

# OhioChristian

Winter 2014

MAXWELL

*the Future is Bright!*

With the generous support of alumni and donors, more students than ever have access to quality Christian education.



2014 Leadership Forum to Feature Dr. Ben Carson

3-Year Bachelor Degree Plan Saves Students Time and Money

Grand Opening of Dr. Malon Mimms Education Center in Morrow, Georgia



## PASTORAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

### \$40 per person includes:

- ▣ Pastoral Leadership Seminar with prominent church growth coach Gerald Brooks
- ▣ Seminar materials and supplemental resources
- ▣ Executive dinner
- ▣ Reserved seating at the Grand Evening Event featuring Dr. John Maxwell and Dr. Ben Carson (see back cover)

*Don't miss this **once in a lifetime** opportunity with **Pastor Gerald Brooks!***



Pastor Gerald Brooks

**April 21, 2014, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

Pastor Brooks is a gifted speaker and mentor to hundreds of pastors. The noted author and International Leadership Hall of Fame Inductee serves as a mentor to numerous high profile pastors. He has authored eight signature books including the highly acclaimed *Ladder Focus* co-authored with Samuel R. Chand.

**Register today!**  
[www.OhioChristian.edu/Pastors](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/Pastors)

*A limited number of scholarships are available.*



Dr. Ben Carson



Dr. John Maxwell

**OHIO CHRISTIAN**  
UNIVERSITY

### Office of Church Relations

To learn more or register, call 740-420-5902 or email Abby at [amccrary@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:amccrary@ohiochristian.edu)

- 5 OCU Develops New Academic Programs
- 8 OCU Then and Now
- 20 Morrow, Georgia, Grand Opening!
- 22 Dr. Ben Carson at OCU April 21, 2014
- 26 OCU Named One of the Best by U.S. News & World Report
- 29 OCU Partners with West Central District for New Pastors
- 34 Trailblazer Athletics
- 36 OCU Alumni Minister Worldwide
- 43 Coming Events

### EDITOR

Mark A. Smith

### DESIGN

Renee Handy

Karin Howard

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Anastasia Beavers

Sharon Burns

Sean Duffy

Rachel Fulks

Becca Hicks

Korrin Miller

Mac McNeal

Orvil Peabody, Jr.

William Tingler

Andrea Williamson

ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes and news to [alumni@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:alumni@ohiochristian.edu) or visit [www.ohiochristian.edu/magazine](http://www.ohiochristian.edu/magazine).



# a Message from the President



By DR. MARK A. SMITH, President



**Why would  
I want my  
children  
to attend a  
university  
that teaches  
the antithesis  
of all I believe  
and have  
tried to instill  
during their  
formative  
years?**



## The Case for Christian Higher Education

During a recent visit to a church, one high school senior said to me, “I do not want to attend Ohio Christian because I want a real-world education.” I’m sure he has his own definition of what constitutes a “real-world education,” but his statement concerned me. Today’s Christian parents must be alert to the fact that many higher education institutions present godless content and philosophies that can cause students to stray from their faith. Now, I am not so naive as to think one cannot be a proponent of Christian education while supporting the education processes of local public entities. In fact, I firmly believe there are many great public institutions with great purposes, such as research in the areas of medicine and engineering, etc., from which we all certainly benefit. However, I am passionate about Christian education and submit that, for my family, it is the best option in the developing years, including the early years of college.

My first concern is that my children receive a **biblical worldview**. Debbie and I have taken our children to church for 18 years, had devotional times, taught the principles of good character from the Bible, and tried to live righteously. The most critical decisions of life from both earthly and eternal perspectives are made from ages 18 to 22. Therefore, I want them to attend a university that reinforces a Christian belief system.

With a Christian perspective in mind, should we as Christians reconsider how we view education? For decades, many in our Wesleyan circles misinterpreted John Wesley’s message on pride regarding education. He valued education, but was always concerned that education for its own sake would promote the sin of pride. This mindset became the basis of the “ignorance is bliss” philosophy, which led some to justify their own lack of educational pursuits. Our present society, however, abhors ignorance, demands degrees, and expects an education. As Christians, we must have balance in this area.

A historical review suggests that education in Wesley’s day was not a highly developed concept in the minds of people. Families were poor, and children were required to work to support the family unit. Children were not treated with respect. In fact, according to Herbert Byrne, writer of *John Wesley and Learning*, “the wealthy looked upon their children somewhat as a disease, and schools were used as boarding schools to get rid of the little nuisances that abounded” (Byrne, 1983, p. 125).

Byrne suggests that an interesting change occurred as, “Toward the end of the century, a more serious spirit permeated society, and parents began to feel greater responsibility for their children” (p. 125). Wesley was one of the leaders who helped foster a better understanding of the value of children.

Wesley was convinced that education could change the woes of his day, as suggested in Volume 3 of his works, “I preached on the education of children wherein we are extremely wanting. Many were deeply convinced of this. I hope that they will not stifle that conviction” (Wesley, p. 270). Wesley believed deeply that children should be well-mannered, and educated according to God’s principles. He understood that children were created by God for future service to the kingdom.

As an educational leader of his day, John Wesley valued not only the education of children, but higher education as well. The two most prominent universities of his era were Oxford and Cambridge. These schools focused on deistic rationalism, but Wesley utilized these universities to teach his message of “piety and purity.” Wesley, who was a university graduate, emphasized that education apart from God was flawed education.

During Wesley’s lifetime, he served at Lincoln College, Oxford, for about 25 years in a fellowship role. He was a Greek lecturer and teacher of the classics. Wesley’s strong belief in the plight of the poor encouraged him to found schools in Savannah, Georgia, and Bristol, London (Byrne, p. 138). Thus, one may conclude that one advocate for the concept of Christian education stems from one of our great church leaders of the past— John Wesley.

So how does this apply to us today?

***We must clearly understand that uneducated church leaders will have little impact upon society in the 21st century.***

I personally agree with a typical biblical viewpoint that education for the sake of education promotes pride,

but I take heart in recognizing that even Mr. Wesley did not forsake education because of this concern. He chose to emphasize the loftiness of God rather than the greatness of man in the education process.

As I have reflected upon our past, it has become increasingly clear to me that our ministries and organizations need educational leaders. Relating to the next century, Patricia Carrow-Muffet declares, “We will need leaders who are change agents, who have vision and purpose, and who understand the big picture. We will need leaders who are able to set direction and facilitate those involved in working cooperatively to meet the challenges of a diverse world” (Muffet, 1993, p. 58). If Wesley were alive today, I believe he would challenge his ministers to obtain all the education they could, establish Christian schools, and impact the world through Christ-centered leadership.

Within the scope of our educational leadership, I believe we can carry forth the message of heart purity to our world. We must:

- ❑ Emphasize the value of biblical education
- ❑ Promote Christian education from every pulpit
- ❑ Educate young men and women to be the future leaders of our Christian institutions
- ❑ Preach a new passion for calling to Christian service
- ❑ Teach and mentor young men and women to prepare themselves for Christian higher education

Education, as a process, is vanity. Solomon, the wise king, warned, “Vanity of vanities—all is vanity” (Eccl. 1:2). As we move forward, let us remember that Christian education, principles of right living, and the messages of Christian character and heart purity are not vain pursuits. As summarized in Wesley’s message, these messages must be proclaimed! And what better places to proclaim them than educational institutions like Ohio Christian University?

*More online!*

Visit President Smith’s blog for more articles and leadership lessons:  
**[www.OhioChristian.edu/President](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/President)**

# *a Message from the Provost*



By DR. HANK KELLY, Provost

Earning a bachelor's degree in three years saves a year of tuition and residence hall expenses, and allows earlier entrance into the workforce or graduate school.



## **OCU Develops Innovative Academic Programs**

New dual majors, cost-saving options, and hybrid classes provide exceptional value for students.

### **New 3-year bachelor's degree saves time and money.**

A three-year bachelor's degree will be offered next academic year. Those in the Business program can elect to take a sequence of classes to earn 18 credits per semester and six credits per summer, 120 credits total, in only three years! Earning a bachelor's degree in three years saves a year of tuition and residence hall expenses, and allows entrance into the workforce or graduate school a year earlier.

### **Criminal Justice program offered onsite and online.**

The Criminal Justice program started in the Traditional program this fall and already has five students. Professor Sean Lovell directs this new program in addition to directing the Disaster Management and Relief program. The Adult and Graduate Studies version of the Criminal Justice program will launch this spring and be offered both online and onsite.

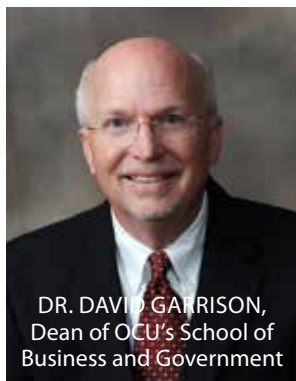
### **High-demand hybrid classes meet student need for flexibility and improve computer skills.**

The use of hybrid, or blended learning, classes (25-50 percent online, with the remainder being

face-to-face) continues to increase. An article from *The Chronicle of Higher Education* highlighted a survey conducted of 20,000 students that noted colleges are not keeping up with student demand for hybrid classes. In the Traditional program, 30 percent of the classes this semester are hybrid classes. Most courses use a learning management system (software used for delivering online course material) to supplement classes (e.g., online syllabi, content, quizzes, discussions). In the Adult and Graduate Studies program, all of the graduate programs now use online supplements. These types of courses develop students' online learning and technology skills while still retaining the valued face-to-face interaction with students.



## Business & Government Department is now *School of Business and Government*.



DR. DAVID GARRISON,  
Dean of OCU's School of  
Business and Government

In January, OCU's Business and Government Department became the School of Business and Government with Dr. Dave Garrison as the dean. We are looking for a donor to name the school! Garrison was the Chair of the Business and Government Department and was recently nominated to be a member of the Philadelphia Society. He will be

inducted in the spring of 2014. The department now has many majors available, including Accounting and Finance, Business Management, Criminal Justice, Disaster Management and Relief, Government and Public Service, International Business, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Pre-Law, and Sports Management.

The School of Business and Government is very active. It goes to Washington, D.C. and New York, conducts business roundtables, holds business plan competitions that are judged by business leaders, and offers education abroad in Italy. Some upcoming events to be hosted by the school are Campaign Management School in February, taught by the Leadership Institute, and the Conservative Women's Conference in April, with the Young American's Foundation.



The Faith and Liberty Talk Show, also conducted by the school, continues to create a stir with renowned authorities interviewed every week. The show is now broadcast on radio in Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and

Texas, in addition to being offered through iTunes and OCU's website. All episodes are archived and available to listeners free of charge. However, continuation of the show depends on the generosity of listeners and OCU supporters. Please donate by visiting [www. FaithAndLiberty.org/Give](http://www.FaithAndLiberty.org/Give).

## New dual major programs and minors.

### Dual Majors

Students now have the option of earning a dual major—and still graduating in four years.

Government & Public Service/Business

Disaster Management & Relief/Business

Sports Management/Business

Worship Leadership/Business

Christian Ministries/Business  
(also called Bi-vocational Ministries)

### Minors

Minors consisting of 21 credits of concentration have also been created.

Business

Children's Ministry

Criminal Justice

Disaster Management and Relief

Government

Intercultural Ministry

Pastoral Care and Counseling

Sports Management

Worship Leadership

Youth Ministry



# THE BOOTH BROTHERS

DINNER & CONCERT



with The Guardians

**\$35**

**dinner & concert**

per person

**\$15 concert only**

**March 22, 2014 at 5:45pm**

Doors open at 5:00pm for dinner & concert and 6:30pm for concert only.

**Reserve your tickets today!**

For more information, call 740-477-7745 or visit

**[www.OhioChristian.edu/Concert](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/Concert)**

**OHIO CHRISTIAN**  
UNIVERSITY

at the OCU Maxwell Center | 1476 Lancaster Pike, Circleville, Ohio 43113

THE OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY HERITAGE

# Then *and* Now



Conley Ministry Center



Maxwell Leadership Center, Science & Logistics Center, and the Dean & Diana Hickman Student Center



Ohio Christian University has a heritage of serving the community. The proposed Performing Arts and Ministry Center will allow the university to serve the community and its students more effectively.



In 1948, the need for service in local communities had outgrown the available trained resources of the Churches of Christ in Christian Union. At the Mount of Praise Camp Meeting that year, a school was established for the purpose of training students to serve effectively in the church and society by providing a holistic, Christ-centered, biblically-integrated education in the Wesleyan tradition. That school is known today as Ohio Christian University, and its mission to serve the community has never changed.

#### PERFORMING ARTS & MINISTRY CENTER

With the tremendous growth in student population, program offerings, and community involvement in recent years, the need for a new assembly center has never been greater. Each year tens of thousands of guests are welcomed to campus over the course of 200 events. Twice a week more than 600 students need to gather in a chapel with a maximum capacity of 300. As a result, the gymnasium is serving as a performance hall and chapel. However, this facility presents great acoustical challenges and logistical limitations.

To continue growing and serving the community, the university has proposed construction of a new Performing Arts and Ministry Center. The facility will be built in two phases. The first phase will consist of a beautiful 1,000-seat performance venue with quality acoustics and technology. This building will be located to the east of Detty Chapel and will be a prominent focal point on campus. The second phase of the project will add a ministry and music education wing. The new Performing Arts and Ministry Center will be a venue for musical, theatrical, and educational performances. It will also serve as the chapel for the on-campus student body, for which enrollment is quickly approaching 1,000.



Future Performing Arts and Ministry Center

## *Give Today!*

Help OCU continue its legacy of serving the community by sending your gift or pledge today. Use the enclosed envelope or give online at [www.OhioChristian.edu/Give](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/Give).

# Coming in 2016

Future Business Innovation Center

## THE NEW BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER

Building on a heritage of serving community, Ohio Christian University understands that jobs result from an entrepreneurial response to the demand for goods and services. It is projected that up to 80% of future new job creation will come from the small business and start-up sectors. OCU has committed to enhancing the economic viability of its community by establishing a Business Innovation Center. The facility will provide a vast array of business support services to aid the successful development of entrepreneurial companies. Entrepreneurial efforts will be enhanced through networking assistance, basic business resources, marketing assistance, access to funding

sources, regulatory compliance, accounting, and financial management expertise. The Business Innovation Center will connect local businesses and industries with the valuable resources of the university's growing School of Business and Government.

Your gift toward the Business Innovation Center today will directly enhance the economic viability of our community and enable OCU to continue its heritage of service to the community.

*To invest in this opportunity, call 740-420-5918 to speak with Mark Taylor, Vice President for University Advancement today.*



**“The Master of Business Administration (MBA) program at OCU has allowed me to maintain my career while continuing my education. The program has greatly expanded my knowledge in an environment that fosters ethics and integrity. The diversity of backgrounds and quality group discussions have enriched my learning experience.”**

Ashlee Dickson, MBA Scholarship Recipient and Assistant Manager at The Groveport Recreation and Aquatic Center

Dr. Debra Grimm with Ashlee Dickson



## THE COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarship funds are one of the most direct and effective ways to positively impact an individual and, in turn, an entire community.

Christian education has a profound impact on the community. Knowledge coupled with the development of character often results in better incomes, health, and commerce as well as mitigating inequalities and reducing poverty and crime. Perhaps no other investment yields a greater return.

Today, more than ever before, students are dependent upon scholarship funds to complete their education. The rising cost of living, lethargic economy, and decreasing

traditional funding resources have greatly increased the challenges faced by worthy students who lack financial resources.

Ohio Christian University is committed to providing an academically excellent education with a Christian worldview at an affordable rate. Your gift to the General Scholarship Fund will impact a worthy student in an immeasurable way as they prepare for a life of service and contribution.



### *Support a Current Student*

And help them achieve their calling for as little as **\$15 a month!**

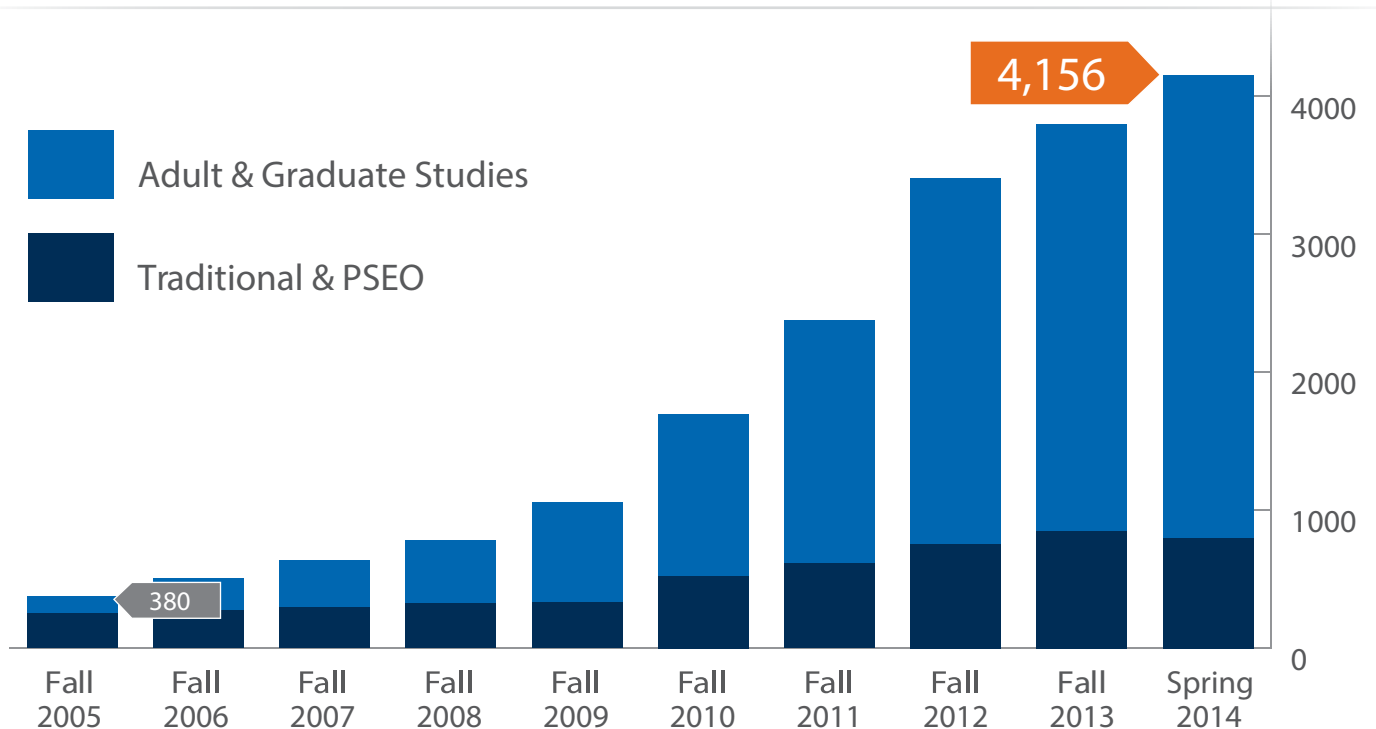
Call 740-420-5918 or give online at **[www.OhioChristian.edu/Give](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/Give)**.



# recent news



## Ohio Christian Enrollment Continues to Climb





## Community Comes to Campus!

More than 1,000 guests from the local community attended OCU's first Trunk or Treat event, which was coordinated by Anastasia Beavers with support from University Church and the OCU Small Group Ministry.

## Prospective Students and Parents Enjoy Preview Days

My wife, daughter Lakota, and I had a wonderful visit to OCU today. I graduated from OCU (then Circleville Bible College) in 1987 but had not been back since. We scheduled the visit when our daughter expressed an interest in going to OCU. Dannyel is a great recruiter and tour guide. We also got to speak with Dr. Case, truly one of the best professors I have had at any of the places I studied. WOW! How the campus has changed! It's a wonderful place!

JOE RHEA, class of 1987, via Facebook



We had a great time at preview day even though it rained. We loved the message given by Aaron Duvall.

CAROLYN CHURCH MCGRANAHAN,  
via Facebook

➔ **Schedule your visit today at [www.OhioChristian.edu/Preview](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/Preview)**



# OCU Chorale

The OCU Chorale and Sounds of Hope ministries are coming soon to locations throughout the Midwest. Please join us for a time of ministry and worship. To host OCU travel teams at your church, email [amccrary@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:amccrary@ohiochristian.edu) or call 740-420-5903.

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 2  | Winchester CCCU,<br>Winchester, OH                      |
| Feb. 2  | Cedar St. CCCU,<br>New Boston, OH                       |
| Feb. 16 | Faith Memorial Church,<br>Lancaster, OH                 |
| Feb. 23 | Brookside Church,<br>Chillicothe, OH                    |
| Mar. 2  | Grace Ministries Church,<br>Lockbourne, OH              |
| Mar. 23 | Community UMC,<br>Circleville, OH                       |
| Mar. 30 | Heritage Memorial Church,<br>Washington Court House, OH |
| Apr. 6  | Eastlake Community Church,<br>Moneta, VA                |
| Apr. 13 | Turning Point Church,<br>Adrian, MI                     |



Ohio Christian University is featured as an Editor's Pick selection in the Higher Education Worship Degrees category for the 2013 *Worship Leader Magazine* Best of the Best issue, released in October.

"Earning this honor during our first year is an unexpected surprise, affirming the direction we are setting in these programs," said Dr. Sones, OCU Coordinator for Programs in Worship Leadership.



# Pickaway County Community Foundation Awards Grant to OCU Music Department

Ohio Christian University's Department of Music is pleased to receive a generous grant from the Pickaway County Community Foundation in support of the Music Department's Performance Series. Over the past six years, the OCU Music Department has actively endeavored to contribute to the musical culture of Pickaway County by hosting free concerts featuring musical artists from around the state and the nation.

Dr. Anthony looks forward with great anticipation to the success of the university's upcoming Campaign for Community, which will raise funds for a new Performing Arts and Ministry Center on campus. The Performing Arts and Ministry Center will provide the university and Pickaway County with a beautiful new facility in which to host future concerts, theater productions, and other cultural events.

Dr. Anthony added, "I would also like to thank Mary Jane Dean for the hard work she put in to help us with this grant. Her negotiations with the foundation board were essential and effective."

Founded in 2001, The Pickaway County Community Foundation (PCCF) administers a charitable endowment consisting of approximately 60 separately identified funds serving Pickaway County, Ohio. The Foundation is a public charity governed by a twelve member board. Under its umbrella of funds, the Foundation makes unrestricted grants to improve the quality of life in Pickaway County, manages a Youth Advisory Committee, and an endowment for the support of the Mary Virginia Crites Hannan Park in Circleville, Ohio.

"With the support of the Pickaway County Community Foundation, we will continue the tradition of hosting high-quality cultural and music events that are open to the community and free of charge."

DR. JOHN ANTHONY,  
Chair of the OCU Music Department

**For information about upcoming concerts or to learn more about music education at OCU, please visit [www.ohiochristian.edu/music](http://www.ohiochristian.edu/music) or call 740-420-5905.**



8th Annual Christmas Gift to the Community

# *Festival of Carols & Messiah*



DR. RODNEY SONES, Chorale Director

Ohio Christian University hosted its eighth Annual *Festival of Carols and Messiah* concert on December 7, 2013, in the beautifully decorated Maxwell Center. Guests were treated to the artistry of the OCU Chorale, joined by members of the Circleville Community Choir and an excellent 40-piece orchestra including students, faculty members, and local musicians.

In the spirit of the season, the Festival was the university's gift to the community with one request. Guests were asked to bring canned

food items to donate to local ministries who support needy families. Guests who arrived early enjoyed a prelude by the orchestra, along with other musicians and university ensembles.

Dr. Rodney Sones, Director of the OCU Chorale and Community Choir, led the evening's music, which featured festive orchestrations of well-loved Christmas music, beautiful acapella numbers, and Christmas selections from Handel's *Messiah*. Soloists for the evening included Carolyn







Dione Bennet  
Soprano Soloist



Carolyn Redman  
Alto Soloist



Andrew Blosser  
Tenor Soloist

Redman, Andrew Blosser, and Dione Bennet. OCU students **Shadeja Nelson, Mallory Noel, and Jessica Crocker** sang as a trio, and **Abigail Ailes** performed a violin solo. Sones commented, "Once again, the OCU Chorale is enjoying a year of growth. We had tremendous fun preparing this year's concert. Community participation continues to bring many wonderful singers. We hope the concert was a blessing to all who joined us to celebrate the Christmas season."





# Fourth Annual Small Business Round Table

By DR. DAVID GARRISON, Dean of OCU School of Business & Government



Ohio Christian University's School of Business and Government hosted the fourth annual Small Business Round Table on Tuesday, November 19, 2013. The Round Table drew more than 100 OCU students, who spent time with seven business leaders, most of whom are small business owners. The topic for this year's event was *Starting and Managing a Small Business*. Special guests included Jesse Lear and Travis Smith of VIP Waste Management, Justin Wood of Captain Steamer carpet cleaning, Jon Bialy of Bialy Corp., Ben Reynolds of The Citizen's Bank, Carly Neff of Rhoads Farm Market, and OCU Alumnus Mike Farrell of Mike's Landscaping.

Students engaged in discussions with the various business leaders, asking practical and applicable questions. The business owners emphasized character, ethics, hard work, time management, knowledge of the market, and discipline as important aspects of owning a business. Most of the students who attended the event are majoring in Business, Government and Public Service, Sports

Management, Disaster Management and Relief, and Criminal Justice. Some have indicated their own plans to start a small business upon graduating.

**OCU's strong emphasis on practical learning is the impetus for events that bring knowledgeable and successful individuals to campus, allowing OCU students to learn from their experience and expertise.**



## SURVEY SAYS...

# 96%

Employment  
rate among  
alumni based  
on the 2013  
Alumni Survey.

## *Majority of Grads Serve in Ministry*

In summer 2013, Ohio Christian University invited several thousand alumni to participate in a survey regarding their experiences as students and graduates. One of the important questions related to current employment. The responses indicated that more than half – 52 percent – of alumni are employed in churches, missions, education, public service, and other non-profit organizations. These results reveal that the university is meeting its mission to prepare students to serve effectively in the church and society by providing a holistic, Christ-centered, biblically-integrated education in the Wesleyan tradition.

The total employment rate of alumni is nearly 96 percent of those who are eligible and desire to be employed. These percentages demonstrate the value of an education at Ohio Christian University and the quality produced through excellent curricula, dedicated faculty, and rigorous academic experiences.

Dr. Hank Kelly, Provost, stated, “The university’s focus on teaching competencies, not just knowledge, has paid off, as shown by the employment rate of our graduates.”



HEIDI FREDERICK  
Assistant Vice President and  
Dean for College of Adult and  
Graduate Studies



RIBBON CUTTING: members of the Mimms and Dornan families with President Smith, Dr. Thomas and Ms. Holmes, and many current OCU students of the Morrow location



# Grand Opening!

More than 100 community and business leaders were on hand to witness the December 4, 2013, grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony at Ohio Christian University's Dr. Malon Mimms Education Center in Morrow, Georgia. Dr. Malon Mimms, wife Kaywin, and sons Robert Mimms and Lonnie Mimms attended this tremendous day of celebration. Attending on behalf of the late Dr. Jim Dornan were his daughter and granddaughter, Heather Dornan and Ashley-Kate Dornan, along with his son and daughter-in-law, Eric and Abby Dornan. The Mimms and Dornans gave generously to see this education

center serve the Clayton and Henry County communities. Many state and local government leaders were present and spoke, including Morrow Mayor, J.B. Burke, and Clayton County Chamber President and CEO, Yulonda Darden Beauford. A strong contingency from Ohio Christian University's leadership was present, including President, Dr. Mark Smith; Provost, Dr. Hank Kelly; Assistant Provost and Vice President, Dr. Tim Eades; and Vice President for University Advancement, Mr. Mark Taylor.

Dr. Shawn Thomas, OCU's Director of Enrollment and Operations for the Morrow campus and former Vice President at SunTrust Bank,

kicked off the festivities, speaking passionately of how the Morrow campus became a reality as vision met faith. Dr. Thomas expressed that what is happening in Morrow is nothing short of divine intervention. In just four short months since the doors officially opened, the location is serving almost 30 students with hundreds more anticipated in 2014. Ohio Christian University is about partnerships, and formal partnerships have been forged with local ministries, businesses, and institutions such as Southern Crescent Technical College. Ohio Christian University is on the move in Morrow, Georgia.

President Mark Smith spoke of his relationship with the Mimms





## OCU's Morrow, Georgia, Campus Presents the Dr. Malon Mimms Education Center

By DR. TIM EADES, Assistant Provost and Vice President for Non-Traditional Education and Development

and Dornan families, reflecting on their generosity and commitment to Christian higher education in the greater Atlanta area. Dr. Smith shared, "Ohio Christian University is a Christian university that prepares students to lead and serve the church and society. We highly value education and have a commitment to enhance the communities in which we serve and to promote great citizens. We are an institution that adds value by creating opportunities for those who need extra assistance in life's journey. We will provide a high quality, low cost alternative to Georgia students. Our goal is that students will lead their communities through strong Christian values and a great work ethic."

One of the most special moments of the day was the unveiling of two beautiful portraits of Dr. Malon Mimms and Dr. Jim and Nancy Dornan. These will both be placed in the facility. Ms. Latonya Holmes, Corporate Developer and Recruiter for Morrow, assisted with the unveiling of the portraits. Visibly moved, she said, "What these families did for OCU changed my life! What is about to happen will be amazing."

For more information about OCU's degree programs in Georgia or online, call 855-OCU-GRAD or visit [www.OCUGeorgia.com](http://www.OCUGeorgia.com).



Dr. and Mrs. Malon Mimms donated the \$2.5 million facility for the Morrow campus.



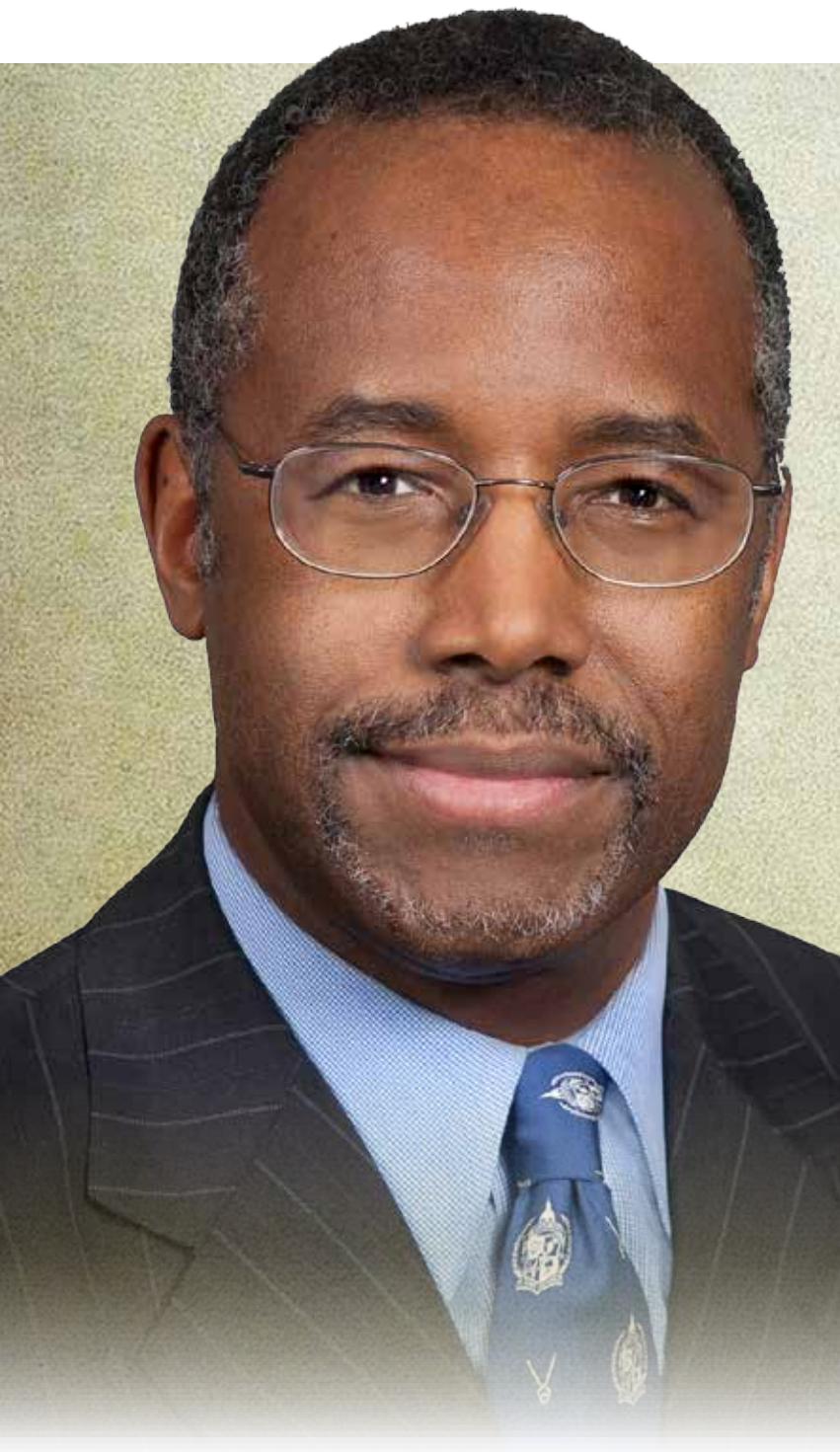
The first Morrow, Georgia, cohort started classes Sept. 26, 2013.



from left: Eric Dornan, Dr. Shawn Thomas, Abby Dornan, Dr. Mark Smith, portrait of Dr. Jim Dornan and Nancy Dornan, Heather Dornan, Ashley-Kate Dornan, and Latonya Holmes

The Mimms and Dornan families gave generously to serve the greater Atlanta area with a new Christian higher education center.





# DR. BEN

As the keynote speaker at the 61st Annual National Prayer Breakfast, Dr. Ben Carson discussed the future of America and its healthcare system.

Dr. Carson, a world-renowned neurosurgeon, author, humanitarian, and Fox News Contributor, will join Dr. John Maxwell for OCU's 2014 Leadership Forum.

The son of a single mother in a tough urban neighborhood, Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., M.D., had a childhood dream of becoming a physician. Challenges such as dire poverty, a single parent home, poor grades, and low self-esteem, appeared to preclude the realization of that dream. Yet his mother, with only a third-grade education, challenged her sons to strive for excellence. As a young man, Dr. Carson persevered and became a full professor of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery, and pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where he directed pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center for over a quarter of a century.

Career highlights include the first and only successful separation of craniopagus (Siamese) twins joined at the back of the head in 1987, the first

See a video of Dr. Carson's address at the National Prayer Breakfast online at [www.OhioChristian.edu/DrCarson](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/DrCarson)



# CARSON

SPEAKING AT OCU  
APRIL 21, 2014



## LEADERSHIP FORUM 2014

completely successful separation of type-2 vertical craniopagus twins in 1997, and the first successful placement of an intrauterine shunt for a hydrocephalic twin. Dr. Carson now holds more than 60 honorary doctorate degrees and has received hundreds of awards and citations.

Dr. Carson is president and co-founder of the Carson Scholars Fund, which recognizes young people of all backgrounds for exceptional academic and humanitarian accomplishments. The fund has awarded more than \$5 million to more than 5,000 scholars. Dr. Carson is also the co-founder of Angels of the OR (Operating Room) under the auspices of the Baltimore Community Foundation, which provides grants to assist neurosurgery patients with expenses not covered by insurance.

Dr. Carson's life is chronicled in the original TNT movie, *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* starring Oscar winner Cuba Gooding, Jr. Dr. Carson is author of several books including the New York Times best seller, *America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great*.

In June 2013, after 40 years of medical endeavors, Dr. Carson retired and today serves as Professor Emeritus of Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University. He is a Fox News Contributor and writes a weekly opinion column for The Washington Times. Dr. Carson has been married for more than 37 years to his wife, Candy, and is the father of three sons. His mother, Sonya Carson, who made all this possible, has lived to see it happen.



***Dr. John Maxwell***

Best-selling author, international leadership expert, and OCU Alumnus will present the Executive and Evening Sessions.



***Pastor Gerald Brooks***

A special Pastoral Seminar will be led by Pastor Brooks, a successful pastor, author, and mentor to hundreds of pastors.

***For more information, see back cover  
or visit [www.OhioChristian.edu](http://www.OhioChristian.edu)***





A full-length photograph of a woman with dark hair, smiling, wearing bright pink scrubs and a blue stethoscope. She is standing with her left hand on her hip and her right hand near her waist.

# First RN-BSN Cohort Begins in Lancaster, Ohio, with 17 Students

By DR. TIM EADES, Assistant Provost and Vice President for Non-Traditional Education and Development

In November, OCU welcomed its first cohort of students to the RN-BSN (Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing) program at its Lancaster, Ohio, campus. OCU is dedicated to preparing nurses to deliver holistic Christian care with a heart for servant leadership. Heidi Frederick, Assistant Vice President and Dean for the College of Adult and Graduate Studies, said, “OCU is committed to providing the curricula, facilitators, support, and services that BSN students need to be successful in their academic program and in impacting the nursing field.”

The majority of students in the cohort are employed by Fairfield Medical Center (FMC). Cynthia Pearsall, FMC’s Chief Nursing Officer, was in attendance to show her support for all who made the momentous decision to further their education.

During the first night of class, Bill Baker, Director of Nursing, shared

what an honor it was to collaborate on this history-making partnership between OCU and FMC. “For this first Lancaster BSN cohort, tonight begins a journey moving forward to becoming different, so that as professional nurses we can make a greater difference to the health of our communities and the world,” he said.

**OCU regards nursing as both art and science with an emphasis on Christian care that is both compassionate and conscientious.**

The program is designed to be convenient for busy working nurses, with classes available either one night per week onsite or completely asynchronous online. For more information about the RN-BSN program, call 1-855-OCU-GRAD or visit [www.OhioChristian.edu](http://www.OhioChristian.edu) today.



The first night of class for BSN cohort in Lancaster, pictured with the students (from the right) are Bill Baker, Scott Boyer, and Professor Vicki Rhoads





# Advance Your Professional Nursing Career

*Earn your RN to BSN!*

Multiple Ohio locations or entirely online

**Classes Start 2/17/14. Enroll Today! 1-855-OCU-GRAD**



## OCU and Asbury Theological Seminary Partner to Facilitate M.A. to M.Div. Transfer

By DR. TIM EADES, Assistant Provost and Vice President  
for Non-Traditional Education and Development

Ohio Christian University and Asbury Theological Seminary recently signed an agreement enabling OCU students completing the Master of Arts in Ministry (M.A.) to transfer significant hours into the Asbury Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. The agreement was reached after several months of dialogue between Asbury Provost, Dr. Doug Matthews, and Dr. Tim Eades, OCU's Assistant Provost and Vice President for Non-Traditional Education and Development.

"I am excited about the new partnership with Asbury Theological Seminary and what it means for our M.A. in Ministry students who decide to pursue additional graduate work," said Dr. Eades. Students working on their M.A. in Ministry at OCU will have, at a minimum, 16 hours of advanced standing in the Master of Divinity at Asbury.

The Ohio Christian University Master of Arts in Ministry is a 32 credit hour program that offers two concentrations: Pastoral Care and Counseling, and Practical Theology. The program can be completed entirely online or at select OCU campus locations. The M.A. in Ministry allows up to nine hours of advanced standing and can be completed in less than two years.

***To request information or apply, visit  
[www.OCUonline.com](http://www.OCUonline.com) or call 1-855-OCU-GRAD.***





**BEST  
COLLEGES**

**U.S. News** & WORLD REPORT

**REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES  
RANKINGS**

# OCU NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

By DR. HANK KELLY  
OCU Provost

**“OCU is thrilled  
to receive its  
first-ever ranking  
in U.S. News &  
World Report,  
surpassing many  
peer colleges.”**

DR. MARK SMITH

Ohio Christian University has received its first-ever ranking ever in the top tier of the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges in the Midwest. For more than 25 years, U.S. News & World Report has published its Best College guidebook, which is the most widely recognized list of its kind. Students around the country use the report as a tool in finding the right college.

Dr. Mark A. Smith, President of Ohio Christian University since 2006 stated, “Over the last several years, Ohio Christian University has focused on holistic growth—growth in enrollment, growth in quality faculty, and growth in academic and student services. This focus has led to our first-ever ranking in U.S. News & World Report, surpassing many of our peer institutions. Ohio Christian University continues to strive for excellence in all areas.”

The Best Colleges in the Midwest ranking includes colleges and universities in a 12-state area of the Midwest. In order to rank the colleges, U.S. News & World Report first puts each college into a category based on its mission and location. Data from each school is then gathered in 16 areas regarding academic excellence, and each area holds a certain weight (as a percentage). Finally, the colleges are ranked based on their composite weighted scores (U.S. News & World Report).



# President Smith Leads Training at Fowler Bible Institute

OCU President, Dr. Mark Smith, was invited by Dr. Benny Tate, President of the Congregational Methodist Church, to lead a half-day training seminar for pastors, laity, and other guests at the newly established Fowler Bible Institute. President Smith's powerful and relevant training sessions focused on prayer and pastoral leadership.

In session one, Dr. Smith challenged pastors to be leaders in their churches and communities, boldly speaking the truth. He explained that America and the world need Christian pastors and leaders who will not shy away from the difficult challenges facing society. Leaders who really desire for the church to grow need only open their eyes to identify the many needs they can serve to effectively engage their local communities.

**Christian leaders should stand firm in unity and conviction that God has the power to redeem and overcome the sinfulness of the world.**

In the second session, Dr. Smith took time to discuss the importance of prayer, sharing that dynamic growth witnessed in churches, schools, and ministries has a specific power source: prayer. He described the kind of prayer that acknowledges lasting success is not derived by human effort, but by the power and abundance of our God! Prayer eliminates the fear of failure, because the success does not belong to us, it belongs to God. This type of prayer says, "God, let us see what You see, and give us strength to go where You would send us for the good of Your Kingdom." Let us boldly trust that God will do what He says He will, that He will provide the strength, courage, resources, and skills to complete the vision He sets before us.



Dr. Mark Smith with the Fowler family and Dr. Benny Tate



Dr. Benny Tate



Dr. and Mrs. Fowler with Dr. Benny Tate



# Get Higher Interest Rate and Invest in God’s Kingdom

Increase your annual income  
and recognize tax savings.

| <u>Charitable Gift Annuity Rates</u> |       |       |       |       |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>One Life</b>                      |       |       |       |       |       |
| Age                                  | 65    | 70    | 75    | 80    | 90    |
| Annuity Rate                         | 4.7%  | 5.1%  | 5.8%  | 6.8%  | 9.0%  |
| <b>Two Lives</b>                     |       |       |       |       |       |
| 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 OCU students in the future.

To learn more, call Mark Taylor at  
740-420-5918 or email [mtaylor@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:mtaylor@ohiochristian.edu)





# OCU Partners with West Central District for New Pastors

By REV. JOE DUVALL, CCCU West Central District Superintendent

## 27 OCU graduates now serve as pastors in the West Central District of the CCCU.

Over the last fifteen years, many conversations among leaders in the Churches of Christ in Christian Union (CCCU) have been about the aging of our ministerial ranks. Without enough young people entering full-time ministry as pastors, who would fill the shoes of current ministers as they began to retire? When I became District Superintendent for the West Central District, I met with the leadership to discuss what they felt the top priorities should be for the next five years. After much thought and discussion, it was concluded that the greatest need was for young pastors, and we immediately began seeking ways to solve this imminent problem.

**The young pastors coming to us from OCU are helping to rekindle a fire in the West Central District.**

Ohio Christian University has come alongside the West Central District and provided a great group of new, young pastors. I am blessed to have them and others to help lead the churches and the district over the next decades. I am also thankful for the older, wiser, more experienced pastors who have mentored, encouraged, prayed for, and provided wise counsel for this younger group of pastors! Their leadership and assistance has been invaluable for the development and growth of the younger pastors.

With Ohio Christian University providing younger pastors and with our seasoned pastors imparting guidance and reassurance, God is doing a great work in the West Central District of the Churches of Christ in Christian Union.

God has beautifully and perfectly provided younger pastors through Ohio Christian University, the experienced pastors to mentor them, and the willingness of the West Central District churches to allow them the freedom to grow and develop their ministry skills.

We now have 27 OCU graduates serving as pastors in our district. They will be the energy and future of the West Central District and the Churches of Christ in Christian Union!

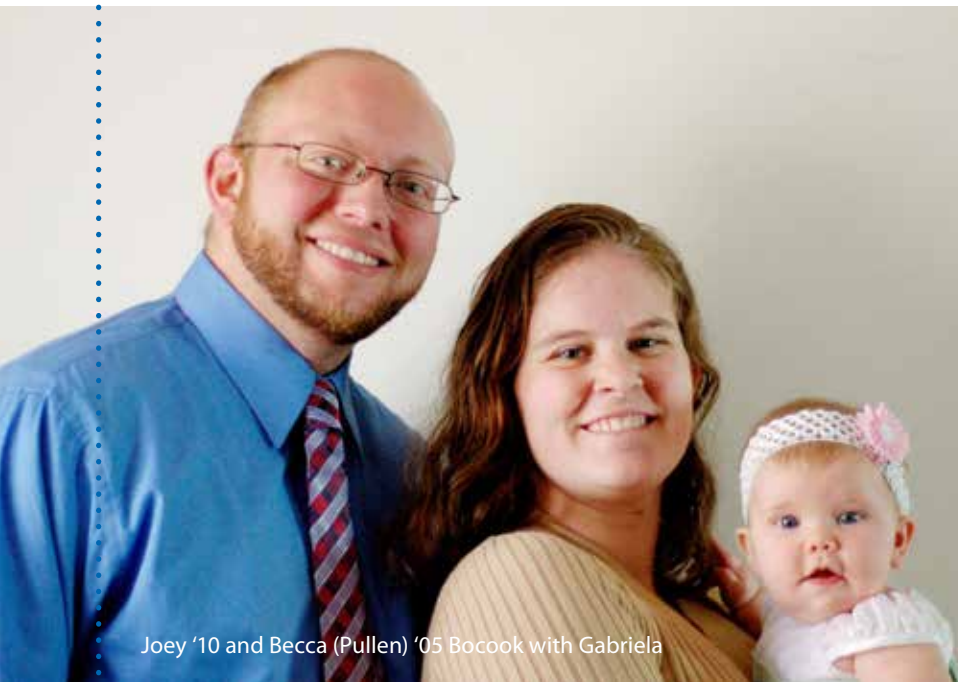
# Joey Bocook

## Witnessing God's Amazing Work in Mexico

By JOEY BOCOOK, Class of 2010



God is doing amazing things in Mexico, where my wife, Becca, and I serve as missionaries! The World Gospel Mission Church is growing at an incredible rate. New church plants are starting, young churches are growing and expanding, and the mature churches are reaching new areas. God is transforming the young people of Mexico into men and women who will influence their families, communities, and ultimately the nation for Christ.



Joey '10 and Becca (Pullen) '05 Bocook with Gabriela

**God is transforming the young people of Mexico into men and women who will influence their families, communities, and ultimately the nation for Christ.**

We have the opportunity to be a part of something much bigger than ourselves. Through the doors God has opened, we have started a youth discipleship group in Saltillo, Mexico. We began by inviting the youth to our house for food and a lesson. We quickly learned that these amazing young people grew up in the Church and already knew the Bible's stories and lessons. As we have nurtured these relationships, we have mentored and encouraged them to share Christ with their peers and show them what it means to follow Him.

Acceptance of Christ at a young age is critical for laying godly foundations for a lifetime. My wife Becca and I were both saved while we were young, and we understand the difficulties and temptations that young people encounter on a daily basis. However, we also know that the strength of God and the grace of Christ are more than sufficient in any situation. We are reminded daily that we are here by the sacrifice of Christ and are responsible to share His peace and grace with those we encounter. Whether through global missions or a glass of water, we have the responsibility and privilege to show Christ's love to the world.



# Alyse Copeland

## Music Education Major Shares Talents with the Church and Community

Avid musician and OCU junior Alyse Copeland is a Music Education student with a double major in clarinet and piano. She strives for knowledge and excellence in her studies and enjoys a variety of opportunities to share her talents in ministry. Alyse participates in many musical groups, ministers with her church worship team, and has a paid pianist position. She also enjoys tutoring students in Music Theory. Alyse has concluded that teaching others is the best way for her to learn.

In addition to her music-related goals, Alyse strives to be a godly influence among her friends. She considers praying for and guiding peers in the way of the Lord to be her most effective ministry.

The Lord has also provided Alyse with occasions to impact the local community through her talents. For almost two years, she has been a volunteer in Berger Hospital's music therapy program, which allows musicians to play in the lobby of the hospital for an hour each week. She enjoys playing soothing music for which many people have expressed appreciation. She is also involved in the Pumpkin Show Community Band, playing traditional band music throughout southern and central Ohio. Recently, Alyse became involved in the homeschool community, providing music education and opportunities for home-taught children to learn more about music. Alyse is thankful for the opportunities God has given her to serve her peers, church congregation, and community.



**God has pressed upon her heart in recent years that her generation is in need of Godly examples.**

# Lauren Long

## Intercultural Ministries Student Serves as Full-Time Children's Pastor

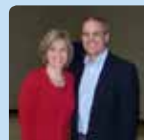
Ohio Christian University does more than educate young adults. It grows and commissions world-changers. Lauren Long is one of those promising young people that OCU is proudly sending out to impact the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Though Lauren officially graduated in December 2013, she began her new job as the full-time children's pastor of Lancaster's Faith Memorial Church in October. What began as a volunteer internship in the children's program of the Lancaster church turned into a full-time job and ministry opportunity.

Little did Lauren know when she transferred to Ohio Christian University in 2011 as an Interdisciplinary Studies/Business major that the Lord would call her into full-time ministry, but that is exactly what He did. Within her first semester at OCU, Lauren knew God was calling her to missions, and before her first semester was over, she had answered His call. Under the guidance and support of the former Intercultural Ministries Director, Dr. David Lattimer, Lauren became an Intercultural Ministries major and began to develop her vision to minister to the lost, particularly underprivileged children and their families. Lauren expresses her ministry goals in this statement: "I love God; I love people. I just want people to know the love of God."

Listening to Lauren talk about her vision for ministry, one would be hard-pressed to miss the humility that radiates from her. Rather than wanting a job or ministry that showcases her many strengths, Lauren desires one that requires her full reliance on the Lord. In her words, she sought "A job that I am not naturally good at," so her weaknesses will glorify God and demonstrate His great heart to a world that so desperately needs Him. Faith Memorial CCCU Church is fortunate to have such a gifted and mature young lady to pastor their children.



**"I love God; I love people. I just want people to know the love of God."**



Lauren is the daughter of Pastor Tim and Leigh Ann Long of First Evangelical Church in Macon, Ga., home church to many long-time OCU supporters.



# Eddie Sands, Jr.

## Ministry Student Performs in Feature Film, *Black Nativity*

Eddie B. Sands, Jr., a current student in the OCU AGS Ministry and Leadership program, was busy juggling more than his academics last year. In November 2012, he received a phone call from the world famous choreographer, Otis Sallid, who asked him to come to New York to participate in a feature film. A month later, he auditioned and was awarded a part singing in the choir in the newly released feature film, *Black Nativity*.

Upon receiving news that he had been selected for the part, Eddie wrote, “I was overcome with a sense of pride and accomplishment. It was a humbling but encouraging experience, which I will cherish for the rest of my life.”

*Black Nativity* was originally written as a stage play by Langston Hughes. This musical drama adaptation, released November 27th, tells the story of a teenage son of a single mother from Baltimore who journeys to New York City to spend Christmas with relatives. Through some challenges from his grandfather, Reverend Cornell (Forest Whitaker), and some divine intervention, he finds the true meaning of family and faith.

The newly released movie stars Academy Award nominees and winners such as Angela Bassett, Forest Whitaker, and Jennifer Hudson. Eddie cherished the experience of working with Hollywood celebrities for nine weeks: “They have changed my life forever, teaching me life lessons of humility, perseverance, long-suffering, and selflessness.”

Eddie described the process of filming to be “grueling, yet at the same time, very rewarding.” He explained, “Every morning when we began our rehearsals, I had the joy and honor to be under the direction of Contrella Kirkpatrick, Vocal Director/Choir Master/Star Vocal Coach, and much to my surprise, we began by praying, and we also had praise and worship. This was the spiritual foundation for the future success for this film, and this portion set the tone for our rehearsals and for future filming.”

*Black Nativity* reminds us, according to Eddie, of the reason Christ came and His purpose for all of our lives: “God gave us His son because He wanted to restore a right relationship with His children.”



Angela Bassett with AGS Student, Eddie Sands, Jr.





# TRAILBLAZERS

[www.OhioChristian.edu/Trailblazers](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/Trailblazers)



## 2013 Men's & Women's Regional Soccer Champs

The men's and women's soccer teams secured their respective regional championships in 2013. As a result, for the first time in OCU history, both teams qualified to compete in their NCCAA Division II National Soccer Tournaments in the same year.

The women's 5th place finish at the national tournament wrapped up a historic season for the Lady Blazers, who went 5-0 to win their first regional title.

In their fourth consecutive national tournament appearance, the men's team placed 7th after two tough, early losses.

**OCU men's soccer received the 2013 Layton Shoemaker Sportsmanship Award** by the NCCAA and the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association. The annual award is given to the team selected by tournament officials as best exemplifying sportsmanship and Christian character.

"This is a humbling honor," stated Coach Josh Murton. "Our main focus is having a relationship with God, and we want that relationship to permeate every area of our lives, including the sport of soccer. Being the recipient of the Shoemaker award is a huge achievement for our program, and we are proud to receive it."



The Men's Basketball team recently hosted former NBA player, Clark Kellogg. Kellogg shared a powerful message of how God put people in his life to show him the importance of a relationship with Jesus Christ. He emphasized the value of hard work, explaining that while he had talent, hard work is what got him his opportunities. He challenged the athletes to grow in their faith, to set goals, and to work as hard as they can to reach them. Kellogg is Vice President of Player Relations for the Indiana Pacers and lead college basketball analyst for CBS Sports.

Photo: Clark Kellogg with OCU Men's Basketball Coach Tony Stockman



## Volleyball Regional Runner-Up

Senior Danielle Wipert represented OCU on the NCAA Division II Women's Volleyball All-America Team. Wipert enjoyed an exceptional season, her highlight being her 1,000th career kill during the October 26th home game versus the University of Cincinnati - Clermont. She, along with a strong team, made it to the Regional Finals, coming up short against rival Kentucky Christian University.

After two historic seasons at the helm, Coach Dave Hopewell has resigned. OCU is seeking top candidates to lead the volleyball team into the future.



## Cross Country

The OCU cross country program wrapped up its season by competing at the 2013 NCAA Cross Country National Championships at Cedarville University. Freshman standout, Kaylee Stowers, once again led the way for OCU on the women's side. Stowers ran a stellar 22:03 to finish in 15th place overall in Division II. Ean Hammond once again paced the OCU men, finishing in a time of 31:44 to finish in the top 25 of Division II runners. His time placed him 22nd overall among Division II runners. Tim Allen finished in a time of 37:03 to finish 51st in Division II.



# OCU Alumni Minister Worldwide

## Dr. David Lattimer shares how five decades of OCU alumni continue a tradition of ministry.

By DR. DAVID LATTIMER, CCCU Missionary Superintendent

People constantly ask me about all the changes taking place at OCU, such as the tremendous increase in enrollment, new buildings and programs, and new faculty. After agreeing that there have been many changes, I love to share about all the things that have not changed, such as the annual revivals, chapel services, students praying at the altar, and the emphasis on preparing our students for ministry. In particular, I want to celebrate with you the continued emphasis on cross-cultural ministry, or what we have usually referred to as missions.

I have attempted to identify the OCU alumni who have served as missionaries. This research will be ongoing because of the difficulty in keeping track of all our alumni. At this point I have identified 95 who have attended OCU, were appointed by a mission board, and served on a mission field. This does not include the hundreds of students who have served on OCU teams visiting mission fields during their summers or semester breaks. Of course, I cannot identify all of these students and alumni in one article, and because of the strategic places in our world where some are now serving, I cannot print anything about them. Thus, I have chosen to focus on three ladies who have served up to retirement and a couple who are leading the next generation from our CCCU Missionary Department.



**Elsie Conley Shepard '59** was a coal miner's daughter from Eastern Kentucky who came to campus with only \$27 to her name, but worked her way through to graduation. After graduation Elsie served as a teacher and children's worker in Dominica in the West Indies. Later she

served in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and on the Texas-Mexican border. She once said, "Over half of my life was spent on the mission field. After 37 and a half years, no price can be put on the experiences I've had while helping others make it to heaven." One missionary president described Elsie as "the epitome of a sold-out, dedicated, whatever-it-takes missionary." Elsie's humble background gave her a heart for the poor to whom she ministered. One mother on the Texas-Mexican border said to her, "Not too many people like to visit us because we are so poor, but we see that it makes no difference to you." Elsie was promoted to glory in November 2010.



**Ruth Tipton '64** is one of four Tiptons to graduate from OCU. She continued her education at Malone University and spent three summers at the Wycliffe's Summer Institute of Linguistics, which led to a Masters Degree from the University of North Dakota.

She was appointed as a missionary in 1969 and left for Papua New Guinea in April 1970. At first, she spent most of her time teaching rather than working on Bible



translation because of the needs of the field. In 1986 she experienced a nightmare for a translator: a fire destroyed all the translation work she had done up to that time. She began anew, spending all her time on translation and literacy. In 2001 after 16 years, she finished the New Testament in the Nembi Angal Enen language. Ruth retired as a missionary in 2008, having served for 39 years. Since then, she has been a Ph.D. student at Asbury Theological Seminary and will return to Papua New Guinea in November to present a history of Christian Union Missions in Melanesian Pidgin to the national church there as part of their celebration of our mission's 50 years of ministry in the area.



**Mary Esther Hermiz '68** was called to be a missionary nurse at the age of four. That call was confirmed at what was then known as Circleville Bible College. She completed nursing school in Illinois and did further training in midwifery in Kentucky because there were

no doctors present to deliver babies in the Nembi Valley of Papua New Guinea where she would be serving. She served nine years at Embi, where she established a medical clinic and helped nationals to become nurses. When that door to ministry closed, she was asked to go to Kenya, East Africa, and start a school of nursing at Tenwek Hospital. To do this, Mary completed a doctorate at Ball State University and spent 25 years establishing a fully accredited school of nursing that has trained Christian registered nurses for service at Tenwek Hospital and throughout Kenya. She retired as a missionary in 2012 after 38 years of service. Her passion now is to take student nurses with her to visit Papua New Guinea.



God has not only blessed OCU with alumni who have served as missionaries, but He has blessed us with leaders and alumni who provide leadership and work hard to support those whom God has called. Shawn and Bethany Waugh, OCU alumni of 2004, serve in Papua New Guinea. Shawn teaches and travels among our bush churches in Theological Education by Extension, and Bethany serves as field treasurer. Their ministry is vital because we have 102 churches there, but only 14 of the churches are led by pastors with bible school training.

Last July, I learned that, after two years of service, the Waughs were going to be released as missionaries due to lack of funding. We just could not allow that to happen or our Mt. Hagen Bible School would have to close when Benji and Erica Jenkins, two other OCU alums, come home next summer. The Waughs needed \$46,000 in cash and \$4,625 in monthly support to stay in the field. After they were prayed over at our West Central District camp, Dr. Mark Smith asked to speak and made an appeal during which the \$46,000 was pledged in a matter of a few minutes. One week later, Dr. Smith took part in a second appeal at our South Central District camp during which another \$30,000 was pledged. After all this, an additional \$2,000 monthly was still needed. A committee of eight, including six alumni, organized a banquet that produced the remaining funds for the Waughs to return to PNG fully funded.

**How I praise the Lord for our 95 alumni who have served as missionaries, those who support them, and the future missionaries OCU is preparing.**





1



Three Bridges at the Homecoming Gospel Concert



Michael Blevins '12 shared the message in Homecoming Chapel



3



Gordon Mote at the Homecoming Gospel



5



The Talleys at the Homecoming Gospel Concert



6



9



Director of Church Relations, Tony McCrary, with Gil Conley at the Homecoming Gospel Concert



11



Cindy Oyer, Carrie Swackhammer, Tammi Brown '96, Dr. Sylvia McDonald, Cheryl Carson, Dr. Matt Decker, Jamey Gremillion



# 2013 Homecoming



Judy Rodriguez, Noel Rodriguez, junior Nancy Wilcox, sophomore Jeremiah Truex, sophomore Haley Alfrey, senior Joel Kirkwood, junior Karissa Saultz, senior Jacob Sunkel, senior Abby Ferraro, freshman Daniel Pratt, freshman Chanel McFarlin

1. Katie Kehl '13 at the Run for Rodriguez
2. Rev. Mike Holbrook '78, Chad Holbrook, Ryan Holbrook, and Brandon Ritchey '12 at the Linking Legacies Golf Tournament
3. 2013 Homecoming King and Queen, Joel Kirkwood and Karissa Saultz
4. Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez standing in for 2012 Homecoming King Josias Rodriguez (deceased) with 2012 Homecoming Queen Nancy Wilcox.
5. Don Renihan, Leonard Kuhns, OCU President Mark Smith, Doug Smith, freshman
6. Ray Sininger, Phil Kendall, Kevin Kendall '82, Scott Braden at the Linking Legacies Scholarship Golf Tournament
7. Richie Martin '09 at the Run for Rodriguez
8. Landon Kirby, freshman, vs. Great Lakes Christian College
9. Michael Duffy, sophomore, vs. Great Lakes Christian College
10. JD Hyman '11 at the Run for Rodriguez
11. Joe Stafford, Val Stafford, Sue Ralph, Jay Ralph at the Linking Legacies Scholarship Golf Tournament
12. Vanessa Baker '10, OCU Events & Alumni Coordinator

# ALUMNI

## *Updates*



Dennis and Amy  
(Brown) '09 Lintz  
August 3, 2013



Jacob '12 and Hannah  
(Helgesen) Marburger  
May 24, 2013



Joshua '13 and  
Brittany (Ragle) Delph  
November 8, 2013



Garrett '13 and Jessica  
(Allen) '13 VonBerge  
October 13, 2013

## *Newlyweds*

Send your updates for the next issue of  
Ohio Christian by April 1, 2014!  
Email [alumni@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:alumni@ohiochristian.edu)  
or visit [www.ohiochristian.edu/updates](http://www.ohiochristian.edu/updates)





## New Arrivals

**1 Donald '06 and Tina (Rogers) '10 Craft** welcomed a son, Jason Christopher, February 9, 2013.

**2 Andy and Aubrey (Pummill) '08 Hines** with Avery (3), and Asa, born September 30, 2013.

**3 Adam '09 and Kimberly (Slark) '08 Polley** with Evan (3) and Amelia Ruth, born March 20, 2013

**4 Doug '09 and Marlaina (Berry) '09 Shotsky** with William, 4, Victoria, 2.5, and Jeremiah, born August 28, 2013.

Doug completed his master's degree in Professional Counseling and is a crisis counselor at Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health. Marlaina is an office manager at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. They currently reside in Mount Sterling, and are involved with a new Church Plant in Grove City called Refuge Church.

**5 Kyle '11 and Stephanie (Lindeman) '11 Dearing** welcomed son, Grayson David Dearing, August 13, 2013.

**6 David and Kayla (Faught) '13 Artrip** were married July 30, 2011 and welcomed daughter, Lorelei Grace, May 9, 2013. David and Kayla are currently serving at Grace Ministries Church CCCU.

# Administrator Promotions

Dr. Rick Christman was recently promoted to Assistant Provost and Vice President for Academics and Student Services, and Dr. Tim Eades was promoted to Assistant Provost and Vice President for Non-Traditional Education and Development. Previously Christman was the Vice President for Student Development and Athletics, and Eades was the Vice President for the College of Adult and Graduate Studies. Both men retain these responsibilities, but with these promotions Christman assumes responsibilities in Traditional Academics, and Eades assumes responsibilities in University Advancement.



Dr. Rick Christman

Christman joined OCU in 2009 after three years at Indiana Wesleyan University as Associate Director of the Center for Life Calling and Leadership. He is ordained in the Wesleyan Denomination and also pastors Good Shepherd Wesleyan Church in Jackson, Ohio. Rick holds an M.A. in Ministry, M.A. in Advanced Leadership Studies, and Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership, all from Indiana Wesleyan University. Under his leadership, small group ministry, residence hall chaplains, peer mentoring, and career services have been added; use of tutoring and academic coaching services have soared; new athletic teams have been launched; and OCU won its first national championship.



Dr. Tim Eades

Eades joined OCU in 2010 after ten years of experience in both traditional and non-traditional enrollment management at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. He is ordained in the Nazarene Denomination and had several assignments as an assistant/associate pastor. He holds a Master in Ministry from Mount Vernon Nazarene University and an Ed.D. in ethical leadership from Olivet Nazarene University. Under his leadership, enrollment in the College of Adult and Graduate Studies has increased from 790 to 3,360, and the number of full-time employees has increased from 35 to 60.



Mrs. Rebecca Wakeman

Mrs. Rebecca Wakeman has been promoted to Assistant Vice President for Student Services, serving students via the Student Development Department. In addition to her most recent experience right here at OCU—building and operating the Bridge Tutoring Program—she brings a rich resume full of various student development services from other colleges and universities. Wakeman holds a B.S. in Mathematics Education from Taylor University, an M.A. in Mathematics Education from Ball State University, and is pursuing an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Liberty University. We eagerly anticipate Mrs. Wakeman's leadership as Assistant Vice President!





SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2014

# 2014 COMMENCEMENT

SAVE  
*the*  
DATE

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 6  | 8th Annual Florida Golf Tournament        |
| Feb. 20 | Preview Day (Traditional Program)         |
| Mar. 10 | Spring Break Begins (Traditional Program) |
| Mar. 20 | Preview Day (Traditional Program)         |
| Mar. 22 | Dinner & Concert with Booth Brothers      |
| Apr. 11 | Preview Day (Traditional Program)         |
| Apr. 16 | Community Action Day                      |
| Apr. 18 | Easter Break Begins (Traditional Program) |
| Apr. 21 | Leadership Forum 2014                     |
| Apr. 28 | Finals Begin (Traditional Program)        |
| May 3   | Commencement                              |

View all dates and events at [www.OhioChristian.edu/Calendar](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/Calendar)

# LEADERSHIP FORUM

APRIL 21, 2014

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
COLUMBUS, OH  
PERMIT NO. 1429



## Dr. John Maxwell & Dr. Ben Carson

Internationally Acclaimed Leadership  
Expert, Author, Speaker, and Ohio  
Christian University Alumnus

Former Johns Hopkins Director of  
Pediatric Neurosurgery and World  
Renowned Author and Speaker

***you're invited!***

### 11:00 am Executive Session

*Executive session includes lunch and roundtable with Maxwell and Carson, executive dinner, and evening event. Call Vanessa Baker at 740-477-7745 for details.*

### 2:30 pm Pastoral Seminar

*Pastoral seminar includes training with renowned mentor to pastors, Gerald Brooks, dinner, and evening event. See page 2 for details.*

### 6:00 pm Grand Evening Event

*Reserved Seating \$40.00 per person  
General Admission \$25.00 per person*

SPONSORED BY

**MILLWOOD**  
INCORPORATED  
and Affiliated Companies  
Providing Product Unitization & Logistics Solutions.



**Pastors, don't miss  
this special training  
opportunity!**

Pastor Gerald Brooks  
is a gifted speaker and  
mentor who has succeeded  
Dr. John Maxwell in  
mentorship of more than  
300 pastors.

***limited  
seating***

# Get tickets today at [www.OhioChristian.edu](http://www.OhioChristian.edu)

OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY • 1476 LANCASTER PIKE • CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO 43113