

# Ohio Christian

the Ohio Christian University Magazine | Summer 2011



## OCU Presents the Class of 2011

- » Former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue Addresses the Class
- » Mr. & Mrs. Malon Mimms Honored



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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/magazine.*



## 2010-2011 Highlights

- ✿ Enrollment Surpassed 2,000 with 723 Ministry Students
- ✿ Graduated 285, Including the 2,000<sup>th</sup> OCU Graduate
- ✿ Student Teams Ministered at More Than 60 Events
- ✿ Five Faculty Members Completed Doctorates
- ✿ Five New Locations Opened for Adult Classes
- ✿ 200 Traditional Students Participated in Small Groups for Spiritual Development
- ✿ Six World Gospel Mission Task Force Teams Served Internationally
- ✿ President Smith Appointed to the ABHE Bible College Board of Trustees

# THE PRESIDENT'S 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## SERVING THE CHURCH, THE COMMUNITY & THE WORLD



MARK A. SMITH, PRESIDENT

Five years ago, Debbie, Doug, Micah and I moved to Ohio Christian University to serve the constituents. As the OCU team met, strategic planning occurred, goals were established and vision was formed. Some called it a new day, others saw hope, and still others wondered.

As I reflect back, there have been many days of excitement, a few days of struggle, but in all, I can see the steady guidance of God. OCU is expanding its mission to serve the community by serving on over 100 committees or boards. OCU is supplying the church with workers both in pastoral work and missions—six student teams served around the world this year! OCU is changing the lives of young men and women by providing a high quality educational experience that is firmly founded on right principles and truth. This semester I was privileged to travel to Israel and to Argentina to minister and be ministered to by others. The value of this experience was life changing. Once again I saw a world that so desperately needs the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Yes, we will change the world through the Power of One. One person empowered by one Holy Spirit with one purpose and one passion will change the world one person at a time!

### Spiritual Updates

This was an exceptional year for OCU Spiritual Formation. OCU offered chapel twice a day, three times a week to accommodate the growth of the student body. We again hosted the Holiness Summit, and our students were required to attend all three sessions each day. A special thank you to Dr. Case and Dr. Hermiz for their excellent presentations outlining the need for holiness and our holiness heritage. Students have been more involved than ever leading chapel worship, and the Ministerial Association provided multiple students the opportunity to speak throughout both semesters. A highlight this year has been our small group program that continues to provide a diversified and holistic process through which students are spiritually formed outside of a traditional chapel setting.

I hosted the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) Bible College Presidents and ABHE President Ralph Enlow for a meeting on the future of Bible colleges, and I have been asked to serve on the ABHE Board of Trustees. We have been planning new ways for the Bible College movement to stay relevant while maintaining approval from the Department of Education. OCU was commended for our new approaches to reaching the world yet staying true to our Biblical integration roots.

### Campus Improvements

As we continue to experience tremendous growth, the campus is continually being improved to meet the needs of new students, faculty, and staff. Below are a few of the additions and improvements slated at this time.

The first floor of the Science and Logistics Center was completed in August 2010. The addition includes a computer laboratory, classrooms, and faculty offices. The second floor, which will house the Advancement and President's offices, will be completed in August 2011.

A second townhouse is nearing completion and will open this summer as an upperclassmen residence facility. York Hall is also being remodeled for the fall semester.

Plans are being finalized for the new Student Center (right), which is scheduled for completion in August 2012.



## Enrollment



*OCU was awarded the ABHE Enrollment Growth Award for the 5th consecutive year.*

This was our best year of growth so far, and we are thankful for the increase. Our primary growth has been in the online sector. We continue to see large numbers of students who are seeking us out for ministry training. For the fifth consecutive year, Ohio Christian University received the Jonathan N. Thigpen Enrollment Growth Award, presented by the Evangelical Training Association and The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), in recognition of the highest enrollment growth from 2009 to 2010 in the 600+ Category.

## Traditional Program

The traditional undergraduate program continues to grow, with a 48% increase in completed applications. Four hundred new students are projected to enroll for the Fall 2011 semester.

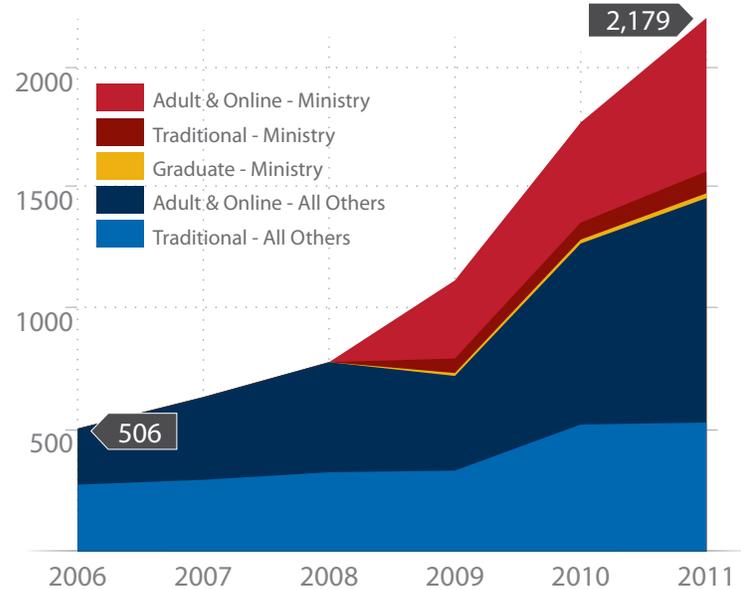
## AIM Adult Degree Program

At the end of April, AIM enrollment reached 1,558. This marks a 65% increase (614 students) over last year. Enrollment in online programs is 813, or 52% of AIM students. We are on track to achieve an AIM enrollment of 2,000 in 2012. The AIM program continues to reach new students by offering additional degree programs and locations.

## Master of Arts

Eight graduate courses were offered in our master's program this year. Six courses were taught by OCU professors and two were taught by Wesley Biblical Seminary faculty. Enrollment in core classes has averaged above 20 students.

## Fall 2006 - Spring 2011 Enrollment



*Spring 2011 enrollment was 2,179 with 723 students (33%) in ministry programs.*

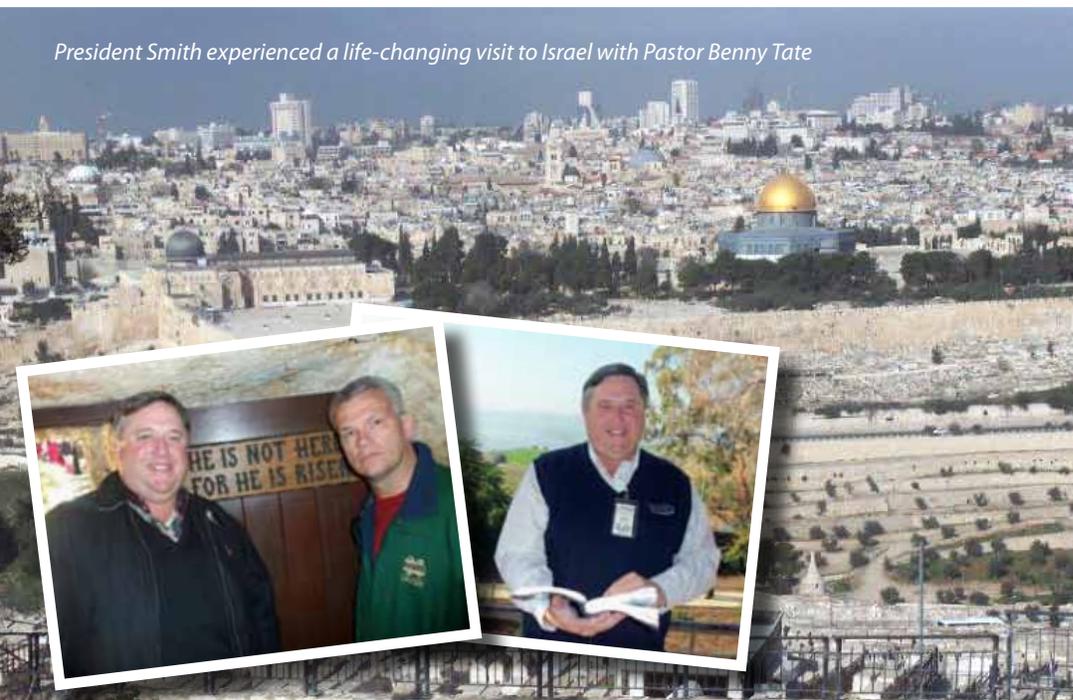
We believe God has great days ahead of us, but only as we stay committed to our mission and His will. It is a privilege to work with you and I look forward to where God leads us. Most of all I love God and His work. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

His Servant,

*Mark A. Smith*

President

*President Smith experienced a life-changing visit to Israel with Pastor Benny Tate*



*President Smith, Pastor David Dean, and Rev. Mike Holbrook in Argentina*





# Congratulations TO THE CLASS OF 2011!



BY DR. JOE C. BROWN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Two hundred eighty five students were graduated from the University at its sixty-first commencement. This is a record number for a graduating class from the University, and is greater than the number of students who were enrolled in the entire institution in 2000! A near capacity crowd of almost 1500 people attended the event to witness this joyous occasion in the lives of our students as they concluded their learning experience at OCU.

Those graduating with honors, those being inducted into honor societies, along with the University's 2000th graduate were recognized during the ceremony. Seven individuals from the 2011 graduating class were inducted into the Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Society sponsored by the Biblical Higher Education Association, one of the institution's accreditors. Sixteen AIM graduates were inducted into the Pinnacle Honor Society, an honor society for adult students. Two students graduated from the University's Honors Program. The Honors Program was started five years ago for top students in the University. Admission to

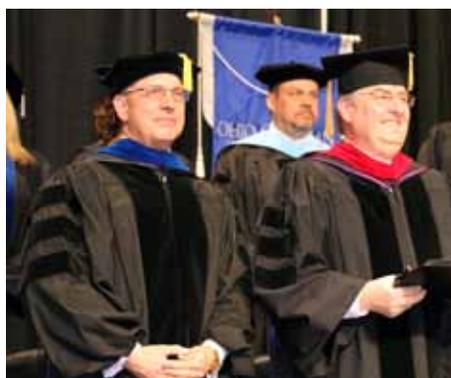
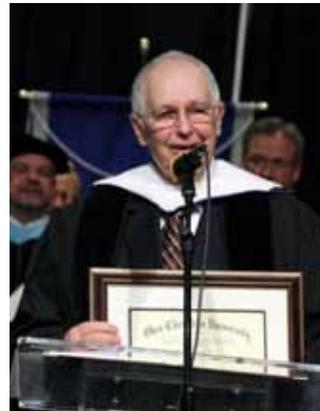
the program is limited to students with top entrance exam scores, top grades from high school, and requires the student to maintain a 3.5 GPA to remain in the program. Honors Program students are required to take several additional hours of honors classes on top of their normal course load throughout their college careers. The program culminates with a written honors project that is evaluated by the faculty. To date the University has graduated five students from its Honor Program.

The commencement speaker was Governor Sonny Perdue, the immediate past governor of the State of Georgia. Governor Perdue shared that throughout his life, the Lord led him from one level of responsibility to the next, a process that eventually culminated in his role as the Governor of Georgia for two terms. As the level of responsibility increased during his career, the Lord provided him with the grace and strength needed to carry out the task of the office.

Governor Perdue along with Mr. Malon Mimms, a Christian Businessman who is recognized for his support of Christian organizations that reach out to broken people, were given honorary doctorates at the event.

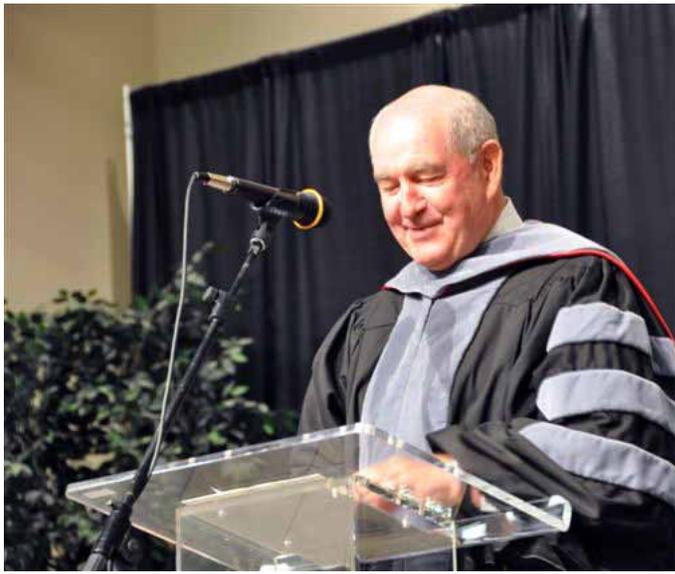
Christine Zimmerman was the valedictorian of the 2011 class, graduating with a perfect 4.0 GPA. She was also selected by the faculty as the Honor Graduate of the Traditional Program. In addition to her accomplishment of a perfect 4.0 GPA, Christine also graduated from the University's Honors Program with a written project that had been published by the time she graduated! In her valedictory remarks of gratitude to the faculty, administration, and staff she concluded with thanksgiving to God saying, "for the high calling that we have been given, which propels us forward from this moment, we must thank our Heavenly Father who initiated His great plan in each of our lives long before we were born." The Salutatorian was Lauren Bivens, who had a near perfect GPA and graduated from the University's Teacher Education Program.

Many left the commencement remarking about witnessing the presence of the Spirit during the ceremony. It was a moving time as we celebrated a host of young men and women moving on to the next phase of their lives. As one of our graduates testified, "In every life story, it is important to remember that God is the ultimate narrator, and that everything has a purpose in the full picture of eternity." The spiritual depth and resolve of these graduates was exceptional. Their testimonies and vision of future ministries gives me great confidence for the church of the future. It is going to be in great hands.



## More Online!

View and download Commencement 2011 photos at [www.OhioChristian.edu/grads](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/grads)



# Pastor\* at OCU's Newest Location Visits Dr. Billy Graham

*\*OCU was recently approved by HLC to open classes at Rock Springs, Georgia.*

BY DR. BENNY TATE

I have had the privilege of being in the ministry for almost thirty years, and I have met many high-profile people. I am saddened to say there have been some people I wish I had not met. Yes, sometimes you meet your hero and wish you hadn't. Throughout my entire life the individual I desired to meet and spend time with more than anyone else was Dr. Billy Graham. I prayed and even fasted that God would make it a reality for me to meet him, but I realized in light of his poor health and lack of public involvement, the possibility of a meeting would be slim. Well, as you know, with God all things are possible, and it became a reality for me to meet with Dr. Billy Graham on Wednesday, March 30, 2011.

Dr. James Merritt, an associate of mine, and I had requested a meeting with Dr. Graham and received confirmation about a month prior to the meeting. We were picked up at the Billy Graham Training Center (The Cove) in Ashville, North Carolina, and taken to his home about fifteen minutes away on the top of Black Mountain in Montreat, North Carolina. My heart was pounding for the entire length of the trip. I was about to meet the man who has preached to more people face to face than anyone in history and has ministered on every continent of the world in more than 185 countries. To say I was nervous was certainly an understatement. Once we made our way up the very narrow, winding, mountain road and reached the top, our eyes fell upon a relatively small,

modest log cabin. I thought, "Is this it?" and it was. The great Billy Graham lives in a very simple, informal log cabin with a porch overlooking Black Mountain.

Once we entered the home we were greeted by Dr. Graham's eldest daughter, Gigi Graham Foreman. It was interesting to discuss with her what it was like growing up with Billy and Ruth Graham as her parents. She shared with us that the greatest principle her parents taught her was to love people unconditionally. She led us into the small living room, and there seated in a sweater, blue jeans, and tennis shoes was her father, the Evangelist to the World, Billy Graham. I shook his hand and shared what an honor it was to be in his home and in his presence, but he quickly responded.

"The honor is mine." He said, "Thank you for taking time to come and see me."

He epitomized humility and personified compassion. He spoke of his great love for his wife, Ruth, and he recalled holding her hand when she passed away. He shared about his ministry to the United States Presidents and how he was closer to President Ronald Reagan than any others. He even cried when he spoke of President Reagan. I asked him what advice he would give to a young preacher beginning his ministry, and he said with a powerful voice, "I would tell him to preach the Cross and always be faithful to that message."

As we came to the conclusion of our one hour meeting, Dr. Merritt read the



**“Preach the Cross and always be faithful to that message.”**

*~Dr. Billy Graham*

Scriptures and I was able to place my hands on Dr. Graham and have a season of prayer. He then said, "A few days ago I had a vision of Ruth, and I truly thought God was calling me home. He chose not to for now, but I am so ready to be with Jesus." I said, "Dr. Graham, you are now 92 years old and if you could go back and do it all over, what would you change?" He replied, "I would preach less, study and pray more, and spend more time with my family."

Yes, I finally met my hero and I'm glad I did. I was not disappointed!



**Would you be willing to help prepare  
leaders to change the world?  
By giving to Ohio Christian University  
scholarships, you are doing just that.**

## Leave a Legacy

Ohio Christian University provides outstanding educational opportunities to students from all over the world and has grown from 300 to over 2,000 students in the last five years. We need YOUR help in providing scholarships for OCU students through the Ohio Christian University Foundation. Our goal is to reach \$10 million. YOU can make a difference in the life of a student by giving through:

- ✓ Your estate
- ✓ IRAs
- ✓ Life insurance
- ✓ Annuities
- ✓ Real estate and property
- ✓ Monthly giving

Contact Mark Taylor, Vice President of University Advancement, to discuss how you can leave a legacy TODAY.

**Call 740-420-5918 today to learn more.**

# OCU Students Perform Dramatic Outreach

RACHEL FULKS  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENROLLMENT

The Ohio Christian University Drama Team ministered to thousands of people at 45 events in 2010-2011.



From churches to conventions, the Ohio Christian University Drama Team has taken its unique ministry all over the region. By the end of April, the team of 18 students ministered to thousands through 10 on-campus and 35 off-campus events during the 2010-2011 academic year. These events included the Church of God's Ohio State Youth Convention, the Castle Youth Retreat in Pennsylvania, numerous youth group and church services, and chapel services at Christian high schools.

"They came to Good Shepherd Wesleyan Church and blessed my congregation with their ministry. The energy, positive attitudes, willingness to connect with my congregation, and general sense of the Holy Spirit they brought with them was remarkable. It is a testament to the student body of OCU and their desire to be world changers," said Rev. Rick Christman, Pastor at Good Shepherd Wesleyan Church.

Led by junior Psychology and Youth Ministry major Jonathan Faulks, the Drama Team is a student-led ministry with the mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through the arts and represent OCU as a Christ-centered university. They perform several types of skits and human videos (stories acted out to song) ranging from light-hearted to serious. The team has presented popular human videos such as "Everything," "Set Me Free," and "The Remnant" while adding original elements and interpretations.

"Through our skits and human videos we are able to reach a new generation for Christ in a way that a sermon or other type of ministry may not be able to," said sophomore Psychology major, Kourtne Buchanan.

This year the Drama Team found a higher quality and deeper passion in its ministry when asked to come up with original ideas for human videos, skits, readings, and devotions which came from students' own personal testimonies. The students created an entire "Superhero" performance of five human videos showing how Jesus can rescue us from the evil in our lives and give us hope and purpose.

"I have gained so much knowledge in the creative aspects of ministry. Making the skits has proven to be challenging but rewarding. It has brought our team together and has made our ministry about our personal walks with God," said Alan Smith, sophomore Psychology and Youth Ministry major.

If you are interested in requesting the Drama Team, please contact the Admissions Office at 1-877-762-8669 or visit [www.facebook.com/ocudramateam](http://www.facebook.com/ocudramateam).



# Intercultural Ministries

## Recognized for Efforts and Commitment to a Diverse Campus Climate



The Intercultural Ministries department of Ohio Christian University received the Outstanding Multicultural Programming Initiative Award at the 2010 National Christian Multicultural Student Leaders Conference (NCMSLC) in Atlanta, Georgia.

The award is designed to recognize and reward colleges and universities for their intentional efforts toward supporting and ensuring multicultural programming in predominately white institutions.

The \$1,250 award has allowed Intercultural Ministries to implement several new initiatives this year that we plan to build on in the coming year. As OCU continues to develop cultural competence throughout the campus, NCMSLC is committed to continued support of those initiatives through this award. We look forward to presenting our outcomes next fall at the NCMSLC conference. Nikki Mershimer, OCU's director of Intercultural Ministries, and Donald Glenn have been invited to attend the 2011 conference for free.

Nikki and Donald have also been asked to advise and direct the conference Gospel choir.

Nikki has been taking student leaders and staff to this conference for the last three years. She feels that the benefits of attending a conference like NCMSLC have proven positive for our campus. Nikki stated, "The opportunity to network with other institutions of higher education immediately encouraged me to develop a diverse campus climate." More importantly, the conference has allowed student leaders from OCU to broaden their understanding of diversity and challenged them to engage and develop relationships across cultures. A vital part of creating a culturally competent campus is to involve a diverse group of our students in learning, developing, and implementing programs that will educate and invite our whole campus to a commitment to diversity.

## Faculty member Thaddeus Hicks to Present at FEMA, Higher Education Conference



Ohio Christian University faculty member and Disaster Management and Relief Program Director, Thaddeus Hicks has been invited to present at The Federal Emergency Management Agency Higher Education Conference. This annual conference is a time for Emergency Management Programs from all over the world and abroad to

come together to discuss the status of Emergency Management Higher Education.

Prof. Hicks will be discussing the topic "Managing Compassion Fatigue in Emergency Responders" at the Fourteenth Annual Conference, which will be held June 6-9, 2011, at the Emergency Management Institute National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Hicks stated, "This presentation is based on work that we are doing right here in Circleville at the University."

Compassion Fatigue is a very important issue in the Emergency Management field. As the next generation of Emergency Managers is trained and sent out from Ohio Christian University and other schools around the country, they need to be ready to deal with the stress and dangers they will face as they spend their lives serving and assisting others. Compassion Fatigue, or secondary traumatic stress disorder, is a condition characterized by a gradual lessening of compassion over time. It is common among individuals that work directly with victims of disaster and trauma.

Those working and involved in the disaster field operate in environments that can impose high stress. Hicks stated, "This course was developed as a requirement within the Disaster Management and Relief Degree at Ohio Christian University, and OCU is one of the few universities offering this type of course." Hicks added, "This is an important issue and a real need for future emergency managers. This invitation to present at the FEMA conference is another confirmation that we are doing something right here at Ohio Christian University."

## It All Started With A Paper...

BY DENISE AYER, OCU STUDENT



It all started with a writing project for my English Composition class with Dr. Stonerock. We were given an assignment to write a Proposal Essay. In this essay we were to consider a specific problem or need that we recognized and then propose a solution. As Dr. Stonerock thoroughly explained what a proposal was and the potential power behind the words we write, my brain began to turn. After hearing my professor's stories about the success other students had in writing their proposal paper, I was excited knowing there were possibilities for me to make a difference somewhere, somehow. As my mind raced through all my choices, I initially wasn't sure what I really wanted to see changed, but I didn't want my paper wasted.

My youngest daughter, Moriyah, has had some special needs and required use of her school's Occupational Therapy (OT) room. Although the district we are in has a lot of resources, this OT room was not a priority. The room is an old girls locker room and was being used for storing gym equipment, holding after school classes, and storing some "forgotten" items. It was dark and dingy and really only had a small space for a swing and a table to write on. It also had many hazards for the children; tall metal shelves were dangerously stacked with materials, and the possibility of those



*I wanted to make a difference somewhere, somehow.*

items falling posed a danger for students. Additionally, the floor was covered with items that children could trip on.

In further discussion with Dr. Stonerock regarding the paper and my daughter's challenges, the answer came. I wanted to see our OT room revamped to serve as a safe and welcoming place for our children to go to regroup, learn, and feel safe. I wrote this paper with grand hopes for the future of our school. I still wasn't sure how it would work, and I

struggled between my ideal world and the real world. Throwing all caution to the wind, I went for it and stuck with my ideals.

Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) had previously asked me if I would take on the role of President, serving one year as Vice President and the next year as President. I decided for multiple reasons that I would take on this role. When the proposal paper was written, I was only the Vice President and was mainly there to be trained and to support the current President. I had no say in major decisions, so I held on to my proposal paper. This year, when I became President, I approached the Principal

essay assignment

desire to make a difference

community support

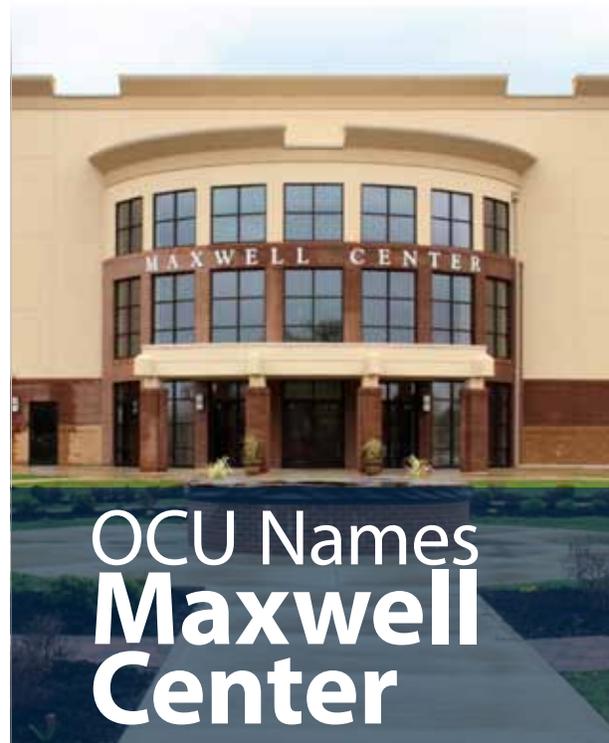
**\$19,000** elementary school project



with my proposal, and he agreed to let me pursue my ideas. My first thought was to speak to the Intervention Specialists (IS) and get them on board. This was the easy part.

The IS teachers began to do the research on what was needed, the cost, etc. As they got all of the information to me, I was able to propose this cause to the entire executive board in hopes that I could get them to agree to move forward with the proposal. Unanimously, they agreed. Through multiple meetings with the IS teachers and the Executive Board, we were able to come up with a dollar amount as well as a thorough plan to execute the process once the money was in place. The IS teachers were also

inspired to go further and meet with the district for help, and because our PTA was willing to help fund the project, the district was also willing to help in the cause, providing \$8,000.00 to put toward the remodel. Our next step was to bring it to the general meeting for a vote from the entire school. Eventually, we, the parents, were able to give \$11,000, bringing us to a combined total of \$19,000 to remodel our OT room. We are in the front end of the construction and the goal is completion by the start of the 2011-2012 school year. All because of a paper.



## OCU Names Maxwell Center

On April 26, 2011 the Leadership Center on the campus of Ohio Christian University officially became the Maxwell Center. Dr. Melvin Maxwell, Dr. John C. Maxwell, Margaret Maxwell and other family members were present as the name change was revealed. A portrait of former president Dr. Melvin Maxwell with sons John and Larry was also unveiled. The portrait will hang in the lobby of the Maxwell Center. Dr. Melvin Maxwell briefly shared his love for OCU and Christian higher education and was greeted with a standing ovation and rousing applause.



Chris Zimmerman's published research poster representing her exegetical study of Corinthians 11:2-16 hangs in Johnson Hall.

## 2011 Valedictorian Chris Zimmerman Serves the School and Community



BY ANITA CONKEL  
AFFILIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Chris Zimmerman, an OCU December graduate, is a Renaissance woman. As a student in the Honors program, she developed an interest in a biblical understanding of the role of women in ministry. What began as a general research project on the role of women in Church History developed into a focused study on the experience of women in ministry in the early church. Her resulting research culminated in the paper, *A Balanced Examination of Gender Discrimination in the Early Church: A Cultural Perspective*, which was presented at The Evangelical Theological Society last spring. Chris expanded this study with a senior honors project that she presented to the OCU Honors committee of Dr. David Case, Chair., Dr. David Garrison, Dr. John Anthony, and Professor Anita Conkel. Ms. Zimmerman's published research poster representing her exegetical study of Corinthians 11:2-16 hangs in Johnson Hall.

Not only has Chris distinguished herself with her academic acumen, but also with her zeal for service to others. Chris is the OCU Director of the Tutoring Center and Academic Coach. There has been a tremendous

*“I want to be part of this great work of our Savior in the lives of others.”*

student response to her services as Chris is keenly aware of the academic, social, and emotional transition that is part of the university experience. “My role at OCU affords me the privilege of taking part in the equipping of the saints. While I do hope to further my own education, my long term goal is to do my part in equipping the next generation of believers through helping students reach their full academic potential. My role is to help students develop the study skills necessary to succeed academically as well as to develop academic supports to best serve the OCU student body,” Chris said. Chris has also worked with Dr. Krista Stonerock in the OCU Writing Center whose writing consultants provide suggestions and help to students who bring drafts of papers for review and constructive criticism.

In addition, Chris relates, “I have long dreamed of creating Bible study materials that are scholarly and sound, yet accessible to the lay person.” Thus,

Chris serves as an instructor for the women's Bible study for the ladies of the Walnut Creek Christian Women's Job Corp, a job readiness program which serves the women of Pickaway County. Chris explains, “It allows me the opportunity to share the extravagant love of our Lord with women who may not realize their great value in His sight.” The mission of OCU to team with the community to make a difference is certainly a part of Chris Zimmerman's personal philosophy.

Chris is a credit to the OCU campus family. She summarizes her call and deep desire to minister to others when she says, “My only hope of holiness is the work of Jesus on the cross and in my heart. He equipped me for the good works that He created me to do. Whether it is women who have had a rough way to go in this life or the under-prepared student, I want to be part of this great work of our Savior in the lives of others.”

# Kara Potochnik's Essay Published in National Public Radio International Writing Project

BY ANITA CONKEL, AFFILIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Kara Potochnik, daughter of Tammy and Lenny Potochnik of Logan, Ohio, and Psychology major at OCU, was recently notified that her essay has been published in the National Public Radio International Writing Project: This I Believe. The essay was the result of an assignment in Professor Anita Conkel's English Composition I (E.C. I) class. Department Chair Dr. Krista Stonerock and Professor Conkel have incorporated this assignment into the course content for E.C. I. They both agree that it is not only a valuable teaching tool but also a forum for potential publication. Kara joins two other OCU students who were published in the last two years. In fact, Dr. Stonerock and Prof. Conkel join libraries, universities, newspapers, and public radio stations in embracing this unique forum for discourse and reflection concerning the core values and beliefs that guide the lives of individuals. Instructors in every state in the USA and fifty countries have found this to be an effective educational tool. Thus, it is quite an honor for Kara's work to be published in this venue.

Kara's essay joins This I Believe essays written by Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Robinson, Helen Keller, Harry Truman, Colin Powell, Bill Gates, Yo-Yo Ma, and the work of other celebrities, artists, scientists, politicians and average citizens. NPR says, "For this project, we are guided by the original This I Believe series... in the 1950s. Their advice holds up well, and we are abiding by it. In introducing the original series, host Edward R. Murrow said, 'Never has the need for personal philosophies of this kind been so urgent.' We would argue that the need is as great now as it was 50 years ago."

The guidelines for the assignment, in part, say, "Take your belief out of the ether and ground it in the events of your life. Consider moments when belief was formed or tested or changed. Think of your own experience, work, and family, and tell of the things you know that no one else does. Make sure your story ties to the essence of your daily life philosophy and the shaping of your beliefs." Kara Potochnik did just that as she related, "My inspiration for writing this essay came to me almost immediately after hearing the assignment. I knew since I was a little girl that I made my life the way it was supposed to be. Those words from my dad were always in the back of my mind. In everything I did, I knew that my decisions would shape the rest of my life. I was my own author. Therefore, my inspiration came from a lesson I learned when I was five."

Kara is a graduate of Fairfield Christian Academy, and is now a Dean's List student at OCU. She is very involved in ministry in her church and in the community. Kara also volunteers at the Echoing Hills Mental Disability Camp. Kara is a credit to the OCU campus family.



# Jermaine Wilson Published



Ohio Christian University student Jermaine R. Wilson contributed an article for the magazine publication The Christian Outlook: News and Views from a Biblical Perspective. His article titled "These Are Our Fathers: A Tribute to Our Leaders" is published in the January/February 2011 edition. According to Wilson, current leaders should have respect for those who came before them, understanding that spiritual predecessors were focused on a deep understanding of God. Therefore, current leaders have a responsibility to continue this great heritage. Wilson was asked to be a consistent contributor and assisting editor of the publication.

Wilson is a full-time student in the Bachelor of Arts in Business Management program. He recently completed a summer/fall internship at the local Dupont plant. Before enrolling at Ohio Christian University, Wilson was a small business owner as well as holding managerial and administrative positions. Business Department Chair David Garrison congratulated Wilson on his article, "Jermaine's article shows his unique drive to contribute to his chosen field of study and his faith."

## » On Campus and Around the World



### OCU Business Students Visit New York Stock Exchange

A group of eighteen OCU Business students and two

professors visited Wall Street and the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on April 11th. Students toured the NYSE and Wall Street area in the afternoon and were able to be on the floor with the traders and see first hand what happens. OCU students were the first group allowed on the trading floor of the NYSE. As a result, they were able to visit with traders and brokers in the midst of actual trades. They also visited Oppenheimer Funds, a successful Wall Street investment management company, where members of the company gave the OCU students a presentation on investments.

Oppenheimer's building is located across the street from where the World Trade Center once stood. Students saw the 16 acre National September 11 Memorial area that is being created to honor the events of 9/11. The trip was completed by touring New York on April 12. They returned to OCU later that day.

With the construction of the new Science & Logistics Building, OCU business students now have the opportunity to learn about investments firsthand through a room dedicated to trading stocks, futures, and options in a real world environment with \$30,000 provided to the students for this purpose. As a consequence, the NYSE was kind enough to further the students' learning by inviting them to see firsthand the largest stock exchange in the world.

In January 2011, OCU students were also provided the first Investment Management and Trading Management courses ever offered by Ohio Christian University.

The Ohio Christian University Business Student Association coordinated this trip. We are excited to see our Business Department advance!

### Dave Garrison Attends State of the Union Address

Congressman Steve Austria (R-Ohio) invited OCU's Dave Garrison, Department Chair for Business, to Washington, D.C. to listen to President Obama give his State of the Union Address on January 24, 2011. Dr. Garrison was allowed to sit in the gallery along with the other invited dignitaries. He was



also invited to a number of receptions prior to the President's speech. Because Dr. Garrison is a resident of Texas, he also met with Congressman Mike Conaway (R-Tex) earlier in the day. Dr. Garrison noted that attending the State of Union live was a much different experience than watching it on television since it was much easier to experience the energy of the event. This year's State of the Union was unique because it was the first time in history that the representatives and senators did not sit by party. Rather, the congressman and senators determined with whom and where they wanted to sit, which made watching the event live even more interesting for the visitors and media.

### Ohio Christian Business Students Visit Washington, D.C.

Ohio Christian University's Student Business Association visited Washington, D.C. on March 29<sup>th</sup> & March 30<sup>th</sup>. The students visited with two congressmen to hear their different points of view on the state of the economy and the nation. Congressman Steve Austria (R-Ohio) and Congressman



Mike Conaway (R-Tex) spoke with the students and answered questions in different sessions. One of Congressman Austria's staff also gave the students a special tour of the Capitol. Additionally, students attended a presentation by the Heritage Foundation's Dr. Ryan Messmore, a William E. Simon Fellow. Dr. Messmore heads up Heritage's DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society. Dr. Messmore spoke to the students on a variety of subjects related to faith and politics. The Heritage Foundation is the largest conservative think-tank in the nation.

## OCU Chorale Takes Ministry on the Road

The Ohio Christian University Chorale, led by Dr. Rodney Sones, did a fantastic job ministering to many groups of people this spring. The tour took the chorale to four states and numerous locations in Ohio. The tour began in Knoxville, TN, at Grace Christian Academy where the students ministered during a chapel service. God met with them there as many of the school children responded by seeking God during the altar call. Following the performance at Impact Ministries in Barnesville, GA, Chorale members served food to those in attendance. Students ministered to a crowd of nearly 1,500 at Rock Springs Church in Milner, GA, where the altars were lined as people responded to the Holy Spirit.

The pastor of Pleasantview Community Church in Forest City, NC, shared, "Wow! We were really blessed by the ministry of the OCU Chorale—we had church! Our people (as well as the group) were crying, shouting, and praying at the altar. No one wanted to leave."

The Chorale received many similar reports of how God came in special ways throughout the tour. Their final event was at the OCU graduation where they were met with a standing ovation after singing "Lord You're Holy" at the conclusion of the event.

To arrange for the OCU Chorale to minister at your church, contact Tony McCrary, Director of Church Relations, at 740-420-5903.



*Students at Grace Christian Academy respond to the altar call.*

### 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOMECOMING GOLF TOURNAMENT



**OCTOBER 7, 2011**  
AT COOK'S CREEK GOLF CLUB



### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament



**Florida 2012**  
January 26-28

Learn more or register online at [www.ohiochristian.edu/golf](http://www.ohiochristian.edu/golf) or call 740-420-5918.

# Online Education Goes International



**OCU's online classes enhance the success of market-based businesses in developing countries.**

BY ROB HARTMAN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE

Teaching business principles from a Christian worldview is extremely fulfilling, but taking those same principles to places like Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine, as well as Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria, not to mention several of the Caribbean Island nations – now that is exciting!

The miracle of online learning has made it possible for Ohio Christian University to participate with the Alliance for International Christian Business Education (AICBE) to enhance the ability of developing countries to succeed in the market-based business environment and take a Biblical worldview of business global. Thanks to the generous support of the ServiceMaster Foundation, OCU participates with Indiana Wesleyan University, LeTourneau University (Texas), and Seattle Pacific University in the United States, and Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya; Emmanuel University in Oradea, Romania; Kazak-American Free University in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan; and Lithuania Christian College in Klaipeda, Lithuania in primarily Eastern Europe and Africa.

I have taught an Entrepreneurial Basics course to budding business professionals in this program at least a half dozen times to nearly 150 participants. The principles students take away are life changing. Just read what Salomeja Ivinskyte from Lithuania had to say:

“God created the world in six days and He rested on the seventh. At the beginning of the Old Testament we saw that He had some kind of plan for creating the world and all that’s in it. Having a plan creates order. This we can see in the world that God created. In the same way the business has to have a plan in order to become an orderly business. Plan is the essential part of beginning anything.”

Or how about this from Eunice Onyango Miruka who is from Kenya:

“Money can corrupt if we are not careful on our reaction to its increase; one may become arrogant, or intimidating to others or even too powerful and threatening to other people just because they have acquired massive wealth.”

These are just two of the scores of students that have benefited from this powerful, global program, and Ohio Christian University is right there in the middle of it.



## Ohio Christian University Opens New Office in Lancaster, Ohio

Ohio Christian University officials hope a new office at Sixth Avenue and Memorial Drive in Lancaster will further inform residents about the associate and bachelor's degree programs the university offers locally. The new building will double as additional classroom space and as a place for student recruiter David Artrip and an admissions counselor to meet with prospective students. The university has 66 full-time students taking classes in Lancaster.

# Agribusiness Education Impacts the World

BY DR. HANK KELLY, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



Agribusiness includes all enterprises derived from and around agricultural production. Therefore, it includes inputs (e.g., fertilizers, seeds, machineries, etc.), outputs (e.g., crops, livestock), and systems for transferring outputs from source to end user. Agribusiness is important to the future of food systems in all countries but is crucial to developing (and poor, non-developing) countries. It has been estimated that more than half of all jobs in emerging countries are related to food and fiber products. Further, it has been forecasted that in emerging countries more than 20,000 agribusiness jobs will go unfilled due to a lack of skilled professionals.

Ohio Christian University has begun offering an agribusiness degree program, which will certainly enhance the productivity of local agribusinesses, especially since 75 percent of the area in Pickaway County (where OCU is located) and surrounding counties is agricultural. However, even more important is how missionaries trained in agribusiness can impact the world. These individuals can train people to feed their families and break the cycle of poverty for them and their families, while at the same time teaching them about Jesus.

A perfect example of the impact of agribusiness on the world is Escuela El Sembrador (The School of the Sower), located in Honduras and founded by former WGM missionaries Don and Twana Hawk. This boarding school was founded in 1954 with the vision of sowing the seeds of Jesus through the teaching of the Word of God with love and a genuine concern for the students. Since the first class of just 12 students, more than 7,000 students have been educated and ministered to through Escuela El Sembrador's education programs, which include vocational training (including agribusiness) and a Bible institute. The Hawk's son Terry took over leading the school for 22 years after Don passed away in 1981. The school is now run by Hondurans.

Another example of the impact of agribusiness on the world is the Emanuel Agriculture Development, established by Stan Ray and his wife Michelle in 2006 after a mission trip to Romania. The objective of this endeavor is to provide formal college-level agribusiness and economic development program to help Romanian people prosper in the free market economy. By teaching modern business principles and practices, but in the context of agriculture, people in rural communities throughout Romania are learning how to establish commercially-viable farming operations that provide economic stability and prosperity for their families, communities, and country. This training includes seminars taught by visiting U.S. producers and practitioners who share their life experiences and knowledge.

*Missionaries trained in agribusiness help families learn to feed themselves and break the cycle of poverty.*

## Did you know?

Ohio Christian University offers the Associate of Arts in Agribusiness onsite and online as part of its Adult Degree Program. For more information or to enroll, visit [www.OhioChristian.edu/agribusiness](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/agribusiness) or call 1-877-496-8342.

# TRAINING LEADERS

## to change the world



DR. TIM EADES  
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT  
OF ADULT EDUCATION

Ohio Christian University partners with Dr. John C. Maxwell's EQUIP® to help students develop leadership abilities within the context of their profession and the global community.

What is leadership? Does everyone have leadership potential? Are leaders born or are they made? These are classic questions related to the field of leadership. Dr. John C. Maxwell has famously positioned that leadership is influence. With that definition in mind, every person has leadership potential and can make a Kingdom difference in their sphere of influence! Wrapping one's mind around a definition of leadership, much less a specific action plan of leading followers, can be a challenging task. For many, leadership is a bit confusing. Through the years, the models and literature of leadership have evolved from the classic authoritative or command and control models to those leadership models emphasizing transaction, leader style and situation, vision/transformation, servanthood, and authenticity. Goffee & Jones (2009) state that "Leadership is about relationship; great leadership excites people to exceptional performance!" When we boil it all down, great leaders truly want to make a difference and inspire people to do the same.

Do you find yourself in a position of leadership with no specific leadership training? Ohio Christian University and Dr. John C. Maxwell's EQUIP® organization have recently partnered on a leadership certificate training program. The purpose of this 3-part certificate program is to produce graduates who are informed by a Christian vision of transforming leadership, skilled in the essential disciplines of effective leadership, knowledgeable of how organizations function, and prepared to effect positive change both within and through those organizations. The curriculum focuses on leadership theory as well as practice, ethics, and communication. Throughout the program, students will assess and develop their own leadership abilities within the context of their profession and the wider global community.

### Why complete the EQUIP® Leadership Certification program?

- The program can be completed from the convenience of your home, day or night.
- Work at your own pace through Leadership I, Leadership II, and Leadership III.
- The cost is just \$199 per course.

To learn more about this and other programs for busy adult learners, call 1-877-496-8342 or visit us online at [www.ohiochristian.edu/leadership](http://www.ohiochristian.edu/leadership).

Goffee, R., and Jones, G. (2009). Authentic leadership. *Leadership excellence* (26,7).  
Maxwell, J. (1998). *The 21 irrefutable laws of leadership*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



# THE PERRYS

## DINNER & CONCERT

On March 19, 2011, Ohio Christian University hosted its first Dinner & Concert at the Maxwell Center with the Southern Gospel group The Perrys. The dinner and concert was a sold out event with over 375 people in attendance.

The night began with a fantastic meal catered by Hallmark Food service and served by OCU students. The concert began with gospel music legend Jim Hill who performed his celebrated hymn, "What a Day That Will Be."

Dean Hickman, whose vision it was to make a dinner concert a reality, was unable to attend because of illness. However, his wife, Mrs. Diana Hickman, was in attendance and accepted special thanks from Dr. Smith.



*Gil Conley, promoter of the Gospel Concert at OCU each fall, with Carrie Swackhammer, OCU Advancement Coordinator.*



*Prelude music was provided by 12 year old pianist, Timothy Noble.*



*Former American Idol contestant, Bryan Walker with OCU Director of Development, Kimberly Eades.*



*Students enjoy the meal after serving the 375 guests.*



*Mrs. Diana Hickman accepts special thanks as she and Dr. Smith talk to her husband Dean, who was unable to attend due to illness, via cellphone.*



*Dr. Smith greets Southern Gospel legend, Jim Hill.*



*The sold out crowd enjoyed a delicious meal and a wonderful concert.*



# LEADERSHIP FORUM



KIMBERLY EADES  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Ohio Christian University hosted Dr. John C. Maxwell, Dr. Melvin Maxwell, Mr. Tom Arington, Coach Jim Tressel, and more than 1,400 guests for the Leadership Forum, which raised \$225,000 for scholarships.

On April 26, 2011, Ohio Christian University welcomed alumnus Dr. John C. Maxwell back to campus for the annual Leadership Forum. The day began with the Executive Session which was attended by over 50 business leaders from all over the state. Dr. Maxwell was joined in the session by Ohio State Football Coach Jim Tressel; Dr. Tom Arington, President & CEO of Prasco Laboratories; and Steve Miller, CEO of Millwood Inc., who all shared about their leadership experience.



**Steve Miller**

started off the event discussing how his childhood experiences shaped his attitude about leadership today. He shared that after a fire destroyed their family business,

his dad said to he and his brother, “God is faithful, and we’re going to be ok.” Steve used that statement as a life lesson as he struggled to find the place that God had for him. God eventually led Steve into a partnership with Lionel “Chip” Trebilcock, and Millwood, Inc. began. In his remarks, Steve also discussed the importance of building a firm foundation before growth can take place. Currently Millwood, Inc. has 23 factories in 11 states.



**Dr. Tom Arington**, founder, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer of Prasco was next to speak and started off discussing his motto “It Matters.” Dr. Arington talked

about growing up around loving people who he knew cared deeply about him. Two of those individuals owned a local drug store where he worked as a teenager, and thus began his lifelong career in the pharmaceutical business. The love that he was so graciously given as a child is that same thing that challenges him each day to be a leader who values each and every employee and person with whom he comes into contact. As he explained, each meeting at Prasco begins with prayer, and Dr. Arington refuses to be anything less than God’s servant. He carries a card with him at all times. On one side is the motto, “It Matters.” and

on the other, “Love God, Love People.” In his remarks, he challenged those present never to limit God.



**Coach Jim Tressel** shared with the group that he believed his time at Ohio Christian University was a “divine appointment.” He talked about how many people today ask him if he is ok. His response, “Compared to what? Compared to Japan or Libya?” He went on to tell the crowd that he believes God is faithful and reiterated Steve Miller’s expression that “everything’s going to be ok.” Coach Tressel shared about his deep love for his players. He discussed the fact that we are “most impacted by what we read and who we are around.” He talked about how important it is for him to get the right things into the minds of his players. He shared that one of the things that God has given him over the last several months was the book, *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young. He said that it has been a great help to him during this time in his life.

**Dr. John C. Maxwell** spoke at both the Executive Session and the evening session. In the afternoon session, Dr. Maxwell talked about ACT, which stands for Apply, Change, Teach. Every day he puts in his iPhone thoughts with which he wants to fill his mind, goes over them until saturated, then replaces them with something else. Some examples he shared were:

- ❑ If you confuse them, you lose them.
- ❑ Inconsistency precedes decline.
- ❑ Attitude is the picture of the mind; we decide the picture.
- ❑ Leaders absorb the punishment without surrendering the soul.

Additionally, he talked about the card he carries with him that has 10 questions he asks himself weekly. These questions include “Am I genuinely interested in others?” and “Am I pleasing God?”



In the evening, Dr. Maxwell spoke to a crowd of over 1,400 individuals for 90 minutes on “How To Do Well In Difficult Times.” He combined humor with wisdom when discussing ways people can avoid damaging behavior and manage times of crisis with strength.

At the beginning of the event, Dr. Smith announced the naming of the the Maxwell Center. Dr. Melvin Maxwell joined John and Margaret on stage for the unveiling of a portrait of Melvin, John, and Larry Maxwell which will hang in the building’s lobby.



**Dr. Melvin Maxwell** spoke to the crowd briefly, expressing his love for both Ohio Christian University and Christian education. He was warmly greeted with a standing ovation and a great round of applause.

The event raised \$225,000 for the Ohio Christian University scholarship fund.



## Lady Trailblazers Finish #3 in Nation

MANDY WRAY, WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

**The OCU women's basketball team finished 3rd place in the nation and received numerous individual honors.**

The OCU women's basketball team finished 3rd in the 2010-2011 NCCAA National Tournament, which was hosted at OCU this year. For the second straight season, the Lady Trailblazers were crowned OCAC (Ohio Collegiate Athletic Conference) Champions.

In addition to the team's success, several of the Lady Trailblazers received individual awards. Senior guard Danielle Fleming was named the NCCAA Division II National and Mid-East Region Player of the Year. Fleming also received 1st Team All-American, 1st Team All-OCAC, and 1st Team All-Region honors.

Freshman guard Kaity Wyeth was named NCCAA 2nd Team All-American, 1st Team All-Region and All-OCAC, and was the OCAC Freshman of the Year. Senior guard Angela Thorne earned 2nd Team All-Region and Honorable Mention All-OCAC honors.

Sophomore guards Courtney Schilling and Shelby Roe were named 2nd Team All-Region, while freshman forward Sharonda Jones earned Region Honorable Mention honors. Freshman Chelsea Black finished with Honorable Mention All-OCAC as well.

Head Coach Mandy Wray, Mid-East Region Coach of the Year, said this about her Lady Blazers, "We fought through a lot of adversity this season, especially the past few months. I am very proud of the way the team stuck together and played hard to the finish." Coach Wray and the Lady Blazers will graduate three seniors this spring: Fleming, Thorne, and Sarah Peters.

Danielle Fleming, a 5'11" forward from Hamilton Township, holds the OCU record for career steals and became the first player in OCU basketball history to receive NCCAA National Player of the Year honors. "Danielle is probably the best offensive rebounder ever here," Wray said. "She is just so athletic and can attack the basket and finish with either hand. She is the goofball on the team and is someone who lightens things up. There is never a dull moment with Flem around, and we are definitely going to miss her on and off the court."

Angela Thorne, a 5'8" guard from Columbus holds the OCU records for rebounds in a career, rebounds in a season, and rebounds in a single game. "Angela is a true example of a class act of a person, and she has embodied what this program is all about. She has two

kids, works a full-time job, is a full-time student, is 5-foot-8, and holds every rebounding record in our program. She has brought maturity to our young teams the past few seasons. She is the type of player that may not have the highest statistics but whose presence on the court is priceless. We are really going to miss her."

A player who embodies where the OCU program has gone under the direction of Wray the last four years is Sarah Peters. "Sarah was my first recruit here, and she has gone from being on a team that lost by 30 to 40 points most nights into being on a team that wins by 30 to 40 points. She's an excellent player who always gives 110% with a true passion for the game and for competition. When I think of my time here at OCU and OCU women's basketball, Sarah Peters is the first person that comes to mind. I have only had one season here so far without her, and it will be strange next year when she is not around. She is someone I'm always going to remember."

# Men's Basketball: **EXCELLENCE** On & Off the Court



CURTIS CHRISTOPHER  
MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

Success can be measured in many different ways in this life and does not come easy for most of us. Along with success comes sacrifice and challenges. I've had the distinct pleasure during my coaching career not only to win basketball games but to speak with business owners, restaurant managers, parents, and fans who have stopped to tell me what good character our players display on and off the court. We were proud to win the NCCAA Mid-East Regional Championship this year and finish fifth at the national tournament. Perhaps more importantly, we were blessed with several ministry opportunities in the community.

## On the Court

- ❑ Won the NCCAA Mid-East Region Championship
- ❑ Coach Christopher celebrated his 100th win
- ❑ Tirrell Cumberland was named 1st Team All-American
- ❑ Tim Baker was named 2nd Team All-American
- ❑ Jermey Hayes received Honorable Mention
- ❑ Tim Baker, Mike Baker, Jon Baker, and Mike Farrell were named Academic All-Americans
- ❑ Set the record for most Academic All-Americans on a team at the NCCAA national level

## Off the Court

- ❑ Ministered to residents of the local Senior Center through visitation
- ❑ Mentored youth within the prison system
- ❑ Volunteered at a local soup kitchen
- ❑ Served in the Circleville Nazarene Upwards Programs
- ❑ Organized basketball clinics and camps for local youth
- ❑ Shared personal testimonies with students at Ralph C. Starkey High School

## Seniors Set the Bar



Mike Baker

Tim Baker

Two Trailblazer seniors, Tim Baker and Mike Baker, graduated this spring. Tim is a four year starter, member of the 1,000 Point Club, and our 5th leading scorer in OCU history with 1,728 points in the record book. He was named 1st Team All Region twice, 2nd Team All-American, and is a two time Academic All-American. His brother, Mike, is also a four year starter, member of the 1,000 Point Club, 700 Rebound Club, 100 Block Shot Club, and is a two time Academic All-American. The Bakers not only leave us with a successful record but have set the bar for outstanding leadership, demonstrating integrity on and off the court.



# Homecoming

## *October 6-8, 2011*



Plan now to join us for Homecoming Weekend!

**Alumni Gathering**—This will be a great time to reconnect with old friends and be on campus again. Don't bring a thing. A great lunch will be served. Children are encouraged to come and enjoy activities all over campus. There will be games and much, much, more, so dress casually and have some fun.

**Class Reunions**—Calling the classes of 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006! It has been a long time since you've been to a reunion. Now is the time! Look for class-specific information in the mail soon.

**Golden Grads Reunion**—Did you graduate 50 years ago or more? We want to honor you at our Golden Grads Reunion! You are valuable part of our heritage and our future. Join us for a great time at Homecoming 2011.

**Reunion Zero**—Class of 2011, why wait 5 years to get back together? The Alumni Council invites you back for a fun-filled day on campus with your class!

**OCU Soccer Reunion**—All former Crusader and Trailblazer players and coaches are invited to attend the 3rd Annual Soccer Reunion!

**Linking Legacies Ohio Golf Outing**—Join other alumni for a morning or afternoon of golf on October 7 at Cook's Creek Golf Course.

**Homecoming Gospel Concert**—Friday and Saturday evening, October 7 & 8. For more information check out the website at [www.ohiochristian.edu/concert](http://www.ohiochristian.edu/concert).

Details will be published as they become available at [www.OhioChristian.edu/homecoming](http://www.OhioChristian.edu/homecoming).

# share Your story

Share your news and photos in the next edition of OhioChristian. Here are some ideas to get you started:

## Births & Adoptions

Child's name, gender, and date of birth or adoption; names and class years of new parents or grandparents.

## Marriages

Newlywed names and class years; location, and date of marriage.

## Ministry and Career

Alumnus name and class year; details of ministry involvement, professional accomplishment, or retirement.

## In Memoriam

Notifications will be accepted only from immediate family members of the deceased. Please include the class year for all OCU grads in the family.



Send updates by email to [alumni@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:alumni@ohiochristian.edu) or using the web form at [www.ohiochristian.edu/magazine](http://www.ohiochristian.edu/magazine).

To ensure quality, we can only accept high-resolution digital images. A minimum file size of 500kb is recommended.

## OCU Grad Pens Book on Marriage



OCU Alumnus Courtney Short

A 2011 graduate of Ohio Christian University has written a book that may improve couples' chances of staying married longer. Courtney Short, while studying for his bachelor's degree in Christian leadership, combined personal observations and other people's experiences to write "Some Assembly Required, Batteries Not Included."

Short, 34, is an ordained minister. The 284-page book, which was released in mid-February and may be purchased on several national booksellers' Web sites, offers suggestions about overcoming struggles that married couples face.

"The book took two years to write and get published," said Short, a Columbus, Ohio, resident. "Throughout life, people face a smorgasbord of experiences and concepts. My intention is to tell readers how to enrich their lives."

Short recalls two of his former OCU instructors who brought insight to his idea of a marriage how-to book. "Dr. (Marvin) Miller taught a leadership class I attended, and he would talk about his wife during lessons," Short said. "And Dr. (Harold) Hudson was my instructor, who also spoke to us about his marriage. Both of these men were inspirational to me."

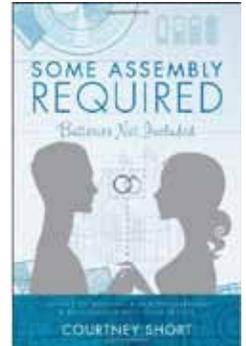
Short came up with the book's title on a Christmas morning, when he was attempting to build toys as gifts for his children. "I kept reading on packaging the phrase that ultimately became my book title," Short explained. "I tried to put together some of the toys on my own with limited success. My wife reminded me to read the manuals, and I finally got things done right."

The "batteries not included" part of the book title is emblematic of a marriage that exists but has no life to it, Short noted. "It is my feeling that people may be married, but they don't look at a manual to know what is missing to make it actually work," he said. "Love needs to be rekindled from time to time." The book describes how a marriage is built on love, forgiveness, honesty and respect, and that a couple needs to seek God's plan for marriage and trust in what that blueprint offers.

"Some Assembly Required, Batteries Not Included" is the second book Short has published since 2008. The first book he wrote was "God Said Wait," which explains why all aspects of anyone's life happen for a reason in God's grand plan.

Short also is working on two more books, which he is planning to have published in the coming months. He said his manuscript is almost complete for "Law of Audacity," which Short described as an explanation of God's existence, the purpose of mankind on Earth and how those specific systems provide humans with the ability to accomplish those tasks. The other book, "What Happened to My Garden?," discusses the correlation between what can go wrong when trying to cultivate a garden with the trials and tribulations of marriage.

Short said his future plans include pursuing a master's degrees in divinity. Short has been married for ten years and has four children.



ADAPTED FROM ARTICLE BY NICK POWELL FOR THE CIRCLEVILLE HERALD



Jared Moyer & Michael Tipton in Roatan

## OCU Alumni Jared & Christina Moyer Minister on the Island of Roatan

MICHAEL TIPTON, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

The alumni of Ohio Christian University are a dynamic group focused on changing the world for Christ. OCU alums Jared ('02) and Christina ('06) Moyer are changing lives on the island of Roatan, off the coast of Honduras.

They are missionaries with The Churches of Christ in Christian Union and World Gospel Mission, ministering to the Garifuna people of Roatan.

Roatan is a beautiful island with a rich history. While the island features plush hotels and resorts, the reality for most people on the island is far different. A short drive away from the hustle and bustle of cruise ships, water taxis, and tourist hot spots, the people of Roatan live in rugged conditions, often with little hope for the future. After spending a year in the capital city of Tegucigalpa learning Spanish, Jared and Christina moved to the island of Roatan to minister to young people and bring Hope to people of Punta Gorda.

I recently had the opportunity to visit Jared and Christina in their home in Punta Gorda. The hour-long drive from my hotel to their house was filled with dirt roads and incredible views. What I did not see was also striking. Most notable was the lack of churches. This is precisely the reason why Jared and Christina are there.

In 1998 Jared felt the call to full-time missionary service while on a mission trip to Honduras. Christina accepted the call to missions at 16 years of age. They both enrolled at OCU to pursue their calling and prepare for cross-cultural ministry. They met and married as students

and, shortly after graduating with degrees in Missions, left for 6 months of volunteer service in Honduras. It was then that God showed Christina that she needed to reenroll at OCU to pursue a degree in education. Upon

the completion of her degree, they were appointed as full-time missionaries.

As we sat on their porch, Jared and Christina shared their passion for evangelizing and discipling young people. They have a youth center connected to their house where young people come for weekly meetings and activities. They mentor and pray with teenagers in one-on-one settings. This is a dynamic ministry for young men and women who have no one investing in their lives.

Recreation and sports ministries provide the opportunity to build relationships with even more young people in the area.

Jared and Christina have a profound love for the people of Roatan and a passion to see them come to know Jesus as their Savior. The future of Punta Gorda and the Garifuna people lies in this younger generation. Day by day, Jared and Christina are changing lives and building that future.

Alumni like Jared and Christina Moyer confirm value of Christian higher education and the ministry of OCU. Lives are changed and futures are brighter because students were prepared to serve the world in the name of Jesus. This is the legacy of Ohio Christian University.

Lives are changed  
and futures are  
brighter because  
students were  
prepared to serve  
the world in the  
name of Jesus.

# Elsie (Conley) Shepard

March 10, 1932 – November 15, 2010

BY HER HUSBAND, REV. NORVAL SHEPARD

Elsie was born in Lackey, Kentucky, to Emily and Willis Conley on March 10, 1932, one of fourteen children. Her father was a coal miner and farmer, while her mother was a homemaker and housewife. It was her father's goal to make sure that his children acquired the best education possible, and because of this the family moved several times so that the children could attend the best schools in the area.

While in junior high school, she accepted the Lord as her personal Savior. It was at this time that a Baptist lady friend invited her to church. Elsie started going to church, and God was already beginning a work within her.

In 1953, she graduated from high school and her parents enrolled her in Caney Kentucky Jr. College to become a school teacher. She pursued her teaching degree for two years until she had enough college credits to be able to teach. She then left college and moved to Michigan to live with one of her sisters, where she became a nanny to her children.

While living in Michigan, Elsie started attending a Church of Christ in Christian Union Church. The pastor of this church had attended Circleville Bible College (now Ohio Christian University) and was instrumental in introducing Elsie to the college. She enrolled in September 1956 along with four older single students: Elnora Brennaman, Alice Glassforth, Shirley Pickering and Norval Shepard. Although they would not marry until 53 years later, it was here that Elsie first met her future husband – Norval Shepard.

Elsie graduated from Circleville Bible College in May 1959. Following her graduation service, Melvin Truex, Sr., General Missionary Board Secretary

to the Churches of Christ in Christian Union, approached Elsie and told her that the General Missionary Board had accepted and approved her appointment to go to Dominica as a missionary. To Elsie, this was the greatest thrill of her life!

Elsie served at Fond St. Jean, Dominica, for 10 years. Being single, she was able to serve and live with another single lady, Mary Edwards (Rooker). Their schedule consisted of weekly duties of Sunday school, Sunday AM worship, Sunday PM worship and mid-week service. They also had afternoon children's meetings at least once a week. Elsie became known as "Aunt Elsie" to many of the missionary children at Fond St. Jean.

While home from Dominica, the General Missionary Department asked Elsie if she would like to serve in Papua New Guinea. Although somewhat scared, Elsie was willing to go. Myrla Lattimer remembers that Elsie quoted the scripture, Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

While in Papua New Guinea, Elsie became the first director of the new Girl's Pidgin Bible School at Farata. There were eleven girls that first year of school, and Elsie was devoted to teaching and caring for them. During her time in Papua New Guinea, Elsie learned that her father and sister had passed away, and she was unable to attend their funerals. Although it was a difficult time, she loved to serve her Lord wherever He called her to go and knew that she was where He wanted her to be for this season of her life.

Elsie served as a CCCU Missionary in Papua New Guinea for 17½ years, until she became ill and returned to



*Rev. Norval and Elsie Shepard on their wedding day.*

the states. When she was unable to go back to Papua New Guinea, due to her health, Elsie continued to allow God to use her. She moved to Laredo, TX, to be a 1st and 2nd grade school teacher in the CCCU Laredo Church Christian School. It was during her time in Laredo, TX, that Elsie started routinely walking. One day while she was walking, she started picking up cans and trash. After doing this for some time, she started recycling the cans that she would pick up and gave the proceeds to missions. She enjoyed doing this so much that she recruited some of her best friends, Shirley and Norval Shepard, to help. This outreach caught on so well, that families, churches, businesses and CCCU Headquarters also joined Elsie and Shirley in recycling cans for missions!

After serving 10 years in Laredo, TX, Elsie retired completing almost 38 years as a missionary for The Churches of Christ in Christian Union. She moved to Ashville, Ohio, where she lived until on October 10, 2009 when she married her husband, Norval Shepard after the death of his first wife, Shirley. After serving on three missionary fields, Leland Johnson told Elsie that she was taking on her fourth missionary field, being a pastor's wife!

Elsie finished out her days serving as pastor's wife of Rushville Church of Christ in Christian Union. Elsie went to be with the Lord on November 15, 2010. She was a remarkable woman of God whose legacy will continue to live on.

# OCU Faculty Lead the Way

## OCU Faculty Earn Doctorates

Ohio Christian University seeks qualified faculty of the highest caliber. These faculty lead the way in demonstrating life-long learning for their students.

### Dr. Rebecca Johnson Elected Vice President of Music Teachers National Association



Ohio Christian University Professor,

Dr. Rebecca Johnson, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Music Teachers National Association as Vice President for the 2011 - 2013 biennium. Dr. Johnson is a graduate of Capital University and completed her Ph.D. at The Ohio State University. She is Associate Editor for Clavier Companion magazine and publishes a tri-annual feature article titled "What's New in Pedagogy Research" in MTNA's national journal *American Music Teacher*. Dr. Johnson has served as Professor of Music at Ohio Christian University since 2008 and will be inducted into office at the national MTNA conference in Milwaukee at the end of this month.

MTNA is a national organization, founded in 1876, with 24,000 members consisting of private music teachers and applied instrument college faculty. For more information about MTNA, please visit [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org).



**Dr. Timothy Eades** is Associate Vice President of Adult Education. He earned the Doctor of Education degree in Ethical Leadership from Olivet Nazarene University. His dissertation, entitled *Marketing Nazarene Higher Education: A Study of Nazarene High School Senior College Choice*, is a nationwide college choice study, seeking responses from over 6,900 Nazarene high school seniors. Dr. Eades recently wrote and is teaching the course Leading Change for the Ohio Christian University business program. He co-presented a workshop entitled Quality Adult Education: Focus on Curriculum, Faculty, and Students with Dr. Hank Kelly and Heidi Frederick at the annual Higher Learning Commission conference in Chicago and will co-present the workshop at the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities Center for Research in Adult Learning conference in Indianapolis. He will also present his dissertation research at the Christian Business Faculty Association in Mount Vernon.



**Dr. Sylvia McDonald** is a full-time Instructor of Psychology and has served at OCU since 2005. She earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Psychology from Walden University. She also holds a Master of Arts in Counseling from Liberty University. Dr. McDonald authored the book *Breaking the Silence: Recovering from Miscarriage, Stillbirth, & Early Neonatal Death* and has contributed chapters within the books *Cup of Comfort for Mothers and Daughters*, and *Cup of Comfort for Friends*. She also has several published articles in various magazines. Dr. McDonald also serves as the coordinator of the dual enrollment option that allows taking OCU classes for both high school and college credit. The title of her dissertation was *The Effects of the Acquisition of General Psychology Knowledge on Faith Development in the Christian College Student*.



**Alumnus Dr. David Uhl** has been an affiliate faculty member since 2005. He earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Organizational Management and Leadership from Capella University. He also holds a Master of Science in Education from Capella University and a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Studies from Ohio Christian University. Dr. Uhl currently serves as the Executive Director of Main Street Lancaster and the president of the Downtown Special Improvement District. The title of his dissertation was *A Study of Senior Pastor Turnover on Organizational Performance in Local Churches*.

October 6, 2011  
8:30 a.m.



DR. MELVIN MAXWELL  
**Church Planting Institute**



### Dr. Benny Tate

- » Pastor, Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia, for 20 years
- » Membership grew from 100 to 6,000

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### Dr. Mark A. Smith

- » President, Ohio Christian University for five years
- » Enrollment grew from 400 to 2,000

### Community and Church Partnering

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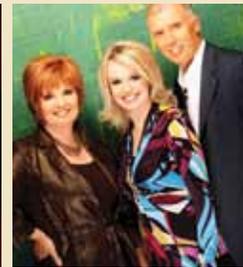
Friday, October 7, 2011



TaRanda Greene



Karen Peck and New River



The Talley Trio



Brian Free & Assurance

Saturday, October 8, 2011



The Perrys



Dove Brothers Quartet



Mark Trammell Quartet



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