

# Ohio Christian

the Ohio Christian University Magazine | Summer 2013



*In Loving Memory of Josias Rodriguez*  
*Give to Josias' Scholarship at [OhioChristian.edu/Giving](http://OhioChristian.edu/Giving)*

"Throughout life, no matter what happens, one thing that never changes and we can always stand on is the fact that God is good. He loves us and will never forsake us." —*Josias Rodriguez*

*Save the Date*  
HOMECOMING GOSPEL  
CONCERT | OCT 4

SCHOLARSHIP GOLF  
TOURNAMENT | OCT 4

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# the President's 2013 Annual Report



Dr. Mark Smith, President

## 2012-13 HIGHLIGHTS

- Enrollment surpassed 3,000 with 1,200 ministry students
- Church Relations and student teams ministered at more than 60 events
- Initiated Information Technology (IT) and Bi-vocational Ministry programs
- 263 traditional students participated in small groups for spiritual development
- Students served in Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Trinidad, and West Indies
- Dave Garrison started the Faith & Liberty Talk Show

Thank you for allowing Debbie and me to serve the last seven-plus years at Ohio Christian University. God continues to bless our university more than we can imagine, and our hearts are filled with gratitude. There are many great things happening on campus. Most of all, we sense that God is at work preparing a new generation to serve the world, and He is using Ohio Christian University as part of the way to reach students. Every day I am learning that this is God's work, and it will be done in His time and in His way. We are excited about the future and pray that God will use us as effective instruments for the kingdom.

Again, thank you for all of your support and especially the kindnesses to my family. We have been treated better than we deserve, and I want you to know we are thankful. May God bless you as we continue His work together. Thank you for allowing us to serve.

## Academic Enhancements

- Faculty began monthly academic presentations for the campus community.
- Dr. Krista Stonerock was selected to serve on the McGraw Hill Freshmen Composition Symposium.
- Dr. Sylvia McDonald and OCU senior Jodi Irvine presented research on hybrid learning at the National Institute for the Teaching of Psychology.
- Dr. David Garrison led groups of students to New York City and Washington, D.C., adding real-world experience to their academic studies.
- Bible faculty were trained in the Holy Land.
- Math and Science concentrations were approved for the Teacher Education program, and OCU student teachers participated in field testing for the Stanford University-based Teacher Performance Assessment.

New minors and concentrations include Children's Ministry, Intercultural Ministry, Pastoral Care and Counseling, Worship Leadership, and Youth Ministry. Dual major programs include Government & Public Service/Business, Disaster Management & Relief/Business, and Sports Management/Business.

## Spiritual Development

Fifty-six percent of students self-reported in a survey that they have surrendered themselves to the Lordship of Christ while on this campus. Fourteen percent report they have become Christians while at OCU, and 70% report growing spiritually this year. This is the greatest report we could have!



Star Parker,  
guest on the  
Faith & Liberty  
Talk Show

Ohio Christian University prepares students to serve effectively in the church and society by providing a holistic, Christ-centered, biblically integrated education in the Wesleyan tradition.

## OCU Wins First National Championship

The men's basketball team, led by Coach Tony Stockman, earned OCU's first national title in any sport. The men's soccer, baseball, women's basketball, and volleyball teams also competed for national titles. OCU hosted the 2013 NCCAA Women's Basketball National Tournament, which contributed nearly 300 pounds of food for the CCCU City Mission.



## Faith in Action

OCU continues to cultivate servant leaders to serve the church and the world. Christian service activities included nursing home visits, assisting veterans, volunteering at churches and local schools, and ministering to the homeless. Nearly 450 participants volunteered for the 2013 Community Action Day.



Our Church Relations department, led by Tony and Abby McCrary, continues to serve the church through traveling student ministries. The OCU Chorale and music groups, Ablaze and Sounds of Hope, ministered at more than 60 events this year and received many compliments from their hosts.

## Enrollment Surpassed 3,000

The university continues to experience enrollment growth across all programs, with pronounced growth in its online offerings. A large proportion of students are seeking to enroll at OCU for ministry training, and 1,200 current students are enrolled in ministry programs.

## Campus Updates

The recently completed Dean and Diana Hickman Student Center has been a blessing to the campus and surrounding community. Many visitors are coming to campus for lunch and to shop in The Connection, the new Christian bookstore. Dr. and Mrs. Joshua Fischer provided a significant gift which allowed us to purchase a new bus, and Dr. and Mrs. Lyle Reed sponsored a new Disaster Management vehicle. We thank God daily for all who support OCU financially and through prayer.



Dr. Joshua Fischer presents gift to OCU

## Conclusion

We believe God has great days ahead of us, and I look forward to where He leads us. Most of all I love God and His work. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

His Servant,  
**Mark A. Smith**  
President



Cafeteria in the Dean and Diana Hickman Student Center

# CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT *through Teaching*



**Hank Kelly**

PROVOST

Our faculty serve as mentors and attempt to disciple students in addition to teaching them academic content.

As part of the development of its Conceptual Framework, OCU decided that character development was important to the holistic development of its students to serve the church and society. Our faculty demonstrate Christian character traits to serve as visible examples. However, faculty also attempt to impart character development through intentional instruction methods. Here are examples of ways faculty are accomplishing this.



**Heidi Frederick**

ASSISTANT V.P. & DEAN OF  
COLLEGE OF ADULT AND  
GRADUATE STUDIES

**Diligence** – General Psychology: Two groups of students were presented different “research findings,” but both sides stated they were not surprised at the finding, even though the findings were the exact opposite of each other. This illustrates our need to be diligent in pursuing truth.

**Faithfulness** - Financial Management: Students discuss the function of the financial manager within the firm. Financial indiscretions and putting financial considerations ahead of ethical conduct have been the downfall of many companies and individuals. An ethical foundation of faithfulness will pay real dividends in the long run.

**Gentleness** - Individual Chemical Dependency Counseling: Students discuss the issue of spirituality in relationship to chemical dependency counseling, including the tensions between a Christian worldview and those common to treatment and how the Christian counselor conducts him/herself in a secular environment.

**Joy** - Principles of Worship: Students discuss various means of worship, including prayer, music, the Word, and the sacraments, which bring joy through true worship.

**Love** – Fine Arts Appreciation: After reading I Corinthians 13, students identify which character in a specific opera demonstrated the most love and defend their selection.

**Patience** – Teaching Math Methods: Using the example of how Jesus treated children, students discuss how this is relevant to their view of their students.

**Respect** - Introduction to Sociology: Students develop their Christian worldview related to self in society. They focus on understanding that we are taught arrogance through ethnocentrism, but Christ calls us to see each person as God’s wonderful, beautiful creation, worthy of respect.

**Self-control** - College Study Skills: Students get a realistic view of the expectations of college and the role that they play in their own success. Students complete a time management worksheet to analyze where they are spending their time and how to adjust according to the new priority of college work.

# Faculty and Students Travel to the Holy Land



Group (left to right, back to front): Keith Ledford, Jammie Wilhelm, Gerald Mershimer, Mark Smith, Ben Williamson, Donald Glenn II, Gary Uber, David Lattimer, Joe Brown, John Smith, J. Craig Brown II, Charles Brown, Doug Smith, Shella Key, Carlene Westover, Duke Westover, Helena Marfell, Karyn Brown, David Brown, Mary Holley, Henry Kelly, Ido, Udi

Dr. Mark Smith returned from Israel Saturday, March 16th, after leading an Ohio Christian University group of religion professors, clergy, and students on a fast-paced tour of the Holy Land. The trip took in many of the holy sites in and around Jerusalem and the Sea of Galilee. More than a sightseeing tour, it was an instructional and transformational pilgrimage into the past, a verification of biblical prophecy and a clearer view of God's promise of a brighter hope for the future.

## Cal Thomas & Dr. John Maxwell Featured at 2013 Leadership Forum



Nearly 1,000 people attended OCU's annual Leadership Forum with OCU Alumnus Dr. John C. Maxwell, an internationally respected leadership expert, speaker, and author, and Cal Thomas, a nationally syndicated columnist, TV and radio commentator, and author.

**Over the last seven years, the event has raised more than \$1 million for student scholarships.**

OCU President Mark Smith thanked Maxwell for helping to fund education for needy students and adding value to peoples' lives.

Senior-level decision makers participated in roundtable training sessions conducted by Maxwell and Thomas with Mark Miller, Chick-fil-A V.P. of Organizational Effectiveness, and Pastor Kevin Myers, Founder of 12Stone Church in Atlanta, GA.

## CHARACTER through Psychology | MATT DECKER



**Matt Decker**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
OF PSYCHOLOGY

For those interested in human behavior, character is a complicated topic to study. One cannot see or hear character. Thus, it is difficult to discuss objectively. From my point of view, character is about the thousands of decisions each of us make daily and the patterns of action formed by those choices.

The rapidly changing landscape of the world means there are choices that our students will have to make in the future that we, as educators, cannot foresee or—in some cases—even understand. Therefore,

giving a student a list of rules is inadequate because it cannot completely prepare the student for what may come. Choices related to peer pressure and political correctness are common examples of how each of us can be influenced by society. We may not know exactly how these issues will be presented to students in the future, but we can equip them with a foundation of biblical values on which to base their views.

At OCU, we teach students how to intentionally apply biblical principles to each decision they make. Allowing students to work through the mental processes of decision making, while providing guidance based on a Christian worldview is one way we are training the future generation of leaders to tackle problems with innovation and creativity grounded in Christian values.

## CHARACTER through Composition | KRISTA STONEROCK



**Krista Stonerock**

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Since almost all incoming students take a two-semester sequence of English Composition in their first year, we intentionally incorporate the university's selected character traits in a brief, student-led presentation for each class period. Students present a devotional, along with a vocabulary word and writing prompt. This year, the devotional themes were based on the following character traits: patience, faithfulness, self-control, diligence, generosity, and respect.

Student Joel Kirkwood, drawing on the theme of faithfulness, shared a devotional based on Matthew 4:19-20. Joel spoke about the faithfulness of the disciples, who immediately dropped their nets to follow Jesus, and challenged his classmates, "What are you continuing to carry in your nets? What's dragging you down? Is it worth it?" He talked about the joy of releasing those weights and responding in faithfulness.

As we approached midterm week, student Joshua Harshbarger shared a devotional from Isaiah 40:28-31. He shared with the class his amazement that "the God who created the whole universe and everything in it would care to sustain us." Hoping the passage would encourage those who were feeling tired at such a busy time of the semester, he reminded the class of the importance of diligence and the truth that "God gives us strength when we don't feel like we can gather enough strength to carry on."



# Josias Rodriguez

1993-2013

The OCU community was deeply impacted by the sudden loss of Josias Noel Roderiguez, a 19-year-old sophomore in the traditional program. Josias was a graduate of Tree of Life Christian High School and was known as a shining example of Christian character.

Family and friends gathered in a memorial service at OCU on April 29th, sharing memories and planting a memorial tree on campus. Josias's mother, Judy Rodriguez, encouraged students, saying, "You have a purpose and a destiny to fulfill in Christ. Don't waste it." A candlelight vigil, during which friends recounted their experiences with Josias, was held that night.

Josias was a man after God's own heart and an incredible friend to many on campus. Though he was well-liked and voted a class favorite and homecoming king, Josias was always focused on God and others.

*Christ lived in Josias Rodriguez. Josias's pores oozed Christ's love. His spirit oozed God's grace and kindness.*

As described by Rev. Aaron Duvall, "Josias was a breath of fresh air. He was a light in a dark world."

Dr. Krista Stonerock stated, "Christ lived in Josias Rodriguez. Josias's pores oozed Christ's love. His spirit oozed God's grace and

kindness for not only his friends, but also for the "least of these," as evidenced by his recent mission trip to Trinidad and many Saturday afternoons spent at Pickaway Manor nursing home, playing games and visiting with the residents there."

Earlier this year, Josias wrote, "Throughout life, no matter what happens, one thing that never changes and we can always stand on is the fact that God is good. He loves us and will never forsake us."

OCU established the Josias Rodriguez Ministry Scholarship Fund to preserve the legacy of this special young man. Donations may be made online at [www.ohiochristian.edu/giving](http://www.ohiochristian.edu/giving).

# OCU Graduates Record 474 New Alumni



*Congratulations Graduates*

OCU conducted its 63rd commencement on Saturday, May 4, with a record graduation of 474 students. Last year, 396 students were graduated.

Sixty-one of the 474 graduates are from the traditional program, which consists primarily of semester long classes, taught in the day. The other graduates participated in the adult and graduate studies program, which features accelerated classes one night each week or online. The average age of the students graduating from the traditional program was 24 with a range of 20 to 41. The average age of the students graduating from the adult program was 39 with a range of 21 to 73.

Daniel Kuhn of Winfield, West Virginia, was the valedictorian and the honor graduate for the traditional program. The honor graduate for the adult and graduate studies program was Sandy Ott of Ashland, Kentucky

Linette Shetler of Plain City, Ohio, and Jermaine Wilson of Indianapolis, Indiana, were the co-salutatorians.

The commencement speaker was the honorable J. C. Watts, Jr., former U.S. Congressman for eight years, former quarterback of the University of Oklahoma who led them to two Big Eight championships and two Orange Bowl victories, former Canadian football quarterback, ordained minister, and current CEO of Watts Companies, a consulting firm.

OCU recognized Watts for his life of distinguished Christian service by awarding him a Doctorate of Christian Leadership. OCU President Mark Smith said, "OCU is extremely fortunate to attract a speaker as distinguished as J. C. Watts!"



For more pictures and video highlights,  
visit us online at [OhioChristian.edu/2013grads](http://OhioChristian.edu/2013grads)

Graduates!

OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

*Alumni*

ASSOCIATION

*homecoming* 2013  
OCTOBER 4th-6th  
SAVE THE DATE!



Brian Free & Assurance



Three Bridges

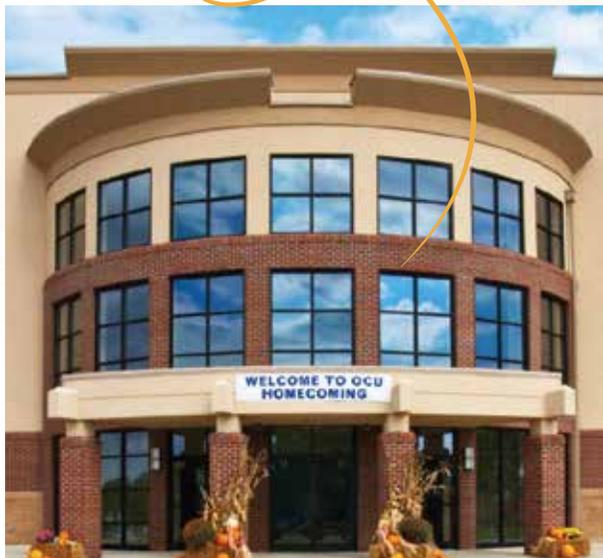


Gordon Mote



The Talleys

*Gospel Concert*  
October 4th at 6:00pm



Address Changes

Send address changes and news to: Alumni Relations,  
[alumni@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:alumni@ohiochristian.edu) or visit [www.ohiochristian.edu/magazine](http://www.ohiochristian.edu/magazine).



Ryan Whisler

ASSISTANT V.P. OF IT

In this Digital Age, sources of temptation are all around us, and succumbing to temptation is only one click away. According to a Barna Group study, Christians age 23-41 are only “somewhat less likely” than non-Christians to view pornography on the Internet. This report provides a clear message: something must change! The change must start with Christians choosing to live holy lives. God changes lives! A God who has the power to save us also has the power to sanctify us.

Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit. As John Wesley reminded us, the Holy Spirit gives us “right judgment.” As Christians, scripture reminds us that we are to heed the Holy Spirit and flee from evil (Eph. 5:3). “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5).

At OCU we recognize the damaging effects of pornography and take this issue very

seriously. Fortunately, technology can assist us in avoiding temptation. We use technology to protect students through creating accountability and blocking websites that are inconsistent with holiness (1 Thess. 4:3). In addition, we work to educate parents and students of the danger of these materials.



New!

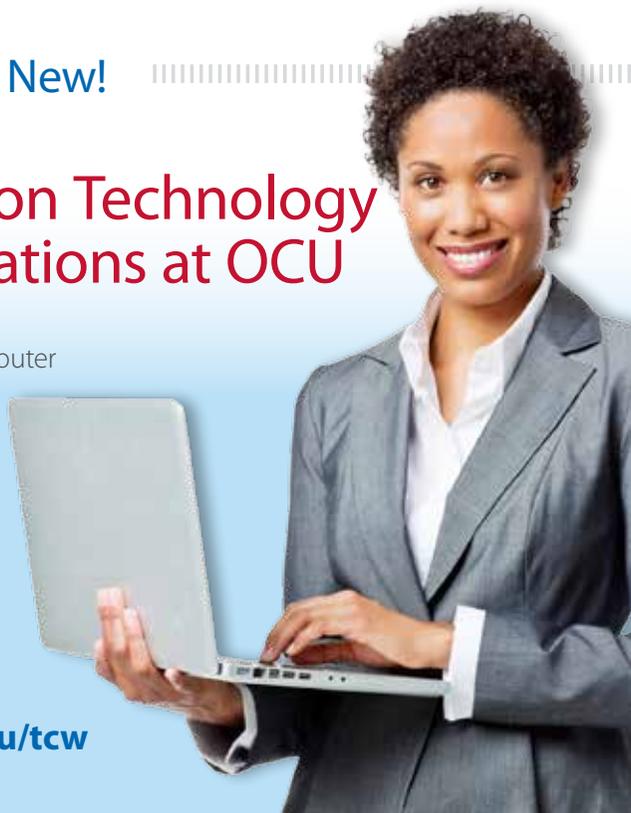


## Information Technology Concentrations at OCU

OCU's new partnership with The Computer Workshop allows students to prepare for high-demand IT roles in business. Bachelor and Associate degrees can be completed onsite or online.

Classes start this summer.  
**Apply today**

Call **1-855-OCU-GRAD** or visit [www.OhioChristian.edu/tcw](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/tcw)





NCCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONS TRAILBLAZERS

The Ohio Christian University Trailblazers, led by Coach Tony Stockman, secured the university's first NCCAA National Championship on March 9, 2013, with a 73-62 win over Arlington Baptist University. The championship capped off a perfect season in which the Trailblazers went undefeated in 22 games in NCCAA Division II.

Upon their return to Circleville, the team was greeted with a police escort to a gathering of OCU fans, staff, and supporters. The team was featured on Wall to Wall Sports with Dom Tiberi of WBNS-10TV in Columbus, and the local community celebrated with a special parade featuring the Circleville High School band. County Commissioners and Mayor, Don McIlroy, proclaimed March 19th Ohio Christian University 2013 National Championship Day.

"This is a special time for our community," said Dr. Mark Smith, president of OCU. "Not one of these guys could have delivered it on his own," he said. "It took all of them, with outstanding coaching from Tony Stockman and Jamey Batten."

"I have to give credit to the players," commented OCU head coach Tony Stockman. "They have worked really hard and all of that hard work paid off. It was a process. Our guys committed to sacrifice individual goals for team goals, and that made all the difference down the stretch. The team became a family, and that was a key element in our success."



KEEP UP WITH ALL OUR SPORTS AT  
[WWW.OHIOCHRISTIAN.EDU/TRAILBLAZER-ATHLETICS](http://WWW.OHIOCHRISTIAN.EDU/TRAILBLAZER-ATHLETICS)





## Dean and Diana Hickman Student Center Dedication

Ohio Christian University conducted a dedication ceremony for the 30,000 square foot, \$6 million Dean and Diana Hickman Student Center on March 23rd. The building includes a cafeteria, café, bookstore, intramural gym space, game room, classrooms, and offices. The building was needed to support the rapidly growing student body at OCU.

The building is named for Dean and Diana Hickman, who gave a significant gift to the university. Dean is President of Paragon Technical Services and has sung tenor with the Guardian Quartet since their first concert in 1988.

“We desire to help OCU students pursue their God-given dreams.”

The Hickmans spoke at the ceremony about the need for Christian higher education and thanked OCU for its good work in this area. Also speaking at the ceremony were Circleville Mayor Don McIlroy and Pickaway County Economic Development Director Ryan Scribner. “I can’t

wait to see what is next at OCU,” they both said. Pickaway County Chamber of Commerce President Amy Elsea also assisted with the ribbon cutting ceremony.

OCU President Mark Smith said, “Dean and Diana have been good friends of Ohio Christian University. It was reasonable to name our new student center in honor of them.” This building adjoins the Maxwell Center and the Science and Logistics Center, which are used by thousands of community members every year.

# Answering the Call to Serve

BY BROOKE CHARLES

Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the  
desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

This spring, I was blessed to have the opportunity to minister in Bolivia with a WGM Task Force team. As I worked to raise money and prepare for the trip, God began to work in my heart, giving me a desire to minister in an orphanage. Since many mission trips include ministry to orphans, I assumed that mine would too.

Upon arriving in Bolivia, I was discouraged that there was no orphanage visit on the itinerary. My schedule included painting at a seminary, leading chapel at the Christian Learning Center, seeing ministry places, and more. While I was happy to serve, I began to doubt the impact of these activities and asked the team leaders if it would be possible to visit an orphanage. Knowing there was little chance, I began to ask God to clarify this passion in my heart and to make a way if this was His desire for me.

On our last day in Bolivia, we were going to lead chapel and visit some ministries in Santa Cruz. Before chapel began, one of the team leaders came to me and said, "We're going to a children's home after chapel." I was stunned. We were going!

When we arrived at Talita Cumi Orphanage, there was one particular 5 year old boy that I know God placed in that orphanage to give me clarity. His name was Jesús. That little boy was my answer; I had met Jesus in an orphanage. I believe Jesus met me where He had led me. God has given me a desire to love and care for abandoned, neglected, and hurting children. The next step of my journey is learning where God wants me.



Front Row: Matthew Merringer, Logan Edmonds, Billy Kratz, Kelly Kratz, Russ Coen, Tim Daniel; Back Row: Drew Loomis, Kayla Conley, Kelsey Owens, Brooke Charles, LeeAnn Daniel



Brooke Charles



Logan Edmonds, Drew Loomis, Kelsey Owens, Brooke Charles



Jesús and Brooke Charles



Billy Kratz, Drew Loomis, Matthew Merringer, Tim Daniel, Logan Edmonds, Kelsey Owens, Kayla Conley, Brooke Charles, Kelly Kratz



Ted Perry

CONTROLLER

Character is defined as the set of mental and ethical traits that make a person unique. I have heard it said that a certain individual was “quite the character,” and pastors often say character is who you are when no one is looking.

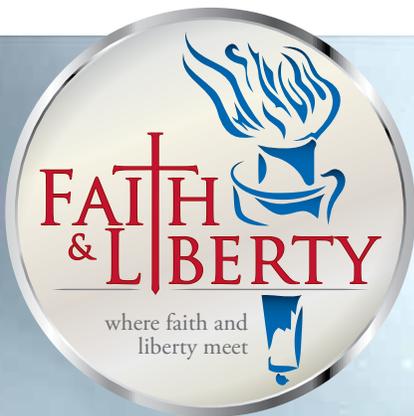
Many outstanding persons of great character are mentioned in the Bible. Daniel was ripped from his homeland, never to return. Ruth also left her homeland to scavenge in a foreign country. Job suffered more than most will ever imagine. Yet, the character produced and exhibited in their lives was

priceless. What price might we be willing to pay in order to maintain our character?

**In an age where business ethics are known to be gray at best, do we strive to reflect Christ even if it means sacrificing a financial profit or a job promotion?**

God’s call to be set apart from the world is only amplified when the Christian enters the business arena. The pursuit of godly character is not likely to be easy. Romans 5:3-4 says, “We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” In other words, godly character is a work in progress. It isn’t born, mass-produced, or given out indiscriminately; it is purified through the crucible of life in the heart (Proverbs 17:3).

At OCU, we are working to document procedures and internal controls for our business processes. These protocols are key in promoting an environment of trust, especially during times of tremendous business growth. Just as God’s Word examines the character of the heart, these systems serve to hold us all to a higher standard of business conduct.



## Talk Show Draws Renowned Guests

Dr. David Garrison and the OCU Business & Government department launched the Faith & Liberty Talk Show in January. Each week, Garrison interviews authorities in the areas of interest to Christians as they engage our civil society with a Christian and biblical worldview. The talk show is available as a podcast and radio broadcast.

Visit [www.FaithandLiberty.org](http://www.FaithandLiberty.org) to listen and learn more.



Sgt. Ricky Christman



Spc. Andrew Christman



1st Lt. Sarah Gustafson



Josh Egenreider

## OCU Honors Those Who Serve

Rev. Rick Christman, Vice President for Student Development, and wife, Cheri, have two sons who are currently serving in the U.S. Army:

*Sgt. Ricky Christman, Jr. is currently serving in Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division. Ricky served two of the last three years in difficult assignments, including Afghanistan and Korea. His wife, Bonnie, and three sons anxiously await his return in December.*

*Spc. Andrew Christman is currently serving with a Reserve Military Police Unit. Andrew is a chaplain's assistant, and God is working through him. He has been able to minister to soldiers, sharing his faith and giving soldiers bibles to use for personal spiritual growth.*

Mike Egenreider, Vice President for Enrollment and wife, Nina, have a son serving the Air National Guard and a daughter in the U.S. Air Force:

*1st Lt. Sarah (Egenreider) Gustafson serves as an active duty officer in the U.S. Air Force. Sarah serves as a nurse and is stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base with her husband, Craig, who is also a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.*

*Josh Egenreider is enlisted and he will go into the Air National Guard. His rank is Airman First Class, and he will be working in Avionics out of Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base.*

The OCU community seeks to support and honor those who serve our country.

*Do you know an OCU student or alumnus making a difference in the armed services? Share your story at [www.ohiochristian.edu/magazine](http://www.ohiochristian.edu/magazine).*



Stephen Mansfield



Kate Obenshain



Joel C. Rosenberg



Star Parker



Jason Mattera



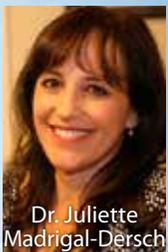
Carol Tobias



Pastor Tim Throckmorton



Dr. Jay W. Richards



Dr. Juliette Madrigal-Dersch



Dr. Larry Schweikart



Steve Munisteri



Matthew D. Staver



“Having a scholarship means I can focus on learning and ministry without worrying about money.”



Ohio Christian University recently awarded more than \$125,000 in merit- and need-based scholarships, which were made possible by the generous support of those who partner with the university.

## ***GIVE A SCHOLARSHIP TODAY!***

Call Mark Taylor, Vice President for University Advancement, at 740-420-5918 or give online at [www.OhioChristian.edu/Giving](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/Giving)

**OHIO CHRISTIAN**  
UNIVERSITY

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