The Devon Boathouse
Future Home of OCU Rowing
ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

Brick upon brick, the Oklahoma City University we know today has been built through the efforts of those who came before...each generation of students enjoying greater opportunity through the support of alumni and friends from generations past.

Much of this critical support has come through bequests. A gift to OCU, made by will or trust, can reach across the generations to touch the lives of tomorrow's students.

Your bequest can provide:
- A scholarship endowment to help future generations of students share the OCU experience
- An endowed chair to help maintain OCU's tradition of outstanding faculty
- Enhanced equipment and facilities to keep pace with the demands of the future
- An undesignated endowment to help meet emerging needs and take advantage of singular opportunities.

Your will is a final statement about the people and causes that were important in your life. After family, loved ones, and faith, the experiences you shared at OCU likely shaped the course of your life as much as any other influence. We hope you will consider including in your estate plans a reflection of the place the university holds in your life.

For information on how you can reach across the generations through a bequest to OCU, visit our website at www.okcu.edu/plannedgiving, then click on "Estate Planning, or contact:

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FOCUS Fall 2008

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We welcomed one of our largest and most-credentialed freshman classes to date onto campus in August. We are excited to see the paths these talented young people choose for their lives and honored to play a role in shaping their future.

We are poised to begin construction on a magnificent boathouse made possible by the visionary leadership of Devon Energy, a true friend of this university and this city. The OCU Devon Boathouse will be located just east of the Lincoln Street Bridge. The Oklahoma City University Head of the Oklahoma Regatta was October 4-5 and once again thousands of athletes and tens of thousands of spectators and fans converged at the Oklahoma River.

Now in its fifth year, the Regatta has once again taken rowing in Oklahoma to the next level. Oklahoma City has been designated as the site for a new USRowing National High Performance Center. This will be the first center of its kind in the nation and will ultimately be headquartered in Oklahoma City University’s new Devon Boathouse, scheduled to open in May 2010.

All around the nation, OCU stars are making plans to come back to campus for Reunion Weekend November 3-5. That weekend, we will honor our Distinguished Alumni, an impressive group by any standard. Honorees include Ms. Marie Darwens Gallagher, Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management; Ms. Karla Branch Martin, Kramer School of Nursing; Celine Ferguson, School of Law; Ms. Marquista Lister, Wanda L. Bass School of Music; and The Reverend Charlotte Teel, Wimberly School of Religion. Chris Schroder will be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

We will also stage our fifth annual race with the Stars 5K run and 1-mile fun walk. Under the leadership of OCU alum and trustee Marianne Vannatta and fellow alum Andrea Carpenter, this community event has now raised more than $100,000 in scholarship funds for our nursing program. The scholarships are earmarked for nursing educators, one of our country’s greatest needs.

This fall, the OCU family came together for the first-ever One Give. The event sponsored by OCU’s Student Government Association included students, faculty, staff and trustees for a campus-wide day of service. Groups took part in beautification efforts such as laying sod, planting flowers and painting curbs.

Also, the OCU community has come together to form a new group called the Galaxy Club. It is comprised of 25 special-interest social groups in an effort spear-headed by my favorite lady, Brenda McDaniel. The first meeting was attended by 146 trustees, faculty and staff and plans were made for dancing, rowing, dinner parties, travel, cycling, gardening, film and other shared-interest groups.

It promises to be exciting.

On December 3, OCU and our partner The United Way will invite 5,000 of our neighbors and their families to join us for Light the Campus, an event now in its eighth year. We open our doors for children and their families to make holiday crafts, enjoy cookies and other refreshments, have their pictures taken with Santa and attend our beautiful holiday service, the Hanging of the Greens in the chapel.

Seminary classes began this fall as St. Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University and Dean Elaine Robinson welcomed 23 students in our inaugural class. Our renovations at Dulaney-Browne Library are on schedule and are beautiful. A new student work-out facility at the Centennial Residence Center is now complete and we are planning expansion of The Kramer School of Nursing.

We graduated a great group of students in May, and our incoming class looks promising. Current students are doing well. The new Miss Oklahoma is OCU Dance student, Kelsey Cartwright, and four current business students won second place in an international competition with a business plan developed with the Love’s Entrepreneurship Center. Our alums make us proud from classrooms and courtrooms around America. So it is at our University, sending forth servant leaders and welcoming a new group anxious to learn. It is what we do. It is who we are. Thank you for your help and support.

Sincerely,

Tom McDaniel
President
Miss Black Oklahoma Ashton Joseph

University student to win the state title, tying the pageant record for the number of consecutive wins from a single university. Joseph is a sophomore studying music at Oklahoma City University and competed as Miss Keystone Lake. Miss Oklahoma City University Molly Colvard, a nursing freshman, won the rookie talent award.

Meinders School of Business Honors Six at Hall of Honor

Oklahoma City University’s Meinders School of Business honored six local business leaders at the 2008 Oklahoma Commerce & Industry Hall of Honor luncheon Oct. 15. The 2008 inductees are Garland Cupp, Chairman’s Award recipient; Roger Simons, Outstanding Achievement Award; Ba Luong, Entrepreneurial Spirit Award; Everett Dobson, Leadership Award; Ann Felton, Lifetime Achievement Award; and Ray Ackerman, Special Lifetime Achievement Award.

Cupp retired from the position of executive vice president and CEO of the travel related services division of American Express. Prior to joining American Express, he was director of business systems services for McDonnell Douglas Automation Company. He currently is chairman of the board for BMC Software Inc and Apex Mortgage Company.

Simons built Simons Petroleum from a small family-run business into one of the nation’s top independent fuel and lubricant distribution companies, operating in 46 states. Dobson is the founder and former chairman of Dobson Communications Corporation, a company that was recently acquired by AT&T. Dobson grew to become the ninth largest provider of wireless service in the U.S. and was the largest independent rural wireless provider in the country. He is currently managing partner of Dobson Partnership.

Luong’s work with Cao Nguyen has helped the 20-year-old family business, founded by his parents, grow from a 1,500-square-foot mom-and-pop grocery store into a 50,000-square-foot destination retail store for Oklahoma. Prior to joining American Express, Ackerman was a chairman of a company that was recently acquired by AT&T.

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entertainment coordinator. Cofer will coordinate half-time entertainment, national anthem singers and various other entertainment for the NBA team. Cofer said his studies at Oklahoma City University and particularly with Entertainment Business Director Rachel Jacquemain have given him the best career start he could have hoped for.}

**The Devon Boathouse: Future Home of OCU Rowing**

Oklahoma City University Rowing Teams will soon have a new home on the banks of the Oklahoma River. Devon Energy, one of the world’s leading independent oil and gas exploration and production companies, has pledged $5 million to complete funding for the construction of the Devon Boathouse. The Devon Boathouse represents Oklahoma City’s dedication to build the nation’s premier urban aquatic sports venue. The $10 million facility will house a high-performance training center, indoor seating with views of the regatta finish line and an outdoor performing arts area. Boat storage for OCU’s growing varsity rowing and sculling programs also will be incorporated into the new boathouse, which will be built just east of the Lincoln Boulevard Bridge adjacent to the finish line. “The Oklahoma River is an emerging focal point of Oklahoma City’s continuing redevelopment, and the excitement building along its banks is spreading throughout the core of our community,” said Larry Nichols, Devon Energy’s chairman and chief executive officer. “By investing in the river, we are contributing to the enthusiasm that has powered Oklahoma City’s renaissance for more than a decade.”

The boathouse’s indoor training center will serve OCU athletes and athletes who are attracted to train in Oklahoma City because of the exceptional rowing conditions and the city’s tremendous support for the sport. “We are thankful to Devon Energy for helping us build on the opportunities available to our athletes and our community at large and pleased to be partnering with Devon, one of Oklahoma’s most community-oriented companies. Devon Energy is one of the best corporate citizens anywhere. We are proud to work together to continue the renaissance and development of downtown Oklahoma City,” OCU President Tom McDaniel said.

The Devon Boathouse is the first of five proposed boathouses along the banks of the Oklahoma River. This infrastructure would increase the size and presence of national and international competition on the river. Oklahoma City University Head Rowing Coach Mike Knopp said through OCU’s development of the Head of the Oklahoma Regatta, the river has earned a reputation as one of the nation’s premier regatta venues.

From the breathtaking design to the functional amenities, the Devon Boathouse will define a new era of sports training in Oklahoma. And as athletes, coaches and visitors come from around the world, they will get a firsthand look at the innovation and promise embodied in this Oklahoma City landmark.
RIDING THE RAILS IN TRUE STAR FASHION

By Leslie Berger

Oklahoma City University school spirit takes a ride on the rails each time the Centennial Train departs from the Oklahoma Railway Museum. The OCU Star Express, a remodeled Santa Fe dining car featuring murals of the OCU campus, is the only diner and the only themed car on the commemorative train. Renderings of the Meinders School of Business, Henry J. Freede Wellness and Activity Center, Gold Star Building, Clara E. Jones Administration Building and the Wanda L. Bass Music Center span the length of each end wall, paying tribute to two Centennial institutions – Oklahoma City University and the State of Oklahoma.

The OCU Star Express, built in 1942 by the Budd Company in Philadelphia for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, ran on the Super Chief in the 1950s, the Texas Chief in the ‘60s and later on Amtrak. Oklahoma Railway Museum President Stan Hall said the car is one of just a few diners of its kind in existence because most railroads scrapped their dining cars when they discontinued passenger service. ORM Past President Harry Currie donated the car to the museum in 2002. Renovations to the Star Express were then largely funded by OCU Trustees Herman Meinders and Josephine Freede as Oklahoma Centennial Commission executives Blake Wade and Lee Allan Smith worked to build support for their idea to create a Centennial Train that would help celebrate the state’s 100th birthday. The pair came up with the idea in 2006 at the museum’s Day Out with Thomas event where they brought their grandchildren to see Thomas the Tank Engine.

A year later, in time for the state’s centennial, the train was complete with the OCU Star Express diner, The Oklahoma coach car and the Kerr McGee Explorer, which is one of the first round-end observation cars ever built.

The museum plans to offer rides to Bricktown in the Star Express once passenger service into the entertainment district begins. The car is open for free public tours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The car can be reserved for private parties and rides by calling Harry Currie at (405) 424-8222. The museum is located at 3400 N.E. Grand in Oklahoma City.

OCU RECOGNIZED ON STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS FOR BEING A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

Oklahoma City University is among the best colleges to work for in the nation, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education’s “2008 Great Colleges to Work For” report. Closer to home, OKC Business named OCU to its Best Places to Work in Oklahoma—the only university to make the list.

The Chronicle’s analyzed survey responses from employees, workplace policies and demographic data in 27 categories. OCU was among the top five universities in 16 workplace categories and was the only Oklahoma university appearing on the list in the small colleges category.

“We try hard to have a workplace that encourages collaboration and participation,” said OCU President Tom McDaniel. “More than anything, this is an environment where everyone feels included.”

OCU’S VICKI PATTERSON OPENS NEW OFFICE IN THE LONE STAR STATE

Oklahoma City University has enhanced its presence in the Texas market by opening a new office in the Lone Star State to address recruitment, alumni and development. The Office of University Advancement joined with the admissions department to open the new office last summer, headed up by Vicki Patterson, director of external relations for the state of Texas. OCU has seen a major increase in interest and enrollment among Texas students. Currently, 1 in 5 OCU freshmen hail from the Lone Star State and that number is on the rise.

“We are excited about the many new opportunities our increased presence in Texas will bring,” said Art Cotton, vice president of university advancement and external relations at Oklahoma City University. “We are pleased to have Vicki at the helm of our Texas office. She is knowledgeable in so many key areas of recruitment and development.”

Eduardo Prieto, vice president of enrollment services at Oklahoma City University, said the new focus on Texas will be a major component to increasing enrollment at the university.

“We welcomed one of our largest freshman classes ever this fall and with our new efforts in Texas, we expect bigger and better things,” he said. Patterson previously served as OCU’s senior director of communications and marketing.
When Juan Gil came to Oklahoma City University as a freshman, he didn’t know where his dreams would lead him. As seniors, Ashley Bowen Murphy and Christina Gelona-Hendricks thought they would become lawyers. Kami (Brokaw) Huddleston and Kyle Coker knew they wanted to foster their entrepreneurial spirit.

Like many of their classmates, these young alumni didn’t know all the places they would go, but they knew that OCU would help them go places. Now from New York City to Valentine Ranch, these five alumni are living out their dreams in their daily work. The places they have gone are as diverse as their interests. Each left their best classes and their favorite OCU professors with a big heart, an open mind and an attitude best summed up by Dr. Seuss who writes “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You’re on your own. And you know what you know. And you are the guy who’ll decide where to go.”

Gil, BSB in finance and economics ’07, decided to head to New York City upon graduation where he works for one of the four largest accounting firms in the country. Gil said he is quick to note how instrumental his college career was in preparing him for his professional career. “OCU exposed me to many diverse people and cultures. In a city and a company as diverse as New York City and KPMG, those skills are priceless,” he said.

Gil said the soft skills he learned during his studies at the Meinders School of Business have been just as valuable to him as the hard knowledge he acquired. Gil said he looks forward to taking his career overseas. He plans to complete a two-year rotation in one of the 130 countries in which KPMG operates.

Coker, BS in entertainment business ’03, is also enjoying big city living in NYC, working for a major casting agency. He is completing his fourth year as an associate for Donna DeSeta Casting, one of the most successful and respected agencies in the country. Coker has worked on more than 500 commercials, as well as on large films. Coker said he has enjoyed networking with numerous OCU alumni in New York City and frequently audits OCU dancers. “OCU’s entertainment business program has many projects that teach you how to present yourself, show your personality, how to network and persevere,” he said.

Coker said the best aspects of his job are meeting new people, meeting award-winning directors and filming famous people’s auditions. Coker is currently self-directing a comedy film he wrote about a group of kids who move to New York.
Murphy, BSB in finance ‘02 and JD ‘05, and Huddleston, BFA in graphic design ‘03, have partnered to create Brides of Oklahoma Magazine and will publish their third issue in January. Together, they have created, edited and distributed more than 100,000 pounds of magazines showcasing Oklahoma brides, Oklahoma weddings and the best wedding vendors the state has to offer.

Murphy and Huddleston were inspired to provide a comprehensive resource for Oklahoma brides after planning their own Oklahoma weddings. The friends got married two weeks apart in 2006 and planned their weddings together. They were surprised they couldn’t find much information for local brides about which vendors to use, unique ideas and wedding trends, and the idea for Brides of Oklahoma was born.

Murphy and Huddleston spent one year preparing to print their first 272-page issue in January 2008, both focusing on two careers during that time. Huddleston worked as a contract photographer while launching the magazine and Murphy spent her days—and sometimes very long days—as a young associate with Hall Estill Law Firm and her nights working on the magazine.

Huddleston said the pair ran across plenty of surprises during their first year.

“If we had known everything that went into this, we might not have done it,” Murphy joked.

“We laugh all the time at how silly we probably look,” Huddleston said. “We’re girls wearing these dresses hauling 35 pounds worth of magazines at a time into stores, hitting curbs and making U-turns. It’s not all glamorous. If a film crew followed us around, we would probably make more money on the reality show than on the magazine.”

Murphy said that although life didn’t take her exactly where she thought it might, she has landed in the right place. Murphy said she enjoys the opportunity to flex her skills in business and law at the magazine.

“A lot of people wouldn’t believe how many legal issues go into a magazine,” she said. “I got an incredible education and foundation at Oklahoma City University and I don’t think I would have felt as comfortable doing this without my legal training. It gave me the confidence I needed to navigate the unknown.”

Huddleston’s graphic design studies with Professor Bruce Masella have helped her tremendously in her career, but just as valuable were the people skills she acquired.

“I got so much attention in the art department and got to work on what I wanted,” she said. “The personal relationships I gained were so valuable and that’s what our business is based on.”

Murphy and Huddleston said their tireless efforts have been rewarding.

“We are changing the industry more than we knew,” Huddleston said.

“The best part of it is doing something you love and enjoying it 100 percent of the time,” Murphy said.

The pair currently is expanding their website and they plan to expand their concept into other states. Gelona-Hendricks, BA in political science ‘99, has turned her hobby into her career at Valentine Ranch, just north of Edmond. She gives lessons to about 60 students each week, providing instruction in horseback riding, hunter-jumpers and English and Western disciplines. Students at Valentine Ranch range in age from 5 to 65. Gelona-Hendricks said she especially enjoys teaching children.

“For one hour a week, I’m the happiest thing they have,” she said. “That’s the best part of my job. There is nothing in the whole world like riding. When you’re bit by the bug, you’re bit by the bug. You can’t get enough horse.”

Gelona-Hendricks took her first riding lesson at age 6. She took her first job in the business at age 11, volunteering at Coffee Creek Riding Center. She continues to compete on the hunter-jumper circuit and enjoys riding almost every day.

Along with her business partner, Jennifer Hebbard, Gelona-Hendricks just added an indoor riding arena to the 17-acre ranch. The outdoor arena features jumps imported from England. In addition to teaching, Gelona-Hendricks manages the care of 20 horses at the stable. She enjoys the opportunity to interact with horses and people regularly.

“The horses’ personalities are as diverse as the clients,” she joked. “One of the great things about this ranch is that we teach everybody. We have clients who don’t own their horses all the way up to those who have horses that cost as much as the place.”

Gelona-Hendricks, who worked her way through college as a horse riding instructor, said her business classes at Oklahoma City University gave her invaluable people skills. She had planned to attend law school, but as her business grew, she decided to pursue her first love. She has not abandoned her plans to attend law school, however, and keeps her options open for the future.

Just like all of these young alumni, Gelona-Hendricks’ first years out of college have brought her happiness and success. Who knows all of the places left to go?
THIS SUMMER, THE STARS SHONE BRIGHT DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS...AND ARIZONA! ALUMNI GATHERED IN DALLAS, HOUSTON, SAN ANTONIO, PHOENIX AND TULSA TO RECONNECT AND MAKE NEW CONNECTIONS.
FOCUS ON ATHLETICS

OBU Awared 2009 and 2010 NAIA Wrestling Championships

OBU will host the NAIA wrestling championships in 2009 and 2010. The NAIA will crown its wrestling team national champion and 10 individual national champions on March 5-7, 2009 and March 4-6, 2010 at Abe Lemons Arena inside the Freede Center. The tournaments will be the 52nd and 53rd annual national championships for NAIA wrestling.

The NAIA wrestling championships will be the first national collegiate championships hosted on the campus of Oklahoma City University.

“I am confident that OBU will carry on the strong tradition of this event and make it a memorable experience for all student-athletes, coaches and fans involved,” NAIA President and CEO Jim Carr said.

OBU served as the host institution for the 1988 NAIA softball championships at Hall of Fame Stadium and the 1991 NAIA men’s golf championships at Twin Hills Country Club in Oklahoma City.

Stars Capture Second Consecutive NAIA Men’s Basketball Crown

OBU became the first repeat champion in NAIA Division I men’s basketball in nine years with a 75-72 victory over Mountain State (W.Va.) in Kansas City, Mo. in March. The Stars captured their second championship in as many years, giving OBU six NAIA titles in men’s basketball.

Kameron Gray sank three free throws in the final 15 seconds to help OBU hang on for its 15th consecutive win to end the season 21-7 and win the title. Gray became the sixth player ever to earn the Chuck Taylor tournament most valuable player award twice.

Ollie Bailey of OBU added NAIA Division I player of the year to his conference player of the year award. Bailey grabbed a game-high 16 rebounds and scored 15 points. Willie Irick led the Stars with 22 points.

New coach Kevin Morrissey and the Stars open the season Oct. 25 against Wiley (Texas) at Abe Lemons Arena.
FOCUS ON ATHLETICS

Tracey Mosley, Australia, and Desiree Mujica, Venezuela, Represent OCU Softball in Beijing

Tracey Mosley, one of four former OCU softball players who’ve helped their countries win Olympic medals, was part of Australia’s silver medal-winning team in the 2002 Olympics and competed in Beijing in August. Mosley, from Adelaide, South Australia, helped OCU win NAIA softball in Beijing and is part of the first Stars selected as national titles each year since 1994. OCU won its 34th NAIA national championship in 1994 and 1995, and was a part of Australia’s 2006 Canada Cup-winning team. Desiree Mujica joins the Stars after spending two years with Southeastern Iowa and is part of the first women’s team to represent Venezuela in the Olympics. Other Stars selected as Olympic alternates were former OCU wrestling assistant coach Tyrone Lewis, Kristie Marano, an assistant coach for the OCU wrestling program and rower Cody Lowry, an OCU graduate and former graduate assistant.

OCU Wins Fourth NAIA Women’s Golf Championship

OCU rallied to capture its fourth consecutive NAIA women’s golf championship in San Marcos, Calif., in May, only the third school ever to win four in a row. Ashley Sholer spear-headed OCU with a tie for third place and Laura Jones tied for ninth to earn all-tournament along with Sholer. Christina Cung and Tamara Campbell became the first players to be on four NAIA women’s golf championship teams. M.J. Desbiens became NAIA coach of the year in her first season coaching OCU. She joined the Stars after eight years as an assistant at Oklahoma. OCU won its 34th NAIA national championship in all sports, all since 1985-86. OCU has won a national title each year since 1994.

OCU Athletics: Achieve Academically

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) recognized seven of OCU’s athletic teams as scholar teams for achieving a 3.0 team grade point average in 2007-08. Teams included: women’s basketball (3.03), men’s (3.17) and women’s (3.11) golf, men’s and women’s soccer (3.48), softball (3.37) and volleyball (3.39). The men’s and women’s rowing teams each averaged a 3.0.

OCU to Compete in Cross Country and Track and Field

OCU will compete in men’s and women’s cross country and track and field in 2008-09 for the first time since 1985, and has hired Michael Houston as its new head coach. OCU will field a total of 19 varsity intercollegiate sports teams.

OCU Finishes Third in NAIA World Series

OCU completed its season in third place in the NAIA World Series in May at Lewiston, Idaho, defeating Spring Arbor (Mich.) and Embry-Riddle (Fla.) before succumbing to Lewis-Clark State (Idaho) in 12 innings and Lee (Tenn.). The Stars ended their year 57-12, made its 10th trip to the NAIA World Series in school history, and earned its eighth series berth under Coach Denney Crabaugh, finishing third for the third time ever.

OCU is the nation’s winningest program for 10 years running, posting a 50-win season for an unprecedented 10th year in a row. OCU bested the NAIA single-season records for home runs with 147 and doubles with 199 this year. OCU also broke team single-season school records for hits (901), batting average (.380), fielding percentage (.965) and total bases (1,581). David Dennis finished the year with 27 home runs and 115 RBIs, leading the NAIA in both categories. Dennis ended the year tied for the single-season school record in home runs.

Mike Lee was drafted by the Boston Red Sox in the eighth round of the Major League Baseball draft. Tyler Kelsey signed as a free agent with the Toronto Blue Jays, making 122 OCU baseball players who have turned professional since 1978.
Oklahoma City University’s Kramer School of Nursing continues its renovation this year with major new developments in store. A new program starting in January will help address the nation’s nursing shortage, two new doctoral programs are up for approval, construction will begin on a new school as soon as fundraising is met and about a dozen new RN-to-BSN students will earn their degrees through KSN’s traveling program.

The Kramer School of Nursing received a $120,000 grant this fall from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s New Careers in Nursing project that will fund a Nursing Practice (DNP) program. The Kramer School of Nursing has proposed the university’s first PhD program and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. The PhD program is a research doctorate to prepare students to become nursing professors and the DNP is a clinical practice doctorate. Williamson said the U.S. already is experiencing a shortage of nursing faculty and that many current faculty members across the country are expected to retire in the next 10 years, facilitating a major need for more nurses with PhD degrees.

The addition of students and programs at KSN has filled its 16,000-square-foot building to capacity. Construction will begin on a 50,000-square-foot, three-story building next to the current school when fundraising is complete. Williamson said when construction is complete the school will occupy both buildings, which will be connected by a walkway. About 250 students are expected to be enrolled at KSN this spring, setting a new enrollment record. The school has broken enrollment records for 12 consecutive semesters. Williamson said the growth is an asset for students.

“Students will have exposure to more types of students from all over the country and they will have the opportunity to learn from each other,” Williamson said. KSN’s traveling RN-to-BSN program is in its second year of operation. The program targets nurses in rural Oklahoma areas. The program has traveled to southeast Oklahoma this year offering classes in McAlester. Last year, nurses in south central Oklahoma attended classes in Ardmore. Next year, the program will travel to northeast Oklahoma and Williamson hopes to continue circling the state to cover all five rural Oklahoma regions. The first three years of the grant are funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“The students who have taken part in this program have been so grateful,” Williamson said. “Some are deciding to go on into our master’s program and we have been very successful in connecting our on-campus students with off-campus students.”

Williamson said growth at KSN is multifaceted. “It’s not just about numbers,” she said. “I really do think we are the No. 1 nursing school in Oklahoma and it’s becoming a regional phenomenon. We are really in a golden age. Our university is and our nursing school is. Sometimes things just come together right to dream a big dream and have a big vision.”
Two years ago Oklahoma City University launched its $50 million Cradle of Dreams Campaign, on the heels of the successful and early completion of the $100 million Centennial Campaign. As of October 1, 2008, the campaign stands at $36.5 million.

MAJOR PROJECTS OF THE CRADLE OF DREAMS CAMPAIGN INCLUDE:

- **THE DEVON BOATHOUSE:**
  - **HOME OF OCU ROWING**
  - $5 million from Devon Energy
  - $3 million from Aubrey and Katie McClendon
  - $2 million from Addendum Group and the City of Oklahoma City for infrastructure
  - Total: $10 million

- **THE NEW NURSING BUILDING**
  - $4 million in pledges has been raised toward a $9.6 million goal.

- **RENOVATION OF THE DULANEY-BROWNE LIBRARY**
  - Gifts have been received from the Noble Foundation, the Rapp Foundation, Tom and Dick Dulaney, Drs. Ann Lacy and James E. Alexander and Jeanne Hoffman Smith

That’s wonderful news and we are incredibly proud. I’d like to acknowledge those efforts, but I’d also like to take this opportunity to address the philosophical and pragmatic nature of donor relations at OCU. In this tough economic climate it is important to remember that we’re all in this together. OCU’s alums, donors and friends are our family. We’re there for them in good times as well as the bad, meaning we don’t go away when the going gets tough. We work with folks to extend pledge payments if needed to make sure an individual or company’s benevolence doesn’t cause them any duress in the short term or until this financial cloud lifts a bit. We are making extra efforts to keep our friends and donors near by communicating more through phone calls and visits, by updating them more frequently on the status of projects they are interested in, and by making sure they get to see first-hand what their gifts make possible. We’re looking inward. While we are undoubtedly still pursuing new relationships with new donors, we are directing a greater proportion of our energy into focusing on the many friends and donors who have been loyal to the university.

Adding value to each donation is another method we can use to strengthen each gift. For the new nursing building, for example, we have received a challenge grant which will effectively double each donor’s gift toward that project. Together we can do this. We can weather tough economic times and still continue to come together to make Oklahoma City University even stronger, in its Second Century of Scholarship and Service!

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Wanda L. Bass

Wanda L. Bass, the Oklahoma baritone and philanthropist whose unprecedented gift of more than 100 Steinway pianos made news around the world, died Feb. 12, 2008 in Oklahoma City. She was 81.

The Wanda L. Bass Music Center at Oklahoma City University opened its doors on April 1, 2006. The $38.5 million, 113,000-square-foot addition more than doubled the facilities of the Bass School of Music. Mrs. Bass said she considered her gift to the school “not so much a donation, but an investment. It is an investment in the future of Oklahoma City and in the promise of a new century of American musicians, educators, and citizens.”

In addition to her Steinway gift to OCU, Mrs. Bass moved the historical school into the 21st century by funding Apple Computer technology and training for the music faculty. She also established the Bass School’s first endowed chairs, funded scholarships, helped establish the school’s partnership with Canterbury Choral Society, and funded the restoration of the university organ. Parker noted that her “extraordinary” lead gift for the Bass School addition, now known as the Wanda L. Bass Music Center, encouraged other patrons to contribute. Her spirit of giving also inspired “Cradle of Dreams” and “To the Stars,” two full-scale orchestra works dedicated to her, premiered by OCU’s Festival Orchestra and Chorus, recorded commercially in Europe, and released internationally.

Mrs. Bass became involved with Oklahoma City University when her daughter enrolled as a music student. Mrs. Bass eventually became a trustee of Oklahoma City University and was a founding member of its Music Executive Advisory Board.

Mrs. Bass was chairman of the First National Bank and Trust Company in McAlester. She and her late husband, Clark Bass, contributed countless hours and millions of dollars to arts, educational and civic projects in McAlester and around the state.

She was known for her purchase of 105 pianos from Steinway & Sons. At the time, it was the single largest order in the history of the 150-year-old New York piano maker. Her donation of the Steinways to the music school at Oklahoma City University made headlines from New York to Japan. In her honor, the school became the Wanda L. Bass School of Music and, in 2002, the university named her with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Mrs. Bass received the Governor’s Art Award in 1994 and the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award in 1996. She was inducted
into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1998, the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2003, the Journal Record Woman of the Year Circle of Excellence in 2003, and the Oklahoma Women’s Hall of Fame in 2005.

In 2005, she was selected as one of five “Oklahoma Stars” by Gov. Brad Henry, who declared Jan. 13, 2004 as Wanda L. Bass Day throughout the state.

She served on the boards of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, classical radio stations KOSC/KCBW, the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, Oklahoma School of Science and Math, OETA, Oklahoma Arts Council, and Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute. She was past vice president of the Oklahoma Heritage Association, chair of the McAlester Regional Higher Educational Authority, and founder of the McAlester Area Arts and Humanities Council.

“The reward is to know that you’re helping others,” Mrs. Bass said in 2003. “We’re putting this earth for a reason, and sometimes you spend a lifetime figuring out what that reason is.”

Kathryn Ann Meinders

Kathryn Ann Meinders was born March 31, 1966, in Oklahoma City to proud parents Herman and Judy (Flaherty) Meinders. She grew up in Oklahoma City and attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Her master of business degree was from Oklahoma City University. Kathy moved to Denver, Colo., where she taught at Denver Community College. It was here that Katie really found her niche in life. She was excited about her job and her students, who loved and respected her in turn.

She had a very warm personality. Her presence always seemed to bring people together in fun and laughter. She was sensitive and caring, quick to recognize anyone who was hurting and to offer hugs and words of encouragement.

 Mourning her loss are her mother, Judy Flaherty, of El Reno; father and stepmother, Herman and LaDonna Meinders, of Oklahoma City; sister, Christine, of Los Angeles, CA; stepbrothers, Mark Gooden and wife Regina, of Houston, TX, Lori Ode and husband Chris, of Boise, ID, John Gooden and wife Jody, of Kingfisher, and Joe Gooden and wife Tammy, of Yukon.

Aunts and uncles are Donna Licquia of Nobleville, IN, Bob Meinders and Linda Rice, of Oklahoma City and Don Meinders and wife Linda, of Renton, WA. Many other friends and relatives will feel her absence deeply and will always miss her.

Richard C. Bush Jr.

Dr. Richard C. Bush Jr., former dean of the Wimberly School of Religion, retired missionary and educator, passed away Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008, in Denton, TX. He had suffered from Parkinson’s disease.

Dr. Bush was born in Waco, Texas on Aug. 18, 1923. After attending Baylor University, he received his bachelor’s degree from Southern Methodist University in 1944 and an M.A. from SMU’s Perkins School of Theology in 1946. He was ordained as an elder in the Methodist Church in 1948. He continued his graduate study at the University of Chicago in the late 1940s, and served as the pastor of churches in Cremon and Thornton, Ill. He received his doctoral degree in 1960. His thesis compared ethics in ancient Hinduism and early Buddhism.

In 1950, the Methodist Church commissioned Dr. Bush and his wife, Mary, as missionaries to the Philippines. For five years, Dr. Bush was Protestant chaplain at the University of the Philippines. In 1955, he joined the faculty of Perkins School of Theology at SMU. From 1960 to 1965, he was director of the Christian Study Center of Chinese Religion and Culture in Hong Kong. Research conducted during that period formed the basis of his “Religion in Communist China,” published in 1970 by Abingdon Press. Dr. and Mrs. Bush then served from 1966 to 1971 as missionaries in Taiwan at Tunghai University in Taichung. They returned to the United States in 1971, and Dr. Bush joined the faculty of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK. A decade later, they moved to Oklahoma City University, where he served as dean of the School of Religion. He also served as pastor of the Billy Hooten United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City, a congregation in the Indian Conference. He retired from OCU in 1989.

Dr. Bush was also the author of “Religion in China,” published in 1977, and general editor of the 1993 edition of “The Religious World: Communities of Faith.” His entire career was directed to understanding the peoples and cultures of East Asia. Dr. Bush is survived by his wife, Mary Ethlyn Ball Bush, of Denton, TX, two brothers, Jack C. Bush, of San Antonio, TX, and Robert C. Bush, of Corsicana, TX; four children and their spouses, Richard C. and Martha H. Bush III, of Fairfax, VA, Nancy Ellen Frenkel, of Denton, Susan and Paul Thompson, of Norman, OK, and Paul and Laurie Eisenbach-Bush, of Webster Groves, MO; and seven grandchildren.

The book features rich historical background, stunning photography, and stories from OCU alumni and supporters. Every book sold will help support programs and scholarships to benefit the future of OCU.

This stunning, limited-edition illustrated book details the stories, spaces, traditions and faces that have made Oklahoma City University a cherished institution for more than 100 years with special chapters on the events of OCU’s Centennial.

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