



The Collegian

Enter to Learn . . . Go Forth to Serve

Winter 2016

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Working to make an impact

Miss and Mr. OCU steal the show

By Corabelle Tally
Assistant Editor

Working hard to stay busy, Oakland City University's new freshman, Kashmaraeah Williams, is already making a difference on campus. Williams chose to come to OCU because it was "small and you could meet people and live at campus rather than just stay at home." Thus far her experience has been everything that she expected and she is enjoying her stay at OCU.

Williams is currently working on majoring in art and education in order to become a high school art teacher. Originally wanting to teach at the elementary or even the middle school level, Williams decided on the high school level because that would enable her to help students with more complex projects.

So far, Williams has worked hard on getting involved in the non-work-study positions on campus.

She currently holds two jobs, one at the cafeteria and the other tutoring math. She started working her jobs after she realized she did not qualify for work-study but saw the fliers for the cafeteria.

The reason for working comes from the love of being busy. Williams says that she "would be just fine working for free" because she really enjoys it. It helps that Williams is a very hard worker with a great work ethic.

During her very limited free

time, Williams loves painting as well as doing puzzles, such as crosswords.

Throughout her life, Williams' inspiration for life in general has always been her mother. Williams says that "after everything she has been through, she never gave up and would always persevere. She is my role model."

Williams looks forward to the next three years at OCU, but she is very excited to graduate and start her career. Although she will be leaving campus upon graduation, she will still stay in the area because it is close to home.

One of the things she wants to work on is being more involved at OCU. Williams says, "I often don't put myself out there because I am quiet. I could miss a lot of opportunities."

Even with things to work on, Williams is still pleased with how life has gone thus far; she says that "everything that has happened is an experience and lesson learned."

With Williams' legacy, she wants to "be known as a go-getter and someone who does the most she can every day." Her life goal is to "make a difference in someone's life through art.

I want to try to impact someone's life somehow. For now, I believe that tutoring is a great way to start." So through working hard to make an impact, Williams is already making a difference.



Photo by Lisa Brooks

Back row (left to right): Nick Virden, Tristan Nagelkirk, Tanner Mason, Jon Thomas Boling and Adam Jenks.

Middle row: Kybrin Scott, Cassidy Bogard, Olivia Carroll and Ashlynn Douglas.

Front row: Madison Brooks, Jennifer Brown, Aimee Clodfelter, Brittany Miles and Ashley Yount.

By Corabelle Tally
Assistant Editor

Photos by Cheryl Toepfer

This year the Student Government Association of OCU made the wonderful decision to bring back the competition of Miss and Mr. OCU. Oct. 28 was a wonderful evening of lights and costume changes. Four students were chosen to represent Oakland City University this year. First runner up for Miss OCU was Olivia Carroll, representing women's basketball, and first runner up for Mr. OCU was Tristan Nagelkirk, representing Student Life. The winners of the evening were Jennifer Brown, representing "The Collegian," and Jon Thomas Boling, representing

Drama Club, who became Miss and Mr. OCU, respectively.

The contestants who ran for Miss OCU were Cassidy Bogard, representing Earthlight; Madison Brooks, representing women's tennis; Aimee Clodfelter, representing Drama Club; Ashlynn Douglas, representing Student Ambassadors; Brittany Miles, representing women's soccer; Kybrin Scott, representing Student Life; and Ashley Yount, representing Student Government.

The contestants who ran for Mr. OCU were Adam Jenks, representing Da Capo; Tanner Mason, representing "The Collegian;" and Nick Virden, representing men's golf.

The competition contained four different sections:

presentation, talent/hobby, evening wear and the onstage question. Also, previously that week, all the contestants had an interview that was viewed by the judges. The judges were OCU alumni: Kelly Hopper, Shana Holmes and Steve Simmons.

Thanks go out to Austin Loveless for being the emcee of the event, the SGA Senators, Clair Slomski for coordinating the event and Music and Drama departments who helped with equipment and location for the evening's festivities. Thanks to these people, the night turned out to be fantastic with numerous laughs, many cheers of applause and, overall, a fun-filled night.

Our 2016 contestants for Miss and Mr. OCU



Madison Brooks, Olivia Carroll, Jen Brown, Cassidy Bogard, Ashlynn Douglas, Aimee Clodfelter and Kybrin Scott.



Ashley Yount, Brittany Miles, Adam Jenks, Tristan Nagelkirk, Jon Thomas Boling, Tanner Mason and Nick Virden.



The Hoppers receive honorary doctorate in music at 131st Founder's Day

By Madison Brooks
Assistant Editor
Photos by Linda Tipton

One of the responsibilities of an institution of higher education is to recognize individuals that devotedly serve in the realization of the University's Mission. Oakland City University reconstituted its Mission Statement several years ago affirming that "Oakland City University is a Christian, faith-based learning community dedicated to the enhancement of intellectual, spiritual, physical and social development for positive leadership." After careful review, the Board of Trustees of Oakland City University determined that Kimberly Greene Hopper and Claude Dean Hopper fulfill the mission of Oakland City University and were to be honored as recipients of Honorary Doctorate of Music degrees

during the celebration of Founder's Day.

After a short three month courtship, Dean and Kim were engaged and eight months later were married in November 1988. The Hopper family travels together, lives near one another, and combines their musical talents as The Hoppers, America's Favorite Family of Gospel Music. As husband and wife, Dean and Kim have two children, Karley Jade and Lexus Jazz.

Looking at the life of Kim Hopper causes one to be amazed at the many accomplishments and awards she has earned as a favorite soprano and female vocalist. She has received numerous accolades from academies and associations, has been a top five nominee for Female Vocalist by the GMA via the Dove Awards, and received the GMA Dove Award for

Children's Album of the Year, *The Hoppers Kids*, this past fall. Kim Hopper humbly carries the burden of being the vocal phenomena 200+ days a year while maintaining her job as a homemaker; mother to a fifth grader and a college student; supporting her husband, and caring for her mother, who moved in with the family in the spring of 2015.

Growing up in the family of music legends Claude and Connie Hopper, Dean was born into the Gospel Music genre. Beginning at the age of seven, Dean took his position behind the drums for the Hopper Brothers and Connie and has never looked back. His first landmark performance was at the 1970 National Quartet Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Raised on a farm, Dean was no stranger to hard work and responsibility. As a self-proclaimed "farm



work and learning to respect his fellow workers. Dean is still involved in all aspects of The Hopper Family productions. He not only performs with the group but also is responsible for the electronics and the group's sound system. He has worked diligently to perfect the art of mixing the sound for a faultless performance. In 1989, Dean was nominated at the Cashbox Music Awards for Male Vocalist of the Year and during that same time period received an award as one of the Outstanding Young Men in America. In the late 90s, Dean launched a recording studio business only to have it destroyed by a tornado in March of 1998. He never lost his passion for the development of a recording studio and in 2001, with help from his brother Michael, opened "The Farm Studio" on Claude's farmland in Madison, North Carolina. In 2005, Dean graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business degree from Oakland City University.

In 2012, Dean and Kim stood alongside their family as the entire Hopper family was

inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tennessee. After receiving that prestigious award, you would think it would be time to slow down and enjoy the laurels of their accomplishments, but for the Hoppers, life in gospel music is more than just an occupation. Gospel music is a ministry and a calling, and as Dean so appropriately commented, "The Lord still has work for me to do, and I have several more goals to accomplish. I have two girls and I want to help them accomplish their goals, too. I am too blessed to slow down now!"

As detailed in the letter of application for the Honorary Doctorate in Music, Dr. John Dunn stated, "Both Kim and Dean have continually spread the message of Christ through not only the word but through their examples of daily living and serve as outstanding examples to the youth of today." It is truly a privilege for the Board of Trustees to award Kim Greene Hopper and Claude Dean Hopper the Honorary degrees of Doctorate in Music.



Pictured are Kimberly Hopper, Dr. Ray Barber, and Dean Hopper before Founder's Day ceremony.

The Collegian

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mechanic," Dean was the "go to person" to keep the farm machinery running. He credits his character today to hard

Have no fear...Mac is here

By McKenzie Moore
Staff Writer

College is tough; there is no doubt about it. From early morning classes to countless hours of strenuous homework, students find that staying organized is nearly impossible. At times college can be difficult, but here are some tips to make your college experience more successful.

How to stay organized:

First things first, always keep the class syllabus to ensure that you never miss an important deadline, because chances are you will have a professor that does not always remind you of your assignments. Next, keep a planner or journal of some kind; the more you write down the more likely you are to remember to do your assignments and turn them in on time. Lastly, don't stress too much; take your time with assignments, and do not wait until the last minute to complete them.

How to deal with time

management:

In college, having free time is a luxury, so, when you have free time, do not take it for granted. Knowing how to manage your time wisely is the key to having a successful college experience. The most important thing to remember, when dealing with time, is not to procrastinate. Do not wait until the last minute to do your assignments, even if you're like me and work better under pressure.

How to study for finals:

Finals are right around the corner, and soon enough the local Denny's will be jam packed with overly stressed, sleep-deprived college students. Here are some tips to help ease the stress of taking finals. The first major tip is not to cram; do not spend hours on end cramming for a test, which will only cause you to metaphorically fry your brain. Studies show that students who pace themselves when they study have a better chance of earning a higher grade than those who do not.



Photo by Chelsea Doty

Another helpful tip is to get a good night sleep and make sure to eat a nutritious breakfast. As cheesy as that sounds, it will help when it comes to taking the test. Lastly, try not to stress too much, I know easier said than done, but the more you stress, the more likely you are to do poorly on the test.

How to survive winter:

Stay inside and take online courses.



Our Staff

A new sheriff in town

Paul Bowdre brings extensive criminal justice experience to OCU

Claire Slomski
Staff Writer

The criminal justice major has been a growing program at Oakland City University, with many graduates currently working in law enforcement. Recently, the program has had a change in leadership. Mr.

Paul Bowdre arrived this August and hit the ground running. As the coordinator of the criminal justice program, he has extensive duties. He is in charge of the campus and online bachelor degree programs; he works with curriculum and curriculum development,



textbook selection, assessment of student learning and selection of adjunct professors. He teaches several courses each semester and advises all criminal justice students. Bowdre has had considerable education and work experience prior to joining the OCU faculty.

Bowdre's educational record includes two Master's degrees and Educational Specialist degree in Computer Education. He is working towards a doctorate in Business Administration and Quality System Management with a concentration in Homeland Security.

Bowdre has vast experience in the professional realm as well. He spent twenty-four years in the criminal justice workforce, first as a police officer in Palm Beach, Florida, then as a senior law enforcement inspector in the Florida Department of Corrections.

The next step after police work was a natural choice: teaching. He taught at Western Nebraska Community College, Cambridge, and started a Homeland Security program at a Denver, Colorado, college. Bowdre's last teaching position before joining Oakland City University was at the State

University of New York at Canton. The school was a technical minded institution that focused on hands-on learning methods.

Why OCU? First of all, he wanted to get away from the cold weather. At Canton, there were tunnels connecting the classrooms because the temperatures dropped so low. Bowdre could stand on the rooftop and look into Ottawa, Canada. He saw an ad for the Criminal Justice Coordinator position in the spring, but did not apply. When he saw the ad a second time, he applied. He saw the school and the current program and believed it would be a great fit with his background and interests. A solid program was already in place, and he could add his experience to enhance it further.

By chance, the second application was lost in cyberspace and never reviewed. It was not until summer time that Bowdre found the listing on the website once again. Set on seeing the process through, he applied a third time, and was hired just a few weeks before classes began.

Bowdre has enjoyed teaching at OCU thus far. He appreciates that the classes are small, and he can get to know the students. In New York, he had 104 advisees and was unable to interact as much as he can here. He has also found great interest in exploring how to fine tune the degree program as to what the criminal justice industry wants from a college degree.

The police force he worked with valued higher education, and he agrees that college experience goes hand in hand with the criminal justice profession.

What exactly is he planning on changing here at OCU? Bowdre is in the process of meeting the growing demands of potential employers. He is incorporating hands-on learning, adding real equipment such as gun holders, fingerprint processing supplies and forensics tools that will be used in real world experiences.

He hopes to implement crime scenes staged around campus, and CJ students will investigate the scene according to which course they are taking. The final exam will be based on processing that scene. Changes like these will enrich the learning experience for all CJ students and will allow the CJ program to grow.

Bowdre lives in Oakland City and plans on staying here.

When asked if he had any interesting facts about himself, he had quite the story. In 1984, he coached the Guatemalan women's Olympic swim team. The program was new at the time, and he used his experience as a high school swim coach to lead the team. A commemorative 1984 poster hangs on his office wall.

Bowdre is ready to help his students graduate and become successful in the criminal justice profession, something close to his heart.

@OaklandCityUniversity

By Claire Slomski
Staff Writer

Every student's journey at OCU began with an email, phone call or conversation with the admissions team. The admissions office is the first glimpse of our school for a potential student. OCU is lucky to have a great team of recruiters, office staff and student ambassadors. Heading up that team is the one and only Harrison Campbell.

Before becoming Oakland City University's Dean of Admissions, Campbell gained varied experiences at high quality institutions. He began his own higher education journey by pursuing a career in education, hoping to share his love of learning. However, before finishing that pursuit, he attended a small Bible college in Missouri and was a full time pastor for one year.

After this, Campbell felt called to finish his degree in education and earned his Secondary Education Social Studies degree at Indiana University.

Campbell taught high school and middle school social studies for five years and loved the interaction with his students. Next, he worked

at several well known universities in various positions. His first experience with admissions was as a counselor at Indiana State University.

At DePauw University, Campbell worked in marketing and gained experience with social media. His work at Rose Hulman focused on early outreach and once again sharpened his social media skills. Finally, Campbell filled a director of admissions position at Hanover College.

As you can see, Campbell had a wealth of experience with both the admissions office and the students themselves.

Why did he choose OCU? For starters, Oakland City is not far from his native Madisonville, Kentucky. Living here allows him to be close to family and just feels like home. He also felt the private Christian university vibe was well suited to his personality and values.

As he learned about OCU's recent improvements, he saw the potential for even more. Campbell was already creating ways to integrate his experience to make great changes happen. You may have noticed some ideas that are already in motion.

Campbell and the team have made numerous visits to college fairs and high schools, with many more being planned for the spring.

The office has made great use of social media, especially Snapchat, where dozens of potential students are following OCU's account. This visibility has created a buzz around the university, which will hopefully translate to big enrollment numbers next fall.

What is Campbell's favorite part of working here? He likes the creative atmosphere and ability to pursue new visions. He is naturally a creative person and loves the freedom to experiment. Of course no vision can be fulfilled without a great team to back it. Campbell enjoys working with his co-workers and the energy they create together.

A big part of that team is the Student Ambassadors, directed by Kathy Adams. The ambassadors add that extra touch to every visit and help the admissions office complete their mission.

Campbell is living in Evansville where his family plans to settle down. His oldest son Eli, 15, is a freshman at Evansville North and loves being in band. His younger son

Emery, 11, is a 5th grader at Scott Elementary. Harrison's wife Julie is a RN and recently accepted a position at Deaconess USI Health Center. The family is currently in the lengthy process of building a house.

Campbell hopes all students can sense the exciting changes that are coming to OCU. He believes the faculty and staff

are amazing and truly care about providing quality education for students. Although recruiting new students is Campbell's field of expertise, he can still use your help. Being an advocate for the school and adding campus stories on Snapchat are ways we can show potential students how much we love our school.



OCU Mission Statement

Oakland City University is a Christian faith-based learning community dedicated to the enhancement of intellectual, spiritual, physical and social development for positive leadership.

Faith

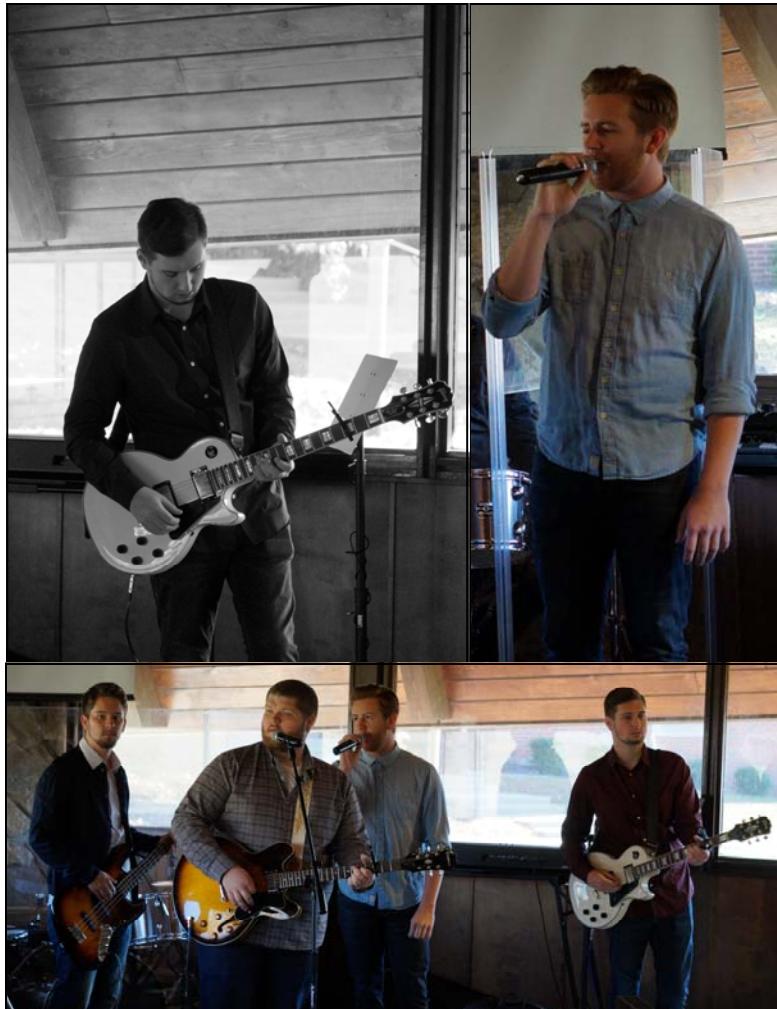
The Great Command at Chapel

By Madison Brooks
Assistant Editor

On Nov. 16, Oakland City University's gospel band, The Great Command, shared the gospel through their music during the chapel service. This year, the band consists of

Austin Loveless, Roman Lambert, Tracon Brown, Kevin Pinnick and Jonathan Smith.

The Holy Spirit was definitely present during the performance and was shown through many students and staff of OCU.



Oakland City University choir at Gaither Christmas Homecoming concert



Our Oakland City University choir performed in the Gaither Christmas Homecoming concert on Nov. 19, 2016, at the French Lick

Resort in French Lick, Indiana. This was the second year in a row that the choir was asked to perform with the Gaithers.

**EVERYDAY ADVENTURES
BY HEATHER SMITH**

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[HTTP://PETITELOULOUSEEVERYDAYADVENTURES.COM](http://PETITELOULOUSEEVERYDAYADVENTURES.COM)

Gospel Night

By McKenzie Moore
Staff Writer

Gospel Night is a tradition of Oakland City University; the night is spent in fellowship and worshipping Christ. Every year Gospel Night brings in the best of the best, and this year was no exception. The Tribute Quartet, Guy Penrod, and The Hoppers brought the crowd to their feet with each of their performances.

Starting the night off, the first group to perform was The Tribute Quartet. Riley, Gary, Josh and Anthony showed their silly side after each song, cracking jokes and being silly all while showing their love for Jesus. Each member brought something to the show, from the soulful tenor to the quiet bass. By the end of their set, the guys had everyone dancing

in their seats.

Next up was Guy Penrod, and his set was everything and more. From his powerful voice to the truths he spoke, Penrod brought the house down. He sang several songs, including fan favorites "You Never Let Go" and "You Reign." When he wasn't singing, Penrod was telling stories of his beautiful family and testimonies from the past. Just like The Tribute Quartet, Penrod had the gathering out of their seats by the end of his set.

Finally finishing out the night was The Hoppers. This family-oriented group brought the house down. It was a great to see three generations of Hoppers on stage praising Jesus. This gospel night was a special one for The Hoppers because it was the first show that both Connie and Claude

Hopper got to be a part of since both of their bouts with illness. The crowd could see the happiness beaming from both. It was truly a beautiful sight.

All three acts brought something different to Gospel Night, but the one thing they all had in common was the love they had for Jesus and their willingness to worship him fully and faithfully.

By the end of the night, everyone was beaming with love and happiness, I could hear a slew of happy comments as I made my way outside. "Guy Penrod has such a beautiful voice," I heard an elderly woman say, while another mentioned how funny The Tribute Quartet guys were. All in all, it is safe to say Gospel Night was a success, and we cannot wait for next year.



Darkness

By Heather Smith
Guest Writer

Ephesians 5:8-10



THOUGHT FOR TODAY: For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. I Corinthians 13:12

When walking around the house at night, I leave the lights off so I will not disturb my sleeping family. After stubbing my toes numerous times, I've learned to walk more slowly and feel my way around to avoid further injury. In the darkness, my senses are more engaged.

Similarly, when shadows descend upon us, and daily life is a struggle, we need to grasp for and cling to God's presence and wisdom. In good times, when we can feel God's light radiating about us, it is easy for us to run and leap through life. However, when we traverse through tunnels of depression, loss, health problems, and other challenges, we need to slow down and let our senses search for and drink in God's presence.

PRAAYER: Dear Lord, be the guiding light in my life during times of darkness. Amen.

Around Campus

Zootopia Review

By Allie McMinn
Staff Writer

I am sure if you have not seen the movie yourself, you have at least heard of Disney's newest animated film, *Zootopia*. Released on Mar. 4, 2016, this film is about a rabbit from a small town, Judy Hopps, whose lifelong dream is to be a police officer. In this make-believe world, predator and prey live in harmony. Each type of animal is considered to have its place in society—the police force not being where a rabbit belongs. With high hopes and dreams, Judy accomplishes her goal, only to find that life does not always go the way we plan. Though the journey is long, she discovers that life can be whatever you make of it; all the while she is learning valuable life lessons and making new friends.

One of the main lessons learned not only by Judy, but also by the children who watch this film is repeated multiple times throughout the story: "Try Everything!" We are encouraged to give our best to this world by never settling for ordinary. A second takeaway is to keep dreaming no matter how hard things may appear to be. Though Judy reaches her

goal in becoming a police officer, she is severely underestimated and is not given a chance to prove herself. With dedication, however, she learns that dreams can become reality. Finally, this movie shows us that not all people, or in this case, animals, are who they appear to be. Nick, a fox, who appeared to be a trouble maker, ends up being Judy's best friend. Another example of this is the Assistant Mayor, a seemingly innocent lamb. She is discovered to be the antagonist in this film.

Contrary to what you may believe, *Zootopia* has received an unrealistic amount of backlash from its viewers. Many parents and audiences would lead you to believe that this movie makes inappropriate references, or sends "racial messages" if interpreted into real-life scenarios. However, this is certainly not the case. This movie was not created to be a parallel to the world we live in. Rather, it is an entertaining movie that captures the attention of our children with clean humor, cute creatures, and fun for all ages.

As stated in a review by Eric Goldman, "*Zootopia* is a wonderful example of how



Disney, at its best, can mix its past and present together in a very cool, compelling way... Deftly showing how computer generated animation is able to look more fluid and lifelike than ever... It's one of those movies that truly is able to entertain audiences of all ages, in different ways, and another big accomplishment in the Disney oeuvre." Put together in such a way that encourages children to live life to the fullest, this movie is one of a kind. It is a perfect example of multifaceted entertainment. *Zootopia* is truly a film parents can look to in order to offer moral value, fun for all, and characters who are easy to identify with.

Pep band in full swing



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Oaktoberfest Fun

Halloween, volleyball and pageant highlighted weeklong activities

By Corabelle Tally
Assistant Editor

The last weekend in October kicked off the fall celebrations for students at OCU. To start off the festivities, there was a volleyball game as well as Halloween activities for the

public. Located in the Grassy Knoll were inflatables, including bouncy houses, along with many other games and activities provided by OCU clubs and organizations. Along with these activities, Trick the Halls, trick-or-treating for local children, was put on by

the OCU dorms. A costume contest followed at the end of the night.

The Miss and Mr. OCU Pageant was also held to start off the weekend, and the very next day, there was another women's volleyball game along with a Humans Versus Zombies game. Following those events was a bonfire across the street from the Chapman Seminary.



Hearts and Rockets book review

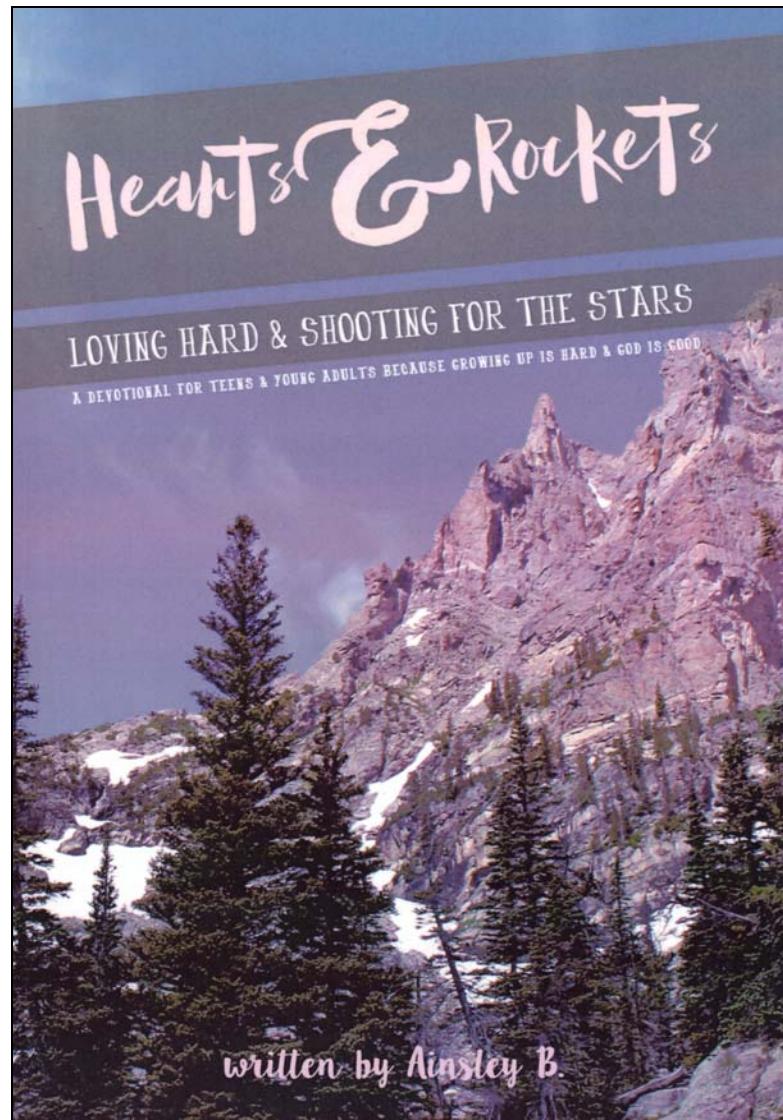
By McKenzie Moore
Staff Writer

Being transparent is hard, especially in a world where people are paid to pretend to be something they're not, but Ainsley Britain proves that when you allow yourself to be transparent, good things can happen.

Hearts and Rockets is a daily devotional written from personal experiences that Britain endured in her younger years. Throughout her devotional, Britain is openly honest with her readers. She lets them see her

vulnerable side through her highs and lows, and she doesn't sugar coat anything. What you see is what you get with her.

Before we get to the good stuff, I want to take a minute to introduce the author to you. Meet Ainsley Britain; she is a 25 year-old Jesus-loving entrepreneur. She's a southern girl at heart; she grew up in Louisiana and made her way to Tennessee. She graduated from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, where she spent the rest of her early twenties finding out who she is, going on adventures, and growing even closer to Jesus.



After spending a few years in Nashville, she finally landed in the Big Apple.

Britain is not only a new author, but she is also an activist for young people. On January 14, 2014, Britain launched the Unveiled Campaign, which is a campaign that became a non-profit organization that was created to help young people combat the lies that they tell themselves every day. Since its inception in 2014, Unveiled has allowed Britain to travel to different schools, host events and, most importantly, help young people realize their passions and worth.

Now the good stuff... What makes this book so great is the honesty behind it. There are truths flowing from each page that you read, and they're real; these are real life experiences. By using her own personal experiences, Britain is allowing her reader to open up and be comfortable with his/her own struggles. After reading her book, there was a sense of relief that washed over me. It was almost like God is saying, "Hey, you're not alone; here's a friend that understands." Friend, that's a strange word to use for someone that you've never met, but that's the way Britain makes you feel, like you're her friend. She doesn't say read my book to be healed, she's saying "I have faults, and I've made mistakes just like you."

We are all in this together, we all need people to lean on, and through her book, Britain is saying just that. Though some might think her main audience is young women, this book can be beneficial for everyone, because in the wise words of Ainsley Britain herself, growing up is hard and God is good.

December 2016 graduates

Oakland City - Main Campus

Graeme Campbell
Cori Cummings
Adelaide Cutchin
Alex Deffendall
Tori Flowers
Lynnette Gerkin
Andrew Goldman
Carrie Goodwin
Hanna Guthrie
Melanie Hyllested
Adam Jenks
Logan Marshall
Tanner Mason
Corbin McCrary
Eric Mitchell
Joel Munoz
Elisa Peters
Lindsay Prow
Kristiana Pumpure

Dan Seals Jr. Doreen Shelt Paris Spencer Kayla White

Oakland City - Wilder Center

John Thompson
Diane Wellmeyer

Evansville Campus

Robert Baggett
Chad Brown
Tristie Diehl
D'uAndre Drain
Skyler Ford
Harlan Gainey
Tracy Martin
Janet Miller
Frank Rust
Kimberly Seib

Carol Taylor
Charmin Vanleer
Sheila Wallace
Andrew Wolford

Rockport Campus

Jeffrey Bender
Marcus Hayden
Tina Riggs

Bedford Campus

Megan Crays
Ross Kidd
Kimberly Watson
Plainfield Campus
Emrullah Kiydal
Michael Weatherford

Online

Brian Duffy

Heather Smith

Freelance Pianist
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Email: pianochica@hotmail.com



OAKLAND CITY UNIVERSITY CAMPUS STORE

**Mighty Oaks Apparel & Gear
Supplies, Gifts, Snacks, and more!**

Campus Store Sale 50% off Christmas Clearance



Sale ends 12/20/16

**Located in SLC 212
Open Mon-Fri 9AM-3PM**

b2c vimeo BEST ONE
TIRE & SERVICE Present

BROADWAY PLAYERS
PRESENTS

Dec. 1, 2, 3 @ 7pm
Dec. 4 @ 2pm

The Gift of the Magi
ADAPTED BY JOHN JOSY FROM THE STORY BY O. HENRY

Saturday evening's show will feature a concert performance by the OCU choir.

To Kill a Mockingbird
Auditions Thursday Feb. 9 @ 6pm
Saturday Feb. 11 @ 10am

Fundraiser

By McKenzie Moore
Staff Writer

inconvenience this may have caused anyone.

Due to some unforeseen circumstances, the Sandy's fundraiser will be postponed until after everyone comes back from Thanksgiving break. Everyone who ordered will receive their pizza the week of finals.

"The Collegian" and Sandy's Pizza apologize for any



Sports

Learning to be the best

By Corabelle Tally
Assistant Editor

Oakland City University welcomed its newest men's soccer coach, Elliot Spruell, with the start of the new soccer season this year. Originally from Mount Carmel, Illinois, Spruell has traveled from coast to coast before finally ending up right back near home.

After high school, Spruell attended college at Lawrence University, located in Wisconsin. It was there that Spruell got his degree in Aquatic Science in order to go into marine biology. At that point, he moved to Florida to work in a marine lab. Spruell was in the water every day, scuba diving. Although there was a lot of time in the water, there was even more time doing paperwork, which disagreed with Spruell. He did not enjoy the lack of human interaction.

Spruell ended up getting back into soccer with his desire for a career change. He had played since he was five years old. That caused his dad to get into coaching. Spruell says that they "grew into it together." His father continued to coach him until high school and remained the high school coach after Spruell graduated and is currently Spruell's assistant coach.

At Lawrence University, Spruell played soccer but ended up having to sit out his junior and senior year because of an injury. During this time, he was able to help coach, which was great because he "wanted to stay involved, and it was a good opportunity." Throughout his stay at college, he was also able to coach some recreational teams.

After his time in Florida, Spruell went back to Lawrence

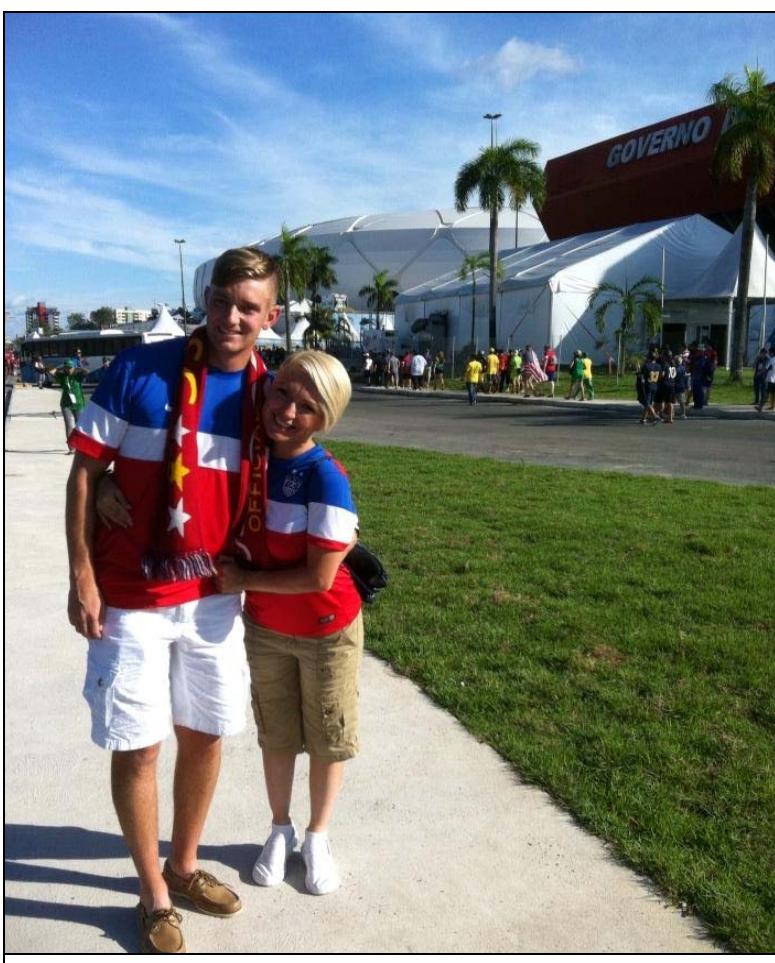
University to coach the men's and women's soccer team for three seasons. After that, he moved to L.A. in California and got his masters in Sport's Management. He coached soccer at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School before going to work for California State Soccer Association, also known as Cal South. It was there that Spruell worked with educating the coaches. He also worked with state teams and did a lot of scouting, and he "got the chance to coach a lot of good players along the way."

It was at Cal South that Spruell met his wife. At Cal South she worked with the administration as well as the referees for their association. The couple has been married for a year and a half now, and it was their relationship, as well as their desire to take care of her children that brought him to Oakland City.

Currently looking for a home in Evansville, Spruell and his wife wanted to get out of L.A. and find some place that suited their values better. At Oakland City, they "got a very good feeling," and it "matched what they wanted." Spruell says that "it was a lot of fun to be back on the field. I am learning a lot about what needs to be done, and the guys have been great. Everyone here is very supportive and helpful."

With the first soccer season, Spruell was very encouraged by the guys' hard work and attitude. Although he didn't know initially what to expect, the team was a very "good group of guys that kept working until the end." With the start of off season, Spruell is planning on doing a lot of local recruitment to give back to the community that has given him so much.

In preparation for next year,



Elliott Spruell and his wife Zukey outside of the stadium in Brazil before the USA vs Portugal World Cup game.

Part of the team

By Claire Slomski
Staff Writer

Friendly, charismatic, funny, welcoming; anyone who has met Aricka Prentice would probably use words like these to describe her. You can usually find her smiling, joking, or conversing with just about anyone on campus.

Prentice grew up in a large and diverse family, which has helped her to be an open person; no one could call her shy.

Prentice is a sophomore here at Oakland City University; this is also her second year on the basketball team.

She enjoyed being on the team last year but says this year has been even better. Coach Ross set a good tone for the team early on and has established a family-like atmosphere. Being part of a team is familiar to Prentice; she played basketball in high school in a sports-oriented community.

She started out as a cheerleader but always felt like she belonged on the court. One of her favorite high school memories was winning the state championship with her basketball team.

This is Prentice's second year working at the library on campus. She loves to decorate the library and to see everyone that comes through, especially potential students on tours. Everyone comes through the library at some point, so there are plenty of opportunities for socializing.

Prentice is a secondary education major and hopes to be a high school teacher and coach.

Of her learning experience here at OCU, Prentice has enjoyed classes with Dr. Cutchin, who was engaging in every class, and Dr. Davis, who always makes the material fun and interesting.

We all have great memories from our time at OCU; one of Prentice's best memories was



Pictured from left to right is: Aricka Prentice, Olivia Carroll and Hannah Render.

attending the New Lake bonfire and watching others learn to make s'mores for the first time.

So, if you see Aricka Prentice at the library, do not be afraid to say "hi," she is always up for a good conversation.

From England to the states

By Madison Brooks
Assistant Editor

Jack Cookson, sophomore from London, England, plays the position of striker for Oakland City University's Men's Soccer team. He was asked to come to OCU when Stephen Peck, previous soccer coach, recruited him to play soccer. Cookson is majoring in accounting and is planning to be a chartered accountant back in England.

Having experience in soccer for eleven years, Cookson says he enjoys playing the sport because "It helps me forget about all the stress that's going on in my life."

As far as the season goes, on a personal level, Cookson feels that he could have done better in regards to creating and scoring. For the team, the season was not as successful as they hoped, but the team did come home with wins.

In England, soccer is played

the same as it is in the states, but it is called football. However, England and America have many differences that Cookson had to get used to, which were more severe than a name difference. The climate in England, for example, is much cooler throughout the year, and it rains more often there than in the states. The differences were easy to get used to, but the most difficult change was the time zone and location of OCU "I'm used to the time zone now, but I'm still not used to being in a rural area," said Cookson. He says he enjoys OCU, but wishes that more was going on around the campus, for example, closer restaurants, cinemas and shopping centers.

For some students, it is difficult to stay in touch with their families when they are at a campus far away from home. However, Cookson FaceTimes with his family every week in



order to stay in touch with what is going on back in England.

Overall, Cookson is a great soccer player and has been a victorious addition to the Mighty Oaks!

yourself. It doesn't have to be formal education for you to learn and become educated. Find someone you value and take advantage of their knowledge. Let them evaluate you. We are often scared to be criticized, which we shouldn't be. Always try to learn as much as you can from everyone."

Come out
and support
your Mighty
Oaks!



"Everyone in the huge gym was silent in amazement":

Dr. Randy Mills
Guest Writer

At the beginning of the Oakland City College 1949-1950 school year, the school newspaper, *The O. C. Collegian*, touted the tiny school's increased enrollment from the year before by noting the fall enrollment was up 10 percent, having risen to "190 students." The small enrollment reflected some difficult times. The struggling school had almost folded during the Great Depression and, again, when WWII took so many of its students. The GI Bill had helped place Oakland City back on the road to recovery, but even with a modest upturn in the number of students after the war ended, the school still trudged along with a small student population and with few physical facilities. In 1949, the college was made up of an administration building constructed around 1900, a girl's dorm, built in 1912, and a gymnasium, built in the early 1920s. The gym structure also housed the college library on its first floor. One exception to the older buildings on campus was a wooden army barracks structure recently moved to the college. It sat on the campus side of Franklin Street, just beyond the archway entrance to the college and by 1949, was being used as a student sandwich shop—*The Oaks*. A fall 1949 *Collegian* article reported that students now had "a pleasant and cheerful eating place where they can get food."

Despite the small enrollment

OAKS PULL STUNNING UPSET—BEAT SYCAMORES, 64-61

STORY ON PAGE 4

BASKETBALL
ABOUNDS

THE O. C. COLLEGIAN

"MAMA"
ACCLAIMED

Vol. 3 No. 8

Oakland City College, Oakland City, Indiana

January 13, 1950

The OC Collegian headlines announce the team's dramatic upset of Indiana State.

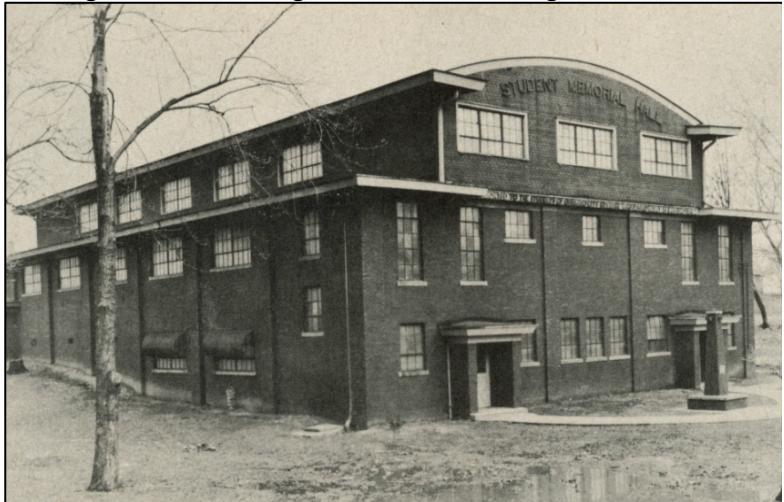
some much needed student entertainment. The latter feature was especially important when it came to OCC basketball games during the harsh winter months when the nights were long and there was little else to do. It was an era of methodic pattern plays, set shots, one handed running jumpers, and soft hooks, but while the game often moved much more slowly than today's contests, the enthusiasm of the fans could rise to extremely high levels given the tribal-like support small communities and schools gave their local teams.

During the 1920s, the school had developed a relatively strong sports program, even offering a football team. The depression eventually brought an end to the football program, but inter-collegiate basketball continued to be played until 1942. In that year, inter-collegiate level basketball at the college was halted because of the war and the lack of male students. The school yearbook, *The Mirror*, happily reported the resurrection of the sport in 1946. "The Oaks of 1946-1947 [are] back in inter-collegiate basketball competition for the first time since 1942 [winning] 7 and

yearbook reported, "This season has found the Oaks one of the toughest teams the college has ever had." The Oaks scored thirteen victories against six defeats. Joining Hodges were three other outstanding players—Bob Lochmuller, Wayne "Geek" Norrick, and Manford Morrow. The latter two had transferred in from Evansville College. Also returning were competent players such as Hub Daugherty and Barnard Gideon. If there existed any sore spot in the program, it was this: near-by Indiana State at Terre Haute always managed to beat little O.C.C. in basketball like a drum. In the '46-'47 campaign the score was a lop-sided 79 to 37. The next year the score was even worse, 87 to 36. Mercifully, the Oaks did not play Indiana State in the '48-'49 season.

Although Gil Hodges would not be returning for the 1949-1950 season, that year still looked to be a potential record setter. Then, rangy Bob Lochmuller transferred to Louisville. Hope remained, however, that the Oaks would beat the previous year's win record. Ray Meadows, the *Collegian* sports editor, wrote in mid-October of 1949 that Coach [Delbert] Disler has issued "the call for all [basketball] prospects to report to the gymnasium." Coach Disler was a WWII veteran who began coaching at the college part time in 1946. His full time job involved teaching and coaching at the local high school. The coach was known for his laid-back relationship with his players, many of them also veterans of the war. Fun hours were often spent by the coach, his players, and college team supporters at *The Oaks*. The *Collegian* reported, tongue-in-cheek, that "Those interested in an entertaining 'non-credit' class should enroll in Coach Disler's Social Science Class at *The Oaks*." Wayne Norrick, also known as "Geek," a Winslow, Indiana native, brought much humor to the team setting as well. The *Collegian*, in its humorous, but sometimes caustic section called *Campusology*, often noted the antics of Norrick. "I discovered taste buds I didn't know I had," the basketball wiz related after someone had given him some foul tasting "fake" candy. In a *Collegian* interview, Norrick told how his favorite pastime "is heckling Disler," an activity, the paper reported, Norrick "does with amazing skill." Regardless of the entertaining disposition of the coach and players when off the court, basketball practices and games were another matter.

The Oaks basketball court was on the second floor of the gym building, above the college library, and when the team practiced overhead, the lights of the library swayed, causing dust to drift down on college students like dirty snowflakes. Meadows reported to the *Collegian* how, on the first day of the 1949 practice, "twenty-four eager hardwood enthusiasts donned their trunks and basketball shoes and started pounding the library ceiling with very little thought for the library." Among those returning from



OCC Student Memorial Gym. The college library was housed on the first floor.



OCC students lining up to register in the old administration building for the 1949-1950 school year. Little did the student body know their basketball team would pull off a major upset during the upcoming season.

and the run-down buildings, there still existed a number of intangible assets at the school. The peaceful wooded campus was offered up to prospective students in one *Collegian* piece as a place where there lingered "a spirit of democracy, even comradery, among the students," strong "personal relationships between students and teachers," and a small, quaint, easy to get-around campus where "students are known and treated as persons rather than as numbers on a class book." The college's sport teams, like the school itself, could not often boast of major accomplishments, but did offer an important point of identification for the small student body, as well as

[loosing] 13 for a fair season." Not stated, however, was the weakness of the schedule, which included three non-collegiate teams and an alumni group. It must be noted, however, that during this era, independent teams, often sponsored by military bases and industry, played at a very competitive level.

The next year saw the Oaks post a healthy nine and ten record and playing stronger competition. Of note was the presence of several local talented basketball players and professional baseball player Gil Hodges, who attended OCC from 1947-1949. The next season saw more fine recruits joining the team and another respectable year. The college

the previous year were Wayne "Geek" Norrick, Ray Winkler, John McCrory, Ray Evans, Al Dickson, Erwin Whitehead, Manford Morrow, Jim Oxby, Hub Daugherty and Barnard Gideon. Two new freshmen, Marion Rees and Pat Jarboe, from a strong Tell City High School squad, were also among those going out for the Oaks team. The schedule looked to be especially tough and included Illinois State, Indiana State, Central Missouri, Eastern Illinois, and Evansville College (twice), among others. Still, the *Collegian* sportswriter placed a positive spin on the upcoming season. "I think the least we can do, as students of Oakland City College, is to back [Coach] Disler to the hilt by attending every ball game we possibly

can."

Down the road in Terre Haute, a larger school with a more successful basketball program was also preparing for its basketball season. The Indiana State Sycamores had developed a mini-dynasty of sorts in the 1940s among the small college ranks. One local Terre Haute newspaper touted State's program the best small college basketball program in the state. John Wooden had coached there during the 1946-1948 seasons, and the Sycamores had appeared in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics finals in 1942, 1943, 1946, 1948, and 1949. In '46 and '48, they were finalists. In 1950, they would be N.A.I.A. national champs, barely losing on the road during the regular season to the national ranked number two large school team, the Duquesne Dukes. The 1949-1950 season would be considered one of the greatest in Indiana

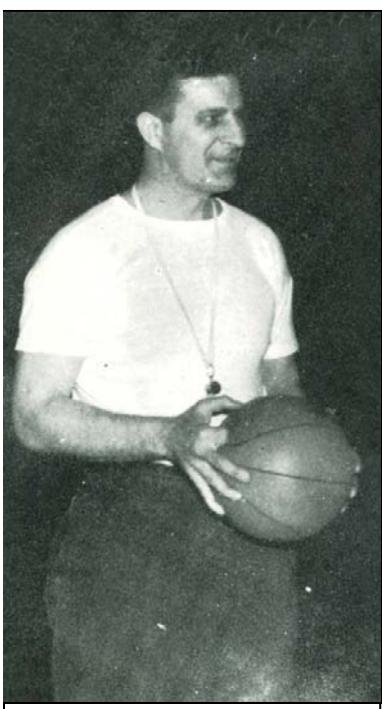


Several OCC Students enjoying a meal and some talk time at *The Oaks*.

State basketball history. That year, little Oakland City clearly looked to be an easy win for the Indiana State team, a sure victory to pad the win column. The Oaks' struggles with other weaker teams in the early part of the season also suggested as much.

O.C.C. boys lost their first game of the season to Franklin College by several points. Evansville College, an ancient rival of the Oaks, crushed Disler's troops in their first meeting, 73-47. By the time early January of 1950 rolled around, and the OCC team was preparing to travel to play Indiana State, the Oaks had lost six of their first seven games. Conversely, the Sycamores had only lost one home game in their last forty contests. Guard Len

Oakland City College's 1950 basketball upset of Indiana State.



OCC Coach Delbert Disler.

Rzeszewski, eventual NAIA player of the year, anchored the potent Sycamore attack. The State team was also returning from a very productive West coast tour, losing one while defeating three other strong teams. When the Oaks came into town, the Sycamores had only been beaten by Nevada and Louisville for a seven wins, two defeats start. The *Terre Haute Star* reported how the Indiana State team was licking their chops in anticipation of the pummeling they would

they came back out on the floor for warm-ups and saw a contingent of Oaks' fans in the bleachers. *Collegian* sports writer Ray Meadows, sitting at the scorers' bench, dutifully began to keep notes on the game. He later explained how, during the game, he "wrote down the time on several occasions in order that I might know when [we] were still in the game." Meadows wrongly assumed State would, sooner or later, break the game wide open and once more beat the Oaks like a drum.

After the opening tip-off, the Indiana State team came out with a fierce press on defense and a blistering fast break on offense. Midway through the first half, the home team led 34 to 23. The aggressive play of the host team made the first half seem to fly. Len Rzeszewski, their star player, had already scored sixteen points by halftime and the score stood at 40 to 33 in favor of State. The Oaks players, several with that deer in the headlight look, grimly hung in there. "The fast break and pressure applied by the Sycamores seems to have our lads baffled," Meadows later penned. Still, somehow, "the Oaks stayed close . . . to the amazement of the entire crowd of three thousand people."

The boys from Oakland City



1948-1949 Oaks basketball team which included baseball great Gil Hodges. First row, left to right, Kenneth Nelson, Hubert Daugherty, Chester Lamar, Bob Lochmuller, Wayne Beasley, and Gilbert Hodges. Second row, left to right, Wayne Norrick, Ray Evans, Owen Riddle, Manford Morrow, James Oxby, Bernard Gideon and Coach Delbert Disler.

that Norrick's light-hearted observation "was the turning point of the game. . . ." The Oaks "left the dressing room with better spirit than we had seen all year."

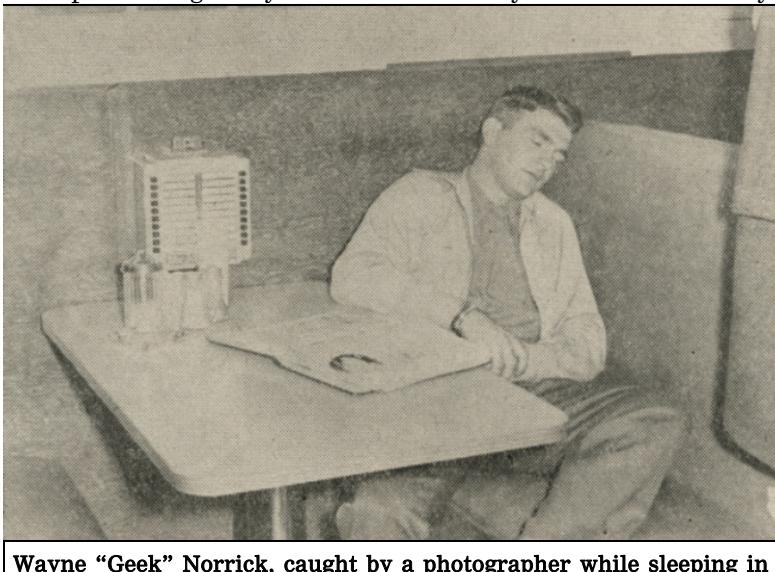
In the second half the Oaks doggedly hung on. The *Terre Haute Star* reported "with six minutes gone in the second half, Norrick's free throw gave the Oaks a 45 to 44 lead." Oakland City College fans began to cheer louder, sensing the possibility of a close game, pumping up their team even more. Meadows described the growing noise as "a roar." With five minutes left, however, the State team seemed to have the game in the bag with a 56-49 lead. Meanwhile, the Oaks' defense completely shut down Len Rzeszewski from scoring in the second half and the Oaks were out rebounding the taller State team. Gaining confidence, the Oaks, wrote Meadows, also started "firing away and connected on several shots." State took back the momentum toward the end, pulling away to a four point lead with one minute and nine seconds to go. Then, the *Star* reported, "The scrappy Oaks refused to give in and rapidly whittled down the deficit, until Norrick's long cast gave them a 59 to 58 lead with less than a minute to go." Meadows also told of the last few nerve-racking seconds in an article in the *Collegian*. "Manford Morrow, after playing a terrific game, committed his fifth personal foul and was compelled to leave the game. The coach scanned the bench and

motioned Pat Jarboe to replace Morrow." Oakland was on fire in the shooting department, with "Geek" Norrick leading the way. Somehow, the Oaks managed to forge ahead. "With the score 63-59, our favor, Jarboe fouled Longfellow in an

remembered how, at the abrupt and surprising end of the game, for just a few seconds, "practically everyone in the huge gym was silent in amazement. For the State fans it was hard to believe they had been beaten. . . . The local



OCC cheerleaders Lillian Moore, Elaine Wood, Ida Ellen Corner and Pat Harden.



Wayne "Geek" Norrick, caught by a photographer while sleeping in The Oaks.

give the Oaks. "Coach John Longfellow's netters reign as heavy favorites to top the visitors," one reporter wrote. Oakland City, the same reporter continued, "is still searching for a winning combination." It was a somber bus drive to Terre Haute on January 5, 1950, for Coach Disler and his team. Not even good ole "Geek" Norrick could raise the team's spirit as the bus rumbled toward Terre Haute.

Indiana State Teachers College had an enrollment of well over a thousand students in 1950 and the Sycamore gym could easily seat over three times that number. The O.C.C. gym held a mere 450. The extent of State's massive gym—the bleachers towering up on one side of the floor, the echoing of their footsteps as the Oakland City players walked through the gym doors and made their quiet way to the dressing room—seemed to cast a dire spell on the small town boys. Disler's troop perhaps took some cheer when

hobbled back to their dressing room at half-time. Ray Meadows followed. The players plopped down in the folding chairs lined against a wall, most wiping off sweat with towels provided by the host team, their eyes cast down to the floor. Even Coach Disler was silent. Finally, "Geek" Norrick spoke up, saying something about Indiana State's fast break that made little sense. "They are coming down the floor in convoys and they all have on the same color of jerseys." Meadows thought

attempt to prevent his scoring and the son of the State coach coolly stepped to the free throw line and dropped in both shots. This made the score 63-61. With eight seconds left, state had the ball out of bounds at midcourt. They called a time out. . . . The play went [awry] and O.C.C. got their hands on the ball and that was the game, even though Bob Chapman scored on a free throw to serve as a clincher."

Ray Meadows later

[O.C.C.] fans just couldn't believe it because the Oaks had never beaten State!" Then the Oakland City players and fans began to celebrate. "Coach Disler could have passed for a high jumper in the heat of a torrid track meet," the *Collegian* sports writer noted. "He really deserved this one." Norrick lead all scorers with 24 points. Others contributed to the victory as well. Hub Daugherty, Bob Chapman, and Manford Morrow had consistently out-rebounded their taller opponents and "the ball handling of the guards Ress and Norrick was much better than in any previous game."

The next issue of the *Collegian* carried the banner headline, "Oaks Pull Stunning Upset—Beat Sycamores, 64-61. Several newspapers reported the surprise win as well. The *Terre Haute Star* called the outcome, "one of the major upsets of the Hoosier hardwood season," and related



1949-1950 Oaks team with the Oakland City College homecoming court.



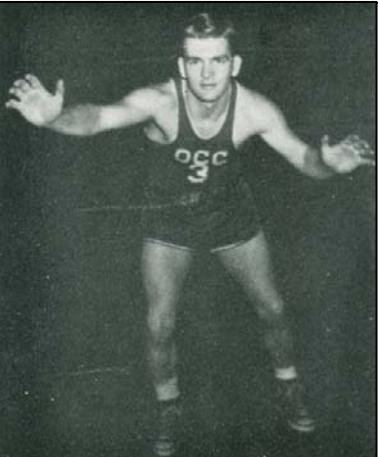
OCC Oaks at work in the college gym during a 1949-1950 season game.

how the home town crowd was left "stunned" by the outcome. The paper further recognized the hero of the game as "diminutive Wayne Norrick, [who] paced the Oaks . . . with a 24-point splurge." The *Evansville Courier* called the win "a stunning victory" and also noted Norrick's defensive skills in completely shutting down State's best scorer in the second half. Perhaps the most unusual comment about the unlikely outcome of the game

came in a letter from Japan to the editor of the *Collegian*. A 1927 O.C.C. graduate living in Osaka wrote, "I am enclosing a copy of the *Pacific Stars and Stripes*, Jan. 7, in which I have found the news of the basketball game between O.C.C. and Indiana State." Reading about the upset reminded the reader of his own time at Oakland, "when I was custodian of the college gym and saw so many thrillers."

In the spring of 1950, Wayne

"Geek" Norrick, hero of the Indiana State game, would be chosen Mr. Basketball at O. C. C. and the college at large would savor their victory over Indiana State for some time. The college newspaper was quick to point out, in the late spring of 1950, that State's big gun, Len Rsezewski, was chosen "most Valuable Player in the National Intercollegiate Basketball Tournament. Looking at the past, we remember when our boys from Oakland City defeated the mighty Sycamores . . . on their home floor." The Oakland City College basketball team ended the 1949-1950 season with a somewhat disappointing 8 and 10 record. The school yearbook, which came out in the late spring of 1950, however, pointed out that the Oaks "never faced a team as small as themselves," and added, regarding the Indiana



1950 Mr. Basketball, Wayne "Geek" Norrick.

State victory, "had the Oaks lost the rest of their games on their schedule, the season would have been a success."

Today, few remember that cold night in January of 1950 when the Oakland City College basketball Oaks achieved the impossible. O.C.C.'s dramatic upset of Indiana State's

powerful basketball team would soon be forgotten under the onslaught of another war, this one an unexpected conflict erupting in Korea in June of the same year. Several Oakland City students would once more be called to serve their nation. Vietnam, the counter-culture movement of the sixties, Watergate—these events, and so many others iconic occurrences over the years, would also help to dull the memory of the Oaks' sweet surprise victory over a much larger and more talented team. Still, it is always good to be reminded, from time to time, that sometimes a David does occasionally defeat a Goliath. It is one of the essential archetype stories of the American dream, giving us hope that our hard work, and a little luck, might just occasionally pay resounding dividends.

Building a family

By Corabelle Tally
Assistant Editor

Coming from Charlestown, South Carolina, Coach Shayne Ross has become a new member of the Oakland City University family this year. Ross coaches the Lady Oaks basketball team as well as teaching business, marketing, sports administration and other similar classes. Thus far, Ross says that he has enjoyed the school and "loves the community feel of the university."

Ross attended Charlestown Southern for his undergraduate degree and

then attended Liberty University for his master's degree. He has degrees in management, marketing, sports science management and administration.

Before college, Ross played basketball, football and baseball. At Charlestown Southern, Ross continued playing baseball before he was injured.

The injury caused Ross to make a huge life change. He decided to join the Marines. There is a long line of Marines in Ross's family, and he was able to continue the tradition.

Ever since he was little, it has

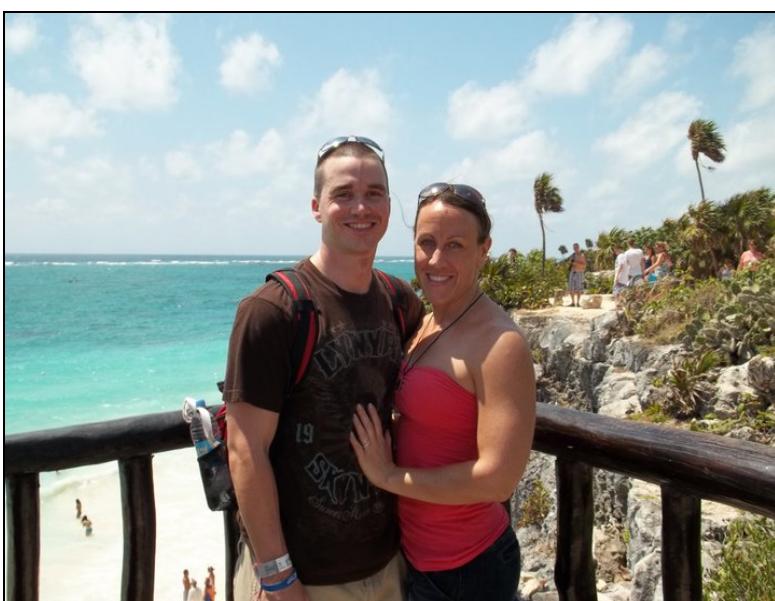
been Ross's dream to be a coach. Originally, he wanted to be a football coach but ended up changing to adapt to his circumstances.

Ross gained his dream to be a coach after having two horrible coaches. He "never wanted anyone to go through that. No kid should ever have to feel that way."

In his life thus far, Ross has coached at the middle school, high school and college level. He has also gotten the chance to coach semi-professional baseball. Overall, Ross has coached baseball, basketball and soccer.

Currently in his first year as Oakland City basketball coach, Ross says that during the preseason, there were "a lot of injuries and the depth of the players were depleted. I was excited but with the increasing injuries I had to change my outlook and philosophy. It's been a challenge." However, Ross says that he "loves working with the girls and wants to build a family feeling and culture for the team."

Ross enjoys coaching because of his "ability to have an impact as a coach...I have four sisters who are strong and independent, and I want to create those kinds of women." He speaks to students who desire to be coaches and says that "if you are passionate about what you do and love people, then coaching is for you."



Pictured are Shayne Ross and his wife Lindsey.

Teamwork makes the dream work

By Tanner Mason
Staff Writer

Emily Pitkin is from Huntington, West Virginia.

She is pursuing Criminal Justice as a major, and she is a talented forward for the OCU Women's Basketball team.

Pitkin says she found out about OCU from a relative, Patty Buchta, and decided she wanted to pursue her basketball career here, and that is precisely what she is doing.

Coach Ross's style of coaching is to outwork all of the opponents, day in and day out.

She also said that although they have their own techniques, they all practice and need to work on teamwork. She is attempting to keep an open and positive attitude. That is what Pitkin is

focusing on, and that is what she hopes for the future of Oakland City women's basketball.



Emily, left, getting ready with teammates for the upcoming season.

TUES - THUR 4AM - 2PM
FRI & SAT 4AM - 9PM

124 W. STATE ST
PRINCETON, IN
NORTHWEST CORNER OF
THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE

Cross country qualifies two individuals

By Tanner Mason
Staff Writer

Two individuals made it to NCCAA Cross Country Nationals this year. The previous qualifying standards were 21:21 in the 5k race and 29:21 in the 8k, but were changed this year to 21:08 and 28:24. Yet that didn't stop Lucy Berlanga and Will Niederhaus.

These two met and exceeded these times during regular season and represented OCU well in Jackson, Mississippi, for their Nationals' course on the Choctaw Trails.

Berlanga placed 29th and ran 19:39, a new personal record for her.

Niederhaus ran 28:40, which is also a very good time for him, and placed 76th as an individual.

These two worked hard all year and represented Oakland City University Cross Country well.

This was Niederhaus's last season for the mighty Oaks, but you should expect to see Berlanga out there representing us well again next fall.

Join us at The Collegian

Want to learn about what it takes to be a newspaper reporter? Interested in knowing how a newspaper is laid out? Want to be in the know of what is happening on campus? If you do, we have a place for you on The Collegian. You can either register for the Campus Practicum (COMM310) next semester or join us as a volunteer.

Interested? You can contact your academic advisor or Mr. Coy at scoy@oak.edu to answer your questions.

Remembering Organization Day



Arts and Media

The portrait of you

Arthur Fields displayed his unique photography at the Dunn Art Gallery

By Corabelle Tally
Assistant Editor

Recognizing personal behaviors associated with our relationships through technology was the main goal of Arthur Fields. The art show *Technically Connected* illustrated Fields' findings on how people illustrate themselves to the world based upon their online identity.

Displayed in Oakland City University's Dunn Art Gallery in October, Fields presented digital photographs of an individual's personal device that had a profile picture that represented the individual holding the device.

The profile pictures symbolized how the viewer wanted to be seen by the world in an online format. These pictures were of pets, children, couples and anything that the individual felt represented by.

In Fields' artist statement, he says that "this work documents and illustrates how personal technology has become a primary source for communication between traditional family and social groups" and that the work also, "illustrates the dichotomy of technological communication in public versus private intra-group settings."



Neil Mason: Vocal concert recital, "Stage and Screen"

Former teacher and former student reunite to evening of music at OCU

By Madison Brooks
Assistant Editor

On Nov. 3, Neil Mason performed a variety of songs that have been performed on stage and screen. He performed a duet with Cynthia B. Retana of the song "If I Loved You," from *Carousel* by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Mason also performed an all time favorite, "Over the Rainbow" from the *Wizard of Oz*, which displayed Mason's incredible voice range. Carolyn Spitler accompanied the songs performed by doing what she does best, playing the piano.

Mason has been singing since his childhood, starting in his local church. He participated

in musicals throughout high school and has traveled with a musical theatre group throughout Fiji, New Zealand and Australia. He has also performed at Holiday World and was part of the Evansville Philharmonic Chorus. Mason has also been involved in a musical theatre group for over eight years in Evansville, Indiana, raising money for different local charities.



Neil Mason and Cynthia Retana perform a medley of Broadway hits accompanied by Carolyn Spitler.

Choir Christmas concert

By Rebekah Busler
Staff Writer

The Oakland City University choir performed in several Christmas concerts to close this semester. First, they sang with the Gaither Christmas Homecoming concert on Nov. 19, at the French Lick Resort. Each year the Gaither Vocal Band has a tour, and at each stop the group chooses a local choir to assist them. It is quite an honor for the university choir to perform, especially since this is the fourth time the Gathers have asked the choir

to sing with them.

There were also two concerts that took place in the recital hall. First was the preview concert on Nov. 29. This concert was specifically for the faculty, staff and students instead of being advertised for the general public. Instead of formal wear, the choir wore Christmas sweaters, and the audience was encouraged to wear their favorite Christmas sweaters. This earned the preview concert the nickname "the ugly sweater concert." The formal public concert was on Dec. 1, and both were free

admission. There were two smaller ensembles that performed in the Christmas concerts in addition to the choir. One of these groups was directed by Emily Abel, a student in conducting class.

The last concert of the semester will be on Saturday Dec. 3. The choir will sing at the Princeton Theatre and Community Center. The Broadway Players are presenting *Gift of the Magi* from Dec. 1-4, and the choir was invited to sing before the Saturday performance.

Corabelle's poetry corner



Editor's Notes: Everyone is invited to submit their poetry for possible inclusion in the next issue of "The Collegian." Submit your entries to Corabelle at: tallycorabelle@myocu.oak.edu.

What a wonderful life

Written by Corabelle Tally

What a wonderful life
Entering in a state of complete uselessness,
Yet, infinite cuteness.
Tripping our way through childhood
Never realized that scrapes were the least of our
worries
Then comes boys and girls, friends and heartbreaks
Through every mistake, there was a lesson,
But only realized once past the point of no return
We laugh, we cry, we curse this world and then
praise it
So full of abilities and prospects but often feeling
uselessness,
We forget to look up.
Then clarity comes, our hands can create anything,
Constructing, fashioning, designing our world
Bringing offspring to carry our name before realizing
What a wonderful life we live.

Colorado

Written by Jonathon Tally
11 years old
Guest Writer

My dream lives close to my lungs,
Sometimes, I feel it as a pen
spilling ink in the dark purse
of my breathing. My body
lives here in Colorado, in an apartment with a few
plants.
I am what the experts refer to
as history, a small totality
making its way to the future.
In the evening, I inherit death
as an idea, as a subject I'll be tested on.
Mid-afternoons, I take long walks.
I live by myself as the state lives
by itself in borders it had nothing
to do with. I, too, have a river.
If you ask, I will tell you about the light.



Front Row: Kelsey Mayberry, Alex Stewart, Suellen Head, Brittany Latham, Josh Brown and Rachel Toepfer.
Middle Row: Cassidy Bogard, Hannah Solo, Scarlett Osment, Austin Ladd, Haleigh Beasley, Lindsay Prow and Madison Brooks.
Back Row: Haley Ellis, Daniel Waggoner, Kevin Pinnick, Lindsay Adams, Jonathan Smith, Emily Abel and Jordan Davis.

A. D. Williams: Oakland City University's forgotten founder

**By Dr. Douglas Low
Professor of New Testament
and Religious Studies
Chapman Seminary**

Greetings to the Trustees of the University, and to the staff of the University, and especially to Dr. Barber who invited me to speak today. Congratulations to the Hoppers for the honor paid them for their contribution and success in leading the people of God to worship through song, and for their long time support of the University. I welcome all of you who are here to celebrate this day the founding of the University. I thank you all for coming, especially with much gratitude to the General Baptist denominational leadership who bear the burden and maintain the opportunities for allowing all General Baptists to serve their Lord in so many ways. And especially I greet the faculty of Oakland City University. I speak as one of you today, and it has been my concern since the day I received the invitation, to wonder about the issue, do I speak for you as one of you, or to you as one of you. Perhaps a little bit of both.

The University brings us together and, to paraphrase Dr. Seuss, oh the stories we can tell, of Murray and Marley, of Hasselbrinck and Harper, memories and best moments, of private jokes and even more private frustrations, and also of particular students who still bring a smile to the face or a shaking of the head. The founders dreamed of this place, and we teach here. I'll refrain from saying we are living the dream. But, this is what they dreamed.

The founders gave us this place. It didn't always exist; there was a time when General Baptists had no educational institution, when representatives of other colleges would come to General Baptist meetings and make their pitch for us to send our kids to them, our young preachers to them. Two summers ago I preached at an Anglican service for the ordination of a priest for that group. He was graduate of Chapman, a particularly positive success story for us—"oh the places he'll go" to more correctly quote Dr. Seuss. We helped get where he wanted to go, --where he is today is almost beyond his dreams; he would not have gotten there without us. You don't know his name just like I don't know the names of the students in your programs that you moved heaven and earth so that they might be changed, informed, transformed, to achieve their expressed goals—without you they don't make—you know it, you know the names and details, and folks in the stands don't know the names, the trustees don't, no one on this platform may know—but you do.

But back to my story, the Anglican Bishop for this region is there in his robes, the Eucharist is served after my

sermon, and he allows me to assist with other priests, but the point of my story is that afterwards he tells me that he is the volunteer chaplain at Hillsdale University in Michigan. And my General Baptist history kicks in, Hillsdale was founded by Free Will Baptists in 1840's decades before our founding, and they, with Ridgeville College over Randolph County, Indiana made their appeal regularly as the place for General Baptists to go. I'm here with a guy from Hillsdale—But without our founders, without this place, I am not here I got to serve on that day, in this way, and send this student off to his future, because the founders founded, they dreamed, and I get to live it, I get to serve.

Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve are words faculty hears often. We might not be able to quote the latest version of the mission statement (unless some accrediting team is coming next week)—but *Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve*—has for years captured our purpose. But they are not faculty words, not words to us—though we repeat them and teach with all our might so that the words might be true for everyone in our classrooms—but they don't describe us in this place, they don't describe the faculty. For we, we entered to serve, and we chose to stay--with backbone and talent, faith and faithfulness.

The founders dreamed of such a faculty. They dreamed of us. Oh, our college founders probably never imagined exactly us, for example, the Roman Catholic presence on the campus. Trust me they didn't. They could imagine me without much trouble, third generation General Baptist and all that. But think about how many Catholics has served here, and in such important positions! The United Methodist church secretary for years was Mary Sives, who is a member of and still the secretary for Blessed Sacrament, and I remember her telling me about some of you talking about the number of Roman Catholics at OCC—and she dared, only half-joking, to called it, a Catholic University. Don't tell the founders! And so, in light of all that, with the recent canonization of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, her example crossed my mind for all of us. She entered to serve and chose to stay. Mother Teresa received her Noble Prize the year I began my seminary studies—she was already hard at it, she had been wearing the blue and white (OCU-ish) habit that would characterize her new order of nuns for over 30 years by then, and she gave to all the world a living witness of the call of Jesus to serve the poorest of the poor, and not at some safe distance but with them, in the midst of it all. We serve here, it is not Calcutta, not New Delhi, but it is also not New York; it is the East end of Gibson County, some of us had family here, others of us



Dr. Douglas Low shown delivering the 131st Oakland City University's Founder's Day address. Photo by Linda Tipton.

relocated here, and here we all are, together, with them—our students.

It was Randy Mills who talked to me years ago about how this place gave a chance to students who had so little exposure to education and there was a high percentage of first time college attendees within their family, and that calling is still with us. For them and all our students, we teach them, and thus serve them. May we be reminded of why we entered, even though we may be overwhelmed with rubrics, still exhausted with writing SPAS, deathly tired of dual credit, and having more adjunct classes about it than hours in a day—we don't let ourselves lose sight of what we entered to do.

Well, not usually, but sometimes...You see, it was the new Dean at Chapman, Dr. Danny Dunivan, replacing that old one that had grown nuts and sick of useless meetings and self-studies and accrediting teams, and endless demands, and "payless-ness" of it all, who came in and reminded the faculty (his own former teachers) about perspective: that some workers stack stones while others build cathedrals. Both work just as hard, but one has a greater purpose. Or perhaps only the one has purpose. The founders, in their dreaming, thought of our greater purpose. I needed to be reminded of purpose by my Dean, because I was stacking stones, and I thought no one cared. Thinking no one cares stops us. But it is not true, it's never true: you care. I care. Our students need us. And changing the image just a little, I can stack a stone or two, if I get to teach. Lots of stone stacking is still demanded of us; but still there is teaching.

Benoni Stinson, the founder of General Baptists had no formal education; his own mother in her old age signed her name with an X; but he knew the power of words, wrote poetry, and valued knowledge. The General Baptist Circular Letter of 1828, of which he is a principal author, is grammatically correct, cites sources, quotes books besides the Bible. Very early in his creation and leadership of General Baptists of the Midwest he leads Liberty

Association, the one and only Association at that time, to attempt to procure a charter from the State of Indiana for a Seminary of Learning and erect a building. 1838. Why is he doing that?—one might think he is simply about building churches and saving souls and fighting Calvinism. He desired education for his ministers. One reads in the minutes of trustees chosen, and of three men designated to raise the needed money—and two of them were trustees and one of men was Benoni Stinson himself. But the school never happened then. But he dreamed. The very last letter we have from Stinson is the one he sent to Col. James Cockrum in 1869, he is the father of the man who built and once lived in Cockrum hall, and the letter was about getting Stinson's own grandson (*little grandson*, he says) enrolled in the Oakland Institute. That Oakland Institute didn't make it either,

the building was built this time, but it ends up sold at auction to the public school system here in Oakland City. And to speak of the town, their commitment to having a college, in the late 1860s and in the late 1880s and early 90s is noted in General Baptist sources. We often don't think of them as founders, but they were involved in the founding. The town was motivated; they wanted us. In the early 1890s with the debt on what we call the old Administration building still a grave threat, the people of Oakland City are described as having "come forward nobly on their part" to relieve the debt. Such an attitude, such a relationship, is a thing of value. It is a relationship worth having, is it not?

Speaking of motivation, I used to wonder at the motivation of my non-General Baptist colleagues in Chapman,—why did they do it? I knew how motivating it was for me to serve my denominational school, a thrill, a sense of purpose—but why did they do it? Indeed the whole faculty? And, in the days of a previous time, in which there was so little appreciation of faculty or so it seemed, and there was next to no one in the denomination to turn to, and no one then would go to a

trustee and talk freely, what kept the faculty going? I came to realize that you all had discovered in what the founders founded, a place where you could put yourself, you, with that desire to be a great teacher that you already had, and you could fulfill it here. And so you did and so you have. That's the way it has often been. Even for some of the founders—

A. D. Williams, was a *Free Will Baptist* on the way to retirement, an old man pondering how his life should end, how he should spend his final days, and where his money should go when it did end, he was toying with about four options, and he chose to come here to be our President. He might not be officially numbered as the first president; actually he usually is, because in every way that counts his presidency was the first that made this place a reality. And lest you fear being forgotten for your work, there's not a building, marker, or sidewalk here that bears his name. So get over it. He came here before here was really here, through a series of events that seem either happenstance or providential. He was elected president by the Board in 1889, then he discovers the General Baptists are deeply divided by two prominent clergymen, one does hear an echo from the Scripture reading of the Letter of James about rivalry [James 3:13-18]. He resigns. But the Trustees wouldn't take his letter of resignation. The problem resolves itself. Williams returns.

He brings his educational experience—having served both religious and public schools. He was the first president of a Baptist college in West Virginia, then he becomes the head of the public school system for the state of West Virginia. Later he became principal of Nebraska State Normal School (as they called such things in those days, a school in later years called Nebraska State Teachers College, now simply Nebraska State University). And he brought his ministerial commitments to God, all his years and reputation as a Free Will Baptist preacher, pastor—and that calling, that identity was important to him.

He had had multiple occasions of being something other than Free Will Baptist—He knew the founder of the denomination called the Church of God, almost became the head of their paper, and he did marry the sister of a Church of God's minister. He stayed Free Will Baptist. Williams had, in his early years after college, once proven himself to the Methodists, serving one of their churches while a pastor long lay sick, and the Methodist minister whom he had helped, worked it out with the Bishop and District Superintendant so he could, as he was told, have any church in the conference, and Williams declined. He was even told then that he wouldn't have to sprinkle babies as Methodists do in their baptisms, other Methodist preachers would come in and do that so he wouldn't have to—but he, unlike somebody we might name, said no even to that. But he saw here, among these General Baptists, who had tried and tried to have a college, a place for him to serve, and serve he did. He joined the First General Baptist Church here in Oakland City, and for those who care about such things as I do, realizing all the family ties, church heritage, personal contacts and friendships, I think I understand what it meant for him to identify with and finished his life as a General Baptist, to throw in his lot with us, especially when his time was so short. For the sake of education, for the promise of this place he entered and served. He is active here as one of us by 1891 and dies in December of 1894. Short time, but he did much.

General Baptists, wisely, let him. From his experiences as an editor of various newspapers and periodicals, he had printing supplies and equipment that he passed on to General Baptist Press at Owensville, home of the General Baptist paper, the *Messenger*. He served twice as moderator of the General Baptist annual meeting, called the General Association. He composed the first draft of our very first General Baptist Doctrines and Usages book. That book contained our first Church Covenant, a covenant that remains with us, with only slight changes. I was brought into General Baptists with that Church Covenant when I joined my home church in Bernie as a boy after baptism and I have taught that covenant to others. "Having given ourselves to God, we now give ourselves to his church" are those opening words some of us know quite well. And a copy of the covenant is in the Bible I carry to class every day. Williams gave us that.

He knew the inside of a classroom. Before there was that first class in theology at Oakland City College, he provided a "Ministers Institute" in 1891 that lasted from October 27 to November 4, on this day, 125 years ago he concluded on this campus his first attempt to train clergy for the work of the Gospel.

Williams served as a president, teacher, and as researcher and writer—as that first theology class of his became a reality, he was, in 1892, writing his biography of Benoni Stinson, a foundational work with which every subsequent history of our movement still must interact. And it must be stressed, he raised money, encouraged others to do the same, and at the General Association the year after his death, the money was pledged in his honor that retired the debt on the building at that time.

You all, faculty, like that Free Will Baptist Williams, that genuine educator and writer, have brought your lives here, your education and talents, and religious commitments, here, because you saw here a place where you could serve. May no one or nothing make you ever regret it. Like Williams you are bringing more here, than "here" can ever give you. At his death he gave his library of 1500 volumes (and one passage suggests 2500) and his farm in Nebraska—and its value was assessed at \$10,000 dollars. I don't know how and what changed hands financially when he died, but rest assured he didn't make \$10,000 here. He gave more than he got, in more ways than one. You know the feeling. It's called service—and attached to it, is honor.

Williams tells his story—how as a boy preacher among Free Will Baptists he was actively discouraged by many in getting any education at all. He had to fight for it. Education was ridiculed and challenged as unspiritual and unneeded. Baptists do that all the time, all kinds of Baptists, different periods of history it happens—Williams in his day got his dose. He was determined. He worked hard to get his education—we know what that is, too. And, (hear the *and*) Williams will hear anti-education, anti-college talk in letters sent to the *General Baptist Messenger*, even while he serves here as President. Criticism and objections do not stop. But he continues to serve. So do we.

As a young man in school, he worked odd jobs, but money was tight. People helped him financially. Even a Universalist store owner provided him a suit of clothes. Then, with these memories of a struggling student, as President of Oakland City College he will plead with the General Baptists in his old age and in their educational infancy to sacrifice for this place, to send young people here, to encourage them and financially support them. The early associations of General Baptists would finally catch the fire from him, echo him, in the passing of resolutions and in the giving of actual offerings. They got on board—in the records there was a local association which over the days of their meeting took four offerings for home missions, foreign missions, associational business, and one for the college. The one for the college was more than twice all the other

offerings combined. General Baptists did this, following his lead, so that this place might be here.

And for a recent example, I remind us that during the tough financial days of the mid 1970's, the General Baptist unified budget supported the college with at least 25% of the total budget, guaranteeing in 1974 that that percentage would be given for as long as the crisis threatened, and, as Dr. Franklin Dumond, informs me, in 1974 the General Baptist denomination delayed for one year the construction of the long-awaited, quite needed, first ever Headquarters building in Poplar Bluff because of the financial crisis here. One of every four dollars given by General Baptist churches to the work of the denomination came here, for years, so that this place might be here.

A. D. Williams' appeals were blunt, or so the words strike me. He was forceful about value of education, how General Baptist clergy desperately needed it, speaking to all about what education provides. Williams says, in his 1893 address to the General Association:

Any man can preach the Gospel without an education [if God calls him]. . . . but it is a matter of every day observation, that, other things being equal, [God] always fills the educated man's mouth with the best matter, and the matter that the people are most desirous of hearing. If a man can do good without education, he obviously can do more with an education—so that it comes a question whether he shall lay up a part of his talent in a napkin [here Williams echoes another parable of Jesus] or whether he shall improve it all. Can there be any question which he ought to do? A young man, by devoting some years in acquiring an education, can afterwards do far more good than he can in all his life without a proper training. He can thus go up to a higher plane of life and influence than he can, any other way, reach. He can go where he could not otherwise go.

You can hear the echo of My Dr. Seuss line: on the places they could go—His words could also be applied to all the fields that we address in our classes, the doors we open for them. This we do, thus we serve.

I have known these sermons of Williams for a long time. General Baptists even have reprinted them. But only in preparing for today did I know how personal all this was to him, and not just about his own education—A. D. Williams tells of his father, and says, "The strongest bitterness I ever heard him express was against those who" "never gave him any school advantage." Williams's father had been orphaned; his dad dying when he was nine, his mother is gone by the time he is ten, and so Williams's own father then was bound out to men who taught him how to farm and how to build carriages, but they wouldn't send to him to school, wouldn't

spend money, or allow the time—and Williams's phrase for how this affected his dad is, that these men and their decisions "dwarfed his boyhood and lessened the possibilities of his manhood." You hear the pain for someone he loved. Oh, the places he didn't get to go because of these men and their decisions. Williams saw good schooling as the door of the future, as the door for success, and he worked to open that door here. He felt it deeply. We are the folks on the inside side of door, that's us. That is who we are because this place was founded, and is still here. We are here, for those who unlike Williams own dad, get the chance—with them, we take our stand, like Mother Teresa. And with Williams we know what is at stake. We are at our best when we feel the urgency, when we fear the failure, and when we are excited by the unknown and countless possibilities they are going to have in the future because of our work right now. Those are Williams' feelings, and we have the same ones.

Oakland City College was never to be some Bible college, (not with the Latin class using Cicero and Chaucer as part of the English curriculum—that's from the OCC catalogues of early 1890s), it was truly a Liberal Arts institution, in which the whole person is addressed, the faculty fully understanding this, even if a student did not, that the mind had to be developed by being made aware of science and art, literature and history. This we have done. And, we cover such a broad education only by serving together. We fulfill the 1891 statement of purposes, namely: to place a complete, thorough, classical, and scientific education within the reach of all, and to do so by sustaining a curriculum as taught in the best colleges and universities. That's Williams talking. Williams brought that kind of dream here, we make it a reality together.

I can't be successful with my ministerial students if you don't teach them science and English. They can't be what I know they need to be if you don't broaden their minds and multiply their skills beyond what Chapman faculty can do. President Barber said to us early in his presidency that the success of any department, any single faculty member, is success for us all. And it's true. The students must learn, learn it all, or at some of all it, if they are to serve when they leave. But I am preaching to the choir, you know that. Nothing makes us forget it. No discouragement we encounter is greater than the power and truth of this vision, the founders believed we would see it; they did and we do.

But this address can't simply be my personal shout out for faculty, however much I desperately wanted to encourage you in your choice to stay and serve, and to do so with joy and excellence. What confronts us is a great challenge, as great and as hard to navigate as any in the days

of Williams, so I ask us to think about ourselves in light, not of Williams or Mother Teresa, but in light of the work and words of our dearest, ultimate Founder, Lord Jesus, to whom we all call Teacher—who spoke a parable about those who listen, believe and obey him, who hear and do. He said that they are founding their house on a Rock that lasts a lifetime, no storm can undo it, and it stands at the end of time. In him we have a wisdom, peaceable, gentle, full of good works, James says. We embrace a definition of learning and teaching, which comes to us from Jesus and which gives us a particular world view, and of a particular understanding of the word "serve".

He taught us what "serve" means, he entered the world to serve, to give us what we never had before. To us, he gives those countless possibilities, oh, *the places we will go*, and we have—by ironically staying here, going into the lives so many students, and doing so because of what Christ offered us and taught us first. And, these possibilities of life that we have from Him are measured in the lengths of eternity and the depths of love. This too we must pass on.

Christian theological tradition is an intellectual tradition, warm hearted in some quarters, but always a matter of reflection and mind, and we today confront an intellectual world that does not think in step with Jesus as Lord, that does not think of ethics and service in terms of his Cross then resurrection, which does not measure success in terms of a heaven to gain, and a hell to shun.

Many of our students are, to re-use Dr. Mills's phrase, first generation learners about the Gospel. A student coming to us is being offered, for perhaps the first time in his or her life, a chance to know someone who is a genuine, thinking, feeling Christian and not just Ned from the Simpsons or Carrie's mom in the movie or Dr. Sheldon Cooper's mom from Texas. They are meeting us. Quite a calling, unnerving maybe. But what a chance to serve, what a chance to serve him who is Lord, the one who served us. The founders gave us this chance, and we have it, every day. Serving him is never stacking stones.

Without us, our students may never learn that such a life truly exists—never learn this life with all the possibilities it contains, all the places it can take them. And if they do not learn it, neither will they serve as the founders imagined they might nor as we ourselves have done with our very lives. Without us they may miss out on something that we all value so greatly.

Thus we are faced with this evangelism of the mind, heart and hands—it isn't exactly revivalism or gospel singing, but intellectually and personally, all of us need to let the students experience what it is to be intellectually confronted by the Christian story and the life it offers, a life personally lived by us. Other universities don't dream this;

they don't dream it at all, they don't try, they don't give it a minute's thought. We don't just dream it, we do it, and the question of how to do it consumes our thoughts.

The parable of Jesus guides: Wise men and wise women build a college upon his foundation, even if the majority of students don't share that wisdom, or don't share it yet. But being convinced of that foundation is in Jesus, means more for us than simply helping students pass the core NT course, and then be successful in making money, teaching classes, or whatever their degree allows

them, even if that is all they see that they want now. We know that life is richer than salaries—surely we know it, because we have chosen to stay here. Let them see why, why this life of service to Him is joyful to us, wise in our eyes to do, so that they too will serve. And you are already doing this, with things as simple and natural as praying after soccer practice or in restaurants traveling to or from a game.

For me personally this kind of life of witness has been sustained by a local church--actually I needed two

of them. First General Baptist is one, there I am a member, and the second has been Good Shepherd United Methodist. I have been refreshed and renewed to the task of being a Christian on this campus by the respect and honor they gave me every Sunday in their sanctuary. I have remarked, only half-jokingly, that that Methodist Church kept me General Baptist, not simply because they fought their bishop for me over infant baptism a few years ago (a story like Williams in a way), but because every Sunday I sensed I was loved, valued, and respected—and that renews,

that refreshes. They showed me the Gospel. I want you to have this too. I didn't always find that at work, but I have found it in worship. I hope that each of you have such a place of worship and renewal, meeting Christ in Spirit and Eucharist, in song and sermon, with his living, lively, grace-filled people, so that you can continue to stay, and not just stay, but serve with joy and purpose. Williams would have wished this for you too.

We entered here to serve, and may our Founder, the Lord Jesus, be well served by how well

we live and teach this fraction of the world for whom he died.

To close, Faculty, I thank you, for entering to serve and choosing to stay, for the sake of your art, for the sake of your students, and for the sake of Christ Jesus. May God bless you for what you do. And, again as a fellow faculty member and as a General Baptist, let me say: *Thank you* for making this General Baptist university as close as it is to what the founders dreamed.

Dinner theatre success at OCU

Sherlock Holmes and the Invisible Hangman

By Madison Brooks
Assistant Editor

Oakland City University's Drama Department presented the fall play production: *Sherlock Holmes and the Invisible Hangman* on Nov. 10, 11 and 12. Instead of presenting the play in Cornwell-Reed, this play was performed dinner theater-style in the cafeteria.

In the play, Sherlock and Watson venture forth to unfold an original mystery. The production was written by OCU alumni, Rachel Toepfer.

Toepfer explained, "They, the drama department, decided to let me write it, and so in about 6 weeks during the summer, I researched all the Sherlock Holmes characters from the books to determine the characters and connections. All of the characters in the play are from the Sherlock Holmes books, except Debra the Dodger."

Toepfer said she had to do some research for scientific information given in the original play to make it as accurate as she could.

Finishing just before fall classes started, Toepfer had help from "the wonderful Steven Toepfer and HarleeRay Bicknell" who proofread her rough drafts.

As far as the dinner theatre goes, it was the first time the drama department performed a play in this way. Toepfer said, "Dinner theatre was different because people had to reserve tickets in advance because of dinner preparations."

Not only was it different in the aspects of preparing food

and seating arrangements, it was different because the cast had little time to practice in the cafeteria, and there was a lot more to get prepared for on the day of the show. "It was a challenge, but a good outcome," Toepfer added.

Toepfer hopes to have a dinner theatre experience again in the future, but it would depend on the play, of course: "For this show I think it worked out really well. I have received a whole lot of great feedback about the entire show, thanks to a truly fantastic cast and crew who worked extremely hard to make it a great show."

The Cast:
Sherlock Holmes: Jon Thomas Boling
Dr. John Watson: Tristan Nagelkirk
Moriarty: Brittany Latham
Mycroft Holmes: Dylan Johnson
Irene Adler: Aimee Clodfelter
Mary Morstan: Maria Perez
Mrs. Hudson: Haley Ellis
Lestrade: Hannah Salo
Sebastian Moran: Logan Lofland
Newsie: Shannon Baxter
Lady Hope: Alexis Chantel
Killer: Zach Lanham
Debra the Dodger: Brittany Miles



Fall sports at Oakland City University

