

Spring/Summer 2006  
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## DEPARTMENTS

- 2** President's Message
- 11** Focus on Alumni
- 18** University Update
- 21** Focus on Athletics
- 24** In Memory



pg. 21

pg. 8



## 5 Lighting the World, One Star at a Time

*OCU reaches its centennial campaign goal,  
raising \$100 million in 19 months*

## 8 The Wanda L. Bass Music Center

*The new, state-of-the-art music facility is dedicated with a grand celebration*

## 10 General Colin L. Powell

*OCU anticipates visit from the esteemed General*

FOCUS Spring 2006

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Check out Oklahoma City University on the Internet at [www.okcu.edu](http://www.okcu.edu).

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The vice president for administration and finance, located in Room 402 of the Clara E. Jones Administration Building, serves as the university's affirmative action officer and coordinates the university's compliance with Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504 of the ADA, and the ADEA. Inquiries concerning application of and compliance with these regulations should be addressed to the coordinator or to the Office of Civil Rights.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Oklahoma City University has enjoyed steady growth over the last five years including new buildings, new academic programs, record-breaking fund raising, increased enrollment, and improved services. In large measure these achievements are due to a deliberate and careful assessment, planning, and implementation process—a look at where we are, where we would like to be as a top tier, faith-based, liberal arts university and creating and implementing a plan to take us there.

We've reached some significant milestones. In January, we celebrated the completion of our campaign, *Lighting the World, One Star at a Time*, which raised more than \$100 million in 19 months – that's 42 months ahead of schedule. You'll find an overview of the campaign in the pages of this magazine.

In April, we celebrated the opening of the Wanda L. Bass School of Music. The \$38.5 million 112,000-

square-foot feat of engineering is one of the world's most technologically advanced music buildings, and has given students 60 additional practice rooms, 40 new teaching studios, seven high-tech music labs, six ensemble rehearsal rooms and a black-box theater.

This university aspires to perform at the highest level possible in everything we do, be it academic or athletic. It is through constant evaluation that we gather the information needed to continue our progress. We've recently received the results of a feasibility study exploring whether OCU could reasonably apply for NCAA Division I status. It is a complex process, and we will call upon our friends and partners in the Oklahoma City community (and beyond) for their expertise and assistance. As our plans begin to crystallize, we will share them with you.

An exciting collaboration is underway. Oklahoma City University and Saint Paul School

of Theology, Kansas City, Missouri, have formally agreed to enter a year of study to determine the feasibility of establishing an extension of Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University.

Dr. W. Stephen Gunter will be hired as consultant to work with the administration, faculty and staff of both schools to develop a plan for the extension. The plan will be presented to the board of trustees of Oklahoma City University and Saint Paul School of Theology at their respective meetings in spring 2007.

These are exciting times at OCU. Your university is growing and changing tremendously. It's a journey we can all share. We invite you to come back to OCU to see for yourself. A number of events are planned for Reunion Weekend this fall. You'll find the details on page 15. We invite you to attend.

*Tom J. McDaniel*

*Head of the Oklahoma Regatta*



*Mary Coffey*



*Eduardo Prieto*



*School of Law*



- This spring OCU said farewell to a dedicated and valuable member of its administration, Mary Coffey. Mary is probably golfing right now, and she's earned it. She began her career as an administrative assistant more than 27 years ago, and worked her way up to the position of Vice President of Administration and Finance. During her tenure at OCU, Coffey managed a \$45 million budget and supervised unprecedented construction on campus. She has directed engineering and maintenance efforts for the university's physical appearance and facilities and served as project director for more than \$80 million in new and renovated buildings.
- As of this spring, we have also added a new member to the OCU team in Eduardo Prieto, who joined the administration as our Director of Enrollment Services. Eduardo came to us from Houston's University of St. Thomas and his expertise will enhance the university's continued efforts to bring the best and brightest students to our campus.
- Funds for a three-year pilot project, in the amount of \$350,000, have been awarded to Oklahoma City University School of Law (OCU LAW) by the Inasmuch Foundation. The project is a student-staffed legal clinic within an existing agency that will operate under the close supervision of a clinical professor.
- The university's Head of the Oklahoma Regatta continues to bring innovation and excitement to the sport of rowing by staging the first-ever, US Rowing-sanctioned night races at this year's event, slated for September 30- October 1. Visit [www.oklahomaregatta.com](http://www.oklahomaregatta.com) for more information. ●

# Lighting the World, One Star at a Time, or, How to Raise \$100 Million in 19 Months





*Sandy Cotton; LaDonna and Herman Meinders; First Lady Kim and Governor Brad Henry; Board of Trustees Chairman Bill Shdeed; OCU President Tom McDaniel; Art Cotton; Bernie Patterson; and OCU First Lady Brenda McDaniel*

The Lighting the World, One Star at a Time centennial campaign kicked off just about two years ago with a luncheon for members of Oklahoma City's business community, students, administration, alumni, friends, and trustees. The goal? To raise \$100 million to pay for endowed scholarships, professorships and lecturer positions at the university, as well as renovation of existing facilities and new construction on campus.

Behind the scenes, the silent phase of the campaign had been going on for two years, during which time some 65% of the goal was raised, much of it from several of the university's most generous donors, including Herman

and LaDonna Meinders, Wanda Bass, Ann Lacy, and the Norick Family.

New gifts totaling millions of dollars were announced at the luncheon that day including a \$1 million gift from Devon Energy to endow scholarships in OCU's Clara Luper Scholarship program. The largest gift that day came from Ann Lacy who pledged an additional \$2.6 million. She gave the university \$10 million in 2002 and another \$1 million in 2003.

● *Bill Shdeed is all smiles at the celebration!*



**“The donations will transform this university. The \$100 million is spread across all seven of our academic units.”**

- President McDaniel

National campaign co-chairs Herman and LaDonna Meinders and Art Cotton, OCU's vice president of university advancement, then began the monumental challenge of raising the remainder of the goal. Individuals, national foundations, and corporations were all important parts of the campaign.

Slated for completion in 2007, the

campaign reached the \$100 million mark in January, 2006. The university community feted the feat at the place where it all began, the Meinders School of Business. Herman and LaDonna Meinders donated the final \$1 million. Hundreds of music students performed, and moving speeches were given by a number of student scholarship recipients.

OCU President Tom McDaniel described the campaign as “the most ambitious and historic undertaking of the university” and said “The donations will transform this university. The \$100 million is spread across all seven of our academic units.”

Governor Brad Henry spoke during the event and said the campaign’s completion was “the beginning of a bright future for the university and the state.”



*LaDonna and Herman Meinders give the final gift, taking the Campaign above and beyond its goal.*

First Lady Brenda McDaniel perhaps summed it all up the best when she spoke of the reason she and husband Tom contributed \$250,000 to the campaign. “Tom and I are so happy to be at OCU and to be doing what we’re doing. This is a

wonderful community and the students, staff, and faculty feel like family to us. We’re very glad that we can make this contribution and help further the education of wonderful students who will go on to become servant leaders.”

*L to R: Dean Marvel Williamson, Kramer School of Nursing; trustee and philanthropist Ann Lacy; trustee and alum Roy C. Leichter, president of the OCU Societies; Tom Brown, professor of marketing and chairman of the faculty senate; nursing student Brenda McDaniel; Board of Trustees Chairman Bill Shdeed; Coach Denney Crabaugh; trustee and alum Marianne Vannatta; chief of police Michael Cooper; law student Pete Serrata; student Brandon Blacksten; and Victoria Jones.*



**Thank you to this special group, and the more than 20,000 individuals, foundations, companies and organizations who made Oklahoma City University's \$100 million campaign, Lighting the World — One Star at a Time, a resounding success.**

Herman and LaDonna Meinders  
Wanda Bass  
Ann Lacy  
The Robert and Ruby Priddy Charitable Trust  
The United Methodist Church, Oklahoma Conference  
Inasmuch Foundation  
Kerr McGee  
Tom and Judy Love  
Norick Family  
Josephine Freede  
Devon Energy  
Communities Foundation of Oklahoma  
Oklahoma Development Group  
Mabee Foundation  
Oklahoma City Community Foundation  
Hatton Sumners Foundation  
OG&E  
Ethics & Excellence in Journalism Foundation

Gaylord Family/Oklahoma Publishing Company  
Chesapeake Energy  
Kurt and Cathy Leichter  
Richard and Jeannette Sias  
Tom and Brenda McDaniel  
Gary and Sue Homsey  
Emmanuel and Irene Edem  
Robert and Jeaneen Naifeh  
Jim Burton  
McCasland Foundation  
Robert Glenn Rapp Foundation  
Griffin Family Trust  
Bill and Pam Shdeed  
Ann Alspaugh  
Simmons Charitable Foundation  
Stuart Schroeder  
Owen Gleason  
General James Wade ●

*Chandler; Bass Music School advisory committee member Ann Hoover; Cathy student Eva McDonald; OCU volunteer and champion Pam Shdeed; President OCU volunteer and alum Jane Jayroe; Bernie Patterson, provost; Student Senate members, transfer student displaced by Hurricane Katrina.*



## **The Gifts: A \$100 Million Breakdown**

During the course of the campaign, OCU received:

- 38 gifts of more than \$100,000
- 14 gifts of more than \$1 million
- 3 gifts of more than \$15 million
- 20,000 gifts from individuals, foundations, companies, and organizations from across Oklahoma, the nation, and around the world!

The image shows the exterior of a brick building under a clear blue sky. A large, multi-paned skylight is set into the roofline. The building's facade is made of red and grey bricks. Large, three-dimensional, silver-colored letters are mounted on the wall, spelling out the name of the center. The text is arranged in two lines: the first line contains 'WANDA' and 'L. BASS', and the second line contains 'MUSIC' and 'CENTRE'.

WANDA  
MUSIC L. BASS  
CENTRE

# The Wanda L. Bass Music Center

A grand celebration was held April 1, 2006 to dedicate the \$38.5 million, 113,000-square-foot addition to the Bass School of Music.

The ceremonies were free to the public and featured a ribbon-cutting, the sealing of a time capsule, self-led tours of the building with docents posted along the way and performances by the 300-member Oklahoma City University Festival Choir and Orchestra, comprised of every music student in the school.

"The opening of the Bass Music Center places Oklahoma City University among the world's finest music schools. Dr. Bass's generosity and foresight are a gift not only to this university but to the city of Oklahoma City and the state of Oklahoma. This dedication is the culmination of OCU's centennial celebration, which began

two years ago with the opening of the Meinders School of Business and I can't think of a better finale," said OCU President Tom McDaniel.

"The Bass Music Center is an unprecedented creative collaboration between musicians and acousticians, architects and network designers, craftsmen and visionaries," said Mark Parker, dean of the music school. "This synergy has created a place inspired by a dream to build the world's finest facility for teaching music.

"I look at this not so much as a donation but as an investment," Dr. Wanda L. Bass said of her gift at the Center's 2002 groundbreaking. "This is an investment in the future of the school of music and in the future of Oklahoma City University."

The dedication was spectacular

and included the world premiere of a fanfare for brass and percussion written by OCU composer-in-residence Edward Knight, highlighting the acoustics of the Great Glass Atrium.

In addition to its 60 practice rooms, the Bass Center has 38 new teaching studios, seven high-tech music labs, six ensemble rehearsal rooms and a black-box theater. Faculty and students will continue using the historic Kirkpatrick Fine Arts Center, home to the music school for more than 75 years, and home to the 1,200-seat Kirkpatrick Auditorium, 488-seat Petree Recital Hall, 260-seat Burg Theater and the intimate Wimberly Lecture Recital Hall for chamber performances.

It is a building like no other, given to OCU by a woman like no other. Thank you, Dr. Wanda L. Bass! ●



*Dr. Wanda L. Bass*



*Bass School of Music Dean Mark Parker cuts the ribbon with Noah Bass and his parents, Boyd and Barbara.*



*Dr. Bass shares the story of this magnificent building with the crowd as President McDaniel looks on.*

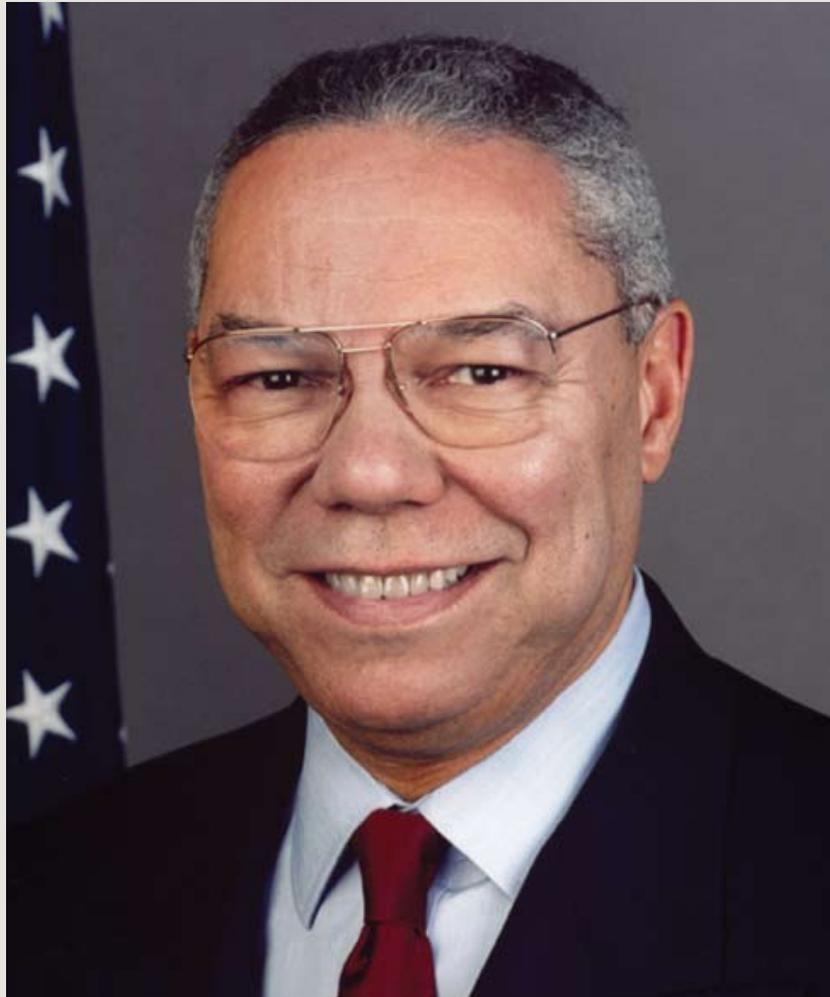
OCU to Welcome

# General Colin L. Powell

to Campus in November

The Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation will offer OCU students a rare opportunity on election day, November 11. High school and college students from across the state will attend a question-and-answer session with General Powell, who will also meet with community and university leadership. The day will be capped off by a luncheon for 400 invited guests, who will enjoy hearing General Powell's remarks.

Who is General Colin Powell? He is a leader and statesman. A man of supreme intelligence, versatility and presence, he was the face of America during the first four years of the Bush administration. As someone who crafted and articulated the U.S. position on the world stage, Powell provides insight on efforts to stabilize a troubled world.



After serving as the very first African-American chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Powell was appointed secretary of state by President George W. Bush – becoming the most powerful African-American ever to hold office. He has authored an autobiography, *My American Journey*.

A four-star general, Powell's

numerous awards include two Presidential Medals of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. He enlightens audiences about the difficult path toward peace in the Middle East, emphasizing that it's not just military but also diplomatic.

Powell affirmed the U.S. commitment to extend democracy and freedom to every corner of the world. He discusses current efforts to transform unstable regions into areas where societies and cultures flourish.

Oklahoma City University brings luminaries in many

fields to campus each semester through collaborative efforts with programs like the Ethics in Journalism Foundation, or via its Distinguished Speakers Series. Other acclaimed guests have included Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Robert Kennedy Jr., Karen Hughes, Kurt Vonnegut Jr., and Elie Wiesel. ●

# OCU Stars Shine Around the World

*By Christine Dillon*

Oklahoma City University has always attracted men and women who are driven and committed to excellence; it's a place where talents are nurtured and dreams become reality through a combination of our students' innate gifts and the one-on-one attention and encouragement students receive from each member of OCU's accomplished faculty.

In this issue, we'd like to introduce you to two amazing, inspiring alumni, Rana Husseini '90 (BA), '93 (MLA), of Jordan, and Frode Hoff '97, of Norway. Both are making marked contributions to the world we all share, through journalism – one mainly with the written word in newspapers and books, and the other via television and film. In upcoming issues we will continue to bring you stories of your fellow Stars. It is an exclusive group from whom one cannot help but draw inspiration.

Frode Hoff

**"At OCU I got hands-on experience with television equipment and how things work in a TV studio..."**

**F**rode Hoff '97 is an alumnus from Norway. He has traveled the world in pursuit of 'the story,' and at press time is covering the World Cup soccer games in Germany for TV 2 Norway, the country's sole commercial television station, where he works as a photographer and editor. He was the first to enter Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka after the ceasefire in 2002 and was among the journalists covering the tsunami in

Thailand. In 1995, he finished work on a documentary film about the one-year anniversary of the Beslan school massacre in Russia entitled *A Prayer for Beslan*, which CNN bought and

● *Live from Kuwait*



aired all over the world. The film has also been screened at film festivals in Monaco and California, and has won prizes in Russia.

**FOCUS:** *What drives you in your work? What is it that gets you out of bed in the morning?*

**FH:** I have a desire to never put my name on a piece of work that I can't stand by. I always aim to make my photographic and editing job as close to perfect as I can under the circumstances of the working conditions. I know there is nothing that is ever perfectly made, everything can be improved. What gets me out of bed in the morning is that I love what I do for a living and have a great time at work every day.

**FOCUS:** *Did you have career aspirations as a child?*

**FH:** The only thing I thought of becoming while growing up was an officer in the Royal Norwegian Navy, just like my dad. But, looking at where



● *Covering the Bam earthquake*

*prepare you?*

**FH:** At OCU I got hands-on experience with television equipment and how things work in a TV studio as well as ENG. However having television equipment present does not guarantee learning. I had a very good

his assistant Kevin Sikes, Eric Nazim in AV, and (last but certainly not least) David Brooks in telecommunications. He taught me a lot about life, living in America, work, and inspired me to do what I do.

In addition there was a good group of motivated students that lived and breathed television 24/7, which is a necessity for learning it. We all hung around the studio doing several shows a day. We loved the field we studied, and that drive in us all helped prepare not only me, but a lot of my fellow students for the world of professional broadcast.

**FOCUS:** *What would you like readers to know about who you are and what you do?*

**FH:** I started working in Arlington, Texas as a photographer for JW Productions, and did shows for the Texas Rangers and the Big 12, among others, for Fox Sports. Now, I'm a 36 year old photographer / editor at TV 2 Norway, the country's only commercial network. I do a lot of news photography and sports, all around the world. I do documentaries both as an editor and a photographer, and travel quite a bit doing foreign news and covering wars.



● *Editing outdoors in Iran*

I am today, I guess I needed a job with a bit more room for creativity.

**FOCUS:** *How did OCU help you become who you are today? How did it help*

group of people around me who helped, supervised, and taught me well. Some of those were Jerry Brewer, who headed up the station at OCU,



● In a cargo plane en route to Bam via Baku

I was the first to enter Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka after the ceasefire in 2002. We spent three days in the jungle with the guerrillas there, doing stories. I have covered a lot of international events such as the Gulf War from Kuwait and the border of Iraq, quite a few natural disasters such as the tsunami in Thailand, the massive earthquakes of Bam in Iran and Kashmir in Pakistan, often sleeping outdoors and trekking to get there. I've taken several trips to Afghanistan (Kabul, Meymaneh, Panshir-valley) with the ISAF forces covering the elections and the Taliban attacks on the Norwegian soldiers there. A few weeks ago I was in Iran doing stories on the big issue of nuclear power. I'll be in Germany for six weeks covering the World Cup in soccer. I was also six weeks in South Korea and Japan (2002) covering the previous one, as well as four weeks in Portugal for the Euro Champs (soccer) in 2004.

The most recent documentary that I've edited was "A Prayer for Beslan" (<http://www.journeyman.tv/?lid=18982>). CNN bought it and it aired during primetime in all markets of the world. In addition, it has won prizes in Russia, was nominated at several film festivals, most recently in

Monaco and at the Moondance Festival in California.

**FOCUS:** *What are your fondest memories of OCU?*

**FH:** All the good friends that I made there and still keep in touch with! The good times we all had doing the shows at the TV studio.

of the World Award for bringing attention to honor crimes against women in Jordan in 2004 and the Spanish Ciutat de L'Hospitalet Award for the Defence of Human Rights and Peaceful Coexistence for work on championing women's right issues in Jordan in 2005.

**"OCU had an important impact on my career and life."**



● Hussein with First Lady Laura Bush

## Rana Hussein

Rana Hussein '90 (BA), '93 (MLA) is a human rights activist, journalist, and feminist. Her emphasis has been on violence against women, particularly the brutal crimes committed against Jordanian women in the name of family honor. She has been a reporter for *The Jordan Times* for the past 13 years and has earned six international awards for reporting on such crimes including the Reebok Human Rights Award in 1998, the Ida B. Wells award in 2003 for Bravery in Journalism, *Marie Claire Magazine* Top Ten Women

Hussein also works as a special advisor to Freedom House on women's issues and media freedom in Jordan. Their project supports Jordanian efforts to support women's rights and advocacy against domestic violence. She is currently working on a book.

**FOCUS:** *What drives you in your work? What is it that gets you out of bed in the morning?*

**RH:** What drives me to work every day is the urge to convey people's suffering, concerns, happiness, achievements, dreams, and aspirations to the reader. I believe the media's message is very important and can make an important impact on our societies and

● With Jimmy Carter





● L to R: Jane Fonda, Charles Wheeler, and Husseini

lives if used in the proper professional manner. Also, work is an important factor in one's life because it teaches you many lessons and allows you to be dependent on yourself.

**FOCUS:** *Did you have career aspirations as a child?*

**RH:** Since I was an athlete in my childhood, I had always wanted to be a trainer in the field of basketball. When I was younger, women's sports in Jordan did not receive the proper support and financial attention so in my last year at school I decided that I wanted to study journalism. When I came to OCU, I realized that my dream was closer than expected - but what really helped me move forward on the issue was when I met Corky Huffine, who asked me to come and write for the school's newspaper, *The Campus*. I worked for *The Campus* throughout my six years at OCU.

● Husseini with Glenn Close



**FOCUS:** *How did OCU help you become who you are today? How did it help prepare you?*

**RH:** OCU had an important impact on my career and life. Being a foreigner back in the 1980s at OCU was a bit difficult, but the majority of the professors were always encouraging foreign students and offering them opportunities in life.

**"I remember  
I was always  
laughing because  
I was so happy  
and surrounded  
by nice and supportive people  
and resident  
assistants."**

I also did many things that would have been a bit hard for me to do back home. One was working on *The Campus*. This opportunity really helped me polish my personality and become more dependent on myself and it paved the way for my professional career when I returned home.

**FOCUS:** *What would you like readers to know about who you are and what you do?*

**RH:** I am a human rights activist and a feminist. I have been a reporter for *The Jordan Times* for the past 13 years. My background combines journalism for the leading English language daily in Jordan and consultancies and advocacy for women's rights

in the Middle East and Jordan with domestic NGOs and international organizations.

As a Jordanian woman journalist writing for *The Jordan Times* I focus on social issues with a special emphasis on violence against women, as well as the brutal crimes that are committed against Jordanian women in the name of family honor. My coverage of and dedication to ending this unjustified practice against women helped raise national awareness on a topic that is traditionally considered taboo.

My previous work with an international organization was as a regional coordinator for the United Nation's Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) campaign to eliminate violence against women.

**FOCUS:** *What are your fondest memories of OCU?*

**RH:** The fondest moments I would say were ones I spent at Walker Hall dormitory. I will never forget the fun my friends and I had at that dorm. They were special moments in my life. I remember I was always laughing because I was so happy and surrounded by nice and supportive people and resident assistants. Also, the men's and women's home basketball games occupied a great portion of my life back then. On the days when we had a home game, I loved to just sit and enjoy the spirit of the game, the cheerleaders and the music. Everything related to the game was so amazing to me. ●

*Look for more features on exceptional alumni in upcoming issues of FOCUS magazine. We hope you've enjoyed meeting Frode and Rana, and we welcome your suggestions about alumni to consider for profiles in the future.*



## **Reunion Weekend 2006: November 3-5**

A constellation of events planned for you and your fellow Stars including the Alumni Recognition and Awards & Athletic Hall of Fame Induction, Parents' Weekend, and Reunion Weekend.

The Lip Sync, a perennial favorite, will be Friday night at 7:30 in the Freede Center.

Saturday's events include:

- 8:00 a.m. - Race with the Stars 5K
- 8:45 am - Race with the Stars 1-mile Fun Run/Walk
- 10:00 am - 2 :00 pm - OCU Pow Wow
- 10:30 am - 11:30 am - Tap Class
- 10:30 am - 11:30 am - Vocal Class Group sing
- 10:30 am - 11:30 am - Possible Career seminar
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Alumni/Family Tailgate
- 11:45 am - 12:15 pm - Campus Tour
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Lunch
- 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm - OCU Women's Basketball
- 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm - OCU Men's Basketball
- 6:00 pm - Reception, OKC Golf and Country Club
- 7:00 pm - Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner & Athletic Hall of Fame

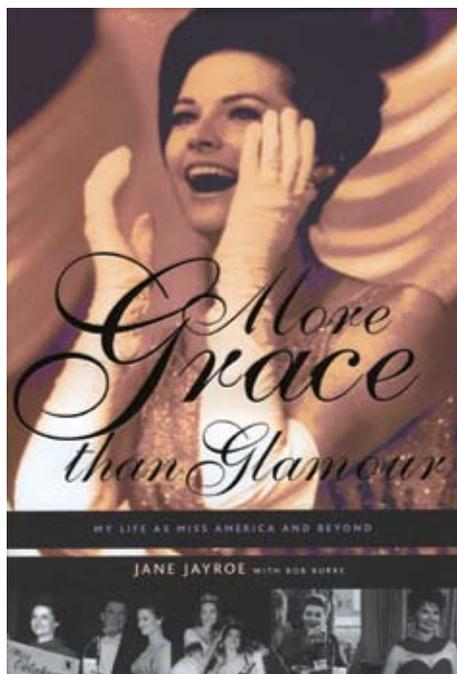
Sunday 11:00 am - 1:00 pm - Panhellenic Reunion

## **OCU LAW Reunion Weekend: September 29-30**

Save the date! OCU LAW Reunion Weekend is September 29 and 30, honoring the classes of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1996, and 2001. Come back to Oklahoma City University, renew friendships, meet other alumni, participate in exciting activities and fellowship opportunities, and observe intercollegiate rowing competition at the third annual Head of the Oklahoma Regatta.

OCU LAW Reunion Weekend kicks off with a welcome reception on Friday night. Saturday's activities include free CLEs, lunch with the dean, the Head of the Oklahoma Regatta, an Alumni Reception followed by honored class dinners, and a closing dessert reception.

Special lodging arrangements will be coordinated for returning alumni and their families. Watch your mail for more information or visit the law school website at [www.okcu.edu/law](http://www.okcu.edu/law). Interested in serving on your class reunion committee? If so, contact Glede Holman '01, Alumni Relations Coordinator at [gholman@okcu.edu](mailto:gholman@okcu.edu). We look forward to seeing you soon.



Jane Jayroe's "More Grace than Glamour: My Life as Miss America and Beyond"

## Jane Jayroe '69: OCU's Latest Author

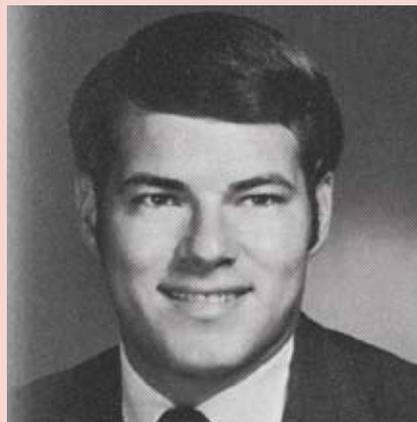
Add successful author to the list of OCU's über-alumna Jane Jayroe's accomplishments. Her book, an autobiography entitled "More Grace than Glamour: My Life as Miss America and Beyond," is an entertaining and inspirational read. Jayroe was born in Clinton, Okla. and grew up in Sentinal and Laverne. After being crowned Miss America in 1967, she was a professional singer, prime-time news anchor in Oklahoma City and Dallas-Fort Worth, a public relations executive, spokesman for the Oklahoma Health Center and OCU, vice president of the Presbyterian Health Foundation, and Secretary of Tourism in the administration of Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating.

Jayroe has a lifelong record of community service as a volunteer and board member of many charitable and civic organizations. She has written extensively about the challenges faced by women. She and her husband, Gerald Gamble, live in Oklahoma City.

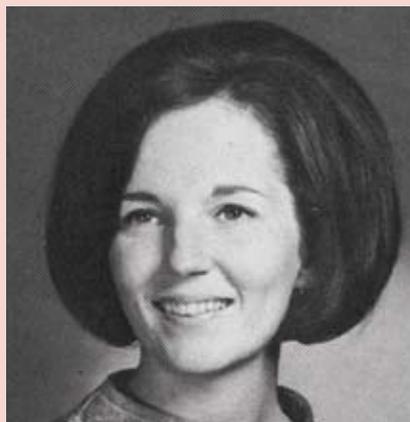
To order your copy visit <http://www.okcu.edu/alumni/store>.

## Did You Find Love at OCU?

Did Cupid's deft little arrow find its way to your heart while you were earning your degree? It happened for the former Marianne Brown and Jerry Vannatta, both class of 1970. The OCU Alumni Association would like to learn how you met your spouse at Oklahoma City University. Was it at a basketball game? Or did your heart first flutter in the library? Winning entries will be published in the Winter 2007 edition of Focus Magazine, and couples will receive very special prizes. Please mail entries and photos, if available, to Jeanne Short, Director, Alumni Relations & Gift Planning, Oklahoma City University, 2500 N. Blackwelder, Oklahoma City, OK 73106. Or, email to [jeanneshort@okcu.edu](mailto:jeanneshort@okcu.edu).



Jerry Vannatta '70



The former Marianne Brown '70

## OCU Travelers: England, Here We Come!

In June 2007, the OCU Alumni Association is hosting the Wesley Heritage Tour, an eleven-day escorted tour to England to visit historic Methodist sites, manor houses, and country gardens. A special day is planned in Epworth, the childhood home of John and Charles Wesley. Contact Nancy Myer at 405-843-9447 or [nancym@journeyhouse.com](mailto:nancym@journeyhouse.com) for more information.



## Alumni Board

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President

**Pat McFerron '90**  
Vice President

**Andrea Carpenter '91**  
Secretary

**Jacqueline Miller '91**  
Treasurer

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Leroy Bridges '81  
Michael Decker '75  
Robert Dudley '03  
Margaret Freede-Owens '84  
Mandy Heaps-Ellis '03  
Stephanie Hudson '88  
Gayla Kelly '75  
Steve Knight '70  
Billy Lewis '00  
Kathy McCracken '88  
Lisa Nowell '92

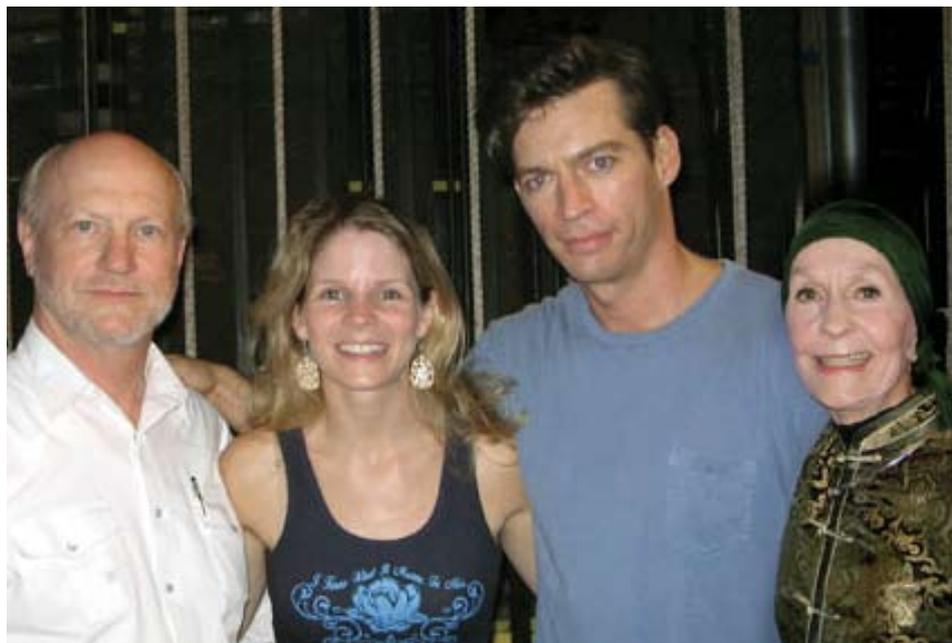


● L to R: Andrea Carpenter, Jacqueline Miller, Pat McFerron, Jacque Fiegel

Keith Oehlert '70  
Cary Pirrong '90  
Alison Radecki '94  
George Randall '65  
Kim Sanders '69  
Blair Schoeb '79  
Janet Seefeldt '04  
John Stark '00  
Emily Walton '01  
Mark Watson '85  
Drew Williamson '90  
Christine Yousey '05

## Do you want to leave a legacy for your family, friends, and Oklahoma City University?

Learn how to plan for tomorrow at our Web site <http://www.okcu.edu/develop/>. You won't find a more complete resource for estate and charitable planning anywhere on the Web. Choose from a menu of information selections including how to build your gift, ways to give, what to give, and even a gift calculator. Read through donor stories, and browse through the many articles in the reading room. ●



## Awards and Honors from Across the Country Shine on Jo Rowan and John Bedford

Jo Rowan, professor of dance and chairman and founder of the dance program within OCU's Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management, and director and founder of the American Spirit Dance Company, will receive the Dance Masters of America President's Award 2006 in Las Vegas in July. Aside from putting OCU's dance program on the map, she's done quite a bit of globe-trotting of her own. She was trained at the School of American Ballet and the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow, holds degrees in design and dance from the University of Cincinnati, has performed with Cincinnati Ballet, Dallas Ballet (where she was formerly ballet

mistress), Garden State Ballet, Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Dallas Opera, Philadelphia Opera, Tulsa Opera, Cincinnati Opera and as a soloist at Radio City Music Hall. Professor Rowan, a member of Actors Equity, has appeared professionally in over sixty musicals as a dancer, actress, and comedienne.

Professor Rowan and Dean John Bedford each received the prestigious Flo-Bert Award for significant contributions to the art form of tap at the Tap Extravaganza show in New York City produced by the New York Committee to Celebrate National Tap Dance Day. The awards recognize "those who have advanced the artistry of tap through performance, teaching, and choreography."

Dean Bedford was inducted into Backstage on Broadway the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in October. Bedford oversees administration of the American musical theater dance program, the dance

Oklahoma City University's Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management Dean John Bedford, left, and dance department chair Jo Rowan, right, were honored recently in New York City with a Flo-Bert Award for their significant contributions to the art form of tap, for spurring the revival and refinement of tap dance at the collegiate level, and for creating tap dance as an accredited focus of study. The award is presented by The New York Committee to Celebrate National Tap Dance Day. While in The Big Apple Bedford and Rowan attended a performance of the Broadway revival of "The Pajama Game" starring OCU alumna (and 2006 Tony Award® nominee) Kelli O'Hara, second from left, and Harry Connick Jr. They are shown here backstage at the American Airlines Theatre following the show.

management program, the entertainment business program, the American Spirit Dance Company, and the Performing Arts Ticket Office.

He developed the arts management program at OCU and created and taught courses in touring the performing arts, sponsoring and presenting performances, managing non-profit performing arts organizations, and contract law and management for performers.

In collaboration with his wife, Jo Rowan, chair of the OCU Dance Department, Bedford developed and implemented the plan, which has contributed to OCU's dance program gaining national stature and growing from four dance majors in 1981 to 200 at present. The program was the first to offer the Bachelor of Arts in performing arts in tap and jazz dance styles. He helped found the American

Spirit Dance Company, which is dedicated to developing and promoting an appreciation of American musical theater dance, tap, and jazz.



## Silver Anniversary Means a Silver Salute!

Kramer School of Nursing at Oklahoma City University is 25 this year and a celebration is in the works! Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 5 for a commemorative luncheon at Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club. Jenny Kallenberger '97 is chairing this event. In addition to honoring the graduates of Kramer School of Nursing, plans are to recognize notable nurses from across the state of Oklahoma.

A volunteer leader from each class is needed to promote reunion tables at this event. What a great way to catch up with your classmates! Surprise awards will be given to qualifying alumni.

Please contact us at the school if you have questions or would like to help with this event. KSN's Silver Anniversary Celebration promises to be one of the highlights of the year!

## Moving Image Arts Program Begins at OCU

Oklahoma City University students now have the opportunity to learn how to make movies.

Fritz Kiersch, who has directed projects such as Stephen's King's *Children of the Corn*, *Into the Sun* starring Anthony Michael Hall, and the 1990s television series "Swamp Thing," will head up the university's new film department.

Kiersch said the program is a natural fit with the university's performing arts curriculum, which already includes dance, musical theater and vocal performance.

"First, we have to look at the value of an interdisciplinary program," he said. "We can take advantage of what's in place (at OCU) and begin introducing students to a little bit of a lot ... Broadway and film and dance. It's not going to be a hard thing to do."

Kiersch spent the last five years as the film and video production program director at Oklahoma City Community College. He started the two-year program at the college so Oklahomans could bring film crews to the state, helping to boost the economy. A four-year program at OCU naturally will provide students with more in-depth training than at a two-

year facility, he said.

"We will be able to involve the students in a much deeper study path," he said. "We'll not just introduce them to the camera, but really study cinematography as it should be studied."

## Meinders School of Business

Oklahoma City University's new Great Wall International MBA Program was honored March 30 with *The Journal Record* Innovator of the Year award!

The Great Wall International MBA Program, based in Tianjin, China and offered by OCU's Meinders School of Business, is the first of its kind in the United States and allows students to live and study in China for 18 months while earning their Master in Business Administration degrees from OCU. The program offers a dual specialization in international business and finance and is focused on understanding the growing economic and political influence of China and its businesses in the world economy.

"In the selection process, our judges looked for unique people, products and services that distinguished the

*A group of Great Wall students atop, well, the Great Wall!*



nominees from the other applicants," said *The Journal Record* publisher Mary Melon.

"Oklahoma City University's Great Wall Program is the answer to the growing demand and shortage of bilingual men and women able to effectively conduct business between the two most powerful countries in the world – the United States and China," said Vince Orza, dean of the Meinders School of Business.

"Students who leave our 18-month program will have specialized training in international business and finance, as well as fluency in Mandarin Chinese. Students also have the opportunity to complete an internship with a Chinese company or a multinational corporation doing business in China," Orza said. "A program like this can only help American relations with the Chinese, and OCU is proud to be a part of building that relationship."

## School of Law

This year's Legal Affair recognized two outstanding former Oklahoma City University School of Law professors, Marjorie Downing and Nancy

Kenderdine. Proceeds from the dinner will fund endowed scholarships named for these women, who have influenced hundreds of students of law at OCU LAW.

Downing began her teaching career in 1972 at OCU School of Law where she was the first female law professor to teach full time. Her career spanned 25 years.

Kenderdine's 33-year career in legal education began at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. In 1977, she joined OCU School of Law. In 2005, she was named a professor emerita.

Five annual awards were presented to alumnae: Judge Reta M. Strubhar '81 received the Justice Marian P. Opala Award for Lifetime Achievement in Law; M. Susie Magaw-Viele '82 accepted the Alumni Association Award for Community Service; Judge Patricia D. MacGuigan '75 was named Distinguished Law Alumna; and Keri C. Prince '97 was named Outstanding Young Alumna. In 2003, Prince joined Pre-Paid Legal Services Inc. as its first general counsel. Accepting Law Firm Mark of Distinction honors was

*Professor Emerita Nancy Kenderdine, Dean Larry Hellman, and Professor Marjorie Downing at the Legal Affair*



Scoggins & Cross PLLC. Its principals are Linda G. Scoggins and Laura L. Cross '88.



●  
Dean Mark Davies

## Dean Mark Davies Honored

Wimberly School of Religion Dean Mark Davies is the recipient of a significant honor. He was named the Joseph B. Whitehead Educator of Distinction for the year 2005 for his 'exemplary dedication to the field of education' for his work at the Classen School of Advanced Studies, Oklahoma City, where he teaches philosophy. Rachel Louise Pollack, a student at Classen, wrote "For your time; For your patience; For always showing me unwavering attention and respect; For helping me understand difficult philosophical concepts with your learned guidance and wonderful sense of humor (especially British accents); I appreciate you and I feel lucky to have you as a teacher." ●

# Focus on Athletics

## Men's and Women's Golf Teams are National Champions!

By Rich Tortorelli



*The Oklahoma City University men's golf team celebrates its 2006 national title in Olathe, Kan. From right to left, Colin Nel, Clay Parks, Brent Akins, Garrard Weston, Anthony Michael, Daniel Mitchell, and OCU coach Kyle Blaser. Photo courtesy of the NAIA*

Congratulations to the Oklahoma City University men's and women's golf teams on winning the NAIA national championship held May 16-19 at Prairie Highland Golf Course in Olathe, Kan.

The Stars captured their fifth NAIA men's golf championship in six years. OCU won national crowns in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004. It was OCU's 27th national title overall.

The Stars won by their largest margin in the NAIA championship. In OCU's previous four title runs, OCU's largest margin was 12 strokes in 2003 at Palm Coast, Fla.

Colin Nel placed third individually, finishing three shots shy of the individual medalist, Point Loma Nazarene (Calif.)'s Joe Prince. Nel, a freshman from Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, shot 73-72-71-71-287.

All five OCU players were NAIA all-Americans: Nel, Brent Akins, Anthony Michael, and Daniel Mitchell were first team, and Garrard Weston was honorable mention. Akins and Mitchell were all-American for the second year in a row, and Weston became a three-time all-American.

Four OCU players made the all-tournament team: Akins, Michael, Mitchell, and Nel. Akins and

Mitchell made the all-tournament team for the second year in a row.

OCU erased a third-place finish in last year's national tournament. Blaser responded to the finish by bringing in Michael and Nel, two key freshmen.

OCU's Clay Parks became an NAIA academic all-American scholar-athlete. Parks is a sophomore business administration major from Carrollton, Texas.

The OCU women's golf team won the NAIA championship for the second year in a row as Ashley Sholer won individual medalist, and Toni Pyrum finished runner-up. The Stars won by 34 strokes.

Oklahoma City University coach Sara Mobley predicted an NAIA national championship for freshman Ashley Sholer someday. She just didn't know it would be so soon.

Sholer completed a wire-to-wire leading performance to win individual medalist. She shot 68-70-79-79-296 during the four-day tournament. Sholer led OCU to its second consecutive national title.

Sholer, a freshman from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, broke the individual tournament record low for 18 holes (68) and 36 holes (138).



*From left, coach Sara Mobley, Tamara Campbell, Toni Pyrum, Emily Albrektson, Christina Cung, and Ashley Sholer.*

Sholer finished eight strokes ahead of teammate Toni Pyrum. Pyrum, a junior from Ada, Okla., shot 75-77-79-73-304. The Stars were 1-2 in the individual standings for the second year in a row.

OCU set the tournament record low for 18 holes (288), 36 holes (594), 54 holes (911) and 72 holes (1,215). The Stars put together a 72-hole team score of 288-306-317-304-1,215, beating runner-up British Columbia by 34 strokes.

Tamara Campbell finished tied for fifth, 13 strokes off Sholer's pace. Campbell, a sophomore from Lawton, Okla., shot 71-82-80-76-309.

Christina Cung tied for 10th with a 77-80-79-76-312, and defending medalist Emily Albrektson carded a 74-79-82-79-314 to be 12th.

All five OCU golfers were all-tournament. Albrektson was an NAIA all-American scholar-athlete.

## Softball Team Finishes Seventh in National Tournament

OCU lost 1-0 in eight innings to California Baptist and 3-2 to Simon Fraser (British Columbia) to finish its season in the NAIA softball championships in Decatur, Ala. OCU went 4-0 in pool play and finished 53-7. The Stars were eliminated in bracket play, improving off last year's 2-2 performance in pool play.

Six OCU seniors finished their careers. Left fielder Kate Beasley, shortstop Lelys Gomez, designated player Ursula Lundberg, center fielder Lacey Neuman, right fielder Randi Scheer, and third baseman Jill Vaughn all played their final game as Stars.

Calvert and Dasha Shembereva were first-team NAIA softball all-Americans.

Gomez was second team, and Vaughn became the program's

third four-time all-American as Vaughn was honorable mention.

Calvert, a junior catcher from Grand Prairie, Texas, hit .422 with 11 home runs and 71 RBIs. Calvert, the NAIA Region VI player of the year, became the first player in NAIA history to hit two grand slams in a game against Oklahoma Christian on March 30.

Shembereva, a junior pitcher from Moscow, Russia, went 46-7 with a 1.88 earned run average and struck out 375 in 344.1 innings. Shembereva, the Region VI pitcher of the year, set single-season school records in wins and strikeouts.

Gomez, a senior from Cabudare Estado Lara, Venezuela, hit .335 with three homers, 37 RBIs and 17 stolen bases. Gomez, the Sooner Athletic Conference player of the year, will turn 43 in August.

Vaughn, a senior from Oklahoma City, hit .381 with eight homers and 48 RBIs. Vaughn joined Andrea Drake and Christie Liu Xuqing as four-time all-Americans from OCU.

Scheer and Brittani Ellis were named NAIA academic all-American scholar-athletes.

Ellis is a junior biology major from Tuttle, Okla. Scheer is a senior math education major from Big Cabin, Okla.

## Baseball Team Ends Final Season in Regional

There will be a new champion in NAIA baseball. OCU, the 2005 national champion, ended its string of four consecutive trips

to the national championship game with a 10-4 loss to Lubbock Christian (Texas) in the NAIA Region VI baseball championship May 13 in Plainview, Texas. OCU had won the last four region titles. The Stars ended 50-12 and ranked eighth in the nation.

"We were right where we wanted to be," OCU coach Denney Crabaugh said. "I told the guys to come out giving all they had."

OCU forced the if-necessary game against Lubbock Christian with a 7-3 win earlier Saturday, May 13. OCU's Antwan Capla hit two home runs that day. Jeff McLaughlin came back on two days rest and threw a complete game in the win.

McLaughlin, Brandon Harrigan, Matt Imwalle, and Ryan Rachal were each all-Region VI and all-Sooner Athletic Conference.

## Rowers Win National Medal for Second Year in a Row, Row, Row!

Jennifer Allensworth and Nina Zlebir of OCU repeated as medalists at the Dad Vail Regatta, the national championship of rowing, on May 13. Allensworth and Zlebir took silver in the women's varsity pair by completing the race in 7 minutes, 52.26 seconds.



*Cat Calvert celebrates a home run with teammates Kate Beasley (left), Dasha Shembereva (14), and Brittani Ellis (right). Photo by Aubrey Perry, The Campus.*

OCU finished 4.47 seconds behind the team from Saint Thomas. Allensworth, a sophomore from McLoud, Okla., and Zlebir, a senior from Jesenice, Slovenia, teamed to take bronze last year in the event.

"Our girls improved from last year," OCU coach Mike Knopp said. "Now with Nina gone we will have some big shoes to fill."

## Volleyball, Wrestling Sign First Prospects

OCU volleyball coach Jen Salmans signed setter Brittany Segars of Fort Worth, Texas as the school's first recruit as an NAIA program. The Stars begin play this fall for the first time since 1984. OCU plays Oklahoma Wesleyan on Aug. 22 in Bartlesville, Okla., for its season opener, then plays the first volleyball match in Abe Lemons Arena ever on Aug. 26.

OCU wrestling coach Archie Randall signed Corey A. Johnson of Oologah, Okla., as the school's first wrestling recruit. The Stars wrestle for the first time in the Lindenwood Open on Oct. 28. OCU has its first dual ever against Oklahoma on Nov. 4 in Norman, Okla. ●

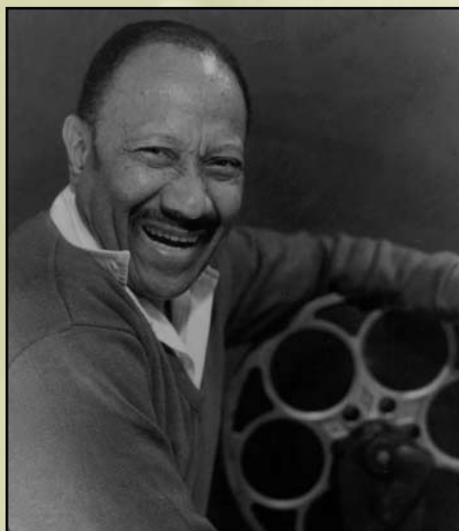
## 2005-06 Stars in Review

Men's Basketball	29-8, NAIA runner-up
Women's Basketball	32-3, NAIA quarterfinalists
Men's Soccer	15-5-1, Sooner Athletic Conference tournament finals
Women's Soccer	17-3-1, SAC Tournament champs, Regional semifinalists

Baseball	50-12, Regional finals
Softball	53-7, seventh at NAIA championships
Men's Golf	NAIA champion
Women's Golf	NAIA champion

## IN MEMORY

### American Dance Legend and OCU 'Doctor of Dance' Passes Away



Fayard Nicholas, of the famed Nicholas brothers, one of the most beloved dance teams in the history of American dance, whose career spanned more than six decades passed away peacefully at home in Toluca Lake, Cal., in January, surrounded by friends and his wife, Katherine Hopkins Nicholas. He was 92.

Nicholas had a long-term and close relationship with the faculty and students of Oklahoma City University's Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management and was the 2002 recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Performing Arts in American Dance degree from OCU.

He and his brother Harold (deceased) are best known for their unforgettable appearances in more than 30 Hollywood musicals in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1940, they were contracted to 20th Century Fox where they made six films. Fayard and Harold went on to star in many Broadway, off-Broadway and theatre productions throughout the United States and abroad. In 1981, the brothers were honored with a retrospective of their

work in film on the Academy Awards television special. Fayard received a Tony Award for his choreography in the Tony award winning Broadway show, Black and Blue, in 1989.

#### 1930

Dorothy May Compbell Osborn

#### 1935

Anita Sims Chambers

#### 1946

Funston Flanagan

#### 1949

Elizabeth West

#### 1950

William "Bill" Creekmore Wallace

G.W. McDonald

#### 1951

Frank Schrameck Jr.

Joan Kendall

Robert Worley

#### 1952 & 1956

Bobby Page Boyd

#### 1953

Donald Todd

#### 1954

Alexander McKinnon

#### 1955

Sgt. Virginia Francesca Mauer

Jay Moody

#### 1956

Bill Burt

Ann Margaret Rucks

#### 1957

Joseph Sexton

Virgil McNary

#### 1958

William B. Walker

#### 1959

Harry Jack Birge

Kenneth Head

#### 1960

Bernice Foster

Marvin O'Neil

Byron Edward Williams

#### 1961

Harry Vines

#### 1962

Paul McKinney

#### 1963

Judith Cunningham

#### 1968

Mary Lorraine DeBois Hayes

Robert Cantrell

#### 1974

David Windham

#### 1978

Carroll L. "Skip" Shiffer

Helen Macomb Weber

#### 1979

Opal Cooper

#### 1980

Norma Aiene Snyder Vandergriff

Robert Cole

Thomas Hartman

Oscar Jenkins

#### 1981

Mark Lowry

#### 1982

Edward Sullivan

#### 1987

Benjamin Munda

Mitchell Sperry

#### 1988

Kate Porter

#### 1989

Billy Ray Sexton

Gary Williams

#### 1995

Dana Lynn (Eden) Ridenour