

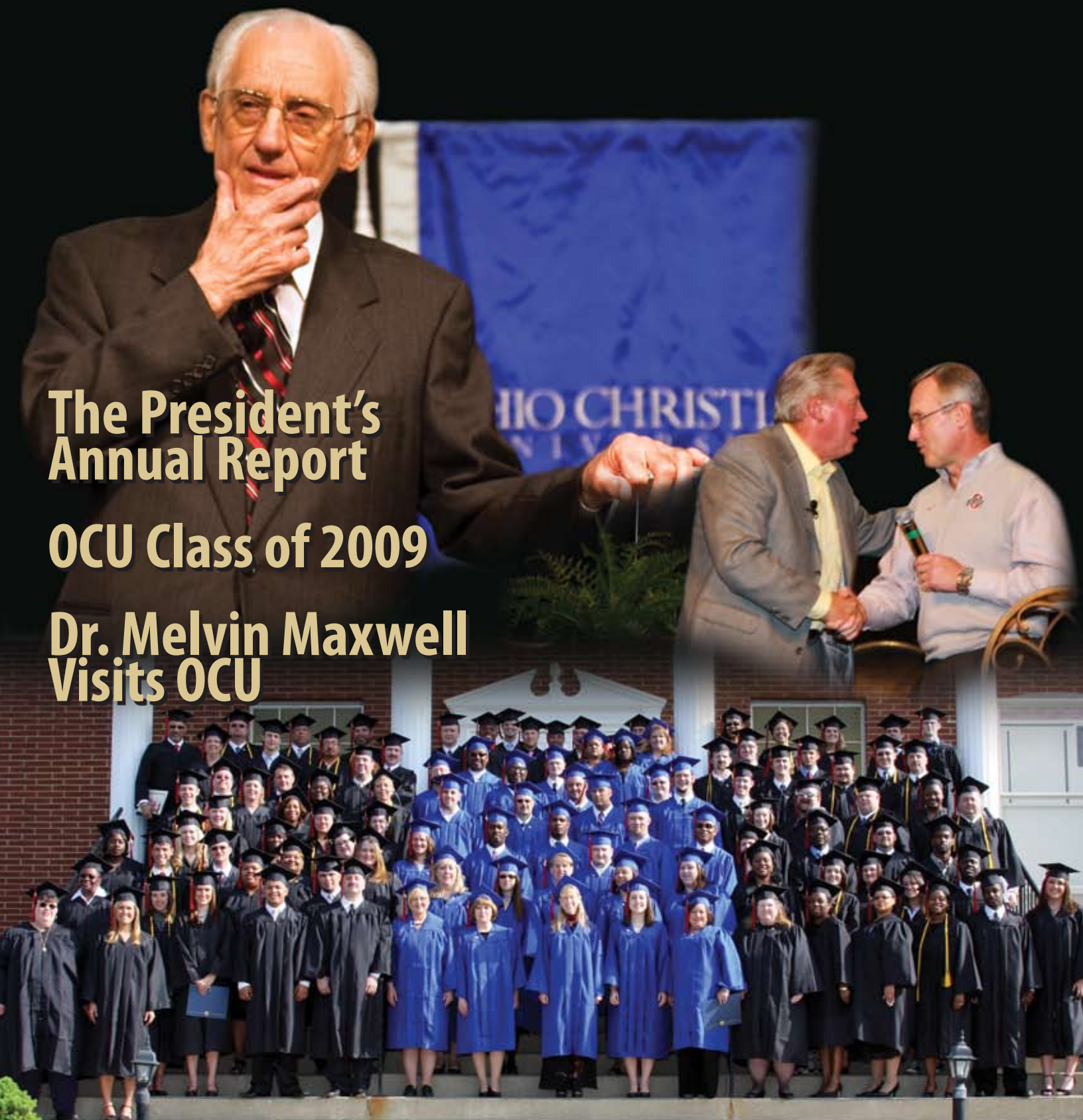
# OhioChristian

the Ohio Christian University Magazine | Summer 2009

**The President's  
Annual Report**

**OCU Class of 2009**

**Dr. Melvin Maxwell  
Visits OCU**



Ninety-Second Annual

# Mount of Praise Camp Meeting



June 21-28, 2009

A ministry of The Churches of Christ in Christian Union

Located on the beautiful campus of  
Ohio Christian University  
Leadership Center  
1476 Lancaster Pike  
Circleville, Ohio 43113  
740-474-8856

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*OhioChristian is a publication for the friends and alumni of Ohio Christian University. Send address changes and news to: Alumni Relations, [alumni@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:alumni@ohiochristian.edu) or visit us on the web at [www.ohiochristian.edu](http://www.ohiochristian.edu).*

**OCU Night**  
**June 25 at 7:00 p.m.**





Mark A. Smith, President

# THE PRESIDENT'S 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

*OCU grew  
27% this  
year, with  
more than  
700 students  
enrolled in  
2008-09.*

Greetings to the Ohio Christian family, friends, and denomination. What a wonderful privilege it is to serve at Ohio Christian University (OCU). First of all, let me say thank you for your support. Many blessings are flowing to Ohio Christian University because of you, and we are forever indebted. This has been one of the toughest years ever economically, but God is providing.

## **Spiritual Updates**

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Looking back over the year, Dr. Larry Olson, Dave Hopewell, Jennifer Brown, and Sara Brothers changed our campus by implementing a Spiritual Life Plan for all students. It included Bible studies, prayer teams, small groups, and spiritual mentoring in our residence halls, and it has changed OCU forever.

We had tremendous revivals with Rev. Ray McCrary and Pastor Rick Harvey. Our students responded to the Word of God, and the revivals set a tone for each semester. We saw some real victories with several students genuinely surrendering their lives to God. The one-on-one mentoring of Rev. Gerald Mershimer and Rev. Ben Williamson is drawing our students toward God. Dr. David Lattimer is helping to renew a right spirit with his passion for missions and his prayer life. This year we held the second annual Holiness Summit, and we dismissed classes requiring students to attend the Summit. God was there and met needs. Dr. David Case gave an outstanding presentation on Holiness which is a must-hear for all.

## **2008-2009 Highlights**

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### **Dr. Melvin Maxwell Church Planting Institute**

The Dr. Melvin Maxwell Church Planting Institute was established to help motivate ministers to pursue a vision for the planting of new churches to reach 130 million unchurched people in the US and Canada. The Institute has assisted over 250 people by teaching new ways to grow and plant churches. Pastors, you are missing out if you have not attended. In the spring of 2009, Dr. Bob Whitesel spoke to students and pastors about the *Twelve Models for the Organic Church*.

We hope to see churches being planted as well as a renewed emphasis on evangelism in all of our churches. Church planters are being prepared to serve, and we are planning more sessions for next semester. Rev. John Bray will speak on *Church Growth: Growing from 24 to 3,000* on October 26-27, 2009. For the winter session, February 4-5, 2010, Rev. Phil Stevenson will present *Church Multiplication as Effective Evangelism*. We have greatly appreciated your past giving which helped make this institute a reality; however, we remain in need of further financial support to sustain the momentum. Please pray for this critical need.

### **Alumni**

The Alumni held four regular meetings. They planned, organized, and led the Homecoming Alumni Chapel. They planned the 2009 Alumni Gathering and helped organize the 2009 Men's & Women's Alumni Basketball Games. They assisted in the Alumni volleyball game and also approved the Alumni Director to formulate a fundraising plan for the David Case Chair. Alumni held a regional gathering in Jackson, MS, and will hold another regional gathering in Pennsylvania. A special event to honor Dr. Melvin Maxwell was held on April 22nd.

## Advancement Events

The office of University Advancement sponsored many events to build relationships and raise funds for OCU, including the 1000 Leader Campaign, the annual Homecoming Gospel Concert, and golf outings in Florida and Ohio.

The recent Leadership Forum with OCU alumnus Dr. John Maxwell is part of our vision to train 1000 Leaders. Over 1400 people from the community attended this event. In addition, OCU hosted 37 events this year, welcoming more than 16,000 visitors to campus.

## Campus Updates

### Campus Beautification Day

On April 18th, OCU held its annual beautification day on campus and had fifty volunteers assist with planting flowers, weeding beds, and mulching. Thank you to all who helped us again this year.

### New Residence Hall

The new residence hall will be a 25-bed male residence unit which was formerly the Churches of Christ in Christian Union's Headquarters. A grant from Chatlos Foundation will help to get the project started; we plan to have this open for fall 2009. We will still need about \$100,000 to complete the residence hall. Please pray with us and give to this project. We are open to naming this project for a gift of \$50,000.

### Phase Two of Residence Hall Built in 2006

A second phase of the new hall (48 beds) is needed to house incoming students. Our applications are up 46% over last year. The residence hall has allowed for growth among our resident student body. However, we currently need about \$800,000 to complete the second phase of this project, which would allow for even more students to enjoy the "OCU Experience." We are open to naming this residence hall for a gift of \$100,000.

### OCU Received \$951,500 Grant for Science Labs

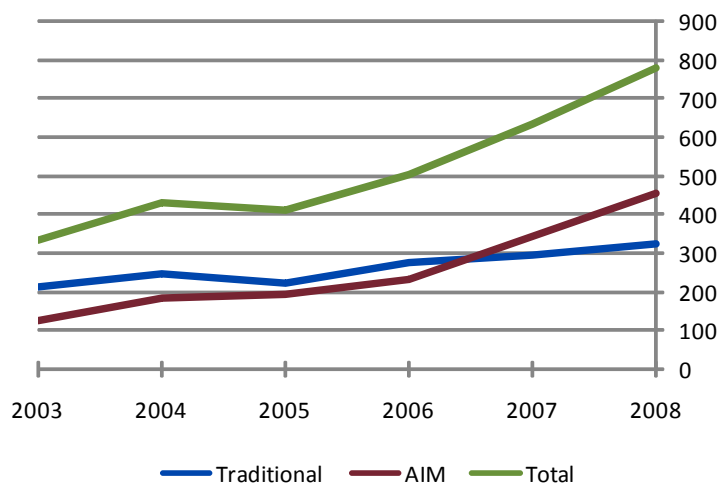
We have received approval for a grant to build education facilities that include a laboratory, classrooms, and faculty offices.

### OCU Received \$566,210 for Business Logistics Center

This center will house our efforts to serve the Pickaway Community and international leaders in logistic services. In 2008, Ohio Christian University hired Dr. David Garrison to lead the Logistics Management program. Dr. Garrison came to us from the USAA group where he served as Executive Vice President. Prior to that, he was employed as a Procurement Director for Haliburton. Dr. Garrison will lead this community and international initiative.

## Enrollment

OCU grew 27% this year and was awarded the highest growth award in our size classification from the Association for Biblical Higher Education. OCU has 334 students enrolled in Leadership and Ministry programs, up from 170 in 2006.



## New Programs

Our faculty has developed several new programs which we have already begun implementing. Together with the blessing of God, these programs promise to produce great results.

- Master's Degree
- Disaster Relief Management
- Teacher Education Certification
- Intercultural Ministries/  
Sports Ministry & Management
- Business Concentrations

In conclusion, God has blessed Ohio Christian University, and it is our commitment to serve the church, the OCU faculty, staff and students, and the community by developing a new generation of leaders.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mark A. Smith*  
President



Ohio Christian University graduated 127 students on Saturday, May 2, 2009, and Dr. Ken Blackwell gave the commencement address.

OCU's own Dr. Larry Olson was honored by the University for his nearly 20 years of service as Vice President (VP) for Student Development. As he assists the new VP for Student Development, Olson will become Chair of the Psychology Department and Chair of the Graduate Committee. Olson Field was unveiled in recognition of Dr. Olson's hard work in beginning the OCU baseball program and his many years of coaching.

The faculty of Ohio Christian University awarded Dr. Blackwell honorary Doctorate of Christian Leadership in recognition of his life of distinguished service. Dr. Blackwell is the Senior Fellow for Family Empowerment at the Family Research Council. He serves on the board of directors of the Club for Growth and the National Taxpayers Union. Mr. Blackwell is a contributing editor for the conservative news and opinion site townhall.com, and his columns frequently appear in the Washington Times, New York Post, and National Review Online. Dr. Blackwell was past Secretary of State in Ohio and in 2006 was the state's first African American Gubernatorial Candidate. He has been the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission and presently serves on the advisory board of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs.

Blackwell holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Xavier University (OH), where he later served as a vice president and faculty member. He has lectured at Harvard, the University of New Castle in England, the Moscow State Institute for International Relations in Russia, and the International Academy of Public Administration in Paris.

Mr. Blackwell is a lifelong resident of Cincinnati. He was a founding partner of the highly successful Blue Chip Broadcasting Company. He and Rosa, his wife of 39 years who currently serves as superintendent of Cincinnati Public Schools, have three adult children. In 1994, the Blackwells were honored as one of the National Council of Negro Women's Families of the Year, and in 1996, Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell together received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreamkeeper Award from the Cincinnati Historical Society. In 2006, the Blackwells became minority shareholders in the Cincinnati Reds, the city's major league baseball team.

Of the 127 new alumni, 90 students received the Bachelor of Arts, 24 graduated with honors, and 12 were national honor society inductees. Jason Hawk was named the 2009 Valedictorian. Co-Salutatorians were Anna Mullins and Brian Rossiter, and Leslie Turner was the 2009 Honor Graduate. The 2009 AIM Honor Graduate was Monica Drake.

*Additional photos on page 19.*



# UNIVERSITY NEWS

## OCU to Receive \$1,517,710 in Grants for Science and Logistics Programs

With the President's signing of the FY 09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, Ohio Christian University was approved to receive \$1,517,710 of federal grant money to help expand its science offerings and fund its new logistics management program.

**ADAPTED FROM ARTICLES BY  
WAYLON STRICKLAND OF THE  
CIRCLEVILLE HERALD.**

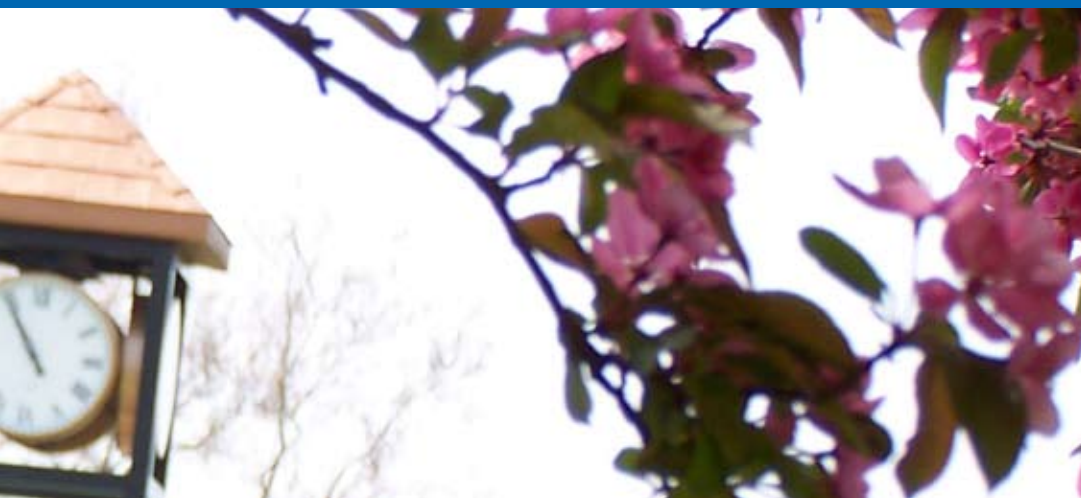
### \$951,500 for Science Programs

Thanks to former Congressman David Hobson's efforts, OCU will receive \$951,500 for the science program. "We really thank Congressman Hobson for his investment in our community," OCU President Mark Smith said. "He understands the link between education and the economy in the 21st century. This will help us do some things to create more interest on scientific education at the university."

The money, which will fund improvements to OCU's two science labs, classrooms and equipment, is included in the 2009 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, which funds most of the operations at the U.S. Department of Energy, the civil operations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation. "This funding bill supports a variety of energy and water-related projects throughout the district, including water infrastructure improvements, high-performance computing, and the construction of energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly buildings. I'm pleased that OCU's new science education building is a part of that," Hobson said.

Smith said, "The University's science labs have been outdated for several years. OCU will now be able to create a dedicated science program by hiring full-time faculty members. Some of the money will be used for community science programs, including camps for area elementary and high school students. This will really help us support science in Pickaway County. If we train people in the math and science areas, it opens up many doors for other careers."

As OCU expands its science offerings, it intends to focus on basic science education with courses such as biology, chemistry, and anatomy, and will prepare students for careers such as nursing and science education. Smith said, "Getting federal money to improve science offerings could open the door to getting money from other sources, such as private foundations that specifically support science education."



## \$566,210 for Logistics Management

“This funding will help support the development of OCU’s new Logistics Management program,” Hobson said. OCU hopes to supplement the federal money with additional private donations to raise about \$2 million for the project, which will include hiring faculty, constructing a 20,000-square-foot facility to house the University’s center for logistics management, and purchasing hardware and software for the facility.

“This is big news for the community,” Smith said. OCU has added the Logistics Management program to capitalize on the expected growth in the logistics sector in central Ohio as a result of Norfolk Southern’s Rickenbacker Intermodal Terminal in northern Pickaway County. The intermodal is expected to create up to 20,000 jobs over the next 25 years in the area, according to a 2004 study commissioned by the Columbus Regional Airport Authority.

“We want to become a venue to retrain the workforce in the county. The program will focus as much on experienced workers changing careers as it will on first time college students,” Smith said.

The University has hired Dr. David Garrison, a recently retired corporate executive who has held key management positions at Aetna, Haliburton, Brown & Root and Celotex during his professional career, to direct the logistics program. Garrison is developing the curriculum for the program, which is offered as a specialty option to the business program already in place. Students pursuing a degree in Business can select the Logistics Management concentration to complete their degrees. The program became available in the traditional campus program in September 2008. It is also offered through the AIM Adult Degree program at several locations in central Ohio and online.

“We’re very excited about the possibilities for the logistics program and we believe it will go a long way to helping the people of Pickaway County,” said Rob Hartman, OCU’s Vice President of Finance.

## Ohio Board of Regents Visits OCU

**DR. HANK KELLY**

Ohio Christian University was visited by an eight-member Ohio Board of Regents team on March 5, 2009. The purpose was two-fold: to review OCU’s applications for continued operation (done every 10 years) and to offer a Master of Arts in Ministry program. Both requests were approved! OCU is now seeking approval from the Higher Learning Commission (regional accreditors), which is the final hurdle to offering the entire master’s program that is designed to improve the ministry abilities of pastors and lay leaders.

OCU has received approval to offer four master’s level courses. The first class, Pastoral Care Giver, was held February 2-6 and enhanced understanding of the theory and practice of providing care to others. Dr. Jim Smith, OCU professor, ordained minister and licensed counselor, taught the course, which consisted of 30 hours of in-class time with reading assignments before the class and a major project due a month after. The next class is Theology of John Wesley, June 8-12, taught by Dr. Bill Ury, evangelist and professor at Wesley Biblical Seminary.



# UNIVERSITY NEWS



## Ohio Christian Announces Revamped Business Program Beginning in Fall 2009



DR. DAVID GARRISON

Enrollment in OCU's Business Department has tripled over the last several years. This growth has provided OCU the opportunity to bring many new courses and programs which will dramatically benefit students by giving them numerous business experiences and career enhancements.

Ohio Christian University announced in March the creation of a Department of Business and a major revamp of the Business Management program. The new program will start in the fall of 2009.

Business majors will have the opportunity to specialize in four different concentrations in addition to the general Business major. The following are the four concentrations:

1. Business Administration (Accounting & Finance)
2. International Business
3. Logistics & Supply Chain Management
4. Business Management



In addition to new concentrations and courses, the Business Department has announced many new features designed to give students well-rounded business experiences and improve their career possibilities. These new features for the 2009-2010 school year include the following:

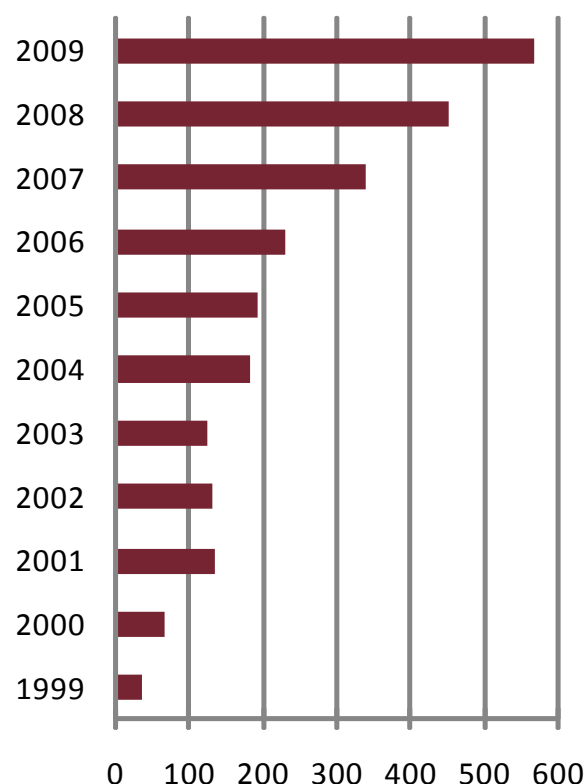
- 1. Business Plan Competitions:** Students may enter a business plan for a new business venture. Business plans will be judged by Christian business leaders who will grant monetary awards to the top three students.
- 2. Business Strategy Simulation Competitions:** OCU students have been invited to enter a global competition to manage a simulated business and compete against nearly two hundred university teams across the globe for awards.
- 3. Business Advisory Council:** OCU is forming a business advisory council made up of Christian business leaders to advise OCU on issues in business and the economy along with interacting and advising students.
- 4. Professional & Career Development:** Students will begin the preparation of career portfolios in the freshman year through the date they graduate. Along with resume training, interview skills enhancement, and social networking, the students will be able to utilize their career portfolios to enhance their job and career opportunities upon graduation.
- 5. Christian Business Associations:** Students will have the opportunity to join a nationally recognized business student organization to further their business skills and networks.
- 6. Students in Free Enterprise Competitions:** Students will have the opportunity to enter and adopt business concepts to improve the standard of living and quality of life for people in need.
- 7. Distinguished Speakers Series:** OCU will invite distinguished Christian business leaders to speak on different aspects of business and share their experiences. Students will be able to meet these leaders in small groups and receive first-hand advice on their business and career interests.
- 8. Study Abroad:** During the summer of 2010, OCU is planning a study abroad experience for students in Italy. Students will be able to obtain up to six hours of credits and be exposed to international business operations. The study abroad will be lead by OCU's Chair of the Business Department, Dr. David H. Garrison.

## Adult Program Reaches 500 Enrollment Milestone

DR. HANK KELLY

The adult onsite and online program (AIM) reached an enrollment milestone in January by surpassing 500 students (see AIM enrollment chart below). Enrollment continues to grow and at the end of March reached 570. The phenomenal growth in the last three years is attributed to offering new programs such as Logistics Management, Associate degrees through evening classes, new off-site campus locations in Dublin and Lancaster, and online delivery of Associate and Bachelor degree programs. The AIM faculty and staff have worked very hard, and God is truly blessing OCU! Later this year OCU will begin offering evening classes in Chillicothe, Nelsonville, and Dover. These initiatives are part of the strategic plan to reach an enrollment of 1,000 by fall 2011.

AIM Enrollment Through March 2009



# UNIVERSITY NEWS

## New Programs



**DR. JOE BROWN**

As the University studies the changing needs of the early twenty-first century and seeks to prepare its students to minister to this generation, several new programs have been developed over the past year.

### Disaster Management

A year ago OCU launched a disaster management program.

Since that time, continued research has led us to believe that a program in Disaster Management and Relief would better serve those students who feel called to minister in this type of career. To effectively serve in disaster situations, the graduate must have the skills to manage getting supplies to disaster areas capable of sustaining the response efforts beyond the first few days. Consequently, we have placed the program under the Business Management area with concentrations that include several logistics and management classes. Our goal is to develop the graduate with the skills needed to effectively plan and prepare for disasters and minister to people in disaster situations.

### Intercultural Ministries

An Intercultural Ministries/Sports Ministry & Management Program is being planned to launch in the fall. The vision for this type of program was birthed in response to hearing of a new method of missionary activity in areas of the world that are closed to the traditional evangelistic activity of missionaries. In the past, missionaries went abroad with the stated purpose to spend their time solely on evangelistic activity. Many countries will no longer allow people in for that purpose. However, Christians with training in sports management have been welcomed into some of these countries, and have gone as tent-making missionaries to share the good news of the Gospel.

A couple of years ago I was on an accrediting team to a Bible college in which one of their programs was in jewelry making. When the accrediting team inquired why a jewelry making program was appropriate for a Bible college, the leaders responded that it was to train tent-making missionaries to enter Muslim countries that are closed to the traditional missionary work. The university had been creative in designing a program that opened doors for these students to share the good news of the Gospel with people in Muslim countries.

We believe the number of tent-making missionaries is going to increase significantly over the next few decades. We must be increasingly creative in preparing these young men and women to go forth with the Gospel to those who are in darkness.

### Business

A few years ago we had a student who came to us when the college had a cooperative program in accounting with a local community college. She felt she was called to become an accountant and wanted to study in the context of the Bible college. At that time, the school had developed a cooperative accounting program to accommodate students who came to the college with those goals. The Business Management program was added later to accommodate this growing number of students. That program was expanded to include Logistics Management when it was observed that many of our graduates were going into that field.

In the same spirit of anticipating the future, we have expanded the Business program to four concentrations. These programs have been planned to prepare young Christians to let their lights shine in the business environment of the 21st century. The four planned concentrations in Business are: Business Administration, Business Management, International Business, and Logistics & Supply Management.

The Lord understands perfectly what is coming over the next few decades. As we prepare for the future, we will continue to seek His leadership in anticipating the needs and the types of ministries which will emerge within the next few decades.





OSU Coach Jim Tressel introduces Dr. John Maxwell



Former OCU President Dr. Melvin Maxwell



Dr. John Maxwell signs copies of his latest book.

## 2009 Leadership Forum

On Wednesday April 22, Ohio Christian University hosted the second annual Leadership Forum with Dr. John C. Maxwell. Dr. Maxwell is an OCU alumnus and nationally recognized speaker who has written over 50 books, three of which are New York Times Best-sellers having sold over 1 million copies. Many community and business leaders were in attendance, including Pickaway County Community Foundation President Dan Fouts, who simply stated "This evening was wonderful."

Dr. Maxwell spoke on the topic of his latest release, *Put Your Dream to The Test: 10 Questions That Will Help You See It and Seize It*, sharing principles and tips to help leaders make good decisions and maximize every moment to achieve their dreams. On behalf of the Ohio Christian University faculty, Dr. Maxwell was presented an honorary Doctorate of Leadership by OCU President Dr. Mark A. Smith. Dr. Larry Olson, Vice President for Student Development for OCU shared, "This was the best day in my 19 years on campus."

Ohio State University Football Coach, Jim Tressel, opened the event by welcoming more than 1400 visitors with a whole-hearted "Go Bucks!" before introducing Dr. Maxwell. Coach Tressel and more than 60 athletic leaders from The Ohio State University were in attendance, along with 45 University of Cincinnati leaders and over 300 high school and college youth from the surrounding area. Following the event, Coach Tressel connected with attendees by being available for photos, conversation, and many autographs.

Evans Nwankwo, President of Megen Construction, the company responsible for the Cincinnati Reds Ballpark, stated "This was a fantastic evening for the community and the people of Ohio. I will be back next year."

The event, in the words of Ohio Christian University President Mark Smith, "was about building a team of leaders to impact the community and the state of Ohio."



More than 1400 people attended the 2009 Leadership Forum.



# TRAILBLAZER ATHLETICS

## Another Record Season for Trailblazer Basketball

The men's and women's basketball teams made OCU history in the 2008-2009 season, setting new school records and receiving individual and team awards on the regional and national levels.

The Trailblazers had a 19-16 season, and played in the NCCAA II National Tournament for the first time in 27 years. The Blazers finished fifth, losing only to the team that went on to win the championship. Coach Christopher was recognized as the NCCAA Mid-East Region Coach of the Year.

The Lady Trailblazers finished 17-6, the best record in school history for women's basketball. They finished second in the region for the regular season, losing by three points in double overtime to the 2008-2009 National Champions.

Coaches Wray and Christopher both look forward to working with returning players and new recruits to contend for the championship next season.





# Individual Achievements

## Michael Baker

Honorable Mention All Region,  
Academic All American



## Timothy Baker

Second Team All Region, Regional All  
Tournament Team



## Brenda Carter

First Team All Region, Regional All-  
Tournament Team, ACCA First Team  
All American, NCCAA Second Team  
All American



## William Lomax

Second Team All Region, Regional All  
Tournament Team



## Ande Renihan

First Team All Region, ACCA  
Second Team All American, NCCAA  
Honorable Mention All American,  
NCCAA Scholar Athlete, ACCA  
Academic All American



## Rickshontae Spell

First Team All Region, Regional All  
Tournament Team, Second Team All  
American



## Angela Thorne

Second Team All Region



## Stefan Vasiloff

First Team All Region, Honorable  
Mention All American, Academic All  
American



# ALUMNI FOCUS



## Alumni Reception with Dr. Melvin Maxwell

MICHAEL TIPTON

Dr. Melvin Maxwell is an icon at Ohio Christian University. For 16 years he invested in young people and formed a generation of students into dynamic leaders. On April 22nd, OCU students, faculty, staff, and alumni were privileged to host Dr. Maxwell for a special Chapel service and alumni reception.

Dr. Maxwell, along with his son, Dr. John Maxwell, delivered a dynamic message to a crowd of attentive students. Students were challenged to find God's mission for their lives, to recognize the gifts of God they possess, and to never give up on the plan that God has for them. God's Spirit moved in a powerful way, and students lined the altar as Dr. Maxwell prayed a passionate prayer of blessing on their lives. All who heard Dr. Maxwell speak and pray were blessed. Students will not forget this Chapel hour.

Later in the day, alumni from five decades gathered to greet and fellowship with Dr. Maxwell. In the Johnson Hall Café, alumni from near and far reconnected with former classmates, visited with faculty members, and made new alumni friends. Dr. Maxwell spoke and recalled many memorable moments from his time as President. Filled with enthusiasm, he spoke about the bright future of Ohio Christian University. Everyone who attended was touched by his charge to continue laboring for the Gospel. Dr. Maxwell posed with alumni for numerous photos and gave personal words of encouragement to all in attendance.

We are thankful for men like Dr. Melvin Maxwell who live exemplary lives and challenge us to dream big dreams. His influence will continue to affect current students and alumni alike for years to come.





# Regional Alumni Gatherings

Regional Alumni Gatherings are a growing part of the OCU Alumni program. Regional Alumni Gatherings allow OCU to come to you! Regional gatherings are a great way to connect with alumni in your area and stay connected to OCU.

Alumni representatives will give updates on the latest projects, programs, and people at the University. We currently have two Regional Alumni Gatherings scheduled for 2009. If you are interested in attending these Regional Alumni Gatherings or would like more information, please contact us. Regional Alumni Gatherings are being planned in several other areas as well. Are you interested in having a Regional Alumni Gathering in your area? Contact the Office of University Advancement at [alumni@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:alumni@ohiochristian.edu) for more information.

## Pennsylvania Regional Alumni Gathering

The Pennsylvania Gathering is being rescheduled for early fall. The Pennsylvania Gathering will be held in the State College area. Frank Skies ('83) and Todd Confer ('93) are helping coordinate this event. Alumni in Pennsylvania will be contacted with final event details very soon.

## Mississippi Regional Alumni Gathering

The Mississippi Gathering will be on November 7th, 2009 in Jackson, Mississippi. If you live in Mississippi or would be willing to travel to Jackson, we want to hear from you! This informal gathering was a great success last year!

May	29	New Student Registration
June	6	Women's Basketball Open Gym
	8-12, 15-19	Kids on Campus
	21-28	Mount of Praise Campmeeting
	25	OCU Night at Mount of Praise
July	11	Women's Basketball Open Gym
	17	New Student Registration
	18	Girls' High School Shootout
	20-24	Boys & Girls Basketball Camp

Aug	8	Women's Basketball Open Gym
	28	New Student Registration
	29-30	New Student Orientation
Sept	25-26	Volleyball Tournament
Oct	1-3	Homecoming 2009
	1	Alumni Chapel, Torch Run
	2	Golf Outing, Gospel Concert
	3	Alumni Gathering, Gospel Concert
Dec	5	Candles & Carols

# ALUMNI FOCUS

## Homecoming: October 1-3, 2009

MICHAEL TIPTON

Homecoming 2009 will be here before you know it! The Alumni Council is working hard to make this the best Homecoming in years. With a new, expanded program of activities for adults and children, this is an event you will not want to miss. Festivities will kick off with the Alumni Chapel on Thursday, October 1. All alumni are invited to join with the OCU student body for a dynamic worship experience. Thursday night will feature the OCU Follies and the OCU Torch Run. OCU Follies showcases the humor and talents of the OCU student body and staff. The OCU Torch Run is a great parade where members of the OCU community carry the OCU torch through the Circleville community and display their enthusiasm for the University.

Friday, October 2, will be filled with great golf and great music. OCU and Linking Legacies will host the 18th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at Cook's Creek Golf Club. This event continues to grow and will be a wonderful time for alumni to fellowship. The day will be topped with a phenomenal opening night lineup at the Homecoming Gospel Concert. Feature groups include The Greenes, Royalaires, The Booth Brothers, and Family Heritage. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Saturday will feature reunions, the 2009 Alumni Gathering, athletics, and great activities for guests of all ages. The Alumni Council will be working with class leadership of various years to organize class reunions. Partnering with Men's Soccer Coach Josh Murton, OCU will also host its first Soccer reunion for all former players and coaches. The Alumni Gathering will bring all alumni and friends together for a great lunch and afternoon of fellowship. Children will enjoy an afternoon of inflatable games and fun activities. All alumni and friends are invited to attend the OCU Soccer match at 3 p.m. versus Malone College. Homecoming 2009 will close with another great Gospel Concert featuring The Kingsmen Quartet, Down East Boys, Gold City, and The Pfeifers.

Make sure that October 1-3, 2009 is reserved on your calendar for OCU Homecoming. The Alumni Council would like this to be huge step forward in our alumni program. We look forward to seeing you at Homecoming 2009!

## OCU Night at Mount of Praise

The Alumni, friends, and supporters of OCU are cordially invited to attend Ohio Christian University Night at Mount of Praise Camp Meeting on June 25 at 7 p.m. OCU Night is filled with updates on campus developments, student testimonies, and all the exciting things happening throughout the University. Following the service, all guests are invited to attend an informal reception outside the Leadership Center. It is a great opportunity to connect with faculty, staff, and fellow alumni. It is sure to be a wonderful time of fellowship and worship with the OCU family!

Please note the new date of OCU Night. Mount of Praise Camp Meeting has moved from August to June. OCU Night will be held in the Leadership Center. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of University Advancement at 740-420-5918.

We hope to see you on Thursday, June 25 at 7 p.m.!



# 18th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

PRESENTED BY LINKING LEGACIES AND  
OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

October 2, 2009 at  
Cook's Creek Golf Club

## Registration

The cost is \$500 per team. The number of teams is limited. Guarantee your spot with a \$100 deposit.

Registration includes:

- ❑ 18 Hole Scramble
- ❑ Riding Cart
- ❑ Gifts, Snacks & Refreshments
- ❑ Awards for Winning Teams
- ❑ Lunch

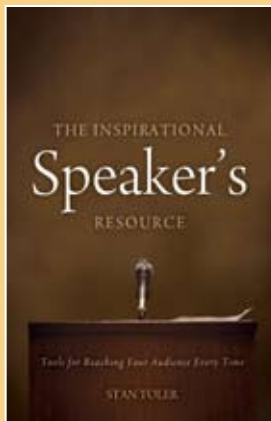
## Sponsorship Opportunities

- ❑ \$250 - Tee to Green Sponsor
- ❑ \$100 - Hole Sponsor

## For More Information

Details will be published online at [www.ohiochristian.edu/golf](http://www.ohiochristian.edu/golf) as they become available. Call 740-420-5918 for more information or to be added to the mailing list for this event.

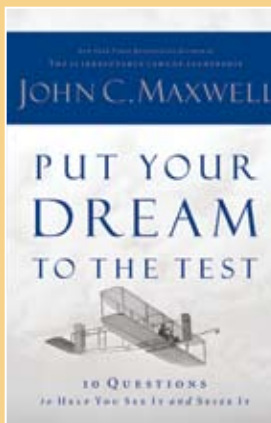
# Alumni Authors



OCU Alumnus Dr. Stan Toler has authored more than 60 books, including his latest release, *The Inspirational Speaker's Resource*, which will be available in June 2009.

This resource is a gold mine for those who find themselves speaking, making a presentation for school, leading a class at church, giving a demonstration at work, or introducing a public event. Stan shares his own proven methods as well as tips gathered from fellow speakers to help overcome the fear of public speaking, inspire listeners, and effectively convey the message.

**[www.StanToler.com](http://www.StanToler.com)**



*Put Your Dreams to the Test* by OCU Alumnus Dr. John C. Maxwell is available in stores now.

"It's one thing to have a dream. It's another to do the things needed to achieve it," says Maxwell.

Dr. Maxwell draws on his forty years of mentoring experience to expertly guide you through the ten questions required of every successful dreamer. More importantly, Dr. Maxwell helps you to create the right answers, giving you principles and tips to good decisions and maximize every moment to achieve your dream.

**[www.JohnMaxwell.com](http://www.JohnMaxwell.com)**





DR. MELVIN MAXWELL

# Church Planting Institute

## *Church Growth: Growing from 24 to 3,000*

with Rev. John Bray

October 26-27, 2009, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## *Church Multiplication as Effective Evangelism*

with Rev. Phil Stevenson

February 4-5, 2010, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[www.ChurchPlantingInstitute.com](http://www.ChurchPlantingInstitute.com)

## Church Planting Institute: A Student's Perspective

CHRISTINE ZIMMERMAN

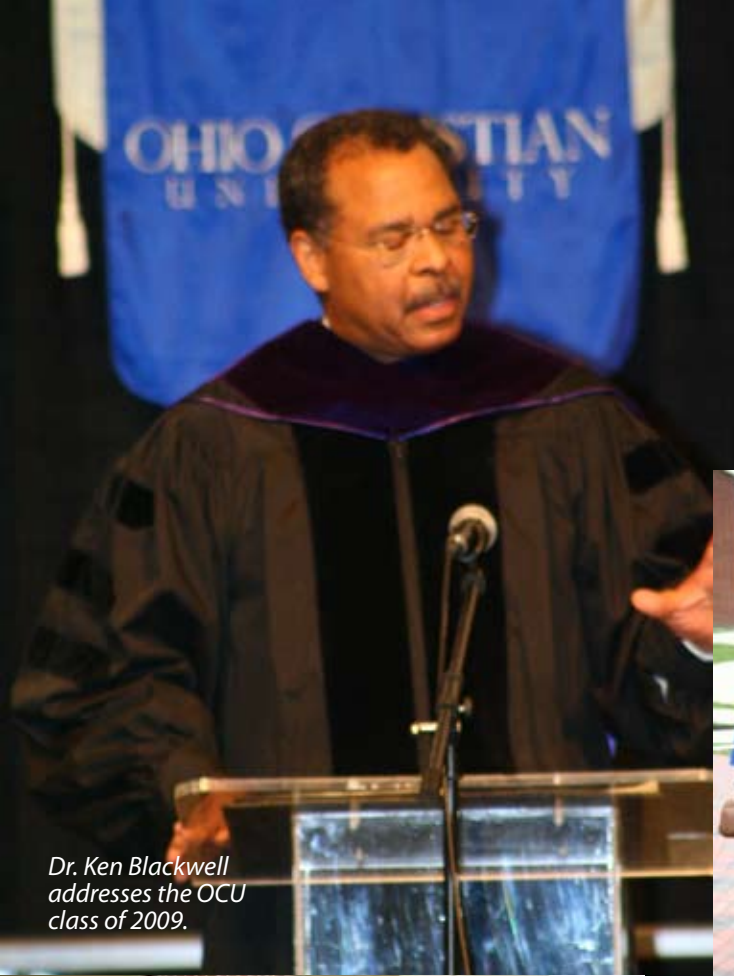
I am not sure what I was expecting when I enrolled in the Planting Emerging Churches class, but what I received was surprising. I signed up for what I thought was a two-day seminar on how the Church can engage today's culture in creative ways, but I got much more than I bargained for. When I discovered I enrolled in an actual college course, and a church planting one at that, I almost dropped the class. I did not have time to add anything else to my already hectic schedule, especially something that would require me to do additional projects. Besides, unlike many fellow students at OCU, church planting was outside my future plans. In fact, I have actually found myself struggling with disappointment in the churches already in existence. It is sad to say, but I have grown weary with stale programming, growing division, and the powerlessness I have come to identify with the Church today.

We were not far into the first session when I realized I was wrong about the course, about myself, and about what God was doing in His Church. As I listened to Dr. Bob Whitesel, a college professor, author, and church consultant, describe what was going on in the Church around the world, I began to feel the spark of hope rise once again. Rather than advertise another new and innovative method for church growth, he simply spoke of the One whom the world is seeking—Jesus. Over the course of two days, Dr. Whitesel described the situa-

tion we face in the West as societies disillusioned with Church but hungry for Jesus. Dr. Whitesel challenged us to look at our churches and ministries as opportunities for the world to encounter God. He encouraged us to expand our comfort level in order to become places where people can encounter God. He portrayed the church as an organism. As such, it is ever growing, evolving, and adapting to its environment. He also shared stories from churches around the world that have embraced these organic principles. He specifically talked about the ways these churches are making their services places of divine encounter.

I was also wrong in my perspective about the class project. Rather than another assignment, it has been an opportunity to see what God is doing in the world through people who regularly are stretched in their attempt to live missionally. As I have been communicating with the churches Dr. Whitesel featured in his book, *Inside the Organic Church*, I have become increasingly aware of God's ongoing incarnation in the world. Through this Planting Organic Churches course, I have discovered that a church's incarnation of Jesus' life in the world does not come without a price. Congregations that are willing to embrace God's missional impulse often face misrepresentation and misunderstanding. Their willingness to interact with the present generation is often messy and risky, but incarnation always has been.





*Dr. Ken Blackwell  
addresses the OCU  
class of 2009.*



*Dr. Larry Olson and  
wife, Bonnie, were  
honored for over 19  
years of service.*



*2009 Honor Graduate  
Leslie Turner*



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Homecoming *Gospel Concert*

Friday, October 2, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.



The Greens



The Royallaires



The Booth Brothers



Family Heritage

Saturday, October 3, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m. Doors open at 4:00 p.m.



The Kingsmen Quartet



The Down East Boys



Gold City



The Pfeifers

**\$15** General Admission  
for tickets purchased in advance

\$20 Reserved Seating: 740-869-3253  
\$18 at the door  
Free admission for children 6 and under.

**740-420-5903**

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Gil Conley, Promotion Director