

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



VISION

2025

ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

YOUR STORY. GOD'S PURPOSE.

4

75 YEARS
BOLD

One Mission.
Generations
of Impact.

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UNIVERSITY
TIMELINE

75 Years of
Answered Prayers

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McFARLAND
FAMILY LEGACY

The Power of a Gift

Four of Central
Christian College's
first graduates on
the original campus
in Bartlesville, Okla.

75TH

CELEBRATION OF LEGACY



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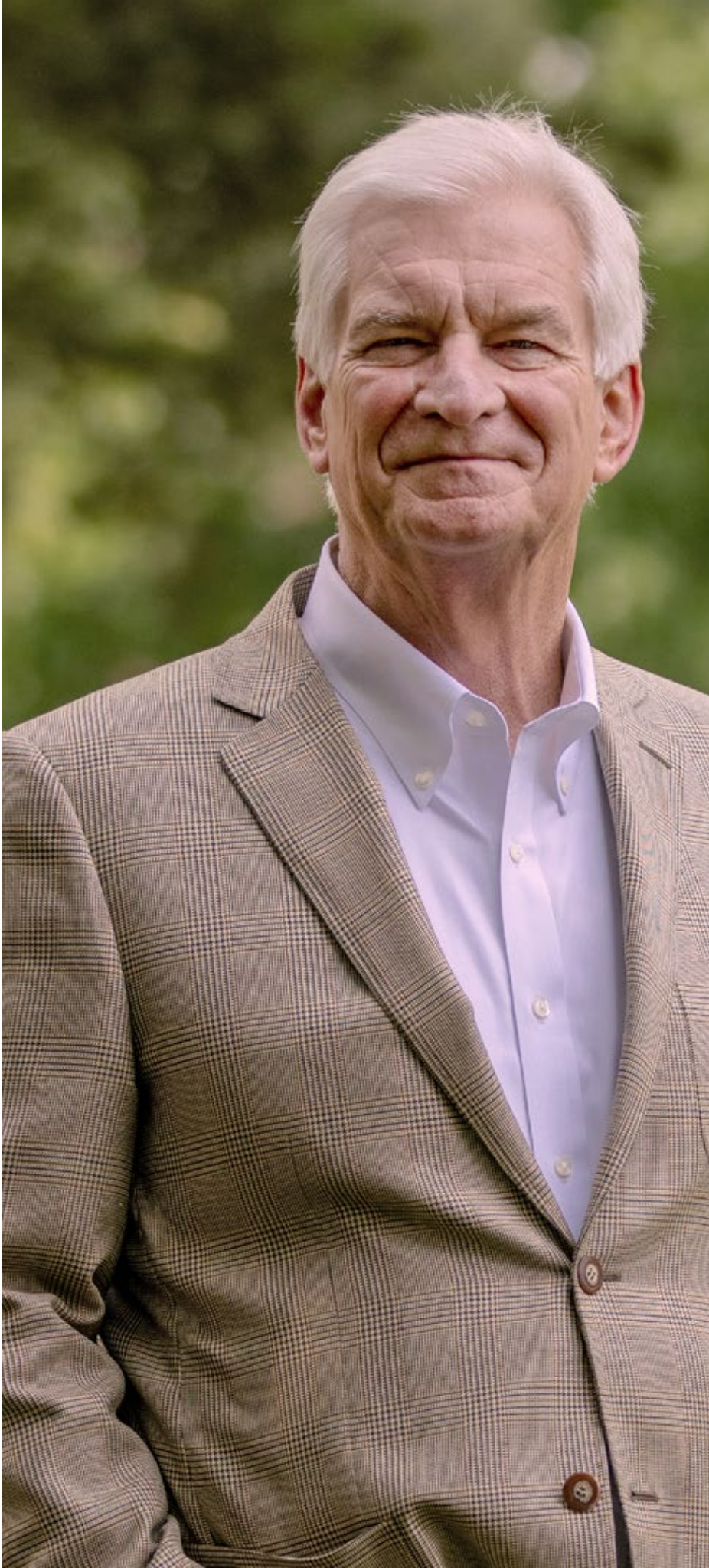
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administration of its educational policies, admissions policies,
scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and other
school-administered programs.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we conclude the 75th academic year at Oklahoma Christian University, it has been a time of celebration and remembrance. It has also been a year of vision casting, looking ahead strategically and asking God to continue to bless OC for the next 75 years and beyond.

If you have been on campus at all this year and heard me speak, you have likely heard about the Kingdom University vision. What is a Kingdom University, you might ask?

A Kingdom University is a university where ...

The Restoration heritage of Christian unity and authority of scripture are honored by declaring that all who call on the Father through Jesus are welcome.

We seek to educate the whole person in a distinctly, authentic, Christian manner that prepares students spiritually, academically and socially to make a positive difference in the world.

The culture imitates the life of Jesus - one of humility, trust, respect, kindness and joy; and financial sustainability and people are highly valued.

I hope you can envision what our faculty, staff and trustees are seeing as the future of OC. For 75 years, we have been so blessed, and God continues to work here. There are so many examples of His providence on campus.

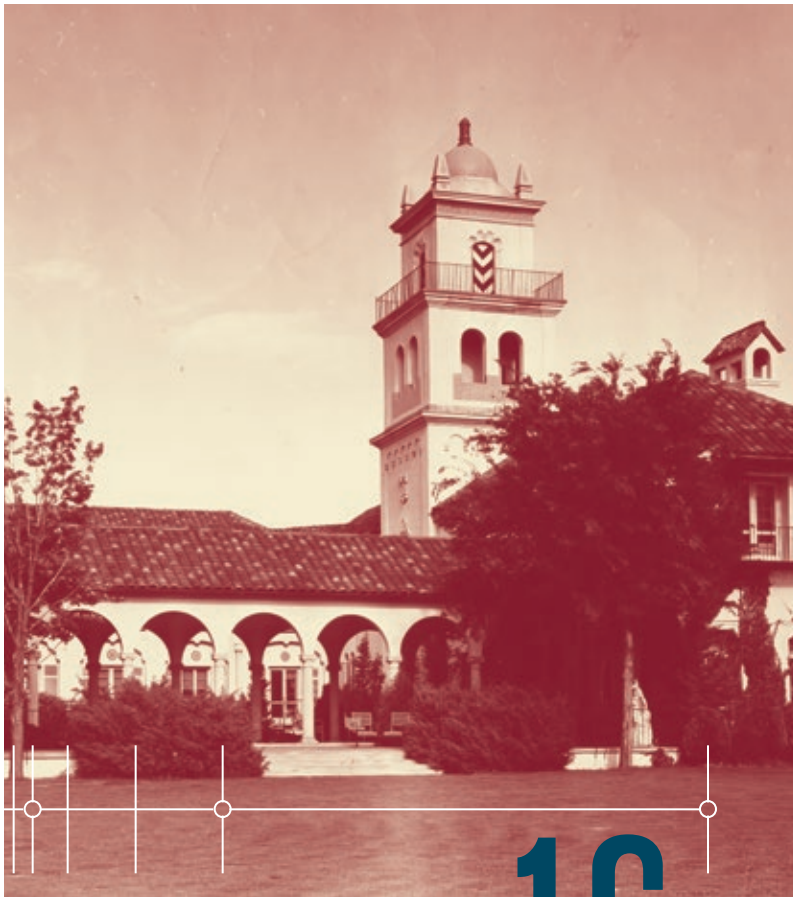
We invite you to join us through prayer, encouragement and financial support, so this vision of a Kingdom University becomes a reality more quickly, boldly and successfully than anything we have asked or imagined through His power that is at work within us.

Sincerely,
L. Ken Jones, Ph.D.

04

75 YEARS BOLD





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McFARLAND
FAMILY LEGACY



Learn more about
Oklahoma Christian
University's history on
our website.

By Melinda Brookshire

75 YEARS BOLD

ONE MISSION.
GENERATIONS
OF IMPACT.

The true story of Oklahoma Christian University isn't about buildings or locations; it's about the lives changed within its walls.

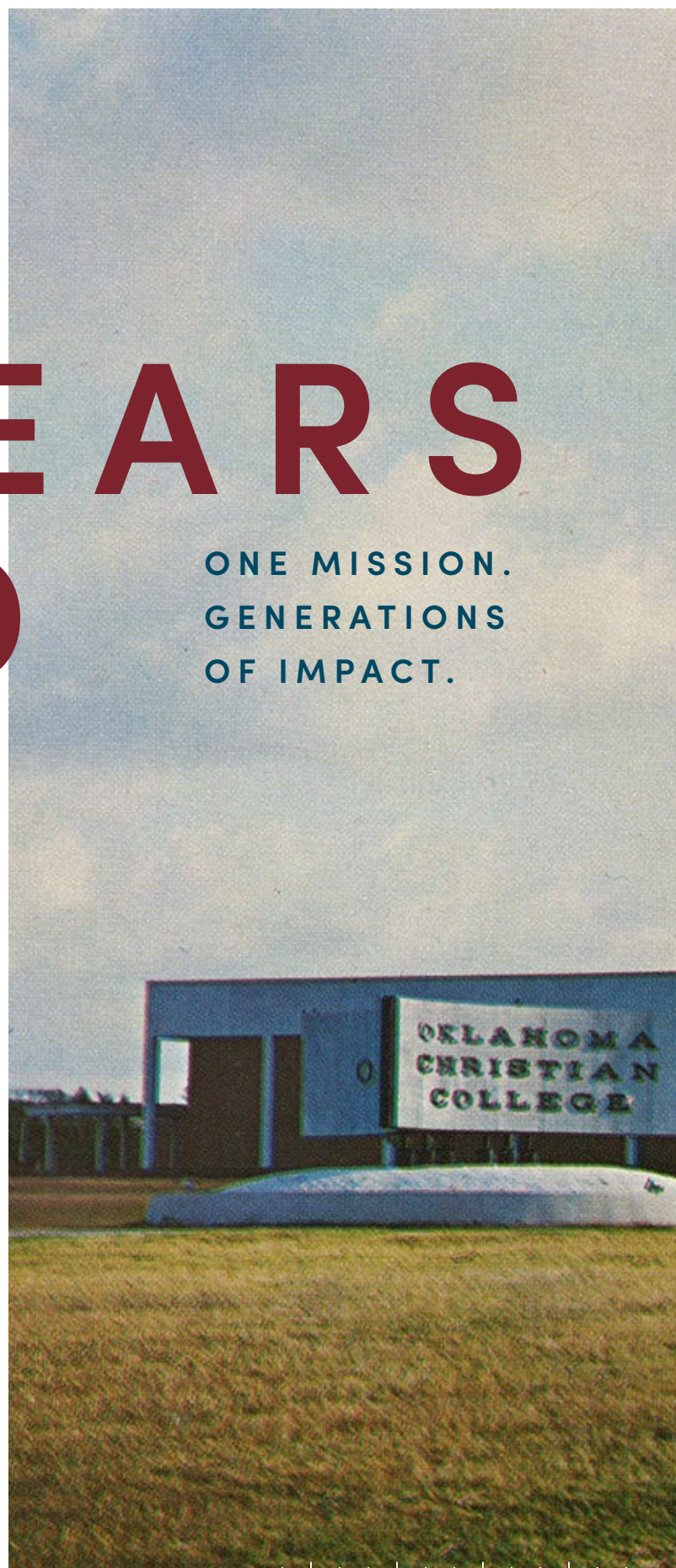
It's about the prayers that have shaped its journey, the dreams that have taken flight and the mission that continues to inspire.

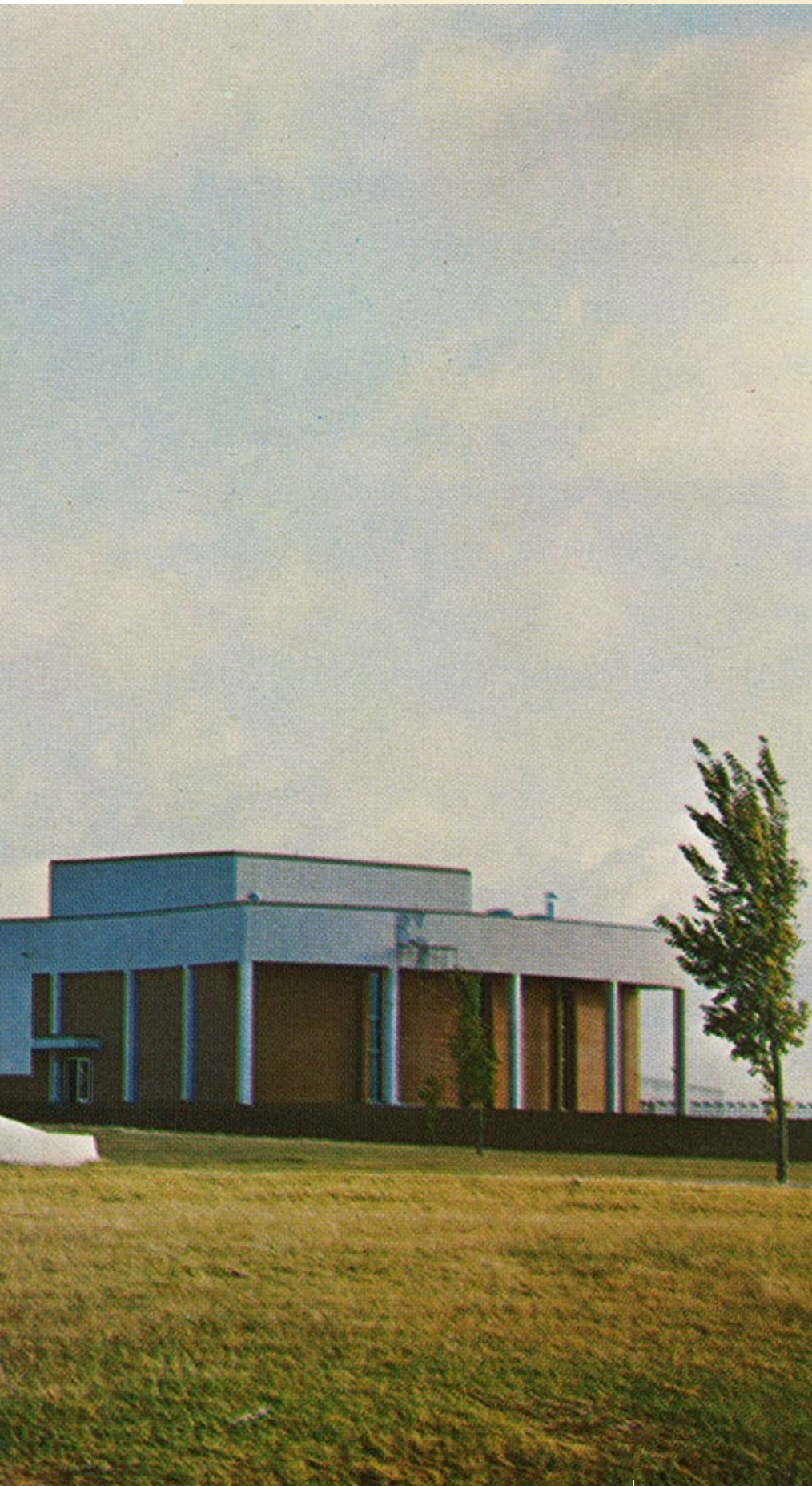
For 75 years, OC has equipped over 74,000 students to serve in God's Kingdom, helping them discover purpose, build lifelong friendships and pass on faith to the next generation.

"As we celebrate OC's 75th anniversary, I am proud that OC strives to remain in the faith and help all students with their journey," said Kathy Milligan ('01), Coordinator of Graduate School of Business Operations and a 35-year OC employee.

FOUNDATION OF FAITH

OC was built not on human ambition but on a calling.





FUN FACT

The college's first catalog, released May 1950, listed a \$125 semester tuition and 123 courses.





FUN FACT
Over its 75-year history, OC has welcomed students from all 50 states and more than 75 nations.



Seventy-five years ago, a small group of believers stepped out in faith, believing young people needed a Christ-centered education. From a stately mansion in Bartlesville, Okla. to a thriving university in Oklahoma City, OC's growth has been marked by an unwavering commitment to that mission and hope.



**I AM PROUD
THAT OC
STRIVES TO
REMAIN IN
THE FAITH
AND HELP ALL
STUDENTS WITH
THEIR JOURNEY.**

Founded by the vision of leaders from the churches of Christ, OC began its journey as Central Christian College in 1946. In September 1950, the college opened its doors in the La Quinta Mansion in Bartlesville, welcoming just over 90 students. Daily chapel quickly became the heartbeat of campus life.

"The traditions of homecoming, Spring Sing, competitive athletics, daily chapel and devotionals come to mind," former University President Dr. J. Terry Johnson ('64) said when asked about timeless aspects of the OC community. "However, the one constant that stands out in my thinking is the influence a caring, Christian faculty has had in shaping the lives of young people. From its early years in Bartlesville and continuing to the present, OC has been blessed with the ability to attract Christian men and women who both teach and mentor their students with uncommon success."

From the beginning, OC's charge was clear: to merge academic excellence with Christian service.

GROWTH AND CHANGE

Through economic hardships, cultural shifts and the ever-changing landscape of higher education, OC's history reflects God's providence and the dedication of those who believed in its purpose – to nurture students for Christ-centered lives.

"Oklahoma Christian University is a Kingdom culture of service, high scholarship and Christ-centered education that transcends personalities and people at the university," Board of Trustees member Michelle (Thompson '89) Stephens said. "... While the campus offers a strong sense of community, its true impact comes from the dedicated, academically distinguished faculty who selflessly invest in students, shaping lives for years to come."

By 1956, Central Christian College's leadership recognized the need for a location offering greater opportunity, accessibility and room to grow. Oklahoma City emerged as the perfect choice and local leaders secured a 200-acre site at N. Eastern Avenue and E. Memorial Road.

In 1958, the college relocated and welcomed 207 students. The city embraced the college, fueling its growth and strengthening its calling. As enrollment and academic offerings expanded, the institution became Oklahoma Christian College in 1962, achieving university status in 1990.

MISSION AND PURPOSE

Since its bold beginnings, OC has grown into a thriving Kingdom community where students are challenged to excel in their fields while growing in faith and preparing to make a difference in the world. As the university progresses, its mission remains steadfast: to educate, mentor and inspire learners to fulfill their God-given potential.

"Because OC is primarily a teaching

institution, I am most proud of student accomplishments beyond graduation in which they truly exemplify strong Christian principles in their profession or other life choices," Distinguished Professor of Bible Emeritus Dr. Lynn McMillon ('63) said.

This legacy of impact lives on through alumni whose achievements span various fields.

"Our alumni have achieved so much in many different fields of endeavor. ... [The alumni] attest to the effectiveness of OC's delivering a quality, Christian education," Dr. Johnson said.

YOUR STORY. GOD'S PURPOSE. A KINGDOM LEGACY.

The story of OC continues to unfold with each year, adding to a rich legacy of faith, service and learning. Its true impact is seen in transformed lives, lasting friendships and realized callings – ripples that began with an act of faith 75 years ago.

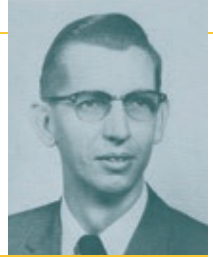
Yet, OC's story isn't written alone. The prayers, support and involvement of the OC community are essential in shaping the university's future and ensuring a Kingdom legacy that, with God's continued guidance, will echo for generations to come.

"My vision for OC's future is that its incredible impact and the stories of how OC students and graduates positively influence God's Kingdom will be shared in more significant and impactful ways," OC Board of Trustees member and former OC President Alfred Branch ('84) said. "I envision President Jones' goal of establishing OC as a Kingdom University being recognized and achieved, with our influence reaching a much broader audience than it does today." 



Learn more about OC's history in "Soaring on Wings Like Eagles" by the late Dr. Stafford North.

THE



By Mandolin Skipworth

HISTORY

FAITH THROUGH FELLOWSHIP
& EVOLVING TRADITION

OF



SPRING SING



Each year, thousands of past, present and Future Eagles flock to Baugh Auditorium to partake in Oklahoma Christian University's highly anticipated annual event: Spring Sing.

A choreographed performance with witty parody songs, Spring Sing has, in some shape or form, been a part of OC's legacy for the majority of its existence. Alumni come back to cheer on their social service clubs, and students buzz with excitement each spring as their fellow clubs' themes are released.

However, what is now a technologically advanced show with

lights and scripted introduction videos was once a simple music variety show called Songs America Sings.

THE BEGINNINGS OF A MUSICAL LEGACY

Co-created by the late Dr. Stafford North and the late Dr. Harold Fletcher, Songs America Sings originated on OC's first campus, then known as Central Christian College, in Bartlesville, Okla.

At the time, it was a humble performance with simple costumes and live music, started as an avenue to bring the community to CCC's Bartlesville campus.

"The young college needed something spectacular," Dr. North said in his book, "Soaring on Wings Like Eagles." "A Broadway musical was beyond their resources and would not be unique to Central Christian. What could fill this need? The determined pair decided to write a musical themselves."

The show lasted about two hours, and after a few years, attendance rose to about 2,000 despite having a student population of less than 200.

"[The show] featured a wide range of American music: barbershop, blues, hillbilly, and popular." Dr. North said



FUN FACT

Beta Chi (Men's club pictured above, 1958-1983) won the very first official Spring Sing Competition in 1969. Theta Theta won in 1971. These two clubs tied in 1970.

in his book. "It had comedy sketches and satire. Harold and Mary Helon Fletcher accompanied on two pianos... There were scenes of romance, political satire, and nostalgia, with lots of popular songs and even a spoof of Elvis Presley."

Songs America Sings set the stage for decades of satirical, musical performances, eventually welcoming Spring Sing in its place.

NEW TRADITIONS

In 1969, OC officially made the transition to Spring Sing.

Gradually, Spring Sing grew alongside the improvement of technology. A greater focus on technically challenging choreography balanced out the previous emphasis on lyrics and musicality. Recorded tracks now back the social services clubs where there once was live music.

"The biggest change I've seen over the years is in technology," current Spring Sing Staff Advisor Amanda Watson ('05) said. "From LEDs, improved sound and video production all the way down to using a Google drive, there are a lot of things we get to do better because of improved technology. [Former director] Bob Lashley used to carry around all of these binders with printed emails and lists. Now it's all in a drive!"





To see shows from over the years,
visit OC's YouTube page at
youtube.com/@OklahomaChristian.



...STUDENTS COME BACK
AND SAY THAT SPRING
SING IS ONE OF THE BEST
LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES
THEY'VE HAD.

Over time, the show developed several new traditions – hosts wearing a piece of their club's costume in the finale, clubs putting together quippy introductory videos, pieces of choreography being stolen from club to club – and the production took on new life.

Spring Sing became like a competitive sport. Year after year, students passionately compete for the first prize, or cheekily march to the beat of their own drum. However they participate, students become part of something larger when they participate in the university's annual show.

But for the campus and many of Spring Sing's participants, the annual event brings more to the table than a typical variety show.

"Spring Sing is a great way to get involved with the OC community," Watson said. "People get out of their comfort zones, do Spring Sing and are surprised by the love they develop for the fellowship of it."

For over five decades, Spring Sing has cultivated a community of Eagles that may not have connected otherwise. With a storied legacy, there are generations of families reminiscing on their time in Spring Sing. Future Eagles come for campus visits and leave singing the songs. It's an event that

lives on in the hearts of participants.

"I've had [former] students come back and say that Spring Sing is one of the best leadership experiences they've had," Watson said. "It's been a blessing to watch our students learn and grow in their leadership, even after graduating."

Spring Sing is one of OC's most historic traditions and blessings.

GIVING BACK

Not only do families and alumni connect over their Spring Sing memories, but since 2017, the tradition has also strengthened OC's connection with the community.

In 2016, former Student Government Association President Zekariah McNeal ('16) integrated philanthropy into Spring Sing via the SGA. This tradition allows our students and community to support honorable causes and physically connect with organizations and people outside of campus.


This year, the students and staff behind Spring Sing chose to honor former Spring Sing Staff Advisor and campus icon Bob Lashley ('74).

Lashley served as the staff advisor for 12 years, from 2001 to 2013. He had an indelible effect on campus, directing 40 First Week Follies, 22 Freshman

Fanfares, 18 parent orientations and 12 Spring Sings. He worked in many capacities on campus before retiring in 2018.

Watson, after growing up knowing Lashley, reflected on her time working with him on Spring Sing, shadowing him for three years before transitioning into the role in 2012.

"I'm grateful to have worked with him so closely," Watson said. "He is who I learned everything from. I often called him with questions and told him, 'There is no one else I can have this conversation with.'"

To honor his impact on campus, students organized a fundraiser during Spring Sing to renovate the stage in Baugh Auditorium and dedicate it to Lashley, who passed away from cancer in 2024. 



To learn more about Lashley's legacy and donate to the renovation, scan the QR code.



1965



2022



1960



FUN FACT

Inspired by Isaiah 40:31, the Eagle has been OC's mascot since 1952, later named Ike in 1999. Ike inspires athletes, delights fans at basketball games and makes surprise appearances throughout campus.

By Kelly Araujo

EAGLES GAIN. GOD LEADS.

YEARS OF FAITH & VICTORIES

The Oklahoma Christian University athletic program has been a cornerstone since its early days in Bartlesville, Okla. What began with men's basketball in a YMCA league quickly progressed into a junior college and intercollegiate competition in 1957 for the first official year and later an NCAA Division II program.

As the program grew, so did the need for a home court. In 1960, The Barn was built as a multipurpose facility to host Eagle basketball games, lectureships, chapel and even graduations.

Under the leadership of Coach Ray Vaughn, OC's first Athletic Director, as well as basketball and track and field coach, the OC Eagles experienced remarkable growth and historic triumphs. Over 75 years, OC has expanded its campus and its athletic program, which now includes basketball, baseball, softball, golf, swimming, track and field, cross country, soccer and volleyball, all competing in NCAA Division II. The program attracts international talent, bringing well-rounded students and recognition to the university.

THE LEGACY OF WINS

From 1966 to 1980, Oklahoma Christian College experienced a remarkable transformation. With Coach Max Dobson at the helm, the baseball team placed third in the nation at the NAIA World Series in Phoenix, Ariz. This first national win in 1972 set the stage for a continued legacy of success.

Today, the winning mindset is woven throughout the athletic program. Men's track & field leads OC history with 38 championships across NAIA and NCAA Division II tournaments. Many other teams have wins to be proud of as well.

Here are a few recent Eagle achievements:



- 1 **Men's golf** tied for third nationally in 2023-24 after reaching the NCAA DII semifinals.



- 2 **Softball** upset the No. 1 seed to reach the 2024 NCAA DII Super Regionals.



- 3 **Women's soccer** claimed the first 10-win season of OC NCAA DII history in 2024.

SMALL COLLEGE. GREAT COMMUNITY.

The athletic program has thrived building a tradition of determination, triumph and belonging, thanks to the generosity of alumni, supporters and donors. Despite its size, OC continues to encourage athletes and coaches to live the mission and vision of a Kingdom University on and off the field.

Among OC's alumni, Sherri Coale ('87), former basketball player and 2016 inductee into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame for her outstanding coaching career, remains deeply connected to the university. She has given back in meaningful ways and now serves as a member of the OC Board of Trustees.

"I won't ever be able to adequately repay OC for the education I received, the experiences I enjoyed, the mentorship I was given, the network that still supports me. I am honored by the connection with this institution that means so much to me," Coale said.

During these years, the athletic program has seen exceptional athletes. Jeff Bennett ('70), a standout in track and field, exemplifies this legacy. He was on the U.S. Olympic decathlon team in 1972 and was inducted into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in 2017. Bennett's leadership extended beyond athletics as he served as Associate Dean of Students from 2003 to 2016, making a lasting impact on generations of students.

In addition, Dan Hays, who coached OC basketball for 33 seasons, is recognized for his leadership, passion and respected career. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in 2021. With more wins than any coach in OC history, Hays has influenced and shaped generations of players. Even after retirement, his dedication to OC remains, as he returned to assist the basketball team in 2024 as a special assistant to the head coach.

"It is very important to me to support OC because I believe in its mission

– what it stands for in developing young men and women to make a difference," Hays said.

FUN FACT

As of the 2024 season, 25 percent of OC's undergraduate on-campus students participate in NCAA Division II athletics.


ATHLETIC VICTORIES. GOD'S PURPOSE.

The athletics program has produced more than just champions. It has shaped student-athletes of faith, excelling not only in their sports but in academics, too.

Over the years, the undergrad student-athlete GPA has been very similar to that of the non-athlete students on campus. In 2024, the average GPA for undergrad NCAA athletes was 3.30, just 0.02 below the GPA of non-athletes, demonstrating their well-rounded dedication.

The success of this program is a shared effort, carried forward by countless individuals who have been part of every win.

"God has blessed OC Athletics with dedicated coaches, athletes, staff and supporters, shaping success on and off the field. With strong leadership and a united campus, OC is a testament to what can be accomplished when a campus works well together," Athletic Director David Lynn ('95) said.

Visit oceagles.com to learn more about OC's athletic history and the journey ahead. 



More Eagles' Championship History



2019



1972



UNIVERSITY TIMELINE



1950

CAMPUS OPENS

Oklahoma Christian University stands as a living testament to the countless individuals — faculty, staff, students, donors, community leaders, trustees and friends — whose faith-filled endeavors, guided by God's hand, have shaped it into the vibrant Kingdom University it is today. From the initial inspiration to establish a Christ-centered school to the subsequent relocation to Oklahoma City and the construction of this beautiful campus, God's divine providence is evident. Dive into the university's rich history by taking a look at some of the incredible ways prayers were answered over the years.

Then known as Central Christian College, OC was founded in Bartlesville, Okla. by faithful leaders guided by prayer. The college started in a converted mansion and was home to about 90 students and faculty, including L.R. Wilson as the first president and Harold Fletcher as the first hired faculty member.





1958

CAMPUS MOVES TO OKLAHOMA CITY

Looking for room to grow, the campus moved to Oklahoma City in 1958. The college felt called to live on the border of Oklahoma City and Edmond, and now provides students with the small-town feel of Edmond and the big-city opportunity of Oklahoma City. Soon after, the university started offering bachelor's degrees.



1967

STUDY ABROAD BEGINS

The world has been OC's classroom for decades, beginning with a trip to Germany in 1967. From Europe to Asia to South America, OC students and faculty have invested in their faith journey through the exploration of languages, cultures and communities.



1974

IBARAKI PARTNERSHIP

Oklahoma Christian University began a meaningful and long-standing student exchange program with Ibaraki Christian University. Students from either university attend the opposite school to immerse themselves in the culture while living with a local family and making friends with students on campus.





2001

WIRELESS CAMPUS

Just after the turn of the century, OC moved things online by providing a campus-wide wireless internet so students could use their laptops anywhere they needed.

FUN FACT

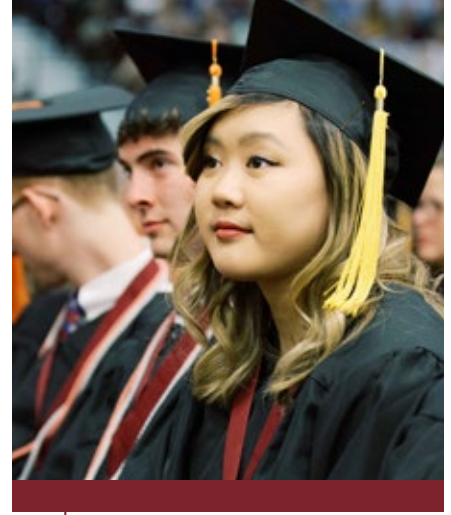
In 2001, OC provided all of their students with laptops to complete classwork. According to the Oklahoman, OC was the only campus to do so at the time.



2013

EAGLE TRAIL ESTABLISHED

In an effort to open the campus to the surrounding community, strengthening the relationship with those in Oklahoma City and Edmond, the Eagle Trail was born. The Eagle Trail is an approximately 5k paved trail around the campus, attracting visitors from across the Oklahoma City metro.



2020s

ONLINE CLASSES & PROGRAMS BOOM

Oklahoma Christian University began to serve more students virtually with a boom in online offerings.

FUN FACT

Oklahoma Christian University has had four name changes since opening in 1950: Central Christian College, Oklahoma Christian College (OCC), Oklahoma Christian University of Science and Arts (OCUSA) and Oklahoma Christian University (OC).





2024

PRAYER WALK ESTABLISHED

Continuing a legacy of answered prayers, OC invites you to participate in the campus Prayer Walk. Walk OC's beautiful campus, lifting up prayers for the very places, people and topics in which OC desires to see God's presence.

Pictured above is the survivor tree memorial located at the center of campus.

The countless stories, pivotal moments and campus transformations at OC could fill multiple timelines and editions of VISION. Though this magazine offers just a glimpse of the answered prayers and lasting legacies, there's much more to discover online. Scan the QR codes to engage in a virtual prayer walk or to read about the legacy left by each of OC's past presidents.



Prayer
Walk



Past
Presidents



FROM OC TO

A LEGACY OF GLOBAL INFLUENCE

By Melinda Brookshire

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DON'T JUST SEE THE WORLD – THEY ENGAGE WITH IT.

From the cobbled streets of Vienna to the mission fields of Honduras, OC students answer a higher call.

"A guiding theology of OC abroad has been 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.' Our role is to help students see and experience that truth firsthand," Director of International Programs John Osborne ('91) said. "For years, we described our mission as 'taking OC to the world and bringing

the world to OC.' This rhythm of sending and receiving has shaped OC's history and continues to define its global impact."

Global outreach is at the heart of OC's identity. Early graduates became long-term missionaries in Italy and Africa, and today's students carry forward that legacy through study abroad, mission trips and summer internships – serving across generations, cultures and continents.

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE

"Our global focus is shaped by our faith and academic mission," Osborne said.

THE WORLD



"We want students to develop a global perspective, be engaged citizens and expand their worldview while staying rooted in Christian values."

Since the first trip to Germany in 1967, OC's study abroad programs have flourished, now offering more than a dozen opportunities annually. Vienna remains the flagship destination, with fall, winter, spring and summer sessions. Beyond Europe, OC's Asian Studies program includes a summer in Japan and a two-semester Ibaraki Exchange, while HonduraServe integrates faith and learning through service in health care, engineering and missions in Honduras.

"Global engagement has been a defining part of our story," Osborne said. "Our partnerships have stood the test of time – 50 years in Japan, nearly 40 in Vienna – creating lasting opportunities that benefit the students and communities we serve."

ANSWERING THE CALL

Mission work at OC evolves with faculty leadership, but the passion for service remains constant.

"Mission trips give students the chance to experience a culture very different from their own," Missionary in Residence Kent Hartman ('77) said. "Some say we don't truly know our

own culture until we step into another. These experiences help students learn about themselves, about God and about how the world works."

OC has long been a launching pad for global mission work, and that legacy continues. This summer, students will serve in Bulgaria, embark on a Latin America cruise with the Language and Literature Department and join a baseball mission trip in the Dominican Republic.

BRIDGING WORLDS

OC's global reach extends beyond travel to its students.



For over 20 years, OC has fostered a supportive space for Third Culture Kids (TCKs) – students who grew up between cultures due to their parents’ missionary, military, corporate or diplomatic work.

“Studies show TCKs have more in common with each other than with any one culture they’ve lived in,” Instructor for the College of Outreach & Innovation Mel Latorre (‘99), a TCK himself, said.

“They’ve all wrestled with things like divided loyalties, complex grief and figuring out where they belong, which creates a unique bond.”

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT HAS BEEN A DEFINING PART OF OUR STORY.

Founded in 2002, OC’s TCK program provides mentorship, resources and community to help students transition to life in the U.S. while embracing their global perspectives. Since 2006, OC has also been home to Global Reunion, an annual camp where TCKs and their families find encouragement and connection.

“TCKs bring a very global perspective to our campus,” Hartman said. “They understand what it’s like to be ‘the outsider,’ which makes them invaluable in reaching out to others.”

With their ability to bridge cultures, TCKs naturally excel in OC’s mission



efforts, study abroad programs and service opportunities, ensuring they don't just adjust but thrive during this pivotal stage of life.

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH

Last summer, OC sent approximately 65 students to serve as interns at churches, summer camps and international mission sites. These internships are about more than gaining experience; they develop young leaders, strengthen churches and deepen OC's global connections.

The goal is to expand, with hopes of placing 100 students in summer


internships by 2025. Importantly, these opportunities aren't just for Bible and ministry majors. Students from all disciplines contribute their talents to church communities.

"I hope we can continue to grow this initiative," Associate Director of Church Relations Rick Odell ('84) said. "While one goal is to promote OC, the greater purpose is to help students see churches need them, not just as attendees, but as active participants making a difference."

Feedback from students and churches has been overwhelmingly positive, with many students returning for

another summer of service.

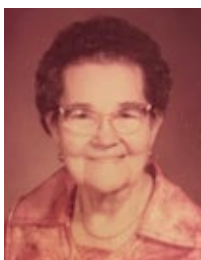
A LASTING LEGACY

For 75 years, OC has prepared students for lives of faith, learning and service worldwide. Through study abroad, missions and TCK support, its commitment to global engagement remains strong. This legacy is not just in where students go, but in the lives they impact, the faith they deepen and the difference they make – wherever God calls them. 



Explore Study
Abroad Programs

McFARLAND FAMILY LEGACY



Mary Parker

In 1950, Mary Parker made a sacrificial gift of \$100 to the Endowment Fund and bravely enrolled her daughter Sarah in the recently founded Central Christian College. Their home congregation in Kansas City had hosted some recruiters for the emerging school, and Mary sought a worthy spot for Sarah to attend college. That simple gift, from a soft-spoken woman of limited means, set into motion the McFarland Family Legacy of three generations.

Sarah Parker ('51) joined the first class at Central Christian College in Bartlesville, Okla., the original home of Oklahoma Christian University. Bud McFarland ('52), after being encouraged by his sister Barbara, also enrolled, making Bud and Barbara McFarland fellow members of Central Christian's first class.

Bud and Sarah kindled the first campus romance and married in the beautiful campus mansion on Central Christian College's campus in Bartlesville, Okla. On their 60th

wedding anniversary, the couple sat on the bench dedicated to them outside the Williams-Branch Center for Biblical Studies at OC. The recently remodeled Chorale practice room boasts a row of dedicated seats in honor of the McFarland's continued support of the program, as Bud and Sarah were among Professor Harold Fletcher's first Chorale members.

"When I arrived on campus in the fall of 1972, the Talon staff took my picture with then OCC President Baird, noting that I was the first student of the second generation to attend OC," Bud and Sarah's oldest daughter Nancy (McFarland) McClendon said.


All four of Bud and Sarah's children attended OC: Nancy, Susan, Charles and Creel, with Susan and Charles graduating in '79 and '83, respectively. Representing the third generation of McFarlands are Charles' son Daniel ('09), who graduated from the School of Engineering, and Creel's daughter Krista ('10) with a degree in Interior Design. In addition to immediate

By Nancy (McFarland) McClendon
& Hannah Johnson



family, countless McFarland relatives have also attended OC, finding their spouses, launching careers and forming lifelong friendships.

Sarah passed away in 2022 at age 92, making the 2023 OC Remembers ceremony especially meaningful for the family. On Sarah's commemorative display table laid the original \$100 Bond that bloomed into the McFarland Family Legacy over these 75 years.

Having multiple generations of families like the McFarlands touch OC's campus is an incredible blessing. To view a video about the McFarland family's legacy, scan the following QR code. 



McFarland
Family Legacy

WE LOVE OUR LEGACY FAMILIES!



Phillip ('09) & Heather (Peterson '10) Aske's Li'l Eagle, Orion, opens his kindergarten legacy gift from OC with the help of brother Leo.

We like to celebrate our legacy families with a special gift. If you have children you would like us to add to our legacy program, let us know! We send gifts to three age groups: babies, five-year-olds/kindergarteners and sixteen-year-olds/young, new drivers!

Visit our website to update us on your family.

OC.EDU/ALUMNI/UPDATES



OC'S ALMA MATER

Every Monday during chapel, the Oklahoma Christian University campus community gathers in Baugh Auditorium and sings the beloved alma mater.

"Hail to Oklahoma Christian," written by the late Dr. Harold Fletcher, embodies a tradition that honors the university and its shared values. Dr. Harold Fletcher was OC's first faculty member, serving until his retirement in 1993, and he taught part-time for years after.

Dr. Harold Fletcher's son, Dr. John Fletcher ('82), Professor of Music and former Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, carried on his father's legacy. Dr. John Fletcher has often been asked to lead the alma mater at OC events.

"I appreciate how meaningful the alma mater is to different generations of the university," Dr. John Fletcher said. "So many alumni speak of it with reverence and even tear up when they sing it. I feel a certain amount of that as well."

Below are the lyrics of the beloved song.

Hail to Oklahoma Christian

Hail to Oklahoma Christian
Hail thy purpose full and free
Life and truth for Alma Mater
May thy glories ever be
Lift your voices, anthems raise
Swell the chorus in her praise
Hail to Oklahoma Christian
Alma Mater, hail to thee

Both Fletchers (and their wives) have poured their lives into the university's students and helped OC become a Kingdom University.

By Maddy Roberts ('28) for Eagle PR



FIRST WEEK FOLLIES

Live, comedic skit shows have been a hit on TV for decades, and the same can be said for Oklahoma Christian University's beloved First Week Follies. Started as a fundraiser in 1978 by natural performers the late Bob Lashley and the late Dr. Stafford North, the event evolved into the First Night Follies in 1979. It was such a hit that Lashley and Dr. North decided to make it an annual celebration that introduced students to faculty and staff in a lighthearted way before the semester began. The night of skits, parody songs and unexpected humor also highlighted the many talents of OC's employees.

Lashley's daughter, Director of Alumni Relations Aubrie Ross ('04), grew up around First Week Follies, worked the stage crew as a student and performed with her dad over the years. Her dad's dedication to the event reflected his love for OC.

"He viewed First Week Follies as an excellent way to create a tighter community at OC," Ross said. "He and Stafford creatively worked at getting faculty and staff in front of students while also helping employees get to know each other better. The event is unique to OC; not many universities have a tradition like this. It has served its purpose well, which is why it was so important to my dad."

More than a night of silliness, First Week Follies is one of OC's most-loved traditions, emphasizing how learning, laughter and connection can coexist in OC's close-knit community.

By Dr. Josh Watson



CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION AT OC

Oklahoma Christian University has a history of embedding faith into its curriculum and placing Jesus at the center of everything. Students feel God's presence from the moment they step on campus. Well-rounded professors leave their students feeling that they are where they are meant to be: at a university where faith and education intertwine.

OC's longest-serving professor is Distinguished Professor of Mass Communication Dr. Philip Patterson.

"Christ is the central focus of an education at OC, and it has been for the more than 40 years that I have taught here," Dr. Patterson said. "While we prepare students to be skilled in their careers, OC is more interested in producing graduates who think critically and evaluate difficult life choices where there is not necessarily a clear right answer. We encourage students to evaluate those choices from a perspective of honoring God and serving others, even, and maybe especially, those we don't always agree with."

With faith woven into curricula and daily life, OC strengthens students' relationships with God. He is everywhere on campus, working in the lives of students, faculty, staff and visitors. Students are proud to be a part of OC's legacy, where they have been given the resources to achieve their God-given potential.

By Amanda Barnett ('26) for Eagle PR

EAGLES ON THE MOVE



SHOW US YOUR MOVES

Tag us @OCAumni
Email alumni@oc.edu

Learn about weddings,
babies, adoptions and
more 'Eagles on the Move'
from the Alumni blog.

[OC.EDU/ALUMNI](https://oc.edu/alumni)

1
DR. CHARLES L. BRANCH, JR. ('77), Professor and Chair Emeritus, Department of Neurosurgery, at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, was presented with The Distinguished Faculty Award by The Medical Alumni Association (MAA) of Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

2
DR. SCOTT LAMASCUS ('84) was elected to the Board of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. LaMascus is the founding director of the McBride Center for Public Humanities. He has also served a decade on the board of the Oklahoma Humanities.

3
BOBBY ROSS JR. ('90), Editor-in-Chief of The Christian Chronicle, received the nation's top award for religion feature writing in April 2024. The Religion News Association (RNA) presented Ross with the Supple Award for Feature Writing during its 75th anniversary convention.

4
RHONDA GODDARD ('91) works for Weaver, an accounting firm with 21 locations across the United States. Rhonda was named partner in Private Client Services in Weaver's Oklahoma City office.



4



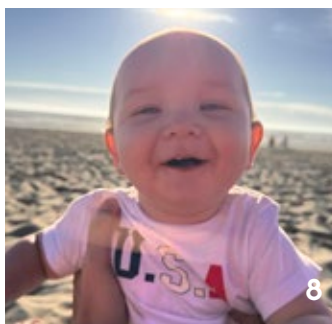
5



7



6



8



9



10



11

5
DR. MINDY CAIL ('96) was named one of the 50 Women Making a Difference in the state of Oklahoma by The Journal Record. Cail was also inducted into the Circle of Excellence for having been named to the list three times.

6
BRAD LEONARD ('99) is the Director of Installations, Logistics and Product Support at Space Systems Command. Leonard also completed the Executive Program in Global Space and Deterrence from the University of Southern California.

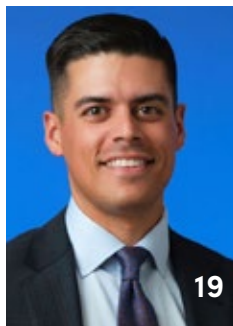
7
CHRIS YOUNG ('00) is the Director of Tennis and Head Women's Tennis Coach at Oklahoma State University (OSU) and led the team to be ranked No. 1 in the country for the first time ever last year. In May 2024, he was named the Big 12 Tennis Coach of the Year.

8
JASON AND M. SKY DEWEY (PARISH '08) welcomed Ezra, who was born in November 2023, and joins siblings Arabella, Elijah and Luca.

9
PHILIP ('09, MBA '16) AND YUTIAN THOMPSON show off Lil' Eagles, Isaac and Hannah.

10
TYLER SHARPE ('10) completed the U.S. Army Command General Staff Course at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. and received a Masters in Operational Studies.

11
JUSTIN GEARY ('11) was voted Teacher of the Year at Sky Ranch Elementary.



12
HOPE HEINEN ('12) is the Head Girls Basketball Coach at Deer Creek High School and was selected to coach the All State West team in June of 2024. Through her company Honey Dusk Photography, she photographs the Oklahoma City Spark professional softball team.

13
GAËLLE NSENGIYUMVA ('12) is an embedded software engineer, currently serving as the Director of Operations Planning at EUCL in Rwanda. Previously, she managed the World Bank's Rwanda Electricity Sector Strengthening Project (RESSP) at REG.

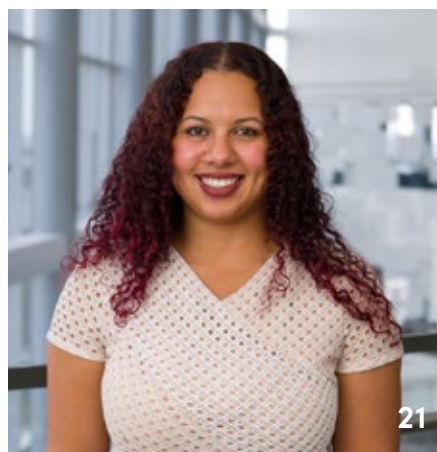
14
JACOB ('13) AND KARA (RUFF '13) WAYLAND welcomed Ellie Mae, born Sept. 4, 2023. She joins siblings Everly and Brynleigh.

15
TYLER ('14) AND JAMIE (SNEED '13) JONES welcomed Luke Edward, born Sept. 20, 2024. He joins siblings Maggie, Fletcher and Samantha.

16
JAMES AND KARISSA (WHEELER '13) COMPTON welcomed Travis, born May 7, 2024. He joins sister Maggie Lee.

17
ANTOINE KAJANGWE ('13) is a trade and investment policy professional with the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Rwanda.

18
DANIEL HAYNES ('15) was honored by Oklahoma Magazine in their 40 Under 40 Class of 2024. Haynes is the Founder and CEO of Skyward Financial Solutions. Haynes and his wife also lead a community outreach ministry and nonprofit called Live Full.



19
LUIS LOPEZ ('17) is in his third year on the Oklahoma Hall of Fame Second Century Board, serving as the Chair-Elect for 2025. Lopez currently works in Corporate Partnership Sales for the Oklahoma City Thunder.

20
The Museum of the Bible Kids Experience team used OC's Motion Capture Lab to create an interactive video game for children visiting the museum. Within this group were three alumni: **NICK EWING ('18), CENTER; GRACE GREEN ('23), FAR RIGHT; AND CHRIS SARTIN ('17), NOT PICTURED.**

21
BREANNA (CANTLEY '18) GRIMES received a Blue and Silver PACT pin. The PACT Program provides a way to recognize UT Southwestern Health System & Non-Clinical staff members for their demonstration of PACT standards, which are problem-solving, ability, attitude, accountability, communications, compassion and teamwork. Grimes has worked at UT Southwestern Medical Center for five years.

22
MADISON (HAGOOD '18) MINOR was recognized by NextGen Under 30 Oklahoma as a 2024 recipient in the Media, Public Relations, Marketing & Advertising category. Minor is a Strategist at The Lumix Group. She also maintains a portfolio of marketing and communications clients through her company, MADD Communications.

23
MIRIAH DAVIS ('22) was promoted to caseworker supervisor after just two years as a caseworker at Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center for the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs.

By Melinda Brookshire

A TRADITION WORTH PASSING DOWN



SEPT. 26-28, 2025



[OC.EDU/FAMILYWEEKEND](https://oc.edu/familyweekend)

Family Weekend at Oklahoma Christian University may be a relatively new tradition, but it has quickly become a cherished time for families to experience campus life and connect with their students. Now in its third year, the event continues to grow, adding and refining activities to create an even more meaningful experience.

OC will host Family Weekend 2025 on Sept. 26-28. It will feature scheduled events and free time for families to explore Edmond, Oklahoma City and beyond. While plans are still underway, some staple events, including family photos, the candlelight devotional and Freshman Fanfare, will remain highlights of the weekend.

"We know a lot of families drive in for Family Weekend, and we want to make sure it's both fun and

meaningful," Director of Campus Events Olivia Bryant ('21) said. "At the same time, parents are really coming to spend time with their students, not just attend planned events. So, it's important to strike a balance. We want to offer activities that show off campus life while still leaving time for families to explore surrounding areas or just spend quality time together on their own."

Family Weekend is about creating memories and strengthening the OC legacy. As it continues to evolve, its heart remains the same, staying focused on bringing families together to celebrate their students and the place they call home.

More details about Family Weekend 2025 will be shared online as the event approaches. 



ONCE AN EAGLE, ALWAYS AN EAGLE



As an alum of Oklahoma Christian University, you know your calling is more than a career. It's a lifelong mission to build God's Kingdom. At OC, we understand that because it's who we are.

If you feel your calling has evolved, our faculty and graduate programs are here to help you take the next step with confidence. However you're called, OC can guide you.

We believe every calling is an opportunity to glorify Him. Let us help you answer yours.



What are you
called to next?

Enroll today.

OC.EDU/GRADS

CALLED TO LEAD

Graduate School of Business

Master of Business Administration
Master of Science in Project Management

CALLED TO INNOVATE

Graduate School of Engineering & Computer Science

Master of Science in Engineering
Master of Science in Computer Science

CALLED TO INSPIRE

Graduate School of Education

Master of Arts in Teaching & Learning
Master of Education in Curriculum & Instruction
Master of Education in Teaching Students with Disabilities
Master of Education in Technology & Computer Science Education

CALLED TO CONNECT

Marriage and Family Therapy Program

Master of Science in Human Sciences

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



Office of Alumni Relations
2501 E. Memorial Road
Edmond, OK 73013

NOV. 7 & 8

2025 HOMECOMING



Fly home to celebrate the future of
Oklahoma Christian University!

We've enjoyed celebrating OC's 75th anniversary all year long, and are excited to round out the celebration with you at this year's homecoming! Join us as we cheer on the basketball teams, watch the homecoming parade, enjoy the talents of our theater students at the musical, reconnect with friends at the Alumni Banquet and celebrate the next 75 years.

See you soon!



[OC.EDU/HOMECOMING](https://oc.edu/homecoming)

