

SPRING 2014

Excellence

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY



TO THE UTTERMOST BOUNDS OF THE EARTH

INSIDE: New global degrees | Meet the Provost | Alumni in the world | Globalization update



Renewed!

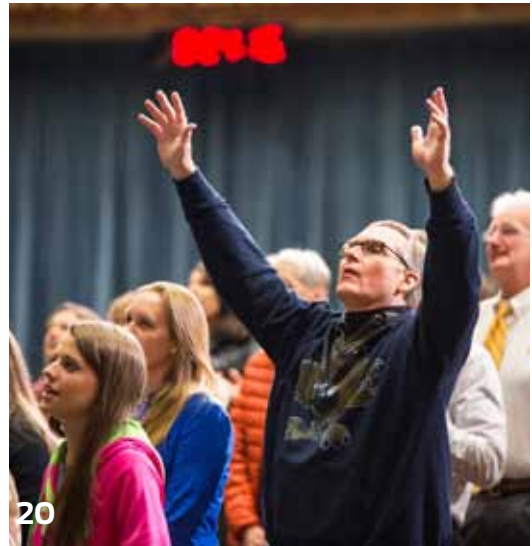
Campus Worship Team guitarist Josh Kluge lifts his hands in praise during January's Renew U, a two-night, student-led revival of prayer, praise, and proclamation.

Excellence

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What is 'Globalization'?

ORU President William M. Wilson (right) shook hands with Asia Life University President Yeol Soo Eim during an October 2013 trip to South Korea. (See story on page 16.)

Oral Roberts University is and always has been a global institution, attracting students and supporters from around the world. Coming to ORU on June 1, 2013, to begin my tenure as the fourth president, and seeing how much progress had been made on all fronts, I knew we were ready to dream again, and achieve what I refer to as “the *further* globalization of ORU.”

And so, on my first day, I appointed the Presidential Task Force on the Globalization of ORU. This group of stellar international leaders from inside and outside ORU formed a think tank to dream about ORU’s future and consider questions such as where our world is headed, what

is happening in higher education, how we can accomplish our mission in today’s world, and the most important issues for ORU to address now.

One outcome of the task force meetings was a case statement for the globalization of ORU. This multi-page document examines the megatrends around us and clearly delineates steps to be taken in the future. The Board of Trustees unanimously affirmed this statement at their Fall 2013 meeting. From creating a stronger global culture on the Tulsa campus and increasing opportunities through online learning and technology, to ultimately expanding ORU’s presence to every inhabited continent, we are

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

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Enhancing Trust





The opportunities before us are unprecedented. An explosion of interest in education is taking place across the globe. Hundreds of thousands of international students are studying in America (more than 280,000 Chinese alone), millions are taking online courses from every nation on earth, and millions more families are prepared to help their students obtain the best education possible. Add to this the amazing growth of the Spirit-empowered movement around the world, which now numbers more than 620 million.

Doors are opening that will require strong faith and supernatural grace as we seek to bring ORU's unique whole-person education to many more students in the days ahead.

As you will note in this issue of *Excellence*, the globalization of ORU has already begun. Five new majors will launch this fall. We are adding a Mandarin Chinese minor and had a great group of students in the first class this semester. In every chapel service, our students pray for the 70-plus nations currently represented in our student body. Missions team involvement will be at an all-time high this summer.

John Wesley said, "The world is my parish," and in scripture, God's invitation in Psalms 2:8 is, "Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession." God is expanding His Kingdom influence through us into the nations as we equip this generation to be globally focused, Spirit-empowered leaders going into "every person's world" in "all the world." We will keep you updated as we embark upon this dynamic journey of Globalization at ORU!

committing to an exciting journey that will extend our mission to the 21st-century world.

I am often asked what we mean by globalization, so I have framed a short statement to explain the concept:

Globalization at Oral Roberts University is a process to realign university programs and energies to match 21st-century global realities in order to accomplish ORU's vision and mission with economic vitality.

Making No Little Plans Here,

Billy Wilson

DR. WILLIAM M. WILSON
President



Read the entire case statement at oru.edu/globalization. Watch and read Dr. Wilson's inaugural address at oru.edu/inauguration.

The long and winding road was the one that Hunter chose to take, all for the sake of Mongolian orphans.

Dare to RUN

STORY BY MICA KILSTROM OLINGHOUSE • PHOTOS BY LISSA HUNTER

Brian Hunter said “Yes” to a two-and-a-half-month marathon to benefit Mongolian orphans.

Imagine the most adventurous, physically draining run of your life. The terrain is varied and difficult, ranging from rugged mountains and beautiful glaciers to lush grasslands and arid deserts. Every day, you’re pounding across unfamiliar territory in a foreign land. Through sweat and tears, you fight against the intense pain and carry on, running thirty miles a day for 1,500 miles across an entire country, all because you have been given a mandate and a mission. Would you sign up for this?

Perhaps you would pass, but for one Oral Roberts University alumnus, it proved impossible to do so. With faith, determination, and grace, 2010 pastoral Christian ministries graduate Brian Hunter — who had

once been diagnosed with polio as a child — said yes and committed to run across the nation of Mongolia to raise support for Mongolian orphans.

The plan for this unusual expedition came together for Hunter one piece at a time, beginning with ORU chapel services. Being exposed to so many speakers who shared about the great things they were doing for God led Hunter to seek the Lord about his own purpose for the kingdom. When he asked God about his gifts and talents, he heard Him say, “You can run, can’t you? Use that.”

As that seed of knowledge began to take root in Hunter’s spirit, an opportunity to do something incredible with his talent also began to surface. One day, while watching a documentary

about two guys riding motorcycles through Mongolia, “this little thought popped into my mind,” Hunter said. “*I dare you to run across Mongolia*. I thought that was crazy. I didn’t know at the time that the Lord was hooking me up with His plan.”

It took about a year for Hunter to give serious consideration to the idea. After doing some research on the country, he and his wife, Lissa, discovered the plight of the orphans in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. “When I found out about these orphans, I thought, there it is. Now my run has purpose.”

Before starting his run in July of 2013, Hunter worked on conditioning his body. He also planned the logistics for Lissa and their children,



Hunter with two Mongolian children.

Selah and Kai, who would follow him in support vehicles as he ran. “The trip challenged and confirmed our five core family values of faith, obedience, family, purpose, and discipline,” Hunter said. “We drew closer together as a family. And when you stick together as a family, there is nothing you can’t tackle.”

The Hunters raised more than \$25,000 in five months for organizations that work with orphaned children. Money came through social media fundraising, sales from Lissa’s custom-made kitchen tables, and a concert benefit dinner. An ORU chapel missions offering helped the Hunters purchase a tent and some

“WHEN I FOUND OUT ABOUT THESE ORPHANS, I THOUGHT, THERE IT IS. NOW MY RUN HAS PURPOSE.”

— BRIAN HUNTER





At last, the end was in sight! Hunter had finished his marathon.



Hunter's family — wife Lissa and children Selah and Kai — supported him all the way.



Hunter's children, Kai and Selah, hand out food and drink.

property that is now being used as a feeding outreach to orphans in Ulaanbaatar. "Our goal was to give these orphans a practical demonstration of God's love and show them He hasn't forgotten about them," Hunter said.

The expedition was filmed by an American film crew that accompanied Hunter on his trip. The documentary, called *Strong to the Finish*, is scheduled for completion in 2015.

Summing up this extraordinary adventure, Hunter remarked,

"I was simply chasing after what God was already doing in Mongolia."

Emboldened by faith and empowered by grace, this ORU alumnus has learned the power of saying yes when God dares him to run. ●

Visit strongtothefinish.com or e-mail Brian at brian@strongtothefinish.com.



ORU Alumna's Focus Is on Next-Gen Leaders

BY MICHELE ROSS

What if 1 percent of the world's population under the age of 25 (the next-generation or "next-gen") thought and acted like life-giving, authentic leaders?

This is the question that drives Oral Roberts University trustee Holly Moore '86 and her colleagues at Growing Leaders every single day.

Moore, who also served on the ORU Alumni Association Board (2010-13), is vice president and COO of Growing Leaders, an organization whose goal is to equip 30 million young people with the leadership skills they need to change the world. She oversees everything the organization offers and how it operates, and also manages the growth of the brand.

She asserts, "History has shown that when only 1 percent of a populace latches onto an idea, and they have the leadership skills to promote that idea, they are able to sway the other 99 percent. We saw this with the civil rights movement and the spread of Christianity throughout Europe and America, for example."

Their curriculum, called Habitudes, was developed by GL founder and president Dr. Tim Elmore '83, who worked alongside leadership expert John Maxwell for more than 25 years. Habitudes has been so wildly successful that GL has translated it into 14 languages. The company has partnered with schools and organizations in several nations, including many in Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. GL has even created a nonprofit foun-



At Growing Leaders, Moore said, the focus is on helping the next generation — those under age 25 — become authentic leaders.

dation specifically to provide Habitudes to developing nations.

Moore feels doubly blessed to serve as a trustee during this time of renewed focus on globalization. She recognizes ORU students as the best candidates to fulfill God's plans throughout the earth.

"If we integrate globalization in every classroom and degree program and students graduate with a global mindset, they will stand head and shoulders above their peers. I believe the graduates of ORU can absolutely be in that 1 percent." ●

Check out growingleaders.com.

Degree Offerings Set to GO GLOBAL

BY CARISSA BRATSCUN '09

Students will have five new degree programs to choose from this fall, designed to ready them for work and ministry wherever they call home.

According to many job placement Web sites, there are currently more than 20,000 job opportunities for teaching English abroad. ORU's new B.A. in **English Language Teaching in the Global Classroom** is for those who are called to go to other countries

to teach English and those from other countries who want to return home to teach English. The program combines reading, English, and English language learning courses to ensure candidates acquire the content knowledge, pedagogical skills, and dispositions needed to help their future

Starting this fall, students who choose ORU as their launching pad for global impact will have more degree options than ever before.

students acquire English as a second language.

The **Industrial and Organizational Psychology** degree will prepare students for graduate programs and professional careers that apply principles of psychology to a variety of business concerns including human resources, administration, management, sales, and organizational development. The focus will be on the analysis of workplace behavior through the study of employees, workplaces, and organizations.

A required minor in business and courses in Bible, theology, ethics, apologetics, and missions are in the **Global Ministry and the Marketplace** degree plan. Students will also be encouraged to exert their creativity as they learn biblically sound and theologically balanced ways to minister in local, global, and cross-cultural contexts. Career options could include leadership positions in the nonprofit sector, positions in church administration and missions, and the pastorate.

The **Global Studies** degree program will allow students to focus their studies on a specific region of interest — Latin America, the Middle East, or Asia — while pursuing a language minor connected to that region (Spanish, Modern Hebrew, or Mandarin Chinese). A graduate with this degree can pursue careers and successfully work in the globalized world, whether it is in developing businesses, creating effective policies, helping people and communities, or working with non-governmental organizations, governments, or ministries.

Social Justice will provide students with skills and abilities to integrate faith, culture, economics, and politics to promote healing at both an individual and societal level. Choices will include a pre-law emphasis that leads to graduate school and a business emphasis that leads to a career promoting healing through supportive (often nonprofit) organizations.

ORU is also developing a Mandarin Chinese minor; the first class was offered this spring. Students interested in this minor or in the other new degrees



We launched our first-ever Mandarin Chinese class this spring! Watch ORU students say “Hi” in this language.

Scan to watch the video.

as part of their full-time enrollment at ORU are eligible for nomination to the Quest Whole Person Scholarship, which offers up to \$20,000 a year in tuition. For more information, to nominate a student, or to give to the Quest Whole Person Scholarship Program, visit quest.oru.edu. ●

FAST FACTS

Five new degrees to choose from!

- English Language Teaching in the Global Classroom
- Industrial and Organizational Psychology
- Global Ministry and the Marketplace
- Global Studies
- Social Justice

Learn more at oru.edu/newdegreeprograms.

- **ORU enrollment has grown every year for the past five years.**
- **This academic year, we have students from all 50 states and 74 nations.**
- **ORU alumni are working and ministering in 96 nations on 6 continents.**

The award goes to . . . **GEB America**

National Religious Broadcasters picked GEB America, a division of Oral Roberts University, to receive the 2014 Media Award for “Best TV Public Service Announcement.”

GEB America’s innovative “ORU Faculty Series” was competing with PSAs produced by the Christian Broadcasting Network and Need Him Global Ministries.

The winning PSAs are part of the network’s “Living Well” commercial series and feature distinguished faculty from the business, health and physical education, and nursing departments in 30-second spots. The topics they cover include general health, exercise, time management, goal achievement, and social media.

“GEB America is blessed to have access

to some of the best faculty members in the world through Oral Roberts University,” said GEB America President Ossie Mills. “We were honored to create a series with practical tips to help our viewers live well.”

GEB America gives the university’s Multimedia Institute students hands-on experience through chapel broadcasts, ORU Athletics shows, and national Christian programming. The network plans to go fully HD this summer, and has recently launched a mobile app. One

of the network’s newest offerings is the “Women Helping Women” series, which airs Monday through Friday beginning at 5:30 p.m. EST/4:30 p.m. CST.

GEB America was also one of three networks nominated for the NRB “Station of the Year” Award. The awards were presented in February during the 2014 International Christian Media Convention in Nashville, Tenn. ●

For more on GEB America, and to watch programs online, visit gebamerica.com.

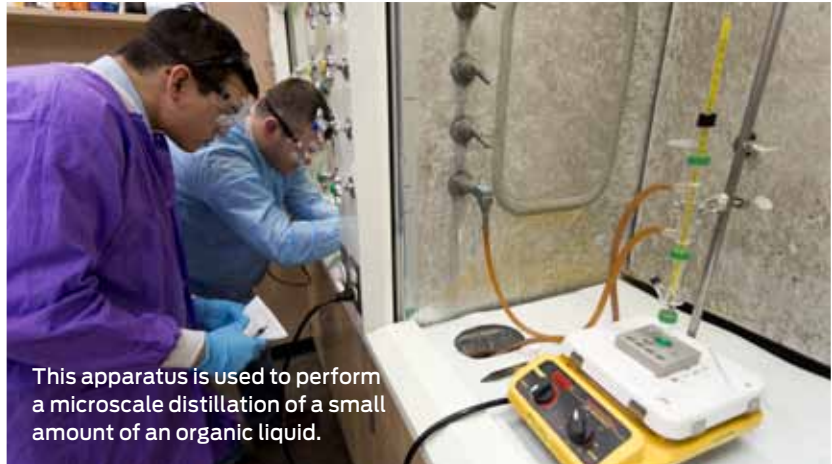


GEB General Manager Amy (Massey) Calvert '96 holds the 2014 Media Award while posing with Rich Bott (left), president and CEO of Bott Radio Network, and Dr. Jerry A. Johnson, president and CEO of NRB. Photo courtesy of National Religious Broadcasters

Good Chemistry

The new organic chemistry lab will benefit biology, chemistry, pre-health professions, and biomedical engineering students, among others.

This high-tech lab, completed in 2013, is also notable for practicing “green chemistry,” which involves reducing or eliminating hazardous substances. The lab accommodates just 16 students (for safety reasons) and provides them with new equipment that includes a microwave reactor, gas chromatograph, and infrared spectrophotometer. ●



This apparatus is used to perform a microscale distillation of a small amount of an organic liquid.

Online Learning Reaches into Holy Land

BY MCKENSIE GARBER, Class of 2015



David Nekrutman was on campus in February for one of his Graduate Theology modular courses.

You don't have to live in the U.S. to study at Oral Roberts University. Just ask David Nekrutman, an online student in ORU's Graduate Theology program.

Originally from New York, 40-year-old Nekrutman moved to Israel eight-and-a-half years ago. He has a bachelor's degree in forensic psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New

York and a master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania.

“As an Orthodox Jew with a calling in Jewish-Christian relations, I felt it was necessary to learn theology from a Christian point of view,” Nekrutman said.

He heard about ORU from Dr. Brad Young, professor of biblical literature, and former ORU president

Dr. Mark Rutland. Young was part of Nekrutman's theological think tank for the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation.

In March 2012, Nekrutman addressed Rutland's Global Servants Israel Mission. Afterward, he expressed his desire to pursue a degree from an evangelical university in order to open the doors in

his calling in Jewish-Christian relations. Rutland immediately invited him to apply to ORU.

Young has periodically invited Nekrutman to ORU to speak to his master's classes.

“This gave me an inside look into the incredible spirit of the student body as well as the staff at the theology department, and the workings of the Holy Spirit,” Nekrutman said.

He feels the most beneficial aspect of studying online through ORU has been the discussion among peers.

Nekrutman plans to graduate from the online program in 2015. He hopes to write a book on the Hebraic roots of the Holy Spirit and continue his work in building bridges between the Jewish and Christian communities. ●

ORU Forms Global Partnership with South Korea's Asia Life University

BY MCKENSIE GARBER, Class of 2015

As part of President Dr. William M. Wilson's Presidential Task Force on the globalization of Oral Roberts University, ORU has formed an academic partnership with Asia Life University (ALU) in Daejeon, South Korea. The two academic institutions have come together to form a 1-plus-3 program for high school students throughout Asia to obtain an ORU education.

"ORU is excited to partner with Asia Life University and expand our efforts to recruit Korean students," Wilson said. "This academic partnership is the first major effort in the globalization of ORU and our desire is to help raise up the next generation of Christian leaders to impact Korea, Asia, and beyond for Jesus Christ."

Students enrolled in the program will study at ALU in Daejeon for one year. After completing up to 30 hours of undergraduate courses at the South Korean campus, students with adequate Test of English as a Foreign Language scores will have the opportunity to study at ORU in Tulsa for the remaining three years, choosing from more than 50 undergraduate majors. Upon the completion of the program, students will receive a bachelor's degree from ORU.

International students enrolled in the 1-plus-3 program may apply for Quest Whole Person Scholarships,

premier merit scholarships, and merit awards. In addition to these scholarship opportunities, students will also receive grant money based on the total number of students enrolled in the academic partnership program.

The academic partnership between ORU and ALU is the first major global outreach program to be established under the tenure of Presi-

dent Wilson. Globalization efforts took off in June as a task force began to examine ways to fulfill the global mandate of the university by expanding access to ORU's whole-person education worldwide.

"ORU is a globally recognized brand," Wilson said. "Since 1965, students from more than 115 countries have sacrificed greatly to travel



Representatives from ORU and Asia Life University celebrated the agreement to form an academic partnership.

to Tulsa to earn an ORU education. The vision for the next era of this institution is to take that same excellent, Spirit-empowered education to the doorstep of every inhabited continent. With the seismic technological and socioeconomic shift throughout the world, ORU is poised to become a world leader in Christian higher education.”

The global need for education continues to grow. According to the U.S. Department of State, there were more than 4.1 million international students worldwide in 2010, a 10.8 percent increase over the previous year. Total international student enrollment in the U.S. increased 6 percent in 2011-12 to a record high of

764,495 international students. The government agency also reported new international student enrollment increased 6.5 percent to 228,467 students.

Several concepts will drive the globalization of ORU, especially in the next 10 years: partnerships with major ministries and churches around the world, a larger ORU presence on every inhabited continent, higher enrollment in online learning, and a greater focus on recruiting students from outside the U.S. to earn their degree on the Tulsa campus. ●

Read ORU's Globalization Case Statement here: oru.edu/globalization

“THIS ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP IS THE FIRST MAJOR EFFORT IN THE GLOBALIZATION OF ORU AND OUR DESIRE IS TO HELP RAISE UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO IMPACT KOREA, ASIA, AND BEYOND FOR JESUS CHRIST.”

– DR. WILLIAM M. WILSON



NEW PROVOST Commits to Globalizing Curriculum, Expanding **ONLINE** **PROGRAMS** and Enrollment

BY HANNAH COVINGTON, Class of 2014

Ask **Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez** about the architecture on the Oral Roberts University campus, and she'll look out the large windows in her sixth-floor office and delve into an in-depth discussion of 1960s building design trends and concrete pouring techniques.

She said she enjoys her grandstand view of the buildings each day as she adjusts to her new position as the chief academic officer of the university.

Reid-Martinez assumed the role of provost Jan. 2 after being unanimously selected by the Board of Trustees.

When she began her college studies as an art and architecture student, Reid-Martinez said she never imagined she would one day serve as a college administrator. Later in her career, she believed that she belonged first and foremost in the classroom, teaching.

"I taught for years and that was my first love," Reid-Martinez said. "But God has a sense of humor."

Reid-Martinez received a B.A. in English from the University of Maryland-European Division, and graduate

Dr. Reid-Martinez said she appreciates her ORU predecessors, Dr. Ralph Fagin and Dr. Debra Sowell, who assembled a strong faculty that has continued to help students become "whole-person thinkers."



degrees from the University of Denver: an M.A. in mass communication and a Ph.D. in speech communication. The former professor most recently served as provost of Mid-America Christian University in Oklahoma City and has also held positions at Lee University, Church of God Theological Seminary, Regent University, and Azusa Pacific University.

Her previous experience attests to a common theme in her professional life.

“I’m very committed to Christian higher education,” Reid-Martinez said. “It’s been a primary focus in my career.”

Her top two priorities as ORU’s provost are furthering the university’s new vision of globalization and expanding online learning.

“I would like to increase the number of students and increase the number of programs available to students in the online environment,” Reid-Martinez said.

Currently, ORU serves 180 online students. She said she would like to see this number increase to between 250 and 275 students within a year, including international students.

“We need to provide online learning that meets the needs of international students in their local context and home nation,” she said.

With a background in media and media theory, Reid-Martinez has focused on the importance of online learning in her past positions. She was recently published in the *Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology* (third edition) for her article “Constructivism as the Driver of 21st-Century Online Distance Education.”

Regarding globalization, Reid-Martinez expects to begin discussions with the faculty about implementing globalization competencies into the curriculum. “Many of them already have great ideas,” she said. “I’m harnessing together what the faculty are already doing.”

She also hopes to make attending ORU as easy as possible for international students.

“We have to provide the right student support services for any international students who would come,” she said.

The new provost said she is excited to work on behalf of ORU students.

“I am very interested in making certain students are well prepared — spirit, mind, and body,” she said. “I embrace the ORU mission.” ●

Hannah Covington is the editor-in-chief of *The Oracle*, ORU’s student newspaper.

“I AM VERY INTERESTED IN MAKING CERTAIN STUDENTS ARE WELL PREPARED — SPIRIT, MIND, AND BODY. I EMBRACE THE ORU MISSION.”

— DR. KATHALEEN REID-MARTINEZ

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ORU IS FOR YOU!

Quest Scholarship Puts Agard's **DREAM** Within **REACH**

BY JAMIE GAYLOR

Growing up in a lower income neighborhood in her home country of St. Lucia, Imani Agard had many reasons to believe that she would not get the university education she dreamed of — *lack of finances, lack of opportunity, lack of successful examples*. However, Agard had one thing that overcame all these seeming “lacks”: a deep and committed faith in God’s will for her life. That faith guided her through two years of deferred hope and deep disappointments as she persevered toward her university dream.

Agard first heard of Oral Roberts University from her pastor, who dreamed of sending his own daughter to ORU someday. Agard went to the ORU Web site and saw not just a beautiful campus, but a place where she could grow with like-minded people. She also learned about the Quest Whole Person Scholarship and instantly knew it was the only way she could afford to come to ORU. However, she had missed the deadline to be nominated that year.

Desperately seeking the Lord’s direction for what to do next, Agard felt Him leading away from ORU toward a missions program in Jamaica and service in Africa, ministering to the poorest of the poor and learning how to follow and trust the Lord in a deeper way. “In hindsight,” she said, “I can see that He was changing my priorities. Education had become almost an idol to me, something I held up above God in my heart.”



Agard believes it was God's perfect timing for her to arrive at ORU last fall.

The next year, Agard received a partial scholarship, but not enough to bring her to ORU.

“That year really humbled me. I couldn’t find work, so I volunteered as a math tutor and cleaned the toilets at church.” A beautiful smile crossed Agard’s face as she remembered this time. “You know, I’m really thankful for all that now, because it made me seek God harder than I ever would have for *His* direction and for His answer to my prayers. I *know* that I am here because of Him, not because of my effort or anything I could have earned. I have felt the presence and the grace of God so strongly through all of it, and I am just in awe of His love!”

When Agard participated in the Quest scholarship event the following year, she felt overwhelming peace. And when she received the e-mail letting her know she had been awarded one of the top scholarships, she knew it was God’s perfect timing.

During an interview last fall, Agard was nearly bursting with joy and thankfulness, and celebrating the science, mathematics, and chemistry projects that other freshmen might grumble about. She also expressed gratitude for the donors who have contributed to the Quest program.

“WHEN YOU DONATE, YOU ARE HELPING TO BRING TO FRUITION THE PURPOSE OF GOD IN SOMEONE ELSE’S LIFE! GOD DOESN’T HAVE TO, BUT HE ALWAYS WORKS WITH PEOPLE AND THROUGH PEOPLE TO BLESS OTHERS.”

Agard’s dream is to be a blessing to others someday as a medical doctor. With the education and spiritual training she is receiving at ORU, that dream is finally within reach. ●



ORU's faculty and facilities will bring Agard closer to her dream of becoming a medical doctor.



Nearly 500 alumni and guests attended the Alumni Homecoming Banquet.

Alumni Make Their Way HOME

In the spirit of “Make no little plans here,” we chose an anything-but-little theme for Homecoming 2014: **BIG WORLD. BIG PLANS.**

It was a theme that meshed perfectly with our new president’s desire to see Oral Roberts University students and alumni “go into every person’s world in ALL the world.” Now more than ever before, ORU is employing a global lens to look at the world through God’s eyes and take the school’s unique brand of whole-person education to every inhabited continent.

At Homecoming, alumni had plenty of opportunities to hear more about ORU’s plans for globalization (*read more elsewhere in this issue*), see how many improvements have been made to the campus, spend time with old friends, talk with students, reconnect with favorite professors, and best of all: be inspired to dream their own big dreams. Wherever we are . . . whatever our age . . . God can and will use us for His glory!



Jared Anderson '01 brought the Vespers crowd to its feet with his worship music delivery.



Martha (MacWherter) Cole '84 chatted with Terry Blain '83 at the Saturday-morning Legacy Parent Breakfast.



First Lady Lisa Wilson spoke at the Women's Luncheon, sharing the journey that brought her and her husband, Dr. Billy Wilson, to ORU.



This year, the Health Professionals Reunion Dinner was held at the Crowne Plaza. Dr. Mark Neuenschwander (back row, second from left) was the keynote speaker.



Smile! You're at the post-game reception!



William Padley '79, '84-JD was one of the guests at the Legal Professionals Dinner.



Both alumni and students from many nations attended the International Alumni Reception, held in the Holy Spirit Room.

Homecoming 2014



Carol (Burton) McLeod '77 spoke at Vespers on Friday night.



Chrissy Miller '09 brought the jazz to the Alumni Homecoming Banquet, singing Duke Ellington's "Come Sunday" and Antonio Carlos Jobim's "No More Blues."



Tara (Dawson) Hannon '04 at the 10-year reunion dinner, held in the Hammer Center.



During chapel, Marty Nystrom '80 led the congregation in singing one of his best-loved worship songs, *As the Deer*.



Members of the Homecoming court also mingled with alumni at the post-game reception.



Natasha (Washington) Mitchell '94 and her husband, Richard (center), talk with Edwell Nhira '94 at the Class of 1994 reunion in the Grand Slam Room at J. L. Johnson Stadium.



The Class of 1984 reunion dinner was held in the Trustees Dining Room.



Korey Billbury seems to say, "It's okay." And it was. The Golden Eagles won the Homecoming game, downing Southeastern Louisiana 71-54, as Billbury scored 21 points.



President Wilson receives a warm welcome at the annual ORU Update.



Lucas Boyce, the director of Business Development and Legislative Affairs for the Orlando Magic basketball team, gave the keynote at the Senior Scholarship Dinner on Feb. 5. The event raised thousands of dollars.



These Pioneers (alumni from the 1960s and early '70s) paused for a photo at the 40+ dinner, held on Skyline 60 at CityPlex Towers. L to R: Dr. Karen Ball '71-'74, Marilynda (Brown) Lynch '77, Diane (Rogers) Story '73, and Vaughn Story '72, '81-M.Div.



A few good men at the 40+ Pioneers reunion dinner: (L to R) Stan Tukarski '65-'70, Cory Nickerson '69, Keith Nordberg '69, Ralph Fagin '70, and Dave Eland '69.

Three Receive ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR Awards

STORIES BY MICHELE ROSS

At the Feb. 8 Alumni Homecoming Banquet, Marty Nystrom, Mark Tennant, and Scott Howard were honored for their service to God, the community, and ORU. The Alumni Association has been presenting these awards annually since 1999.

Scott Howard: Distinguished Service to the Alma Mater

There are lots of ways to give back to your alma mater — and not all of them involve giving money. Sometimes, expertise is even more valuable. Consider the case of Scott Howard, former regent and current trustee.

This 1979 graduate had a long history with Oral Roberts University. His father served on the Board of Regents in ORU's early days, and there's an auditorium on campus that bears the family name. Once Howard left Tulsa, got married, started a family, and joined his family's roofing business in Las Vegas, however, he became disconnected from the campus. That changed when his elder daughter, Angela, decided to come to ORU.

"While on campus during Angela's freshman year in 2002," Howard recalled, "I noticed signs of roof damage in Christ's Chapel and other campus structures." This bothered him and so, "I asked God to show me how to help."

He felt led to do a comprehensive survey of every campus building's roof, a survey that ran to hundreds of pages and was valued at thousands of dollars. He put it all in a notebook and gave it,



SCOTT AND JANET HOWARD

free of charge, to then-ORU Facilities manager Art Churchill.

The notebook sat on a shelf for several years because ORU was not in a financial position to make the repairs that Howard was recommending. But God wasn't done with that gift, or with Howard. Following a severe hailstorm in 2005, a disaster consultant was called upon to assess the damage on campus. He mentioned the need for a roof survey,

which triggered Churchill's memory. The notebook wound up in the hands of the consultant and an insurance company representative. Both were impressed, and wanted Howard to serve as a consultant during the repairs process. Howard agreed. Over the next three years, he divided his time between Las Vegas and Tulsa, *donating* his service to benefit his beloved alma mater. When all the work was done, the value of his contri-

butions to the university was in the millions of dollars.

"That notebook If the consultant had never seen that notebook . . . he would have never known to call me," Howard said. "And I would never have gotten involved."

Scan to watch Scott's AOY video.



Marty Nystrom: Distinguished Service to God

Marty Nystrom grew up in Kirkland, Wash., in a home filled with music. He often passed the time by singing and playing church and campfire songs with his parents, six sisters, and older brother, enjoyed improvisational piano in the style of Andrae Crouch, and regularly set scriptures to his own melodies. "It was something that always rang true in my heart," Nystrom said, "and something I immediately had a passion to do."

After seeing the Oral Roberts University World Action Singers on television, he said, "I want to be one of those!" So 40 years ago this summer, he took a bus to Tulsa and started his freshman year at ORU. His knowledge of music grew while serving the university and Oral Roberts Ministries as — yes, a World Action Singer.

After his 1980 graduation, Nystrom wound up at Christ for the Nations in Dallas. During the end of a 21-day fast to get closer to God, he found his Bible on a piano, lying open to Psalm 42:1. Sitting at the piano, he improvised some chords and sang the scripture, creating his most iconic worship song: "As the Deer." Integrity Music heard one of the school's recordings of it and invited Nystrom to join their team. Thus began a long partnership with Integrity that would take

him all over the world, making him one of the best-known worship artists, leaders, and songwriters of all time.

In recent years, Nystrom has devoted time to his family, church, and community in Seattle and expanded his reach as a modern-day psalmist by publishing books of scripture-poems for children. But lately, he has sensed a familiar tug on his spirit.

"I feel like God's stirring something fresh in the area of songwriting again. I have a desire to see songs go back to verbatim scripture. I love it when music and God's Word come together. They bring life to each other and make it more memorable. And I want to be a mentor to young songwriters again. That's my passion these days."

Visit Marty's Web site at martynystrom.com.

Scan to watch Marty's AOY video.



MARTY AND JEANNE NYSTROM

Mark Tennant: Distinguished Service to the Community

Mark Tennant '84 has firsthand knowledge of the value of caring foster parents. As a child whose first 11 years were marred by abuse and neglect, he was removed from his home and placed in the foster care system, where he found a new home with Christian foster parents Bill and Joan Mack and their two children.

Tennant matured in his faith under the guidance of these loving parents and remained with them through his senior year of high school. Knowing he had a calling on his life, he spent one year at a Pennsylvania Bible college before transferring to ORU. After graduation, he worked for several years in child and family service administration until his calling became clear.

"I heard the voice of the Lord speak to me in 1992 and say, 'This is what I want you to do,'" Tennant said. God specifically told him to start a ministry to help abused and neglected children find foster parents like his. He borrowed \$30,000 in seed money from a church friend, and 30 days later opened his first office in Austin, Tex.

For the past 23 years, Tennant and his Arrow Child & Family Ministries have changed the lives of more than 40,000 children. The ministry is now headquartered in Spring, Tex., and has branches in California, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Arrow also manages a home for sexually abused girls in Honduras, called "Casa de Ester," and a beautiful retreat in South Texas called

"Freedom Place" for victims of sex trafficking. The ministry is fully accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

Tennant quotes from Psalm 127:3,4 when he tells others about the heart of Arrow's ministry: "Children are a gift from the Lord . . . like arrows in the hand of a warrior." And when he reflects back on all the children helped by the ministry and who they've grown up to be, he knows the true author of their transformations.

"It's a great work, because *God* restores children and families."

Visit Arrow's Web site, arrow.org.

Scan to watch Mark's AOY video.



Mark and Kristy Tennant with their three children: daughter Casey and sons Colson (front) and Challen.

HALL OF FAME

Membership Increases

He became Oral Roberts University's first-ever national champion.

She was a two-time Summit League Player of the Year.

He still holds the ORU record for hits and batting average.

For these accomplishments and so much more, ORU honored Andretti Bain, Ori Zuzic, and Steve Holm with Athletics Hall of Fame membership. The induction ceremony was held Jan. 25 during halftime of the men's basketball contest with Northwestern State.

Bain (2004-08) was an undisputed star of track and field. His national championship came in the 400-meter dash at the 2008 NCAA Indoor Championships, a feat he duplicated by becoming the 2008 NCAA Outdoor National Champion. He was also a three-time All-American for the Golden Eagles and nine-time Summit League Athlete of the Week. He won a total of 11 conference championships in four years and continues to hold the Summit League indoor 400-meter championship record with a time of 46.80. While working on his MBA at ORU, Bain also won a silver medal at the 2008 Olympics as a member of the Bahamas' 4x400-meter relay team.

Right-handed catcher Holm (2000, 2001) was a Collegiate Baseball and Baseball America second-team All-American in 2000 and conference Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year. He was a first-team all-conference selection both seasons at ORU and was named to the all-tournament team both years as well. In ORU's record books, he's No. 1 in hits (104 in 2000) and batting aver-

age (.437); those marks are second and third, respectively, in the league's record books. Post-ORU, Holm played pro ball with San Francisco and Minnesota.

In volleyball, outside hitter Zuzic (2003-06) of Porec, Croatia, was a two-time conference Player of the Year (2005, 2006-co-POY) and a 12-time Offensive Player of the Week, shattering

the career record for that honor. She has the top two seasons in conference history in terms of kills, with 626 in 2004 and 611 in 2006. With 2,307 career kills, she is the only player in conference history to have more than 2,000. And her 296 career aces are 93 more than those achieved by the athlete in second place. ●



Director of Athletics Mike Carter (left) stands with the newest members of the Hall of Fame: Andretti Bain, Ori Zuzic, and Steve Holm.

Global Congress Set to Bring Thousands of Spirit-empowered Christians to Jerusalem

*The **Empowered21 Global Congress**, set for May 20-25, 2015, is a call to all believers to celebrate Pentecost in the land of Pentecost. The historic meeting is intended to be one of the largest gatherings of Spirit-empowered believers in modern-day Jerusalem history, with representatives from every nation.*

“This Global Congress could be a pivotal event for the future of the Spirit-empowered movement,” said Dr. William M. Wilson, global co-chair for Empowered21 and president of Oral Roberts University. “Jerusalem 2015 will be a moving experience as thousands of Christians from around the world join together to ask for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.”

The Congress will feature general sessions and focused tracks including: prayer and intercession, discipleship task force, next gen youth leaders, pastoral leadership, scholars consultation, prophetic themes, missions/global evangelism, the land of Pentecost, signs/wonders/healing, marketplace and church planting, and the book of Acts.

Other activities are also planned, such as a worship event in Bethlehem’s Manger Square, a Jordan River service at the

spot where it is believed that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, and service projects to bless the people of Jerusalem through “Hope in the Holy Land.” These projects will include blood drives, cleaning neighborhoods, feeding the poor, and serving at community centers to show love and appreciation to the Holy Land.

The Global Congress will end Sunday night in a full-throttle Pentecost celebration at the Jerusalem Arena. Join believers from around the world as they unite to ask for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to reach the ends of the earth.

The Alumni Relations office is organizing an ORU Alumni Tour in conjunction with the Global Congress. Read the card insert in this issue for more details and visit: noseworthy.co/alumniandfriends



ORU's 'Global Calling 2.0'

Oral Roberts University exploded onto the scene during its first two decades. It didn't come passively; it skyrocketed.



The ORU campus of 2014 is a photographer's delight.

Suddenly, there it was everywhere in the platform of higher education, athletics, and healthcare with seven graduate schools and a massive medical complex. It was a season of vision. A time of exploits. A moment of conquests.

Until it wasn't.

Its next 20 years were a struggle. It staggered through decline until decline turned into survival. Then, at the most desperate moment when hope's ember was fading from a dim orange to a bleak gray, it underwent a miracle. It was being liberated from the brown of its dying winter to the lush green of a new spring.

ORU revived.

In the days following Thanksgiving 2007, ORU's destiny would experience a turnaround straight from the memoirs of Lazarus. Stability would begin to replace survival and life would overtake death. The changes, however, would require transition and the recuperation would take time, resources, and nurturing. Dr. Mark Rutland was God's person for that season.

We are no longer in survival mode. However, the goal of economic stability, while visible, is not yet touchable. The good news is, on this side of the transition the slope is up, the wind is behind us, and hope is under our wings.

Once again our campus is becoming a place where innovation flourishes, a place where founding vision meets a contemporary world and finds expression without compromising principle. Now, seeds can be planted instead of eaten. And what our founder once hoped can now be seen permeating the university once again.

Globalization is an exciting new expression and extension of that founding vision: bringing the world to ORU and taking ORU to the world. Less than 3 percent of ORU alumni currently live outside the U.S. Expect that number to steadily grow in the coming decades. Many questions have to be answered. Many, many obstacles have to be overcome. Adjustments to strategy and tactics will be required.

But following a vision and pursuing a calling is like that. A lot of the blanks are filled in along the trail.

Oral Roberts' ministry was global in scope. When he settled in Tulsa to build a university, it was not to abandon that global calling but to fulfill it. God has now given us Dr. Billy Wilson to propel us into the new frontier and lead us into the global impact that has always been our original destiny.

I invite you, our alumni nation, soon to be even more global than ever before, to lend your prayers, efforts, and support to this initiative. We're on the move again.

Chris Busch '73 is the chairman of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and founder and CEO of LightQuest Media, Inc.



1970s

Last fall in Los Angeles, **Paul Palmer '72** met up with fellow "ORU Pioneers" (L to R) **David Smith '71**, **Debby Keener (A)**, and **Paul Paino '70**, '96 M.DIV. at an International Fellowship of Christian and Jews function. Paul Paino, Debby, and David were all World Action Singers in the late '60s and early '70s, while Paul Palmer was a tuba player.



Phil Cooke '76 of Cooke Pictures received the Individual Professional Member Award from National Religious Broadcasters this year. The award, according to NRB's Web site, "is presented to an Individual Professional Member of NRB who has demonstrated the highest professional and ethical standards; extraordinary leadership in serving the NRB; and excellence in mentoring fellow Christian media professionals." cookepictures.com

Scott Ferguson '77 has recently released his fifth book on Kindle e-books: *Dangerous Men*. His other books are *Outlaw Torn*, *High Hopes*, *The Quiet Place*, and *All Alone*.

1980s

Michael Delp '84 became the new dean of the College of Human Sciences at Florida State University in March after serving most recently as chair of the Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology at the University of Florida. He holds both a doctorate and a master's degree in exercise physiology from the University of Georgia.



2000s

Kendra Marie Castelow '00 MA-ED is an ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) teacher in Houston County, Ga. She has been selected to serve as a Regional Liaison for the Georgia Teachers of ESOL and a member-at-large on the Executive Board. She is also the K-12 co-editor of TESOL In Action (an online research journal for Georgia TESOL). She and her husband, Varian, have two young children: Roxanna Caroline and Kendall Isaiah.



Jordan Linscombe '04 has been working with Compassion International for more than four years, helping the global Church connect around releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. Jordan loves putting the international community development, Latin American Studies, and Spanish skills and experience he learned from ORU into practice in his daily work with international church engagement for the ministry. He is currently helping lead Compassion's efforts in exploring innovative opportunities in partnering with church planting groups to accelerate their growth impact in South America and beyond. Jordan and his wife, **Mindi (Wallace '03)**, love living in sunny Colorado Springs and have two young sons. They have loved the challenge and fulfillment of opening and growing Something New Boutique Bridal and Formalwear into a thriving bridal shop serving customers throughout the Rocky Mountain region. They feel extremely blessed to have found and created their dream jobs during their late 20s and love how they can intentionally go into every person's world with God's love in the nonprofit and for-profit realms at home and abroad. The Linscombes look forward to their boys attending ORU in the future and are thrilled to see the current momentum and progress at ORU!

James Revoir '08 M.DIV.'s book, *Priceless Stones*, was honored as a finalist in the "Religion: Prayer & Devotionals" category of the 2013 USA Best Book Awards. Each daily message highlights one Old Testament verse or brief

passage and focuses on one or more key words from the text of the Hebrew. The book draws from Old Testament Scriptures, but is written through the prism of New Testament Christianity. Each daily encouragement is reinforced by a concluding declaration and prayer. James lives in Denver, where he serves as leader of Adult Christian Education at Tree of Life Church.

Scott W. Buffington '09 M.MGT. was named the director of Human Resources for the Tulsa City-County Health Department. He took over the role in December of 2013. Scott has worked in Human Resources for the past eight years, and in that time, has achieved his Professional in Human Resources Certifications. In this new position, he will be responsible for the strategic direction of the Human Resource Department and will empower the employees to pursue the vision of the Health Department.

Megan Spees '09 MA-ED. and **Jared McNeill** were married Nov. 23, 2013. Megan is a staff writer at the Daily Gate City in Keokuk, Ia., while Jared works as a copy editor at the Hawk Eye in Burlington, Ia. They live in Megan's hometown of Keokuk.

Obituaries

Terry L. Huston, associate alumnus, d. Jan. 21, 2014.

Joseph Kiren, associate alumnus, d. April 27, 2013.

Rev. Roland Luelf, Class of 1976 (B.A.) and 1982 (M.Div.), d. Feb. 2, 2014.

Cherinda (Jett) Wendt, Class of 1995, d. Nov. 21, 2013.

Dr. Lavoy Hatchett, founding faculty member - mathematics, d. Dec. 10, 2013.

Dr. Stephen Herr, former faculty member - physical and environmental science, d. Nov. 1, 2013.

Last fall, 1981 ORU graduates Matt and Renee Pride agreed to fund music department scholarships that will benefit orchestra and band members and other music students. The Prides have committed to give \$50,000 per year for four years. Pictured here (L to R) are former acting provost Dr. Debra Sowell, music department chair Dr. Cheryl Bocanegra, Matt and Renee Pride, and the dean of the College of Arts and Cultural Studies, Dr. Mark Hall.



New Alumni Directors JOIN BOARD

Eight Oral Roberts University graduates began their three-year terms of service on the Alumni Association Board of Directors in February. Two other directors were elected for a second term in the November 2013 election.

- Segment 1** (1968-79) Gary Crouch '78
- Segment 2** (1980-89) Allen Voth '84
- Segment 3** (1990-99) Tony Minert '92
- Segment 4** (2000-09) Tom Gancarz '04
- Segment 5** (2010-present) Richelle Voth '11
- At-Large** (representing all grad years and all colleges)
 - Camella Binkley '80 (returning)
 - Johnie Hampton '91 (returning)
 - Dan Skerbitz '89



Gary Crouch



Tom Gancarz



Arthur Greeno



Tony Minert



Dan Skerbitz



Allen Voth



Richelle Voth



Molly Zirix

The sitting Alumni Board chose these two alumni to serve as appointed directors: Arthur Greeno '92 and Molly (O'Connor) Zirix '88.

For more information on the Alumni Board, go to alumni.oru.edu.

Alumni Board Sets a Precedent

The current Oral Roberts University Alumni Association Board of Directors is on track to set a record for financial support of ORU this year. Development Committee Chair Johnie Hampton '91 announced 100 percent participation for 2014 in gifts and pledges totaling \$60,150 — an average of \$2,406 from each of the 25 directors.

“Chancellor Roberts’ mandate to ‘go into every person’s world’ is not a cheap one,” he said. “It requires everything we have: our prayers, our time, and our finances. As the Alumni Board, we feel the weight of that challenge and want to lead all alumni in doing our part to ensure this mandate is available for future graduates of ORU.”

Board Chair Chris Busch '73 added, “Alumni reconnection with and support for ORU continues to grow. The generous support of the Alumni Board shows me there is growing confidence in the direction of our alma mater and its governance, accountability, and leadership.”

Join in! Support ORU by going to oru.edu/give, calling 918.495.6610, or mailing a check to ORU, 7777 S. Lewis Ave., Tulsa, OK 74171.

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Deadlines, New Category

As you saw on the back cover of this issue, we’re making some changes in Homecoming. Change is also coming to the “Alumnus of the Year” awards.

At our second Homecoming of 2014 (Nov. 14 and 15), we will award just one AOY award, a new award called:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE “IN EVERY PERSON’S WORLD”

ORU graduates nominated for this award must meet these criteria: *Excellence in carrying out ORU’s founding vision through service and achievements in non-ministry/non-missions fields, and by representing Christ in their particular corner of “every person’s world.”* Nominations for this award are due on July 31, 2014.

Beginning with Homecoming 2015 (scheduled for the fall semester), we will hand out all four AOY awards: Distinguished Service to God, to the Community, to the Alma Mater, and In Every Person’s World. Nominations for these four awards will be due by March 31, 2015.

Go to alumni.oru.edu to read more and to make your nominations.

Join

THEM

in **GIVING** a gift

Today

Give online, by mail or by phone

oru.edu/give	Oral Roberts University Development and Alumni Relations 7777 S. Lewis Ave. Tulsa, OK 74171	918.495.7336 800-822-8203 (toll-free)
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John Cherry, Planned Giving Officer at ORU, invites you to be a part of “Making no little plans” for future generations. Give him a call at **918.495.7224** or e-mail him at jcherry@oru.edu.



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Join us for another Homecoming in 2014 . . . ON NOVEMBER 14 AND 15

If you ever wished that Homecoming was in the fall instead of in the winter, your wish is coming true. And rather than wait until 2015 to make the change, leaving a huge gap between the 2014 and 2015 events, ORU will have another Homecoming this fall, on November 14 and 15, with a slightly modified event schedule. So join us in a few months, and again in 2015 when we celebrate ORU's 50th anniversary.