

OhioChristian

FALL 2015



OCU HONORS
REV. JACK NORMAN,
A MAN WITH A LIFE MISSION

OCU CLASS OF 2015 ✦ FORMER STUDENT WINS GRAMMY AWARD ✦ LEADERSHIP FORUM

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.

- 3 Message from the President
- 5 Commencement
- 8 Recent News
- 16 Leadership Forum
- 25 Former Student Wins Grammy Award
- 28 Trailblazer Athletics
- 30 Alumni Updates
- 32 World Missions

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ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes
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Upcoming Events

Oct. 1-3 Homecoming Weekend

Oct. 8 Harvest Homecoming
Gospel Concert Series

Oct. 15 Preview Day for the
Traditional Undergraduate
Program

Oct. 22 Fall Break

Nov. 6 Preview Day for the
Traditional Undergraduate
Program

Nov. 19 Preview Day for the
Traditional Undergraduate
Program

Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 5 Festival of Carols & Messiah

Dec. 7 Finals Week

Dec. 9 Winter Getaway

Jan. 6 First Day of Classes for
Traditional Program,
Spring Semester

For more information, visit www.OhioChristian.edu/events



Dr. Mark A. Smith, President

a Message from the President

OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY PREPARING CHURCH & COMMUNITY LEADERS!

Ohio Christian University is a blessed community of leaders who are impacting the world. **How does OCU and the church impact society today?** The answer to this complex question is not man-made yet involves all of us!

How are you
using your
God-given talents
to reach others
for Christ?

For the church to impact society, there must be a **powerful visitation of the Holy Spirit**, which radically changes men and women's hearts toward God. From the prophet Isaiah to Saul on the road to Damascus, the Lord uses transformative experiences to inspire spiritual leaders. These leaders challenge entire generations to action.

In Isaiah 6, Isaiah experienced a powerful vision of the Lord, which moved him from "Woe is me!" to "Here am I! Send me!" And in Acts 9, Saul goes from a saint killer to a sinner saved by grace!

Over the centuries God has used His Holy Spirit to revitalize entire generations. These generations have acted in His name to influence the world.

Ohio Christian University is committed to molding generations of students into world changing disciples for Christ. Disciples multiply! In China, the average church of 50 produces 500 converts. The American Church was known in its early days for making disciples, but we have entered a season of darkness and desperately need this generation to sense the Holy Spirit and be moved to action and influence our nation.

What brings about action in a Church? Generational action begins when we open our eyes to needs (Mark 3:5), remove our selfish motivations from the equation, and surrender to Christ. This is only accomplished by the Holy Spirit's empowerment, which motivates us to go on the offensive as Joshua did saying, "Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day" (Joshua 14:11).

(President's Message, continued)

What is God calling you to do in your community? First ask yourself, "What has God given me as a giftedness?" Then ask, "What steps am I taking to further His Kingdom?" Then go and use your God-given talents to evangelize and bring people to Christ. A mature church equips its people to handle the challenge of evangelism. When generational action becomes the focus, mountains are moved. That's why OCU is committed to preparing students to be people of action in their churches and communities. Ohio Christian University has molded entire generations of mountain movers.

Here are a few questions for your church:

- ❖ Who is serving your community's children with tutoring and reading them the Word?
- ❖ Who is visiting the prisons?
- ❖ Who is supporting the widows?
- ❖ Who is building homes for the homeless?
- ❖ Who is feeding the poor?
- ❖ Who is loving the AIDS victim?
- ❖ Who is saving babies from abortion by assisting a crisis pregnancy center?
- ❖ Who is reaching the drug addict?
- ❖ **Who is doing all of the above so that the lost may come to Jesus?**

A true leader changes that world by calling generations to action. It's time to rise up, Church, and act. God is moving in our midst. Be strong and courageous for the Lord our God is with you wherever you go!

I tell you, open your eyes
and look at the fields!
They are ripe for harvest.

John 4:35

65th Ohio Christian University's COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Ohio Christian University is thrilled to introduce a record-breaking 708 new alumni. The Commencement ceremony was a great time of celebration for the entire OCU community with special guest Reverend Jack Norman, former District Superintendent of the Churches of Christ in Christian Union, and Representative Michele Bachmann.

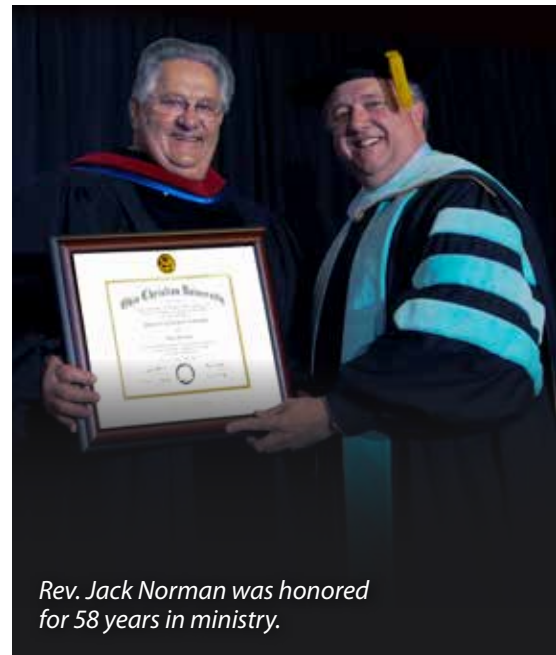
Rev. Norman was presented an honorary Doctorate of Christian Leadership in recognition of 58 years dedicated to ministry. He's served on the CCCU General Board of Trustees for 30 years and on the OCU Board for 16 years. His commitment to God, his family, and God's people stands as a testimony for Christ and His Church.

Rep. Bachmann spoke passionately about her faith in Jesus Christ and challenged students to be whole-hearted in their pursuit of God, saying, "love and serve Him with all your mind, strength, and heart."

Bachmann was presented with an honorary doctorate degree for her commitment to Christian service and values.

Among the graduating class were OCU's first Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates and high school students receiving their Associate degrees through dual enrollment. Phillip A. DeMint and Natasha Pearle Hudnell were the co-honor graduates for the Traditional program. The honor graduate for the Adult and Graduate Studies program was Harry James Cox. Honor graduates represent all the ideals of Ohio Christian University and are elected by the faculty. These graduates must have distinguished themselves in academic achievement, Christian service and leadership potential.

The ceremony concluded with worship led by the OCU Chorale and prayer led by Dr. Marvin Miller.



Rev. Jack Norman was honored for 58 years in ministry.

"Thank you Ohio Christian University for intentionally and tirelessly making an impact for Jesus Christ."

Representative Michele Bachmann



Rep. Michele Bachmann speaking to the graduates at the 65th Commencement ceremony.



Congratulations,

708 GRA



NEWS

O H I O C H R I S T I A N U N I V E R S I T Y



Dr. Tom Hermiz
CCCU General Superintendent

“We cannot ignore this kind of evil modern day slavery.”

Dr. Tom Hermiz
CCCU General Superintendent

OCU & CCCU Fight Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others. This \$150 billion global industry isn't just going to go away on its own, but the combined efforts of students at Ohio Christian University and the efforts of the Churches of Christ in Christian Union (CCCU) are focused on ending it.

The fight against human trafficking requires a multi-tiered approach: 1) legal action in Washington, 2) awareness in America's communities, and 3) outreach in love to those currently in bondage by bringing them hope through salvation in Christ.

Ohio Christian University students are doing their part to combat human trafficking by raising awareness in the community and abroad. Last March, a group of students took a “Stand for Freedom” by committing to stand for 27 hours straight in honor of the 27 million trafficking victims.

Then, in May, OCU students traveled to Costa Rica to work with Face of Justice Ministries. During the week-long trip, the team performed a variety of outreach activities such as serving the homeless and praying with prostitutes, who are often trafficking victims.

Dr. Tom Hermiz, General Superintendent of CCCU, said, “We cannot ignore this kind of evil modern day slavery when it is rampant all around us.” In response, CCCU is developing a safe house where rescued trafficked children can live in a safe environment, and be led to Christ.

With the outreach efforts of students at Ohio Christian University and the CCCU denomination, we are poised to lead the fight to stamp out human trafficking around the globe.



THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

\$573,023 **\$58,977**
Donated by OCU **matched by the**
supporters **Columbus Foundation**

Emergency & Disaster Management Students Feed 800 Children

Students and staff in OCU's Emergency & Disaster Management program have served hot, nutritious meals to nearly 800 hungry children in Appalachian regions of Ohio since May. The mobile kitchen ministry allows for a pop-up summer feeding site in the more rural areas of Ohio (Gallia, Lawrence, and Vinton Counties), where traditional food banks are inaccessible. By feeding the hungry, OCU students are truly being the hands and feet of Christ to those who need Him most.

Thank you to Ohio Christian University
for bringing their mobile feeding
canteen to our Hilltop community
center to feed our neighbors in need.

The Salvation Army in Central Ohio at The Salvation Army
Columbus (West Mound), Ohio Corps, via Facebook

1 DAY

\$573,023 Raised!

Thank you for supporting OCU!

A big "Thank You!" is in order for all of those who donated to Ohio Christian University during the Columbus Foundation's Big Give, a one-day philanthropic rally. Donations to OCU totaled \$573,023, which was then matched at \$58,977 by the Columbus Foundation, bringing the total to \$632,000.

Out of 587 charities, Ohio Christian University ranked third in most money raised. Only The Ohio State University Foundation and Community Shelter Board raised more.

Every single dollar will be used to further OCU's mission – preparing students to serve effectively in the church and in society.

Thank you for supporting Ohio Christian University.
All the glory to God!





*from front left: Kevin Green, Steve Sargent, Bill McKell, Daniel Brake, Judy Huang Lewis.
from back left: OCU Professors Ben Belleman, Dave Garrison, Dale Lear, Sean Lovell, Josh Murton.*



OCU's corporate partners made the roundtable a great success! Students received valuable insights into what it takes to flourish in corporate America.

Dr. David Garrison
Dean, OCU School of
Business and Government



Corporate Leaders Visit OCU Students

This spring, the School of Business and Government held a corporate roundtable with participation from presidents and CEOs of large firms from the Columbus area. Students learned what it takes to be a part of a team in a company with anywhere from 100 to over 20,000 employees and what they are looking for in their job applicants.

The event is styled as a panel discussion where the Dean of the School of Business and Government, Dr. Dave Garrison, asks the panel members various questions about the business practices of large corporations and advice they would give students who are looking to work in large companies. Students were also encouraged to ask any questions that they had. This event was very successful with high participation from the students during the event and many student interactions with the panel members following the event.

Participation in this year's panel included: Judy Huang, President and Co-Founder, 889 Global Solutions Ltd; Steve Sargent, Human Resources Manager, Cintas Facility Services; Kevin Green, Assistant Manager of Human Resources, Honda of America Manufacturing; Bill McKell, President and CEO, Horizon Telcom; and Daniel Brake, Associate General Counsel, R&L Carriers.

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Music Student Appears in National Magazine

OCU traditional student Abbie Ailes and her mother, Jill, are the winners of the Most Sentimental Story and Creative Picture Contest by the Lorenz Corporation and will be featured in their Fall 2015 Anthem promotion. The Lorenz Corporation is a Dayton-based publishing company specializing in sacred and school music. We talked with Abbie about her talent, faith, and education.

OCU: How does your musical ability relate to your relationship with Christ?

Abbie: I'm very thankful and blessed. I find playing the violin fun, but more importantly it is a way to show my appreciation and worship to God.

OCU: Tell us about your mom.

Abbie: My mom and I are best friends. She has been a great example for me spiritually and musically. My fondest memories are the ones that we played together.

OCU: How is OCU preparing you for the future?

Abbie: It has strengthened my relationship with Christ.

OCU Students Serve in 38 Summer Youth Camps

Ohio Christian University's Camp Teams served 38 camps in seven states this summer. Students received more than 40 hours of training in preparation for their summer travels, including an intensive training week.

John Trussel, Director of Camp Marengo, stated, "It was great working with OCU Camp Teams; it was a blessing to invest in the lives of so many strong, young Christian leaders. It's very encouraging to see the commitment that they've made to serve God this summer."

"Because of my education at OCU, I am ready to experience the world with a great knowledge of my major and a firm foundation of faith."

Abbie Ailes, OCU Traditional Student

Learn more about Music Education at OCU at www.ohiochristian.edu/music.





OCU Hosts Math & Science Camps

More than 250 children attended math and science camps at Ohio Christian University for the 2015 Kids on Campus event. Kids on Campus is a summer enrichment program for first through fourth graders that allows them to experience academic life on a college campus while improving their math, science, art, and technology skills. Plans for next year are already in motion.

"Friendly teachers and kids"



"Experiments!"



"It's exciting, like I'm in college!"

"I liked everything to the moon and back 2000 times!"

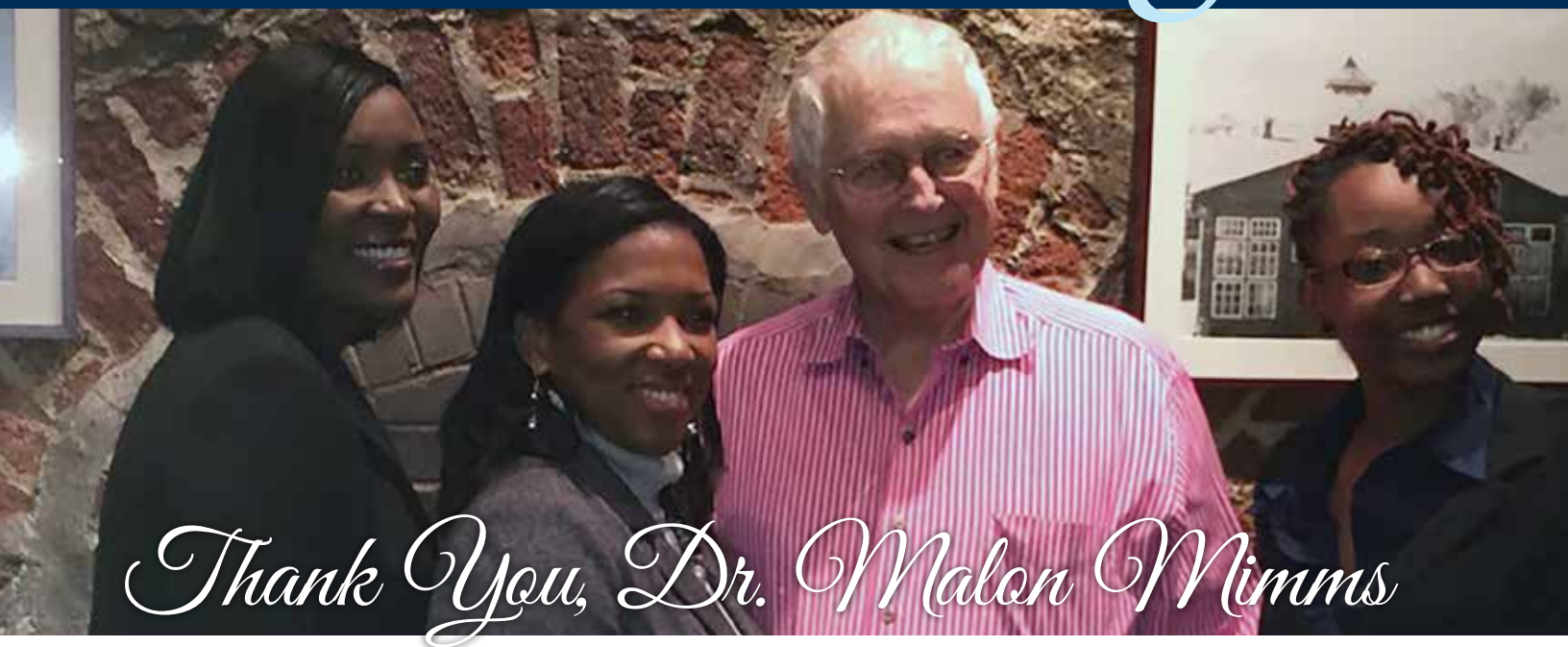
OCU President's Contract Renewed

Ohio Christian University is pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees has renewed President Mark A. Smith's contract with the university for five years with an automatic five-year renewal upon completion of the term.

Entering his 10th year of dedicated service as the university's president, Dr. Smith is excited to continue leading the university in service to the community and the churches, as well as continuing to work toward his goal of a 20 percent baccalaureate rate for the South-Central Ohio region. "Ohio Christian University is committed to academic excellence, but even more so to the spiritual growth and personal development of our students. The university's staff and faculty are doing excellent work, and I feel blessed to continue to serve this community," said Smith.

Dr. Smith's renewal was met with enthusiasm from community leaders, including Circleville Mayor Don McIlroy who said, "This community is much better off because Dr. Mark Smith is a part of it. The work he is doing at the university and in the community is remarkable."

OCU Georgia



Morrow Campus Dean Dr. Shawn Thomas and students Kimeisha Gibbedon and Charity Boswell recently visited Dr. Malon Mimms to thank him for the building he so graciously donated to Ohio Christian University. The campus, named "The Dr. Malon D. Mimms Education Center," began with a cohort of 13 students. Today 192 students are enrolled onsite and 206 students are enrolled online in Georgia!

Ms. Boswell shared with Dr. Mimms, "My journey to OCU has truly been a blessing. God sent OCU an angel, and his name is Dr. Mimms. I will forever be thankful for everything he has done for my school. He not only provided a building for students to come and get an education, he provided a different path to God. I will always be thankful for Dr. Mimms."

Ms. Gibbedon also expressed her gratitude, "OCU has not only taught me about the Bible, it has also helped me to stay on the right path while balancing every day life with college."

Dr. Mimms shared some wisdom with the students, "Education is the key to success. Whatever you do, don't quit school."

Ms. Gibbedon responded, "Those words will ring in my ears until I walk across the stage with my bachelor's degree in Business Management."

The first OCU graduation ceremony in Georgia will be held April 9, 2016.

Thank you, Dr. Mimms, for investing in your community and Christian higher education!



Meet Johnathon B. Williams, Corporate Developer and Recruiter for Georgia

Johnathon B. Williams is our new Corporate Developer and Recruiter. He was born and raised in Atlanta, GA. He graduated from the University of West Georgia, where he met his better half. He is married with a son due this August. He has been working in the higher education field for over two years. He attends church at Word of Truth in Bremen, GA. He is excited to be a part of the OCU team as a recruiter, changing lives each day through education.

Exploding with Growth!


Dr. Shawn B. Thomas, Georgia Campus Dean, Receives State Honor

On March 25, 2015, Dr. Shawn B. Thomas received a State Resolution for her dedicated work in the community.

Senator Seay presented Dr. Thomas with the honor at the Georgia State Capitol.



From left: Senator Valencia Seay with Dr. Shawn B. Thomas, her husband Reverend Ronnie M. Thomas Jr., and Lieutenant Governor Cagle.

 **Atlanta
Morrow**
or learn online!



Ms. Shamika Bennett

OCU Welcomes Ms. Shamika Bennett

Ms. Shamika Bennett joined the Morrow recruiting team in March. Shamika brings a wealth of experience including recruiting for the University of Phoenix, client services, retention, and management. We are blessed to have her on the Morrow team.

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2015 LEADERSHIP FORUM



Pastor Gerald Brooks received an honorary doctorate honoring his life of ministry.

Ohio Christian University hosted its 2015 Leadership Forum on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, in the Maxwell Center on the main campus in Circleville, Ohio. Over 1,400 attendees participated in this year's event, which featured high-profile guests such as Gov. Mike Huckabee, A.J. Hawk, and Benham brothers, David and Jason, and of course Dr. John Maxwell.

Preceding the evening event, attendees participated in roundtable training sessions conducted by each of the special guests, while the Pastoral Seminar, featuring Dr. Stan Toler and Pastor Gerald Brooks, was held concurrently in Detty Chapel. The day culminated with the grand evening event, giving attendees another opportunity to be challenged and inspired by each of the speakers.

The annual leadership forum is an increasingly popular event that facilitates the professional development of those currently in executive leadership roles or who aspire to be effective leaders. Proceeds from the event support the University Scholarship Program with this year's forum raising \$177,000.

Leaders
FOR
America

SAVE THE DATE

April 19, 2016



Leadership Expert
DR. JOHN MAXWELL



Former NFL Quarterback
JIM KELLY



Delta Air Lines CEO
ED BASTIAN

★ **11 am Executive Session**

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- » Dinner
- » VIP seating for Leadership Forum

★ **2 pm Pastoral Seminar**

- » \$40 per person
- » Seminar materials and resources
- » Dinner
- » Reserved seating for Leadership Forum

★ **6 pm Leadership Forum**

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- » \$25 General Admission

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members' medical bills

ELIGIBLE option under U.S. Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)

FAITHFUL Has served Christians for nearly 35 years

OCU & CCCU Leaders Pray for the Nation



OHIO STATEHOUSE PRAYER RALLY DRAWS HUNDREDS



Rev. Mike Holbrook, CCCU South Central District Superintendent

The crowd assembled on the west lawn in front of the Ohio Statehouse was visible from a block away. Men in dark suits sat in a row of chairs on the Statehouse steps, divided by two flags and a podium. Women sported sun-hats and sunglasses while they fanned themselves and their children. Umbrellas dotted the landscape, providing shelter not from rain, but from the sun. People meandered around the square, filling in the lawn while praying softly.

More than 500 people had gathered for a prayer assembly termed “Ohio 7:14 – A Solemn Assembly of Prayer” to pray for and voice their opinions on social issues, such as same-sex marriage, education, and abortion. Rev. Mike Holbrook represented the Churches of Christ in Christian Union in prayer.

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

Nineteen speakers followed, including Ohio Christian University President Mark Smith. Dr. Smith took to the podium with his son, Micah, by his side as he prayed for education in Ohio and the U.S. Smith first thanked God for His forgiveness and grace; he then thanked God for “the teachers who are investing in the lives of our children every day.”

Smith closed by praying for college students everywhere and for his son, pleading with God, saying, “I pray that You would raise them up to be righteous leaders, Lord, I pray that You would make them prophets in this State as they proclaim Your word.”

Citizens for Community Values, a conservative Christian nonprofit based out of Cincinnati, coordinated the event, which was held on June 11, 2015.





OCU and Crossroads Church Partner for Drug Education Conference

Adapted from article by Circleville Herald Staff Reporter Amanda Plotts



“

I believe God has placed every ministry and church here to work together and make a difference, and I believe we can. We offer the hope of Christ!

”

Rev. Tim Throckmorton, Crossroads Church

More than 300 pastors, lay-ministers, parishioners, and students came together at the Saving Our Communities: Drug Education Conference to learn and discuss what the church can do to help with the local drug epidemic.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine said, “The faith-based community can play a vital role in addressing the drug epidemic by offering counsel, group support, and hope to both those battling addiction and their families.”

Pickaway County Sheriff Robert Radcliff noted that 90 percent of those in the local jail are incarcerated as the result of drug-related activity, and sheriffs across the country are all battling the same problem. “We can’t legislate our way out of this, and we can’t arrest our way out of this. We have to solve it as a community,” he said.



From left: OCU Professor Monty Lobb, Fairfield County Sheriff Dave Phalen, Apostle Juan Woods, Rev. Tom Thompson, Rev. Tim Throckmorton, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, OCU President Mark Smith, Rev. Greg Delaney, Pickaway County Sheriff Robert Radcliff, OCU Professor Larry Olson



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine addressed more than 300 community leaders and students at the Drug Education Conference.



DeWine announced an agreement to provide rebates for public entities that purchase medication used to counter the effects of opioids.

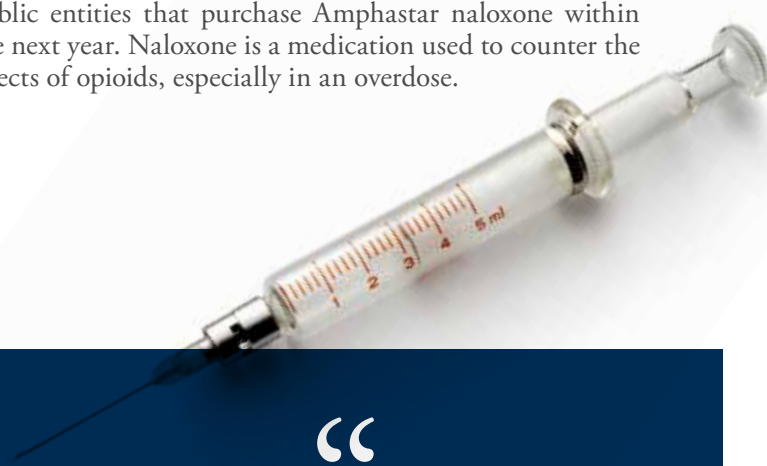
Dr. Charles E. Russell, president of 2 Edged Sword Recovery, said that every day 2,700 kids, ages 13 to 17, take a pain pill for the first time. He pointed out that no one plans to become addicted and that opioid dependency is a disease, not a character flaw.

Rev. Barry Bennett, director of Pickaway Area Recovery Services, said that the church should be the greatest place of support for addicts, emphasizing that the faith-based community has a big job to do and it starts with evidence-based treatment and spiritual guidance.

"I believe God has placed us here in this moment in time to work together, all of us, every ministry and church, to make a difference, and I believe we can," said Rev. Tim Throckmorton of Crossroads Church.

OCU President Mark Smith challenged churches to have two sermons a year on drug awareness and human trafficking, two issues he believes go hand in hand. "We as ministers must address the issues of the day," he said.

DeWine announced at the conference that Ohio has reached an agreement with naloxone manufacturer Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, Inc., to provide rebates for public entities that purchase Amphastar naloxone within the next year. Naloxone is a medication used to counter the effects of opioids, especially in an overdose.

“

The faith-based community can play a vital role in addressing the drug epidemic by offering counsel, group support and hope to both those battling addiction and their families.

”

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine

Christian Counseling

WITH A BIBLICAL FOUNDATION



Dr. Larry Olson
Psychology Department Chair

The OCU Psychology Department offers students a solid foundation for their careers and graduate studies. The faculty of doctorate-level professors lead students on a journey of discoveries that students describe as challenging, self-reflective, and personal. The department offers two majors: Chemical Dependency Counseling and Psychology. Both programs are designed to prepare students for the promising professional life that lies ahead. All students gain field experience in their senior-year practicums.

Students report their experience as engaging and exciting, bringing about new self-awareness and growth in their own critical thinking skills. Graduates highlight their solid preparation for career and further study.

Hillary Stump Massie says, "After I graduated from OCU, I enrolled at the University of Dayton to study clinical mental health counseling at the graduate level. Upon starting the program, I found that I was well prepared and knowledgeable of the work load and the content. OCU taught me to have a strong work ethic and how to get to where I want to go. I was not afraid to speak up and share my input because of the classroom interactions I had at OCU."

Students go on to serve in a variety of organizations, which consistently report solid preparation. One student practicum supervisor reported, "[The student] showed an amazing ability to connect theory with behaviors. [The supervisor] indicated that she has had many interns over the past years, but has rarely seen a student with the ability to connect psychological theory with specific ministry oriented behaviors. She also reported that [the student] was able to offer specific suggestions for ministry improvement that took into account psychological theory regarding behavior change."



Psychology Major

- ✓ **General Psychology concentration** offers a number of electives while preparing students to integrate relevant theories to various life and vocational settings and educational environments.
- ✓ **Pre-Counseling concentration** focuses students on preparation for graduate study toward a counseling license.
- ✓ **Research Concentration** is for students who desire to perform research at the masters and doctoral levels.

Chemical Dependency Counseling Major

This program provides graduates with specific training that meets State of Ohio requirements for them to pursue licensing as a Chemical Dependency Counselor. These students are well prepared to enter the field and to pursue graduate studies if desired.

To enroll or learn more about Psychology programs at OCU, visit our website at www.OhioChristian.edu/psychology.



Jarod and Hillary (Stump, '12) Massie were married May 24, 2015

“Upon entering the University of Dayton graduate program, I found that I was well prepared and knowledgeable of the work load and the content.”

Hillary Stump Massie '12



worship leadership



OCU Graduates
**Matt and Megan
Harshbarger, '14,**
Serve at Xenia Church
of the Nazarene

Recent Worship Leadership program graduates Matt and Megan (McCrary) Harshbarger, '14, are thankful to be doing what everyone wishes to do immediately following college—being employed in their field of study. Matt is currently a full-time worship pastor at Xenia Church of the Nazarene. Megan joins alongside him for the worship services every week. They work together to create an atmosphere of worship for every person who steps into the services, whether that be through the words they speak or the songs they sing.

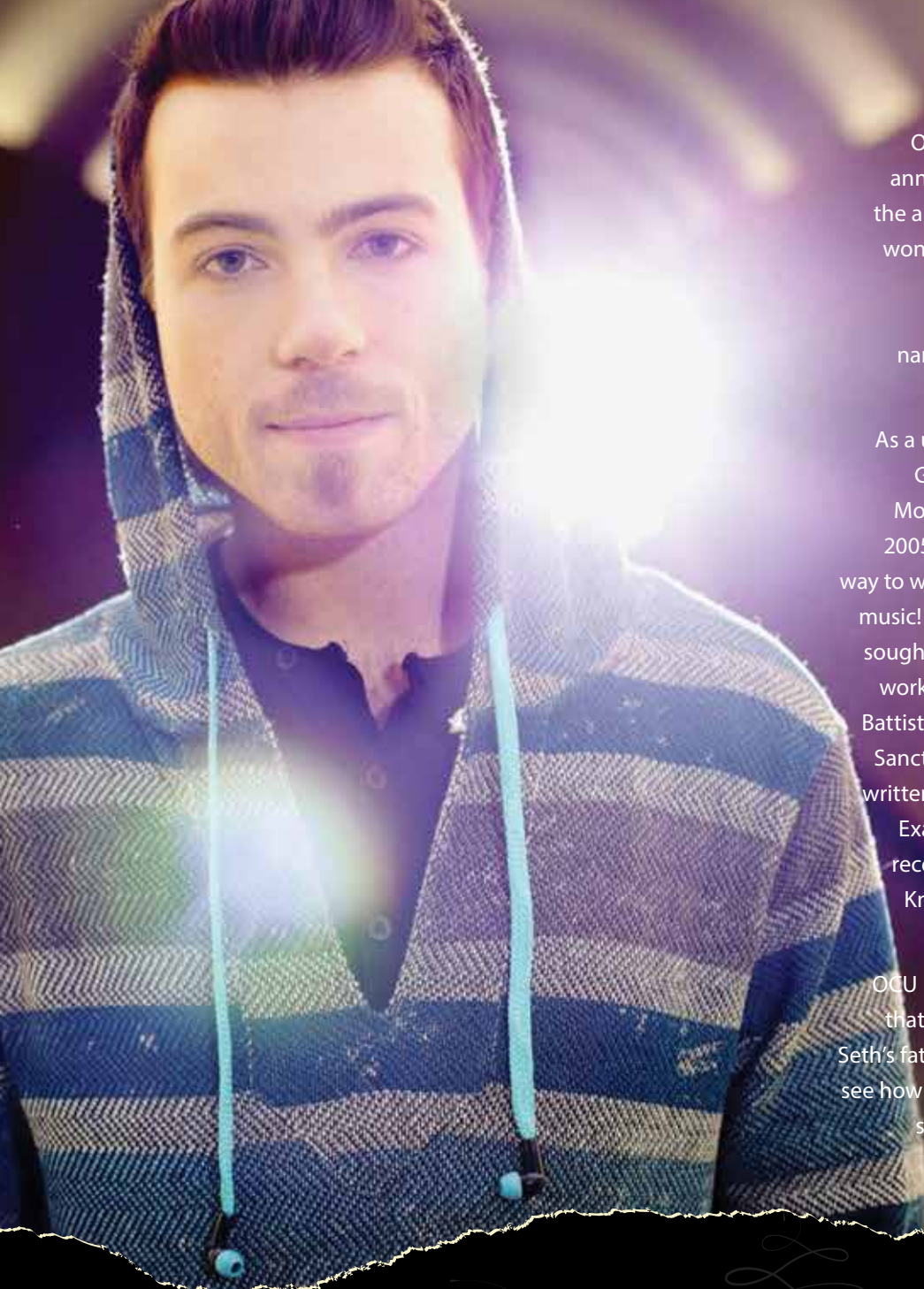
Megan says she felt well-prepared for her current job because of her experience at OCU. "Ohio Christian University provided many opportunities to gain practical experience. Matt and I both traveled in a public relations group for three years. Through that experience, along with internships, we not only developed a sense of professionalism in our field of ministry, but we also developed skills that are required in any field of work—communication, character, energy, attitude, pursuing excellence, and recognizing a code of conduct—all with an underlying Biblical foundation. All of these are taught in class, but they are brought to life in the hands-on opportunities OCU offers."

Matt encourages students to get involved in the opportunities given on campus: "Gaining real world experience will greatly enhance your learning."

Megan noted that the opportunities she had to develop as a worship leader—leading worship in chapel, traveling the east coast with a worship band in the summers, and interning during her senior year in Georgia at Rock Springs Church—have shaped her for future success.

When asked what advice she would give to current and prospective students, Megan shared, "Don't settle for less than what you are capable of. Ohio Christian University is full of opportunities. You have to be willing and determined to seek those out! Communicate with your professors and mentors, challenge yourself, and believe that you can make things happen with hard work and determination!"

Applications are being accepted now for the Fall Semester! Apply online or request information at www.OhioChristian.edu today.



Ohio Christian University is pleased to announce that Seth Mosley, producer of the album *Run Wild. Live Free. Love Strong.*, won the Grammy for Best Contemporary Christian Music Album in February! Less than one month later, Seth was named Christian Songwriter of the Year at SESAC's Christian Music Awards.

As a university we are excited to see what God does in the life of a student. Seth Mosley, who attended OCU in 2004 and 2005, is being used by God in a powerful way to write and produce impactful Christian music! Seth is one of Christian music's most sought-after producers and writers. He has worked with Michael W. Smith, Francesca Battistelli, Jeremy Camp, Audio Adrenaline, Sanctus Real, and the Newsboys. Seth has written or co-written numerous hit singles.

Examples include Francesca Battistelli's recent #1 hit, "He Knows My Name," "He Knows" (Jeremy Camp), "You Are I Am" (Mercy Me), "Words" (Hawk Nelson).

OCU President Mark A. Smith commented that he is blessed to have Dr. Jim Mosley, Seth's father, as his physician and is thrilled to see how Seth's talents contribute to reaching so many through the power of music.



FORMER OCU STUDENT
SETH MOSLEY
GRAMMY-WINNING PRODUCER NAMED
CHRISTIAN SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

OCU WELCOMES *New Faculty & Staff*



Rev. David Dean

Director of Church Relations

Rev. David Dean has dedicated the past 45 years of his life to serving God and growing His Kingdom. He joins OCU as the new Director of Church Relations.

He served as the Senior Pastor of Brookside Church from 1990 until 2015. Currently, he's serving as the Chairman of the Commission on Evangelism and Discipleship for the Churches of Christ in Christian Union, a position he was appointed to in 1998. Prior to coming to Brookside, David served for eleven years as the West Central District Superintendent and Assistant General Superintendent for CCCU. He has pastored three other churches in Arizona, Georgia, and Ohio.

During his time as District Superintendent, he traveled multiple times to Mexico and the Caribbean. These travels opened his eyes and his heart to traveling all over the world to share the Gospel. He then began traveling with EQUIP. Rev. Dean has traveled to countries such as including Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Ukraine, and China. On these

travels he was teaching, preaching, and assisting with medical missions.

David decided to move his career to Ohio Christian University for four reasons: 1) leadership of the Holy Spirit, 2) love of the Churches of Christ in Christian Union denomination, 3) his desire to create generational leaders, and 4) the great need. He says on the transition, "After pastoring Brookside church for 25 years, my deepest vision is to see that church and our university to reach around the world."

David graduated from Ohio Christian University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Theology degree and from Olivet Nazarene University in 1992 with a Master's degree in Church Management. He has a passion to see lost people come to Christ and a love for preaching the Word of God.



Dr. Thad Hicks

Emergency and Disaster Management Program Director

An experienced Emergency Manager, Thad Hicks returns to OCU as the Director of the Emergency and Disaster Management program. Before a three-year hiatus to work with the Emergency Disaster Services section of The Salvation Army, Dr. Hicks both designed the program at OCU and was its first director. He continues his relationship with The Salvation Army as a trainer and consultant. This relationship allows for an abundance of real-world experiences for students at OCU with one of the world's largest non-profit organizations active in emergency and disaster work.



Valerie Jones

Teacher Education Department Chair

Valerie Jones is the new Department Chair of the Teacher Education program at Ohio Christian University. For the last 16 years, Valerie has taught English Language Arts/Humanities at Southeastern High School in Chillicothe, Ohio. At Southeastern, she was a member of the Building and District Leadership Teams, created the performing arts program, and organized and directed dozens of dramas and musicals. Among numerous other activities, she was a teacher mentor, building leader, and senior class advisor.



Dr. Dione Bennett

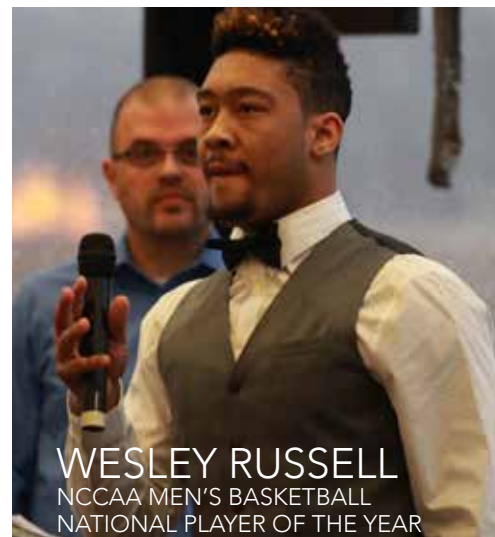
Assistant Professor of Music & Interim Chorale Director

Dione Parker Bennett is the new Assistant Professor of Music and Interim Chorale Director. Though her career has focused primarily on solo vocal performance, she is no stranger to choral conducting. She was director of the Ohio District Council State Young People's Union Choir and was Minister of Music of the District Four Regional Choir of the Ohio District Council, an ensemble consisting of 200 voices. Dr. Bennett has served at OCU for the past two years as the voice instructor and director of the Chamber Singers.

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WESLEY RUSSELL
NCCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL
NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

MEN'S BASKETBALL **REGIONAL CHAMPS** 6TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The OCU Trailblazers laid claim to the Mid-East Region Championship banner for the sixth consecutive year with an 86-70 victory over Kentucky Christian University. The win secured a #1 seed for OCU in the 2015 NCCAA Division II National Tournament, where the Blazers finished fifth in the nation with a 22-13 record.

Coach Tony Stockman was named NCCAA 2015 National Coach of the Year, and Wesley Russell was named NCCAA 2015 National Player of the Year.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL **REGIONAL RUNNER-UP**

Shekinah Alexander (SR/Toledo, OH) and Olivia Davis (JR/Grove City, OH) were named 2015 NCCAA All-Americans in women's basketball. Alexander finished 2nd overall in the National Player of the Year voting and took home NCCAA 1st Team All-American honors. Davis, a two-sport star in volleyball and basketball, was named a 2nd Team NCCAA All-American selection for 2015. She received NCCAA Scholar Athlete honors with her 3.7 GPA and was a 1st Team All-American in volleyball last Fall. The Trailblazers finished second in the region.



SHEKINAH ALEXANDER



OLIVIA DAVIS



TONY STOCKMAN
NCCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL
NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR

WOMEN'S SOCCER HEAD COACH JAKE WARREN



Ohio Christian University is pleased to announce Jake Warren as the new head coach of the women's soccer program. Coach Warren takes the helm of an OCU women's program that has reached two straight NCCAA National Tournaments under the direction of current OCU men's soccer coach Josh Murton.

"Jake Warren is a great addition to our coaching staff," stated OCU Athletic Director Ben Belleman. "He is a coach that understands the game, and he will be able to build upon the recent success of the program while also effectively integrating faith and sport."

A native of Gainesville, Georgia, Warren served most recently as the head coach of the Toccoa Falls College women's soccer program, leading the Eagles to a 9-9-1 record in 2014. His team was ranked as high as #5 in the NCCAA National Poll during the season. For the strong turnaround, Warren was named South Region Coach of the Year.

"I am excited about the opportunity to lead the women's soccer program into the next chapter. It is an honor to represent Ohio Christian University as the new head coach," said Warren.

Warren graduated with a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Toccoa Falls and then earned an MA in Sports Management from Liberty University. His wife, Ashley Warren, was a standout soccer player at Toccoa Falls College.



OCU BECOMES NAIA MEMBER

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Council of Presidents announced the approval of six institutions, including Ohio Christian University, for membership in the NAIA, effective August 1, 2015. The announcement occurred at the 74th annual NAIA National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Institutions applying to the NAIA must meet membership criteria that include financial stability, sports sponsorship, accreditation, and a commitment to character-driven athletics. The Membership Committee also reviews enrollment numbers, graduation percentages, retention rates, and overall athletics budgets.

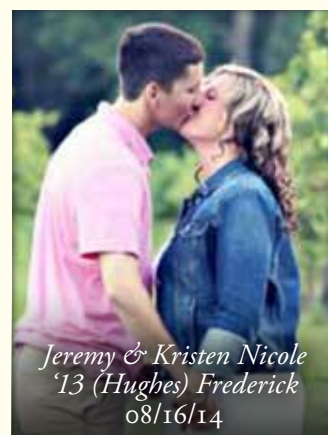
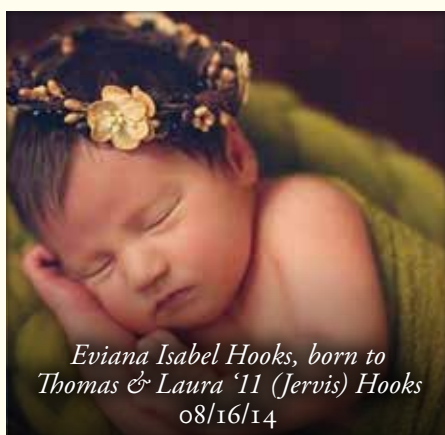
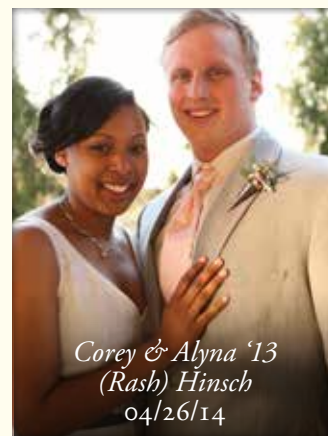
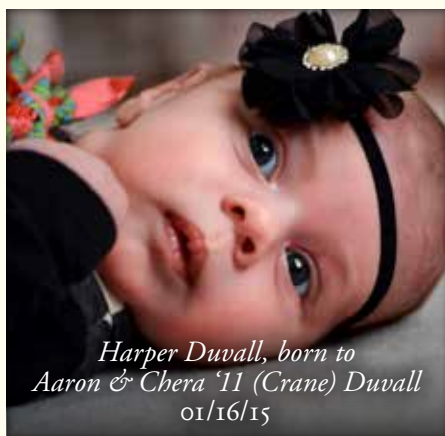
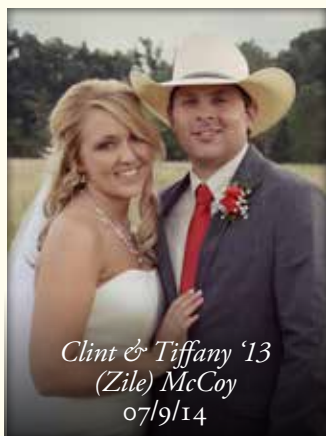
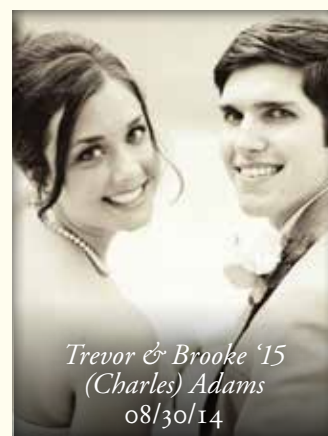
Ohio Christian University will compete in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC) beginning with the 2015-16 school year.

"Ohio Christian is very excited about the opportunity to join the KIAC," Ohio Christian University Athletic Director Ben Belleman said. "We have had our eye on this conference and feel we are a good match for it both in competition and in mission. We look forward to building strong relationships within the conference and can't wait to begin the 2015-2016 season."

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OCU STUDENTS SERVE AROUND THE WORLD

by Barbee Graves, OCU Sophomore

I spent this year's spring break in Saltillo, Mexico, on a mission trip through World Gospel Mission. This was an amazing and unforgettable opportunity, and I was truly blessed to be a part of such a great ministry. While serving in Mexico, our team worked closely alongside missionaries Mark and Serena Dunbar. Their ministry is focused on educating young people theologically so they can, in turn, impact their churches and communities in Northern Mexico.

The people we met affected me greatly. In Monterrey, Mexico, we helped build a roof for a church that had been raising money for almost three years for a partial roof. They went out of their way to feed us, boiled water for our showers, and even offered us their beds after a hard day's work. Their work ethic, endless hospitality, and contagious laughter demonstrated that, despite their living conditions, they rejoiced in the Lord continually.

This was an unforgettable experience, and I encourage anyone who is considering a short-term mission trip to get up and go!



Barbee Graves, OCU Sophomore

MEXICO

Students Minister in Mexico
with World Gospel Mission

- » Ethan Allen, Team Leader
- » Tim Allen
- » Cody Barnhart
- » Samuel Good
- » Barbee Graves





Spring Break is usually a time for relaxing and catching a break from classes, but not for eleven OCU students and one staff member who took a week-long mission trip to Belfast, Northern Ireland, with GO International. The group teamed up with Christian Fellowship Church in Belfast to help their youth, children, and toddlers grow closer to Christ.

"We helped run the children and youth programs for the week," said Tricia Lucas, OCU's Assistant Director of Traditional Enrollment. "I worked more with their youth, and it was great to see how they diligently work to not only have certain events where their sole purpose is to bring new students in and show them God's love, but they also have connect groups that are a time to dig deeper with Christ and are discipleship-oriented."

Junior Music Education Major Abbie Ailes shared that during the trip, she learned how to put others before herself. "I learned that everyone has a story. We never know who we can help by telling stories of how God has brought us through personal struggles and trials," she said.

"Whether at school or in another country, everyone needs God's love. It takes hard work and dedication to show that love sincerely."

Music Education Major Abbie Ailes

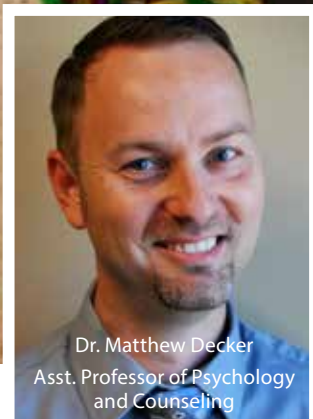
IRELAND

Students & Staff Minister
with GO International

- » Abbie Ailes
- » Kara Bandy
- » Meghan Coleman
- » Micah Dupler
- » Lyndsey Haas
- » Josh Harshbarger
- » Allyson Jones
- » Tricia Lucas
- » Irene Stroh
- » Lynnae South
- » Jess Sturgeon



OCU REACHES GHANA



“a reminder of why I do
what I do...to see the **joy of
helping people** on the journey
of learning. It's a privilege.”

—Matthew Decker



LEARNING TO PRAISE GOD ALWAYS

Lessons from Ghana

Ohio Christian University Psychology Professor Matthew Decker and his team of six students arrived home in late May from a 16-day research trip to Kasoa, Ghana. For Decker, taking students is “a reminder of why I do what I do ... to see the joy of helping people on the journey of learning. It’s a privilege.” According to the CIA World Fact Book, nearly 72 percent of Ghanaians identify as Christians, and according to Decker, they truly live and breathe their faith, clinging to God as provider, sustainer, and healer, and casting all their worries on Him. Their beautifully passionate faith and pure joy resonated with the students on the trip.

For many students, this was their first time experiencing a culture so dramatically different from their own, as well as their first time witnessing the devastating effects of poverty. Those same students witnessed how the Ghanaians worshiped the Lord with more fervor and joy than they had previously thought possible. The concept of truly praising the Lord in all circumstances, no matter what, affected everyone on the trip.

Remarkable. Eye-opening. Rewarding. Those are the words Decker used to describe the experience of ministering with students in Ghana.



OCU ALUMNI SERVE THE COMMUNITY

It's no secret that Ohio Christian University produces some pretty incredible alumni – some internationally famous, others local servants. One sunny Saturday morning, OCU President Mark Smith happened to come across one of the latter, 2010 graduate Rev. John Ramey, and a group of about 10 others picking up trash along the road in front of the university.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

–James 1:22 (NIV)

Rev. John Ramey is the founder of Walk the Talk (WTT) Outreach Ministries based in Circleville, Ohio. The majority of WTT Ministries' volunteers are OCU alumni, so a natural offshoot of their main ministry was to give back to their alma mater. Enter: Adopt-a-Highway. Once per quarter, but soon, once per month, a group of OCU alumni, students, and friends gather in front of the chapel at 9 AM with one goal: beautify the two-mile stretch of highway in front of OCU's main campus. Two hours later, the work is done, the highway is clean, and there's a sense of purpose lingering in the air.

Ramey emphasized that WTT doesn't seek recognition; they feel called to serve their community in behind-the-scenes ways.



Timothy Hoagland

Realizing the Vision

– Following the Call

Former OCU staff member Aaron Golby and wife Katie are answering the call to overseas missions.



Aaron & Katie Golby

Ohio Christian University's vision is to prepare world-impacting Christian servant leaders. While that vision is continuously realized, it is remarkably obvious in the lives of former OCU Recruiter Aaron Golby and his wife, Katie, who've just accepted a five-year position with Campus Crusade for Christ ministering to college students in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Aaron worked as an Adult and Graduate Studies Recruiter. He says, "I really enjoyed helping potential students explore the opportunity of earning their degrees at OCU and how that could shape their lives, as well as the paths that would open up for them." Even while Aaron excelled at his job, OCU functioned as a stepping-stone to their greater calling – overseas missions.

Aaron and his wife knew that they were called to missions, but wanted to pay off their \$80,000 of student loan debt before embarking on their journey. Once that was done, there was nothing standing in their way. They knew the whole time that God was

calling them to serve overseas, but they've been patient and reliant on His timing. And now, after three years of patient waiting, the Lord has opened the doors for them to move to Slovenia and share His word.

"Prepare world-impacting Christian servant leaders." That's Ohio Christian University's vision, and that's exactly what OCU is doing.

"In many ways my time at OCU was a training ground to prepare me for the ministry I'm doing now."

Aaron Golby

OCU Alum's Missional Focus Transforms Lives

Ohio Christian University is committed to offering a complete, biblical education that develops students intellectually, professionally, and spiritually. Recent OCU graduate and Lancaster, Ohio, native Timothy Hoagland describes his OCU experience in one word: missional. He says, "OCU taught me that everything we do in life needs to be for Jesus Christ; everything we do in life is worship—even a career outside of the church."

Hoagland has accepted a position as Director of Bands at Eastern Local Schools in Brown County, Ohio, and is leaning on what he learned at OCU to transform

his classroom and change the lives of his students. His passion for teaching and transforming lives for God's Kingdom is evident and inspiring. When asked how OCU affected his life, Hoagland replied, "The Christian core of Ohio Christian University had a tremendous impact on my life. I refined my biblical worldview and learned the values of integrity and a strong work ethic. I work hard because I know that my influence on students can have eternal ramifications, especially in a public school." It's obvious that OCU is effectively equipping students to become world-impacting servant leaders because Tim's story is not the exception; it's the rule.

Benji & Erica Jenkins

OCU Alumni & Missionaries to Papua New Guinea

“Join us in asking the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers to Papua New Guinea”

Dr. David Lattimer, CCCU Missionary Superintendent



A Google search of Papua New Guinea (PNG) brings up countless images of indigenous people in traditional dress; articles about cannibalism, sorcery, and sexism; and an undeniable sense of “other,” “foreign,” and “different.” Mountainous, fertile, forested landscapes dotted with villages highlight how vastly different this island nation is from its more industrialized counterparts. According to Dr. David Lattimer, PNG is “the kind of place that if you ever visit, you won’t ever forget.” It would be easy to abandon such an isolated nation to its own devices, allowing it to continue down a path of darkness, but that’s not what we’re called to do.

The Churches of Christ in Christian Union (CCCU) sent the first missionaries to PNG more than 50 years ago, and some church members are asking current missionaries, such as Benji and Erica Jenkins, “Aren’t we done yet?” It seems an innocent enough question. Surely 50 years is long enough to bring the nation of 7.6 million to Christ, establish the Church, disciple locals into pastors, and raise the next generation up in Christ, right? Simply put, no.



Benji and Erica Jenkins and family,
CCCU missionaries to Papua New Guinea

Will you go serve?

Contact OCU President Mark Smith by email at president@ohiochristian.edu or call 740-477-7713 today!



Village children receiving school supplies sent by members of Circleville Nazarene Church.



A Christian Union Bible College Graduation Ceremony

Fifty years ago, PNG may as well have been in the Stone Age. They've come a long way since then, but there's still a long way to go. We are invested in PNG. The Christian Union Bible College is training pastors to go out and make a difference in their villages and communities; Bible translation and audio Bibles are being utilized; building projects, such as churches and schools are being funded. All of that is great and needs to continue, but PNG needs more than building projects and schools. PNG needs Jesus, which means we need to send missionaries. PNG desperately needs Pastoral Trainers, Community Health Evangelism Facilitators, a Youth/Educational Developer, a Church Planting Facilitator, and a Missionary Kid Teacher, in addition to many other ministry needs.

You don't need a degree in Missions or Ministry to serve in Papua New Guinea. If you're interested in serving the Lord in PNG in any capacity, contact OCU President Mark Smith at president@ohiochristian.edu or call 740-477-7713.

Papua New Guinea Ministry Needs

Pastoral Trainers (2 needed)

Pastoral Trainers are needed both to teach at the Christian Union Bible College and to teach pastoral training classes in bush locations. They would train people who have had very little education how to be pastors and to effectively minister to the spiritual needs of the people in their communities. Minimum Bachelor's degree required, preferably in Pastoral Ministries or Theology

CHE Facilitators (at least 1 needed)

The Community Health Evangelism (CHE) is a program designed to facilitate communities working to better themselves both spiritually and physically. CHE Facilitators work with the community to identify leaders and provide them with training that they can then pass on to the community. Minimum Associate's degree required, preferably in Missions or Disaster Relief Management.

Youth/Educational Developer (1 needed)

Most of the youth in PNG have not been able to continue their education past 3rd or 4th grade. A Youth/Educational Developer would work with the youth to re-engage them with the church and work alongside the church to provide the youth with an education. Minimum Associate's degree required, preferably in the areas of Youth work or Education.

Church Planting Facilitator (1 needed)

The national church in Papua New Guinea now has churches in 5 of the 22 provinces in PNG, but planting churches in new provinces is hard for them because of the cultural and tribal divisions. Church Planting Facilitators would be working alongside pastors to identify new potential areas and to provide training. Minimum Bachelor's degree required, preferably in Missions or Pastoral Ministry.

MK Teacher (1 needed)

Between our current missionaries, we have 14 missionary kids. Not all of these are in PNG at the same time, but they all are homeschooled by their mothers. An MK Teacher is needed to teach the MKs and to organize curriculum. Must be organized and able to oversee and teach kids in multiple grades at the same time. Minimum Bachelor's degree required, preferably in Education.

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