

Ohio Christian

the Ohio Christian University Magazine





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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The theme of this edition is to focus on new ways to present education to a 21st Century population.

The Delivery of Christian Higher Education is Changing.

When one hears the word change, there is an automatic assumption that some good, and some bad things will occur. Today education is focused on access. Many cultures now understand that education brings status and power. This thirst for knowledge and information has created an amazing worldwide economy. There is nothing wrong with education, and in fact, I would dare to venture that if John Wesley was alive today the message of Holiness would catapult around the world with so many technological advances. Upon study, one can see that God blessed Mr. Wesley with varied approaches for the distribution of the Holiness message to various constituencies. He even went so far as to take the message to the places where people worked. What a novel and challenging idea! The church did not like it.

The real issue for all universities is to understand that education and knowledge can be used for good or evil. In fact, knowledge in the hands of a darkened mind can be come evil and controlling. This has been demonstrated by many political leaders around the world. Hitler is a prime historical example of this concept.

So as the delivery of Christian Higher Education changes, one must recognize that the mission of Christian Universities must

remain the same. The focus of the mission of Ohio Christian University (OCU) is to prepare Christian, servant leaders for the 21st Century. In prior editions, we focused on the mandates of our mission. As reminder, these mandates were as follows: We must focus on students knowing God through a pursuit of Holiness and transformed lives. Second, we must focus on developing the heart of a servant in our students. Third, we must focus on Doctrinal and Theological development. Our students must know the key doctrinal truths of the church, and they must know what they believe and why they believe it. Last of all, OCU students must be trained to be leaders--leaders in their communities, businesses, schools, churches, and even the world.

Today educational initiatives are quickly emerging with everything from off campus adult educational programming to online classes and now entire programs being offered online. What is quickly approaching is the use of online learning objects, much faster paced programs, educational blogs, corporate and church universities, and educational access to almost any information within milliseconds. The educational world as we know it has and is quickly changing. To further validate this finding, I recently reviewed a program at the University of Kansas that now

allows for rural Kansas nurses to be trained through the use of online technological means. Nurses learn how to perform an EKG procedure through online simulation exercises. Wow! I just hope they know how to use those needles without all of the gouging when I am in the hospital--oops, even needles will be a thing of the past in the biomedical world. So change is here! Like it or hate it!

In this edition of the OCU magazine, we will introduce you to new methods of delivery for education. No! This does not change our mission or our message. But in order to survive the educational paradigmatic shifts, we must use every methodological means to serve our world.

Dr. Hank Kelly, Executive Vice President, is leading our innovation initiative. God has sent him to Ohio Christian "for such a time as this." Under his leadership, we have already doubled the enrollment of the adult programs, and he is leading our online effort. An Associate's program is online and a Bachelor's program will be forthcoming in the fall. It is time to take our message to the world.

So as you read this edition of the Ohio Christian University magazine, remember that our duty is to change the world for Christ. Will you join us? ●



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Adult & Online Education Grows 47%



Dr. Hank Kelly, Executive Vice President

Adult Programs (AIM) are about Access to Education

The mission of AIM is to offer education in a format that is effective and convenient for working adults. Since the beginning, AIM has worked to meet the needs of adults who had no other practical solution for completing their degree, and to do so from a Christian perspective. AIM has seen steady growth since its inception (see graph in this article). With the name change to Ohio Christian University in 2006, implementation of new marketing and recruiting practices, offering new degrees, new locations, and new delivery mode (online), that growth has been even more dramatic. AIM has 350 students, which is a 47% enrollment increase in one year. AIM is considering additional degrees to offer, both on site and online, and new locations so that OCU can increase its Christian influence in the world. In addition to offering bachelor completion degree concentrations in Circleville, AIM now offers:

- Two associate degree concentrations (Business Management and Christian Ministry)
- Programs in Columbus (at Columbus State Community College), Dublin, and Lancaster
- Completely online programs in Business and Ministry

Ohio Christian University's AIM program was approved by the Board of Trustees in March 1998, and the first AIM class started in January 1999. Thus began OCU's educational program specifically designed for busy working adults. The name AIM was chosen for the new program with the thought that students AIM toward a new future. Since its beginning, 245 individuals have earned their bachelor's degree through the AIM program. The average age of AIM students is 36, many of whom are first generation college attendees. Some additional statistics about AIM students: 57% are women, 67% are Caucasian, and students are located in 12 different states.

Here is information about how the AIM on site program works. A small cohort of students takes an established sequence of courses together, which prevents uncertainty about the availability of classes. A typical class is five weeks long, and students take one class at a time, allowing them to concentrate on one subject at a time. For additional convenience, students do not need to order textbooks; the correct edition will arrive in the mail before the next class. On site classes meet once a week. For online classes, students complete their weekly learning activities (reading, discussions, assignments) when it is most convenient for them.

Here is a brief description of the academic programs offered by AIM:

- Christian Ministry/Leadership and Ministry concentrations help those who want to increase their effectiveness in ministry in either paid or lay leadership positions.
- Business Management concentration provides business related knowledge as well as leadership/management skills.
- Psychology concentration equips students with a foundational understanding of human behavior and mental processes and prepares them for graduate school.
- Substance Abuse Counseling concentration equips students to meet the state standards for Chemical Dependency Counselor II licensure.



Fall enrollment for AIM has increased 47% over the last 12 months.

AIM's Core Values

In the movie *The Princess Bride*, one of the villains repeatedly used the word "inconceivable." After what has been called "inconceivable" has transpired several times, one of the other characters proclaimed, "I do not think that word means what you think it means." Core values can be like that. For some, core values are simply part of the terminology required to be seriously considered but are ignored or paid only token attention. However, in reality core values are beliefs that are at the center of who we are and define us both as individuals and professionals. Therefore, core values guide personal and institutional choices.

AIM has three core values. We take them seriously and discuss them frequently with staff, administrators, and students. These core values affect everything we do: our decisions, processes, and policies. For AIM, when we say these are our core values, that is exactly what we mean. Here are AIM's core values:

Student Learning

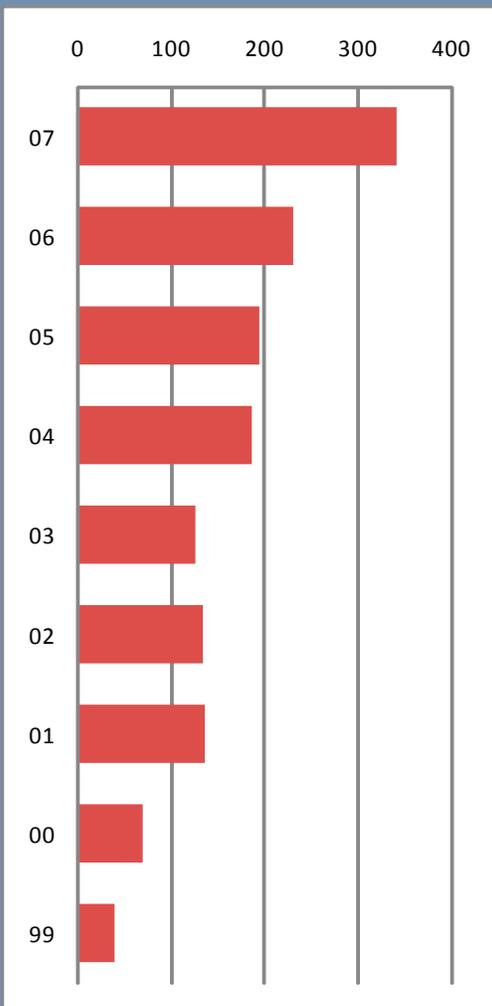
We are passionate about student learning. We focus upon ensuring that the education provided emphasizes student learning. This emphasis affects the instructional methods used in the classroom and the selection and development of faculty.

Student Support

We believe that a student's success is the goal that gives our jobs meaning. Our calling is to multiply ourselves through our students' impact upon the world once they graduate. Therefore, we treat each student as an individual called by God to be part of our lives while he/she is here and as part of our heritage to the world.

Integrity

We only promise what we can deliver, and we deliver what we promise to the highest standards possible. We attempt to treat each other and the faculty and students with honesty and integrity. Our heart is that we live our lives and do our jobs above reproach and model holiness and righteousness in all our dealings.



Online Learning

Anyone can find time for online education.

He is not sure he understands one of the messages and replies to the author with questions. Additionally, he disagrees with one of the student's opinions and carefully outlines a respectful argument in opposition, referencing material that he just read this week in support. Before ending his online session, he checks the Café Forum and catches up on the personal lives of the other students, posting his own news and prayer requests. After logging off, he reads the textbook and checks an interesting website relevant to the class material. His wife and children rise and want his time, which he is more than happy to provide, feeling satisfaction at his progress this morning. After his children are in bed that evening, he spends another hour working on the class. The next day he again gets up early but must travel for his job. He spends the time in the terminal and on the plane reading course material. Too tired to log into his online class that night, he wakes up the next morning at his usual early hour and eagerly reads and participates in the course discussion.

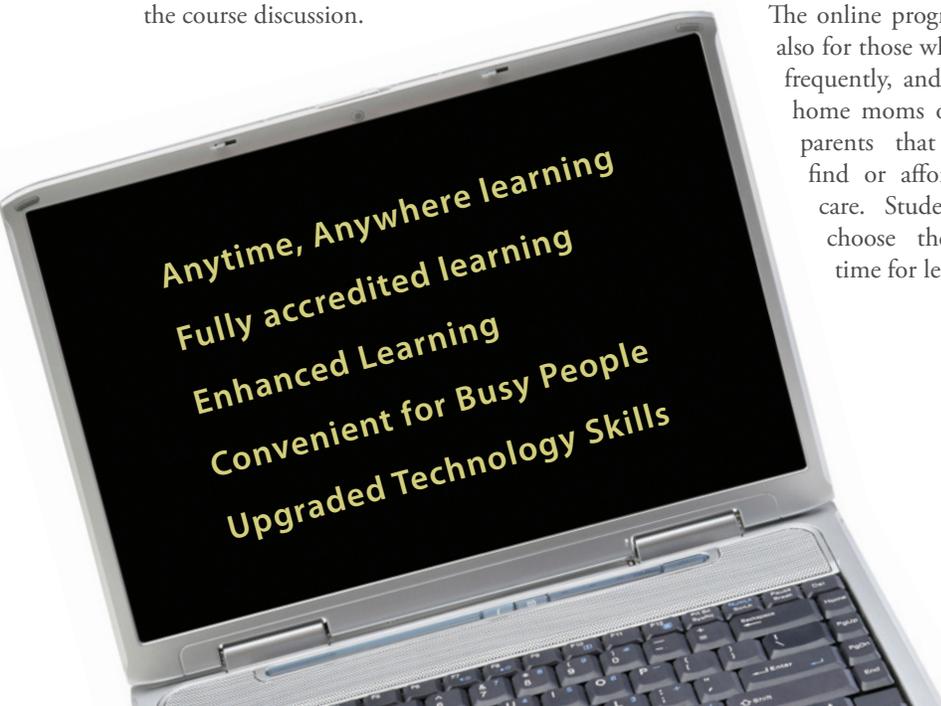
Bill rises early as he does most mornings, grabs a cup of coffee, and logs into his online class. He eagerly reads responses from other students to messages that he posted yesterday. He also reads messages posted by others in response to the instructor's questions.

Bill feels connected with his fellow students. During his program, one student got married; another had a child; others had illnesses, changed jobs, etc. They have shared their problems, laughed and cried with each other, and prayed for each other. With the proliferation of successful computer dating, discussion boards, and chat rooms, there can be little doubt that communicating using a computer is highly relational. Similarly, learning communities can and do form in online education programs.

Online education is convenient and flexible; anyone can work online education into their busy schedule. Online education is available anytime and anywhere (as long as the Internet is available). Thus, education becomes accessible to those in distant places from Circleville, even in other states and countries and to those whose schedule does not allow them to attend face-to-face classes such as second or third shift workers. The online programs are also for those who travel frequently, and stay-at-home moms or single parents that cannot find or afford child care. Students can choose their best time for learning.

Online education has been found to be at least as effective as face-to-face according to numerous research studies (see for example The No Significant Difference Phenomenon Website: <http://www.nosignificantdifference.org/>). Online education requires active learning, so instructors become facilitators of learning rather than dispensers of knowledge ("guide on the side" rather than "sage on the stage"). Online discussions result in deep cognitive processing of course material because written thought allows students to later review and reflect on what they are learning. Students have time to reflect on or further research a topic before responding to another student. Learners have control of the time of interaction, the number of interactions, and time taken to reflect on an issue before contributing to a discussion. Participants do not need to compete for a turn to speak because everyone posts to the questions and can reply to each other at any time. As a result, shy individuals or those who are more comfortable after fully analyzing a subject are more likely to contribute in online discussions than in a traditional classroom.

Wishing to expand accessibility to its life-changing education, last January Ohio Christian University began offering online Associate of Arts degrees with concentrations in Christian Ministry and Business Management. Online Bachelor of Arts completion degrees in Leadership & Ministry and Business Management are scheduled to start not later than August 2008. The graduates of these programs, who may come from anywhere, any culture, and any socioeconomic class, will go forth and effectively minister in the church and society. ●





CLYDE AND ELAINE COOK
were business owners in the Circleville Community. Today they help Ohio Christian University students become leaders, not just in the Circleville community, but world-wide!

DonorSpotlight

How one family is making a difference

Clyde and Elaine have lived in the Circleville area all their lives. They have two sons, one daughter, and 7 grandchildren. Clyde worked at a car dealership, serving the community for 31 years, then started an ambulance service for another 17 years.

The Cooks have been community minded by assisting with the Senior Center and purchasing show animals at the county fairs to support community youth. They believe in their community and continue to help in various areas, giving God all the glory for their ability to assist the Circleville area and missions world-wide.

Education is important to Clyde and Elaine. They believe that OCU is training students to be world leaders. Their investment in Ohio Christian makes them Kingdom builders not only now, but for the future!

Will you invest in Ohio Christian University and help lead our community?

Contact Mark Taylor, Vice President of University Advancement, to find out how you can help.

Mark Taylor
Vice President of University Advancement
740.420.5918
1476 Lancaster Pike
Circleville, Ohio 43113

Get to Know AIM



Ernest Eing



Marsha Satchell



Emerson Richmond

ALUMNI

Ernest Eing: Corrections Counselor and Pastor

Pictured here baptizing an infant at the church he pastors, Millertown Church of Christ in Christian Union, Ernie Eing is a perfect example of how God has used the AIM program to enrich lives. Ernest is a 2005 graduate of Ohio Christian University's AIM Program with a concentration in Leadership and Ministry. Serving as a Pastor is not his only job. He also works full-time for the Ohio Department of Corrections as a counselor.

Attending Ohio Christian for two years allowed Ernest to meet the requirements he needed to become ordained in his church as well as earn his degree. Ernie's experience with AIM has resulted in bonding and friendships he made with fellow students, "My cohort was great, we still get together once a year for dinner."

Mr. Eing is making an eternal difference in lives.

AIM Alumnus Marsha Satchell: From Ohio Bureau to Missionary

Sometimes education is all about finishing one chapter in a person's life and starting another. That is the case for Marsha Satchell. Marsha is coming to the end of a chapter in which she has worked for many years

as a Management Analyst at the State of Ohio's Bureau of Workforce Services, Office of Workforce Development. Her movement from one chapter to the next came as God worked with her and through her education at Ohio Christian University's AIM program. Feeling an ever stronger call toward missions work, Marsha began participating in short-term mission experiences in Haiti. Through those visits she fell in love with the people in Haiti and sensed God's call to go to Haiti for full-time work. Retiring from the Office of Workforce Development and finishing her degree at OCU has made it possible for her to make that move. In January 2008 she will move to Haiti to become the Missions Director of the Children's Orphanage in St. Ard. The orphanage is home to 50 children, ages 18 months through 17 years old. The willingness to follow God's direction into sacrifice and service is a beautiful example of Christ-like leadership. AIM is making a difference in the lives of students in the Ohio Workforce.

Emerson Richmond Ensures Ohio's Bridges are Safe

Standing on the top of a bridge spanning the Ohio River, Emerson Richmond appears as comfortable as if he was standing in the foyer of the Brookside Church of Christ in Christian Union, where he is a member. Emerson, a graduate of the AIM program's first graduating

class of 2000, has spent most of his working life making sure the bridges in Ohio are safe as a Bridge Specialist with the Ohio Department of Transportation. Now working as a consultant for bridge maintenance, his influence has spread to neighboring states as well. His degree from OCU, according to Emerson, opened doors for his career that would not have been possible otherwise.

FACULTY & STAFF

Professor Harold Hudson Works With Columbus Mayor

Dr. Harold Hudson, pictured with Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman, is an important part of the success of Ohio Christian's Adult Program. What you might be able to tell, is that Dr. Hudson's smile is usually only moments away from a hearty laugh and a great big heart of love. Dr. Hudson has served as Mayor Coleman's Religious Advisor in addition to pastoring, assisting with a Doctor of Ministry program and teaching in AIM. In fact, it was Dr. Hudson who made the first contact with Ohio Christian University, at the Mayor's suggestion, to encourage the university to bring the AIM program to Columbus. His support and influence were instrumental in making it possible for many students in Columbus to take part in OCU's



Harold Hudson



Tonya Sharp



Patsy Mayo



Russell Harless

adult program. Dr. Hudson's ready smile and good spirits are fruit of this pastor's heart and life. Since 1996, Rev. Hudson has been the Senior Pastor of Calvary Tremont Missionary Baptist Church. The father of six children, Harold says God has blessed him richly. He is also a Nascar fan.

Professor Hudson has been teaching at Ohio Christian for two years. "I absolutely love to teach blooming Christians." The impact that Dr. Hudson is making on the lives of students will be revealed in eternity.

Professor Tonya Sharp is also Lady Farmer

The impeccably dressed and sophisticated Professor Tonya Sharp has a different side when not at OCU. Visit Tonya on her family farm in Stoutsville, Ohio, and you might find her building fences, moving hay bales, delivering calves, baking cookies, or grading papers. Tonya is a graduate of Ohio State University in Agricultural Communication, with a Masters from Ohio University in Journalism. She began working with OCU in the area of marketing, gradually moved into teaching classes for AIM, and now teaches in the traditional program as well. Students give her teaching ability high praise. Tonya also works with the graduating seniors for AIM to make sure they have completed all the necessary requirements for graduation and to answer any questions they may have related to

graduation. In everything she does, Tonya's commitment to excellence is evident.

Tonya, her husband, and two children are members of Heidelberg Church in Stoutsville, Ohio. Tonya's love for Christ is displayed in her beautiful spirit while assisting students. Professor Sharp is loved by all.

Faculty Coordinator: Singing Sunshine

If you have a radio in your car or home, you might have heard Patsy Mayo singing one of her original songs. For the last two years, she has had songs on the Southern Gospel charts, which is listed in the Singing News magazine. Her day job is as Faculty Coordinator for the AIM Division. Patsy loves working with the faculty and getting them connected to classes and students. She began working in the AIM Division shortly after it began in 1998. Her smile and easy laugh are like a ray of sunshine for those working in the AIM office. If you would like to schedule her for a concert in your church, you can reach her by calling 740-474-1584.

AIM Academic Adviser Seeking Ordination

There are many words to describe Russell Harless: dependable, hard working, faithful, godly, and the list goes on. Now add to the list ordained minister. Russ, who serves as the Academic Advisor for the AIM Division, has recently expressed a call from God to Christian Ministry and has begun preparing for ordination in the Churches of Christ in Christian Union. Russ graduated from the AIM Program in 2003 while still serving in the Air National Guard. After retiring from the Guard, he agreed to come to work at AIM and has a passion for helping students to complete their degree. He, wife Kathy, and two children reside in Grove City.

*visit us online
at ohiochristian.edu/alumni to share
what God is doing in your life*

Hope for the 21st Century

A Technology Focused World Still Needs the Message of Holiness

by Dr. Mark Smith

The Holiness message brings hope because it deals with two problems:

1. The Sins of mankind and
2. The Sin problem of mankind.

First God wants to forgive the sins of mankind. Man has no hope until his /her sins are forgiven. As Wesleyans, we teach that God must do a work in the heart in order for man to view life properly. This first crisis experience of salvation includes justification, a supernatural occurrence in which we are restored to a right relationship with God -- an act declared by God whereby we are pardoned or forgiven for our sins. (Wesley's Sermon on Justification by Faith) While the term justification refers to a legal standing before God, the term regeneration refers to the internal work of the Holy Spirit by which we are raised from spiritual death to new life." (Joseph McPherson) Initial sanctification is a part of regeneration, as described by H. Orton Wiley: "the initial cleansing but does not refer to the full cleansing from original sin." The reason we have hope for the 21st Century is because our message is one of forgiveness and pardon. The Wesleyan message is focused on changed hearts and lives. Education, politics, psychology, science, or philosophy cannot bring the hope that is found in God granting peace in our hearts.

Secondly, the Holiness message deals with the sin problem of mankind. Since

Recently, while listening to a group of ministers discuss the sinful condition of our world, this comment caught my attention, "You holiness guys have the message for the 21st Century-- a message that is built on the optimism of grace -- and everyone knows that our world needs hope at this time." Through this conversation, along with a sermon by William Greathouse in the Wesleyan Theological Journal entitled God's Outpoured Love: Our Holiness Our Hope, my heart was challenged to ponder this question: Why does the Holiness message bring so much hope to this generation?

the fall of Adam, man has dealt with a sin problem. Wesley taught that there is a "carnal mind" in every man. Other scholars have referred to this condition as "original sin" or "inherited depravity." Whatever the term choice (I know there are entire scholarly debates about the terminology) it is evident that, after conversion, the heart of mankind must be cleansed, purified, and made perfect in love. The theology that encompasses a heart that is pure in motives and intentions and made perfect in love through the work of the Holy Spirit brings hope to the 21st Century.

The hope for our day rests in the preaching and teaching of the two distinct works that produce in the heart of mankind a lifelong process of seeking after the Holiness of God. The hope is founded in a living relationship with a Holy God--a life directed by the Holy Spirit.

Practically speaking, hope is brought about through holy living each day. This hope is shown forth to the world by clean and pure living and by abstaining from uncleanness, immorality, and lust, as specifically described by the Apostle Paul in Thessalonians. Timothy supports this desire for clean living through his admonition to avoid lying, hypocrisy, gossip, and evil as the last days approach. Holy living brings hope because grace enables us to overcome the old sinful habits mentioned in the above lists. Educationally speaking, our message brings hope because Holy hearts

exalt a Biblical worldview rather than humanistic solutions. Economically speaking, pure hearts bring hope to those dealing with lustful pursuits of greed. Racially speaking, pure hearts decry prejudices. Politically speaking, war and destructive behaviors toward others cease in a message of holy living.

Yes, the minister was right; the Holiness message-- "the optimism of grace", a heart filled with the love of Christ and directed by the Spirit of God, is the only solution to a self-centered postmodern culture! God help us to proclaim this message of hope. ●

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for the 21st
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ON CAMPUS



Construction

The completion of a new residence hall is welcome news for the OCU community. The new 48-bed facility, which now sits on the east side of campus, is the first of four potential new resident dorms that have been plotted out in the campus master plan. The residence hall features a beautiful lobby with oak woodwork and a fireplace. A recreation room on the second floor provides an additional gathering area for student activities. The hall also includes a beautiful director's residence. Each student suite consists of two bedrooms which share an adjoining bathroom. With the entry of second semester students, the new dorm is nearly filled.



Festival of Carols & The Messiah

On December 8th, Ohio Christian University hosted its second annual "Festival of Carols and Messiah" in the beautifully decorated Campus Leadership Center. More than 500 guests were delighted by the performance from more than 100 individuals of the OCU Chorale, community guests, and orchestra, conducted by Professor Charles Dautermann. As the audience arrived, they were regaled to a pre-concert show consisting of the Pickaway Brass, directed by Clifford Kerns, playing in the foyer, and the Circleville Men's Chorus, conducted by Terry Anderson, singing on stage inside the auditorium.

The performance commenced with a welcome from the OCU president, Dr. Mark A. Smith. The first half of the concert consisted of excerpts from the Messiah, performed by the OCU Chorale and community guests and orchestra. The beautiful arias were performed by very talented student soloists and guest soloist Donald Frank. The Messiah concluded with the rousing Hallelujah Chorus.

After intermission, the OCU Lab Band, consisting of students, faculty, and community members, directed by Professor Gary Dean, played three songs, including a jazzy version of Pop Goes the Reindeer that was reminiscent of Pop Goes the Weasel. This was followed by two selections by the OCU Chamber Singers. The concert concluded with several songs by the entire OCU Chorale, Community Singers, and 29-piece orchestra, which included an audience sing-along to a medley of traditional Christmas carols. Dr. Smith announced that food items will be collected at next year's Christmas concert to support a community food drive.

After the performance, the university conducted its second annual tree-lighting ceremony, with President Smith lighting up the large Christmas tree at the front of the campus with 7,000 lights. Cookies, hot chocolate, and hot cider were served in the Student Center after the ceremony.

OCU Awarded \$100,000 Grant

Dr. Melvin Maxwell Church Planting Institute Begins with 100 Participants



The Church Planting Institute is a new beginning. The Institute was launched when 100 participants attended a one-day “kick-off” conference. Rev. Jim Dorsey was selected as the keynote speaker for the event because of his personal experience starting new churches and success leading the Nazarene denomination in this area. The Church Planting Institute was created to meet internal and external needs so that OCU might train potential ministers and laity to serve the church.

The Kickoff event was followed by the first academic class. “Baby churches birth healthy babies,” said keynote speaker, Jim Dorsey, to the 20 students attending the October 23-24 Church Planting Institute class: Reaching Unchurched People. Dorsey is the Church of the Nazarene Mission and Evangelism’s Coordinator for NewStart in USA and Canada. He further noted that, “Churches are more successful than denominational districts in starting churches,” adding that it is a common fallacy that church plants take members away from existing local churches. In reality, these new churches are not in competition for members because they are seeking unchurched individuals. Joe Boysel, professor of Christian Ministries at Ohio Christian, also led several sessions in the institute including a session on the ancient practice of Celtic Evangelism. Class participants, which included OCU students, alumni, pastors, and lay leaders, also had the opportunity to earn college credit for the class by completing a project. Participants evaluated

the class with expressions such as “well done,” “Content very worthwhile!” and “I have discovered that we must learn the language of the culture we are trying to minister to, in order to be effective.”

Ohio Christian University is particularly excited to have already registered a transfer student from another university who chose to enroll at OCU specifically because of the new church planting academic track. This is expected to be the first of many.

Additional Church Planting Institute classes will be held next semester:

The Missional Church (February 4-5, 2008). Keynote speaker: Jeff Getz, Missionary Church Coordinator of Church Multiplication. Learn why the ministry of all Christians is vital to the church’s mission and how to motivate a congregation into missional action.

Strategies for Church Planting (April 7-8, 2008). Keynote speaker: Dr. Tim Rohel, Director of Harvest Ministries, Evangelical Church. Learn the practical steps of planting churches by focusing on developing skills for studying demographics, forming a core group, planning a public launch, staffing, and exploring the creative use of technology and social groupings.

Anyone interested in attending should contact the university at 1 877-762-8669 or visit us on the web at www.ohiochristian.edu/churchplanting.

Ohio Christian University received a \$99,780 Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to be paid toward the cost of the software and hardware needed for its membership in OhioLINK. Membership in OhioLINK will allow OCU’s Maxwell Library to be electronically connected to the major academic libraries in the State, which includes the libraries of most state colleges and universities. This gives local students immediate access, via the Internet, to electronic resources at all those libraries, including digitized books, journals, magazines, and related electronic information. It also helps facilitate access to all other academic material housed in those libraries.

The announcement of the grant is a continuing part of the expansion of Ohio Christian University to serve the community. “With this grant over 600 OCU students and the local residents will now have access to the best research tools in the world,” commented Dr. Mark A. Smith, President of the University. “This is a great day for Pickaway County,” he said. Part of the growth plan to take Ohio Christian University to 1000 students has been to upgrade the infrastructure and services to the university. “With this announcement a major step is underway,” said Dr. Smith.

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Mandy Wray
joins the
administrative
team as the first
female athletic
director in OCU's
59-year history.

Ohio Christian University has named Mandy Wray the Director of Athletics. She will join the administrative team at OCU as the first ever female athletic director in its 59-year history. "It is an honor for me to be named to this position," said Wray. "I am excited to help continue to bring the OCU athletics programs to the next level." In the sports world, Wray will definitely be in the minority as a woman, but she feels her position will set an example for others to follow their dreams. "I think my position here can help show young women today that women can establish themselves and succeed in the sports world.

With more and more women assuming leadership roles, it is exciting to have the opportunity to be part of that movement, especially in a field which, historically, has been dominated by men."

Mandy Wray was named the Head Women's Basketball Coach last August and led the team to four regional wins and a tie for third in the NCCAA Mid-East Region, which is the best finish the Lady Trailblazers have had in years. This spring, Wray signed eight recruits to play for the 2007-08 Lady Trailblazer team, and she is eager for the season to start. "I am excited to see the new players mesh with our returnees. If we continue to put God first and give Him the glory, I think we will be very successful this year."

Wray graduated from Bishop Hartley High School in Columbus, Ohio in 1997. That year, Hartley was in the Final Four in the State Tournament, and her AAU team, the Columbus Lions, won the AAU National Title. Mandy still holds the school record for points in a game (36) and in her career (1,666). She played at James Madison University (NCAA Div I) for three seasons before an injury forced her to sit out her senior year. As a junior Mandy earned the team's Hustle and Leadership Awards, and was named Team MVP, leading the team in scoring, steals, and FG%.

After graduating from JMU in 2001, Wray served as the Assistant Women's

Basketball Coach at Ohio Dominican University. The team qualified for the NAIA National Tournament three of the five years she coached there. In 2004, Wray earned a Master's Degree in Recreation and Sports Science (Sports Administration) from Ohio University. She left ODU in 2006 to become the OCU head coach, after the birth of her daughter Kiley that summer. Mandy and her family attend Grove City Church of the Nazarene.

Mandy's quiet demeanor may fool you. She is actually a determined and fierce competitor, as well as a passionate teacher. Her life verse is Colossians 3:17, which says, "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Wray hopes to pass that message on to her players and student-athletes of OCU. "I think it is important that we give God the glory in all we do," said Wray, "God has put me in a variety of situations and circumstances throughout my life, good and bad, that have built my faith in Him and shown me the importance of glorifying Him, even during difficult times. I hope I can use those experiences and life lessons when I am working with and mentoring the young women in my program. My goal is to continue to build an athletics program where love of the Lord and love of the game coexist."

Athletics

Trailblazers Volleyball Earns Regional Recognition

The Ohio Christian University women's volleyball team traveled to Knoxville, Tennessee for the NCCAA Mid-East Region Tournament. Three players received All-Region honors for the 2007 season. Marlaina Shotsky (#13) was named MVP and led the 1st Team votes. Shotsky received these honors for the second straight year. Senior setter Whitney Pontius (#10) was also awarded with a 1st Team selection. Sophomore Brittany Martin (#12) was named to the 2nd Team, as well.

Seeded #1 heading into the tournament, the Lady Trailblazers defeated Appalachian Bible College in a tough five game match on Friday, and then later defeated host Johnson Bible College in four games. On Saturday, OCU faced

a tough #3 seed in Crown College, but the Lady Blazers came out victorious in four games. In the championship game, Ohio Christian matched up against #2 seed, and defending regional champions, Kentucky Christian University. The Lady Trailblazers played hard, but in the end KCU defeated OCU in three games (24-30, 21-30, 26-30). Brittany Martin led the Lady Blazers in the championship match with 15 kills, while Shotsky finished with 13 kills.

The OCU women's volleyball team finished the season 21-9 overall, a school record. They also went undefeated in regular season regional play, finishing 12-0 (also a school record) in the region before the tournament, with their only regional loss coming in the championship game of the tournament.



Three players received All-Region honors, and first year coach Wes Brothers was named Coach of the Year.



CLARK KELLOGG

Clark Kellogg, a former basketball player for The Ohio State University and the Indiana Pacers was a special speaker at Ohio Christian University chapel. Mr. Kellogg, a basketball commentator for CBS shared his testimony and how it has impacted his success in life. A dynamic speaker, he both encouraged and inspired the OCU students. He is pictured with members of the OCU men's basketball team.



Ohio Christian University Legacy Walk

FEATURED IN FRONT OF THE NEWLY BUILT LEADERSHIP CENTER, AS PICTURED BELOW



Leave a Legacy

Purchase a brick for this new walkway and gathering area. For years to come, your inscription will be seen by students preparing for a lifetime of ministry.

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For more information, contact:
 Mark Taylor
 phone: 740.420.5919
 email: mtaylor@ohiochristian.edu

Coming Soon

Stay Connected
www.ohiochristian.edu/calendar

January 29 - February 5	Choir Tour www.ohiochristian.edu/chorale
February 4-5	Church Planting Institute: The Missional Church www.ohiochristian.edu/churchplanting
February 7-9	Florida Golf Scholarship Tournament www.ohiochristian.edu/golf
February 28- March 1	OCU Hosts Regional Basketball Tournament www.ohiochristian.edu/trailblazers
March 10-14	Spring Break
April 2-4	Spring Revival
April 7-8	Church Planting Institute: Strategies for Church Planting www.ohiochristian.edu/churchplanting
April 27-29	2008 Holiness Conference
May 3	Commencement
May 4	Forward in Faith Commitment Sunday



Preview Days



Jan 25th
Feb 8th-9th
April 4th
April 18th

experience ocu

There's nothing quite like being on campus at Ohio Christian University. Come experience the vibrant campus community. Visit one of our exciting classes. Tour our campus and new student facilities. Meet faculty who are committed to your success. Experience the personal attention and the warmth toward the things of God that sets OCU apart.

See for yourself. Visit www.ohiochristian.edu/admissions to schedule a campus visit.

Attend one of our upcoming preview days or call **1-877-762-8669** to schedule a visit.

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