

FOCUS

ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY
SPRING / SUMMER 2014

MEINDERS
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
JOINS THE TOP 5% OF
BUSINESS SCHOOLS GLOBALLY.
PAGE 3



THE RISE OF

TEACHER EDUCATION

LEADING, SERVING, TRANSFORMING

PAGE 6



from the president

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

— John Wesley, *Letters of John Wesley*

Jan and I are so fortunate to experience these profound words of Methodist founder John Wesley coming to life every day here at Oklahoma City University. We are in awe of the generous spirits on and off campus who are shaping the world around us. Throughout this issue of *FOCUS*, you will be introduced to alumni, faculty, and students who are making an impact as teachers, artists, healers, and philanthropists.

The work of OCU has always been important. Not only do we prepare people for a wide range of career opportunities, but we instill a tradition of servant leadership that inspires our graduates and employees to “Do all the good they can.” That spirit of giving back is only strengthened by a quality, rigorous education that grooms our students for success.

As we were finishing up this latest issue of *FOCUS*, we learned the Meinders School of Business received accreditation from AACSB, representing the highest achievement for an educational institution that awards business degrees. Entrance into the league of the world’s top 5 percent of business schools is testament to the quality afforded when vision combines with dedicated leadership and generosity. Congratulations to Dean Steve Agee and the faculty and staff for this tremendous accomplishment.

Recently we celebrated the caliber of teachers produced by our OCU Education Department. Thirty-three percent of Oklahoma Teacher of the Year recipients over the last nine years are OCU alumni. This is a prime example of the alumni achievement that grows out of the fertile ground of an OCU education. Students here know their professors, are known and respected by their professors, and the best in education is modeled every day in our university classrooms.

This type of success doesn’t happen by accident. The current Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, Peter Markes BME ’01, is a product of the overall OCU experience. Like many of you, he had friends and professors on campus who challenged him to be his best, and an institution that was able to support his dreams.

Our alumni connections throughout the world also set up our graduates for success. The ninth annual Spring Break New York City workshop hosted by the OCU/NYC alumni group exemplifies the connections offered by an OCU education. The three-day intensive is open to any OCU student interested in the performing arts, and is available free of charge thanks to a generous donation from Dr. Ann Lacy. In addition to the one-on-one instruction offered at the workshop, this year’s participants had the chance to meet award-winning composer and lyricist Stephen Schwartz, who wrote the music and lyrics for “Godspell,” “Pippin,” “Wicked,” and many other acclaimed shows. This is truly an “only at OCU” moment.

Generosity comes in many forms. Whether it’s talking with others about what OCU means to you, making a transforming gift, or using your area of influence to help continue our good work and advance our students, you are supporting the OCU family. And for that, we are eternally grateful.

As we launched our latest class of OCU graduates this May, we are reminded that we are all part of a treasured and growing community. That community is only made stronger by generosity of all kinds—time, treasure, and commitment. Thank you for all you do to help our students and university thrive.

Jan and I wish you a wonderful and rejuvenating summer.

ROBERT AND JAN HENRY



Photo by Billy B Photography

OCU/NYC students with Stephen Schwartz (center, striped sweater)

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Oklahoma City University pledges to recruit, select and promote diversity by providing equality of opportunity in higher education for all persons, including faculty and employees with respect to hiring, continuation, promotion and tenure, applicants for admission, enrolled students, and graduates, without discrimination or segregation on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, handicap or disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

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FEATURES

- 3 MSB EARNS WORLD-RENOWNED ACCREDITATION
- 6 LEADING, SERVING, TRANSFORMING: THE RISE OF TEACHER EDUCATION
- 10 MEET THE GREEKS
- 12 ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD
- 16 VISIONARY PROFESSOR PRODUCES GLOBAL SUCCESS
- 19 PROFESSOR'S FAITH BREAKS THROUGH CLASSROOM, PRISON WALLS



page 6:
Transforming through Education



page 11:
A Global Presence

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 letters
- 4 update
- 14 alumni
- 20 class notes
- 24 giving
- 25 athletics
- 28 honor roll of donors
- 39 in memory



page 18:
Meeting Dan Rather (and others!)



Catch exciting extras and the latest activities at Oklahoma City University by visiting Focus Extra at www.okcu.edu/focus.

MUSIC TO THE EARS: CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL PURCHASE STIRS UP MEMORIES



(Editor's Note: President Robert Henry and Bass School of Music Dean Mark Parker received this letter from Ruth Bergstrom Jones, '45-'46. An excerpt is published here.)

This week we received a copy of *FOCUS* alumni magazine. The cover stirred up memories for me and compelled me to write this letter. It is an impressive picture of Central High School, which you have purchased to be the downtown home of the OCU School of Law. Congratulations!

I attended Central High School in 11th grade from 1943 to 1944. My brother graduated from Central High School in 1938. I played viola in the orchestra. I caught the street car at 7th and Broadway to take me home to NE 21st and Lottie. I was always loaded down with my viola in my left arm and a load of books in my right arm.

In orchestra that year I was introduced to the music of Victor Herbert, and my viola part in waltz time was usually playing the second and third beats of the measure. I had previously studied class violin in the sixth grade at Culbertson grade school. I received no private violin or viola lessons.

But long before that, in about 1933, during those depression years, my parents rented out their brand new house on Lottie Street and moved to downtown OKC to a large house with upstairs bedrooms. My mother rented out those rooms to augment the income of my dad, who worked as a mechanic for Greenlease Moore in downtown Oklahoma City. Our house was just two blocks from Central High School.

When I was ready for college, that trusty street car, or trolley car, ran right in front of our house where were living again, back on Lottie. It took me daily to my classes at Oklahoma City University. I was in the orchestra, sang in the choir directed by James Nielsen and took private piano and organ lessons from Dean Clarence Burg.

In James Nielson's theory and sight reading classes, we had to come to class singing what we thought was the correct A-440 pitch. In the fine arts building we did some music theater productions such as "Oklahoma" and "Carousel," even though we were short on men in the choir because so many of them were still in the Armed Forces in 1945. We had chapel two to three times a week.

Dean Burg gave me my organ lessons at the Masonic Hall, which was downtown. It had two pipe organs, and one of them was a big five-manual theater organ. I had fun practicing on that instrument and pulling out all the stops! Later, OCU purchased the smaller two-manual pipe organ and installed it in the fine arts building, but that was later and I never did get to play it in its new location.

My first paying organ job as a church organist was when I was 19, and I have been playing for churches as a pianist or organist for 66 years. My experience in the Central High School and OCU orchestra helped me to continue to play viola in several symphony orchestras in cities where we have lived.

Today, sitting on the music rack of my Kawai grand piano I have the music for Debussy's "Clair de Lune," which I learned under the tutelage of Dean Burg. It has his personal fingering and expression markings. And at the age of 85 I can still play it!

My husband is an alumnus of OCU, Jesse Edmund Jones Jr. He attended OCU after getting out of the Navy and graduated in the class of 1951. His major was biology and education. After graduation, he accepted a call to teach sixth grade in Juneau, Alaska. That was an adventure for us to drive the Alaska Highway with our 22-month-old daughter.

Besides living in Alaska, we have lived in Nebraska, Montana, Arizona, and now California for the past 51 years. After his stint of teaching school, my husband became a minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and we treasure our experiences and God's blessings in all these places. We have been married 65 years. Our four children were each born in a different state.

Because of my music training and education, I have taught private music lessons in organ, piano, violin, and voice. I have also been a classroom music teacher for grades K-10, using the Kodaly method. I was choir director of the United Methodist Church in Lancaster, Calif., for nine years. I was proud to tell them that I attended OCU, a Methodist university. In November 2011, I published a music book of my own compositions, both words and music, "Songs of Love and Praise." 260 copies of those books have been sent all over the U.S. Music is a wonderful way to praise God!

Because we are alumni of OCU we were privileged to be invited to the festivities celebrating Oklahoma's centennial. It was fun to go to the Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 social events in California. We were proud that OCU had such a prominent part in the Pasadena Rose Parade that year in 2007.

We are thankful to have been students at OCU. We are glad for the tremendous positive impact OCU has on Oklahoma City. I am sure all our fellow alumni will agree.

Sincerely,

Ruth Bergstrom Jones



Ruth Bergstrom Jones and Jesse Edmund Jones Jr.



READ LETTERS FROM ALUMNI ABOUT FINDING LOVE AT OCU



MEINDERS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS EARNS WORLD-RENOWNED ACCREDITATION

Oklahoma City University's Meinders School of Business has joined the ranks of less than 5 percent of business schools worldwide, earning accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

The recognition designates the business school as a leader in management education based on a high-quality teaching environment, innovative programming and active engagement with industry.

"It takes a great deal of self-evaluation and determination to earn AACSB Accreditation, and I commend Oklahoma City University for its dedication to management education, as well as its leadership in the community," said Robert D. Reid, executive vice president and chief accreditation officer of AACSB International. "Through accreditation, OCU has not only met specific standards of excellence, but has also made a commitment to ongoing improvement to ensure that the institution will continue to deliver high-quality education to its students."

Meinders School of Business Dean Steven C. Agee said the designation will positively impact recruitment and retention of premium faculty members and students.

"This enhances our ability to offer students a premier business education at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and help our graduates find success in the marketplace," Agee said. Currently, 95 percent of Meinders School of Business graduates find employment or begin a graduate or law program immediately after graduation, which compares to a 43 percent placement rate among universities nationwide.

The school has seen robust growth in its graduate programs in energy management and energy legal studies as well as in its computer science program. In addition to the AACSB designation, the two master's degree programs in energy management and energy legal studies are the only two graduate energy programs in the United States accredited by the American Association of Professional Landmen.

AACSB represents the highest achievement for an educational institution that awards business degrees.

For more information about the Meinders School of Business, visit www.okcu.edu/business.





Law Dean Valerie Couch; President Robert Henry; Vicki Z. Behenna, JD '84; and former President and Master of Ceremonies Tom McDaniel are pictured at the School of Law's Awards and Reunion Gala in November. The school also honored The Honorable T.W. Shannon, JD '04; William Shdeed, BS '62 and JD '65; and the law firm of Pierce Couch Hendrickson Baysinger and Green.

LAW LIGHTS THE NIGHT

PROGNOSIS GOOD FOR NEW PA PROGRAM

The Board of Trustees has voted unanimously to support President Henry's initiative to develop a new training program for Physician Assistants (PAs) at OCU, scheduled to begin in January 2016.

"The Oklahoma City University PA program will be only the second in the state," said Ron Norick, chairman of the board. "Our trustees and administration recognized a growing need and set out to build a program that benefits the future of our students and our state."

Henry said the program is designed to meet the critical need for more highly trained medical providers throughout Oklahoma. "At OCU, our class sizes, challenging academics, and personal teaching style are conducive for students who want to excel in the PA profession."

PAs undergo intense graduate training in the medical arts and sciences, and are licensed by the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision to provide medical care in a team-based manner with their physician colleagues and supervisors.

The U.S. Labor Department projects a 30 percent increase in employment for PAs over the next seven years, the highest average rate for all occupations. Approximately 90,000 PAs practice in the U.S., with 1,200 working PAs in Oklahoma.

"With the addition of the PA program, OCU continues to build on a great tradition of educating students for the medical and primary care professions," said OCU Provost Susan Barber.

Barber said OCU has hired longtime medical educators Dan McNeill, Ph.D., PA-C, and Jerry Vannatta, M.D., to develop the program. Dr. McNeill has been named director and brings with him two decades of experience as former director of the PA program on the OU Health Sciences Center campus. Dr. Vannatta, former executive dean of the OU College of Medicine, will serve as OCU program medical director and will be instrumental in curricular design and clinical site development.

ENTREPRENEURIAL ENGAGEMENT

Alumni and area executives shared their successes, challenges and insights with students and participants in the 2014 Entrepreneurship Day Conference at the Meinders School of Business on Feb. 26.

Speakers included Robert Browne, chairman emeritus of the Great Plains Coca-Cola Bottling Company; Justin Briggs, MBA '10, technology executive of Altheus Therapeutics and founder of Chorus Labs; Phil Busey, BA '74 and JD '77, founder, chairman and CEO of the Busey Group of Companies; Kami Huddleston, BFA '03, and Ashley Bowen Murphy, BSB '02 and JD '05, founders of *Brides of Oklahoma*; and Craig Shimasaki, co-founder, president and CEO of Moleculera.

HONORED LEADER TAPPED TO LEAD NURSING SCHOOL

Oklahoma City University has appointed Dr. Lois Salmeron as dean of the Kramer School of Nursing. She served as interim dean from June 2013 to January 2014, and has been a professor at OCU since 2005.

"Dr. Salmeron brings a lifetime of experience to her new position in the Kramer School of Nursing," said OCU Provost Susan Barber. "Her years of nursing school leadership, along with her industry leadership and community volunteerism, have proved that she is highly qualified to lead the school toward continued greatness."



Lois Salmeron

Salmeron was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2003, only the second nurse to receive the honor. In 2010, she was elected to the fellowship of the Academy of Nursing Education. She was the second nurse from Oklahoma to be inducted as a fellow. She continues to be involved on a national level by being a program evaluator for the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing Inc.

Salmeron was the first nurse to receive the Graham Waite Award from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in 1990. The award was for her work with physicians who provide care, as well as receive care, in obstetrics and women's health. In 2000 she received a national award: the Distinguished Professional Service Award from the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses.

The Kramer School of Nursing is ranked in the top 10 percent of nursing programs in the nation.

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN HONORED BY ALMA MATER AT HOMECOMING

The alumni association honored seven outstanding alumni during Homecoming weekend festivities. Honorees are arts and sciences alumnus Gregory Potts, BA '92; nursing alumna Norah Erb, BSN '06 and MSN '08; dance and arts management alumna Jenny Lang, BS '93; music alumna Joyce Eilers, BM '63; business alumnus Scott Stone, MBA '87; religion alumnus Jim Gragg, BA '63; and law alumna Vicki Zemp Behenna, JD '84.

Potts is a licensed, clinical social worker currently working as a therapist on a team serving older adults at the Community Counseling Centers of Chicago. Erb manages the 35 employees of a hospital's inpatient nursing care unit. Lang is the

production manager and stage management advisor for the University of Arizona's School of Theatre, Film, and Television.

Eilers was honored posthumously. She is recognized as one of the top choral composers in the country with hundreds of compositions and arrangements in her catalog, best-selling methods for teaching sight-singing and for her mentoring work with young composers. Stone manages Spartan Resources LLC, an oil and gas exploration company. He also serves as an advisor and director for several other Noble and Brown family oil and gas related entities. Gragg is a retired United Methodist minister. He served six years as district superintendent of the South Oklahoma City District

and has served as pastor for many parishes in Oklahoma.

Behenna has been a federal prosecutor with the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Oklahoma for the past 25 years. She has extensive experience in prosecuting bank fraud, mail fraud, health care fraud and public corruption cases, and is currently the district's health care coordinator. Behenna was selected to represent the government and her native Oklahoma in the prosecution of the Oklahoma City bombing case against Timothy McVeigh. She is an adjunct professor at Oklahoma City University School of Law.

HEARING IS BELIEVING

The Bass School of Music has released four CDs of past Christmas Vespers performances and a DVD of the 2011 Berlioz Requiem performance. Costs start at \$10, and orders can be placed by calling (405) 208-5316. Digital downloads are available for purchase through iTunes.

The school also has introduced live HD video streaming for ensemble performances in Petree Recital Hall. Funding for the technology, which includes three HD cameras and enhanced audio, was underwritten by Oklahoma City philanthropists Phil, BA '74 and JD '77, and Cathy, '77, Busey.

Visit the school's online streaming site at <http://client.stretchinternet.com/client/okcumusic.portal#>.



TALKING WITH THE STARS



While in town performing in the musical "Chicago" in January, John O'Hurley, of "Seinfeld" and "Dancing with the Stars," dropped by the Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management to visit with students about his career on the stage and the screen.

LEADING, SERVING, TRANSFORMING

BY ROD JONES

The Rise of Teacher Education



Ana Raygoza, BS '09, leads her first grade class at Oklahoma City's Westwood Elementary School in an English lesson.

THE SYSTEM WORKS! EL SISTEMA OFFERS JOY, HOPE

It's commonly said that teachers don't earn what they should. Despite the countless hours of off-the-clock prep work, having the patience of saints and the ability to maintain order out of childhood chaos, there aren't very many seven-figure salaried teachers in U.S. classrooms.

"Teacher candidates," the term for students majoring in education, are willing to sacrifice their time and efforts for intrinsic rewards. Teachers have the ability to pursue more lucrative careers, but their selfless attitudes and desire to help society lead them to teach. They are working their way toward one of the noblest professions.

Unfortunately, there aren't enough of them.

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin made note of that fact during her State of the State address in February, emphasizing the importance of education on every aspect of society.

"Improving the quality and outcomes in education is the single most important thing we can do to attract and retain jobs, alleviate poverty, and help Oklahomans have fulfilling and productive lives," she said. "Our job as a state is to empower our students, parents and teachers by setting the bar high and challenging each other to succeed. I believe that every child can learn."

Oklahoma City University has been answering that call for several years. With three of the last nine state Teacher of the Year winners, including the current one, an Education Department that has focused on training teachers to succeed in all different kinds of settings, and partnerships with several educational organizations, OCU has been helping to raise education standards before students are even old enough for college.

Dr. Lois Lawler-Brown is the chairwoman of OCU's Education Department. Lawler-Brown knows the profession from many sides. She has 30 years of practical teaching experience and has worked on the government side as one of three national accreditors for teacher preparation programs in the state.

"There's a huge shortage of elementary teachers," she said. "It's difficult trying to catch up to it, but we're dedicated to putting high-quality teachers into classrooms."

The shortage is particularly pronounced in urban schools. The state Department of Education convened the Oklahoma Educator Workforce Shortage Task Force to study the issue. The task force released its report in January.

Lawler-Brown's four faculty members are likewise dedicated and extremely decorated in their respective specialties. For instance, elementary education professor Elizabeth Willner served as president of the Oklahoma Reading Association, and early childhood education professor Laura Wilhem is putting together what will be the only Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education program in the state. The program will allow those who have a degree in another discipline to take an accelerated path to a teaching certification.

Lawler-Brown has a long list of recent accomplishments for her department—two Fulbright Scholars, four DaVinci Scholars (one every year for the past four years), a 100 percent placement rate of graduates who seek employment in the field and 24 National Board certified teachers.

Several of OCU's best alumni teachers work in urban schools, considered to be very challenging settings. Lawler-Brown says the reason so many OCU alumni go to urban schools is because of the university's proximity to underserved schools and its culture of strong relationships amongst students and faculty.

Oklahoma City University's Wanda L. Bass School of Music began partnering with St. Luke's United Methodist Church last year on a unique music education program called El Sistema Oklahoma.

The program seeks to teach children in the inner city how to play musical instruments. It is modeled after a program in Venezuela.

Musician and social economist Jose Antonio Abreu started El Sistema, which means "the system" in English, in 1975 as a way to give poor children a productive activity. What started with a small gathering of 11 children turned into several orchestras across Venezuela with a total of more than 500,000 musicians.

El Sistema's mission is to "serve the community by engaging children within an ensemble-based music program so they can share the joy of music making and grow as responsible citizens."

Students in third through sixth grades from six elementary schools in the surrounding area receive free musical instruction five days a week at Trinity International Baptist Church, about three blocks east of the OCU campus.

Students from OCU volunteer their time and teaching skills to help students from Oklahoma City Public Schools, many of whom would otherwise not be able to afford lessons or instruments. Professors are also involved in the after-school program.

The staff is led by Robyn Hilger, an OCU alumna and a former state Teacher of the Year award recipient. Dr. Michael Raiber, music education professor in the Bass School of Music, is the director of teacher support for El Sistema.

"I have been an instrumental music educator for 30 years. I have never been part of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

El Sistema gives a concert in Bass Music Center.





1

1. OCU's state Teacher of the Year honorees, from left, Peter Markes, Robyn Hilger and Heather Sparks, pose with President Robert Henry after a Feb. 22 banquet honoring OCU education alumni.

2. One of Ana Raygoza's students focuses on a classroom assignment.

3. Students in the El Sistema program learn lessons for music and life.

CROSS CULTURAL CONNECTIVITY

The Education Department continued its Connecting Across Cultures program with a conference in February for teacher candidates.

Connecting Across Cultures is designed to encourage teachers to work in urban school districts, which often face a shortage of teachers. The project aims to prepare future teachers to effectively design instruction for diverse learners in classroom settings.

The Connecting Across Cultures 3.0 conference featured LeDerick Horne, who shared his experience of living with a disability. Horne, who was classified as neurologically impaired during the third grade, has been nationally recognized as an advocate for individuals with disabilities. As an African American person with a disability, he challenges his audience to look beyond labels and to see each student as an individual with unlimited potential.

Horne graduated from New Jersey City University with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a minor in fine arts. After graduation he released an album of his poetry set to music titled "Rhyme Reason and Song" in 2005, and co-created and performed in *New Street Poets*, a spoken word play addressing gentrification's affect on urban culture.

He has addressed students and faculty at Harvard University, professionals in the education field across the country, and has served as an advocacy coach for students with disabilities.

Education majors, teacher education faculty members and special education teachers from Oklahoma universities were invited to the conference.

The OCU Education Department received a teacher education grant from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to host Connecting Across Cultures 3.0.

As the most urban college in Oklahoma City, many OCU teacher candidates do their student teaching assignments in schools not far from campus. The OCU program prepares its teacher candidates for a large variety of settings, she added.

Because the college professors maintain relationships with their former teacher-candidates, the department is able to keep up with changing trends and new best practices—and vice-versa.

"Our program is different than most," she said. "We know every one of our students very well. We sit down and eat lunch with them, we have one-on-one advising sessions with them. And as alumni, they're our sounding boards. After they leave here they're working with our future graduates in sharing their methodology."

One alumna is Shamari Reid, a Spanish teacher at Mount St. Mary school near downtown Oklahoma City. Once teaching took hold, Reid was bound and determined to make a positive impact in the classroom.

That determination led to a Gilman Scholarship to teach English in Argentina, then a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in Uruguay. It was a full language immersion in both cases. He had very little Spanish training before landing in Buenos Aires.

Reid entered college in hopes of becoming a surgeon. He switched his major to public relations after one year and interned at Walt Disney World. He enjoyed working with children, so teaching seemed a better fit than his original majors.

Reid mentioned the amount of volunteer projects he performed in schools as a teacher candidate, saying that he had an

affinity with working in urban schools in particular.

"I grew up in an urban school, I was one of those kids," he said, remembering some of his own teachers in childhood. "Someone gave back to me, and they kind of saved me from myself and put me on a track to success."

Alumna Heather Sparks, BS '91 and ME '97, is another urban school teacher. Sparks teaches math at Taft Middle School and won state Teacher of the Year in 2009.

She was inspired during her teacher candidate days while watching a pre-K teacher at Gatewood Elementary School a few blocks away from the OCU campus.

"Watching the kids' light come on anytime I taught them something or showed them something new—that just got me so excited. It made me realize that's what I need to be doing," she said.

Like Reid, Sparks said her exposure to inner-city schools became an inspiration to share her talents with the areas that need it most.

"We have a calling. We recognize that fact while we're in college," she said. "Many of us chose to stay in the inner city even though it may be more challenging. But we're prepared for it, we're ready. We have the experiences and the expertise that we need to help students."

MUSIC EDUCATORS

Peter Markes, BME '01, the current Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, is an orchestra instructor at Edmond North High School.

Markes is another dynamic teacher who seems to capture the attention of his students for the full hour of class. On a re-



2

3

THE SYSTEM WORKS! CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

something so exciting,” Raiber said. “The faculty truly embody the adage ‘It is amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit.’

“We have experienced amazing changes not only in students’ musical abilities, but in their social abilities as well. As the students learn to be part of an ensemble, they also learn about relationships. They learn that there are times they must lead and times they must follow. They learn that every member is equally important and has a vital role to play in the community’s success. They learn to work with others’ success in mind before their own.

“Most importantly, they learn that they are capable of creating something beautiful and that ability makes their world a better place. They can determine their own futures and have the power to make it happen.”

The board of directors has several OCU connections including Meinders School of Business Dean Steve Agee (also the former president of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic Society) and music school Dean Mark Parker. Chairwoman Cathy Busey and her husband, Phil, have led philanthropic efforts for the university for many years, including the establishment of the El Sistema Oklahoma partnership with St. Luke’s.

cent visit he demonstrated his most recent musical instrument purchase—a miniature wood guitar.

Markes spoke briefly about the guitar’s composition and how they were invented. He showed them how the neck could be detached so it could fit in a backpack. After playing a short song, he left it up to the students to name the guitar. They thought carefully before one student offered “Billy” as a possible name.

“Billy, like Billy the Kid? I like that. Let’s call it Billy the Kid.”

Markes credits OCU for giving him the tools to excel as a teacher and his ability to connect with his students, a result of a close-knit culture of the university community as a whole. He entered the profession with confidence thanks to the many hours of real-life preparation.

“OCU gave us many opportunities to

be in the classroom,” he said. “We could actually practice our craft before we’re out in the field.”

And Markes has no regrets for his career of choice.

“More than any other profession, teaching is incredibly rewarding. It’s a chance to be connected to the future.”

Robyn Hilger, BME ’99, is yet another state teacher of the year from OCU. Hilger, who taught music at Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School before becoming the director of operations for the El Sistema music program, won the award in 2006.

El Sistema, a partnership with St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, was established in 2013 as a way to “serve the community by engaging children within an ensemble-based music program so they can share the joy of music making and grow as responsible citizens,” according to the organization’s mission statement. The program allows OCU students to gain teaching experience while providing underprivileged children with a constructive after-school activity.

Hilger says she has seen the program make a strong, positive difference in the community.

“It’s a philosophical belief in children. When you provide a meaningful activity

for children it sparks hope and creativity, and a sense of belonging and self-worth that sometimes doesn’t exist for urban children.

“A lot of people think of poverty as just not having many material things, but oftentimes poverty is a deficit of emotional hope, it’s a deficit in spiritual opportunities and in self-worth. There’s a deficit of opportunities as well. How do you know if you could be good at the tuba if you’ve never seen one, you’ve never heard one and you’ve never held one?”

ROD JONES
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THE ART OF TEACHING

The sixth annual Oklahoma Service Learning Conference in November featured presentations by several faculty and staff members from OCU. The conference, titled “The Art of Teaching Through Science of Service,” was held to educate faculty from varied disciplines on the value of service learning in higher education for students and the communities served across the state.

Featured OCU presenters included Robert Spinks with “Contacting and Creating Effective Community Partners;” Debra Barnett with “Bringing Faith Community Nursing to the Forefront” and “Building Mission Trips into Nursing Education;” Dia Campbell-Detrixhe with “Celebrating a Unique Service-Learning Project at a Community Health Fair: A Decade of Reflections;” Regina Fox, Chris Roman Nose, Saeed Shadfar and Elizabeth Willner with “Mind the Gap Summer Bridging Program;” Brooke Hessler with “Remembering Ralph: Oral History as Service and Scholarly Apprenticeship;” Lois Brown and Lisa Lawter with “Preparing Preservice Teachers for the Urban Classroom Through Embedded Service Learning;” and Leslie Long with “World Religion Expo.”

Scan this QR code to view a related video.



RISING STARS



SINGING OPERA'S PRAISES

The opera program at the Bass School of Music won first prize in its division in the National Opera Association's annual production competition. The NOA honor was accepted in New York City by Director David Herendeen and Conductor Jan McDaniel, on behalf of the 34-member cast and 40-member opera orchestra.

The winning production, "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" by Gioachino Rossini, was performed last year on OCU's historic Kirkpatrick stage, in Italian with projected English translations.

It is the second national opera award for OCU's Oklahoma Opera and Music Theater Company. NOA also honored the 2010-11 production of the double bill of "Pagliacci" and "Gianni Schicchi."

Herendeen also praised the creative team behind the production, including lighting designer Aaron Mooney and set designer Deb Hicks. The production's Art Deco wardrobe was the work of student costume designer Cloe Chafetz.



TRIAL RUN

The School of Law sent two teams to the Regional AAJ Student Trial Advocacy Competition March 20-23. Students Taylor Robertson, Basil Rayan, Andrew Davis, and Jacob Uhler placed second in the New York Regional competition. Caitlin Irwin, Sean McDivitt, Allison Haynes, and Patrick Wulfers competed in Chicago. The groups were coached by Leslie Lynch, JD '93.



VOCAL VICTORY

Senior mezzo-soprano Mary Beth Nelson won the vocal division of the 16th annual International Crescendo Music Awards, finishing ahead of a baritone from Juilliard. Nelson, a vocal performance major from the Ragsdale voice studio and McDaniel coaching studio, also won the People's Choice Award.



POSTER PERFECT

Biology professor Laurie Kauffman and students Tayler Galey, Lillie Pennington and Erin McCoy were presenters at the 83rd annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in Calgary, Alberta, in April. Galey presented a poster titled "Activity budget, habitat use and diet of squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri oerstedii*) in southern Costa Rica." Pennington and McCoy presented a poster titled "Orangutans: a study of activity and play." Kauffman presented a poster titled "Evidence of behavioral plasticity in genus *Saimiri* via interactions with humans in Suriname and Costa Rica."



GLAD SCIENTIST

Cell and molecular biology major Christina Hansen has been accepted to participate in a summer research internship program at Harvard Medical School. She will be conducting research in the laboratory of Dr. Stephen Harrison, a renowned Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator in the Department of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology. Hansen's research project will be studying how proteins interact to form structures in cells.



BOND, CEDRIC BOND

History major and kayaker Cedric Bond is one of 15 students in the state to be named a 2014-15 Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact.

The award recognizes inspiring work and the role that higher education plays to build a better world. The congratulatory message states that the students "exemplify the belief in the power of individuals to make a difference through making the most of your college experiences to better understand yourself, the root causes of social issues, and ways to create change."



CURTAIN CALL

Oklahoma City University students Jessica McCoy and Jeff Sherwood, senior BFA Theatre Design and Production majors, participated in the National Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Washington, D.C., in April.

McCoy was the recipient of the KCACTF Region 6 Stage Management Fellowship for her work on "The Importance of Being Earnest," and Sherwood received the KCACTF Region 6 Award for Theatrical Excellence in Sound Design for his work on "It's a Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play."



BOSTON BOUND

Three seniors from the Wimberly School of Religion have won top scholarships from five United Methodist seminaries.

Molly Kate Been and Trey Witzel have been named Dean's Scholars at Boston University's School of Theology. Just five scholars nationwide were selected.

Been was also offered the Scholars Award from Claremont and the Brandon Honor Scholarship from Vanderbilt Divinity School. She has chosen to attend Boston.

Allison Bevers was offered the Eliza Garrett Scholarship, a full-tuition-plus-stipend award, at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; an Urban Ministry Fellowship at Wesley Theological Seminary; and a full tuition scholarship at Perkins School of Theology. She will attend Garrett-Evangelical Seminary.

MEET THE GREEKS

Greek organizations at Oklahoma City University are gearing up for Fall 2014 recruitment. The Panhellenic Association set a new record this year, registering 158 women for formal recruitment. Several more joined the association when the university's newest sorority, Phi Mu, began recruitment activities later in the fall.

Phi Mu is the fourth women's fraternity to establish a chapter at OCU. The organization was founded in 1852 at Wesleyan College. Its national philanthropy is the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

The Interfraternity Council added 49 men this year. IFC and the Panhellenic Association partnered in April to honor faculty and staff members with an appreciation luncheon, and continue to pursue activities that support academic achievement, student involvement, community service, and lifelong friendships.



Alpha Chi Omega's senior pledge class is shown during bid day including Mackenzie Kelly, Kristen Ranna, Sarah Johansen, Taylor Duncan, Meghan Schuman, Vishu Patel, Kayla Smith, Hillary Conrad, Megan Campell, Jillian Taylor, Kayla Bennett, Susanna Waite, Kaitlyn Cahalen, Ally Agee, Maggie Spicer, Jessica Philbrook, Jacilyn Kennedy, and Anna Combs Francis.



The brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha show their spirit after placing second at this year's homecoming competition.



The women of Gamma Phi Beta gathered to watch their sister, Kelsey Griswold, compete in the Miss America pageant.



The brothers of Kappa Sigma volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma in January, packaging 303 cases of food to make 5,807 meals for more than 1,800 children.



The sisters of Alpha Phi are pictured during bid day activities.



The women of Alpha Phi celebrate their win at this year's Spring Sing.



Brian Cash, of Lambda Chi Alpha, is shown at Can-N-Ball, a fundraiser event for the fraternity's philanthropy, Feeding America.



The sisters of Alpha Chi Omega gather inside Kirkpatrick Auditorium just prior to the Spring Sing competition.



The sisters of Gamma Phi Beta celebrate their Homecoming competition win in the Freede Center.



Caleb Dickie, of Kappa Sigma, was named Senior King this year.

ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD

COMPILED BY MATT MCWILLIAMS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MEXICO



JORGE MARZOLA, BSB '11 AND MBA '13
Commercial Director at Mares de Colombia
Cartagena, Columbia

“It was time for me to return home, to use all the knowledge and experience I have acquired to help both my family’s business and my home country.”

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE OCU ALUMNI? Our graduates reach far and wide on every continent (except Antarctica, at the moment). From teachers to performers to public servants, OCU alumni are leaving their mark across the globe. Want to share your global experience? **Email us at focus@okcu.edu.**



ORLAN M. JACKMAN, SOCIOLOGY '12
Small Forward, Iserlohn Kangaroos National Team Iserlohn, Germany

“Last summer I played for the Great Britain National Team in preparation for the European Championships called EuroBasket.”

CLINT ROBERTS, BS '02
1st Lieutenant/Sergeant with United States Army (Reserves)/Tulsa Police Department Afghanistan

NIC EVANS, BS '13
English teacher at I-Perfect International Club for Kids Beijing, China

“I earned my minor in Modern Chinese Language at OCU and through that it provided me the opportunity to go abroad.”



DONNELL KUTLAPYE, BA '02
Private Secretary to the Minister of Health Gaborone, Botswana

“My OCU education taught me to be versatile. I can work well under immense pressure and on tight deadlines, which is important when working in a minister’s office.”

OLIVIA COPE, BFA '13
Entertainer with The Mariner of the Seas China, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore.

“I’m unbelievably excited and blessed to be able to use my degree and see the world at the same time.”

MOLLY JALLARD, BPA '12
Dancer for Ocean Princess Cruise Line Australia and New Zealand

“Among my favorites were French Polynesia, New Zealand, Thailand, India, Egypt, Barcelona, Russia, and Norway. I will never forget that experience.”



LUCK OF THE IRISH



BY LESLIE BERGER

ALUMNUS FOLLOWS DREAMS FROM COAST TO COAST

Jeff Poulin, BS '12, traveled 1,800 miles from his home in Portland, Maine, to study entertainment business at Oklahoma City University. That was just the start of a journey that has led him much farther.

A trip to Ireland with OCU arts management students and Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management Dean John Bedford led Poulin to enroll in a graduate program at University College Dublin and last year, he completed a master of arts in arts management and cultural policy through the university's School of Art History and Celtic Studies. After completing his coursework, Poulin directed a conference to inform the Irish Ministers for Arts and Education on the country's first national arts in education requirement.

Poulin spent about one year as the audience development officer for Livenation's Bord Gáis Energy Theatre in Dublin, Ireland's largest theatrical venue. In December, he returned to the U.S. to take on his current role as arts education program coordinator at Americans for the Arts in Washington, D.C.

"I'm pleased to be doing arts education work. It is work that is meaningful," Poulin said.

Poulin explained that his student experiences at OCU prepared him for the diverse

experiences of studying abroad and working in Dublin.

"I took advantage of everything offered at OCU," he said. "I feel like I got a very diverse education and was able to meet people from all over the county and the world. I integrated into the Oklahoma scene which was new to me, but it prepared me to take on the next step of my life, which, I never would have guessed at the time, was to move abroad and adapt."

Poulin began working for Bord Gáis Energy Theatre as part of his degree program. With most of his previous experience at non-profit organizations, Poulin sought out the opportunity to work in commercial theater.

He has now come full circle and back to his love for non-profit work. At Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading non-profit organization for advancing the arts in America, Poulin supports the Arts Education Network and national Arts Education Council, as well as coordinates professional development, research, publication, outreach, and advocacy efforts for arts education at the local, state, and federal level.

He enjoys speaking to non-profit organizations and universities. Poulin visited Oklahoma City University last fall and between completing research for his thesis

and catching up with friends, he visited a number of classes across campus, speaking to his experiences in arts marketing and leadership.

"I realized there was an opportunity to give back the way other alumni have," he said.

Poulin's thesis, "Bridging the Gap Between Arts Policy and Practice: A Methodological Study of Arts and Education Stakeholder Perception Research Tools," focuses on the implementation process of arts in education policies and the resulting gap created in classrooms and learning environments. Poulin noted Oklahoma is one of just a few states in the nation that created arts and education policies designed to more readily implement them into learning environments.

Poulin said he enjoys continuing to connect with OCU students and alumni.

"What's given me an advantage is networking and relationships," Poulin said. "And especially with OCU alumni because our alumni are inherently more successful than normal. There's that spirit of collaboration, that thought to give someone a call and see what we can make happen."

LESLIE BERGER • LBERGER@OKCU.EDU

1. Student Daniel Stanley; Jeff Poulin; Jeff Riles, BA '09; and James Doss, BM '11 2. Poulin presents an award to Dean John Bedford and Dance Chairwoman Jo Rowan for their support of a scholarship Poulin established to help young Americans study ballet in Ireland. 3. Poulin is pictured at his graduation from University College Dublin.



TAPPING INTO THEIR DREAMS

ALUMNI CONNECT ON '42ND STREET'

BY LESLIE BERGER

Long before Gabrielle Ruiz auditioned to attend Oklahoma City University, she dreamed of portraying an iconic American character such as Peggy Sawyer in a Broadway musical. But even after Ruiz, BPA in dance performance '07, made her Broadway debut, she thought that dream might be out of reach.

The Latin American performer explained that Peggy's character traditionally isn't played by a Latin actress.

"I was thrilled to even be considered," Ruiz remembered about her audition last year in New York City. She landed the principle role and a spot alongside three more OCU alumni in "42nd Street," which was on stage this winter at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina. The musical, directed by Casey Colgan, featured Susan Powell, vocal performance '80, as Dorothy Brock; Richard Riaz Yoder, BPA '06, as Andy Lee; and Addie Tomlinson, BPA '08, as Lorraine Fleming.

Ruiz, Yoder, and Tomlinson were already old friends from their shared time together at OCU's Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management. Powell is someone they have long looked up to.

"I've always admired Susan," Ruiz noted. "Getting to know her on a personal level is so wonderful."

Ruiz said her studies at OCU are now coming full force in her career.

"When (OCU alumni) get to New York, people know who we are," she said. "We come prepared in a way that's not like graduates of a lot of other schools. We have pizzazz and a kind heart. Our instructors

bred those things into us. There's no other option but to be tenacious and well-rounded in your heart; and that is (Dance Chair) Jo Rowan in a nutshell."

Ruiz said alumni have a tremendous advantage in New York City.

"We all understand each other and speak the same language," she explained. "OCU is a fraternity in itself. New York is not really big because of OCU. We all support each other."

Powell said she didn't know until the first day of rehearsal that other OCU alumni were in the cast. However, she wasn't surprised.

"This happens to me a lot. I don't think I've ever been in a show where there wasn't at least one OCU alum in the cast," she said. "I've definitely enjoyed the show more because the three OCU cast members are the best at what they do. They have flawless technique, great personalities, and an incredible work ethic. And in a great way, we are family."

Powell said the show gave her a fun, new experience.

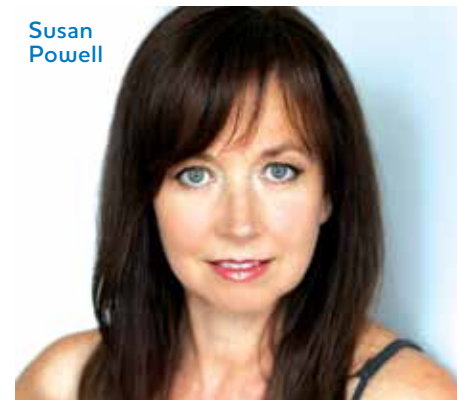
"For the first time ever, I was able to play the villain," she explained. "Dorothy is hilariously miserable. I love the comedic work I was called to do for this role."

Powell said the most enjoyable aspect of the show was the cast with which she worked.

"Seeing these talented dancers carrying on the torch of this style is thrilling," Powell said. "This style of dance is here to stay, thankfully, because of these kids. Kelli Barclay, the choreographer, cast only the



Gabrielle Ruiz



Susan Powell

best of the best. The OCU dancers shine. They came out of the best collegiate dance program in the country."

Tomlinson said the show was "a great combination of fantastic choreography, wonderful friends, and lots of tap dancing." She said she enjoyed learning the original, iconic choreography from the 2001 Broadway revival, a show that featured seven OCU graduates.

In addition to portraying Andy, Yoder assisted Barclay, running several rehearsals and teaching choreography.

Ruiz said the unique experience was the result of something else she learned at OCU. "Like Jo always says, good luck is preparation meeting opportunity. I feel very blessed to have played an iconic role that I wasn't sure would fall into my lap like it did."

LESLIE BERGER • LBERGER@OKCU.EDU



From left to right: Susan Powell, Rich Yoder, Addie Tomlinson, Gabrielle Ruiz

Photo provided by Susan Powell



ACROSS THE GLOBE

TAIWANESE, HONG KONG ALUMNI REUNITE

Celebrating their ties to Oklahoma City University, alumni from Taiwan and Hong Kong gathered for three OCU events in April. The alumni met a group of university representatives who traveled to Asia for a series of meetings with business and education leaders.

“We have a great group of very loyal and proud alumni in the Pacific Rim,” said OCU President Robert Henry. “Getting to hear their stories of OCU experiences was a blessing and a reminder that the mission of this university extends around the world.”

President Henry led the OCU delegation, which included his wife, Dr. Jan Henry; Dean Steve Agee and Associate Dean Michael Williams from the Meinders School of Business; former OCU faculty member Ruth Leebron; Marty O’Gwynn, vice president for university advancement and external

relations; and Benjamin Chang, director of administrative information systems.

For Leebron, who taught OCU’s MBA degree courses in Asia from 1987 to 2001, the trip amounted to an academic homecoming. She was able to see some of her former students, as well as meet the adult children of one student. Those children went on to gain OCU degrees themselves.

“I was thrilled being included in a trip to Taipei and Hong Kong to meet with our alumni there,” Leebron said. “Seeing my former students and hearing their stories of success that our training awarded them, made me feel that OCU is an educational institution that has ideas to help the world. We don’t give ourselves enough credit.”

“The kind of educational experience OCU provides cannot help but create unique shared memories,” O’Gwynn said. “OCU was among the first American

universities to deliver graduate education in Asia and our alumni are very grateful to be a part of the larger OCU family.

“As we celebrate 110 years of existence, it is encouraging to know that a university started as the vision of Oklahoma Methodist leaders continues to make a difference in the global marketplace.”

In addition to meeting with alumni, the OCU delegation visited with leaders of the National Taipei University of Nursing and Health Sciences, the Taiwan Police College, and Kang Chiao International School, a bilingual school for students in grades 7 to 12.

President Henry and Deans Agee and Williams also presented an OCU honorary doctorate to Taiwanese business leader Willson Lin on April 12. Lin is founder of the Doers Cultural and Educational Foundation and an international corporate trainer.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

1. OCU presented an honorary doctorate to Taiwanese business leader Willson Lin (third from left) on April 12. He is founder of Doers Cultural and Educational Foundation and a former student of 1987 OCU MAT graduate George Tseng (far right). They are pictured with, from left, Dr. Mike Williams, Dr. Steve Agee, President Robert Henry, and Dr. Jan Henry.

2. Dr. Leebron spoke to a group of alumni at a brunch gathering on April 12 in Taipei. Leebron has made more than 25 visits to Asia to teach OCU students.

3. President Henry is presented a ceremonial sword by President Chen Lien-Chen during a visit to the Taiwan Police College. Several graduates of OCU's Master's in Criminal Justice degree program work at the college.

4. Meinders School of Business Dean Steve Agee with Janet Chan, MBA '84, and her daughter, Karen Chung, MBA '99, at the alumni brunch in Taipei.

5. A group of alumni gathered for a dinner in Taipei on April 11. The alumni visited with Dr. Leebron, seated, and were hosted by Benjamin Chang, '85 and '87, right.

6. Nine OCU alumni in Hong Kong met with the university's team for a dinner on April 13. The alumni represented three larger groups of OCU graduates who regularly meet on their own, maintaining bonds forged while completing their OCU MBA degrees.

VISIONARY PROFESSOR PRODUCES GLOBAL SUCCESS

BY TERRY PHELPS, OCU PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Twenty minutes into writing a news story in a broadcast writing class, students were jolted by professor Karlie Harmon rushing into the class, shouting, “Breaking news!” with all new facts—requiring students to rewrite. This regularly occurring experience when she teaches that class has frustrated some students and made others laugh, but it gives them a taste of how a real TV newsroom operates.

Real-world experience, always a priority for Harmon, has been a major factor in the success of OCU’s Mass Communications program. She joined Sandy Martin in 1978 to make it a two-member department with about 30 majors. Expanding the faculty (now seven full-time) and programs has increased the number of majors as high as 170.

A multi-track system with numerous new courses enables students to specialize in one of four major areas: advertising, broadcasting, print journalism, and public relations. Good media contacts have facilitated internships for college credit, giving students practical experience in TV stations, advertising agencies, public relations firms, and newspapers.

COMPETITIVE EDGE

Under the leadership of Harmon and Martin, who retired in 2007, students began competing in regional competitions. In the American Advertising Federation, OCU regularly placed in the top three against such schools as Southern Methodist University, the University of Texas, University of Arkansas, and Texas Christian University. In the Oklahoma Broadcast Education Association’s student competition, OCU regularly takes top places in corporate video, scriptwriting, newscast, sports coverage, and investigative reporting.

When the Murrah Building was bombed in 1995, CBS News called Harmon, who sent a trained student crew to work with major media outlets. Those contacts led to two students being

invited to work the Republican and Democratic national conventions the following summer. Carrie Conner-Hayes worked directly with Dan Rather for CBS, and Dana Byerly worked with Peter Jennings for ABC.

Harmon and Martin started The Blackwelder Group, which works free of charge for community clients. Projects include videos for creating awareness, fundraising, and mission work for the Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care, for The Education & Employment Ministry (TEEM), and for the United

Methodist Church of the Servant’s respite program for parents with mentally challenged children. Such projects are now part of the corporate video class, which Harmon created.

To develop rapport with students, Harmon started monthly luncheons for all majors and mass communications faculty. Faculty prepare the food, and students eat and enjoy fellowship with peers, alumni, and faculty. Harmon also started the senior cookout for American and Singaporean students, who are on-campus for spring residency.

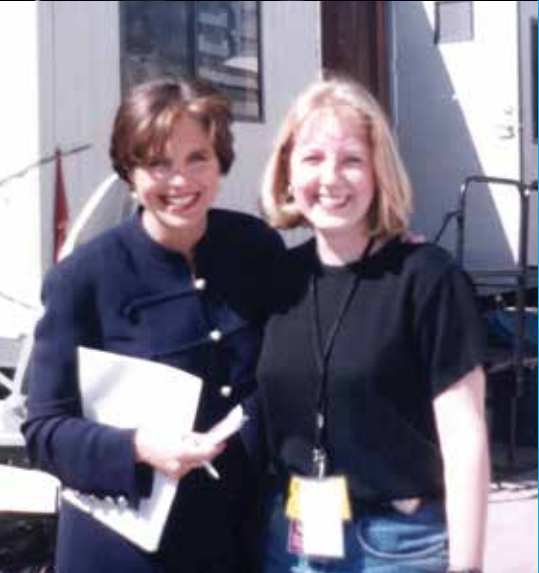
One food never included in the Senior Cookout is durian, a fruit with a very strong taste and smell. One

of Harmon’s first classes in Singapore asked her the standard question for visitors: “Have you tried durian?” She graciously answered, “It’s okay . . . I think it is good,” although she had only tasted it once. On the last night of class, the students prepared a special “durian buffet.” Each student had prepared a different durian dish from durian cake, puffs, salad, tart, and Harmon ate them all. “I tasted durian for several days,” she says, “and now I can firmly say that I am not ambiguous about durian.” When asked the standard question now, she smiles and says yes, she’s tried it, but no thanks.

Mass Communications formed a Professional Advisory Board and in 2003 held two major fundraising events to raise money for scholarships with the help of alumni Jane Jayroe Gamble and Bill Shdeed. Grants totaling about \$200,000

“When an 18-year-old kid tells people he’s going to be on TV and become a sportscaster, most of those people laugh and say *Good luck with that.* Karlie never blinked and just set the course and steps for us to achieve this goal.”

CHRIS HARRISON, BA '93



from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation brought former Undersecretary of State Karen Hughes and former Secretary of State Colin Powell to OCU for Careers in Mass Communications Conferences in 2006 and 2007. More than a thousand high school and college students attended each conference, which included panels moderated by OCU mass communications alumni.

Harmon chaired mass communications from 1983 until 2005 and then became OCU's Director of International Mass Communications Programs in Singapore. She was succeeded as department chair by mentee and former student Matt Hamilton, who credits Harmon with helping him choose his major and his careers, first in advertising, then in academia.

SINGAPORE SUCCESS

The Singapore program began with a Master of Arts degree in mass communications in December 1992 and a Bachelor of Arts degree the next summer. Harmon says it was "a leap of faith because none of us really knew very much about Singapore or how to do these programs. I really wasn't sure where Singapore was exactly. We really were pioneers in that we brought mass communications education to Singapore and Southeast Asia. No one was teaching mass communications like we were in the U.S. They were teaching parts of it—journalism, advertising, etc.—but they had not put it together in an integrated curriculum."

Full-time OCU faculty teach 45 of the credit hours on-site in Singapore in nine-day, three-credit classes, after the first two years are taught by Singapore faculty from longtime partner Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS). The curriculum, faculty, and texts are approved by OCU. The requirements are identical to the on-campus programs and have full accreditation in the U.S. with the North Central Association's Higher Learning Commission.

Students come from Singapore, China, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Vietnam, Taiwan, Korea, and elsewhere throughout the region. One of the highlights for Singapore students is the spring residency, where they complete three weeks of classes at OCU. Since 1992 Harmon has hosted the students in her home for dinner, for which she claims to have "cooked enough brownies and chicken casserole to stretch around the globe."

She has several fond memories of Singapore students, including the tornado that struck Moore on May 3, 1999, when they were on campus for TV production that night. Never having seen anything like it, most of them gave up their weekends and volunteered to work with the Red Cross to help with the clean-up efforts. Harmon says, "I hope we would do the same as visitors to another country with limited free time."

Another favorite memory is 10 Singapore students in Oklahoma City for their spring residency buying 10-gallon cowboy hats because they loved western gear. Harmon laughed when they wore them into a mass communications studio and asked them how they'd get the hats home. The only way was to wear them on the plane, and Harmon says, "I only wish I had a picture of that group boarding the international flight wearing those hats from Oklahoma."

Two summers ago, she took 14 students from the Singapore program to study in Rome for six weeks as part of OCU's study abroad program. Last summer she took 11 students from Singapore and three students from OCU to London to study at Kingston University, enabling students from both programs to make friends and contacts. She plans to take a group to Rome this summer for a six-week course. She also is considering a media tour of Southeast Asia where she would take a group of students to Singapore, Hong Kong, and Tokyo.

Currently, OCU students can go to Singapore to take classes or do internships with one of the media outlets. Harmon sees these opportunities for students as examples



Karlie Harmon with mass communications students in London during a 2011 trip

of OCU's "commitment to global education. We don't just talk about it... we do it and get students involved in these opportunities."

In 2011 OCU began offering a professional academic seminar each year in Singapore, a recruiting and retention event usually attended by about 500 students. Last year was the first OCU alumni party in Singapore, beginning the establishment of the OCU Alumni Association there, with plans for two annual events for alumni. An online directory for mass communication services and job listings should be completed this year. Harmon is forming a Singapore Advisory Board to advise on curriculum, students and activities.

OCU's first Singapore intake had 21 students, and Harmon said she spent the night after her first class completely redoing her course because she hadn't known what to expect from Singapore students. The program has since come a long way, and she is pleased with the collaborative effort to make it a success. She applauds retired OCU professor Leo Werneke, who was dean of the Petree College of Arts and Sciences when the Singapore program began. "He has written millions of pages of documents," she says, "and I don't think the program would have succeeded without his help." She also applauds Petree College of Arts and Sciences Dean Mark Davies, who teaches in Singapore, and President Robert Henry, who has visited Singapore three times.

Harmon is helping coordinate a new program with the MDIS to offer a degree in Malaysia in August 2015, and Davies is a key supporter. The new program will offer majors in advertising and public relations, recruiting students from international markets. OCU faculty will teach 51 percent of the classes.

OCU Mass Communications Chair Matt Hamilton sees Harmon as a visionary. "She loves to build new programs and curricula. She never stops looking for the next opportunity." Besides being mentor and colleague, he says that she has been a great travel advisor for his family trips to Canada and the western U.S., and that she has been a great friend and source of advice about parenting his son, drawing on her experience of raising sons Lee and Michael with her husband Harvey. A contract attorney, Harvey often accompanies Karlie to Singapore.

ALUMNI ALL-STARS

OCU mass communications alumni are prominent in Singapore, including two who work with Channel NewsAsia. Diyana Alan, BA '11, is a news producer and Augustine Anthuvan, BA '97, is a senior TV journalist for the internal desk, where he writes and produces his own one-on-one interviews and covers major events in the region. Bhavani Krishnamy, MA '94, now second in command at Singapore's Ministry of Information, Culture and the Arts, is responsible for the renovation and opening of a major new art museum.

Success stories abound for alumni. Jennifer Pham, BA '03, is a news producer for KOCO Channel 5 in Oklahoma City. Carrie Conner-Hayes, BA '98, formerly with CNN and PBS, has her own consulting company. Gretchen Hamel, BA '02, is the founder of Highline Strategies, a political consulting firm in Washington, D.C. David Morris, BA '96 and MBA '98, is director of video for OPUBCO Communications.

Perhaps the most widely recognized alumnus is "The Bachelor" host Chris Harrison, BA '93, who has emceed the Miss America pageants for the past three years. He originally planned a career in public relations or advertising, but Harmon directed him into the broadcasting track. He stays in touch and always visits when in Oklahoma City.

Harrison's comments about Harmon paint a good picture of her impact on students: "Karlie did such a phenomenal job of not just being a professor or counselor, but she became a friend and confidant. She took me under her wing and pushed me to fight for a career that most told me I would never achieve. When an 18-year-old kid tells people he's going to be on TV and become a sportscaster, most of those people laugh and say 'Good luck with that.' Karlie never blinked and just set the course and steps for us to achieve this goal. It was never a question of if, but when and how we would do this. When you grow up in an atmosphere of success and are surrounded by people that make you feel like you cannot fail, it's almost impossible not to succeed."

TERRY PHELPS • TPHELPS@OKCU.EDU

PROFESSOR'S FAITH BREAKS THROUGH CLASSROOM, PRISON WALLS

BY HEATHER CHAMBERLIN, SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



Stan Basler is dedicated to restorative justice work. “There is a part of me that desires systemic change,” said Dr. Basler, a professor for Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University and adjunct professor at the OCU School of Law. “I understand the limitations of one person so I hope to increase the effectiveness of others going into ministry or into the practice of law by teaching.”

Basler, DMin and JD, has taught classes in restorative justice to future attorneys at the Oklahoma City University School of Law for 14 years. Some students have also assisted re-entering inmates with legal problems in Project Re-entry, a pro bono program that Basler and the law school established. Basler is now the visiting professor of restorative justice and prison ministries at Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University. He is the lead faculty for the prison ministry and restorative justice Master of Divinity specialization.

Basler brings a wealth of experience with him when he steps into the classroom. He practiced law for 13 years before deciding to go to seminary. “While practicing law I saw first-hand how the system worked. I became quickly convinced that there was a much more biblical way of doing justice.” Basler remembered praying and acknowledging that he liked working with people in trouble. Later a position would open up to work in prison ministry. “It just felt like God had remembered that conversation.”

Basler worked as director of criminal justice and mercy ministries in the Okla-

homa Conference of the United Methodist Church from 1994 - 2013. During that time Basler helped to found Redemption Churches in Lawton, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa for prisoners, former prisoners, their families, and congregants never incarcerated. Basler also worked with the Oklahoma Conference to establish two “New Day Camps” for children with incarcerated parents. He was a driving force in founding the Exodus House ministry in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, which

“It’s been my experience that Christ is most present among the least of these.”
PROFESSOR STAN BASLER

provides transitional living for former prisoners and their families. Basler was co-chair of John Wesley Charter School Board, which was founded by United Methodist-related efforts from 2003 to 2007. The school targeted juvenile offenders suspended from school and other dropouts.

Basler has worked on three legislative task forces, as a member of the Oklahoma County Community Sentencing Planning Council, as a founding member of the Oklahoma Partnership for Successful Reentry, and as a founding member of the Interfaith Council on Oklahoma Prison Ministry.

Many of the issues and questions that Basler is able to raise and discuss in class are based on these experiences. “I’ve learned on the ground ways to deal with prison ministry situations so I can share common mistakes and effective practices.” Basler can keenly explain the interpersonal effects and issues when someone goes to prison.

While teaching, Basler continues to pastor at Penn Avenue Redemption Church in Oklahoma City and participates in Kairos Prison Ministry, an adaptation of the United Methodist Walk to Emmaus program. “I find a lot of meaning and purpose in prison ministry settings,” he said. “It’s been my experience that Christ is most present among the least of these.”

Basler was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Award from Saint Paul School of Theology in 2011 for his extensive work with prison and restoration ministries. “There are more than two million people locked up in this country. Many are parents. My people are very low on the sympathy index but the time and money spent for restorative ministries will affect generations to come.”

“This is a ministry in which there are severe peaks and valleys and it is important not to get discouraged,” Basler explained. He often returns to Hebrews chapter 11 where, “God honors people for their faithfulness that did not get to see the promise.”

HEATHER CHAMBERLIN
HEATHERC@SPST.EDU

class notes

'51 JESSE EDMUND JONES, Ph.D., BA '51, retired as a minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1992. He is the chaplain of Thousand Trails in Acton, California, and is still preaching every Sunday. His wife, RUTH BERGSTROM JONES, '45-'46, is a former piano and organ student of Dean Clarence Burg, and at the age of 86, is still playing organ and piano and substituting for churches in the Lancaster, Calif., area. Jesse and Ruth Jones have been married 65 years.

'60 MASON WILLIAMS, '60 & DM '96, was inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame. Mason is best known for "Classical Gas," an instrumental piece that won a Grammy Award.



Yvonne Kauger

'61 HARRY VINES, BA '61, was inducted into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame.

JIM SWIGGART, BM '61, general director for Opera in the Ozarks, is retiring after more than 25 years of directing and teaching music.

'64 BARBARA MCALISTER, BM '64, was inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame. McAlister is an international mezzo-soprano opera singer.

'66 GEORGE ARRINGTON, JD '66, was a Bobby Joe Cudd Legacy Award winner in Woodward.

'67 JOE PAUL CASE, BA '67, was honored on his retirement after 31 years as dean of financial aid at Amherst College by a scholarship fund established and endowed by Charles A. Myers of the Amherst Class of 1988. A United Methodist minister, Case worked in higher education for 44 years. He was director of financial aid and placement at OCU from 1970 to 1975. The Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators recognized Case with the Edward M. Kennedy Public Service Award for "distinguished service as a champion for the needs and rights of underserved and disadvantaged groups and life-long contributions in public service, student advocacy, and education on issues of student aid policy."

'68 STAN SEWELL, BS Business '68, is serving as president-elect for the Texas Association for Healthcare Financial Administration. Sewell will be president of the organization in 2015. The Texas Association for Healthcare Financial Administration has been providing education, advocacy and networking opportunities for healthcare financial professionals since 1941. TAHFA represents administrators, chief financial officers, accountants, consultants, auditors, financial analysts, and controllers. He has served on the board of directors for the past three years and as co-chairman of the member-driven education committee.

REV. BRUCE BROTHERTON, BA '68, came out of retirement to serve as interim pastor at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, where he preached his first sermon 50 years ago.

'69 YVONNE KAUGER, JD '69 & LL.D. '92, was named to OKC Friday's "Most Powerful OKC Women" list.

'72 SPENCER KOPF, BA '72 & JD '75, is co-author of a book titled "The Unbroken Line" about the 1982 National Football League labor strike and wrote an opinion about a pending lawsuit dealing with NFL Films.

'74 RON BROWN, BS '74, was inducted to the Pawhuska Basketball Hall of Fame.

'75 Tony nominee RON RAINES, BM '75, portrayed Daddy Warbucks in the Broadway revival of "Annie," which closed after playing 487 performances and 38 previews. A national tour is planned.

'76 Tulsa County Sheriff STANLEY GLANZ, MCJA '76, was inducted into the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Hall of Fame in December.

'77 DR. NEIL VITALE, BS '77, has joined the staff of Jackson County Memorial Hospital's Counseling Center as a pediatric developmentalist.

STEPHEN REEL, JD '77, city attorney for the Village, was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame for City and Town Officials last month.

RICHARD COCHRAN, JD '77, is the new city manager for Waurika.

'83 ROBIN WOLAVER, BM '83, did a story for Fox News about Millennials leaving the church. Her book "The Song of Annie Moses" was reviewed by the Smart Mom Picks website.

JONATHAN BECK REED, BA '83, starred in Lyric Theatre's "The Odd Couple."

'85 NIKKI LEACH, JD '85, was appointed associate district judge for Noble County.



Jonathan Beck Reed

class notes

'86 DYTON OWEN, BA '86, was named pastor of First United Methodist Church in Lexington, Nebraska.

EDGAR CRUZ, BM '86, performed at the Duncan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's annual awards banquet in February.

'87 LEE SLATER, JD '87, became the executive director of the state Ethics Commission.

'88 DATO MOHAMAD KAMARUDIN BIN HASSAN, MBA '88, was appointed as an independent non-executive director of CCM Duopharma Biotech.

DANIEL P. HUGHES, MBA '88, is the Program Executive Officer Command, Control and Communications – Tactical for the U.S. Army's Capability Set (CS) 13 program.

'91 REV. KRISTEN L. BROWN, BA '91, elder for the United Methodist Church, is now serving through the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, as Methodist liaison to Palestine and Israel.

KRISTIN CHENOWETH, BM '91, returned to "Glee" for its 100th episode, which aired in March.

'92 The Fletcher High School Wildcats retired the jersey number of GARY BEATHARD JR., BS '92.

PHILIP HIXON, MBA '92 and JD '01, joined the GableGotwals law firm.

JAMES P. BUCKLEY, JD '92, was named to the Bothwell Regional Health Center Foundation board.

'93 EDDIE WYANT, JD '93, was named Oklahoma's Outstanding District Attorney of the Year by the Oklahoma District Attorneys Association, and was selected to serve on the Oklahoma District Attorney's Council as incoming chairman. He was also elected president of the association.

VINCENT SANDOVAL, BPA '93, was the director and choreographer for the SummerStock Austin production of "SWING!"

CHRIS HARRISON, BA '93, was named honorary chair of the Thousand Oaks Arts Festival in California. Harrison was also featured on ABC television's "10 Questions."

ROB HARRIS, BA '93, pastor at Moore First United Methodist Church, was lauded for helping restore homes damaged by the May tornadoes.

'94 JON JACOBSON, BSB '94, was promoted to district manager for Oklahoma for PMA USA, Inc., the marketing company of Washington National Insurance Company.

VINCE LESENEY, MMOP '94, voice instructor at the University of Oklahoma, performed as Eddie and Dr. Scott in "The Rocky Horror Show" at Lyric Theatre.

'94 TONY TERRELL, BA '97, was hired as an assistant basketball coach for Antonian in Texas.

ED GILLIS, BS '97, has been promoted to regional vice president of HotelPlanner.com and Meetings.com based in Las Vegas, Nev.

'98 JENNIFER SEAL, BA & BM '98, was the subject of the Aug. 26 "Day in the Life" series for OKCBiz magazine. Seal is a board member for the Uptown 23rd Street District Association, corporate market director for the American Heart Association, co-owner of Grandad's Bar and board member for the Putnam City Schools Foundation.

KELLY FARRELL, BS '98, was named chief of interpretation and program services by the Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism.

KELLI O'HARA, BM '98, starred as Italian war bride Francesca Johnson in the musical adaptation of "The Bridges of Madison County," which opened in March.

'99 JOHN FLETCHER, BA '99, published his first book, "Preaching to Convert," on the University of Michigan Press. He is an associate professor of theatre and interim chair of the Theatre Department at Louisiana State University.

'00 CHAD ANDERSON, MM '00, directed "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" at Oklahoma Christian University.

SAMUEL MCCOY, BM '00, was appointed music director and principal conductor of the Chelsea Opera in New York City.

JULIE WHITTLE, MBA '00, category manager for soft drinks and energy/nutritional beverages for 7-Eleven, gave a presentation at the national BevNet Live conference.



Jennifer Seal

KELLY ANN VITACCA, BPA '01, is the founder and artistic director of the Vitacca Productions & Company in Houston.

'01 PETER L. MARKES, BM '01, was the featured speaker at the annual Marvin Stokes Endowed Lecture at East Central University in Ada. Markes, the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, and fellow OCU alumnus LEONA MITCHELL, BM '71 & DM '79, participated in the Governor's Art Awards ceremony.

Sarah Coburn



Image by Ervin Photography, Dario Acosta and Stacy Boge

Soprano SARAH COBURN, MM '01, was named as one of the *Tulsa World's* "10 to Watch" in 2014.

'03 KINNIE DYE, BM '03, released her first solo CD, "Road to Follow." Dye has been a member of The Yes Team, a San Diego-based musical trio that also includes her Bass School of Music classmate, TJ MOSS, BM '03, for the past five years.

DENISE ENGLE, BA '03, was appointed to serve on the Oklahoma Workers Compensation Commission.

JEREMY HAYS, BM '03, is starring as Raoul in "The Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway.

Oklahoma Assistant Attorney General JENNIFER MILLER, JD '03, was appointed to the board of directors for the Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation.

CHIP ABBOTT, BPA '03, was cast in the national tour of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." He joined the International Conservatory of Performing Arts as a guest instructor for a week.

'04 ANNIE BRADSHAW DUGGAN, BM '04 and BMed '05, is the music director for Bethany Public Schools and 2013 Bethany District Teacher of the Year. Duggan is the chairwoman of the 2014 OMEA All-State Orchestra.

Several alumni are featured in "Better Late Than Never" at Stage 72 in New York. The show starred TIFFANY BORELLI, BM '04 & MM '06, and WILL MANN, BM '06 with LOGAN CULWELL, BM '08 on piano and NATHAN SILER, BM '05 on guitar.

Oklahoma Assistant Attorney General MYKEL FRY, JD '04, was named to the executive committee of the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units.

NICK SAMARRIPAS, MBA '04, was named commercial relationship manager at First Fidelity Bank.

The PGA named TYRONE VAN ASWEGEN, BSB '04, one of its rookies to watch in the Sony Open.



T.W. SHANNON, JD '04, was named one of the GOP's rising black stars by the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education. Shannon was awarded the Abraham Lincoln Leadership Award during the Lincoln Legacy Dinner and Awards Program. He was the featured speaker at Oklahoma State University's undergraduate commencement ceremonies in December.

KENT HATHAWAY, BFA '04, was selected Mustang Teacher of the Year. Hathaway teaches art and his class won a nationwide contest by building a replica of the Golden Gate Bridge out of recycled milk cartons.

'05 DAVID JANSSEN, BM '05, was a special guest in the "Canterbury Christmas" show.

JAY WADLEY, BM '05, past president of Project 21: Music for the Twenty First Century, composed the soundtrack for the VH1 biopic *CrazySexyCool: The TLC Story*.

JOBIE TEAGUE, JD '05, is the new city attorney for Marked Tree, Ark.

'06 TIM HAUSMANN, BM '06, is the manager and wine buyer for the Little Wine Shoppe in St. Paul, Minn.

JASON HAWKINS, BSB '06, was hired as general manager and CHRIS SPENDLOVE, BS '09, as an assistant coach of the OKC Energy FC.

VAN SAMUELS, '01, spoke at the Marco Island Historical Museum in Florida on "Seminole Culture and History: A Native American Perspective."

ADAM RODRIGUEZ, '01, was named the best football player of all time from Desert View school in Arizona.

CHRIS SCHRODER, BS '01, was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame. Schroder entered the OCU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008 after setting the university's career earned run average record at 2.16 in 2000-01. He became one of three OCU alumni coached by Denney Crabaugh to reach the major leagues. He made his major-league debut with the Washington Nationals in 2006.

class notes

JAHNI TAPLEY, JD '06, was appointed to serve as a member of the Carl Albert State College Board of Regents.

'07 CHRISTOPHER CONRADY, BS '07, won a 2013 Love of Learning Award from Phi Kappa Phi.

LANCE MCDANIEL, MLA '07, and NATHAN GARDOCKI, BFA '10, have finished principal photography on their film, "Light from the Darkroom." McDaniel is the director and Gardocki is the producer.

EMILY E. CAMPBELL, JD '07 has been named to the University of Oklahoma's College of Engineering Industrial & Systems Engineering Advisory Board. She was selected for inclusion in Oklahoma Rising Stars 2013 in the Intellectual Property category.

Outfielder BRIAN JOYNT, '07-'11, joined the Lincoln Saltdogs.

FURAN L. JACKSON, '07-'12, was named pastor of the Jay First United Methodist Church.

'08 JENNIFER O'STEEN, JD '08, was named city attorney of Ardmore.

HANS C. JUSTICE CHANG, MBA '08, was named chief operating officer of UAN Cultural & Creative Co., Ltd.

"The Fable of Shannon Cable," written and directed by VINNIE HOGAN, BM '08, was featured at the Austin Film Festival and the Trail Dance Film Festival in Duncan.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal did a feature piece on BRITTANY NANCE GAZZARA, BPA '08, who performed in "B-Beatleshow!"

'09 KATIE POSTONIK, BM '09, continues her starring role as Molly in the national tour of "Ghost."

JASON EDWARD GRIFE, MM '09, is the executive director of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras.

AUSTIN BROWN, '09, and his group Home Free won NBC's a cappella singing competition, "The Sing-Off."

RICK MCKEE, BM '09, orchestrated the music for Macy's "Yes, Virginia," which received its world concert premiere with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra.

'10 MAIRA MORAES OLLILA, MBA '10, delivered East Central University's 2013-2014 Boswell Lecture titled "Social Media in the Business World."

'11 SASHA HUTCHING, BFA '11, made the cast for "Rocky the Musical," her third Broadway show.

LEAH DIAZ, BS '11, graduated with her Master in Theatre Administration degree from New York University in May 2013 and began working for Disney Theatrical Group.

'12 AARON WERTHIEM, BFA '12, played a leading role in Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre's "Red."

JUDITH V. HUERTA, BA '12, co-founder of the Oklahoma City Chapter of Dream Act Oklahoma, helped organize the "Hungry 4 Justice" activities to call attention to immigration reform in America.

'13 HAILEY HOLLOWAY, BA '13, started her new job as a broadcast journalist in Gainesville, Fla. She is an on-air reporter for GTN News, the local NBC/CBS affiliate.

CAROL RIZER, DNP '13, was named an assistant professor of nursing at the University of Texas at Tyler.

JACK COPPEDGE, JD '13, was hired as an assistant district attorney in Carter County.

AUDREY WAGNER, BFA '13, was an actress' double in the movie "August: Osage County."

JOSHUA CASSELLA, BFA '13, was a fall intern for the Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition.



Image provided by OKC Energy FC

Chris Spendlove



Austin Brown

PHONATHON CHATS RING TRUE FOR STUDENTS, ALUMNI

BY JOSEPH PIERCE

Every semester a group of students gather in a conference room on the OCU campus to make thousands of phone calls to alumni across the nation. They are the Call-Stars, and each spring and fall, they work to reconnect alumni with their alma mater.

The Call-Star phonathon program is operated by the Office of University Advancement and External Relations. It allows the office to make sure it has up-to-date contact information for alumni, gives alumni the opportunity to reminisce with students about their time on campus and share achievements to be published in *FOCUS*. It also offers alumni the opportunity to begin a philanthropic relationship with the university. The phonathon helps discover what alumni are passionate about and connects them with university programming that will help them make a difference.

President Robert Henry re-initiated the phonathon during the fall 2012 semester, and student callers have become an important part of the student-alumni experience, leading to the new Call-Stars name.

Alumni learn more about OCU first-hand, and students gain valuable experience speaking one-to-one with alumni.

"My favorite part of phonathon was the chance to talk to alumni who are currently doing what I want to do," said Emily Myers, vocal performance freshman. She especially enjoyed connecting with alumni over their shared passion for music and OCU. "It

made me even more excited to see all the possibilities out there with the degree I am currently receiving at OCU," she said.

Other students enjoyed sharing connections with alumni over university events. Elisabeth Bagley, a biomedical sciences and exercise sport science senior, bonded with alumni over events put on by the Student Government Association.

"It was awesome to find out that some of our 'new' events are actually reinvented versions of those held years ago," Bagley said.

As part of the calls, students speak with alumni about their lives after leaving OCU. Some alumni make a contribution and then give names and numbers of their alumni friends, advising callers to contact them too. Call-Stars frequently have the privilege of being the first on campus to learn about exciting career developments, growing families, and awards. Some of these stories end up in the pages of *FOCUS*.

This fall, the Call-Stars will be reaching out again to ask for alumni support.

"If your phone rings, we hope you will spend a few minutes chatting with the Call-Star on the other end of the line," said Carrie Sauer, assistant director for annual giving. "Find out what is happening on campus and share some stories with them about your time at OCU."



Have you been a Call-Star? If you have been a student caller during phonathon at any point in OCU's history, we'd love to know your story. Visit www.facebook.com/oklahomacityuniversity to share your story or photo, or email focus@okcu.edu.

JOSEPH PIERCE • JDPIERCE@MY.OKCU.EDU





Cheerful Champs

STARS SWEEP CHEER AND DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

OCU picked up national titles in cheerleading and dance March 15 at the NAIA Cheerleading/Dance Championships at Abe Lemons Arena.

The Stars have captured nine national championships in cheerleading and pom/dance the past three years. OCU won the NAIA large coed and large pom/dance championships in 2011, the NAIA all-girl and large coed crowns in 2012 and the NAIA all-girl and pom/dance titles, the NCAA Division II coed championship in 2013 and now 2014 cheer and dance NAIA titles.

"It was fun because we have kind of been the trailblazers in the NAIA," OCU Coach Brandy Corcoran said. "We get to hang the first red banners and we get to hang them in both sports, so that is fun for me."

OCU finished in first place with a total score of 110.08 in the dance competition. The Stars finished 1.56 points ahead of runner-up finishers Grand View (Iowa). Baker (Kan.) finished third followed by Midland (Neb.), Siena Heights (Mich.) and Concordia (Neb.).

OCU posted a final score of 92.67 to finish in first place in the cheer competition. St. Gregory's finished second with a score of 91.46. Midland finished third followed by Martin Methodist (Tenn.), Graceland (Iowa), Missouri Baptist, Lindenwood-Bellefonte (Ill.), Concordia (Mich.), Missouri Valley, Aquinas (Mich.), Siena Heights and Lordes (Ohio).

"They all had strong performances and it just shows that this is going to be a building community of athletes for the NAIA," Corcoran said.

STARS STREAK TO SHINING MOMENT

Oklahoma City University collected its seventh NAIA Division I women's basketball championship with an 80-76 title-game triumph over Freed-Hardeman (Tenn.) on March 25 at the Frankfort Convention Center in Kentucky.

OCU now ties Southern Nazarene for the most NAIA Division I women's hoops titles. In all sports, OCU captured its 55th national championship. Yvonte Neal poured in a game-high 36 points to power the Stars.

Kayla MacKenzie of the Stars took home the tournament's most valuable player trophy. MacKenzie, a senior from Peoria, Ariz., posted 21 points, seven rebounds, five assists and five treys in 40 minutes of work in the title game. For the tournament, MacKenzie averaged 13.8 points, 6.2 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 1.60 steals per game.

MacKenzie and fellow senior Cara Pugh helped Oklahoma City win national championships two out of the past three years.

"It's unreal," MacKenzie said. "I can honestly say hard work pays off. Never in a million years did I think I'd be here my last game of my senior year winning this championship and that award. You couldn't write it any better."

Neal, a junior from Spring Valley, Calif., also put together eight rebounds, four assists, two steals and four 3-pointers. She was the last addition to this year's recruiting class. Neal took all-tournament acclaim.

OCU coach Latricia Trammell picked up the Phyllis Holmes NAIA Division I coach of the year award. Trammell led the Stars to a 27-4 finish with OCU's 14th Sooner Athletic Conference regular-season championship. OCU ran its streak of 25-win seasons to 16 in a row. Trammell completed her second season, returning to OCU as head coach after being the assistant from 2005-07.

"We preach hard work pays off, and we do things for a reason," said Trammell. "I have to give it to this team. They're the ones out there on the floor executing and battling. They're just a fantastic group of young ladies, and I'm very proud."



Shooting Stars



HAYES, LEDBETTER, SANDERS ENTER HALL OF FAME

OCU celebrated its outstanding athletic heritage with the induction of its latest Athletic Hall of Fame class Jan. 18 in the Great Hall of the Tom and Brenda McDaniel University Center.

The 2013-14 OCU Athletic Hall of Fame class was comprised of speedy softball all-American Cathy Hayes, 2004 NAIA baseball player of the year Ted Ledbetter and contributors Paul and Kim Sanders.

Hayes became known as one of the nation's premier leadoff hitters for OCU's

softball teams from 1988 to 1991. An outfielder from Lodi, Calif., Hayes racked up 167 career stolen bases, swiping 63 as a sophomore. Both marks are OCU records.

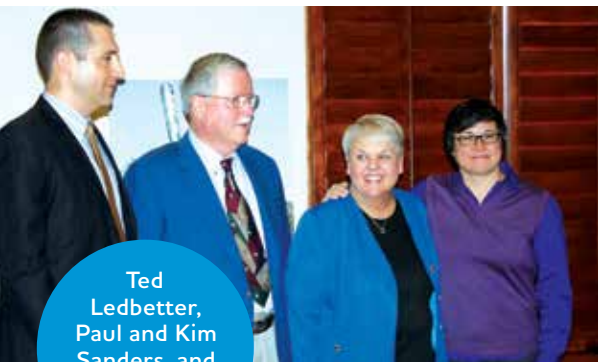
"Cathy Hayes' mental toughness and attitude were contagious among her teammates," OCU coach Phil McSpadden said. "I appreciate what she did on and off the field for our program. She was a difference maker for us and very deserving of this honor. Cathy was a member of the first class I had for all four years. She was one of the many players from California who have been impactful for Oklahoma City University softball."

Ledbetter became an NAIA Hall of Famer in 2012-13. In 2004, Ledbetter hit .504 with 20 home runs and 90 RBIs as a senior for the Stars. He also produced 84 runs scored, 117 hits, 26 doubles, seven stolen bases and a .976 fielding percentage. Ledbetter became Sooner Athletic Conference and NAIA Region VI player of the year, first-team all-SAC, all-NAIA Region VI and first-team all-American. He set OCU's single-season record for batting average while tying the single-season record for hits.

"Ted is one of the best who have come through here with the legacy he's left," OCU coach Denney Crabaugh said. "With the accolades he's earned with being the NAIA player of the year and an NAIA Hall of Famer, it was an easy decision. His senior season was one of the finest seasons in the history of our program."

Paul and Kim Sanders have been erstwhile friends of the OCU athletic department. They have been noted as being two of the most consistent supporters of the university over time. Kim, a 1969 OCU graduate, and her husband, Paul, have been OCU supporters for more than 40 years. The two were honored in the meritorious service category of the OCU Athletics Hall of Fame.

"Kim and Paul have embraced OCU Athletics and our student-athletes like no other," OCU athletic director Jim Abbott said. "They are the most dependable fans and supporters that we have ever had, and their love for OCU is apparent to us daily. Our committee was unanimous in selecting them to enter our Hall of Fame in recognition of their service to our department."



Ted Ledbetter, Paul and Kim Sanders, and Cathy Hayes

KICKING IT UP: HARVEY REACHES MILESTONE WIN

OCU coach Brian Harvey earned his 325th career women's college soccer coaching victory and pushed his combined college coaching record over the 700-win plateau during the 2013 season.

Harvey notched win No. 325 in the Stars' 4-0 SAC Tournament quarterfinal win over Mid-America Christian on Nov. 9 at Stars Field. Harvey ends the season with a 326-87-21 ledger in his 19 years coaching women. Harvey has the most wins of any current NAIA women's soccer coach.

Harvey collected his 700th career college soccer victory in a 2-1 men's win over Southern Nazarene on Oct. 19 in Bethany. His men's record is 382-173-34 in his 27th year, while his overall college coaching record is 708-260-55.

STARS WRESTLE FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

OCU finished second at the Women's College Wrestling Association championship this January in St. Louis. King (Tenn.) edged OCU by two points.

OCU's Emily Webster captured her third consecutive 101-pound individual championship as 14 Stars became all-Americans. OCU picked up its second consecutive runner-up finish and third second-place team finish in program history.

The team won four national championships from 2009 to 2012.

The Stars' Rachel McFarland at 130 pounds and Kayla Aggio at 155 took individual runner-up showings. OCU wrestlers placing fourth were Brianna Rahall at 101, Kristi Garr at 109, Cody Pfau at 116, Brieana Delgado at 123, Demi Strub at 155, Sherese Thomas at 170 and Heather O'Connor at 191.

Stars taking fifth were Beatriz Martinez (136) and Stephanie Geltmacher (143). Rachel Young was sixth at 136, and Shelby Morrison was the seventh-place finisher at 116.

Garr and Geltmacher became four-time all-Americans, increasing OCU's total of four-time all-Americans to eight in program history. Delgado, O'Connor, Rahall, Strub and Webster can boast of being three-time all-Americans. Aggio and Martinez repeated as all-Americans.



Webster is 3-0 in title matches.

Chris
Pike



PIKE PITCHES TO PERFECTION

OCU's Chris Pike joined an exclusive club and tossed a perfect game in the Stars' 5-0 victory over St. Gregory's on March 7 at Jim Wade Stadium.

Pike struck out 18 while logging 91 pitches. He became the first OCU pitcher to throw a perfect game since Mike Mlotkowski accomplished the feat against Hastings (Neb.) on March 20, 2005 at Jim Wade Stadium. Pike's perfect game was the 24th in NAIA history. He struck out 14 batters in a row from the second batter of the game through the top of the fifth inning. The right-hander struck out the side five times.

"It was the most dominating performance I've ever seen by a pitcher, period," Crabaugh said.

SKATES BECOMES TWO-TIME ALL-AMERICAN

Zach Skates finished in sixth place at 157 pounds in the NAIA Championships March 8 in Topeka, Kan.

Skates, a sophomore from Broken Arrow, Okla., became a two-time all-American. He finished the season 38-13. He took fifth at 165 in last year's NAIA Championships. Skates became OCU's sixth two-time all-American. He has a 77-26 record in his OCU career.



Zach
Skates

CROSS COUNTRY TEAM ADDS TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RUN

Oklahoma City University's national championship run continued with the cross country program's first NAIA title. OCU placed four runners in the top 30 in its first appearance in the NAIA Championships and claimed the NAIA cross country title Nov. 23 in Lawrence, Kan.

The Stars, ranked No. 5 in NAIA men's cross country, completed the eight-kilometer race with 77 team points and finished 47 points ahead of top-ranked Southern Oregon and 80 points ahead of 2012 champion St. Francis (Ill.). Sophomores Arya Bahreini and Peter Koskey along with freshmen Chris Lowery and Mackenzie Wahpepah-Harris finished in the top 30 individually and earned all-American status.

Koskey, of Keringet, Kenya, finished eighth overall with a time of 24 minutes and 47 seconds.

Bahreini, of Edmond, Okla., finished 11th overall with a time of 24:50. The sophomore finished 37th while competing as an individual at the NAIA championships a year ago.

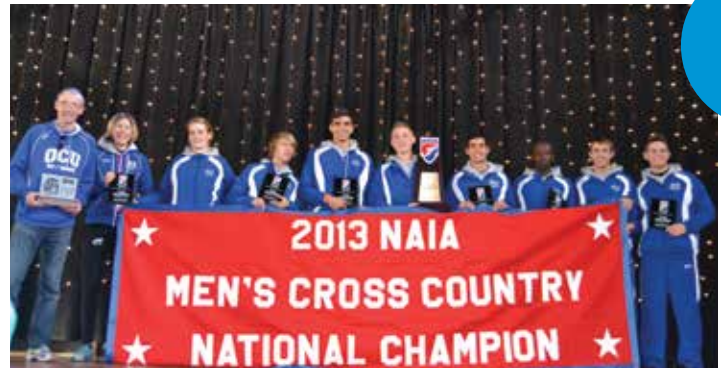
The freshmen duo of Lowery and Wahpepah-Harris finished 22nd and 25th respectively. Lowery, of Chandler, Okla., posted a time of 25:04 while Wahpepah-Harris, of Norman, Okla., notched a time of 25:06.

Junior Kyle Wardwell, of Norman, Okla., finished 38th with a time of 25:01 to round out the Stars' top five runners.

Teams dealt with a sub-freezing temperature of 27 degrees and wind gusts up to 24 miles per hour during the race.

OCU made its first appearance in the NAIA Championships as a team since the school reinstated cross country before the 2008-09 school year.

The 2013 NAIA men's cross country title was OCU's 52nd national championship. OCU has now won an NAIA title in each of the last 19 years.



Cross
country
team

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Barbara & J.M. Garrett Religion Leadership Endowed Scholarship
William D. Greenshields Memorial Endowed Religious Leadership Scholarship

Norma Rowe Gunn Endowed Religion Scholarship
Mary Jean Hackler Endowed Religion Scholarship
Vernon V. Harris Endowed Chair in Christian Education
Hyde Endowed Scholarship
Paul Jones Religious Education Endowed Scholarship
Robert Jones Memorial Endowment
Carl Jung Seminar Endowment (Quasi)
Kramer Ministerial Endowed Scholarship
Martha Jean Lemon Endowed Lectureship
Martha Jean Lemon Endowed Scholarship
Blanche & Lloyd Long Service Endowed Scholarship
Lydia Lukenbaugh Endowed Scholarship
Leroy Massengale Endowed Scholarship
Bess & Calvin McGalliard Memorial Scholarship
Paul W. Milhouse Endowed Religion Professorship
Glenn E. & Mary A. Millard Endowed Scholarship
Nile & Adena Montgomery Endowed Scholarship
Billy B. Nelson Memorial Religion Endowed Scholarship
Oakerhater Endowed Chair
Beverly Osborne Memorial Religious Leadership Endowed Scholarship
Ray & Lavell Owen Endowed Scholarship
F. Warren Pixley Endowed Religious Scholarship
W. Carroll Pope Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Winona Presley Endowed Religion Scholarship
Margaret K. Replogle Endowed Religion Professorship
Glen Rhodes Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Helen Riddle Church Leadership Endowed Scholarship
Riley Endowed Chair in Religion
Vernon Roberts Endowed Religion Scholarship
Neal & Hazel Rock Memorial Endowed Religion Scholarship
Maryetta Rowe Endowed Scholarship
Arthur W. and Joi D. Salisbury Scholarship
Don Schooler Memorial Endowed Professorship
Minnie M. Seba Endowed Ministry Scholarship
Alice Sincox Endowed Scholarship
Robert J. Smith Memorial Endowed Religious Leadership Scholarship
Leslie G. & Irene Stewart Endowed Scholarship
Russell Stone Endowed Religious Leadership Scholarship
Bettie Ewert Stoneking Endowed Scholarship
Clarence Sutton Religious Leadership Endowed Scholarship
Naomi Thomas Endowed Scholarship
Claude & Patty Todd Endowed Scholarship
United Methodist Women's Endowed Religious Leadership Scholarship
Herbert Voth Endowed Religious Leadership Scholarship
Owen & Vivian Wimberly Endowed Professorship
Owen Wimberly Center for Continuing Education Endowment (Quasi)
Vivian Wimberly Center Endowment
W. W. Woodworth Endowed Scholarship
Richard K. and Effie D. Wootten Endowed Scholarship

OKLAHOMA UNITED METHODIST GIFTS

These donors have made gifts to the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation to benefit OCU in 2013.

John and Sherri Brown	Brett and Christine Parr
Mark and Leslie Brown	David and Paula Severe
Sharon and Malcolm Clark	Shelby Lee Smith
Jeannine Gibbens	Rex and Sacra Vaughan
Jean Hinckley	West Family Foundation
Nelma Karns	
Tommy Karns	

NAKITA COLBERT



September 14, 1973 - October 18, 2013

Nakita Colbert was born Sept. 14, 1973. Nakita earned a degree in liberal arts from Oklahoma City University in 2011 and worked in the International Admissions Office.

She was baptized at the Greater Shiloh Baptist Church. She attended school in the Oklahoma City School District and graduated May 1991 from Northwest Classen High School. She received an associate degree in arts from Rose State College in 2008.

Nakita loved to perform. She was in several performances in theaters around the city. She also appeared in TV commercials including a spot for the University of

Oklahoma, a milk commercial with Kendrick Perkins of the OKC Thunder and she was in Sunwest Motors commercials for several years. In 1998, she was Ms. Black Rose State College. Nakita was also an excellent artist.

With a degree from Oklahoma City University, she went to work for Rose State College as a high school recruiter until her health failed. Before her illness, Nakita was in the process of producing a segment of commercials showcasing selected Oklahoma City businesses. Her production was to be named "Urban Crawl."

She loved to travel. She traveled abroad several times to London, France and South America. The last trip to London and France was in June 2012 with her son.

BELVA CARENE GODLEY

November 7, 1935 - October 27, 2006

Belva Carene Godley, former Oklahoma City resident and member of the OCU class of 1953, passed away in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Oct. 27, 2006. She was 70.

Godley was born in Hardesty, Oklahoma, on Nov. 7, 1935, and was the daughter of William G. Godley and Mame Glenn Godley, well-known Guymon residents for many years. She was the sister of William G. Godley Jr. of Chicago.

She is survived by her brother; two daughters, Mrs. Vincent Zarrella of Albuquerque and Mrs. James Walters of Minneapolis, Minn.; and eight grandchildren. Her former husband, Jack Jones of Minneapolis, also survives. Jones was born in Oklahoma City and was a well-known news photographer for NBC. Both Godley and Jones attended Oklahoma City University where they met in 1953.

Following their marriage in 1956, the couple lived first in Oklahoma City and then in Minneapolis. Godley decided to make her home in Albuquerque after the couple divorced in 1980. She was a talented artist and often said the unique atmosphere of New Mexico provided her with inspiration for her colorful paintings. Her best-known work is a large abstract canvas commissioned by her brother for the custom-built home of their parents in Albuquerque.

AMANDA STARZ

November 11, 1992 - August 12, 2013

OCU dance senior Amanda Elizabeth Starz passed away Aug. 12, 2013. She was the daughter of Victor H. Starz III and Kimberly Zembas Starz and granddaughter of Leonard and Nancy Zembas and the late James and Mary Sinclair. She is also survived by many other loving relatives and friends.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Maryland on Aug. 19. OCU students celebrated Amanda's life with a memorial service in Bishop Angie Smith Chapel on Sept. 6.

CLASS OF 1934

Constance P. Gayer-Maxey

CLASS OF 1943

Al McLaughlin

CLASS OF 1949

William B. Kessler
John J. Hole

CLASS OF 1955

Thomas D. Haines

CLASS OF 1958

Norma J. Ross

CLASS OF 1963

J.C. Fishburn

CLASS OF 1964

Bill D. Harrison
Terry W. Shoemake
Joe B. Cannon

CLASS OF 1966

Earl G. Burke

CLASS OF 1968

Richard W. Freeman, Sr.

CLASS OF 1973

James R. Wolfe

CLASS OF 1975

Robert G. Rives, Jr.

CLASS OF 1976

Hal L. Hefner
Stephen P. Garrett
Richard J. Young

CLASS OF 1984

Kyle K. Berry

CLASS OF 1990

Timothy C. Roberts

CLASS OF 1998

Barry W. McCurley

in memory

STEPHEN GARRETT

September 1, 1944 - November 18, 2013

Surrounded by his family, Stephen Paul Garrett, 69, of Oklahoma City died Nov. 18, 2013. Steve leaves behind a legacy of community service, faith and love of family. Steve was a member of the Board of Trustees at Oklahoma City University



Funeral services were at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City.

Steve was born Sept. 1, 1944, in Granite, Okla., and graduated from high school in Mangum, Okla. His father is The Honorable James Paul Garrett and his mother was the late Nedra Lee Wilson Garrett.

After graduating from Mangum High School, Steve earned a bachelor of business administration degree from the University of Oklahoma, where he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, and a Juris Doctorate from Oklahoma City University.

He married Linda Dianne Dozier on June 24, 1966, in Oklahoma City and together they raised three children.

Steve was a captain in the United States Army and served as a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1972. He earned the Army Commendation Medal,

Bronze Star and 10 additional air medals while serving the nation. In 1969, he was nominated for the honor of the Distinguished Flying Cross, awarded for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight.

When he returned from the war, Steve joined the Oklahoma Insurance Department where he served as Chief Examiner and Assistant Commissioner. He joined the Insurance Company of North America in Philadelphia and then Atlanta in the late 1970s before

returning to Oklahoma City with his family in 1981 when Steve accepted the position of senior vice president and general counsel at American Fidelity Corp., a position he held for 32 years. Steve served in numerous executive leadership positions in the insurance industry including chairman of the Oklahoma Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association, president and director of the Association of Oklahoma Life Insurance Companies, chairman of the Oklahoma Property and Casualty Insurance Guaranty Association, president of the Association of Property and Casualty Insurance Companies, chairman of the House Counsel section of the Oklahoma Bar Association and was a member of several committees of the American Council of Life Insurance and America's Health Insurance Plans.

Steve was passionate about community service and served as past district governor of Rotary International, past president of Rotary Club 29, past chairman and past president of the Oklahoma City Rotary Foundation, past chairman of the Oklahoma City Command of the Salvation Army Board of Directors and a director of the Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra.

Left behind to cherish his memory are his wife, Linda Dianne Garrett; their three children and their spouses and children: William Braden Garrett, his wife Betty Jane Harvey Garrett, their daughter Abigail Mae Garrett and their son Wilson Blakely Garrett; Lizanne Garrett Reger, her husband Joseph Clark Reger and their son James Clark Reger; Marion Garrett Parke, her husband David Wilkin Parke III and their son David Wilkin Parke IV; his father The Honorable James Paul Garrett; and his sisters and their husbands: Linda and Les Ellason and Susan and Leon Christian.

The Garrett family would like to express their sincerest appreciation to the doctors and staff at Mercy Health Center. In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made to The Stephen P. Garrett Memorial Fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1146, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1146.

JEANNETTE SIAS

June 27, 1932 - April 15, 2014

Jeannette Joullian Sias, honored Oklahoma City philanthropist and arts and education advocate, died April 15, 2014.

Born June 27, 1932, in Oklahoma City, she graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1954 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in speech therapy and earned a Master of Arts degree in speech from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

Jeannette worked as a therapist with the Oklahoma City Public Schools. She served on the Board of Trustees of Oklahoma City University, and Board of Directors of The Oklahoma City Philharmonic, KCSC Radio, Oklahoma Methodist Foundation, and State Arts Council of Oklahoma. She was also a member of the Nichols Hills United Methodist Church where she taught children's Sunday school for 40 years. She was a member of the Ladies Music Club, Oklahoma City Orchestra League, Confrerie de la Chaine des Rotisseurs and Allied Arts. She was a 50-year member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority and a dedicated volunteer for Science Museum Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Zoological Society.



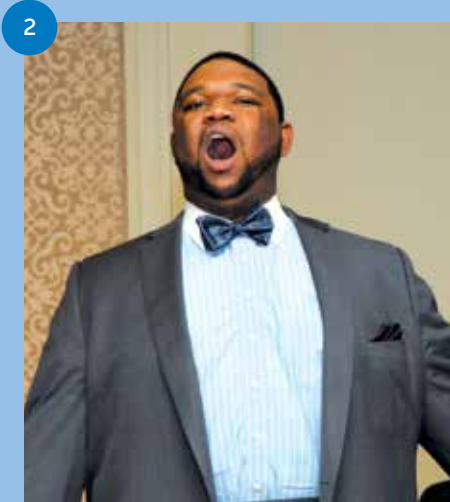
Winner of numerous honors and awards for lifetime achievement, Jeannette most recently received the Marilyn Douglas Award from the Oklahoma State Arts Council, was honored by induction into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame, Community Literacy Centers Award, and The Oklahoma City University Servant Leader Award. Together with her husband Richard L. Sias and

brother Edward C. Joullian, III, she founded Joullian Vineyards of Carmel, Calif. She was instrumental in establishing the Ad Astra Foundation and directing its philanthropic work. Jeannette worked tirelessly throughout her life to improve and sustain the fine, performing and culinary arts, education, her church, and countless humanitarian programs and causes.

Services were held April 22 at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church. OCU President Robert Henry and Maestro Joel Levine of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic delivered eulogies at the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Oklahoma City Philharmonic Orchestra or The Jeannette Sias Music Scholarship Fund for Oklahoma City University at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

HONORING THOSE WHO HONOR OTHERS

1. Four women noted for service to the community were honored by the Societies of Oklahoma City University at the annual Awards of Excellence gala in February. Honorees include, from left, Anne Gray, Linda Whittington, Marion Paden and Jenee Naifeh Lister. The Societies recognizes women for outstanding volunteer service in Oklahoma City and provides scholarships for OCU students. 2. OCU student J. Warren Mitchell provided musical entertainment for the evening. 3. President Robert Henry and Annie Bohanon give Marion Paden the Dulaney-Browne Library Society Award. Bohanon and Jane Thompson chaired this year's event. Cathy Leichter is the organization's president. 4. Anne Gray accepts the Norick-Hulsey Gallery Society Award. 5. Jenee Naifeh Lister with President Henry as she accepts the OCU Distinguished Philanthropist Award. 6. Linda Whittington accepts the Kirkpatrick-Petree Opera and Music Theatre Society Award. 7. Students Austin Nail, Samer Abdelkader, and Josh Graham provided assistance as Blue Tie Ambassadors.





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