

OHIO CHRISTIAN

THE OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | 2019, ISSUE 1



Ministry Motivated
FRESH IMAGE, ENDURING MISSION

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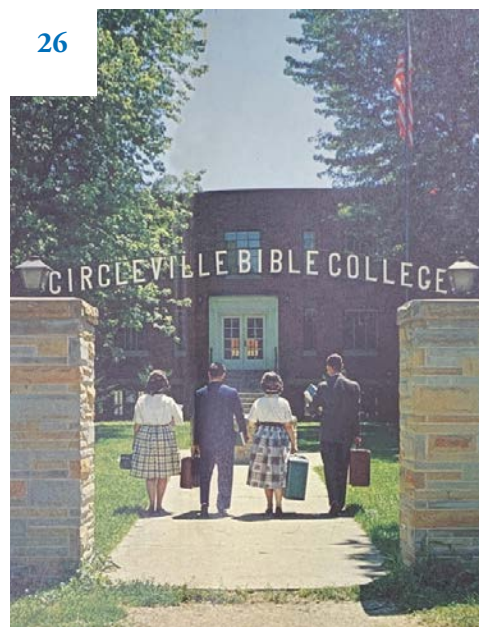
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ADDRESS CHANGES

Send address changes and news to
alumni@ohiochristian.edu

PRODUCTION TEAM

Jessie Behnke | Dave Hirschler | Karin Howard
Dana Lapish | Cara Riker

PHOTOGRAPHY

Logan Detty | Nathan Hirschler | Steve Thompson



*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.*

OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Who speaks for Christ today in America?

Who, on a regular basis, effectively brings a biblical Christian perspective to bear on the great issues of society (faith, business, education, politics, mental health, etc.) in a way that forces others to thoughtfully consider biblical values?

Who is it, in your local community, that can speak publicly and forcefully – *and yet with winsome grace and compassion* – for a Christian point of view?

Who presents a Christian perspective on local television, radio, and newspaper with wisdom, wit and humor?

Who is providing biblical answers to the questions facing every community in our nation?

Who is supplying the SALT of the Gospel in your town?

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. Colossians 3:23-24

Oftentimes we think serving the Lord is limited to something done *in* the church - such as being a pastor or missionary – or *for* the church - such as working in the nursery, teaching Sunday school, or singing in the choir. Certainly, that is part of it. But God's view of service encompasses everything we do, wherever we are. The call to be **ministry-motivated** is for well-crafted presentations of

the Gospel to be *lived out* and *spoken about* in EVERY corner of the country – no matter what we do, and no matter who is the object of our service. Because – we are ultimately serving the Lord.

This is real ministry. And this is what motivates Ohio Christian University faculty, staff and students. This is what animates and gives life to each major, each classroom discussion, and every interaction on campus or online. So,

no matter if you are preparing to be a pastor or politician or studying missions or marketing – we carry within us the idea that EVERY believer is to be **ministry-motivated**.

Who speaks for Christ today in America?

Probably, the truest answer is that there is no one person. However, I am not talking about the need for more

Christian books, magazines or blogs. What we need is every Christian who sits in a pew on Sunday morning (or Saturday night, or Monday night) to begin to win a hearing for biblical truth by the WAY they live and WHAT they say.

In other words, to wake up each morning – **ministry-motivated**.

**"DON'T SHINE SO OTHERS
CAN SEE YOU. SHINE, SO
THAT THROUGH YOU,
OTHERS CAN SEE HIM."**

“The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles but to irrigate deserts.”

-C.S. Lewis

INTRODUCING OUR NEW FACULTY

Dr. Jeanne R. Bruce | [TEACHER EDUCATION](#)

“The first time I stepped into a college classroom, I realized teaching teachers is my calling,” Bruce explains. “And, because I’ve gained specialized training to help students with disabilities, I can share that knowledge with pre-teachers so they can be successful in the classroom with students who are struggling and can make a difference in the lives of those children and their families.”

Dr. Jeanne R. Bruce (Ed.D. Administration and Supervision, M.A. Special Education) recently joined Ohio Christian University’s Teacher Education Department; her experience in applying strategies for success in teaching, makes Bruce well-versed in classroom management, online instruction, and student support.



Dr. Caleb T. Friedeman | [RELIGION](#)

Dr. Caleb Friedeman (Ph.D. Biblical Theology, M.A. Biblical Literature, B.A. Ancient Languages) joined Ohio Christian University’s Religion Department specializing in biblical studies. Friedeman brings to the department the heart of a pastor and the mind of a scholar and is starting a discipleship group to mentor students outside the classroom.

He is the editor of Listen, Understand, Obey (Pickwick, 2017) and has contributed to the Lexham Bible Dictionary and Discovering the Septuagint (Kregel, 2016). A number of his popular-level articles appear on Seedbed.com, and he has been featured in Seedbed’s Seven Minute Seminary series.



Dr. Darren M. Johnson | [PSYCHOLOGY](#)

Darren Johnson, Ph.D, joined the Psychology Department with a specialized expertise in Behavioral and Addiction Psychology as well as Chemical Dependency and Mental Health Counseling, making him a vital asset to the department. “Teaching at OCU enables me to share my experiences of counseling with a Christian perspective, demonstrating how Scripture may be integrated into therapy,” he explains.

In his article “The Experience of Being an Atheist in the United States,” published in ProQuest, Johnson highlights his interviews with twelve atheists giving him insight into their attitude towards “people of faith.”



NEW DEGREES

Human Services

To meet the demand of society and students, Ohio Christian University launched a new Bachelor of Arts in Human Services. The popular Associate of Arts degree in Human Services made way for this new Bachelor's program. Taking psychology courses with internships in criminal justice or substance abuse counseling, graduates are prepared to think critically and solve real-life social problems.

Human Services fits OCU's faith and service mission with experienced faculty who offer hands-on learning techniques. Graduates will enter human service careers with knowledge and exposure in social services, criminal justice, human resources, substance abuse counseling, and psychology, with a choice to minor in up to two of those areas.

Dr. Larry Olson, chair of the Psychology Department, explains, "Students appreciate exploring related fields which helps them decide careers. We engage with students to assist them in finding their callings, particularly in their Christian faith. Our faculty understand the importance of being well-equipped to serve others effectively."

Intervention Specialist

This new Mild/Moderate Needs Intervention Specialist Bachelor's degree prepares students to earn the appropriate licensure that covers the spectrum of special needs, in accordance with the Ohio Department of Education. This degree responds to the great need for skilled intervention, covering everything student teachers must know to become effective K-12 intervention specialists.

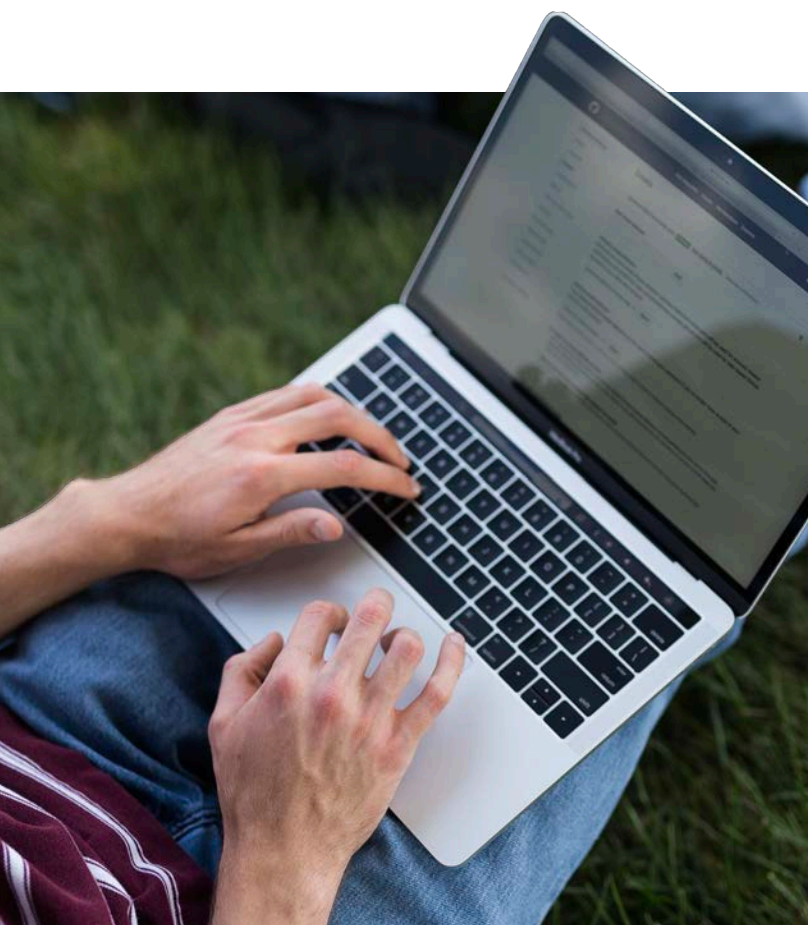
Dr. Valerie Jones, Teacher Education Department chair explains, "We train teachers who have a Christ-like calling to educate all children, including those with special needs. With the opioid and poverty crises affecting so many pupils, demand for licensed intervention specialist teachers continues to grow."

The Teacher Education Department is on the leading-edge of expert instruction for this specialization. Students are placed with experienced intervention specialists in nearby schools so they learn first-hand what to expect in this challenging and rewarding career. Upon graduation, student teachers are prepared to effectively address special needs of all kindergarten through high school pupils with autism, development disabilities, blindness, deafness, or other disabilities or trauma that affect learning.

Marketing and Consumer Behavior

The Bachelor of Arts in Marketing and Consumer Behavior at Ohio Christian University provides students with insight into human behavior, emphasizing what motivates consumers to buy products and services. Students gain knowledge needed for developing effective consumer segmentation, the starting point in all marketing strategies, programs, and campaigns. Graduates can articulate the psychology, analyze the motivations, and create effective marketing strategies based on an understanding of both consumer behavior and marketing.

According to Marketing Lead Affiliate Professor Stephanie Grimes, "Mobile communications and the internet have impacted consumers' shopping behavior. Those who can look at all the factors and accurately predict a situation or response to various products or services will succeed in business as emerging technologies evolve."





SPORTS, RECREATION AND FITNESS MINISTRY CONCENTRATION

For Ohio Christian University Director of Ministry Programs, Dr. Wayne Pessia, Sports, Recreation, and Fitness (SR&F) Ministry is an important, growing opportunity.

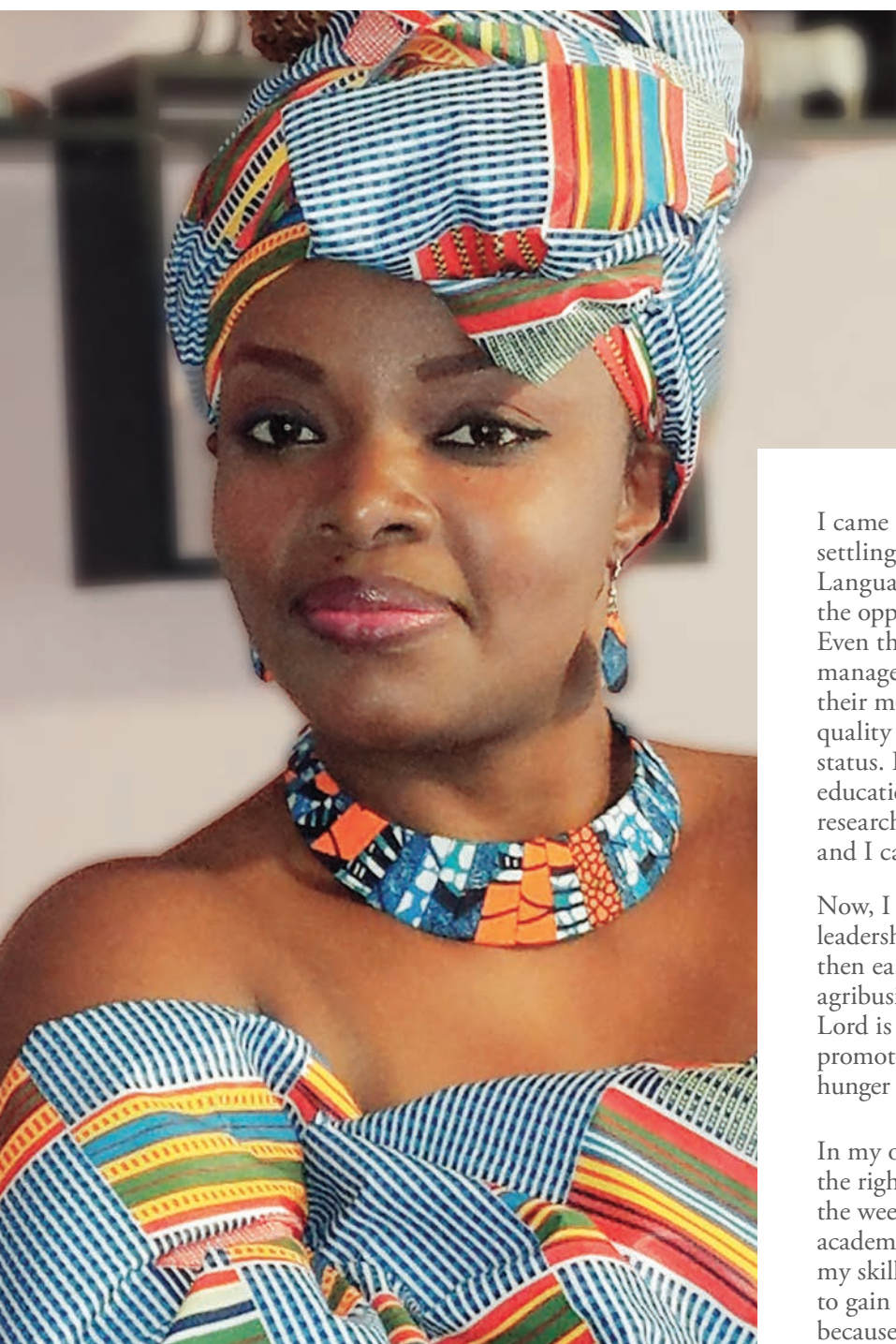
Churches have been building gymnasiums and fielding softball teams for years, and the SR&F ministry movement has expanded in activities and events as active boomers age, young parents dive deep into children's sports, and millennials experiment with nontraditional sports.

"Today churches increasingly are attuned to this trend as they seek to fulfill the Great Commission and be faithful to a Gospel-centered ecclesiology. Using SR&F as a ministry tool is significant inside the church and in para-ministry settings," explains

Pessia. Organizations that began over 50 years ago, like the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Athletes in Action, thrive and expand.

Athletics and activity-centered ministries are growing outside of the U.S. as well. For example, the Association of Church Sports and Recreation Ministries and Unchartered Waters Sports Ministry are equipping and partnering with churches. Thousands are impacted through their collaboration.

The world speaks the language of sport. Consequently, an SR&F ministry calls for specialized training. Athletic and sports-minded Christ followers called into SR&F ministry need a biblical, theological, and methodological foundation to be effective. OCU's new academic concentration fulfills this need.



ONLINE STUDENT:
**LUDMILLA
AKPA**

CLASS OF '22

I came to America as a refugee from Africa in 2016, settling in Chicago. I enrolled in English as a Second Language at a community college. I was not satisfied with the opportunities that were offered through that school. Even though back home I had studied law and management of organizations, I told my children that their mother will go back to school to provide them with a quality future and that being a refugee is just a temporary status. I knew that I wanted to integrate a university education with values I believe in. So, I started my research with three words: “Best Christian University” and I came across OCU.

Now, I am earning a bachelor’s degree in organizational leadership from Ohio Christian University and plan to then earn a master’s degree with a concentration in agribusiness. I am preparing for the mission to which the Lord is calling me—to empower African women and promote self-sufficiency in food production to fight hunger and propel economic development.

In my online classes, every session convinces me I made the right choice. The weekly devotion enables me to start the week with faith. I know success is not only related to academic knowledge but also knowing God. I am refining my skills to succeed in leading as a good manager. I plan to gain understanding and expertise in agribusiness because I need to master this discipline to help African farmers, especially women, to live decently from their hard work and overcome poverty and hunger. I already have two structures working in Africa and am on track for achieving these purposes.

My education enables me to transform my natural gifts into expertise I can apply to my community. My education is for my life work. As Dr. Myles Monroe says, “Your work is what you are born for, and your job is what you are paid for.” When I am tired and despair, Psalm 32:8 comforts me: “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.”

I grew up in Chillicothe and went to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where I graduated with a degree in business management. After finishing with school, I began working for my father's landscape design and installation company that he's had for forty years. During summers, I did hardscaping, building patios, pergolas, walls, and walkways. I enjoyed it, but it wasn't my passion.

A few years later I was fortunate enough to get involved with a local non-profit mentoring program that helps teenagers who don't have positive role models. That same year, I also began coaching youth basketball at the YMCA. During that time, I was excited about working with these kids and came to the realization that I truly love working with them. Ultimately, I felt called to be a teacher and enrolled in OCU's Teacher Education program.

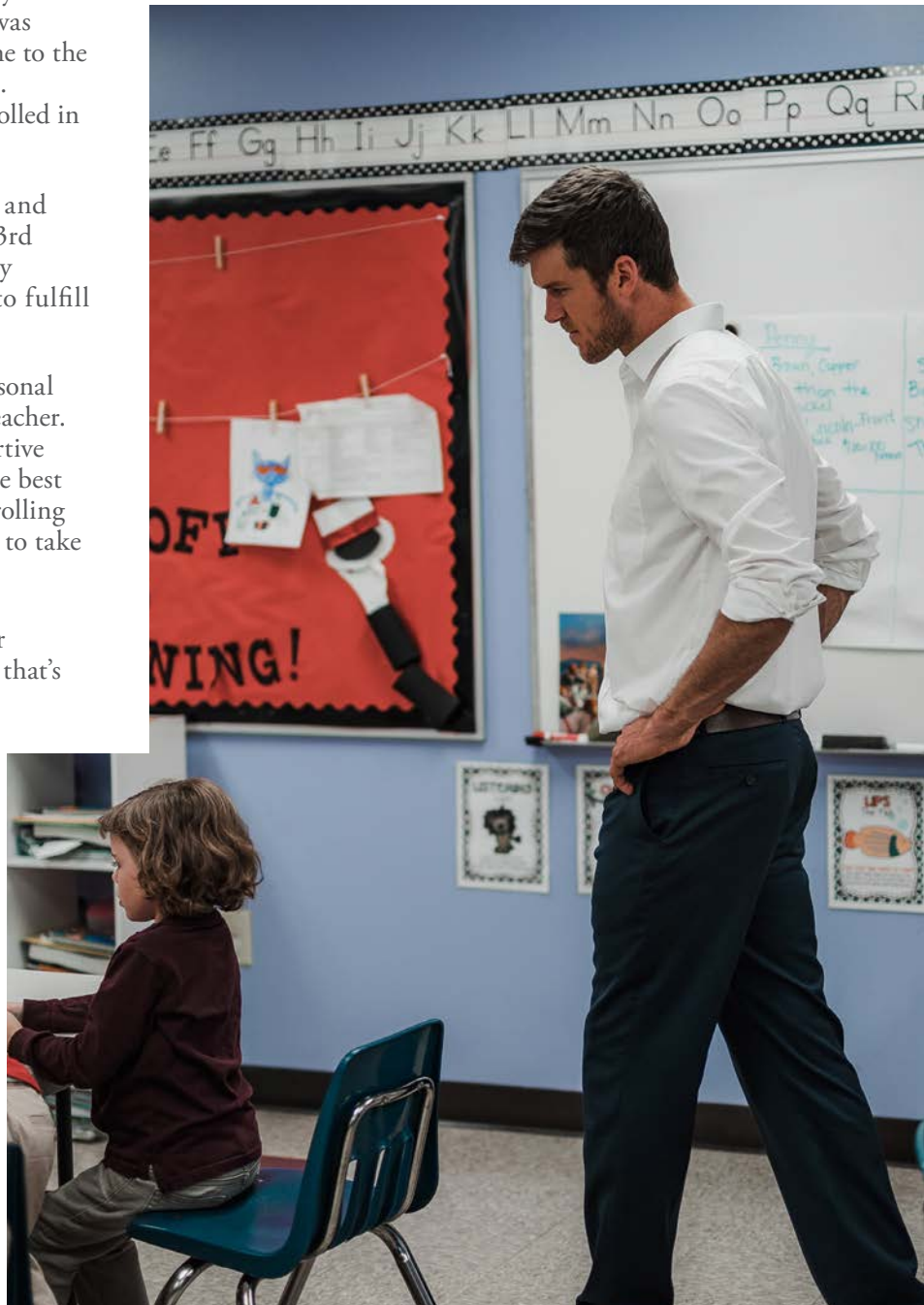
Now I am taking courses in early childhood and elementary education, focusing on 2nd and 3rd graders. I've been able to transfer many of my Miami University general education credits to fulfill the base requirements.

What's more, OCU professors have shown personal interest and care about my becoming a good teacher. The Christ-centered focus here creates a supportive environment that encourages students to do the best they can. I think I made the best choice by enrolling in this program. The class schedule enables me to take a full-time course load even while commuting.

I am earning my teaching degree to prepare for licensure. I love the 'constructivist' philosophy that's taught. It's a hands-on approach to learning, very similar to how I was trained for landscaping. I'm a firm believer in that you learn by doing. I expect to graduate by 2020 and I hope to stay in Ross County where most of my family lives. Perhaps I'll even find a position at my alma mater!

ON CAMPUS STUDENT: **QUENTIN DETILLION**

CLASS OF '20



“The Church is
the Church only
when it exists
for others...”

– Dietrick Bonhoeffer



PARTNERSHIP OPENS DOORS

Ohio Christian University and World Gospel Mission are partnering to provide education opportunities for WGM missionaries, volunteers, staff, retirees, and their children. The partnership provides a tuition discount for OCU online programs: Adult and Graduate Studies for adults and OCUOnline Plus for 18-24 year-olds.

“The AGS program is perfect for missionaries in their second career who want another degree to help them in their field and for missionaries who followed God’s call before completing degrees.”

Nicole Davis, AVP of AGS Enrollment

With over 40 programs ranging from ministry to business with healthcare concentrations, OCU can now assist in equipping missionaries for their fields.

“Through OCUOnline Plus, OCU provides an online education resource for missionaries’ children, enabling 18-24 year-olds to earn college degrees while they remain in the field with their families in their service communities,” adds Dr. Lynn Lease, OCUOnline Plus Academic Program Director.

WGM engages Christ-like disciples to transform the world. The missionaries, often with families, serve in community health and development, medical, educational, evangelical, and church ministries. Last year WGM sent 476 short-term team members, 60 volunteers, and 229 missionaries to various places around the globe.

“OCU has a heart for those who follow God’s call to foreign mission fields of service. Our graduates enter the world prepared to succeed. We are thankful OCU can meet WGM missionaries where they are through our online platform. The flexibility of these programs opens doors that enrollees might not otherwise discover,” concludes Davis.



HURRICANE MICHAEL RELIEF

Emergency Management students responded to the call to serve the people of Panama City, Florida, following deadly Hurricane Michael's strike in October.

The State of Florida tasked Salvation Army teams with delivering food and supplies to areas hardest hit, where it was very difficult to reach survivors due to destroyed infrastructure.

Cayla Allen '19 and Jerica Donald '19, who trained with The Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Services in Puerto Rico, were prepared to serve in Panama City. Cayla was dispatched to a response unit in the Bayou George area. Jerica worked in Panama City. These units served, respectively, 525 and 600 meals each day. The Salvation Army served over 500,000 meals following Hurricane Michael.

Two Emergency Management program alumni also served in Panama City. Dustin Hube '14 was on an incident command team working as a liaison officer, and Josh Delph '13 assisted Clean Harbors in assessing and responding to hazardous material issues.

"People take a lot of things for granted, and this experience changed me," says Jerica. "My decision to go into Emergency Management was affirmed."



CAYLA ALLEN '19



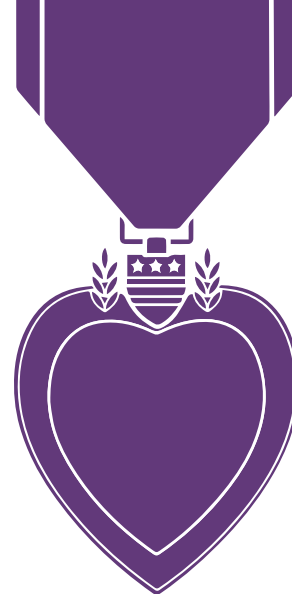
STUDENTS SHINE IN THE RAIN

The annual 2018 OCU Church Service Day saw nearly 400 students leave campus to pour their energy and passion into 31 projects serving local area churches and non-profit organizations. An estimated 1,300 volunteer hours were donated by OCU students as they cleaned, sorted, organized and helped at their various locations.

Led by faculty and staff, Church Service Day is a tradition for Ohio Christian University students who selflessly set out early to their designated locations, tackling dozens of projects all in one day. This year the rain hit early making for less than desirable working conditions for those that were slated to work outside like the students that were

weeding and mulching flower gardens, trimming hedges, and digging a drain trench at Riverside Bible Church, or those washing vans and preparing lunches for the homeless at the Dream Center at Rock City Church in Columbus.

Thankfully, for those outside, the sun broke through, while those indoors also completed the work at hand. Some of those services included cleaning windows and carpets at Grove City Lutheran Church, as well as wiping down pews, putting up chairs, and reorganizing nursery rooms elsewhere. The many teams achieved what they set out to do and became recipients of many grateful smiles, handshakes, “Thank Yous,” and “Bless Yous.”



PURPLE HEART UNIVERSITY

On September 11, 2018, Ohio Christian University remembered the tragic events of September 11, 2001 during the annual “Lest We Forget” service, during which OCU also celebrated becoming a Purple Heart University because of the benefits afforded to military and their families.

General George Washington created the Purple Heart as the Badge of Military Merit in 1782. The Purple Heart is awarded to United States Armed Forces members who have been killed or wounded in action with a declared enemy of the United States of America.

OCU joins only 91 other institutions in becoming a Purple Heart University. The university has a high respect for the military and is pleased to continue to extend its offerings and exclusive tuition rates to those who are willing to risk their lives defending our nation. OCU is one of the few schools that offers benefits to family members of those serving. Currently over 350 students are taking advantage of this benefit.

Provost Hank Kelly, retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, had this to say, “OCU is committed to providing exceptional service and educational support to the military community.” OCU is proud to currently have military students enrolled both online and in-class.

For all the things veterans and active military have done for the nation, OCU not only thanks them but hopes to help them follow wherever God is leading.

Student Cara Riker '20 says, “Church Service Days are an opportunity to give back what we learn in class. Service is integral to the Christian faith and serving on this day gives all of the students a chance to live that out together. It is for the churches that we help but we get so much out of it.” Cara has been to three Church Service Days during her time at OCU and considers the chance to serve with her peers for her community as part of her learning experience.

LADY TRAILBLAZERS CONTINUE STELLAR PERFORMANCE

In 2016, the Lady Trailblazers started a three-year streak of postseason appearances at the River States Conference Championships. Thanks to Coach Jake Warren, over this time, the team has been highly awarded with: seven All-RSC First Team members, six All-RSC Second Team members, RSC Coach of the Year, RSC Player of the Year, and Rachel Lawwell receiving RSC Newcomer of the Year. Reflecting on the program's growth since her freshman year, Lawwell is excited to see the direction the team is moving.

"Year after year, Coach Warren motivates us to reach the next level. Each practice and game he pours as much into the players as possible."

Rachel Lawwell '20

The Lady Trailblazers success does not stop on the field. These past three seasons the women's soccer program has held one of the highest GPAs and have been recognized as NAIA Scholar Athletes with a team GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The ladies' faith has also developed as they have grown close through team Bible studies and service opportunities. Their faith journey has helped prepare them for their first international mission trip to Costa Rica in July 2019.

In regard to the future, Coach Warren reflects, "This program has grown each year and continues to develop into an environment where these women thrive both on and off the field. We are excited about the prospect of what lies ahead."



RACHEL LAWWELL '20

LAUNCHING ESPORTS

The Ohio Christian University Department of Athletics is pleased to announce the launch of an Esports program under the leadership of Head Coach Michael Baker. Recruiting for the 2019 Fall season is already underway.

“We are very excited to see another program begin that will draw quality students into the university,” said David Bireline, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. “Michael is the perfect person to build this program from the ground up. Esports is quickly emerging as a leader in collegiate athletics, and we feel it is a great fit for our institution.”

Esports has quickly burst onto the scene of collegiate athletics as a quality option for institutions of all sizes. The program will have a designated space on campus to practice and host tournaments. Ohio Christian will also be applying for official membership into NACE, the collegiate Esports governing body.

“I am excited to help launch the Esports program because I have a passion for video games and passion for helping young adults become better people in real life and in their relationship with Christ,” said Baker. “I have always wanted to tie video games into ministry, so when this opportunity presented itself, I jumped on it and knew it was something that God was behind and wanted me to pursue. I’m also very excited to work with the administration to develop this new program!”



For more info go to ohiochristian.edu/esports

3.13

Department GPA

Host

Pickaway County
Special Olympics
Basketball

OCSAA

Official Host of
Championship





OCUBIC BOOTCAMPS REACH GOALS



In 2018, the Ohio Christian University Business Innovation Center (OCUBIC), in the Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center launched initiatives for reaching the Center's mission to increase economic prosperity: bootcamps offered throughout the year in collaboration with the Small Business Development Centers of Ohio and Columbus State Community College.

In November, the Center hosted a business start-up event in collaboration with the *Network of Owners, Business Leaders, and Entrepreneurs (NOBLE)* and the Dublin Entrepreneurial Center. Attendees were then given the opportunity to participate in an entrepreneurial bootcamp. This bootcamp was not only the first for the OCUBIC but was also the first of its kind state-wide using advanced live streaming technology. Successive bootcamps will be held on regular intervals throughout the year going forward in fulfillment of the OCUBIC's mission.

For more info contact kkehl@ohiochristian.edu



CHRISTMAS ON CAMPUS

Ohio Christian University ushered in the Christmas season with a weekend celebration starting with singing Christmas carols, lighting of the campus and Christmas tree, followed by a fireworks display. At the conclusion of the outdoor festivities, guests poured into the Maxwell Center for hot chocolate, cookie decorating, and storytelling, all while remembering the reason for the season—Christ's birth.

On Saturday the community joined the Ohio Christian University family for the annual Festival of Carols concert. 'Peace on Earth' was the theme for the 2018 Festival of Carols using music from around the world and a dramatic script, authored by Dr. Valerie Jones, following a traveler on a spiritual and physical journey. The Ministry and Performing Arts Center was decorated with national flags that represented cultures from across the globe, showcasing all who look to Christ and His promise of eternal peace.

One concert goer said, "This year's program was touching, particularly as we hear of humanitarian crises around the globe. The message of peace on earth brought comfort and hope for a lost and hurting world."

The international emphasis of the program began with a Nigerian Christmas song, followed by carols from Canada, Austria, India, and Ukraine. The weekend events brought smiling faces to the community, no matter how far they traveled to celebrate the birth of Christ and the beautiful display of culture and God's love for all.



HILIK BAR



MICHAEL MILLER



STEPHANIE LINDSAY



TONY PERKINS



MINISTRY AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

INFLUENTIAL SPEAKERS

Hilik Bar

Mr. Hilik Bar, Deputy Speaker of Israel's Knesset, spoke at the School of Business & Government's Distinguished Speakers Series and in the Ministry and Performing Arts Center in October.

Mr. Bar noted 2018 is the 70th anniversary of Israel's nationhood: "I am here to celebrate this anniversary and to speak about our alliance and friendship with the United States and Ohio."

Bar discussed Israel's challenges in the Middle East, how the United States is helping, and how the Israeli Leadership Institution (ILI) is working to support leaders. "It's important to make sure that the next generation of Israeli leaders is committed to our relationship with the United States," he said.

Bar enjoyed meeting students during his visit. "They asked great questions," he said. "It was amazing. Some have been to Israel. We're testing collaboration between OCU and the ILI."



Michael Miller

Film director and producer Michael Matheson Miller of the Acton Institute introduced his documentary *POVERTY, INC.* at a University Chapel Service before a screening in the Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center in November. He also spoke for a Distinguished Speakers Series session, highlighting the causes of chronic poverty and how to improve delivering aid.

The award-winning documentary explores the Christian principle of selfless love. Spotlighting flaws in global aid and social development, the film examines unsuccessful efforts to aid the poor. Miller summarizes his view of why aid programs fall short with a philosopher's adage that, "When charity is separated from the truth of the situation it degenerates into sentimentality."

Miller studies effects of humanitarian aid programs and the model for delivering assistance with best intentions.

Stephanie Lindsay

Stephanie Lindsay's message conveyed that above all, faith in Christ's covenant promises enables believers to live God-led lives.

Lindsay shared the essence of being a successful Christian is understanding we're in a spiritual war. While referencing Ephesians 6:12, she shared, "Spiritual wars are playing out in the world. Satan's kingdom is warring with God's kingdom."

In addition, she challenged students, staff and faculty to pursue wisdom while expounding on Proverbs 4:7 and to KNOW God's word and his promises. Lindsay shared, "The word's effect is powerful. It's the promise for which He paid the price we take to the bank. John 14:14 says, 'If you ask anything in my name, I will do it for you.'"

As she concluded her message, Lindsay stated, "We are called to the Great Commission. Many are called into business, academia, medical fields, ministry, and the mission field. Don't be intimidated. You cannot fail. Use the tools in your spiritual toolbox. Whatever He says to do, do it. He promises to be with you always."

Tony Perkins

Anthony R. Perkins, president of Family Research Council, a conservative policy and lobbying organization based in Washington, D.C., gave the University Chapel Service message in October.

Perkins visit was part of the School and Business and Government's annual Distinguished Speaker Series. His session addressed the need for Christians in America to show courage in the face of threats to their faith. Key to his message is Ephesians 6:10, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." Verses 10-20 apply the analogy of putting on the 'whole armor of God' to prevail over evil: the breastplate of righteousness and shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

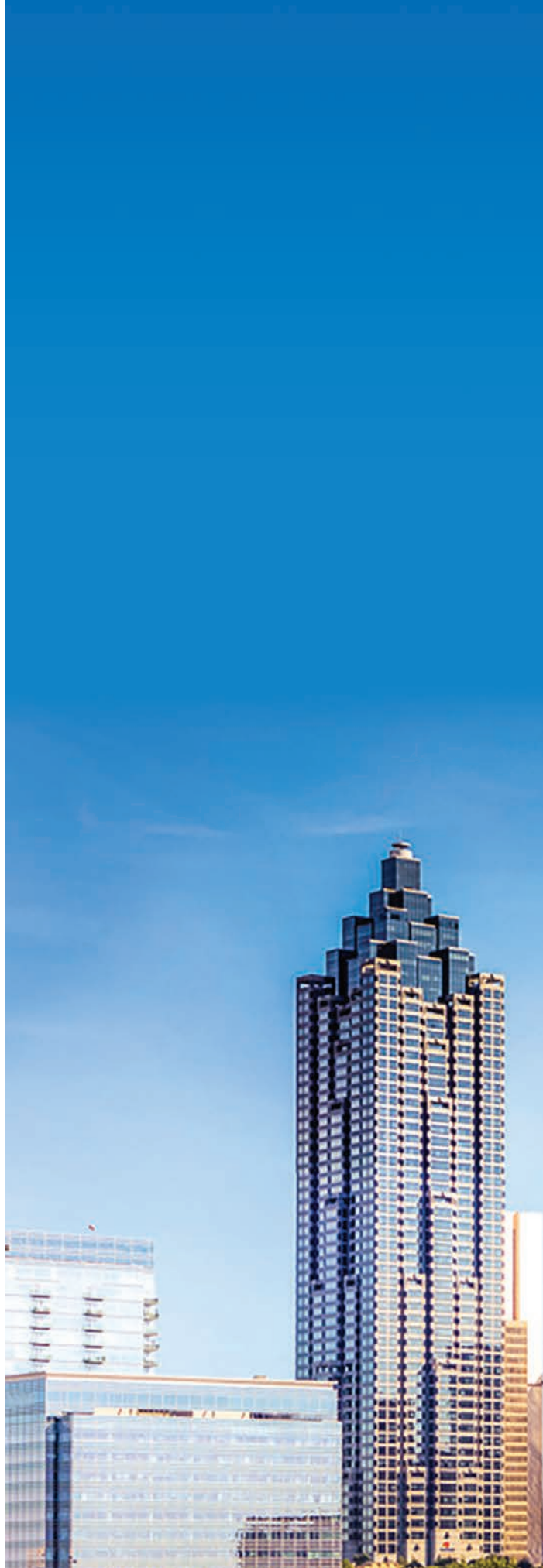
Perkins' guidance: "The key to successfully living the truth of God's word in a culture and society moving the opposite direction is to find strength in the power of the Lord's might."

Perkins advised attendees to be empowered, prepared, and persistent. The empowered person lives for Christ and is courageous in battling darkness in union with and obedience to the Lord. Prepared persons know the enemy and are equipped. Persistent persons pray continually, resolute and unshakable in taking necessary stands.

To view chapel information go to ohiochristian.edu/chapel

“Expect great
things from God;
attempt great
things for God.”

– William Carey



INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES

FOR MORROW

Paula Roberson is the new Regional Dean of Ohio Christian University's Georgia campus. Previously serving as an adjunct professor and academic advisor, Dean Roberson holds a Master of Science in Human Resource Management and is a clinical pastoral healthcare chaplain and certified life coach.

Roberson began at Ohio Christian teaching business management in the Adult and Graduate School and later became an Academic Advisor at the Morrow campus.



"I build our student body by being student-focused and seeking to increase our friends and partners. Our students are preparing for life opportunities that enable them to walk in their God-given path."

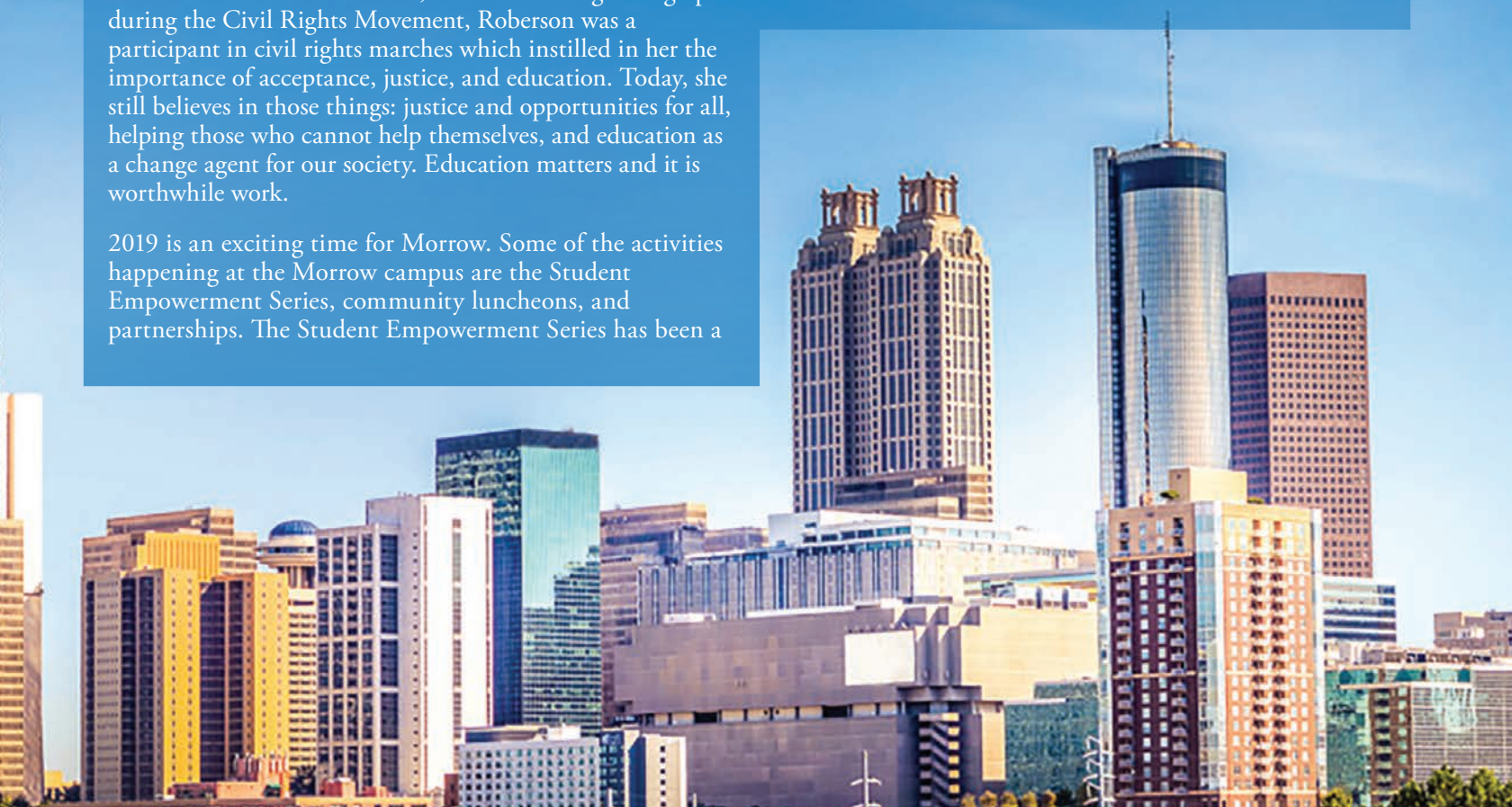
Born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and growing up during the Civil Rights Movement, Roberson was a participant in civil rights marches which instilled in her the importance of acceptance, justice, and education. Today, she still believes in those things: justice and opportunities for all, helping those who cannot help themselves, and education as a change agent for our society. Education matters and it is worthwhile work.

2019 is an exciting time for Morrow. Some of the activities happening at the Morrow campus are the Student Empowerment Series, community luncheons, and partnerships. The Student Empowerment Series has been a

successful vehicle to prepare and introduce OCU students to the community and its leaders. Each month a representative comes to campus to give a presentation from their industry perspective followed by a question and answer session. The Advisory Council will host the "2019 Community Luncheon" on the second Friday of November. Our community luncheon events bring the community leaders together for a free lunch and a message. Dr. Terrance Gattis gave a powerful word on "We Are Stronger Together" at the 2018 Community Luncheon.

One accomplishment of which Roberson is most proud is the partnerships they have developed across the United States. Through the partnership initiative, OCU has worked with local churches and businesses, and national corporations such as Waffle House and Bridgeman Foods. Creating partners has developed resources for employment for students.

Roberson concludes, "My goals are to develop the student body, friends, and partnerships. I want the community to know we are here... changing lives one graduate, one family, one community at a time."





**PROVOST KELLY TO
DEPART IN JUNE 2019**

After serving Ohio Christian University for over 13 years, Provost Hank Kelly, the University's chief academic officer is stepping down in June 2019. His many contributions remain a blessing.

In 2006, Dr. Kelly joined Circleville Bible College when three hundred and sixty students were enrolled. Today 3,700 students—over ten times as many—are enrolled. Kelly served initially as Executive Vice President for the adult program. In 2011, he became Provost, and later served as interim president prior to President Jon S. Kulaga's arrival in 2017.

In 2006, the adult program offered classes at two off-campus locations—Columbus State Community College and Hocking College. Today, it offers classes at 15 locations in two states. In 2006 the college faced significant financial challenges. Yet, the doors remained open, and today the University has eight new buildings and total space on campus of over 500,000 square feet.

In 2007, Kelly worked hard to obtain approval for offering associate degrees, online associate programs, and to open new locations in Lancaster and Dublin, Ohio. In 2008, OCU obtained approval to offer online bachelor degrees. And, in 2010, the University won approval for its Master of Arts in Ministry and, two years later, Master of Business Administration and a Master of Management, now Master of Arts in Leadership.

When the Adult and Graduate School (AGS) began, Kelly supervised the program: hiring, training, and assigning online faculty, and all AGS employees fit in Kelly's home for the annual Christmas lunch. Today, all AGS employees would overflow the University's large dining hall.

Since 2006, Pickaway County's baccalaureate rate has increased from 11 to 18 percent. OCU contributed to this increase. Enthusiastic about strategic planning, Kelly led the University's strategic plan development. The plan today has goals set to be completed by 2024.

Ohio Christian University President, Dr. Kulaga, says, "Dr. Kelly has been a key leader at OCU during its growth and development. He helped shepherd the changes through the accreditation approval process, helped hire key faculty and saw new programs developed and launched. His care and concern for the details ensured the vision was implemented and the strategic plan moved forward."

Kelly mentions, "It has been a joy to get to know so many students. At the 2018 graduation, I was moved to tears, realizing I knew more graduates than ever before. OCU is a wonderful institution where everyone cares for students and prepares them to serve effectively in the church and society."

Before his higher education career, Provost Kelly served in the U.S. Air Force, rising to Lieutenant Colonel as a civil engineer and instructor at the Air Force Institute of Technology. His Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering is from the U.S. Air Force Academy, his Master of Science from the University of Arizona, and holds a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Illinois and Doctor of Education from Regent University.

OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
70 YEARS OF PREPARING STUDENTS TO SERVE
EFFECTIVELY IN THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY



FRESH IMAGE, ENDURING MISSION



1950s



1960s



1990s



2000s

OHIO CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY

2000s



2019

Ohio Christian University (OCU), formerly Circleville Bible College (CBC), has had a number of images used to represent the institution. In its early days, not much treatment was given to an image to represent the university, but as time moved on, images emerged allowing people to quickly identify us as a brand.

Some of the earliest images came by way of the academic seal, fostered by Dr. George Blackstone, a professor of archeology at CBC. His seal reflects his interest in antiquity represented by the lighted lamp atop the Bible, both being centrally located with a light emanating from the lamp. The academic seal has had several styles, the most recent being updated when CBC became OCU to reflect the new name of the university. This academic seal will continue to be used on official documents.

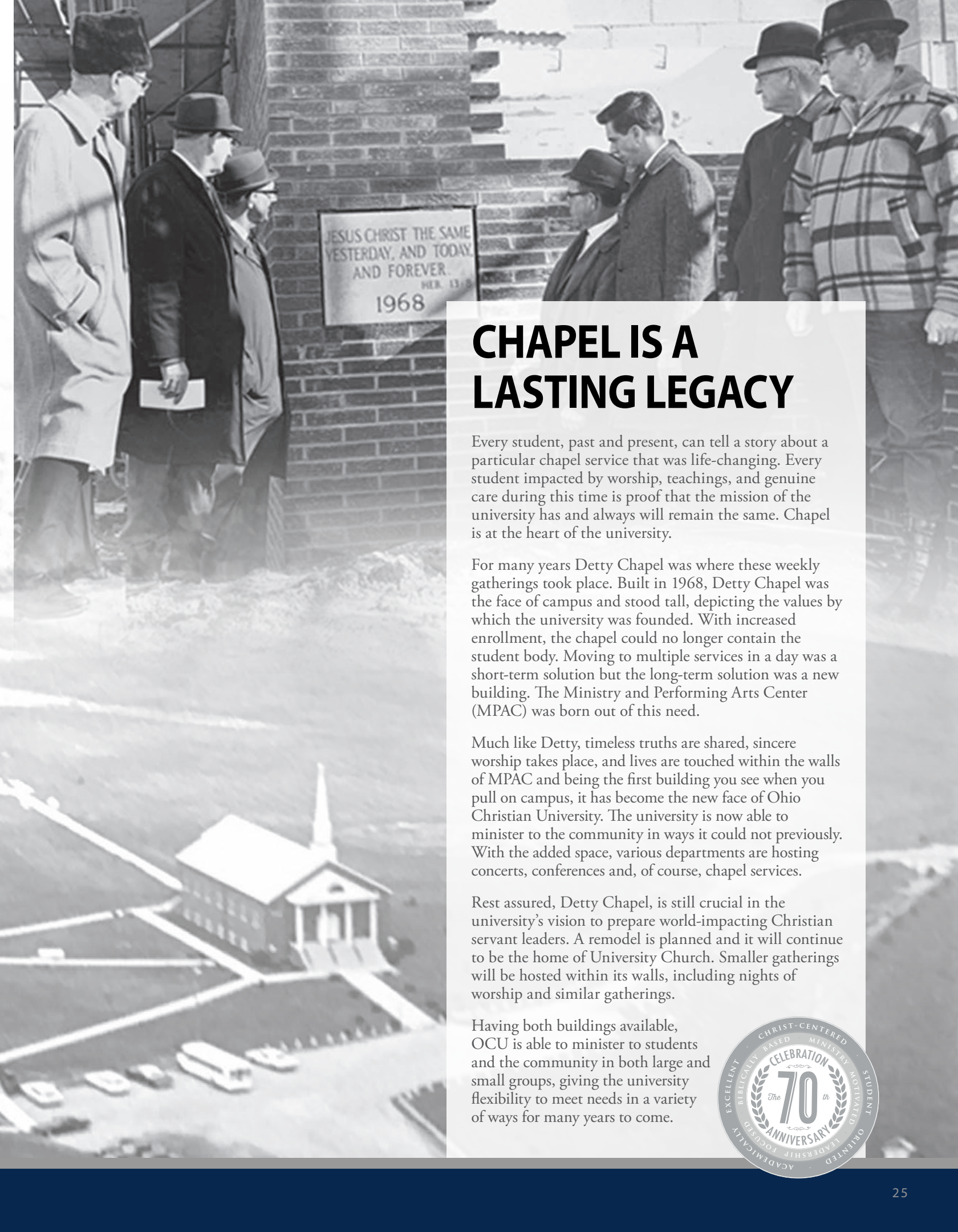
During the late eighties and early nineties, CBC realized the need to adapt to a culture that was becoming more brand aware and developed a logo with a steeple prominently placed, giving a nod to our roots as a Bible college, training up pastors and missionaries.

For a short time in the early 2000's the newly constructed clocktower, erected in honor of Dr. David Case, was featured prominently in promotional materials and was integrated into the mural in the Johnson Hall building addition. Dr. Case says this

about the clocktower, "With every chiming of the clock the campus is called to action. The chimes remind each of us that we are here for a special God-given purpose. We must be about His work while we still have time."

With the name change from CBC to OCU, a word mark was developed that has served as our logo for over a decade. It became apparent that OCU needed an image that conveys who we are and why we exist. In summer of 2018 the marketing department began the process and quickly latched on to the newly constructed Ministry and Performing Arts Center (MPAC) as worthy of becoming part of our new image. MPAC is the first building you see on campus and houses our Music and Religion departments and is home to our chapel services.

In discussions with students, they identify this new building as being significant to them because of the chapel services that help prepare them to live out the values and lessons they are learning at Ohio Christian University. The team created a logo that conveys the university's commitment to classic academic education and providing a deep spiritual foundation to our students. With the strong dome topped with a cross, underscoring that this is where academically and spiritually significant events take place and, most importantly, where lives are changed.



CHAPEL IS A LASTING LEGACY

Every student, past and present, can tell a story about a particular chapel service that was life-changing. Every student impacted by worship, teachings, and genuine care during this time is proof that the mission of the university has and always will remain the same. Chapel is at the heart of the university.

For many years Detty Chapel was where these weekly gatherings took place. Built in 1968, Detty Chapel was the face of campus and stood tall, depicting the values by which the university was founded. With increased enrollment, the chapel could no longer contain the student body. Moving to multiple services in a day was a short-term solution but the long-term solution was a new building. The Ministry and Performing Arts Center (MPAC) was born out of this need.

Much like Detty, timeless truths are shared, sincere worship takes place, and lives are touched within the walls of MPAC and being the first building you see when you pull on campus, it has become the new face of Ohio Christian University. The university is now able to minister to the community in ways it could not previously. With the added space, various departments are hosting concerts, conferences and, of course, chapel services.

Rest assured, Detty Chapel, is still crucial in the university's vision to prepare world-impacting Christian servant leaders. A remodel is planned and it will continue to be the home of University Church. Smaller gatherings will be hosted within its walls, including nights of worship and similar gatherings.

Having both buildings available, OCU is able to minister to students and the community in both large and small groups, giving the university flexibility to meet needs in a variety of ways for many years to come.



1948-2018

70 YEARS OF MINISTRY





2008

Adds Emergency Management program

2009

Olson Field - Constructed in 2003 dedicated to Dr. Larry Olson in 2009

Enrolls 1,000

Trailblazer Academy opens

Teacher Education program certified by Ohio Department of Education

2011

Enrolls 2,200

MBA and Master of Management approved by Ohio Board of Regents

2012

Enrolls 3,400



2013

Enrolls 3,800

Maxwell Student Center opens

2014

Dr. Malon Mimms Education Center opens in Atlanta, GA

OCU graduates 517, including MBA graduates

OCU ranked in U.S. News & World Report

OCU wins first national championship

2016

Enrolls 4,500

2017

Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center opens

Ministry and Performing Arts Center opens



2018

OCUonline Plus program opens

70 years of ministry milestone



“The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart.”

– Helen Keller

MBA ALUMNI PROFILE:

GLORIA RILEY

Equipping for Greater Purpose



2018 MBA Alumni of Ohio Christian University and owner of McDonough Insurance and Financial Services in McDonough, Georgia, Gloria Riley mentions putting her business plan to the test, “has not been a cakewalk; like life, it comes with challenges as an entrepreneur, yet we are commanded to be strong and courageous.”

Gloria gladly shares how meaningful OCU was to her progress, emphasizing how much she values the Christ-centered education the University provided. Riley is grateful that she followed the Holy Spirit’s leading her to enroll in OCU onsite at the Morrow, Georgia location. Stating that she is equipped with everything she needs for success; her faith in God, her education, experiences, passion, purpose, and support.

Riley’s company, McDonough Insurance and Financial Services, has benefitted from the education obtained at Ohio Christian University and is growing as she assists her customers in risk management and financial planning.

Her God-given successes have included various coaching and teaching opportunities. Clients of Riley’s are gaining individual coaching in personal development and leadership training. She has also been able to present several small business workshops on growth and leadership and held growth and leadership classes. Perhaps most important of all, she was honored to speak, inspire and encourage the congregations of several churches on faith, personal development, and finance.

Most notably, Riley has written a book regarding faith and finances. The book is titled *Faith to Believe and Prosper*. Riley states, “This is a lifelong goal that I have achieved!”

WE ARE TRAILBLAZERS

BY KARISSA KIRKWOOD

During its first 60 years, Circleville Bible College athletic teams were known as the Crusaders up until the renaming of the university in 2006. With a new name came a new mascot, the Trailblazers. A person entering uncharted territory is known as a trailblazer. It takes a special person to enter the unknown, filled with challenges and the unexpected. Many have discovered that exploring new territory is not something to be undertaken alone. People are wired to journey with others, especially during pioneering times. Ohio Christian University celebrates its history of working together with a common purpose. Our students and athletes have always entered the adventure together with the heart of a trailblazer.

As with any new adventure, starting an athletic program came with challenges. Finding athletes to fill a team was half the battle. Many of the new players were inexperienced, while also having to adjust to college life, attempting to gain an understanding of a new sport, getting into “game shape,” and learning to become a team. The losses did not prevent participants from having fun and building significant

relationships. Teammates became friends and then became family. The bond of competing together was invaluable, helping to define the time in college for many of these athletes. Even more, they were equipped for the future. Kim Uetrecht ‘12, member of the first women’s soccer team, said, “Soccer was just the catalyst for God’s greater purpose on our lives.”

Many of these Trailblazers have gone on to spearhead new challenges, some are investing in the lives of young students and athletes to establishing new outreach programs, nonprofits, and churches.

As Romans 12:4-5 states, “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.” God has used the unique and shared experiences of these athletes to accomplish many endeavors. Though each Trailblazers’ ministry is different, they’ve each played a role in impacting the world for Christ.

First Women’s Basketball Team

LEEANN DANIEL ‘00

As time passes, our alumni continue to cheer on their successors. LeeAnn Daniel, a member of the first women’s basketball team, vividly remembers being present when OCU women’s basketball made history with a first for them, beating an old rival, Kentucky Christian University. Sharing in a long-awaited victory for the team, Daniel and other alumni celebrated with the next generation of athletes who carried on the legacy of OCU.



First Row: Jennifer Hale, Wendy Ferguson, Aimee Lake, Nancy Schmoll, Susan Havens **Second Row:** Lianne Challis, Tonya Colvin, Lee Ann Owen, Mary Tipton, Julie Nielsen, Coach Brad Penn

First Men’s Soccer Team

TIM TABOR ‘84

As a backup goalie new to the game of soccer, Tim Tabor jokes that he helped the team by making other teams eager to play them each year. In reality, his willingness to be present and do what his team needed embodies the essence of stepping up and taking on new challenges that characterizes the pioneering spirit that all our first athletes had.



First Row: Mike Martinez, Greg Humble, Chris Hines, Randy Saultz, Tom Young **Second Row:** Roger Castner, Bruce Morrison, Kevin Kendall, Tim Bennett, Bart Brown, Dwight Mason, John Ratcliff **Third Row:** Mike Holbrook, Tim Tabor, Paul Manning, Mark Skaggs, Mark Barth, Tim Jones, Dan Meenach, and Mike Walters

ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDEES

The tradition of Homecoming is tailor-made for the social customs of high schools and universities all over this country, reflecting the values and cultures therein. So, more than any other entity, Ohio Christian University, can instill their values through such a tradition.

Looking forward to catching up with old friends, sharing new stories, and hearing about the lives of those that became family members and lifelong friends years ago is

what drives Homecoming. It's about reflecting on good times with good people. It's about celebrating our past and our present. It's about coming home.

At Homecoming 2018, President Kulaga, on behalf of Ohio Christian University, presented Alumni awards to four well-deserved recipients. We look forward to continuing to highlight the outstanding contributions our alumni and faculty are making to impact the culture around us.



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR: **MICHAEL TIPTON '04**

BA IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & BIBLE/THEOLOGY

Michael is General Missionary Superintendent at The Churches of Christ in Christian Union and a practicing attorney. "The mark of a great university is its impact on eternity. When I think about the impact of OCU on my life and on my fellow alumni, I can think of no finer school than OCU."



YOUNG ALUMNA OF THE YEAR: **TAYLOR PRUSINSKI '14**

BA IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT & RELIEF

Taylor is Director of Compassionate Outreach Ministries. "OCU was the place where God called me to be a part of something bigger than myself. Thank you OCU for being a community of amazing people who want to see the world change through Jesus."



MINISTRY IMPACT ALUMNUS: **DWIGHT MASON '83**

BA IN RELIGION

Dwight is Lead Pastor at NewPointe Community Church. "My time at OCU are some of my best experiences in my journey here on earth. I was able to meet great people who influenced me in my relationship with Christ as well as my approach to life. I am very grateful for my time there."



ALUMNI FACULTY AWARD: **DR. JIM SMITH**

JIM IS PROFESSOR EMERITUS, OCU PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Quoting Father Charlie McCabe, "Without a death, there can be no resurrection," Dr. Smith reflected that as long as we rely on our own abilities, we hinder the work of the Holy Spirit.

SAVE THE DATE | 2019 Homecoming | October 11 & 12



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with **GEORGE BARNA**



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