

Ohio Christian

the Ohio Christian University Magazine | Winter 2009



**OCU Remembers
Dr. John Conley**

**OCU Enrollment
Grows by 140
Students**

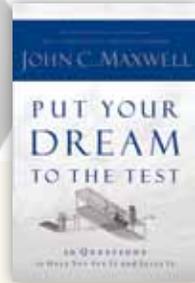
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2009

with OCU Alumnus DR. JOHN C. MAXWELL

April 22, 2009, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
at the OCU Leadership Center



Dr. John C. Maxwell is an internationally recognized leadership expert, speaker, and author who has sold over 16 million books. His organizations have trained more than 2 million leaders worldwide.



Dr. Maxwell will speak at Ohio Christian University on April 22, 2009 on the topic of his latest book.

Put Your Dream to The Test: 10 Questions That Will Help You See It and Seize It is due for release in March.

In your own words
Remembering Dr. John Conley

We invited alumni and friends of Ohio Christian University to share their memories of Dr. Conley. The response was tremendous. Look for the "In your own words" heading to see how Dr. Conley impacted the lives of those around him for Christ.

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OhioChristian is a publication for the friends and alumni of Ohio Christian University. Send address changes and news to: Alumni Relations, alumni@ohiochristian.edu or visit us on the web at www.ohiochristian.edu/alumni.

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For more information, please call 740-420-5918.

A MESSAGE FROM THE

PRESIDENT



Dr. Mark A. Smith, President

*Clearly his words
and his life were
presentations
of the doctrine
of holy living.*

Dr. John Conley **The Great Legacy of a Holiness Preacher**

Dr. John W. Conley, 76, of Circleville, went to be with the Lord July 25, 2008. An Army veteran of the Korean War, he earned a bachelor's degree from Asbury College, a master's degree from St. Thomas University and the Doctor of Divinity from Asbury College. Dr. Conley additionally studied at Ohio University, West Virginia School of Graduate Studies, Asbury Seminary and the South Texas College of Law. He served as senior pastor in Camden, South Carolina; Morehead, Kentucky; and South Charleston, West Virginia. During his presidency at Gulf Coast Bible College in Houston, he was instrumental in relocating the institution to Oklahoma City where it became Mid-America Christian University. Dr. Conley will be remembered for his leadership as President of Ohio Christian University.

It was my distinct privilege to become acquainted with Dr. Conley while transitioning to the presidency at Ohio Christian University. Each time we conversed, I sensed his genuine love for the work of God. He truly gave of himself to others; the legacy of lifelong service to his King shines brightly among us.

Dr. Conley's spirit of giving is illustrated by his deep commitment to Christian education. He passionately believed students should be prepared to "handle God's Word carefully." Recently, I listened to three of his recorded sermons in which he emphasized how important it is to be prepared to "preach and teach the Word accurately." This he did well.

John Conley was also widely known for his eloquent holiness preaching. Listening to his sermons and hearing colleagues speak about his life combined to make an indelible impression of how clearly his words and his life were presentations of the doctrine of holy living. Dr. Conley was the best at proclaiming it. He believed in forgiveness of sins and that one's heart could be filled with the Spirit and made pure. It is entirely appropriate to describe this minister of the Gospel as a great holiness preacher.

Dr. Conley was also a great leader. One of the greatest legacies left for Ohio Christian University is evidenced through his capable leadership throughout the process of accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. He launched the Adult Education Program (AIM) in 1998 and later expanded to the campuses of Hocking College and Columbus State Community College. Through these extended educational opportunities, college enrollment grew to record numbers as recognized through OCU receiving *Christianity Today* and the Association for Biblical Higher Education's growth award in 2001 and again in 2005.

Thus we honor the memory of John Conley, a man who unselfishly served others during his earthly sojourn and now enjoys his eternal reward in Heaven. Truly he *fought a good fight, finished his course and has received his crown of righteousness*. So, as I reflect, I leave with you this question. Who will replace John Conley? Are you willing to be one of the 1,000 leaders God is calling OCU to prepare?

Mark A. Smith
President

University News

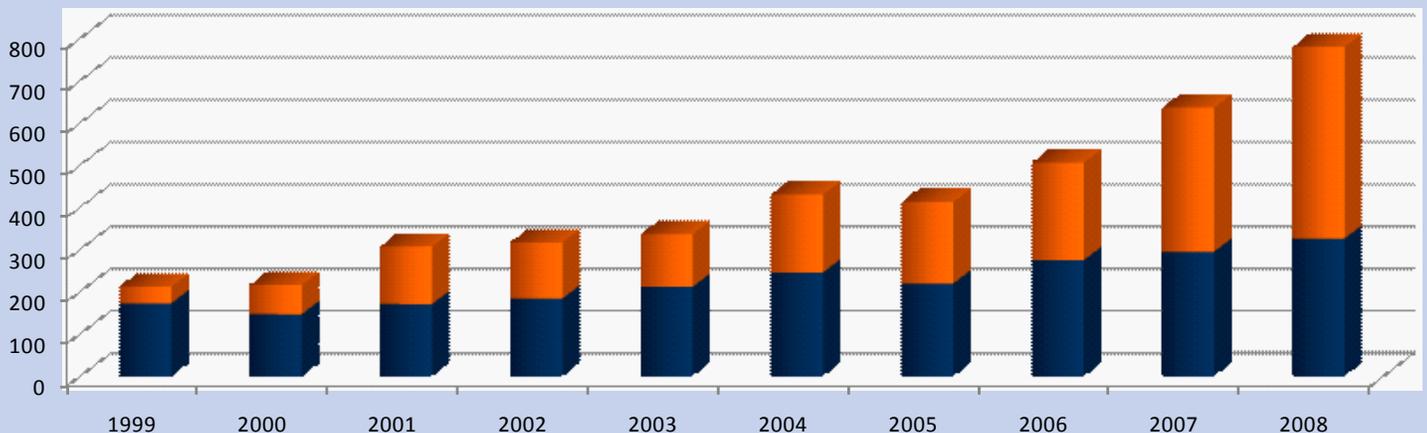
OCU Executive Vice President, Dr. Hank Kelly

OCU CELEBRATES ANOTHER RECORD



The OCU Traditional Admissions Team

The chapel and residence halls are bursting at the seams! OCU achieved a record enrollment of 780 students, which is 140 more than last year, a 22 percent increase.



Ohio Christian University Growth

■ Traditional Enrollment ■ AIM Enrollment

ENROLLMENT

Over the last two years, enrollment has increased by 274, a 54 percent increase. This phenomenal growth is attributed to new program offerings such as Logistics Management, associate degrees through evening classes, online delivery of degree programs, and new off-site campus locations in Dublin and Lancaster. Next year, OCU plans to offer evening classes in Chillicothe, Dover, and Nelsonville. These initiatives are part of OCU's strategic plan to reach 1,000 students by fall 2011. God is truly blessing the efforts of OCU's dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators.

Of the 780 current students, 326 are in the traditional program, while 344 are taking evening classes, and 110 are in the online program. Both the evening and online programs are designed to help busy adults finish their degrees in minimum time with maximum convenience. A new residence hall was constructed last year to accommodate growth and another will soon be needed. At last year's annual Association for Biblical Higher Education Conference, OCU won the enrollment growth award and hopes to win again this year.

Teacher education has been offered for a number of years at OCU; now full certification of this program is being sought and is expected to be received next year. OCU recently signed an agreement with Ohio University-Lancaster to jointly offer a Bachelor of Arts in Intercultural Studies and Associate of Science in Nursing. The nursing classes will be held at Berger Hospital and other classes at OCU.

For church leaders, OCU has obtained approval to offer four master's courses. The first class, Pastoral Care Giver, scheduled for February 2-7, 2009, will be taught by Dr. Jim Smith, who is an OCU professor, ordained minister, and licensed counselor. OCU is seeking approval to offer the entire Master's of Arts in Ministry in conjunction with Wesley Biblical Seminary. Additionally, President Smith recently taught the two-day Church Planting Institute class, Leadership in Church Planting. The next such class is Planting Emerging Churches, scheduled for February 18-19, 2009, which will be taught by Dr. Bob Whitesel, author of five books.

In your own words Remembering Dr. John Conley

Mary Ann Shmidt, Class of 2003

I am grateful to Dr. John Conley for having the foresight to implement the Adult Education Department at Circleville Bible College/Ohio Christian University. It is because of his kindness that I had the opportunity to enroll in this program, which allowed me the opportunity to work toward a Management & Ethics and Substance Abuse Counseling degree from CBC/OCU and a Master of Science degree from Mt. Vernon Nazarene University. Thank you, Dr. Conley.

Mel Truex, Class of 1959

I was serving on the OCU Board of Trustees when Dr. John Conley was a candidate for the presidency. I consider his selection as president to be a hallmark event in the history of OCU. He brought vision, integrity, and deep spirituality to our campus. Along with his wife, Dee, he presided with academic and spiritual toughness that was consummated in the accreditation of our college. The legacy he has left continues to have its affect on those privileged to serve with him during that decade.

Latricia Johnston, Class of 2008

It would only seem appropriate to begin by saying "thank you" to the late Dr. John Conley. I had the privilege of working under Dr. C's leadership. Three months into my employment I became a full-time student at his request. "I have great plans for this campus," he said, "and we need to get you into class and working on a degree to make those plans happen." Because he put me back into the classroom, I am the first in my family to graduate with a degree with an induction into two honor societies. At my age I would never have considered it. For some reason, I think he knew that and wanted to make a difference in one more person's life... and he did. What I would have missed... thank you Dr. C. I miss your hug!



University News

OCU & WESLEY BIBLICAL SEMINARY OFFER MASTER'S COURSES IN OHIO

Wesley Biblical Seminary, an Association of Theological Schools (ATS) accredited institution, and Ohio Christian University have entered into a partnership to provide additional Master's level education opportunities for Ohio residents.

The course offerings will allow students to study in the areas of Pastoral Ministries and Counseling. Students who take the courses will be able to earn credit toward a Wesley Biblical Seminary Degree. The courses will be offered in a highly concentrated, one-week format on the Ohio Christian University campus in order to most effectively serve practicing ministers and lay leaders. There will also be opportunities in the future for online courses. The first course, Pastoral Care Giver, will be offered February 2-7, 2009 and will be taught by Dr. Jim Smith, OCU professor, ordained minister, and licensed counselor.

Ohio Christian University and Wesley Biblical Seminary began discussions about seminary education several months ago and developed a plan to serve students in the Midwest by giving opportunities with regard to ministry.

Ohio Christian University President Mark A. Smith said, "This is one of the most exciting announcements of my Presidency for three reasons. First, this addresses a problem for one of the highest need areas of our nation—trained clergy. The U.S. Department of Labor's *Occupational Outlook Handbook* indicates that there will be many jobs in the areas of ministry in the near future. All denominations are concerned about the shortage of clergy. Second, this is the first master's level offering for Ohio Christian University. Third, this means more growth for the University and more jobs for the Ohio region and Pickaway County.

President Ron Smith said, "I am pleased to announce our formal partnership with Ohio Christian University. Together we will undertake to offer serious graduate education to leaders who serve our churches, communities, nation and world. The soul of the Church is in the thought life of its people. Together we will work to train a generation of Christian thinkers who, as people that serve, will in turn put fiber into the soul of our nation."

Register today for the first class by calling 1-877-496-8342 or 740-420-5942. Class size is limited and registration ends January 12, 2009.

Renew, Refresh, Reenergize Your Ministry

Now Offering Graduate Courses in Circleville

February 2-7, 2009

Pastoral Care Giver (3 credit hours)

with Dr. Jim Smith

OCU professor, ordained minister, and licensed

Course Description

The significance of presence, biblical principles, roles, and tasks common to pastoral care will be examined to offer tools to strengthen one's relational ministry and shape his/her theology of care. Case studies will be utilized to reflect upon various interventions.

Enrollment Deadline: January 12, 2009

- » **Affordable:** \$320 per credit hour, plus books
- » **Transferable:** Credits can be transferred to Wesley Biblical Seminary

Call 1-877-496-8342 or visit
www.OCUGraduate.com today!

In your own words Remembering Dr. John Conley

Charles Runion, Class of 1994

Dr. John Conley was a faithful servant of God who was willing to take on great challenges in ministry through the enabling of the Holy Spirit in his life and through the gifts God granted him. His arrival to the presidency of Circleville Bible College in 1995 was a God-ordained event that propelled the school forward in so many areas. Student enrollment, college finances, expansion of educational services, campus construction, and trained graduates were dramatically improved during his tenure. Today OCU enjoys the fruits of his labor from 1995 to 2005. His current reward of eternity with Christ our Savior is every believer's goal. Each OCU graduate chose this college to prepare them for ministry in a world that needs Jesus. Thank God He chose John Conley to lead our school at the right time.

Jim Antes, Class of 1987

Words cannot begin to express my emotions. Thoughts that come to mind are that he ran a good race, and he was a champion for our faith. He impacted our world in a way that Christ directs us to. CBC/OCU was fortunate to have such a man put his mark on our school. If I stop and reflect about Dr. Conley, I can still hear him saying "Hello Brother," in which I know that he truly counted you as a brother or sister in Christ. I am blessed to have known Dr. Conley.

Dr. Stan Toler, Class of 1973

Dr. Conley was a godly and passionate leader. He believed the message of holiness and never forgot his calling to share the message of Christ's perfect love with the nations. He came to OCU at a time of great need and was indeed the man for the hour. I reflect with great appreciation for his leadership and look forward with great anticipation with our current President Dr. Mark Smith.



University News

Professor Joe Boysel

Dr. Melvin Maxwell CHURCH PLANTING INSTITUTE

October 27-28 brought the autumn session of the Maxwell Church Planting Institute to the OCU campus.

More than 30 church leaders and students from different denominations came together to hear Dr. Mark Smith, President of OCU, provide insightful teaching on how to maximize the potential of an organization through purposeful leadership. This is an area of considerable expertise for Dr. Smith who coauthored the book, *Leading Change in Your World*.

Institute sessions covered such areas as "Strategic Planning," "Marketing the Church," "Team Building," and "Church Growth." Dr. Smith offered both statistical data and anecdotal evidence from his experiences as a pastor and university president in his presentations. The institute participants were rigorously engaged not only by the excellent teaching, but also through peer interaction during the group-learning sessions.

learn how to reach this emerging generation

with Dr. Bob Whitesel, author of 5 books



February 18-19, 2009 Organic Congregations: Lessons from the Emerging Church

- Discover how "relevancy" has changed in the 21st century
- Learn how a new generation responds to the Gospel

Register Today!
\$49

Call **1-877-762-8669** or register online
at **www.ChurchPlantingInstitute.com**

OCU's next scheduled Institute is set for February 18-19, 2009, with Dr. Bob Whitesel, Associate Professor of Religion in the College of Graduate Studies at Indiana Wesleyan University. Dr. Whitesel will be teaching on the impact emerging churches are having on the next generation of church planters. Dr. Whitesel is the author of five books including *Inside the Organic Church*, published by Abingdon in 2006.

This Institute will provide critical information to all church leaders and church planters who are concerned about reaching young adults in the 21st Century.



Tough Economic Times OCU Has An Answer

In your own words
Remembering Dr. John Conley

Danny Thompson, Class of 1999

I remember moving John Conley and his wife into their home in Circleville. Over the next 4 years, Dr. Conley never forgot who I was. He always made it a point to recognize me and make me feel special, as well as make me feel like I belonged. Dr. Conley was a special President, but also a great individual. I truly believe he was a man after God's own heart. During his time as President, he shaped Ohio Christian University and helped her become what she is today.

Jeremy J. Skaggs, Class of 2004

There I stood in the back of Detty Chapel staring up at Dr. Conley with the stage lights reflecting off the rim of his glasses as my heart sank in disbelief following his devastating announcement. Immediately he called our community to prayer and ended by letting us know that we will never forget this day, the people we were with, and where we were when this atrocity took place. That day was September 11, 2001, which has been forever sketched and ingrained in my heart. Even though this horrific act of senseless terrorism still makes me nauseous, looking back I find it comforting to have been under Dr. Conley's leadership and present with the OCU family.

Randall Mark Dockery, Class of 2004

Dr. Conley was a man of truth, a man of vision. A man who could see not just what a young man or woman was, but what they could be. He was an encourager, and he believed in his students and would not hesitate to give you every opportunity needed to express yourself when talking to you. Dr. Conley made a major impact on my life by believing in me and telling me so each and every time I saw him, not just by his words but with his actions. He will forever be remembered with respect.

Many of us are concerned about the economy and are interested in making safe investments. During this volatile time Ohio Christian University (OCU) has an investment opportunity in "Charitable Gift Annuities".

Are you looking to leave a legacy? Through a gift annuity in your name, you would continue to give long after you have left this earth.

How It Works

- A donor makes a contribution to OCU to purchase a charitable gift annuity.
- OCU begins making periodic payments (monthly, quarterly or annually) to the donor for life.
- Payments are part interest and part principal.
- A portion of the payments are tax-free to donor.
- A donor receives a charitable deduction for a percentage of the contribution to the charitable gift annuity.
- When the donor dies, payments cease. OCU keeps any remaining principal. To be clear, donor heirs receive nothing from the annuity.
- Appreciated assets like stocks and bonds can be used to purchase the annuity. It can result in an even more favorable treatment of the payments.

Example: A single life annuity for a 72 year old would be 6.7% return annually for their life. The first year on a \$10,000 investment would provide \$3,835.00 charitable contribution. You would receive \$670 annually with only \$244.55 being taxable.

As of November 2008:

Single Life		Joint Life		
Age	Rate	Younger Age	Older Age	Rate
50	5.3	49	50	4.7
55	5.5	52	55	4.9
60	5.7	55	60	5.0
65	6.0	62	65	5.6
70	6.5	65	70	5.7
75	7.1	70	75	6.1
80	8.0	75	80	6.6
90+	11.3	85	90	8.4

Based upon actual ages, rates may vary slightly. The great return and tax advantages in these stressful times provide a quality safe investment vehicle. To obtain your personal rate and tax advantage, please call Mark W. Taylor, Vice-President of Advancement at Ohio Christian University at 740-420-5918.

Athletics

Mid-East Region Regular Season Champs!



Front (L-R): #20 Jordan Wilson, #16 Jim Dillard, #11 Martin Masman, #9 Paul Clark, GK Dominic Lehman, #10 Emanuel Harris, #7 Jimmy Galvan, #3 Elijah Derry, #4 Ben Ballein
Back (L-R): Head Coach Josh Murton, Assistant Coach Mark Caspersen, Major Ritchie McIntyre, #22 Jazz Heard, #2 Steve Vogelgesang, #17 Josh McGrady, #21 Dexter Chapman, #5 Tim Jones, #6 Kevin Street, Manager Max Ray, Stats Bud Murton, Assistant Coach James McIlhargey Not Pictured: #15 Brett Spriggs, #19 Derrick Ising

Coach Josh Murton

This fall has been a whirlwind of success for the men's soccer program. With new coach, Josh Murton, and a new energy, the men broke school records in wins (10), goals scored in a season (45), and goal differential in a season (+9). The men had a six-game winning streak, setting a new record for consecutive wins. The team was 10-2-1 and poised for a solid post-season, but injuries riddled the team as four starters sat out at one point in time. They finished the historic season 10-5-1 and moved into the off-season with youth and energy with 8 freshmen, 4 sophomores, 2 juniors, and 2 seniors.

Along with the team records, the men's soccer team also set many new individual records. Emanuel Harris (Fr.) was the first athlete in OCU history to be honored with Player of the Week in the NCCAA. He was not only honored in week one of the season, but also week three in the season. Harris also broke school records in goals scored in a season (21), assists (9) and points* (51). He finished the season third in the nation in scoring. All the records are great, but the prize of the season is the title, "Mid-East Region Regular Season Champions," another first for OCU soccer.

The Regional Awards came with the successes. OCU's first team players in

the Mid-East Region were Emanuel Harris (Fr.), Dexter Chapman (Fr.) and Kevin Street (So.). The players named to the second team were Dominic Lehman (Sr.), Jimmy Galvan (Fr.) and Steve Vogelgesang (Fr.). "I am so pleased that we got the respect this team deserved. The young men have worked hard on the field and have been working hard on their faith," mentioned Coach Murton on his players' awards.

Above the awards is how this group of young men came together and put their focus on God and had Him in their forefront. "The great thing about these guys is that they are all learning. We had testimonies before each game. We had testimonies before each game, spent time in prayer and fellowshiped in our discussion about God. We all could take note from these young men that we never stop learning. I was impressed with how they practiced their spirituality by learning about the Lord's Word. I will be forever grateful for what God has taught me through them," added Coach Murton.



1



2

1. Harris makes a move on KCU in a 2-1 home win. 2. OCU celebrates a goal!

*According to FIFA, all goals are given 2 points. For all assists 1 point is given.

Lady Blazers Finish Strong

The women's volleyball team started off this season knowing that this year was going to be different. With setter Whitney Pontius and libero Richelle Stewart having graduated, the team had two positions that needed to be filled. Freshman Kristen Uetrecht who brings six years of club and four years of high school volleyball experience stepped into the setter's role and ran a very aggressive offense for the Lady Trailblazers. Standing 5'11", she is able to keep the opponent guessing as to whether she will set up a teammate or attack the ball. Senior Leslie Turner transitioned from her previous position as a right side attacker to fill the libero void, and her 90% serve receive average helped establish the Trailblazer's offense throughout the season.



Coach Wes Brothers

With the transitions, OCU got off to a slow start with a record of 2-6. The turning point in the season was the first regional match versus Cincinnati Christian where the Lady Trailblazers lost in four sets. The team had an informal meeting and reflected on adjustments that needed to be made so the team could function at its very best during the remainder of the season. From that match forward, Ohio Christian won 17 of 21 matches. The team's focus throughout the year was being humble, improving weaknesses, and refining strengths.

The turnaround was a team effort. At the end of Week 3, Ohio Christian University was ranked 21st in the nation. The Lady Trailblazers rose to 11th in the nation by Week 6. The team's improved serve receive and defense helped a few players inch up in the national rankings for individual statistical leaders. Freshman Kristen Uetrecht steadily climbed through the rankings each week and ended the season ranked in the top 20. Senior Marlaina Shotsky and Sophomore Marissa Tackett were both ranked in the top 15 in the nation for attack percentage and kill average per set. After defeating regional opponents Kentucky Christian University, Crown College and Johnson Bible College, Shotsky received NCCAA Division II Student Athlete of the Week.

Going into the NCCAA MidEast Regional Tournament, the Lady Trailblazers were seeded third. Ohio Christian won its pool on Friday beating the host team Appalachian Bible College. Friday night pitted the 2nd seeded Eagles of Cincinnati Christian University versus OCU. Ohio Christian lost the first two sets, but fought back and pulled out the next 3 sets to win the match.

In the semi-finals, Ohio Christian made quick work of Johnson Bible College beating them in three straight sets. This set up the 3rd straight championship match between Kentucky Christian University and Ohio Christian University. "Although we came up short in the championship match, the team gave its very best." Said Coach Brothers, "Our goal is give glory to Christ by doing our very best and I know He is pleased with the team's excellent performance this year!"

The Ohio Christian University Women's Volleyball Team ended the 2008 season with an overall record of 19-10 and a regional record of 12-4. Senior Marlaina Shotsky was selected for the MidEast Regional Team and made the 2nd Team NCCAA All American squad. Sophomore Marissa Tackett received several honors by being chosen for the MidEast Regional Team, the All Tournament Team, and as a NCCAA All American Honorable Mention player. Senior Leslie Turner and Freshman Kristen Uetrecht were selected for Honorable Mention in the MidEast Region. Shotsky and Turner were also awarded their 2nd NCCAA Division II Scholar Athlete awards for earning a 3.5 GPA or higher.

In your own words Remembering Dr. John Conley

Josh Sanders, Class of 2005

I want to start by saying that Dr. Conley was a man of God. That's what he should be known for. God was the most important thing in his life. He was an awesome husband who loved his wife dearly. I remember the times my Senior year when I was the Assistant Athletic Director. I would get his and Mrs. Conley's padded seats for the basketball games. They were both so appreciative. When he went to Gallipolis, he asked about me. He was a man that cared for the people around him. He's in a better place and I look forward to seeing him someday! See you soon...Dr. Conley. You will always be my role model!

Josh Ford, Student

My first semester was Dr. Conley's last semester as Circleville Bible College President. When I first met Dr. Conley, it was CBC night at the 2005 Mount of Praise camp meeting. After I introduced myself, he said he wanted me to go into Johnson Hall room 203, saying "I will meet you there after the service." So, I went and I waited for about an hour. Then, I saw him afterwards and I asked him, "Where were you?" And he said to me "Good! You pass. I wanted to see if you knew how to pay attention." And then he said, "Josh, you are going to make it."

Leigh Davis, Class of 2008

Dr. Conley had a huge impact, not only in my life, but on my entire family. It was an honor to have him as my College President where he made a significant contribution of time and prayer for the students. In his ten years, he did great things for the small Bible College in Circleville. He gave me my first opportunity to sing and travel for the school, which inspired me to set higher goals for my life and for ministry. I remember "*I'd Rather Have Jesus*" being his favorite hymn, as I now can still hear his humble voice singing it as tears ran down his face. He truly was a Man of God.



Alumni Focus

THE TOLER BROTHERS COME BACK HOME TO OCU

These accomplished ministers, authors, musicians, and OCU graduates are making a difference in their world.

Terry Toler, Stan Toler, and Mark Hollingsworth are building a wonderful family legacy. The three brothers are graduates of Ohio Christian University (then Circleville Bible College) and have gone on to achieve a variety of noteworthy accomplishments. Separately, Stan, Mark, and Terry are authors, pastors and leaders in their communities. Together, they are known as the “Toler Brothers Trio.”

Raised in one of the poorest counties in America, the Toler Brothers didn't even have a radio in their home. Their entertainment was singing around an old upright piano in the living room of their home in West Virginia. The southern gospel harmony born in that humble beginning has provided the background for a combined sixty years of worldwide ministries that have touched literally millions of lives. The brothers blend gifted voices with the experience that helped them rise above childhood adversities, including the loss of their father in a construction accident and the loss of their home in a fire.

Dr. Terry Toler has been a contributing writer on three Grammy Award winning recordings, a certified platinum album, and multi-platinum videos. Terry's songs for children have been translated into many languages and are marketed internationally. His gospel songs have been recorded by some of the best-known names in Christian music. Dr. Toler also serves as Vice President for University Advancement and Church Relations at Southern Nazarene University. In addition to Ohio Christian University, he has earned degrees at Southern Nazarene University and the University of Sarasota.

Mark is actively involved in his community. He serves as treasurer for the Hope Center, which helps those who need clothing, food, and medical care. He also serves as chaplain to the Edmond Police department and was formerly president of The Edmond Ministerial Alliance. Mark is a trustee for Southern Nazarene University and advisory board member for the Northwest Oklahoma District in the Church of the Nazarene.

God has given Mark the gift of encouragement. His keen sense of humor makes him a frequent entertainer at retreats, seminars, banquets... anywhere people and food are found!

Mark's wife Mary has been a vital part of his 28 year pastoral ministry. She is actively involved in the music program and women's ministries at Edmond First. Mary is a Lending Assistant at the First Commercial Bank of Edmond.

Dr. Stan Toler serves as senior pastor of Trinity Church of the Nazarene in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and hosts the television program “Leadership Today.” Stan trains pastors and church leaders throughout North America. He conducts seminars on strategic planning, stewardship, outreach and leadership. Stan knew at an early age that God wanted him to be a full-time minister. He adopted this role with a youthful zeal, and at the age of seventeen became pastor of Westside Church in Newark, Ohio. Since then, he has pastored some of the fastest growing churches in Ohio, Oklahoma, and Tennessee and has traveled around the world helping churches and missions organizations develop plans for growth.

Stan has authored multiple books and manuals on the subjects of church ministry, evangelism, and “helps” for pastors. He communicates his zeal for touching lives through the ministry of the Church with witty enthusiasm and practical insight.

In his many roles of service, Stan finds constant support and joy in his lovely wife, Linda, whom he affectionately refers to as his “South Georgia Peach.”

The Tolers recently took a time-out from their busy schedules to record what will soon become a favorite CD, “He Still Speaks.” Distributed by TQL Productions and produced by



In your own words Remembering Dr. John Conley

Michael Willis, Class of 2003

I was an AIM student, so I wasn't around Dr. Conley a lot. But as I prepared for graduation in May 2003, I was asked to give a testimony about what my time at CBC did for me. Dr. Conley was there that night and we had never met before. The next day, as I walked across the platform and received my diploma from him, he told me how my "speech" had encouraged him. What a compliment it was to know that I encouraged him. My time at CBC still encourages me today—and he was a vital part of that.

Amy L. (Wamsley) Williams, Class of 2004

Dr. Conley was a joy to be around and served us well. My fondest memories were his chapel services. You never knew what would come out of his mouth, but you were always sure you'd take a gem of wisdom with you that could be applied to your everyday life.

Wyatt Buchanan, Class of 1980

Dr. Conley was a facilitator of our ministry and its outreach to impact youth. When we would travel from New York to Ohio to introduce our young people to CBC, Dr. Conley would take care of our needs. That simple investment and his welcoming reception served to "clinched the deal." We have had no less than six of our young people attend or graduate from CBC, with a new young person feeling the call to youth ministry and seeking enrollment this spring. God bless the memory of Dr. Conley.

Dean and Shirley Queen, Class of 1978

Dr. Conley was a very generous man. While our daughter, Stephanie Queen, was a student at CBC, and we were serving as missionaries in Papua New Guinea, Dr. Conley personally contributed toward Stephanie's tuition. We and Stephanie will be eternally grateful for Dr. Conley's generosity!

14-time Dove winner and Grammy nominated Michael Sykes, it features some of the finest studio musicians in the country as well as vocals by southern gospel's Tanya Goodman Sykes, former bass singer with Acappella; Rodney Britt; and Richard Sterben of the Oak Ridge Boys.

They have also released a book by the same title. More than 100 pages of spiritual insights, humor, and stories behind their songs, *He Still Speaks* is a journal of the Tolers' life and triumphs. Written in their down-home and yet deeply spiritual style, it expresses their ability to share

their faith, foibles, and fortunes in their writing—in a way that makes people laugh out loud or reflect with thanksgiving and commitment.

The book and CD are available at bookstores and on the Toler Brothers' website, www.tolerbrotherstrio.com.

The smooth harmony, warmth, and humor of the Tolers reflect their bond as three brothers whose faith in God took them higher and farther than they ever dreamed. To hear them sing is to feel like you're standing alongside them by that old upright piano in their West Virginia home.



Mark Hollingsworth, Terry Toler, and Stan Toler accept a token of appreciation from OCU President Mark Smith at the 2008 Homecoming Gospel Concert.



Alumni Focus

OCU HOLDS MISSISSIPPI ALUMNI GATHERING



OCU Alumni met for the first Regional Alumni Gathering in Jackson, Mississippi on Friday, November 7th. Alumni and friends from the central Mississippi area gathered for a great time of fellowship and updates.

Thirteen alumni and friends, including former Academic Dean Dr. Dan Burnett and his wife Joyce, were in attendance. Alumni shared about their families, their careers, and where God had taken them since they graduated. It was great to see two future alumni as well!

Regional Alumni Gatherings are an exciting new part of the Alumni program at Ohio Christian University. They are a great way to reconnect with old friends and classmates in your region. It is also

a great way to meet new alumni who have moved into your area. Alumni representatives will give updates on people, projects, and programs at the University. Our goal is to enrich the lives of our alumni and build strong relationships with them. We believe that connecting with our alumni will help us serve our students and the cause of Christ more effectively.

A special thank you to all the alumni who came out and made this a great night! If you live in central Mississippi or would be willing to

travel to central Mississippi, let us know! Plans are already being made for a 2009 Mississippi Regional Alumni Gathering.

Regional Alumni Gatherings are being planned in several other areas as well. Are you interested in having a Regional Alumni Gathering in your area? Contact the Office of University Advancement at alumni@ohiochristian.edu for more information.

COMING SPRING 2009

Pennsylvania Regional Alumni Gathering
Saturday, April 18th, 2009

More information coming soon! Contact Michael Tipton at alumni@ohiochristian.edu if you are interested!

In your own words Remembering Dr. John Conley

Eric Horton, Class of 2000

When my college was closing, I went to check out what CBC had to offer, like I did with other schools. Dr. Conley was like a calming beacon in the storm. While I was visiting CBC, a family tragedy occurred. Dr. Conley and Pat McKay came to me offering to put me on the next flight to Texas to be with my family. My family had already bought a ticket for me to leave from Des Moines, IA. So, he offered to make arrangements for my travel to and from the airport. He showed me that even if I wasn't planning to go to school there, CBC cared about me. That was the moment I knew that CBC was my new home. Thank you Dr. Conley.

Russ Harless, Class of 2003

This poem below was inspired by Dr. Conley's last chapel sermon "The Black Door" and his leadership.

The Uncharted Path

Each one by God is caused to tread,
A pathway to Him leading.
The way uncharted, no need to dread,
The Spirit goes proceeding.
Yet mortal we of flesh and marrow,
With fear and worry bear,
The burden of unnumbered tomorrows,
A load of heavy cares.
Alas and to our Savior's sadness,
This load we hold too tight,
Unwilling to release with gladness,
Our souls to set in flight.
Yet some do heed the Spirit's prodding,
Their mass untied let go.
They clear the path by upward plodding
The way to others show.
Thank you for following the Lord.

To contribute to the John & Dolores Conley Scholarship fund, please mark the enclosed envelope, or contact the Office of University Advancement at 740-420-5918.

Former President's Wife Goes to Glory

Virginia Lee Humble of Waverly, Ohio, passed away on Monday, November 10, 2008, at Pike Community Hospital in Waverly. Virginia was the wife of Richard Glen Humble, former President of Ohio Christian University (then Circleville Bible College). They celebrated 60 years of marriage on September 8, 2008. Virginia was a loving Christian wife, mother, grandmother, a pastor's wife, and a former writer of Sunday School Curriculum. She was 81 years old.



Dr. David A. Case Chair of Christian Ministries

The Dr. David A. Case Chair of Christian Ministries has been established in recognition of Dr. Case's nearly four decades of service and commitment to the mission of Ohio Christian University.

President Smith in announcing this said, "Dr. Case epitomizes the mission of Ohio Christian University. He has served and is respected in the community, he understands and is the ultimate representative of the theology of the denomination, and he has trained more minister leaders than almost anyone I know. What a reward will be his in Heaven! Dr. Case, more than anyone I know, deserves this honor and we are pleased to announce this Chair."

The Chair will be sustained through the donations of friends and alumni who want to honor Dr. Case. To contribute, please mark the enclosed envelope with "Dr. Case Chair" or call 740-420-5918.



Alumni Focus

HOMECOMING 2008

Homecoming 2008 was an exciting weekend at OCU! Alumni, friends, and students gathered from across the country to celebrate the work and ministry of Ohio Christian University. Rev. Bruce Morrison kicked off Homecoming at the annual Alumni Chapel. Rev. Morrison challenged current OCU students to move deeper in their walk with the Lord. Powerful insights and funny stories touched the hearts of many students.

Students, staff, and faculty had a great time at the OCU Follies, a variety show produced by students and staff from the Office of Student Development. A showcase of talent and humor, the show featured music, drama, and campus parodies of all kinds. The annual OCU Torch Run closed out the night. Led by OCU President Dr. Mark Smith, members of the campus community ran from Detty Chapel to downtown Circleville and back passing the torch from runner to runner. When the parade returned to campus, students enjoyed a great bonfire and time of fellowship.

Friday and Saturday were filled with events for all ages. Thirty five teams played in the OCU and Linking Legacies Golf Outing at Cooks Creek Golf Course. They enjoyed great weather, great golf, and great friends while raising money for scholarships at OCU. Friday and Saturday night concerts featured well known artists from around the nation. Open to the public, nearly two thousand people were in attendance.

The OCU Alumni Gathering was held on Saturday afternoon, attracting 150 alumni, students, and friends. OCU Vice-Presidents grilled a wonderful meal, while alumni caught up with old friends and former classmates. Alumni heard updates on campus programs and projects, as well as updates on the work of the new OCU Alumni Council. Children enjoyed games of corn hole, Frisbee golf, and a host of activities sponsored by Admissions Office staff.

Preparations for Homecoming 2009 are already underway! It will be an event-filled and activity packed weekend for all ages. We invite you to join us October 1-3, 2009, as we celebrate Ohio Christian University.





1. Students Gather for Lunch with OCU Alumni
2. OCU Choir Performs at Homecoming
3. Alumni Share A Great Lunch
4. OCU VPs Prepare Homecoming Lunch
5. Alumni Listen to OCU Update
6. Alumni Reconnect With Old Friends
7. Alumni Enjoy Great Food and Great Weather
8. Alumni Meet Staff and Faculty
9. Bob Evans Farms Presents \$5000 Gift to OCU
10. Alumni Enjoy Homecoming Luncheon
11. Greater Vision Celebrates Homecoming
12. Linking Legacies Assisted OCU in Raising Over \$25,000 through the 2008 Alumni Golf Outing
13. Alumni and Friends Warm Up for the Team Putting Contest
14. Collingsworth Family Performs at Second Annual Homecoming Gospel Concert
15. Alumni Council Prepares for Homecoming Luncheon



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Homecoming 2009

October 1-3, 2009

Mark your calendar for the Annual Alumni Gathering and a weekend of fun for the entire family. Please call 740-420-5918 for more information.

Alumni Focus

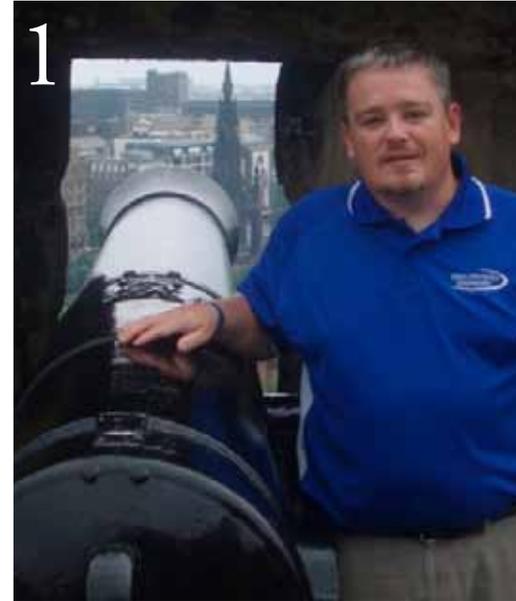
REV. JOE BOYSEL MINISTERS IN SCOTLAND

Joe Boyssel, OCU Alumnus and Assistant Professor of Bible and Preaching, had a unique opportunity to represent Ohio Christian University this past summer when he traveled to Scotland as a visiting preacher for the congregation of the Trinity Church of the Nazarene in Perth.

Trinity Church has been without a pastor for a number of years—a situation that, sadly, is not uncommon in the United Kingdom among churches of all denominations. With fewer and fewer people pursuing ordained ministry each year in the UK, the pool of candidates is quickly drying up. In fact, in order to meet the leadership needs of the Trinity Church, the church board has implemented a varied array of creative solutions. Weekly preaching, however, has been the most difficult need to fill and is thus often divided between lay people, retired ministers, and visiting preachers. Amazingly, however, Trinity Church has grown over this period of pastoral transition to the point where it has become the second largest Nazarene Church in the country!

Professor Boyssel's ministry at Trinity Church was to serve as both visiting preacher as well as to offer pastoral care. Consequently, besides preaching the Sunday services he also led Bible studies and prayer meetings in addition to visiting people in the hospitals and in their homes. Prof. Boyssel said that in his spare time he looked for opportunities to "recruit young people to 'cross the pond' and come to OCU!"

Prof. Boyssel noted that "Scotland was beautiful, the people were lovely, and the need for sanctified, spirit-filled, well-trained leaders is enormous." He also said that there is, "a great opportunity for OCU graduates in all vocations to serve the Lord in Great Britain [because] in a land once famous for its Celtic missionaries and Protestant Reformers, the number of people attending church on Sunday now stands at less than 2 in 10."



1. Joe in the Edinburgh Castle overlooking the city.
2. At the Stirling Castle with the Wallace Monument in the background.
3. Trinity Church of the Nazarene, Perth, Scotland.
4. Joe looking really cool in Scottish replica armor from the 10th century.



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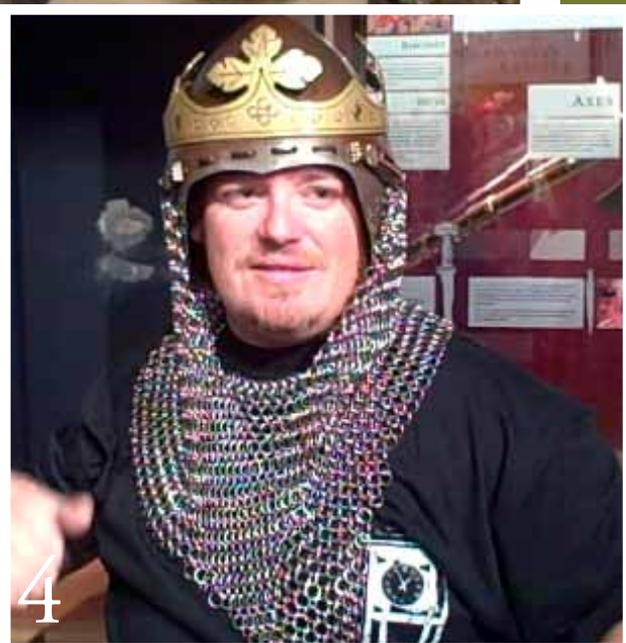
Alumni Updates



Kirk De Venney, 1979 is president of Open Door Ministries International, which has established two Missionary Training Centers. The first center opened in 1998 in Guatemala, where Kirk and his family live as missionaries. The second Missionary Training Center is in Ngong, Kenya, which is a suburb of Nairobi. Graduates have been planted as missionaries in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, France, India, Jordan, Senegal, Kenya, and various African nations. Many ODMI graduates are serving in Muslim countries and areas. (www.odmi.org)

Mark Steven Weyrauch, 1990 has been married to Tammy for 21 years and are delighted to have Kelsey, 16, and Zackary, 11, as their children. They live in Oxford, New York. Tammy attends Suny Morrisville of Norwich and Mark works for True Life Christian Church as an assistant to the Pastor.

David Pettengill, 2001, and Megan (Smith) Pettengill, 2000 adopted an 11-year old boy from Ukraine. They met him through a hosting program in the summer of 2006 and officially adopted him on March 28, 2008. His name is now Roman Rainier Pettengill. The photo is of them outside the courthouse in Ukraine right after the adoption became official. They currently attend Daybreak CCCU in Pataskala.



Share your story... and comment on ours!

We'd love to know where you are and what you're doing now. Send us your news and photos by visiting www.ohiochristian.edu/magazine. While you're there, create an account. You can leave comments on selected stories and photos, and let us know what you'd like to see in future editions.



MEET THE OCU TEAM

SILVIA LUCASCHI-DECKER

As the Director of AIM Recruitment and Enrollment for Ohio Christian University, Silvia Lucaschi-Decker supervises individuals who recruit students for the adult program (called AIM). She is also responsible for AIM's marketing program and personally recruits students for the online associate degrees. She does all this from her home in Portage, Michigan. AIM programs consist of a B.A. in Leadership and Ministry, Business Management, Logistics Management, Psychology, and Substance Abuse Counseling, and an A.A. in Christian Ministry and Business Management.

Silvia came to OCU with an impressive resume. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a Master in Business Administration, both from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana. She brought experience to OCU as a financial aid counselor and student recruiter. When presented with the opportunity to duplicate her recruiting success at OCU, Silvia accepted the challenge and now, two years later, is certain she made the right decision. She says, "I know I made the right decision. I have been challenged and stretched, but have grown so much. I am very thankful to be working with such great people." Silvia feels she has found her niche in higher education. We think so too. Since her arrival in 2006, enrollment in AIM programs has grown 275% and is now at 475 students.

If her academic credentials and experience are not impressive enough, Silvia has a rich heritage. She was born and raised in Bucharest, Romania, where she lived her first 18 years. Silvia's parents, having experienced the effects of Communism first hand, instilled in her a strong work ethic and a desire for constant self-improvement. Silvia describes her mother as "the epitome of unconditional love, self sacrifice, and hard work." Her parents provided the opportunity to study German, English, Russian, French and Latin, both in school and with private tutors. She was also involved in several extracurricular activities including figure skating, painting, gymnastics and tennis. Silvia won two regional figure skating awards and had several of her paintings on exhibit. She continues to skate today.

Her formative years coincided with a crucial period in Romania's history, transitioning from a planned economy to that of a free market economy. This transition and the deplorable state of Romania's economy after Communism intrigued her, and Silvia decided to study economics. She attributes her fascination with economics to her mother, who is also an economist, and her own desire to learn how to fix the state of the Romanian economy.

Silvia has been married to Matthew Decker, a doctoral candidate at Western Michigan University, for six years. They have a one year



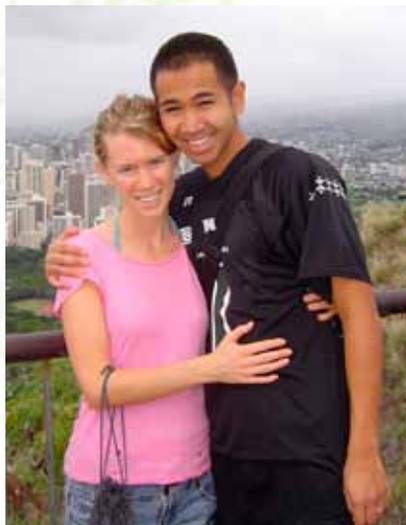
Silvia with her son, Alex

old son, Alex. She is thoroughly enjoying discovering the world through her son's eyes. Her hobbies include reading, ice skating, Pilates exercise, and Sudokus.

Raised Christian Orthodox, Silvia did not understand the meaning of the crucifixion until the age of 16 when she met a short term missionary group from Florida. Their testimonies and Christian songs they sang made her painfully aware of her sinful state, and she turned her life over to Jesus Christ. Her ultimate goal is to be persistent in her walk, always putting God first and making Christ in her life evident to others. Her daily goal is stated in Matthew 5:16: "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Silvia Lucaschi-Decker helps produce Christian servant leaders.

MEET THE OCU TEAM

ROMY NOS



Romy and Rebecca Nos

Meet Romy Nos (Row-me Naws), the student recruiter for Ohio Christian University's adult program (AIM) at the Dublin and Columbus, Ohio, education sites. Romy knew he wanted to help and counsel people in a Christ-honoring environment and has embraced the challenges of being a "rookie" in an up and coming program that has experienced tremendous growth this past year. He feels right at home with "the wonderful Family of OCU!" Starting work last August, he has already recruited several cohorts of students.

Romy, who earned a Bachelor of Arts from The Ohio State University in Communications, comes to OCU with experience counseling high school and college students in various ministries at his home church in Columbus for a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting people to needed resources. Most recently, he and his wife worked with at-risk youth as live-in counselors and teachers at a youth camp in the mountains of western North Carolina.

Although Romy was born in England, where he holds citizenship, he is Cambodian by descent. Being raised in a typical Asian home he was Buddhist, which made growing up in American culture very difficult. He became ashamed of his heritage, abandoned his Buddhist faith, and became agnostic and began believing the evolution theories taught in Biology class. His parents had pushed worldly success on him, but he found no comfort or desire for money, things, popularity, or athletic prowess. He was going to die anyway so none of these things meant anything. His life felt meaningless.

At the age of 19, he pleaded with God for help. The Lord God heard his pleas, and in the summer of 1998 evangelists shared the Gospel with him. Thinking, "This is the best news I have ever heard!" Romy accepted Christ as his King and Savior that same night and has been serving Him ever since!

Romy's hobbies are Buckeye football, a hobby his wife, Rebecca, has not fully bought into, and playing sports, especially volleyball, which he played in high school and college. Romy has been married for two years to Rebecca, and this fall they welcomed the birth of their first child, Samuel David, an experience Romy accepts with both excitement and anxiety! Rebecca is his "best friend and primary partner in the Great Commission and a source of encouragement and joy."

As he continues to be discipled and mentored on his spiritual journey, Romy continues to seek Christ in prayer, His Word, worship and fellowship, and is experiencing abundant life. In his times of failure he has found that God is quick to forgive and to heal. Romy is excited about the new path his journey is taking at OCU.



Preview Days

Tour the campus.
Join in worship during chapel.
Meet the faculty.
Experience the OCU community.

- » **January 23**
6:00p.m. Youth Group Night
- » **February 27**
10:00a.m.-2:30p.m.
- » **March 20**
10:00a.m.-2:30p.m.
- » **April 17**
10:00a.m.-2:30p.m.

ON CAMPUS

COMING EVENTS

2009 JAN	08	Women's Basketball vs. Lancaster Bible (6 p.m.)
	14	Women's Basketball vs. Lorain County CC (6 p.m.)
	16	Men's Basketball vs. Boyce College (5 p.m.)
	17	Basketball Doubleheader* vs. OSU-Mansfield (1 p.m.)
	23	Basketball Doubleheader* vs. Johnson Bible (6 p.m.)
	24	Men's Basketball vs. Crown College (2 p.m.)
	27	Basketball Doubleheader* (5 p.m.)
	31	Women's Basketball vs. OU-Chillicothe (1 p.m.)

*For basketball doubleheaders the women play first, then the men.

2009 FEB	03	Basketball Doubleheader* vs. Appalachian Bible (5:30 p.m.)
	06	Men's Basketball vs. Freewill Baptist (8 p.m.)
	07	Basketball Doubleheader* vs. Wright State Lake (1 p.m.)
	10	Basketball Doubleheader* vs. Kentucky Christian (5:30 p.m.)
	18-19	Church Planting Institute
	27	Campus Visit Day

*For basketball doubleheaders the women play first, then the men.

2009 MAR	09-13	Spring Break
	22-24	Holiness Summit

2009 APR	16	Pickaway County Community Action Day
	19-22	Circleville Preaching Mission
	21	CCCU Ministerial Convention
	22	Leadership Summit 2009 with Dr. John Maxwell
	27-30	Final Exam Week

Call 1-877-762-8669
or register online at
www.OhioChristian.edu

ON THE ROAD THE OCU CHORALE



The OCU chorale is continuing a long heritage of music ministry throughout the central and southeastern United States. Through a diverse mix of classical, gospel and contemporary music, this very talented group of gifted musicians is making an impact on all who experience this unique ministry. To book the Ohio Christian University Chorale, please contact Carrie Swackhammer, University Advancement Coordinator, at 740.420.5918 or email cswackhammer@ohiochristian.edu.

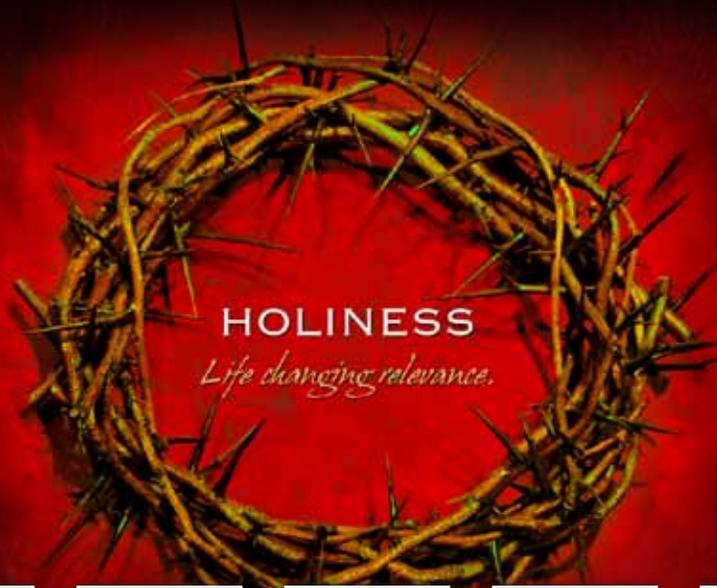
2009 Spring Tour

January 25 @ 6:00 p.m.	Jessamine Christian Church, Nicholasville, KY
February 5 @ 11:00 a.m.	Grace Christian Academy, Knoxville, TN
February 5 (time to be determined)	Community Bible Church, Atlanta, GA
February 6 @ 11:00 a.m.	Community Christian School, Atlanta, GA
February 8 @ 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Cornerstone Community Church, St. Petersburg, FL
February 8 @ 6:00 p.m.	Avon Park CCCU, Avon Park, FL
February 15 @ 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.	Winchester CCCU, Winchester, OH
February 15 @ 5:00 p.m.	Springdale Church of the Nazarene, Cincinnati, OH
April 5 @ 10:30 a.m.	Northside Church of God, Springfield, OH



HOLINESS SUMMIT

March 22-24, 2009 at Ohio Christian University



March 22

6:00 p.m. - Dr. Tom Hermiz

March 23

8:30 a.m. - Rev. Gerald Mershimer

10:20 a.m. - Rev. Larry Smith

1:30 p.m. - Holiness Roundtable

7:00 p.m. - Rev. Steve DeNeff

March 24

8:30 a.m. - Dr. David Case

10:20 a.m. - Dr. Stan Toler

7:00 p.m. - Rev. Mark Fuller



Dr. David Case



Rev. Steve DeNeff



Rev. Mark Fuller



Dr. Tom Hermiz



Rev. Gerald Mershimer



Rev. Larry Smith



Dr. Stan Toler