

OhioChristian

FALL 2014



- Students and alumni serve worldwide
- Congratulations to the Class of 2014
- More than 260 students in Georgia

*OCU Graduates Nate ('04) and Wendy (Brown '05) Swearingen
Nate serves as Director of Student Ministries at Cypress Wesleyan*

Ohio Christian University prepares students to serve effectively
in the church and society by providing a holistic, Christ-centered,
biblically integrated education in the Wesleyan tradition.

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EDITOR
Mark A. Smith

DESIGN
Renee Handy
Karin Howard
Dana Lapish

PHOTOGRAPHY
Lisa Dotson
Rachel Fulks
Becca Hicks
Dana Lapish
Daniel Lovelace
Orvil Peabody, Jr.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes and news to
alumni@ohiochristian.edu or visit www.ohiochristian.edu/magazine.



Florida 2015
February 5-7 | www.OhioChristian.edu/golf

Presented by Ohio Christian University & Linking Legacies



By DR. MARK A. SMITH, President

a Message from the President

Thank you for allowing Debbie and me to serve the last nine years at Ohio Christian University. God continues to bless our university more than we can imagine, and our hearts are filled with gratitude. We enjoy being in God's will and serving the great students of OCU and the CCCU denomination. This has been one of the most encouraging years in my entire time at OCU as God has blessed our work with the capital campaign. Many great things are happening on campus as well as in our Adult and Graduate programs in Ohio, Georgia, and online. We sense that God is at work preparing a new generation to serve the world, and He is using Ohio Christian University to reach students as part of that plan. We are excited about the future and pray that God will use us as effective instruments for the kingdom. Again, thank you for all of your support and especially the kindnesses to my family. We have been treated better than we deserve, and I want you to know we are thankful. May God bless you as we continue His work together.



2013-14 Highlights

Dr. Malon Mimms Education Center was opened in Morrow, Georgia.

Graduated a record-breaking 517 difference makers, including the university's first MBA graduates.

Hosted Dr. Ben Carson, Dr. John Maxwell, Sen. Rick Santorum, and 1,800 guests for the Leadership Forum.

OCU received its first ranking in U.S. News & World Report, surpassing many peer institutions.

OCU alumni survey showed a very high employment rate among alumni.



Making College Affordable

Ohio Christian University is committed to making college affordable, especially for ministry students. Many factors affect a student's debt load. Government overregulation is currently a major cause of higher education costs. To combat this trend, the OCU administration and Board of Trustees have taken action to assist students:

- ✓ The administration has a task force looking at how to cut administrative costs by 25%.
- ✓ A tuition freeze was approved for traditional programs for the 2014-2015 academic year.
- ✓ A three-year bachelor option was created to save traditional undergraduate students one year's tuition.
- ✓ A capital campaign was launched to increase scholarship funds.
- ✓ Financial stewardship is taught throughout the college experience.
- ✓ The Career Services office was opened to assist students and alumni with job procurement.

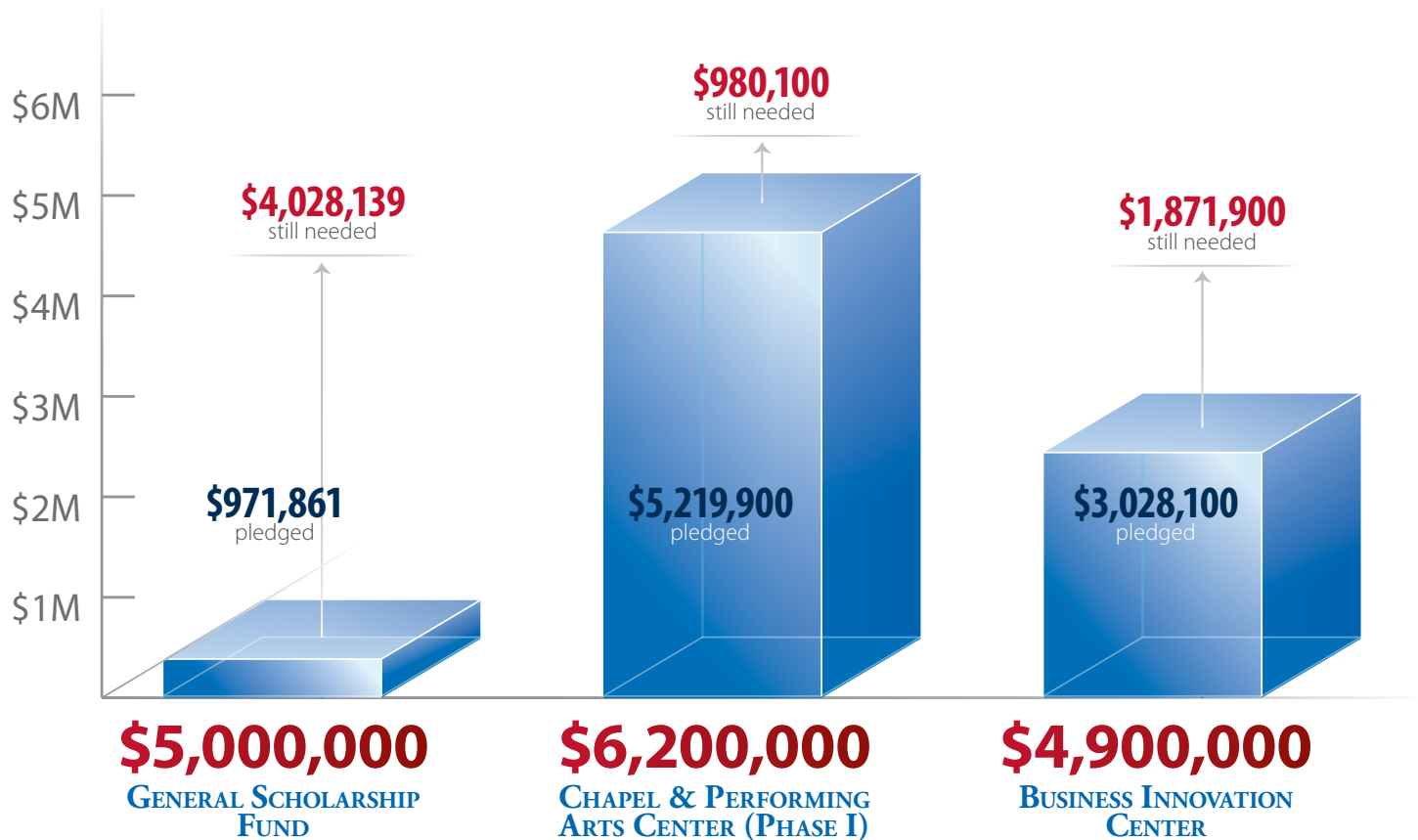
In addition to being equipped for ministry and careers, OCU students learn biblical stewardship principles throughout their educational journeys. Before, during, and after enrollment, students receive counseling and strategies to help minimize and repay debt, learn to create and follow a budget, and are assisted with job procurement. Learning how to manage money God's way while earning a degree will impact students' lives far beyond graduation.

Academic Enhancements

- ✓ School of Business and Government was established with Dr. David Garrison serving as Dean.
- ✓ Criminal Justice degree programs were launched onsite and online.
- ✓ Dr. Matthew Decker and seniors Sarah Rykwald and Lennon Mueller presented research at the 25th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference at Butler University.
- ✓ Dr. Hank Kelly led the strategic planning committee to set new long-term goals for the university.

Update

CAMPAIGN for



COMMUNITY

Business Innovation Center



Now it's your turn!

*Honor someone or place your
name on a seat in the new,
historic Ministry and
Performing Arts Center.*

Call to Give Today!

Dr. Mark Smith: 740-477-7713
Mark Taylor: 740-420-5918
Craig Brown: 740-420-5947

☐ **Yes!** I will contribute \$500 to name a
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Arts Center!

In honor of (Insert name to appear on the seat.)

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Call 1-740-420-5918 or return this card to:
Ohio Christian University
Office of University Advancement
1476 Lancaster Pike, Circleville, Ohio 43113



By DR. HANK KELLY, Provost

“The education I received at OCU has prepared me to go forth and serve in my community.”

2014 GRADUATE



Record 517 Students Graduate

Ohio Christian University (OCU) conducted its 64th commencement on Saturday, May 3, with a record graduation of 517 students, including the first 19 graduates of the Master of Business Administration and Master of Management programs. Jacob Sunkel, of Heath, Ohio, was the valedictorian—the graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade point average, and Jessica vonBerge of Lebanon, Ohio, was the salutatorian—the graduating senior with the second highest cumulative grade point average.

Each year, OCU Honor Graduates are selected by the faculty. These graduates represent all the ideals of Ohio Christian University and must have distinguished themselves in academic achievement, Christian service, and leadership potential. The 2014 Honor Graduates are Matthew Harshbarger of Newark, Ohio, for the traditional program and Frank Tillotson of Columbus, Ohio, for the AGS program.





in OCU's 64th Commencement Ceremony

OCU President Smith commented, "We are very proud of our graduates and expect them to accomplish much in life." He added, "OCU is thrilled to serve this community and increase the baccalaureate completion rate."

Bill Jones, CEO of Jones Petroleum Company headquartered in Jackson, Georgia, was the 2014 Commencement speaker. With operations in four states, Jones has turned Jones Petroleum Company from a one-store operation to a company that employs 500 people and covers several industry types. He has also served as a teacher, coach, school superintendent, and four-term Georgia State Representative. He actively contributes to various charities

and serves on various boards. OCU recognized Jones for his life of distinguished Christian service by awarding him a Doctorate of Christian Leadership. OCU President Mark Smith said, "Circleville is extremely fortunate to attract a speaker as distinguished as Bill Jones!"

Reverend Benny Tate, President of the Congregational Methodist Denomination, was awarded a Doctorate of Christian Leadership. For more than 20 years, Rev. Tate has served as the Senior Pastor of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia. The church has grown from 60 in attendance to more than 6,000 during that time.





*"We thank God that
we were able to complete
our degrees and set an
example for our children."*

MARK AND JAMA COBB, 2014 GRADUATES





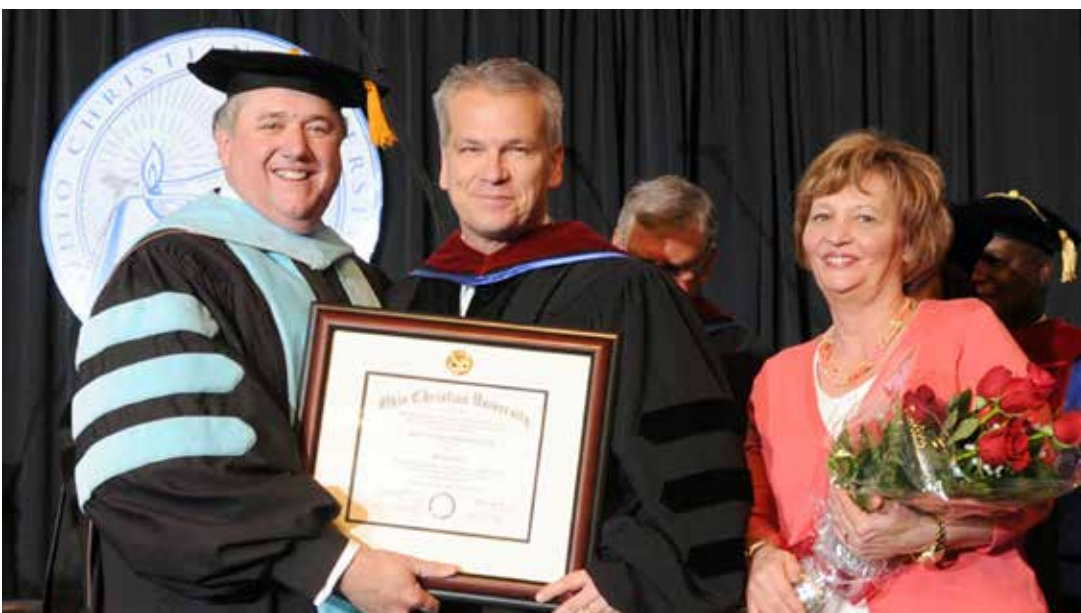
Commencement Speaker, Bill Jones

was awarded a Doctorate of Christian Leadership in recognition of his life of distinguished Christian service. Jones is CEO of Jones Petroleum Company headquartered in Jackson, Georgia. He has also served as a teacher, coach, school superintendent, philanthropist, and four-term Georgia State Representative.



Reverend Benny Tate

was awarded a Doctorate of Christian Leadership. Tate has served for more than 20 years as the Senior Pastor of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia. Under his leadership the church has grown from 60 in attendance to more than 6,000. Tate serves as President of the Congregational Methodist Denomination.



Recent News



700 Students & Volunteers Served in Community Action Day

OCU continues to cultivate servant-leaders to serve the church and the world. Nearly 700 volunteers participated in the 2014 Ralph C. Starkey Community Action Day. Christian service activities included nursing home visits, assisting veterans, volunteering at churches and local schools, and ministering to the homeless.

On behalf of Bluegrass Pipeline, Mr. Wendell Hunt presented a check to support the event. Mr. Hunt is pictured above with OCU Vice President for Advancement, Mark Taylor, and Beth Starkey-Hill, daughter of Ralph Starkey, for whom the event is named.



New for 2015! OCU will offer Church Action Day. Students will be released from classes to serve the local church through projects.

Alumnus Gives Back to OCU

OCU was pleased to host Rev. David Gallimore, who led services for the spring semester revival. Gallimore spoke of right relationships with God and one another, calling those in attendance to let go of bitterness in their lives.

“Real revival starts with real repentance. It’s time for us to deal with it and tell the truth. No more cover up, no more masks, nothing in the way of us and God!” he said. Gallimore’s message resonated with the student body, and many students sought God at the altar.



Rev. David Gallimore



Dinner & Concert March 21, 2015

with the Collingsworth Family and the Guardians

Make plans now to attend the 2015 Dinner Concert!

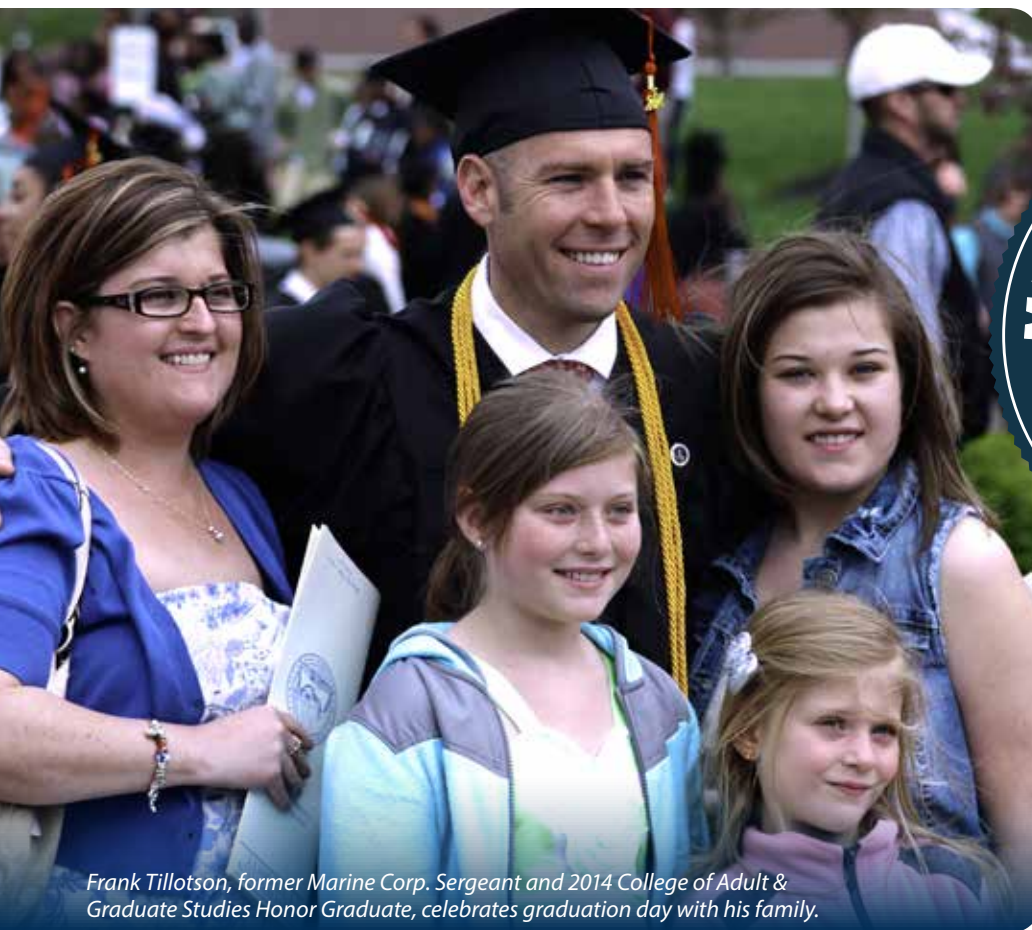
Join us on campus for a wonderful meal followed by a delightful night of gospel music featuring The Collingsworth Family and The Guardians. The proceeds of the dinner concert support the Dean and Diana Hickman Scholarship Fund.

Call 740-497-4847 for details or purchase tickets online at www.ohiochristian.edu/concert.



www.OhioChristian.edu/Concert

Recent News



Frank Tillotson, former Marine Corp. Sergeant and 2014 College of Adult & Graduate Studies Honor Graduate, celebrates graduation day with his family.



OCU Named
Military Friendly
School for 4th
Consecutive Year!

**“There was very
little I had to do
to make the GI
benefits process
work at OCU.”**

Frank Tillotson,
former Marine Corp.
Sergeant, 2014
College of Adult &
Graduate Studies
Honor Graduate
(pictured with family, above)

For the fourth consecutive year, Ohio Christian University has been designated as a “Military Friendly School.” This recognition is given nationwide to only 20% of the colleges, universities, and trade schools that are committed to serving those who serve. The Military Friendly lists are “determined mathematically from data-driven survey submissions consisting of over 100 questions, compiled with assistance from our independent advisory boards.”

The College of Adult and Graduate Studies recently recognized former Marine Corp. Sergeant Frank Tillotson (*above, with family*) as the 2014 College of Adult & Graduate Studies Honor Graduate. He commended OCU on communicating well with the Veteran’s Administration (VA), saying, “There was very little I had to do to make the GI benefits process work at OCU.”

Learn about tuition discounts for military families. Visit www.ohiochristian.edu/military or call 1-855-OCU-GRAD.



DEVELOPING YOUNG CHRISTIAN LEADERS



July 2014 was an exciting time on campus as the university once again partnered with Live God Loud Ministries to host the third annual LifeTraks School of Leadership, which trains Christian leaders with a biblical worldview. Thirty-one young people came to OCU to develop their personal leadership skills under the direction of staff leaders including Mr. Tony McCrary, Dr. Rick Christman, and Live God Loud Ministries LifeTraks Director of Operations Rev. Dan Coy. Students had opportunities to develop their professional skills through various work study projects, team building activities, community service, and area business visits. Third year students completed three-week practicums at various ministries in Ohio and Florida.

Evenings were filled with rehearsals for the drama tour, which included stops in Virginia and Pennsylvania. The final week of the program was spent at Appalachian Youth Camp, where students practiced the leadership techniques learned during their LifeTraks training. Camp concluded with the LifeTraks Commissioning Service of the eight students who completed the three-year program.

Tony McCrary states, "It was an honor to shake each student's hand and place the LifeTraks rings on their fingers, signifying not only the completion of the program but also a life committed to God and His kingdom first and foremost. I am so proud of these students."

Each participant testified that the experience was life changing. What an incredible month! The leadership challenge was significant, and the students' acceptance of that challenge was evident. LifeTraks School of Leadership is developing leaders.

To learn more about LifeTraks, visit www.ohiochristian.edu/lifetraks or contact Tony McCrary at tmccrary@ohiochristian.edu.



A Tale of Two

Ohio Christian University Partners with First Church of God in Columbus, Ohio



Bishop Timothy Clarke,
Pastor of First Church of God

Ohio Christian University is pleased to announce a new location for the College of Adult and Graduate Studies. In an effort to expand Christian education opportunities to students of the greater Columbus area, OCU has partnered with the First Church of God in Columbus, Ohio.

OCU has become a significant contributor to central Ohio workforce development through its relevant and affordable degree programs. AGS served fewer than 100 metro Columbus area adult students in 2007. As of January 2014, that figure has more than quadrupled with 413 adult students at the Columbus State Community College, Dublin, Grove City, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Daybreak Church, and Lighthouse Ministries locations. Space is maximized at these facilities, and the addition of the First Church of God location is critical in serving the growing number of OCU Columbus area students.

First Church of God (FCG) is located at 3480 Refugee Road in Columbus, only minutes from downtown. FCG's Pastor, Bishop Timothy Clarke, has faithfully served the ministry for 31 years, and the vibrant church serves thousands of members. The new agreement was created in collaboration with Dr. Marvin Miller, OCU's Columbus Director, and Bishop Clarke.

"Under the leadership of President Mark Smith and Bishop Timothy Clarke, both of these institutions are known for the stellar Christian services they give to their communities. I am excited that God has afforded us this wonderful opportunity as we continue to equip our students to become leaders throughout the world," offered Dr. Marvin Miller.

The facilities at FCG offer ample parking, spacious classrooms, a technology room, a cafe area, and a restaurant open evenings for church members and visitors. First Church of God is a perfect partner for Ohio Christian University.

"What a wonderful blessing for OCU and FCG to join as partners to provide educational opportunities to the Greater Columbus community."

~ Dr. Marvin Miller ~

Cities

Over 260 Students in Georgia—*Onsite and Online*

The generous financial gifts of Dr. and Mrs. Malon Mimms have already realized an eternal impact! In just one year, 100 students have started class at the OCU–Morrow campus, and an amazing 200+ Georgia students are taking online programs. Morrow MBA student Frank Williams states:

“Being a student in the MBA program at OCU–Morrow has given me hope, helped me learn to structure my life, and equipped me to pursue lifelong business dreams. A major motive for choosing OCU was learning business through the prism of the Christian worldview. Weekly devotionals and a faith-based curriculum have helped me understand why Christian business leaders like Chick-fil-A’s Truett Cathy are so successful. The OCU experience has motivated me to continue my education by pursuing a doctorate degree!”

OCU offers convenient associate, bachelor, and master degrees in Ohio, Georgia, and online. OCU was recently rated one of the most affordable programs in America by an independent firm.



Ms. Latonya Holmes, Corporate Developer and Recruiter (left),
Dr. Shawn B. Thomas, Director of Enrollment and Operations,
Mrs. Brigette Broxton, Corporate Developer and Recruiter (right)

NEW DUAL DEGREE Master of Business Administration & Master of Arts in Ministry

OCU’s dual degree program allows students to simultaneously earn a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Arts in Ministry (MA). It addresses the needs of ministers and lay people who serve as “tent-making” pastors or lead in the financial aspects of their ministry. It is also designed for business people who desire to fully engage in ministry understanding and opportunities at their churches and ministry organizations.

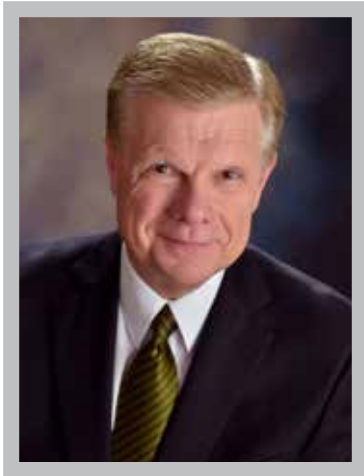
ENROLL TODAY!
1-855-OCU-GRAD

apply online at

www.OCUonline.com

Dr. Stan Toler

Giving Back to OCU



Dr. Stan Toler, | '73,
General Superintendent Emeritus for
the Church of the Nazarene

"If you want to
lead a ministry
or business with
success, you
must be ready
for hard work."

Dr. Stan Toler, OCU Alumnus and General Superintendent Emeritus for the Church of the Nazarene, visited Ohio Christian University's Circleville campus to share his experience and expertise with students, faculty, and staff. Dr. Toler spoke to students about leadership and preparing for ministry. A special session with faculty and staff centered on customer service principles from his book, *TERRIFIC! Five Star Customer Service*.

Preparing Students for Ministry

In a session with ministry students, Dr. Toler shared wisdom gained from his years of leading thriving ministries. Students were encouraged to focus on five principles: effort, enthusiasm, encouragement, effectiveness, and excellence. Using practical examples, Dr. Toler described how applying these five principles can determine the long-term impact of a ministry.

In a question-and-answer format, Dr. Toler encouraged students to be lifelong learners, including earning graduate degrees, and to find a good mentor for support and accountability. He emphasized the importance of spiritual disciplines, such as daily prayer and Bible study, and suggested practical training tools for young ministers. Many students reported being inspired by Dr. Toler's teaching.

Training Faculty and Staff in Customer Service

For the university's faculty and staff, Dr. Toler provided materials and presented a training session based on his book *TERRIFIC! Five Star Customer Service*. This training was invaluable as the OCU team seeks to continually improve its services. The OCU community is thankful to Dr. Toler for investing in Ohio Christian University.

Contact the Answer Center today!

NEW

OCU Launches Answer Center to Improve Student Experience

As part of an ongoing initiative to provide exceptional customer service, Ohio Christian University recently launched a new service to students, called the OCU Answer Center. The Answer Center, which launched August 1, 2014, features a team of highly-trained Customer Service Representatives who can assist students with a wide variety of questions. The Answer Center team supports student questions related to financial aid, class schedules, and much more.

Jenni Lloyd, a 2012 graduate (and valedictorian) of OCU's Business Management program, was recently named Director of Customer Service. Lloyd will lead the Answer Center, as well as lead customer service improvements throughout the university. During her college experience, Jenni served OCU as a work study student in Financial Aid and as a Writing Center tutor. After graduation, she became Executive Assistant for Traditional Undergraduate Admissions, which she has remained in for the last 2 ½ years. Having seen many aspects of OCU throughout her years as a student, she is passionate about providing the best possible service to students. We look forward to her leadership to continually improve the student experience.



OCU Answer Center Staff

“The Answer Center will allow us to assist students better by providing them with timely answers throughout their college careers. We are so excited to have the opportunity to serve OCU students!”

Jenni Lloyd | '12
Director of Customer Service



Call 1-844-7-ANSWER

Get answers by email at
answer@ohiochristian.edu

OCU Students Serve Internationally



Prof. Jamey Gremillion

MISSIONS PROFESSOR LEADS COSTA RICA TEAM TO CONFRONT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In response to student concerns about human trafficking and the challenge of CCCU General Superintendent, Dr. Tom Hermiz, Prof. Jamey Gremillion led 15 students to Costa Rica for a nine-day mission trip this summer. The outreach was focused on confronting human trafficking in a cross-cultural context.

As students worked alongside Steve and Elizabeth Gilroy of Face of Justice Ministries, they learned firsthand what it means to engage in the fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Students applied real-world approaches to confronting these issues in a Christ-like manner. As part of the trip, students ministered in a variety of ways:

- ❑ Holding a prayer vigil outside one of the city's most notorious brothels.
- ❑ Helping trafficked victims to a place of safety where they can begin to receive the restoration of Christ.
- ❑ Serving teen mothers in a home that provides a Christian environment for them to learn basic life and work skills so they can stand on their own.
- ❑ Working with Face of Justice Ministries to raise awareness in the city of San Jose, Costa Rica.
- ❑ Performing street outreaches to minister to victims of human trafficking.



CARING FOR ORPHANS

Students served in a home where over 90 orphans have been cared for over the last 36 years.

MINISTRY FOR MOTHERS

Students assisted with repairs and ministered at a center that provides young mothers with life and work skills in a safe environment.



2 CHILDREN

are sold into slavery every minute, every day.

Support a Student for as little as \$15 a month!

Help students like these answer their callings. Call 740-420-5918 today or give online at www.OhioChristian.edu/Give.

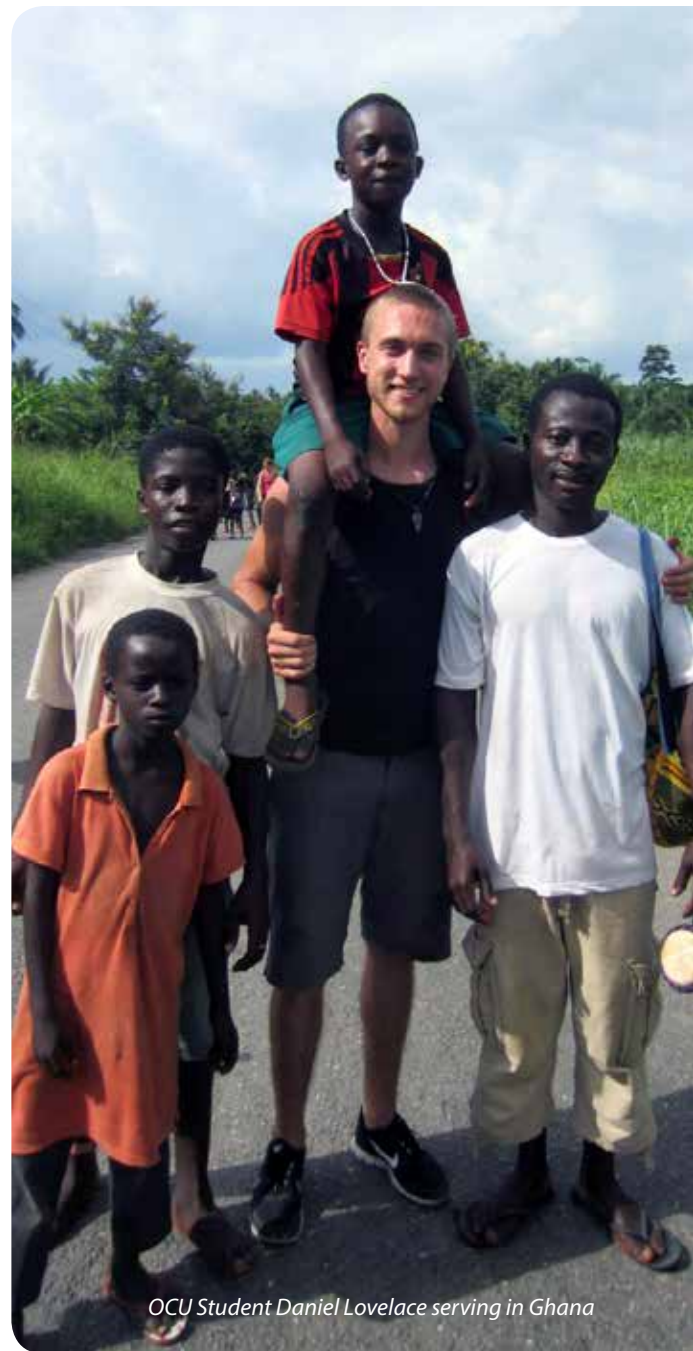
Professor Matthew Decker Leads Student Teams for Research in Ghana, West Africa



Teams of students led by Dr. Matt Decker, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Counseling, are gaining valuable experience in the field. Last year nine OCU students joined Dr. Decker on a research trip to Ghana, West Africa. The goal of the trip was to research rates of mental health symptoms among West Africans and to assess the level of Psychological Flexibility among Ghanaians. In May 2014, Decker and 12 OCU undergraduates returned to Ghana to continue the research and practice the skills they have learned in the classroom.

Dr. Decker uses the research trips to teach students interview skills used in ministry and apply lessons from the classroom. Students report that their lives are being changed, and some are even considering serving in this mission field in the future. Dr. Decker is known for his research and collaboration with Western Michigan University, and students love his academic research approach to ministry. Dr. Hank Kelly, OCU Provost, believes that Decker's research is a milestone in enhancing the degree options at OCU.

The mental health symptom research is part of a larger catchment study of mental health in West Africa. Students interviewed nearly 100 participants and were part of the largest single data collection event of the entire multi-year, multi-site data collection process, which will continue for several years. The Psychological Flexibility data were analyzed, and the student interview results were shared and combined with data from other universities.



OCU Student Daniel Lovelace serving in Ghana

WHY OCU?

The close-knit atmosphere. I knew that I could count on my professors for emotional, social, and spiritual help. I talk with my professors and classmates about real things. You are not just a number. They genuinely care about your future and your well-being.

Proud to be partnered with

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OCU Online Student Reaches Cuba



Jonathan Johnson, former Major League Baseball pitcher, is attending OCU to increase his ministry which has reached thousands for Christ.

Former Texas Rangers Pitcher Becomes OCU Student – Ministry in Cuba Has Helped Lead 70,000 to Christ!

Jonathan Johnson, a former Texas Rangers pitcher, retired from playing professional baseball with the goal of spreading the Gospel. After researching other colleges, he enrolled at OCU because its biblically-integrated curriculum aligns with his desire for spiritual growth. He is currently working toward a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Leadership and Ministry degree.

Johnson's baseball career began at Florida State University (FSU), where he led the Seminoles to an Atlantic Coast Conference championship and was inducted into the FSU Hall of Fame. After three seasons with the Seminoles, Jonathan was drafted in the 1st round (7th overall) by the Texas Rangers in 1995. He was signed by the Atlanta Braves in 2006.

As his career blossomed, Jonathan made a commitment to use the platform of baseball to glorify God. Honoring the Father Ministries, which Jonathan established using

his signing bonus, has touched over 900,000 lives and led nearly 70,000 people to accept Christ in the last 14 years.

Reaching Cuba for Christ is a passion Jonathan shares with his father, Johnny. In partnership with a Cuban professional baseball player, Osmani Sosa, more than 100 baseball teams have been established to spread the Gospel within the communist nation. Some of Cuba's communist party leaders have come to know Christ, and Cuban professional baseball players have begun promoting Christianity on their batting helmets, wearing stickers that read "true freedom is freedom from sin"—a powerful message for people whose government seeks to control most aspects of their lives.

Jonathan is using his talents and resources to glorify God and transform lives, and OCU seeks to equip many such servant-leaders to impact the world for Christ.



Pastor Nate Swearingen
**A Calling
Realized**

*OCU Graduates Nate ('04) and
Wendy (Brown, '05) Swearingen*

When Pastor Nate Swearingen ('04) was in sixth grade, he experienced a period of illness during which he drew closer to the Lord and began to feel a calling to youth ministry. This calling stayed in his heart even though he did not know what the future held. Then, in his junior year of high school, he tragically lost his father in an automobile accident. Nate found himself feeling isolated and felt the need to connect with fellow Christians at a deeper level. Through the tragedy, God was preparing him for what lay ahead.

After high school graduation, Nate visited several Christian colleges and settled on Circleville Bible College (now OCU). In his first semester, the call to youth ministry was confirmed and solidified. He joyfully recounts, "God got a hold of me! I totally committed my life to God, and He took off and showed off in my life."

While serving on the Summer Camp Ministry Team, Nate counseled a young man who responded during an invitation to meet Christ. Swearingen quickly discovered

"God got a hold of me! I totally committed my life to God, and He took off and showed off in my life."

the teen had recently lost his father and welcomed the opportunity to minister. Through Christ, Nate's personal tragedy became a triumph: he was able to relate with and counsel the young man!

God has continued to work through Pastor Nate as a youth minister. From his first pastorate at Circleville First Church, where he worked under the leadership of OCU Alumnus, Rev. Mike Holbrook, to his current ministry at Cypress Wesleyan as the Director of Student Ministries, Pastor Swearingen has diligently sought to help young people experience the transforming love of Christ and exemplify a life lived each day for Christ!

DR. LAVAUGHN HENRY

Federal Reserve Vice President Visits OCU Business Students

Ohio Christian University was pleased to host Dr. LaVaughn Henry, Vice President and Sr. Regional Officer of the Cincinnati Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. Dr. Henry visited campus to present a session for OCU business students. The session covered a variety of economic topics, including the United States economy and job outlook.

Dr. Henry has more than 20 years of diverse experience in the fields of business economics, advisory services, federal regulation, and government affairs. He is a proven leader in delivering results based on entrepreneurial insight, analytical rigor, and knowledge of the policy-making environment.

He spoke to students about economic principles such as the value of higher education, the job market, factors influencing business decisions, and inflation. Dr. Henry discussed the current state of the U.S. economy and some of the factors that led to its recent downturn. After concluding that the future of the U.S. economy is bright, he admonished students to be smarter and work harder if they wish to find success in the current market.

Dr. Henry shared about personal experiences with failure and success, emphasized the importance of hard work and perseverance, and encouraged students to complete their studies. He reflected on professors and family members who challenged and invested in him. He, in turn, challenged the students present to take advantage of the faculty and administrators at OCU, who seek to invest in their spiritual, personal, and academic development.

Leaders such as Dr. LaVaughn Henry enrich the OCU student experience by sharing practical knowledge in their fields of expertise.



DR. LAVAUGHN HENRY,
Vice President and Sr. Regional
Officer of the Cincinnati Branch of the
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

Learning from
an expert of Mr.
Henry's caliber
was a unique
and informative
experience.

ALLEN ROBERTS,
OCU Sophomore,
International Business Major

OCU Student leading through service



Anna Bonk is one of many Ohio Christian University students committed to serving Christ through serving the community. She chose OCU because of its Christian service and leadership opportunities. In addition to serving the community, Anna serves her peers as a Resident Assistant and believes God is using her past experiences to equip her to be a resource for students in need of encouragement.

Anna loves how the integration of biblical principles permeates all aspects of campus life at OCU. Over the summer, Anna was one of 40 Ohio Christian University students who gave their time to minister to youth as part of the OCU Summer Camp Teams and Sounds of Hope traveling music ministry. They traveled to 32 camps across five states to serve as camp counselors sharing God's love with youth ranging from elementary to high school age.

Anna puts her faith into action in the Circleville area as a leader for the Impact Ministry, which operates like a year-round vacation Bible school for local children. The ministry reaches children and their families who may not regularly attend church. Her service with Impact works hand-in-hand with her academic pursuits as a Teacher Education major with a focus in Early Childhood Education. Passionate about sharing Christ by caring for people, Anna is grateful for the blessings and opportunities she has received at OCU, and she knows God is equipping her for much, much more.



“It is a privilege to share my testimony, lead people to Christ, and pour God’s love into others.”

Anna Bonk, Teacher Education Student

ALUMNI

In Memoriam



Rev. Philip Batten

OCU celebrates the lives of two great community servants and friends of the university, Rev. Philip Batten, and Mr. James Bowman.

REV. PHILIP E. BATTEN, D.D., of Crestline, Ohio, went home to be with his Lord and Savior in January. He was born on September 22, 1950 in Parkersburg, West Virginia, graduated from Belpre High School in 1968, and graduated from Ohio Christian University in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion. He graduated from Trinity Theological Seminary in 2002 with a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies and then obtained his Doctorate of Divinity from Ohio Christian University in 2011. He is survived by his wife, Delta (Casto). Rev. Batten invested his life in serving the children of Cleveland, Ohio, by developing a bus ministry called Heaventrain. Heaventrain is unique in that the Gospel is delivered to children in their neighborhoods, rather than transporting them to a church building.

Rev. Batten was founder of the Cleveland Train and Executive Director of Lighthouse, Inc. Continuing Rev. Batten's legacy of service are his sons, Andy, Executive Director of Lighthouse, Inc., and Jamey, Associate Athletic Director and Head Coach of Women's Basketball at OCU. The Phil Batten Scholarship Fund of Ohio Christian University was established in Rev. Batten's honor.



James and Connie Bowman

MR. JAMES "JIM" BOWMAN, husband of OCU Board of Trustees member Connie (Bailey) Bowman, departed this world June 3, 2014, after a courageous battle with cancer. In addition to his wife, Jim is succeeded by numerous friends and loved ones including sisters Kathy (Rev. Lee) Stanley, Karen Tomlin and Lois (Mark) Taylor; and brother Keith Bowman. Mr. Bowman was a 1968 graduate of White Oak High School, Mowrystown, Ohio. He received his BA and M.Ed. degrees from the University of Cincinnati and completed post-graduate studies at the Ohio State University.

As a teacher and a guidance counselor for 35 years, Mr. Bowman was very active in the community and was involved with Habitat for Humanity, Gideon's International, and the Emmaus Ministry. Mr. Bowman loved singing with the Heritage Memorial Church worship team and led a variety of choirs, church camps, retreats, and youth ministries. The James R. & Connie L. Bowman Scholarship Fund of Ohio Christian University was established in Mr. Bowman's honor.

Honor the memories of Rev. Batten and Mr. Bowman by contributing to their scholarship funds. Give online at www.ohiochristian.edu or send a gift using the enclosed envelope. Call 740-420-5918 to learn how you can establish a memorial scholarship fund.

Alumni Updates



Sarah Pollard ('07) married Derrick Wagenknecht on 09/21/13

My husband Kamoy Simmonds and I met on 10/05/04 at Hocking College in Nelsonville, OH. We were both international students from Jamaica. and became friends immediately. We lost contact on numerous occasions but always seemed to find each other again. Then in October 2012 we decided we didn't want to lose each other again, and planned our wedding for exactly 9 years from the day we met, 10/05/13. We are both truly blessed that God chose to love us through each other.



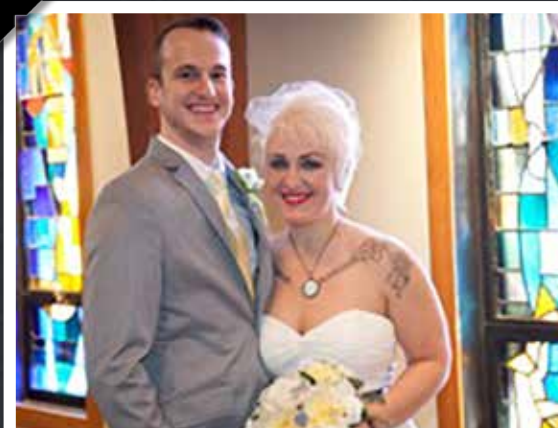
Alicia Wright ('13) married Bob Coulson on 05/17/13



Kamoy and Simone (Clarke '14) Simmonds



Debbie (Bowman '84) Stacy announces the birth of her 1st grandchild, Stella Elaine Stacy, born 03/05/14



Sean Gallagher ('12) & Ally Setser married on 02/08/14

Weddings & Births



Scarlett Lynox Sanders born 08/24/13 to Josh ('05) & Hillary (Manns '06) Sanders



Sydney Grace Otero, born 03/03/14 to Jason ('08) & Leslie Otero



Merrick Levi Blevins ('MB' of course) was born 12/23/13 to Michael ('12) & Kenna (Bolender '11) Blevins



I married Kaitlin Butler, a 2012 graduate of the Cleveland State University, on 10/20/12. In November of that year, we were blessed with a pregnancy. Five and half months into the pregnancy, our daughter, Evelyn Breigh, passed away due to an unknown infection. At my graduation in May 2013, I wore a pin dedicating the commencement to my daughter. After a time of healing we put it in God's hands to bring us another child. In June 2013 we became pregnant with our second child. Cecelia Madeline was born on 03/04/2014. I have re-enrolled at OCU in the AGS Bachelor program for Business Management and expect to graduate in May of 2015.

~ Russell Potoma ('13)



Ezra Tate Kamer born 01/30/14 to Jeremy ('11) & Abbie (Polley '12) Kamer with Josie (2 years old)

We plan to adopt our fourth child in September. He is a 28-month old little boy from China and will be named Evan Ze Neville. We adopted our two older daughters, Adelina and Aislynn, from Kazakhstan in 2003, and our third daughter, Addison, from China in 2011. We reside in Millersburg, Ohio where I serve at Gateway Fellowship as Director of Children's Ministries. My wife, Jill, and I also direct our own non-profit ministry, Operation ACTS, focusing on caring for orphans in other countries.

- Philip Neville ('90)





Soccer Teams Serve in Seattle

Front (L-R) Living Hope Church Youth Pastor Jason Frame, Trevor Lewis, Bryon Davis, Ian Swingle, OCU Coach Josh Murton; Back (L-R) Sarah and Anna Parkinson (Living Hope Church Pastor's daughters), Aubri Paugh, Katelyn Danner and Lexi Paas



Get Trailblazers news and schedules

This summer OCU Soccer Coach Josh Murton led a team of students to Port Orchard (Seattle), Washington, to serve in a ministry called "Cleat Camp," which is run by Living Hope Church. The students served more than 120 children, teaching soccer skills, playing games, and sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Spiritual lessons were taught using the "word-less ball," which has five colors, each symbolizing a teaching topic for devotionals students delivered:

- ❑ Bryon Davis gave a devotional on the topic of sin (black).
- ❑ Trevor Lewis gave a devotional on the blood of Christ (red).
- ❑ Ian Swingle gave a devotional on the purity of Christ (white).
- ❑ Lexi Paas gave a devotional on growth in Christ (green).
- ❑ Katelyn Danner gave a devotional on heaven (gold).

While they served the children, students also got a glimpse of how the body of Christ works, as they were hosted and served by various families. These hands-on experiences help lay the foundation for students to be ministers for life.



2014 Men's Basketball National CHAMPS



This spring, Coach Tony Stockman led the OCU Men's Basketball team to a 91-69 victory over Arlington Baptist College, securing the Trailblazers second consecutive NCCAA Division II National Championship.

Stockman said, "We became one team and one family, and that started with building our faith and our relationship with God. Once that happens, everything starts to come together."

Wesley Russell, who was named tournament MVP following the game, led all scorers with 27 points, nine rebounds, and six assists. Ernie McCoy, who joined Russell on the all-tournament team, tallied 18 points and five assists. Nic Baker drained four three-pointers to finish with 12 points, and Evan Mills (JR/Pickerington, OH) added nine points.

online at www.OCUtrailblazers.com



Michael Fracassa

Michael Fracassa returns to OCU as Vice President of Operations and Operational Efficiency. For the last three years, Mike served as the Director of Revenue Management at the Ohio Treasurer of State's office, where he was able to help the state with several new cost savings and efficiencies, including leading the effort for the state to convert to electronic imaging of checks. Previously, Mike worked for five years at OCU in the area of finance, with his last position as the Assistant Vice President of Finance. During this time he led a team that significantly enhanced financial aid processes at OCU. Mike was recently elected to the Lancaster, Ohio, city council and is chairman of the economic development committee. Mike holds bachelor and MBA degrees from Indiana Wesleyan University.



Dr. Cynthia Tweedell

Dr. Cynthia Tweedell joins OCU as Assistant Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness. Skilled in assessment and accreditation issues, she directed assessment and accreditation for the College of Adult and Professional Studies at Indiana Wesleyan University for eight years. As Executive Director of the Center for Research in Adult Learning, Dr. Tweedell consulted and collaborated with institutions to improve their online and multi-site programs. She has served the Higher Learning Commission as a Peer Reviewer, Team Chair, and member of the Accreditation Review Council for over 15 institutions. Dr. Tweedell holds masters degrees from University of North Carolina-Greensboro and University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. from Walden University.



Dr. Bradford Sample

Dr. Bradford Sample and his family come to OCU after five years at Bryan College in Tennessee, where Bradford served as the Vice President of Academics and Professor of History. Dr. Sample earned his bachelor and master degrees from Indiana University and his Ph.D. from Purdue University, all in the field of history. He comes to OCU as the Associate Vice President for the College of Adult & Graduate Studies. He remarked recently that he feels blessed to be working at a Christ-centered institution, for a president who has a steady and clear vision for growth, and for a leadership team that has a firm grasp of the challenges facing Christian higher education in the twenty-first century.

meet the team



Ryan Whisler

Ryan Whisler, D.B.A. (ABD) was recently promoted to Vice President of Information Technology. Whisler joined OCU in 2010 and was appointed Assistant Vice President for Information Technology in 2011. He previously served seven years at Mount Vernon Nazarene University and eight years at Judson University. Whisler holds MSM and MBA degrees from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Under his leadership, OCU's Information Technology department has implemented significant improvements to campus systems and processes, maintained a strong focus on customer service and servant leadership, and obtained a grant to fund improvements to Internet performance. Ryan is pursuing a Doctorate of Business Administration degree at Anderson University and plans to defend his dissertation this fall.



Joshua Moore

Joshua Moore is OCU's new Corporate Recruiter. In this new role, he will work to cultivate relationships with potential adult and graduate studies students, as well as employers and human resource professionals throughout Ohio in the corporate, government, and non-profit sectors. Joshua completed his bachelor's degree at Ohio University and holds an MBA from DeVry University's Keller Graduate School of Management. Prior to coming on board with the College of Adult and Graduate Studies at OCU, Joshua served for almost 10 years in the areas of admissions and enrollment, with a special focus on nursing student enrollment. A native of Lancaster, Ohio, Joshua currently resides in Pickerington, Ohio, and is newly married to his wife, Lindsey.

2014 Convocation Honors Exceptional Service to OCU & Community



left to right

Administrator of the Year

Mr. Jason Sheets, Director of Support Services

Community Ambassador of the Year

Mr. Ryan Scribner, P3 Economic Development Director

Faculty Member of the Year

Dr. Matthew Decker, Asst. Professor of Psychology and Counseling

Staff Member of the Year

Ms. Jenni Lloyd, Director of Customer Service

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