

Ohio Christian

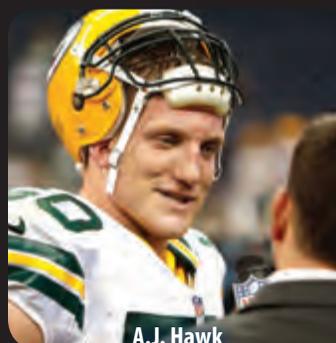
WINTER 2015



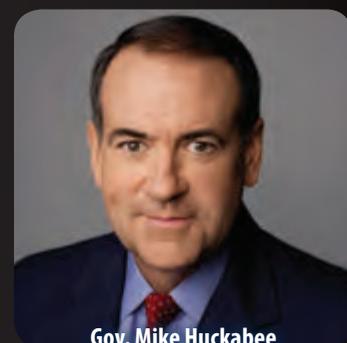
OCU'S STRATEGIC PLAN ✦ RIGHTEOUSNESS IN A DIGITAL AGE ✦ SERVING THE CHURCH

APRIL
8
2015

LEADERSHIP
for America
FORUM



A.J. Hawk



Gov. Mike Huckabee



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.



- 3 Message from the President
- 4 Coming Events
- 6 OCU's Strategic Plan
- 8 Recent News
- 13 Stewardship: A Way of Life
- 20 Living in a Digital Age
- 22 Trailblazer Athletics
- 24 Alumni Updates

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ADDRESS CHANGES
Send address changes and news by email to alumni@ohiochristian.edu



APRIL 8, 2015 @ 2PM
IN DETTY CHAPEL

\$40 PER PERSON INCLUDES

- » Pastoral Leadership Seminar
- » Seminar materials & supplemental resources
- » Dinner
- » Reserved seat for the Leadership Forum Grand Evening Event

Pastoral Leadership Seminar

Dr. Stan Toler - 2PM

Best-selling author, speaker, teacher, Founding Executive Director of Southern Nazarene University's Center for Pastoral Leadership, and OCU Alumnus.



Pastor Gerald Brooks - 3PM

Pastor Brooks is a gifted leadership speaker and mentor for numerous high-profile pastors. He has authored eight signature books and co-authored the highly acclaimed *Ladder Focus*.



Leadership Expert
Dr. John Maxwell



FOX News Host
Governor Mike Huckabee



Entrepreneurs
The Benham Brothers



Green Bay Packers
A.J. Hawk

Register today! Call 740-420-5902 or visit www.OhioChristian.edu/Pastors



By Dr. Mark A. Smith, President

a Message from the President

OUR WORLD NEEDS RIGHTEOUS LEADERSHIP

“The only thing necessary for the triumph [of evil] is for good men to do nothing.”

—English Philosopher Edmund Burke

Today our world is filled with a multitude of explosive “breaking news” events that tend to focus on the evil of our society. Many times I refuse to watch or read the news in disgust due to the emotional way that it is presented. The news media seems obsessed with being the first to report another big “breaking news” storyline.

But the real reason I hate to view these events is because it highlights the evil of our day. Anyone want to start a media outlet with positive news? Ha! It may be time. Would you agree?

The underlying issue of our day is really not new at all—it is the story of good versus evil. It is the Adam and Eve and the serpent story. It is all about the fall of mankind. Romans 12:21 reminds us, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” Evil is prevalent everywhere, and we must constantly fight against the cultural norms that drive us toward evil. The biblical admonition is to always fight against evil.

Many people have wondered why Ohio Christian University is involved so extensively in our culture. Well, here is the answer. Christ has made such a radical change in our lives for good through salvation that we must have as much influence as possible. If leadership is all about influence, as our alumnus Dr. John Maxwell suggests, then we must lead, we must influence!

Where do Christians get involved and lead? Church, here is some advice—it is time to lead righteously! A church that is not involved in the fight against evil is a church that is asleep. Where do we lead?

Why be involved in economics? Because the church helps assist and defend the poor and weak of society. This is a way to get involved in lives and share the Gospel—be righteousness to our society. The wicked destroy the poor! Scripture reminds us in Psalm 10:2, “The wicked arrogantly hunt down the poor.”

James 1:27 says, “Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress.”

Why be involved in politics? Because evil advice must not prevail according to God’s word. Evil advice will destroy a city, a state, and a nation. We must share righteous viewpoints. We must always be a voice against evil. Scripture shares why in Ezekiel 2:11: “These are the men who are plotting evil and giving wicked advice in this city.”

Why be involved in education? Because we must instruct this generation in righteousness. As the church has pulled back in this arena, our nation is profoundly changing. Ideas control the world! Will the ideas be righteous or evil? We are commanded to teach righteous ways!

Deut. 6:5-9 says, “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.”

Many have decried the evil influences that are in our society, but the church has in many cases abdicated responsibility. Church, it is time to be bold and stand for righteousness.

And always remember, “the gates of hell shall not prevail” over the church. Be strong my friend! Stand for righteousness! Be encouraged, as we are on the winning side.



SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015

2015

COMMENCEMENT

learn more online at www.ohiochristian.edu/grad

SAVE
the
DATE

- Feb. 19 Preview Day (Traditional Program)
- Mar. 9 Spring Break Begins (Traditional Program)
- Mar. 21 Dinner & Concert with the Collingsworth Family and the Guardians
- Mar. 26 Preview Day (Traditional Program)
- Apr. 3 Easter Break Begins (Traditional Program)
- Apr. 8 2PM Pastoral Seminar with Dr. Stan Toler and Pastor Gerald Brooks
- Apr. 8 6PM Leadership Forum
- Apr. 10 Preview Day (Traditional Program)
- Apr. 16 Community Action Day
- Apr. 27 Finals Week (Traditional Program)
- May 2 Commencement

From the Provost

With record enrollment and strategic additions of programs and locations, OCU is preparing more students to impact the world than ever before.



New AGS Programs

The Associate of Arts with a major in Human Services was first offered in August and already has 61 students enrolled in the program. This program prepares individuals for entry-level positions in a variety of helping professions and provides a foundation for a variety of bachelor-level programs such as criminology, counseling, ministry, psychology, and social work.

To provide more education options to better meet the needs of our students, several new AGS concentrations will be offered this year:

- » Bachelor of Arts with a major in Leadership and Ministry: concentrations in Biblical Studies, Church Planting, Organizational Leadership, and Pastoral Ministry
- » Bachelor of Arts with a major in Business: concentrations in Accounting, Human Resources, Insurance, and Marketing
- » Master of Business Administration: concentrations in Accounting, Digital Marketing, Finance, Health Care Management, Human Resources, and Organizational Leadership

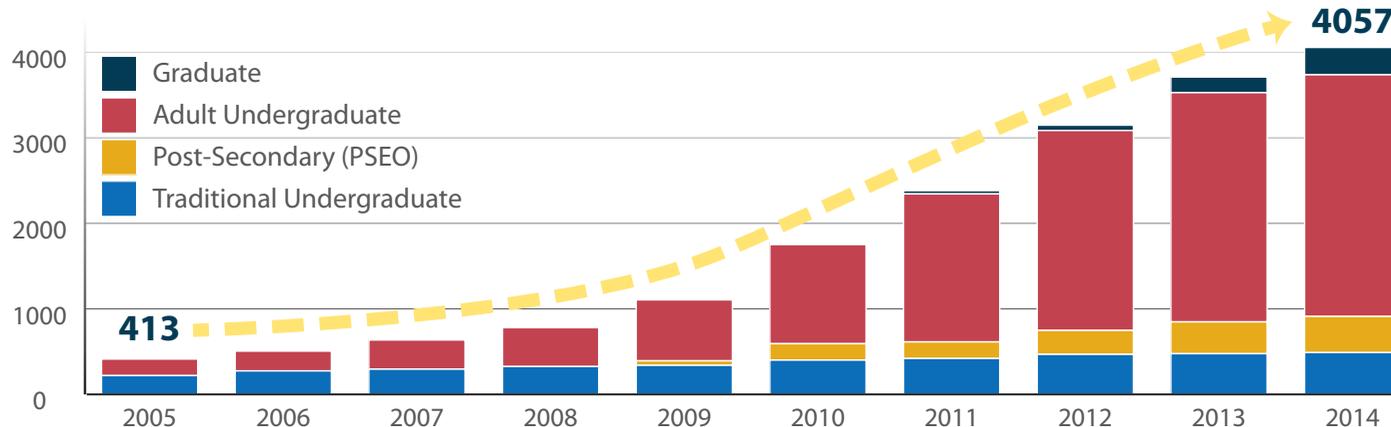
Regional Campus Growth

In August, a new education location was opened in Columbus, Ohio, at the First Church of God on Refugee Road, pastored by Bishop Timothy Clarke. There are already four cohorts with 71 students meeting at this site. OCU's Malon Mimms Education Center in Morrow, Georgia, continues to grow with 14 cohorts and 116 students meeting at this site as well as 165 Georgia residents in online programs. We are planning to hold our first graduation ceremony at this site in April 2016.

Advisory Councils

Input from employers of our graduates is critical to ensure we are teaching the correct things to develop the competencies that students need for their future vocations. To accomplish this, we are creating an Advisory Council for each program that prepares students for a vocation. Advisory Councils that have been formed and met at least once include: Business, Disaster Management & Relief, Government and Public Service, Ministry, Nursing, Sports Management, Teacher Education, and Worship Leadership. Advisory Councils still to be formed are: Criminal Justice, Intercultural Ministries, Music Education, Psychology, and Substance Abuse /Chemical Dependency Counseling. We are grateful for the volunteer time of these participants!

2005-2014 Fall Enrollment



OCU's Strategic Plan

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'"

Luke 14:28-30

Planning is biblical! OCU updated its strategic plan last academic year through a cooperative process that involved many individuals from across the campus. The strategic planning initiative started with students, alumni, faculty, staff, and other friends of the university submitting their responses to the following questions:

- What are our opportunities?
- What new academic programs should we offer?
- What kind of efficiencies can be gained at OCU?
- What are new ideas to accomplish enrollment growth?
- How can we promote OCU to the church, community, and world?
- Who could invest in OCU?
- If you could hire one person at OCU, who would it be? Why?

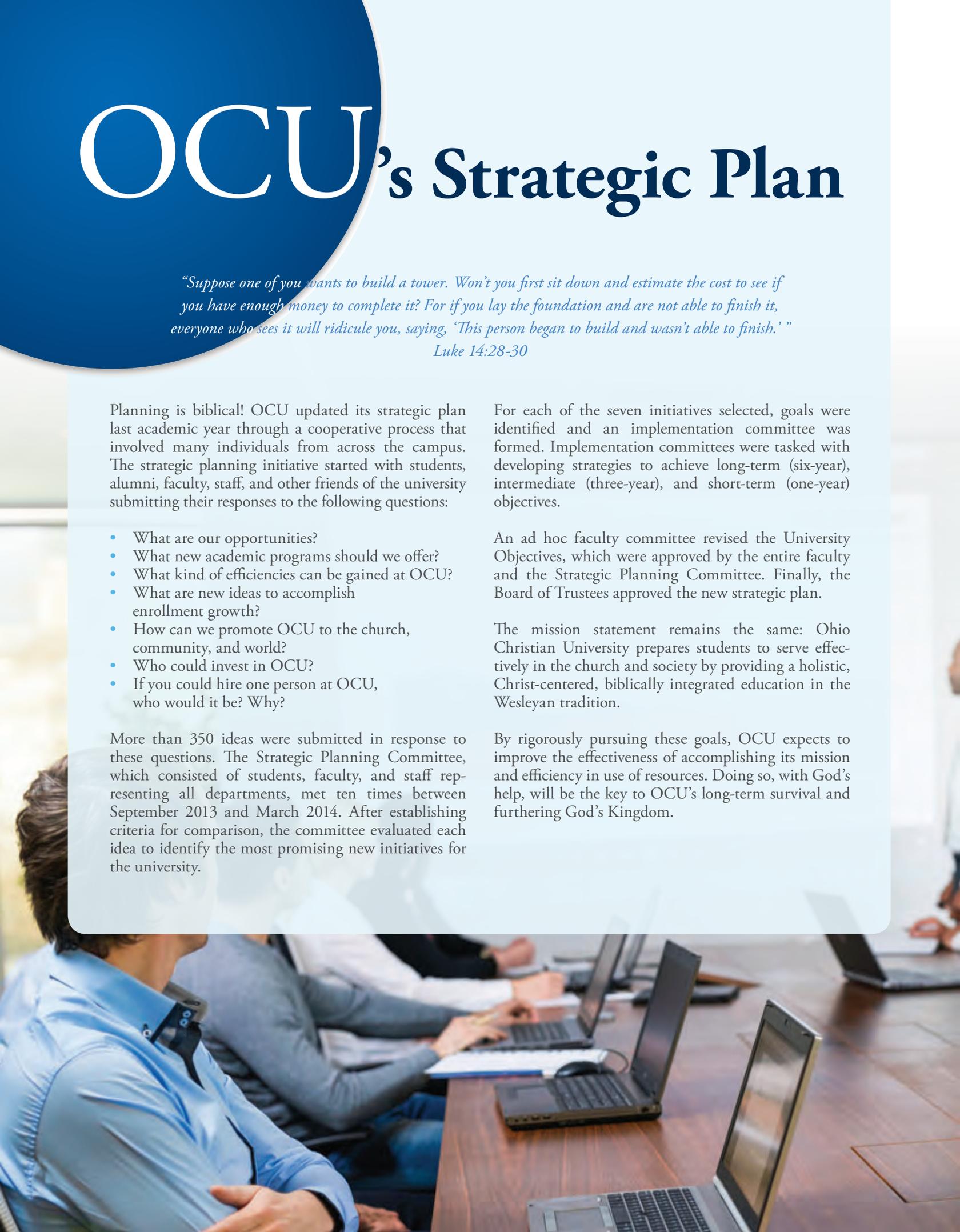
More than 350 ideas were submitted in response to these questions. The Strategic Planning Committee, which consisted of students, faculty, and staff representing all departments, met ten times between September 2013 and March 2014. After establishing criteria for comparison, the committee evaluated each idea to identify the most promising new initiatives for the university.

For each of the seven initiatives selected, goals were identified and an implementation committee was formed. Implementation committees were tasked with developing strategies to achieve long-term (six-year), intermediate (three-year), and short-term (one-year) objectives.

An ad hoc faculty committee revised the University Objectives, which were approved by the entire faculty and the Strategic Planning Committee. Finally, the Board of Trustees approved the new strategic plan.

The mission statement remains the same: 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.

By rigorously pursuing these goals, OCU expects to improve the effectiveness of accomplishing its mission and efficiency in use of resources. Doing so, with God's help, will be the key to OCU's long-term survival and furthering God's Kingdom.



OCU's 2014-2020 Strategic Goals

1

Increase OCU's impact on the world for Christ by increasing enrollment to 5,000 and developing graduates that meet the needs of the community, workforce, and Church.

2

Increase student satisfaction and retention and alumni involvement with the university.

3

Expand OCU's attractive, student-oriented campus with updated facilities.

4

Improve OCU's effectiveness and efficiency to keep costs down for students.

5

Promote a unified brand image through improving coordination across marketing and communication channels.

6

Build a network of strategic partners to secure the university's future.

7

Develop employees and provide the best workplace environment.

OCU Ensembles Perform at Circleville Pumpkin Show

Three ensembles from the OCU Music Department performed at the Pickaway County Visitor Center's Pavilion of the Circleville Pumpkin Show in an event titled, Ohio Christian University Music Department Sampler. The purpose of the performance was to offer a sampling of the ensemble opportunities for OCU students. The ensembles participating in the event were the University Chamber Singers directed by Dr. Dione Bennett, the University Chamber Strings directed by Linda Stieg, and the University Band directed by Dr. John Anthony.

The OCU Music Department hosts community performances throughout the year. For upcoming performances or to request information, visit www.ohiochristian.edu/music or send email to Dr. John Anthony at janthony@ohiochristian.edu.



"Thank you for making Trick or Treat fun and safe for the kids! They really enjoyed it!"

Jennifer Leach via Facebook



Trunk or Treat!

More than 20 groups and hundreds of visitors participated in OCU's second Trunk or Treat event, providing a safe and family-friendly environment for Halloween festivities.



FALL REVIVAL BRINGS HEALING & RESTORATION

OCU was pleased to host Rev. Susie Shellenberger and Bishop Timothy J. Clarke for its annual fall revival. Revival began with a candlelight worship and prayer service. Students gathered in front of the Maxwell Center to prepare their hearts for the blessings God would bring in the coming week. God moved in each service to bring the healing and restoration that He alone provides.



Rev. Susie Shellenberger has written over 40 books that have sold more than 1.5 million combined copies. She is the editor and namesake of SUSIE, a brand for teen girls that includes a print and monthly magazine titled SUSIE Magazine. Olivet Nazarene University named her "Woman of the Century" in 2000 and awarded her its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.



Bishop Timothy J. Clarke is the visionary leader and Senior Pastor of First Church of God in Columbus, Ohio. Under his dynamic and prophetic leadership, First Church has become a spiritual beacon at the local and national level. Bishop Clarke has received several honors and degrees for his service to the church and to the community.





CHURCH SERVICE DAY 2015

Churches Impacted by OCU's Inaugural Church Service Day

This October, Ohio Christian University hosted its inaugural Church Service Day. Approximately 450 OCU students, faculty, and staff spent the day assisting local churches with projects, enabling the churches to minister more effectively within the community. Teams were sent to 34 churches in Pickaway County and the surrounding area. Volunteers performed work such as painting, gardening, and cleaning.

“We are thrilled to serve our local churches, and it was an excellent experience for churches, staff, and students,” said Rebecca Wakeman, OCU’s Assistant Vice President of Student Services and organizer of the event. “We look forward to many more years of service in this capacity.”

Notes of Gratitude from Churches

It was a joy to have the men’s basketball team serve so kindly. The work you did and the presence you brought were appreciated!

Sharon Steinbrook, Brookside Church

We were thrilled with all that was accomplished. The students were a joy to be around. OCU is a blessing to our community.

Meg Stanley, Circleville Presbyterian

Our church was blessed by the 16 students and team lead, Scott Boyer. They did an outstanding job.

Pastor Ron Fraley, Clearcreek Community Church

Thank you for the blessing of all the work done by students at Lighthouse Ministries.

Pastor Steve, Lighthouse Ministries

Many thanks for your hard work. Projects that have been on our to-do list for quite some time were completed thanks to your efforts.

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

The five young ladies who came to serve did a thorough, neat, and efficient job. They made our college proud and are to be commended.

Pastor Jim Pollard, Kingston Living Water CCCU

Thank you for your emphasis on developing a servant mindset among students who desire to follow Christ.

Pastor Phil Manson, Pickerington Church of the Nazarene

Thank you for cleaning our church. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Whisper Presbyterian

The amount of work that was accomplished at our food pantry exceeded my expectations. All of the students were hardworking. I could not have been more pleased.

Jim Daubenmire, Lancaster Vineyard Food Pantry

Not only were the students diligent and industrious; they also served cheerfully and courteously. From our point of view, the Church Service Day was an enormous success.

Pastor David Cavanaugh, Logan Elm Baptist Church

We are so grateful you organized a church service day. We cleaned every surface in our large sanctuary and Sunday School area. We could not have done it without you.

Martha Ewing, Williamsport UMC



Continued Growth and Bright Future for OCU in Morrow, Georgia



Dr. Shawn Thomas
Dean of the Atlanta Campus

After just one year of operation, the enrollment at the OCU Morrow campus continues to enjoy accelerated growth. The campus opened the doors on September 26, 2013, to its first ever cohort of 13 students. Under the leadership of Dr. Shawn B. Thomas, the campus has recruited over 160 new students. Another 250 students are expected to be enrolled in 2015. Also, many events are being planned for 2015.

Dr. Thomas commented, "It's going to be a great year. The word says, 'No one's ever seen or heard anything like this, never so much as imagined anything quite like it - what God has arranged for those who love him' (1 Corinthians 2:9, The Message)."

Visit www.OCUGeorgia.com to request information or refer a friend to OCU Morrow today!



Sports Management Students Gain Hands-On Experience

Students in the OCU Sports Management program are gaining real-world experience through a variety of activities, such as internships, hosting a baseball tournament to benefit world missions, and interviewing current sports management professionals. These activities are made possible through cooperation with organizations such as Athletes in Action, the Columbus Crew, Match Point, and Circleville High School.

In two recent visits to Wright State University (WSU), students got an inside look at careers in Sports Management. The Event Planning and Management class visited

the WSU Nutter Center to observe what it takes to manage sporting events. The OCU Facility and Design class met with the Assistant Athletic Director in charge of WSU athletic facilities.

The students saw and discussed the sports facilities, blueprints for planned construction, proposed changes to the softball diamond and soccer field, and possible solutions to parking problems.

“We are helping students learn the importance of networking and understand what the Sports Management career really entails. Seeing event management and facility planning in action created a great learning environment for our students,” said Josh Murton, faculty member and soccer coach.



Timothy Goeglein visits OCU, Receives Faith & Liberty Award

Recently, students had the opportunity to hear from Timothy Goeglein as part of Ohio Christian University’s Center for Faith & Liberty Distinguished Speaker Series. Goeglein is currently the Vice President of External Relations for Focus on the Family. Formerly, he served as Special Assistant to President George W. Bush and as Deputy Director of the White House Office of Public Liaison. Goeglein was recognized by OCU’s Center for Faith & Liberty® with the 2014 Faith and Liberty Award, presented by Dr. David Garrison, Dean of the OCU School of Business and Government.

The Faith and Liberty Award is presented to a person who demonstrates unwavering commitment to a Christian Worldview and who has shown continual perseverance as a leader in both faith and freedom. The person awarded the Faith and Liberty Award has shown exceptional contributions in furthering faith, freedom, and liberty in the United States. The 2012 Faith & Liberty® Award was presented to historian, author, and political activist David Barton. The 2013 Faith & Liberty® Award was presented to political activist and founder of Cure, Star Parker.



Young America's Foundation Names OCU a Top Conservative College

Ohio Christian University was one of just 15 schools in the country recently named to Young America's Foundation Top Conservative College listing. This listing includes schools that, "Proclaim, through their mission and programs, a dedication to discovering, maintaining, and strengthening the conservative values of their students."

Schools were picked because they, "Offer an alternative to the liberal status quo, because they allow and encourage conservative students to explore conservative ideas and authors. They offer coursework and scholarship in conservative thought and emphasize principles such as smaller government, strong national defense, free enterprise, and traditional values. Furthermore, they avoid trends in academe by continuing to study Western Civilization instead of straying toward the study of Marxism, feminism, sexuality, postmodernism, and other distractions that do not give students a complete understanding of our country, culture, and, founding principles."

At Ohio Christian University, all programs are designed to equip students to become leaders in their careers, communities, families, and the world. All programs at Ohio Christian University are first and foremost taught from a Christian worldview.

Ohio Christian University's emphasis on excellence, character, and servant-leadership extends beyond the classroom into real-world experiences that prepare students to compete in a global economy. OCU has been recognized nationally for its Center for Faith & Liberty and its School of Business & Government, which emphasize the founding principles embodied in the U.S. Constitution and other founding documents.

"We are appreciative of the recognition from the Young America's Foundation" says, Ohio Christian University President, Dr. Mark Smith. "Ohio Christian University teaches from a biblical view, shaped on biblical foundation principles. These principles have been the foundational tenets of America, and in my opinion, are why we have been blessed as a nation"



Mike Fracassa
Vice President of Operations
and Operational Efficiency



OCU Business & Government Students

“ Students have the opportunity to learn about investments firsthand.

OCU School of Business and Government Students Visit Wall Street and the New York Stock Exchange

OCU School of Business and Government students have the opportunity to learn about investments firsthand. Recently, the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) was kind enough to further the students' learning by inviting them to see firsthand the largest stock exchange in the world.

A group of 27 students and three professors from the Ohio Christian University School of Business and Government traveled to New York City to visit Wall Street and the New York Stock Exchange. The group toured the NYSE and Wall Street area and were able to be on the floor to see firsthand what happens inside the exchange. As a result, they were able to visit with traders and brokers in the midst of actual trades.

Students also attended a seminar in the training room at the Bloomberg Financial Headquarters and saw the 16-acre National September 11 Memorial.

OCU Hosts Small Business Roundtable

The School of Business and Government recently hosted its annual Small Business Roundtable. Six experienced entrepreneurs spoke with more than 80 students about the many benefits and challenges of establishing and operating small businesses. Entrepreneurs attending were Johnna Thompson, who along with her husband owns seven Subway Franchises; Michael Linton, owner of Accurate Heating and Cooling; Jim Patrick, owner of Mason Furniture; John Cockrell, owner of JM Printing and Graphics, LLC.; and Jesse Lear and Travis Smith, co-founders of VIP Waste Services, LLC.

The students had many questions about real-life business situations. Many tips were shared on what can be expected of a business owner when facing unexpected challenges such as economic hardship and changes to government regulations.

Disaster Management

Students Visit Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services in Jackson, MS

In route to the International Association of Emergency Managers conference in San Antonio, Texas, disaster management students from OCU stopped in Jackson, Mississippi, to get an up-close look at faith-based emergency response activities. The disaster center in Jackson is responsible for the states of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, covering much of the coastline on the Gulf of Mexico. The divisional director is OCU's former disaster management professor, Dr. Thad Hicks.

Many of the students in The Disaster Management program at OCU plan to use the knowledge they gain in the program for ministry with organizations like The Salvation Army. Disaster Management student, Dustin Hube, stated, "Direct interaction with Christian disaster organizations is invaluable as we look to answer God's calling."



Festival of Carols





Carols & Messiah

9th Annual Christmas Gift to the Community

Ohio Christian University hosted its ninth annual Festival of Carols and Messiah concert on December 6, 2014, in the beautifully decorated Maxwell Center. Guests were treated to the artistry of the OCU Chorale, joined by members of the Circleville Community Choir and an excellent 40-piece orchestra including students, faculty members, and local musicians.

In the spirit of the season, the event was the university's gift to the community with one request: guests were asked to bring canned food items to donate to local ministries who support needy families. Those who arrived early enjoyed a prelude by the orchestra, along with other musicians and university ensembles.

Dr. Rodney Sones, Director of the OCU Chorale and Community Choir, led the evening's music, which featured festive orchestrations of well-loved Christmas music, beautiful a capella numbers, and Christmas selections from Handel's Messiah. Soloists for the evening included Carolyn Redman, Andrew Blosser, and Dione Bennett, and Conductor George Edge. Abigail Ailes performed a violin solo. Sones commented, "Once again, the OCU Chorale is enjoying a year of growth. We had tremendous fun preparing this year's concert. Community participation continues to bring many wonderful singers. We hope the concert was a blessing to all who joined us to celebrate the Christmas season."

Pastors Rick and Karon Addison **Visit OCU Ministry Students**

by students Joshua Harshbarger and Haley Shank

The Ohio Christian University Religion Department was pleased to host Pastors Rick and Karon Addison from The Grace Place in Stuart, Florida. Students had the chance to learn from their 36 years of experience in growing and leading a church. In the morning, the Addisons visited Professor Lonnie Potts' Leading and Growing a Church class. In the afternoon, they gave separate lectures. Rick spoke with ministry students in Detty Chapel about life in ministry and how The Grace Place has grown through the work of the Holy Spirit. Meanwhile, Karon spoke about ministering with JOY (Jesus, Others, and You) in the Maxwell Library.

Rick emphasized that a church needs to be constantly evolving in order to be effective within its community. From knowledge gleaned from other pastors of successful churches in his area, Pastor Addison committed himself and his church to consistent change to guard against complacency. He shared that though it may take years, the church must maintain the form of cultural relevance that God has called us to.

Karon Addison, like her husband, brought great insight and wisdom to OCU ministry students. Her lecture for women revolved around the acronym JOY (Jesus, Others, and You). She reminded the students that ministry is about sacrificing one's whole self to others and Christ, sharing about the "trenches" of ministry and that ministry isn't a glamorous life at all, but a life of sacrifice and service. She closed her session with a group prayer and hug, assuring the students she would be praying for them often.

In the evening, some of the ministry students and Religion faculty joined Rick and Karon at Connection Corner for a question-and-answer session and fellowship with the Addisons. Ohio Christian University is committed to facilitating interaction between its students and innovative, successful pastors. The Addisons were part of a great day for learning and growing at OCU.



Pastors Rick and Karon Addison

**OCU is
committed
to facilitating
interaction
between its
students and
innovative,
successful
pastors.**

NORVAL SHEPARD

A Life of Stewardship

Stewardship has become a way of life for me. I believe it is the reason I want for nothing and the reason I have never felt deprived! I came from a depressed area at the end of the Great Depression. My parents struggled greatly. I worked my way out of those surroundings, putting my skills to work doing whatever it took to succeed. God blessed me for my good work ethic. I discovered there is great reward in doing your best in whatever job you find yourself.

I learned as a young boy in Sunday school that if you have a dime, a penny belongs to the Lord. That lesson has stuck with me throughout my life. Tithing becomes a part of you when the discipline is developed as a young person. This is such an important lesson for all of us. Tithing does not go unnoticed by God.

On entering high school I learned the importance of budgeting and record keeping, which helped me when I worked and started college a few years later. I began to save money for a new car, but God had other plans for me. Instead, my savings helped me go to CBC to study ministry. God continued to provide work for me throughout my time as a student, which allowed me to graduate debt free, ready to apply what I had learned.

My life has been full of stewardship lessons. I have never gone hungry, and God has always provided a job to help support my family. I have been blessed by wise guidance in investing for retirement; I have been amazed to see how it grows. It has allowed me to give to the University and still have the opportunity to enjoy some traveling. Since I have no children, I established a family scholarship to help struggling students. It is my hope they will do the same when they are able. In addition, supporting my home church and Missions are very important to me. It is truly a blessing to have the opportunity and resources to give!



Norval Shepard, Class of 1960

“I established a family scholarship to help struggling students. It is my hope they will do the same when they are able.”

Support a student for as little as \$15 a month!

Help an OCU student prepare for God's calling.

Call 740-420-5918 today or give online at

www.OhioChristian.edu/Give.





Dr. Rick Christman,
Assistant Provost and Vice President
for Academics and Student Services

Holy Living in a Digital Age

I grew up in an era where CBS, NBC, ABC and PBS were the only television outlets you could view on any screen outside of the local movie theater, and the best you could hope for on the radio were two local stations that generally played as much static as they did music. The idea of the internet, portable computers, cell phones, and electronic notepads were things my peers and I never even imagined.

The advent of the internet and development of portable digital devices has placed the world, both good and bad, at everyone's fingertips. As a society, we are being inundated with enormous amounts of information on a daily basis. In fact, Young and Kinnaman, in *The Hyperlinked Life* (2013), note that "71% of people feel overwhelmed by the amount of information they need to stay up to date."

The key to successfully navigating this digital world is developing a keen understanding of how it works and how to keep yourself from its dangers. The following tips will assist individuals in maintaining holy living in this digital age.

**"Whatever is true, whatever is noble,
whatever is right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is
admirable—if anything is excellent or
praiseworthy—think about such things."**

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

1. Know where you are going digitally.

This is extremely important, as many online sources are developed to capture the casual "surfer." Be conscious of your surroundings and the type of sites that you are visiting. Family-friendly filters and accountability software are available at little or no cost and can help safely guide you as you navigate these sometimes dangerous sources. Visit www.bit.ly/ocu15121 for recommended internet filtration tools.

2. Let the Holy Spirit be your guide.

As with anything, God desires the best for each of us, but we must seek His guidance as we navigate our digital world. As Colossians 3:23 (NIV) states: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."

3. Be accountable to someone.

There are ways to create safeguards and accountability without jeopardizing your digital security. Content filtering services allow your accountability partner to see the sites you have visited. Being honest about your digital behavior is the only way this relationship will prove successful.

Top 5 Guidelines for Using Instructional Media

by Dr. Mark Smith, OCU President



4. Limit the time given to digital devices.

It is amazing how much time can be wasted when we do not manage our time effectively. Young and Kinnaman suggest that we take a digital Sabbath, turning off our digital devices for a period of time each week. These authors go on to add that “many of us don’t have proper boundaries with technology during the week because we sleep with and wake up next to our smartphones.” By taking a weekly digital Sabbath, we keep our digital world in proper perspective.

The digital age we are living in provides individuals and families opportunities to experience more than at any other time in history. It is vital that you remain alert to potential pitfalls and dangers. Be informed and be willing to inform others, be accountable and be willing to maintain accountability relationships, and be conscious of the amount of time spent in your digital space.

Young, J. & Kinnaman, D. (2013). *The Hyperlinked Life*. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI.

- Create accountability and do not become isolated, place technology so that your screen is visible to others
- Become familiar with good Christian resources that provide safeguards and create accountability
- Never allow secret compartments in your heart or become isolated
- Be careful to always guard your mind against evil through prayer and discernment
- Never allow anything to control you (1 Cor. 6:12)

Above all keep a pure heart!





Men's Soccer Finishes

#2

in Nation

The Men's Soccer team had a phenomenal postseason, ending with a second place finish at the NCCAA National Tournament. OCU took an early lead in the championship game against Maranatha Baptist University when Brent Palmer scored the first goal. The Trailblazers held the lead through halftime. Twelve minutes into the second half, Maranatha evened the score. Moments later, Maranatha added another goal and secured the 2-1 advantage that would lead them to victory. Trailblazers Collin Hawke, Marcos Viscaino, and Trevor Lewis were all named to the NCCAA All-Tournament Team with Hawke also receiving honors as the Most Valuable Defensive Player.



Women's Soccer Finishes

#4

in Nation

The Lady Trailblazers enjoyed their best national appearance at the 2014 NCCAA National Tournament. The Trailblazers were edged out by Providence College in the 3rd place game by a score of 4-0 to finish in 4th place overall. The ladies finished off a memorable season with a 12-9-1 overall record, securing their second straight Mid-East Region Championship. The 4th place finish at NCCAA Nationals is the best finish ever for an OCU women's soccer team.



Women's Volleyball Finishes

#2 in Nation



The magical run came to an end for OCU Volleyball on Saturday as the Trailblazers came up short in three sets to longtime rival Kentucky Christian University in the NCCAA National Championship Game. The Trailblazers finish an historic season with a 28-17 overall record. OCU went through the Mid-East Region regular season schedule with a perfect record to claim the #1 seed in the Mid-East Region Tournament. Ohio Christian then opened up the NCCAA Nationals with five straight victories to reach the National Title Game where they finished as NCCAA National Runners-Up.

2014 NSCAA All-Americans

SOCCKER



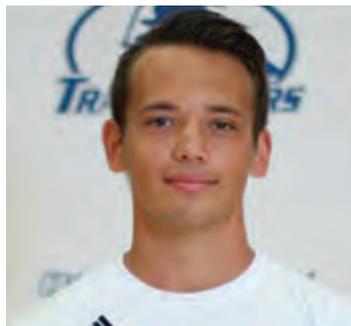
Katelyn Danner



Colin Hawke



Mekayla Deffenbaugh



Trevor Lewis



Lexi Paas



Alex Marstiller

VOLLEYBALL



Megan Morrison



Olivia Davis

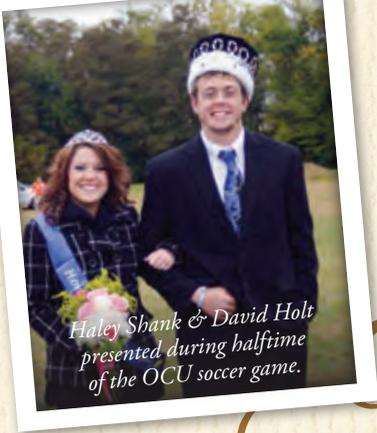
Follow the Blazers online at OCUTrailblazers.com

The Alumni Association thanks everyone who participated in Homecoming 2014 and helped make the weekend such a great success!

Homecoming 2014

OCTOBER 2-4

TORCH RUN ALUMNI CHAPEL LINKING LEGACIES GOSPEL CONCERT RUN FOR RODRIGUEZ LEGACY CHAPEL



Haley Shank & David Holt presented during halftime of the OCU soccer game.



OCU students at the Homecoming pep rally and annual Torch Run.



A very successful, if rainy, 23rd Annual OCU and Linking Legacies Golf Tournament, with nearly 150 alumni and friends raising more than \$10,000 in support of student scholarships.



Students and alumni enjoy food and fellowship while the kids play on the inflatables at the tailgating picnic.



OCU Soccer Coach Josh Murton rallies the Trailblazers for their game against rival KCU.



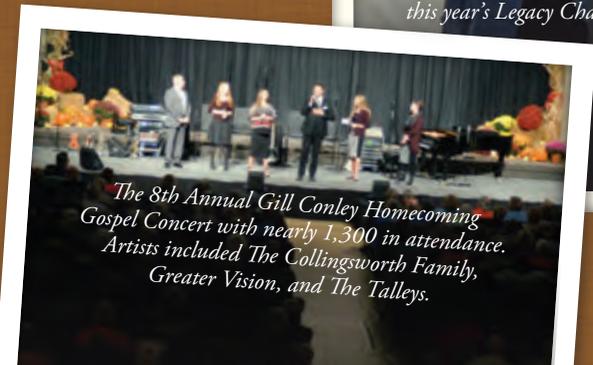
OCU students celebrate at the Homecoming bonfire.



Alumnus Pastor Keith Groves reflects on OCU impact during this year's Legacy Chapel.

“Great night at @OhioChristian University singing to a sold-out crowd with @C_Fam1 and @greatervision! See you next year!”

Tweeted by Lauren Talley Alvey



The 8th Annual Gill Conley Homecoming Gospel Concert with nearly 1,300 in attendance. Artists included The Collingsworth Family, Greater Vision, and The Talleys.



Ma Bell

OCU ALUMNUS GOES HOME

Linda Kay Bell, best known as “Ma Bell” went to be with her Lord on November 19, 2014. Linda spent four years as one of our missionaries in Papua New Guinea (PNG). She had a real heart for the people there and worked in Theological Education by Extension in the Southern Highlands at Kar, Mendi and Ialibu. She helped to train national pastors during a difficult time when our Bible School was closed due to tribal fighting. The failing health of her parents and the difficulty of raising her support prompted Linda to make the difficult decision not to return to PNG. She then spent eight years working for Children’s Services in the Zanesville area.

So who says that Linda’s feet were beautiful? Scripture does! In Romans 10:15 Paul quotes Isaiah, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.” Linda was good

news to her family, our denomination, Ohio Christian University, and all to whom she ministered in PNG. After Linda graduated from OCU and before serving as a missionary, she spent several years working as the Resident Director of Moore Hall, the women’s dormitory. That’s where she received the name “Ma Bell.” She was dearly loved by her girls.

The best illustration of this comes from Dr. Larry Olson who at that time served as the Dean of Students as he describes what happened one Sunday morning in 1990 when a fire struck Moore Hall. “It was a Sunday morning, and Linda had gone to a ministry assignment out of town. The fire started about 9:00 AM. By a bit past noon most of the girls were huddled together on the front lawn as we all tearfully and helplessly watched the fire consume the building and all their possessions.

Linda’s car was spotted arriving on campus. Someone said ‘Ma Bell is here!’ Linda literally drove up onto the lawn, and the girls ran to her car. She jumped out leaving the door open and the motor running and with a grief-stricken face and her arms spread wide open, actually ran to her girls as they ran to her. The image is that of the loving mother hen enfolding her babies with her wings, and in that moment in time, suddenly everyone was reassured. Ma Bell is here. Everything is going to be all right.”

After the fire Linda pulled things together and loved and mentored her girls from a small apartment in town. Dr. Olson closes by saying, “Life’s experiences give us tiny glimpses into eternity. That was one of those moments. Today we hold tight to the realization of our faith and Linda’s. Linda is HOME and everything is all right.”

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news.”

The Lady with Beautiful Feet

by David Lattimer

Updates ALUMNI

ASSOCIATION
EST. 1948

WEDDINGS

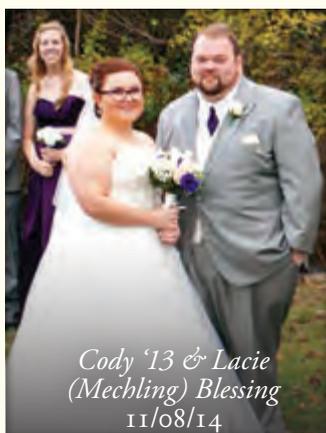
ACHIEVEMENTS

BIRTHS

WEDDINGS

ACHIEVEMENTS

BIRTHS



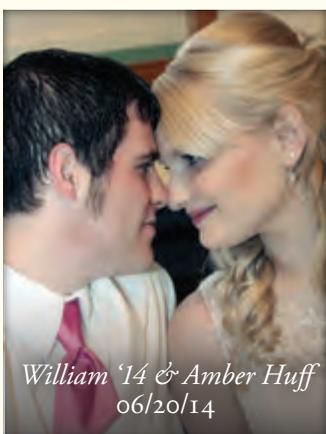
*Cody '13 & Lacie
(Mechling) Blessing
11/08/14*



*Jarod & Hillary '13 (Stump) Massie
05/24/14*



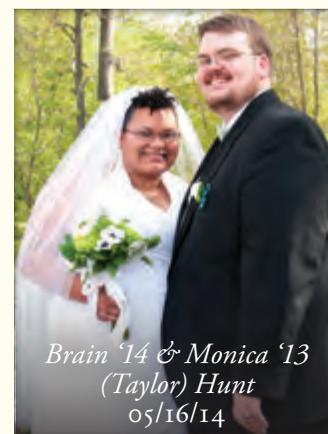
*Matthew '14 & Megan '14
(McCrory) Harshbarger
09/13/14*



*William '14 & Amber Huff
06/20/14*



*Ryan '14 & Kandi '11 (Baker) Holbrook
08/09/14*



*Brain '14 & Monica '13
(Taylor) Hunt
05/16/14*

Having defended his dissertation this fall regarding the tension of saving souls and saving lives through the Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Services, Thad Hicks graduated on December 5th, 2014.

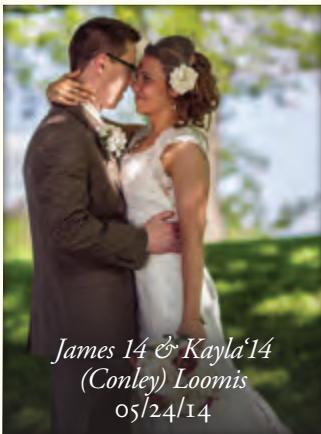
Thad Hicks is an experienced Emergency Management practitioner and academic, currently serving as the Director of the Emergency Disaster Services Department in the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi Division of the Salvation Army.

Thad not only designed and developed the Disaster Management and Relief bachelor program for OCU, but also taught within it for 4.5 years. While no longer a full-time professor, Thad continues to teach online as an adjunct professor at Ohio Christian University

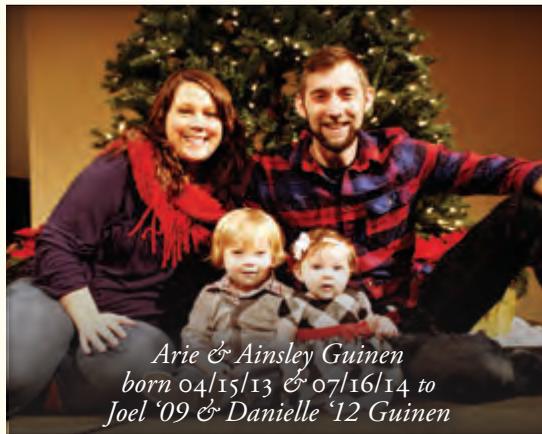
Save the Date

MAY 09 Columbus Crew Game
JUN 05 Cincinnati Reds Game @ the Great American Ball Park with Fireworks
JUL 18 Columbus Zoo & Zoombezi Bay
AUG 08 Cleveland Indians Game @ Progressive Field with Fireworks
CONNECT @ www.ohiochristian.edu/alumni/events or 740-420-5903

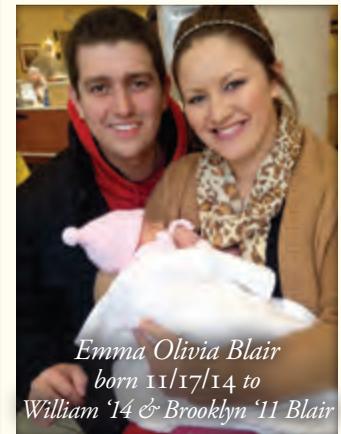
WEDDINGS ACHIEVEMENTS BIRTHS WEDDINGS ACHIEVEMENTS BIRTHS



James '14 & Kayla '14
(Conley) Loomis
05/24/14



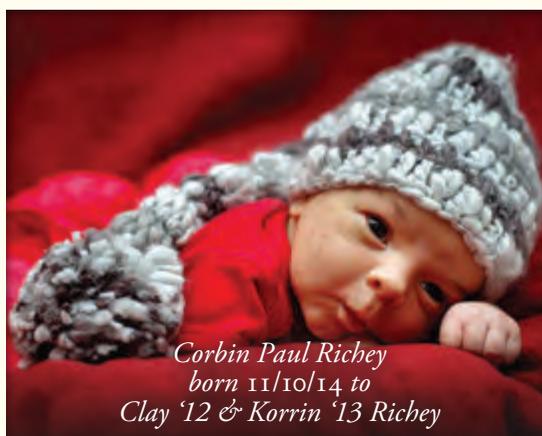
Arie & Ainsley Guinen
born 04/15/13 & 07/16/14 to
Joel '09 & Danielle '12 Guinen



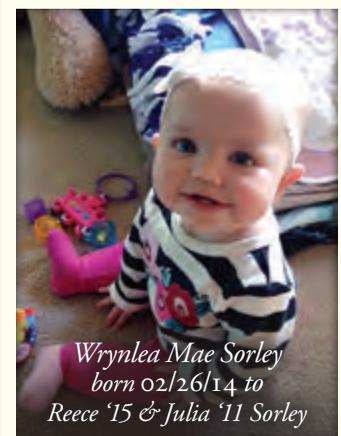
Emma Olivia Blair
born 11/17/14 to
William '14 & Brooklyn '11 Blair



Daniel '14 & Gina '14
(Perosino) Lovelace
07/12/14



Corbin Paul Richey
born 11/10/14 to
Clay '12 & Korrin '13 Richey



Wrynlea Mae Sorley
born 02/26/14 to
Reece '15 & Julia '11 Sorley

and The University of Maryland,
University College.

Thad is a Certified Emergency
Manager, (CEM), holding an M.A. in
Conflict Transformation, and a PhD
in Intercultural Studies.



Send Updates to
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Gov. Mike Huckabee

Former Arkansas Governor, Presidential Candidate, and FOX News Host



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Former Pro Baseball Players, Nationally Acclaimed Authors, and Entrepreneurs



A.J. Hawk

Ohio State Buckeye Linebacker, NFL Green Bay Packers Linebacker

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