

OHIO CHRISTIAN

THE OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | FALL 2018



Leadership Focused

11TH PRESIDENT INAUGURATED

PAGE 18



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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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ACCREDITATION

Higher Learning Commission
Teacher Education Accreditation Council
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities

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OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The idea of a centered education—specifically a CHRIST-centered education—in part derives its origin from the idea that in order to have a center you need two halves. One rarely hears of the **CENTER** of a semi-circle.

We talk about the integration of Faith and Learning. Charles Wesley wrote “unite the two so long disjoined—*knowledge and vital piety*.” Even Jesus described himself as being full of “grace and truth,” and He is both, our Lord and Savior.

So, there is coinherence in a Christ-centered education. Coinherence being the idea that something can have multiple aspects at once. For example, a sugar cube is white, sweet, and a cube—all three at the same time. Therefore, a Christian university can believe in Revealed Truth **and** Objective Reality. Academic Rigor **and** Spiritual Formation. All at the same time.

In 21st century America, we live in a post-Christian, post-truth age. There is no room *at the center* for “absolute truth” claims, based on beliefs of “objective reality” as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ and Scripture. But, if Christ is our center—and He is—then a second image emerges beyond a circle—the image of **CONCENTRIC CIRCLES**.

As Christians, we cannot be content to draw a circle, with Christ at the center—with ourselves being “in” the circle, and everyone else being “out.” While not specifically using the term, Scripture describes the idea of concentric circles when it uses metaphors, such as SALT and LIGHT, to describe real Christian faith. Each figure represents some kind of

penetration or infiltration. The overwhelming conclusion from Scripture is that the function of the Church is never chiefly to concern itself with its own life, or it will lose it.

From the Christian point of view, real faith and true religion is always spent on those areas of existence located beyond ourselves and beyond our own borders. We are to be constantly expanding our horizons—personally and professionally—to reach the lost for Christ. The expanding character of Christianity is seen as the ripple effect caused by a stone being dropped into water, with concentric circles emanating out from the center. Jesus had a name for these *further circles of impact*. He called them “*Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the Earth*” (Acts 1:8).

And, that is the purpose of a Christ-centered education.

Ohio Christian University declares that our mission is to prepare students to *serve effectively in the Church and society*. But, this simple mission has at least three profound implications.

First, in a world clamoring for “leaders,” *servicing* is not the cultural norm. But, servant leadership is the normal Christian posture.

Second, *the Church*. Our job at Ohio Christian University is not only to prepare and equip the next generation of pastors and missionaries, but also to raise up a generation of lay leaders who are committed to the Church.

Last, but not least, is *society*. At OCU, we seek to educate students to enter every culture-shaping profession to win as many to Christ as possible. We need OCU alumni at the right seat, at the right table, saying the right things to the right people to flavor and preserve the culture with the “salt” of the Kingdom.

Commenting on the state of religion in America *over 50 years ago*, Elton Trueblood wrote,

We do not expect for the most part to find the Gospel centered in a burning conviction which will make men and women . . . go to the end of the earth, alter the practices of government, redirect culture, and remake civilization.

Actually, at Ohio Christian University, with the helping hand of the Holy Spirit, *that is exactly what we expect*. In fact, it's not only our expectation, it's our mission.

“The most important task of teaching is to teach what it means to know.”

-Steven Garber

NEW LEADER FOR MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Dr. Brent Nolte has joined Ohio Christian University as the new Music Department chair. He will teach Music History and Music Appreciation.

SAVE THE DATE
A Festival of Carols
DECEMBER 1ST & 2ND
Ohio Christian University
1476 Lancaster Pike | Circleville, Ohio 43113

Dr. Brent Nolte served as Music Department Chair and College Organist at Talladega College where he taught courses in music theory and played the organ for convocations and commencement. Talladega College is located in Talladega, Alabama, and is a private, SACS-accredited, liberal arts college. Nolte also served at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, as an adjunct organ and brass instructor. Earlier, he was band and chorus director for St. Paul's Lutheran School in Saginaw, Michigan.

Nolte holds a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance from Central Michigan University, where he studied with Dr. Steven Egler. His master's project, "The Organ Music and Musical Philosophy of Charles W. Ore," was published in the March 2003 edition of *The American Organist*. In 2010, Brent was awarded a School of Music Fellowship by the University of Minnesota, where he completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Organ Performance Degree in 2013, studying with Dr. Dean Billmeyer.

In addition to playing and teaching organ, Nolte plays and teaches trumpet, recently performing in the Rochester Symphony, Southwest Minnesota State University Orchestra, and St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra. He anticipates joining Ohio's chapter of American Guild of Organists, the Central Ohio Brass Band, and the Circleville Pumpkin Show Band.

Dr. Nolte's plan for the upcoming academic year includes launching a Bachelor of Music Degree. The Department is also planning to offer a Suzuki Method major.

"Students need not be Music majors to participate in the University chorale and band. We are eager to establish a small brass band and chamber woodwind/reed instrument ensemble," explains Nolte. "Dr. Sones and I are collaborating to strengthen the Worship Leadership program. And, of course, the Music Department will draw on community performers to ensure the University's traditional Festival of Carols continues being a signature event."

BENEFITS OF ONLINE LEARNING

BY DR. HANK KELLY, PROVOST, AND
DR. SCOTT MARSEE, DEAN, ADULT AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Online education has exploded over the past two decades. Traditional on-campus students now often take online classes. Over 6.3 million take at least one online course (Study: More students are enrolling in online courses, J. Friedman, 2018). Online education offers 24/7 learning. Students can do coursework anywhere at any time.

Some believe online learning is not as rigorous. Others think it isn't fun because they don't interact with other students. Both authors earned doctorates online. Hank earned two: one traditional in classrooms and one online from a university 700 miles away. Both were rigorous, but the online program had much more interaction.

In online programs, learning happens through written discussions between students and instructors. Hank enjoyed the interactions, especially since they occurred over several days each week, giving time to think about what others said and evaluate his own thinking. One of Scott's online professors was in Australia while Scott was in Ohio. This professor bridged the distance by interacting in his virtual classroom. Scott felt connected.

Our online education enabled us to learn from leaders in our field who otherwise we could not have known. They cared about us, integrated Christian faith into teaching, and bridged the distance. Online learning is different but equally effective.

At OCU, faculty engage students to think critically and challenge them to grow spiritually. Our online programs bridge physical distance and build community in virtual classrooms. Being online learners enables busy students to more easily and conveniently earn degrees, improve job performance, and develop new skills and knowledge.

Benefits of OCU online learning are:

- 1. Access to more programs and courses:**
More options than offered nearby.
- 2. More comfortable learning environment:**
No fighting traffic, leaving work early, or missing family events.
- 3. Convenience and flexibility: Study and work at peak performance.**
- 4. More interaction with classmates than in physical classroom: Online courses invite students to participate with more ease. At OCU, 100% participation is the norm.**
- 5. Learn despite health status interfering: Health disorders or conditions don't hinder success.**
- 6. Communicate with instructors as needed: Call or email instructors for a response within 24 hours.**

TESTIMONIAL LED TO LEARN

Haleigh Hayes is an AGS undergraduate student majoring in Human Services and Psychology. Haleigh aims to further her education as much as possible. She feels OCU is leading her to love learning and thanks OCU and God for this:

“God is putting love in my heart for continuing to learn. I wish to thank the OCU board, faculty, and staff who have been so instrumental in helping me to get to where I am today.

“My testimony is about God’s power and how He is using OCU to shape my life and thoughts, ultimately shaping my whole life. I lived ten years in addiction and didn’t know who I was nor where I was headed. I couldn’t think for myself and was afraid of people. Then, while I was being rescued in a ministry program, they recommended I enroll at OCU. I said ‘Yes, I’ll give it a try.’ I had no expectations. God is blowing me away with what he’s doing in me. I am learning how to learn and feed myself with knowledge. The Word of God has made me who I am today.

“Every devotional with which we start each week’s class gives me a real-life example that speaks to my greater understanding. In the past two years I’ve written over 80 papers and had countless discussions. I can give many examples of how I’ve gained from these studies. That’s what’s given me this new-found love of learning. Learning is fun when you know how you learn and apply God to each situation. My professors promote personal growth in my educational journey. My courses are helping me in my work as an office manager and safety coordinator. I am even learning Aramaic, Jesus’ language. A Psychology course is helping me understand human behavior better so I feel I am more able to help my community. Each class is moving me closer to being a Human Services professional.”



RECOGNIZED FOR LEADERSHIP



The Association for Christians in Student Development (ACSD) honored Ohio Christian University's Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students, Joe Wuest, M.A., with the 2018 Ruth Bamford Award. Dr. Edee Schulze, ACSD's president, explains the award's significance:

"The Ruth Bamford award is presented annually to individuals who have served in the field of student development less than 15 years, who have provided

outstanding leadership and service to ACSD and their home institution, as well as contributed significantly to the field of student affairs. Especially important is demonstrated ability to integrate faith and learning in their professional lives and practice.

"Joe is known for possessing a deeply-committed heart both for the Lord and for Christian higher education. He invests into his institution and has been heard on several occasions to articulate his desire for his colleagues and students to grow deeper in their relationships with Christ, as he actively cultivates his own spiritual growth."

Reflecting on this recognition, Dean Wuest shares how rewarding his participation in ACSD has been:

"I am blessed to have a Student Development team who is passionate about challenging and supporting our students well. I am honored by this recognition, but many mentors in the field, my staff, and my family played a big part in this achievement, and I am incredibly thankful."

"I will continue to keep fixed on Christ and 'pivot' as needed, knowing the students we serve are changing. Student Development needs to balance being malleable with the truth of the Gospel."



SEMESTER IN ITALY

OCUOnline Plus is partnering with Saints Bible Institute (SBI) so OCU students can spend a semester in Italy. The 2019 spring semester abroad offers personal growth, mission training, and intensive learning. For example, SBI's Fine Arts course includes tours through Rome, Florence, and Venice.

"This semester in Italy will expand students' horizons as they interact with Italians and SBI faculty. Participants can walk paths that Apostle Paul walked and sit in da Vinci's studio," explains Dr. Bradford Sample, OCU Associate Provost and Vice President.

"The intensive one and two-week courses enable earning 16 hours of college credit, fulfilling OCUOnline Plus program requirements."

Saints Bible Institute is an accredited study-abroad program open to American college-age and gap-year students interested in deepening their Christian faith and understanding Italian life and culture. The curriculum delves into missions, church planting, Biblical studies, and art history.



EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN FINLAND AND SWEDEN

In 2019, participating Teacher Education students will learn how Finnish and Swedish secondary school systems provide tuition-free education and maintain excellent quality of education without homework or standard tests. Participants will meet Scandinavian educators and learn best practices proven very successful.

Cultural experiences in Helsinki and Stockholm provide enriching perspectives on Scandinavian culture and secondary education. OCU Professor Valerie Jones describes the trip's benefits: "Students will learn best practices we may incorporate here. We will write about and present proven ways to improve teaching by sharing these Scandinavian practices."

The trip includes tours of Helsinki and Stockholm, participating in an education workshop, and learning best practices at top-rated schools, visiting a library and cultural events, and ferrying overnight from Helsinki to Stockholm.

“Not only then
has each man his
individual relation
to God, but
each man has his
peculiar relation
to God.”

– George MacDonald



SERVANT LEADERS IN ACTION

Ohio Christian University students practiced service-above-self on the Ralph C. Starkey Community Action Day again this year, vitalizing the University's mission of benefiting others through acts of service that build and strengthen character.

Each year, OCU students contribute over 12,400 hours of volunteer service to the local and regional community. This year students gave their time and energy to 26 projects ranging from singing in nursing homes to clearing a golf course after the Scioto River flooded many of its fairways and holes.

Student teams cleaned front yards, beautified parks and downtown streets, washed windows, mulched yards and flowerbeds, and cleaned out barns, creating a memorable day of selfless service, as student Josh Barr does here.

LEADERSHIP FORUM OFFERS KEEN INSIGHTS

President Jon S. Kulaga opened the University’s annual Leadership Forum by welcoming the many attendees in the new Ministry and Performing Arts Center.

Underscoring the importance of character in leaders, Kulaga noted that the University strives to inculcate three habits in students through its Christ-centered higher education: 1) spiritual growth through practicing inner devotion, or holiness, 2) intellectual development through academic learning, and 3) keeping faith alive through community service—habits of the heart, head, and hands. He then introduced this year’s three keynote speakers, distinguished leadership advisors and practitioners:



Eric Metaxas authored *Bonhoeffer, Amazing Grace*, and *If You Can Keep it: The Forgotten Promise of American Liberty*.



John McConnell, CEO of Worthington Industries, leads through innovation, anticipating market needs.



Logan Stout authored *Stout Advice: the Secrets to Building Yourself, People, and Teams*.

OCUBIC LAUNCHES MICRO-CREDENTIALING LAB

Ohio Christian University’s Business Innovation Center will launch its Micro-Credentialing Lab (MCL) this fall. The MCL provides training programs for students seeking immediate opportunities in the IoT (internet of things) technical skills arena.

Programs include Digital Marketing, Coding and System Design, Cyber Security, Database Management, and Block Chain. Each enables students to complete a micro-credential in 16 weeks and may be taken on-site or online at the student’s pace.

Demand is growing for people with IoT skills. However, content changes every four to six months.

The MCL overcomes this challenge by leveraging partnerships with high-skilled practitioners who mentor students into skill sets quickly. This speeds students to market, equipped to deploy the new skills immediately. High demand for specific skills increases the value of the micro-credential. Consequently, students’ investments to gain these skills are recovered quickly.

MCL programs are not part of the University’s regular programs. However, successful completion of a program is transcribed and academic credits may be applied toward a degree program. In providing high-demand skills training, the MCL is an efficient “on-ramp” to the high-tech workforce.

DR. BENNY TATE

PASTORS CONFERENCE SHARES LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

The Pastors Conference of the 2018 Leadership Forum provided inspiring sessions that shared valuable lessons in pastoral leadership. The Conference began with inspirational worship led by OCU’s ABLAZE student performers, singing and creating an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit’s presence.

Keynote speaker Dr. Benny Tate, Senior Pastor of the Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia, presented encouraging instruction on how to “Build a Healthy Church in a Chaotic World.”

In his sessions, Tate addressed three important topics:

- 1. Lessons he learned from Billy Graham
- 2. What has helped his church to grow from 25 to 6,900
- 3. Need for mentors, friends, and young people in our lives

One of his most significant and memorable statements of leadership advice was:

Dr. Billy Graham taught us that we must simplify our message to reach people for Christ. We have to show unconditional love to those who have been broken... even in the church.

Dr. Tate’s message brought home to the attentive pastors and faculty that their good works in their churches, classrooms, and communities make them ‘heroes’ because they are serving at the front lines in maintaining and growing Christian faith in an uncertain and changing world.



CAMBODIA MISSION MAKES AN IMPACT

BY NATASHA GRIMMETT, WGM STUDENT INVOLVEMENT DIRECTOR

Eleven amazing students, two incredible weeks, and one breath-taking country. Between May 29 and June 12 I led a wonderful team of Ohio Christian University students to Cambodia to work with World Gospel Mission missionaries Titus and Jewel Romdenh. Our team worked with churches in Cambodian cities and providences, teaching English, and supporting pastors’ ministries.

In Siem Reap, we taught English, helped build school tables and benches, and repainted the church. Church members had prayed for five years for painting the church and replacing their school tables and benches. Our team was honored to be part of God’s answer!

In the Takeo Province, an extremely dedicated pastor welcomed us into his home to assist with English classes. The students studied hard to further their education outside of the normal classroom (pictured Natasha Grimmett and pastor’s wife leading class). A government school also invited us to assist with their English classes and share the salvation story through bracelets we made with the children. For many, this was their first time hearing the Gospel.

We partnered with an organization to combat human trafficking and also hosted a skit, games, gifts, and a devotional for women and children suffering sexual exploitation. The organization invited us to join an outreach to engage these victims and give them hope. We listened to heartbreaking stories and encouraged hope and strength of spirit.

Team member Taryn Goble sums up the trip’s impact:

“My experience in Cambodia exceeded my expectations. I’m blessed by it. God sparked a new passion in my life. I met so many wonderful people and worked with awesome ministries. Our team is like family now. I learned much about Cambodia’s culture and history, and it will forever be in my heart and prayers!”

Team member Halie Sebastian adds, “I had ideas of how I was going to Cambodia to make a difference. What I didn’t realize was the difference Jesus was going to make in me.”



LOCAL OUTREACH TO CHILDREN



MACHU PICCHU

PERU MISSION INSPIRES SELFLESS GIVING

BY NATASHA GRIMMETT, WGM STUDENT INVOLVEMENT DIRECTOR

Many, when they hear Peru, think of the Incan empire, Machu Picchu, mountains, and llamas. The members of OCU’s Peru mission team will think of that, and also of welcoming smiles, amazing food, the missionaries, and sweet children with warm hearts.

In May, 2018, nine OCU students and one OCU staff member journeyed to Cusco, Peru to serve with World Gospel Mission missionaries Daudi and Cathlene Strong. The Stronges introduced us to everyday life and helped us to see how God is working through missionaries in Peru.

The team worked with Corazon ministry that reaches out to children, families, and tourists. We dismantled an old car for use in a playground, pulling out the engine, removing doors and seats, and painting it. After hearing about our ministry, a Peruvian woman shared with us that when she was a child in a difficult neighborhood she and her friends would play in the car at a local playground and imagine driving around the world. Doing so inspired her to dream beyond her circumstances. We pray the car we installed in the playground inspires children to dream.

The students also served an orphanage where we painted, cleaned, and organized. These extra tasks can be overwhelming for staff when infants need constant attention. We appreciated the staff’s commitment to showing love to the orphans. The team also picked up trash alongside a highway, hosted a Mother’s Day church service, and worked with the church’s youth and young adults. We are thankful to have worked with both Peruvians and missionaries on these projects, supporting their sustainability.

Team member Kiirsten Truex shares:

“Working in Peru enabled me to apply selflessly what I learned in OCU classrooms. My Peru experiences give me deeper appreciation of ministry, the importance of loving others unconditionally, and of living fearlessly while carrying out the Lord’s will.”



3.06

Department GPA

5

NAIA All-Americans

11

NAIA Postseason Appearances

Host

Pickaway County Special Olympics Basketball

OCSAA

Official Host of Championship



2017-18 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

YOUNG BLAZES ALL-AMERICAN TRAIL

Leading the Ohio Christian University Track and Field program the past two years, Ariel Young has achieved one of the most accomplished of Trailblazer careers.

Entering OCU as a sophomore, Young made a quality cross-country showing in fall of 2016, finding her rhythm during the indoor season, claiming her first NAIA All-American honor that set her up for the outdoor season. Qualifying for the 2017 NAIA Outdoor Track and Field Championship, Young finished 6th in the 10k race and 4th in the marathon race, finishes that earned her NAIA All-American status.

In 2017-18 expectations were high for Young's performance in cross country and track and field. Her 2nd place finish in the River States Conference Cross Country Championship propelled the squad to the 2017 NAIA Championship for the first time in OCU history, and Young earned her third NAIA All-American honor with 15th place finish.

Entering winter, Young overcame injury and qualified for the NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championship meet. Nothing held her back from her fifth NAIA All-American honor with a 4th place finish in the 5k race. She capped the 2018 season at the NAIA Outdoor Track and Field Championships with a 5th place finish in the 10k and a 3rd place finish in the marathon, bringing her NAIA All-American count to seven. Over her three-year tenure at OCU, Young compiled OCU records of 4:47 in the 1500, 17:34 in the 5k, 36:49 in the 10k, and 3:07:29 in the marathon.

Head Coach Eric Hamner said:

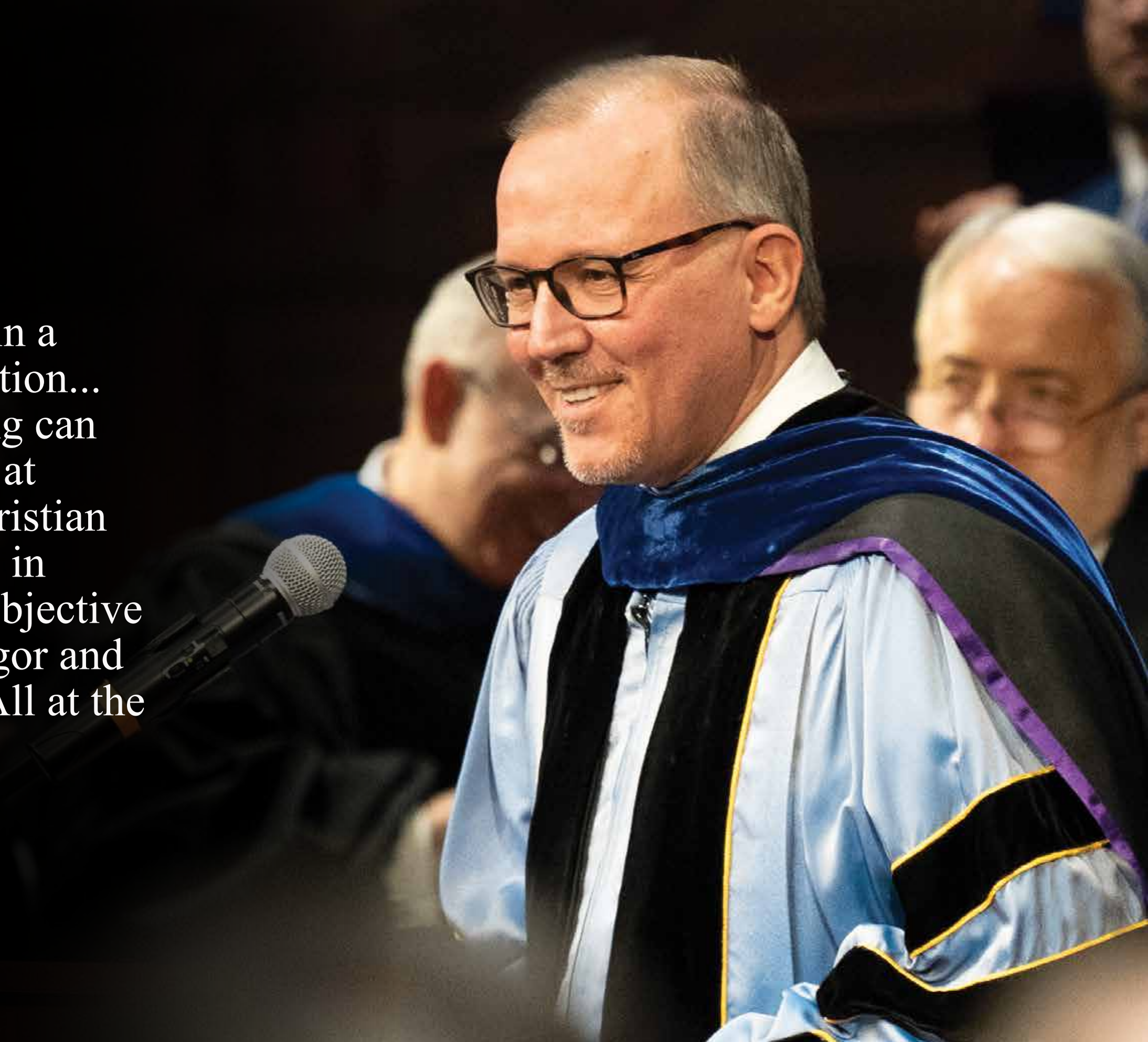
"Ariel means the world to our program – she came in, worked hard, and thrived. She brings way more than fast times and All-American awards. She leads by example through hard work, spoken encouragement, and accountability. She challenges us all to be better athletes, better students, and better followers of Christ."



While Young's athletic prowess led to being named Female Athlete of the Year in 2017 and 2018, her outstanding performance in the classroom also led her to being named an Academic All-American twice while majoring in Intercultural Ministry. Yet, these titles and awards mean relatively little to her: "I hope if I leave anything with the track program, it is the importance of knowing of Christ crucified," said Young. "I hope when those who come after think of me, they think of Jesus, because I am just a woman hidden in the life of Christ. The most important thing about track is not running. Rather, it is the ministry of our Lord and sharing in each other's sufferings."

“There is coinherence in a Christ-centered education... the idea that something can have multiple aspects at once. Therefore, a Christian university can believe in Revealed Truth and Objective Reality. Academic Rigor and Spiritual Formation. All at the same time.”

— President Dr. Jon S. Kulaga



“Christian education must play a vital part in sending young people into the world knowing what is truth and being willing, because of their faith in their personal love relationships with Jesus, to defend this nation and stand for it, to be bold and courageous.”

– Eric Metaxas

THE INAUGURATION OF DR. JON S. KULAGA

Ohio Christian University celebrated the investiture of Dr. Jon S. Kulaga, Ph.D., as its eleventh president on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. Five hundred dignitaries, faculty, staff, and students attended the ceremony in the new Ministry and Performing Arts Center on the University's Circleville campus.

President Kulaga's address focused on how the University provides a Christ-centered education, producing graduates who have learned to think with the mind of Christ, love with the heart of Christ, and act as the hands of Christ. With a mind renewed, emotions purified, a conscience cleared, and a will surrendered, graduates are equipped to enter the world as critical participants, applying the Great Commandment to every facet of their lives.

President Kulaga built a distinguished career in higher education. At Asbury University he was chief operating officer and chief academic officer, as well as in academics, advancement, and student life and development at Spring Arbor University in Michigan, Kansas State University, and Central Christian College of Kansas. The boards of directors of Ohio Christian University and Churches of Christ in Christian Union unanimously approved Dr. Kulaga's appointment.

Guest speaker Eric Metaxas spoke on "A Christian Education – If You Can Keep It." Metaxas is the New York Times #1 bestselling author of *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*. Bonhoeffer has sold over 700,000 copies in 17 languages. His *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery* was the official companion book to the film *Amazing Grace*. He is also author of over 20 children's videos and books. His *It's Time to Sleep, My Love*, sold over 800,000 copies. He has written and been commentator for Chuck Colson's *BreakPoint*, broadcast through 1,200 radio outlets to eight million listeners.

Ohio Christian University's Chamber Orchestra and Chorale brilliantly performed Gustav Holst's *St. Paul's Suite*, Martin Luther's *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, and Charles Wesley's *And Can It Be?* Student worship group, ABLAZE sang the national anthem, and the entire congregation sang Wesley's *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*. The Chamber Orchestra performed the *Brandenburg Concerto* for the ceremony's recessional and postlude.

Delegates of the State of Ohio, City of Circleville, Churches of Christ in Christian Union, and Council of Christian Colleges and Universities' President Shirley Hoogstra presented greetings and congratulations. After faculty, staff, administration, and students gave affirmations, Dr. Tom Hermiz, Chairman of the Board of Trustees (2006-2018), invested President Kulaga. Reverend Mark Van Valin, Senior Pastor, Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church, provided the closing benediction.

“We have a duty to educate students who will act for the common good out of a love for Jesus Christ. We are so delighted you have accepted this call, and we promise to pray for you daily so Christ will be seen in your work and witness.”

— Dr. Shirley Hoogstra



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: PAST PRESIDENT DAVID VAN HOOSE, REV. MIKE HOLBROOK, REV. FRANK SKIES, DR. DAVID CASE, REV. JOE DUVALL, DR. TOM HERMIZ

“All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

—J.R.R. Tolkien

Believing God wanted him to attend Circleville Bible College, now Ohio Christian University, Holbrook enrolled and while a student joined the college quartet, working also as Associate Pastor at Circleville First Church.

Holbrook, ordained in 1979, has served CCCU most recently as District Superintendent of the South Central District. Previously, he served the University as Director of Enrollment Services and Vice President for Enrollment Services under Presidents Doug Carter and David Van Hoose.

Reverend Holbrook has a passion for leading people to Christ, for preaching Holiness according to Wesleyan-Arminian doctrine, for evangelism, and for helping grow churches.

Reflecting on what affected him most as a student, Holbrook declares, “Above all, my Chapel experience helped me grow spiritually. Traveling and singing in the school quartet gave me opportunities to minister. The school’s spiritual focus had a powerful positive impact, supported by fellowship with students. I was growing in God’s Word and was ministering, combining interests in ministry and athletics.”

Holbrook’s desire is that “today’s students take advantage of the spiritual opportunities OCU offers them to find God. The greatest benefit of being a student here is the encouragement to seek and find God’s will.

“President Kulaga is leading the University to expand its geographic reach and academic strength. As I lead CCCU, we want to partner with OCU in planting new churches and heightening awareness of God through evangelism. We want to strengthen our pastors to effectively lead churches that make a difference.”

Holbrook shares his optimism for the University: “The best people in the world are at Ohio Christian University. The future is bright, and the best days are ahead.”

ALUMNUS PROFILE:

HOLBROOK ELECTED TO LEAD CCCU

Reverend Michael E. Holbrook ('78) was elected General Superintendent at the 36th General Council of Churches of Christ in Christian Union, held at Ohio Christian University in June 2018.

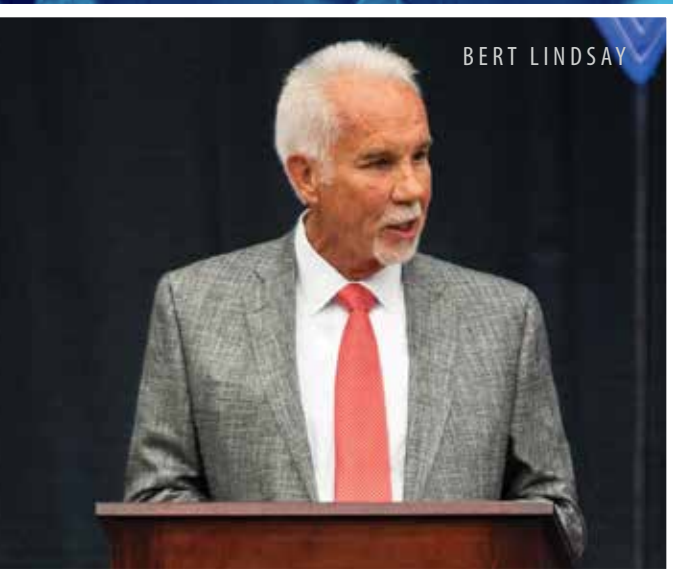


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“I certainly believe in Ohio Christian University and am excited about the partnership we have through the Churches of Christ in Christian Union. I trust that people will give to the University as it continues to grow deep and wide. Any gift that is given is certainly worthwhile for students to gain valuable career and life experience. Please pray for the students as they continue to grow.”

— Reverend Mike Holbrook

Make your gift online today at ohiochristian.edu/give



CLASS OF 2018 CELEBRATES COMMENCEMENT

Ohio Christian University's April 28 Ohio commencement filled the sunny, still-chilly, spring day as 392 students graduated from on-campus and online degree programs.

Participants in the commencement represented twenty-four states. The oldest graduate was 73 years old; the youngest was 20. The 111 present received associate degrees; 214 received bachelor degrees; and, 67 received master degrees.

Degrees conferred included Associates of Arts in Business, Christian Ministry, Human Services, and Interdisciplinary Studies, also Bachelors of Arts in Business, Criminal Justice, English, History, Human Services, Interdisciplinary Studies, Leadership and Ministry, Political Science, Psychology, Substance Abuse Counseling, and Nursing.

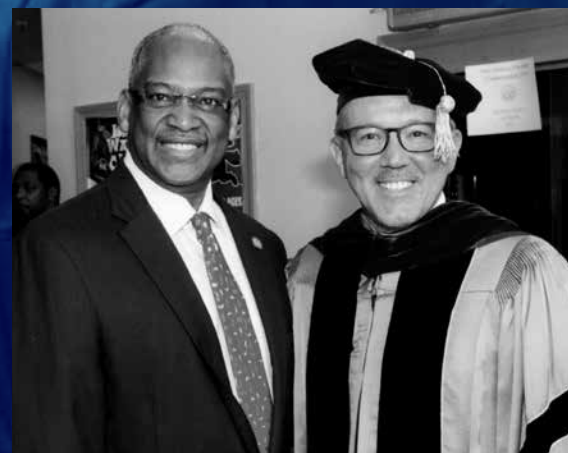
Graduate students received Master degrees in Business Administration and Management, in Ministry, also dual Master degrees in Business Administration and Ministry.

Many students received Honors distinctions for their accomplishments. As they crossed the Center's wide stage, President Kulaga presented them with their diplomas, and they quickly shared broad smiles and warm handshakes, commemorated by a photograph.

Well-wishing families and friends of graduates filled to standing-room-only the capacious facility. Faculty in academic regalia proceeded to the front of the auditorium, accompanied by *Edward Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance*.

University Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. Thomas Hermiz ('06-'18) gave the invocation. Pastor Rob Paugh, father of a graduate, and Patsy Mayo, mother of another, read scripture. The University Chorale sang Charles Wesley's *And Can It Be*.

ATLANTA GRADUATION FEATURES STATE SENATOR EMANUEL JONES



One hundred and three OCU Morrow students graduated on April 7, 2018, at Divine Faith Church in Jonesboro, Georgia. Speaker Senator Emanuel Jones represents Georgia's 10th District and is chairman of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council.

Senator Jones is a member of the Senate's Banking and Financial Institutions, Economic Development and Tourism, Interstate Cooperation, and Special Judiciary and Retirement Committees.

Jones is president of Legacy Automotive Group and is owner of one of Atlanta's largest African-American owned businesses. He received the Global Peace Festival Award in Malaysia and was named one of *Atlanta Tribune Magazine's* "Men of Distinction." He was nominated for the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

He holds an MBA in Finance/Accounting from Columbia University and BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a captain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He is a former trustee for Henry Medical Center, past Finance chairman of Henry Medical Center, past chairman of Henry County YMCA, past chairman of Henry County's United Way Campaign and Partners in Education.

Jones served as chairman of Henry County Chamber of Commerce and is on the Board at Columbia University Business School, School of Social Policy and Practice.

President Kulaga encouraged the graduates, saying:

"As you go your separate ways, make wise decisions based on Scripture and righteousness, and have great success in what God calls each of you to do."

The president introduced the 2018 commencement speaker, Mr. Bert Lindsay, founder and CEO of Lindsay Honda/Acura, the fifth largest Honda/Acura dealership in America, who attributes his great business success to God's favor. Lindsay gave an aspiring address and invited graduates to consider the importance of 'redoing' until they succeed in what God calls them to do. "Be reassured that God is for you. Rejoice that you are part of something big.

Be proud of graduating from OCU. Pray for God's favor in your lives – for peace, prosperity, and well-being."

Alumni Association President Michelle Blanton congratulated the graduates, inviting all to join with fellow alumni Trailblazers. Ceremonies concluded with the University Chorale singing *Perfect Praise (O Lord How Excellent)* by Jeffrey LaValley with Taylor Kehoe, soprano soloist.

Dr. Marvin L. Miller, Sr., Regional Dean of Central Ohio, gave the benediction, and the University Chamber Orchestra accompanied the recessional with Johann Sebastian Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major*.

GRADUATE PROFILE:

LAUREN RAY, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BY LAUREN RAY, '18

I grew up in a broken home raised by a hardworking single mother. My military father was away most of the time. My parents divorced when I was young. Ours was no Christian home. Mother worked endlessly as a nurse to provide for us.

Following mother's lead, I enrolled at Ohio University in pre-medicine and nutrition. A student in my dorm first led me to Christ. She became my 'earthly angel.' She practiced biblical morals, values, and daily devotions. I wondered at her devotion to Jesus. She testified about her experiences with God, how He worked in her life and was the reason for her joy and moral life.

As my friend shared the Gospel, I recognized our everlasting Father and became a Christian. As we read the Bible, my passion for Jesus grew. My friend realized I was not meant to be at a secular school. She searched for and found the school for me—Ohio Christian University.

My life's biggest changes have been becoming a Christian and enrolling at Ohio Christian. My family did not support my transfer to OCU. Having no money was very scary. Yet, I felt called to OCU, experiencing the presence of God on my visit during Christmas break. I sensed great love and prayer being poured into the school.

Without the scholarship assistance I received I could not have attended OCU, or would have had to take on difficult student loan debt. During these changes, I felt the Holy Spirit and was at peace. He provided for me. When I was in need of a friend, He provided a Godly roommate. When I needed financial aid, He provided a scholarship. I am blessed. I love Ohio Christian and what God is doing throughout it.

A graduate now, with majors in Emergency and Disaster Management and Business, I see change in myself. Ohio Christian has instilled a holistic approach to life. When others notice and ask about this, I answer that Ohio Christian thrives on leadership and professionalism that honors the Lord. My transforming experiences are enabling me to live and work for the Glory of God. Praise Him!



GRADUATE PROFILE:

PAUL ENGLE, PRISON CHAPLAIN

BY PAUL ENGLE, '16

When I was young, I felt the Lord's call and accepted Christ as my savior. I knew very soon He wanted me in ministry. I felt Him leading me to prison ministry. Looking back on my years as a corrections officer, I realize God placed me there for that very reason.

Becoming a prison chaplain is not easy. I knew the Lord needed to open a lot of doors if He wanted me to be a chaplain. I wasn't sure how I could do it, but I knew if the Lord wanted me to be a prison chaplain, He would make a way. I prayed to God to open the right doors wide enough for me to see the way and give me courage to walk through them. God didn't just open the right doors, He kicked them off their hinges!

Prior to enrolling, I looked at other programs. OCU gave the flexibility for my schedule and interaction I wanted. Daily interaction with professors and students contributed to my learning.

I finished my B.A. in Leadership and Ministry and CPE program (Clinical Pastoral Education, a requirement for the State of Ohio) and served as an intern prison chaplain. In my wildest dreams, I never thought the Lord would open the door to chaplaincy where I worked.

I encourage prospective students to follow God wherever He leads. My OCU education is worth the investment. Instructors really care about our success. They ensure you know the material and grow in your walk. I enjoyed my time at OCU so much and hope to pay back a little of what I received.





HOMECOMING:

A FUTURE WITH A HISTORY

Homecoming weekend celebrates all alumni, spanning the days of Circleville Bible College, now Ohio Christian University. This year's theme "A Future with a History" highlights the importance of knowing who we are and from what we came. The event, supported by the Student Government Association, builds on evolving traditions.

Torch Run and Parade

Students, Alumni, Staff and Faculty will gather on campus to form a parade led by our torch bearers running at the front with a torch representing the light God has given us to share with the world.

Scholarship Golf Tournament

The Annual Homecoming Scholarship Golf Tournament raises thousands of dollars to support student scholarships. Event includes 18-hole scramble, lunch, and prizes.

Men and Women's Alumni Basketball

The weekend kicks off with the annual women's alumni basketball game. Shortly after will be the annual men's alumni basketball game! This is a great opportunity to catch up with a number of former players, friends, and classmates who are on campus for Homecoming.

Josias Rodriguez 5K Run and Walk

Celebrate the legacy of former student Josias Rodriguez. The 5k Run and Walk supports student scholarships by raising money for the Josias Rodriguez Ministry Scholarship Fund.

Breakfast with Departments

This networking opportunity is for alumni to meet with new and old friends, faculty, and staff. Over breakfast, students will have the opportunity to hear what OCU alumni are accomplishing as they share their expertise, and provide advice.

Legacy Chapel

Worship together with alumni, faculty, staff, and students, hear from CCCU General Superintendent and alumnus, Mike Holbrook, and learn about our rich history and the bright future we have as a university.

Men and Women's Soccer with Homecoming King and Queen

The Lady Trailblazers face off against the Celtics of Carlow University. Then Student Government Association will crown Homecoming King and Queen and the final athletic event will be the Men Trailblazers versus the Celtics.

New Awards to be Presented

Alumni of the Year, Young Alumni of the Year & Ministry Impact Award

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A FUTURE WITH A HISTORY

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6TH ANNUAL RODRIGUEZ 5K | LEGACY CHAPEL | SOCCER GAMES
BREAKFAST WITH DEPARTMENTS (alumni, students, and faculty networking)
AND MUCH MORE... OHIOCHRISTIAN.EDU/HOMECOMING