

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



VISION

2026 ISSUE

MADE FOR MORE

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40 YEARS OF
ENGINEERING

Rooted in Faith
Built for the Future

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OUT IN THE
METRO

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WAY

Associates 2026



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Spirit of God is at work at Oklahoma Christian University. In this publication, you will read through stories of providence, faith and excellence. I have the opportunity to see those traits on campus every day. There is unity and hope on campus, which come from three important pillars:

1. We know who we are. OC continues to educate, mentor and inspire learners to fulfill their God-given potential.
2. We know where we are going. OC is a distinctly Christian, Kingdom University.
3. We know how to act along the way. OC lives the Kingdom Way. The Kingdom Way is made up of three fundamental life guiding principles that we want every student, faculty and staff member to embrace.

The Kingdom Way

- OC works for their good and speaks for their welfare. *Esther 10:3b*
- OC promotes and expects a culture of humility, kindness, respect, joy and trust. *Ephesians 4:2*
- OC depends on God to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine. *Ephesians 3:20*

OC invites God to do His complete work on this campus. What would happen if we fully believed in the power of prayer, trusting that all things are possible with God? What would happen if we really believed God is able to do immeasurably more than any of us can ask or imagine? What if we believed that God's Spirit is in us to help us in all things? What if we were truly intentional about staying out of God's way and making sure that none of our beliefs or actions hinder His power? At OC, we want to find out what will happen if we invite God to be God.

This letter to you is a request and a reminder. Please join me in inviting God to send His Spirit to work His will on the OC campus. The future at OC is bright because we remember that it is through Him that all good things come.

Sincerely,
L. Ken Jones, Ph.D.



The President
is on YouTube!

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THE KINGDOM WAY

By Hannah Johnson

A LIFE OF SERVICE & STEWARDS

GUIDED BY FAITH & RELATIONSHIPS

Daniel Haynes' ('15) life is a testament to the many ways God can work in the lives of His followers if they heed His leading.

In eighth grade, Haynes moved from the small town of Boynton, Okla., to Tulsa, Okla., where he played basketball his freshman year at Tulsa Union High School. During a game one day, Haynes collapsed due to an enlarged heart. He recovered, but later on, in his junior year of high school, his best friend collapsed and passed away while playing basketball. The impact of this tragedy led Haynes to the realization that his life was bigger than just basketball.

That summer, Haynes attended a camp called Kids Across America and ended up giving his life to Christ. So, when it came time to look for universities, Haynes was looking for somewhere he could study accounting and play basketball, but more than that, he was looking for a Christian university. After a meeting with Coach Dan Hays, during which Haynes was

offered a partial scholarship to play junior varsity basketball at Oklahoma Christian University, everything was pointing Haynes toward OC.

Haynes shared that his time at OC affected him in many ways, both professionally and personally. He said that he learned how to have healthy conversations and relationships at OC.

"What I remember most and what I take the most from my time at OC is the relationships I built," Haynes said.

He shared that staff like Dean of Students Neil Arter, former Assistant Dean of Students and Director for Institutional Diversity Gary Jones and former President John deSteiguer believing in his potential and speaking life into him was critical to his spiritual growth. He also mentioned that Professor Elaine Kelly prepared him for a successful career in accounting, thanks to the high standard of excellence she set forth in the program.

HIP



As with all OC alums, their time at OC is just the beginning of their story. Haynes graduated from OC's Accounting Program in 2015 and, after graduating, became a certified fraud examiner and started his own accounting firm, Skyward Financial Solutions, where he currently serves as CEO. Skyward helps individuals and

501(c)(3) nonprofit. One Saturday a month, their group serves a nonprofit or a family in need in the community, calling it "Serve Saturdays." They have served organizations across Oklahoma City, including the Ronald McDonald House, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity, Make-A-

for many. I really feel like that's what we're called to do—to serve. If that's our main focus every single day, everything else will fall into place," Haynes shared.

When asked if attending a Christian university influenced his desire to serve, Haynes said, "OC definitely



I TRULY FEEL THAT I WENT TO OC AS A STUDENT AND CAME OUT A BETTER HUMAN BEING. I WOULDN'T BE WHO I AM TODAY WITHOUT MY EXPERIENCE THERE.

families with personal family finance and provides accounting and finance services for businesses. Haynes enjoys seeing God use Skyward to serve people and refers to it as "a ministry with accounting."

Haynes has also served in youth ministry and currently serves on the board of directors at the nonprofits Shiloh Camp and Oklahoma City Center. He was also honored by Oklahoma Magazine in their 40 under 40 Class of 2024.

Even though Haynes already sees his career at Skyward as a ministry, he and his wife, Raven, felt God guiding them to further be the hands and feet of Jesus in the Oklahoma City community. So, they began a community outreach ministry and nonprofit called Live Full, which serves various nonprofits and families throughout the state of Oklahoma with diverse needs. It started as a community group at their church and has since grown to approximately 25 volunteers, becoming an official

Wish Oklahoma and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, among many others. Their goal is to share the love of Jesus in places it may not otherwise be seen. In addition to volunteering their time, they also give financially to the organizations they serve in an effort to reflect Jesus' love and be faithful stewards of His resources. Haynes shared that one of his favorite parts of his work is building relationships with people who are doing amazing things in the city.


Haynes says that another special aspect of their Live Full ministry is that their kids, Zion and Zaire, get to grow up seeing what servanthood looks like. If asked to summarize his life in two words, Haynes would use the words "servitude" and "stewardship," sharing that his work is not about the title to him; he is just happy to serve and steward the things that God has entrusted to him, including Skyward, Live Full and his family.

"Jesus came down to serve, not to be served, and give His life as a ransom

enriched my desire to serve people, because when I was there, there were a lot of different avenues for people to serve and volunteer. Taking a Bible course or even just connecting with professors, it was just a community of servitude."

OC taught him that life is not about him as an individual, but rather about community and relationships.

He shared, "I truly feel that I went to OC as a student and came out a better human being. I wouldn't be who I am today without my experience there."

Earlier this year, Haynes returned to OC to share his story with current students in men's chapel. OC benefits from alums like Daniel Haynes who take the time to make a positive impact on students' lives. 



Daniel Haynes on the OC campus to speak in men's chapel



Live Full / Serve Saturday with The ComeBack Kid Society



Live Full / Serve Saturday with Restore OKC



Live Full with Make-A-Wish Oklahoma for annual Walk for Wishes event



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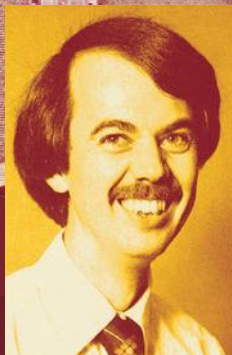
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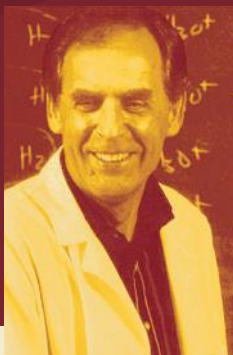
By Hope Hill



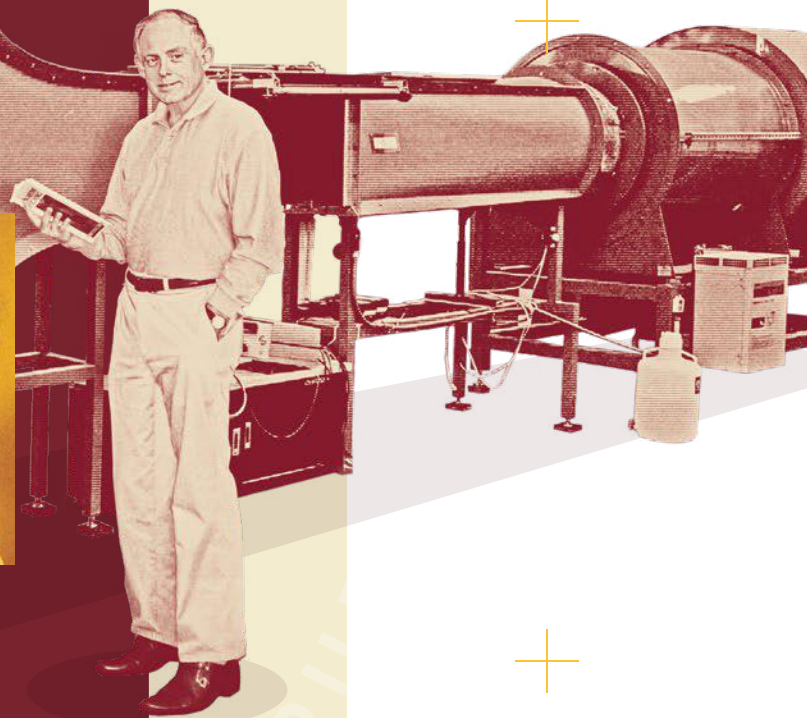
Dr. Jim Cutbirth



Dr. Len Feuerhelm




Dr. Jim Baxter



40 YEARS OF ENGINEERING WITH PURPOSE

ROOTED IN FAITH BUILT FOR THE FUTURE



At Oklahoma Christian University, Engineering has always been about more than problem-solving. It is about providing a strong foundation for success by combining rigorous academic training in engineering principles with Christian values, mentoring students to fulfill their God-given potential and viewing engineering as a service to others. This commitment has defined OC Engineering from the very beginning.

The journey of OC Engineering began over 40 years ago. In 1983, Dr. Jim Cutbirth, Dr. Jim Baxter and Dr. Len Feuerhelm developed the original proposal for the program. One year later, President Terry Johnson, Ph.D., announced the approval, marking a milestone as OC became the first college operated by the churches of Christ to offer Bachelor of Science degrees in Engineering. When the program officially launched in 1985, its mission was clear: to create a premier, Christ-centered Engineering Program that instilled a passion for hands-on, experiential learning combined with technical excellence.

The 2025-2026 academic year marks 40 years since that start: 40 years of

faithfully carrying out this mission.

40 YEARS OF SCALING AND GROWTH

The program began with only Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, both of which were developed with an emphasis on excellence and immediately earned ABET accreditation. In 2001, Computer Engineering was added, maintaining the same commitment to quality and accreditation. The Master of Science in Engineering followed in 2009, and this year, OC is introducing a Master of Science in Systems Engineering, a degree highly sought by local and regional industry partners.

What started with just 50 students has grown into an ABET-accredited and nationally recognized program. As enrollment has increased, the program continues to grow to meet the needs of industry and families, while remaining focused on educating and mentoring students to become highly effective Christian engineers. Graduates leave with not only technical engineering expertise but also strong communication skills, teamwork experience and commitment to serving the Kingdom

through their work.

But beyond programs and enrollment growth, the true strength of OC Engineering lies in the culture established by its founders.

THE CUTBIRTH LEGACY

While the Engineering Program has experienced significant growth over the past 40 years, the culture established by Dr. Cutbirth and the program's other founders remains today.

From the start, they emphasized engineering as a service to others rather than just a profession. That legacy has been passed down over the last 40 years by OC Engineering's dedicated faculty, many of whom are second- and third-generation educators within the program. In many cases, current professors were taught by the founders or taught by the founders' former students.

Dr. Byron Newberry, Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, was once a student of Dr. Cutbirth. Today, he teaches alongside faculty members and adjuncts who were once his own students. This



1950

Big Dreams Begin

+ Central Christian College is founded in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, with a mission to educate, mentor and inspire learners to fulfill their God-given potential.

1958

A New Home. A New Name.

+ Central Christian College relocates to Oklahoma City and is renamed "Oklahoma Christian College," a new opportunity with momentum to grow and serve more students.

1985

Engineering Takes Root

+ OC formally begins its Engineering Program, developed and proposed by Dr. Jim Cutbirth, Dr. Jim Baxter and Dr. Len Feuerhelm, committed to preparing Christ-centered problem solvers. OC became the first college operated by members of the churches of Christ to offer bachelor's degrees in engineering.

1988

Homage from Home

+ Prince Engineering Center opens in honor of the late Darryl Prince of Prince Valve Inc., giving students the space to create, build and innovate.

1989

Accredited Excellence

+ OC's Engineering Program earns ABET accreditation in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, marking the rigorous academic quality and excellence of these programs.

1996

Called to More

+ Oklahoma Christian College is renamed "Oklahoma Christian University" to reflect its growth and solidify its position as a leading higher learning institution committed to academic excellence and a Christ-centered education.

continuity reflects the incredible strength of the legacy that was established 40 years ago.

"OC Engineering is about more than just an education. We are dedicated to the goal of helping students become WHO God wants them to be, not just enter a profession," said Dr. Newberry.

The program honors that legacy while continuing to build on it.

LOOKING AHEAD

As OC Engineering celebrates four decades of growth, it is also looking to the future.

The program has increasingly prioritized collaborations with local industry partners for both projects and curriculum development, reinforcing its commitment to hands-on, experiential learning and technical excellence.

"In a time where institutions face tight budget constraints and accelerated graduation timelines, OC continues to invest significant time and resources into hands-on experiences and rich senior capstone projects," said Dr. Kevin Plumlee, Mechanical Engineering Department Chair.

Engineering facilities on campus

are also receiving updates and improvements. These updates are especially exciting for OC's current students and faculty as they will get to experience them firsthand. The first of many upcoming projects aimed at improving campus facilities was the dedication of the Cutbirth Legacy Lab, which took place this past November during Homecoming. The Cutbirth Legacy Lab dedication honored the life and legacy of Dr. Jim Cutbirth while welcoming alumni back to campus to witness the School of Engineering's continued growth.

OC's Office of Creative Services partnered with the School



1999

Project Baja Begins

+ OC launches its first team of Mechanical Engineering seniors to build and design a Baja car from scratch. What began as a bold capstone project quickly became a university staple and a unique experience of teamwork and innovation.

2001

Advancing in Achievements

+ OC introduces the Computer Engineering program, adding another layer of depth to its growing department. Accreditation of the program quickly followed in 2002.

2008

Aero Takes Flight

+ Another capstone project is added to the mix. OC's first team of engineering seniors builds and designs a fully functioning Radio Controlled Aircraft from scratch, establishing a new tradition of aerial-focused engineering to prepare students for careers in aerospace and beyond.

2008

Investing in Innovation

+ The Cutbirth McNayr Endowment for Mechanical Engineering Systems Design is established. Today it exceeds \$150,000—a lasting investment in student development.

2009

Engineering with Purpose

+ OC Engineering begins the Master of Science in Engineering Program, committing to advanced learning and development of Christian engineers.

2025

A Lasting Legacy

+ The Cutbirth Memorial Teaching Lab is dedicated to Dr. Jim Cutbirth, honoring his life, leadership and legacy and paving the way for generations of Christian engineers.

of Engineering to create a commemorative wall graphic outside the Cutbirth Legacy Lab. Several of the visual elements featured on these pages belong to that graphic, including the picture of Dr. Cutbirth next to the wind tunnel and the timeline honoring 40 years of engineering. The design for this wall was created by OC's very own Instructor of Art and Design and Creative Services graphic designer, Judson Copeland ('02).

A KINGDOM UNIVERSITY
Dr. Ken Jones, University President, describes a "Kingdom University" as one that exists for God's Kingdom and

is Jesus-centered, fostering a Kingdom culture that educates the whole person, with faith integrated into all it does. He said it's a university that is consistently working for its students' good and speaking for their welfare, while simultaneously promoting humility, kindness, respect, joy and trust, and depending on God to do immeasurably more.

The School of Engineering reflects this Kingdom University vision. Over the past 40 years, it has consistently integrated faith and Christian values into its programs, creating a close-knit community with lasting Kingdom impact.

This impact is evident both in the classroom and in the career fields students step into after graduation. Engineering students routinely complete service-oriented capstone projects, such as autonomous drone use for medical deliveries in low-income countries, water purification and access projects in Africa and Central America and a solar-powered medical refrigeration project in Central America. Faculty members continue to mentor students toward lives of purpose that fulfill their God-given potential, and graduates are impacting communities worldwide with their faith-centered approaches to engineering. 

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By Mandolin Skipworth



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HER VOICE

FROM STUDENT TO LAUREATE

"I don't know what I think until I write it down." - Joan Didion

Most children dream about what they're going to be when they're growing up.

Teacher,
Astronaut,
Doctor,
Pilot.

All honorable and attainable.

Yet, there are a multitude of possibilities of which children are not yet aware. Even well into college and adulthood, people consider what their

job will look like in the next decade. The truth is, there are more opportunities out there than anyone can imagine.

As the needs of people change and grow, so do the professional opportunities. And, regardless of uncertainty, every individual has an opportunity out there calling their name.

Meet Hallie Waugh ('13), copywriter, editor and Poet Laureate for the Metropolitan Library System in the Oklahoma City metro.

As a child, Waugh knew she wanted to pursue a creative career. Her parents



FreePressOKC.com

encouraged her to go after what she loved, and writing and music ranked high on that list. Still, Waugh struggled to select a degree path, uncertain on how to make the most out of a creative career.

Waugh put her career on the back burner for a bit and instead focused on finding a university that would support her decision when the time was right.

That university decision she attributes to God’s intervention.

“I was looking at several schools,” Waugh said. “I had sat down to journal, and I was writing ‘God, if I’m supposed to go to OC, give me a sign.’ Then, midsentence, Scott Lamascus, head of the Honors Program at the time, called me and said, ‘We really want you in the Honors Program, and I just wanted to call to talk to you about it.’”

And that was her sign.

After some time at Oklahoma Christian University, Waugh declared English as her major, relishing in the rigor, the variety of literature and the mentorship from Dr. Cami Agan. She felt well prepared for postgraduate life, thanks to both the Honors Program—with its diversity and depth of coursework—and the Language and Literature Department, which had a great impact on her life.

“When I went to graduate school later, I knew how to think critically. I knew how to form an argument. I knew how to read the text closely,” Waugh said. “I credit that to the Language and Literature Department and Honors Program.”

Waugh’s undergraduate experience solidified her passion for writing, storytelling and creativity. Inspired, she ventured into adulthood, hopeful for what she could do, equipped with her new skills and confidence.

POSTGRADUATE LIFE

After graduation, the real expansion began.

Instead of narrowing her path, she widened it. The years immediately following college became a period of intentional growth and redefinition. Waugh tested ideas, stepped into creative spaces and learned how to collaborate.

As she pursued her Master of Fine Arts at Seattle Pacific, she focused on poetry, sharpened her writing and learned to build an effective poem with

a speaker the reader could trust.

These professional and educational journeys heightened her instincts.

Waugh began shaping projects rather than simply contributing to them. **She saw how her voice could influence culture and how language could bring people together.** That experience clarified something important: creativity was a tool for impact.

This stretch of her journey is where she gained footing and discovered the full scope of opportunity out there waiting for her. It challenged the idea that there is only one way to build a career in the arts. It proved that creative leadership can show up in classrooms, community spaces and public programs. The work does not live in one lane. And, neither does she.

All of it led her to the role of Poet Laureate.

BECOMING A POET LAUREATE

Waugh became the library system’s first Poet Laureate through an open

... YOU JUST HAVEN'T FOUND THE RIGHT POET YET.



application process that drew more than 30 poets from across the region. Submissions were anonymized and reviewed by library leadership and literary professionals to ensure the selection centered on the strength of the work and the vision for community impact. Her appointment marked the launch of a new initiative designed to elevate poetry across Oklahoma County and to deepen public engagement with the art form.

"I've heard people say, 'Oh, I don't like poetry,' or 'I'm not smart enough for that,'" Waugh said. "I tend to think that if that's the case, you just haven't found the right poet yet."

The position is a paid, year long appointment. Throughout her term, she serves as an ambassador for poetry across the metro. That work includes leading workshops, giving public readings, collaborating with library staff on literary programming and helping create events that invite people of all ages into poetic practice. Some participants are longtime writers. Others are encountering contemporary poetry for the first time. Her role as the first Poet Laureate is to make that first step into the art feel welcoming.

"Judy Matthews, at the library, is spearheading this project. Her and I are really creating this as we go," Waugh said. "My goal is to bring down

some of those barriers people have surrounding poetry."

The significance of the position extends beyond individual events. Because the Metropolitan Library System serves communities across the county, the Poet Laureate program allows poetry to reach neighborhoods that might not otherwise have direct access to literary programming. It supports literacy, creative expression and cultural connection at a broad scale. It also affirms that **poetry belongs in public life, not just in classrooms or academic spaces.**

Her term runs from October 2025 through September 2026. However, the position is designed to continue. At the end of her appointment, Waugh will help select and introduce the next Poet Laureate, establishing a sustainable tradition that keeps the program evolving with the community it serves.

Her journey into this role illustrates how layered experiences can converge into work that is both creative and civic. The Poet Laureate position reflects not only her development as a writer but



Weekend Exhale by
Hallie Waugh.

her commitment to access, visibility and shared creative space. Becoming Poet Laureate was not a sudden leap. It was the natural culmination of years spent in discovery, pursuit of meaningful art and trusting in God. It was built through curiosity, through saying yes and through recognizing that meaningful work can take many forms.

A career is rarely linear. It is shaped by persistence and the willingness to explore the spaces where creativity and community intersect. From early writing experiments to a career spanning multiple industries, and now to her role as the first Poet Laureate of the Metropolitan Library System, Waugh demonstrates how **diverse experiences can build a platform for meaningful impact.**

Those interested in following her work, attending her workshops or discovering new ways to engage with poetry can find her writing and updates [online](#). Read Waugh's poetry by scanning the QR code. 

OC STANDS OUT IN THE METRO



Rooted in faith and purpose, Oklahoma Christian University has always believed its students are made for more. Members of the OC family know and love how special OC's campus and community are. They feel the impact of its mission and 76 year legacy. Now, work is underway to ensure that this story is seen and legacy felt, heard and understood in the central Oklahoma community.


OC's mission remains steadfast: to educate, mentor and inspire learners to fulfill their God-given potential. Now more than ever, OC knows who it is, where it is going and how we should act along the way.

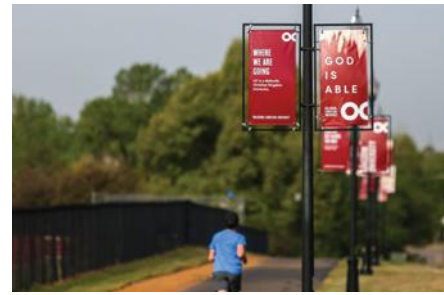
The OC marketing team has brought together people and partners, within the Oklahoma City metro, who care deeply about sharing OC's story, helping others see the value of OC.

Alumni and friends in and around central Oklahoma can now find the OC brand in several new places:

- On billboards throughout the Oklahoma City metro area and in high-traffic locations in Tulsa.
- In monthly advertisements in the *Edmond Outlook*, delivered to every household within Edmond zip codes.
- On a float in the Edmond LibertyFest Parade, and making its third appearance July 4, 2026!
- On new signage along the Eagle Trail, which is utilized year-round by thousands of walkers and runners.
- In local news outlets and on television, highlighting OC professors, staff, alumni and students for the ways they go above and beyond both in their fields and in service to others.

Beyond these efforts, OC also reaches new audiences through an exciting partnership with the Oklahoma City Thunder, made possible by the generosity of OC supporters. This partnership is on full display at Thunder home games through partnership promotions, permanent signage and broadcast media placements. A few minutes before tipoff, OC presents the game's Honorary Captains, and for Sunday home games, young fans (or potential future Eagles!) line up for free throws and leave with OC merchandise.

While alumni stories about how OC has shaped and blessed their lives remain one of the most compelling ways the university shares its vision, the institution is also expanding how it tells its story. Through thoughtful and strategic efforts, those on and around campus can see a clear commitment to reaching a broader audience. These initiatives invite more people to witness firsthand how OC lives out its Kingdom University mission each day. OC is grateful for the opportunity to highlight what makes it distinctive and to welcome even more individuals into its story. 



Have you seen OC around town? Be sure to share your sightings on social media and tag @ok_christian so we can celebrate our community together!



LEADING WITH
INTEGRITY IN TECH

A VISION FOR CYBERSEC

By Hope Hill

As people become increasingly reliant on technology for day-to-day processes, the need for ethically sound, skilled professionals has never been more evident. Data transparency, security violations, criminal activity and unwanted sharing of private information are becoming more prevalent as artificial intelligence (AI) becomes further embedded in everyday technologies.

**ETHICS IN THE AGE OF
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**
A common question about data

transparency is, “Is it public or private?”—especially when sensitive or confidential information is involved. Even something as routine as a Google Doc can be publicly accessible or integrated with AI tools, sometimes leading to unintentional data exposure. These situations highlight the risks of not fully understanding how AI systems interact with our devices and data, and they amplify the need for cybersecurity in protecting confidential information.

Meeting this need requires more than technical skill. It requires responsible leadership and a strong moral foundation.

A CHRIST-CENTERED APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY

Oklahoma Christian University’s Computer Science with Cybersecurity program is actively preparing students to become ethical, skilled professionals who can navigate these complex issues. The program brings a distinctive faith-based approach to cybersecurity, equipping students with strong technical proficiency in computer science and cybersecurity while instilling *even stronger* Christian worldviews that enable them to make positive impacts.

At its core, this approach is committed



THAT'S THE VALUE OF BEING CHRISTIANS IN THIS FIELD. IT BECOMES ABOUT COMBINING FAITH WITH TECHNOLOGY AND NOT REPLACING FAITH WITH TECHNOLOGY.

URILITY

FUN FACT

Professor Coleman is on the Governor's Board and has helped the Oklahoma State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)—a federal cybersecurity grant program that provides money to strengthen cybersecurity across the state, local and tribal governments—award over \$16 million to cyber education.

to engaging AI thoughtfully and responsibly. Part of the curriculum focuses on the ethical advancements of AI, a topic that faculty, including Director of the National Cybersecurity Education Center and retired military veteran, Curtis Coleman, view not with fear but with potential for positive partnership with humanity.

While many approach these advancements with hesitation, Professor Coleman encourages students to view them as opportunities to apply a Christ-centered approach to AI and cybersecurity. In his classroom, discussions focus on integrating AI responsibly, **allowing**


it to serve as a partner to humans rather than a replacement, while maintaining a moral compass and preserving the human element in decision-making.

"That's the value of being Christians in this field. It becomes about combining faith with technology and not replacing faith with technology," said Coleman.

GROWING WITH PURPOSE

Coleman's philosophy is shaping the program that is growing rapidly. With record-high enrollment and the addition of two Master of Science degrees—Computer Science with

Cybersecurity and Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence—OC is quickly becoming a top choice for students pursuing career-enhancing education.

Another draw to the program is its competitive team, the Cyber Eagles, that participates in national cybersecurity competitions. The team competes annually in the National Cyber League, a national hacker competition that hosts 500 colleges and universities across the country. Last year, the Eagles broke into the top 100, placing 90th. This year, their goal is to place ever higher, hoping to raise awareness of both the undergraduate and graduate programs. 

EXPANDING THE KINGDOM



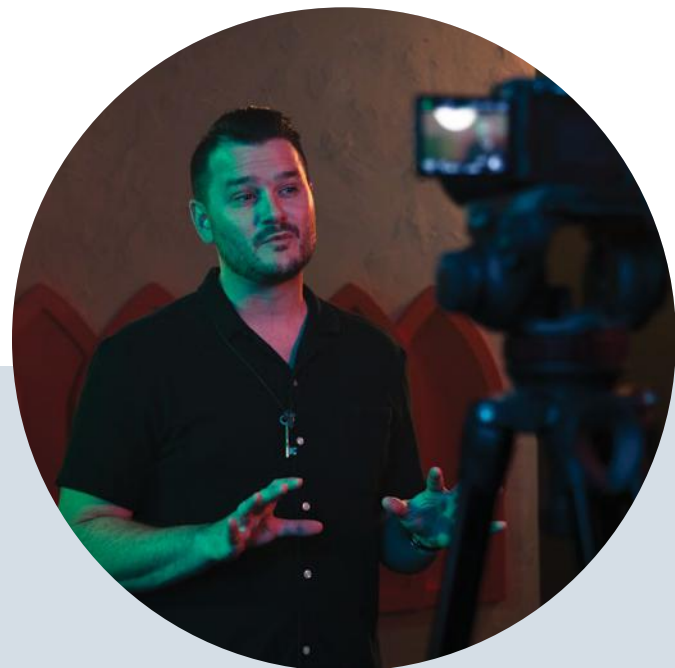
NEW SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER

At the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, the Office of Spiritual Life relocated from the second floor of the Mabee Learning Center to the Williams-Branch Center for Biblical Studies. The move marked an intentional step toward creating a new Spiritual Life Center designed with students in mind.

This new space has areas for students to study, gather with friends and connect with faculty and staff. Placing Spiritual Life in the Bible building has increased foot traffic, giving staff more opportunities to build meaningful relationships with students. These are relationships that have a substantial impact on students' faith journeys. If you stop by, you'll almost always see students interacting with either each other, or Spiritual Life staff members like Scott Young, Sarah Bailey and Amanda Noblin. But one thing you can always count on is seeing smiles in this office.

One of the most popular new additions to the Spiritual Life Center is the glowing "Cookie Time" neon sign. When it lights up, students know a fresh batch of free cookies is ready for them to come by and grab. These free, fresh cookies are just one way Spiritual Life staff shows how much they care for students. Whether it's a simple hello, a question about chapel credits or a deeper conversation about a personal struggle, the Spiritual Life office is always ready and willing to help OC students.

More than just a new location, the new Spiritual Life Center is a reflection of how faith is central at OC, a Kingdom University. Faculty and staff are committed to walking alongside students in every season and in every chapter of their time at OC, supporting them as they grow in their relationships with Christ.



SPOKEN GOSPEL

In the fall of 2025, local nonprofit Spoken Gospel moved its headquarters into the Garvey Center on Oklahoma Christian University's campus. The organization, co-founded by Eric Smith and OC alumnus David Bowden ('10), "produces and freely distributes resources that help Bible readers all over the world encounter Jesus on every page of Scripture." It offers videos, devotionals, reading plans and podcasts designed to help readers better understand Scripture and how it points to Jesus.

Since its founding in 2018, Spoken Gospel has already come alongside Bible readers more than 50 million times. The organization continues to create and distribute content that directly impacts lives, helping people encounter Jesus through Scripture. Its presence on campus highlights not only the Kingdom impact of OC alumni, but also the shared Christ-centered missions between Spoken Gospel and OC to integrate faith into all aspects of learning.



[SPOKENGOSPEL.COM](https://spokengospel.com)



DALLAS JENKINS

In October 2025, as part of the McBride Lecture for Faith and Literature, Oklahoma Christian University welcomed Dallas Jenkins, creator, co-writer and director of "The Chosen," to speak on campus. "The Chosen" is the first multiseason television series about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, based on the true stories of the Gospels.

Jenkins' visit provided an opportunity for students and community members to hear how his work is reaching millions around the world and inspiring audiences to dive into the Gospels and the life of Jesus.

President Ken Jones emphasized the importance of bringing speakers like Jenkins to campus, noting the impact it can have on students and the community.

"Bringing transformative speakers like Dallas to campus allows us to open doors for students and the broader community to experience stories that point us closer to Christ, challenge us to live with purpose and inspire us to use our gifts for His glory," Jones said.

Jenkins also affirmed OC's mission, recognizing the University's role in educating, mentoring and inspiring students to fulfill their God-given potential.

"Oklahoma Christian is reaching and discipling young minds for Jesus, which is exactly what I'm dedicated to," Jenkins said.

Hosting impactful guest speakers like Jenkins is a testament to OC's commitment to faith, creativity and outreach that extends far beyond campus. Stories like his serve as a reminder that we can use our God-given gifts and talents to impact others.

THE KINGDOM WAY

ASSOCIATES 2026

On March 26, Oklahoma Christian University hosted its annual Associates Gala at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum to honor the partnership of its Associates, whose support advances the University's mission. Associates are generous donors who have donated varying amounts to OC's general unrestricted scholarship fund, making a first-class Christian education more affordable for current and future students.

A VISION FOR A KINGDOM UNIVERSITY

OC President Dr. Ken Jones spoke on the "Kingdom Way." His message focused on what can happen when we authentically invite God into all aspects of our lives. This invitation has shaped his vision for a "Kingdom University." He describes a Kingdom University as one that chooses to be Jesus-centered, with a culture that educates the whole person with faith integrated into all it does.

Dr. Jones described how the Kingdom University vision is coming alive at OC. He explained how faculty, staff and students are living the Kingdom Way through three principles grounded in Scripture:

- OC works for students' good and speaks for their welfare (Esther 10:3b).
- OC promotes and expects a culture of humility, kindness, respect, joy and trust (Ephesians 4:2).
- OC depends on God to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

"Each year, the Associates Gala reminds us what is possible when faithful leaders steward their influence for God's purpose," said Dr. Jones. "As a Kingdom University, Oklahoma Christian is committed to forming graduates who lead with conviction and pursue lives that are made for more. We are honored to welcome these distinguished guests and grateful for our Associates whose partnership transforms lives."





VOICES FROM THE GALA

Guest speaker and OC alumnus David Bowden ('10) opened the evening's events with an inspirational poem titled "Unstoppable." Bowden is the founder of Spoken Gospel, an organization that offers videos, devotionals, reading plans and podcasts designed to help readers better understand Scripture and how it points to Jesus.

The evening also featured a panel of guest speakers, including John Rinehart, Mart Green and Todd Peterson.

Rinehart is the author of "Gospel Patrons," a book that launched a global movement inspiring business and professional leaders to embrace their calling as patrons of the Gospel. Since the book's release in 2013, the message has grown into an international ministry equipping thousands worldwide.

Green is the Ministry Investment Officer at Hobby Lobby and the founder of Mardel Christian & Education, a Christian retail chain headquartered in Oklahoma City with stores nationwide.

Peterson, a retired 13-year NFL placekicker, was named the NFL True Value Man of the Year for his character and service while playing for the Seattle Seahawks. Peterson

currently serves on the boards of several private companies.

Rinehart led an interview-style discussion in which the three of them engaged in conversations about stewardship, advancing God's Kingdom through influence and generosity and God's unwavering heart for nations around the world.

They discussed the importance of the Bible, sharing translations of the Word around the world and the importance of being a person of faith in relationship with our Creator. Peterson emphasized that remaining in a faithful relationship with Jesus is essential to pursuing not just your dream job but also your calling. Peterson, Green and Rinehart encouraged the audience to continue growing in their faith and relationship with the Lord, as well as to continue to positively impact others' faith journeys and advance God's Kingdom.

The evening also featured a few current OC student speakers, including Alyx Logan ('26), Skylar Lawrence ('26), Trevor Rauch ('26), Ajaya Macon ('26), Greyson Alexander ('29) and Hayliejo Roberts ('29).

These students shared how their time at OC has shaped them academically, spiritually and personally. They spoke about meaningful relationships with classmates, the mentorship and

support of professors and the ways they've been encouraged to grow both in and out of the classroom. Their stories reflected a sense of belonging and gratitude to the OC community and its commitment to their growth.


While each student shared unique experiences, a common theme emerged: students at OC are being equipped and encouraged to step into their careers and live out lives of purpose, impact and faith. In many ways, their experiences reflect what it looks like when faculty, staff and community live out the Kingdom Way.



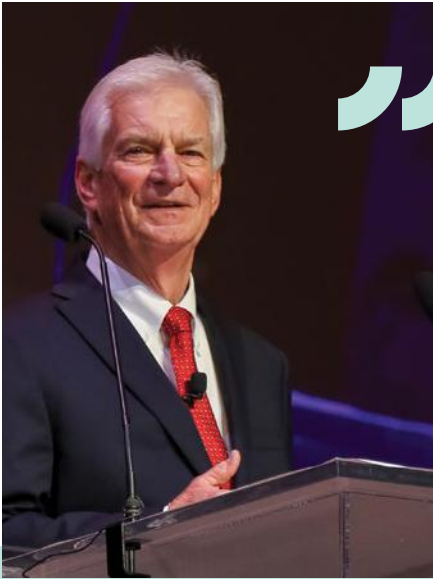
LIVING THE KINGDOM WAY

An incredible display of faith and integrity was recognized during the presentation of the Lee Allan Smith Spirit of Oklahoma Award (LASSO), which honors individuals who demonstrate outstanding dedication to the betterment of Oklahoma. This year's recipients were OC Alumnus Brendan King ('20) and his high school girls' basketball team from The Academy of Classical Christian Studies.

During the 2025 District Championship, The Academy appeared to secure a one-point victory after a late-game comeback against Apache High School. But after feeling called to review the game film, King discovered a scoring error. His team had actually lost by one point. He shared the news with his team and proposed reporting the error to the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association and giving the trophy to the opposing team. With support from the players, coaches and parents, the team chose integrity over victory and gave the championship title to Apache High School.

King and his team's decision became a powerful example. They chose character over recognition. "We just wanted to make the right decisions, represent our school, represent followers of Christ and our team," King said. Their actions are another powerful example of what it means to live the Kingdom Way. 





THE ASSOCIATES
GALA REMINDS US
WHAT IS POSSIBLE
WHEN FAITHFUL
LEADERS STEWARD
THEIR INFLUENCE
FOR GOD'S PURPOSE.



JOIN THE MISSION

Events like the Associates Gala highlight the lasting impact of generosity and faith.

OC is thankful for the strong, faithful and kind community that has brought us to today's vision of a Kingdom University. Alumni, friends and community partners who are not yet Associates are invited to consider joining this network or exploring sponsorship opportunities.

To learn more about becoming an OC Associate or partnering with Oklahoma Christian University, visit oc.edu/give/associates or contact the Advancement Office at 405.425.5094 or advancement@oc.edu.



[OC.EDU/GIVE/ASSOCIATES](https://oc.edu/give/associates)

LASHLEY

FAMILY LEGACY



The Lashley family has impacted Oklahoma Christian University for three generations. The Lashleys' OC heritage started when Tommy Lashley ('70) enrolled at OC in 1967. He was followed shortly after by his cousins: Pat ('71), Bob ('74) and Steve ('76) Lashley. They learned of OC through their preacher, an OC alum. The Lashley siblings all met their spouses at OC, and then their children attended the University as well.

Pat met and married Jack English ('71), and their children, Angel ('97) and Sarah ('99), came to OC. Sarah met her spouse, Chris Young ('00), at OC, and their daughter Kelsy is a current student. Angel married Todd Holland, and two of their children, Emma and Steven, are currently at OC. Bob met and married Judi (Williams '76), and their children, Andy ('00) and Aubrie ('04), attended and met their spouses at OC. Andy and Summer (Sehon '00) Lashley's son, Bode, is set to begin at OC in the fall. Aubrie (Lashley '04) and Lucas ('03) Rosses' oldest son, Henson, has plans to attend OC in 2027. Steve

met and married Kay England ('78), and their children, Jay ('04) and Laura ('09), attended OC. Laura met her spouse, Jeremiah McDaniel ('10), at OC.

OC's alumni are scattered with many more relatives of the Lashley family, with numerous cousins and other extended family members having attended the University.

After Bob Lashley, one of the three original Lashley siblings, graduated, he worked at OC for 44 years in various roles. For decades, Bob's dedication as a longtime staff member at Oklahoma Christian University touched countless lives. The Father of First Week Follies, Bob directed 40 First Week Follies and put in long hours overseeing 22 Freshman Fanfares, 18 Parent Orientations and 12 Spring Sings. He built OC's parent orientation program, launched the Vienna Alumni Adventure, spearheaded OC Remembers and led the creation of Golden Eagles, a program for OC retirees. He led in Admissions, Events, Advancement,


By Hannah Johnson



Alumni Relations, parent programming and started OC's golf program. He retired in the spring of 2018 and passed away in the spring of 2024. This year, The Lashley Stage was dedicated at Spring Sing in Bob's honor.

OC could not think of a more appropriate space to name after Bob than the stage where he spent so much of his career impacting the lives of countless OC students. May every performance on it reflect the joy that Bob Lashley brought to the world.

His daughter, Aubrie Ross, is currently following in his footsteps working as Director of Alumni Relations at OC, and shared: "Thinking about legacy and how important it is to have generations of faith and community that stay connected—that's one of the biggest blessings of our family, our whole Lashley family, is that we do all share faith and that keeps us together. We hope there are many more Lashley Eagles to continue that legacy."

Having multiple generations of families like the Lashleys touch our campus is an incredible blessing! 

WE LOVE OUR LEGACY FAMILIES!



Lil' Eagles Collins Johnson, Maisie Richt & Scout McKenzie Kritz

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](https://www.oc.edu/alumni/updates)

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://www.oc.edu/alumni)

1
TONY SELLARS ('74) served as writer, editor, camera operator and Senior Producer on the film "Ware the Buffalo Roams", which was created by the Rose State College Film and Media Department. The film was named Best Short Subject/Music Film by the Bare Bones Film Festival and the Best XL Short by the Clean Shorts Film Festival. It was also an Honorable Mention selection at the Athens International Digital Film Festival in Greece.

2
JIM AND MARDIE (CANHAM) BRYANT ('76) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 22, 2026. Both '76 alumni, Jim and Mardie have six kids and twelve grandchildren and attend the Waterloo Road Church of Christ. We are so grateful for their example of love, dedication and faith! Congratulations, Bryants!

3
TODD DOBSON ('85) was named Chief Executive Officer for MidFirst Bank. Dobson has served MidFirst Bank for over 30 years, with more than 20 years as Chief Financial Officer and, more recently, as President.



4
BRYCE GAGE ('92) and his chorale were invited to perform at TMEA in San Antonio as the only 4A Mixed choir in the state to perform. Additionally, they were selected to perform at the Southwestern American Choral Directors Association Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

5
MELISSA (STANDRIDGE '93) STROVERS was appointed as the Executive Director of the Poweshiek Economic Development Collaborative.

6
DR. TRACIE (VARNER '93) JONES was named the Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

7
CHRIS AND ANITA (MARTIN '97) ENSLEY welcomed son Carter, adopted August 2025.

8
 OC Alumni working at Oakdale Schools in Edmond, OK, representing their Alma mater! We love seeing our Eagles showing OC spirit!
 Back row:
TIM WELCH ('97), KIM (CALDWELL '95) HALL, LYNETTE (MCBRIDE '86) BROWN, MANDY (BEAN '04) BRAY, CAROLYN (BRACKETT '94) MORRISON, SHEILA (DRAPER '87) SCOTT
 Front row:
BECKY (NICHOLS '86) LIDIA, NATALIE (LITTLE '20) ZAVARCE, JENNY (GRAY '08) JONES, MADISON (MCDONALD '20) WILLIAMS



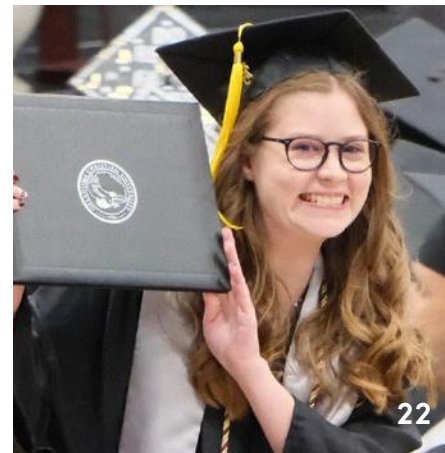
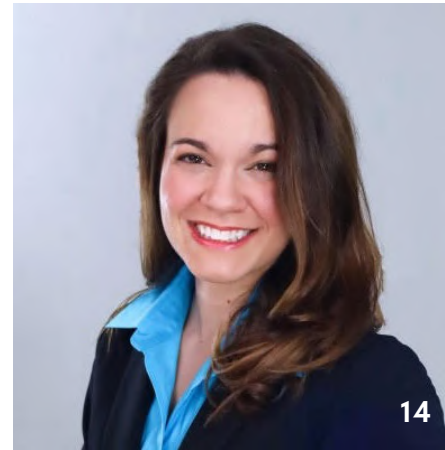
9
LISA (CURL '00) HUBBERT was promoted to oversee all play evaluations of two-year-olds for OKCPS, coordinated with Oklahoma SoonerStart, in the hopes of improving outcomes and compliance for the state. In the three years since Lisa took over, OKCPS has had 100% compliance with legalities of the SoonerStart-to-school transition, which means better services to our most vulnerable learners. She has received the OKCPS Award of Excellence in Special Education twice and was selected by the state among 14 other school psychologists as an OSDE Mentor.

10
Three OC alumni, **SETH MCDOWELL ('00)**, **ALEX EDWARDS ('19)** and **CADEN DUKES ('19)**, won the International Chorus Competition at the 2025 Barbershop Harmony Society Convention with the 14-time champion, Dallas-based chorus, the Vocal Majority.

11
DAVID HEFLIN ('01), after preaching for almost 21 years and working as a volunteer for Broken and Mended (a non-profit Heflin started in 2017), is now working full-time as the Executive Director of Broken and Mended.

12
JENNIFER (BROCK '02) SWEARINGEN served as the Senior Communications Specialist for the Oklahoma State Senate for 21 years. Now, she has joined their family business, Advantage Battery, as the Government Affairs Director.

13
HOLLY (DEBOARD '02) TOWERS was honored as one of The Journal Record's 2025 Oklahoma's Most Admired CEOs. Towers was recognized in the nonprofit category for her exemplary leadership and dedication to child welfare and family services across Oklahoma.



14
KALEY (WHITE '12) FIELD was nominated for the 2025 Woman of Integrity Award at the Revere & Revel Conference.

15
CADY (HAAS '12) JACKSON has joined Walmart as Director, Communications - Philanthropy.

16
DR. LYNNETH MILLER RENBERG ('13) was named a Fulbright U.S. Scholar for 2025-2026. She is working on research on dance and religion in medieval Fennoscandia at the University of Tromsø.

17
SHELBY RIGSBY ('14) was named principal at John Ross Elementary.

18
MAGGIE (HALIBURTON '18) LEFTWICH received the Oklahoma School Public Relations Association New Professional of the Year award. She serves as the Deer Creek School District Public Information Officer.

19
MATEO PULCINI ('23) won the 2026 Latin America Amateur Golf Championship in Lima, Peru, securing invitations to the 2026 Masters, U.S. Open and the Open Championship.

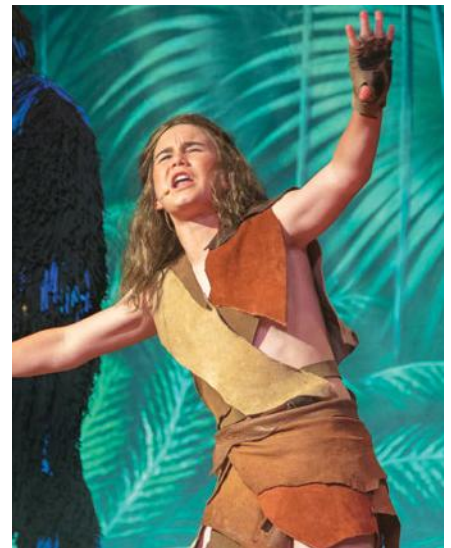
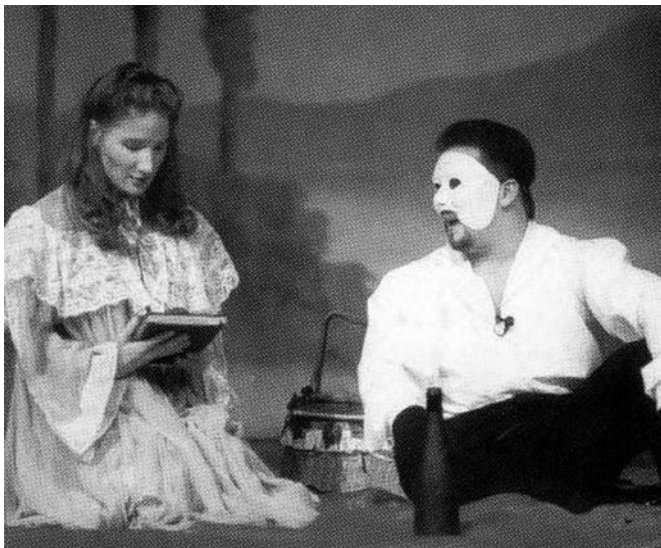
20
NATHAN ('24) & FIONA (FLOWERS '24) BINNION were married on 02.08.2025.

21
BROOKE LANDES ('25) has committed to work with the church in Eindhoven, Netherlands, for the next couple of years with Memorial Road Church of Christ's Helpers In Missions (HIM) program.

22
FAITHANNA OLSSON ('25) works for NonDoc Media and is taking over the Edmond Civic Reporting Project as a news reporter.

By Hope Hill

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS HOMECOMING MUSICAL



HOMECOMING
2026

NOV. 6-8

This year marks an incredible milestone at Oklahoma Christian University as we celebrate the 50th Homecoming musical. For nearly five decades, this Homecoming tradition has brought together students, families and alumni through incredible music and storytelling, becoming a lasting and significant part of the OC experience.

These productions have created meaningful memories for everyone involved. Over the years, Homecoming musicals have been a place where creativity thrives, allowing students to share their God-given talents with the OC community. Join us as we celebrate the legacy of the Homecoming musical

and the generations of students, staff and faculty who have made these performances possible over the past 50 years.

This year's production, "Anastasia," is the story of a young woman named Anya who just might be the lost Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna of Russia. Follow her journey from Russia to Paris alongside two con men, as she discovers her past and finds out where she truly belongs.

Make plans to be a part of the events during Homecoming weekend on Nov. 6 & 7! Come back to campus, enjoy the musical, cheer at the

S
OF



basketball games, walk through our students' club displays and connect with friends and alumni.

We can't wait to celebrate with you! 



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



ANASTASIA

SAVE THE DATE
FOR OC'S 50TH
HOMECOMING MUSICAL

NOV. 6 & 7

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



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

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