retirement community.

This project came to Jim and Crystal's attention in 2011 when someone from ORU dropped off a proposal at Jim's Narrative Television Network offices. At first Jim disregarded it, because he was already involved with ORU through the Crusader Scholarship Fund that he and some former wingmates started in 1988; nearly 500 students have benefited from CSF awards.

“But Crystal and I have a foundation,” Stovall said, “and we've been thinking about a bigger project in the community.” He saw the connection between the building's purpose and his father's career, talked it over with Crystal, and said yes.

“It was the largest check we've ever written for anything, including buying our house,” he said, “but it was exactly what we had been looking for.”

“Stovall,” as the campus community refers to the building, has been completely transformed inside and out. Offices have been remodeled and refreshed. The atrium has been reopened and features many modern touches, including a fireplace and flatscreen TV. The building has a new west-facing entrance, new sidewalks and landscaping, and most dramatic of all, a new elevator. Human Resources and all Finance-related departments are housed in Stovall.

The gift that he and Crystal made to this project, Stovall said, is not one they would have considered until recently. He credits ORU benefactor and Board Chair Mart Green with creating an atmosphere of trust and financial transparency. He also points to community involvement in recent campus improvements like the Helmerich Foundation-funded engineering labs and the ONEOK-funded ONEOK Executive Boardroom (or “Shark Tank”) in the College of Business, saying, “If it's good enough for them, then this is fertile ground where we want to be too.” ●

Jim Stovall is a popular speaker and a prolific author. His latest release is a novel titled The Gift of a Legacy. Read more about him at jimstovall.com.



Passing the Baton:

A Portrait of a Generational Leader at ORU

BY MICA C. OLINGHOUSE 03

As thousands of students began a fresh semester in January, one legendary fixture of Oral Roberts University found himself in a new place. After 40 years in leadership at the university, Dr. Ralph Fagin has stepped down from his position of provost and embarked upon a new adventure: retirement.

Fagin, a 1970 ORU graduate, began his service at ORU in 1972 as a faculty member in the behavioral sciences department. Since then, he has served in several key positions, including associate dean and dean of Arts and Sciences, vice president and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, interim president, and provost.

With such a long tenure at ORU, Fagin has obviously been an eyewitness to plenty of university history, including presidential transitions and administration changes. But according to Fagin, two essentials are etched in stone: the idea of educating the whole person and the founding vision of the university.

“The vision of ORU came from God, and obviously anything that comes from God is solid. That vision has attracted people who aspire to it and identify with it. It draws those people around and binds them together, so there is initial strength inherent in it. The university has become more intentional and focused on communicating the vision, and the next generation is protecting, developing, and strengthening the vision.”

Like many of his colleagues, Fagin’s heart has been tied to the university through that founding vision and eternal purpose. Looking back on his commitment to ORU, he reflects, “When you’re intent on a goal that is valuable and eternal, then the impediments are mere trifles. In a sense, God immunizes you against the difficulties.”

Fagin’s original plan was to retire at the end of 2011, but shortly after he made his intentions known, Dr. Mark

Rutland announced his own plan to leave the Office of the President in 2013. “With that second announcement, it seemed best to have a little stability,” Fagin said. “There was also a visit from the Higher Learning Commission. When that was first announced, I thought our team was well able to handle that. So, for a little more assurance, I stayed a little longer just to see us through that.” He retired right after the HLC’s October 2012 visit.

When Rutland first announced his early departure from ORU, Fagin admits he was a little surprised. “I thought he would stay a little longer, but he has sure helped the university during that time. He is an incredible communicator. But as much ability as Dr. Rutland has, the university’s future is not so much reliant on one person because the university is stronger. That’s what you want to do when you are president: you want to leave the place stronger than you found it.”

As provost, Fagin was the overseer of several vital components of the university: Academic Affairs, Learning Resources, Institutional Research, Spiritual Formation, and Student Life. Although the Office of the Provost could be considered the power plant behind the university, the effectiveness of that office greatly depends on the many people who work alongside the person who holds the title. As Fagin says, “The provost is a person who hardly does anything by himself. Everything he does is involved with someone else, and he is facilitating, assisting, and coordinating the real work of the university that occurs in the classroom and on the campus.”

This amazing spirit of teamwork is perhaps the primary ingredient behind Fagin’s longevity and success at ORU. Known for his excellent attitude and team approach, he is generous in his praise of others. “The goodwill of the people at ORU that I worked with is almost like currency you could spend to make things happen. In a sense, they



Dr. Ralph Fagin and his wife, Darlene (Toll-74), continue to serve ORU as co-chairs of the President's Circle. He received a Faculty Emeritus Award at Commencement on May 4.

funded many of the accomplishments at ORU. I owe those people a great debt for what they have done for me above and beyond the call of duty and what they were required to do. I have incredible respect for those people.”

And it is those relationships that Fagin will miss the most during retirement. “Even over challenging projects or issues, there was an enjoyment and a sweetness of friendships. I miss the team and the camaraderie. There’s a closeness that only the flames of the fire of difficulty can make happen. It’s almost like foxhole friendships that come out of the battles. The long hours of work and stress I can do without, but it is the people I will miss.”

Although Fagin’s plans for retirement include the typical golfing, fishing, and traveling, he is still committed to a life of service with his church, the university, and other charitable organizations. “When you retire, it doesn’t mean

you quit working,” he said. “It just means you quit getting a full-time paycheck.”

As Fagin begins this new chapter, his thoughts linger on the generational impact of ORU. “While life is a race,” he said, “it’s more like a relay race because you’re passing the baton to the next generation. Oral passed the baton to all staff and faculty, but then that group is passing the baton to the next group. This group of freshmen at ORU today will one day be national and international leaders. They will grow and develop to that status. The relay race effect is inherent in the vision of the university. So what you’re doing is not for yourself; you’re doing it for the next group who will in turn do it for the next group. That baton keeps getting passed and, hopefully, it’s getting passed to a better runner each time.” ●

Two Cents in the Pocket of Her Heart

BY MICA C. OLINGHOUSE 03

Briauna Hoyt, a 23-year-old Arizona native, came to Oral Roberts University with a dream and “two cents” in the pocket of her heart.

Although treasuring two cents seems ludicrous in this harsh economy, it was those two cents that opened the way for Hoyt to receive one of the top Whole Person Scholarship awards.

Hoyt, one of 2012-13's final recipients of the Whole Person Scholarship, is the courageous, independent, compassionate commander-in-chief of Two Cents, an organization that reaches out to the homeless by hosting dinners and upscale events for the underprivileged and networks them with churches and shelters to provide long-term solutions.

Two Cents began as a class project Hoyt was required to do in 2010 while in Bible college in Charlotte, N.C.

“At the end of the semester, I was challenged to do a project that portrayed the Father’s heart,” Hoyt recalled. “I’ve always been compelled by the story of the Prodigal Son, of love for the broken and neglected, and I knew I had to portray the Father’s heart in that way. So I wanted to do something radical. I wanted to have homeless people over for dinner.”

After weeks of planning, this project culminated in a Thanksgiving dinner for 300 homeless people served in a beautiful banquet hall. In addition to the meal, they were served new coats, socks,

toiletries, Bibles, snacks, and handwritten cards signed by each of the volunteers. But the most significant investment was the relationships that were formed throughout the event between young college students and rugged, broken people living on the streets.

“These people don’t deserve to have dinner on picnic tables on the side of the road. They needed to be treated well, because that’s how the Father would treat them. I believe when the Word says to have a feast for the poor, He doesn’t mean hypothetically; He means to invite the poor and broken, and to love them like you would your own, and that was our heart behind it,” Hoyt said in describing the event.

After that first Two Cents project in Charlotte, Hoyt’s nonprofit hosted three more projects in Phoenix and Indianapolis.

It was during the planning of the fifth Two Cents project in San Diego that Hoyt felt a shift in direction. “The desire of my heart was to see how I could better Two Cents. And it came down to either an internship or going back to school,” Hoyt said.

Due to limited funds, Hoyt needed a miracle to help her reach Two Cents’ full potential. After hearing about the Whole Person Scholarship from a friend, Hoyt decided to pursue it. Two weeks after the competition, she was awarded the scholarship designated for a transfer student.

Thankful for God’s amazing provision, Hoyt is determined to extract everything she can from her experience at ORU. A declared business major who wants to pursue entrepreneurship, she

is excited about this new opportunity to learn and grow.

“I’ve been in the front seat for a long time, running my own organization,” declared Hoyt, “and now I just want to sit in the backseat and learn to serve.”

Armed with a vision to impact the world, Hoyt is excited about passing along the generosity she was given through the Whole Person Scholarship. “The biggest way I’ll be able to thank them is by providing a full-ride scholarship for a future world-changer. It’s incredibly empowering to know someone believes in you and wants to invest in your potential. There is nothing more compelling. Generous people are just contagious!”

And with those Two Cents in her heart, Hoyt will be yet another ORU student raised up and sent out to change every person’s world. ●

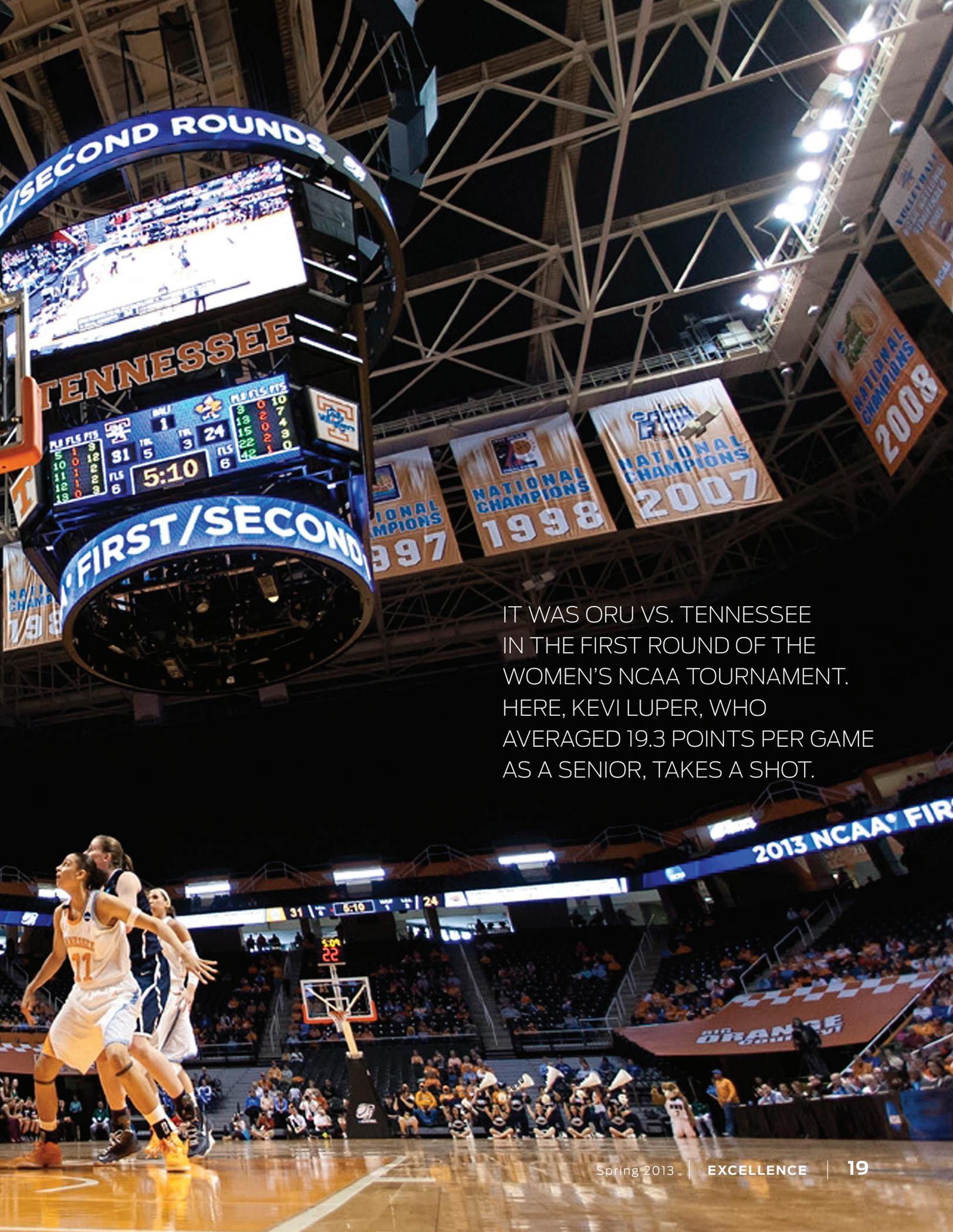


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— BRIAUNA HOYT







IT WAS ORU VS. TENNESSEE IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT. HERE, KEVI LUPER, WHO AVERAGED 19.3 POINTS PER GAME AS A SENIOR, TAKES A SHOT.

Tough Seasons End with Tournament Play

It was an up-and-down year for the men's and women's basketball teams. Competing in a new conference, coping with injuries, and integrating new players resulted in a 20-15 record for the men and an 18-13 record for the women.

Despite the challenges, both teams achieved their ultimate goal: postseason play. The men were in the CollegeInsider.com Tournament (CIT) and the women — with a share of the regular-season crown and as Southland Conference tournament champs — received an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, the program's sixth bid and first since 2008.

The men, led by seniors Warren Niles and Damen Bell-Holter, scored an especially sweet triumph when they won their first CIT game — the first postseason win for ORU men's basketball since 1975. A second victory followed, but the season ended with an 83-74 loss to Weber State in the quarterfinals.

Niles and Bell-Holter both made First Team All-Conference and earned a place in the ORU record books. Niles is eighth all-time for points scored (1,984) and fourth in three-pointers (292), while Bell-Holter wound up fifth in rebounds (878) and fourth in blocks (139).

As a No. 15 seed, the women faced an uphill battle against No. 2 seed Tennessee. But as first-year head coach Misti Cussen said about meeting the Lady Vols on their storied home court, "We get to go and experience that, and there is nothing bad that is going to come out of that." Although they lost the game, 83-62, the experience was a dream come true for the Golden Eagles, especially for the three seniors who had waited four years for a trip to the tournament: Kevi Luper, Jaci Bigham, and Savanna Buck.

There was certainly nothing bad about Luper's senior season. Along with ascending to 14th place on the NCAA's all-time career scoring list (with 2,867 points), Luper earned these honors this year: First Team Mid-Major All-American (by leading women's basketball Web site Full Court Press [FCP]); only Southland Conference player to receive a spot on FCP's top three Mid-Major All-America squads; Second Team Senior CLASS Award All-American (Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School®); Third Team Mid-Major All-American (by College Sports Madness); First Team All-Southland Conference; Southland Conference All-Defensive Team; Southland Conference Player of the Year (by College Sports Madness); Southland Conference Tournament MVP; and ORU career points leader.

Bigham became ORU's all-time career assists leader on Feb. 9, passing Leah Cannon (2002-06). She finished with 668 assists. She was named to the All-Southland Conference Second Team. ●

Damen Bell-Holter came to ORU from Hydaburg, Alaska, and left a lasting impression on Eagle fans.



Warren Niles averaged 18.9 points per game his senior year.

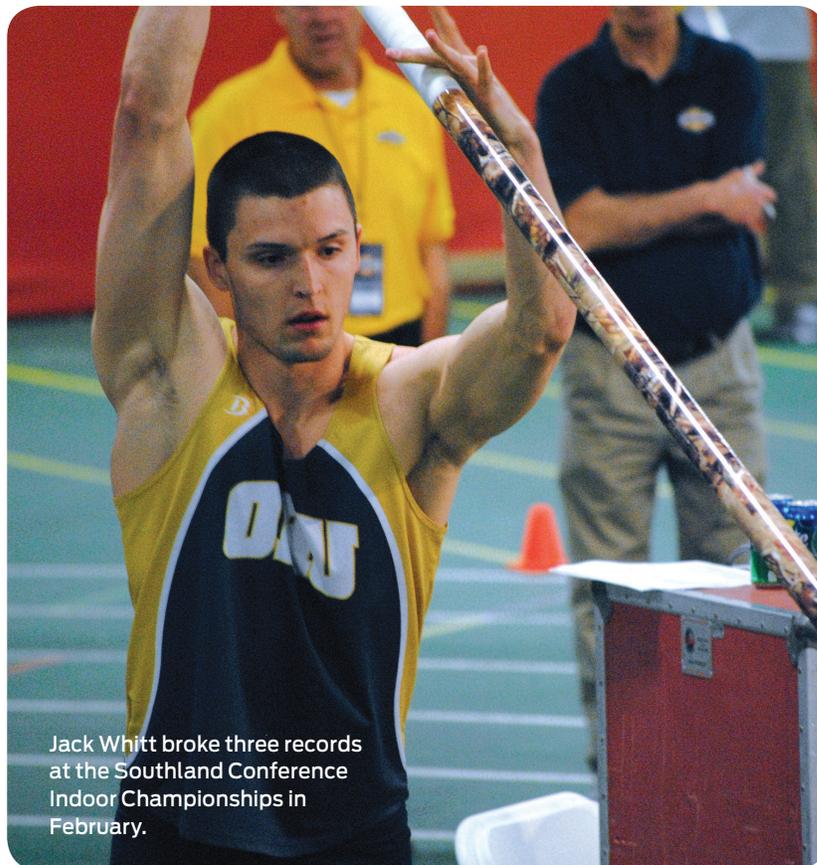


ORU retired Mark Acres' No. 42 jersey on Jan. 24. Acres is the only player in school history to lead his team in points and rebounds four straight years (1981-85). He was also an Associated Press honorable mention All-American all four years.

Jack the Giant Slayer

How many records can one athlete break, and how many All-American honors can he earn? In the case of Jack Whitt, ORU's best-ever pole vaulter, the answer is "a lot."

This spring, Whitt capped off his senior season in style, adding NCAA All-American honors No. 6 and 7 and U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association honor No. 7 to his résumé. On Feb. 22, he set a new school record, a Southland Conference Indoor Championships meet record, and a University of Oklahoma facility record, clearing 18'4.75". He was also named both Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Athlete of the Year in the Southland Conference and finished second at the NCAA National Championship in June, clearing 18'6.5".



Jack Whitt broke three records at the Southland Conference Indoor Championships in February.

Smith Enters Hall of Fame

Glenn "Smitty" Smith, Oral Roberts University's first athletic trainer (1972-2010), was inducted into the Oklahoma Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame on May 18.



His nominator, Erin Herrmann, said Smith's "kind nature and jovial spirit makes everyone around him feel welcome, but it is Smitty's smile that everyone loves. In fact, just the mention of his name puts a smile on the faces of those that he has worked with . . ."

Smith has been serving on the faculty since 1987. He is also a member of ORU Athletics' Hall of Fame, executive director of the ORU Varsity Club, and vice president of the Golden Eagle Club.

From ORU to the Big Leagues

Jeremy Hefner, called up to the Mets in 2012, earned a spot on the Opening Day roster in 2013.

BY DAVID DRIVER

Jeremy Hefner was in a hotel room in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania when he got a telephone call one morning in April of 2012. The former Oral Roberts University pitcher, who at the time was with Class AAA Buffalo in the New York Mets' minor league baseball system, was being promoted to the Major Leagues for the first time. "They called me at 10 a.m. and I said 'What?' I had no idea," said Hefner, who grew up in Perkins.

The Mets had their first game at 4 p.m. that day in Queens and they needed an extra pitcher for a doubleheader, so he hired a car service to make the two-hour drive to Queens. "I got there at one-ish, got my uniform, and was in the bullpen by game time," said Hefner, who pitched three scoreless innings against the Giants. It is a long way from Perkins, Okla., to the Big Apple. "We have one spotlight in my hometown. Coming to New York City is a completely different ballgame."

His promotion to The Show — what most players call the big leagues — was filled with irony since the Mets drafted Hefner twice when he was an amateur player. He turned them down both times while at Seminole State and eventually played one season, in 2007, at ORU and was an all-Mid-Continent Conference pitcher as he went 9-2 for the Golden Eagles.

"If I would have gone straight from Seminole to pro ball, I would not have made (the majors). I was real skinny and not real strong. We thought I could improve my draft stock" at ORU, he said. "It is a

great school. I had good vibes when I went there." Hefner is about 30 credits shy of a business management degree and promised his mother he would eventually finish.

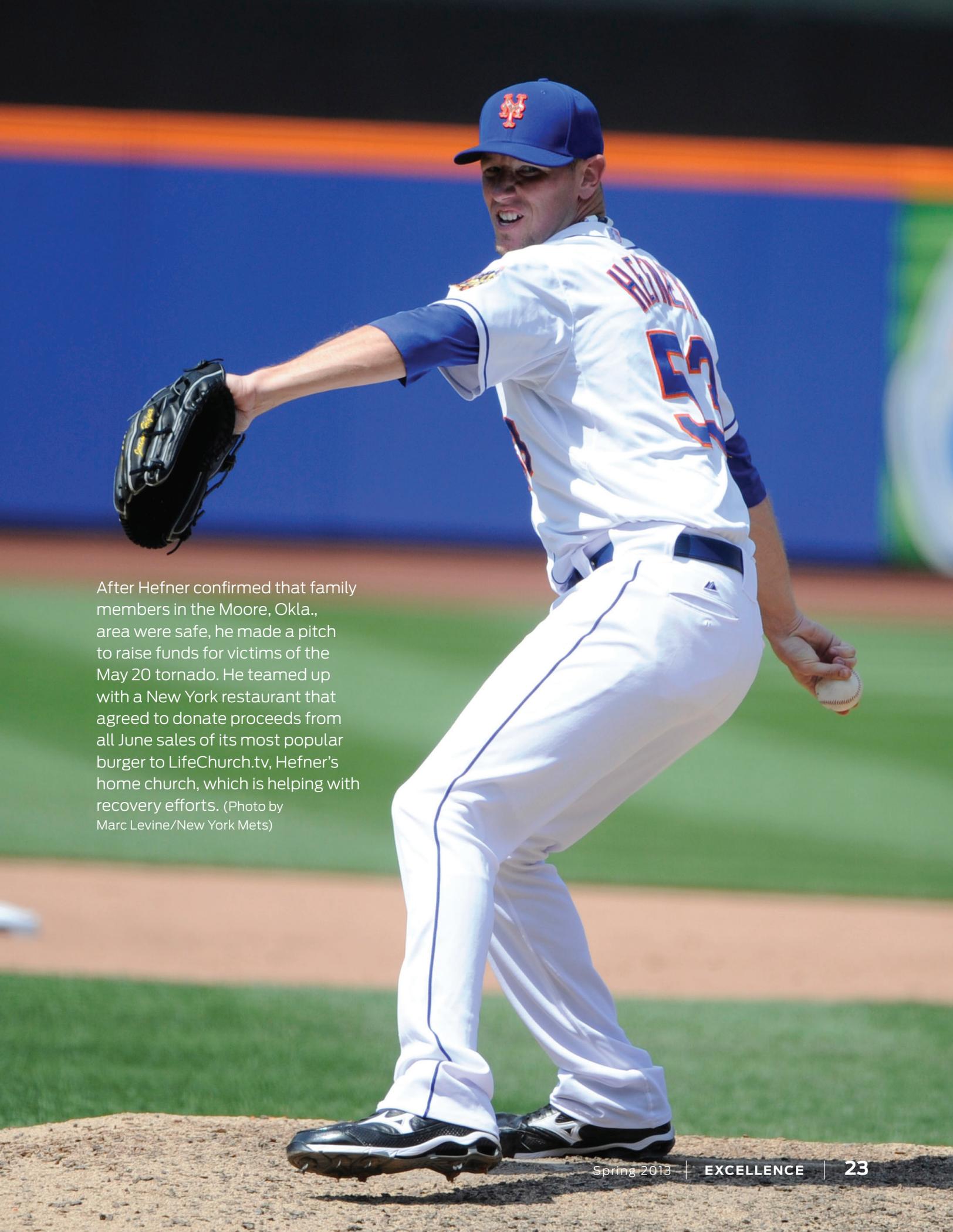
After his junior season at ORU he was drafted in the fifth round by the San Diego Padres based on the recommendation of veteran scout Lane Decker, who lives in Piedmont, Okla. Decker first saw Hefner as a high school pitcher and followed his career. "For me the package came together when he went to Oral Roberts," Decker said. "He is a very competitive kid, but outside of baseball he is able to be genuine." After playing in the minors for San Diego, Hefner was put on waivers by the Padres after the 2011 season and eventually picked up by the Mets.

Hefner is one of seven ORU products to pitch in the big leagues and the first since Carnegie, Okla. native Mike Moore, who ended his career in 1995, according to www.baseballreference.com.

Hefner was 2-5 with an ERA of 5.11 in his first 19 outings (seven starts) in 2012 for the Mets and entered spring training in 2013 trying to secure an Opening Day roster for the first time in the majors . . . which he did.

"My wife, Sarah, and I are both Christians. It is a big part of why I think I am here right now," he said. "Baseball is about fifth on my list in terms of importance (in life). If it was taken away from me I would be okay. I have other things, namely Jesus." ●

Editor's note: David Driver, a former baseball player at Division III Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia, has covered pro baseball for 20 years. He can be reached at www.davidsdriver.com.



After Hefner confirmed that family members in the Moore, Okla., area were safe, he made a pitch to raise funds for victims of the May 20 tornado. He teamed up with a New York restaurant that agreed to donate proceeds from all June sales of its most popular burger to LifeChurch.tv, Hefner's home church, which is helping with recovery efforts. (Photo by Marc Levine/New York Mets)

Alumni Impact on Missions Exceeds Expectations

BY MICA C. OLINGHOUSE '03

When Scott and Cara (McArthur) Boss came to Oral Roberts University nearly 30 years ago, little did they know how global their lives would become.

Two decades of ministry and dozens of countries later, they have defied limited expectations and embraced a calling to take the gospel to the nations.

After being exposed to missions while serving on staff at ORU and at Teen Mania Ministries, Scott and Cara established Real Impact Missions in 1997. Headquartered in Tulsa, RIM mobilizes groups and individuals for short-term missions trips around the world and focuses on worldwide evangelism, work projects, and medical clinics. In addition to providing “standard” missions trips for participants, RIM also offers “customized” missions trips for churches and organizations that desire something targeted to their specific vision.

“We endeavor to utilize short-term missions in the most effective way,” said Scott, a 1983 graduate. Currently, he is engaged in mobilizing 6,000 participants in 50 countries every year. “Our goal at RIM is to help local churches and Christian organizations express their heart for missions while connecting them with the actual



Scott and Cara Boss with daughters (L to R) Andrea, Kirsten, and Jessica

experience, and go with them.”

The RIM trips center on evangelizing through outreaches in high schools and university campuses, but many trips are designed to meet certain needs indigenous to the team’s chosen country. RIM trip participants have worked with sex trafficking intervention, taught English, distributed medicine, facilitated medical clinics, conducted vacation Bible school classes in remote villages, and helped

with disaster relief. In fact, RIM came to the aid of victims affected by Hurricane Katrina, the earthquake in Haiti, and the tsunami in Japan.

Like so many other ORU alumni who are going where God’s light is seen dim, both Scott and Cara said their experience at ORU was a major influence in their lives and ministry.

“When we were at ORU, I felt like I could do anything,” recalled Cara, who graduated in 1985. “If God’s called me



Dr. Steve Katsis, a 1989 ORU graduate, took part in a 2009 medical trip to Panama where 1,200 patients were served, physically and spiritually.

to do that, then He's going to make a way. It's that feeling of empowerment."

Scott remembers the atmosphere of expectancy he encountered while at ORU. "There was this expectation that God wants to reach this world, and that you can have a part in that process. That expectancy is contagious and life-changing."

And it is that exceptional expectancy that continues to propel RIM forward in its mission to proclaim the gospel to the uttermost bounds of the earth. Holding onto a big vision and great expectancy, Scott and Cara Boss are making a *real impact* in world missions. ●



One school sends 140 students on RIM trips (like this 2011 trip to Guatemala) every year.

Board Treasurer Says Challenges, Opportunities Alike Await ORU in Coming Years

BY ROY-GENE MACININCH 12

“You can’t go a day, it seems, without hearing about the dramatic changes coming in higher education, particularly concerning online and distance learning,” said Dale Wilkerson, member of the ORU Board of Trustees.

Among the most challenging aspects of those changes, Wilkerson continued, is how ORU can adapt while remaining true to its original mission. Weighty questions like these are what the trustees routinely tackle in their ongoing effort to both maintain focus on the founder’s original purpose for the university and ensure the institution’s long-term economic viability in an increasingly competitive education market.

But before Wilkerson was in the business of helping chart ORU’s future, he had humble beginnings in West Tulsa, an area known well for its working-class neighborhoods and refineries in the heyday of Tulsa’s oil years. He began attending ORU in 1975, where he would earn a degree in accounting; his family, however, had been involved in Oral Roberts’ ministry (the Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association) long before then.

“My grandmother rode the bus from West Tulsa to the original Oral Roberts buildings downtown to help with the ministry, and two of my aunts worked at OREA for years,” Wilkerson said. His grandparents began attending Carbondale Assembly of God in

West Tulsa in 1937 and Wilkerson remains a third-generation member of the church.

After graduating in 1979, he began working for Deloitte & Touche, one of the Big Four international auditing firms, and dealt primarily with clients in the energy sector. He joined the Tulsa-based company MAPCO in 1986 and later, in 1996, became a vice president and controller at Alliance Resource Partners, L.P., also based in Tulsa. And although he retired in 2006, Wilkerson continues to work as needed as a consultant for ARLP-related entities.

Wilkerson is a relatively new addition to the ORU Board of Trustees, having begun his first three-year term in 2011, and it wasn’t a job he necessarily saw himself destined for. “When I thought of an ORU trustee, I thought of names like ‘Cardone’ and ‘Braxton,’” he said.

Nevertheless, after a former colleague asked his permission to submit his name for consideration to the board, Wilkerson accepted. Once approved and elected, he set to work on important financial matters in his new capacity as treasurer.



Dale Wilkerson and his wife, Eleanor, were married in 2008.

“BEFORE I JOINED THE BOARD, THEY WERE NEEDING SOMEONE TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE BUDGET AND PLANNING PROCESS. AS CONTROLLER, I HAD SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO THAT LINE OF WORK AND I’VE BEEN COLLABORATING WITH THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ON THOSE ISSUES.”

— DALE WILKERSON

Concerning changes in higher education, Wilkerson said the board is currently grappling with the complex systemic changes that are affecting the way colleges serve students. With many institutions expanding greatly their online and distance-learning services, ORU is looking at ways to adapt the university’s emphasis on personal relationships with classmates and professors, the chapel experience, and dorm life to the needs of distance learners.

Even so, Wilkerson points to last fall’s announcement of the largest freshman class in ten years as a sign the university is moving forward strongly. “ORU is almost completely counter-trend to other places with growth in enrollment,” he said. “We’re continuing to explain to people what ORU is about and attract people with those kinds of ambitions to the university.” ●

Transition to Position



Matt Rearden read the scripture, Matthew 17:1-8, at Commencement 2013.

Transition is an interesting word.

Formally defined as “movement, passage, or change from one position, state, or stage to another,” transition also signals the start of something new. During this time of transition at our alma mater, I’m excited about the future of Oral Roberts University. Words cannot adequately describe the gratitude that I have toward Dr. Mark and Alison Rutland for nobly steering ORU through a difficult time into the position where it stands today. The ORU community will be ever grateful for your service to this institution, its students and alumni. Thank you for all of your sacrifice, determination, and leadership.

As we transition to the leadership of our fourth president, Dr. Billy Wilson, my heart is full of expectation and anticipation for ORU. I was honored to represent you, the alumni of Oral Roberts University, on the Presiden-

tial Search Committee (PSC). Many of you have asked questions about how the process worked and why I am so excited. I’m happy to share some of this rigorous, nine-months-plus process with you.

The PSC was made up of nine members: five trustees, one faculty member, one staff member, one student, and myself, the alumni representative. We engaged a well-known search firm to help guide us through the process and assist with much of the research and initial candidate vetting. As I have said before, we were not searching for the best candidate; we were searching for the RIGHT president. Along with much prayer, our search was guided by the ORU Presidential Position Statement, which was approved by the Board of Trustees prior to the start of the search. As your alumni representative, I was focused on ensuring that the founding vision of ORU remained

intact, and on understanding the future role of alumni under any new president. The committee interviewed, discussed, debated, and most important of all, prayed through the entire selection. I can tell you without any doubt that we considered many concerns and points of view before making any recommendation, and rigidly adhered to the established selection process. I am proud of the work performed by the committee and believe that Dr. Billy Wilson is the right choice to lead ORU.

As Dr. Wilson serves in this office, please cover him and the university in prayer. I know that he is excited to engage with the alumni of ORU and I cannot wait for each of you to meet him. His passion for this university is incredible and he needs your support to accomplish all that God has called him to do. His transition to this position has been a lifelong journey and I know he will boldly lead ORU into unprecedented excellence and growth.

On a personal note, many of you know that I will also be in transition within the ORU community. Following the inauguration of Dr. Wilson in September, I will preside over my final ORU Alumni Association board meeting. Along with another Alumni Board member, Holly Moore, I was recently elected to join the Board of Trustees and look forward to serving you and the university in that capacity. It has been my honor and privilege to be your representative and I know the Alumni Association will continue to do great things on your behalf. ●

MATT REARDEN 97

Chair, ORU Alumni Association
Board of Directors
mrearden@cfl.rr.com

ALUMNI NEWS

1960s

Last fall, **Ron Lamb, D.M.D., 69** received the highest award presented by the American Dental Association: the 2012 Humanitarian Award. This goes to an ADA-member dentist “who has contributed at least ten years to alleviate human suffering, demonstrated significant leadership, served as an inspiration to others, and established a legacy that is of ongoing value and benefit to those in need in the U.S. and abroad,” according to the ADA News Convention Daily (Oct. 17, 2012). Ron founded World Dental Relief in 1975 and has led about 200 missions trips to 56 countries. WDR has supplied thousands of medical and dental teams with millions of dollars’ worth of supplies and has equipped more than 60 dental clinics around the world. Ron received the Alumnus of the Year award in 2004. worlddentalrelief.com

1970s

Gordon Schutz 74 enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1974 and served for 37 years before retiring in 2012. His tours of duty included Germany, Kentucky, New York, Oklahoma, and Korea. He earned a master’s degree in education from Boston University in 1977 and completed graduate studies in human services. He taught World History at Will Rogers High School in Tulsa and was a social worker in Oklahoma for 11 years before retiring in 2010. Gordon is a lifetime member of Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He and his wife, Rosie, reside in Tulsa and have three daughters and eight grandchildren. Contact Gordon at gordonjohn7777@gmail.com.

1980s

Kris Parish 80-BME has been chosen to receive a 2013 Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award, presented by the Yale University School of Music. One educator is chosen from each of the 50 states and honored for “outstanding accomplishments teaching music in public schools.” Honorees are invited to take an all-expenses-paid trip to New Haven in June for the biennial Symposium on Music in Schools. This year’s topic: “The role of music in school reform.” Kris is the founding director of the Santiago High School BOSS (Bands of Santiago Sharks) in Corona, Calif., a position he has held since 1995. His award-winning concert, marching, and jazz bands have been selected to perform at venues across the nation, including Carnegie Hall and the 2013 Tournament of Roses Parade. Kris has a master’s degree in education from Cal State San Bernardino. Kris’s wife, **Rene (Plum-79)**, is the senior pastor at Beacon Hill Assembly of God (Norco, Calif.) where Kris leads worship and plays keyboards. Rene has an M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary. The Parishes have one son and one daughter.



terpiece,” according to a press release. David performs regularly at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. davidosbornemusic.com

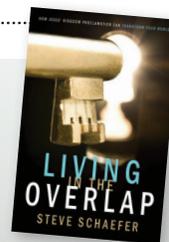
Joy (Dunkelberger-82) and Andy (1979-81) Holman celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on Dec. 18, 2012. They have four children: **Christy Ingram 11** (married to **Tim 11**, with one child, Maximus, born Feb. 13, 2012), **Daniel 13** (2012-13 Student Association president), David (a freshman at Oregon State University), and Matthew, who plans to attend ORU in Fall 2014. The Holmans have lived in Billings, Mont., for 16 years. Contact them at joyholman@live.com or theholmans1282@msn.com.



Steinway Artist **David Osborne 81** performed at the White House in December. It’s a familiar venue for him. He has become known as the “Pianist to the Presidents,” with numerous performances over the years, beginning with President Jimmy Carter and continuing through Ronald Reagan, George H. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and the current president, Barack Obama. Last November, David was named “Concert Pianist of the Year 2012” at the 22nd Annual L.A. Music Awards. He was recognized for “his unforgettable stage presence and his ability to improvise any song from classical to contemporary to create his own mas-

'76

Steve Schaefer wrote a book a few years ago called *Living in the Overlap*. A ministry in South Korea, Seoul USA, which is associated with Voice of the Martyrs, asked him to turn it into a seminar. They run a one-year school for North Korean defectors called Underground University. UU trains Christian workers so they can minister to other North Koreans. They liked the way Jesus’ central message, the kingdom of God, was portrayed in the book, and they thought it would be helpful to their students. So last June, Steve went to Seoul and did a seminar for their students based upon the book. He also participated in balloon launches, where hydrogen balloons carrying New Testaments and gospel literature were released near the border and went into North Korea. You can see photos of both UU and the balloon launches at his Web site, LivingInTheOverlap.com, in the blog entries for June 28, July 23, and July 27. steve.schaefer@cbn.org





Diane (Ives) Drake 88 (elementary ed) teaches 5th grade at North Heights Christian Academy in Roseville, Minn. “I moved to Minnesota and in 1991, I had a wonderful 6th grade student in my class named Kristin Meyerson,” she said. “Kristin heard my stories of my wonderful college, eventually went to ORU, and graduated with an elementary ed degree in December 2002. We have not only had the privilege of teaching at the same school for the past several years, but Kristin had my daughter in her class! We had a ‘College Day’ at our school and we thought it would be fun to send you a picture of us proudly displaying our alma mater.” **Kristin (Meyerson) Fink** was on the ORU volleyball squad (1999-2001). Contact Diane at ptdrake4@gmail.com and Kristin at Kristin@KristinFink.com.

Doug Minh Nguyen 88 recently graduated with an M.A. degree in missions from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He works as the deputy communications director for the Social Security Administration in Chicago. He also serves as preaching elder and missions chair at Chicago’s Uptown Baptist Church. Doug is married to Quyen (Longo); they have a teenage daughter, Grace, and live in Morton Grove, Ill. You can connect with Doug at doug5906@gmail.com or via LinkedIn.



1990s

Burt Campbell 91 had the opportunity to prayer walk with a small group of American Christians in North Korea this past spring. Though escorted and monitored the entire time they were in country, the group found unexpected ways to still share the love of Christ in practical ways. “Sudden, difficult situations were met with kindness, prayer, and ministry, resulting in touched hearts and changed lives. God is moving EVERYWHERE!” Burt said. He can be contacted through Facebook at [facebook.com/burt.campbell](https://www.facebook.com/burt.campbell).

Natasha (Washington) Mitchell 94 joined ConocoPhillips in April 2012 as a senior analyst for Internal Communications, HR Services. Her work history includes being a professional editor, writer, and page designer with 17 years of experience in print and digital communication industries in Oklahoma. During her career, she has participated in several journalism organizations and fellowships at CNN, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and North Carolina A&T State University. She was formerly the e-communications specialist/copywriter at Oral Roberts University. nmitchell7@gmail.com



2000s

Miles Smith 02 has released his book *Why Leadership Sucks: Fundamentals of Level 5 Leadership and Servant Leadership*. Miles says, “I was blessed to have been given a significant leadership opportunity by my father at the age of 25 which has birthed my personal mission statement to help younger leaders. I aim ‘to chart the course, pave the pathway, and light the lane for others to eclipse my own success in leadership.’” For more information, visit MilesAnthonySmith.com. Miles and his wife, **Carolyn (Wolf-01)**, live in Green Bay, Wisc., with their three children.



Mica Kilstrom 03 married Jeffrey Olinghouse on June 23, 2012, at World Outreach Church in Tulsa. The couple celebrated their honeymoon in Washington, D.C. The Olinghouses currently reside in Tulsa, where Mica bases her freelance editing business and Jeff works as a luxury travel consultant. Contact information: coffeeshopgirl.com or micac2000@yahoo.com.



Richard Twilley 06, 12-MBA was named the ACL IMPACT Grand Prize Winner for 2013. The Impact Award is “the premier award for audit, finance, risk, and compliance professionals and celebrates the outstanding achievements of customers making an impact with ACL (Audit Command Language) technology and improving the value they provide to their organizations.” Read more at alumni.oru.edu.

Jennifer Hudgins 07 wrote to say that since graduating from the College of Education, she has accepted a position with NASA as an Education Specialist at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. “I am educating the



public about NASA’s programs, getting student groups excited about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), and holding teacher professional development workshops,” she said. Before taking this position, Jennifer was a middle school teacher for Tulsa Public Schools. She lives in Titusville, Fla., with husband Richard and their children: A.J., Alex, and Nicholas.

In 2009, several ORU girls joined together every month at the kitchen table of one of the girls to pray for the ORU student body and its leaders. As graduation approached and the girlfriends began to spread out to different corners of the U.S., they quickly realized that keeping in touch via the phone was more difficult than they had imagined. So, the ladies decided to create a blog space where they could pen their stories for all their friends to see and in June 2012, <http://kitchentableprayers.com> was birthed. Kitchen Table Prayers (KTP) is a devotional blog dedicated to sharing everyday moments. Its primary focus is to communicate the truth of what ladies are going through in their post-graduate lives and how their faith in Christ intertwines with their daily routines. The ladies of KTP hope this blog provides a space where women can connect, encourage, and grow with one another even while living miles apart, and that readers will feel invited to join in on the conversations and share in each other’s daily moments, “just as if we were all sitting together around our kitchen table.”

OBITUARIES

Raymond “Lynn” Baldauf, a 1980 graduate (M.A., theology), passed away on March 25, 2013 after a long, courageous battle with sarcoidosis of the lungs. He was 63. Lynn served in the U.S. Navy (1968-72) and earned his bachelor’s degree at North Central Bible College. He taught at Open Bible College and at Trinity Bible College and started his own company, Lynn’s Painting. He is survived by his wife, Robin, daughter Maia, and others.

Dr. Stan Buck, a 1985 M.Div. graduate, passed away on Nov. 18, 2012 after an 18-month battle with a brain tumor. He was 52. Stan also earned a D.Min. at Asbury Theological Seminary. In 1987, he became the founding pastor of Sunrise Church in Ft. Wayne, Ind. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, and daughters Stephanie and Ashley.

Jamie Bury, a 1970 graduate of the art department, passed away on Dec. 17, 2012 in Washington State. He was 67. As a student, Jamie was the president of the Russian Club.



Carmen “Zack” Davidson, a 1972 graduate (religious education), passed away on March 21, 2013. He was 66. Zack was involved with the Living Sound music/ministry group from its inception. He was a long-time employee of Crossroads Christian Communications (Toronto and Burlington, Ontario, Canada), and taught TV production and communications to students around the world. He is survived by his three children: Mark, Ashley (Mike) Watters, and Joshua.



Patti (Plemons) Flanagan, a 1975 graduate (education), passed away on May 3, 2013. She was 59. After graduating from ORU, Patti earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in social work.

Ilka Maria Fulcher, a two-time ORU graduate (2009, M.A.-missions; 2010, M.A.-biblical literature), passed away on March 21, 2012. She was 51.

Nolan Grubb (1969-73), who served as president of his freshman class, passed away on Jan. 30, 2013 at the age of 61. Nolan also spent four years in the U.S. Navy. He is survived by his wife, **Malinda (Warnock-75)**, and children David and Anne (Morton).

Scott Jablon, a 1982 graduate of the O. W. Coburn School of Law, died on Aug. 22, 2012 in a car crash. He was 58. He is survived by his wife, Lesa, and their son, Joshua.

Greg McDougald (1972-74), former Titan basketball player, passed away on March 16, 2012. He was 61. The Lumberton, N.C. native was a member of two terrific ORU teams. The 1972-73 team went to the NIT (the Titans’ second straight trip), and the 1973-74 squad, ORU’s first NCAA Tournament team, made it to the Elite Eight. Greg was a 1974 NBA third-round draft pick by the Milwaukee Bucks.



Thomas Craig Mowrer, a 1978 graduate who double-majored in computer science and math, passed away on Feb. 21, 2013. He was 56.

Randall Pickard, a 1983 graduate of the O. W. Coburn School of Law, passed away on Jan. 26, 2013 in Tulsa at the age of 54. He is survived by his wife, Amy, and their seven children.

Jeff Sanders, a 1974 business administration graduate, passed away on Feb. 13, 2010, after a three-year battle with prostate cancer. He was 57.

Col. Barry Kevin Wade, M.D., a 1988 graduate of the School of Medicine, passed away on June 19, 2012. He was 53.

Faculty/Staff

Wanda Lemons, a faculty member in the undergraduate business department in the late 1970s and early 1980s, passed away on Jan. 13, 2013. She was 83.



Dr. Joseph Mukasa, an assistant professor in the communication department who began teaching at ORU in 1992, passed away on Jan. 13, 2013. He was 76. Born in Uganda, Mukasa was a scholar with a pastor’s heart. He earned two bachelor’s degrees (with honors and high honors), three master’s degrees, and a doctorate in dramatic arts. He was the president of COTEAM (Compassionate Outreach to East African Missions), Inc., and co-founder and educational advisor of Good Shepherd Children’s Home, an orphanage project near Kampala, Uganda, East Africa, that his mother started. Students and faculty agree that Mukasa had the gifts of encouragement and compassion; he was known for his hearty laugh and for writing



the names of all his students on a notecard that he carried in his pocket, next to his heart, as a reminder to pray for them.

Bishop Mack B. Stokes, former associate dean for Doctoral Programs and professor in the College of Theology and Ministry (1980-84), passed away on Nov. 21, 2012 at the age of 100 at his home in Florida. Bishop Stokes guided the process that resulted in ORU’s D.Min. program. Along with spending 70 years in higher education, he was a United Methodist bishop. He earned degrees from Asbury College, Duke University, and Boston University.

Ken Trickey, the colorful former head coach of the men’s basketball team (1969-74, 1987-93), passed away on Dec. 4, 2012 at the age of 79. He was known for the “run and gun” style of play that characterized his ORU Titan teams, and those teams responded by racking up multiple high-scoring games. ORU’s most successful basketball team ever, the 1973-74 Titans, came within one game of the Final Four.





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