

Ohio Christian

the Ohio Christian University Magazine | Summer 2012



386 New Alumni!

- » Tim Tebow and Kevin Turner, Microsoft COO, on Campus
- » OCU Receives Medical Mutual Pillar Award for Community Service
- » Former Buckeye Tony Stockman to Lead OCU Men's Basketball

Blaine Byers of Byers Auto Gives
OCU a New Presidential Vehicle



Ohio Christian University is honored to receive a presidential car from Frank Byers of Byers Auto Group. OCU thanks Frank Byers for his generosity, kindness and support.



Ohio Christian University honored the 1982 Regional Championship Basketball team on the 30th anniversary of their magical postseason run during the 1981-82 season. The '82 team was the first team to compete as an NCCAA member, first to win a Regional Championship, first to earn a berth to the NCCAA National Championship Tournament, and first to have a player named as an NCCAA All-American (Dwight Mason). Drs. David Lattimer, David Case, and Mark Smith were on hand to welcome the players. At halftime, the #15 jersey of two time All-American and Career Assist Leader, Dwight Mason was officially retired.

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EDITOR
Mark A. Smith

DESIGN
Renee Handy
Karin Howard
Richelle McCullough

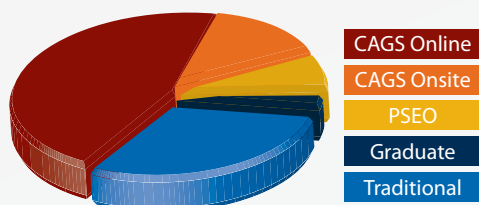
PHOTOGRAPHY
Elayne Cabrera
Jerahn Hyman
Dale Lear
Richelle McCullough
Korrin Miller
Orvil Peabody, Jr.
William Tingler

ADDRESS CHANGES

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



Thank you for the opportunity to serve at Ohio Christian University. God has been so good to share all of His blessings with us this past year. Your support and prayers are making the difference, and we could not make it without you.



2011-12 HIGHLIGHTS

- ➔ Enrollment surpassed 2,900 with 1,028 ministry students
- ➔ OCU received 2012 Medical Mutual Pillar Award for community involvement
- ➔ Church Relations and student teams ministered at more than 60 events
- ➔ Initiated Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Management (MM) programs
- ➔ Traditional students participated in small groups for spiritual development
- ➔ Hosted Church Planting Institute and inaugural Pastor Appreciation Day
- ➔ World Gospel Mission task force served in El Salvador; summer trips are planned for Papua New Guinea and Rwanda/Kenya

Church Relations

Tony & Abby McCrary have been a beautiful addition to our church relations and are organizing a new summer event titled *LifeTraks Leadership*. Tony has a burden for the laity of the church, and he is training the first 12 young people of this program to be great lay leaders in the church. This program will include topics such as personal finance, technology in the church, leading in your church, supporting your pastor, and becoming a disciple. We believe this new four-week program will strengthen many churches and laity for additional ministry.



Serving the Community

OCU continues to cultivate servant leaders to serve the church and the world. The university was honored with the 2012 Medical Mutual Pillar Award for its commitment to community initiatives such as Kids on Campus, Ralph C. Starkey Community Action Day, Christian service programming, and academics which integrate hands-on learning and service.

❁ Disaster Relief Students Serve CCCU Churches in New York

Students and faculty of the Disaster Management and Relief program provided aid to flood victims in New York, served tornado victims in Kentucky, and assisted the Pickaway County Agricultural Society with grant writing. The Disaster Management program also began offering free Disaster Services training in April 2012.

❁ Ministry through Athletics

The Ohio Christian University Trailblazers continue to demonstrate leadership through community service projects such as hosting youth sports camps, volunteering in a local soup kitchen, and mentoring at-risk youth. Former Buckeye Tony Stockman will lead the 2012-13 Men's Basketball Team. Tony's commitment to team building and servant leadership will reinforce the Blazers's legacy of serving in the community.



Lady Trailblazers serve in local soup kitchen

Ministerial Scholarship Plan

The Ohio Christian University Board of Trustees has committed to the establishment of a \$5 million ministerial scholarship fund for pastoral training. The goal of the initiative is to reduce the cost to ministers so they leave school with lower amounts of debt.

To invest in ministry scholarships, contact Mark Taylor at 740-420-5918 or email mtaylor@ohiochristian.edu.

1. Establish the Ministerial Scholarship Fund.
2. Direct the 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.

Campus Updates

Student Center



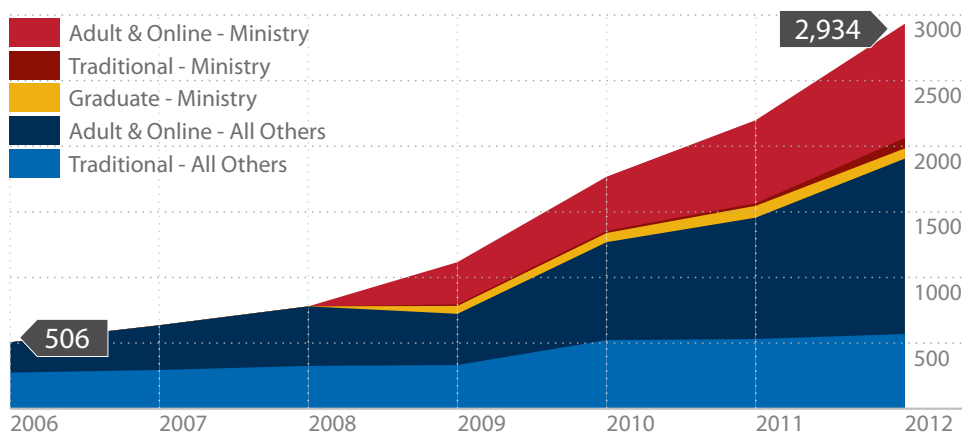
A new Student Center is being constructed as a wing of the Maxwell Center. The Student Center will consolidate the campus café, dining commons, and student mailboxes. The \$5 million addition will also provide classrooms, faculty offices, and offices for the student services department.



New Georgia Campus

This year Ohio Christian University secured two regional campuses in Georgia. Classes are currently being offered in Milner, Ga., at Rock Springs Church. A second site is being established in Atlanta, using a \$2.5 million dollar building and property which was donated by Dr. Malon Mimms. The gift is the largest ever received by OCU, and renovations are underway to convert the property to an educational facility.

Enrollment Surpassed 2,900



Spring 2012 enrollment was 2,934 with 1,028 students (35%) in ministry programs.

The university continues to experience enrollment growth across all programs, with pronounced growth in its online offerings. A large proportion of students are seeking to enroll at OCU for ministry training, and 35% of current students are enrolled in ministry programs.

Ministry Programs Explode onto the Scene

Over 1,000 ministry students are training at OCU—on campus in Circleville, online, and at regional sites in Ohio and Georgia. Dr. Kelly has led us through a series of wonderful new updates for our pastoral ministry program. A host of alumni pastors, including denominational leaders such as district superintendents, have given us input for a bi-vocational ministry program. We will equip students to be effective in ministry as well as professions such as business, counseling, and others that would allow for service in our society. We believe the bi-vocational ministry, agribusiness, and sport ministry programs, which are all ministry-focused, will enhance OCU ministry opportunities and strengthen the church. We will offer a pre-seminary 4-year baccalaureate degree for those who desire to go on to seminary. Our goal is to teach men and women to change the world by living out a life of holiness through service and love for Christ.

We believe God has great days ahead of us, but only as we stay committed to our mission and His will. It is a privilege to work with you, and I look forward to where God leads us. Most of all, I love God and His work. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

His Servant,
Mark A. Smith
President



Congratulations!

Class of 2012

You did it. You accomplished your dream! We know each of you encountered challenges that tested your drive and dedication to complete your degree. We celebrate with you because you overcame! Your great achievement will inspire those around you and give you confidence to face new challenges, whether you're embarking into ministry, entering your chosen career, or pursuing a new educational goal.

Pursue your dreams. Stand for righteousness. Change your world. We're counting on you!

Congratulations, Class of 2012, from all of the faculty and staff at Ohio Christian University.



OCU conducted its 62nd commencement with Microsoft COO Kevin Turner, who encouraged graduates to pursue their dreams and stay true to their Christian values.

May 5, 2012 marked the largest graduation ceremony in Ohio Christian University (OCU) history, with 386 graduates. The university conferred 141 associate's degrees and 235 bachelor's degrees.

OCU also celebrated its first conference of master's degrees with ten students, including Thomas Bender, who was graduated posthumously after a fatal accident.

Forty-six of the 386 graduates were from the traditional program, which consists primarily of semester-long classes taught during the day. Adult classes are taught one night each week or online, and students usually take one class at a time.

Microsoft's Chief Operating Officer, Kevin Turner, was the commencement speaker. Turner is responsible for the strategic

leadership of Microsoft's worldwide sales, marketing, and services which employs more than 45,000 people. He oversees Microsoft's internal information technology program which supports a workforce of more than 90,000 Microsoft employees around the world.

Turner lives with his wife and three children in Bellevue, Washington.

More online!

Visit www.ohiochristian.edu/grads for additional photos and video highlights from 2012 Commencement.



“I love that OCU’s mission is not just to prepare you academically, but also as leaders. The values you have formed will guide you for the rest of your lives.”

Kevin Turner, Microsoft COO

In speaking to the graduates, Turner provided leadership tips which have been instrumental in his success: hard work, life-long learning, dreaming big and often, staying self-aware, and being true to your values. OCU recognized Turner for his life of distinguished service by awarding him a Doctorate of Leadership.

Of the graduates, President Smith said, “These graduates are already changing the world. I can’t wait to see what they will have accomplished twenty years from now!” Additionally, Smith commented, “It is a privilege to work with faculty and staff who are dedicated to producing a wonderful educational experience for students.

It is exciting to see that OCU is helping raise the baccalaureate rate of Pickaway County. Both the Valedictorian and Salutatorian are Pickaway County residents.”

Jennifer Lloyd of Circleville was the Valedictorian, the graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade point average (GPA). Angela Amey of Circleville was the Salutatorian, the graduating senior with the second highest cumulative GPA.

Jacob Marburger of Dover, Ohio, was the Honor Graduate for the traditional program. The Honor Graduate for the adult program was Amy Entler of Circleville (see page 8).

Quick Facts

about the Class of 2012

Degrees Awarded

- » Associate of Arts: 141
- » Bachelor of Arts: 235
- » Master of Arts: 10

Commencement Speaker

- » Microsoft COO Kevin Turner

Valedictorian

- » Jennifer Lloyd - Circleville, OH

Salutatorian

- » Angela Amey - Circleville, OH

Honor Graduates

- » Amy Entler - Circleville, OH
- » Jake Marburger - Dover, OH



Honor Graduates



Amy Entler

2012 Honor Graduate

College of Adult and Graduate Studies (CAGS)

Amy graduated summa cum laude with a major in Substance Abuse Counseling and was inducted into the Pinnacle Honor Society.

I have believed in the Lord my entire life. I was raised in church and surrounded by Godly people who loved Christ. I attended church Wednesday nights, twice on Sunday, and revivals from here to the foothills of Kentucky. Even so, as I grew older, I slowly turned my back on God. I questioned and even doubted at times. By early adulthood, I knew I was not living a life that would make Him proud, yet I knew that God had never left my side. He had always been with me—always so faithful.

As years passed God blessed me with a wonderful husband, children, and a church I loved. My pastor was instrumental in the work God began to do in my heart, calling me to help others and to do His work. After experiencing the effects of drug abuse and addiction through a close personal connection, I knew how I could make a difference—I was going to become a counselor.

Choosing OCU was easy. It was close to home, affordable, and classes met one night a week. I had no way of knowing how profoundly Ohio Christian University would change my life. The strong support of my family and the encouragement received from my peers were invaluable in my OCU experience. I formed friendships with Christian classmates and professors, which made me look forward to Tuesday nights. It wasn't just school for me. It was just like church. It was a place where I could worship the Lord, share my struggles, and learn about Jesus.

Whether the topic of the class was biblical or related to substance abuse, the Holy Spirit was always in our midst. I left each week wanting more. Even though I had begun my walk with the Lord ten years ago, I was unaware of how much I didn't know. While I had been taught well on Sunday mornings, I had never personally experienced Scripture as I did at Ohio Christian University.

Being a graduate of Ohio Christian University will give me an advantage over others in my field. Not only has OCU provided me a wealth of knowledge in the field of Substance Abuse Counseling, but it has helped me grow spiritually into a mature lover of Christ. "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" (Phillipians 4:13, NLT).

My whole outlook on life has changed since getting to know the Lord. I have Him to lean upon in times of sorrow and to thank for my many blessings. Most of all, I have His love. What a blessing it is to know I'm never alone amid the trials of life, and to have peace and certainty knowing God is in control. The abundance of blessings the Lord has bestowed upon me in the past few years are unimaginable.

Even though I had always been aware of God's presence in my life, I never experienced Jesus quite like I did on my journey at Ohio Christian University.

Students, selected by faculty, who represent all the ideals of Ohio Christian University and have distinguished themselves in academic achievement, Christian service, and leadership potential.



Jake Marburger

2012 Honor Graduate

Traditional
Program

Jake wants to play his part in God's plan for the world, and is having a blast as he pursues it.

BY DR. HANK KELLY, PROVOST

Jacob (Jake) Marburger is the 2012 Honor Graduate for OCU's traditional academic program. Jake is from Dover, Ohio, and graduated cum laude (3.5+ GPA) with a major in Christian Ministries. He served on the worship team for OCU Chapels and at Circleville Nazarene Church, where he has led worship for their youth group for the past three years. Jake also served as a tutor in the OCU Writing Center and on Summer Camp Team Ministries.

"When I first met Jake and his family, I immediately noticed his potential to lead," said Mike Egenreider, Vice President for Enrollment. "His sincere love for people, hatred of evil, and clinging to good propelled him into a leadership position within the OCU Camp Team Ministry. He exemplified Christ to his team members and everyone he came into contact with."

According to faculty member Ben Williamson, "When I envision our

ideal graduate, Jake comes to mind because he exhibits what one could call a 'focused joy' in his pursuit of Christ. The guy wants to play his part in God's plan for the world, and he has a blast as he pursues it. He takes his academics seriously and yet seems to be aware that the training is not an end in itself. Jake wants to change his world. He seems to easily and naturally think outside the box. What I've appreciated most about Jake is that I've never witnessed him act in an unkind way toward a fellow student. I sent younger students his way for advice and mentoring without reservation because I knew he'd respond to them the way he'd imagine Jesus would."

Faculty member Sylvia McDonald had similar good words about Jake: "He exemplifies what OCU is all about—the union of Christ-centered education and servant leadership. One of my favorite things about Jake is that I would have never predicted his

extraordinary growth during his four years here at OCU. He has grown and matured into a man after God's own heart." McDonald continued, "Jake is a friend to everyone regardless of who they are or where they came from in life. He can befriend and willingly love and serve anyone. That is a true reflection of the character of Christ. I once saw Jake help a student who most would see as 'unlovable.' She had severe social issues and was shunned by most. He was extraordinarily kind to her—when no one was watching (or at least he didn't know anyone was watching). Who we are when no one is watching is a reflection of our heart and a reflection of our love for Christ."

When asked what he would have said if he had to make a speech at graduation, Jake replied his speech would have been short: "It's all for Jesus." These words summarize Jake Marburger, the 2012 Honor Graduate for OCU's traditional program.

 **New**BY DR. HANK KELLY
PROVOST

Traditional Programs

A new **Bachelor of Arts in Pre-Seminary** program has been created to prepare students for entrance into seminary. This program includes study of the Bible, theology, and biblical languages in preparation for graduate study. The Christian Ministries program has been revised to better equip those who intend to begin pastoring upon graduation with more practical ministry skills.

The **Associate of Arts in Pre-Nursing** is another new program. It is designed to prepare students for entrance into nursing degree programs with the intent of becoming registered nurses. It provides the general education and science requirements needed for acceptance into most nursing education programs.

 **Announcing**BY DR. TIM EADES, VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE
COLLEGE OF ADULT AND GRADUATE STUDIES

The College of Adult & Graduate Studies

By action of the Administrative Council and with approval of the Board, the AIM division will now be known as the College of Adult and Graduate Studies (CAGS). With the growing and diverse group of accredited degree programs offered to more than 2,200 adult and graduate students, "it was time to name it a college within the University," declared President Smith.

Additions to the CAGS 2012-2013 academic offerings include programs in graduate business and nursing. The **Master of Business Administration (MBA)**, **Master of Management (MM)**, and **RN-Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN)** programs were recently approved by the Ohio Board of Regents.

CAGS Student Services has conducted several student focus groups this year to glean information on the student experience. "Earning your degree as an adult, takes much time and energy," said Sherika Williams, CAGS Director of Student Services. "We want to honor that decision by providing excellent customer service."

OCU Expands Certificate Options

BY HEIDI R. FREDERICK, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT AND DEAN FOR ADULT AND GRADUATE EDUCATION

OCU is expanding its certificate options to offer education to individuals who wish to develop skills in specific areas. The options listed in the table below include specific courses that culminate in a certificate.

Certificate

| Certificate | Credit Hours | Onsite Availability | Online Availability |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Agribusiness | 12 | Immediate | Immediate |
| Business Management | 12 | Immediate | Immediate |
| Coaching | 13 | Daytime, Aug 2012 est. | Not available |
| Counseling | 12 | Immediate | Oct 2012 estimate |
| EQUIP Leadership | 9 | Not available | Immediate |
| Disaster Management & Relief | 12 | Not available | Oct 2012 estimate |
| Healthcare Management | 12 | Immediate | Immediate |
| Logistics Management | 12 | Immediate | Immediate |
| Ministry Leadership | 12 | Sept 2012 estimate | Nov 2012 |
| Ministry Skills | 12 | Immediate | Jan 2013 estimate |
| Management Skills | 12 | Immediate | Immediate |
| Old Testament | 12 | June 2013 estimate | June 2013 estimate |
| New Testament | 12 | Oct 2013 estimate | Oct 2013 estimate |
| Organizational Leadership | 12 | Jan 2013 estimate | Immediate |
| Theology and Worldview | 12 | Immediate | Immediate |

These certificates enhance students' leadership and other skills to boost their career prospects. They are appropriate for individuals who have not already earned a degree, as well as those who have a degree but desire a specialization. According to the Center of Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University, "a post-secondary certificate adds almost \$117,000 in lifetime earnings (measured in 2004 dollars) over a high school diploma or those with no other degrees."

Input from prospective students and employers was essential in the development of these certificates. Dan Davitz, president and owner of Magic Rack®/Production Plus Corp, stated, "As an employer I'm always looking to advance employees who take the initiative to learn as much as possible through certified training. It gives confidence to the employee that ultimately makes them more successful in life and in their work."

Interested in enhancing your skills & leadership through a certificate? Request more information about CAGS degree programs today.

Call 1-855-OCU-GRAD or visit www.OCUonline.com!

ates



Chad Dobbs, Alan Smith, Holly Wickham, Sarah Rykwalder, Trey Blanks, Jodi Irvine, Jake Marburger, Emily Stacy, Jessica Murphy, Christine Zimmerman, Krista Stonerock

OCU Writing Center and Tutoring Center Staff Present Research at Writing Conference

In March, 2012, OCU Tutoring Center Director Chris Zimmerman, and Dr. Krista Stonerock, Writing Center Director and Professor of English, accompanied nine OCU students to a Writing Center professional conference hosted at IUPUI (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis). This year marked the third occasion that OCU tutors have been selected to present at ECWCA (East Central Writing Center Association).

The ECWCA remains a primary regional conference of the IWCA (International Writing Center Association) and is “one of two national forums deliberately accentuating the contributions and development of writing center tutors, as well as directors and other professionals” (<http://ecwca.org/annual-conference>).

For the past two years, Mrs. Zimmerman and Dr. Stonerock have been investing in tutors by not only training them, but also by exposing them to diverse professional development and research opportunities. In the presentation, both novice and veteran student tutors in the university’s Tutoring Center and Writing Center shared excerpts of their reflective logs and self-assessments to demonstrate the honest, yet messy, process of self-reflection, which is critical to development in their role as a tutor.

Mrs. Zimmerman and Dr. Stonerock look forward to seeing the tutors’ growth in professionalism and improved practice as they embrace opportunities to engage in reflective research and participate in the larger professional conversations about Writing Centers and peer tutoring.



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One Life

| Age | 65 | 70 | 75 | 80 | 90 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Annuity Rate | 4.7% | 5.1% | 5.8% | 6.8% | 9.0% |

Two Lives

| Age | 65/65 | 70/70 | 75/75 | 80/80 | 90/90 |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Annuity Rate | 4.2% | 4.6% | 5.0% | 5.7% | 8.2% |

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To find out more, call Mark Taylor at 740-420-5918
or email mtaylor@ohiochristian.edu.



Chris Young, Arlington Foundation



Steve Miller, Millwood, Inc.

LEADERSHIP FORUM

Training Leaders to Serve

The fifth annual Leadership Forum featured OCU Alumnus and leadership expert Dr. John Maxwell and NFL quarterback Tim Tebow.

On April 24, 2012, Ohio Christian University hosted the fifth annual Leadership Forum with Dr. John Maxwell, who is an OCU alumnus, author, speaker, and world-renowned leadership expert. The guest speaker for this year's forum was NFL quarterback Tim Tebow of the New York Jets.

The day began with the Executive Session. More than 60 participants attended the four-hour training time which included sessions with Dr. Maxwell; Steve Miller, CEO of Millwood Inc.; Chris Young, Program Director of the Arlington Foundation; and Dr. Jerry Anderson of La Red Business Network. Each speaker discussed various aspects of leadership and what it means to be a great leader. Dr. Maxwell headlined the executive session speaking on the subject of "Achieving the Legacy You Want to Leave." Maxwell's key challenges were that we must work for the legacy we want to leave, our legacy will be our choice, we must develop a network of meaningful relationships, and we must commit to continual growth with a positive attitude.

The evening began with a new tradition at the Leadership Forum. The inaugural Community Leadership Award was presented to Pickaway County Sheriff Dwight Radcliff, who is retiring this year after 47 years of service. "He is the longest-serving sheriff in America," said Dr. Mark Smith, OCU president, when presenting Radcliff's award. "That's pretty awesome to have him right here in Pickaway County."

Another first for the forum was the presentation of a key to the city to Dr. Maxwell by Circleville Mayor Don McIlroy in appreciation for what Maxwell has done for the community. Mayor McIlroy described the key as a symbol of all the minds Maxwell has opened.



Circleville Sheriff Dwight Radcliff Honored for Community Leadership



Circleville Mayor Don McIlroy Presents Dr. Maxwell with Key to the City

Guest speaker Tim Tebow joined Drs. Smith and Maxwell on stage in a casual question and answer time. He spoke about leadership and handling adversity, particularly when it comes to public criticism and negative press. Tebow said he has learned not to worry about things he cannot control.

“It’s something you have to constantly try to remind yourself because no matter what you do, at all times you’re going to have people who are going to want to pull you down, regardless of what you stand up for,” Tebow said. “If you stand up for anything, people are going to want to pull you down, so I think for me it was about setting my priorities in order, trying to live up to them, and not worrying about what everybody else was doing.”

“If I am living with character, strength and honor, and if I am doing what’s right, doing my best, and treating others the way I want to be treated, they can write whatever they want. I can’t control that, but I must worry about what I can control.”

Tebow said he tries to set an example and be a good role model. He explained that it is important to love what you do, be passionate, and be willing to sacrifice more than anyone else. He said that everyone is a leader or a role model because everyone has at least one person looking up to them.

“Someone is probably watching you, and their life is affected either in a good way or in a bad way because of what you do,” Tebow said.



Tebow presents \$10,000 missionary scholarship.

Tebow, who is the son of missionaries, also spoke about his Christian faith and his charitable work through the Tim Tebow Foundation. Tebow finished his time at the forum by presenting OCU a \$10,000 check to start a scholarship in his parents’ honor.

Dr. Maxwell closed out the night discussing the concepts in his newest book, *The Five Levels of Leadership*. He discussed each of the five levels and what each would look like. He also mentioned that organizations can also be categorized with the same five levels and stated that he thought Ohio Christian University was becoming a level five organization. At the end of the event, Dr. Maxwell spent time greeting guests and signing books.

Proceeds from the Leadership Forum go towards scholarships for OCU students. Over the last five years, almost \$800,000 has been raised for scholarships through the Leadership Forum.

Visit www.ohiochristian.edu/forum for more photos and video highlights from the forum.





OCU Provost Dr. Hank Kelly accepts the Medical Mutual Pillar Award on behalf of OCU
 Marc Golub Photography

OCU Honored for Community Involvement

BY DR. HANK KELLY, PROVOST

Ohio Christian University has been named the winner of the 2012 Pillar Award for Community Service. The Pillar Award, presented by Medical Mutual of Ohio and Smart Business Magazine, honors businesses of all types and sizes that make outstanding contributions to their communities. Its purpose is to encourage a charitable environment, recognize creative efforts that make a difference, and demonstrate the ties between the for-profit and nonprofit worlds.

“We are humbled by the honor of receiving this prestigious award,” said OCU President Mark Smith. “OCU is happy to serve the community and will continue to do so.”

2012 Ralph C. Starkey Community Action Day

Ohio Christian University sponsored the annual Ralph C. Starkey Community Action Day on April 12, 2012. The day began with breakfast and a service encouraging students to make a difference in the community and beyond. Circleville Mayor Don McIlroy reminded the volunteers that they can impact lives by serving the community. This year, 450 students, faculty, and staff participated in various projects throughout Pickaway County, taking the time to interact with volunteers from the community as well as those they were serving.

450 Volunteers Participated in 2012 Community Action Day





Melvin Maxwell Church Planting Institute

Special Youth Ministry Day

BY TONY MCCRARY, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH RELATIONS



**Church Planting Institute
events coming soon!**

Future seminars will be announced
at www.ChurchPlantingInstitute.com

The Melvin Maxwell Church Planting Institute sponsored a day to emphasize youth ministry, *Ministering to Generation Z*, on March 23, 2012. The event welcomed approximately ninety pastors, youth pastors, youth workers, and OCU ministerial students to Detty Chapel. Attendees were challenged

by the presentations of each guest speaker. The first session featured Aaron Duvall, university church pastor, who spoke on Preaching and Communication to Teens Today. Next was a session on *Planning and Leading Youth Camps or Retreats* by Ray McCrary, President of Live God Loud Ministries. The third session

was presented by Dan Coy, whose topic was *Mentoring Youth Leaders*; and the final session was by Jon Truex, who spoke on the subject of the *Importance of Organized Youth Ministry at the Local Church*. Youth workers went away with new perspective and ways to invest in the lives of teens at their local churches.



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Drama Team takes the Lead



BY JONATHAN FAULKES (2012),
OCU DRAMA TEAM DIRECTOR

I had the privilege of leading the Drama Team for two years as we visited churches in several states to minister the word of God through dramas. Each presentation was designed, created, and choreographed by its members.

It has been a great experience to minister with students who are completely sold out for ministry and committed to bringing souls to Christ. The dream and vision that God placed on my heart for the drama team has touched hundreds of lives through the ministry of Ohio Christian University students. Looking back, I never thought it was possible to be where we are today.

As we look toward the future, greater goals have been placed on our hearts. Three outstanding students will lead the Drama Team in its next chapter at Ohio Christian University. Alan Smith, a junior at OCU and a 2-year member of the Drama Team, and Bethany Campbell, a junior at Ohio Christian and a 2-year member of the team, will be Co-Directors. Kelly Kratz will assist Alan and Bethany as Assistant Director of the Drama Team.

Thank you so much for allowing me and my team to serve you in our ministry of drama. It is an honor and a privilege to be where we are today. To schedule the OCU Drama Team at your church or youth event, please call 740-477-7701.

The Drama Team is a student-led ministry with the mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through the arts. During the 2011-2012 academic year, the team involved 17 students and ministered at 30 events.



For more information, contact the Admissions Office at 1-877-762-8669 or enroll@ohiochristian.edu. You can also follow the team at facebook.com/OCUDramaTeam.



Tune-in to OCU's Traveling Teams

BY TONY MCCRARY, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH RELATIONS

The 2012 spring semester at OCU was an exciting time for the music travel teams. Ablaze traveled most weekends and continues to be a blessing to churches and youth events across the Midwest and eastern United States.

Along with the ministry of Ablaze, the University Chorale performed in ten churches, two nursing homes, and multiple programs and concerts on campus. Under the direction of Dr. Rodney Sones, the choir presented a tremendous program at each church and venue where they performed, ministering and leading each congregation to worship God through music.

As we look forward to the coming summer, Ablaze is preparing for a ten-week tour to churches, family camps, and youth camps. They will travel hundreds of miles on this tour. If they are in your area, we invite you to come and enjoy the ministry of Ablaze.

To arrange for Ablaze or the Chorale to minister at your church or event, contact the office of Church Relations at 740-420-5902 or email tmccrary@ohiochristian.edu

Trailblazer Athletics Community Spotlight



- » Volunteered at the Mid-Ohio Food Bank
- » Held a Toys for Tots toy drive
- » Hosted tournament and fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness
- » Planning a team mission trip to the Dominican Republic
- » Refereed and ministered in local youth soccer programs
- » Kim Uetrecht volunteered with a u16 girls soccer team
- » Kevin Ache oversaw soccer camps that provided more than 300 youth the chance to play soccer and hear the Word of God
- » Aaron Young is actively involved in church youth ministry
- » Planning to assist church soccer camp in Seattle, Washington
- » Volunteered at a soup kitchen once a month



OCU Baseball Reaches World Series

Trailblazer Baseball showed well this season with a challenging schedule. After winning the NCCAA Div. II Mid-East Region Championship, the Trailblazers capped off the season with an appearance at the NCCAA World Series. OCU was given the #6 seed and beat #3 seed Arlington Baptist (TX) by a score of 9-8 in the opening round. In the final game, the Blazers finished 5th, losing by one run in the final inning to Lancaster (PA). OCU senior Kelton Sines was selected by the coaches as an NCCAA All-American.

Softball Earns 18-18 Record

The OCU softball team wrapped up a historic season with a record of 18-18 (.500) and a 2nd place finish in the OCAC championship. Additionally, the Lady Blazers were one of four teams to qualify for the 2012 NCCAA Division I Mid-East Region Tournament. "We have accomplished so much this year," said Head Coach Emory Clark. "I am proud of these girls for laying the foundation and for setting the bar high for next year as we take our program to a new level."



Trailblazers know that winning comes from excellence, and that character comes from perseverance. They become winners through athletics. They become champions by serving the community around them.



Former Buckeye to Lead OCU Men's Basketball

Tony Stockman, a 2005 graduate of The Ohio State University, was recently introduced as the new head men's basketball coach at OCU.

ADAPTED FROM ARTICLE BY BRAD MORRIS, SPORTS EDITOR, CIRCLEVILLE HERALD

Even though Tony Stockman has played basketball for practically his entire life, the former Ohio State guard felt it was time for a different path in the sport he loves. Stockman will take on that task as the new head men's basketball coach at Ohio Christian University.

A Medina native, Stockman desires to have a program that builds confidence, noting that his spiritual growth after college was instrumental in his personal development and refocused the role of basketball in his life.

"After college, that's when I started to grow up. I started to grow in my faith, and that's when my life changed a lot," Stockman said. "When young people grow spiritually and have confidence, it helps them succeed on and off the basketball court."

Stockman was named Ohio co-Mr. Basketball in 2000 after averaging 25.5 points per game and becoming the all-time leading scorer at Medina High School, where he led his team to a 58-9 record in three seasons.

After two standout seasons at Clemson University, Stockman transferred to Ohio State University. He averaged 13.6 points per game to lead Ohio State in scoring as a junior. As a senior, he led Ohio State to a 20-12 record under new head coach Thad Matta.

"Tony is a leader in every sense of the word," Matta said in a statement. "He was a floor general for us and was the closest thing you could get to a coach on the floor."

After graduating from Ohio State in 2005, Stockman played eight seasons of professional basketball abroad.

Stockman emphasized wanting to build a strong team culture and get his players out in the community to figure their next step after basketball.

"I want them to get into the community and figure out what they want to do with their lives," Stockman said. "At that age, I didn't know what to do in life other than play basketball, play basketball, and play basketball."

"But that's not reality. There comes a point where you have to do something else, and I want the players to experience different things and find their way a little earlier than I did."

Stockman takes over for Curtis Christopher, who stepped down after nine seasons. This season Christopher led the Trailblazers to a 27-10 record, finishing third in the NCCAA Division II national tournament.

Men's & Women's Basketball

Reach for the National Title

Women's Basketball

The OCU women's basketball team reached its third straight NCCAA National Tournament, a streak which has solidified their reputation as one of the best small college programs in the NCCAA. The Lady Blazers fought through a challenging schedule to a 20-win season record and 3rd place finish at the NCCAA National Championship.

Team members enjoyed individual success as well. Shelby Roe reached the 1,000 point milestone to become the third female member of the OCU 1,000 point club. She will attempt to become the all-time leading scorer in team history next season. Chelsea Black was named an NCCAA Scholar Athlete for her academic excellence.

The OCU women will return with a talented and experienced team next season as the roster carried no seniors this year. With a talented group of recruits already on board, next season could be a special one for OCU women's basketball.

Men's Basketball

The OCU 2011-12 men's team enjoyed the most successful season in program history as the Trailblazers went 27-10, won the Ohio Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship (OCAC), and ran the table in the Mid-East Region, going 12-0 on their way to a third straight Regional Championship.

At the NCCAA National Championship Tournament, OCU received a #3 seed and first round bye. In their final game, the Blazers defeated Central Bible to claim 3rd place nationally. Delorean Glanton scored his 1,000th career point in the final game.

The Blazers received national recognition by the NCCAA as Tirrell Cumberland and Mo Fall were honored as NCCAA All-Americans. Jon Baker and Mike Farrell received Academic All-American honors for their performance in the classroom. Mo Fall was selected to the 2012 NCCAA National Championship All-Tournament Team.





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Don't miss the 2012 Homecoming Gospel Concert featuring Sandi Patty!

Join us for this year's Homecoming, which will feature events for the whole family including class reunions, alumni athletic games, a tailgating party, and our first Throwback Chapel featuring former music groups and a special alumni speaker. Mark your calendars for OCU's finest Homecoming yet.

Also join us in honoring alumnus Stan Toler ('73) with brothers Terry Toler ('88) and Mark Hollingsworth ('81) as they perform at this year's Gospel Concert on Saturday night, October 6.

For more information please contact Julia Sorley,
Alumni Coordinator at 740-420-5903 or alumni@ohiochristian.edu

Alumni Updates

Following graduation, **Donna Reagan**, class of 1969, volunteered at Beauty for Ashes in Jamestown, Tennessee. She has two children, Deborah and David. She later went on to obtain an A.A. in Education at Martin Methodist College, and a B.S. in Education from Athens State University with a focus in Language Arts and English. In 2011 she earned a Masters in Library and Informational Science from Trevecca University. Donna is very active in her church and community.

After 9 years of leading the High Street Church of the Nazarene in Springfield, OH, the Lord opened the door for **Bret Layton**, class of 1987, and his wife, Beth ('87), to transition to the First Church of the Nazarene in Roanoke, VA. First Nazarene is a great and historical church that has had and continues to have a significant impact on the Southeast neighborhoods of

Roanoke. The church has a Christian Day School with an enrollment of over 100 students, and a Hispanic congregation of approximately 60. The church is known for its tremendous outreach efforts and ministries throughout SE Roanoke, with very strong ties to the City Mission Ministries.

Jessica (Caplinger) Warth, class of 2006, married her husband, Matthew, on July 19, 2003. In 2008 she returned to Ohio Christian University, serving as a full time employee. In 2010 she achieved full ordination through the Churches of Christ in Christian Union. Today she is the Associate Pastor at the University Church. She is currently on the track to finish her Master's in Christian Ministries with a focus in Pastoral Counseling by the end of 2012. Matthew and Jessica have two children; Julia, 3, and Liam, 1.



Heather Cohan, a senior Music Education major was recently hired to teach pre-school music at New

Hope Christian School in Circleville, Ohio. Heather will be teaching five different pre-school music classes every Monday.

"I am very excited about this opportunity to be in a classroom teaching music and putting all the knowledge I have gained over the past four years to work," Heather says.

After feeling a call to ministry, **Scott Castro** began classes in the AIM (now CAGS) program, graduating in 2007. He now serves as a bi-vocational pastor in the Church of the Nazarene. Scott is very thankful for the Christian men and women who helped him get where he is today.

Alumnus Stan Toler Co-hosts Green Scholar's Lecture Series with President Mark Smith

OCU President
Dr. Mark A. Smith
and OCU Alumnus
Dr. Stan Toler



co-hosted the Green Scholar's Lecture Series on February 28 in Atlanta GA. The series featured Dr. Gordon Campbell (*above, center*), a foremost expert on the history of the King James Version of the Bible.

Indianapolis Luncheon and Choir Concert

BY JULIA SORLEY,
ALUMNI COORDINATOR



On March 24th, OCU hosted a luncheon and concert in Indianapolis with the OCU Chorale and the Ablaze student ministry team. The luncheon was followed by a time of fellowship and worship. Tony McCrary, Director of Church Relations, and OCU President Dr. Mark Smith, updated guests on how God is working at OCU.

Special thanks alumnus Dr. Keith Grove for his hard work in making this event a great success!

The Blessing of First-hand Experience

BY TIM DANIEL ('99),
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR



In March, I had the privilege of leading a group of LUCU students on a mission trip to Jucuapa, El Salvador. Many of the students, having been on previous mission trips, knew from first-hand experience the blessings that come from obedience and surrender to God. For some of the students, however, this was a first—to fly, to leave the United States, and to participate with a mission team. While they had given and prayed to help send others to do the work, they learned nothing compares to the blessings that come from first-hand experience.

Our work in El Salvador included street evangelism, ministry in a local public high school (we were the first team ever to enter this school with the Gospel), and children's ministry. Our most rewarding project was building a home for the Mejia family: Oscar, Leydi, Oscarito and Monica. Leydi (wife and mother) is a believer and part of the church family in Jucuapa. She is currently the spiritual leader of her family, and her faith in God enabled us to connect with her family and work on their home. Though he has heard the Gospel, Oscar (husband and father) is still an unbeliever. "Why do I need to be saved when I can benefit from the blessings my wife receives because she is a Christian?" he commented to David Hawk, WGM missionary in Jucuapa. Leydi, Oscarito, and Monica need Oscar to become the spiritual leader of their home. He has not experienced the blessing of knowing God for himself.

As we completed the final day at the work site, we rejoiced in prayer with the family over the progress made on their home. Many tears were shed, not only because we were leaving, but because we wanted so badly for Oscar to experience the first-hand blessings from a personal relationship with God as his Savior. Although the house construction was not complete, I believe God used us to help lay a foundation upon which a household of faith will be built.

Since returning to campus, we have kept in touch with the Mejias. They recently finished their house and are enjoying the fruits of their labor. More importantly, Oscar has begun attending church services with his family. We rejoice in faith that Oscar will soon accept Christ.

"I believe God used us to help lay a foundation upon which a household of faith will be built."

Will you pray with us that Oscar will seek a relationship with Christ? Nothing compares to the blessing of a personal relationship with Jesus. And while the work of missions moves forward with the prayers and support of so many believers, there is nothing like experiencing it first-hand. Don't take my word for it...try it yourself!

Save the Date

Mount of Praise Global Impact Rally

JUNE 19

Mount of Praise OCU Night

JUNE 21

Student Move-in & Orientation

AUGUST 27-28

First Day of Classes

AUGUST 29

Simply His Women's Conference

SEPTEMBER 21-22

Ohio Golf Outing

OCTOBER 5

Homecoming Gospel Concerts

OCTOBER 5 & 6

Festival of Carols

DECEMBER 1

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DECEMBER 7

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Sandi Patty



Toler Brothers



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For tickets, call Judy Garvey
614-266-5411

For more information, call Ohio Christian University at
740-420-5903 or email tickets@ohiochristian.edu

Concessions available beginning at 4 p.m.
Auditorium doors open at 4:30 p.m.
RV Sites Available: Call OCU to reserve.