

Ohio Christian

the Ohio Christian University Magazine | Fall 2012

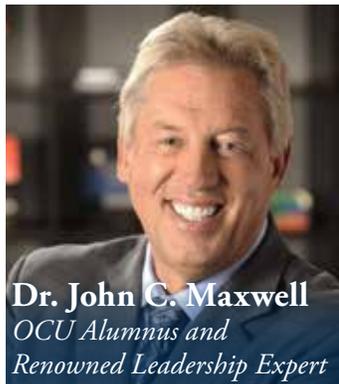


Enrollment Surpasses 3400!

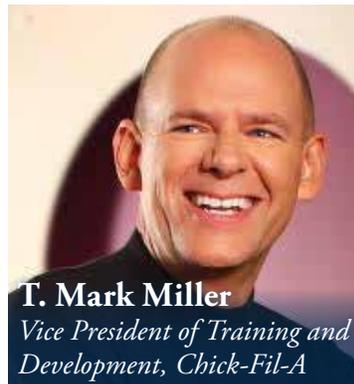
- » New Student Center Opening January 1st
- » Students Serve God Around the World
- » LifeTraks School of Leadership a Huge Success

LEADERSHIP FORUM

APRIL
23
2013
6:00 PM



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



T. Mark Miller
*Vice President of Training and
Development, Chick-Fil-A*



Kevin Myers
*12Stone Church in
Atlanta, Georgia*

Invited Guest Speaker

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Executive Session Limited

Register today by
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www.OhioChristian.edu/forum

Prices listed are per-person and are available on a first-come basis.

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ADDRESS CHANGES

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

A Worthy Investment



For the last six years, Debbie and I have invested our lives in Ohio Christian University. We have enjoyed the community, the growth in student enrollment, and the wonderful faculty and staff. Leadership is tough work! It requires blood, sweat, and tears to grow an organization. At Ohio Christian University, a great team has assisted in this growth, and only eternity will reveal the impact on lives.

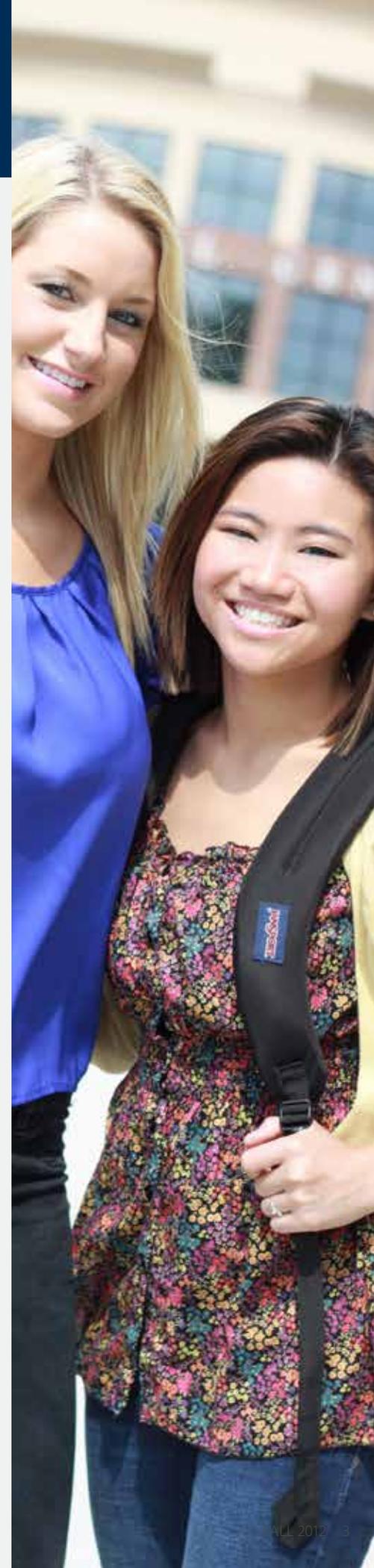
Many residents of Pickaway County and across our nation have watched as Ohio Christian University has increased its impact. Here are a few highlights:

1. Ohio Christian University has **assisted thousands of students in achieving the dream of higher education**. In Pickaway County alone, Ohio Christian University has moved from serving 100 students to an estimated 1000 students.
2. Ohio Christian University now **employs more than 150 employees** in a county that needs jobs.
3. Ohio Christian University hosts over 40 events per year for the community, with 50,000 people per year in attendance.
4. Ohio Christian University has an estimated **\$75-100 million economic impact** in its community.
5. Ohio Christian University staff, faculty, and students serve on more than **100 community boards, committees, or councils/churches**.
6. Ohio Christian University is giving alumni, the community, and the world an educational institution of which to be proud.
7. Ohio Christian University is providing Christian leaders to serve within churches and missions/international organizations. (This is our mission.)
8. Ohio Christian University is impacting spiritual lives by **raising men and women with great biblical values** to be good citizens.

Now it is your turn to invest! To those who already give, thank you! In order for Ohio Christian University to reach its maximum potential, we need you to pray about your estate, a major gift, an annuity, or monthly support.

Pickaway County, we need your help in order to keep moving forward. You see many results now; **OCU can do more with your help**. I ask you to invest in students. Alumni, we need each of you to support Ohio Christian University and give back as an investment. Debbie and I give back each month to Ohio Christian University because we see how God is working. Will you join us? Will you impact a community and even the world?

His Servant,
Mark A. Smith
President





Dr. Hank Kelly, Provost



Rick Christman, Vice President for Student Development and Athletics

Developing Leaders at OCU

“Anytime you seek to influence the thinking, behavior, or development of people in their personal or professional lives, you are taking on the role of a leader,” say Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges in *Lead Like Jesus*.

Leaders lead from multiple vantage points: downward (when they are in charge), laterally (peers), and even upward. OCU has focused and will continue to focus on developing leaders who lead in their churches, work, communities, and families. OCU graduates are making a difference!

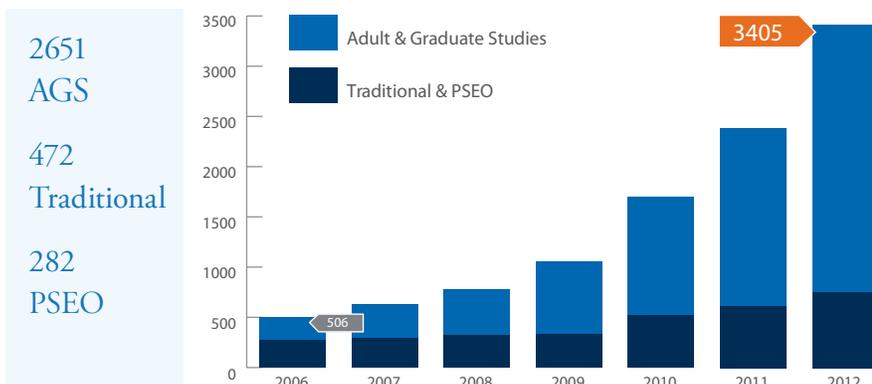
Developing leaders at OCU is a joint effort between Academics and Student Development. Leadership is being taught and practiced in Academics, but students are also given many opportunities to practice leadership through Student Development, which seeks to connect them to opportunities on campus and throughout the greater community.

Ohio Christian University seeks to do more than simply teach leadership in theory by giving each student opportunities to practice leading and instilling the desire within each student to lead through service. This practice becomes a part of each student’s experiential portfolio, which will be taken into the workplace upon leaving OCU.

OCU Develops Leaders by:

- ✓ *Required leadership course within each major ensures students learn leadership fundamentals*
- ✓ *Residence Life staff models Christian leadership in daily activities*
- ✓ *Internships, practicums, service learning, and Christian service requirements provide hands-on leadership opportunities*
- ✓ *Upperclassman practice leadership by mentoring underclassmen*
- ✓ *Small Group ministry encourages peer leadership*
- ✓ *Athletics*
- ✓ *Student clubs, Student Government, and other campus organizations are created and led by students for students*
- ✓ *Organizational Leadership concentration offered by the College of Adult and Graduate Studies*

Enrollment Surpassed 3,400



2651
AGS
472
Traditional
282
PSEO

Nursing Agreement Signed with Wright State University for Adena Hospital Site

Ohio Christian University and Wright State University (WSU) recently signed an agreement that allows graduates from OCU's new associate degree in Pre-Nursing to be eligible for admission to Wright State's Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. WSU's Nursing program is offered at its main campus in Dayton, Ohio, and at Adena Hospital in Chillicothe, Ohio. The agreement guarantees that all credits earned in OCU's Pre-Nursing program with a grade of "C" or higher will be accepted for transfer credit to WSU. It also guarantees that students who have completed OCU's Pre-Nursing degree will also have met WSU's general education requirements (for English, Math, Science, etc.). OCU's Pre-Nursing degree was implemented in the fall semester after approval by the faculty and Board of Trustees last spring. This agreement is designed to attract individuals who desire the religious and general education provided by OCU combined with the professional education in nursing provided by WSU.



Biblical Leadership Principles

Focus of Business Programs

DR. DEBRA GRIMM, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS PROGRAMS FOR AGS

After the global economy almost collapsed, Ohio Christian University intensified its pursuit of Biblical Principles in its Business curriculum. Biblical leadership is embedded in the focus of business disciplines at Ohio Christian University. As differing tenets are routinely adopted by leadership theorists in describing the qualities of an effective leader, OCU highlights the Bible's role as a practical roadmap for business activity. Drawing a correlation between leadership theory and biblical principles provides students a clear understanding of how God's Word is current and relevant in professional environments.

Businesses often look for employees who demonstrate biblical values and principles within their work ethic. Studies show that employers feel business graduates—especially at the graduate level—lack the desired degree of integrity in their professional interactions. OCU's business programs are different because they provide students a comprehensive study of biblical integrity, its relationship to their professional lives, and how it applies to leadership.



Dr. Grimm is the new Director of Business Programs for the OCU College of Adult and Graduate Studies (AGS). OCU's AGS program currently serves more than 2,000 undergraduate business students who attend classes once a week or entirely online.



Eades provides leadership training in Argentina

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

This July it was my privilege to serve on a teaching team sent to Buenos Aires, Argentina, also known as "the Paris of South America." Joining me in teaching was my wife Kimberly, Jim and Julie Dempsey, and Pastor David and Connie Dean, who have faithfully served in ministry at the Brookside Church of Christ in Christian Union for the last 22 years.

Leadership training was delivered in the form of a weekend event held at Iglesia Vision de Futuro. EQUIP® leader and local pastor Marcelo Diaz, along with a number of wonderful church volunteers, interpreted for our team. Pastors, lay leaders, and business owners received very practical, scripturally-based leadership training that dealt with matters of family life, stewardship, health, and education.

Ohio Christian University's mission is to prepare students to serve effectively in the church and society by providing a holistic, Christ-centered, biblically integrated education in the Wesleyan tradition. With an overall enrollment of more than 3,400 students, OCU is thankful for new and growing opportunities to reach the 13 million people of Buenos Aires for God's glory.



“God continues to expand OCU's ministry for His glory.”

Connie Dean, Pastor David Dean, Jim Dempsey, Alex (Interpreter), Julie Dempsey, Kimberly Eades, Tim Eades

OCU Students Serve in Kenya & Rwanda

In the summer of 2012, OCU and World Gospel Mission (WGM) sent a task force team to Kenya and Rwanda (East Africa), providing many opportunities for students to minister and be impacted by Christians doing extraordinary things to build the Kingdom of God.

East Africa Team

- ✓ *Andrea Williamson*
- ✓ *Kimberlee Brown*
- ✓ *Amanda Huff*
- ✓ *Holly Wickham*

- » Cared for infants and children, many with AIDS
- » Delivered sermons and skits at church services
- » Held Vacation Bible School
- » Participated in traveling outreach ministries
- » Assisted in a medical clinic for orphans



Amanda Huff, Holly Wickham



Rev. Gremillion family

OCU Welcomes Rev. Jamey Gremillion

New Intercultural Ministries Director Leads Students for the Great Commission

Jamey comes to OCU after over a decade in the pastorate. As a pastor, Jamey became known for his ability to develop and mature a missions focus within the local church. His passion for missions is complemented by a strong theological mind and a vision for mobilizing lay people in pursuit of the Great Commission. These traits will help OCU produce qualified and competent graduates in the Intercultural Ministries field and equip students in all disciplines to find and fulfill their roles in bringing the Gospel to all people.



Kimberlee Brown

LifeTraks School of Leadership

A Summer Success!



LifeTraks *Flee as a Bird*

The month of July brought a new level of excitement to campus as Ohio Christian University partnered with *Live God Loud Ministries* (formerly known as Appalachian Youth Ministries) to host a brand new venture called ***LifeTraks School of Leadership***. Thirteen young people came and devoted the month to learn Christian leadership from a biblical worldview. The mission of LifeTraks is to challenge young people to move into adulthood with a Christ-first mentality, putting God's plan and will at the forefront of their lives.

Classes included Foundations of Christian Leadership, taught by Rev. Jeff Keaton, Life Purposes and Leadership by Rick Christman, Financial Guidance for Personal Development by Rob Hartman, Stage and Drama Tech by Garen Wolf, Resume Preparation and Computer Techniques by Shawna Willis, along with several other leadership development classes.

Along with the classes, the young people were assigned daily opportunities to gain experience by working at OCU. They were also involved in a drama production entitled *Flee As a Bird*, an outdoor drama written by Maurice R. McCrary II and directed by members of the LifeTraks staff. The drama tour included performances in Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania.

“The mission of LifeTraks is to challenge young people to move into adulthood with a Christ-first mentality.”

Do you know someone between the ages of 16 and 20 who should be part of LifeTraks School of Leadership?

Contact Tony McCrary, OCU Director of Church Relations at (740) 420-5902 or by emailing tmccrary@ohiochristian.edu.



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

Your gift annuity will assist educational opportunities for students in the future.

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



Kayla Conley



Students lead effort in Papua New Guinea



In July, I traveled with an OCU WGM Task Force team to Papua New Guinea. As I ministered to others, I found my heart being transformed. My experience can be summarized in four words: ***follow, trust, worship, and love.***

BY JAZMIN FRANK, OCU SOPHOMORE

Follow

As I prepared to leave for the mission field, I wondered, “God, shouldn’t I feel something? I mean, this is a big deal, but it feels like any other experience.” However, God provided many opportunities for us to step out of our comfort zones. Our experiences and the people we met changed us. Whether God calls us around the world or across the street, following Him simply means laying down our lives for Him and trusting in His good and perfect plan.

Trust

Throughout my preparation for the trip, I sensed God asking me one question, “Will you trust me?” When I felt out of place and ill-equipped, God would confront me with that question. Repeatedly, He would ask me if I would trust Him, and my answer was always, “Yes, I trust you.” I have come to realize that trusting God is much more than we like to admit. Trusting God means giving up all claim to our lives and desires to follow wherever He leads.



Anastasia Beavers lead the team of Jazmin Frank, Kayla Conley, Chelsea Breauer, and Jason Beavers.
(Team pictured above, center)

Worship

We had the opportunity to attend church twice while in Papua New Guinea, once in Mount Hagen, where we led Vacation Bible School, and once in Embi where we led an outreach program. The evening worship service at the end of the week in Mount Hagen was the most joyful worship I have ever experienced. Joy filled the small building. It was during that time of worship that I also experienced the last word, which summarizes my trip.

"The evening worship service at the end of the week in Mount Hagen was the most joyful worship I have ever experienced."

Love

The team was asked to stand at the front of the crowded room as people thanked us for coming to spend time with them. They prayed for us and blessed us as we prepared to leave for a week of outreach ministry in the Southern Highlands. Then something unexpected happened. All the people lined up and passed by each of us, hugging us and shaking our hands as our eyes welled up with tears. We had only been with them for a week. Yet, in that short time, we had poured out love on them, and the people of Papua New Guinea had loved us in return.

When I think about the words **follow**, **trust**, **worship**, and **love**, I'll think of the grand adventure Jesus took us on one summer where the amazing, loving, joyful people of Papua New Guinea showed me what these words really mean.



\$5 million needed
for student scholarships!

Leave a Legacy

Help us prepare this generation to change the world by supporting student scholarships!

Ohio Christian University provides outstanding educational opportunities to students from all over the world and has grown from 300 to over 3,400 students in the last six years. We need your help in providing scholarships for OCU students through the Ohio Christian University Foundation.

You can make a difference in the life of a student by giving through:

- ✓ Your estate
- ✓ IRAs
- ✓ Life insurance
- ✓ Annuities
- ✓ Real estate and property
- ✓ Monthly giving

Contact Mark Taylor, Vice President of University Advancement, to discuss how you can leave a legacy today.

Call 740-420-5918 today to learn more.

OCU Students Lead Community Garden Project

SHAWNA WILLIS AND
ANDREA WILLIAMSON

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

Matthew 25:35

These words of the Lord remind us that ministry should include the feeding of hungry bellies as well as hungry souls. Ohio Christian University, in partnership with the Arington Foundation, launched its first Community Garden Project this spring. Nearly two acres of land were used to plant a variety of produce.

Six OCU business students spent the summer training with local professional farmer Tim Cook, who taught the students valuable skills that included the entire life cycle of a farming business. Through this training, students learned soil preparation, cultivation, seed starting, and business practices such as logistics, accounting, marketing, and food distribution.

OCU student Bethany Deal told us it was exciting to see the fruits of their labor gradually grow up around them. Additionally, she found many spiritual lessons through the work, and it has inspired her to ask, “We did this; what else can we do?” Her involvement has also provided money for her to put toward tuition.

Local residents have embraced the OCU Community Garden. For Circleville resident Larry Spires, one visit was all it took for him to become a regular customer. OCU Disaster Management major Garrett VonBerg sees himself planting his own garden after graduation. Intercultural Ministries major Samuel Good remarked, “I’ve learned the importance of knowing how to take care of myself and my future family.”

Jimmy Galvan, a Disaster Management major who hopes his future employment will take him around the world, told us that after this experience he felt equipped to help others. He echoes the feeling of other students in sharing that the project has taught him to appreciate the value of hard work. For him, the garden has provided a daily illustration of his walk with Christ as he watched the plants grow and develop over time.

Garrett may have best communicated the university’s intention for the project and provided evidence of its success when he summarized his learning, “Spiritually, whatever you do, do it for the Lord. It’s easy to get lazy, but what we’re doing out here brings glory to God.”

Students pictured, clockwise from top-left: Bethany Deal, Samuel Good, Ashley Stiltner, Jimmy Galvan, Garrett VonBerg, Max Ray





"To use the sport I love to reach others for Christ is a very powerful thing."

—Emanuel Harris

OCU Soccer Serves in Seattle

Trailblazer Athletics is all about ministry and service to others. Athletic Director Ben Belleman and five members of the OCU soccer program traveled west this summer to partner with Living Hope Community Church in Port Orchard, WA, for a week of outreach in greater Seattle. "It was a great opportunity for our athletes to experience an environment where their love and ability for soccer could be combined with serving and sharing Jesus Christ," Belleman remarked. As a result of the camp connection, **12 young children accepted Christ** and **2 new families joined the church**.

"This was a life changing experience for me," said OCU Senior Emanuel Harris. "To use the sport I love to reach others for Christ is a very powerful thing."

Women's Basketball Leads the Way to the Dominican Republic

The Women's Basketball team will take their talents and ministry to the Dominican Republic this December as part of their first mission trip with *Score International Missions*. The team has been working hard to raise funds by selling donuts and pizza cards, and hosting a 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

The ladies team will travel during Christmas Break to the Dominican Republic where they will serve the local community. They are scheduled to provide manual labor on a construction project and to minister to children in a local orphanage, Josiah's House.

The ladies ask that you would consider prayerfully supporting them as they prepare to travel. For more details regarding the mission trip, please contact Coach Mandy Wray at mwray@ohiochristian.edu

WILL THE SOCCER TEAM GO ALL THE WAY?

Oct 25, 2012 | MidEast Regional Tournament

Nov 7, 2012 | NCCAA National Tournament

Milen Kostov Ministers with *Athletes in Action*

Senior guard Milen Kostov toured with *Athletes in Action* this summer as part of the 2012 AIA Bulgaria Tour. Kostov was one member of a twelve-man roster made up of collegiate and professional players from Bulgaria. The tour featured games against pro-select teams and universities in Illinois, Ohio, and Tennessee.

In addition to competing in games, the team participated in ministry outreach through leading youth basketball clinics.

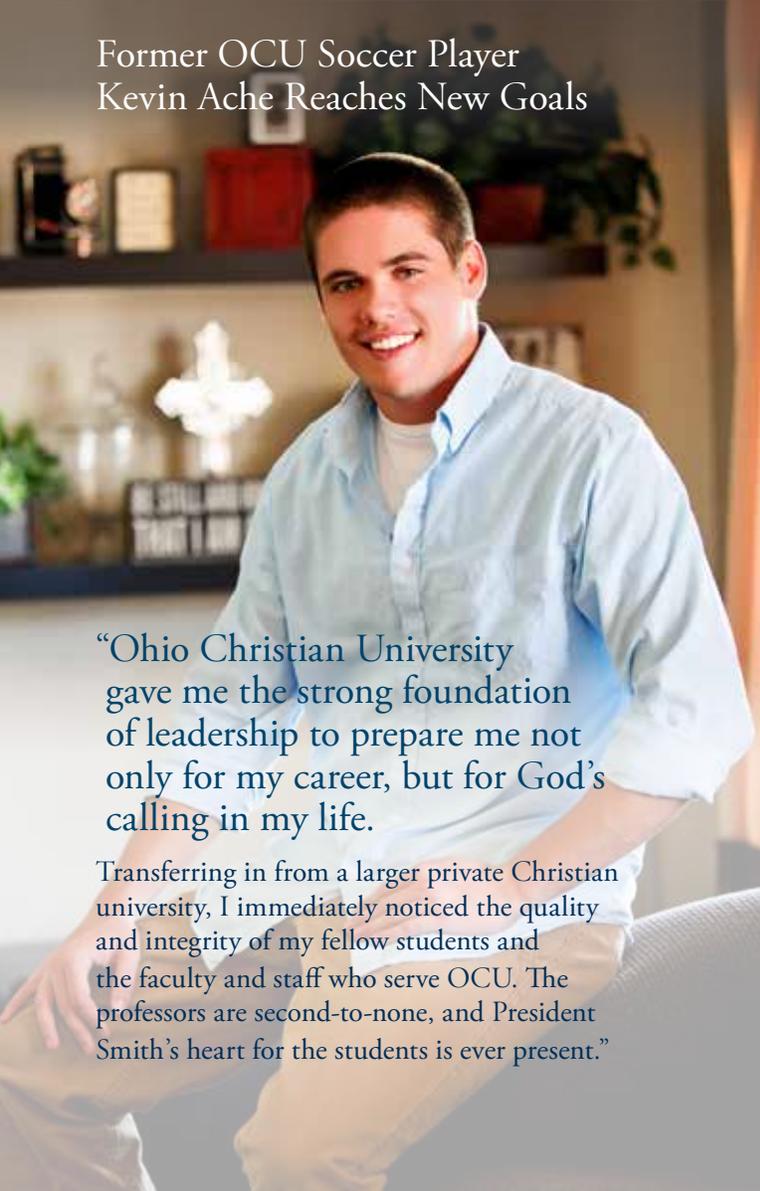
“The tour gave me a chance to share the gospel with others, to be a good influence, and to be an example for those who have not heard about Christ,” said Kostov.



Former OCU Soccer Player Kevin Ache Reaches New Goals

“Ohio Christian University gave me the strong foundation of leadership to prepare me not only for my career, but for God’s calling in my life.”

Transferring in from a larger private Christian university, I immediately noticed the quality and integrity of my fellow students and the faculty and staff who serve OCU. The professors are second-to-none, and President Smith’s heart for the students is ever present.”



After graduating from Ohio Christian University in December 2011, Kevin Ache left for his new ministry position at Central Christian Church in Arizona. Central is a nondenominational church that has been serving people in Arizona for more than 50 years.

With a heart for Christ and a love for children, Kevin serves as the Pastor for grades 4-6 at the Gilbert Campus. In this position, he writes curriculum for all campuses, directs services, leads worship, teaches lessons, and works with over 70 weekly volunteers.

In his first summer at Central Christian Church, Kevin coordinated and directed a week-long summer camp of 226 4th-6th grade students and 40 adults in Prescott, Arizona. During camp, **36 students accepted Christ, 58 students were baptized**, and 35 students decided to enroll in a class to discover more about Jesus Christ. One month later, Kevin and his team led the largest Vacation Bible School in Central's history, with 2,180 students.

Through his ministry, Kevin has the opportunity to influence the lives of hundreds of children. He is actively training adult leaders to work and serve. He is excited about the opportunities God is providing to use his gifts and talents to serve Him.

Rev. Bruce Morrison Grows Washington Court House Churches



As a graduate of Circleville Bible College (now Ohio Christian University) in 1984, Bruce became a youth pastor at High Street Church of Christ in Christian Union where he ministered for one year until he felt the call to youth evangelism and music ministry. This period of ministry lasted two years before he took a student ministry position at Smith Chapel CCCU in Piketon, Ohio. Bruce married Carmen Hershey in 1988 and moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where he started his first lead pastoral role at Valley Station Nazarene Church. During his four years of ministry there, the church saw significant success. Bruce started his Master's Degree at Olivet Nazarene University while in Kentucky and finished his Church Management degree in 1994. He accepted

his second lead pastoral role in Mansfield, Ohio, at the Lincoln Heights CCCU, where he pastored for 15 years. Lincoln Heights Church ministry saw tremendous numerical and spiritual growth.

In 2007 Rev. Morrison accepted the call to Heritage Memorial Church in Washington Court House, Ohio. Since his arrival, an elementary school building has been converted into a community center, which houses a clothing center, Life Pregnancy Center, Safe Place Ministries that focuses on addictions, free community and summer student meal programs, and the establishment of the Rose Avenue Community Church that meets on Saturday nights. Additionally, Heritage Church will start a second satellite church partnership in Jeffersonville, Ohio, this fall.

Bruce and Carmen have been married for 23 years and have five children and three grandchildren. Two of their children are presently in college. Bruce and his son Jacob are the first OCU legacy soccer players. Jacob presently attends Ohio Christian and is studying for pastoral ministry.

ALUMNI UPDATES

'58 | **Hector Quinonez** spent 9 years in Laredo working with the missionaries at a church and school. During his time there, he taught English as a second language. Hector is now retired and resides in Indiana.

'75 | **James Baize** received a Master of Divinity from Ashland Theological Seminary, followed by his Doctorate of Ministry from Colgate Rochester Divinity School. His graduate studies focused in Psychology, and Marriage and Family Ministry. Dr. Baize has served as a Marriage and Family Therapist since 1980. He is also currently an online instructor in the Psychology Departments at Liberty University and Moody Bible Institute. In addition, he has hosted a daily, one minute radio program on family issues entitled "WIKY's Family Minute" since 1987. James and his wife, Ruth, have been

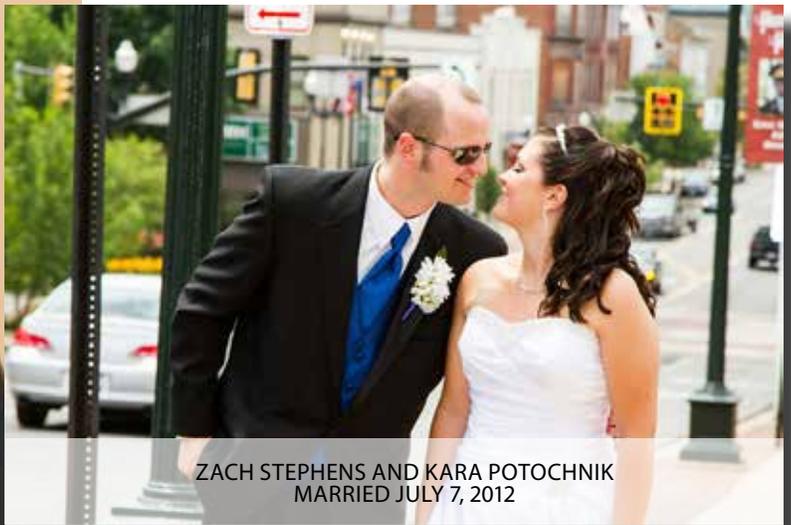
married since 1977 and have one son John. Dr. Baize enjoys teaching Sunday school at his local church, Forest Hills Wesleyan Church.

'93 | **Emory Clark** graduated on May 19, 2012 with a Master of Divinity Degree from Asbury Theological Seminary.

'03 | **Daniel McCarty** and his wife, Emily, reside in West Liberty, Ohio, with their two children, Avery and Eli. Daniel and Emily met on a ministry journey to the Dominican Republic and continue to serve on periodic cross-cultural teams. Together, they serve at the Maple Ridge Ministries, where they offer a place for people in ministry to rest and be renewed. In 2009, Daniel completed his MAR degree from Liberty Seminary. Since graduation, Daniel has served primarily in pastoral ministry and currently serves as the associate pastor in Bellefontaine, Ohio.



JEREMY DAVIS AND ADRIENNE DEMINT
MARRIED AUGUST 11, 2012



ZACH STEPHENS AND KARA POTOCHNIK
MARRIED JULY 7, 2012



BRANDON RITCHEY AND RICHELLE MCCULLOUGH
MARRIED JULY 14, 2012

1. '06 | **Alesha Lea Moffett** married her husband, Carl, in December of 2009. Together they have a 2 year-old son, Nathaniel Lee. Alesha is currently in her second year at Walden University Online and anticipates graduating in February 2014 with a Master's in Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling with a focus in Trauma and Crisis.



In Memoriam

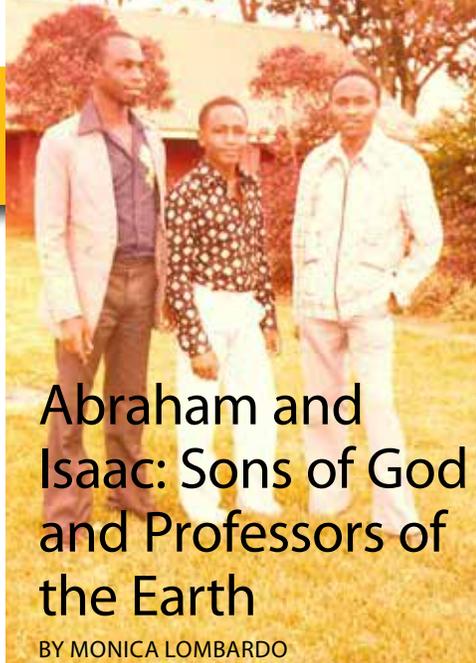
Wayland Hamlin (1949-2012)

Wayland Hamlin was born September 6, 1949, in Chillicothe, Ohio, and went home to be with his Lord and Savior on June 2, 2012 in Pelahatchie, MS.

When the Lord saved Wayland, He put in him an insatiable desire for learning. Circleville Bible College, Circleville, OH; Wesley Biblical Seminary, Jackson, MS; Reformed Theological Seminary, Clinton, MS; and Memphis Theological Society, Memphis, TN, were among his places of learning.

He pastored in CCCU, Independent Methodist, Sanctified, and United Methodist Churches in Ohio, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Wayland proclaimed the Word of God for almost 40 years.

SPECIAL REMARKS WRITTEN BY
JUNE HAMLIN, WIFE OF REV. WAYLAND HAMLIN



Abraham and Isaac: Sons of God and Professors of the Earth

BY MONICA LOMBARDO

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. *By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. (Hebrews 11:8-10 NIV)*

At an orientation for new faculty in the College of Adult and Graduate Studies, Heidi Frederick, the Assistant Vice President and Dean, was speaking to Isaac Songok, a new adjunct, about his life in Kenya and his plans to teach Earth Science. Heidi realized that Isaac must meet Abraham Ndungu, another adjunct in the AGS program who also is from Kenya and teaches science at OCU. What she didn't know is their paths had crossed long before OCU.

Abraham pictured far right

After receiving an email from Heidi, Abraham called Isaac and joked, "How are you my son?" referencing their name relationship in the Bible. They started chatting in Swahili, their native language, and soon figured out that Isaac was a student at Kenyatta University, at the same time and in the same department where Abraham was a professor. The road to teaching at the collegiate level was not easy for either of them, but God's grace prevailed.

"Thousands of miles and God has brought us together," Isaac says.

Abraham grew up in extreme poverty. His family couldn't afford shoes, school, and sometimes food.

"Even when we were in situations where we would have no food, Mom would always keep reminding us to trust God," Abraham recalls.

His faithful mother, Naomi, and his own salvation as a teenager propelled him through college. Abraham went on to achieve a doctorate degree, but that wasn't enough for him because he felt called to share his faith. By luck, he was chosen in the green card lottery which allowed him to take

» Learn more about how God led Abraham and Isaac's lives to intersect at OCU by visiting www.ohiochristian.edu/faculty

a chance and travel to the United States to study ministry.

For Isaac, a tough family situation, drove him to be on his own at twelve years old. Fortunately, he did well enough on the Kenya national test to continue studying in college, but he still felt lost. A life-changing friendship developed between Isaac and a strong Christian named Samuel. He helped Isaac grow spiritually and reconnect with his family. After completing his bachelor degree, Isaac's only option for work was to drive a taxi. On a divine encounter, he picked up a man that took interest in him, and soon after Isaac was packing his bags for America to get his master's degree.

Both men have aspirations to give back to their home country. Isaac's heart is calling him to try to open a clinic because he witnessed so many Kenyans in need of basic care. Abraham wants to build up his biblical knowledge so he can go back to Kenya and train more people to become messengers of God's Word. For now, they are opening the minds and hearts of OCU students by sharing their story of struggle, faith, and knowledge.



Isaac pictured far right

OCU Introduces New Faculty



Dr. Monty Lobb, Associate Professor of Government Relations, served for eight years as Assistant Secretary of State for Ohio while Ken Blackwell was Secretary. He also served as Secretary Blackwell's General Counsel and Chief of Staff and was responsible for many of the significant accomplishments of this office. For the past five years, Monty has served as a public defender and president of Kenosis Ltd; clients include NFL, John Glenn Institute, and Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He holds the Juris Doctorate.



Matt Decker, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling, defends his dissertation this fall to complete his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Western Michigan University. Previously he served as Senior Therapist of Western Michigan University's Psychology Clinic. He is married to Silvia Lucaschi-Decker, Assistant Vice President of AGS Enrollment and Marketing.



OCU grew from 75 (2006) to 157 employees (2012)

R.D. Saunders, Southeastern Director of Advancement, and his wife, Shelli ('84), live in Buford, Georgia, where R.D. will continue in his capacity as the Chief Significance Officer of Network of Caring, an international charitable mission. Prior to joining Network of Caring, R.D. traveled extensively as a global leadership trainer for Dr. John Maxwell's EQUIP Foundation. R.D. is also the speaker for *Leading with 2020 Vision*, a leadership development series used by over 10,000 leaders around the world.

9 Faculty in Doctoral Programs

- ✓ David Brown
- ✓ Rick Christman
- ✓ Heidi Frederick
- ✓ Thad Hicks
- ✓ Dale Lear
- ✓ Gerald Mershimer
- ✓ Ryan Whisler
- ✓ Marian Willeke
- ✓ Ben Williamson

8 Faculty Earned Doctorate Degrees

- ✓ Dr. Robert Freeborough, Ph.D.
- ✓ Dr. Deborah Burd, D.Min.
- ✓ Dr. Adu Bonna, Ph.D.
- ✓ Dr. M. Teresa Trascritti, Ed. D.
- ✓ Dr. Shelly Reynolds, Ph.D.
- ✓ Dr. Jeremy D. Smith, D. Bus. Admin.
- ✓ Dr. Russell E. Fail, Ph.D.
- ✓ Dr. Ralph Hux, D.Min.

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December 1st

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Commencement

Date

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DECEMBER 7
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