Focus Magazine
Spring 2004

How Oklahoma City University is addressing DIVERSITY

100
Oklahoma City University
1904-2004
Oklahoma City University’s GEAR-UP program and the university’s Art Club organized an effort to beautify the campus by painting over graffiti on the wall surrounding the construction site for the Wanda L. Bass Music Center. Art majors from Professor Bruce Macella’s graphic design class supervised the project. Education majors from Professor Linda Hibbs’s class volunteered to help. Students from Coolidge Elementary School did much of the painting under the supervision of students from John Wesley High School, who participated as a service-learning project. Three of the school teachers involved with the project were alumni: Lora Hawkins-Carter, ’01 Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art and ’03 Master of Education (now pursuing a Master of Criminal Justice Administration at the university); James Cobb, ’03 Master of Liberal Arts; and J.L. Dye Jr., ’03 Bachelor of Science in elementary education. (Photographs by Ann Sherman)
An inauguration to remember
The inauguration of Tom J. McDaniel as the university’s sixteenth president

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Focus on SERVICE LEARNING

Oklahoma City University has always been a place where people learn to show leadership in service to the community. Work is now underway to have every degree at the university offer some service learning component.

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Mostafa Moini

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If you have items for “Through the Years,” e-mail them to Robert K. Erwin at rerwin@okcu.edu. Please include your degree name and year of graduation.

Focus Magazine is interested in the personal and professional triumphs of Oklahoma City University alumni. Notices of candidacy for office are excluded by policy.

Focus Magazine is a publication produced by the University Relations Department for alumni, parents, and friends of Oklahoma City University. Send items of potential interest to the magazine’s readership to the addresses listed above or call (405) 521-5818.

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 ground 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 Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.
Oklahoma City University has persevered through wars, economic downturns, and all the vagaries of life that ninety-nine years can present. I believe the weaving of education and faith to produce servant leaders, has been the ‘true north’ on the compass of this institution, and that we will persevere through the ups and downs of our next century by holding to our vision.

As a private, United Methodist affiliated university, we work to help our students become effective leaders in service to their communities. In the last year we began in earnest the work of building service to the community into all of our curricula so that whatever degree you get from the university, it will have some service learning component. This issue of Focus Magazine features service learning and details our plans and achievements.

To underscore our commitment to servant leadership, I’d like to invite you to encourage any high school juniors or seniors you know to participate in our inaugural Servant Leadership Scholarship Competition. Students should write 750 words on the topic, “What does servant leadership mean to me?” The deadline for submissions is May 31. The winner’s essay will be printed in a future issue of Focus Magazine and they will receive a $1,000 scholarship.*

For people to do the right thing, they need good examples. I believe Oklahoma City University is producing a new set of examples of servant leadership every December and May.

Sincerely,

Tom J. McDaniel
President

* Addition of this scholarship to other awards cannot exceed the price of tuition, as it is a tuition discount rather than a cash award.
Dean Joins List of University Family Members Honored by Governors

In November, School of Music Dean Mark Parker joined a distinguished list of Oklahoma City University alumni, faculty, and trustees who have been recognized at the annual Governor’s Arts Awards.

Parker has championed excellence in music performance and education for more than two decades, specializing in international outreach and linking the academic and professional arts worlds. He has conducted the Oklahoma City University Symphony Orchestra since 1990 and has been dean of the School of Music since 1995. “Your contributions have enriched and enhanced the cultural environment of Oklahoma,” said former Gov. Frank Keating.

Parker received the Arts and Education Award, which has previously been awarded to Jim Halsey, former arts management faculty member (1998), Peggy Payne, former music faculty member (1995), and Florence Birdwell, voice instructor (1985).

The Governor’s Arts Award has been presented to no more than five honorees each year since 1975. Two university employees have previously received it: Patrick Alexander, executive director, Office of Institutional Advancement (1987), and Dr. Ray Luke, former music faculty member (1978).


Other awards in the series have gone to alumni or trustees, including: the George Nigh Mayor’s Award – Ron Norick (1990), Marilyn Douglass Memorial Award – Dr. Wanda L. Bass (1981), Lifetime Service Award – John E. Kirkpatrick (1977), and Special Recognition – Kelly Haney (1992).
SERVICE LEARNING: the university’s mission manifested

Learning to Serve: the OCUSERVES spring 2002 pilot program

“Oklahoma City University has this peculiar message to all students: the meaning of life is service.”
- Eugene Antrim, Oklahoma City University President (1923 – 1934)

Walking into Cecily McCulley’s crowded second grade classroom at Wheeler Elementary School, a bilingual (English/Spanish) school in the Oklahoma City Public School system, you wouldn’t think there was room for one more child, let alone the two students from Oklahoma City University she welcomes every Friday.

When Oklahoma City University students Jennifer Burns, junior information technology major and Spanish minor from Carrollton, TX, and Stefanie Kimbro, criminal justice graduate student from Lawton, OK, walk in, the class greets them with a chorus of “hellos” and “holas.” Burns and Kimbro helped with classroom activities and tutored children as part of their Latin American Civilization course at Oklahoma City University.

“They’ve had a wonderful impact on the students,” McCulley said. “They’re great role models.”

Latin American Civilization, taught by Dr. Donna Hodkinson, was one of three OCUSERVES pilot courses offered at the university in spring 2002 that incorporated a service learning component. In addition to learning about the culture and history of Latin America in the classroom, students also spent time in the Oklahoma City Latin American community at places like Wheeler Elementary and the Latino Community Development Center.
“Books and videos only provide a two-dimensional look,” said Hodkinson. “Service learning, on the other hand, gets students out into the community where they can put theory into practice. They use Spanish in authentic conversation with native speakers,” Hodkinson explained. “They listen and observe.”

Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, dean of the Wimberly School of Religion and Graduate Theological Center, serves on the task force responsible for reviewing service learning proposals and selecting those to be implemented each semester – a number that has grown from the three pilot courses in spring 2002 to five service learning courses in both fall 2002 and spring 2003.

All full time faculty members may submit proposals. Those whose courses are chosen receive a stipend. Funding for the service learning pilot program stipends was provided by the Kerr Foundation. Subsequent stipends have been funded by the Vivian Wimberly Center for Ethics and Community Service, for which Davies is director. Although community service has always been a part of the ministry of Oklahoma City University – indeed prominently included in the university’s mission statement – the institution has recently become more intentional about adding a service learning component to courses across the curricula. “The main goal of any service learning component is to increase the value of the educational experience for the students,” said Davies. “Service Learning is not forced volunteerism but an opportunity to make practical applications of the theory learned in the classroom.”

Students in Mass Communications Department Chair Karlie Harmon’s upper-division course, The Blackwelder Group, put the skills they learned in the classroom to work in the community by producing a corporate video for a nonprofit, faith-based organization called TEEM (The Education and Employment Ministry) that provides training to unemployed and under-employed persons in areas like cosmetology, computer maintenance, and food service.

“We hit the jackpot with Oklahoma City University,” said TEEM’s executive director, Don Vaught, who praised The Blackwelder Group students for their dedication, professionalism, and creativity. Vaught estimated the pro bono video saved TEEM up to $15,000 in addition to giving them a compelling educational and fundraising tool.

The Blackwelder Group handled the entire project from start to finish, said Harmon. They wrote the script, shot the video, and edited the raw footage into the finished product, which had its debut at a community luncheon hosted by TEEM on April 19, 2002.

“We walked away from the semester not only with a grade,” said broadcasting major Joy Groth, of Choctaw, OK, “but with the satisfaction one gains from being involved in the community.”

Students in Dr. Sharon Brickman’s education course, Diagnosis and Correction of Reading Difficulties, worked with second and third graders at Eugene Field Elementary School, a magnet school for children at risk for academic failure. Twice a week for six weeks, they met with individual students, first assessing their reading skills...
using various methods, including standardized tests and informal reading assessments, then planning and preparing reading lessons matched to each child’s reading ability and interest. “One-on-one is absolutely the best way,” said Brickman. “You see a big difference in the children’s attitude toward reading.”

Continuing to Serve: fall 2002 and spring 2003 courses

“...to prepare them to become effective leaders in service to their communities.” – from the Oklahoma City University mission statement

BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF THE OCUSERVES pilot program, Oklahoma City University now offers five service learning courses each semester – from a wide range of schools and departments.

Fall 2002

Advanced Cost Accounting
Dr. Jacci Rodgers
Master level students worked with local businesses to define, analyze, and suggest solutions to cost accounting-based problems.

Advanced Spanish Conversation
Dr. Donna Hodkinson
Students developed their Spanish conversational skills while serving as classroom volunteers and tutors at bilingual Gatewood Elementary School.

Behavior Modification
Dr. Dennis Jowaisas
Students visited the Dale Rogers Training Center, which serves neurologically damaged children and adults in Oklahoma City. Two students have continued their work there, instituting an improved token economy system that has had a positive effect on the work behavior of the center’s clients.

English Department Senior Seminar
Dr. Elaine Smokewood
Students participated in a writing workshop for residents of Epworth Villa Retirement Community, helping them write memoirs and autobiographies.

Intermediate Spanish
Dr. Mark Griffin
Students spent time each week tutoring immigrant Spanish speakers and working with women’s and seniors groups at a variety of Oklahoma City sites, including the Latino Community Development Center and the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Library System.

Spring 2003

Economics of Poverty
Dr. Kevin Simmons
As an experiential way of learning about the underlying causes of poverty, students spend six weeks of the semester volunteering at Skyline Urban Ministries in Oklahoma City. Once a week, the whole class meets to share their volunteer experiences.

Honors Composition II: Visual Rhetoric
Dr. Brooke Hessler
In cooperation with the collections manager and curator of the Oklahoma City National Memorial, students serve as “virtual archivists,” helping to build an online archive of artifacts that have been collected at the bombing site. Students assist in selecting, interpreting, photographing, and writing about the artifacts in order to help visitors gain a deeper understanding of the memorial. “The opportunity to develop this partnership through OCUSERVES and to pilot it with the Honors students has been great. It’s inspiring work,” said Hessler.

Introduction to Creative Writing/Poetry Workshop
Dr. Elaine Smokewood
Students participate in poetry writing workshops for residents at Epworth Villa Retirement Community, working one-on-one with residents, and designing and teaching lessons.

Spanish Civilization
Dr. Donna Hodkinson
Continuing the work they did in fall 2002, advanced Spanish students serve as classroom volunteers, teaching Spanish at Gatewood Elementary School, where there is no designated Spanish teacher.

Universal Self-Care Requisites III: Activity and Social Interaction
Denise Burton and Nancy Gibson
Junior nursing students complete a portion of their clinical requirements by planning and implementing a weekend camp for children, ages seven to eighteen, with spina bifida. The camp is coordinated with the Spina Bifida Clinic at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Children’s Hospital.

The Many Facets of Service

“Service is the rent that you pay for room on this earth.” – Shirley Chisholm, first African-American woman elected to the US Congress

EVERY DAY, IN MANY WAYS, OKLAHOMA City University students, faculty, and staff continue to uphold the tradition of community service, in and out of the classroom. Here are some of the ways we touch the surrounding community:

Annual Children’s Concert
Working to create an interest in and appreciation of music for Oklahoma City’s
youth, the School of Music hosts an annual children’s concert for students from the Oklahoma City Public School system. “We play to fifth graders who will be making a decision whether or not to start an instrument next year,” explained Dr. Matthew Mailman, director of bands. After the spring 2002 concerts, members of the university’s Wind Philharmonic were stationed around the recital hall and lobby for an “instrument petting zoo.” Students were encouraged to handle and play all sorts of instruments, ranging from the flute to the tuba.

Food Bank Donations and Labels for Education

Over the holidays, and throughout the year, various university groups take up collections for the community. This fall, OCU LEADS students collected canned food for the Regional Food Bank, and the university’s Student Oklahoma Education Association collected labels and box tops to help Eugene Field Elementary School buy much needed equipment and classroom materials. Sodexo, the university’s dining service, also collects canned food at the holiday season.

GEAR UP

Oklahoma City University GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) staff, which includes students, faculty, and alumni, works with students in the Oklahoma City Public Schools in programs designed to provide incentives for pursuing a college education. Last fall, Lora Carter, education graduate student from Oklahoma City, worked with students at Douglas High School on a variety of art projects, including a mural at the school. “I taught them art techniques, but I also taught them how to cooperate with each other,” said Carter.

Habitat for Humanity Shack-athon

Oklahoma City University’s Habitat for Humanity Chapter raised $1,100 at its third annual Shack-athon fundraiser last November. Participants paid a $50 fee to build their shacks on the campus quad, then stayed in them overnight. Teams earned points (and money) through

Oklahoma City Service Project

This summer, grade nine through twelve youths will serve the community through a weeklong urban mission experience, the Oklahoma City Service Project. The project is a partnership between Oklahoma City University students, faculty, and staff; Volunteers in Mission; Project Transformation; and youth and their sponsors from across the region.

Volunteer work will include construction and renovation projects in the Oklahoma City area and working with college students to lead enrichment programs for inner city children. Oklahoma City University students will provide leadership, training, and support. There will also be opportunities for worship and reflection.

For more information, contact Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, Director of the Vivian Wimberly Center for Ethics and Community Service at (405) 521-5284 or mdavies@okcu.edu.
games and the popular People’s Choice competition. All profits go toward the construction of a university-sponsored Habitat house.

Kramer School of Nursing

For six years, the nursing school has sponsored Camp Wildfire, an outdoor camp for children with spina bifida. Junior nursing students and faculty sponsors Nancy Gibson and Denise Burton collaborate with staff at Children’s Hospital to provide boating, fishing, basketball, pet therapy, and much more for children who otherwise would have no opportunity for a summer camp experience due to their severe physical limitations. The camp has grown from eleven campers its first year to eighteen last year.

Nursing professors Glenda Bell and Alison Severns took a group of twenty-four students, nurse practitioners, and translators to Rio Bravo, Mexico in winter 2002. The group saw some 400 patients in two remote sites and at the Volunteers in Mission clinic. This year’s mission trip will be to Chiapas, Mexico, in May.

This year’s Asian Health Fair saw more than 180 families from the community. Nursing students, translators, and community health care providers offered free services, including screening for cholesterol, diabetes, glaucoma, respiratory problems, and spinal problems, as well as hearing tests and mammography.

School of Law

The Volunteer Legal Center lets law students work with pro bono attorneys in a community setting, assisting low-income clients. Saturday morning clinics are held in churches and community centers near campus, and provide consumer debt counseling; eventually they should address many areas of civil law.

Oklahoma Lawyers for Children
(See story, facing page.)

Let’s Pretend Players

Professor Judith Palladino, chair of the Petree College of Arts and Sciences Speech and Theatre Department, writes and directs theater presentations performed at elementary and secondary schools. She also creates a teacher resource packet with information and activities correlated to Oklahoma City Public School’s core curriculum.

Light the Campus

Building on the success of the 2001 inaugural event, the second annual Light the Campus celebration in November 2002 brought even more holiday cheer to the Oklahoma City community. (See page 12 for details.)

OCULEADS

A scholarship and leadership program designed for freshmen who have demonstrated excellent leadership potential in high school, OCULEADS participates in several service projects each year, including volunteer work at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church and for Habitat for Humanity.

Petree College of Arts and Sciences Speakers Bureau

In fall 2001, the Petree College of Arts and Sciences launched a speakers bureau, providing college level presentations to area high school classes. A number of arts and sciences faculty and staff have participated, including Denise Binkley, teacher education certification specialist, who spoke to seniors at Norman High School on the topic of student success; former Associate Dean Mark
certification specialist, who spoke to seniors at Norman High School on the topic of student success; former Associate Dean Mark Y.A. Davies, who spoke on environmental studies to students at Heritage Hall; Psychology Department Chair Dr. Dennis Jowaisas, who also spoke to Heritage Hall students; and Philosophy Department Chair Dr. Leo Werneke, who spoke to students at Norman High School.

**Stars for Schools**

Stars for Schools was a new part of New Student Orientation last fall. Oklahoma City University student, faculty, and staff volunteers took their shovels, hammers, and paint brushes to area schools for much-needed fix-up projects. Sociology major Jennifer L. Price, of Tulsa, OK, was the project coordinator.

**University Park Coalition**

Oklahoma City University partners with a coalition of area neighborhoods, business associations, the City of Oklahoma City, and a variety of nonprofit organizations, churches, and other agencies to build a thriving urban community in central Oklahoma City. The coalition’s four strategic goals are neighborhood enhancement, business and economic development, human opportunities development, and centralized communications and support.

**The Vivian Wimberly Center for Ethics and Community Service**

Started in July 2002, the Vivian Wimberly Center for Ethics and Community Service works with all academic, social, and cultural centers on campus to promote service learning throughout the university. The center provides incentives to faculty, including stipends for faculty members whose service learning courses are chosen each semester, and a structure that supports and encourages students to undertake service learning.

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**Through the Eyes of a Child: One Person Can Make a Difference**

by Melissa Milligan, marketing and public relations coordinator, School of Law

A little more than five years ago, Don Nicholson invited his friend Kent Meyers, a School of Law adjunct professor, on a tour – something that would change the world around them. The tour followed the path an abused child takes through “the system.” Everywhere they went, they found a system overwhelmed. Nicholas and Meyers decided it was their responsibility to help these children, and the seed for Oklahoma Lawyers for Children was planted. Oklahoma County District Court Judge Niles Jackson, ’75 Juris Doctor, issued an administrative order to create the program. Today, nearly 400 lawyers, paralegals, court reporters, mediators, investigators, lay volunteers, and School of Law students donate their time and expertise. The program assists 300 to 400 children at a time, with nearly 200 lawyers actively working cases. Last year, attorneys donated over $3 million in services.

Oklahoma Lawyers for Children focuses on abused and neglected children. “Studies show that the lives of these children can be turned around if they receive adequate service and therapy. Those brought into the system that do not receive the attention and care they need will usually return to the system as a delinquent and in many cases return again as an adult offender,” explained Meyers.

“Doing this work is both good and bad emotionally. It tears you up to see children mistreated and abused. They are not just a name or statistic. It is a little child holding your hand, looking to you for protection,” said Meyers.

To provide these children excellent legal counsel requires continuing education for the volunteer attorneys and training for the lay volunteers. Throughout the year, special volunteer training is held at the School of Law. “The help and support of Oklahoma City University School of Law has been invaluable to the program,” said Meyers. “It willingly shares resources and facilities, and the students generously donate their time.”

Five years ago, Meyers looked at the world through the eyes of an abused child and, instead of turning away, stayed to help.

For information on how to volunteer your time or provide legal services to Oklahoma Lawyers for Children, call (405) 23-CHILD or visit www.oklahomalawyersforchildren.com.

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This article first appeared in O C U LAW, the magazine of Oklahoma City University School of Law. To read the complete story, visit www.okcu.edu/law/alumni/oculaw_child.asp.
“With an impressive breadth of academic scope, he teaches economics as a transcendent truth, providing truth not just about our pocketbooks, but about all human interaction.”

- Luke Dick, senior philosophy major

Moini taught at Oklahoma City University from 1967 to ‘68, while a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma. He taught at Wichita State University from 1969 to ‘74, and taught in an MBA program started by Harvard Business School in Tehran, Iran, prior to the 1978 revolution. He also founded Gohaar Corporation, now one of the top paper products firms in Iran. He returned to the United States and the Oklahoma City University faculty in 1987.

The university’s Philosophy Club sponsors a Last Lecture Series, in which, semi-annually, esteemed faculty members give a talk as if it were their last opportunity to speak publicly. Dr. Moini gave the fall 2002 lecture. A detailed, slide-show version is at http://ocu-stars.okcu.edu/mmoini. Here is a condensed version of what he shared that evening:

“As spiritual beings, we are primarily our values, thoughts, and feelings. The rest is, as Rumi would put it, bone and tissue. Our values tell us where to go and our thoughts tell us how to get there. While instinctual wants pull us toward the animal state, our spiritual wants remind us of our divine essence, as told by our sacred traditions.

“It is not, therefore, how we seek but what we seek that defines our humanity. What good is there in moving ever more efficiently in the wrong direction? While science and technology could benefit humanity, there is nothing inherent in them to prevent them from doing the opposite. The guidance has to come from the domain of values.

“To the extent the value sciences, and even philosophy itself, have abandoned their own rich heritages of method and content and fallen into the ideological trap of positivism, they are like the proverbial crow that, in trying unsuccessfully to walk like a quail, forgot its own walk.

“This crisis of intellect and spirit is a greater danger than the sum of all other crises that threaten civilization, because it constitutes their ultimate cause. The source (and cure) for this great crisis is the modern university. It is difficult to predict when the institution will awaken to its awesome responsibility.”

Oklahoma City University has been an environment of personal and professional growth. I have been very happy here and enjoy interacting with people across campus.”

- Mostafa Moini

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<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Research and Public Lectures</th>
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<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Published articles in the Review of Austrian Economics, the Journal of Legal Finance, the Journal of Economics, several national conference proceedings, popular media (e.g. TheTulsaWorld), and the Meinders School of Business Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Public lectures, primarily in the areas of Theory of Money and The Interface of Economics and Higher Values (Axiology)</td>
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<td>1966</td>
<td>Member, Southern Economic Association and Western Economic Association</td>
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<td>1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts in economics, University of Oklahoma</td>
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University Trustee Dr. Wanda L. Bass, ’02 honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, was honored during 150th Anniversary celebrations at Steinway & Sons in New York City in March. The company’s CEO, Bruce Stevens, presented Bass a gold medallion and saluted her contribution to the arts. He also noted that Oklahoma City University’s School of Music has become one of the few all-Steinway schools in the world.

Bass made music history last year by underwriting the purchase of 105 new Steinway pianos for the School of Music, the largest order in the history of Steinway & Sons. Henry Z. Steinway, great-grandson of the company’s founder, was on hand to congratulate her. Pianists Ahmad Jamal and Ramsey Lewis performed at the Steinway anniversary event, at which two limited edition pianos were unveiled.

The celebration in New York was also attended by Mark Parker, dean of the School of Music; Kurt Leichter, university trustee; Cathy Leichter, School of Music advisory board member; Ann Hoover, School of Music advisory board chair and member of the Kennedy Center Presidential Advisory Board for the Arts, and her husband, Bob Hoover; Mike and Wanda Gilliam, co-owners of Edmond Music, Oklahoma’s oldest Steinway dealer, which is handling the university’s order; Mary Jane Alexander, media liaison for the School of Music; Jo Beth Moad, director of the university’s Performing Arts Academy; and Scott Davis and David Leader, members of the Performing Arts Academy executive board. Lance McDaniel, the son of President Tom J. and First Lady Brenda McDaniel, joined the group in New York.

Bass was also honored at The 21 Club, one of midtown Manhattan’s best-known landmark restaurants. The former speakeasy is known for the collection of artifacts dangling from the ceiling of its main dining room, which now includes a small Steinway-crafted piano commemorating Bass’s record-setting purchase of pianos for the university.

The visitors from Oklahoma toured the Steinway factory and attended Broadway shows starring university alumni. They met onstage with Dan Webb, ’01 Bachelor of Music in vocal performance, featured in Baz Luhrmann’s production of La Boheme at the Broadway Theater, and with Kelli O’Hara, ’98 Bachelor of Music in vocal performance, starring in the title role of My Life with Albertine at Playwrights Horizons.

Other alumni gathered at a Friday night reception for Bass at the Doubles Club in the Sherry-Netherland Hotel on Fifth Avenue.

Clockwise, from top: After the Steinway & Sons factory tour: (l-r) Scott Davis, David Leader, Jo Beth Moad, Lance McDaniel, Cathy Leichter, Dr. Wanda L. Bass, Mark Parker, Kurt Leichter, and Wanda Gilliam; Tony®-nominated librettist Bill Russell with Dr. Wanda L. Bass and Dean Mark Parker at the alumni reception at the Doubles Club; Bass with Henry Z. Steinway (great-grandson of the company’s founder) and CEO Bruce Stevens; Cathy Leichter admiring the gold medallion Steinway & Sons presented to Bass during the company’s 150th anniversary celebrations.

Bass Completes Pledge for All-Steinway School

In February, donations by Dr. Wanda L. Bass to the School of Music passed $10 million with her payment of $2.236 million for the record-breaking purchase of 105 Steinway pianos. The gift includes $400,000 as a maintenance endowment for the instruments and $200,000 to cover the cost of the plaza for the music center that will bear her name.
Building on the success of the 2001 inaugural event, the second annual Light the Campus celebration in November 2002 brought even more holiday cheer to the Oklahoma City community. The evening, which included horse-drawn carriage rides, a visit from Santa and Rudolph, and entertainment by the university’s Surrey Singers, saw a turnout of some 900 people.

Annette Patterson, wife of Oklahoma City University Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Bernie Patterson, and First Lady Brenda McDaniel worked with a team of university faculty and staff volunteers to assemble holiday gift baskets with food and toys for families in the neighborhood adjacent to campus. They also sent more than 100 toys to Exodus House and Skyline Urban Ministries.
Close to 4,000 people filled the Henry J. Freede Wellness and Activity Center on February 12 for a presentation by famous author Kurt Vonnegut Jr. as part of the university’s Distinguished Speakers Series.

What key advice did the bestselling author of Slaughterhouse Five have for young writers?

"Don't use semicolons."
School of Law Gains National Recognition

by Melissa Milligan, marketing and public relations coordinator, School of Law

The Association of American Law Schools (AALS), the nation’s oldest and most prestigious organization of law schools, approved Oklahoma City University School of Law’s application for membership on January 2. AALS took this action at the unanimous recommendation of its executive committee during the association’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

In its approval AALS said Oklahoma City University exemplified the association’s core values respecting teaching, research, intellectual community (including intellectual and cultural diversity), academic freedom, sound governance, and a commitment to justice and public service.

The AALS application review involved a thirteen-month process, including an extensive site visit, a thorough report, and appearances before both the Membership and Executive committees. However, according to School of Law Dean Lawrence K. Hellman, “More than any other factor, AALS membership turns on an assessment of the strength of a school’s faculty – their dedication to teaching, their contributions to scholarship, and their engagement of the legal community. With the full support of the university, our faculty has built an institution that has been deemed ready to take its place alongside the nation’s most prestigious law schools that founded the AALS more than a century ago.

“This formal recognition confirms what we have long known and reflects the considerable professional success of our alumni throughout Oklahoma and across the nation.”

School of Law Dean Lawrence K. Hellman

Friends of Oklahoma City University School of Law gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Shdeed to celebrate the recent election of Oklahoma City University School of Law to membership in the Association of American Law Schools. The hosts for the evening were (pictured, l - r) University President Tom J. McDaniel, First Lady Brenda McDaniel, Gay Hellman, School of Law Dean Lawrence K. Hellman, Pam Shdeed, and University Board of Trustees Chair William F. Shdeed. War II, part-time, evening law school exclusively serving a local constituency to a national law school operating highly regarded full-time and part-time degree programs. This is a credit not only to our School of Law but also to our university, which fostered this development. The law school is one of the strongest units of the university, and the board of trustees and I are committed to seeing it continue to develop and prosper.”

“aright caption here

School of Law
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To find out more:

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### SAMPLE ANNUITY RATES

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Important Note: A charitable gift annuity is not regulated by the Oklahoma Insurance Department and is not protected by a guaranty association affiliated with the Oklahoma Insurance Department.
Leichters Create Rowan Scholarship Endowment

When Jo Rowan came to Oklahoma City University in 1981 to begin an entertainment-oriented dance program, there were four dance students. Twenty-one years later, there are nearly 200 dance majors, and an additional 100 performing arts students studying tap, jazz, ballet, and theatrical dance. Rowan’s program has become world-renowned for producing top dancers and performers in show business, it is hailed by many Broadway dancers as the top university dance program in North America for producing musical theatre dancers, and it has been called “the best preparatory dance program in the nation” by the editor of Dance Magazine.

To recognize this success, Cathy Leichter, a member of the School of Music’s advisory board, and Dr. Kurt Leichter, '98 honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, a member of the university’s board of trustees, have made the initial contribution to a Jo Rowan Endowed Dance Scholarship, with an initial goal of $50,000 to produce earnings for actual scholarship awards.

Since Rowan’s choreography centers on relationships and reflects the meaning people give to their lives, the scholarship will be for dancers who demonstrate unusual dramatic and communicative ability in performance. To contribute to this scholarship fund, send checks payable to OCU-Jo Rowan Dance Scholarship Fund to the Office of Institutional Advancement, 2501 N. Blackwelder, Oklahoma City, OK 73106-1493.
Stellar Students

Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, has inducted Seth Adams, political science senior from Clinton, OK, Jonathan Morales, criminal justice senior from Oklahoma City, Randy Smith, political science junior from Leedy, OK, and Dennis Nichols, political science senior from Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma City University students are participating in Americorps’s Smart Start program. After completing 425 to 900 volunteer hours in public schools, students receive an education award of up to $2,362 to pay for undergraduate or graduate school. Participants include eleven education majors (Mindy Cowley, of Oklahoma City, J. L. Dye Jr., of Crescent, OK, Mark Ferrer, of Seattle, WA, Brandi Gilliam, of Broken Bow, OK, Vanessa Greer, of Oklahoma City, Tara Muchmore, of Oklahoma City, Lauren Phelps, of Oklahoma City, Rena Reynolds, of Bethany, OK, Cheyanne Riley, of Tuttle, OK, Sara Shackford, of Oklahoma City, and Jane Shields, of Lawton, OK), one business major (Daniel Lancaster, of Anna, TX), and one theatre major (Brandy Clark, of Oklahoma City).

Guillermo Albornoz, chemistry senior from Barcelona, Spain, presented a paper, Characterization of the Type I Casein Kinase Gene Family, at the ninety-first annual Technical Meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science in November 2002.

Cindi Fleshman, senior economics major from Elk City, OK, and Brian Phillips, senior economics major from Stillwater, OK, participated in the Capitol Hill Internship Program sponsored by the United Methodist College Washington Consortium. They spent the fall 2002 semester working and studying in Washington, D.C.


Accounting for Social Costs Associated with Resale Price Maintenance, a paper by Fleshman, was presented at the Missouri Valley Economics Association meeting in St. Louis, MO, and the Federation of Business Disciplines meeting in Houston, TX. She will present the paper at the Southwestern Economics Association meeting on April 18 in San Antonio, TX, and the Western Economic Association meetings in Denver, CO, on July 8.

Oklahoma City University mass communications students won five of ten available Oklahoma City Advertising Club Scholarships in 2002. The two top students in Oklahoma were Gretchen Fryer, '02 Bachelor of Arts in broadcasting, and Amy Wagner, ‘02 Bachelor of Arts in advertising.

Kayla Garroutte, biology major from Prue, OK, spent six weeks last summer as a participant in the St. Anthony’s Hospital Pre-Medical Program.

Miles Gordon, senior economics major from Oklahoma City, has been accepted into an economics doctoral program at Texas Tech in Lubbock, TX.

Donna Gregory, English and philosophy major from El Reno, OK, had poetry and a personal essay accepted to be read at the International Sigma Tau Delta Conference in Cincinnati, OH. Her essay, “Indelible,” won a Sigma Tau Delta President’s Convention Writing Award for second place in the personal essay category. Gregory works in the School of Law Library.

School of Music students dominated the collegiate finals of the Oklahoma Flute Society’s annual festival. Sophomore Rachel Jarrett, of Yukon, OK, won the competition and was one of four students chosen to participate in a master class with Leon Buyseon. Other finalists included freshman Alaina Diehl, of Albuquerque, NM, and sophomore Jennifer Bussum, of Moore, OK.

Keilli Hicks, ‘02 Bachelor of Arts in mass communications, a political science minor, served an internship in the office of former Governor Frank Keating. The Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature elected Hicks speaker of the house in fall 2002.

Composition graduate student Elad Katz, of Haifa, Israel, has composed music for the touring production, And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Ann Frank, a drama combining interviews with Holocaust survivors Eva Schloss and Ed Silverberg with live actors recreating episodes from World War II. Schloss’s mother married Anne Frank’s father, Otto, after the war.

Graduate business and arts management student Stephen Kovash designed and conducted an audience survey for Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma via www.ftsinc.net/lyric/ to help them improve their marketing efforts. This form of community service is typical for students in the arts management program.

In October 2002, Leah Ledbetter, mass communications major from Oklahoma City, was crowned Miss OCU 2003. Ledbetter won three semesters
of full tuition scholarship and will represent the university in the Miss Oklahoma competition in June. Her platform is preventing teen pregnancy.

Dennis Noll, senior economics major from Yukon, OK, presented a paper, “The Impact of Minor League Sports on the Quality of Life in Their Respective Cities,” at the Missouri Valley Economics Association meeting in St. Louis, MO, and the Federation of Business Disciplines meeting in Houston, TX. He will also present the paper at the Southwestern Economics Association meetings April 18 in San Antonio, TX. His earlier paper, coauthored with Professor Jonathan Willner, “Professional Sports and the Quality of Life,” was published in Southwestern Journal of Economics (vol. 5, no. 2).

Fabulous Faculty and Staff

Dr. Susan C. Barber is the new assistant vice president for academic affairs. Barber has worked at the university for twenty years, chairing the Biology Department for seventeen and serving on several university committees. She serves on the Budget and Honors committees and will chair the Academic Council. She is also advisor for the Tri Beta Society. Barber holds a Ph.D. in botany from the University of Oklahoma.

Visiting Assistant Professor Sharon Brickman has been elected to the board of Community Council of Oklahoma. She will also serve on a committee for the Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation, as an advisor to the Partners in Education program, which seeks to create partnerships between schools and corporations.

She graduated from the University of Oklahoma in December with a Ph.D. in instructional psychology and technology.

Sharon Cole is the new grants officer in the Office of Sponsored Programs. Cole worked previously at the University of Houston in the Texas Learning and Computation Center’s research division and, for eight years, as senior grants and contracts administrator in the Office of Grants and Contracts. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in business education from the University of Oklahoma and a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma State University.

The National Science Foundation has funded a collaborative research project involving Oklahoma City University and Point Loma Nazarene University. The Biology Department’s Dr. Terry Conley will be the co-principle investigator. The university will receive $373,282 for direct costs from the grant, which includes money for three undergraduate interns for the next three summers.

In November 2002, the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Political Science Association named Dr. Larry Eberhardt its Political Scientist Scholar of the Year, recognizing both his recent work and career achievements.

Last fall, Adjunct Professor Greg Eskridge, who directed the university’s production of The Odd Couple (female version), helped GEAR UP Coordinator Cathy Klasek develop an arts integration program to help raise student scores; teach critical thinking and public speaking; and reach out to children not served by math or science-based activities.

Education professor Dr. Bryan Farha’s Stupid Pet Psychic Tricks has been published in SKEPTIC and The New England Journal of Skepticism. He also reviewed the text, Lifting the Pall: Pilgrimage through Living and Dying for Thompson Learning.

Dr. Jody Horn presented “The Impact of the Media on Youth Violence” at the Oklahoma City Public School’s Parent Summit. Horn is also a mentor for a research project, Perceptions of Racial Profiling, conducted by honors students at Moore High School.

Michael Jackson is the new director of institutional research and assessment. Jackson worked previously for Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK. He has chaired the Professional Standards and Development Committee and served as president of the Oklahoma Academic Advising Association, and was also co-chair of the National Academic Advisement Association, Region 7 Conference. He holds a Master of Science in college teaching/student personnel services and a Bachelor of Science in chemistry, both from NSU, and is completing a doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.

The English Department’s Dr. Abigail Keegan has been offered a publishing contract for her book, Byron’s Othered Self and Voice: Contextualizing the Homographic Signature.

Idlar Khannanov, visiting assistant professor of theory at the School of Music, has had two
 jurorsed research papers on music theory accepted at academic conferences for presentation in 2003. In March, he presented Parsimonious Voice-Leading in Rimsky-Korsakov’s Music at the West Coast Conference of Music Theory and Analysis in Albuquerque, NM, and, in October, will discuss Techniques of Russian Solfege at the annual convention of the National College Music Society in Miami, FL. This summer, the Russian philosophy journal, Blue Divan, will publish his review of the Lawrence Kramer book, Musical Meaning.

On February 27, the Oklahoma City University Symphony Orchestra premiered a new composition by university Composer in Residence Dr. Edward Knight, The Golden Spike. The performance was dedicated to President and Mrs. Tom J. McDaniel on the eve of his presidential inauguration. The title referred to the gold spike driven on May 10, 1869, in the last length of track linking the American West to the East. Harpist Heidi Tims, instrumental performance major from Seminole, OK, a winner of the university’s annual concerto competition, also appeared on the program as featured soloist for Maurice Ravel’s Introduction and Allegro. Struck by Tims’s talent, Dr. Wanda L. Bass, School of Music benefactor (who donated the money to make ours an all-Steinway music school), has offered to buy the best quality harp available for our students to use.

Biology instructor Dr. Lois Kruschwitz directed the 2002 Prairie to Peaks program, funded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

In October 2002, University Press of America published Metaphor, Culture, and Worldview: The Case of American English and the Chinese Language by Dr. Dilin Liu. In February, TESOL Inc. published a book he edited, Grammar Teaching in Teacher Education. Liu had an article accepted for presentation at the American Association for Applied Linguistics annual conference in Washington, D.C., in March, and has a research article in review for publication by the TESOL Quarterly.

The National Collegiate Honors Council has elected arts and sciences Associate Dean Virginia McCombs vice president. She will serve as president in 2005.

Lynette Martin is the new director of the Career Services Center. Since 1999, Martin has served as adjunct professor for internships at the Meinders School of Business, working with business and industry in the Oklahoma City area to provide students internship and employment opportunities. She also coordinated the school’s job fair, increasing business participation by 100%. Martin has worked as a third party recruiter, human resources generalist, and in sales.

Speech and Theatre Department Professor David Pasto directed a well-received production of Stop Kiss, by Diana Son, for Oklahoma City Theatre Company in January. Two of the performers in this contemporary play were Joelle Parrott, 02 Bachelor of Arts in theatre, summa cum laude, and former graduate theatre student Alice Murphy Williams.

David Renter, the university’s new instructor of saxophone and jazz studies, won the $2,000 first prize at the Brussels Jazz Orchestra International Composition Contest in Belgium in September 2002. He was one of five finalists from North America and Europe who were flown to Brussels to conduct performances of their new works. His winning nine-minute composition, Closing [Afterthought], is the third movement of The Conversation Suite, a thirty-minute big band jazz work. The piece will be added to the Brussels Jazz Orchestra catalogue.

Brent Berger, senior biology major from Fayetteville, AR, was named by USA Today in February to its All-USA College Academic Team (honorable mention). He is one of only two students from Oklahoman universities to be selected this year. USA Today considered almost 500 nominees from four-year colleges nationwide and selected only twenty students each for the first, second, and third teams, and twenty-three honorable mentions.

Berger was nominated by faculty members based on his high grade point average and status as a Goldwater Scholar. He has worked as an intern and research assistant, and is president of the Biology Department’s chapter of the national Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society. He is also a senior member of the Oklahoma City University Stars Soccer Team.

He prepared a research poster and presented it in November 2001 at the 89th Annual Technical Meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, winning the prize for Best Undergraduate Poster in Botany.

“In terms of academic performance, I rank him among the top five percent of undergraduates I have known during my 20-year teaching career,” said Dr. Terry Conley, associate professor and chairman of the Biology Department.

Berger plans to pursue graduate studies and has a strong interest in plant systematics and evolution.
Dr. Donna Richardson renewed the contract for external evaluation of the Oklahoma City Public School Even Start program for the 2002-03 academic year.

Dr. Jacci Rodgers is the new faculty associate for assessment. Rodgers, an accounting professor, has taught at the university since 1992. She will work with others at the university to organize and coordinate assessment plans.

Professor John Schimek, coordinator of music education, has been elected vice president of the higher education division of the Oklahoma Music Educators Association executive board. He is immediate past vice president of its orchestra division. At this year’s OMEA convention in Tulsa, Schimek had two compositions performed by the Middle School Honors Orchestra from the Classen School for Advanced Studies.

Earlier in January, he led a clinic for Oklahoma City public school teachers and worked with orchestras from Norman North, Jenks, and Santa Fe high schools. Schimek is a bassist with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.

Program Excellence

The Blackwelder Group, a group of mass communications students, is doing a project this spring for Volunteers in Mission, traveling to Mexico to tape video for presentation to the annual conference of the Oklahoma Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church this spring. Copies of the video will go to every church in the conference.

On November 1, 2002, the Meinders School of Business honored Luke R. Corbett, chairman and chief executive officer of Kerr-McGee Corporation, and Steven E. Moore, chairman of the board, president and CEO of OGE Energy Corporation, at the sixteenth annual induction luncheon for the Oklahoma Commerce and Industry Hall of Honor. President Tom J. McDaniel presided over the luncheon held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Center.

Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin presented Luke Corbett, and Oklahoma City Mayor Kirk Humphreys presented Steven Moore. The event also honored the winner of the Dean’s Free Enterprise Award, presented by Meinders School of Business Dean Dr. Bart Willson Lecture Inspires Effort to Help Homeless

A group of Oklahoma City volunteers is organizing a program to help homeless adults find their way off the streets. The Open Door is modeled after The Back Door, a highly successful, fifteen-year old program started by Carl DeLine in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

DeLine gave the university's fall 2002 Willson Lecture. "He talked about the program he created and directed in Canada and said it provided a means by which scores of homeless young adults went from being homeless to becoming productive citizens," said Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, dean of the Wimberly School of Religion and Graduate Theological Center.

In his Willson Lecture, DeLine said, "The miraculous result is that over seventy percent of the youth who walked in the door found a place of their own, got a job, and became taxpayers by the end of their second year of the program."

The Oklahoma City program will be staffed by volunteers and paid workers.

"The Open Door is completely nonsectarian and will not allow religious pressures of any kind to be applied to participants in the program," noted one of the organizers, the Rev. Dr. Dale Tremper. For more information, contact Tremper at (405) 632-2644 or tremserve@aol.com.

The Willson Lectures are made possible through the generous endowment established by Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Willson Sr. of Floydada, TX. Their gift has brought to campus speakers of international stature from the arts, government, business, religion, and science.  🌎
constructed a cutting-edge UNIX programming lab with twenty microcomputers and one server. Professor Gary McNutt, who has also received a grant to pay for extensive training on such systems, is the lab administrator. The computers were delivered in summer 2002, and the lab deployed in time for fall 2002 courses. Several computer science lab courses were shifted to this facility, and computer science students are now exposed to both dominant operating systems used in industry, Windows NT and UNIX.

At a performance of Yuletide Magic in December 2002, the School of American Dance and Arts Management honored Art and Nancy Stone for their contributions to the American entertainment industry. The Stones own Dance Olympus, DanceAmerica, Statler Records, and Art Stone Costumes. The Preservation of our Heritage - American Dance Award recognized their tireless efforts to enhance the professional lives of dancers in North America. The Stones were also the first recipients of the school’s Arts Management Enterprise Award, which honored them for their positive influence on American dance and for epitomizing the American spirit as entrepreneurs who have achieved success in the business of show business.

The Education Department is working with the Episcopal Church in Duncan, OK, to develop a Montessori Elementary Program for six to nine year olds. Several of the Montessori instructors have presented programs at the National American Montessori Conference in Washington, D.C., the fall American Montessori Conference in St. Louis, MO, and at the Oklahoma Early Childhood Association.

On April 4 and 5, the English Department hosted the fifth annual C.S. Lewis and Inklings Conference, The New Mythmakers. Oklahoma City University hosted the first C.S. Lewis Conference in 1998 with partial funding from the Oklahoma Foundation for the Humanities.

More than doubling its contribution to Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc., the School of Law’s Phi Alpha Delta fraternity donated $1,300 to the organization in April 2002.

In February, the School of Law’s Center for the Study of State Constitutional Law and Government and the Association of Professional Oklahoma Educators sponsored a debate on the proposed state lottery between Gov. Brad Henry and State Rep. Forrest Claunch in the Homsey Family Moot Courtroom at the Sarkeys Law Center.

The Kramer School of Nursing reported a record eighty-eight students enrolled in the fall 2002 semester. Enrollment was boosted by a new RN to BSN track that allows registered nurses to obtain their bachelor’s degrees in as little as nine months, depending on prior college work. RN to BSN students enjoy the program so much they have become the school’s best recruiters. Applications to the traditional nursing program are looking promising for next year as well. To learn more about the RN to BSN program, contact Glenda Kirkham at (405) 521-5901 or gkirkham@okcu.edu.

On April 16, the university hosted “Conversations with Naomi Shihab Nye” as part of the fifth annual Thatcher Hoffman Smith Speaker Series. Nye is an author of children’s literature, cultural anthropologist, editor, essayist, novelist, poet, and songwriter. She has won four Pushcart Prizes. For more information about the series, contact Dr. Harbour Winn, director of the Center for Interpersonal Studies through Film and Literature, at (405) 521-5472 or hwinn@okcu.edu.

The Mass Communications Department has received a $90,000 grant from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation. The funds will be used to help create the Edith Kinney Gaylord Interdisciplinary Education Program in the print journalism track, specifically to purchase new computer equipment, and hire more faculty to help with The Campus newspaper and The Constellation yearbook.

L to R: School of American Dance and Arts Management Dean John Bedford, Dance Department Chair J o Rowan, Nancy Stone, Kory Powell (dance senior from Ralston, NE), Art Stone, Elizabeth Porter (dance senior from St. Charles, MO), and President Tom J. McDaniel. (Photo by Matthew Cheney)
On January 16, the Vivian Wimberly Center for Ethics and Community Service presented a lecture by Dr. Jay McDaniel, “World Religions and Ecology.” McDaniel is a professor of religion at Hendrix College in Conway, AR, an active conservationist, and author of eight books, including Living from the Center: Spirituality in the Age of Consumerism.

Donors, Friends, and Community

The university’s Black Student Association, Black Law Student Association, and Office of University Church Relations sponsored a celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel on January 20. Edward M. Porter Sr., former Oklahoma State Senator and former president of the Oklahoma City chapter of the NAACP, addressed the crowd. Porter marched with Dr. King in Atlanta, GA, in 1963.

Valerie Steele, seminary student, played keyboard and conducted the choir.

On April 2, a team from Oklahoma City University helped clear litter on N.W. 23rd Street as part of the city and Oklahoma City Beautiful’s LitterBlitz program. The university’s team was sponsored by the Office of Student Life and the Vivian Wimberly Center for Ethics and Community Service.

J. William Conger, senior partner and president of the Oklahoma City law firm Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville, joined the University Leadership Team in January as the university’s general counsel. Conger is a former president of the Oklahoma County Bar Association and serves on the Board of Governors of the University of Oklahoma.

School of Music Presents Unusual Stravinsky Piece

A chorus of more than 120 singers were joined by a percussion orchestra and four pianists on Steinway grands as the School of Music presented the Oklahoma premiere of Les Noces (The Wedding), by Igor Stravinsky, on April 29.

“The piece is one of the most influential of the twentieth century, inspiring grand works such as Orff’s Carmina Burana. It is seldom performed because of the large forces needed and the difficulty of the work,” said School of Music Dean Mark Parker.

Stravinsky composed Les Noces during World War I as a series of Russian choreographic scenes in four tableaux.

Dr. Marika Kuzma conducted Les Noces in the Kirkpatrick Fine Arts Center’s Petree Recital Hall. She is director of university choirs at the University of California at Berkeley, with a specialty in Slavic music, and has guest conducted the National Orchestra of Ukraine, Bay Area Women’s Philharmonic, Handel Society of Dartmouth College, Berkeley Symphony, Composers Inc., and Earplay.
Oklahoma Bar Association. He will be chief legal officer of the university and perform services in the School of Law, including teaching courses and serving as coordinator of student pro bono activities. Conger has taught trial advocacy at Oklahoma City University since 2000. He has expressed interest in developing a Law Practice Management course. He will also serve as a student counselor, assist with School of Law capital fundraising, and coordinate the pro bono services offered by law students. Conger holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Oklahoma College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in history from OU; he also studied at Louisiana State University Law Center.

Robert L. Reed III, son of Robert L. Reed, artist-in-residence in rhythm tap at the School of American Dance and Arts Management, has been cast in the Tony Award®-winning Broadway show, Bring in da Noize, Bring in da Funk, starring Savion Glover. Reed III performed on campus in February 2002 at the Doctors of Dance event honoring nine master performers.

Oklahoma City University alumni, students, and former students were a major part of the dedication of the dome November 16, 2002, including Oklahoma State Tourism Director Jane Jayroe Gamble, '69 Bachelor of Music and Miss America 1967, and two other former Miss Americas, Susan Powell and Shawntel Smith, both former students; opera star Leona Mitchell, '71 Bachelor of Music and '79 Master of Music; Broadway star Kristin Chenoweth, '91 Bachelor of Music in theatre; former student Jonathan Beck Reed; and the School of American Dance and Arts Management’s The American Spirit Dance Company.

On March 11, two well-known figures in American dance attended The American Spirit Dance Company's spring show. K.C. Patrick, Dance magazine’s editor in chief, received the School of American Dance and Arts Management’s Preservation of our Heritage award for “unfaltering advocacy on behalf of the American dance community and for exemplary leadership in the dance media, fostering a broader vision of the variety and validity of American dance styles.” Carl Schlesinger, producer and composer, got to see his piece, The New York Times Color March, performed. Schlesinger received a Preservation of our Heritage award in 2001 for his efforts to bring recognition to great tap dancers by honoring them with the Flo-Bert awards in New York City.
Davies is New Religion Dean

Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, ‘88 Bachelor of Arts in philosophy/religion, summa cum laude, has been named dean of the Wimberly School of Religion and Graduate Theological Center, after serving as interim dean since April 2002. Davies has also been director of the Vivian Wimberly Center for Ethics and Community Service since July 2002, and, as dean, oversees the Owen Wimberly Center for Continuing Education.

Davies, an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, joined the university’s faculty in 1994 as an adjunct professor for the Philosophy Department, became an assistant professor in 1996, and chaired the department from 1997 to 2000. From 2000 to ’02, he served as interim associate dean and then associate dean of the Petree College of Arts and Sciences. Since 2002, he has been an associate professor with tenure for the Philosophy Department. He serves on several university committees and councils, and the University Honors Program faculty.

Davies worked for Boston University’s Department of Religion as a teaching fellow and teaching assistant from 1993 to ‘95.

In addition to his degree from Oklahoma City University, Davies holds a ‘92 Master of Divinity, with honors, from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and a ’01 Ph.D. in social ethics from Boston University. From 1990 to ‘92, his studies took him to Germany, India, Switzerland, and the UK.


A frequent speaker at United Methodist and other churches, Davies has been primary presenter for panels on ecology, economics, theology, and other social issues.

Davies was born in Tucson, AZ, and grew up in Lawton, OK. He and his family live in Oklahoma City and are active members of Crown Heights United Methodist Church.

Lacy Funds Completion of Visitor and Admissions Center

Dr. Ann Lacy, ’01 honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, and 2003 Oklahoma City University Distinguished Philanthropist Award recipient, has made another million dollar gift to complete the new visitor and admissions center that will be named after her. The facility, formerly occupied by the Oklahoma Episcopal Area United Methodist Conference offices and donated to the university, is being renovated to hold the Office of Admissions, campus visit offices, and the Office of Institutional Advancement.

“We are greatly indebted to Ann Lacy for her extremely generous support of our university. She is genuinely interested in the development of young people,” said university President Tom J. McDaniel. Lacy is married to Dr. James E. Alexander, author and dean emeritus of the Meinders School of Business.
Madalynne King Norick and James H. Norick both received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees.

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

James has a lifelong record of service, including the US Navy during World War II. He served on the city council of Oklahoma City and twice as mayor. He is a member of the Oklahoma City University Fund for Excellence. In 1991 he received the university's Distinguished Service Award.

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

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

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

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

Dr. Bernie L. Patterson, vice president for academic affairs, was the speaker for undergraduate commencement.
by Trevite Willis, sports information director

Men's Soccer

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

Women's Soccer

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

Men's Golf

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

Men's Basketball

The Stars went into the Sooner Athletic Conference basketball tournament unranked, and pulled off the upset to win their second consecutive SAC Tournament championship. Three members of the squad earned SAC All-Conference recognition: Cedrich Parker, criminal justice major from Benton Harbor, MI (second team All Conference and second consecutive Most Valuable Player in the SAC Tournament); Gino Chambers (third team SAC All Conference and SAC All Tournament team); and Luciano DeSouza (SAC All Tournament Team).

Women's Basketball

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

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

Softball

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

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

More than sixty-one percent of the university's student-athletes posted a 3.0 or better grade-point average in the recently-completed fall semester, earning distinction on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll. “This is a tremendous accomplishment by our student-athletes,” said Athletic Director J im Abbott. “Very few athletics programs in the country post an overall...
semester GPA for all student-athletes above a 3.0. Our student-athletes, coaches, and professors do a wonderful job for the university.”

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

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

**Athletics Department Adds Junior Varsity Sports**

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

**J V Women's Basketball**
Scheduled to play twelve games (in November and December)
Coach – Becky Hoskins, assistant coach of the varsity women's team.

**J V Men's and Women's Golf**
Scheduled to play around four tournaments in the 2003-04 academic year
Coach – Derek Freeman, current assistant golf coach and former professional golfer

**J V Men's Soccer**
Scheduled to play eight to ten matches during the fall semester
Coach – former Oklahoma City University All-American Tommy Riley, head soccer coach at Heritage Hall school in Oklahoma City

**J V Men's Basketball**
Scheduled to play twelve games (in November and December)
Coach – Jonathan Triplett, ’02 Bachelor of Science in physical education, now pursuing a Master of Liberal Arts at the university

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**Remembering Abe**

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

“OCU Basketball is Abe’s legacy,” said Athletic Director Jim Abbott. “We will never forget his contributions to the success of this university and to the development of his players.” A scholarship was created in Lemons’s name, and gifts are tax deductible.
Through the Years

2000s

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jennifer Gavender, ’02 Bachelor of Science in biology, ’02 Bachelor of Science in biochemistry, ’02 Bachelor of Science in business, joined KTVY Channel 9 in Oklahoma City.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“The core of my friends here in NYC are friends I made at OCU! That has to be about one of the greatest things about my four years … the wonderful and life-lasting relationships I made there.” - Nathan Peck, ’97 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance.
1990s
Matthew Dehner, ’99 Bachelor of Science in biology, entered the doctor of pharmacy program at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA, in August 2002.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kelli O’Hara, ’98 Bachelor of Music in vocal performance, played the title character in the nationally televised Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, at the Christmas tree lighting at Rockefeller Center, and at Radio City Music Hall in the Rockettes’ annual holiday extravaganza.

Nathan Peck, ’97 Bachelor of Performing Arts in dance, recently made his Broadway debut in a new musical, Dance of the Vampires, starring musical theatre legend Michael Crawford. Peck’s theatrical credits include the first national tour of Footloose, West Side Story, and a season dancing in Dino’s Piano and Dance Extravaganza.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Focus Spring 2003

Business Alumnus Helps Russian Rotary Club

Ronald Petty, ’88 Master of Business Administration, provided invaluable volunteer service to a nascent Rotary Club in Rostov-on-Don, Russia.

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

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

Petty has twenty-five years of marketing and sales experience, and owns a management consulting firm in Tulsa, OK. He is an adjunct professor of business and marketing at Northeastern State University’s Broken Arrow, OK, campus. A former president of the Tulsa Rotary Club, Petty is now assistant district governor for Rotary District 6110.
graduating from Oklahoma City University, she has performed in over a dozen shows in Houston, as well as Paul Hope's benefit concert of Follies, a Pride Day Benefit, As the Parade Passes By, and Stuart Ostrow's workshop production, 1040.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kristin Chenoweth, '91 Bachelor of Music in theatre, will release her second solo album this fall on Sony Classical®, to coincide with her return to Broadway in Stephen Schwartz’s Wicked, opening on Halloween. Wicked is the life story of Glenda, the Good Witch of the North, in L. Frank Baum's The Wizard of Oz. She will also perform the concert version of Candida, which will air next year on PBS.

Angie is the fifth graduate of the School of Dance Diversity, meets monthly during the school year, and has performed at the Oklahoma City Festival of the Arts and area churches. It received the Outstanding Community Outreach Award from the Assembly of Community Arts Councils of Oklahoma.

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

Now in its fourth year, Dance Diversity was founded by Webb and Kara Harvey, '98 Bachelor of Science in dance management, who taught dance at Capitol Hill prior to Skates.
1970s

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

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

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

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

1960s

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

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

1950s

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

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

• For more School of American Dance and Arts Management alumni information, visit www.okcu.edu/dance.amgt/.
• For more School of Law alumni information, visit www.okcu.edu/law/ and check out our semiannual magazine, OCU LAW or call Michael Sohn, the school’s director of development and external relations, at (800) 230-3012 to receive a hard copy.
• For more School of Music alumni information, visit www.okcu.edu/music/.

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

New Theatre Group has definite OCU Flavor
by Dow Dozier, interim News Services Director

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

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

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

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

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

The final production, I Am a Teacher, by David Marquis, opens May 2 and stars Marcellus Hankins, ‘85 Bachelor of Music, exploring the joys and struggles of being a teacher in an age of budget cuts and overcrowded classrooms. Hankins is a teacher at Soldier Creek Elementary School in Midwest City, OK, and recipient of the prestigious Milken Family Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching.

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

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

Cholly Atkins was half of the dance team, Coles and Atkins; he developed choreography for Motown performers like Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, the Shirelles, the Supremes, and the Temptations. Atkins started dancing in Vaudeville in 1929. In 1989 he won a Tony Award® for his choreography of the Broadway show, Black and Blue. In 1993 the National Endowment for the Arts awarded him his highest honor, a three-year Choreographer’s Fellowship. In 1999 the School of American Dance and Arts Management recognized Atkins’s lifetime achievements with its Living Treasure in American Dance Award.
The Secret Garden  September 24-26, 2004
Based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, The Secret Garden tells the story of an orphaned girl who discovers a neglected garden. By nursing the garden back to life, she restores hope to her grieving family. The musical and its cast earned two Tony Awards in 1991. This first show of the season coincides with our official Celebration of the Century on campus. (Kirkpatrick Auditorium)

The Fantasticks  October 14-17, 2004
The longest-running musical ever, The Fantasticks ended its run in 2002 after forty-two years off-Broadway. Best known for the song, Try to Remember, the show portrays two fathers who instigate a mock feud so their children will defy them and fall in love. (Burg Theater)

Hansel and Gretel  November 19-21, 2004
This storybook production of the German fairy tale is performed in English, with a magic world of woodland sprites and candy dreams underscored by Engelbert Humperdink’s dramatic music. (Kirkpatrick Auditorium)

The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflote)  February 18-20, 2005
Just before his death, Mozart composed music for this story of true love in the face of adversity. Triumphing though a series of magical ordeals, the lovers reunite as the forces of light banish the darkness and the magic flute carries the final melody. It is among the most popular operas ever written. (Kirkpatrick Auditorium)

The Medium*  April 1-3, 2005
Gian Carlo Menotti wrote the music and libretto for this tale of a woman who becomes trapped between reality and the supernatural. After years of cheating customers who try to communicate with dead loved ones, something unexpected happens - with tragic results. (Margaret E. Petree Recital Hall)
* Spotlight show – all the usual talent and excitement, minimal costumes and sets

Seussical the Musical  April 22-24, 2005
Seussical, which premiered on Broadway in 2000, is a colorful musical medley performed by characters from the stories of Dr. Seuss. Written by the Tony Award-winning team of Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, its imaginative staging showcases energetic performances of tunes ranging from ballads to calypso to ragtime. (Kirkpatrick Auditorium)

Wanda L. Bass School of Music

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Yes, but is it art?
(photograph by Ashley Griffith)

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