

OhioChristian

the Ohio Christian University Magazine | Winter 2012

OCU Presents 10-year Vision

- » Dr. Malon Mimms Contributes Historic \$2.5 Million Gift
- » Disaster Management Team Serves New York Residents
- » Microsoft COO Kevin Turner to Speak at 2012 Commencement



Future Alum!

Thank you to entire team at Rock Springs Church for their collaboration with OCU. Shown in picture: Tinley Kate Shiflett (13 mos.), daughter of Pastor Cameron Shiflett of Rock Springs Church.

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EDITOR

Mark A. Smith

DESIGN

Renee Handy
Karin Howard
Richelle McCullough

PHOTOGRAPHY

Elayne Cabrera
Jerahn Hyman
Dale Lear
Richelle McCullough
Korrin Miller
Orvil Peabody, Jr.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Send address changes and news to: Alumni Relations, alumni@ohiochristian.edu or visit www.ohiochristian.edu/magazine.



DR. MARK A. SMITH, PRESIDENT

In all we do,
we should
have a passion
to accomplish
the mission
of Christ
and embrace
holiness.

EMBRACING THE FUTURE

The next 10 years for Ohio Christian University

Ohio Christian University has a wonderful history, dating back to 1948, of educating leaders who impact the world by serving the church and society. Since 2000, OCU has embarked on a mission to change the world more greatly through implementing multiple strategies and avenues of growth. The University has grown from 400 students to 2,400 in just a short time.

As Ohio Christian embarks on the future, the University must grow by developing programs, infrastructure, and operational capacity to ensure long-term success. The University must be creative in developing a new model of sustainability, and it must use space more efficiently and maximize its resources.

OCU is committed to the mission of producing *Christian servant leaders* who will serve both the church and society. OCU's graduates will be leaders in their vocations, professions, communities, families, and churches. The goal for the OCU team is to live as holy servants on this earth. In everything we do, we should have a passion to accomplish the mission of Christ and embrace holiness. Through traditional and non-traditional educational delivery methods, students will be impacted throughout the region, state, nation, and world.

In addition to providing education and producing graduates who serve the church and society, OCU itself will serve the church and society. OCU will train and refresh pastors and ministry leaders who will revitalize their churches and ministries to make them more effective. OCU will also serve the social needs of its community by making its facilities available for the community's use and working to improve the local economic situation. OCU is here to serve the world.

With a mission focus in mind, the Board of Trustees, Administration, faculty, and staff have created some ideas for the next ten years. We welcome your input and ideas as we look to the future. Please email your feedback to mark.smith@ohiochristian.edu.

Enhancement & Expansion Opportunities

1 Ministry & Church Expansion

\$5 Million

Eighty percent of all pastors are out of ministry within 20 years, and one of America's needs is trained clergy for churches. This initiative will allow OCU to serve more than 700 ministry students and provide training for pastors and ministry leaders.

Performing Arts & Ministry Center: \$3 million

This project will alleviate overcrowding of the current chapel and provide a 1,000 seat performance center for campus and community music and drama events.

Resource Training Center: \$500,000

The Resource Training Center will assist OCU in cultivating and training ministers. Professional development will help pastors and ministry leaders increase their skills and grow more effective ministries.

Ministry Revitalization Center: \$500,000

To better serve the church, a Ministry Revitalization Center will be a home to pastors and ministry leaders going through retraining and revitalization. It will also provide housing for visiting parents and alumni.

Disaster Management & Relief Training: \$1,000,000

This program is bringing new life to the campus, and the "911" students are flocking to it to serve the world. A training center and disaster response vehicle are needed to meet the needs of this nationally recognized program.

2 \$3-4 Million

Campus & Infrastructure

To impact the world for Christ, OCU must increase enrollment. In doing so, we must extend campus services to provide an excellent student experience and make OCU attractive and accessible to new students.

Infrastructure: \$2 million

OCU is building a new student center to improve dining services for the growing student body. Phase two of the project will cost \$1 million, and additional funds will be needed to provide upgrades to technology, water, and other campus infrastructure.

Campus Housing \$1-2 million

John Wesley reminds us, "The world is our parish," and OCU currently has an opportunity to train Christian leaders on a global scale by focusing on China, Sierra Leone, the Caribbean, and Hispanic communities. OCU seeks to develop international campus community housing and increase on-campus housing to support these students.





4 Scholarships & Endowment

\$5 Million

Investing in students through scholarships makes OCU an affordable college choice for students. Increasing the endowment funds will ensure availability of scholarship dollars, retention of quality faculty and staff, and sustainability of the university's programs and campuses to future generations of students.

Ohio Christian has an opportunity to expand its reach by equipping more students to become servant leaders and impact the world for Christ.

3 Economic & Community Development

\$3 Million

Ohio Christian University is unveiling a major initiative to lead economic and community development through building an Agribusiness and Economic Development Center and by expanding its efforts with the STEM initiative on the local campus. We believe this will increase OCU's impact on the local and global economies.

Agribusiness & Economic Development Center \$2 million

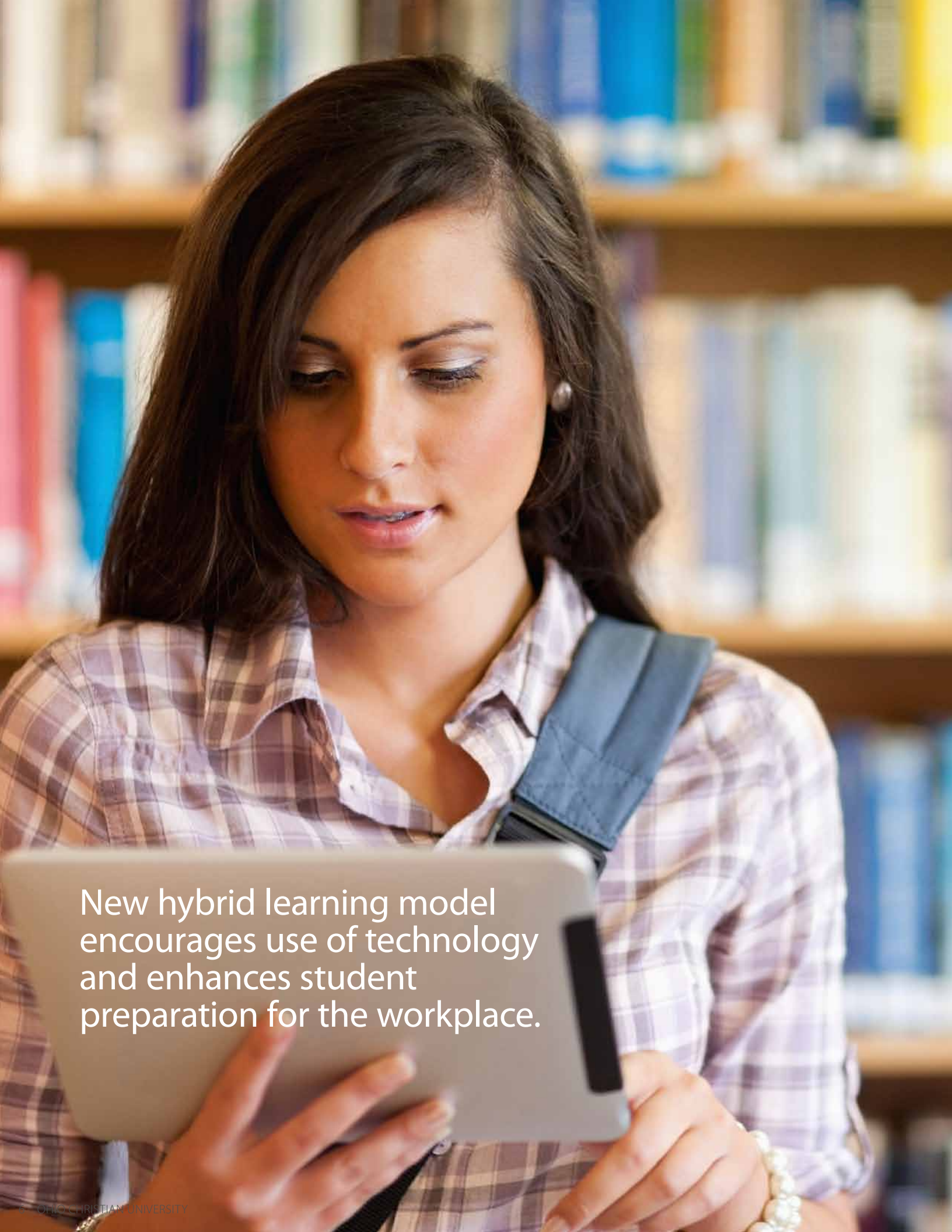
Christ's example of "feed their stomach, feed their hearts" is of the utmost importance as the world's greatest need for the next 20 years will be finding

ways to feed billions of people. Students are trained in agricultural practices that focus on food production and reflect the surrounding community, which is 70% agricultural.

STEM Coalition Initiative \$1 million

The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Coalition Initiative known as STEM is of particular importance to OCU's local community. OCU's commitment to expand in this area will provide resources for local high schools and businesses, such as DuPont and PPG, while providing professional opportunities for students.





New hybrid learning model
encourages use of technology
and enhances student
preparation for the workplace.

Beyond Books



BY DR. HANK KELLY, PROVOST

Classroom instruction, technology, and real-world experiences merge to provide a complete education.

Many of our students today are *digital natives*. That is, they are “native speakers” of the digital language of computers, video games, and the Internet. Research indicates hybrid classes, which blend online and face-to-face teaching methods, produce more learning than completely online or completely face-to-face education. This has prompted the development of hybrid courses at OCU. Several of the faculty have created hybrid courses in which students only attend classes in person once per week compared to typical classes which meet two to three times weekly. The remainder of the course work is accomplished online or independently. Students in these classes have commented that online discussions are fun and similar to “talking” on Facebook. Academic discussions require deeper thinking than those on Facebook, but the point is—the hybrid education model is relevant to today’s students.

Students indicating they were
“likely” or “very likely” to enroll
in future hybrid courses.

Based on an anonymous study conducted with
students in a hybrid Sociology class at OCU.

93%

ONLINE SUMMER SCHOOL

For the first time, online summer school classes will be offered in 2012. Face-to-face summer school classes are three weeks long. Online summer school classes will be six weeks long to allow additional time for rich online discussions. Additionally, the online Trailblazer Academy courses, originally intended for dual enrollment credit for high school students, are open to traditional students beginning spring 2012.

GRADUATE & ONLINE PROGRAMS

We anticipate the first graduates of the Master of Arts (MA) in Ministry to walk at commencement on May 5th, 2012. This program is now also offered online, and enrollment in this program has jumped to 50. Online three-credit classes are six weeks long. Although there are weekly learning activities and assignments, work can be accomplished at the student's convenience. Total enrollment in online OCU degree programs is 1,142, of which 564 (49%) are ministry students.

NEW & UPDATED PROGRAMS

Several new programs were started in fall 2011. The associate degree in early childhood development prepares graduates for public and private child care settings. If a four-year degree is eventually sought, these credits can be fully applied to an OCU teacher education degree. Additionally, the teacher education program for middle grades was expanded to include math and science concentrations to allow these graduates to teach courses in these disciplines. Finally, students seeking a teacher education license in early childhood can now expand their endorsements to fourth and fifth grades. For fall 2012, we are working on rolling out the BA in Government Relations program (see page 12). This program prepares students for work that requires knowledge of government and politics. We need a university with a Christian worldview and a reputation for conservatism to prepare students to serve God in government and politics.

RECENT FACULTY HIRES

Several new full-time faculty members were hired in fall 2011:



Dr. Walicord, new Department Chair for Business & Government.



Michael Burchett is an Instructor of History who also teaches computer literacy. He

comes to OCU after teaching in middle school and high school for 11 years. He holds a Master of Social Sciences from Ohio University.



Thad Hicks is an Instructor of Disaster Relief & Management. He developed the

program and has directed it as affiliate faculty since it began two years ago. Now that enrollment has grown to more than 40, he is full time. Thad is a Ph.D. student at Asbury Theological Seminary.



Ohio Christian University Board of Trustees to Establish \$5 Million Ministerial Scholarship Fund for Pastoral Training

The Ohio Christian University Board of Trustees, with strong support from the Ohio Christian University administrative team, enthusiastically supported a motion by Northeast District Superintendent Brad Dixon and the Finance Committee to establish a Ministerial Scholarship Fund for the purpose of reducing the cost to ministers so that they leave school with lower amounts of debt. The University Board voted to begin the process of moving all minister half-tithe dollars to this fund. Eventually, the Administration wants to put all church giving into this fund.

Additionally, the University Administration is establishing a goal of five million dollars to support this cause.

With so few people being trained in ministry around the world, the need is urgent. Even the United States Government has identified "Clergy" as a need for the coming years. The soul of America is at stake. Pastoral students who leave college with high debt often do not stay in the ministry. We are implementing a plan to change this trend.

The Ministerial Scholarship Plan

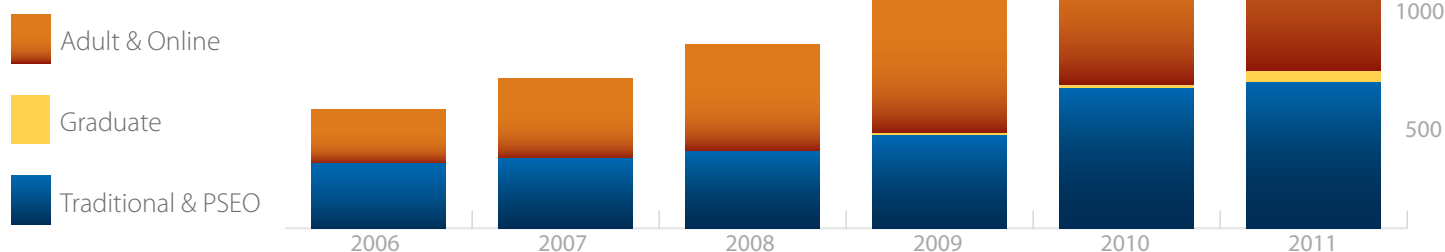
1. Establish the Ministerial Scholarship Fund
2. Direct Ministers Half-Tithe for pastors to the Ministerial Scholarship Fund
3. Direct all church giving to the Ministerial Scholarship Fund
4. Seek church partnerships to build this fund
5. Seek Donors who want to invest in this fund

We know this will not happen overnight, but we believe we must work to address this problem.

If you would like to give to this fund please contact President Mark A. Smith or Vice President for Advancement Mark Taylor at 740-420-5918.

Enrollment Growth Continues

Total Enrollment as of November 2011 was 2,680

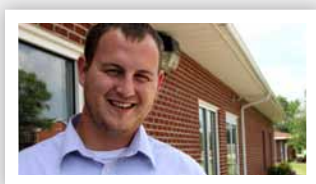


OCU Welcomes Additions to the Team



Kevin Edwards

Kevin serves as Director of Enrollment for the Traditional Program. A Columbus, Ohio, native, Kevin spent the last 16 years as part of the United States Air Force Recruiting Service. He was recognized as Arkansas recruiter of the year and outstanding performer on an Inspector General Inspection. Kevin holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business and two associate degrees. He and his wife, Cindy have nine children.



Jason Dennis

Jason joined the Traditional Program as an Admissions Counselor. He graduated from Circleville High school in 2005 and studied Corporate Communication at Olivet Nazarene University. He moved back to Circleville in 2009 to work as a case manager with homeless individuals for Pickaway County Community Action. Jason is actively involved in various ministries in the Circleville community.



Sherika Williams

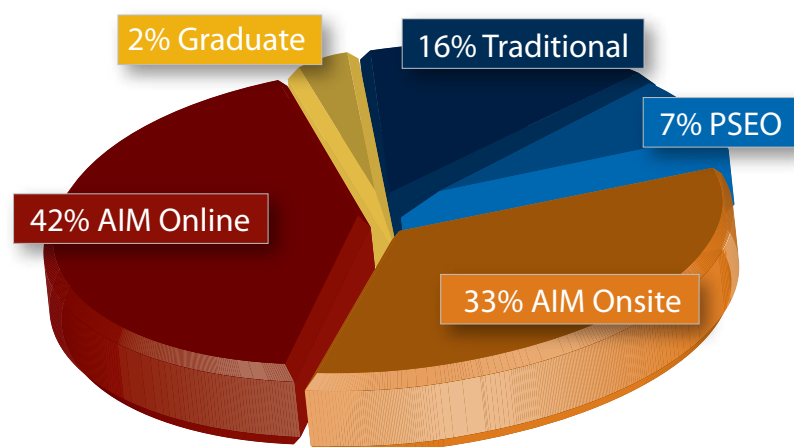
Sherika serves as the Director of AIM Student Services. Rika, as she prefers, worked in higher education for ten years prior to joining OCU. Rika holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Ohio University, a Master of Arts in Sociology from Ohio University, and a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management from DeVry University.



Scott Marsee

Previously part-time, Scott now serves as the Lead Online Instructional Designer for the AIM department. Scott holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management and a Master of Arts in Missions and Evangelism from Asbury Theological Seminary. Scott is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Online Instructional Design with Capella University.

New delivery methods, including **online** degree programs, **post-secondary** options for high school students, and **graduate programs**, have been a key component of OCU's steady growth since 2006. The university continues to seek out new opportunities to impact the world by preparing Christian leaders to serve in a variety of ministries and professions.



Sylvia Wilson

Sylvia serves as an AIM Recruiter, and our first full-time employee in Georgia, at the Rock Springs Church location. Prior to joining OCU, she worked in leadership for the Georgia Department of Driver Services and Department of Labor. Sylvia holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Mercer College.



Elyse Billings

Elyse serves as an AIM Online Recruiter and an adjunct instructor. Elyse served in enrollment positions at Mount Vernon Nazarene University and Central Ohio Technical College. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from MVNU and a Master of Arts in Communication from Akron University. Elyse is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Business Administration with Northcentral University.



Christina Castillo

Christina serves as the AIM Marketing Coordinator. Prior to joining OCU, she worked as the Advertising Manager for the Rudler Group. Christina holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from Mount Vernon Nazarene University and is also a graduate of the Hallmark Institute of Photography in Turners Falls, Massachusetts.



Beth Wright

Beth serves as the AIM Receptionist and Office Assistant in Circleville. Prior to coming to OCU, Beth worked as the administrative assistant for Pinnacle Building Services. Beth is currently pursuing the Associate of Arts degree in Business Management with Ohio Christian University.

new!

Government Relations Program

BY DRS. DAVID GARRISON AND SACHA WALICORD



OCU's new direction for Business and Government Relations programs will prepare OCU students for careers in government or politics and ensure that business students will have a greater appreciation for how government impacts the American economy.

As a result of a new direction and the creation of a new Government Relations major, Ohio Christian University has renamed its Business Department to Department of Business and Government. The Government Relations major was created to serve the nationwide interest in a faith-based government and political science education.

These changes were driven by the belief that a majority of university business students around the nation do not know enough about government relations, and government relations students do not know enough about business. Consequently, business students will be required to take courses in government and political science, and government relations students will be required to take business courses.

Dr. Dave Garrison, who is currently running for U.S. Congress from Texas and is the former OCU Business Department Chair, was instrumental in designing the new Government Relations program. Dr. Garrison consulted numerous universities, public policy experts, and government leaders to determine the most appropriate course of study and program features.

Dr. Sacha Walicord, the new department chair, very much welcomes the new major saying, "It is my firm conviction that Christians have retreated for far too long from the political arena. If we really do believe that God has created all things, it must be our inevitable conclusion that God has a plan for all things. We have to teach that plan for all areas of life to our students – government affairs included."

Students will be offered trips to Washington, D.C., to visit with congressmen, senators, and various public policy organizations. They will have opportunities to study abroad and see the government operations of other nations firsthand.

Government relations students will be required to have an internship with government or political think tank (e.g., Heritage Foundation or Cato Institute). By marrying the two programs, Business and Government Relations, students should have a greater appreciation for the dynamics that have made the United States a world leader.



Staff & Students Present at Western Michigan University

BY DR. KRISTA STONEROCK AND CHRIS ZIMMERMAN

A stand-out presentation at the East Central Writing Center Association Conference held at Western Michigan University highlights the OCU Writing Center's unique approach to reflective tutoring.

Last Spring, members of the OCU Writing Center staff presented at the East Central Writing Center Association Conference held at Western Michigan University. Though many larger universities, like The Ohio State University, Michigan State University, and Purdue University, presented at this conference, the OCU group stood out among their Writing Center peers with their unique and engaging presentation on reflective tutoring. Presenting at the conference were Dr. Krista Stonerock, Writing Center Director and English professor; Christine Zimmerman, Tutoring Center Director; and Peer Tutors Tamara Holder and Jenni Lloyd. Unable to attend, yet a valuable contributor to the presentation, was Peer Tutor Emily Stacy.

While their presentation entitled *Breaking Through to Bartleby: Narrative Reflections of a Writing Center Tutor* was geared toward Writing Center practice, the concepts are applicable in leadership roles of many kinds. The presenters used the narrator of Melville's classic short story, "Bartleby the Scrivener," as a backdrop for discussing the messy, yet mandatory, process of honest self-reflection in assessing their tutor roles. The presentation included drama, film clips, and real excerpts from the tutors' reflective logs.

This experience marked the second opportunity for the OCU Writing Center staff to present at a professional conference. Two years ago, a group of six staff members presented at Purdue University. Dr. Stonerock commented, "The opportunity for undergraduates

to present at professional conferences is invaluable. Undergraduate students are suddenly exposed to *real* professionals in action, and—often for the first time—see themselves as more than a student or work study employee, but a professional in the field. They gain confidence from seeing other professionals excited about the work that they are doing, and they are motivated by the infectious energy in the presentations. These Writing Center professionals, whether directors, graduate consultants, or undergraduate peer tutors, are excited to share ideas and apply this new knowledge to the Writing Centers in their own colleges and universities. The OCU community is proud of their Writing Center staff, for they represented OCU well at this conference."



Music Department Hosts Community Performances

BY TONY MCCRARY, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH RELATIONS
& DR. JOHN ANTHONY, MUSIC DEPARTMENT CHAIR (right)

On the evening of December 3, 2011, approximately 700 people gathered in the Maxwell Center for the Annual Festival of Carols presented by the OCU Music Department. Under the direction of Dr. Rodney Sones, the 31-member university chorale, community choir members, OCU chamber singers, and the 30 member orchestra provided an evening of sacred Christmas music. The evening began with the orchestra performing the Christmas favorite, Sleigh Ride and the exciting sounds of Bugler's Holiday. Among the musical selections performed by the Chorale was The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy, The Glorias of Christmas, Carols of the King, and The Little Drummer Boy.



The evening was highlighted with the second half performance of the Christmas portion of The Messiah. Soloists Jennifer Whitehead, Dr. C Andrew Blosser, and Dr. Carolyn Redman, gave outstanding performances with the chorale. The musical event was capped off with the final piece, The Hallelujah Chorus. What a glorious way to begin the Christmas season!

Immediately following the performance the official lighting of the tree and light displays took place at the front entrance of the campus. The drive-through light display was sponsored by OCU and generous community businesses.



Other recent developments in the Music Department include:

- 1 The number of incoming freshmen music majors has almost doubled this year.
- 2 A new music classroom and percussion studio has been added to the music facility.
- 3 \$4,000 in new percussion equipment was purchased this summer.
- 4 Student performers Tim Hoagland (Music Education/ Percussion) and Meaghan Stuart (Worship Arts/Piano) performed at *Circle of Caring's* Thanksgiving Dinner.
- 5 Instrumental storage units, risers and music posture chairs were installed in the existing dual purpose music classroom in order to convert it into a Choral/Band rehearsal room.
- 6 The Chamber String Ensemble performed its first performance at the "Thanksgiving Feast" sponsored by the local disabilities organization *PDI*.
- 7 The University Band held its inaugural Fall Concert on November 17, 2011.
- 8 This fall, Music Education/ Percussion major Tim Hoagland served as the percussion coach for Canal Winchester High School's drum line and Circleville High School's percussion students.
- 9 Ashley Kearns (Music Education/ Flute) and Larry Spriggs (Music Education/Tuba) have been assisting the instrumental music program at *Brookside Christian Academy* in Chillicothe, OH.

Meet the Team



D.J. Malone

Alumnus D.J. Malone, class of 2011, was recently hired to serve the university as Intercultural

Program Coordinator. He continues with the university after completing a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management. D.J. has already made strides in educating and enhancing the university's increasingly diverse community.



Richelle McCullough

Richelle McCullough came to OCU in September and serves as a graphic

designer. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from The Art Institute of Pittsburgh in June 2011. With her education and prior work experience, including Gtech Strategies and Carpenter Connection, Richelle has quickly become an integral part of the team.



Disaster Management Students Serve in New York Following Hurricane

BY THAD HICKS, DISASTER MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

In October, a call came in to Ohio Christian University, one of fewer than 150 colleges and universities in the United States which is training students to respond to emergencies and disasters. The call was simple but to the point. The area around Binghamton, New York, had experienced massive flooding due to Hurricane Irene, and the residents needed help.

When OCU received the request from officials on the ground, the gears began to turn. Part of the promise of the Disaster Management program is that OCU will show up at a disaster scene and help however needed. OCU Disaster Management student Kyle Landenberger stated, “We don’t want to just go get in the way. We want to go with a purpose; otherwise, we just become a hindrance to the process.”



OCU sent a 15-person team to serve alongside Samaritan's Purse in the affected area. Samaritan's Purse specializes in meeting the most critical needs of disaster victims. Working in conjunction with area groups including churches from the Churches of Christ in Christian Union denomination, the OCU team spent several days working to meet the needs of those affected by the disaster.

Wyatt Buchanan, a pastor in the Binghamton area and graduate of Ohio Christian University, acted as the point man on the ground in New York. According to Buchanan, the real need was tearing down homes and buildings,

as more than 1,000 homes had been destroyed beyond repair. The greater Binghamton area estimated that 7,000 buildings had been damaged. Buchanan related, "The people don't know what to do."

While residents of the area were overwhelmed by the damage, OCU students who are uniquely trained were able to respond. The students in this program are, by design, trained to address a person's total needs. They can clean out houses or sit down and help individuals process their losses. Emergencies and disasters do not come at opportune times, and OCU students are learning to be available wherever and whenever a need arises.

“The Disaster Recovery Team sent out to assist us in NY were some of the hardest working young people you would ever want to meet.”

“In 2.5 days they worked on 5 buildings: mudding, gutting and tearing out. They have a great team and great leaders. Thanks to Tim and Rachel Fulks, Thad Hicks, and Dr. Smith for sending us this great bunch of students. They exhibited real servant leadership. Please continue to pray for us. We had more than 9,000 homes damaged in this county.”

WYATT BUCHANAN, CLASS OF 1980
PASTOR OF JOHNSON CITY CCCU

Learn More!

Get more information or apply for admission to OCU's Disaster Management & Relief program online at www.OhioChristian.edu/disaster-management

Disaster Management Students Participate in Full Scale Emergency Simulation Exercise

Recently, Port Columbus International Airport in Columbus, Ohio, hosted OCU students in an exercise designed to evaluate emergency plans and response capabilities of the airport, tenants, and various other service organizations, including, but not limited to, police and fire, multi-county emergency managers, Red Cross Disaster Services, The Salvation Army, and area hospitals, in the event of a large scale, mass-casualty accident.

Simulated hazards included a plane crash and a suspected bomb event. The full day event was coordinated in real time and allowed responders to check on their knowledge, skills, and abilities concerning emergencies and crises. The OCU students

participated in multiple portions of the event. About half of the students portrayed victims. In order to provide as real an experience as possible, the students were prepared by make-up artists according to their assigned injuries. Disaster Program Director Thad Hicks added, "These guys scared me. They looked like they had been in an actual plane crash." Other students had a less glamorous, but equally important role. They acted as the family and friends of the plane crash victims. Like those playing the victims, these students helped to train responders to react to an emergency. The important role the family and friends actors played helped with response to secondary victims.

This exercise presented a wonderful learning opportunity for students in the emergency and disaster management fields. Many of the students in the Disaster Management program have never been in the field working a disaster scene, so the full-scale exercise is a great chance to experience one just a few miles from the OCU campus.

Ohio Christian University was able to send more than 20 Disaster Management students to the exercise. Many of the students were seen discussing the program at OCU with those in attendance. Hicks added, "They were clearly impressed with the OCU students. Several people handed me their business cards begging me for interns."

Plans are currently underway for a possible emergency simulation on the OCU campus, which will help assess OCU's emergency plans.



In order to provide as real an experience as possible, about half of the students portrayed victims and were prepared by make-up artists according to their assigned injuries.



Local Businessman Kelly Copeland Donates Vehicle to OCU's Disaster Management Program

Since its inception, the Disaster Management and Relief program at Ohio Christian University has always tried to be ahead of the curve. When the program was designed, the goal was to make OCU graduates as marketable as possible. After much research and discussion with leaders in the field, it was determined that graduates of the program would need real-world experiences to augment their classroom education. Ohio Christian University's program was designed to give its students the "why" alongside the "how," by offering opportunities to practice what they were learning in the classroom.

It was also determined early on that the university would focus its efforts on responding to domestic crises due to the extensive costs and travel associated with international relief efforts. The university began seeking an emergency response vehicle which would make it possible for students to gain hands-on training while helping those affected by domestic emergencies. The process of finding a vehicle took more than two years, but President Mark Smith recently announced that one had been donated.

Businessman Kelly Copeland approached Dr. Smith after hearing of the need, and offered to donate a large delivery truck to the program, free of charge. Director Hicks stated, "It came just in time." OCU recently sent a team to Upstate New York for flood relief and while there, they worked out of a response vehicle belonging to Samaritans' Purse. Hicks added, "Several times since they returned, I was approached about getting a vehicle, but we couldn't afford it. Mr. Copeland's gift was a Godsend."

The truck will be sent to a Marysville, Ohio, shop experienced in getting vehicles into emergency response shape. Tony Ackley, the shop's owner, has volunteered his time to prepare the truck for use as an emergency response vehicle. According to Ackley, the truck should be completed by June.

Disaster Management Program Receives International Recognition

The Disaster Management program at Ohio Christian University was recently honored by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) for its work in adding almost 40 new members. The IAEM, which has more than 5,000 members worldwide, is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the "Principles of Emergency Management" and representing those professionals whose goals are saving lives and protecting property and the environment during emergencies and disasters. The official honor states,

"OCU has led not only the nation but leads internationally in new member recruitment."

Program Director Thad Hicks stated, "There is a real value in membership with this organization. IAEM brings together emergency managers and disaster response professionals from all levels of government, the military, private sector and non-profit organizations worldwide." Hicks added, "Just today, a student brought an email to me about an internship possibility in Washington D.C. they had received from IAEM."



Perspectives

Students, alumni, and donors reflect on the OCU experience and changed lives.

Pictured: Jay Allen, Sophomore

Jay Allen {Sophomore, Traditional Program}

Hometown: Lebanon, Ohio

Major: Double major in Business Management and Disaster Management

Why did you choose to attend OCU?

The people at OCU are so welcoming and nice. As soon as I got here, I felt like I belonged. I also felt convinced that this is where God wanted me to attend college.

What is your favorite spot on campus and why? The cafeteria, because that's where I get to see all my friends on campus and socialize.

What is your favorite class and why?

New Testament with Dr. Williamson. His style of teaching makes learning God's Word interesting and rewarding.

What is your favorite campus activity?

Frisbee and working in the university Admissions office.

What are your future plans?

Whatever God has in store for me, I want to be open to it. I plan to work in the Disaster Management field and hopefully have a family.



Alexandria Hardy

{Freshman, Traditional Program}

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

Major: Youth Ministry

Why did you decide to attend

OCU? I decided to come to OCU because I believe this is where God wants me to be.

What is your favorite thing about

your major(s)? My favorite thing about my major is the fact that I will get to learn more about the Bible and how to understand it.

What do you like about OCU the

most? I like that the professors seem to genuinely care about our education.

What is your favorite class and

why? My favorite OCU class is Sociology because Dr. McDonald is a great teacher who is passionate about her job and hilarious.

What is your favorite campus

activity? My favorite campus activity is The Drop (an event where bands play in The Blaze Café).



Ami DeMint

{High School Sophomore, Trailblazer Academy*}

Hometown: Hallsville, Ohio

Why did you decide to take your

PSEO courses at OCU? I've found PSEO to be a great opportunity to earn credit for not only high school, but also for college; and because I'm homeschooling online through K12 (www.k12.com), all classes I take in high school are FREE!

How will PSEO impact your future

college experiences? Many of my general education courses will be completed by the time I graduate from high school, and I will be able to jump right into my major courses.

Has your experience changed your outlook on college

academics? Yes. I now know that although college work is hard and sometimes scary, I can do it! This experience has given me confidence and helped me see the importance and reachability of college academics.

What do you like most about

OCU? The Godly atmosphere. Not only do the leaders and staff of OCU have faith in God, but my college friends do, too.

It's really cool that I don't have to worry about being persecuted for my belief in the Savior.

*The Trailblazer Academy is OCU's Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) program, which allows students to earn college credit during high school.



Jeanine McDowell Establishes Scholarship in Honor of Her Parents, Oakley & Inez Leist

BY JEANINE MCDOWELL

I was fortunate to be raised in a Christian home where my parents, Oakley and Inez Leist, revered and trusted the Lord. They taught me the importance of living a life founded on Godly principles and were role models for me as well as many others whose lives they impacted. Dad's gift was teaching, and he respected the institution of education. He felt that one of our great liberties as Americans was the freedom for all children to receive a quality education. His passion was demonstrated through a career as both a teacher and a principal in Washington Township, a community where he lived and

worked his entire life. Many of Dad's former students have told me how he positively impacted their lives through his teaching.

My mother's gift was in music. She utilized this God-given talent by teaching piano to many students in the Circleville area. She also served as church organist and pianist in several local churches. At Mother's funeral, one of her former students commented on one of Mother's virtues, that of patience. She summed it up when she stated, "She taught more than just piano to me on that bench."

God gives us a directive in Deuteronomy 5:16 to "Honor thy parents." Now that they both have gone on to receive their heavenly rewards, I thought it appropriate to honor their years of dedicated service in this community by establishing a scholarship named in their memory.

I am pleased and excited to witness the growth at Ohio Christian University and the educational opportunities being offered to individuals both here in Circleville and around the globe. Even more, I am glad that this university is grounded in Godly principles as set forth by His Word.

*Leave a
legacy*

There are many great ways you can leave a legacy on behalf of someone who has impacted your life for Christ.

- » Create a scholarship
- » Name a facility
- » Sponsor a team

To establish a fund or get more information, please call the University Advancement office at 740-420-5918.

Kimberlee Brown

{Junior, Traditional Program}

Hometown: Clarksville, TN

Major: Elementary Education (K-3)

Why did you decide to transfer to OCU? After I graduated high school, I attended a local secular college because it was inexpensive and convenient. While there, I connected with a Christian group. I felt like a part of the group and loved, but while in leadership, I discovered it was all a mask. Meanwhile, my two great uncles would badger me to check out OCU. My response was always, "Next year," or "Next semester." It wasn't until I went on a mission trip during spring break (2011) that I discovered I shouldn't be at my college and decided to check out OCU as soon as possible. God tugged at my heart saying, "This is where I want you to be."

Many people I've met at OCU have become great accountability partners for me. The people here are uplifting and authentic, and I love it! Although I miss home and can't visit on the weekends, I know I am loved just as much here. God is doing a great work at OCU, and I am grateful to be a part of it.

What is your favorite thing about your major? I love children.

A lot of people are intimidated by the responsibility of helping children develop into educated adults, but I see it as an opportunity to implant Christian values into secularly influenced minds. I want to be a part of growing a new generation and showing Christ's love to those who may not see it on a day-to-day basis.

Favorite campus activity: Chapel. I love worshipping and growing in the Lord. Since I transferred to OCU, attending two chapel services weekly has given me a stronger desire for the Lord.

What do you like most about OCU? I love the community feeling. Since it is a small campus, everybody knows everybody. Yes, everybody will know your business. But that's what comes with being a family. That is what OCU is, a family. We love, encourage, and help each other through the toughest of times. I can always count on those around me for anything I would ever need from financial to spiritual support.



Favorite spot on campus and why: My favorite spot on campus is the field. When I sit in the middle of the field staring at the sky on a warm sunny day, I can't help but think of how awesome our God is for making such a beautiful creation, the world.

What are your future plans? I transferred to OCU as a sophomore, and I plan to graduate from OCU with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education focusing on kindergarten through third grade. I plan to teach the following fall; although I have no specific place I want to teach. God guided me here, and I know I can trust Him to guide my future.

Kris Olsson

California Vice President Experiences Spiritual Awakening in Online Christian Ministry Program

BY KRIS OLSSON, VICE PRESIDENT AT OLSSON CONSTRUCTION, INC.



I was born and raised in Southern California as the oldest of three children. We had a fairly “normal” suburban life growing up. My parents, as products of a non-practicing Catholic upbringing, came to Christ in a meaningful way when I was about five years old. We faithfully attended Christian churches throughout my early years until I broke away in my late teens, attending sporadically for a number of years, and then returning sometime in my twenties.

Today, I am happily married to a very charming and beautiful wife who inspires me to work toward living and leading in a God-honoring way. We have two wonderful children, a boy and a girl, who are constant reminders to me not to take life so seriously. We are blessed to have our third bundle of joy on the way.

Currently in my twentieth year working in the construction industry, I am now serving the role of Vice President at Olsson Construction, Inc., a family business which was founded by my father in 1995. The company performs private

and public works construction projects in Southern California, specializing in water/wastewater treatment plants and pump/lift stations.

Learning is a passion of mine. I spend quite a bit of time studying books on leadership and personal growth, or participating in growth events such as those put on by John Maxwell and others with a more spiritual emphasis like The Master’s Program, a non-profit ministry, founded by Bob Shank, designed to help leaders leverage their time, treasure, and talent for eternal significance.

Last January, I received an email from the staff at EQUIP Leadership (a non-profit organization, founded by John Maxwell, whose vision I also believe in and support) informing me of some new leadership programs that had been implemented at Ohio Christian University. While browsing the OCU website to check out the new things EQUIP had been doing, I happened upon the course descriptions for the Christian Ministry program. As I looked, I remember thinking to myself, “That

class would be interesting...and that one would be neat...and that one would be fun...” all the way down the list. I felt it was not a coincidence, and I was supposed to take action. I went home that night and told my wife about it. She thought I was nuts. The general feeling was that I already spent more time at work than she would like, I was already reading and studying quite a bit in my free time, and to add a full-time school schedule would mean even less of me would be available for her and the kids.

A week later, the feeling inside hadn’t diminished. In fact, it had grown stronger. So, I picked up the phone, called Admissions, and requested information. By the time I left the office that day, there was no doubt that I was supposed to register. I remember telling God that if He wanted me at OCU, He was going to have to convince my wife. That night, I brought it up again, and without hesitation my wife told me that if I decided to go for it, she would support me.

I assured her that if things were not working by the end of the first semester, I would know it was not from God, and I would quit.

Now, after having been in the Christian Ministry program at OCU since March, it is evident that God wanted me there. He has come through in a supernatural way. I am doing more than ever, but it is working. My marriage is better than ever, and I am still managing to spend more time with my family than I had been previously. People who have known me for years have said they notice something different about me—good different. For years, I watched men and women come to Christ in their 20's, 30's, 40's... and their lives were transformed. They were “on fire.” Being in the church since I was a child, I never had that experience. I had always viewed those experiences in one of two ways: either there was something wrong with me, or those people were phonies. However, I now find myself in the middle of just such a spiritual awakening.

I'm not going to tell you that all of these great things are solely the result of the Christian Ministry program at OCU, but God has certainly used it to bring about growth and change in my life. The program has offered wonderful new insights, exposed me to new ways of thinking, and has stretched me spiritually. I am closer to God than I have ever been, and loving it.



The Talleys Begin Online Education at OCU

Ohio Christian University is happy to announce the recent enrollment of members of the nationally known Southern Gospel recording artists, The Talleys. Debra Talley (*above, left*) and Brian and Lauren (Talley) Alvey (*above, right*) recently enrolled in OCU's online degree program. We welcome them to the OCU family. The AIM program opens the door to continuing education for those whose ministries or careers make it impossible to be a part of a traditional campus program.

Other artists include recent OCU graduate, Brooklyn (Collingsworth) Blair of the Collingsworth Family, “the Singing Cop” from season nine of American Idol, Bryan Walker of the Perrys, Vincent & Leighton Dubbeld, and Shannon Smith of Three Bridges.

Complete your degree at OCU — on campus or online!

To apply or learn more about OCU's Adult & Online degree programs, please visit www.OhioChristian.edu or call 1-877-496-8342 to speak with an enrollment counselor.



Larry & Joanne Powell

{ Established New OCU Scholarship }

A college degree in engineering lifted my father and grandparents from near poverty. They knew the meaning of sacrifice, and my grandmother, all off five feet tall, would not take no for an answer when she chose a college for my father and said he was going to Ohio Northern. For my father, it would become a life-long passion for education and a loyalty to the college which so greatly benefited him, and later, those of his children.

My father's "home version" of a scholarship started with the education of his three children. As each of his grandchildren was born, their college funds were created. It was considered one of the most important parts of their inheritance from Grandpa. None dared to question if college was an option for them.

My father was a loyal giver to his college, as well as my mother's (the same as mine), and my sister's. He helped to establish a scholarship fund for minorities at my brother's alma mater. By the time he passed away, he had established scholarships at three different universities.

Larry and I can do no less than carry on that legacy of giving by establishing a scholarship at Ohio Christian University. Through the years we have understood the tremendous advantage of a college degree, and we wholly support Christian education that teaches with a Christ-centered worldview. In a time when truth is treated as optional, or nonexistent, the need for a Christian education becomes more urgent.

Sadly, the need for tuition resources becomes an obstacle for some students, and that is where we can all help. Establishing a student scholarship can make the difference in the lives of so many students who may not be able to apply or stay in school until their degree is completed. These fine young men and women need to see first-hand the faithfulness of giving from those who have already been blessed.

“When truth is treated as optional, or nonexistent, the need for a Christian education becomes more urgent.”



Microsoft COO Kevin Turner to Speak at OCU Commencement

Dr. Smith had the privilege of meeting with Microsoft COO, Kevin Turner while at the John Maxwell Exchange event in November. OCU is pleased to announce that Mr. Turner will be the speaker for the 2012 Commencement Ceremony.

Ministering to Generation Z

MARCH
23

\$10 per person

\$25 per group of 3+

How can the church connect with Generation Z teens who were born with PCs, mobile phones, gaming devices, MP3 players, the ubiquitous Internet, and have grown up in a world of iPhones and iPods? There's never been a better time to make the connection. Speakers include Ray McCrary, President of Live God Loud Ministries (formerly known as Appalachian Youth Ministries); Dan Coy, Youth Pastor, Parkway House of Prayer in Roanoke, Virginia; Jon Truex, Youth Pastor, Heritage Memorial CCCU in Washington Court House, Ohio; and Aaron Duvall, OCU Chaplain and pastor of University Church.



Ray McCrary



Dan Coy



Aaron Duvall



Jon Truex



For more information, call 740-420-5903 or visit the website:

www.ChurchPlantingInstitute.com

OCU Team Meets President of Sierra Leone



Drs. Mark Smith, Hank Kelly, and David Lattimer met with the President of Sierra Leone and invited him to visit campus.

BY DR. HANK KELLY, PROVOST

In photo, from left: Charles Roberts, OCU Alumnus from Sierra Leone; Sierra Leone President Ernest Koroma; OCU President Mark Smith; OCU Professor David Lattimer; and OCU Provost Hank Kelly.

Ohio Christian University (OCU) President Mark A. Smith met the Republic of Sierra Leone President Ernest Bai Koroma and several of his cabinet members on September 28, 2011, in Charleston, West Virginia. President Koroma was visiting America to attract investors to his country—including institutions of higher education. President Koroma told Dr. Smith that when he returns to America next year he will visit Ohio Christian University.

When asked about the meeting, President Smith said, “This is an experience of a lifetime. President Koroma is a Christian in a primarily Muslim country and is trying to clean up corruption in his country.

Perhaps OCU can help the country with education. We will explore options with the president’s staff.”

Other OCU representatives who met President Koroma and his cabinet members were Provost Dr. Hank Kelly, Professor Dr. David Lattimer, and recent Alumnus Charles Roberts, class of ’79, who is originally from Sierra Leone and spoke with President Koroma in his native language.

President Koroma has been president since 2007 and is only the fourth president of Sierra Leone. He will run for re-election in 2012. Sierra Leone is rich in natural resources, especially diamonds, titanium ore, bauxite, iron ore, gold, and

chromite. It covers a total area of 27,700 square miles (slightly smaller than South Carolina) and has a population of 5.4 million people. Sierra Leone is located in West Africa, bordered by Guinea to the north and east, Liberia to the southeast, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west and southwest.

From 1991 to 2002, Sierra Leone was embroiled in a brutal civil conflict which saw more than 50,000 people killed and thousands more mutilated. But today, Sierra Leone is safe and functioning as a democracy. The country consists of sixty percent Muslim, ten percent Christian, and thirty percent indigenous beliefs.

Dr. Malon Mimms honored at 2011 OCU Commencement



Dr. Malon Mimms Provides Historic **\$2.5 million** Gift

OCU is pleased to announce that Atlanta businessman, Dr. Malon Mimms, has gifted a 2.5 million dollar building and property in Atlanta, Georgia.

The building is located on I-75 and will establish the second Georgia site for OCU. President Mark Smith in making the announcement said, "This gift is the largest ever received by OCU, and we are so grateful for the generosity of our friend, Dr. Malon Mimms."

In giving the gift, Dr. Mimms expressed a hope to provide a great opportunity for the Atlanta area by investing in Ohio Christian University. Dr. Mimms also expressed that he hopes others will be inspired to give to the causes of Christian Education.

Conference SERVICES



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- ❧ BANQUETS
- ❧ CONCERTS
- ❧ WEDDINGS
- ❧ SUMMER CAMPS
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"Come enjoy our state of the art campus 20 minutes south of Columbus with professional and courteous staff to serve your needs."

—Ben Belleman,
Conference Services Director

For more information email us at
bbelleman@ohiochristian.edu or call 740-477-7769



Back Row: Jenni Lloyd, Nonna Melnik, Tamara Holder, Jermaine Wilson, Jenna Wood, Mike Farrell, Dexter Chapman
Front Row: Larry Powell, Doug Baker, Scott Applegate, Dan DeLong, Becky Mancini, Larry Schieber, Sacha Walicord, Dale Lear

The Classroom Meets the Real World at OCU

Ohio Christian University's Business Association hosted the second annual Small Business Round Table in November, bringing together sixty-five OCU students and six business people, most of whom are small business owners. The topic was starting and managing a small business.



(Left) Doug Baker, Becky Mancini, Larry Schieber, & Scott Applegate

Present at this year's event were Scott Applegate of US Bank, Doug Baker of Sharffs, Dan DeLong of DeLong Insurance, Becky Mancini of Maggie & Me Fashions, Larry Powell of Bowen Powell and Company, and Larry Schieber of Schieber Family Pharmacy.

"We greatly appreciate these business leaders assisting with the education process of our students," said OCU President Mark Smith.

Dr. Sacha Walicord, Chair of the OCU Business Department, commented, "It is important that students not only understand the academic principles of business, but also see that what is learned in the classroom is really applicable to real world experience."

From Mancini, students learned how to secure funding and were warned to not accept high balance credit card offers. Applegate further explained how important personal credit is when trying to secure funding. "How you pay your personal bills, is how you'll pay your business bills," said Applegate.

instrumental in giving key advice from the lender's point of view.

Powell, who is also an adjunct professor at OCU, made certain that students understood that when you own your own business, you must have a work ethic; you do not always have the luxury of vacations—especially when you want them. Powell asked the other panelist how many were in the office during the Thanksgiving weekend, and two of other panelist raised their hand.

Passion for your business niche was a point stressed by Doug Baker. He told students that if you are not passionate about what you do, it is very unlikely that you will endure the difficult times in business.

The question was asked, "How has the current federal administration's policies impacted business?" Both Schieber and DeLong said

that the current policies have had a significant impact on their pricing. Both pharmaceutical and insurance industries are heavily regulated by the federal government. Schieber said that pricing is no longer a major issue for his business because the government tells him what he can and cannot charge for medicine.

Most of the students attending the event are majoring in Business, and some indicated their plans to start a small business upon graduating.

The event was organized by OCU's Business Association, led by students. Jermaine Wilson, as president, served as moderator for the event. Also assisting with the event were Vice President Jenna Wood, Secretaries Jenni Lloyd and Tamara Holder, Treasurers Mike Farrell and DeLorean Glanton, and Nona Melnik and Dexter Chapman, in charge of public relations.

(Below) Jermaine Wilson, Larry Powell, Dan DeLong, Doug Baker, & Becky Mancini





Church Planting Institute & Pastor Appreciation Day

Pastors and church leaders from several states gathered with OCU ministry students in Detty Chapel on October 6, 2011, to be challenged and inspired at the Church Planting Institute and OCU's first Pastor Appreciation Day.

BY TONY MCCRARY, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH RELATIONS

Dr. Mark Smith, President of Ohio Christian University, and Dr. Benny Tate, Pastor of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia, presented three sessions on church growth and leadership.

The day began with Dr. Smith's presentation of *Partnerships – Achieving the Great Commission*. His message to those in attendance was to find partnerships in order to enhance one's individual ministry and to challenge churches to serve within their communities by finding common ground to meet needs such as poverty, medical needs, hunger, safety, and education. These partnerships can be built by connecting with community leaders—seeking their advice, inviting them to your congregation—and by committing to help solve community needs.



Dr. Benny Tate was the presenter for sessions two and three. Dr. Tate is the Pastor of Rock Springs Church, which under his leadership has grown from 100 to 6,000 in 20 years. His first session was entitled: *The Pastor Who Will Pastor the Mega-Church*. In this session, Dr. Tate presented tools for personal growth and reflection, as well as points for effective pastoral leadership. His second session, *The Healthy Church*, focused on the dreams that pastors and church leaders must have in order for the church to grow. Dr. Tate gave three reasons that the church's best days are ahead: greater population, greater technology, and greater Holy

Spirit power. He closed by challenging the pastors to go back to their churches with a renewed passion to be shepherds called by God to minister and be leaders, not only in the church but in their communities as well.



With these great messages, moments of worship, and special music by OCU's Ablaze, everyone in attendance left with a fresh inspiration for new personal and spiritual heights.

Following the Church Planting Institute sessions, pastors were invited to the Maxwell Leadership Center for a Pastors Appreciation Luncheon. All in attendance, many of whom were alumni, also received gifts to show the university's gratitude for their ongoing work to build God's kingdom around the world.

The next Church Planting Institute event, *Ministering to Generation Z Teens*, will be Friday, March 23, 2012. How can the church connect with Generation Z—teens who were born with PCs, mobile phones, gaming devices, MP3 players, and the ubiquitous Internet, and have grown up in a world of iPhones and iPods? There's never been a better time to make the connection. Speakers include Ray McCrary, President of Live God Loud Ministries (formerly known as Appalachian Youth Ministries); Dan Coy, Youth Pastor, Parkway House of Prayer in Roanoke, Virginia; Jon Truex, Youth Pastor, Heritage Memorial CCCU in Washington Court House, Ohio; and Aaron Duvall, OCU Chaplain and pastor of University Church. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us on the OCU campus for another great training day sponsored by the Melvin Maxwell Church Planting Institute. For more information, please call 740-420-5903 or visit www.ChurchPlantingInstitute.com.



OCU Pastor of the Year, Rev. David & Connie Dean

Rev. David Dean, class of 1970, was presented with the distinguished Pastor of the Year Award in recognition of his years of partnership with the university and his pastoral ministry and leadership within the communities he has served.

OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Alumni

A S S O C I A T I O N



HOMECOMING

BY JULIA SORLEY, ALUMNI COORDINATOR

One weekend a year, students, faculty, alumni and friends gather together to celebrate the legacy and tradition of Ohio Christian University. This year's homecoming featured a number of great events, including our annual Gospel Concerts, Linking Legacies Golf Outing, and Alumni Gathering.

Kicking off the weekend, students participated in a backyard brawl, where the freshman left champions after a tough game of flag football. The following morning, students, alumni, and staff were encouraged to attend the Homecoming Chapel service led by 2006 graduate, Cory Sullivan.

On Thursday morning, Rev. Benny Tate and Dr. Mark Smith hosted the annual Church Planting Institute (see page 32). The event focused on two main points: Becoming a Healthy Church, and Community & Church Partnering. It was immediately followed by a pastor appreciation luncheon, hosted by Director of Church Relations, Tony McCrary. Thursday evening, students were invited to participate in the first annual



Alumni Panel. The Alumni Panel featured graduates Dr. Jonah Mitchell (1970), Mr. Tony Mosley (1986), and Mrs. Chris Zimmerman (2011). This event gave students the opportunity to ask panelists questions concerning life after college and how alumni have utilized their degrees. Later that night, students and faculty had the chance to play a part in the Follies, hosted by OCU's Student Activities Council (SAC), followed by a torch run through the city of Circleville.

Bright and early Friday morning, OCU hosted the annual Linking Legacies Golf Outing. With a great turnout and perfect weather, the event was a hit, raising almost \$25,000 for scholarships. That evening, OCU hosted the first of a two-night Gospel Concert, featuring The Greenes, Karen Peck & New River, Brian Free & Assurance, and The Talley Trio.

On Saturday, OCU celebrated its 6th Annual Alumni Gathering with alumni, faculty and friends. President Smith opened by welcoming everyone and giving updates on the university. After lunch, children were encouraged to participate in games led by OCU's Student Government, while alumni spent time in fellowship. Homecoming came to a close with the final Gospel concert of the weekend featuring The Perry's, The Dove Brothers, Mark Trammell Quartet, and The Royallaires.

This year's homecoming was a great success. Alumni had the chance to reunite with former classmates, catch up with old friends, and celebrate the ministry of OCU. It was a great weekend for alumni of all ages!

Did you travel with a music team?

The Alumni Relations office is working on a reunion of music groups for Homecoming 2012. If you were part of a traveling team at OCU/CBC and are interested in getting your group back together, please send email to alumni@ohiochristian.edu.



Alumni Events

MARCH
24

Indianapolis Alumni Lunch & Concert with the OCU Choir

Join us at the Southwest Church of the Nazarene in Indianapolis, Indiana, for a luncheon honoring all Ohio Christian University Alumni, while enjoying music performed by the OCU Choir. Sponsored by alumnus, Dr. Keith Grove ('75)

OCTOBER
24

Toler Brothers & Sandi Patty
HOMECOMING WEEKEND

This year's homecoming will feature events for the whole family, as well as class reunions and alumni athletic events. Mark your calendars for OCU's finest homecoming yet.

Also, join us in honoring alumni, Stan Toler ('73), with brothers Terry Toler ('88) and Mark Hollingsworth ('81) as they perform at this year's Gospel Concert.

For more information, contact Julia Sorley at (740) 420-5903 or alumni@ohiochristian.edu.

Join next year's homecoming committee or help plan your class reunion!

If you have ideas or want to help, send email to alumni@ohiochristian.edu or call (740) 420-5903.



1 A group of OCU Alumni connected at Wesley Biblical Seminary's Transform:ED Conference in October. It was a great time to see old OCU friends and meet new ones.

Above, left-to-right: *Michael Tipton ('04); John Phillips, OCU Online Adjunct Faculty; Dr. Dan Burnett, former Academic Dean; Michael Culp ('09); Jessica Peabody ('06); Kyle Dearing ('11); Rebecca Scribner ('05); Matthew Newman ('09); Sean Scribner ('04); Jeremy Kemer ('11).*

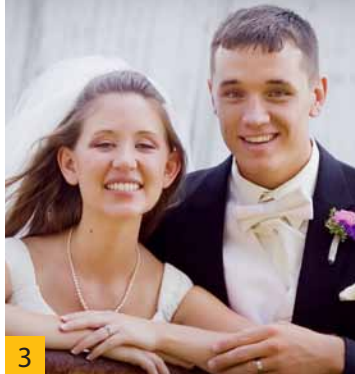
Kyle Dearing, class of 2011, and his wife, **Stephanie (Lindeman), class of 2011**, were married on May 21, 2011, at Crossroads CCCU in Circleville. Immediately following their marriage, they began a new pastorate at Faith Chapel CCCU. Kyle is now working on his Master of Divinity at Wesley Biblical Seminary, and Stephanie has begun working on a Master's in counseling at Liberty University. The couple currently resides in Ontario, Ohio.

Tina Craft, class of 2010, has begun graduate studies at Kent State University in Library and Information Science with the goal of becoming a music librarian with expertise in cataloging and acquisitions.

Tim Bennett, class of 1981, and his wife, **Diane (Christy), class of 1982**, began pastoring at the Westside Church in the spring of 2011. Diane has recently begun a new ministry, Diane Bennett Now Ministries. Her most recent speaking engagement gave her the opportunity to speak to

military wives on the biblical understanding of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). Tim and Diane currently reside in Alma, Georgia.

Derek Catron, class of 1994, and his wife, **Amy (Brown), class of 1994**, previously served at Lake Charles 1st Church of the Nazarene in Louisiana. In the winter of 2012, Derek and Amy moved to Frankfort, Kentucky, to accept the position as senior pastor at the Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene. Derek and Amy have two children, Ben, 12, and Emi Shay, 4.



send your updates!

Visit www.ohiochristian.edu/alumni or send email to alumni@ohiochristian.edu by April 1, 2012 to be included in the next issue of *OhioChristian*.

2 Following her graduation from the AIM program, **Kenna (Bolender), class of 2011**, was married to Michael Blevins on June 12, 2011 at the Pinnacle Golf Club in Grove City, Ohio. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Gerald Mershimer, a professor at OCU. Kenna is a full-time employee in the OCU Traditional Admissions Office. Michael works for Maintenance and Athletics, while serving as the youth pastor for the Oakthorpe Church in Rushville, Ohio. The couple currently resides in Circleville, Ohio.

3 Sarah (Johnson), class of 2010, was married to Max Ray, current OCU senior, on August 16 2011. Sarah now works in the Financial Aid Office at the university. Max serves as the Assistant Resident Director of York Hall where he and Sarah currently reside in Circleville, Ohio.

Tristan Borland, class of 2001, is currently serving as the senior pastor at Riverview Church in Pine River, Minnesota, with his wife Jill.

4 Aaron Shipe, class of 2011, and Joanna (Haworth), class of 2011, were married on July 16, 2011 at the Circleville First Church in Circleville, Ohio. Joanna now serves as the Administrative Assistant for the Office of Operations at OCU. Aaron works at the Kingston National Bank in Bloomfield, Ohio. The couple currently resides in Circleville, Ohio.

5 Lacey (Runion), class of 2011, was married to Mike Cessna, current AIM student, on June 18, 2011. Lacey plans to begin Ashland Theological Seminary in January 2012 with the intent of receiving a Master's degree in Clinical Counseling. She and her husband currently reside in Circleville, Ohio.

Congratulations to Dr. Ralph Hux!

Ralph, class of 1989, was recently awarded a Doctorate of Ministry, from Asbury Theological Seminary. His dissertation evaluated the effectiveness of assimilation strategies of The Churches of Christ in Christian Union (CCCU). Please join us in congratulating Dr. Hux on this great accomplishment!



University Welcomes New Alumni Coordinator

BY KIMBERLY EADES
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



In July, Ohio Christian

University welcomed alumnus Julia Sorley to the Advancement team as the new Alumni Coordinator. Julia attended Indiana Wesleyan University for three years before transferring to Ohio Christian and graduating in the spring of 2011 with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, focusing in youth ministry and education.

During her time at Indiana Wesleyan University, Julia worked for two years in the Alumni Relations Department. Prior to coming to Ohio Christian, she served as the Youth and Children's Director at Logansport United Methodist Church in Logansport, Indiana. While at Ohio Christian, she served as the interim youth pastor at Good Shepherd Wesleyan Church in Jackson, Ohio.

On June 11, 2011, Julia married Reece Sorley, OCU Assistant Director for Conference Services and the Custodial Service Coordinator. Julia also serves as the Assistant Resident Director (ARD) for Moore Hall, where she and her husband reside.



in Memoriam

Tom Bender Awarded Master of Arts Posthumously



Ohio Christian University honors the life of Rev. Tom Bender. Tom was in OCU's Master of Arts in Ministry program from its inception and was to finish all requirements for the degree in fall 2011. He was going to be the program's first graduate. Tom was the Dean of Students at Valor Christian College and an elder of World Harvest Church. Both organizations were founded by OCU Alumnus Pastor Rod Parsley, who said of Bender:

"He was not only a fearless minister of the Gospel, but also an encourager and leader to everyone associated with this ministry. He was especially devoted to his students at Valor Christian College, and the messages received after his entry into his eternal reward testified of the tremendous legacy he left in their spirits."

OCU President Mark Smith adds, "Rev. Bender was a friend and encourager to those in the ministry. He was a true servant who poured his life into serving others. Only heaven will reveal how many people were led to Jesus by Tom Bender."

We ask that you remember Tom's wife and daughters in prayer.

Alumni Pastors in the Church of the Nazarene

BY TONY MCCRARY, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH RELATIONS

The alumni of Ohio Christian University are changing the world for Christ in many different areas of ministry and service. Stories are often told of what God is doing through the lives and ministries of individuals who have graduated from OCU and are now in ministry.

This article highlights the ministry journeys of two graduates who are currently pastoring in the Church of the Nazarene.

Dr. Keith Grove

Dr. Keith Grove is currently the Senior Pastor at Southwest Church of the Nazarene in Indianapolis, Indiana. In his own words, Dr. Grove shares his ministry story:

“January 1971, I enrolled as a student at Circleville Bible College, now Ohio Christian University, in search of a spiritually safe environment. I had been rebelling against God and His call on my life for several years. On January 29, 1971, during the winter college revival, I made my way to the altar with the purpose of repenting of my sins and getting back in fellowship with the Lord. He was faithful to forgive me. Praise the Lord!

I met Teresa Hamilton a few days after arriving on campus. I knew immediately that she was a special person and that I wanted to know her. We had our first date for the annual Valentine Party in February 1971, and on August 14, 1971 we were married. We celebrated our 40th anniversary this year. God has blessed us with three beautiful daughters, three handsome “sons-in-love” and five exceptionally talented, smart, pretty/handsome grandchildren (I’m prejudiced). We are further blessed in that our family members are involved in our pastoral ministry.

I graduated from OCU in 1975, completed my Masters of Arts at Ashland Theological Seminary in 1979, and I received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Faith Christian College in Largo, Florida, in 1999.

In 1973, I began my pastoral ministry as a student pastor in Greenfield, OH, Church of Christ in Christian Union. The Lord has blessed us with pastoral ministries in Ohio, Florida, Maine, Michigan, and for the last 16 years in Indianapolis, Indiana.



*Dr. Keith & Teresa
Hamilton, then
and now:
1971 (above)
2010 (right)*



I was ordained in 1975 by the Churches of Christ in Christian Union and in 1983 joined the Church of the Nazarene. During my nearly 40 years of pastoral ministry, I have also had the privilege of serving as an evangelist for 70 plus revival meetings. I have been on work and witness trips to South America and the Caribbean. My ministry has also included teaching in District Ministerial Training classes. A highlight for me has been those who have been called into ministry during our pastoral leadership. It has been my privilege to serve on numerous denominational boards and committees.

I am deeply grateful for the professors, administrative staff, and personnel of OCU whom God used to help develop me spiritually, emotionally, academically, and theologically. I am proud to be an alumnus of OCU. May the Lord continue to bless the ministry of Ohio Christian University.”

Dr. Grove continues to support OCU and its alumni by hosting banquets and gatherings. In the summer of 2009, he hosted a banquet in Orlando, Florida, and invited alumni from around the world to attend the banquet held during the Nazarene General Assembly. On March 24, 2012, he will host another alumni banquet in Indianapolis, Indiana. Many of the OCU staff and personnel will be present for the gathering, and the university chorale will be performing as well. Plan now to join us for this exciting event.



Rev. Wendell Brown

OCU Alumnus Igniting Spiritual Renewal in Circleville Community

After graduating from OCU and leaving the Circleville area, Pastor Wendell Brown has returned as the Senior Pastor of the Circleville Church of the Nazarene. The church has exploded in growth, building programs, and community outreach. Wendell shares his ministry journey.

“My ministry story starts with two very significant pieces that God put together. The first was my education at Ohio Christian University, and the second is my wife Tammi (Elkins, '96) who I met at OCU.

It is fair to say that I have been blessed wonderfully through my education, and continue to be blessed because of my wife, her encouragement through the years, and our four children: Emma, Abigail, Grace, and Christian. Ministry life has not always been easy, but it has been very rewarding and fulfilling.

It is hard to believe, but I have been in ministry 17 years, serving in four churches during that time. I began in youth ministry while I was a student at OCU, as I served a wonderful congregation at Frankfort United Methodist Church in Frankfort, OH. Statistics show that the first five years in ministry make or break the minister. I believe I

OCU Soccer (below) and Basketball Teams Participate in the Upward Sports program at Circleville Church of the Nazarene



am still in ministry today because of that great congregation loving on Tammi and I, and our family. It was a great experience, and we have friendships there to this day.

From there, we landed all the way south in my hometown of Huntsville, Alabama. In 2002, we began to pastor Huntsville Calvary Church of the Nazarene. It was a return to my roots another way as well, as I was returning to the denomination I grew up in. It was my first time to be a “Senior” pastor, and it certainly was a learning experience. The congregation was patient with me, and we were so blessed to have a group of people willing to let God lead them. We saw God do some wonderful things there, as we began to reach out to one of the worst crime-ridden areas in Huntsville. One great highlight happened when a grandmother stood up in that multi-cultural setting and confessed to the church that she was addicted to crack

cocaine. We gather around her and prayed. To God’s glory, she was delivered from her addiction. It was a great experience to see God work in that manner!

In 2005, the Lord directed us to Dickson, TN, and we began to pastor Jason Chapel Church of the Nazarene. We were blessed to see God work as we started a MOPS ministry, two Upward Soccer seasons a year, and adjusted to a church in a rural setting instead of being in an inner city ministry as we were in Huntsville. Our church was located about eight miles outside of town, but during that time we saw great growth. We were blessed to see over 100 people come to Christ and join the church during our time there. Many more came to Christ through Upward and MOPS.

The year 2009 found God leading us back to Circleville, Ohio, a place where we never dreamed we would return. We are now pastoring Circleville Nazarene Church, and

it is such a tremendous blessing to have a group of people that desire to please the Lord with their abilities and talents. I am blessed to have a fantastic staff and an amazing lay leadership team. I thank God every day for the group He has assembled and how He is using us!

Looking back on this journey, there have been many more ups than downs. I am grateful for my education at Ohio Christian University, and the education that God has given me on the job. If there is one thing I have learned more than any other, it is that faces are what matters, not numbers. Loving others cannot be learned in a classroom, it must come from the love of God within you. If you love people, I believe ministry is ALWAYS rewarding!”

These are just two of the many stories that could be shared as God continues to use our graduates to accomplish His mission around the world.





You can help train leaders to change the world.

our needs

Disaster Management & Relief Training	\$1 million
Ministry and Performing Arts Center	\$3 million
Ministry Resource Training Center	\$5 million
Campus Infrastructure	\$1 million
Student Center	\$1 million
Endowment	\$5 million
Resident Hall	\$2 million
Agribusiness & Economic Development	\$2 million

getting involved

Ohio Christian University is experiencing one of the most exciting times in its 64-year history. OCU is impacting the world through graduates who are leaders in their vocations, professions, communities, families and churches. As we continue to grow and look to the future, we need your help.

Will you join us in continuing to impact the world for Christ? To direct your contribution toward one of these needs, contact President Mark Smith at (740) 477-7713 or Vice President for Advancement Mark Taylor at (740) 420-5918.

OHIO CHRISTIAN
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OCU Baseball National Appearance

The 2011 baseball season ended with another National Tournament appearance. Led by All American's Brandon Metzger, Mike Blevins and **Stephan Vasiloff**, the team battled through the season with a 17-15 record.

Coaches Greg and Brian Bigam continue to grow the program and get the most out of each player. In winning the Mid-East Region, the team had five players make the All Region team: **Max Ray**, **Kelton Sines**, Stephan Vasiloff, Mike Blevins, and **player of the year Brandon Metzger**.



Mike Blevins was recognized by OCU coaches and received the prestigious Trailblazer Award, which honors OCU's top athlete who also demonstrates character, serves in ministry, and demonstrates respect.

The 2012 version of the baseball team looks even brighter with key returners Kelton Sines, Brandon Metzger, Max Ray, **Ryan Black**, and **Ron Goodwin**. Key recruits and deeper pitching will add to the team for the upcoming season.

Volleyball Finishes 3rd in Mid-East Region

The 2011 Volleyball season brought a new look with a new head coach, Dave Hopewell, who stepped up when former coach Wes Brothers moved into the position of Director of Financial Aid. The team had just a few returners play this season, but they came together on the court to win a record of 17-14, their best in recent history. The Lady Trailblazers finished 2nd in the OCAC, 3rd in the NCCAA Mid-East Region and brought an exciting brand of play to the court. The team is excited for the future with many key players returning and the prospect of adding some good recruits.



BY BEN BELLEMAN
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

2012 Volleyball Recognitions

- » OCAC Player of the Year
Kristen Uetrecht
- » 1st Team OCAC
Mary Ashbaucher, Abigail Ashbaucher
- » 1st Team Mid-East Region
Kristen Uetrecht, Abigail Ashbaucher
- » Honorable Mention
Mary Ashbaucher, Rachel Briggs

Women's Soccer: Best Season, but Not Settling

The 2011 Women's Soccer team was very young but high in new talent. Having to face mostly NAIA opponents, the team fought hard and was determined, but often came up short. The 6-14-0 mark is the best record this young program has had but is by no means where they want to be. "We have our goal out there and that is to make it to nationals. In all 3 years of the program we have come up one game short of that. It's going to happen, and we're hoping it will be next year," stated Coach Murton.

The ladies were led by freshman standout **Katie Saha** with 12 goals, a school record for most goals in a season. Katie is now the school's all-time leading goal scorer. Another freshman to standout was **Kaitlyn Howard** who led the team in five assists, a school record for most in a season, and a tied record for most assists in school history. Junior Captain **Kim Uetrecht** led the team in many facets during the season. She even played goalkeeper at the end of the season, a first in her career.

Post season honors were once again awarded to the ladies. All-American 2nd Team honors went to freshman Katie Saha. She is the third OCU player to get such honors. All-Region 1st Team honors went to Katie Saha, Kim Uetrecht, **Heidi Bryan** and **Karissa Saultz**. Academic All-American went to Kim Uetrecht.

"The season didn't end the way we had hoped, but we have a solid young class and a bright future with this program. With two recruits already committed to 2012, we are well on our way to making 2012 be OCU's best," said Coach Murton.

Men's Soccer Finishes #4 in Nation

The Men's Soccer team of 2011 at OCU started the year with high hopes coming off a great run into the NCCAA Championship game of 2010, finishing #2 in the Nation. Additions to the roster and the return of numerous key players made OCU one of the nation's favorites to win the title this season.

The team finished the regular season with a 14-3-1 record, ranking 2nd in the NCCAA top-ten poll. The men won for the first time in program history over an NAIA (St. Catherine College) and NCAA D3 (Bluffton and Anderson) schools. In the Mid-East Regional Tournament, the Trailblazers finished the sweep of the region by winning both games and securing an automatic berth to nationals. The wins gave OCU a 30-0-0 record against the region over the last 3 years, and the men also did not allow a goal by any Mid-East Region opponent all year, a first in school history.

The National tournament began with a great win over Dallas Christian (7-1) but fizzled with tough and controversial losses to Northland International and Clearwater Christian, leaving the Trailblazers at number four. "What came out of our trip to the nationals were important life lessons. God doesn't tell us life is fair. He doesn't say life will be fun. But He does put us into positions to learn and trust Him more. He gave us a full dose of this, and we are extremely grateful. We are here to serve Him, and if that means we persevere through tough times, then let's do it" added Coach Murton.

Although the team faced these obstacles and will lose five key seniors, optimism remains high for OCU to make yet another run in 2012 at the National Championships with a solid young class and an experienced group of older players.



Dave Blamo led the team with 20 goals and 18 assists. Goal Keeper, **Steven Fabian** broke school records in shutouts (11) and in goals allowed per game (0.80).

The men again were honored with the school's biggest list of All Americans in 2011 with three 1st Team players, **Anthony Delong**, Steven Fabian and Dave Blamo, all of whom were selected for the first time. On the 2nd Team was **Emanuel Harris**, who two years ago was a 1st Team player and three years ago was a 2nd team All-American. All-Tournament Team honors went to Steven Fabian and Emanuel Harris. Academic All-American honors went to **Chad Dobbs**.

The 1st Team All-Region players were defender, Anthony Delong; goalkeeper, Steven Fabian; midfielder, Emanuel Harris; and forwards, Dave Blamo and **Adam Knox**. All Region 2nd Team players were midfielder, **Dexter Chapman**, and defenders, **Stu Hostetter** and **Jake Morrison**. Anthony Delong extended the streak of OCU athletes being named Regional Player of the Year for the third year in a row. Previous Players of the Year were **Kevin Street** (2010) and Emanuel Harris (2009). Coach Josh Murton was named Region Coach of the Year for the second time in 2011.



February 3, 8:00pm OCU vs. Freewill Baptist

Bring your youth group to an OCU basketball game this season! Your entire group will receive free game admission and free pizza after the game with the OCU basketball team.

Group campus tours are available before the games at 5:00PM. Reserve your spot today by emailing Rachel Fulks at rfulks@ohiochristian.edu.

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March 17, 2012, 5:45pm
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\$10 for concert (balcony seating)

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Coming Events!

For details and more events, visit
www.OhioChristian.edu/calendar



University Chorale & Ablaze Performance Schedule

February 26 Chorale
 Church of the Nazarene, Marysville, OH

February 29 Ablaze
 Grace Ministries, Lockbourne, OH

March 18 Chorale
 New Covenant CCCU, Waverly, OH

March 24 Chorale (Alumni Banquet)
 Southwest Church of the Nazarene, Indianapolis, IN

March 25 Chorale
 Southwest Church of the Nazarene, Indianapolis, IN

March 25 Chorale
 Church of Christ in Christian Union, Urbana, OH

April 1 Chorale
 First Baptist Church, Pickerington, OH

May 6 Ablaze
 Church of Christ in Christian Union, Bainbridge, OH

*There are still dates available for scheduling.
 To do so, please contact Tony McCrary, Director
 of Church Relations at (740) 420-5902 or
tmccrary@ohiochristian.edu.*

Feb	3	Pizza & Points Night - 5 pm (see page 45)
	16	AIM Information Session in Circleville - 6 pm
	20	Traditional Program Preview Day - 9 am
Mar	5	Traditional Program Spring Break Begins
	17	Dinner & Concert - 5:45 pm (see page 46)
	22	Traditional Program Preview Day - 9 am
	23	Church Planting Institute (see page 27)
	30	Traditional Program Mr. and Miss OCU Banquet
Apr	6	Good Friday - No Classes
	12	Traditional Program Preview Day - 9 am
	21	Hopefest - 4:00 pm
	24	Leadership Forum (see back cover)
	5	Commencement - 10 :00 am (see page 27)
May		

LEADERSHIP FORUM

APRIL
24
2012
6:00 PM

Ticketing Options

\$100 Premier Floor
(200 available)

\$50 General Floor

\$25 Balcony Seats



Dr. John C. Maxwell
*OCU Alumnus and
Renowned Leadership Expert*



Tim Tebow
*Heisman Trophy Winner
and NFL Quarterback*

EXECUTIVE SESSION 11am – 4pm

- Lunch and roundtable leadership training with Dr. John Maxwell, Steve Miller, and Chris Arington
- Picture and autograph opportunities with Tim Tebow & Dr. John Maxwell
- VIP seating for evening session

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