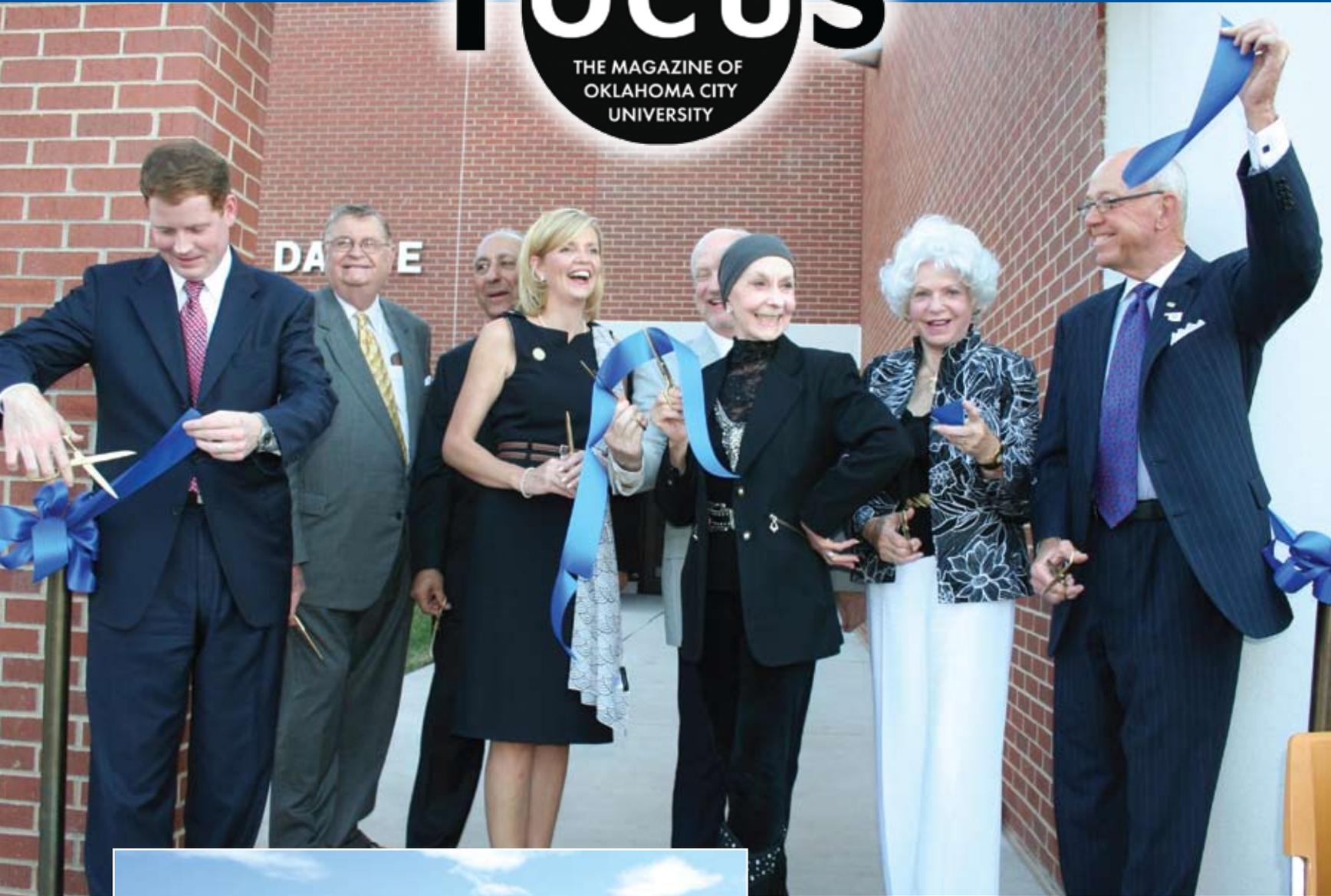


FALL/WINTER
2007-08

focus

THE MAGAZINE OF
OKLAHOMA CITY
UNIVERSITY



GRAND OPENING

THE EDITH KINNEY
GAYLORD CENTER

OCU FRESHMEN FIND A WARM WELCOME

By Leslie Berger

The many friendly faces on the Oklahoma City University campus are commonplace to alumni and upperclassmen, but for first-time freshmen the smiles bring relief on one of the biggest days of their lives—the day they move into their dorms. Oklahoma City University's Centennial Residence Hall opened at 9 a.m. Aug. 15 and eager residents lined campus streets in their cars waiting to move in. Thanks to all the help from student volunteers, dozens of cars moved through the line quickly and it disappeared within an hour.

Carla Yoselow, a dance management freshman from Edmond, was one of the first students to move in. As her dad, Michael, started to unpack their car, juniors Kate Cofran and Lizzie Jones rushed over to help. As they headed for the stairs, not much was left to grab.

"I feel like a wimp, all I'm carrying is water," Yoselow said.

Yoselow took advantage of her light load on the way up, focusing her attention on all the features of the hall.

"This is my first time to see the dorm," she explained. "This is so amazing."

Southlake, Texas resident Barry McCoy agreed. "Y'all call this a dorm in Oklahoma!" he exclaimed. "Things have changed since I went to college. This is nice."

McCoy's daughter Krista, a music education freshman, brought lots of helpers from Texas to



Michael Yoselow (left) and his daughter, freshman Carla Yoselow (middle right), unload boxes during move-in day for the Centennial Residence Hall. OCU juniors Kate Cofran (middle left) and Lizzie Jones (right) gather Carla's belongings to carry upstairs.

get settled into her new room, but she still accepted some additional help from upperclassmen at OCU.

Meanwhile in her second floor room, Yoselow and her helpers peered out her window over the new courtyard and talked about the campus.

"This is a great way to break the ice as you meet new people," said sophomore Aubrey Phillips who had joined Yoselow's entourage.

Michael Yoselow said he appreciated the opportunity to learn more about OCU.

"It's nice to be able to ask questions on your way upstairs," he said.

Religion/youth ministry student Courtney Thompson, a member of the First United Methodist Church of Sapulpa, helped freshman Samantha Phillips haul boxes to her new home in Walker Hall.

"This is a good way to meet people and it feels good to help," Thompson said. "I remember what a huge help this was for me when I moved in. It's nice to help everyone get through with moving quickly."

Phillips, who came to OCU from Manteca, Calif., was happy to receive the help from Thompson, dance major Monika Guiberteau, triple threat major Christi Weinhold and dance student Allie Friedell.

"I don't have to do anything except unpack," Phillips said. "What a relief."

Freshman Krista McCoy (center, front) brought lots of friends and family from Southlake, Texas to help her move into her dorm in Centennial Residence Hall this August. She also found a lot more help moving in from members of OCU's fraternities once she arrived.



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Check out Oklahoma City University at www.okcu.edu.

Oklahoma City University pledges to recruit, select and promote diversity by providing equality of opportunity in higher education for all persons, including faculty and employees with respect to hiring, continuation, promotion and tenure, applicants for admission, enrolled students, and graduates, without discrimination or segregation on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, handicap or disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

The Vice President for Student Affairs, located in Room 205 of the Clara E. Jones Administration Building, telephone (405) 208-5831, coordinates the university's compliance with titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.



Oklahoma City University has always been dedicated to excellence, education and the community. In recent months, we have also been fortunate to have had our share of excellent dedications. They began in October, when we dedicated the newly-renovated Edith Kinney Gaylord Center, and they continued through the end of November. We've dedicated buildings, clocks, a fountain, lounges, centers and land.

Early in October we dedicated the much-anticipated and greatly expanded and renovated Edith Kinney Gaylord Center, home of the Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management. Our friends at the Inasmuch Foundation joined us that day and allowed us to show our appreciation for making that dream become a reality. You'll see the beautiful new Center on our cover and you can read more about it on page 7 of this issue.

Our Day of Celebration, held October 30, was a pivotal day in the life of Oklahoma City University. We began our celebration on the north side of the Freede Center, where we dedicated our Oklahoma Centennial Clock. Next, we walked over to the Centennial Residence Hall and held a ceremony and reception after which we made our way to the Meinders School of Business where

we christened the Norick Family Student/Faculty Lounge, the Martha Burger Career Services Center and the Sylvia and Jack Golsen Conference Center. Finally, we gathered for the last of our dedications that day: the McDaniel University Center and its Shdeed Trustee Lounge and Great Hall, where we also enjoyed a wonderful dinner. Also included in the day's events was a recognition of a generous gift of land by OCU Trustee Gerald Gamble and his associate, James C. Buchanan III, to be used as an outdoor laboratory for our arts and sciences students. You'll find a feature story about all of this and FOCUS Magazine's very first centerfold beginning on page 18.

The festivities of Reunion Weekend are highlighted for you in this issue as well, and it was a wonderful weekend. I'd like to call your attention to one event in particular, the dedication of our new softball facility, Ann Lacy Stadium and its Paul and Kim Sanders Reception Area.

As we celebrate each of our successes, we make an extra effort not to lose sight of why we are engaged in these activities. New and improved buildings are wonderful because they make Oklahoma City University a better place for our students.

Students' dreams are nurtured every day on this campus as they have been for more than a century. Each year, students from around the world come here with dreams of becoming teachers, nurses, lawyers, entrepreneurs, performers, ministers and public servants, and Oklahoma City University has provided the experience, support and guidance they needed to see those dreams become reality.

All of us at Oklahoma City University believe it is our job to provide our students with the tools they need to meet the future. To do that, our faculty must

be the best in their fields and must also be student-focused, dedicated and passionate. They must demand excellence all the while instilling within each student the importance of servant leadership and giving back.

It is of equal importance that we teach and house our students in the very best facilities we can create. Whatever a student's dream may be, it is our desire to foster it and help it take wing.

It is with these thoughts at the fore that we announced our new campaign, aptly named Cradle of Dreams, which we've highlighted on page 31.

You may remember the glorious music of "Cradle of Dreams" written by OCU's own Professor Ed Knight with lyrics by OCU's MJ Alexander, written for the Celebration of the Century in 2004. I feel that it truly captures the hope, joy and beauty of our students' journey and our mission to nurture them to greatness.

These are exciting times at Oklahoma City University. We've enjoyed steady growth, expanded programs and financial stability over the past several years and we are proud of that. Through careful stewardship combined with a singular focus we continue to make OCU a better place for our students, but much remains to be done. We invite you to join us on our journey into excellence!

Sincerely,

Development on the River: Oklahoma City University Announces New Boathouse Construction

Oklahoma City University will construct a new boathouse on the Oklahoma River. The \$10 million facility will serve the entire local community and will become a high-performance training center with an indoor training area,



Proposed boathouse

indoor seating with views of the regatta finish line and an outdoor performing arts area. Boat storage for OCU's growing varsity rowing and sculling programs also will be incorporated.

Oklahoma City University, which brought elite rowing to the banks of the Oklahoma River, is excited to move forward with new plans to elevate the river to one of the best rowing venues in the world.

Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett said the OCU Boathouse will be a wonderful addition to the river. "Oklahoma City University

has played a pivotal role in bringing international attention to the Oklahoma River and to our city," he said. "The OCU Boathouse will enhance our shoreline and give another tremendous boost to local and national rowing. OCU has been a wonderful presence on the river and I am excited to see them build on what has been such a successful endeavor."

The new OCU Boathouse will complement the existing Chesapeake Boathouse, said Mike Knopp, head rowing coach for Oklahoma City University and director of the Head of the Oklahoma Regatta. Rand Elliot, lead architect for the Chesapeake Boathouse, will be at the helm of designing the OCU Boathouse.

Association for Women in Communications Honors Rowan

Jo Rowan, chair of the Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management, has been selected to receive a 2008 Byliner Award from the Oklahoma City Professional Chapter of the National Association for Women in Communications. Rowan was selected for the award based in part on her contribution to the arts. For 50 years, the Oklahoma City Chapter of the Association for Women in Communications has recognized the achievements



Jo Rowan teaching dance students

of women in Oklahoma through the Byliner Awards, which honor women who have made a significant contribution to the community through their professional and volunteer achievements.

Oklahoma City University Honors Morris Permenter with Bishop Paul W. Milhouse Award

Morris Permenter was selected by the university-church relations committee of the board of trustees of Oklahoma City University to receive this year's Bishop Paul W. Milhouse Award for his faithful service to his community, the church and OCU.

His service to the community includes a career in banking and involvement with several philanthropic organizations. He is a member of Nichols Hills United

Methodist Church, where he has served on the administrative council and numerous other committees over the years. For OCU, he has been active in fundraising and had a leadership role in the original president's partners campaign. As a trustee of the university, he serves on the audit and investment committees.

Permenter received the award at the annual Oklahoma City University Church Relations Christmas Appreciation Dinner, first held in 1982 to honor persons who, through their gifts of time, money and encouragement increased United Methodist Church support of Oklahoma City University.

Dean Parker Elected to National Music Leadership Post

Mark Parker, dean of the Wanda L. Bass School of Music at Oklahoma City University, has been elected regional vice president of the National Association of Schools of Music. He is the

first officer from Oklahoma City University in NASM's 83-year history. The election took place at NASM's national convention, held in Salt Lake City. Parker, also one of the featured speakers, will serve a two-year term as vice president of Region 9,



Dean Parker



Sarkeys Law Center

comprised of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Parker has been dean of the Bass School since 1995, and conductor of the Oklahoma City University Symphony Orchestra since 1990. Under his baton, the orchestra has presented numerous world premieres and been recognized by ASCAP and the American Symphony Orchestra League with a national Adventurous Programming Award. Parker took the orchestra on its precedent-setting six-city tour of China, representing the United States

at the 2004 "Meet in Beijing" arts festival.

Under Parker's leadership, Oklahoma City University's Bass School of Music doubled its size, became an all-Steinway school, the nation's first Conn-Selmer school, an Apple Digital Campus,

and an Apple Training Center. Enrollment in OCU's music program is at its highest level in the school's 103-year history.

Immigration Law Clinic Opened Fall 2007

OCU LAW students now have the opportunity to enroll in an Immigration Law Clinic that will allow them to earn five hours of graded credit while representing clients alongside Catholic Charities Immigration Assistance Program. Students will assist clients with a variety of matters, including petitions for asylum, pursuit of family reunification, protection for battered spouses and children, defense in removal proceedings, and applications for citizenship and naturalization.

As part of the clinical program, students will take direct responsibility for representing clients under the supervision of a clinical professor. In addition, they may advocate before the U.S. Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration

Services, the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Executive Office for Immigration Review, the Oklahoma District Courts and the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. The program also will include a weekly seminar taught at OCU LAW. Enrollment will be limited to eight students per semester, with third-year law students given priority.

Kramer School of Nursing Dean Marvel Williamson Inducted into Academy of Nursing Education

Marvel Williamson, Ph.D., dean of Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing, was among the inaugural class of 41 fellows representing nurses across the nation inducted into the Academy of Nursing Education.



Marvel Williamson

The NLN established the Academy of Nursing Education last year to foster excellence in nursing education by recognizing and capitalizing on the wisdom of outstanding nurse educators. As newly named fellows, this group has been lauded for innovative teaching and learning strategies; nursing education

research; faculty development; academic leadership; promotion of public policy that advances nursing education; and collaborative educational practice or community partnerships.

The induction of new fellows and a meeting of fellows in the Academy of Nursing Education was held in conjunction with the NLN's annual Education Summit in September 2007.

Second Great Wall MBA Class Graduates in China

The second class of Great Wall International MBA students at Oklahoma City University graduated Dec. 1 in Tianjin, China. Fifteen American students received MBA degrees in international business and finance from OCU following an 18-month program at the Tianjin University of Finance and Economics in China. In all, 47 students graduated from the program.

Students in the Great Wall program attended courses taught in English by professors from the Meinders School of Business and enriched their studies with classes in the Mandarin language and in Chinese business culture.

The Great Wall program was founded in 2005 through a partnership between OCU, the Tianjin University of Finance and Economics and the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Petree College of Arts and Sciences Receives Land for Outdoor Laboratory University

Oklahoma City University science students have new research opportunities thanks to a recent gift to the university for the Petree College of Arts and Sciences. OCU Trustee Gerald Gamble and his associate, James C. Buchanan III, recently donated 25 acres of land on Council Road at Highway 152 for use by OCU's biology department. Students will conduct ecological, botanical and various other scientific studies at the site.

"We are pleased that this land will provide an educational experience for OCU students," Gamble said. "Campbell Creek traverses the property and has two small beaver ponds on the Creek. Nature is an amazing teacher, and hopefully having access to this property will inspire young people to further explore important scientific principles."

David Evans, dean of OCU's Petree College of Arts and Sciences, said the land is particularly useful for class studies because of the creek, a heavily wooded area and a grassland section. Additionally, the site is within a 15-minute drive from the university. Evans said one of the first projects students will tackle is prairie restoration. "This is a fabulous gift," Evans said. "It will make an enormous difference to us right away." •

GRAND OPENING

THE EDITH KINNEY GAYLORD CENTER

*Do it big,
do it right,
do it with style.*

FRED ASTAIRE

On a hot October afternoon hundreds gathered on the north side of the beautifully renovated and expanded Edith Kinney Gaylord Center, proud home of the Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management.

Nearly two years after the groundbreaking the building was ready for its close up and, had she been there, its namesake would surely have been proud. The renovation and expansion totaled \$7.25 million and was paid for by a combination of gifts from the

Inasmuch Foundation, Dr. Ann Lacy and the Mabee Foundation. Hundreds of dance students and members of the Oklahoma City University faculty, staff and board of trustees were on hand along with Oklahoma's First Lady Kim Henry, Bill, Lil and Bob Ross of the Inasmuch Foundation, Ann Lacy and her husband Jim Alexander, President Tom McDaniel and OCU First Lady Brenda McDaniel, Bill Shdeed, president of OCU's board of trustees and his wife Pam, Dean John Bedford and dance depart-

ment chairman Jo Rowan for the festive ribbon cutting followed by a sumptuous celebratory dinner at the also newly-refurbished Tom and Brenda McDaniel University Center.

The Inasmuch Foundation was founded in 1982 by Edith Kinney Gaylord to benefit charitable, scientific and educational pursuits in Oklahoma

Bob Ross, Bill Ross, Bill Shdeed, Kim Henry, John Bedford, Jo Rowan, Ann Lacy and Tom McDaniel



OCU President and First Lady Tom McDaniel and Brenda McDaniel, Lil Ross, Inasmuch Foundation President and CEO Bob Ross, OCU School of Dance Professor Jo Rowan, Dr. Ann Lacy, OCU's Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management Dean John Bedford, Inasmuch Foundation Chairman Emeritus Bill Ross, Vice President of University Advancement Art Cotton, OCU Board of Trustees Chairman Bill Shdeed, Senior Director of Development Sandy Cotton, Jim Alexander and dance student Osagie Ehigie pose in front of the newly-dedicated building.





▲ Hundreds of dance students attended the festivities.



▲ Bob Ross and Pam Shreed chat before dinner.



▲ Paul and Kim Sanders enjoy dining with Becky Meyer '63 and Marianne Vamatta '70.



▲ Lance McDaniel, Jerry Gamble and Jane Jayroe-Gamble are all smiles.



▲ Dr. Ann Lacy wows the audience, as usual.



▲ Jo Rowan charms and thanks diners and donors.



▲ President McDaniel welcomes guests to dinner.



▲ Inasmuch Foundation President and CEO Bob Ross



▲ Oklahoma First Lady Kim Henry at the podium



▲ Dean John Bedford unfurls a partial list of school of dance and arts management grads who are employed!

including the arts, health and human services, historic preservation and environmental concerns. She named the foundation after a biblical passage in Matthew where Christ said, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Bob Ross, president and chief executive officer of the Inasmuch Foundation, said it was while touring the dance school's previous practice facilities one August, including a former church building with no air conditioning, he decided the foundation needed to help.

OCU President Tom McDaniel said Gaylord's selfless spirit would serve as a wonderful example to future generations of students and teachers.

"We're proud to say that today the name of Edith Kinney Gaylord not only goes on this building but it will be indelibly written in the history of Oklahoma City University in perpetuity," McDaniel said.

The 63,000 square-foot building which once housed the Meinders School of Business now contains eight dance studios, along with classrooms and offices for faculty and staff. ●

2007 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

OCU's Alumni Association honored eight exceptional men and women at its dinner during Homecoming Weekend. More than 250 alumni, family and friends filled the ballroom at Oklahoma City's beautiful Skirvin Hotel to celebrate and enjoy one another. The Stars were definitely shining!

JODI LEIGH SHILLING '99

Jodi Shilling is owner and artistic director of Relevé Studios in Los Angeles. She graduated from Oklahoma City University in 1999 with a bachelor of performing arts degree in dance. She is a recurring guest star on Disney Channel's series "That's So Raven," playing the part of Tiffany, a scheming villain. Other television work includes being a series regular on TV Land's "I Did Not Know That," and Comedy Central's "Laughs 4 Life," appearing as a guest star on Fox family's "Looking at Me," and TLC's "Home Theater," and as a day player on ABC's "All My Children."

Film credits include lead performances in Disney's "Raven's Makeover Madness," "Wreck the Halls" with Mickey Rooney, "The Man in the Silo" with Ernie Hudson, "A New Tomorrow" with Orlando Jones, "Finding Grace," "Life Lessons with Lori," "Late Again," "Sphere of Truth,"

and "Love is Blind." She has performed extensively in theatre and is a member of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and the Screen Actors Guild.

CELISSA STEPHENS '89

Celissa Stephens, a commander in the Indian Health Service, is dedicated to the health of her patients and to the advancement of the nursing profession. Her education began with an associate's degree, followed by a bachelor's degree in nursing from Oklahoma City University in 1989 and a master's degree in nursing from State University of New York at Buffalo in 1997. She also holds a certificate in public health in nursing from the University of Colorado Health Science Center.

Stephens' nursing career has been marked with success from the beginning. She was appointed to serve as Ambassador of Goodwill by the governor of Oklahoma in 1986, received a letter of commendation from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation in 1989 and was named Nurse of the Year in 1990. She has contributed to the Oklahoma Area Nurse Leadership by drafting bylaws and she narrowed the gap between the Oklahoma Tribal Council, the Urban and Indian Health Service and Public Health Nursing by

photos by Hugh Scott



Kramer School of Nursing Dean Marvel Williamson, President McDaniel, Celissa Stephens, Jacquie Fiegel



Jodi Shilling



The Honorable James Winchester



Meinders School of Business Dean Vince Orza, President McDaniel, Nancy Robertson and Jacque Fiegel

calling for quarterly meetings of the groups. Stephens served as the primary care branch chief at Camp Phoenix in response to the public health crisis precipitated by Hurricane Katrina.

NANCY L. ROBERTSON '01

A native of Oklahoma City, Nancy's 29-year career has encompassed both the for-profit and non-profit sectors of business.

As senior vice president of franchise human relations development for SONIC Industries, the Oklahoma City-based national headquarters of SONIC, America's Drive-In, Robertson oversees the human resource development for the chain's franchise community.

Previously, she served as senior vice president for people and communications at SONIC Corp. In that role, she oversaw SONIC's human resources/corporate administration functions for the Oklahoma City corporate office and all field-based employees, in addition to guiding SONIC's corporate communications efforts.

Robertson serves on the Board of Visitors for the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts at the University of Oklahoma, on the Executive Committee of Allied Arts Foundation and the Crown Heights/Edgemere Heights Neighborhood Association. Most recently she served on the Board of the Cimarron Alliance Foundation; on the leadership team for the Human Capital & Diversity Project, an economic development initiative of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce; on the Executive Committee of the Oklahoma Arts Institute; on the steering committee for the Holocaust Remembrance Project, and on the steering committee for Project KIDS, the program that led to MAPS for KIDS, a citywide tax initiative to reinvest in public education.

Robertson holds a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from Oklahoma State University with a minor in art history, and a masters in business administration from Oklahoma City University.

RANA HUSSEINI BA '90, MLA '93

As a Jordanian woman journalist writing for *The Jordan Times*, Hussein's focus is 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.

Her coverage of and dedication to ending honor killings has helped raise national awareness on a topic that is traditionally considered taboo. Until *The Jordan Times* began reporting on crimes of honor, the local press shied away from addressing the issue. The government responded by introducing legal changes that suggest tougher punishments for perpetrators of such crimes.

Hussein has earned six international awards for reporting on such crimes. The King of Jordan awarded her a medal for her efforts on October 24. She was interviewed by various US, British and international media such as CNN, ABC, BBC and the Chicago Tribune, as well as Jordanian and Arab media outlets. She has been invited to lecture at international conferences regarding the issue.

In addition to her extensive experience as a journalist, Hussein has conducted several consultancies and advocacy for women's rights in the Middle East and Jordan with local and international organizations. She has served as special advisor to Freedom House on women's issues and press freedom in Jordan.

She also worked as a regional coordinator for the United Nation's Development Fund for



Rana Hussein

Women (UNIFEM) campaign to eliminate violence against women in five Arab countries. She worked as a regional consultant for UNIFEM regional office in Amman and Equality Now in the U.S. conducting research on human rights violations against women and children in seven countries in the Middle East.

THE HONORABLE JAMES R. WINCHESTER '77

Born in Clinton, Oklahoma, Winchester received his bachelor of arts from the University of Oklahoma and his juris doctor degree from Oklahoma City University. After graduating from law school, Winchester practiced law in the Oklahoma towns of Weatherford and Hinton before being named associate district judge for Caddo County in 1983. Later that year, at age 30, Winchester became one of the youngest district judges in the state when he was appointed as district judge for the Sixth Judicial District of Oklahoma. During his

tenure as a district judge, he heard more than 200 jury trials, ranging from fraud to first-degree murder death-penalty cases.

Winchester was named Outstanding State Trial Court Judge by the Oklahoma Trial Lawyers Association in 1986 and served as an executive board member of the Oklahoma Judicial Conference from 1992 to 1996. He also served as president of the Oklahoma Judicial Conference in

1995. From August 1997 to January 2000, Winchester served as a United States Administrative Law Judge. Winchester believes the children of this state are one of our most valuable assets and he established an in-state program entitled Children Coping With Divorce to assist children of divorced families.

Governor Frank Keating appointed Winchester to the Oklahoma Supreme Court on January 4, 2000. In 2007, the eight other justices of the Oklahoma Supreme Court elected him to serve a two-year term as Chief Justice of Oklahoma.

Winchester resides in Chickasha, Oklahoma, with his wife, State Representative Susan Winchester and their son, Davis.

LINDA K. TWINE '66

Linda K. Twine is a renowned conductor, composer and music educator. She currently is the music director of the hit

Broadway musical "The Color Purple." She was assistant conductor for "The Wiz" and "Ain't Misbehavin'," and musical director and conductor for "Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music," "Big River," "Jelly's Last Jam," "Caroline or Change" and "Frog and Toad."

She has composed and arranged theatrical works produced off-Broadway, regionally and internationally. Her choral works have been released by major American music publishers.

Twine was born in Muskogee and remains proud of her Oklahoma roots. Her grandfather, William Henry Twine, was a pioneer lawyer who made a homestead claim near Chandler, Oklahoma Territory, in the 1891 Sac and Fox Land Run. His two sons, Harry and Pliny, went to Howard University in Washington, D.C., where they earned money playing the piano and singing. They did so under strict admonitions from their father not to become professional musicians.

Linda Twine





President McDaniel, Rev. Maggie Ball, Rev. Linda Harker, OCU Alumni Association President Jacque Fiegel

That destiny had been set aside for William Henry's granddaughter, Linda Twine, who was playing songs by ear on the family piano at age nine, and whom by age ten held two church jobs: she played in the mornings at her mother's Lutheran church and midday gospel service for her father's AME.

She now lives in New York and is a virtuoso music director, conductor, arranger and accompanist who can improvise with the best.

THE REV. LINDA M. HARKER '93

Reverend Harker is passionate about loving people and sharing God's love. Born in Bishop's Stortford, England, she is a graduate of Ouachita Parish High School (1970), Oklahoma City University (1993) and Phillips Theological Seminary (1997).

Her mission work has taken her to Panama, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Cookson Hills, New Day Camp—a camp for children with incarcerated parents, and Tulsa's Laura Dester Shelter, which

provides interim care for abused and neglected children.

Harker became an Ordained Deacon of the United Methodist Church in 1995 and an Ordained Elder in 1999. Her career with the church began formally at New Haven United Methodist Church, Tulsa, where she served as program director for youth and children from 1986-1993 and associate pastor from 1993-1998. She was named senior pastor at Faith United Methodist Church, Tulsa, in 1998, and held that position until she was named district superintendent of the Muskogee District of the United Methodist Church in 2006. In 2006 she was also the recipient of the Francis Willard COSROW Award from the Oklahoma Annual Conference, an award that recognizes and celebrates leadership of women in ministry.

She was elected as a delegate to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences and served on the boards of Circle of Care Ministries, Volunteer in Mission, Cookson Hills Mission and is a dean of New Day Camp I.

DR. SHELLEY D. FAUBION '90 2007 ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Shelley Faubion was born in Cushing, Oklahoma, and graduated from Oologah High School in 1986, Oklahoma City University in 1990 and Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1994.

After finishing medical school, Faubion completed her internship at Hillcrest Hospital in Oklahoma City. Her first medical practice was in Stigler, Oklahoma, where she practiced for three years in order to fulfill her Physician Manpower Training Commission Scholarship. After she completed her obligation, Faubion became the medical director for the Kickapoo Tribal Health Care Center in McLoud. In 2001 she moved to Blanchard, and has been practicing in Chickasha for nearly seven years.

Her softball career began in high school, where she was All-State in 1986. At Oklahoma City University, she was NAIA honorable-mention all-American and National Softball Coaches Association all-American as a senior, two-time NAIA scholar-athlete and four-time all-District 9. She won OCU's Mental Toughness, Extra Effort Award in 1987 and was named MVP of the Maureen Stafford Invitational Tournament in 1988. She earned the President's Cup in 1989 and OCU's Offensive MVP in 1989 and 1990.

Shelley Faubion



REUNION WEEKEND

CLOCK TOWER DEDICATION

1.



2.

The weekend kicked off on Friday, Nov. 2 with the traditional Lip Sync at the Freede Center. Saturday's events started at 8 a.m. with the Race with the Stars 5K and 1-mile run and fun walk. A record-breaking crowd of more than 600 ran and walked the courses, enjoyed entertainment along the way and noshed on a terrific array of bagels, coffee and other treats. The busy morning continued with Native American dance and a career services and networking session at the Meinders School of Business. A luncheon and fashion show sponsored by the OCU Bookstore highlighted fashions from 'then and now' in the Great Hall of the Tom and Brenda McDaniel University Center. The afternoon included an OCU softball celebration at the Ann Lacy Softball Stadium, a clock dedication at the Meinders School of Business, campus tours and a women's basketball game.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner and Athletic Hall of Fame banquet was held at downtown Oklahoma City's beautifully refurbished Skirvin Hotel.

3.

OCU FANS



1. Larry Bradshaw, Hub Reed, Roger Holloway, Doyle Parrack (in wheelchair), Cecil Magana, and Lyndon Lee

2. The clock tower atop the Meinders School of Business was dedicated to OCU's first basketball coach Doyle Parrack.

3. Fans show off their blue at the women's basketball game.

4. Cheerleaders revved up the crowd at the basketball game.

5. King Jeff Riles and queen Monica Storozyszyn

6. Runners gave it their all before enjoying the festive atmosphere of Race with the Stars.

7. More than 600 runners and walkers took part in the fourth annual Race with the Stars during Reunion Weekend.

CHEERLEADERS

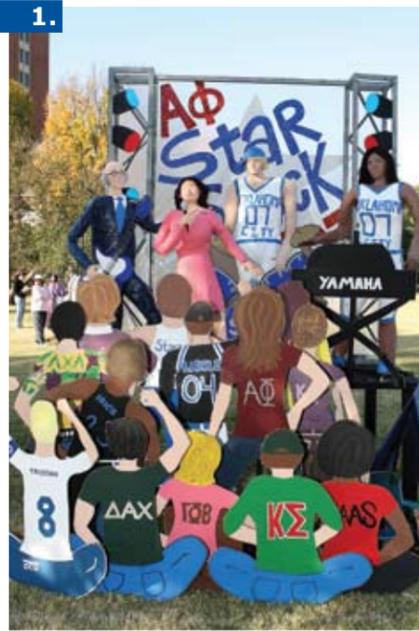
KING & QUEEN



ALUMNI FROM AROUND THE WORLD GATHERED IN OKLAHOMA CITY IN NOVEMBER TO CELEBRATE THEMSELVES AND ONE ANOTHER ON THE CAMPUS OF THEIR ALMA MATER.



RACE WITH THE STARS



1.



2.

DECORATING CONTEST



3.



4.



5.

LUNCHEON



6.

STYLE SHOW

7.

REUNION WEEKEND

1. - 4. Students' creations in the decorating contest lined the sidewalk on the quad.
 5. - 7. A luncheon and style show was held in the beautifully-refurbished McDaniel University Center.
 8. Blue contest
 9. - 10. Native American dancers participated in a pow wow as a part of the weekend's festivities.
 11. Dean John Bedford and Jo Rowan greet attendees at the Distinguished Alumni Dinner.
 12. LaDonna Meinders '58 chats with Connie Mack McCoy at the Distinguished Alumni Dinner.
 13. Andy Huizinga '82 catches up with Robyn Crews.



8.

BLUE CONTEST



9.



POW WOW

10.



11.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI DINNER



12.



13.

STARS SHINE BRIGHT

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

Austin, Dallas and Houston were the sites of Oklahoma City University Alumni Association gatherings this summer. Guests included alumni, friends and parents of current OCU students. At the upscale Crescent Court Hotel in Dallas, President Tom McDaniel along with numerous members of OCU's faculty and staff greeted some 101 alumni; in Houston, Pittsburg Pirate and OCU alum Freddy Sanchez greeted 65 guests at a casual, pre-ballgame reception. In Austin, 32 guests attended the event held at Jasper's Restaurant.



1. Freddy Sanchez autographed baseballs for fellow alums before the game.

2. Andy '04 and Michelle '03 Moon with Charles Nease '79 and his daughter in Houston

3. President McDaniel addresses the group in Dallas.

4. Denney Crabaugh, Brenda McDaniel, Freddy Sanchez, and Tom McDaniel at the Houston event

5. (L TO R) Mark Allen Lloyd, Patti and Vince Orza and Bettiann Lloyd get to know one another. The Lloyds' daughter Stacey is currently a dance major at OCU.

6. Jeff Giannopoulos, OCU Vice President of University Advancement and External Relations Art Cotton, OCU Senior Director of Development Sandy Cotton and Roxanne Green '86 in Houston

7. OCU First Lady Brenda McDaniel, Nancy and Ray Adams, and OCU President Tom McDaniel enjoy the Dallas event.

8. OCU Admissions Counselor Abby Hess, Allie, Macy and Robert Burdette '90, and Josh Waddell, OCU's director of career services at the Dallas event

9. Abdul Rasool Sindani, Rollie Schafer '06, OCU LAW Assistant Dean Marc Thompson and Ryan Farha in Dallas

MAKING OCU HISTORY

THE OCU FAMILY GATHERED FOR
A RECORD EIGHT DEDICATIONS
ON ITS HISTORIC DAY OF
CELEBRATION IN OCTOBER.

Day of

CELEBRATION

OKLAHOMA
CENTENNIAL
CLOCK

← MORE PICTURES INSIDE



THE OCU FAMILY GATHERED

FOR A RECORD EIGHT DEDICATIONS ON ITS HISTORIC DAY OF CELEBRATION IN OCTOBER. DIGNITARIES, ALUMNI, STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF ENJOYED AN AFTERNOON OF PROGRESSIVE RECEPTIONS CAPPED OFF BY A GALA DINNER.

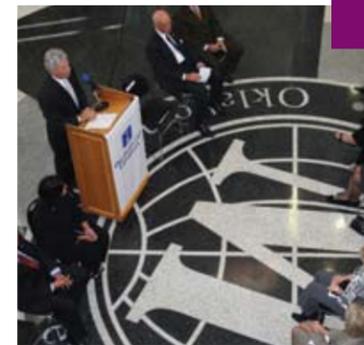
CENTENNIAL
RESIDENCE
HALL



NEXT ON THE DAY'S AGENDA

WAS THE DEDICATION OF THE CENTENNIAL RESIDENCE HALL, OCU'S NEW, 226,000 SQUARE FOOT, \$22.8 MILLION DORMITORY WITH ITS OWN PARKING GARAGE AND CENTRAL PLAZA.

MEINDERS
SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS



THE MEINDERS BUILDING WAS ABUZZ

WITH WELL WISHERS AND CELEBRANTS – THERE WERE THREE DEDICATIONS THERE THAT DAY! THE MARTHA BURGER CAREER SERVICES CENTER WAS NAMED IN RECOGNITION OF A GIFT OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS BY OCU ALUMNA MARTHA BURGER; THE SYLVIA AND JACK GOLSEN CONFERENCE CENTER WAS NAMED IN RECOGNITION OF A GIFT OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS BY OCU TRUSTEE JACK GOLSEN AND HIS WIFE SYLVIA AND THE NORICK FAMILY STUDENT/FACULTY LOUNGE WAS NAMED IN HONOR OF THE FAMILIES OF HENRY C. NORICK FOR THEIR GIFT OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE MEINDERS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS.

TOM & BRENDA
MCDANIEL
UNIVERSITY
CENTER



AS AFTERNOON TURNED TO EVENING,

THE CROWD MOVED TO THE DAY'S FINAL DEDICATIONS: THE MCDANIEL UNIVERSITY CENTER AND THE UNIVERSITY CENTER'S SHDEED TRUSTEE LOUNGE. THE MCDANIEL CENTER WAS NAMED IN HONOR OF OCU'S 16TH PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY TOM AND BRENDA MCDANIEL. IT UNDERWENT EXTENSIVE RENOVATION AND IS NOW A COMFORTABLE, BEAUTIFUL GATHERING SPOT FOR THE ENTIRE CAMPUS. WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY CENTER IS THE SHDEED TRUSTEE LOUNGE, A WELL-APPOINTED SPACE THAT IS A GIFT OF OCU BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRMAN BILL SHDEED AND HIS WIFE PAM.

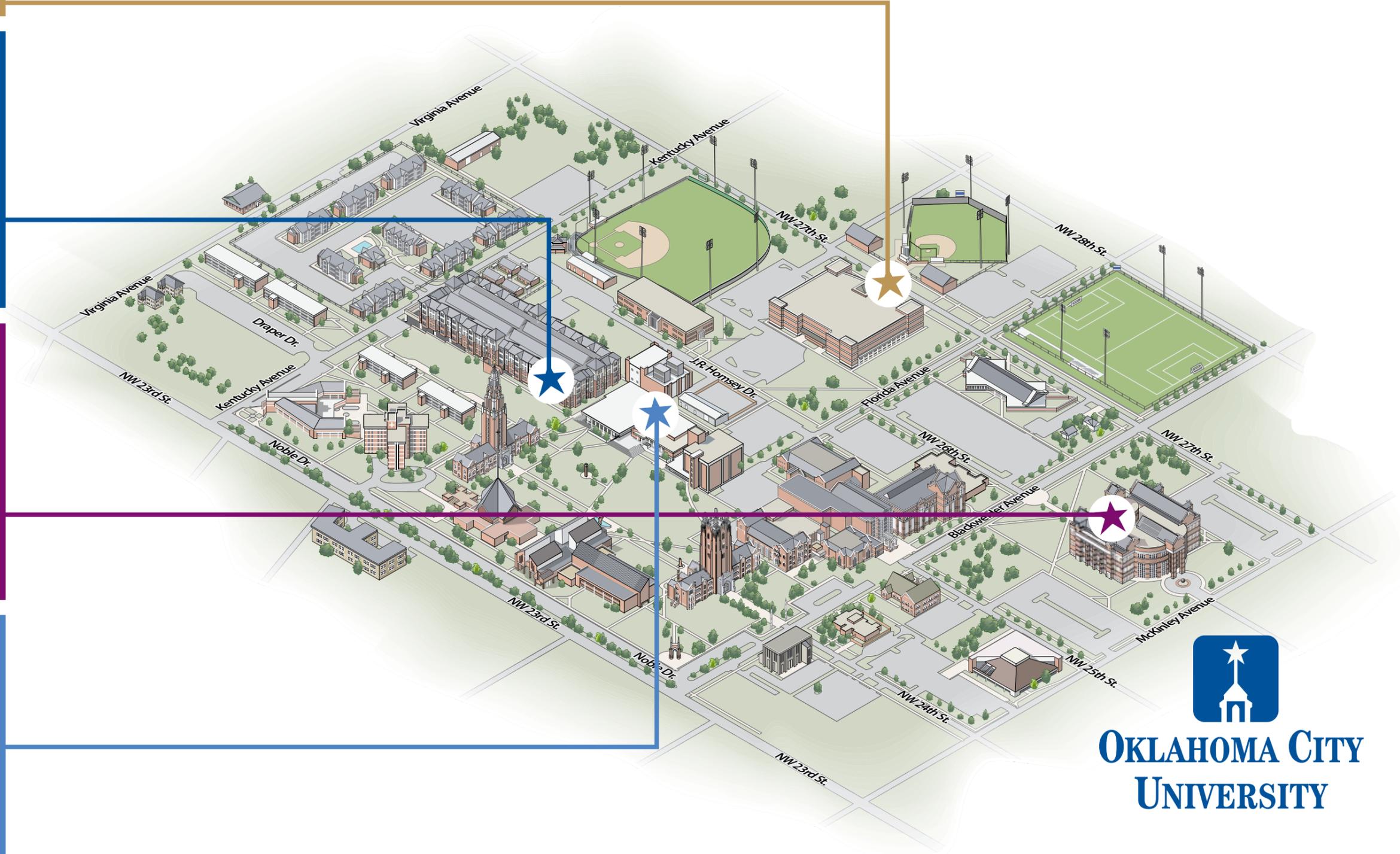
Day of CELEBRATION

MAKING OCU HISTORY

CENTENNIAL
RESIDENCE
HALL

MEINDERS
SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS

TOM & BRENDA
MCDANIEL
UNIVERSITY
CENTER



OKLAHOMA CENTENNIAL CLOCK

1. President McDaniel greets the crowd at the clock dedication.
2. One of OCU's Centennial Clocks
3. Blake Wade, Lee Allan Smith and President McDaniel
4. President McDaniel, Lee Allan Smith and Black Wade with the Centennial Commission and Bill Shdeed, OCU board of trustees chairman, unfurl the drape, revealing OCU's beautiful Centennial Clock.



CENTENNIAL RESIDENCE HALL

1. OCU Trustees Judy Love and Marianne Vannatta, President McDaniel, trustee and donor Ann Lacy, Bill Shdeed, Emmanuel Edem, Linda Rosser, Gary Homsey, Jerry Vannatta, JR Homsey and Henry Browne at the Centennial Residence Hall dedication
2. JR Homsey, Linda Rosser, Emmanuel Edem, Jerry and Marianne Vannatta and Gary Homsey at the reception
3. Cutting the ribbon at the residence hall are Associate Dean of Students John Riggs, David Addudell, President McDaniel, Bill Shdeed and student and resident Krystal Kohler.
4. Guests enjoy the reception in the central plaza of the new dormitory.



MEINDERS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

1. Bill Shdeed, Herman Meinders, Dean Orza and President McDaniel cut the ribbon at the newly-named Sylvia and Jack Golsen Conference Center
2. Meinders School of Business Dean Vince Orza greets the crowd gathered to celebrate the dedications in the Meinders School of Business atrium.
3. President McDaniel, Dean Orza, Herman Meinders, Bill Shdeed and Candy and Ron Norick in front of the Norick Family Student/Faculty Lounge
4. Josh Waddell, director of the Martha Burger Career Services Center, Jill Harris, career management specialist and Martha Burger



TOM & BRENDA MCDANIEL UNIVERSITY CENTER

1. Bill Shdeed, Cole, Josh and Meghan McDaniel, Pam Shdeed, Brenda and Tom McDaniel and Rick Hall cut the ribbon at the McDaniel University Center.
2. President McDaniel gives his first lady a well-deserved kiss.
3. Brenda McDaniel tells the gathering how important and meaningful this project has been for her.
4. The McDaniel Family (from front): Meghan, Josh, Cole, their parents Mark and Stacy, Tom and Brenda, Lance, Julie and Randy
5. Hundreds of guests join together to celebrate the dedication of the Tom and Brenda McDaniel University Center.



OCU ALUMS TAKE THE PLUNGE

For the first time, the OCU Alumni Association was represented in the Head of the Oklahoma Regatta. Jeanne Short, OCU Alumni Relations Director and long-time member of the Chesapeake Boathouse, organized the crew of beginning rowers.

The eight-man crew placed first in a heat in the Corporate Challenge on Thursday, October 11. Way to go Stars!

Linus Smailys, a coach on the staff of the Chesapeake Boathouse who has been coaching the crew, complimented the OCU group saying their focus and determination was exceptional. With just six on-the-water practices, he said he knew that they would perform well under the pressure of the race.



(L TO R) Marianne Vannatta, Kami Brokaw Huddleston, Eric Huddleston BA '03 and JD '06, current law student Michael Cooper, Coach Linas Smailys, coxswain Shouros Dasgupta Jr., current MLA student Mary Benner, Marvin Quinn and Larry Guerrero

(L TO R) Dr. Jerry Vannatta, Marianne Vannatta, OCU Meinders School of Business Dean Vince Orza, Patti Orza



(L TO R) OCU Senior Director of Development Sandy Cotton, Betty Lou Wooden, Art Cotton



(L TO R) Clarence W. Burr, Barbara Wymore



(L TO R) Noreen Burns, OCU Vice President for University Advancement Art Cotton, Doloris McVay



GOLD STAR SOCIETY HOLDS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Members of the Gold Star Society were honored by the University at the second annual Gold Star Society Luncheon which was held in the Tom and Brenda McDaniel University Center in September. Following the luncheon, the group attended the first musical theater production of the season, *Little Women*, in the Kirkpatrick Theater.

The Gold Star Society recognizes individuals and couples who have made a provision for Oklahoma City University through deferred or estate gifts.

SECURE YOUR FUTURE, & OCU'S, THROUGH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Although most people think of insurance companies when they think of annuities, Oklahoma City University also offers annuities. A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is a type of gift that pays you, and an additional annuitant, if you desire, a predetermined amount each year for life. The CGA can be established at Oklahoma City University with a minimum gift of \$10,000 in cash, securities, or other property.

In addition to guaranteed payment for life, participants will receive a charitable income tax deduction, favorable capital gains treatment, partially tax-free income payments and for sole annuitants, exclusion from estate taxes.

Consult with a professional tax advisor before entering into a CGA transaction. Rates of return are based on the donor's age when the gift is made and applicable federal rates. Sample rates below are at the time of printing and are not guaranteed. A CGA is not regulated by the

Oklahoma Insurance Department and is not protected by a guaranty association affiliated with the Oklahoma Insurance Department, and may not be available in all states.

ONE LIFE		TWO LIVES	
Your Age	Rate of Return	Your Ages	Rate of Return
55	5.5%	55/60	5.0%
65	6.0%	65/70	5.7%
75	7.1%	75/80	6.6%
85	9.5%	85/90	8.4%

The rate of return is slightly lower for two lives because the period of payment generally is longer.

For more information, contact Jeanne Short, Director of Planned Giving and Alumni Development, at (405) 208-5925, or visit our web site and calculate your own rate of return at www.okcu.edu/develop/ and click on Estate Planning.

"ETERNAL CHALLENGE" FOUNTAIN

REFURBISHED FOR NEW GENERATIONS

A special part of OCU's Light the Campus festivities this year was the dedication of the newly-restored fountain that surrounds the sculpture "The Eternal Challenge" located on the quad.

The Lippert family generously provided the improvements to the fountain and family members were on hand to allow the OCU family to laud them for their generosity.



Robert Lippert, Blake Lippert, Tori Lippert, Linda Lippert Alaback, Brenda McDaniel, Barb Lippert Munneke, Martha Lippert, Don Lippert, Mary Lippert Clark, John Lippert, Rick Lippert, Tom McDaniel



ANOTHER OCU FIRST

MEET OUR WOMEN'S WRESTLING TEAM



(L TO R) LeAnn Barney, Ashley Sword, Nicole Woody, Lene Wood

(L TO R) FIRST ROW: Julie Huang, LeAnn Barney, Crystal Grajeda, Lene Wood, Cindy Pacheco; SECOND ROW: Christina Varland, Helen Timmons, Stephanie Waters, Nicole Woody; THIRD ROW: Samantha Phillips, Karon Scott, Erica Torres, Sara Hilliard, Briana Conway; FOURTH ROW: Lacey Novinska, Emma Mercer, Ashley Sword, Jennifer Peabody; FIFTH ROW: Carrie Clark, Sheila McCabe, Ashley Hudson, Marina Piccolotti, Melissa Simmons.

By Rich Tortorelli

Marina Piccolotti is a performer. She feels comfortable with eyes on her whether she's singing like Aretha Franklin or delivering the news like Katie Couric.

She also likes sticking opponents like Danny Hodge into a pin in front of an audience.

Piccolotti is a member of Oklahoma City University's

newest intercollegiate athletic team, the women's wrestling team.

These women came to Oklahoma from Florida, Washington, California, Wisconsin and Texas. They certainly came with ambitions of winning national titles or making the Olympic wrestling team, but they also came with ambitions of drawing abstract

art, capturing photographs or broadcasting on television.

"With any new program your expectations are to build a good base for the future," OCU Head Wrestling Coach Archie Randall said. "We're so inexperienced, we have to build a base to get to the status we want to be at.

"We want to get them as much experience as we can and get them prepared to compete for the Olympics."

At OCU, these new Stars will pursue their dreams in many ways. One dream was fulfilled when OCU faced defending national champion Cumberlands (Ky.) in a Nov. 10 dual, the first ever women's wrestling event in Oklahoma.

Lacey Novinska in action against University of the Cumberlands



"We want to provide opportunities for young men and women in Oklahoma to have sports that they have not had before," OCU President Tom McDaniel said.

ALL THE MAT'S A STAGE

Disney movies like "The Little Mermaid" inspired Piccolotti to dream of singing. As she grew up, she pursued that dream. Merle Haggard's drummer heard Piccolotti's demo tape and recruited her to sing with him for the summer as a teenager.

When Piccolotti switched schools, she found girls on the wrestling team there. Her father, a state wrestling champion, and those girls inspired her to pursue wrestling.

"I thought I could beat them," Piccolotti said of those girls. "I've always been competitive. It's my background. It's the way my dad raised me."

Piccolotti chose to pursue wrestling over a burgeoning music career.

She had been offered a recording contract, but the idea of performing on a different stage appealed to her. "I've sung since I was 3," Piccolotti said. "I like singing different genres – Aretha Franklin, LeAnn Rimes, Mariah Carey or Martina McBride. The divas. It depends. There were goals I set in wrestling. I knew singing would be there once I finished. I wanted to win a state championship like my father and my uncle did."

She put together a stellar record, pinning 100 opponents among her 119 wins in high school. She's only been pinned once by a boy in the league finals.

"I was a pinner," Piccolotti said. "Coach Randall has referred to me as a pinner. A pin is a win, that's how I look at it. I would rather pin someone than beat someone on technique. If your opponent can't get off their back, then they're not as strong as you. Wrestling is 90 percent mental."

Even as she came to OCU, she's chosen wrestling over music once more. She considered pursuing singing at OCU in the fine arts program, but she saw that the time commitment would be too great to pursue both.

So she chose mass communications as her major with an eye toward broadcast journalism. "I'll always be on a stage, whether it be a mat or a stage," Piccolotti said.

MANY INTERESTS

Ashley Sword describes her off-the-mat interests as divergent. Sword began college as a double major in biology and math after studying advanced math classes. Today she is pursuing an art degree.

With thoughts of becoming an architect, Sword took a drawing class as a freshman. Sword did a texture drawing and drew figures that caught her professor's eye.

Her instructor thought enough of Sword's work to encourage her to switch to art as her discipline.

"I took that as a major compliment, and I sold some pieces," Sword said.

The past couple of years, Sword has been training at the Olympic Training Center at Northern Michigan. She came to OCU because of the increased emphasis on academics at the university. At 24, she is the oldest on the team. Her teammates call her Momma Sword.

"I think internationally I have more experience, but they've been wrestling more," Sword said. "They know I've been there." Her current project is an interpretative self-portrait. Her idea is to draw her face, half of which will be lit while the other half will be darkened. "My mom says it's because I'm a Gemini that my interests are so divergent," Sword said. "The drawing will be contrasted to emphasize that dichotomy."

Sword has quickly assumed a leadership position among the team. She feels a larger responsibility than helping guide her team.

"Women's wrestling has come a long way, and we represent women's wrestling for the country and the world," Sword said.

OLYMPIC DREAMS

Nicole Woody comes to OCU as the Stars' most decorated female wrestler. Woody won four national championships at the Junior National Championship, a major proving ground for girls' wrestling. She was also two-time outstanding wrestler at the Junior Nationals and junior world champion after her sophomore year of high school.

Her mother started her in wrestling when she was nine. Woody had an older brother who wrestled, and her younger brother had started wrestling. Woody went to judo lessons. Her mom wanted her to try wrestling to make their schedule easier. "It would be easier if we both did wrestling," Woody said of herself and her little brother. "My mom asked me if I wanted to get better at judo, and I said yes, so I went to wrestling."

Her decision paid off. This year, Woody's goals include a 4.0 grade-point average, a national championship, a world championship and qualifying for the Olympics. "Coach Randall is just as strict with us as he is with the guys, and I respect that," Woody said. "I'm used to that. When I was growing up, my coach

expected the most out of me. If I had less than that, I wouldn't feel as motivated."

Randall and his coaching staff worked to get Woody to consider OCU. The classes were smaller than she had at her high school, and she saw the campus when OCU hosted the Junior National Duals this summer. "I like it here,"



OCU wrestling coaches Link Davis and Archie Randall

Woody said. "There's enough to do. It's not overcrowded. I just wish I had my beach. I used to lay out, tan, make sand castles, boogie board."

Woody has enjoyed becoming a part of OCU's first women's wrestling team, one of seven women's wrestling programs in the nation. "We've grown as a team together," Woody said. "Our technique is getting better, and everybody is learning. I've talked to the girls from other programs, and we are just as in shape. I'm excited. This is definitely the best women's program out there." ●



Ann Lacy addresses the crowd.

Oklahoma City University unveiled its new softball facility, Ann Lacy Stadium, for the first time during Reunion Weekend on Nov. 3. A gathering of alumni, the current softball team and coaches and supporters heard from OCU President Tom J. McDaniel, athletic director Jim Abbott, OCU softball coach Phil McSpadden and the facility's namesake and benefactor, Ann Lacy. McSpadden announced at that time that the lounge would be named the Paul and Kim Sanders Reception Area. The field will be formally dedicated on April 8, when The Stars take

ANN LACY STADIUM UNVEILED

on Chickasha's USAO in a 5 p.m. doubleheader.

The new complex features an indoor hitting facility, locker rooms, players' lounge and coaches' offices. The complex, located across from the Freede Center at NW 27th and Florida Ave., was completed this summer, and coaches moved into it this fall. OCU has won eight softball national championships, the most in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

"I wanted to give the team the facilities they deserve," Lacy said. "They are national champions and they should have a stadium on campus they can be very proud of."

Former softball players on hand included OCU Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Dr. Shelley Faubion, Meemee Davis, Jennifer Hightower, Katie Hoke,

Kami (Brokaw) Huddleston, Ursula Lundberg, Jessica Oleson, Stephanie Riley, Kathy Rummell, Bobbi Towers, McSpadden's assistant coach; Lindsey Voss and Cat Calvert and Rachel Cope, who were on last year's team. Former OCU basketball players and erstwhile softball supporters Dennis Jeter and Laverne Laws were also present.

The Stars will have their own on-campus softball field for the first time since 1992.

"They were impressed, obviously," Towers said. "Some of our alumni had played on the old one, and they said it was nothing like this." ●

Kim and Paul Saunders react to hearing that the lounge will be named for them.



Ann Lacy with current softball players and alums



OCU Women's Wrestling Debuts, Men Rising

OCU fell to defending national champion Cumberlands (Ky.) 24-19 in the first women's college wrestling dual in school and state history.

Ashley Sword won the first women's match in a dual for OCU with a pin at 67 kilograms.

In a matchup of the top two-ranked wrestlers at 44, No. 1-ranked Melissa Girard of Cumberlands prevailed over Lene Wood 1-1, 2-2 by scoring the final points of each period.

"Every match was close," OCU coach Archie Randall said. "Winning at the beginning of the season is not as important as winning in February and March."

The OCU men's wrestling team rose to third in the NAIA rankings by knocking off previously third-ranked Missouri Valley 25-16 on Nov. 4.

Brandon Benson, Mitchell Eichenauer and John Wilcox are each contenders for the national title in their respective weights.

Stars Open Conference Basketball Play with Wins

OCU opened Sooner Athletic Conference play in basketball with a bang by sweeping John Brown (Ark.) on Nov. 29 at Abe Lemons Arena.

Matthew Guymon's two free throws with five seconds left clinched the Stars' 65-62 victory. Defending NAIA men's basketball champion and top-

ranked OCU improved to 3-3, 1-0 in the conference.

Willie Irick was OCU's leading scorer early at 15 points per game. The Stars played a challenging non-conference schedule that included 2007 NAIA Division II champion MidAmerica Nazarene (Kan.).

"We haven't played as well as we would have liked," OCU coach Ray Harper said. "We scheduled teams that would present challenges and obstacles to us. It's early, and hopefully we'll start playing better."

OCU's women knocked off John Brown 70-37 led by Viola Beybeyah's 22 points and 12 rebounds.

Zanita Johnson has been OCU's ringleader early, scoring 14 points a game. OCU's women also took on a difficult schedule, including NCAA Division I Houston Baptist and NCAA Division II rivals Central Oklahoma and East Central.

"Our expectations are similar to most other years," OCU coach Rob Edmisson said. "We can make a run to the conference championship, get a high seed in the national tournament and be competitive once we get there."



Zanita Johnson, OCU women's leading scorer, in action

Willie Irick, OCU's leading scorer

OCU Ends Volleyball Season

OCU ended its volleyball season with a loss Nov. 17 in the NAIA Region VI semifinals.

The Stars finished 34-10, bettering its showing of a year ago. OCU went 26-8 and lost in the regional quarterfinals in 2006.

OCU completed its second year since reviving the volleyball program. Amy Clendenin, Erin Hirt and Maryna Verbovetska were the first class of seniors that were recruited to OCU for volleyball under coach Jen Salmans.



Amy Clendenin, one of OCU's first class of senior volleyball girls

OCU Regatta Named Event of the Year

OCU's Head of the Oklahoma Regatta in October was named the event of the year by Rowing News magazine.

Rowing News praised the regatta, declaring "Not only does the course, organization and weather give fall regattas back East a run for their money, but the people are just straight up nicer, more fun-oriented and not trapped in the old 'but we've always done it this way' paralysis."

The Oklahoma Centennial Regatta Festival was estimated to have been enjoyed by 50,000 people.

OCU's men won the regatta all-points trophy, and OCU's sculling program earned gold in each of its events.

Trudgian Named Soccer All-American

Ryan Trudgian of OCU was named a third-team NAIA men's soccer all-American.

Trudgian, a senior forward from St. Austell, England, became the first player from OCU to make NAIA men's soccer all-American among the first three teams since Dino Delevski in 1999. The Stars made the NAIA Region VI finals and went 15-5-1.

Midfielder Houston Lee and defender Andy Taylor were named honorable-mention all-American. Josh

Haines, Brandon Hull and Tyler Morrissey were named NAIA scholar-athletes.

Erika Garbrecht of OCU was named ESPN the Magazine women's soccer first-team academic all-American and an NAIA scholar-athlete.



Garbrecht, a junior biology major from Yukon, Okla., has a 4.0 grade-point average at OCU.

Christin Baker, Lateesha Hunter, Kara Nimz and Laurie Suter joined Garbrecht as NAIA scholar-athletes, achieving the minimum 3.5 GPA. Hunter, Malin Andersson, Zoe Barratt, Jennifer Crawford, Sarah Leonard and Brittany Tibbs were named all-region.

The OCU women went 15-5 and reached the regional semifinals.

OCU Baseball Ranked Ninth in Preseason, Host Regional

OCU will open the baseball season ranked ninth in the NAIA.

The Stars went 50-11 last year, notching 50 victories for the ninth year in a row. Five players were drafted by Major League Baseball following the season.

OCU opens the season against Northwood (Texas) on Feb. 1, 2008 at 2 p.m. in Cedar Hill, Texas. OCU hosts the NAIA Region VI tournament on May 6-10 at Jim Wade Stadium.

McSpadden is Hall of Famer

Oklahoma City University softball coach Phil McSpadden has been selected for induction into the NAIA Hall of Fame this year, the association announced. McSpadden led OCU to its eighth NAIA national championship in 2007. He also was named NAIA coach of the year for the eighth time and recognized with the NFCA coaching staff of the year for the second time. McSpadden is also a three-time NFCA coach of the year.

In 20 years with OCU, McSpadden has built the best small-college softball program in the nation. He has guided OCU to eight national championships, the most in NAIA history, and two runner-up finishes in 19 trips to the NAIA Championships.

"The induction of Coach McSpadden into the NAIA Hall of Fame is an affirmation of something all of us at Oklahoma City University have long known,"



Phil McSpadden

OCU President Tom J. McDaniel said. "Phil is an outstanding coach of national stature with a record to prove it."

McSpadden will be recognized at the 2008 NAIA Championships in May at Decatur, Ala. McSpadden has produced four NAIA players of the year, two NAIA pitchers of the year, two NAIA catchers of the year and three four-time all-Americans. Four former OCU players have helped their countries win Olympic medals. ●



(L TO R) assistant softball coach Guy Cook, Liz Oberst, Laurin Hess, Erin Slettvet, OCU softball coach Phil McSpadden, Jenni Gaby, Julie Harvey, Bianca Bryant, athletic director Jim Abbott, Mindy Crabaugh, Jordan Schwenke, Melody Murphy, President Tom McDaniel, Rachel Cope, Amanda Howard, Brittani Ellis, Kasey Hobens, Cat Calvert, Dasha Shembereva, assistant softball coach Bobbi Towers.

OKLAHOMA REGATTA

Oklahoma City University's Fourth Annual Head of the Oklahoma Regatta enjoyed another highly-successful year on the Oklahoma River. The event combined the beauty and pageantry of rowing with the adrenaline-fueled intensity of sprint racing for the four-day festival October 11 to 14.

Collegiate crews from across the nation competed in the regatta and the USA Rowing World Challenge brought in national teams from around the world. Those participating included OCU, Harvard,

Stanford, Duke, UCLA, Tulsa, Washington and Texas. Top national teams competing were the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Georgia and Switzerland as they prepared for the upcoming Olympics in Beijing, China.

The OG&E NightSprints were the Head of the Oklahoma's featured event. OCU's regatta pioneered night racing in the United States in 2006. The NightSprints created an electrifying atmosphere for evening competitors and spectators as four



photos by Johnny Johnson



100-foot light arms extended over the course.

Rowing News magazine recognized Oklahoma City University's ingenuity by naming it the Event of the Year for 2007. The magazine praised the event declaring, "Not only does the course, organization and weather give fall regattas back East a run for their money, but the people are just straight up nicer, more fun-oriented and not trapped in the old 'but we've always done it this way paralysis.'"

OCU Rowing Coach Mike Knopp said the event grows in magnitude and stature each year, attracting major international attention. An estimated 50,000 spectators witnessed this year's event.

"We set out to bring world-class rowing to Oklahoma City and we have been extremely pleased with the success of the regatta," Knopp said.

Oklahoma City University's Head of the Oklahoma was conceived to become the premier event on Oklahoma City's revitalized riverfront and the top fall family attraction in Central Oklahoma. The event has built a storied history in just a few short years. The inaugural 2004 Head of the Oklahoma—which commemorated the Oklahoma

City University centennial—drew more than 10,000 spectators and 400 athletes, becoming the largest event in Oklahoma City University history. The event debuted a unique combination of head racing with 500 meter super sprints around a one-day festival that included live music, children's activities and an arts festival. Competition included Harvard, the University of Virginia, the University of Texas, and more than a dozen other universities.

The 2005 Head of the Oklahoma built upon the success of the inaugural year, drawing approximately 25,000 spectators and more than 900 athletes with an additional day of competition. Harvard returned and new participants included the United States Naval Academy and the United States National Team women's four featuring Olympic gold medalists. The event received great reviews from competitors and *Rowing News* proclaimed Oklahoma City as "America's Next Great Rowing City." The 2006 drew an estimated 30,000 spectators and more than 1,000 athletes from around the country.

"Through OCU's development of the Head of the Oklahoma



Regatta, the river has earned a reputation as one of the nation's premier regatta venues where an excellent environment for competition is combined with activities and entertainment that attract thousands of spectators," Knopp said.

The Head of the Oklahoma remains on a path of unparalleled success. Coverage of the 2007 event was included in major publications worldwide including *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Seattle Times*, *The Canadian Press* and *Sports Illustrated*. ●

OCU LAUNCHES CRADLE OF DREAMS SECOND CENTURY CAMPAIGN



*"Sing with joy of the journey,
Sing of hope, hope that seems
Bright and endless as the future
In our cradle of dreams."*

The glorious music of "Cradle of Dreams" written by OCU's musical team, composer Professor Ed Knight and lyricist MJ Alexander, expresses eloquently the hope, joy and beauty of our students' journey and our mission to nurture them to greatness.

OCU's Cradle of Dreams Second Century Campaign was launched during OCU's Day of Celebration in late October 2007 with a goal of \$50 million.

As President Tom McDaniel wrote in his campaign letter, "It is through the donations of private resources that this university has been able to provide the kind of excellent education that prepares our students for bright futures and hopeful tomorrows."

Be a part of this important work. Help create a legacy of learning for generations to come. Gifts will be accepted for unrestricted use, established funds, new funds or programs, or for a specific purpose within the scope of the university's mission.

For more information or to make a gift contact any of the following people:

ART COTTON
VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT
(405)208-5120

SANDY COTTON
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
(405)208-5118

JEANNE SHORT
DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING & ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT
(405)208-5925



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Centennial Residence Hall fitness center



CHEERS!

RACE WITH THE STARS FOUNDER
MARIANNE VANNATTA '70 HONORED



Bernie Patterson, Marianne Vannatta, Tom McDaniel and Marvel Williamson



Marianne receives an appreciative hug from President McDaniel.

At the wrap-up meeting for the 2007 Race with the Stars, Marianne Vannatta was in her element. She'd baked and brought cookies for her volunteers after organizing the most successful 5K race and fun walk in Race with the Stars' history. She was running the meeting with her usual blend of cheerleading and efficiency and didn't even notice when President Tom McDaniel and Bernie Patterson, provost, snuck up behind her, certificate in hand. The flabbergasted Vannatta was applauded and lauded, and after a gracious thank-you she was back to business!

Vannatta is the founder and chairperson of OCU's annual Race with the Stars 5K race and fun walk to benefit a scholarship fund for nurse-educators. The race is held during reunion weekend.

The 2007 Race with the Stars drew more than 600 runners and grossed \$39,000.



1.

LIGHT THE CAMPUS: AN OCU FAMILY TRADITION

Hundreds of students, faculty and staff celebrated the season with families from surrounding areas at OCU's annual Light the Campus event, an event created by Brenda McDaniel, OCU's first lady. This year's events included the dedication of the newly-restored fountain encompassing the Eternal Challenge sculpture. Restoration was provided by the Lippert family.

After the dedication, there was a Children's Fun Fest in the McDaniel Center. Among the activities were a visit from Santa, children's holiday crafts, refreshments, music and party favors, a reception and toy/canned food drive collection in the McDaniel Center, the OCU Holiday Dinner in the McDaniel Center that featured a festive progressive dinner and the Hanging of the Greens in the Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel. OCU hosts this community service to welcome the Advent Season with scripture, song and dance each holiday season.



2.



3.



4.



5.

1. Naughty or nice? Only Santa knows for sure!
2. Tom and Brenda McDaniel welcome the crowd.
3. The beautiful Shaded Lounge in the McDaniel University Center is the perfect place for a celebration.
4. Members of the Lippert family are all smiles: Barb Lippert Munreke, Linda Lippert Alaback, Martha and Don Lippert.
5. Students line up for egg nog and spiced cider.

OCU STUDENTS PERFORM WITH THE STARS AT CENTENNIAL SPECTACULAR



Students from the Ann Lacy School of Dance and Arts Management joined an unprecedented gathering of Oklahoma's most famous sons and daughters in the "Celebration of a Century," which featured performances from native Oklahomans, many of whom are OCU alums, including country music icons Garth Brooks, Vince Gill, Carrie Underwood, Reba McEntire and Toby Keith, plus rock legends The Flaming Lips, Stillwater's own All-American Rejects, Jimmy Webb, Kelli O'Hara, Blake Shelton, Patti Page and opera singer Leona Mitchell.

The star-studded tribute also included appearances by Shirley Jones, five Miss Americas — Jennifer Berry Gooden, Shawntel Smith Wuerch, Susan Powell, Jane Jayroe-Gamble and Lauren Nelson — Amy Grant, comedian Argus Hamilton, Willard Scott, Johnny Bench, Bart Conner, Nadia Comaneci, Barry Switzer and many more. The Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Canterbury Choral Society and our own American Spirit Dance Company also joined in the celebration of Oklahoma's 100th birthday.

OCU students and alums collaborated in the showcase — here Kelly O'Hara (center) sang "Out of my Dreams" from the musical "Oklahoma" as students Jenny Rice and Todd Walker performed the roles of Laurie and Curly.

OCU dance students prepare to perform: Sam Payne, Jacob Sewell, Kim Faure, Chris Villegas and Chaz Wolcott



- 1930**
Blanch Kellow Venables
- 1935**
Helen Galloway Moore
- 1937**
Doris Bitler Andrews
Elenore Gragg
- 1942**
Theodore Pfundt
- 1952**
Elmsley Akin
Bobbie Jean McBride Burk
- 1953**
Howard Timanus

- 1956**
A. Eldon Moelling
- 1957**
John Pribyl Sr.
Richard Silver
- 1958**
Donald Manners
- 1963**
Robert Fink
John Wilson Triplett
- 1964**
Gary Moore
- 1965**
Charles Strain

- 1969**
George Laki
- 1971**
Frances Pietsch
- 1979**
Barbara Calkin
- 1983**
John Ward
- 1988**
Daniel Metzger
- 1990**
Richard Lawrence Cahill
- 1996**
Chris Paul Gay
- 2001**
Tatiana Weiss

FAREWELL

Bobbie Jean McBride Burk

Bobbie Burk was born May 13, 1930, in Dallas to Robert Edward McBride and Thelma Elizabeth Grimes McBride. After graduating from Oklahoma City University, Bobbie taught in the Oklahoma City public schools. She went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and taught at Stephens College from 1969 to 1979. She was assistant dean of the faculty and registrar there from 1979 until her retirement in 1997. She continued to serve Stephens as a volunteer

college archivist until 2006.

She was a member of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity and held many local and national offices. She helped found the Columbia Alumnae Chapter of SAI, was elected to the National Executive Board as chaplain, serving 10 years, and was the fraternity's archivist. At Sigma Alpha Iota's centennial convention in 2003, Bobbie received the fraternity's highest honor, the Dorothy



Whinery Special Leadership Award. It has been awarded only nine times in the fraternity's history. Sigma Alpha Iota

Philanthropies, Inc., the charitable arm of the fraternity, announced that a conducting scholarship for graduates will now be given "In Memory of Bobbie Burk."

Dr. Fred C. Mayer

Dr. Fred C. Mayer, OCU School of Music dean emeritus, passed away on December 23, 2007. A beautiful service was held in the Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel, as was Dr. Mayer's wish.

Dr. Mayer spent his early years in Ohio, where his father was dean of the Capital University Conservatory of Music. After earning his undergraduate degree there, Mayer attended the National music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan, where he studied advanced orchestral conducting with Vladimir

Bakaleinikoff and met his wife-to-be, Ruth, an accomplished flutist. He returned to Ohio, earned his master's degree at Ohio State University and began his career.

Dr. Mayer was head of the music department at Wilmington College for five years after which



he served for twelve years as director of the school of music at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas.

During his tenure at Friends University, the music school gained admission to the National Association of

Schools of Music and its enrollment more than doubled. He was the first person to be named an honorary alumnus of the university. In 1959 he was appointed to direct the 100-voice Chancel Choir and the orchestra of the First Methodist Church in Dallas. He held the post three years and presented many large compositions during that time.

Dr. Mayer came to Oklahoma City University in 1962 and served as dean of the school of music until retirement in 1979. During his tenure as dean, the music school's enrollment more than doubled. He re-established the school's orchestra program and established a variety of festivals for the school. He inaugurated a

Master of Music program in 1972 and a Master of Performing Arts program in 1974.

Dr. Gary Moore

Dr. Gary Moore '64 came to OCU as a student as a part of OCU's Great Plan program. It might not have happened had it not been for his high school superintendent in Wellston who told him "it was better to be at the bottom of the top than the top of the bottom." With his contacts in the wrong eyes, Moore took the Great Plan test along with about 175 other applicants. He said his eyes watered throughout the test, but it didn't matter to him. He didn't think he would receive the scholarship anyway. Moore entered the university as a religion major, and then switched to mathematics, chemistry and finally biology. When he applied to medical school in 1964, nine of 10 medical school applicants from his class were accepted. The acceptance rate at other universities was about 25 percent.

Moore loved the performing arts at OCU. He attended as many performances as he could, often buying two rows of center orchestra seats for each performance and filling them with friends. He followed the careers of many students and took great joy in being able to point out a dancer's



improvement from one year to the next. As time passed, he sat closer and closer to the stage – macular degeneration was slowly robbing him of sight.

It was this affinity for dance and his deep appreciation for the students of arts management who toil behind the scenes that led him to begin providing scholarships. It started with one or two students some 16 years ago. This year, there are six students on campus who have received the Dr. Gary Moore Endowed Scholarship for Dance and Arts Management Students. A master of the grand gesture, Moore also took care of students on a smaller, case-by-case scale. More than once, if a student was injured or needed to see a doctor, he contributed medical services.

"We will miss him greatly," said John Bedford, dean of the Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management. "The joy he took in seeing what we do was our joy." This year's Home for The Holidays production was dedicated to Moore.

For more information about the Great Plan Scholars or to donate to the scholarship funds, send a check to Oklahoma City University Development Department, 2501 N Blackwelder, Oklahoma City, OK, 73106. ●

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Our email address is alumni@okcu.edu, and our address is 2501 N. Blackwelder Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73106.





SAVE THE DATE

REUNION WEEKEND 2008

October 31 – November 2

Join fellow alums and come back to campus for Reunion Weekend 2008. Events include the perennial favorite Lip Sync, the Race with the Stars 5k and fun run, the Distinguished Alumni Awards and much much more!

Mark your calendar now and look for more information this summer in your mailbox and at www.okcu.edu/alumni.

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