Focus Magazine
Fall 2002

The Answer to Higher Education’s Most Frequently Asked Question

The Scholarship Issue

Abe Lemons

The man who led Oklahoma City University athletics into national prominence and touched our hearts along the way

Oklahoma City University
Trent and Sharon were outstanding students. They are just the kind of student the new Endowed Norick Art Scholarship will support.”
  - Dr. Jack Davis, chairman of the Art Department

Trent Lawson received a freshman academic scholarship, an Art Department scholarship, the Iva B. Kelly Scholarship, the previous Norick Art Scholarship, and the Petree Memorial Scholarship. The new alumnus from Pauls Valley, OK, lives and works in Oklahoma City and is planning to go to graduate school. Sharon McCoy also received a freshman academic scholarship, Art Department scholarship, Iva B. Kelly Scholarship, and Petree Memorial Scholarship, as well as the Hazel and Russell Crooch Scholarship. The new alumna from Owasso, OK, works in Oklahoma City painting murals for Artistic License Design Group. Both received the Graduating Senior Scholastic Art Award.

In this issue of Focus Magazine, we look at scholarships - one of the best donations you can make to any university.

Trent Lawson and Sharon McCoy, both recent alumni (May ‘02 Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art degrees), pose with some of their works in the Norick Art Center. (photograph by Dan Morgan photography)
Focus on scholarships
Each year, Oklahoma City University awards more than $5.4 million in academic merit or performance scholarships.

WOW! What a Summer!
The university celebrates groundbreakings for three major projects totaling over $30 million.

Abe Lemons Remembered
Ambassador, coach, motivator, stalwart supporter of the university’s athletics programs

Commencement Reborn
Spring exercises unveil exciting new look.

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By donating to an endowed scholarship, you leave a legacy that affects the lives of countless future students.

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Check out Oklahoma City University on the internet at www.okcu.edu.

Oklahoma City University provides 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 administration and finance, located in Room 402 of the Clara E. Jones Administration Building, telephone (405) 521-5029, 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.
President’s Message

Now that we have been at Oklahoma City University for over a year, Brenda and I are encouraged by your continuing support, uplifted by the dedication of our great faculty and staff, and inspired by our students. We love the university, its traditions, and its hope for the future - and we are honored to be part of that future.

We are inspired by the people who have done so much for this institution, leaving a legacy of love and support for our students. The Oklahoma City University family honors the memories of Trustee Dr. Clara E. Jones, who died June 27, and OCU Sports Hall of Fame member Abe Lemons, who died September 2. In many ways, these two individuals personified the kind of support of our students featured in this issue of Focus Magazine:

In addition to her other generous donations of money and service to the university, Clara Jones understood the importance of scholarships for Oklahoma City University students, establishing the Clara Jones Scholarship (for United Methodist students attending the university) and the George C. Jones Scholarship (a scholarship for business majors in memory of her husband).

Abe Lemons was a great motivator of students and fellow coaches, and the Abe Lemons Scholarship continues to grow. Donations in his memory can be made to this fund to help our scholar-athletes attend the university.

Uncounted future students will be grateful that scholarships exist bearing the names Jones and Lemons, because they can focus more time on pursuing academic excellence and less time on working their way through college.

Scholarships are one of the main factors students consider in choosing a university. Remember, donations to endowed scholarships have a double impact, because in addition to promoting individual students’ success, they strengthen the long-term financial health of the university. Like most private institutions of our type, every student who comes to Oklahoma City University directly affects our annual budget. Scholarships are one of the main factors students consider in choosing a university.

I hope you will join me in supporting the university's scholarship programs, by asking potential students to check into available scholarships at Oklahoma City University when they are choosing where to study, and by donating generously to our scholarship funds.

Sincerely,

Tom J. McDaniel
President
Wish Upon the Stars

OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY

Homecoming 2003

February 28, March 1 and 2

Makes No Difference Who You Are – Goldbug, Chief or Star

Join us on campus to celebrate Homecoming weekend.

Meet and Greet ★ Annual Athletics Banquet ★ Alumni Reception
Men’s and Women’s Basketball vs. Northwestern Oklahoma State
Lip Sync Contest ★ Discounted tickets to Oklahoma City University Theatre’s production of Friendship Betrayed

More fun activities are being considered. Contact Anna L. Alexander, assistant director of alumni relations, at (405) 521-5117 or annalexander@okcu.edu for more information.
Nationwide, tuition is on the rise, forcing deter college choices for scholarship opportunities. asked by parents and prospective students is:

In April, Molly Roberts, director of student financial services, began assessing how Oklahoma City University offers scholarships, and identifying ways to make the process easier for students and more competitive with other universities. “We expect within a year to be able to extract enough data about our scholarship programs to start using available funding more effectively,” said Roberts.

Through the early 1960s, all scholarships at the university were endowed. “Departmental scholarships, administered by the deans, were introduced as a way to help individual schools on campus with student recruitment,” said Roberts. “Departments now have control over the endowments and gifts that are restricted to their area while the offices of Admissions and Financial Aid administer scholarships based on academic merit or financial need irrespective of a student’s major.”

“When students apply, we evaluate them for every opportunity available at the university, including some limited endowment funding based on financial need,” she said. “We are also implementing a new Oklahoma City University scholarship program for National Merit Scholars that will be competitive with scholarships offered to those students by other universities. This new program will be in place for the 2003-2004 academic year.”

In general, there are three types of scholarships offered by the university. Most are provided typically for eight semesters if a particular GPA is maintained, and require annual reaplication, just like other forms of financial aid (grants, loans, etc.):

1. Admissions The Office of Admissions can provide tuition discounts to promising freshmen or transfer students.
   - Freshmen Students
     - Trustee Award – up to $10,000/yr. (ACT 30, GPA 3.75)
     - Presidential Scholarship – up to $6,000/yr. (ACT 29, GPA 3.75)
     - University Scholarship – up to $5,000/yr. (ACT 27, GPA 3.50)
     - Achievement Scholarship – up to $4,000/yr. (ACT 24, GPA 3.25)
     - Opportunity Awards – up to $3,000/yr. (ACT 22, GPA 3.00)
   - Transfer Students
     - Presidential Scholarship – up to $4,000/yr. (GPA 3.70)
     - University Scholarship – up to $3,000/yr. (GPA 3.40)
     - Achievement Scholarship – up to $2,000/yr. (GPA 3.00)
     - Opportunity Awards – up to $1,000/yr. (GPA 2.50)

2. Departmental The dean of each college and school on campus can award a certain amount of merit-based tuition discounts and endowed scholarships funds;
RENEW THE GREATNESS: A New Great Plan for a New Century

In January, a group of alumni who were Great Plan Scholars in the 1960s and ’70s met at the home of university President and Mrs. Tom J. McDaniel to reminisce about their times at Oklahoma City University.

Led by Dr. George Randall, ’65 Bachelor of Arts in Biology, the group hopes to plan additional reunions and has committed to raising a $2 million endowed fund to revive the Great Plan with scholarships for students of the Petree College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Randall and his wife, Mary Ellen, launched the fundraising effort with a $25,000 gift to the university to establish the Mary Ellen and George R. Randall Great Plan Scholarship Fund. Dr. Randall has also challenged his fellow Great Plan scholars to donate to the fund by agreeing to match any additional gifts for it up to $25,000 in 2003.

“CALLING ALL GREAT PLAN SCHOLARS: Donate now to have your gift matched!”

The Great Plan, an academic alliance between Oklahoma City University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was launched in February 1960 and attracted more than 300 of the state’s and region’s brightest scholars over the next fifteen years. The Great Plan is credited with changing the university from an institution playing the role of a community college to one with regional and national stature.

“I feel a great sense of gratitude to Oklahoma City University and the Great Plan Scholarship program for providing me with a wonderful and free education at a time in my life when I needed a helping hand,” said Randall. “Because of OCU’s reputation, I was able to go on to medical school and have since been blessed with a successful and gratifying practice. I am at a time in my life when I begin to think about giving back in some way to those who have helped me along the way.”

To contribute to the Mary Ellen and George R. Randall Great Plan Scholarship Fund, contact Patrick Alexander, executive director of institutional advancement, at (405) 521-5463 or palexander@okcu.edu.

The Oklahoma College Savings Plan provides another way to save for your children’s future. It offers a choice of investment options and tax advantages. For more information, visit www.ok4saving.org or call 1 (877) 654-7284.
Jayson P. Bell, ‘02 Bachelor of Science in biology, of Midwest City, OK, received the $2,500 Robert L. Jarrell Scholarship-Leadership Award from the Kappa Sigma Endowment Fund.

Leslie Lofgren, ‘02 Bachelor of Arts in mass communications/print media, of Piedmont, OK, received the Bennie and Gertrude Memorial Scholarship for Top College Female from the Oklahoma City Gridiron Foundation. Lofgren was editor of the university’s student newspaper, The Campus, and is the only student to win the top Gridiron scholarship three years in a row, receiving a commendation from Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating for her accomplishment.

Rilla Walker, a PLUS student from Moore, OK, received a $1,000 Jerry and Susan Magill Scholarship for spring 2002.

Some arts and sciences students who received scholarships for the 2002-03 academic year:

- Allison Barta, freshman mathematics major from Mustang, OK - Arts and Sciences, Trustee
- Megan Griffin, freshman political science major from Norman, OK - Arts and Sciences, OCULEADS, Presidential, Soccer
- James Hartsfield, freshman theatre major from Oklahoma City - Arts and Sciences, OCULEADS, Trustee
- Cassandra Ingram, freshman psychology major from Shawnee, OK - Arts and Sciences, University
- Jessica Machamer, freshman general studies major from Norman, OK - Opportunity
- Ashley Mise, freshman biology major from Oklahoma City - Opportunity, OCULEADS
- Jessica Moore, freshman English major from EI Reno, OK - Arts and Sciences, University
- Candace Phillips, sociology major from Oklahoma City - Transfer University
- Karl Pulliam, freshman philosophy major from Springer, OK - Achievement, Arts and Sciences
- Holly Ray, freshman biology major from Mustang, OK - Achievement
- Ashleigh Rowsam, freshman physical therapy major from Oklahoma City - Opportunity
- Leah Sullivan, freshman from Oklahoma City - Opportunity

MEINDERS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

The Meinders School of Business has over thirty named scholarships. Last year, its endowment and gift funds increased by more than a third, including eight new graduate assistantships for this academic year.

At the Meinders School of Business, a committee of administrators and faculty members meets monthly to determine student awards. A typical gift scholarship covers up to one-third of tuition.

In spring 2002, the Meinders School of Business joined the United Methodist College Washington Consortium, which consortium provides college credit and internships in Washington D.C. This fall, senior finance major Brian Phillips and senior economics major Cindi Fleshman were selected to participate based on their interest, leadership, and scholarship. Thanks to the generous Parman Gift Scholarship, these two deserving students are studying and working in Washington D.C.

In August, the first accounting student received the new Walter Stiller Accounting Scholarship - Preston Venable of Edmond, OK. He is pursuing a Master of Science in accounting.

Each semester, university trustee Dr. Herman Meinders gives scholarships to several students. Business students seeking the Meinders Scholarship have to write an essay to submit with their applications.

Some business students who received scholarships for the 2002-03 academic year:

- Eric Broberg, freshman accounting major from Richardson, TX - Achievement, Departmental, OCULEADS
- Kara Price, freshman business administration major from Burns Flat, OK - Achievement, Business
- John Zimmerman, freshman finance major from Oklahoma City - Achievement, OCULEADS

SCHOOL OF AMERICAN DANCE AND ARTS MANAGEMENT

Although Dance Tuition Scholarships are its most common dance and dance management scholarships, the School of American Dance and Arts Management also offers two unusual ones: Dean John Bedford and The American Spirit Dance Company established the Peg
Leg Bates Endowed American Dance Scholarship in 1999, with significant additional contributions by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Singer. Bates, who had only one leg, became a world-famous dancer and entertainer. The scholarship is awarded to dance students whose courage and commitment have overcome a significant obstacle in their pursuit of a professional dance career.

Last year, the first award went to Christina Marshall, dance performance major from St. John, New Brunswick, Canada. “Christina has utilized every resource possible to attend the university and remain in the dance program,” said Bedford. “She traveled 4,400 miles round-trip by bus to audition for admission. She works multiple jobs in the summer only to see her savings cut nearly in half by the exchange rate when she re-enters the United States. Lesser students would have capitulated to such obstacles.”

In February, when the university conferred doctorates on nine of the nation’s most influential dancers, Marshall met Melodye Bates Holden, Peg Leg Bates’s daughter. Justin E. and Marguerite Vogt established the Justin E. and Marguerite Vogt Scholarship in 1998 for students who demonstrate exceptional promise for successful careers in dance and musical theatre. One recipient, Brad Barnes, ’99 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, was cast as Tumblebrutus in the national tour of Cats.

SCHOOL OF LAW

Law scholarships are offered to both entering new students and exceptional continuing students:

New students may qualify for Merit Scholarships for up to nearly full tuition. Students who did not receive Merit Scholarships as first-year students may apply for them at the end of their first and second years if they have attained superior academic ranks.

Hatton W. Sumners Foundation Scholarships cover full tuition throughout students’ legal education at the School of Law, an annual book allowance, and a living expense stipend. Our law school is one of only two in the country participating in this prestigious scholarship program, funded by the Hatton W. Sumners Foundation of Dallas, TX.

The 2002 recipients are: Oklahoma City University graduate Ashley Bowen, ’02 Bachelor of Science in business, from Idabel, OK; University of Oklahoma graduate Jon Echols from Norman, OK; Langston University graduate Tynan Grayson from Oklahoma City; University of Central Oklahoma graduate Scott Markowitz from Middleburg, FL; and Texas Tech graduate Amanda Beekman from San Angelo, TX.

Hatton Sumners Scholars are typically sought by the most selective employers.

Dean’s Circle Scholarships assist new students with excellent admission credentials. Funded by gifts from alumni and friends of the school, they cover about one-quarter tuition and recipients who rank in the top half of their classes may renew annually. R. Thomas and Mary Beadles established the Friedman-Lerblanc Endowed Law School Scholarship in August 2001 in memory of professors Ron Friedman and Penn Lerblanc. The annual $1,500 scholarship is awarded to an entering first-year student who has demonstrated financial need and does not already have full Merit or Hatton Sumners scholarship aid, but whose undergraduate GPA and LSAT scores put them roughly in the upper third academically of the school’s newly admitted students. Recipients in good standing may renew annually.

The Lloyd H. Henry Endowed Law School Scholarship was established with a gift from the Sarkeys Foundation in December 1999 in honor of Lloyd H. Henry, father of former School of Law dean, Hon. Robert H. Henry. Annual awards of no less than $4,000 go to students who have completed the first year of law school, do not
already have full merit or Hatton Sumners scholarship aid, hold outside employment, have a demonstrated need for financial assistance, and have demonstrated qualities of leadership, civility, integrity, professionalism and an exemplary interest in ethics and the law.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Each academic program at the university offers scholarships based on merit and the essay portion of the application for admission. The School of Music’s scholarships are also based on the audition required for admission to its programs.

Some examples of new music students on scholarship for the 2002-03 academic year:
- Evan Cook, freshman vocal performance
- Heather Cobb, freshman instrumental

SCHOOL OF NURSING

For the last twenty years, St. Anthony Hospital School of Nursing has offered scholarships to students. Sister Higgs had a long history with the St. Anthony Hospital School of Nursing diploma program, and was instrumental in establishing Oklahoma City University’s St. Anthony School of Nursing, which became the Kramer School of Nursing in 1981. The $1,000 scholarship is given to a sophomore and junior annually.

Examples of new nursing students on scholarship for the 2002-03 academic year:
- Jane Mwangi, ’02 Bachelor of Science in nursing cum laude, from Nairobi, Kenya, received it for the past two years.
- Jessica McClelland, a nursing major from Shawnee, OK, also received it last year.

WIMBERLY SCHOOL OF RELIGION

The Office of University-Church Relations manages scholarships for the Wimberly School of Religion and Graduate Theological Center. The school interviews prospective recipients of the Bishop Scholarship, a full tuition scholarship for exceptional religion majors. This year’s freshman recipients are
- Melissa Martin, of Enid, OK, from Yukon, OK – Transfer
- Miriam Mosburg, of Oklahoma City – Music, Transfer
- Kendall Weimer, of Fort Morgan, CO, from Weatherford, OK, and

KRAMER SCHOOL OF NURSING

The newly created Verde Dickey Memorial Scholarship awards $7,500 to United Methodist students through the United Methodist Foundation.

Students may be eligible for scholarships based on their membership in the United Methodist Church. Also available are Methodist Minister Dependent Scholarships and scholarships for students who plan to enter the ministry.

The Meinders Foundation has also given the Office of the Dean scholarships to a senior nursing student at the school: $4,000 awarded through an application and interview process.

For several years, the Presbyterian Endowment has offered scholarships to a senior nursing student at the school: $4,000 awarded through an application and interview process.

The Presbyterian Health Foundation has offered scholarships to students who plan to enter nursing, of Oklahoma City, received it for the past two years.

Examples of new nursing students on scholarship for the 2002-03 academic year:
- Flavia Howard, nursing student from Weatherford, OK – Transfer
- Emily Vestal, freshman nursing major from Yukon, OK – Opportunity
Examples of new religion students on scholarship for the 2002-03 academic year:

Todd Jones, freshman youth ministry major from Duncan, OK - Opportunity
Aaron Tiger, freshman religion major from Owasso, OK - OCULEADS, Religion, Trustee

LEAVE A LASTING IMPRESSION

One of the most important ways to support students at Oklahoma City University is through contributions to scholarship endowments. There are over 500 scholarships available through the university, many of which may be enhanced through donations. To learn more about specific scholarships funds seeking donations, contact Sue Hollenbeck, director of stewardship, at (405) 521-5873 or shollenbeck@okcu.edu.

A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUNG LEADERS

OCULEADS Scholarships are a one-year only $1,500 award for honor students who have demonstrated leadership ability in high school and are expected to show leadership on campus. Freshmen in the program meet weekly with community leaders, who share what leadership means to them.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS PRODUCE LOCAL SUPPORT

Lacey Clabaugh, a graduate of Tonkawa High School in Tonkawa, OK, will receive $7,500 in scholarships from the university starting this fall (Arts and Sciences and University scholarships). Clabaugh was all-state in softball and basketball in the Native-American Athletic Association. “Lacey is an exceptional student and athlete, and will be a great asset to Oklahoma City University,” said Joseph Brining, ’64 Bachelor of Science in business. Brining and fellow alumnus Loren Laverne Laws, ’52 Bachelor of Arts, are both from Tonkawa and also graduated from Clabaugh’s high school. Learning of her scholarships, they donated another $1,000 to her education and plan to start a scholarship awareness program in Tonkawa.
DR. LLOYD K. MUSSELMAN  
Darbeth-Whitten Professor of History

“I am a teacher, professor, and colleague.

I have chosen to spend some thirty-four years of my life here at this complex, yet personal university. I have worked extremely hard over these three decades to be worthy of this place. Still, not once have I left home in the morning thinking that I am going to work. Always I am going to school. This has never been a job. I have never considered myself an employee. I know who I am and what I am about. I am a teacher, professor, and colleague. And knowing that has made all the difference.”  Lloyd Musselman

Dr. Musselman joined the Oklahoma City University faculty in 1969. In 2001, he led the university’s successful re-certification effort, facilitating the report to the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. This year, university President Tom J. McDaniel appointed Musselman as faculty athletics representative, ensuring that our Stars athletes are eligible to play.

“As a teacher of American History, I try to engage the students’ minds with two things: the ‘what’ and the ‘so what’ of our history. The ‘what’ concerns what happened and why. It involves the describing of past events, issues, and the like. The second thing we do is examine the ‘so what’ of these same events and issues. Why should we be looking at this or that? Why is it important? What consequences have stemmed from what happened in the past? The ‘so what’ forces students to be analytical, to do more than just memorize and regurgitate. They must become critical thinkers – and writers. That’s what I do to them – and for them. And in the process quite a few of them become pretty darned good ponderers of their nation’s history.”

Dr. Musselman encourages students like Matt Mullican (pictured) to think about history rather than “memorize and regurgitate.”

Education

1977 National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar, University of Kansas
1969 Doctorate, Denver University
1961 Master of Arts in American history, Denver University
1960 Bachelor of Arts in history-education, Western Maryland College

Awards

2002 Oklahoma City University Exemplary Teacher Award
1990 Sears Roebuck Foundation Teaching Excellence Award
1978 John Frederick Olson Memorial Lectureship
1972 Outstanding Educators of America
1972 Outstanding Young Men of America

Focus Fall 2002
University Celebrates Three Groundbreakings in Three Months

2002 has been a banner year for bricks and mortar contributions to Oklahoma City University. The university broke ground on an expansion to the Norick Art Center in July, a new building for the Meinders School of Business in August, and the Wanda L. Bass Music Center in September, representing a combined total of over $25 million in gifts.

“As the Oklahoma City University architect, we focus on everything to create places that are inspiring and functional while solving developmental and environmental problems. With each OCU design, we are trying to create a distinctive sense of place and identity, one complete architectural thought. Oklahoma City University always puts the needs of its students first and foremost, which is reflected in its commitment to quality represented by its three recent groundbreakings. Beck Associates Architects is honored to be a part of Oklahoma City University’s commitment to and investment in quality education.”

Don Beck, Beck Associates Architects
Norick Art Center Expansion

On July 23, the university broke ground for a 6,952-square-foot expansion of the Norick Art Center, a project funded by half of a $2 million joint gift from Marjorie J. Norick and her sister, the late Frances Norick Lilly.

The expanded center will include four times the graphic design space, double the ceramics studio space, a new sculpture studio, a multipurpose room, a computer technology center, an art storage vault, eight private studios for advanced art students, a new photography studio, and a ten-station black and white photography darkroom. The planned completion date is fall 2003. Funds not used for construction will establish an endowed fund for building maintenance.

This fall, the Art Department expanded its degree tracks, adding a sixty-credit Bachelor of Fine Arts in photography to the existing B.F.A. degrees in graphic design and studio art and the Bachelor of Arts in studio art.

As part of the groundbreaking celebration, the Art Department presented an alumni art exhibition in the Nona Jean Hulsey Gallery featuring the works of Elizabeth McDonald Hahn, ’77 Bachelor of Arts in art, Oklahoma State Senator Kelly Haney (whose seventeen-foot bronze sculpture, “The Guardian,” crowns the State Capitol Building’s new dome), ’65 Bachelor of Arts in art and ’93 honorary Doctor of Law Letters, Louise J ones, Stephen L. Mauldin, ’74 Bachelor of Arts in art, J ames Meeks, ’90 Master of Liberal Arts, and Bert Seabourn, ’63 undeclared and ’97 honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

The other half of the $2 million gift established an endowed scholarship fund. Starting with the 2003-04 academic year, scholarships will be awarded to the university’s art students based on talent and financial need.

In June, Madalynne Norick joined five other artists in presenting “For the Love of Art,” an exhibition in the Nona Jean Hulsey Gallery. One-third of the proceeds from artwork sold went to help the university’s art students purchase supplies.

“Since the Norick Art Center was completed in 1985, it has had a monumental impact on the university and students pursuing careers in art. We welcome the opportunity to expand the facility and the program through the generosity of the Norick family.”

University President Tom J. McDaniel

“There is really no way to express how much we appreciate what the Noricks have done. They’ve been so generous, and have backed us in every possible way.”

Dr. Jack Davis
Chairman, Art Department

From top:

Petree College of Arts and Sciences Dean Dr. Roberta Olson shared the history of the Art Department and the facility to be expanded.

University Trustee and former Oklahoma City Mayor Ronald J. Norick spoke of his family’s commitment to the university.

(L-R) University Trustee Ron Norick, Jim Norick, Madalynne Norick, Kandy Norick, President Tom J. McDaniel, Board of Trustees Chairman William F. Shceed J.r., Vicki Norick, Roberta Olson, Wilbur Patton, Dorothy Norick Patton, Art Department Chairman Jack Davis, Student Senate President Mandy Heaps, and First Lady Brenda McDaniel.
Meinders School of Business building

On August 20, over 200 people, including Lt. Governor Mary Fallin and former Oklahoma City University presidents Dr. Jerald Walker and Dr. Willis Wheat, turned out for the groundbreaking for the 80,000-square-foot Meinders School of Business building. The new building will serve as a learning and technology hub for the school, housing both its traditional undergraduate and graduate programs and its trend-setting accelerated M.B.A. and new global executive M.B.A. programs. A virtual business incubator will provide on-campus internships.

“The single most important activity of the Meinders School of Business is fostering and assuring student success,” said Meinders School of Business Dean Bart Ward. “To function at the highest level at which we’re capable, we needed capacities only our new building can provide.”

In addition to classroom and office space, the new three-story facility will include a 2,500-square-foot auditorium capable of hosting business conferences, a computer lab, a student/faculty lounge to facilitate collaboration and mentoring, and breakout rooms for small-group meetings. Business students will have access to an onsite learning center where they can videotape then review mock interviews and presentations, as well as a career center where they will be able to take online self-assessment tests and get career planning help.

The new building will also greatly facilitate the business school’s globalization initiative. State-of-the-art technology, including internet access and video conferencing facilities will bring together students from around the world in “virtual” classroom environments, providing truly global business education. The Meinders School of Business is a pioneer in global business education, graduating hundreds of business executives from its International Executive M.B.A. programs in Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the People’s Republic of China, Singapore, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom. The People’s Republic of China’s central government has named our program in Tianjin, China, that nation’s best joint M.B.A. program.

The $15 million gift from Herman and LaDonna Meinders, the largest in the history of Oklahoma City University, underscores their commitment to the institution. Herman Meinders, ‘89 honorary Doctor of Commercial Science, serves on the university’s Board of Trustees. LaDonna Meinders, ‘58 Bachelor of Music, ‘86 Master of Business Administration, and ‘96 honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, is active in the Societies of Oklahoma City University, and was honored with the Kirkpatrick-Petree Opera and Music Theatre Award at the 1995 Societies Mardi Gras Ball.

"In the last ten years, Oklahoma City University's Meinders School of Business has produced over 6,500 MBA graduates. That kind of success can only be achieved through the support of individuals like Herman Meinders." President Tom J. McDaniel

From top:

Lt. Governor Mary Fallin

Dr. Kevin Simmons spoke on behalf of the Meinders School of Business faculty.

Former university President and First Lady Dr. Jerald and Virginia Walker with Dr. Herman Meinders

A capacity crowd turned out for the groundbreaking.
More than 300 people joined over 250 School of Music students in a gala celebration to break ground for the Wanda L. Bass Music Center on September 28. Notable alumni attended the festivities, including opera star Leona Mitchell, ’71 Bachelor of Music and ’79 Master of Music, and Jane Jayroe Gamble, ’69 Bachelor of Music, Oklahoma’s director of tourism, former Miss America, and university trustee.

University President Tom J. McDaniel presided over a ceremony with speakers that included Board of Trustees Chairman William F. Shdeed Jr., former Oklahoma Governor George Nigh, Student Senate President Amanda Heaps, Steven Hughes (music education senior), instructor Florence Birdwell, and School of Music Dean Mark Parker. Erik Lindbergh, grandson of famed aviator Charles Lindbergh, was the guest speaker for the ceremony, held 75 years to the day after Charles Lindbergh presided over groundbreaking for the original School of Music Building in 1927.

An unprecedented combined chorus and orchestra of the entire School of Music student body performed the national anthem; a special piece to honor Dr. Bass, Make Our Garden Grow, from Leonard Bernstein’s Candide; and the state song, Oklahoma! Dr. Bass is a banker in her hometown of McAlester, OK, a philanthropist who supports cultural and educational causes statewide, and a trustee of the university. She gave $8 million toward the building that will bear her name and is the most generous benefactor in the history of the School of Music. Earlier this year, she gave the school 105 Steinway pianos, worth $2.1 million. The purchase established the school as an all-Steinway institution and made national news as the largest single order in the 149-year history of Steinway & Sons. She also donated $400,000 to create an endowment for the maintenance of the pianos.

“This is a place for dreamers, for people who want to make a difference. It is a place my grandfather would have appreciated: a place where hard work and good training makes dreams come true.”

Erik Lindbergh

Clockwise, from top:
Benfactor Dr. Wanda L. Bass and grandson, Noah
Entrance to the Bass Center will be through a three-story glass atrium, which will feature performance and reception areas. Plans call for high-tech music labs for composition and sound recording; forty-one teaching studios; sixty practice rooms; and seven rehearsal spaces for ensembles.

During the ceremony, Erik Lindbergh (right) presided over the opening of a time capsule taken from the cornerstone of the original School of Music building. Its contents included a piece of preserved sod with a note reading: “This is the soil that was turned by Col. Charles A. Lindbergh, noted aeronaut; Sept. 28, 1927.”

Over 250 School of Music students performed at the groundbreaking.

Shortly before the day of the groundbreaking, the School of Music received a call from Lloyd Ferris of Guthrie, OK, who had read in the Daily Oklahoman about plans for the event. It seems he had a shovel bearing the inscription, “Lindbergh breaks ground for Fine Arts Building. September 28, 1927.” Ferris could not attend the event, but donated the shovel to the school; it played a prominent role in September’s event.

Charles A. Lindbergh breaking ground for the original School of Music building in 1927.
Is your career in gear?

Want to find a position with potential?

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“If one has been blessed with wealth, responsibility comes with it to do something for one’s family and for society.”
– Dr. Ann Lacy
“Basketball has been good to me. It took me all over the country. It took me to Alaska and they made me an honorary Alaskan. It took me to Hawaii and they made me an honorary Hawaiian. Then it took me to the Virgin Islands ...”

— Abe Lemons addressing the crowd at his induction into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame

Abe Lemons remembered
Funeral services for Abe Lemons were held September 5 at Mayfair Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. University President Tom J. McDaniel ordered the flag on campus lowered to half-mast. People came from out of state to attend, including national sports figures like Johnny Bench. Newspapers ran full-page spreads. The story made front page news overseas. Clearly, someone remarkable had been among us.

Abe Lemons came to Oklahoma City University as a student in 1947 after serving in World War II and then spending a season at Midwestern State in Wichita Falls, TX. He was a standout player for the Chiefs (now the Stars) and, when he graduated in 1950, basketball coach Doyle Parrack asked Lemons to join his staff as an assistant coach. When Parrack took a coaching job at the University of Oklahoma in 1955, Lemons became head coach.

Over the next thirteen years, Oklahoma City University’s men’s basketball team had five 20-win seasons, produced six All-American players, and played in eight post-season tournaments. Overall, Lemons had a 599-343 record in twenty-five seasons at Oklahoma City University (1956-73 and 1983-90), three years at Pan-America (1973-76), and six at the University of Texas (1976-82). University Trustee J.R. Homsey asked Lemons if he wouldn’t like to come back and coach one more game so he could have a 600-win record. “No,” said Lemons. “I’m happy with 599 wins. I get a lot more sympathy that way.”

In 1978, Lemons was named National Coach of the Year. In 1990, he was inducted into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame.

“Abe was way ahead of his time,” said Richard Travis, ’69 Bachelor of Arts (NCAA All-American his junior and senior years). “We spent an inordinate amount of time working on defense – and its lots more fun to play offense. He told us, ‘Those who perform best and try hardest get the largest share of minutes to play.’ He taught us that, in life, opportunity comes to those with skill and tenacity.”

“I was the first black athlete to come to OCU,” said Eddie Jackson, ’65 Bachelor of Arts. “It was a racially charged time, but Abe Lemons recruited me from OU. Abe kept files on all of us players, and used to tell us he spent a minimum of fifteen minutes a day thinking about each specific player, and I believe it. If you had problems, he’d say, ‘You’d better straighten out. I had to spend a whole hour thinking about you today.’ That personal attention paid off. A lot of his players have really made a name for themselves since college. He used to say, ‘My teams had the tallest bankers, the tallest judges, and the tallest lawyers anywhere.’”

“People remember Abe for his funny stories and quips,” said Bud Sahmaunt, former university basketball player and former athletics director. “But he did so much for people by just being supportive and giving good advice. He was personally interested in what people did with their lives. The first thing he would ask student workers at the Athletics Department when he came to visit was, ‘How are you doing in school?’ He told them to look to their futures, to being contributing members of society.”

Lemons was past president of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, and was a member of the Oklahoma City University Sports Hall of Fame. When the Henry J. Freede Wellness and Activity Center was dedicated in 2000, its sports arena was named the Abe Lemons Arena.

“He struggled for years against Parkinsons disease,” said Homsey, telling a story to illustrate how Lemons looked at life: “Some friends and I were eating lunch with him at Bubba’s Bar-B-Q, and Abe’s hands were shaking so hard he could barely get a rib to his mouth. I told him I was sorry for him, that it must be so frustrating, and he answered, ‘If it wasn’t for Parkinsons, I’d never get any exercise at all.’ That was Abe Lemons.”

An alumni basketball event to honor Abe Lemons’s life is being planned for early in 2003. For more information, call university Athletics Director Jim Abbott at (405) 521-5301.
May Commencement Rolls Out New Style

As part of the ongoing work to energize student life, the university’s commencement exercises were evaluated and reworked with universally popular results. On May 11, President Tom J. McDaniel presided over revamped undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremonies at the Henry J. Freede Wellness and Activity Center.

The Undergraduate Commencement speaker was Oklahoma Fourth Congressional District Representative J.C. Watts Jr. As a congressman, Watts was a popular speaker for the Republican Party and was elected chair of the House Republican Conference, the fourth highest position in the House of Representatives.

The Graduate Commencement speaker was Mike McKay, deputy director of AmeriCorps, who asked the graduates of 2002 to “answer the call to serve.” McKay, who has held senior executive positions with several nonprofit organizations, reflected on his own graduate career and Oklahoma’s response to the September 11 tragedy. Of community service, McKay told graduates: “It is our call; it is our responsibility; it is our privilege.” To read the full text of McKay’s address, visit the alumni page at www.okcu.edu.

On May 12, the School of Law held its commencement exercises. The speaker was Judge N. Sanders Sauls, who played a key role in the dispute over Florida’s 2000 Presidential election ballot results.
**Stellar Students**

In June, Brent A. Berger, a senior biology major from Fayetteville, AR, won the third place Frank G. Brooks Award for Excellence in Student Research at the national convention of the TriBeta National Biological Honor Society held in San Antonio, TX. Berger’s paper, “Genetic, Morphological, and Allozyme Analysis of Maples in Oklahoma and Arkansas,” was judged by a panel of professional scientists for: originality, organization, background knowledge, and clarity of presentation. Fifty students competed from colleges and universities across the nation. Founded in 1922 at Oklahoma City University by Dr. Frank G. Brooks and a group of his students, TriBeta is a society for students dedicated to improving the understanding and appreciation of biological study and extending the boundaries of human knowledge through scientific research. Since its founding, more than 430 chapters have been established throughout the US and Puerto Rico.

April Carnes, political science major from Oklahoma City, worked for Senator Don Nickles this summer as a paid intern at the US Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Nicole Emmons, a graduate student in the Master of Liberal Arts writing program from Edmond, OK, edits the English Department’s newsletter and received an internship at Oklahoma Today.

On September 10, Student Senate President Mandy Heaps and International Student Association President Ali Sameer Bulchari led students in a memorial ceremony before the C.Q. Smith Student-Faculty Center, hanging the word “peace” in a variety of languages on a tree planted by the two organizations.

Associate professor Dr. Richard Johnson, chairman of the Political Science Department, sponsors the university’s team at the Oklahoma Intercolligate Legislature (OIL). The group holds weekly meetings to hone skills in writing legislation and parliamentary procedure. Each fall, the university offers a three-hour OIL course. Each semester, students from universities statewide compete at the Oklahoma State Capitol in a five-day conference, using the actual chambers and committee rooms. Visit the web site at www.okoil.org. The organization is run by students and open to undergraduate, graduate, and law students. Oklahoma City University’s teams have placed or won in the last ten sessions, including back-to-back wins in fall and spring of the 1999-2000 academic year (winning by one of the largest margins ever recorded). In spring 2002, our team was first runner-up in the categories of Best Delegation and Best House Delegation, and second runner-up in Best Senate Delegation. Officers were: music major Priscilla Cobletonz, from Chouteau, OK (chair), advertising major Keili Hicks, from Oklahoma City (vice chair), and advertising major Arthur Loewenkamp, from Weatherford, OK (secretary). Newly elected OIL officers are: advertising major Sarah Migliaccio, from Oklahoma City (chair), economics major Cindi Fleshman, from Elk City, OK (vice chair), and entertainment business major Michael Trepagnier, from Piedmont, OK (secretary).

Prestina Thompson, biochemistry major from Oklahoma City, worked a summer internship at the OU Health Sciences Center.

**Fabulous Faculty**

Members of a high-level delegation from three Nigerian states visited campus for a two-and-a-half week media- tion workshop at the School of Law, made possible by a grant from the US State Department secured by Professor Phyllis Bernard, director of the school’s Center on Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Biology professor Dr. Terry Conley’s proposal to the National Science Foundation’s 2010 Project, “Functional Genomics of Alpha-Helical Scaffold Proteins in Arabidopsis thaliana,” was accepted. The funding supports supplies and materials, summer undergraduate
Dr. Mark Y. Davies is serving as interim dean of the Wimberly School of Religion and Graduate Theological Center. Davies is an ordained United Methodist minister and chairs the university’s service learning program.

On August 27, Dr. Antone Godding, professor of music and university organist, presented a public demonstration of the recently-renovated Holtkamp pipe organ in the Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel. The organ has undergone extensive reconstruction and the addition of a festival trumpet—a set of pipes on high wind pressure placed horizontally near the top of the instrument’s façade.

School of Law Professor Alvin C. Harrell was elected to membership in the American Law Institute at that organization’s annual meeting held in Washington, D.C., in May.

English Department Professor Marsha Keller presented a paper to the International Society for the History of Rhetoric in Warsaw, Poland, in July. Keller, who edited the university’s self-study report to the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, serves as president of the local chapter of the Coalition of Women Scholars in the History of Rhetoric.

School of Music professor Vicky Kelly usually travels to Italy in the summers to hone her Italian diction. This year, she took classes at the Università per Stranieri (University for Foreigners) in Perugia, Umbria (an Italian state). She took four classes taught in Italian (twenty-seven hours a week) and lived in a “collegio” or “convitto” run by the Sisters of Providence and Immaculate Conception. “The nuns do not speak English and it is so much fun to be forced to learn more Italian,” said Kelly.

Professor Salwa Khoddam’s poem, A Knight’s Tale, appeared in the July-August issue of Oklahoma Today magazine. Khoddam also traveled to Oxford, UK, this summer to present a paper, “Francis Bacon and C.S. Lewis: Poetics of Nature vs. Poetics of Grace,” at the C.S. Lewis Summer Institute, the fifth international conference sponsored by the C.S. Lewis Foundation in Redlands, CA.

In April, the School of Music’s Dr. Edward Knight, university composer-in-residence and associate professor, was named by the Oklahoma Federation of Music Clubs as its Musician of the Year. He was the keynote speaker at the awards luncheon during the Federation’s annual convention in Stillwater, OK. Knight has a background in jazz, classical, and theatrical composition; since his arrival at the university in 1997, composition has become the fastest-growing major in the School of Music with more than twenty students from three continents, and a hundred percent success rate in graduate school placement. Knight was also awarded a 2002 fellowship to Yaddo Arts Colony in Saratoga Springs, NY, his second year to receive the fellowship.

Dance Department Chair Jo Rowan did such a great job as 2002 National Dance Week Education spokesperson, she has been selected again as 2003’s spokesperson, making her the only person in its history to be asked to serve twice. On October 2, Governor Frank Keating appointed Dr. Sherry Sexton to serve as a member of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. Sexton, professor and director of teacher education at Oklahoma City University, will serve until Aug. 1, 2005, to represent private teacher education institutions in the state.

In June, Dr. Harbour Winn helped lead a travel course to New Zealand that included extensive exploration of the Maori culture. This summer, Dr. Lois Kruschwitz, who has led field biology and natural history courses since 1980, conducted ecological and natural history tours of the island of Hawaii and Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.

Program Excellence

Five mass communications students were recognized at the 2002 Oklahoma Broadcast Education Association scholarships competition. Joy Groth, broadcasting major from Choctaw, OK, and Jennifer Pham, print media major from Oklahoma City, won two of six $1,000 scholarships awarded. Pham and Lazlo Raftovski, broadcasting major from Macedonia, placed first in the TV Scriptwriting competition. Pham also placed third in the TV Sports Coverage competition. Shadik Ahmad, broadcasting major from Singapore, took second place in the TV Entertainment category. Matt Patman, broadcasting major from Oklahoma City, won second place in
both the TV Music Video and TV Feature News Story competitions.

In April, the redesigned Oklahoma City University School of Law web site went live. You can access it at the same URL as before: www.okcu.edu/law/.

In June, a School of Law externship program conducted in association with the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma was designated a “Promising New Practice” at the Women are Sacred national conference hosted by Mending the Sacred Hoop S.T.O.P. Violence Against Indian Women Technical Assistance Program.

On April 30, more than 1,000 public school students visited campus for three free concerts by the Oklahoma City University Wind Philharmonic titled, “Past Masters for Future Musicians.” After the early concerts, members of the Wind Philharmonic were stationed about the recital hall and lobby for an “instrumental petting zoo,” at which visiting students were encouraged to examine and play instruments ranging from flute to tuba. “We played to fifth graders, who must decide whether or not to start an instrument in the sixth grade,” said Dr. Matthew Mailman, director of bands.

Meet the new Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Bernie L. Patterson became vice president for academic affairs August 1. “The position of vice president for academic affairs is a critical link between the faculty and the administration,” said President Tom J. McDaniel. “We believe Bernie Patterson will be a great member of our team as we prepare the university for its second century.”

Patterson came to Oklahoma City University from the College of Arts and Sciences at Georgia College and State University, where he had been dean since 1994. Previously, he was assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Valdosta State University, where he began his career in higher education as an instructor in 1977.

Patterson holds a doctorate and a Master of Arts in criminology from State University of New York at Albany, an Education Specialist degree and a Master of Science from Central Missouri State University, and a Bachelor of Science in technology from Missouri Western State College.

In 2001, Patterson co-directed two national seminars for academic department chairs. He is a graduate of the Institute for Educational Management class at Harvard University and a Wye Faculty Fellowship at the Aspen Institute, and took a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship tour to Tanzania, Africa. He has led or participated in state-level international delegations to numerous foreign nations. In 2000, he received the Powell-Whipple Collaboration Award for his work partnering the GC&SU College of Arts and Sciences, School of Education and the P-12 public school system to improve the preparation of teachers.

Patterson has a wife, Annette, who has worked in banking for the past twenty-seven years, and a teenaged daughter, Susan.

Dr. Bart Ward, dean of the Meinders School of Business, served as interim vice president for academic affairs from 2000 to 2002.

Hoover Appointed to Kennedy Center Committee

In May, President George W. Bush appointed School of Music Executive Board Chair Ann Hoover to the President’s Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the nation’s busiest arts facility. The committee makes recommendations to the Kennedy Center’s Board of Trustees regarding cultural activities at the center. Committee members assist in the center’s fundraising efforts and act as liaisons to performance groups and performing arts centers throughout the nation. “I’m honored to be appointed and delighted to represent Oklahoma City University and the state of Oklahoma on this national arts committee,” said Hoover.
This summer, the Office of University-Church Relations and the Meinders School of Business presented “The Nuts and Bolts of Guiding a Church,” a comprehensive program designed for ministers, church business officials, and lay committee chairs.

In May, Oklahoma City University announced it was invited to become the first American university to establish a campus in the People’s Republic of China, as part of the Oriental City of Universities, a consortium of universities north of Beijing. The Meinders School of Business’ degree program in Tianjin, China, which has operated through a local Chinese university since 1986, is the top-rated foreign Master of Business Administration program in that country.

In April, School of Law students received the Best Petitioner’s Brief recognition for preparing the winning legal brief in the regional round of the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition held in Dallas, TX. Cynthia D’Antonio, of Ft. Worth, TX, and Isaih Owens, of Marion, SC, prepared the brief. Other team members were Rodney Caffey, of Alton, IL, and Dramon Foster, of St. Louis, MO.

During the 2001-02 academic year, the university’s Student Senate awarded the Psychology Department $3,000 to fund trips to conventions and enhance and maintain department computers. In March, psychology majors Lynette Berg, of San Antonio, TX, and Blake Hodges, ‘02 Bachelor of Science, of Tulsa, OK, won first place in their paper session at the Great Plains Student Psychology Conference.

The university’s student newspaper, The Campus, won the first place Award of Excellence in the overall newspaper category at the 2002 Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association’s annual conference and award ceremony. Leslie Lofgren, ’02 Bachelor of Arts in mass communications/print media, from Piedmont, OK, who was editor last academic year, won first place for editorial writing; Chris Sloan, law student from Muncie, IN, won second place for investigative reporting; and Sarah Dahnke, dance major from Bartlesville, OK, won third place for column writing.

One of two university teams at the 2002 Oklahoma Area Computer Programming Contest placed second in the overall competition. The winning team, which attended with Dr. John Goulden,
The Oklahoma City-based Journal Record's Woman of the Year 2002 edition, “50 Making a Difference,” included—among women who have made a significant difference during the year—nine with connections to Oklahoma City University. They are:

Dr. Wanda L. Bass, ’02 honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, new university trustee, and School of Music benefactor making construction of the Wanda L. Bass Music Center possible. In 2001 Bass received the Distinguished Philanthropist Award from the Societies of Oklahoma City University. Bass is dedicated to improving the community and education.

Gwendolyn L. Brown, ’90 Bachelor of Science, founded M&M Document Systems, which has won many prestigious awards, including Xerox’s Partnership and Alliance Award.

Shannon F. Davies, ’89 Juris Doctor, worked at several law firms before establishing her own. She and her husband have launched a human resources consulting firm called Bastion HR Advisors.

Jacqueline R. Fiegel, ’76 Bachelor of Science in psychology, is director, executive vice president, and chief operating officer of Americrest Bank.

Mary R. Grace, ’77 Bachelor of Arts in English, achieved her goal of opening her own real estate firm last year. She has been involved with many civic and nonprofit organizations, including The Salvation Army, Christmas in April*OKC, Junior League of Oklahoma City, and Friends of the Library.

Brenda McDaniel, during her first year as Oklahoma City University’s first lady, funded the OCU Chats program, took a leadership role in the annual Light the Campus event, and was a tireless advocate for the university.

Shannon L. Nance, ’97 Bachelor of Arts, got a degree through the university’s PL+US program. She is the director of sales and marketing and executive vice president for the Renaissance Hotel and Cox Business Services Center; however, she feels her most significant achievement was returning to school at age twenty-five to complete her degree at Oklahoma City University.


Kari Ferguson Watkins, ’96 Master of Business Administration, is the director of the Oklahoma City National Memorial and serves on the board of the Oklahoma Museums Association.

The Education Department reports 100% of its teacher education students passed the February 2002 Oklahoma State Teacher Certification Exams.

The Biology Department received a $25,000 equipment grant from the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation to purchase of a -80 degree freezer and repair ventilation problems in the Dawson-Loeffler Science and Mathematics Building.

In April, Harrison Levy became chair of the President’s Partners (formerly President’s Club), a group of over 350 loyal university supporters, including alumni and parents, who commit to an annual gift of at least $1,000. Levy is president of NAI Harrison Levy Company, and was instrumental in the company’s growth from a two-person real estate brokerage to its present position as one of the largest full service real estate firms in the state of Oklahoma.

In May, Patrick Rooney, chair of the university’s Partners in Progress campaign, announced it exceeded its 2002 goal of half a million dollars, raising $507,000 from community partners. Some eighty volunteers and university staff members worked on the campaign. Many Oklahoma businesses and organizations made significant gifts, including OG&E, Kerr-McGee, Bank of America, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, the E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation, ONEOK, and Reserve Petroleum Company.
Alumni News

The Oklahoma City University Alumni Association is again a major sponsor of the university’s Light the Campus celebration. It was heavily involved in last year’s event, which brought over 500 people to campus. Look forward to an even brighter evening of lights and fun this year.

In September, Dr. Connie Mack McCoy became director of development and alumni relations. McCoy was director of admissions from 1965 to 1980, as well as dean of academic support services and assistant professor of education. “Tell ‘em, I’m glad to be back,” proclaimed the indefatigable Dr. McCoy.

In October, the Meinders School of Business Alumni sponsored a trip to take students to the New York Stock Exchange. During the trip, on October 17, the group hosted an alumni reception that drew thirty-nine people. The group expressed interest in starting a New York alumni association. For more information, contact Dr. Connie Mack McCoy at (405) 521-5925 or cmccoy@okcu.edu.

School of Law Alumni Association News

M. Joe Crosthwait, ’74 Juris Doctor, received the 2002 Distinguished Law Alumnus Award at this year’s School of Law Alumni Gala and Awards Banquet and has been elected as the new president of the OCU Law Alumni Association.

Robert Y. Empie, ’50 Juris Doctor, received the Dean John Gaines Hervey Professionalism and Distinguished Service to the Community Award at this year’s OCU Law Alumni Gala & Awards Banquet. Empie has had a long and distinguished career as an attorney and former Oklahoma bank commissioner.

In April, Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Marian P. Opala presented Judge Fred Daugherty with the 2002 Justice Opala Award for Lifetime Achievement in Law. The School of Law Alumni Association created the award in 1999 to honor Justice Opala, a 1953 graduate of the law school. Judge Daugherty served with distinction for forty-one years as a US district judge and state district court judge.

Norwood Beveridge, School of Law associate dean for academic affairs, and law Professor Joseph Weeks hosted an alumni reception in Houston, TX. This past year School of Law alumni events were also held in Chicago, New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, Tucson, and Washington, D.C.
In April, the Oklahoma City University Student Senate organized its annual party on the quad for students - The Big Event. Thanks to great work by new Student Senate President Mandy Heaps and new Dean of Students Dr. Liz Donnelly, it was a great success this year. The party featured the popular bands Better Than Ezra and Tone Loc.
Baseball

During the 2001-02 academic year, the Stars recorded their highest finish in the university’s history at the NAIA Baseball World Series in Lewiston, ID, advancing to the championship game before losing, 12-8, to host team Lewis-Clark State.

Coach Denney Crabaugh’s team tied the school record for victories with fifty-eight, and placed four players on the World Series All-Tournament team: catcher Matt Houston, business administration major from Oklahoma City; first baseman Brandon Kaye, criminal justice major from Saltspring Island, BC, Canada; and outfielders Kennard Bibbs, mass communications major from Houston, TX, and Mike Menard, ‘02 Bachelor of Science in criminal justice, from Modesto, CA.

Bibbs was named a second-team Verizon Scholastic All-American, encompassing NCAA II and III and the NAIA. He was also named an NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete for the second year in a row, along with Paul Snyder, information technology major from Bellevue, WA, and Eric Huddleston, ’02 Bachelor of Science in information technology, from De Soto, TX; and Jamie Tapp, biology major from McAlester, OK. Patrick Wyrick, political science major from Atoka, OK, was named to the squad for the first time.

Following the season, Bibbs and shortstop Keith Bohanan, criminal justice major from Fremont, CA, were selected in the Major League Baseball Amateur Free Agent Draft by the Milwaukee Brewers. Both signed professional contracts and reported to the Brewers rookie league team in Arizona.

Women’s Basketball

After capturing its fourth consecutive NAIA National Championship in March, the Women’s Basketball Team will try to claim another title this season. With an excellent recruiting summer, Coach Janell Jones believes she has created a quicker Stars team (if that’s possible), which will raise the bar in the SAC conference. “Although we lost two All-Americans, we are fortunate to return with such a strong recruiting class,” said Jones.

Men’s Basketball

After an incredible post-season, the Men’s Basketball Team has four returning starters, led by 6’11 senior marketing major Jay Spurlock, of Cleveland. “We have a great squad, despite losing an All American in our point guard position. I believe we can get to the NAIA National Championships with this team,” said head coach Win Case.

Men’s Golf

The Men’s Golf Team placed first in four out of the five fall tournaments with their lowest rank, second place. In the first tournament of the season, Fairway Club Invitational hosted by the University of Nebraska, the Stars finished first against Illinois State, Iowa State, Kansas State, and Nebraska (all NCAA Division I schools). Junior Andreas Rydholm, business major from Stockholm, Sweden finished in second place individually, shooting a three-day total of 212.

Women’s Golf

The Women’s Golf Team had a tremendous fall tournament season, winning all four classics. At the University of Arkansas – Little Rock Classic, they made university history, breaking all records. As a team, they scored the lowest two-day total with a 600, and a one-day total of 293. Junior Laura Benedix, an information technology major from Harrah, OK, broke the university record for an eighteen-hole round of golf, shooting a 60.
Men’s Soccer

The Men’s Soccer Team turned up the intensity at the end of the season to place first in the NAIA Region VI. The Stars believe leading scorers, sophomore Matt Williams, from Garland, TX, freshman Tony McCormick, from Prestwick, Scotland, and freshman Owen Lyon, from Flower Mound, TX, can take the team to the championships.

Women’s Soccer

The Women’s Soccer Team continued its winning tradition by finishing the regular in first place in NAIA Region VI and SAC Conference. The Stars are in a great playoff position to reach the finals again this season, in part due to the skill of leading scorer Sally Cole, a senior mathematics major from Yukon, OK.

Abbott Named Director of Athletics

In September, Jim Abbott started work as the new director of athletics development and administration. Abbott supervises the university’s highly successful collegiate athletics program, which won three national championships last year.

Abbott has worked in athletics and higher education administration for the past fourteen years. He came to the university from a position as regional sales manager for Trans-Lux Sports in Logan, UT. Previously, he has been associate director of institutional advancement at St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee, OK, assistant athletics director at Lamar University in Beaumont, TX, assistant athletics director at Oklahoma City University, and director of ticket sales at the Oklahoma City ‘89ers Baseball Club.

Abbott holds a Master of Science in sports administration from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK, and bachelor’s degrees in business administration and in physical education from Huntington College in Montgomery, AL.

Freeman, Hoskins, and Willis Join Athletics Department

Derek Freeman started this fall as assistant golf coach. Freeman played golf at the University of Oklahoma from 1991 to ’94. He was All Big Eight, Academic All Big Eight, and Team Captain. Freeman previously worked as a portfolio manager at Prudential Securities and a financial advisor at UBS Paine Webber. He and his wife, Stephenie, have one son, Bentley.

Becky Hoskins played for the Stars Women’s Basketball Team from 1996 to 2000, and is the university’s all-time assist leader. She is now the full-time assistant coach.

Trevite Willis is the new sports information officer. Willis worked in the Sports Information Office at the University of Alabama as an undergraduate student, and worked for the 1997 World Series Florida Marlins Baseball Club. Most recently, she was director of promotions for The Fremantle Corporation, an international television distribution company. Willis is pursuing a Juris Doctor at Oklahoma City University School of Law.
Through the Years

2000s
Tammy Ratliff, '01 Bachelor of Fine Arts in art, was recently hired by Dillard's as a well-paid cosmetics consultant.

Sara Nicole Metheny, '02 Bachelor of Science in psychology, is pursuing a degree from Oklahoma City University School of Law.

Dallas Nimsey, '02 Bachelor of Science in biology, was accepted to Southwestern OSU Pharmacy School.

Ginger Skaggs, '02 Bachelor of Arts in religion, was accepted into Vanderbilt University School of Divinity to pursue a master's degree in divinity. At Oklahoma City University, Skaggs received a Bishop Scholarship and a Margaret E. Petree Scholarship.

Jeremy Smith, '02 Bachelor of Science in dance management, went directly into performing a production of My Fair Lady at the famous Paper Mill Playhouse through July, then flew to Wichita, KS, to do Ragtime before starting rehearsals for the national tour of Swing, which runs for a year.

Casie Soltani, '02 Bachelor of Science summa cum laude, has been accepted into the Ph.D. program for biomedical research at the OU Health Sciences Center.

Leslie Cermak, '01 Bachelor of Art in English, works at the University of Oklahoma as an English as a Second Language instructor.

Sara Gibson, '01 Bachelor of Science in entertainment business, from Ardmore, OK, is studying at Oklahoma City University School of Law to prepare for a career in entertainment law.

Shana Hartley, '01 Bachelor of Science in nursing, is an ER nurse at Norman Regional Hospital.

Shannon Houston, '01 Bachelor of Science in dance management, was the rehearsal captain and an ensemble performer in the Chicago production of Anything Goes. Becky Cooper, '96 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, choreographed the production.

Pambanisha King, '01 Bachelor of Art in English, was the university's "Outstanding Senior" for 2001 and is pursuing a master's degree in library science.

Cara Perkins, '01 Bachelor of Science in biology, has been accepted into the Physician Associate Program at the OU Health Science Center.

Monica Poulos, '01 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, performs in New York with the Peggy Spina Tap Company. She has been hired as a performer on Celebrity Cruise Line's new ship, Constellation.

Nicole Rauh, '01 Bachelor of Fine Arts in art, the university's 2001-02 Outstanding Student in Sociology, was accepted to the graduate sociology program at the University of Oklahoma for this fall. She received a graduate teaching assistantship that pays $10,000 for the year, and will receive a six-hour tuition waiver per semester.

Daniel Reynolds, '01 Bachelor of Art in English and religion, is a middle-school language arts teacher in Oklahoma City.

Samantha Ford, '00 Bachelor of Science in dance management, is the development assistant for the famous Hubbard Street Dance Chicago dance company.

Sarah Ice, '00 Master of Liberal Arts is an instructional technologist for OKC Public Schools.

Leslie Johns, '00 Bachelor of Science in entertainment business, teaches music business at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, OK.

Amy Osborne, '00 Bachelor of Science in dance management, manages a dance supply business in Pennsylvania.

Ronald G. Petty, '00 Master of Business Administration and '95 Bachelor of Science, is a proud graduate of the PLUS program. Petty was selected last October as the State Equal Employment Manager for the Oklahoma Army and Air National Guard, Oklahoma Military Department, in Oklahoma City.

Chris Pratt, '00 Bachelor of Art in English, is an English teacher at Putnam City West High School.

Scott Reed, '00 Master of Liberal Arts in writing, works as a technical/professional writer at an OKC engineering firm.

Jonathan Rummel, '00 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, is an entertainer on the Celebrity Cruise Line ship, Mercury. The ship has taken him to many ports in Central and South America over the past six months. Rummel has also completed a Master of Arts in interdisciplinary arts from Texas Tech in Lubbock, TX.

Emilie Schmidt, '00 Bachelor of Science in dance management, lives in New York and dances with the New Jersey Tap Ensemble. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Committee for National Tap Dance Day in New York City.

Stephanie Sholtis, '00 Bachelor of Science in entertainment business, works in a management level position for a New York City advertising agency.

Terri Smith, '00 Bachelor of Science in entertainment business, works in costuming at SeaWorld in San Antonio, TX.

Simone Ward, '00 Bachelor of Arts in political science, worked on Al Gore's campaign in 2000, is pursuing a master's degree at American University, and currently works for a lobbying firm in Washington D.C. In June, she became national executive director of Young Democrats of America. Ward participated in the Washington Semester through American University, and was the president of the Oklahoma chapter of Young Democrats of America for two years.

1990s
Angie Boland, '99 Bachelor of Arts in English, received the university's "Outstanding Senior" award and is now a middle school teacher in the San Francisco Bay area.

Matt Brown, '99 Bachelor of Science in physics, is a graduate student in the OU College of Engineering.

Matt Dehner, '99 Bachelor of Science in biology (and a pro baseball player!), is pursuing a pharmacy degree at the College of the Pacific College of Pharmacy.

Isaac N. Hall, '99 Bachelor of Science in physics, after his third year in the University of Oklahoma's high energy physics doctoral program, moved to Chicago, IL, in September to work on his dissertation at the D0 detector at Fermilab.

Renee Koenen, '99, Bachelor of Science in dance management, performed for eighteen months as a dancer at Busch Gardens in Tampa, FL. She now lives in Dallas, TX, and manages a dance supply store.

David Pease, '99 Bachelor of Arts in history, is a law student at the University of Arkansas.

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

Sandra Redding, '99 Bachelor of Science in dance management, is internship coordinator for the Oklahoma Arts Institute.

Allison Van Fleet, '99 Bachelor of Science in dance management, owns and operates a dance studio in Omaha, NE.

Rebecca Berstler, '98 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, played Anytime Annie in the Broadway revival of 42nd Street.

Joel Davis, '98 Bachelor of Arts in history and German, earned a Master of Arts at the University of Chicago and is pursuing a Ph.D. in history at the University of Missouri.

Chaoying Guo, '98 Master of Business Administration in finance, is supervisor of the Cash Management Department in the Finance Division of Itochu International, Inc., in New York City.
Kristin Herring, ‘98 Master of Liberal Arts, is an account supervisor for Blanchard Schaefer Advertising in Arlington, TX, responsible for providing growth-oriented strategic and promotional expertise for the Snelling Personnel Services and Palm Beach Tan accounts.

Theresa Richardson, ‘96 Bachelor of Arts in history, has been accepted into the graduate program in Composition and Rhetoric at the University of Oklahoma, where she has also received a graduate teaching assistantship.

Jennifer (Pugh) Seal, ‘98 Bachelor of Music Education (vocal) and Bachelor of Arts, completed a master’s degree in US history at the University of Central Oklahoma with the help of a James Madison Fellowship for Future Secondary School Teachers of American History. She is now the Advanced Placement US history teacher at Putnam City North High School in Oklahoma City.

TeNeil Barney Spaeth, ‘98 Bachelor of Science in dance management, started as company manager/production coordinator for the Tulsa Opera this August. Spaeth served for the past three years as director of the School of American Dance and Arts Management’s Spirit of Grace Liturgical Dancers.

Regan Strickland, ‘98 Bachelor of Arts in English, completed a master’s degree in technical writing at Oklahoma State University and worked for a time as a technical writer in New York City. She has returned to Oklahoma City University and is the recipient of a Hatton Summers scholarship from the School of Law.

Bryan Dahlgang, ‘97 Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art, won the national AEGIS Award for excellence in video production.

Frodie Hoff, ‘97 Bachelor of Arts, traveled to the World Cup for five weeks this summer as the only television reporter from Norway covering the event.

Michelle DaSilva, ‘96 Bachelor of Performing Arts in Dance, and her husband, Ryan Ball, ‘98 Bachelor of Music in music theater, have been performing in Carousel at the Welk Resort. Michelle was cast in the role of Louise.

Lance E. Evans, ‘96 Bachelor of Science in criminal justice, played professional baseball with the Springfield Cardinals then moved to Las Vegas, NV, where he now holds the position of senior marketing manager at the Aladdin Resort and Casino.

Talley Fugate, ‘96 Bachelor of Arts in history, received a Master of Arts from the University of Central Oklahoma. She now serves as archivist with the Oklahoma State Department of Libraries.

Mary Ann Krupka, ‘96 Bachelor of Science in dance management, works in New York City as a choreographer. She provided choreography for recording artist Daphna and for an off-Broadway show, Decadance, a dance play about New York City club life and losing or finding one’s identity.

Shi-Chung Lin, ‘96 Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages, completed a Ph.D. in education at OU.

Beth Sedberry, ‘96 Bachelor of Science in dance management, is executive operations assistant for the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.

Kari Sherman LeVassar, ‘96 Bachelor of Science in dance, was a dancer in the Limp Bizkit video, Rollin’. She married Sam LeVassar in June of 2000.

Jessica Hembree, ‘95 Bachelor of Science, has worked in South Korea since graduation, teaching at Yeungjin Junior College in Taugu, Korea; she now teaches freshman and sophomore English at Inha University.

Theresa Storey, ‘95 Bachelor of Arts in history received her Master of Library Science from the University of Oklahoma, and now works as an academic librarian at Lamar University.

Kevin R. Baldwin, ‘94 Master of Business Administration, became a partner in the healthcare consulting practice of the Atlanta, GA, office of PricewaterhouseCoopers. Baldwin has received national recognition for his development of e-business solutions for healthcare providers in revenue cycle, marketing/branding, and revenue growth initiatives.

Cathy Barnes, ‘94 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, owns her own dance studio in California.

Roberta Bienvenue, ‘94 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, has been dance captain for the cruise ship entertainment show, Peter Grey Terhune Presents.

April Kile, ‘94 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, manages and teaches at Paramore Dance Studio in Chickasha, OK.

Brett Orme, ‘94 Master of Business Administration, is superintendent of engineering for East Central Electric. He recently obtained his Professional Engineer state certification, which allows him to officially approve any electrical designs for Oklahoma’s East Central and Cookson Hills cooperatives.

J im Roth, ‘94 Juris Doctor is chief deputy county clerk and staff attorney for Oklahoma County. He has previously served as chief deputy county commissioner and staff attorney for District One and is a past-president of the National Association of Civil County Attorneys.

Damon Akins, ‘93 Bachelor of Arts in history, obtained his Master of Arts from UCLA and is now working on his Ph.D. in history at the University of Oklahoma.

Chris Harrison, ‘93 Bachelor of Arts in mass communications, hosts the new television program, The Bachelor, which debuted in March. Harrison attended the university on a soccer scholarship, worked as a sportscaster for KWTY Channel 9 in Oklahoma City, and moved to Los Angeles, CA, to host HGTV’s popular primetime series, Designer’s Challenge. He hosted a full season of Mall Masters, and has played a reporter in several feature films and television series, including The Practice, Bounce, and Showtime, starring

“ I am holding my own work wise, and singing better than ever. I am a member of the Oklahoma Cherokee Nation, and a concert and opera singer, having sung many years in German repertory companies on permanent contracts. Now I am also teaching a few select voice students, and enjoying that too. I sang last year at Kennedy Center, the Washington Opera, working with the great Gian Carlo Menotti, one of the great composers... I sang for a month in Hong Kong, the great role of Azucena in II Trovatore and, in November of 2001, at Lincoln Center.” Barbara McAlister, Bachelor of Music

This summer, from August 22 to Labor Day, McAlister portrayed Selu (the Corn Woman, giver of life) at the Cherokee Heritage Center, singing in Cherokee in The Trail of Tears production with music by Kimme and Gabe Rhodes. Visit her web site: www.barbaramcalister.com.

Robert DeNiro and Eddie Murphy. In his spare time Harrison still plays soccer and spends as much time as possible outdoors with his wife, Gwen, ‘93 Bachelor of Science in business – accounting, and their son, J shua.

Martha A. Burger, ‘92 Master of Business Administration, is treasurer and senior vice president for human resources at Chesapeake Energy Corp. in Oklahoma City. She directs the corporation’s affiliations with the Oklahoma Blood Institute, Payne Education Center, and United Way, including supervising fundraising.

Susannah Dyer, ‘92 Bachelor of Arts in history, earned a master’s degree at Arizona State University, and is now working with Apple Computers in California.
Karen Kasteel, 92 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, has performed for the past ten years around the world and, for the past five, with the Radio City Rockettes®. Her name should have been among those listed in the School of American Dance and Arts Management feature in the winter/spring issue of Focus Magazine.

Kristin Chenoweth, 91 Bachelor of Music in theatre, brought the audience to its feet on March 3 in The Girl in 14-G, attended by President George W. Bush.

Lorlyn Allen Gaughran, 91 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, owns her own dance studio in New Jersey.

Sherry R. Rhodes, 91 Master of Business Administration was named as one of the Oklahoma Journal Record’s Women of the Year for 2001. Rhodes is executive director of the Oklahoma City Public Schools. She has played an integral role in the founding and development of Project Kids. She is also chair of volunteers for the Oklahoma City Chapter of the American Red Cross. She has been recognized as a certified fundraising executive by the National Association of Fundraising Professionals, and received a Presidential Citation Award from Rotary International.

Joaanne Comeau Baroli, 90 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, completed a degree in physical therapy following an automobile accident. She also assists her husband, Mike, with his professional photography business.

Cassidy Craft, 90 Bachelor of Arts in history, received her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Georgia, and is now a faculty member at the University of Alabama – Birmingham.

Angie Duke, 90 Master of Performing Arts, received rave reviews for her starring role in the play, Wit, at Stage Center in Oklahoma City.

Ronna Finley, 90 Master of Education and adjunct professor of early childhood education, completed a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Oklahoma last December.

Susan Gilstrap, 90 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance and 91 Master of Business Administration, is an arts management faculty member at Oklahoma City University and full-time production and company manager for The American Spirit Dance Company; she performed with Donny Osmond in the national tour of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and performed in the European tour of 42nd Street. She is also administrative director of the Christian Liturgical Dance Workshop to be offered by the university this summer to high school juniors and seniors.

Timothy Long, 90 Bachelor of Music, lives in New York City, where he works as a conductor, pianist, and teacher.

Greg Martin, 90 Master of Business Administration, is an administrator at Integris Grove General Hospital in Grove, OK. He has been installed as chairman of the Oklahoma Hospital Association’s Board of Trustees.

Ronda Alyce King Taylor, 90 Bachelor of Science in Business, is a senior Oracle applications specialist supporting Oracle financials for about thirty companies nationwide. She attributes her incredible opportunities and success to her degree in systems management from Oklahoma City University.

1980s

Michele Miller Conner, 89 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, is pursuing a master’s degree in Pennsylvania.

Meeghan Donahue DeCagna, 89 Bachelor of Arts, is chief marketing officer of Envision Inc., a management and marketing consulting firm in Washington, DC; she is also a partner in Principled Innovation LLC with her husband J eff. She recently completed the Executive Business Program at the McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University.

Patrick McFerron, 89 Bachelor of Arts in political science, has pursued a successful career with one of Oklahoma’s leading Republican consulting and research firms – Cole, Hargrave, Snodgrass, and Associates.

Darryl Gomez, 87 Bachelor of Science, recently earned a Master of Science in systems engineering with honors from Whiting School of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. He now works as a systems engineer with Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems.

Roxanne (Dickard) Green, 86 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, owns and operates a mobile dance instruction business, Dancemobile. “We travel to day cares and private schools and teach dance, performing arts, and tumbling classes to the children. I also do choreography work, including an original musical called Walk By Faith, which I worked on in 2001. I just recently was in a VH1 movie called, Warning: Parental Advisory, starring Mariel Hemingway and J ason Priestly.”

Trish Vevera, 86 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, worked on the national tour of Elvis; as assistant wardrobe supervisor for the European tour of 42nd Street; and as special administrator at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

Steve Bleyl, 85 Master of Business Administration, is executive vice president of FuelSpot, an independent, trade, exchange and e-commerce portal for the downstream petroleum products industry.

Rhonda Miller, 85 Master of Performing Arts in musical theater, was selected in December 2001 as one of twelve dynamic choreographers presenting new works in the Broadway Dance Center’s second annual The Best of... show in New York City. Miller has choreographed for television commercials and industrial films for Burger King, Chrysler, Exxon, Sony, and Toyota, as well as soap operas and for the television pilot, The Peep Show. She relocated to the Big Apple from Los Angeles, CA, to join the faculty at the Broadway Dance Center. In Los Angeles, she co-owned LA Dance Force, a leading producer of national dance conventions. She served on the dance faculty at Oklahoma City University from 1982 to ’85.

Lois Kamman Bueser, 84 Bachelor of Music, performed in The Sound of Music as Sister Berthe. She has also been a Surrey Singer accompanist on USO tour to Europe and keyboardist/vocalist in a New Jersey Top 40 band with her husband.

Denis E. Franks, 84 Bachelor of Business Administration, of Talina, OK, was elected to the Council of Regents, the legislative body of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Dennis will serve as a vital link between ACHE and its affiliates by approving governance and membership regulations, as well as promoting ACHE programs, services, and activities within their respective areas.

1970s

Mary R. Grace, 78 Bachelor of Arts, a commercial real estate broker in Oklahoma City, has opened her own business, Grace Commercial Real Estate Services, after thirty years of working for others.

Richard P. Prawdinski, 78 Master of Business Administration, is chairman of the Oklahoma State Libertarian Party, vice president of the Edmond Chapter of the National Association of Retired Government Employees, and president of his homeowners association in Edmond where he and his wife, Donna, reside.

Paul King, 78 Bachelor of Science in business, of Oklahoma City has been appointed deputy director of operations at the Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board. The announcement of his promotion noted King had “enormous knowledge of the program and has demonstrated a commitment to professional excellence.” He had been assistant director of the board’s Member Services Division, for which he has worked since 1986.

Edward L. Smith, 77 Bachelor of Science, ’77 Master of Criminal Justice Administration, was appointed by Gov. Frank Keating to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Commission. Under his leadership, police departments in two Oklahoma communities (Bethany in 1991 and Blackwell in 1995) became the first law enforcement agencies in the state to be nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc.
Dennis J. Dougherty, ‘70 Bachelor of Science in business, is the founding general partner of Intersouth Partners, an early-stage venture fund in the Southeast that has invested in over sixty private companies, primarily in the Internet, information technology, and life sciences. Founded in 1985, Intersouth manages $300 million in five venture capital limited partnerships.

1960s

Lindel Pettigrew, ’68 Bachelor of Science in business, president and CEO of Chickasha Bank and Trust Company, in Chickasha OK, has been elected to the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka’s Board of Directors. He is also president of Chickasha BancShares, and Washita Mortgage, Inc. He serves on the board of the Oklahoma Bankers Association, and the Oklahoma Baptist Foundation Southwest advisory board.

1950s

Donna Karol Jones Bickford Davis Prawdienski, ’58 Bachelor of Arts, of Edmond, OK, writes travel stories and plays under the pseudonym D.K. Oklahoma. Productions this year of two of her comedies, The Ladies Man and Anna’s Brooklyn Promise, at Francis Wilson Theater in Clearwater, FL, had sellout crowds. Another play, a historical drama, The Light in the Mill, was produced in Texas. Donna was yearbook editor in 1958, on the staff of The Campus, and active in Gamma Phi Beta.

1940s

John Andrews, ’49, a resident of Comanche, OK, served during World War II with a crew dubbed “The Crew with Nine Lives.” The crew’s first accident occurred when a British plane ran into their “Spirit of Chicago” while it sat on the runway. In 1944, he was the tail gunner for a B-24 Liberator bomber named “Rag A Das,” which caught fire when the plane ahead of it burst into flames. The crew’s next plane, Ship No. 59, crashed after being hit by anti-aircraft guns near Pecs, Hungary, and they were declared Missing in Action. Andrews and the other crew members were loaded onto a train by Russians, who planned to transport them to the front lines. They managed to jump off and ended up in Budapest, Hungary, where they hid out at the embassy until they were airlifted to Bari, Italy.

Colbert Hackler, ’43 Bachelor of Music, at eighty-three is active in the community in Norman, OK. He delivers Meals on Wheels, and has contributed more than half his life to music. Although retired he still teaches five days a week in his home. He is a member of Waldenville Quintet, which plays at Norman Nursing homes regularly. He was inducted into the university’s Hall of Fame for his musical accomplishments. ♥

Focus Magazine receives an extremely high volume of submissions for “Through the Years.” Due to space considerations, we have posted some of the submissions received in the “Through the Years” section of Focus on the web site. Visit the alumni section at www.okcu.edu to read more about the lives of our alumni after graduation.

For Oklahoma City University School of Law “Through the Years” information, visit the School of Law’s page on the web at www.okcu.edu/law/ to see their fantastic, new magazine, OCULAW, posted online or call Michael Sohn, School of Law director of development and external relations, at (800) 230-3012 to have a hard copy mailed to you.

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.

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In Memoriam

Dr. James “Buster” Brown, ’02 honorary Doctor of Performing Arts in American dance, one of the world’s great tap dancers, received the School of American Dance and Arts Management’s 1997 Living Treasure in American Dance Award.

“Our loss of Buster should remind us of how precious our moments together are.”
- School of American Dance and Arts Management Dean John Bedford

Oklahoma City University Trustee
Dr. Clara E. Jones

In lieu of flowers or other memorial gifts, J ones asked that people contribute to any of the various charitable organizations she supported, including Oklahoma City University and the United Methodist Church. J ones was one of the university’s most generous benefactors. She founded the university’s Oklahoma Opera and Music Theater Society. Her donations benefited scholarships (see From the President, p. 2), building renovations, cultural activities, and endowments. She received numerous recognitions from the university, including an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, the University-Church Relations Award, and the Distinguished Service Award. Presenting J ones the Distinguished Friend of the University Award in 1989, former university President Dr. J erald Walker said her “generous spirit and unselfish donation of her time have impacted OCU in far-reaching ways.” In the early 1990s, J ones funded the renovation of the Administration Building, which now bears her name; the auditorium in the Noble Center for Competitive Enterprise also bears her name; and, she was a generous contributor to the Henry J. Freede Wellness and Activity Center’s construction fund.

Dr. Tamara Long, ’64 Bachelor of Arts, studied at the university’s School of Music, appearing in productions of the Oklahoma Opera and Music Theater Company, including the operetta, The Red Mill. She was one of a group of performers who worked to create Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, and played Ado Annie in its first production, Oklahoma! She had a thirty year career on Broadway and in tours. In 1988, she joined the faculty of University of Central Oklahoma to develop its music theatre degree program.

Rick Rescorla, ’75 Juris Doctor, perished in the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City. He was vice president for security at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, a company with 3,500 employees, and is credited with saving thousands of lives that day.

Dr. J ohn Rusco was dean of the Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel and an adjunct professor for the Wimberly School of Religion and Graduate Theological Center from 1994 to 2001. He also taught courses in counseling psychology for the university. An ordained United Methodist minister for over forty years, Dr. Rusco received the Francis Asbury Award from the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2001 for “outstanding leadership in supporting, strengthening, and promoting the church’s higher education ministries.” Those wishing to make a memorial gift can do so to the John Rusco Scholarship Fund established at the university a few years ago. Send checks made out to this fund to University-Church Relations, Oklahoma City University, 2501 N. Blackwelder, Oklahoma City, OK 73106-1493. His family will be informed of all gifts received.

Other Memorials

The Garlinda Bloodworth ( ’68 Juris Doctor) Technology Center at the Southwest Oklahoma J uvenile Center in Manitou, OK, was dedicated this year.

Friends of Oklahoma City University

Hazel W. Lappin, a longtime resident of Oklahoma City and librarian for eleven years at the university
Hope Strasner, wife of Stewart Strasner, former dean of the School of Law

Alumni of Oklahoma City University

Roy C. Alletag, ’60 Juris Doctor
Suzanne Holmes Ballard, ’63 Bachelor of Music
Dewey L. Bennett, ’93 Master of Business Administration
Herman D. Brandon, ’65 Juris Doctor
Ella Lee Wright Broadfoot, ’43 Bachelor of Arts
Ralph T. Carter, ’48 Bachelor of Arts
Ardath Maxine Chappony, ’58 Bachelor of Arts
Basil L. Cherry, ’63 Bachelor of Science in business
Leoy C. Cung, ’77 Master of Business Administration
William Dederding, ’56 Juris Doctor
Ruth Harper Donnis, ’23 Bachelor of Arts
Marjorie Ann Walbert Deppren, ’34 Bachelor of Arts
William B. Edwards, ’49 Bachelor of Arts
James A. Fields Sr., ’49 Bachelor of Science in business
Russell B. Fister, ’66 Juris Doctor
Dr. Wayne T. Ford, ’52 Bachelor of Arts
Sam J. ean Fox, ’56 Bachelor of Arts
Matthew Lane Gee, ’84 Juris Doctor
Ione Adams Gibbs, ’31 Bachelor of Arts
Robert L. Goble, ’68 Bachelor of Arts
Royce E. Goforth, ’66 Juris Doctor
James A. Griffin Sr., ’57 Bachelor of Science
John Joseph "Jack" Griffin, ’48 Juris Doctor
Lee R. “Lee Roy” Hall, ’61 Bachelor of Science
Twilla Beth Klein Hammaker, ’30 Bachelor of Arts
Ford David Harper, ’48 Bachelor of Arts
Nadine Louise Henley, ’61 Bachelor of Arts
R. Dardis Higbie, ’57 Bachelor of Science in business
Carolyn Greig Hill, ’69 Juris Doctor, ’77 Master of Business Administration
James Collins Hill, ’69 Masters in Arts in teaching
Bill J.zek, ’63 Bachelor of Arts
Paul Edgar Leftwich, ’54 Bachelor of Arts
Lawrence Robert “Larry” Lippel, ’90 Master of Business Administration
Elaine H. Lodlffer ’69
Nina Velgo’s Lucas, ’79 Bachelor of Science

J une McAlister, ’02 Bachelor of Arts in psychology (sociology minor), who worked in the Registrar’s Office
Ernest “Mac” B. McFadden, ’52 Bachelor of Arts
Jack D. Marshall, ’60 Bachelor of Science in business
Peter G. Meci, ’64 Bachelor of Arts
Jack E. Mordland, ’65 Bachelor of Science in business
Richard P. Nixon, ’51 Bachelor of Arts
Tamara M. Otteman, ’64 Bachelor of Arts
Bernard Dean Pascual, ’91 Master of Criminal Justice
Roger Carl Pirrong, ’58 Bachelor of Arts
Charles P. Ray, ’53 Juris Doctor
Ladell C. Rives, ’72 Master of Business Administration
Jeffrey Rogers, ’01 Undeclared Graduate
Rex Dr. Thomas Roughface, ’95 Doctor of Divinity
B.J. “Bill” Sanders, ’50 Bachelor of Arts
Bert L. Sapp, ’57 Juris Doctor
Ancel Dean Simpson, ’64 Juris Doctor
Donald F. Spencer, ’60 Bachelor of Science in business
Reu Warren H. Terry, ’52 Bachelor of Arts
Carrie Cornelia “Cow” Timberlake, ’54 Bachelor of Arts
Bill E. Tuck, ’54 Bachelor of Arts
Charlotte Tuttle, ’37 Bachelor of Arts
Robert J. Unruh, ’73 Juris Doctor
Harold J. Warren, ’30 Bachelor of Science
Francis Witt, ’39 Bachelor of Arts
Gladys B. Zausmer, ’73 Bachelor of Science
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