

DR. MYLES MUNROE
REMEMBERING THE ALUMNUS'
LIFE AND MINISTRY

OBI EMEGANO
THE BASKETBALL CAPTAIN'S
ULTIMATE REBOUND

PHIL COOKE
HOW FAITH DRIVES HIS
CAREER IN FILM

ORU

WINTER 2015

EXCELLENCE MAGAZINE

**AN INVITATION TO TAKE WHOLE PERSON EDUCATION TO
THE UTTERMOST BOUNDS OF THE EARTH** *p22*



THE NEXT

50 YEARS





“THE TEXAS RANGERS SELECT ...”

Infielder Jose Trevino ('14) was selected by the Texas Rangers in the 2014 MLB Draft.

“I was taught a lot at ORU, especially by the baseball staff. They taught me a lot about baseball, but also about life,” Trevino said. “It’s exciting to know I am in the system. I’ve got a lot of work to do, but this should be a lot of fun.” Trevino spent the last half of the season in an instructional league playing for the Spokane Indians in Washington State. Trevino is the third Golden Eagle baseball player in three consecutive years to be drafted by the Rangers. ORU has had at least one player drafted in the major leagues each season since 1995.

PHOTO CREDIT
ORU Media Relations

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OCTOBER 19-24, 2015

50th ANNIVERSARY
Global CELEBRATION

ORU.edu/50

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A call to join ORU as we dream again

Fall 2015 will be a monumental celebration for ORU as we look back on the last 50 years and reflect on all God has done in and through this institution.

ORU has witnessed a miraculous turn since 2008! While there were some dark days in our past, the university is now in a position to dream again. Enrollment is up for the sixth consecutive year. We are completely debt-free, have no deficit and have seen more than \$100 million in campus renovations. (You will read more about these exciting accomplishments in the next few pages.) We are now in the midst of a three-year celebration of our 50th anniversary, which concludes with the graduation of our 50th class in May 2017!

As we celebrate the past, we are also utilizing this 50th anniversary moment as a time to cast vision for the future.

The world is going through amazing changes technologically, socioeconomically and culturally. Today, we are seeing the massification of higher education around the globe. Enrollment in universities worldwide has expanded significantly in the past 50 years and is predicted to increase at an exponential rate in the next decades. The rising global middle class has a greater desire for and greater access to knowledge than ever before. The proliferation of technology, the influence of the Internet and the expansion of global learning opportunities

are radically affecting all we know about scholarship and education.

How will ORU respond to this transformation in the world and in higher education? We must remain true to our founding vision while aggressively positioning ourselves for mission success in the 21st century.

Our founder was a grand innovator. ORU began on the cutting edge of technology, architecture and educational design. We are now casting a further vision for ORU and new generations that includes new technologies and educational innovation.

On my first day as president, I established the Task Force on the Globalization of ORU to consider how we could expand access to whole person education worldwide. Our University Planning Council (a unique collaborative group of trustees, faculty and administration) further developed the ideas from this Task Force and drafted a five-year adaptive plan to further fulfill the global mandate of ORU. This exciting plan was recently adopted by the Board of Trustees and is now being pursued throughout the university. I am grateful to say we are on a trajectory to indeed become a global leader in Spirit-empowered higher education, extending our vision and mission to the uttermost bounds of the earth. The future has never been brighter!

“We must remain true to our founder’s vision while aggressively positioning ourselves for success in the 21st century.”



ABOVE The Task Force on the Globalization of ORU meets in 2013.

This future will require faith, courage and maximum participation from all of ORU's many constituencies. God is calling us to do this together. We are now publicly launching our 50th Anniversary Comprehensive Campaign. This campaign is a united effort to raise \$50 million on the 50th anniversary of ORU, which will help position us for the future and facilitate becoming a true international university—taking whole person education to the uttermost bounds of the earth. Read more about this campaign on page 22.

While our strategic direction may change to meet the needs of today and tomorrow, our principles never will. We will continue our passionate pursuit of academic excellence and raising up Spirit-empowered leaders for the glory of God. ORU at age 50 remains true to the vision and mission on which we were founded. We still believe in whole person education. We still believe in the Holy Spirit. We still believe in healing. We still believe in God's Word. Many universities at 50 and beyond have forsaken their Christian heritage. By God's grace, we will not drift. Our world needs ORU now more than it did 50 years ago, and we are ready for the challenge ahead.

Our best days are before us. What God has in mind for this university goes beyond anything that we have experienced in the past. Join us in celebrating all that has been accomplished thus far and dream with us for all God will do through ORU in the next 50 years.

Happy anniversary, ORU! ✨



Billy Wilson

DR. WILLIAM M. WILSON
PRESIDENT

ORU

EXCELLENCE MAGAZINE

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Mission Statement

The purpose of *ORU Excellence Magazine* is to share university news and information with friends and alumni of ORU, highlight the value of whole-person education and demonstrate that the mission of ORU is being carried out around the world.

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3D LAB PROVIDES IMAGINATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

A major highlight for the Department of Engineering this school year is its new 3D Fabrication and Visualization Lab.

The new laboratory contains state-of-the-art equipment including a Dell workstation with two 3D monitors, rechargeable 3D glasses and a touch screen. The lab seats 16 and allows students to create, model and test new concepts.

"I am really excited about the new 3D lab because it will definitely expand our ability to do research here at the university," said Justice Boisselle, a junior mechanical engineering student. "The 3D screens will allow us to visualize projects in ways that we couldn't before."

Newly imagined objects can become a reality through the 3D printer. Some creations that have been printed include a model of the ORU Prayer Tower and parts for a quadcopter.

The new 3D Fabrication and Visualization Lab was made possible through an anonymous donor.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH FOR SIXTH STRAIGHT YEAR

Last fall, ORU welcomed its 50th class and also celebrated the sixth straight year of enrollment growth with 3,565 students. Freshman retention remained strong at over 80 percent for the fifth consecutive year.

"In today's competitive higher education environment, I am excited to see the number of non-traditional, online learners joining our ranks," said ORU president William M. Wilson. "We are deeply committed to continuing to create avenues for future students from around the world to gain access to our unique whole person education."

This school year, ORU has student representation from 84 countries and all 50 states. That count is up from the previous year by 11 nations. This year's enrollment includes students from nations new to ORU, including: Albania, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Greece, Haiti, Malawi, Mongolia, Romania and Spain.



ORU OPENS INTERNATIONAL CENTER ON CAMPUS

This fall, ORU admitted international students from more than 80 countries. In order to help these students acclimate to campus, the International Center was established.

Nov. 14, ORU opened the doors of the new center, which was designed to increase global culture on campus and to accommodate the influx of international students attending ORU as a result of globalization efforts.

"We are a very diverse campus. I am really glad that ORU has created this special place, where students can come fellowship, learn about the globe and find help," said David Grabovenko, a senior from Perm City, Russia. "I truly believe that the International Center can serve as the link between American students and internationals. I really hope that this center will become a place that will unite students across the globe."

Dr. Marcela Chaván was named as the director of the new International Center this fall.

ORU alumni serve in over 150 nations around the world. The university continues efforts to increase its presence to include every inhabited continent and to fulfill the global mandate of ORU. ✨

Above Dr. William M. Wilson, First Lady Lisa Wilson and Board of Trustees Chair Rob Hoskins join ORU students for a ribbon cutting at the new International Center, Nov. 14, 2014.

ORU NAMED A “BEST REGIONAL UNIVERSITY” BY US NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Oral Roberts University was recognized as one of the best Regional Universities in the West by *U.S. News & World Report*.

When ranking the university, *U.S. News & World Report* gathered data from nearly 1,800 schools around the country. ORU was evaluated on up to 16 indicators such as academic excellence, student life, campus services and campus safety.

Regional universities and colleges are divided and ranked into four geographical groups: North, South, Midwest and West. *U.S. News & World Report* uses quantitative measures that education experts have proposed as reliable indicators of academic quality and is based on a researched view of what matters in education.

The rankings allow readers to compare the relative quality of institutions based on widely accepted indicators of excellence including freshmen retention, graduation rates and the strength of faculty.



NEW MEMBERS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ORU

recently welcomed its newest members of the board of trustees, Angela Evans and Michael Cardone III.

Evans is president and chief executive officer of Crenshaw Christian Center in Los Angeles, California, which was founded by her father, Frederick K. C. Price. Under her leadership, Apostle Frederick Price Ministry Training Institutes have been established in Tema, Ghana, Windhoek, Namibia and Los Angeles.

Evans is married to A. Michael Evans, Jr., and they have two children, Alan and Adrian Evans, and three grandchildren.

Cardone is president of CARDONE Industries, Inc. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a leading global supplier of automotive products for 42 years. He also serves on the board of directors for two nonprofit organizations, WorldServe International and the Cardone Foundation.

Cardone is a graduate of ORU and holds an MBA in International Management from Thunderbird School of Global Management. He and his wife, Alexandra ('94), live in Philadelphia with their three children. ✨



FALL OUTREACH BENEFITS JOHN 3:16, WORLD COMPASSION

*773 students and 14,487 pounds
of food make a difference in
Tulsa area*

MICHELLE PAULSON
ORU SENIOR



TOP Students gather canned food items outside Christ's Chapel during the annual Fall Outreach.

RIGHT After collecting thousands of pounds of food from area homes Oct. 31, student volunteers sort and organize the items in Christ's Chapel.

Instead of trick-or-treating, ORU students spent Halloween night gathering canned goods for the homeless in Tulsa. A total of 773 students traveled with their missions teams or residence halls to more than 3,000 houses in the Tulsa area for ORU's annual Fall Outreach.

"On a night when our students could have been doing so many other things, it was incredible to see them come together to help those in need," said ORU Missions and Outreach director Bobby Parks. "Our prayer this year was that our students would have a heart to see the homeless and hurting in Tulsa."

But ORU students were not only collecting; they were also prepared to give. At each home, students offered to pray with residents that God would meet their needs.

"My team had the opportunity to come to the people of Tulsa and offer to pray with them," said junior education

major Gabe Stark. "It greatly impacted our team seeing the Holy Spirit minister to the people we met, just on their doorstep."

To kick off the evening, students heard from Steve Whitaker, the CEO of John 3:16 Mission. The Tulsa area ministry exists to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of Tulsa's hungry, homeless and at-risk.

With the holidays approaching, John 3:16 was in need of additional resources to provide Thanksgiving meals for over 3,000 families in need. ORU was able to donate 11,887 pounds of food to John 3:16, along with 118 turkeys donated by local business T.D. Williamson, Inc.

A further 2,600 pounds of canned goods were donated to other area food banks.

Additionally, students raised \$2,610 for World Compassion to aid Iraqi refugees who have fled their homes due to the violence. ✪





REJOICING IN PURPOSE

An interview with guest chapel speaker, evangelist Joyce Rodgers

Evangelist Joyce Rodgers, CEO and founder of Primary Purpose Ministries, Inc. in Carrollton, Texas, spoke in chapel November 19. Through her ministry, Rodgers has reached people of all beliefs, ethnicities, religious persuasions and cultural restrictions.

How did you come to know the Lord?

I was raised in a Christian family. Both my mother and grandmother were phenomenal women of God. I observed them as they triumphantly hurred through difficult times with calmness and peace. I would often question their method of survival, and they would graciously respond, “To God be the

glory.” I wanted to know the God of my mother and grandma.

When did you first know you wanted to go into ministry?

During my elementary years, I was a cheerleader and enjoyed cheering teams to victory on the court or field. One day, I undoubtedly heard the voice of the Lord say, “You will always lead people to victory—victory in Christ Jesus.”

When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Apart from a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader, I wanted to be a social worker. Social workers are popular in our culture, yet are in high demand. I knew they helped people find

personal success, whether socially, economically or physically. I desired to be a part of the transformation and growth of others.

What is your favorite verse or passage of Scripture?

John 14:1: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.” To believe in God speaks to the idea that nothing is impossible.

Who are the people who have inspired you?

Beyond my God-fearing grandma (Big Mama), there are a myriad of people. Throughout the journey of faith, many have inspired and challenged me to grow greater and greater.

What accomplishments are you proud of?

The fact that I have been given unthinkable opportunities to talk about Jesus.

Do you have any publications or books you have written?

I have two books: *ReJoyce and Again I Say Rejoice!*, a 31-day devotional, and *Fatal Distractions: Uncover the Roadblocks That Keep You from Fulfilling Your Destiny*. *Fatal Distractions* talks about how the enemy uses things, situations and people and dictates in your mind to fatally distract us from being the Jeremiah 29:11 person God has called us to be. This is why we have to strive to maintain focus.

What do you want to leave with the people you minister to?

Wow, our God is greater than any other! If I've gained any glory, let it go back to Calvary, for to God be the glory for the things He has done! My heart is overwhelmed with gratefulness to have been counted worthy to serve in the ministry.

View archived chapel services at oru.edu/video/chapel. Learn more about Rodgers at joycerodgers.org. ✨

ORU DEEPLY IMPACTED AT ANNUAL FALL REVIVAL

Renowned evangelists, worship and baptisms remind students of their Spirit-empowered purpose

MCKENSIE GARBER
ORU SENIOR

For two days, classes were canceled and students and faculty prepared their hearts for spiritual renewal as ORU held its annual Fall Revival, Oct. 22 and 23.

“I am always excited about our time of revival because it provides an opportunity to focus only on the Lord and His great love for us,” said Dr. Clarence Boyd, dean of spiritual formation. “It also brings the ORU community together in a time of worship and seeking the face of God while we are exposed to some of the greatest speakers that God has raised up. This year was no exception.”



ABOVE Rev. Reinhard Bonnke speaks during Fall Revival.

The university welcomed world-renowned evangelists Rev. Daniel Kolenda and Rev. Reinhard Bonnke to speak at the services.

During the Wednesday session, Kolenda encouraged students to find a purpose worth giving their life to.

“I pray that you give your life away for something that matters,” Kolenda said. “The greatest tragedy is a wasted

life. Many people live dead.”

Bonnke spoke at the Wednesday evening and Thursday morning sessions, and his message resonated with ORU senior Alejandro Cevallos.

“What I liked the most was when Reinhard Bonnke stated that through the Holy Spirit we can move mountains and that nobody is more qualified than the next to access the Holy Spirit,” Cevallos said. “That opened my eyes and helped me realize that no matter what occupation I decide to go into, the Lord will be with me.”



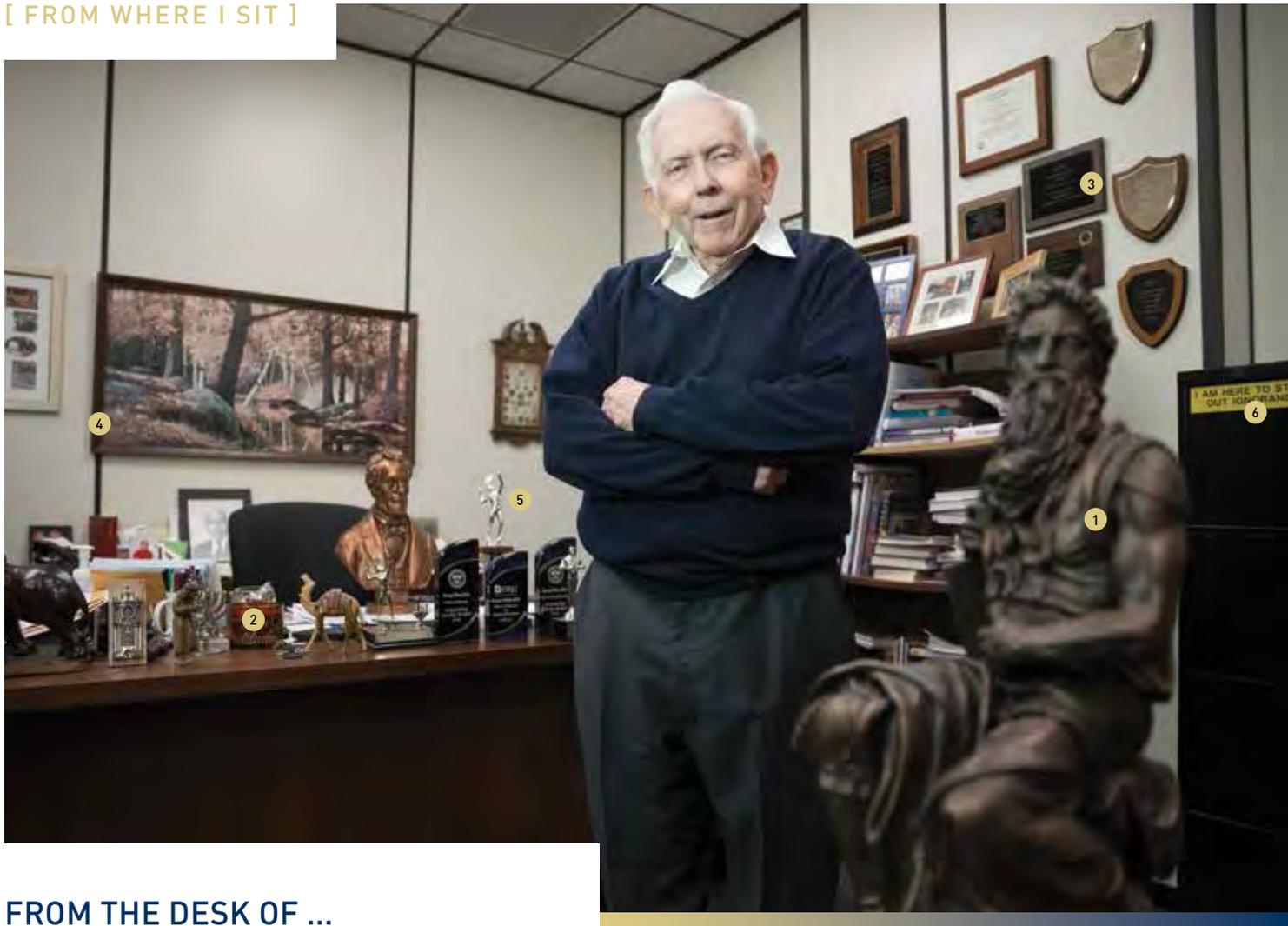
ABOVE A student rejoices with ORU Provost Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez and Women's Chaplain Carol Holderness after being baptized during Fall Revival.

The event culminated with a baptism service that was open to all students.

ORU senior Elandra Dabney had no intention of being baptized when she entered Christ's Chapel that morning, but as she sat through the service and heard Dr. William M. Wilson speak, she was moved to participate.

“During the week of revival God was dealing with my heart on drawing closer to Him and letting people in my life go. Once I came out of the water, I felt a burden being lifted off of my heart,” Dabney said. “Joy and tears filled my heart because at that moment I didn't care what others thought. I didn't care if I was going to be doing my spiritual walk by myself. All that mattered was it was me and God, and He is the best one to fulfill me.” ✨

[FROM WHERE I SIT]



FROM THE DESK OF ...

DR. GEORGE GILLEN

Dr.

George Gillen, a professor in the College of Business and a founding faculty member, has served ORU for nearly 50 years.

1. Statue of Moses. Gillen is a great fan of Moses because he was a great lawgiver. “The basic tenants of our Christian faith and concepts, along with law and ethics, all come from Moses. He was simply a messenger from God of those absolute concepts.”

2. Gifts from students. Souvenirs from Nigeria, Israel and a number of other countries sit on Gillen’s desk. Gillen remembers where each item is from and which student gave them to him.

3. Outstanding Faculty awards. Gillen has been voted “Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year” more than any other professor.

4. Painting. In 50 years at ORU, Gillen has never had a window in his office. His grandmother once lived in the Ozarks and gave this painting to him because she knew he wanted to have a window to look out of as he worked.

5. Tennis trophies. Gillen has played tennis all of his life including on the varsity team in high school. That love for the sport only continued when he

began working at ORU. The faculty started annual tennis tournaments, and Gillen, along with former ORU provost Dr. Ralph Fagin, won multiple times.

6. Ignorance Bumper Sticker. Anyone who has sat in Gillen’s class knows his famous statement, “Ignorance is everywhere, and we must stamp it out!” There are a few ignorance quotes that he displays around his office as a friendly reminder of this strong belief. 🌟



OBI EMEGANO

*How the team captain learned
from—and led through—
a season-ending injury*

DANIELLE PARKER-STOLTZ
2007 ORU GRADUATE

When Obi Emegano went down with a season-ending knee injury in November 2013, he was devastated.

“I couldn’t be on the court with my teammates and help them in the only way I knew how,” Emegano said. “At that point, I just tried to figure out what I could do to help this team out—to lead off the court since I couldn’t be on the court.”

A torn meniscus and anterior cruciate ligament sidelined the redshirt sophomore for the rest of the year, but Emegano was determined to still contribute to his team, even if it was from the bench.

“I am one of the captains of the team, and one of my strengths is being vocal, so I tried to keep that up and be vocal to the guys—talk to them, encourage them and let them know everything was going to be OK.”

Emegano, a transfer from Western Illinois, admits the 2013-2014 season was a difficult one, not only for him, but also for the Golden Eagles. Nonetheless, he was determined to continue to grow as a player, regardless of his injury.

“I’m still obviously a part of the team, but being injured is not the same as being there on the team. But I just said I was still going to learn whether I’m playing or not playing. I’m still going to be a student of the game and learn traits of being a leader.

“With having an injury, there are positives and negatives. I used this as a positive to try to learn and expand my knowledge of the game.”

Nearly a year after his injury, Emegano was ready to step back onto the court and put into practice all he had learned during his time off the court.

“I’ve learned how to be a better leader, and that’s been one of my main goals. I’ve always been a leader, but I’m now taking that next step. These coaches have done a great job in leading me in the right direction and coaching me on how to be a form of them on the floor, an extension of their leadership.”

Emegano reemerged as a leader without missing a beat. He earned his first career Summit League Player of the Week award after a 26-point performance in the PSO Mayor’s Cup game against the University of Tulsa. But Emegano is not focused on his individual statistics.

“We really put an emphasis on winning, because we have a lot of great basketball players, but we can’t do it individually. It takes a team. The ultimate goal is not how many points you can get, how many assists you can get, how many rebounds you can get. It’s about winning together as a team.”

The Golden Eagles are making a comeback to the Summit League this season, and Emegano believes this team is poised for success.

“I have high expectations for this team. I think we have a great opportunity to win this conference and make it to the NCAA tournament, and those are our goals.” ✪



ABOVE Obi Emegano drives the ball down the court in a game against The University of Tulsa.

“The ultimate goal is not how many points you can get... It’s about winning together as a team.”

A STRONG FINISH FOR VOLLEYBALL



ORU volleyball was able to find its stride at the end of the season, posting a 9-7 Summit League mark and going 15-15 overall.

The Golden Eagles won six of their final nine matches before falling in the first round of the Summit League Tournament to North Dakota State.

Senior Sara Pope was one of three Golden Eagles to earn Summit League honors at season's end. The Jenks, Oklahoma native finished her career with over 700 kills and a .283 hitting percentage in just two seasons at ORU.

Freshmen Laura Milos and Lucija Bojanjac also earned honors for the Golden Eagles, highlighted by Milos being named Summit League Freshman of the Year. The duo was able to parlay that success into being named to the Summit League All-Freshman Team as well.

The 2015 season looks extremely bright for the Golden Eagles as they will return 13 letter winners and four starters.

ABOVE Laura Milos goes up for a hit against South Dakota State University.

HIGHLIGHTS OF A GOLDEN ORU SOCCER SEASON

The ORU men's soccer team closed the 2014 campaign with a 8-8-2 record, marking the first time since the 2005 season in which the Golden Eagles have won eight games.

ORU clinched the Summit League regular season championship with a 5-0 blowout victory over Eastern Illinois. The championship was the first regular season title for ORU since 2004.

"The guys have worked exceptionally hard," said head coach Ryan Bush. "I'm proud of the guys. All the hard work and effort that they put in, and everything that they've overcome along the way."

Forward redshirt senior Johnny Chavez, who finished with a league-high 10 goals, was named the Summit League Offensive Player of the Year and First Team All-Summit League. Joining Chavez with all-league awards was Gerardo Salas, who also was named to the first team.

Tarik Salkicic was named to the All-Newcomer team after drilling three goals, third-most on the squad, following Matthew Rogers with four. Defender Kaspars Kokis was also named to the All-Newcomer squad.

The ORU women's soccer team finished its first season back in the Summit League with a 4-10-3 overall record. Highlighting the season was a 2-1 result at SMU, the first ever victory for the Golden Eagles in Dallas, and a 0-0 draw against regionally-ranked Baylor.

Leading the Golden Eagles in goals scored was junior midfielder Ashley Martin, who netted three goals. Sophomore Maria Stordahl was named Second Team All-Summit League, and freshman Lexi Jones was named to the league's All-Freshman Team.

Senior forward Megan Giles finished her career eighth all-time at ORU with 16 career assists. Senior goalkeeper Helen Erb was a part of two shutouts this season, including the shutout against Baylor, giving her 12.5 for her career. ✨

BELOW Johnny Chavez drives past The University of the Incarnate Word's men's soccer team.





MEN'S BASKETBALL TAKES SECOND STRAIGHT PSO MAYOR'S CUP, WOMEN RECLAIM IT

A 16-5 run stretching more than five minutes in the second half was all the breathing room the ORU men's basketball team needed as the Golden Eagles topped crosstown rival Tulsa 77-68 in the PSO Mayor's Cup game at the Mabee Center, Nov. 15.

In front of a Homecoming crowd of 6,534, ORU led for more than 33 minutes of the game and pulled away thanks to 14-second half points from sophomore Bobby Word, who scored eight straight as part of a 12-4 ORU run. ORU also got a game-high 26 points from Obi Emegano and 18 points, 11 rebounds from Korey Billbury.

The duo of Emegano and Billbury combined to shoot 35 free throws, with Emegano connecting on 14 of his 16 attempts. Adrion Webber also caught fire and added 10 points.

Tulsa had four double-digit scorers, led by D'Andre Wright's 17 points. James Woodard added 16, Rashad Smith had 13 points and nine rebounds, and Marquel Curtis chipped in 12 points.

About a week later, the ORU women's basketball team followed suit and rallied to claim their PSO Mayor's Cup with a 73-71 win over Tulsa.

The Golden Eagles saw an early second half lead slip away as Tulsa led by as many as 11 points in the second half. However, ORU picked up the defensive pressure, and Dorottya Balla found open space on the wing to knock down a three-pointer with two minutes, 13 seconds left in the game, giving the Golden Eagles a lead after trailing for more than eight minutes.

Bernadette Balla led ORU with 19 points while Vicky McIntyre nearly missed a triple-double, finishing with 15 rebounds, eight points and nine blocks. ✦

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED BY SIGMA CHI



ORU athletic director Mike Carter was recently honored with a Significant Sig Award for his professional achievements. Significant Sig Awards are one of the highest honors given by the Sigma Chi fraternity. The award recognizes "those alumni members whose achievements in their fields of endeavor have brought honor and prestige to the name of Sigma Chi."

"I am humbled and honored to be recognized through this award," said Carter. "There are so many deserving people, particularly in the Tulsa area. I am exceedingly grateful for the opportunities my career has provided to serve the local community, as well as collegiate athletics."

Under Carter's leadership, ORU has won 142 conference championships, made 79 NCAA appearances, produced 85 All-Americans and had 3 NCAA Track Champions. The overall GPA of the student-athletes has been 3.0 or higher for 16 of the last 17 years.

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LEARNING TO SOAR

A senior reflects on how he has been tested at ORU—in the best way

ARVIN SEPEHR
ORU SENIOR

“**T**he process of testing is a highly choreographed dance.”

That’s what Frank Santoni, chief pilot of commercial planes for Boeing Test and Evaluation, said

when I visited Boeing’s factory near Seattle, Washington. Touring the massive facility meant witnessing doorways large enough for 747s to go through. To ensure safety and durability, these airplanes must be tested thoroughly.

Years before my tour at Boeing, my family and I escaped from Iran after my father’s life was threatened because he was a pastor. We soon made our home in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



My father had yearned for his children to attend ORU before we ever left Iran, and his dream eventually came true. My journey at ORU has included plenty of late nights, great friendships and conversations where professors must have felt as though they were the Wright Brothers explaining the idea of flight for the first time. I’ve spent four years being told that folks in the world are walking, but God has called us to fly.

As with many of my peers in modern day Christendom, I’ve been raised and encouraged to find God’s dream for

my life and cooperate in bringing it to fruition. I’ve met and learned about folks who’ve caught the jet streams of God’s anointing on their lives and circled the globe in order to “go into every man’s world.”

Like my fellow eager Golden Eagles, I began my time at ORU looking forward to finding my own jet stream, preaching God’s word, writing bestsellers that transform the way people perceive and experience Christianity and marrying the woman of my dreams.

But soaring successfully, whether as a Golden Eagle or a Boeing 747, requires plenty of due diligence that one cannot afford to rush or overlook.

One particular test I noticed during the Boeing tour was the “ultimate load wing and fuselage bending” test. This test involves suspending the airplane barely off the ground by attaching it to an infrastructure, which holds it completely still. Just about every difficulty a plane might face is emulated to see how it holds up.

If planes could talk, they may point out the irony of being created to soar all over the world yet being kept seemingly stagnant for a time. “I was created to fly thousands of feet in the air!” the plane might say, “But you’ve forced me to remain still and now you’re throwing things at me.” Yet, the ultimate load wing test is conducted on every Boeing plane in order to determine the amount of load the airplane’s frame can support without breaking.

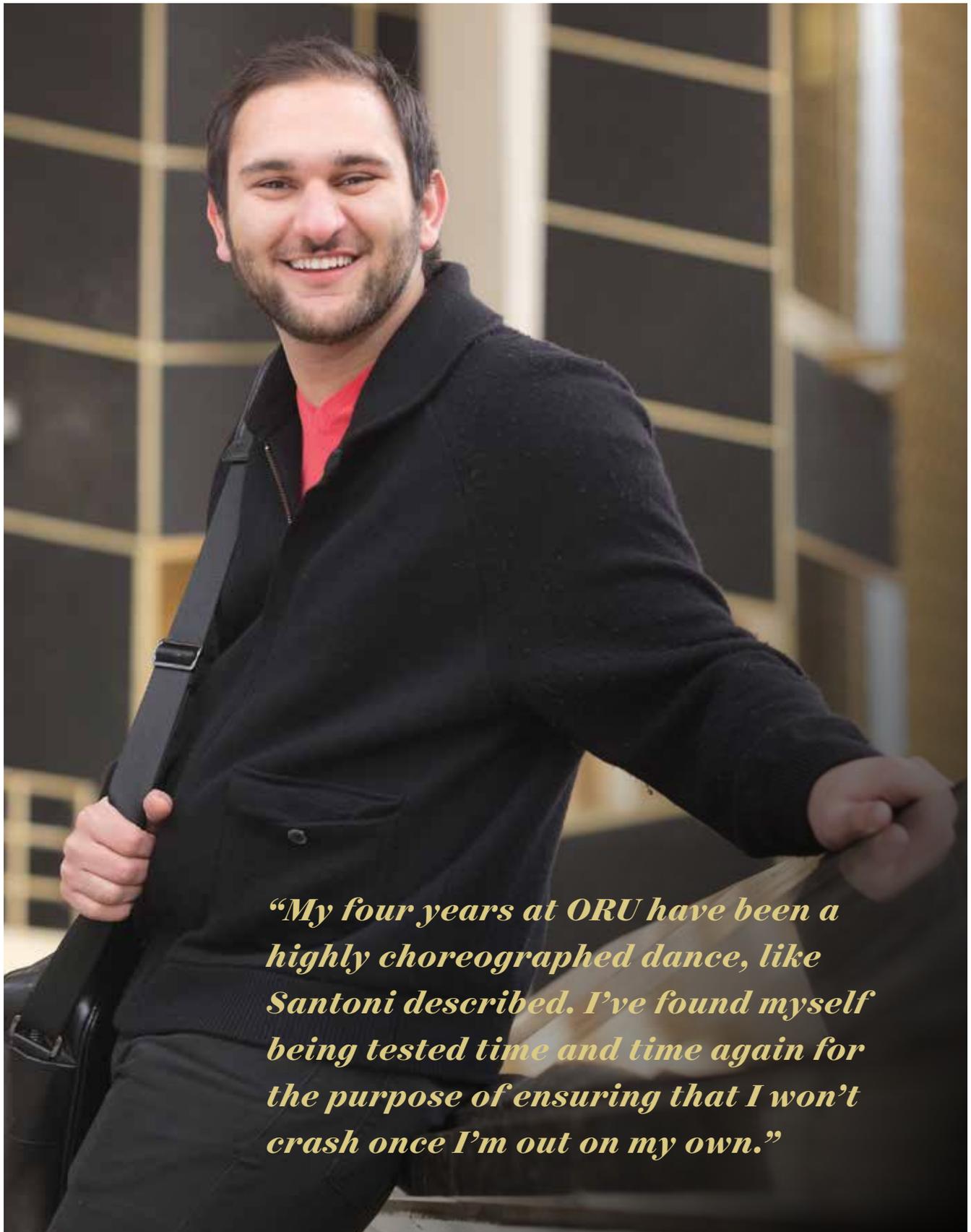
Planes don’t talk—but college students do. My time at ORU has been full of dreaming about the future and longing for the day where I take off and move people toward the heart of God. But these dreams remain untouchable when testing is delayed or skipped.

My four years at ORU have been a highly choreographed dance, like Santoni described. I’ve found myself being tested time and time again for the purpose of ensuring that I won’t crash once I’m out on my own. Though I’ve been taught about my potential and God-given mandate to go into every man’s world, my journey at ORU has been about God making me still so that He could come and make His home in my world.

Whether a plane landing in Tulsa comes from Durham, North Carolina, Chicago, Illinois or Mashad, Iran, the passengers can’t help but be thankful to people like Santoni, for all those tests that took place long before they boarded.

And whether it was a professor encouraging a tired freshman, taking time out to have coffee with a beautiful girl or learning to be still and hear the voice of God, none of the tests of college life are in vain. I imagine there are alumni all over the world who, when they look back at their time at ORU, find themselves grateful for all the testing that took place here.

I know I am. ✨



“My four years at ORU have been a highly choreographed dance, like Santoni described. I’ve found myself being tested time and time again for the purpose of ensuring that I won’t crash once I’m out on my own.”

THE NEXT 50 YEARS

ORU'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN POSITIONS UNIVERSITY

DANIELLE PARKER-STOLTZ
2007 ORU GRADUATE

Across a thick-wooded area that spanned hundreds of acres, Oral Roberts walked, praying in the Spirit and envisioning a university with world-class academics and state-of-the-art technology, built on the Holy Spirit. Each day, Roberts surveyed the land and reflected on the words God had spoken to him:

“Raise up your students to hear My voice, to go where My light is dim, where My voice is heard small, and My healing power is not known, even to the uttermost bounds of the earth. Their work will exceed yours, and in this I am well pleased.

“Build Me a University. Build it on My authority, and on the Holy Spirit.”

With the foundation of God’s promise and His Spirit, the first soil was turned, and Oral Roberts University became a reality. In the fall of 1965, the first students came to the university seeking a whole person education.

The school year began with 300 students and 30 faculty members, and ORU had yet to be accredited.

“We were kind of like pioneers, but at that point I was ready to grow academically, as well as grow spiritually,” Betty Ford-Hembree, a member of ORU’s Alpha Class, said. “I felt a stirring in my spirit and felt like God was calling me in a new direction.”

First-Class University, State-of-the-Art Technology

From its beginnings, Chancellor Roberts set a high standard for the university.

“The president wanted academic excellence. It was the quality of the faculty that guaranteed the academic excellence that President Roberts demanded,” said former ORU provost Dr. Carl Hamilton. “And that excellence could then be seen in the students.”

Dr. William Jernigan was among those 30 first faculty members and recalls that standard applied to not only academics but every area of the campus.

“Oral Roberts believed we should not be second-class as an academic institution; we should be

first-class,” Jernigan said. “The buildings and the equipment reflected that.”

Within a few short years, ORU had become a renowned education institution across the United States and the globe, with world-class academics and state-of-the-art technology. In a Jan. 17, 1969 article, one newspaper described ORU as a “university that had teaching methods and equipment which are closer to the 21st century than any other campus in the U.S.”

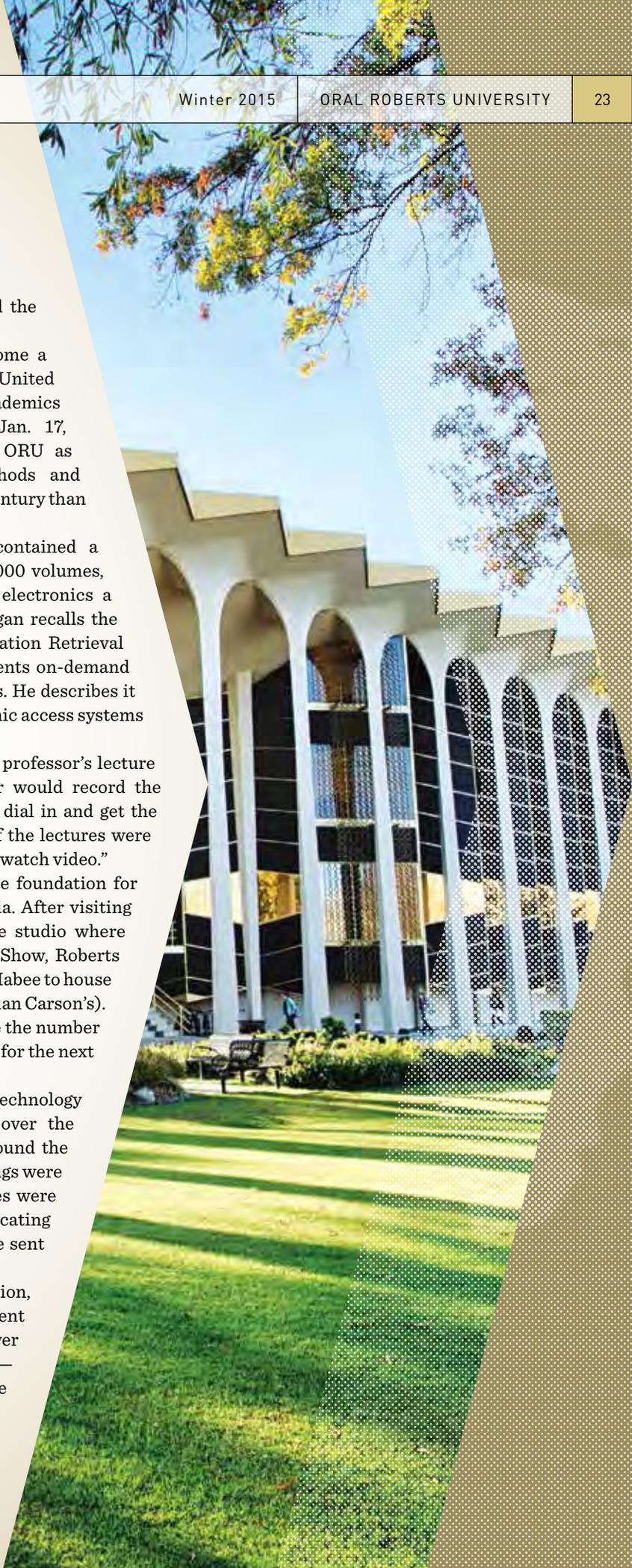
The Learning Resources Center contained a library that had the capacity for 500,000 volumes, and each classroom had all of the electronics a professor or student needed. Jernigan recalls the addition of the Dial Access Information Retrieval System (DAIRS), which gave students on-demand access to lectures and lesson plans. He describes it as one of the most modern academic access systems in the country at the time.

“A student could listen to the professor’s lecture 24 hours a day. The professor would record the lecture, and the students could dial in and get the lecture,” Jernigan said. “Some of the lectures were videoed, and you could dial in and watch video.”

Chancellor Roberts also laid the foundation for TV evangelism and Christian media. After visiting Burbank, California and seeing the studio where Johnny Carson filmed *The Tonight Show*, Roberts returned to Tulsa and built the Baby Mabee to house his TV studio (which was even larger than Carson’s). Roberts’ Sunday morning show became the number one religious TV show aired on Sundays for the next 30 years.

The architecture, infrastructure and technology on campus attracted visitors from all over the world, and ORU’s reputation extended around the globe. However, no matter how many buildings were erected or how many technological advances were made, the mission remained the same—educating the whole person, mind, body and spirit, to be sent into every person’s world.

“The rich legacy of ORU is its mission and vision, and its dedication to that mission,” ORU president Dr. William M. Wilson said. “Our founder never swayed from the word the Lord spoke to him—ORU’s foundation was God’s authority and the Holy Spirit.”



The Next 50 Years

Today, ORU has more than 40,000 alumni who have received that whole person education, serving in 130 different countries. The 2014-15 school year drew 3,565 students from all 50 states and 84 countries. This year, ORU welcomed its 50th freshman class and will celebrate its golden anniversary over the course of the next three years.

State-of-the-art facilities like the engineering department's 3D Fabrication and Visualization Lab and the school of business's ONEOK Executive Boardroom provide students with access to some of the latest technology.

"We started being first-class technologically, and over the years we have stayed up-to-date, and today, I think we are in the forefront, significantly impacting Christian higher education with online learning," Jernigan said.

With one half of a century in the books, ORU is now focusing on its future.

"Fifty years from now higher education will be exceptionally different than it is today," Wilson said. "Technology, mobility, opportunity and the increase of knowledge will all affect higher education dramatically. Some universities will not make it through these changes, but I am confident that ORU will not only survive but thrive."

The 2065 student will look much different than the student of 2015, ORU provost Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez predicts.

"The up-and-coming learner is going to expect education to be located with him or with her," she said. "It's no longer 'just-in-time learning.' It's no longer 'just-for-you learning.' It's 'just-with-you learning'—it's following you and pushing you toward what you need to learn next and why you need to learn it."

In the next decade, ORU is looking to expand access to whole person education to students on every inhabited continent through globalization. Technology will play a major part in that, Reid-Martinez said.

"Technology is absolutely essential for a 21st century university," Reid-Martinez said. "The technology is a major part of that thrust, especially as we go global, because that is how we are going to be able to harness together the learning from around the globe of professors and students, no matter where they are located."

Wilson is passionate to make ORU the premier Christian university for Spirit-empowered students

worldwide. He believes that the university is on strong footing as it leaps into the next 50 years.

"There are a lot of good colleges. We are an exceptional college with a great future. We have world-class academics, a unique focus on physical fitness, an amazing student body and faculty—all fused together in a vibrant spiritual environment. I am certain that we will be the top choice for Spirit-empowered Christians seeking a higher education."

A world-class university built on the Holy Spirit, with state-of-the-art technology, distinguished academics and facilities superior to those of any other institution in the world, sending Spirit-empowered leaders into the world—that is the reputation of ORU. In the next 50 years, that legacy will continue.

To the Uttermost Bounds of the Earth

"Moving into our 50 year anniversary, we want to set ourselves up to fully become the university that God intended us to be from the beginning, the university that Oral envisioned 50 years ago, so that our greatest days are ahead of us in the 21st century," said Board of Trustees chair Rob Hoskins.

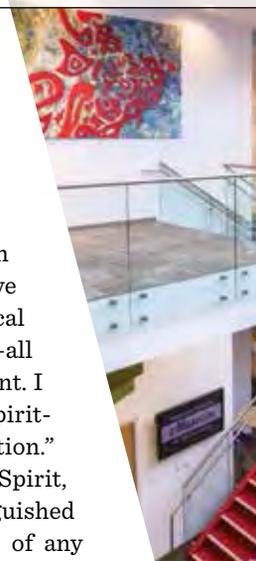
As ORU journeys forward into the next half of a century, the 50th Anniversary Comprehensive Campaign, "To the Uttermost Bounds of the Earth," has been launched. The campaign calls for \$50 million to be raised over the next three years to impact academic growth and expansion, with an additional \$20 million in deferred giving. The campaign will fund four major areas:

- Globalization of Whole person Education
- Enhanced Physical Campus
- Quest Whole Person Scholarships
- Strengthened University Endowment

This campaign is set to position ORU to emerge into its next 50 years stronger and better than ever before, addressing the needs and demands of a multicultural, multidimensional, global university, Wilson said.

"We've been in a season for the past couple of years where we have been dreaming," Wilson said. "As we dream, of course, we need resources to do what God is putting in our hearts. This \$50 million campaign will help us start moving forward with the global strategy God has given us for the future."

The 50th anniversary campaign provides opportunities for globalization, online and distance learning and campus improvements. The funds





raised will also assist ongoing growth and continued financial stability of the university.

“It will let us fulfill that next stage of growth, but more than just ORU, it will allow us to meet our learners around the globe to the glory of Jesus Christ,” Reid-Martinez said.

The next 50 years lie ahead for students, alumni, faculty and staff. What the founder envisioned years ago is today’s reality, which Laura Bishop, ORU’s vice president of Development and Alumni Relations, said is exciting to her as an alumnus.

“I find it incredibly exciting to be dreaming,



planning and preparing for the future of this great university. I believe in this so strongly that I left a job I loved in Fort Lauderdale and my family, and I moved to Tulsa to commit my services to help with the success of this special campaign. As we embark on our half century mark, I’m honored to share the word with our alumni and friends that the time is now to support ORU, ‘for such a time as this.’”

... no matter how many buildings were erected or how many technological advances were made, the mission remained the same.

A FOURFOLD STRATEGY

This campaign is composed of four components:

1. GLOBALIZATION OF WHOLE PERSON EDUCATION

ORU is working to make a whole person education accessible to millions around the globe, on every inhabited continent.

This portion of the campaign provides online expansion and aggressive growth, technology investment, Collaborative Access Education and globalization of ORU and Continental Centers.

2. ENHANCED PHYSICAL CAMPUS

A major aspect of this component is the Global Learning Center. Through this project, ORU’s Baby Mabee will become a hub to transmit innovation and mission through state-of-the-art technology. Classrooms will be equipped with touch technology, interactive SMART boards and other tools to give professors visually advanced options as they teach a wide variety of subjects to ORU satellite campuses worldwide.

New track and tennis courts will be built just to the northeast of Lake Evelyn. These facilities will enhance student life and assist our NCAA Division I athletic programs.

3. QUEST WHOLE PERSON SCHOLARSHIPS

More than 2,300 students have received the Quest Whole Person Scholarship in the last five years. As ORU expands, training a multiethnic, multicultural and multilingual student body will require a dramatic increase in Quest scholarships for emerging student leaders around the world.

4. STRENGTHENED UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT

Adding to our endowment portfolio will provide vitality, expansion and improvement to the entire university over time. This can be accomplished as supporters of ORU strategically include the university in their estate planning.



The Future of ORU

“I felt like I was called to this university,” said graphic design major Jake Haynes. “There was a dream I had, and God was calling me here because that was how I was going to fulfill that dream.”

Just as in 1965, students are being drawn to ORU because they desire to receive an excellent education in a positive, spiritual environment.

“What we started in 1965 has not stopped; we are developing it in a greater way,” Jernigan said. “Oral’s vision was to have a first-class university. I think today we have a first-class university not only because of the academics, but also because we have followed the leadership of the Holy Spirit.”

Each year, thousands of Spirit-empowered leaders are sent into the uttermost bounds of the earth where they are impacting the Kingdom of God.

“We have an opportunity to carry forth (Chancellor Roberts’) vision in a greater way today than even when he was alive,” Jernigan said. “I think today the students that we have and the 40,000 alumni are doing more than he could have done.”

Through the anniversary campaign, ORU is honoring the past—our founder’s vision and the foundation of ORU—while looking to what God has on the horizon.

“The story of ORU is bigger than all of us,” Wilson said.

“This is a God thing. God is at work He cares about this next generation. He cares about the Spirit-empowered movement around the world, and He wants us to provide global leaders within that movement. It is exciting to be a part of something that is bigger than all of us.”

To learn more about the campaign, visit oru.edu/50/campaign or call the development office at 918-495-7336. ✨

BY THE NUMBERS

The 50th Anniversary Comprehensive Campaign calls for \$50 million to be raised over the next three years, with an additional \$20 million in deferred giving.



Globalization
\$18 Million

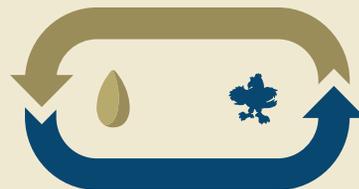


Enhanced Physical Campus
\$14 Million



Quest Whole Person Scholarship
\$18 Million

2015

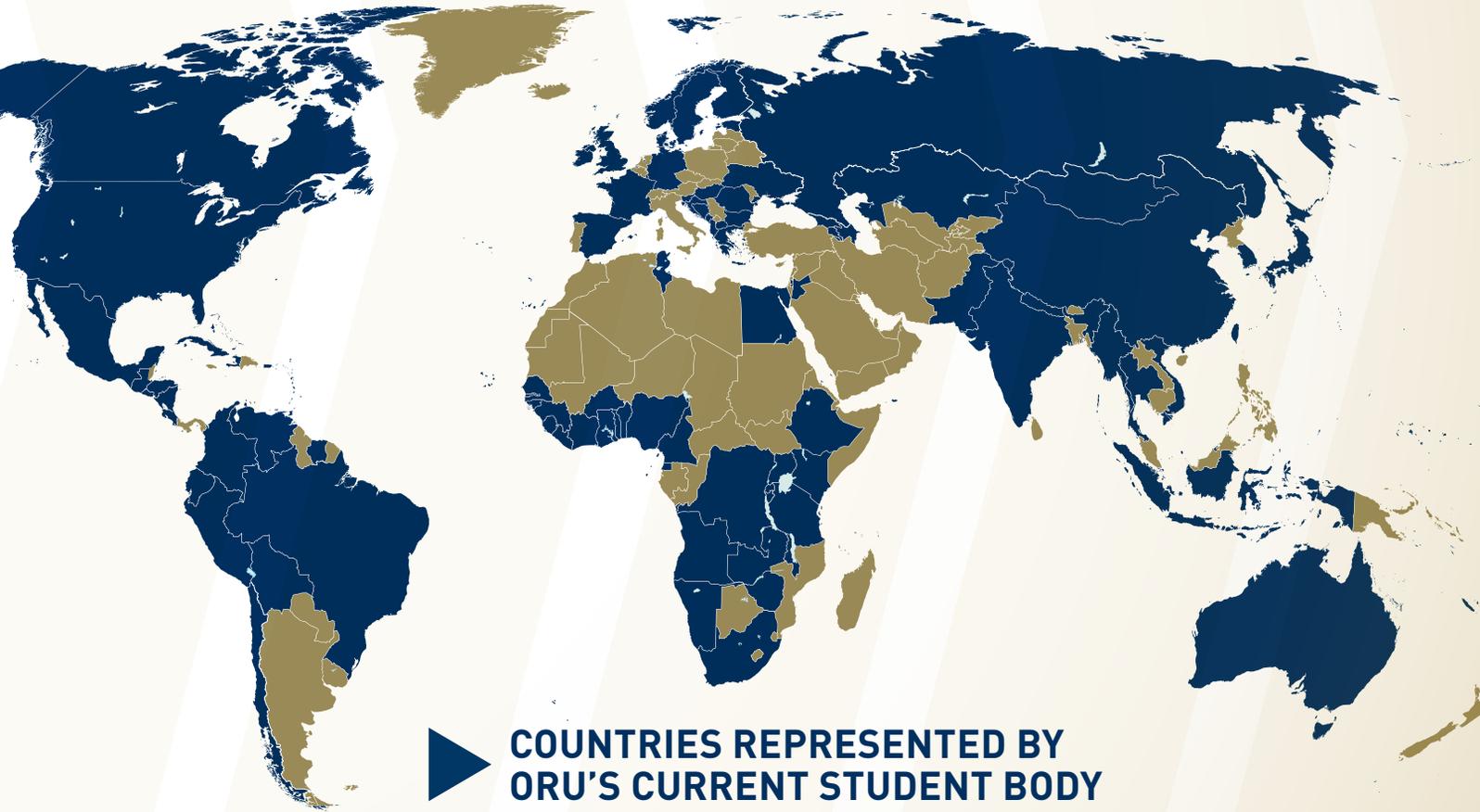


2065

Endowment
\$20 Million

ORU TOTAL ENROLLMENT

3565



▶ **COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY ORU'S CURRENT STUDENT BODY**

▶ **COUNTRIES FROM WHICH ORU IS SEEKING PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE “IN EVERY PERSON’S WORLD”

Multitalented Amick Byram honored at Homecoming with new Alumnus of the Year award

DEBBIE (TITUS) GEORGE
1977 ORU GRADUATE

For 2014 Alumnus of the Year Amick Byram ('77), going “into every person’s world” has meant using his considerable God-given talents to impact those in the entertainment industry through acting, singing, producing and directing.

Byram says he grew up “all over the world.” His father was a pastor and U.S. Air Force chaplain. His mother taught piano and voice, directed the church choir wherever they lived and organized musical evenings in their home.

“She’d invite everybody from the church and everybody from the neighborhood,” Byram said. “They’d come to our house and there would be music for three or four hours.”

It’s no wonder Byram and his siblings, Danny ('80) and Judy Viccellio ('76), “enjoyed music, pursued it, studied it and made something of it in our careers,” Byram said.

Byram’s first solo performance was in first grade, when he sang “The Old Rugged Cross” in church. By high school, he was a stellar performer in choir and in musicals. His involvement in music continued at ORU, but he sensed that it wasn’t the right major for him.



Major: Business. Music minor.’ So I thought, ‘OK. That sounds good.’”

He sees that now as “a God thing,” because “it has been very, very helpful in my career and in my life since then.”

While the business degree has been a blessing, it was his role in a quartet called Reflection that gave him valuable onstage experience. During Byram’s junior year, he and Mitch Moore

(’77), David Grothe (’78, ’98-M.A.) and Don Seeley (’77-MBA) were invited to become part of Oral Roberts’ TV ministry, singing on the Sunday morning program and primetime specials. This was when Byram says he became convinced that being a performer was what he was meant to do.

Los Angeles was a logical destination for someone with his ambition, but he was no overnight success.

“It was a slow burn,” he said of his career.

Eventually, though, significant opportunities came his way: a spot in a professional workshop

for musical theater performers, where he met his wife, Cassie; roles on the Broadway stage in *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Sunset Boulevard*, where he starred opposite Glenn Close; a regular role on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* as Ian Troi, Counselor Troi’s father, and guest spots on other series; two Grammy nominations; and singing roles “in every Disney-animated feature since *The Little Mermaid*,” he said. He is perhaps best known for singing the role of Moses in Dreamworks Animation’s *The Prince of Egypt*.

Byram also serves as president of Oodles World, a company that creates and distributes values-based products for the family marketplace. Oodles Entertainment, a new venture, will play to his strengths with its focus on movies, television shows and other entertainment products.

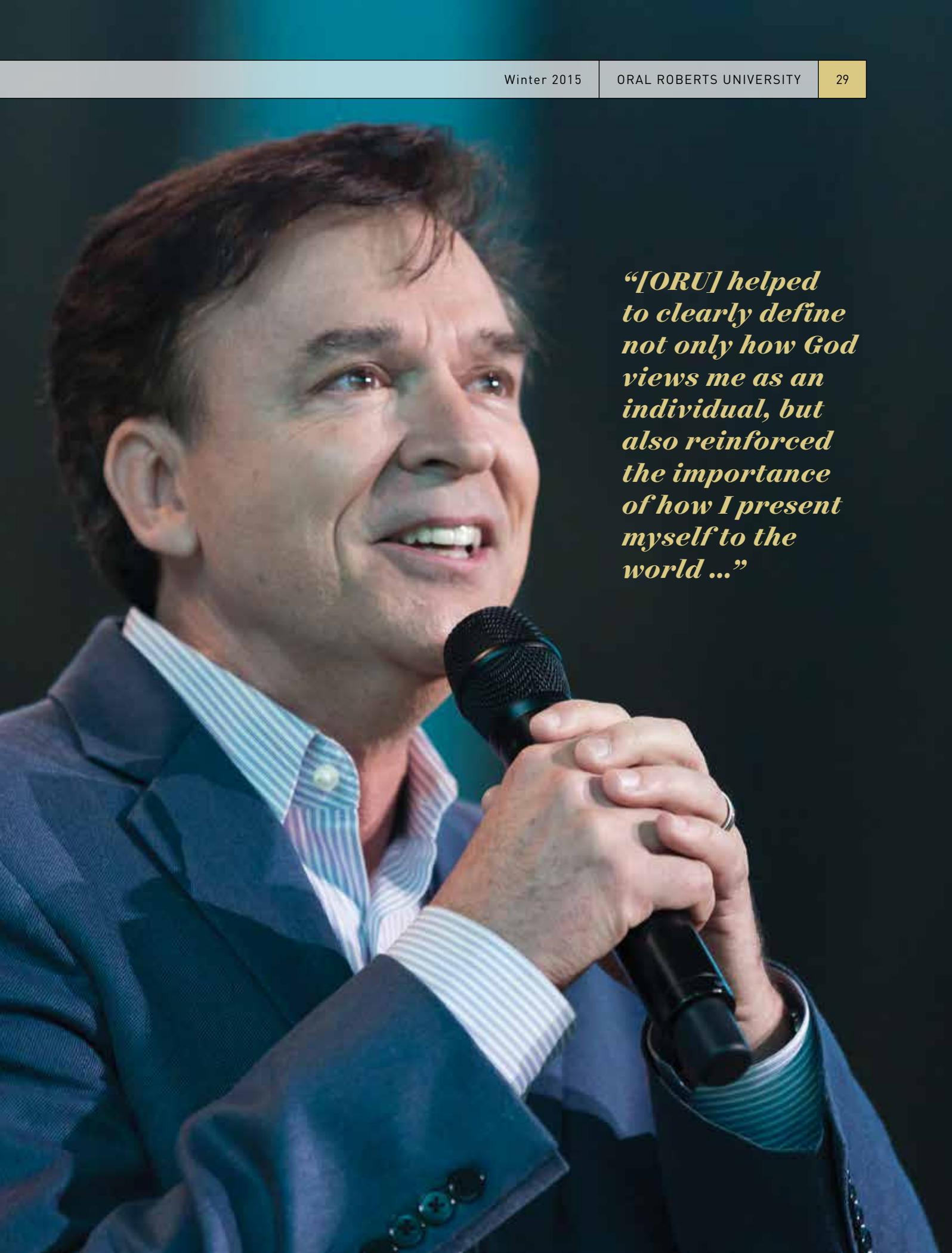
Living out his faith while pursuing his dreams in four distinct areas of the entertainment business wasn’t an outcome Byram could have foreseen as a young child. And considering the volatility of his chosen profession, it’s no wonder he feels like “the most blessed man in the entire world.”

What he learned at ORU also made a big difference.

“The whole-person concept of spirit, mind and body at ORU has had a profound impact on my life,” Byram said.

“It helped to clearly define not only how God views me as an individual, but also reinforced the importance of how I present myself to the world as spiritually balanced, mentally prepared and with the physical capacity to go into every man’s world and fulfill God’s calling on my life.” ✨

*“The whole-person concept of spirit, mind and body at ORU has had a profound impact on my life,”
Byram said.*

A close-up photograph of a man with dark hair, wearing a blue suit jacket over a light blue and white striped shirt. He is holding a black microphone with both hands and looking upwards and to the right with a slight smile. The background is a solid teal color.

“[ORU] helped to clearly define not only how God views me as an individual, but also reinforced the importance of how I present myself to the world ...”

WELCOME HOME— AGAIN

Alumni enjoy double portion of Homecoming in 2014

BELOW The Baby Mabee was transformed for the Alumni Homecoming Banquet.



Moving Homecoming from winter to fall was an idea whose time had come. The question was how to avoid a large gap between the February 2014 Homecoming and the 2015 event. The answer: hold a second Homecoming in the fall of 2014. Nov. 13-15, hundreds of alumni welcomed the opportunity to return to campus for the weekend.

One of the highlights was the Friday night worship service. Former campus pastor Dr. Robert “Brother Bob” Stamps spoke on God’s plans for the university and alumni and said that being called to come to ORU in 1968 “was the most wonderful invitation I ever had in my life.” David Stearman (’69-’74, ’75-’76) and Ross and Aimee Duncan Parsley, both 1992 graduates, led worship with music from their eras. President William M. Wilson presented alumni and faculty who were at ORU between 1965 and 1974 with special certificates while students from ORU’s 50th freshman class gave each honoree a unique medallion.

“There’s nothing better than to go back to a place you have loved and where you have been loved,” Stamps’ wife, Ellen, told alumni when she spoke at the Women’s Luncheon.

TulsaTalks, a daylong business strategies conference, was one of the new Homecoming events. It drew more than 170 registrants—alumni and students as well as members of the Tulsa community—who learned ways to navigate the ever-changing digital landscape.

“I am very proud of our 11-member alumni board who planned and hosted the event, along with several alumni who served as workshop presenters and speakers,” said Cristi



Eschler-Freudenrich, assistant professor in communication, arts and media. “Their willingness to commit the time and energy to this project was validating to me as a faculty member.”

For the third straight Homecoming, the Innovate@50 Expo brought in organizations that coordinator Blake Fite ('98) said “are committed to the global expansion of the gospel.” With 26 groups setting up booths on LRC 3, alumni and students had a chance to talk business and ministry and explore career options as well.

At the Presidential Update, Dr. Wilson and members of his cabinet shared about campus improvements, student leadership development in Student Life and Spiritual Formation, ORU's return to the Summit League, student-athletes' involvement in outreach and international missions, expansion of online enrollment, plans for the 50th anniversary celebration and the University Planning Council's five-year adaptive plan to keep ORU in a proactive, forward-thinking mode.

The capstone of the weekend was the banquet, where the president shared details on ORU's 50th Anniversary Campaign, “To the Uttermost Bounds of the Earth.” He described how the Baby Mabee, where the banquet was being held, would be transformed into a Global Learning Center to make whole person education more accessible to students around the world.

Richard McCutchen ('70) won the trip for two to the Jerusalem 2015 Experience, being held May 20-25.

After the banquet, alumni made the short walk from Baby Mabee to the Mabee Center for the men's Homecoming basketball game. It was a perfect ending to the weekend. The Golden Eagles defeated the University of Tulsa's Golden Hurricane, 77-68, and captured the PSO Mayor's Cup for the second year in a row. 🌟



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10

1. David Stearman at the Homecoming Worship Service 2. Coach Bernis Duke receives an Alpha Class medallion 3. A decades reception was held in the Holy Spirit Room 4. Alumni welcomed in the Hammer Center lobby 5. Hans Helmerich speaks at the Senior Scholarship Dinner 6. The Innovate@50 Expo 7. Chad Shockley '04 and Kevin Anderson '90 of Steelehouse Productions at TulsaTalks 8. George Paul of the Alpha Class is honored by Dr. Wilson 9. Susan Miller Smith '73, featured soloist at the Women's Luncheon 10. Dr. Dave Eland '69 and Rebekah Guajardo represented ORU's first and 50th freshman classes at the Homecoming Banquet



ADDITIONS TO ORU ALUMNI RELATIONS TEAM

Laura Bishop is welcomed as vice president and Robert Beard returns as director

Laura Brash Bishop ('91) is ORU's new vice president of Development and Alumni Relations. She most recently served as the executive director of the National Christian Foundation of South Florida.

While at ORU, Bishop earned a Bachelor of Arts in organizational/interpersonal communications with a minor in business administration. As a student, she served as vice president of Student Activities and helped organize the university's 25th anniversary celebration.

Bishop has spent more than a decade as a development executive, including work as development and communications director for both Habitat for Humanity of Broward and Westminster Academy.

Bishop and her husband, David, have two children. Their daughter currently attends ORU, and their son is in high school.

This summer, Robert Beard was named the ORU Director of Alumni Relations.

Beard earned his Bachelor of Science in communications and a Master of Education in school administration from ORU. Beard previously served as director of alumni relations at ORU from 2003-2005.

Beard has more than 26 years of experience as a professional educator, corporate executive and fundraiser. Throughout his career, Beard has worked as the development executive at the Indian Nations Council of the Boy Scouts of America in Tulsa, vice president of training and development at American Airlines and principal at Metro Christian Academy High School in Tulsa. ✪

A CALL FOR ALUMNI PRAYER

ORU GRADUATES BECOME SPIRITUAL SPONSORS FOR CURRENT STUDENT MISSIONARIES

ALLEN VOTH
1984 ORU GRADUATE
1986 ORU M.A. GRADUATE

God has always called His people to pray. Prayer moves and empowers God's work on the earth. Last summer, ORU alumni and students saw the power of prayer at work.

In effort to connect ORU alumni with current ORU students in tangible and practical ways, the ORU Alumni Board launched a new prayer initiative in the spring of 2014 to support students going on Summer Missions and Music to the Nations teams.

The alumni board reached out to the alumni with a simple question: "Will you commit to pray daily for a missions team?" The response was amazing.

Within hours of sending an email to alumni about the initiative, dozens had signed up to become prayer partners

for ORU Missions. When the dust settled and all assignments were complete, every missions team had multiple alumni prayer partners. Alumni from 40 ORU graduating classes, living across 25 states and seven countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Central America, committed to pray and email Scripture and words of encouragement to the teams.

The alumni board again asks alumni to pray for the 2015 missions teams and hopes to have every student missionary teamed up with at least one alumni prayer partner.

If you are willing to commit to pray daily for a missions team and to pray for each student by name, please join the alumni prayer movement. For more information, visit alumni.oru.edu.



MAKING MEDIA THAT MATTERS

How Phil Cooke's time at ORU equipped him for an accomplished career in film

When Phil Cooke ('76) first came to ORU, he was a piano major and had no idea it was possible to make a career out of working in the film industry. Forty years later, Cooke is considered a media guru, having produced media programming in nearly 50 countries around the world.

The internationally known writer and speaker was first introduced to the world of film in high school. He and his friends would often steal his dad's camera and make movies.

While unpacking his belongings, a student on his floor told Cooke that he could help him learn to edit the movies. A professor saw one of Cooke's films and asked to show it to his class.

"I sat in the back of the class, and when it was over, they talked about it. Some liked it; some didn't. This idea came to me that if I could do something with a camera that makes people talk about it like this, that is what I'm supposed to do with my life."

From that day forward, Cooke said he could not be found at ORU without a camera. After graduation, he moved to Los Angeles and worked with several fellow ORU alumni. About a year later, Cooke was contacted by someone at Oral Roberts' TV program to come work as a director.

In 1991, Cooke moved back to the West Coast and founded Cooke Pictures in Burbank, California, where he has worked on everything from Super Bowl commercials to documentaries for PBS.

The concept of "going into every person's world" is one Cooke says is so important for ORU students and alumni. It is his hope that, through his career, he can influence how Christians engage the world and how the world receives that message.

"I want my legacy to be that I helped change the perception of Christianity in the culture. If we can change that initial thought that people have about who Jesus is, what Christianity is or what the Church is about, it could have a huge impact on opening that door and them giving it a second thought."

To learn more about Cooke, visit philcooke.com. ✨



Planned Gifts: *An Investment in the Future*

A planned gift is one of several types of gifts that permit you to provide a future benefit to Oral Roberts University while meeting your current financial, personal and philanthropic goals. Rather than providing immediate support to the university through an outright contribution of cash, securities, artwork or other tangible items, planned gifts provide a future stream of support that enables ORU to look to the future with confidence.

As with all gifts to ORU, the future benefit of your planned gift will be applied to the department or program you select for purposes you define. A planned gift also offers you and your family significant tax benefits, greater financial flexibility and even lifetime income. Regardless of its form, your planned gift helps provide a secure foundation for the future of this Christ-centered university.

To learn more about how a planned gift might fit into your overall giving plan, please call the Office of Development toll-free at **800-822-8203**, e-mail us at development@oru.edu, or visit oru.edu/friends.

[TRANSITIONS]

1970s

Gene Steiner '71 and **Kathy (Korell) Steiner '72** recently celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary. In August, they moved from Tulsa back to Addison, Texas. This is where they were living in 1986 before moving on to Atlanta and Colorado for a total of 28 years. They are excited about this new chapter in their lives.



1. **Scott Aycock '77** has a new poetry and lyrics book called *These Stones* that was just published by Blooming Twig (New York). The book is available on amazon.com.

1980s



2. **Jim Stovall '81** received a five-star review from *Success* magazine for his new book *Wisdom for Winners*. The content is drawn from a series of columns that Stovall wrote over a 10-year span for a business journal, which

focus on ways to deal with adversity, make a positive impact on others, realize dreams and achieve success in every area of life.

In August 2014, Rear Admiral **Nicholas Makrides '82, '86-DMD** was appointed chief dental officer of the U.S. Public Health Service, along with a temporary promotion to the rank of assistant surgeon general (upper half). His new role will include overseeing management of the Federal Bureau of Prison's 119 prisons. Makrides and his wife, Linda, have been married for 24 years and have three daughters.

Last summer, **David Rivera '82** was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee. Rivera received his J.D. in 1988 from Pace University School of Law. During his career, he has served as an assistant state attorney (Florida) and assistant district attorney (New York), a prosecutor/Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division in the U.S. Attorney's office (Puerto Rico), and First Assistant United States Attorney and Chief of the Criminal Division (Tennessee), among other leadership positions.

Rev. **W. Wallace (Wally) Culp '83** was commissioned as a provisional elder in the South Carolina United Methodist

Church on June 2, 2014. Culp practiced law in South Carolina for 25 years before being called into the ministry in 2010. He graduated with a M.Div. degree (with honors) from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. on May 12, 2014.



3. Dr. **Regina Stone-Hernandez '83** received her doctorate in education from Nova Southeastern University in June 2014. She is an assistant professor and co-chair of the Department of Education at the

University of Mount Olive in North Carolina. She is also the director and founder of the university's Academic Resource Center, serving all seven campuses. This past summer, Stone-Hernandez, daughter of missionaries, returned to her roots to teach pedagogy and andragogy theory to 200 Quechua pastors in Cochabamba, Bolivia.



4. "David Bridges" is the pen name of a 1984 graduate who has a B.A. in theology/church administration. He has published a book titled *When Life Hands You Lemons ...* and uses a pen name to protect the identities of the

students in the book. It is a memoir of his nine years of teaching a speech class called "Teen Leadership." After graduation, Bridges spent the next 22 years in full-time church ministry. He taught eighth graders in public schools for nine years. Bridges lives in Fort Worth, Texas, with his wife of 30 years. They have three daughters and one grandson.



5. **Mitch Ernst '84** M.Div. was named a numismatic ambassador by Numismatic News in Rosemont, Illinois, at the American Numismatic Association's World Fair of Money on Aug. 7, 2014.

Jon Howell '84 and **Adrienne Young '84** were married Oct. 4, 2014, in Lafayette, Louisiana. Young works in corporate and public relations for Gibson Energy. Howell is an Internet and technology service manager for State Farm Insurance in Bloomington, Illinois.

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6. Dr. Robert Barry Blair '86 is serving as president-elect of the National Business Education Association for 2014-2015. He also serves as president of the National Association for Business Teacher Education and the Tennessee Association of Parliamentarians. Blair is a professor of business communication and entrepreneurship at Middle Tennessee State University, where he earned his master of business education degree. His Ph.D. is from Louisiana State University.



7. In September 2014, **Susan Kroll '88** received a 2014 Emmy Award for her work as a producer in the category of "Outstanding Live Coverage of a Current News Story, Long Form" for NBC's Boston Marathon bombings news specials. This was Kroll's sixth Emmy win.



8. Blaine Templeman '88 has joined Arnold & Porter LLP as a partner in the corporate and intellectual property practice groups and will be working out of the firm's New York office. Blaine received his J.D. from New York University School of Law.

1990s



9. Matthew Kruse '95 and some of his fellow '95 grads attended the premiere of Dino Brogna '95's short film *27* in Boston on June 22, 2014. Kruse and Brogna founded the Golden Eagle Sports Page in 1994, and Bo Wright and Byron Love served as correspondents. "So this was a fun reunion of sorts," said Matthew. Dunamis, Sonic and Brotherhood were the wings represented.



10. Ryan Bangert '99 was made a litigation partner with Baker Botts LLP in January 2014. He is currently practicing in the Dallas office. **Katie (Statler) Bangert '00** has recently published a story in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Find Your Inner Strength*. The Bangerts have three children, Hailey, Sam and Ben.

2000s



11. In July 2014, **Trait Thompson '00** was named state capitol project manager by the director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for the State of Oklahoma. In his new role, Trait will oversee the repair and restoration of the Oklahoma state capitol. Thompson and his wife, Sara, have two children.

Joshua Danker-Dake '03's first novel, *The Retail*, was released on July 29, 2014. He and his wife, **Mary-Susan (Simon) Danker-Dake '03**, have two children, Sophia, 4, and Paul, 2.



12. Tripp Hipple '09 competed in the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii on Oct. 11, 2014. Tackling the 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike and 26.2-mile run, the 27-year-old placed 10th in the male 25-29 age group. He was the first American in his age group, 91st among all male competitors and 102nd overall out of 2,187 competing athletes. He currently resides in Denver, Colorado.

2010s



13. Isaac Hutchins '11, a Tulsa-area native, joined Warburton Capital Management as client service specialist. Hutchins graduated with a bachelor's degree in marketing. After completing his degree, he worked with a national communications company and eventually managed their largest location in the nation. Hutchins was awarded the company's top nationwide award for his excellent client service, operations management and effectively managing his team.

Brady Hughes '13 recently joined Stanfield & O'Dell, P.C., a Tulsa CPA firm that provides accounting, tax, audit, business valuation and consulting services, as an audit associate. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and has worked previously as a tax accountant with two Tulsa-area CPA firms.

John Chau '14, a health and exercise science grad, invited some special guests to his graduation: Burmese soccer team players. Chau was outreach project specialist for ORU Missions and Outreach, where he worked with 15 nonprofit organizations, including coaching the Burmese team.

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- 1 Stay in the dorms and have the time of your life!

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REMEMBERING DR. MYLES MUNROE

“He has changed our lives. He gave so much of himself. He leaves a legacy.”



November 9, Oral Roberts University graduate Dr. Myles Munroe ('78) went home to be with the Lord.

Munroe, founder and president of Bahamas Faith Ministries International, was killed in a tragic plane crash, along with eight others in Grand Bahama, Bahamas.

“His work in extending Christ’s Kingdom in our generation was exemplary and world changing,” said ORU president Dr. William M. Wilson. “He was a servant to the university as both a member of the Board of Regents and, most recently, on the Board of Reference. Over the years, Myles was a much beloved chapel speaker and contributor to our university community.”

Munroe also served as co-chair of the Empowered21 Caribbean cabinet and a member of the Empowered21 Global Council.

Also aboard the plane was Munroe’s wife Ruth, who attended ORU from 1979 to 1980, and 1978 ORU graduate Richard Pinder, senior vice president and pastor of Bahamas Faith Ministries Fellowship Church.

A week after the crash, ORU alumnus Gary McIntosh ('75), a close friend of Dr. Myles and Ruth Munroe, shared memories of his friendship before his congregation at Transformation Church Greenwood in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

“They were with (my wife and I) in almost every arena and every transition of our life,” McIntosh said.

He and Dr. Munroe met as students at ORU and remained friends over the last 42 years.

“He loved life more than almost anyone I’d ever known,” McIntosh said. “He stood tall with confidence. He had faith in God’s Word that gave him conviction that stood the test of time.”

Munroe began his ministry in a small rented building that sat only a few hundred people. Today those humble beginnings have evolved into BFMI and Myles Munroe International.

“He would always say he was going back to Bahamas to change his nation ... and he did it,” McIntosh recalled. “He spoke to princes, presidents and prime ministers. He was influencing their decision-making process.

“Dr. Munroe spoke into Fortune 500 companies and poured into them and did training sessions all over the world. How many spheres of influence did this man have? You talk about a big impact. He left massive deposits everywhere he went.”

Over his lifetime, Munroe wrote 59 books, including *Becoming a Leader*, *God’s Big Idea* and *Kingdom Principles*. Munroe traveled as a preacher and motivational speaker training leaders in government, business and ministry

for more than 30 years.

“He was obedient to what God said to him, and there was a releasing of what God said to him—through books and through the Internet,” McIntosh said.

In an interview, less than two weeks before his death, Munroe spoke on how believers should live and die.

“I want you to die empty. I want you to die with nothing else left to do,” he said. “I want you to die because you poured out all of your dreams, ideas, visions, books, music, publications ... that you died empty. That’s the goal of life. One of the most beautiful statements I have ever heard about dying is this: ‘It is finished.’”

McIntosh looks back at Munroe’s life and ministry and says he believes his dear friend truly did “die empty.”

“He had incredible dedication,” McIntosh said. “He has changed our lives. He emptied himself fully. He gave so much of himself. He leaves a legacy.”

Dr. Myles and Ruth Munroe are survived by his daughter Charisa Munroe ('05) and his son Myles (Chairo) Munroe ('06). ✨

IN MEMORIAM

- Dorothy Lee Hartzler, Class of 1993 (M.A.-Ed.), d. June 25, 2014
- Jeffrey J. Miller, Class of 1987 (B.S.-Management), d. Nov. 13, 2013
- Ruth Munroe, associate alumna, d. Nov. 9, 2014
- Dr. Myles Munroe, Class of 1978, d. Nov. 9, 2014
- Dr. Stephen L. Myers, Class of 1986 (D.M.D., Michael Cardone, Sr., School of Dentistry), d. July 6, 2014
- Sarah Jane Parsons, Class of 1999 (M.A.-Ed.), d. April 29, 2014
- Richard Pinder, Class of 1978, d. Nov. 9, 2014
- Carl Schell, Class of 1977, d. July 8, 2014
- Terri Teaft, Class of 1980, d. May, 8, 2014

WITH EYES FIXED ON HIM

*The ORU Alumni Board Vice-Chair on
God's continued call to ORU students and alumni*

JOHNIE HAMPTON
1991 ORU GRADUATE

April 1983: My Methodist church was hosting four ORU students on a Lay Witness mission. They were so different—in a way that was undeniably captivating. Each was so full of life and seemed to clearly understand their calling. They were the coolest Christian people I had ever met, proclaiming their faith with boldness and love. I wanted to be like that.

Two years and a season later, I was sitting in my parents' living room in Hickory Ridge, Arkansas, a town of 400 people nestled securely amidst rice and soybean farms. My sole connection to Oral Roberts University was through a TV broadcast. I was so drawn to every aspect of the world-renowned school—its ideals, its magnetic student life and the power of God that was perpetually evident there. It was larger than me, and I needed to go there. I was undeniably certain that this small-town kid was, like Peter, being called to get out of the boat. I didn't know how to make it happen, but God did.

My story is not a unique one. There are so many of us—more than 40,000 ORU alumni—who didn't find ORU; ORU found us. Many of us stepped onto campus, as I did at 18, and felt the presence of God so strongly, we couldn't resist the call to come, to leave our families and to

chase what we knew was His plan for our lives.

Throughout our journeys, we found lifelong relationships with people from all over the world, professors who believed we could, even when we were unsure of ourselves, and the ability to hear the voice of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Today, God has not stopped calling those ready and eager to follow. Our locations may have changed. Our appearance has surely changed. Our responsibilities look much different. But the same God who led us to ORU is the same God who told Peter to "Come," not because Peter was ever really able, but because we needed to see his dependence on the One who called him (Matt. 14:22-32). And with our eyes fixed on Him, the impossible becomes possible.

It's been 24 years since I graduated from ORU with my business degree, and there's never been a day I regretted leaving that rice farm to follow God's leading. He has never disappointed me. Not once. That simple decision was the first in a series that has led me to the place I am now.

I invite you to step back on campus. The place we once called our "home away from home" is still permeated by the spirit of God. Thanks to the great leadership of Dr. Wilson, enrollment is at an all-time high, the campus is immaculate,

and technology is cutting-edge. The Armand Hammer Student and Alumni Center is alive with student and alumni life. And the spiritual life on campus is like nothing I have ever experienced before!

After all these years, I can still hear Oral Roberts in chapel proclaiming with distinguishable passion and conviction: "Raise up your students to hear My voice, to go where My light is dim, where My voice is heard small, and My healing power is not known, even to the uttermost bounds of the earth. Their work will exceed yours, and in this I am well pleased."

And today my prayer is this: *Lord, help me hear Your voice, to go when You say go. To spread Your light in my day-to-day business. To be Your voice when the world screams its obscenities so loudly. And that somehow I would be able to live a life worthy of Your calling.*

It started at ORU, and it's still up to me to walk it out.

I encourage you, my fellow alumni, whether you've kept your eyes on Jesus and are walking on water, or you looked into the vast bleakness of the world and are sinking, rise up! As alumni, we are part of an incredible legacy, and one that this world is in desperate need of. Our work will exceed Oral Roberts', and in that God is greatly pleased. ✨



JOHNIE HAMPTON is Vice Chair of the ORU Alumni Board and president and CEO of the advertising agency Hampton Creative, Inc., recently named to the Top 10 Fastest Growing Privately Held Businesses in Tulsa.

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