



2002 December Commencement honorary degree recipients, from left: Rev. Philip B. Wahl, Madalynne King Norick, and James H. Norick



Commencement

December 2002

On December 13, 2002, during fall commencement exercises, the university conferred honorary degrees on Madalynne King Norick, James H. Norick, and Rev. Philip B. Wahl.

Madalynne King Norick and **James H. Norick** both received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees.

Madalynne serves on the advisory council of the Petree College of Arts and Sciences. A prominent community volunteer leader, she received the Societies of Oklahoma City University's 1996 Distinguished Philanthropist Award.

James has a lifelong record of service, including the US Navy during World War II. He served on the city council of Oklahoma City and twice as mayor. He is a member of the Oklahoma City University Fund for

Excellence. In 1991 he received the university's Distinguished Service Award.

Over the past thirty years James and Madalynne Norick have hosted nineteen foreign students in their home.

Rev. Philip B. Wahl received an honorary Doctor of Divinity. Licensed to preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1924, Wahl served in numerous appointments in Oklahoma and Missouri, and officially retired in 1973 from the First United Methodist Church in Duncan, OK, but served as minister of visitation until 1992.

Active in interracial and integration concerns throughout his ministry, Wahl has received numerous awards, including the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church's 1991 Human Relations Award. He is perhaps best known for his defense of the church's opposition to the death penalty. In 1980, he produced *Capital Punishment: Questions and Answers*. The conference's Board of Church and Society published a revised edition in 1991.

He inspired formation of the Louie Marsh Memorial Collection in the university's Dulaney-Browne Library.

Dr. Bernie L. Patterson, vice president for academic affairs, was the speaker for undergraduate commencement. 



Dr. Bernie L. Patterson

Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team finished the season with a record of 12-7-2. The Stars had four selections to the SAC All-Conference Team. Senior **Brent Berger**, biology major from Texarkana, AR, and sophomore **Matt Williams**, information technology major from Garland, TX, were named First Team All-Conference. Junior **Vlastislav Marek**, exercise and sports science major from Damnikov, Czech Republic, and freshman **Tony McCormick**, of Prestwick, Scotland, were named Second Team All-Conference. All four players also received NAIA Honorable Mentions for their outstanding performance this season.

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team finished their season 17-4-2 and had an impressive eight players named to the SAC All-Conference Team. First Team All-Conference members included senior **Sally Cole**, math major from Yukon, TX, sophomore **Emily Furr**, marketing major from Oklahoma City, **Heather Rivera**, biology major from Oklahoma City, and **Melinda Kiersey**, exercise and sports science major from Pryor, OK. Second Team All-Conference members included sophomore **Karen Moore**, mass communications and broadcast major from Oklahoma City, senior **Lauren Mise**, exercise and sports science major from Oklahoma City, senior **Amber Sargent**, criminal justice major from Oklahoma City, and senior **Kara Doyle**, sports marketing major from Broken Arrow, OK. Cole was also named SAC Defensive Conference Player of the Year and NAIA First Team All-American for the fourth consecutive year.

Men's Golf

OCU Golfer **Yasin Ali**, of London, UK, has been chosen to represent Great Britain and Ireland for the Walker Cup on Sept 6 and 7, 2003, at Ganton Golf Club, North Yorkshire, England. The sophomore was one of eight players added to the esteemed GB&I team. "Being selected for the Walker Cup is one of the greatest and most prestigious honors an amateur golfer can obtain," said OCU Golf Coach Kyle Blaser. Ali earned first team All-American and Regional Player of the Year last season. He has a seventy-one stroke average.

Men's Basketball

The Stars went into the Sooner Athletic Conference basketball tournament unranked, and pulled off the upset to win their second

consecutive SAC Tournament championship. Three members of the squad earned SAC All-Conference recognition: **Cedrich Parker**, criminal justice major from Benton Harbor, MI (second team All Conference and second consecutive Most Valuable Player in the SAC Tournament); **Gino Chambers** (third team SAC All Conference and SAC All Tournament team); and **Luciano DeSouza** (SAC All Tournament Team).

Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team made university history by going undefeated for the regular season 26-0. During the team's impressive attempt at a fifth national title, the Stars fell one point short in the National Tournament against rivals, Southern Nazarene. Along the way, Head Coach Janell Jones collected her hundredth win, ending the season with an amazing career record, 104-5.

All five team starters received post-season honors. Junior **Kesha Watson**, MAJOR from Oklahoma City, received NAIA Player of the Year, SAC Player of the Year, first team All-Conference, All-SAC Tournament Team, and the SAC Tournament Hustle Award. Junior **Detra Ashley**, a criminal justice major from Bossier City, LA, was selected to the second team NAIA All-American Team, first team All Conference, and SAC All-Tournament Team. Senior **Veronique Alesse**, an accounting major from Abidjan, Ivory Coast, was selected to the second team All-Conference and named Most Valuable Player of the SAC Tournament. Junior **Sarah Kincannon**, education major from Midwest City, OK, was named to the third team All Conference, and junior **LaStar Brown**, a criminal justice major from San Francisco, CA, received All SAC honorable mention.

Softball

The 2002 defending national champion softball team looks forward to another strong year with returning seniors **Lindsey Voss**, mass communications major from Chickasha, OK, and **Paula Garman**, nursing major from Claremore, OK. The Stars were ranked number one in the NAIA preseason polls, and will try for their fourth consecutive national title.

Majority of Student-Athletes Make Athletic Director's Honor Roll

More than sixty-one percent of the university's student-athletes posted a 3.0 or better grade-point average in the recently-completed fall semester, earning distinction on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll. "This is a tremendous accomplishment by our student-athletes," said Athletic Director Jim Abbott. "Very few athletics programs in the country post an overall

semester GPA for all student-athletes above a 3.0. Our student-athletes, coaches, and professors do a wonderful job for the university.”

Eighty-eight of 139 student-athletes earned a spot on the honor roll. Seventeen student-athletes achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA.

“I think the final grade reports for fall speak for themselves. The majority of our student-athletes have proven once again that they are serious about their education and have their eyes on goals beyond the next game or match,” said Dr. Lloyd Mussellman, the university’s faculty athletics representative. “We should be proud of them. We should also take note of those who are doing their best and taking their education seriously regardless of their grade point average. That should be our

goal: to see to it that all of our student-athletes try their best in the classroom as well as on the athletic field.”

Athletics Department Adds Junior Varsity Sports

Oklahoma City University will introduce five junior varsity athletics teams this fall:

JV Women’s Basketball

Scheduled to play twelve games (in November and December)

Coach – Becky Hoskins, assistant coach of the varsity women’s team.

JV Men’s and Women’s Golf

Scheduled to play around four tournaments in the 2003-04 academic year

Coach – Derek Freeman, current assistant golf coach and former professional golfer


JV Men’s Soccer

Scheduled to play eight to ten matches during the fall semester

Coach – former Oklahoma City University All-American Tommy Riley, head soccer coach at Heritage Hall school in Oklahoma City

JV Men’s Basketball

Scheduled to play twelve games (in November and December)


Coach – former professional basketball player **Jonathan Triplett**, '02 Bachelor of Science in physical education, now pursuing a Master of Liberal Arts at the university 



Remembering Abe

On January 25, 2003 about 2,500 fans celebrated the life of former Oklahoma City University Basketball Coach Abe Lemons. The celebration, which took place between Stars basketball games, included over eighty of Abe’s former OCU players. The crowd watched as a banner memorializing Lemons unfurled: “Abe Lemons, Coach, Educator, Humorist, FRIEND, 1922-2002.” Lemons’s widow, Betty Jo, was presented with a scrapbook of letters from former

players. Fans were also presented with a special keepsake brochure, “Remembering Abe.”

“OCU Basketball is Abe’s legacy,” said Athletic Director Jim Abbott. “We will never forget his contributions to the success of this university and to the development of his players.” A scholarship was created in Lemons’s name, and gifts are tax deductible. Contact Abbott at (405) 521-5301 for information. 

Through the Years

2000s

Jayson Bell, '02 Bachelor of Science in biology, began medical school at the University of Oklahoma in August 2002.

Julie Benazer, '02 Bachelor of Science in biology, began the physician associate program at the University of Oklahoma in July 2002.

Leslie Lofgren Berger, '02 Bachelor of Arts in mass communications, reports for the *Piedmont Gazette* and *Loud Magazine*.

Kayla Bonewell, '02 Bachelor of Arts in religion, entered Americorps's Teach for America program after graduation.

Christine Craig, '02 Bachelor of Science in biology, began the physician associate program at the University of Oklahoma in July 2002.

Tiffany Elliott, '02 Bachelor of Science in biology, began medical school at the University of Oklahoma in August 2002.

“The core of my friends here in NYC are friends I made at OCU! That has to be about one of the greatest things about my four years ... the wonderful and life-lasting relationships I made there.” – **Nathan Peck**, '97 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance

Dana Fisch, '02 Bachelor of Science in dance, is the studio manager/program administrator for Battery Dance Company in New York City. She reports, “It’s definitely a job where I use all the skills I learned [at OCU], so it’s fun.”

Jennifer Gavender, '02 Bachelor of Science in dance management, is the company management intern with Disney’s *The Lion King* in Los Angeles, CA.

Erin Giles, '02 Bachelor of Science in biology, entered the doctor of optometry program at Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN, in August 2002.

Dawn Hensley, '02 Bachelor of Science in biochemistry, began medical school at the College of Osteopathic Medicine, Oklahoma State University, in August 2002.

Mindie Meek, '02 Bachelor of Science in biology, began the physician associate program at the University of Oklahoma in July 2002.

Marta Merkovska, '02 Bachelor of Science in biology, will attend dental college at the University of Oklahoma this fall.

Branden Montgomery, '02 Master of Science in accounting, is a staff accountant for the Enid office of BKD, LLP, a professional services firm.

Dallas Nimsey, '02 Bachelor of Science in biology, entered the Doctor of Pharmacy program at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in August 2002.

Brooke Opheim, '02 Bachelor of Science in dance performance, has been contracted as a covered dancer in the long-running Las Vegas hit spectacular, *Jubilee*, at Bally’s. She is excited that her first Las Vegas audition immediately resulted in a job with a top show.

Miguel Ortiz, '02 Bachelor of Science in criminal justice, works at the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics.

Amy Parker, '02 Bachelor of Science in biology, entered the Doctor of Pharmacy program at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in August 2002.

Daniel Reynolds, '02 Bachelor of Arts in English and religion, teaches at Hoover Middle School.

Joe Salazar, '02 Bachelor of Arts in mass communications, joined KTVY Channel 9 in Oklahoma City upon graduation.

Jeromy Smith, '02 Bachelor of Science in dance management, was recently signed to perform in the national tour of *42nd Street*. Smith will leave the national tour company of *Swing*, for which he both danced and stage managed. Since graduating, he also performed at the prestigious Papermill Playhouse in *My Fair Lady*.

Casie Soltani, '02 Bachelor of Science in biology, began the doctoral program in biomedical sciences at the OU Health Sciences Center in August 2002.

Maxim Sytch, '02 Master of Business Administration and '00 Bachelor of Science in business, has been accepted to a business strategy doctoral program at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

Erik Terrell, '02 Bachelor of Science in criminal justice, works at the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

Janice Terrell, '02 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, has been contracted as a dancer by Celebrity Cruise Lines to perform on the cruise ship, *Summit*. The ship is scheduled to visit the Caribbean Islands,

the Panama Canal, Alaska, and Canada.

Jon Warren, '02 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, performed in the Detroit, MI, production of *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular*.

Susie Bullock, '01 Bachelor of Science in nursing, works for the OU Health Sciences Center Research Center.

Jeremy Duvall, '01 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, serves as a guest faculty member at the Broadway Dance Center. Rhonda Miller, '84 Master of Performing Arts and former Dance Department faculty member, is on the permanent faculty of the Broadway Dance Center, one of the top studios in the world for performance dancers.

Shanda Grossardt-Cusick, '01 Juris Doctor, is a public defender in Oklahoma City.

Treneisha Jones, '01 Bachelor of Music Education (vocal music education), has interned with the Federal Department of Education GEAR UP program and the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships.

Matt Miler, '01 Bachelor of Science in biochemistry, began medical school at the University of Oklahoma in August 2002.

Mark Yonally, a former faculty member of the School of American Dance and Arts Management, has started the Chicago Tap Theatre. **Jennifer Pfaff**, '01 Bachelor of Science in dance management serves as business manager, and **Stacy Milam**, '01 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, works as a performer.

Daniel Webb, '01 Bachelor of Music in vocal performance, is winning rave reviews as the philosopher Colline in Baz Luhrmann’s Broadway retelling of *La Boheme*.

Lauren Gaul, '00 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, will be a Rockette in the Nashville, TN, production of the *Radio City Music Hall Holiday Spectacular*. The Nashville cast will be under the supervision of **Rebecca Downing**, '84 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance. Gaul will also be assisting internationally renowned choreographer **Rhonda Miller**, '86 Master of Performing Arts, with a New York benefit honoring Broadway dance superstar Ann Reinking. Also in the cast will be **Jordan Ballard**, '00 Bachelor of Performing Arts in Dance, and **Jon Warren**, '02 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance.

Shanna Hampton, '00 Bachelor of Science in biology, plans to attend the physician associate program at Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, starting this fall.

Amy Klingler, '00 Bachelor of Science in dance management, performs on the cruise ship *Mercury*, serving as dance captain. She will return to the Rockettes later this year to perform in the *Radio City Music Hall Christmas Holiday Spectacular*.

1990s

Matthew Dehner, '99 Bachelor of Science in biology, entered the doctor of pharmacy program at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA, in August 2002.

Kim Hepler, '99 Bachelor of Science in nursing, is the director of nursing at Bryant Nursing Center Long Term Care and Skills Nursing in Edmond, OK.

Gillian Holowisky, '99 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, will complete her law degree from Vermont Law School in May. She is managing editor of the *Vermont Law Review*. Holowisky also serves on the board of directors of Little Artistic Value Theatre Company in New York City.

Sherrie Polk, '99 Bachelor of Arts in religion, is attending graduate school at Finch University of Health Sciences in Chicago, IL, to study schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease, and post-traumatic stress order.

Amy Swift, '99 Bachelor of Science in dance management, is focusing her career on country and western singing after a national tour of *Cinderella* and a season dancing in Dino's Piano and Dance Extravaganza in Branson, MO. She was selected to sing at events surrounding the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame's induction of Tanya Tucker, with country greats Tanya Tucker and Charlie Waters attending. Her performance was carried live on two radio stations, and her recording of *Greatest Friend* is being played on Texas radio stations.

Rick Twombly, '99 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, started in December as a guest entertainer on Princess Cruise Line's new luxury ship, Coral Princess. Twombly trained as a silk flyer with Royal Caribbean Cruise Line; he and a partner are featured in an aerial adage they rehearsed under the direction of Cirque du Soleil's aerialographer.

Alison Roller Woerner, '99 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, has been a Rockette® for the past four years in the Detroit, MI, production of *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. She is a member of the Rockette faculty, teaching aspiring Rockettes at workshops, and is also a faculty member for Spotlight Conventions.

Kelli O'Hara, '98 Bachelor of Music in vocal performance, played the title character in Playwrights Horizons world premiere of *My Life with Albertine*, by Gordon and Nelson.

Kerry Smith, '98 Bachelor of Science in nursing, practices as a certified registered nurse anesthetist in Colorado.

Hollie Williams, '98 Bachelor of Arts, is the marketing director for Frontier County Marketing Association. She is also the vice president of the American Marketing Association, Oklahoma City Chapter.

Lora Anderson, '97 Bachelor of Science in dance

management, performed as a Rockette® during the holiday season, including appearing in the nationally televised Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, at the Christmas tree lighting at Rockefeller Center, and at Radio City Music Hall in the Rockettes' annual holiday extravaganza. Anderson has consistently performed professionally since graduating from Oklahoma City University. She was certified recently to teach Pilates, a stretching, strength-building, and relaxation technique with particular benefits for dancers and athletes.

Nathan Peck, '97 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, recently made his Broadway debut in a new musical, *Dance of the Vampires*, starring musical theatre legend Michael Crawford. Peck's theatrical credits include the first national tour of *Footloose*, *West Side Story* at La Scala Opera House in Milan, Italy, *The Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular*, various musicals at Music Theatre of Wichita, and Gap commercials (*West Side Story* version).

Anne Carter Walker, '97 Bachelor of Arts in mass communications, has been named the director of FaithTrek at the Iliff School of Theology. FaithTrek is a program designed to teach high school youth about theological thought and faith influenced vocations. She will provide the leadership and direction of the program, including curriculum development and evaluation. She was previously coordinator for admissions and student services at Iliff. She holds a Master of Arts from the Claremont School of Theology. Walker is the daughter of Jerald and Virginia Walker, former president and first lady of the university.

M'Shay Eskola Bourland, '95 Bachelor of Science in dance management, is a dance specialist at Parkview Arts/Science Magnet High School in Little Rock, AR.

Rick Endicott, '95 Master of Business Administration, is finance director for the City of Lawton. He has worked in the city's auditing department since 1990.

Jana Nobles, '95 Bachelor of Arts in mass communications, just completed her master's in integrated marketing communication from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

Amy D. Schoeffler, '95 Bachelor of Science, is the executive director of the Springfield (OH) Symphony.

Froswa Booker-Drew, '94 Master of Liberal Arts, is the community center director at St. Philip's School and Community Center in Fair Park, TX. Her programming has contributed to a twenty-five percent increase in participation at the center.

Bethany Daniels, '94 Bachelor of Science in dance management, is starring in *Jacque Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* this winter at the Houston, TX, area's Main Street Theater in the Village. Since




Petty (left), speaking to business group in Krasnodar, Russia

Business Alumnus Helps Russian Rotary Club

Ronald Petty, '98 Master of Business Administration, provided invaluable volunteer service to a nascent Rotary Club in Rostov-on-Don, Russia.

Petty was selected by Citizens Development Corps (CDC) from a database of over 6,500 persons to serve as a volunteer expert advisor to the Russian club. CDC, a nonprofit organization funded by the US Agency for International Development, assists small and medium businesses worldwide.

Petty counseled the Russian club to pursue several programs successful in his home club in Oklahoma – simple and cost-effective ways to gain visibility, attract new members, and expand services, including an Adopt a School program and a long-term Rotary Park project.

Petty has twenty-five years of marketing and sales experience, and owns a management consulting firm in Tulsa, OK. He is an adjunct professor of business and marketing at Northeastern State University's Broken Arrow, OK, campus. A former president of the Tulsa Rotary Club, Petty is now assistant district governor for Rotary District 6110. 

graduating from Oklahoma City University, she has performed in over a dozen shows in Houston, as well as Paul Hope's benefit concert of *Follies, a Pride Day Benefit, As the Parade Passes By*, and Stuart Ostrow's workshop production, *1040*.

Angie Everett, '94 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, has joined the Broadway cast of *42nd Street*. Angie is the fifth graduate of the School of American Dance and Arts Management to join the cast of this enduring Broadway hit. The others are **Brian Marcum**, '94 Bachelor of Performing Arts, **Dontee Kiehn**, '96 Bachelor of Performing Arts, **Becky Berstler**, '98 Bachelor of Performing Arts, and **Cindy Shadel**, '00 Bachelor of Performing Arts.

Matri Jourden, '94 Master of Business Administration, has been promoted to vice president of operations for St. Anthony Hospital, where she has worked since 1979; she was previously director of organizational improvement.

Jim Roth, '94 Juris Doctor, fulfilled an ambition held since junior high school with his election in fall 2002 as commissioner for Oklahoma County District 1. He was previously staff attorney and chief deputy for the County Commissioners Office.

Jason Brunk, '93 Bachelor of Science in education and '95 Master of Education, has been named the State Assistant Principle of the Year by the Oklahoma Association of Secondary School Principals. He is an assistant principal at Putnam City North High School.

Nicholas N. Pournader, '93 Master of Business Administration and '90 Bachelor of Arts, has joined IPR as chief marketing officer. IPR International is an industry leader in electronic vaulting and recovery.

Tamra A. Spradlin, '92 Juris Doctor and '89 Bachelor of Arts, received the 2002 Clarence Darrow Award for outstanding work as an attorney. She was recognized by the Oklahoma Criminal Defense Lawyers Association for her demonstrated commitment to upholding justice and providing effective assistance of counsel.

Kristin Chenoweth, '91 Bachelor of Music in theatre, will release her second solo album this fall on Sony Classical®, to coincide with her return to Broadway in Stephen Schwartz's *Wicked*, opening on Halloween. *Wicked* is the life story of Glenda, the Good Witch of the North, in L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz*. She will also perform the concert version of *Candide*, which will air next year on PBS. Chenoweth, a former Miss OCU and second runner-up in the Miss Oklahoma pageant, received a Tony Award® for her performance in the Broadway revival of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

1980s

Michele (Miller) Conner, '89 Bachelor of Performing Arts, performed for twelve years and then earned a Master of Arts in dance/movement therapy from Hahnemann University (Medical College of Pennsylvania). A psychotherapist and licensed professional counselor, she works in Pennsylvania with children with autism and their families. She has a son and daughter, and expects another child in June 2003.

Lorraine Teel, '88 Master of Business Administration, is the chief operating officer of RM Rowe Company. She oversees the firm's portfolio management, leasing, construction, property management, engineering, and business development teams.

Paula Wheeler-Ballard, '88 Bachelor of Science in nursing, is currently a nurse manager with Continuous Care Centers in Sapulpa, OK.

Florence Mubichi, '87 Bachelor of Science in nursing, is principal tutor of the nursing school at Maua Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Kenya. She has come back to Oklahoma to complete her master's degree, and will return to Africa to upgrade Maua Methodist's nursing program from a diploma program to a Bachelor of Science in nursing. The school will be based out of Kenya Methodist University. **Stanley Imunya**, '91 Bachelor of Science in nursing, is the coordinator of the Community Health Program and **Mary Imunya**, '92 Bachelor of Science in nursing,

is the deputy director of nursing services at the hospital. All three were sponsored by the United Methodist Conference.

Lorraine Ernest, '86 Bachelor of Music, sings with the Los Angeles Opera Company. She will perform this summer with the Central City Opera in Central City, CO, and will appear in L.A. this fall with Placido Domingo in the world premiere of Deborah Drattell's *Nicholas and Alexandra*.

Dr. Rebecca Kennedy, '86 Bachelor of Science, is the vice president for academic affairs at Seminole State College in Seminole, OK.

Gerald Steichen, '86 Bachelor of Music, conducted two fall 2002 performances of *Dead Man Walking* at New York City Opera. He is leading this season's New Haven Symphony Orchestra holiday concerts and will conduct the new Christopher Alden production of *Bluebeard* at Glimmerglass Opera this summer.

John Atkins, '81 Bachelor of Music, of the Los Angeles Opera, starred as Captain Corcoran in Opera Omaha's March production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Leroy Bridges, '81 Bachelor of Science in business, was presented in November 2002 with a Governor's Commendation by Frank Keating for his outstanding achievement, dedication, and commitment to the state of Oklahoma. Bridges is a past president and lifetime board member of the university's alumni association. He received the 1996 Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award and has been recognized twice with the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Jim Clark, '81 Master of Performing Arts, is the president of Lutchter Theater Inc. in Orange, TX, the eighth largest performing arts series in Texas, which featured **Lyndy Franklin**, '02 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, and **Brandi Wooten**, '02 Bachelor of Performing Art in dance, in its production of *Fosse*.

Dance Diversity

by Christine Berney

Susan Webb, '89 Bachelor of Science, and **Jennifer Skates**, '98 Bachelor of Arts, head a program called **Dance Diversity**, which brings together high school girls from Webb's northwest Oklahoma City dance studio and Skates' Capitol Hill High School to learn about themselves and each other through dance.


Dance Diversity meets monthly during the school year, and has performed at the Oklahoma City Festival of the Arts and area



churches. It received the Outstanding Community Outreach Award from the Assembly of Community Arts Councils of Oklahoma.

"I wouldn't have done this if I hadn't been in the OCU dance program," said Webb, praising the integrity, hard work, and vision it instills in its students. "The discipline of art translates to discipline in life."

Now in its fourth year, Dance Diversity was founded by Webb and

Kara Harvey, '98 Bachelor of Science in dance management, who taught dance at Capitol Hill prior to Skates. 

1970s

Brian Tidwell, '79 Bachelor of Music, is bandleader for headliner Marlene Ricci at the Riveria's Le Bistro Theater in Las Vegas, NV.

Bob Davis, '76 Juris Doctor, has been appointed the special district judge of the Canadian County District Court. He had been the city attorney for the Town of Okarche for twenty years.

William J. Manger, '76 Juris Doctor and '69 Master of Business Administration, was appointed presiding judge of the Oklahoma City Municipal Court by the Oklahoma City Council. "Without my education at OCU this would not have been possible," said Manger.

Ross Maupin, '70 Bachelor of Arts, is director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Service offices in Kingfisher and Blaine counties.

1960s

Paul Baum, Ph.D., '64 Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, has retired from teaching at the Missouri Military Academy. Baum is an active volunteer for the Missouri Historical Society, directing and participating in reenactments, as well as interpreting at the Daniel Home near Defiance, MO.

John Martin, '60 Bachelor of Science in business, is a history teacher and head basketball coach at John Marshall High School in Oklahoma City.

1950s

Maurine Millsaps-Wyrick, '53 Bachelor of Science in business, was the first woman to earn a CPA certificate from the university, issued in 1959. 

Focus Magazine receives an extremely high volume of information and submissions for "Through the Years." Due to space considerations, some items may not be printed, but the entire list is posted on the alumni section of www.okcu.edu.

- For more School of American Dance and Arts Management alumni information, visit www.okcu.edu/dance_amgt/.

- For more School of Law alumni information, visit www.okcu.edu/law/ and check out our semiannual magazine, *OCU LAW*, or call Michael Sohn, the school's director of development and external relations, at (800) 230-3012 to receive a hard copy.

- For more School of Music alumni information, visit www.okcu.edu/music/.

Policy Statement:

Focus Magazine is pleased and proud to run items on the successes of Oklahoma City University alumni. It does not, however, include campaign announcements for alumni running for office.

New Theatre Group has definite OCU Flavor

by Dow Dozier, interim News Services Director

Several alumni launched the inaugural season of Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre, or City Rep, with productions last November and this March, and one scheduled for May, in the Freede Little Theatre at Oklahoma City's Civic Center Music Hall.

City Rep is one of only two theatres in Oklahoma City with an Actor's Equity Association contract (the other being the summer stock troupe, Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma) and is a year-round professional troupe, according to Artistic Director **Donald Jordan**, '80 Bachelor of Arts. Worried that dance, music, and theatre graduates have too few employment opportunities in Oklahoma, City Rep's founders consider it a direct effort to stem the tide of talented Oklahoma graduates leaving the state for jobs elsewhere.


Other alumni who helped found City Rep are **Ruth Charnay**, '86 Bachelor of Arts and '91 Master of Performing Arts, managing director; **Michele McNalley Wilson**, '81 Bachelor of Arts and '82 Bachelor of Music, board president; and **Elaine Pfeleiderer**, '82 Bachelor of Science, electronics and media consultant.

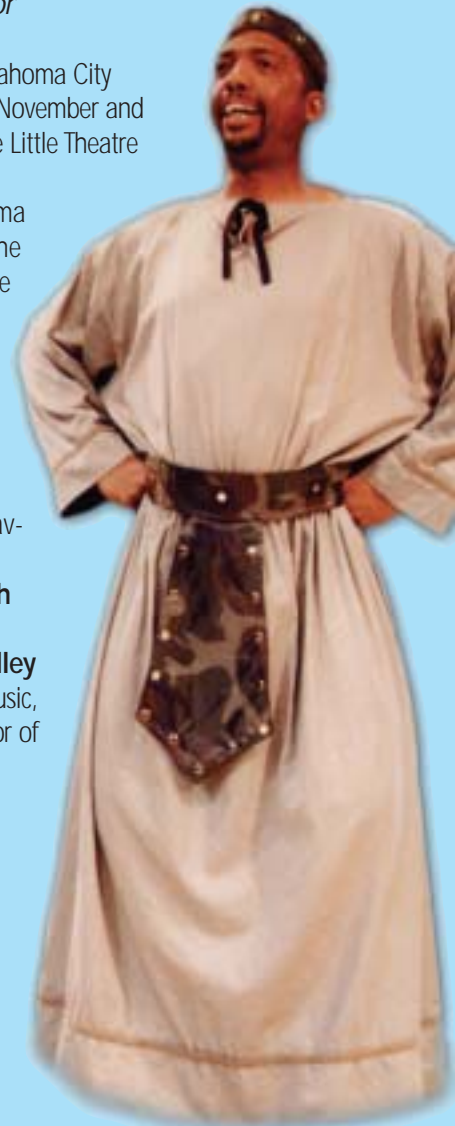
City Rep began its season with a concert, *The Leading Ladies*, featuring three sopranos who had appeared on Broadway as Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera*, including **Teri Bibb**, '82 Bachelor of Music.

Former student Jonathan Beck Reed led the cast of the second production, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Off-Broadway's longest-running musical), which also included **Lisa Fox Adams**, '80 Bachelor of Arts in speech and theatre.

The final production, *I Am a Teacher*, by David Marquis, opens May 2 and stars

Marcellus Hankins, '85 Bachelor of Music, exploring the joys and struggles of being a teacher in an age of budget cuts and overcrowded classrooms. Hankins is a teacher at Soldier Creek Elementary School in Midwest City, OK, and recipient of the prestigious Milken Family Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching.

City Rep's goal is a six-play season of mainstream titles, with a "city series" of edgier works, presented ten months of the year. The group also wants to furnish internships for the university's undergraduate students. "I'm sure we'll want to take advantage of this offer," said President Tom J. McDaniel. "It would be a great way for our students to get some real firsthand experience in the field of professional theatre." 



Marcellus Hankins in the 2002 Carpenter Square Theatre production of *The Bible: The Complete Word of God* (abridged).

Cholly Atkins, '02 honorary Doctor of Performing Arts in American dance, one of nine “Doctors of Dance” honored by the university in February 2002

Cholly Atkins was half of the dance team, Coles and Atkins; he developed choreography for Motown performers like Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, the Shirelles, the Supremes, and the Temptations. Atkins started dancing in Vaudeville in 1929. In 1989 he won a Tony Award® for his choreography of the Broadway show, *Black and Blue*. In 1993 the National Endowment for the Arts awarded him its highest honor, a three-year Choreographer’s Fellowship. In 1999 the School of American Dance and Arts Management recognized Atkins’s lifetime achievements with its Living Treasure in American Dance Award.



Friends of Oklahoma City University

Nancy Stapleton Apgar, former piano instructor for the School of Music

Louise Scott Bass, former member of the Dulaney-Browne Library Society

Ernest Brooks, father of Basketball Coach Janell Jones – the family asked that memorial contributions be made to the Stars Women’s Basketball Team

Al Gilbert, member of the School of American Dance and Arts Management executive advisory board, whose work to codify American dance by creating syllabi for tap and jazz had an international impact on the teaching of these art forms – 1990 recipient of the Living Treasure in American Dance Award

John R. Parsons, former board of trustees member

George H. Ryden, former dean of men

Alumni of Oklahoma City University

John F. Bell, '61 Bachelor of Arts

Harry L. Bickford, '53 Juris Doctor

Sherry Littlefield Blankenship, '81 Juris Doctor

Edna Hoffman Bowman, '78 honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (Bowman has left the university one-seventh of her estate)

Maj. Lionel P. Byrd Sr., '81 Bachelor of Science in business

Thelma Gardner Carpenter, '50 Bachelor of Arts

Martin L. Cunningham, '72 Bachelor of Science in business

Nellie “Louise” Drake, '81 Bachelor of Science

Marylois Moran Dreiling, '40 Bachelor of Arts

Cecil A. Farrand, '49 Bachelor of Science in business

Janette Flippin, '59 Bachelor of Arts

Earl Dean “Skip” Geiger, '80 Bachelor of Science in business

John Woodrow Hamilton, '36 Bachelor of Arts

Donna G. Hasecuster, '54 Bachelor of Arts

Dr. W. Joe Humphrey, Master of Science in business administration and finance

Rev. James P. Imlay, '41 Bachelor of Arts

Sister Francella Kleber, '70 Master of Education

Harold H. Leeper, '56 Juris Doctor

Amesa Lingle, Bachelor of Science in nursing

Robert L. Lippert, '50 Bachelor of Science in business

Edward L. McCraw, '59 Bachelor of Science in business

Mary Hooton Melvin, '52 Bachelor of Arts

Catherine Chenoweth McFeaters, '54 Bachelor of Arts

Delbert H. McGee, '60 Bachelor of Science

Neil Satterfield, '90 Bachelor of Science in business

Charlotte Schwarberg Nichols, '60 Bachelor of Arts

James W. Patterson, '76 Juris Doctor

Reginald L. Proctor, '62 Bachelor of Science

Roy E. Rhodes, '54 Bachelor of Science

Joe L. Roselle, '59 Juris Doctor

John M. Rowntree, '52 Juris Doctor

George Shanbour, '60 Bachelor of Arts

Maxine Stockton Smith, '38 Bachelor of Arts in elementary education

Opal Grace Thompson, '26 Bachelor of Arts in education

Ruby Martin Reynolds Thomas, Bachelor of Arts in elementary education

Flora Pemberton Wagner, Bachelor of Arts in education

James L. Whitaker, '50 Bachelor of Arts

Harold R. Willard, '72 Bachelor of Science in business and '74 Master of Business Administration

Tom B. Wilson, '29 Undeclared graduate