



# The Collegian

*Enter to Learn . . . Go Forth to Serve*

Summer 2017

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## Recreating history

By Corabelle Tally  
Co-Editor

Tom Gruenloh is a sophomore here at Oakland City University as well as a historical reenactor. Historical reenactors recreate battles that originally took place many years ago. Gruenloh's personal favorite to reenact is the Colonial period which deals with the Revolutionary War.

The reenactments that Gruenloh takes part in are organized by the non-profit group North West Territory Alliance or NWTa. They recreate battles all over the eastern side of the United States, including Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Iowa. Many of the recreated battles take place where they were originally held.

All recreated battles are those that took place before WWII. Some reenactors recreate the Wild West or Lewis and Clark expeditions.

Every year the NWTa will come up with a list of events. On the event days, the reenactors, vendors and public show up. The reenactors put on the performance of the battle for the public to watch.

They use all historical items. Their clothes are historically accurate down to the very fabrics they use. Their food and eating utensils are also

accurate. They stay away from technology and their common way of speaking until the reenactment is over.

Historically accurate weapons are used for the battles. They are real and are loaded with powder but no bullets. Safety precautions are in place to keep people safe.

His favorite reenactments are the battles. He says, "You get so focused on what's happening. You almost get a sense of what it might have been like to actually be there. It helps a person see how hectic a battle really is... You're not afraid of dying, but something about the sounds of an Officer yelling orders makes you feel like you're really there. You get these moments when you come alive."

Our own reenactor got involved when he was 17. He had previously been to these events with his family, and he loved the feeling of "stepping back into history."

Gruenloh had always been interested in history. "History was a really huge passion for me when I was little. I used to dream about what it would have been like to be a soldier." When Gruenloh was finally ready to become a soldier, he sought out information and was able to join a unit.

For anyone interested in joining, Gruenloh suggests going to an event and

experiencing it from the sidelines. While there, asking the reenactors questions is a great way to find out information. The vendors located there are able to provide the needed supplies. "Units are helpful because they can let you borrow clothes initially until you are able to get your own. It's not the cheapest hobby," Gruenloh said.

Gruenloh would like to continue reenacting as he gets older. For now though, in between events, Gruenloh is focused on getting his degree in Art. Along with history, he has always had a love for drawing. He said that he, "...loved creating things. That passion has stuck with..." him from the very beginning in his hometown of Ireland, Indiana near Jasper.

Some of Gruenloh's favorite memories are "Getting to know people. I love people in general, and I enjoy getting to help people. One of my favorite things is making people smile."

Gruenloh believes that "Anything that has been bad or good has happened for a reason. Lots of good comes out of the time spent even if it is initially bad. I have been able to become closer to the Lord. Glorifying the Lord more has taught me to grow closer to him in many ways that I didn't expect."

## On to the next chapter



By Madison Brooks  
Co-Editor

After three years, Dr. Steve DeGeorge, Dean of School of Education, has decided that his work at Oakland City University is ready to come to a natural end.

DeGeorge is originally from a small town in southern New Jersey and is currently living in Tennessee.

He began his undergraduate studies at what was originally called Philadelphia Biblical University, which is now known as Cairn University, located in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. He received a music degree and Bible degree during his time there.

He later decided to enroll in Glassboro State College, which is now known as Rowan University, located in Glassboro, New Jersey.

Then, after moving to West Virginia, he enrolled in Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia, where he received his Master's degree and Doctorate degree.

After his college career was finished, he was added onto the Chair of the Education Department for 12 years at Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee, until he had an interview with OCU.

During the interview, it was clear that this was the best choice for him, "What OCU needed at the time lined up with what I was experienced in doing. So, the interview became comfortable, almost like a professional conversation rather than an interview. It seemed rational for me to come and do this job," DeGeorge explained.

The main reason OCU wanted his employment was to help resolve accreditation

issues that the School of Education was experiencing, which got resolved as of 2016.

Even though there are many great memories at OCU, DeGeorge's favorite memory is working with his students.

"My best memories here have been my contact with students and the achievements that my students were able to do. A lot of my students have done things that I can't do, but when you're a teacher that's what you look forward to: seeing students who have more potential than you do," he said, passionately.

The main class he teaches here is the Senior Capstone class, which is the last class students take right before student teaching. The purpose of the class is to review everything. "I was the one who got to figure out if our students knew the stuff that I thought they should know, and to my great relief, they did!" DeGeorge said. He also teaches leadership in the Graduate level classes, where his advanced degrees come into play.

Dr. DeGeorge has enjoyed his three years at OCU and has built great relationships with the administration here. "I never had an experience like this in my life. It's been really hard, but I found out that at my age I can work a lot harder than I thought I could."

There is a side of me that hates to leave, but there is also a satisfaction of getting things done and knowing that it's the right time. It's kind of like how I came; it felt right coming and it feels right leaving," DeGeorge explained. "It just worked really well for these three years, and I think it's natural for it to come to an end."





CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017

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Photo by Tom Gruenloh

Have no fear...Mac is here

By McKenzie Moore  
Staff Writer

Summer is right around the corner, but with endless road trips and extreme heat, things can get a bit crazy. Summer is a time to make memories and have adventures, but one thing to always remember is be safe with whatever travels you decide to embark on. Here are some tips to help you beat the heat and find adventure.

Summer activities

If you and your friends don't have a whole lot of money to spend, don't worry, here are some fun things to do that won't break the bank:

Throw a BBQ for friends and family

- Go to the zoo
- Go swimming
- Go on bike rides
- Head to the beach
- Throw a paint party

Beat the heat

With the summer months heating up, here are some ways to stay cool and protect yourself from the sizzling heat:

The most important step. Drink. More. Water

Spritz yourself- Keep a spray bottle in the refrigerator, and when the going gets hot, give yourself a good squirt.

Always wear sunscreen; wear sunscreen with a SPF 15 or higher and reapply it

often.

When spending long periods of time outside, make you sure you have a good pair of sunglasses. I know we all want cute sunglasses, but try and find some with 100% UV protection.

Traveling

If any of you are thinking of traveling keep these tips in mind:

Be prepared- if you plan on taking a trip make sure you have everything you need. Nothing will ruin a vacation faster than forgetting your favorite dry shampoo. If you plan on taking a trip that requires flying, make sure you look over your ticket and check your times.

Hotels - if your trip includes staying in a hotel (or motel if you're broke like me) make sure you check for bed bugs. Gross, I know but seriously those nasty buggers are everywhere. Make sure you check the bed you're sleeping in and use bed bug traps just in case (they make them now...cool huh?).

Budget- the last and most important step, make sure you budget your money wisely. The summer months are usually when prices go up; things like gas, hotel rooms and food tend to increase in price so make sure you take a budget friendly

trip. First thing, make sure you take a reasonable amount of money with you...it doesn't have to be a gazillion dollars, just enough to get you by. Next, always have cash on hand. There are some places that don't take credit or debit cards, and the last thing you need is to stranded in the middle of who knows where with no money and lastly, always look for the deals, even if that means eating off the dollar menu your entire trip.

I hope these tips help you guys in your summer adventures, and I can't wait to hear about and see pictures of all of your trips. See ya in August (well some of you)...!





# Our Staff

## From coalmine to classroom

By Rebekah Busler  
Staff Writer

Dr. Carlotta Reynolds, a professor of the business department, was born and raised in Oakland City, growing up only a block from campus.

She was set on being a teacher since she was little, but before coming to teach at OCU she spent time working in a coal industry.

She spent thirty years working in accounting, and payroll as a mine personal supervisor. When the mine went bankrupt she went on to find a new occupation.

All of Dr. Reynold’s degrees, a bachelor’s in business administration, a master’s in management, and a doctorate in leadership, were earned at OCU.

She started working on campus in 2004 at academic affairs and also worked at student records.

Now she teaches in the School of Business. She teaches a lot of introductory freshmen classes, some upper level management classes and H.R. classes.

Dr. Reynolds spends much of



her spare time with her grandbabies, or attending school sporting events. She loves all the kid’s sports and is passionate about supporting the school teams, as she is passionate about OCU.

Dr. Reynolds describes the business department as being one big family.

They have two new members,

and are helping to welcome and raise them the OCU way.

The university has been a big part of her life. Not only has she attended and worked at the school, but she has a lot of family history in Oakland City. It’s her home, and she’s watched it grow and change over the years.

## Professional development workshop for dual credit

On March 15 & 16, 2017, the Dual Credit Program held its annual Professional Development workshop for the high school Dual Credit instructors and counselors. Oakland City University sponsors 15 southern Indiana high school Dual Credit Programs. They are located as far away as Rising Sun, Indiana, on the Ohio border to just 5 blocks away at Wood Memorial High School in Oakland City, Indiana. A total of 61 instructors and counselors attended the workshop.

Each day of the workshop began with a General Session to review the updates of the HLC credential requirements. HLC has allowed OCU to offer up to a 5 year extension for Dual Credit instructors to obtain the necessary

credentials that will allow the instructors to continue as Dual Credit instructors at their school. HLC requires that each Dual Credit instructor must have either a Master’s degree in their content area OR a Master’s degree plus 18 additional graduate hours in their content area.

After a lunch in the OCU cafeteria, the instructors met with their content area Subject Matter Experts (SME) who are members of the OCU Faculty. Each SME provided specific Professional Development materials to their group and reviewed the syllabus used to mirror the OCU main campus syllabus. Some of the Dual Credit instructors demonstrated a lesson that they use in their own classroom to give their colleagues some new ideas as

to what works in their classroom.

This year due to the number of Dual Credit instructors the content areas were split between the two days. The Counselors met only on one day with the Dual Credit Coordinator, Betty Burns.

OCU is interested in obtaining accreditation with the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. There are numerous standards that must be met in order to obtain this accreditation. The Dual Credit instructors, counselors, SME’s and the Dual Credit coordinator are busy this year to prepare for a pre-review visit to be scheduled in the Spring of 2018. The goal is to apply for NACEP accreditation in January, 2019.

There are total of 850 students in the program this school year. This is an increase for the previous year of 742.

North Daviess Jr. Sr. High School is OCU’s only Early College Program at this time. The students are allowed to take courses that will result in an Associate in University Studies at OCU. There are 28 students graduating in May, 2017. This number increases each year.



## 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.

## Returning home to OCU

By Julia Heatherly  
Staff Writer

Kathy Adams is a small quirky, small town girl who loves gardening, being on the beach and going to craft shows. Not to mention she loves shoes.

**Question: What is your official job title?**

Answer: “My official job title is Admissions Administrative Assistant and Campus Visit Coordinator.”

**Question: What does your job entail?**

Answer: “I pretty much do anything that anybody in Admissions needs me to do. As far as administrative duties, I answer the telephones for the university. All the lines come through me. I schedule on the campus visits for all the students that want to come on campus. I’m over the ambassadors, and I schedule them, too.”

**Question: How long have you been working at Oakland City University?**

Answer: “I have been here about a year and half. It will be two years in November. I actually worked at the college from 1995-1998 in the Business Office.”

**Question: What is your favorite aspect of your job?**

Answer: “I would say probably getting to meet all the students that come to visit and their families.” I like doing that. That would probably be favorite part.”

**Question: Where are you from?**

Answer: “I was actually raised in Oakland City. I grew up here my whole life. I attended high school here. I moved away in 2003. In 2015, I came back and moved to Evansville.”

**Question: What is your dream job?**

Answer:” I would say my dream job would have been to own or run a flower shop. I get my love of flowers and gardening from my grandmother. I have always thought that would be something that I would love to do.”

**Question: What was it like growing up in Oakland City and then working for OCU?**

Answer: “Oakland City was a great small town to grow up in. When I was a child and a teenager it was a thriving small town. Everyone knew everyone, everyone watched out for each other. We had a lot of business is town; you always felt safe, and the friends you had are for life. As a young girl, I am sure I never expected to work at Oakland City University, at the time I was not sure what I would do. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be a

part of the Oakland City University family, twice. The college and the high school were always considered the places in town for a working mother. I enjoyed the great people I worked with but I had the opportunity to work for Wood Memorial High School giving me the summer’s off with my daughter, who was then in Elementary School.”

**Question: Why did you come back to the area?**

Answer: “I moved away in 2003 never really expecting to move back, but in 2015 I moved back to be closer to my parents. As your parents’ age, they rely on their children a little more to help them. I am so lucky to still have both of my parents, and I want to be there for them as much as I can.”

**Question: What is like to see how much Oakland City University has grown?**

Answer: “From 2003-2015, while I was away, WOW did the campus change! When I worked here before from 95-98, I was in the old Administration Building. When I left in 2003 most of the new buildings were not here. It is remarkable the changes that have occurred, and I believe it is a great asset for the community and the current and future students of Oakland City University.”

**Question: What is your favorite part about Oakland City and Oakland City University?**

Answer: “Oakland City will always be my hometown no matter where I live. I was born and raised here, my life was here for years, and it is where my roots are. Although, I live in Evansville now I feel like I am back home again. Being a part of OCU and the OCU family and friends I have feels like home.”

**Question: What are some of your goals and aspirations?**

Answer: “As far as goals and aspirations, I am just one of those people that takes things as they come. I will continue through the daily struggles that we all do: To be a good person, to be a good Christian, to be a good mom, a good grandma and a good role for the students here on campus. Be able to have a positive impact on the campus here.”





# Faith

## A week for spiritual revival

By Rebekah Busler  
Staff Writer

One of the roughest parts of college is making time to take care of spiritual needs. Often God is put on the backburner, even unintentionally, as the overwhelming work and stress for the future plunder a student’s life. It’s important for Christians to take time to be still and put their trust and future in the hands of their Heavenly Father. This is the purpose of the Spiritual Renewal week by the Student Christian Association. The week lasted from March 20th through the 23<sup>rd</sup>, with nights of worship and testimonies, and finished with a fun movie night. It’s a non-overwhelming chance for students to get the reconnection they need with God.

The theme this semester was putting God first. The week started with a worship night in the Cornwell-Reed recital hall with speaker Daniel Waggoner and ended with a personal question for the students to ponder as they left; what is coming before God in our lives?

The second night was held in the campus chapel. Worship was offered by Earthlight followed by Jordan Frapp as speaker. The theme of the night was temptation. The

topic of temptation was split into two parts. Part one was the desire of the heart, and part two was meeting God’s desires rather than the desires of the world. The final message of the night was that we must make war on our own desires and take time to repent.

The third night was 812 Vision Night. It took place in the chapel, with music from the chapel band. The speaker was Tyler Feller. He preaches at the McLeansboro First General Baptist located in Illinois. Using a ruler demonstration he represented the theme of eternity. Life is limited, the past is past, and everything in the present affects personal eternities. Live each moment for God, and even with the most miniscule things, act as if it’s for God. Don’t make long term decisions based on short terms goals.

The final night returned to the recital hall for movie night. *Woodlawn*, the movie chosen, was an inspirational film about trusting God through both triumphs and trials.

It was a well put together event. The messages were powerful and able to connect with struggling Christian students. The week lived up to its title, and offered a spiritual renewal for many in attendance.

## Fellowship of Christian Athletes

By Corabelle Tally  
Co-Editor

Oakland City University has a new addition on its list of clubs and activities. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) was recently started by Kaebr LaGrange.

FCA is a program designed for athletes but open for everyone. All students are able to get involved and will be welcomed with open arms. FCA meets every Wednesday night at 7:00pm in the commuter’s lounge in the Student Life Center.

The sessions take about 45 minutes. The activities for the evenings include an icebreaker, prayer, a Bible study and then time spent with

hanging out and playing games.

LaGrange said that she felt it was needed because “There wasn’t something like that for athletes. It is a great way for us to learn the Bible together.”

“God put it on my heart. Our mission work isn’t done just because we are in the United States rather than another country. We still need to find a way to serve and reach people for God,” LaGrange said.

FCA should be able to help students overall, “And help them create a community within the athletes for encouragement and supporting one another. This can help make them feel welcome and important.”



## SoulFest 2017

By Julia Heatherly  
Staff Writer

SoulFest is a once a year worship concert where students and the staff of Oakland City University along with the general public can come to the Johnson Center and worship our Lord and Savior.

This year SoulFest was held on April 1, 2017, and featured five Christian bands: Adelaide, Clochren and Co., Earthlight, The Great Command and then Stars Go Dim which was the headliner for the night.

The Great Command is a group of college students from Oakland City University. The band members are Austin Loveless, Tracon Brown, Roman Lambert, Kevin Pinnick, and Jonathan Smith.

The Great Command plays contemporary worship music. They played a variety of songs including their most popular, “Difference Maker.”

The band Earthlight was another one of OCU’s bands that played at SoulFest. The band members are as follows:

Josh Brown, Suellen Head, Ashlynn Douglas, Daniel Waggoner, Jon Thomas Boling, and Scarlett Osmett. Earthlight used to play Southern Gospel; however they now perform hymns that a lot of people relate to contemporary Christian music on religious radio stations. Their most popular song is “Be Still.”

There were a lot of bands that performed that night, but the headliner band, Stars Go Dim. Chris Cleveland, who is the lead singer from Stars Go Dim, is from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Cleveland grew up singing. He came from a line of church musicians. He started singing as early as he could remember but he started singing professionally when he was 18. Cleveland was inspired to start singing by his family.

In 2016, Stars Go Dim was on the road at least 200 days. When not on the road, Cleveland is the worship pastor at his home church, Asbury United Methodist in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Before he performs a show, he tries to

relax and not do much of anything. Before he performs the night of show he prays to Jesus and asks him to show up and lead the show.

Stars Go Dim has done many things together as a band. They have performed at Winter Jam, with the Goo Goo Dolls, and Elton John. A favorite song of Cleveland’s is “See You.” He loves hearing that song on record and during a live performance.

The reason for their name is because when the stars go dim God is saying they have a new hope and a new start.

Cleveland also has a few favorite Bible verses: Philippians 4:13 and James 1:2.

Some of Cleveland’s goals are to follow the call that God has given him and provide for his family. He is blessed that God has given him the opportunity to do this through music.

The first reason why Cleveland does what he does is to rightly and justly worship our Father. The second reason is to let people know that they are valuable and are created for a purpose.



## Poetry Devotion

By Heather Smith  
Guest Writer



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. (Psalm 32:7)

April is National Poetry Month. Poem in your pocket day is on April 27, 2017. Good novels grab one’s attention and retain it throughout 200-550+ pages. A poem must light a match and quickly ignite a fire within the reader over the span of a few carefully crafted stanzas.

The book of Psalms holds songs and poems that circumnavigate the spectrum of human emotion. I encourage you to write out a Psalm that particularly resonates with you at this point in your life and carry it in your pocket on April 27. Whenever you need strength and guidance, pull out that inspirational scrap of paper and let God’s wisdom wash over you.

As the stress of impending finals and research papers mounts this semester, remember that God’s wisdom will see you through.

PRAYER: Dear Lord, as life presents struggles and confusion, please let your words guide me. Amen.



# Around Campus

## Health and Wellness Fair a success

**By Julia Heatherly  
Staff Writer**

The Health and Wellness Fair was held on March 17, 2017, in the Johnson Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It was open to all faculty, staff and students here on campus. There were several tables at the health fair. They

included tables from Life Shift, American Red Cross, OCU staff, Psychology Club and more. Many fun activities were available for students as well as surveys for the cafeteria and free food.

The Life Shift table was about discovering the joy within yourself and using essential

oils to help you discover that. Life Shift is all about using natural products to achieve what you are looking for or needing help with. Denise Schnell, who is a Life Shift coach, had just about every essential oil you could think that could help a person with any problem. She had essential oils that would help individuals be more in tune with their prayer life in the morning to ones for migraines and more.

They also had some fun activities at the Health Fair. Some students got the opportunity to try on drunk goggles. Others got to make a stress ball. Louis Ross, who was at the table for the stress, took a balloon, flour and a funnel and made a stress ball within seconds.

The Health and Wellness Fair was educational and ended up having a very good turn out.



Louis Ross and Mary Wehmeyer representing the Psychology Club.

## CPR and first aid training session

**By McKenzie Moore  
Staff Writer**

On March 15th, 2017, Student Support Services (SSS) offered a CPR and First Aid training course. The course was led by Dr. Cathy Robb, who is a certified training instructor, and was hosted through the American Red Cross.

The cost of the session was \$35, which covered the holding spot as well as other fees and expenses from the American

Red Cross.

The session started at 2 p.m. and ended at 5 p.m. The course was broken up into two sections: first aid training and CPR.

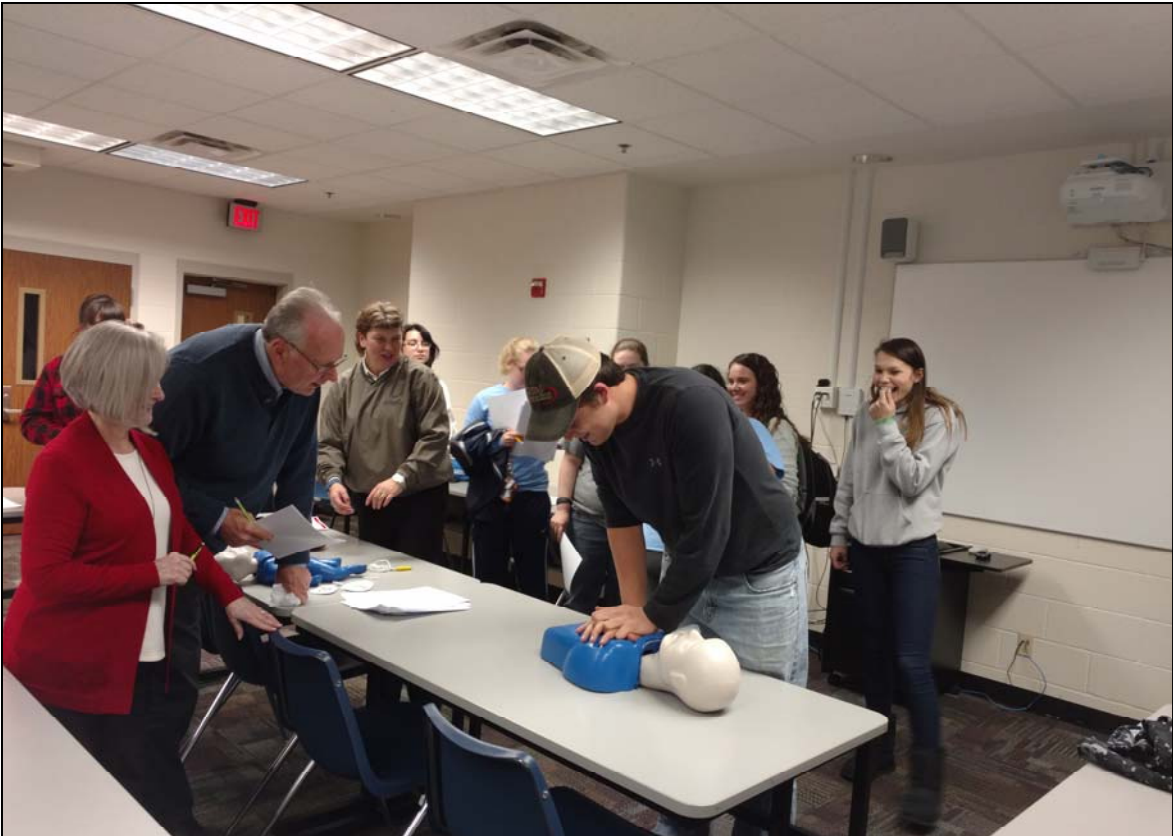
The First Aid training portion consisted of learning ways to aid someone during any kind of injury, including burns, major cuts, broken bones and critical situations that may arise.

The CPR portion of the course offered different scenarios in which CRP may

need to be administered.

An eighty percent or higher was needed to pass the written test given at the end of the training session.

If any student on campus is interested in becoming CPR and First Aid certified, please let Stacy Schmitt or Tamara Miley in Student Support Services know. If enough students show interest in the training course SSS would like to make it an annual session.



CPR trainees practice their newly learned skills

## 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.

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## Go and tell

**By Rebekah Busler  
Staff Writer**

The Great Commission, Jesus’ parting command, and the driving purpose of His disciples is to go and spread the good news of the Gospel to all corners of the world. The Good News Players take a unique spin on this. The Good News Players preach the Gospel primarily through drama, performing at various locations so they can spread God’s Word to everyone they can.

they take the Gospel very seriously.

GNP travels to all kinds of locations to perform. They have traveled to various churches, camps, youth events, even prisons, and of course they perform at the OCU campus. They make about twelve to fifteen off-campus trips per year, some overnight. There isn’t really a limit to how far they will travel to spread the Gospel, but long trips do require overnight preparations.

Those currently in charge of GNP are Rachel Toepfer and Tristan Nagelkirk. Nagelkirk describes GNP as “A group of Christians who have dedicated their lives to the Gospel. Not necessarily actors, but people that just want to reach as many people for God as they can.”

Toepfer describes GNP as “A ministry group dedicated to God above all else,” and their mission as, “To preach the Gospel to everyone we can, primarily through drama, in addition to our everyday lives.”

GNP is an Oakland City University group that has been around for decades. It was started by Emily Eberhardt, along with five to six other members. While it is an OCU group, it is not necessary to be an OCU student to be a part of GNP. It also isn’t necessary to be a great actor, but simply to have a dedication to serving God and a love of Jesus.

There are a variety of skits that GNP performs to convey the messages of the Gospel. They range from drama to comedy, but, through them all,



The GNP members out spreading the Gospel.



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# Pet friendly dorms

By Kylee Newberry  
Staff Writer

When students pack up their things in the fall to move into their dorm rooms, many have to leave one beloved thing behind: their pet.

Many schools across the country allow fish, but when it comes to cats and dogs, the choices are limited. Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, allows cats in certain dorms. Eckard College in St. Petersburg, Florida, allows many different pets. Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont, allows small caged animals such as hamsters. University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, and the University of Seattle in Seattle, Washington, allow pets in designated dorms. California Tech in Las Angeles, California, and Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania, allow pets in certain dorms.

Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, is one of the most pet-friendly campuses in the country. Cats, dogs, birds, fish, turtles and even pigs have shared rooms with their humans. Why would any college allow animals in their residence halls? Wouldn't that cause the rooms to be damaged, messy and stinky? Not necessarily.

Jennifer Wilcox, a student at Stephens College, brought her cat, Miss Kitty, with her to Stephens last fall. After being in Columbia for a while, she adopted another cat, Beethoven, from a local shelter. Having two cats for her roommates might seem a little crazy to some, but for Wilcox, it was a match made in heaven.

"The best thing is always having a companion," she says. "Having a pet with you promotes responsibility for another being."

At Stephens, residents indicate on a form that they want to bring a pet with them. They have to submit complete vet records to the student development office. The animal has to be spayed or neutered, and they have to be up to date on all shots. The resident submits a \$200 pet deposit that covers all 4 years in the dorms if there were to be any damages.

If the student has a dog, the dog must be kenneled when the student is not in the room. The



school offers a "doggy daycare," if necessary, for these dogs, and it is an job option for work study students on campus as well.

Not all the dorms are pet friendly, and not every floor is pet friendly. To combat allergies in the pet dorms, each dorm has a designated "pet laundry" room. Students with pets or students who ride horses are to do their laundry in these washers so the students who have allergies are not exposed to the fur of these animals.

There are good and bad things about allowing animals in the residence halls. It is not for everyone, but it could greatly benefit many students. Here are some pros and cons for allowing animals in the residence halls.

**Pros:**

1. Companionship

College is hard. Students are stressed, tired, and many times, homesick. Having a dog to take on a walk, or watching your cat chase a laser pointer, would be just the thing a stressed student would need to take his/her mind off of the current situation and relax a while. Having a pet would also allow homesick students to always have a piece of home with them, helping them adjust to being away from home.

2. Responsibility

College is a balancing act. Students juggle homework, going to class, jobs, social time, clubs, activities and taking care of themselves. Adding the responsibility of another life into that mix is not for everyone, but, for some students, the responsibility is a valuable lesson. Having a pet at college teaches students to not only care for an animal, but also how to time-manage and budget appropriately. It teaches a valuable lesson to students.

3. Student Attraction

Because there is not a large

number of schools in the country that allow pets in the dorms, many students were attracted to Stephens College for that reason. It piqued the student's interest and was one of their deciding factors in deciding to attend. Colleges and universities across the country may find more interest in their schools among students seeking to bring their furry friend with them.

**Cons.**

1. Possibility of damages

Perhaps the biggest con is the possibility of having damage to the rooms as a result of having pets. This however, is not the pet's fault. It is due to a lack of responsibility of the owners. At Stephens, dogs are kenneled when the resident is not in the room, so the dog can't cause mayhem in his/her owner's absence. Cats are allowed to roam free, but they use a litter box. It is the resident's responsibility to keep his/her room clean and to clean up after his/her pet. If damage does occur, the resident has already paid a deposit.

2. Irresponsible Students.

Not everybody is cut out to have a pet, and not everybody can handle having a pet in college. One bad apple spoils the bunch, as the saying goes, and irresponsible students can make responsible pet owners look bad. There is no true way to know which students will be responsible enough to take care of a pet. By having students fill out a reference form so school officials can get an idea on how responsible students are.

In conclusion, allowing college students to have pets on campus can be beneficial to their growth and well-being. Irresponsible students do not represent those who are capable of properly caring for and cleaning up after a pet of their own. In the future, will we see more pet friendly dorms across the country?

# Movies from the heart

By Corabelle Tally  
Co-Editor

On the campus of OCU, The Michael Dunn Gallery will be holding a Senior Exhibit consisting of Saul Bass Inspired Posters. All posters were created by OCU senior artist Haleigh Beasley. The gallery will hold her artwork from April 18 to May 26, 2017.

A reception was held by

Beasley on April 18. The theme of the reception was Movie Theater with snacks such as popcorn and candy. The theme colors were black and red to represent Bass.

In Beasley's artist statement, she said, "Bass was always trying to get at the root of the problem and designed from the essence of the subject, which is how I tried to design my posters. Bass wanted to create

something that had never been done before."

The exhibit contained seven posters representing Beasley's favorite movies. She said, "These movies have touched me for different reasons, whether that be how I love going on adventures with Frodo and Sam, being glamorous while playing with my cat, or falling in love with Rick again and again."

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## Learning about diversity

By Kylee Newberry  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 11, 2017, OCU welcomed Thomas Shortbull to present for the William M. Cockrum Lecture Series Student Seminar.

Shortbull is the President of Oglala Lakota College in Kyle, South Dakota. The college is located on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Shortbull presented two lectures while visiting OCU. At 2 p. m, a less formal presentation was given. Students and faculty gathered in room 210 of the Student Life Center and sat in a circle while Shortbull spoke. He spoke about the history of the Lakota people and the impact his college is having on the lives of the Lakota people today.

At 7 p. m, Shortbull presented a formal presentation that included an in-depth



history of the Lakota and the impact of Christianity on the Lakota people.

The mission of the William M. Cockrum Lecture Series is to bring better understanding of other cultures. They do this by presenting a multicultural perspective by direct interaction and allowing attendees to put themselves in another's shoes.

HALEIGH ELISE BEASLEY

INSPIRED BY SAUL BASS

SENIOR SHOW

THE MICHAEL DUNN GALLERY  
OAKLAND CITY UNIVERSITY

ADMIT ONE 7¢ ADMIT ONE



# 8th grade jamboree 2017

By Madison Brooks  
Co-Editor

On April 4, 8th grade students visited the OCU campus to get a feel for the college life. They participated in activities with college professors and students and had lunch while on their tour. The English department participated in the Jamboree by doing an activity called “Headline Poetry.” Seven 8th grade students came and played an introductory game, ate M&Ms, and made poetry with Mrs. Sharon Buyher and some students who are majoring in English, including senior, Carlie Nichols, and sophomores, Corabelle Tally, Jena Jones, and Madison Brooks. The Criminal Justice department also participated in the 8th Grade Jamboree.

The 8th grade students went through two stations with Professor Paul Bowdre. At the first station, the students learned how to take a set of fingerprints and then got to take the fingerprints of a partner. The second station taught the 8th graders how to locate and lift a latent print from a tile. The students also got a sneak peek at the crime scene investigation equipment that the CJ program will be using in the Investigative Forensics degree program that will begin in the fall. Finally, to wrap up their visit with Professor Bowdre, the students participated in a brief defensive tactics activity. Besides the English and Criminal Justice departments, other departments around campus put on activities for the students who were

interested in their programs. The students also got to eat lunch in the cafeteria and get a tour of OCU’s lovely campus. The students were able to learn about programs that they were interested in, while being exposed to college life and getting to interact with college students at OCU to get more information on college.



8th graders at the criminal justice stations learning how to take fingerprints!

# Sound of spring

By Rebekah Busler  
Staff Writer

The Oakland City University choir gave their final on-campus show of the semester in The Spring Concert. It took place in the Cornwell-Reed Recital hall at seven in the evening on Tuesday, April 25, with free admission. The line-up for the concert included Emily Abel, Lindsay Adams, Haleigh Beasley, Jon Thomas Boling, Josh Brown, Janice Carr-Whalen, Jorden Davis, Haley Ellis, Suellen Head, Austin Ladd, Brittany, Latham, Kelsey Mayberry,

Scarlett Osmet, Kevin Pinnick, Alex Stewart, Rachel Toepfer, and Daniel Waggoner. Directed by Cynthia Blough-Retana, the choir performed selections that included “See You Again” and “Prayer of the Children.” Also performed were “How can I Keep From Singing” featuring Lindsay Adams and Rachel Toepfer and “Fill-A Me Up” featuring Daniel Waggoner. “Homeward Bound” and “In Meeting We Are Bleesed” were performed featuring Kevin Pinnick. Also “i carry your heart with me”, based on a poem by E.E. Cummings, was conducted by Christopher

Cook. There were other performances by smaller ensembles, including “Lineage”, “Misty Mountains,” and “If Ye Love Me.” Directly after the concert a reception was held, co-sponsored by the Department of Music and Da Capo. Although the Spring Concert was the final concert of the semester, it was not the last performance the choir had for the semester. They later have the honor of performing at the President’s Oak Leaf Society Banquet on May 4<sup>th</sup> and at Commencement on May 6<sup>th</sup>.



The choir dressed and ready to perform.

# A tale as old as time

By Corabelle Tally  
Co-Editor

A tale as old as time appeared once again in United States’ theaters on March 17, 2017. Disney released its live action version of *Beauty and the Beast*, which was based on the tale by Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont. Directed by Bill Condon, the movie relived the magic of love and enchanted castles. In the movie, Belle, the young heroine, lives in a small French village. She is played by Emma Watson who played

Hermione in the *Harry Potter* series. She dreams of more than the life she has with her father Maurice, played by Kevin Kline. Constantly followed by the town’s hero, Gaston, played by Luke Evans, and his amusing side-kick, LeFou, played by Josh Gad, Belle escapes her small world through books. When Maurice gets lost in the woods, he comes across an enchanted castle whose master is the Beast, played by Dan Stevens. The Beast must fall in love and be loved in return in

order for the enchantment on him and his servants in the castle to be made void. The Beast finds true love in Belle. Together, they overcome the obstacles presented throughout the story and find out what it really means to love beyond appearances. Many other famous actors played secondary characters in the movie, including Ewan McGregor as Lumière, Ian McKellen as Cogsworth, Emma Thompson as Mrs. Potts and Stanley Tucci as Maestro Cadenza. Songs from the original Disney movie were used, and three new songs were created to bring more depth into the

# Serving OCU behind the scenes

By Julia Heatherly  
Staff Writer

Mary Nossett is from Harvey, Illinois, which is a southern suburb of Chicago. She has been working at Oakland City University for eleven years. She started working for the university January 3, 2006. Nossett is the Executive Assistant for Dr. Robert Yeager. Nossett assists Dr. Yeager in his duties. They handle everything from new hires, when people leave the university; food services and property purchases. They also deal with all of the faculty and staff contracts in the Executive Office. Nossett stated, “One of the fun projects Dr. Yeager and I got to do together for the OCU community was building Holy Grounds. We got to choose the paint color, design the booths and lighting, and more. Another fun project we got to do was choose a podium. When Dr. Barber became President, the school needed a new one, and I got to help pick it out.” The Executive Office works with every department here on campus. They also work closely with the Admissions Office. If the Admissions Office is not successful, then none of the staff would be here. The Executive Office also works closely with Student Life to make sure they have all they need. Dr. Yeager also works closely with the Financial Aid to make sure that students get the right package that OCU offers. Nossett attends Oakland City Church of the Nazarene with her family and husband Darren, who is the lead pastor. Nossett, her husband, as well as her family, just celebrated 20 years of belonging to their church. Nossett loves being a pastor’s wife. However, she had mentioned it was a mix because you are celebrating everyone’s joys, and you are with them in their loses and struggles.

Oakland City Church of the Nazarene is Nossett’s husband’s home church. He grew up playing here on the grounds of Oakland City University. After Nossett met her husband at Olivet Nazarene University, he preached in St. Louis, Missouri, for about twelve years, and then they moved to Evansville, Indiana, for a year and half. Their home church became open, so he

interviewed for the lead pastor position. They have been there ever since. Nossett had also mentioned the struggles she and her family have faced and how our Heavenly Father has helped them get through them. The first year while they were in Oakland City pastoring at their church, some personal deaths and struggle happened in their family. However, with the love and support of their church, this community, and our Father, their family got through them. Before Nossett came to the university, she worked at the East Gibson School Corporation in Oakland City, Indiana. She wanted to stay home with the kids. She started substitute teaching after her daughter was old enough to start school. While she was substitute teaching at the school corporation, a teacher’s aide position came open at the library. She helped their library transition into a computer system. Nossett likes office work. She looked for positions in St. Louis, but none were found. She then saw that two positions were open here at Oakland City, and she has been here ever since. Nossett attended Olivet Nazarene University in the suburbs of Chicago. Nossett studied Secretarial Science, which is an Associate degree. Nossett does not necessarily have any goals for the future. “I am blessed for every job He has given me.” She wants be open and always improve her skills. Nossett is “looking forward to seeing what her kids are doing with their lives and also working alongside her husband.” Nossett said the university is a great place to work; she can live her faith and interact with the students so she can help them thrive.



characters that the movie portrays. The film has received some negativity from promoting gay characters such as LeFou and for hiring gay actors. In the opening weekend of *Beauty and the Beast*, it made \$174,750,616 in the United States. The estimated budget for the movie was \$160,000,000. Worldwide, the movie had a gross of \$368,282,339 by the end of March. *Beauty and the Beast* is one of twenty-nine movies that have reached the \$1 billion mark worldwide. Overall, it is a movie that will not be forgotten. It has led the march for Disney films that will now

be remade into live actions films and has not let Disney’s widespread audience down. In the opening weekend of *Beauty and the Beast* it made \$174,750,616 in the United States. The estimated budget for the movie was \$160,000,000. Worldwide, the movie had a gross of \$368,282,339 by the end of March. *Beauty and the Beast* is one of twenty nine movies that have reached the \$1 billion mark worldwide. Overall, it is a movie that will not be forgotten. It has led the march for Disney films that will now be remade into live actions films and has not let Disney’s widespread audience down.



# The Oakland City College Years

## Dr. Randy Mills

(An earlier and more condensed version of this essay, authored by Mike Atkinson and Randy Mills, can be found in the *Journal for the Liberal Arts and Sciences*, Volume 3, Number 3, 2004.)

In 2005, one of my history students at Oakland City University kept telling me stories of one of the residents she worked with at a part-time job at a nursing home in Petersburg, Indiana. The elderly woman was a friendly lady in her mid-nineties who was always being visited by people from all over the world. “I think she’s famous,” the student told me. “Her name is Melba Phillips and she’s a graduate of Oakland City College.”

Melba Phillips died that same year, and her obituary in the *Washington Post* and other national newspapers stunned me. The *Post* called her “a master teacher and scientist” and “a major figure in science education.” The *New York Times* reported, “At a time when there were few women working as scientists, Dr. Phillips was a leader among her peers.” Such amazing accolades started me on a research journey, inquiring into the life of a woman who was most certainly Oakland City University’s most prestigious and sorely forgotten graduate.

Let me introduce you to this extraordinary woman, Melba Phillips, a woman who possessed such dark, probing, intelligent eyes, set incongruently in such a plain face that her face stood out in every photograph she was ever in. The oldest child of a doting southwest Indiana farm couple, Melba learned to read at an early age; her father was a part-time school teacher in the tiny rural schools of the area, and there were stacks of books in the Phillips household. Melba read everything she could lay her hands on and spent much of her late adolescent and early adulthood thinking about numbers and shapes, especially angles, naively day-dreaming in her small rural church during Sunday sermons of solving impossible geometry problems. She carried around old tattered papers in her high school geometry book, full of handwritten notes and scribbles of geometric angles, trying, in her words, to “remember three unknowns in geometry that I was never able to build—they say no one has (in Euclidean Geometry), but I did not know it then; thus I thought a great deal about them. One, the trisection on an angle; another, the duplication of the cube; the last, the squaring of the circle. I thought hours and hours of these unknowns and I learned a great deal of geometry.”

Her rural people knew she had greatness about her but lacked the sophistication to understand what it might entail or how they might support her in her early

efforts. How could they have known that Melba Phillips would achieve an important place in the world of physics? During the very earliest part of her work, she collaborated with a scientist many considered to be the primary force in raising American theoretic physics to world leadership, J. Robert Oppenheimer. Together, Phillips and Oppenheimer authored an important scientific paper on how deuterons (a subatomic particle consisting of a single neutron) react with other nuclei. This discovery lead to the Oppenheimer-Phillips process, an idea still used in nuclear physics today. Dwight Neuenschwander and Sallie Watkins, in their article, “Professional and Personal Coherence: The Life and Work of Melba Newell Phillips,” noted that Phillips “was a participant in a heroic age of physics, when the wraps were still being taken off the quantum and the nucleus. Her research collaborations included some of the greatest physicists of the age, yet she was first of all a teacher dedicated to her students.” Two of the physics education textbooks she co-authored are still in use today as well and are considered classics in the field.

While Melba Phillips would accomplish many things in the field of physics, her ultimate gift involved teaching and physics education. “Probably no person has contributed to physics education over a broader range than Melba Newell Phillips,” Kenneth Ford noted in 1974, upon Phillips’ receiving of the prestigious Oersted Medal. In 1983, the American Association of Physics Teachers recognized her work by creating the *Melba Newell Phillips Award*, the highest national honor given “for exceptional contribution to physics education. In 2003, came another prestigious recognition, the Joseph B. Burton Forum Award, given by the American Psychical Society, “for tireless efforts in physics education, for continued work in preserving the history of physics as well as other service to the physics community, for her role in founding the Federation of American Scientists, and as a model of a principled scientist.”

What makes these recognitions most extraordinary is that on first glance, the rural world of southwest Indiana that Melba Phillips entered on February 1, 1907, offered little hope for anyone, especially a woman, becoming a major physicist. As it was to turn out, however, Oakland City College would play an essential role in helping Melba achieve her greatness. Up to now, however, little research has been carried out which examined this important part of her life. What follows is a new narrative, based on previously unexplored material from the



**Senior picture of Mebla Phillips. Melbe is “Mirror” editor, which goes to prove that a woman can hold down the job. She was on the Y.W.C.A. cabinet and was a delegate to the Bloomington Student Conference, 3. Last year she was president of Phi Alpha and chairman of the casting committee of the Dramatic League. She was a member of the Orchestra, 4. Melba is an A student and the youngest member of the class. Ca 1926.**

Oakland City University archives and other sources that clearly demonstrate the essential part Oakland City College had in Melba Phillips’ life.

Melba was born near Hazelton, Indiana, a small town on the banks of the flood prone White River in the northeast part of Gibson County. Here, Gibson County touches Knox and Pike Counties to create, back in the days of poor roads, a tag-end sort of isolated section of an already isolated larger region. Many of Melba’s family members had ties to Pike County, and Phillips would go to one of the most rural schools of that particular county. On the upside, such isolation also brought forth a powerful sense of both community and kinship bonds, which in turn generated a great deal of personal confidence among its population. In her 1977 interview for the American Institute of Physics, Phillips proudly related, “I was born in southern Indiana, and most of my family was born in southern Indiana. In fact, I have ancestors who were there from the time of George Rogers Clark (in the late 1700s). So I was born there; I was brought up there; my father was born there; my mother was born there. Three of my grandparents were—one was born in Kentucky.”

Like most people of the pocket region of southwest Indiana, Melba Phillips’ family was involved in agriculture. Farmers in the region had experienced hard economic times since the end of World War I, but the lack of so called “scientific” practices made the farmers of the southwest portion of the state even more vulnerable to financial ruin. Furthermore, the people who inhabited the region were, like Melba Phillips, by and large the descendants of rugged frontier upland southerners, a backwoods people whose non-progressive traditions still held sway. In this rural

conservative context, Melba Phillips’ own early childhood experiences stood somewhat apart from many of the youngsters who lived around her. While her family was heavily involved in farming, most of her kin also achieved an educational level which involved some post-secondary education. Many in her family taught school. Phillips recalled, “I came from a family of farmers and schoolteachers. My father was a schoolteacher and a farmer. Two of my uncles and aunts, one grandmother, were teachers. So that ran in the family.”

As a young girl growing up in this somewhat backward rural area, she had access to “lots and lots of books,” made available to the young prodigy by her family, and Melba recalled reading “everything I could get my hands on.” Her father was also one exception to the otherwise unscientific farming practices carried out by other farmers of the area. Virgil Phillips “maintained a strong interest in farm policy and its development and served as a Gibson County Commissioner.”

Because Melba could read before she entered grade school, the precocious youngster skipped several grades and was only sixteen when she graduated from tiny Union High School in Pike County. Phillips recalled of her high school experiences, “I had some good teachers, a couple of very, very good teachers in high school. The first one was in history, so I was going to become a historian. The second one was in mathematics and science, and so I was going to become a physicist from that time on.” The latter teacher, Everett Hunt, Phillips’ high school math and science teacher, had once told his classes that someday man would walk on the moon. Everyone laughed but Melba.

In high school, she always carried scraps of paper with her, paper upon which she puzzled over geometric problems—the pages soon covered with lines, circles, and squares, penciled manifestations of her mind’s brilliant processing.

After graduating from the tiny Union High School, Melba, as so many young intelligent women in her culture-bound situation did, sought to become a teacher in one of the local one-room schools. Fate, however, intervened. “The year I graduated from high school I took an Indiana teacher’s license examination, which would have qualified me with one summer’s college work to teach in a one-room school, and I passed it with flying colors. I think my average was 92. But I couldn’t teach before I was eighteen. So I had to go to college.”

Though intellectually capable of going to any university in the country, the financial situation of the Phillips family profoundly limited Melba Phillips’ college choices. In her 1977 interview, Phillips bluntly explained why

she trekked to a nearby obscure college at Oakland City. “It was the cheapest and nearest college. The 20s were very bad times for farmers, and we didn’t have any money.” But even with the advantages of proximity and affordability, at first glance the school seemed a poor fit for this highly intelligent young woman.

By the time of Melba Phillips’ attendance at Oakland City College in the mid-1920s, the school had reached a zenith of sorts for the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. There were now several college buildings, including an expanded administration building, a women’s dorm, a field house which housed a library in the basement, an industrial school building, and the president’s home. Besides the Normal, Liberal Arts, and Theological schools, the college had added substantial industrial and agricultural departments. College sport teams of the 1920s included basketball, baseball, football, and track. The school’s team regularly played Indiana State, Evansville College, the University of Louisville and Ball State in sporting events, and its teams were well known for playing hard but clean. By the mid-20s, a legion of social and academic clubs could also be found on campus. Enrollment during these prosperous times often broached several hundred students a semester, counting teachers in the area who came back for refresher courses. An advertisement found in several local papers at that time touted Oakland City College as “especially well equipped for training of teachers. . . . The Indiana State Teacher’s Training Board has approved an EXPERIMENTAL COURSE FOR RURAL TEACHERS for Oakland City College exclusively, which includes a scientifically worked out program for preparing of teachers who expect to teach in the country schools.” This claim would have likely caught Melba Phillips’ eye, as she aspired to teach math in a small country school.

One state educational report, written during the time of Phillips’ attendance and printed in the school’s newspaper, noted, “Oakland City College is preeminently the educational missionary of southern Indiana, practically all of its advertising matter being confined to twenty-five counties across the south end of the state. Since the school was opened, a large majority of the students have been teachers or those preparing to teach.” The report also noted the poverty of the region: “Twenty-five hill counties across the south end of the state, all state aid counties, contain only 9 per cent of the state’s wealth and 16 percent of the state’s population.” Of further interest to the state official were the cultural aspects of the small Baptist school.

Perhaps one of the outstanding characteristics of



# of Hoosier Physicist Melba Phillips



Photo of Dean of Women, Ella Wheatley. She was another positive influence on Melba when she attended OCC.

Oakland City College has been its positive stand on matters of student ideals and conduct. No cigarette smoking is permitted on the grounds, and fraternities and dancing are prohibited. The social life for the college is organized along the same lines and in such a way as to preserve the unity and democracy of the student body and to keep down student expenses. The spirit of the school is summed up in four words: Christianity, efficiency, democracy, and economy.

Besides prohibiting dancing and smoking on campus, the Baptist school enforced a mandatory attendance policy at weekly chapel meetings. The latter practice was grating to Melba Phillips, who was raised in a rather laid back atmosphere when it came to religion. In her 1977 interview, for example, Phillips explained her family “were not church members, but I went to Sunday School at the local Methodist Church. We weren’t very conventionally religious.”

Interestingly, Phillips seemed to hold conflicting feelings about her undergraduate work at Oakland City. In her 1977 interview, for example, she said, “The college was not a very good [school]. . . . I had to work terrible hard to catch up on all the things I never knew. We talk about rehabilitation and restarting. I was getting it for the first time [in graduate school].” Conversely, in another reminiscence piece, Melba Phillips highly praised two aspects of her college experience at Oakland City.

I must have seemed just a kid, but if they minded my making A’s in the courses, I was not aware of it. And in math there was no trouble at all, plenty of girls, some of them making A’s, *and truly a great math professor*. The standards were high, and what we learned, we really learned. To successive generations of students in the little Baptist College in Oakland City, Indiana, Professor William Jordan was a source of strength and inspiration well beyond the mathematics he taught.

Research of college student newspaper issues and the 1926 senior yearbook, the latter of which Melba served as Editor-in-Chief, uncovered that her later negative feelings about the school likely

emerged from her dislike of a professor who taught both English and history classes. With English being one of her three majors, and history a great love of hers, Melba apparently spent much frustrating time in classes with the professor.

Melba’s anger with Professor Raymond Shelby revolved around Shelby’s being late to classes, yelling at students, often looking disheveled, and being unprepared. Phillips made fun of him in both the “jokes section” and the “calendar of events” section of the 1926 yearbook. In the latter, she wrote items such as:

February 12- Prof. Shelby dismisses political science class.

February 15- Prof. Shelby was eleven minutes late, “Where oh where is my Greek history class gone.”

February 16- Prof. Shelby’s U. S. History IV spends the morning reading.

March 31- For the first time in his teaching career, Prof. Shelby started class before the third bell (bells are ringing twenty minutes late today).

April 8- Political Science class met at 7:05 this morning—Prof. Selby arrived at 7:45.

This ongoing criticism against the OCC professor in the *Mirror* yearbook, under the editorial directorship of Melba Phillips, lead to the *Mirror* staff being labeled “antagonists” and the yearbook being “outlawed” for a brief time. Eventually, there was a compromise with some of the lesser criticism being allowed to stay in the yearbook.

A more scathing attack of Melba’s against Professor Shelby was an article in the *Oakland City College Collegian*. The essay, following the diction of a debate session, was especially harsh toward the incompetent teacher. In part, the article observed,

Perhaps I may say that—it is very fortunate that some of the students have classes under Prof. Shelby. Lincoln got his knowledge of human nature by following a mule. But whoever saw one with a bald spot?

Perhaps I may say that—Prof Shelby wished to be chosen yell-leader. He gave a wonderful exhibition of yelling.

It is interesting to also note that Melba Phillips stood up to authority as a young student in 1926, when she believed she had the truth on her side in much the same manner that she would when called before a U. S. Senate hearing during the McCarthy Era in the 1950s. The latter act would get her blacklisted and kept her unemployed for ten long years.

Regardless of Melba’s tiff with Raymond Shelby, records indicated Oakland City College offered Phillips many social and intellectual activities otherwise unavailable to most of the rural young people of the area. Furthermore, solid instructors, like Professor William “Pop” Jordan, were readily accessible to those

students who wished to go deeper into a particular subject matter. School records indeed indicated the Oakland City College experience expanded Melba Phillips’ own social and intellectual world at that time. Melba Phillips’ often brilliant observations would come to add to the vitality of the school, as well. However, the bright young woman confronted two major hurdles at the beginning of her studies there.

In 1923, Oakland City College had only one professor in math and one in science. In the latter area ruled a reserved John H. Oxford, who seemed more concerned about religious denominational matters than in science. Of further concern to Melba Phillips was the fact Oxford himself held only an undergraduate degree from Oakland City at the time of her studies at the school. Oakland City’s math professor, William “Pop” Jordan, was another matter. Jordan held a Master’s Degree in math from DePauw University and had a powerful gift for teaching.

Phillips wanted more than anything else to major in physics, but later reported, “there was no physics major [at Oakland City College], and it was very easy for me to know more physics than anybody else in the college. I took two physics courses. There was no way of becoming a physics major in that college.” In the same biographic sketch, Phillips explained, “I went to Oakland City College of necessity—the least expensive one available. It offered no physics major, but I had fallen in love with physics in high school and managed to get in to the college physics course, one given only occasionally. The professor (Oxford) advised me strongly against taking it, not because I was the only girl, but because I was the only freshman who wanted to enroll. The text was Webster, Farwell and Drew, rather far out in those days, and I learned more physics from it than the professor himself knew.”

Perhaps, in order to sooth the disappointment regarding the lack of physics classes or a physics major, Melba declared an English major, along with one in math and in science. She got all her classes in by her third year, making A’s in all of them, this in a time long before grade inflation, when A grades were a rarity.

As noted, there exist two rich sources of material regarding Melba Phillips’ intellectual and social development while a student at Oakland City College. One was the school newspaper, the *Oakland City Collegian*. Another was the college yearbook, the *Mirror*. A series of 1923 *Collegian* issues revealed that the young Pike County woman had a number of social and intellectual opportunities through varies campus clubs available to her during her freshman year. There were a few zany things going on at the school as well, reflective perhaps of the 1920s. In the fall

of Phillips’ freshman year, for example, there appeared a women’s Anti-Fat Club and its antagonist, the Filia Rotunda Club. The former had several members and their motto was “Be short, be tall, but never be fat.” The Rotunda club was formed by a group of college women “to combat the charges made by the Anti-Fats.” Members of this group had to weigh “at least one hundred and forty-five pounds, net.” While not belonging to either club, Melba’s photo did appear in a number of organization photos in the OCC yearbook.

One of the most insightful sources regarding Melba Phillips’ activities during her first year at the tiny college is found outlined in an ongoing *Collegian* feature column called *Social Notes*. This source indicated a homesick Phillips went home almost every week during the first half of her freshman year. Still, she was somewhat active in her freshman class and one college newspaper article noted that her class was the “largest and most promising in the history of the institution.”

In November of that same year the college Women’s Club interviewed Melba’s class at the college library. Melba must have stood out. The school paper reported she was put in charge of the nomination committee for freshman class officers. A February 1924 *Collegian* article indicated that by her Freshman year second term, Melba was beginning to take advantage of cultural opportunities at the college as well. That month Phillips and a hand-full of other students rode by car with the college president, Dr. Dearing, to Evansville to see an opera.

At some point in her freshmen year, Melba would have come in contract with the school’s Dean of Women, Ella Wheatley, who also served as the director of the girl’s dorm, Wheatley Hall, named after her. Wheatley Hall was at the center of social life for those females who stayed on campus and Melba soon found the dorm, with its warm and friendly atmosphere, a second home and Ella Wheatley an important influence. By her second year at Oakland, Wheatley Hall was where she spent much of her social time.

Perhaps the most interesting artifact concerning her first year at Oakland City involved a long and detailed discourse the seventeen-year-old Phillips wrote for the college paper—“Squaring the Circle.” The essay demonstrated her keen, playful, and freewheeling style of thinking, her love of reading, and her love and respect for the quiet, natural, rural country-life she was born to.

I need not tell you that it is a strange and wonderful thing how these minds of ours think. You know it. I need not suggest that the processes of thinking are built up by trains of thought that move through the realms of spirit with lightening rapidity and that certain lines of thought will call up strange

and varied experiences which you though were dead. As an illustration of this common thing that we all experience every day, let me tell you how I happen to select this unique subject, squaring the circle.

I went to church the other night and listened to a fairly good sermon. The speaker opened his talk by showing us that knowledge was acquired by passing from the known to the unknown through a series of logical steps. Sometimes these steps are well outlined in our minds; other times they are jumbled into one big heap which bridges the space between our past known thoughts and the unknown ideas which grow out of them. I liked the idea of building new structures out of old stones, and it struck me that this is a possible explanation for my liking geometry so well in high school. From the known to the unknown. Oftentimes it was a mere step; and again, many and difficult ones. Sometimes we cannot arrive at the unknown because of the lack of data or method.

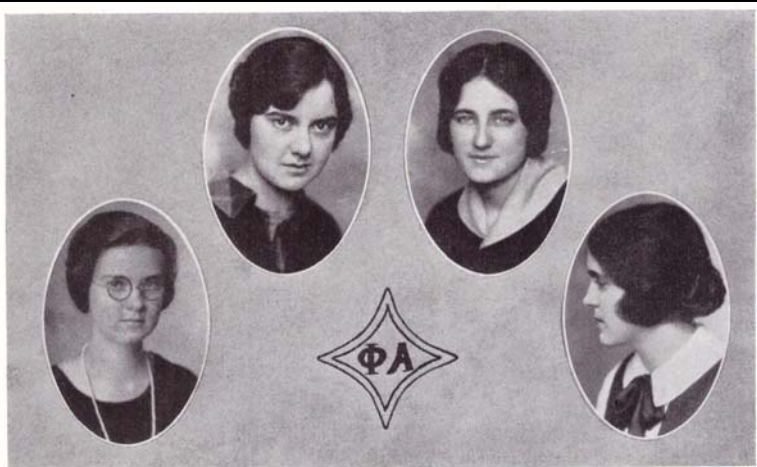
I remember three unknowns in geometry that I was never able to build—they say no one has (in Euclidean Geometry) but I did not know it then; thus I thought a great deal about them. One, the trisection on an angle; another, the duplication of the cube; the last, the squaring of the circle. I thought hours and hours of these unknowns and I learned a great deal of geometry. It was just like the perpetual motion machine which we all try to think out when we were taking high school physics. We did not make the machine, but we found some principals which were worth the time spent.

As I sat there in church, dreaming as I like to do, I thought of squaring the circle and all the old tattered papers with lines and circles and angles all over it, which I used to keep in my old geometry [textbook] in case I had some spare time. But it did not stop with the circle. My mind went to O. Henry and his “Squaring the Circle,” a little short story, the title of which I once found in the contents of one of his books. I like O. Henry especially well as a short story writer because he is always using the unexpected. I like his yank, his twists, his turns—he would have made a good



Photo of Math professor William “pop” Jordan, Melba’s favorite teacher, who she later credited with inspiring her own love of teaching.





Phi Alpha Officers

Helen Wilson	President
Mildred Hunt	Vice-President
Martha Lomax	Secretary-Treasurer
Melba Phillips	Chairman of Program Committee

Melba was a member of Phi Alpha, the Oakland City College literary society. Melba is the first person on the bottom row to the left.

chiropractor.

It might be interesting to replicate and write down the steps which my mind ran when the preacher began to speak. Let me do it with single words: preacher, unknown, geometry, squaring the circle, O. Henry, the story.

The O. Henry tale contained some of Melba’s strongest world views at that time: The rural world as more natural and therefore better than the artificial world of the big city and the importance of geometry, even when used in a playful way, as a vehicle for better understanding the world. Melba ended her essay by saying, “If you want to read it, come around and I shall be glad to lend it to you.”

By the beginning of her second year at Oakland City, Phillips had taken enough classes to be a part of the junior class. She had also blossomed socially. One *Collegian* report related how Phillips and two other college friends “motored to Wheatland Saturday to Miss Enley’s home. Sunday they left just as a big birthday dinner was in full sway. After eating some of the bounties, they hurried toward Vincennes to hear John Philip Sousa. They got there just in time for the great concert. After leaving the Pantheon, the Misses called on friends in the city. They motored back to Oakland City Sunday evening.”

Phillips’ class yearbook pictures always revealed a plain, dark haired, dark eyed young woman with an especially serious and intense look. The college yearbook also showed her involved in a number of school activities, including the Phi Alpha Literary Society, the oldest one on campus. Melba was elected president of the group during her junior year. The *Mirror* reported of the Phi Alpha club and Phillips’ place in it: “This year the Phi Alphas under the supervision of Melba Phillips, as president, took up a survey of modern drama the fall term; the study of ‘What Literature Can Do for Me’ the winter term; and modern poetry the spring term.”

The tryout for the first Oakland City College debate team was held during the second term of that same year.

To no one’s surprise, among the three chosen for the first team was Melba Phillips.

While Melba Phillips later stated that she always had maintained a nonchalant attitude regarding religion, the Oakland City College *Mirror* and *Collegian* both suggested that she was heavily involved in the Young Women’s Christian Association on campus and in leading some of the chapel services. She was elected secretary of the YWCA group, for example, and the *Mirror* reported Phillips was one of five school representatives sent to the state conference at Bloomington. But even when involved in religious discussions, Phillips looked at the subject from a mathematical point of view. One report in the college newspaper related Phillips’ notions in a chapel meeting she directed regarding how religious people might best get along with one another. “The secret of [getting along] depends on the theme or motif which one selects to be the keynote of his life. This brings up the question of personality, and the question—are you triangular or round?” The young math major then discussed and illustrated her ideas by a series of drawings, adding, “The final thought, which applies to human realities as well as to geometry, is that as the number of sides of a regular polygon increase, the polygon approaches a circle as its limit. If our activities are limited to three or four sides, our relations with our fellows are necessarily less pleasant than they otherwise would be.”

Further insight into Phillips’ personality and her hopes and dreams as a young woman comes from another college newspaper interview. When asked what she would do if she had a million dollars, Phillips replied that she desired to pursue graduate work, among other things, an unusual ambition for a woman in her place and time. “I should go to school until I finished here, than do about five years of university work, travel, buy books for the home, new furniture for the home, and a new automobile.” She also wished to “furnish a beautiful

reception room for Wheatley Hall,” her beloved college dormitory.

During her senior year, Melba played the violin in the college orchestra. The Dramatic League was yet another school activity in which Phillips threw herself, the *Mirror* observing that Melba was selected as chairman of the casting committee. She also acted in several playlets put on by the Dramatic League. Apparently, fellow students came to admire her as well. Several items appeared in the school yearbook and college newspaper during her time at Oakland City regarding her sharp wit and intelligence. She was selected “most industrious student” by her classmates. In one yearbook joke, Melba claimed to have completed a great scientific discovery, having “achieved absolute zero” on a chemistry test.

Phillips could be hard-headed and tough too. In another interview with the college newspaper, Melba took on the issue of compulsory chapel attendance. “I think that chapel attendance should not be made compulsory, as chapel now stands. If chapel exercises were as interesting as they should be, as interesting as I know that the members of our faculty are able to make them if they would only take the time and trouble, students would go of their own accord. Of course, I know that chapel is the only place where all the students meet together regularly, and therefore should be well attended, but I don’t like the idea of compulsory attendance.”

Perhaps the most interesting and important part of Melba Phillips’ years at Oakland City College involved her growing relationship with math professor William Jordan, a teacher who sought to help develop Melba’s mind and her social skills. He did the former by buying her advanced math books. Two stories found in this research suggested that he also carried out plans to help Melba grow in her dealings with people.

In 1923, Oakland City College started a football program. That first year the team’s record was poor, but 1924 offered much more promise. In October of 1924, downtown Oakland City merchants closed for the college’s big Friday homecoming game with arch-rival Evansville College. The college paper reported that even normally stern Professor Oxford got carried away, whooping and cheering the team on shortly before the game started. The Oaks footballers did not disappoint their fans, blasting their big city rivals from Evansville 20-0.

That next Monday, the tiny Oakland student body was ecstatic, hardly able to pay any attention to their classroom discourses. Freshman Melba Phillips found, to her disdain, that no one in her Analytic math class, including Professor Jordan, seemed to be able to concentrate on school work. Finally, Jordan gave up trying to teach and asked the unfocused class to vote on the

football player who they believed had played the best game in Oakland City’s big defeat of their archrival. When one was chosen, a member of the math class, Jordan dismissed the students and then picked a surprised Melba Phillips to take the football player down town and buy him a new Stetson hat with money furnished by Jordan.

In another interesting episode, also reported in the school newspaper, Pop Jordan carried out an experiment to see if different cliques of girls on campus, among them his own daughter—the “funny gang,” the “giggles group,” the “serious-minded and studious gang,” and the “dignity and all-it’s worth gang”—could enjoy themselves together at a fancy restaurant. Melba Phillips and another young woman were chosen to represent the “dignity and all-it’s-worth gang.” The women experienced “a splendid evening” one that proved different groups at the school could enjoy each other’s company “outside their own particular choice of friends.” Melba Phillips of the dignity group, the article further noted, “could hardly hold her frivolity.” After the event, the girls “were then piled in ‘Pa’ Jordan’s Ford and delivered safely home.”

Many years later, in 1964, Phillips would create a scholarship in math at Oakland City College in William Jordan’s name to commemorate her beloved professor.

Oakland City College primarily produced teachers, and Melba Phillips, upon graduation, set out to find a teaching job in one of the local schools. Ella Wheatley wrote a strong letter of recommendation for Melba that now seems prophetic.

I am pleased to recommend Miss Melba Phillips to any school board desiring a competent high school teacher in science and mathematics. . . . During the three years in Oakland City College she has been a leader in student activities. In scholarship she is excellent. Her mental attainment combined with industry and enthusiasm will enable her to do valuable work in any community.

In the fall of 1926, just three years after entering Oakland City, Melba received a teaching contract to return to her former high school at Union, Indiana, in Pike County. The nineteen-year-old found herself responsible to teach Mathematics, Physics, English, and other studies. Fortunately for her and the science world, the President of Battle Creek College in Michigan happened to meet Melba at a teachers’ conference. The president was so impressed with the young woman’s response to a talk he gave that he offered her a teaching fellowship on the spot to work on her Master’s degree. The offer was a god-send as it made it possible for Melba to break from her original cultural environment and thus begin to experience a larger world. It would also represent her first encounter

with advanced concepts and theories in math and physics.

At Battle Creek College Melba encountered advanced calculus for the first time and took what physics classes were available, including her first course in electricity and magnetism. In 1929 came another breakthrough in Melba Phillips’ life. The twenty-two year old woman attended an especially elite theoretical physics summer semester at the University of Michigan, given by a leading American physicist, Edward Condon. Phillips remembered how “Condon was giving talks on quantum mechanics. It was before the publication of the now classic textbook by Condon and Morse. Dirac was there [the famous English physicist Paul Dirac] as were a number of other well-known people.” Phillips later reported she “learned some things I’ve never forgotten, about spectroscopy, atomic spectroscopy, from the people at Michigan who knew these things very well. That was extremely useful, but I had very little background for quantum mechanics, and I certainly didn’t understand Dirac at that age.”

It was during this workshop that an episode occurred which eventually became a part of American physicist lore and got Melba into a doctoral program at the University of California at Berkley working directly with perhaps the greatest American physicist theorist of all, J. Robert Oppenheimer. “I was so naive that I did the homework Ed [Condon] had given us, and I couldn’t get the same answer that he did, and I still remember that I couldn’t dream that I was making mistakes. I couldn’t possibly understand why I wasn’t getting the answer, and I even asked myself the question: ‘Is it possible that I don’t know how to take the complex conjugate of a number?’ Finally I went and asked the teacher, namely Ed Condon, and it turned out that I was right. I think that maybe he looked at me twice at that point.” Phillips and Condon became close friends, and Melba went to the University of California at Berkley on his recommendation to work with Professor Robert Oppenheimer.

Melba Phillips was Oppenheimer’s first woman graduate student, and Oppenheimer was very proud of Phillips and the other young men and women who now



Here is a photo of the 1926 OCC yearbook staff. Melba was the editor-in-chief.



hovered around him for guidance, later noting, “Starting with a single graduate student, Melba Phillips, in my first year in Berkeley, we gradually began to build up what was to become the largest school in the country of graduate and postdoctoral study in theoretical physics, so as time went on, we came to have between a dozen and twenty people learning and adding to quantum theory, nuclear physics, relativity and other modern physics.”

The gifted Phillips played an important role in Oppenheimer’s early work at Berkeley. A new theory had made clear predictions “as to how rapidly the probability of transmission through the barrier increases as you raise the energy of the incoming deuteron.” To test this, and to create new isotopes, several leading physics theorists carried out an experiment based on the new theory. Much to their surprise, the increase with energy was less than the theory predicted. This was the perplexity that Oppenheimer and Phillips were presented with to solve. Melba’s mind worked like a steel trap, and Oppenheimer left it to her to carry out and check the difficult calculations needed to solve the dilemma. The process they invented still bears their name– the Oppenheimer Phillips process– and “has remained a valuable tool for probing the structure of nuclei.”

Oakland City University gave one more gift to Melba after

her graduation from Berkley. Her beloved professor, William “Pop” Jordan, the teacher whose style and commitment to teaching so influenced Melba, a man she called “a remarkable teacher,” wrote a letter of recommendation for his former student who was now seeking a job. It carries some irony, given the stature to which Melba Phillips would rise.

Miss Melba Phillips is one of the three best students, if not the best, that I have had in my classes here where I have worked for more than twenty years. Her character is of the highest type, her energy is boundless. . . . She was one of the leaders while here. She was kindly, pleasant, and agreeable. . . . It is probable that she will add dignity and scholarship to any faculty of which she may become a member.

After receiving her Ph.D. degree in 1933 and working two more years at Berkeley doing post-doctoral work, Melba Phillips taught at Bryn Mawr College and Princeton University on Fellowships. She then taught for a year at Connecticut College before joining the physics department at Brooklyn College in 1938. Here, Phillips contributed greatly to the development of many distinguished scientific careers.

In 1952, Melba Phillips became a victim of the McCarthy era. Summoned by a U. S. Senate committee, Phillips refused on principle to respond to questions concerning her own and her



Her senior class members voted Melba “most industrious.”

friends’ and associates’ political beliefs and affiliations. She was fired from Brooklyn College and from 1952 until 1957 Phillips found herself a highly regarded but unemployed physicist. Ever resourceful, the unemployed physicist took advantage of this unexpected and In extended ‘leave’ period to accomplish a prodigious amount of writing, including an advanced textbook on electricity and magnetism (with W.K.H. Panofsky), an introductory treatment of the physical sciences for non-science students (with F.T. Bonner), and several encyclopedia articles.

In 1957, Washington University, St. Louis, brought her there to serve as Associate Director of an Academic Year Institute for secondary school physics teachers, a position supported by the National Science Foundation. She

stayed at the university until 1962, when she was able to return to full faculty appointment status, now at the rank of Professor, at the University of Chicago. Melba retired from the Chicago school in 1972. For the next three years she was affiliated with the State University of New York at Stony Brook, first as a full time Visiting Professor in the Graduate School of the University of Science and Technology, Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing.

In 1987, the faculty of Brooklyn College unanimously approved a resolution expressing its “profound regret and dismay at the injustice done to former colleagues . . . who were dismissed or forced to resign because of their unwillingness to testify about them publicly. . .” Phillips and other surviving faculty members who had taken a similar position about testifying were honored by President Hess and the Brooklyn College faculty at a symposium on ‘McCarthyism; the Lessons of History.’”

Over the years, many of Melba Phillips’ students would give testimony regarding her powerful influence as a teacher. Her teaching style, interestingly enough, sounded more than a bit like her old professor at Oakland City College, William Jordan. One student remembered Phillips at Brooklyn College as “a fine teacher whose lectures were in her head and which she occasionally had trouble arranging in an orderly fashion as they came out. She was in fact a model for a

woman who wanted to be a real person, and who loved physics.” Physicist Joel Lebowitz remembered Melba Phillips “as the very best” of all his brilliant teachers.

The young girl who once kept scraps of paper covered with geometry doodling in her high school textbook, who attended a tiny rural college as a naïve college student, who became a famous physicist during an important time in American and world physics history, and then evolved to finally become a superlative physics teacher to generations of scientists, Melba Phillips lived an extraordinary life. Whatever its limitations, Oakland City College provided the first steps in Melba Phillips’ long and highly successful professional journey. The caption beside one of her OCC yearbook photos stood as especially poignant and prophetic in this regard. It simply read: “Where shall we play thee on glory’s page?” The rest, as they say, is history.

Bibliographical Notes

Sources used in this essay include: Jeremy Bernstein, *Oppenheimer: Portrait of an Enigma*. (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2004); 1977 interview of Melba Phillips taken by K.R. Sopka for the American Institute of Physics Center for History for Physics; *Oakland City Collegian*; Randy Mills *Enter To Learn, Go Forth To Serve*. (Poplar Bluff, Missouri: Stinson Press, 2002); *Oakland City College Mirror*; Dwight Neuenschwander and Sallie Watkins, “Professional and Personal Coherence: The Life and Work of Melba Newell Phillips.” *Physics in Perspective*, 10(3) 2008, 295-364.

Oakland City University

Recognition of Student and Faculty Scholarly Research and Exhibits for the School Year 2016-2017

As a part of creating and maintaining a research culture, each year Oakland City University recognizes outstanding research projects of undergraduate and graduate students, along with scholarly faculty publications, professional presentations at academic conferences, and exhibits. Below are the projects selected for the 2016-2017 school year.

Congratulations to all those who took the time and gave the effort to create these scholarly work.

Recognition of Undergraduate Research Projects

**Maria Perez-Ramirez**  
Studies on E. Coli Growth in Sugar/Phosphate Mixtures Buffers at Varying pH.

The following research projects were presented by Oakland City University Students at the Mid-American Undergraduate Psychology Conference:

**Kevin Browning**  
Pesticides: A Health Crisis.

**Brittnie Hughes**  
Can Social Media Sites have adverse effects on Adolescents and Young Adult Behavior and Self-Perception?

**Lindsey Adams**  
Authoritarian Parenting: Effects on Child Emotion and Behavior

Recognition of Research, Master of Education Program

**Rebecca Boss**  
Effects of Teaching Style, Types of Learners, and Certain outside Sources on Information Retention in Students.

**Olivia Hopf**  
Factors in Pursuing Spanish: What Factors Affect Student Achievement?

Educational Leadership Program Dissertation Research

**Dianna Whitlock**  
The Impact of Preschool Services in Areas of Rural Poverty.

**Cassidy Nalley**  
Perceptions of Administrative Leadership Behaviors in a Midwest Corporation: A Case Study.

**Doreen Shelt**  
Breaking Through the Glass Ceiling: Seven Indicators for Women in High-Level Leadership.

**Randall Miller**  
Perceptions of Selected School Leaders Regarding Strategies for Current School Funding in Northeast Indiana.

**Paris Spencer**  
Classifying Gangs and Gang Activity as Domestic Terrorism.

**Kevin Smith**  
A Diverse Approach to Effective Leadership.

**Emrullah Kiydal**  
Inclusion Classroom Teacher: Knowledge Development of an Exceptional Population.

**Julie Harrelson**  
The Effect of Independent Reading on the Reading Achievement of Students.

**Andrew Findlay**  
A Comparison Study of Early College Student Performance in Traditional and Online Courses.

**Jacob Bryant**  
Has Recent Education Reform Led to Increased Burnout Levels among Teachers in Kentucky?

**Trevor Apple**  
Perceptions of Factors Necessary for a Successful High School Marching Band Program.

**Linda Itoka**  
The Correlation among Culturally Responsive Strategies, Conflict Resolution, and Suspension Rates of Public School African American and Latino Males.

**Laura DelVecchio**  
The Effects of Testing Accommodations on Student Achievement.

**Christina Duzenberg**  
The Influence of the Type and Frequency of Use of Formative Assessment on Student Achievement.

**Lance Richards**  
Teacher Perspective on Effective Interventions and Strategies Focused on Increasing Academic Achievement for Students in Poverty.

**Lee Ann Kwiatkowski**  
Effectiveness of Technology Integration into Instructional Practices in an Urban School District.

OCU Faculty Scholarly Book Publications, Professional Journal Publications, and Professional Conference Presentations.

**Dr. Paul Bowdre**  
Six Sigma in Higher Education Quality Improvement: The Case of One Criminal Justice Program. Presentation to the Academy of Criminal Justice Science Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO, March 24, 2017.

**Dr. Steve DeGeorge**  
Do Student Teachers Add to Their Placement Schools? *The Field Experience Journal*.

**Dr. Donna Hazelwood**  
Art Exhibit, Fanciful Florals. Dunn Gallery, Oakland City University, August 29-September 30, 2016.

**Dr. Ron Mercer**  
Awaiting Your Reply: Why the Church Needs the Blues. Presentation at the Society of Continental Philosophy and Theology Conference, Furman University

**Dr. Nancy Miller**  
A Model for Improving Student Retention in Adult Accelerated Education Programs. *Education*

**Dr. Randy Mills**  
I am Writing this at Sea, Bound for the Admiralty Islands: Recovering and Reconstructing Lost Family Stories. *Connections Genealogy Journal*.

**Dr. Randy Mills and Dr. Roxanne Mills**  
The Wonderful One: The Vietnam War Letters of Richard “Dick” Wolfe. *Traces of Indiana and Midwest History*.

*Summer Wind: The Vietnam War Letters of Richard “Dick” Wolfe*. Book publication- Blue River Press (in press).

**Dr. Patricia Swails**  
CAEP Update: Culture of Evidence and the Selected Improvement Plan. Presentation at the ATE-I Fall Conference, Columbus, IN, October, 2016.

CAEP Update: Early Adaptor Site Reviews: Lessons Learned. Presentation at the Midwest ATE Spring Conference, West Lafayette, IN, April 2017.



# Arts and Media

## Tunes to talk about: Kylee’s music recommendations

**By Kylee Newberry  
Staff Writer**

There is so much music out there in the world, and it is impossible to hear it all. Are you tired of listening to the same old thing? Are you looking for a new sound? Look no further. Here are my current recommendations of music to check out across a wide variety of genres.

**For fans of country music:** I recommend Jon Pardi’s album *California Sunrise*. It is very reminiscent of country of the 90s and early 2000s. I also suggest checking out Miranda Lambert’s album *The Weight of These Wings*. The biggest single of this album, “Vice,” is only a sampling of the material Lambert offers in this two-disc album. The two singles I love right now are “For Her” by Chris Lane and “My Old Man” by the Zac Brown Band.

**For fans of pop/Top 40 music:** I recommend listening to Ed Sheeran’s album *Divide*. The two singles of this album, “Shape of You,” and “Castle on the Hill,” have been blowing up the charts since their release. The album is full of emotion, with a couple of hidden gems that you can dance to, as one would expect of Ed Sheeran. I

also suggest Bruno Mars’ album *24k Magic*. The current single “That’s What I Like” is super catchy, and the title track “24k Magic” is a top-notch dance track. Lorde’s two singles from her upcoming sophomore album *Melodrama*, “Green Light” and “Liability,” are songs you definitely want to add to your Spotify playlist.

**For fans of rock/alternative music:** I recommend Panic! At The Disco’s album *Death of A Bachelor*. The title track has elements that resemble a Frank Sinatra song, while still holding strong to the rock influences. Other tracks like “Victorious” are more rock-heavy. All Time Low is releasing their new album *Last Young Renegade* this June, but they have released two singles from the upcoming album “Dirty Laundry” and the title track “Last Young Renegade.” They have been on repeat in my playlists these past few weeks. Hozier hasn’t released a new album in almost three years, but if you haven’t heard his first album, I would highly recommend giving it a listen in full. His music is a breath of fresh air in this electronic-influenced age we live in.

**For fans of Christian music:** Hillsong Worship’s most recent album *Let There Be Light* is a beautiful live worship experience. For a more upbeat album, I recommend Mandisa’s newest single “Unfinished.” Jordan Feliz’s single “Beloved” is a timely reminder that we are all beautiful and deeply loved by God. If you like Christian rap, I recommend you check out Trip Lee’s album *Rise*. It’s a couple years old, but “Manolo” and “Rise” are some of my favorites.

**For fans of the oldies:** I listen to more old music than I do modern music if we are being honest. Bob Dylan is my favorite and an artist I would recommend getting into. Besides his most well-known songs like “Blowin’ in the Wind” and “The Times They Are A-Changin’,” I would recommend listening to “Subterranean Homesick Blues”, and “It’s All Right Ma (I’m Only Bleeding).” Another artist I recommend checking out is Johnny Cash. Many of us are familiar with his most well known hit “Walk the Line,” but his entire career is full of great songs. “God’s Gonna Cut You Down” and “Cocaine Blues” are some of my favorites.

## Creating life

**By Corabelle Tally  
Co-Editor**

Art projects are coming to life at Oakland City University. Our 3-D design class has been working hard. Throughout this second semester, students Kashmaraeah Williams, Shannon Baxter, Haleigh Beasley, Tom Gruenloh, Austin Kelley, and Corabelle Tally have been creating found object art.

Found object art normally consists of sculptures that are made out of useless items. Junk that no longer has a purpose or items that are being thrown away are used. These items are not normally considered art because they have a function other than art. This provides an environmental, political, and artistic statement.

The task set out for these six students, by Professor Alexis Rusch, was to create a story for



their character and then craft their life-size character using only items that were junk. No personal money was to be spent on the project.

When the dust cleared, six forms appeared. They ranged from vampires to mermaids. Superheroes to basic white

girls. Lonely sad individuals to lonely technological ones.

These characters made their appearance on campus for the audience of OCU. Sitting out on the lawn in front of the SLC they were almost blown away by the wind but were moved to the cafeteria to be viewed.

## Student art show

**By Corabelle Tally  
Co-Editor**

Oakland City University’s Dunn Art Gallery displayed collective work from their students this spring semester. The art show was displayed from April 5 to April 14, 2017.

The students ranged from freshmen to juniors. The participants were:

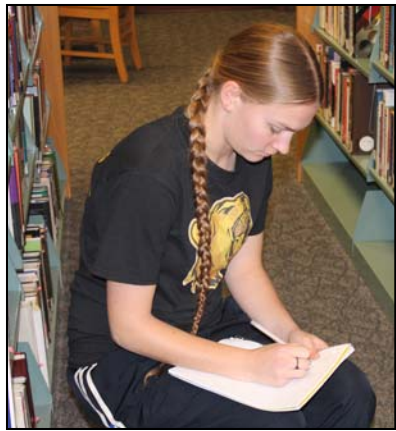
Kashmaraeah Williams, Shannon Baxter, Em Harris, Tom Gruenloh and Corabelle Tally.

The media of the art pieces was wide and varied. Some students displayed their painting abilities with watercolor and acrylic. Others displayed their drawing abilities with pencil, colored pencil, marker and pen. Last,

some students went out of the box and used media such as photography and collage.



## 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](mailto:tallycorabelle@myocu.oak.edu).

### The world over

By Suellen Head

Am I as dark as a summer storm?  
Am I as thick as a dense forest?  
I long to be carefree,  
Without a care in the world.  
To float along the wind,  
As if I am the lightest feather.

To wander the world over,  
Without a second glance,  
To see things unseen,  
Without a single question asked.  
Oh, to be a feather, as light as rain,  
To be carried away without any pain,  
To never witness hurt,  
To never be hated and burned.

Oh, to be a feather,  
To float along this world,  
I’d float the whole world over,  
And never have a care in the world.  
But this is not why God created us,  
No, not at all.

He made us to think,  
To love and to have compassion.  
He gave us a voice and a reason,  
He gave each of us our own season,  
To travel the world over,  
And to love one another.

He gave us His word and set us in the world,  
To reach each and every nation.  
Yes, this should be our declaration,  
To be who He created us to be,  
Not a feather with no feeling,  
But to be a human being.

He wants us to love and feel the way HE loved us,  
And to spread His love to the people of every nation.  
Whether we feel big or small,  
Or the nations be small or great,  
He has a plan for each of us,  
Through His saving grace.

We are all children of the King,  
We are all precious and equal in His eyes,  
So go forth among the nations,  
And teach of His majestic greatness.

### Summer Moon

By Corabelle Tally  
Co-Editor

Summer air and summer stars  
The moon contains all that we are

A world full of life and a world full of warmth  
In the heart of the kind fibers of our soul

Laughter will fill the air of our minds  
All that will be left is what we have left behind

Flying past the boundaries of our soul  
We cry out to God in and amongst the summer moon





Making an impact at Oakland City

Finding your purpose

**By Julia Heatherly  
Staff Writer**

Most people know Alec Hensley as the person who pastors the First General Baptist Church down the street and the police officer for Oakland City University. However, Hensley has had many great opportunities to do wonderful things for Jesus.

Hensley became a military reserve member in January of 1989. He came to Oakland City University in January of 1992 and was here until mid-February of 1998. Then his superior officer moved him to Princeton to increase staff numbers. He was there from February of 1998 to December of 1998. Then after that duty was over, he moved back to Oakland City, Indiana, that December of 1998 and was here until January of 2003. From January of 2003 to 2007, Hensley worked for the Oakland University Security. He then pastored a church in Slater’s, Kentucky, until June of 2007 before moving back to Oakland City.

Hensley is from Henderson, Kentucky, in a small town called Niagara. Hensley became a pastor at Oakland City First General Baptist in Oakland City on the last Sunday in September of 2014.

Hensley’s favorite aspect of being at Pastor at First General Baptist is serving the Lord and seeing lives changed.

Hensley’s daughter Jessica is majoring in Psychology here at Oakland City University and has expressed that she possibly wants to become a school guidance counselor because she wants to help those that are in need. Hensley’s son, Logan, is coming to Oakland City University in the fall to study Religious Studies and to play men’s soccer. Hensley stated he has accepted his son’s calling to become a licensed minister.

Hensley’s goals and aspirations are to continue to teach here as an adjunct professor while continuing to serve the Lord. He wants to begin working full time at the First General Baptist Church because he will be retiring from Oakland City security soon.

Hensley’s favorite aspect about being an adjunct professor is “being able to show my faith and learn from my experiences as well as mistakes.”

Hensley stated, “This is one of those things that you can teach, being able to teach about having knowledge and power.”

“Knowledge is not really



power,” stated Hensley. “Wisdom is power, because wisdom is knowledge and action. Those going in to criminal justice can learn from the mistakes I have made so they can become better.” He said that loves being able to teach in the criminal justice field.

Hensley stated that he wants his students to know that he really cares about how successful his students are and he cares about the work they do.” He also stated that he thinks of this quote often when helping his students achieve their goals. “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” - Zig Ziglar

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Dare to live

**By Corabelle Tally  
Co-Editor**

Every summer, Oakland City University students are able to go on a mission trip to Honduras. This summer only two students will be returning from the previous summer. Kenzie Rudolph and Summer Griffin enjoyed their time last summer so much that they are going back for more. They will once again be able to visit with the children and have fun with all the geckos and iguanas that are around every corner on the island.

Born and raised in Oakland City, Indiana, Kenzie Rudolph is a sophomore here at Oakland City University. She is majoring in Communication with a focus on Journalism and wants to get involved with television broadcasting after graduating. This summer she will be taking her second trip to Honduras through the university.

Rudolph first got interested in the mission trip through her friend Ashley Forbes who is an alumnus of OCU. Up until this point, Rudolph had never flown or really left home. The trip was a great opportunity for her to minister in another language.

Her favorite part of the trip was getting to meet all the children. Rudolph said. “I can think of fifteen kids off the top of my head that I could name and describe. That’s how much of a lasting impact they have on you. I had never felt more loved in my life.” She is looking forward to seeing them again this summer.

The Honduras trip really

helped shape Rudolph’s life. She said, “It was my first time traveling on my own, and I gained some confidence. Knowing some of their language helped, but I would do it again without knowing the language. The trip helped me to be more thankful for everything that I have.”

Rudolph encourages anyone who is interested to go on a mission trip anywhere. She says, “It brings you a new perspective. You realize that you can’t take things for granted, and it is a wonderful chance to learn about new cultures. Traveling around the world, you are able to see how small you really are.”

The hardest part about going, Rudolph says is “Having faith in God that everything is going to work in order to get you there. We need to trust in God and not in ourselves.”

Rudolph is a Student Ambassador, member of FCA and secretary for SGA. She also plays on the tennis and cheerleading teams here at OCU.

She chose OCU because, “I have wanted to go here since I was a little girl.” Her favorite part is that “it feels like a family.”

If anyone feels led to get involved in the mission trips, Rudolph suggests talking to a team member as well as being on the lookout for information. She says, “If you feel slightly led, pray about it. Ask questions and do research. Be brave, don’t hold back.”

From Bloomfield, Missouri, Summer Griffin is a senior here at Oakland City University. She is a

Bio-Technology major with a minor in Chemistry. This will be Griffin’s second time going to Honduras this summer.

Griffin had wanted to go on the mission trip all four years at school but was unable to go until her junior year. She originally wanted to go because, “it is a great opportunity to minister.”

While at Honduras, Griffin’s favorite part was “Handing out the rice and beans in the village. You could tell that they were so thankful.” Griffin says that “If you are offered the opportunity to travel, take it. It will always be worth it, even if you have conflicts that come up.”

She encourages others to go on the trip, “It is a wonderful cultural experience. You are

**By Corabelle Tally  
Co-Editor**

A junior from Santa Claus, Indiana, Kaebra LaGrange is a Life Science Secondary Education major. LaGrange decided to come to Oakland City University because it is a Christian college, and she wanted to be able to play volleyball.

During her college career, LaGrange hit a rough patch. She decided to take a semester off. It was at this point in time that Jim Pratt was able to get her interested in an internship program on the tiny island of Saipan. LaGrange was able to

spend three months with the wonderful people who live on the twelve by six mile island.

While on the island LaGrange was able to teach the children. This experience has inspired her to teach as a career.

LaGrange fell in love with Saipan. “My favorite part was all the different cultures that I got to interact with. It is a hodge podge of people.”

“Before my trip, I had never heard of Saipan. It is just one city and it is a United States territory so it is an English

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Kaebra embraced by her Saipan students

able to grasp very quickly the change that is around you. Stepping off plane, you immediately realize you are somewhere very different. With the humidity and no English the change solidifies.”

It is a trip that shapes lives. Griffin believes that because of the Honduras trip, “I realize I can get through life with fewer material things then before.”

The hardest part wasn’t the trip itself but getting there. “The initial step of getting the money and fundraising was the hardest part. Once you were on the plane, you’re good to go.”

Griffin came to OCU because of the religious atmosphere. Her favorite part of the university is the teachers who are so willing to help their students. They are like family.

While here at OCU, Griffin helped start the Biology Club on campus and is currently the President. She says that, “I love it and I’m excited to see where the club is going and how it will grow and expand.”

Griffin has always been interested in Biology, “Biology has always been something that I am good at. It is different everyday, and it always involves a learning process. It is a very hands-on line of work.”

Griffin’s last comments were that “The world is a big place. We have made it this far, and so we can make it to the end. Just have a little trust in yourself and everything will work out just fine in the end.”



2016 Honduras Mission Trip Group



# Sports

## Looking forward to next season

By Rebekah Busler  
Staff Writer

Alicia Wilson, playing point guard on the Oakland City University basketball team, is a junior this semester. Wilson lived in Owen County, about twenty miles outside of Bloomington, before coming to OCU. Originally from Michigan, she also spent some time living in Phoenix, Arizona, before coming to Indiana.

While she’s lived in a few different places, her favorite is Indiana. “Part of the reason that I chose to come to OCU was because I liked the small town community atmosphere,” Wilson said.

She’s enjoyed her time at OCU even more than she expected. First for the nice campus; she attended two colleges before coming to Oakland City, and OCU has the nicest dorms. Also, because the campus is nice enough to provide for all her needs for her major, but also is a more personal community. “The

small campus makes it easier to get help; the staff is nice; and people are easy to talk to,” Wilson said.

Wilson is majoring in business. She started majoring as a sports administration, but OCU gave her the opportunity to get two in one. There are multiple opportunities for a business degree, so she added it. Her plan is to be a high school athletic director and also a coach.

Wilson has been playing basketball on her own since she learned to walk and officially started playing when she was eight. “There were a few schools that tried to recruit me for my sports talent, but I chose OCU because I liked the coach and other people I met during my campus visit, as well as the degree options,” Wilson said.

She’s enjoyed her time playing on the OCU team, and they’ve had a good season. “I’ll miss the teammates that are graduating this year; hopefully we will have a good next season,” Wilson said.

## They play for the love of the game

By Kylee Newberry  
Staff Writer

This year’s men’s tennis team consists of Josh Frankham, Grant Holder, Joe Hinton, Jordan Helfert, Zach Robinson and Louis Ross.

Jordan Helfert came to Oakland City University from Boonville, Indiana.

“My favorite aspect of OCU is the small campus and friendly people,” Helfert said. He is a criminal justice major and plans on joining the Warrick County Sheriff’s Department after graduation. His favorite memory of OCU is his first tennis win.

Zach Robinson from Georgetown, Indiana, is a criminal justice major. He chose Oakland City University because it was close to home, while still allowing him to be on his own. His favorite aspect of OCU is how genuine the professors are.

His favorite tennis memories were the van rides with the team his freshman year, but his favorite OCU memories include the finals breakfasts. Other than tennis, Robinson is

involved in the criminal justice honors society. Reflecting on the season, Robinson stated: “I miss the teammates from last year but also love the new teammates I got this year.”

Louis Ross came to Oakland City University from Bristol, England. This year was his first time playing for the OCU tennis team. The highlight of the season so far for Ross was his first singles win.

Other than tennis, Ross is an RA in Jordan Hall, is Vice President of the Psychology Club, and was captain of the soccer team. His favorite OCU memory is his time playing soccer. Ross is a psychology major, and wants to be a sports psychologist after graduation. Ross offers this advice to all OCU athletes. “I’d like to say to all other athletes at OCU to make the most of your time here at OCU. Do not take anything for granted because four years go by far too fast. Before you know it, you might be injured, or graduating and never playing again. Most importantly, be a good teammate, on and off the field.”

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## Creating friends for life

By Corabelle Tally  
Co-Editor

Two female seniors participated on Oakland City University’s golf team this last season. Nikki Wallis and Brittney Walker, respectively, have been inspirational in golf as well as in their own field of study here at OCU.

Originally from Haubstadt, Indiana, Nikki Wallis is a senior golf player here at Oakland City University. Majoring in Communication with concentrations in Graphic Design & Web Design, Wallis has a mind for creativity. She says, “I’ve always been interested in how the Internet works and the coding behind it. That is why I chose Web Design. Graphic design became a passion throughout my college career.”

Originally at USI, Wallis came to OCU to find a school that made her happier and allowed her the opportunity to play golf.

Having played golf since high school, Wallis loves that “golf teaches patience, honesty, and mental strength. Some of my

best memories are on the golf course.”

Wallis’ favorite memories of golf at OCU were making, “friends for life” and “being away from the rest of the world, outside in the sunshine.” She feels that the best stories for her golf team came out of rainy days on the course.

Currently working at Brushfire Creative in Mt. Carmel, Wallis plans on staying in the area with her husband at their new house in Ft. Branch. Wallis is excited for whatever comes her way after graduation. She says, “I believe in my area of study you have to constantly work and learn so that you can be the best you can be.”

Oakland City University’s Brittney Walker is from the hometown of Salem, Indiana. She is a senior golf player here at OCU and is majoring in Elementary Education with a concentration in Health and Physical Education.

Walker chose OCU because of the small class sizes and because it felt like home. Other than golf, Walker also participates in Education Club on campus.

Her parents inspired her education major. She says, “I chose to go into Education because of the way I saw past students of my parents come up to them and tell them how big of a difference they made in their lives. I hope that one day that I can make such an impact on a student’s life.”

Since the third grade, Walker has played golf. Her inspiration for golf stemmed from her cousin. She says, “My



Brittney Walker

cousin let me borrow his clubs for a clinic that was going on. I went out there just to try it and ended up falling in love with the game.”

Her favorite part about playing golf has become “actually playing your game. Golf is such a mental game, and being able to get past all of the frustrations of the sport is my favorite part. Once you do all that, you can do anything you want with that little white ball.”

Overall, Walker has enjoyed her time. “I love my team. I’m so glad that I decided to further my career and play in college. I have made amazing friendships throughout the years.”

After graduation Walker plans on having a classroom of her own that is located near home. She has always wanted to teach because “It has always been a dream to be a role model for younger students. What better way to do that than to teach?”



Nikki Wallis



**Celebrating senior day for the softball team. The event took place April 17, 2017. Listed from left to right are the seniors: Breanna Huff, Cheyenne Reining, Allexis Lemon, Amanda Schmitt, Kayley Main.**

## Teammates forever

By Kylee Newberry  
Staff Writer

This year’s softball seniors are Cheyenne Reinig, Breanna Huff, Kayley Main, Amanda Schmitt and Allexis Lemon who is graduating early.

Kayley Main came to Oakland City University from Huntingburg, Indiana. She grew up playing softball and baseball and knew she wanted to continue the sport in college. She enjoys playing in the outfield.

“I chose OCU because of the scholarship opportunities and the ability to continue to play softball. I also enjoy that it is close to home,” Main says.

Main is majoring in Health/P.E non-teaching with a minor in business. She plans on attending Indiana

University/Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) to get her Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Her favorite softball memory is playing at Nationals last year. She also plays tennis. Main says she has enjoyed all the memories she has made with her roommates and teammates.

Amanda Schmitt is from Evansville, Indiana, and she is a pitcher for the Oakland City University softball team. She chose OCU because it was small and close to home. She is majoring in Health and Physical Education non-teaching with a minor in Criminal Justice.

Her favorite softball memory was the trip to Nationals, and her favorite memory of OCU is all the friends she has made, as well as being able to room with

Kayley Main for three years. Schmitt is also involved in tennis and work study on campus.

After graduation, Schmitt plans to go to graduate school to receive a Masters in athletic training.

Schmitt offers this advice for athletes at OCU: “For future and current players, know who you play for, not just for yourself, but who pushed you to the point of loving the game, which made you want to get better. There is always someone watching and someone you are making proud every day. Push yourself to be better, to show that person you want to keep making them proud and you want to get better, to work harder to further your career and athletic ability. Strive to be better every day.”



Alex Hensley  
Continued from Page 13

Hensley also stated that he wants his students to know that “They are valuable.” There are so many people that do not feel like they have any value because of who they are or where they have come from or where they are going. Hensley stated, “It is important for us to tell people that they are valuable because we are. That is why Jesus died on the cross, because we are valuable.” If Jesus thinks we are valuable, then who are we to not share the Good News of Jesus Christ.”



Come out  
and  
support  
your  
Mighty  
Oaks!

“The Curious Savage”

By Madison Brooks  
Co-Editor

“The Curious Savage,” by John Patrick, was performed by Oakland City University’s Drama Club this spring. The play was directed by Brittany Latham and Elise Andrews and sponsored by Rachel Toepfer. The hilarious comedy was about an elderly widow, Mrs. Savage, who was left ten million dollars from her late husband. Mrs. Savage intended to give the entire fortune away to people who wish to pursue their “foolish dreams,” but her stepchildren strongly objected. To prevent her from doing away with their family’s wealth and destroying the Savage family name, the stepchildren put their mother into a sanatorium called The Cloisters, where Mrs. Savage makes new friends. Meet the cast and crew: **Clair Slomski** as Florence

Kaebra LaGrange  
Continued from Page 13

speaking island. Prices are always high there because they have to have everything shipped in. While they were small, they were still able to have businesses, hospitals, biology departments, teachers, lawyers,” LaGrange said. The trip to Saipan helped shape LaGrange’s life. “It gave me a new direction. Before the trip I was just going through the motions. Now I feel that I have discovered my purpose.” LaGrange loves science and also now loves teaching. She wants to teach overseas after graduation. The places that she is drawn to serve range from South American to Asia and the Middle East. Even though LaGrange enjoyed her time off, she has also enjoyed getting back to school. “Going back to school is hard when you are coming from the real world. The hardest part is definitely the homework,” LaGrange says. LaGrange has played volleyball for as long as she can remember “All my siblings played it and so I basically grew up in the gym.” Her favorite part is the competitive aspect of the game. Getting back into the game has taken some effort but LaGrange has enjoyed it. “I really like the girls. We have a really good dynamic as teammates, and I am looking forward to seeing what we can do.”

**Jon Thomas Boling** as Hannibal  
**Jennifer Brown** as Fairy May  
**Logan Lofland** as Jeffery  
**Maria Perez** as Mrs. Paddy  
**Brittany Miles** as Miss Willie  
**Zachary Lanham** as Titus Savage  
**Aimee Clodfelter** as Lily Belle Savage  
**Brett Williams** as Samuel Savage  
**Daniel Waggoner** as Dr. Emmett  
**Hannah Salo** as Mrs. Savage  
**Josiah Gansman** as John Thomas  
**Lindsay Adams:** crew  
**Alexis Cowin:** crew  
**Mikayla Jones:** crew  
**Rebecca and Robert Fellows:** crew  
**Tyler Rust:** crew  
**Shannon Baxter:** hair and make-up  
**Jessica Eberhardt:** hair and make-up  
**Jessica Williams:** hair and make-up



There’s no crying in baseball

By Madison Brooks  
Co-Editor

The Oakland City University Baseball team has been successfully led by Coach T. Ray Fletcher over the years. The team has been to the NCCAA finals on eight occasions under the coaching of Fletcher, as well as capturing eight Mid-East Regional Championships. The team, as a whole, has accomplished a lot and has progressed in their athletic success. The team has a senior manager, Alan Kerns, who has been with the team all four years of his college career. Dylan Allan and Zach Deutsch returned this year to be student assistant coaches. There are many seniors who are players on the Mighty Oaks Baseball team, including Alec Sandefer, Clay Ford, Craig Peters, Dalton Payne, Ethan Sparks, Jamie Valvano, Matt Lucas, and Max Lanham. Alec Sandefer is a Business Administration major with concentrations in Management and Marketing. He is from Princeton, Indiana, and is a pitcher for the Mighty Oaks. Sandefer was inspired by his father to play baseball, “My dad has always been a big St. Louis Cardinals fan, and he is the one that got me playing baseball when I was six and has been my biggest supporter ever since.” His favorite baseball memory was winning the state championship with his Princeton legion team. After graduation, he intends to stay in the surrounding area and to find a job in which he can use his Management or Marketing degree. Other than educational plans after graduation, Sandefer hopes to pursue athletic plans as well. “The dream job would be to pursue my baseball career after college, but I do not believe it is going to be an option. However, I do intend on pursuing my slow-pitch softball career after college.” Clay Ford, a Criminal Justice major from Mt. Vernon, Indiana, chose to come to Oakland City University because of “the good criminal justice program” and the baseball scholarship he received. Ford has played baseball ever since he was five years old and currently plays first base for the Mighty Oaks. During his time at OCU, he has spent many hours practicing and playing through injuries. After graduation, he does not

plan to continue his baseball career, but does plan to get a job in law enforcement or the military. Craig Peters is a marketing major from Brazil, Indiana, and has been playing baseball his whole life. He plays shortstop and pitches. Peters has had many memories, good and bad, during his time with the Mighty Oaks Baseball team, “I had many physical issues, such as elbow surgery I had to have that kept me from pitching last year,” Peters explained. Although part of his career had challenges, his favorite memory through his career was going to the NCCAA World Series back-to-back. Dalton Payne, senior from Knottsville, Kentucky, is majoring in P.E. Non-teaching and minoring in Business. Payne learned about OCU through his high school coach who also played here. Like many of his other teammates, his favorite memory was making the NCCAA World Series and reaching the final four. Payne plays as an outfielder for the Mighty Oaks and has been playing baseball since he was 5 or 6 years old. He has always been passionate about the game, “The balance of school and sports is one of the biggest challenges, but the game has always been a joy for me, so not playing would take one of the greatest hobbies out of my life.” Ethan Sparks is double majoring in Business Management and Business Marketing and plans on achieving his MBA after graduation. Sparks has been playing baseball ever since he was 4 years old, and his father has been his inspiration throughout the years. Sparks is a pitcher for OCU and explained that there are

difficulties at that position, “The main challenges are the many hours of training and the arm pain that comes with being a pitcher.” Sparks does not plan to pursue his baseball career after college but does plan to participate in slow pitch softball and recreational golf. Jamie Valvano, from Sellersburg, Indiana, is majoring in Business Management. Valvano was recruited by OCU to play baseball and is currently playing second baseman. He has been playing ball since he was old enough to walk and has always enjoyed the sport. Although he loves baseball, there are some challenges that come along with it. The challenge that Valvano faced during the baseball season was staying healthy. “Staying healthy is a grind,” he commented. He hopes to pursue his baseball career after college, but as Valvano stated, “The future is uncertain.” Max Lanham, Business Management major from Whitesville, Kentucky, chose to attend OCU because he felt that he had a better chance to learn with the student to teacher ratio that the university has. Lanham starts as an outfielder for the Mighty Oaks and has been playing baseball his whole life. His father was his inspiration through his baseball career, and Lanham learned to overcome challenges. “Managing time between school and baseball was a challenge,” Lanham commented. Although he does not plan to pursue his baseball career after college, he does plan on pursuing a career in the business field. The Mighty Oaks have a great group of senior baseball players this season, and they are striving to reach the NCCAA World Series for the third time in a row.



Girl’s 2017 Softball Team



Pictured Front Row L-R: Alexis Lemon, Anna Orsburn, Bailey Davis, Allie Minton, Kayley Main  
Middle Row L-R: Bre Huff, Lauren Morton, Whitney Jeffers, Shay Harrington, Amanda Schmitt  
Back Row L-R: Assistant Coach Randy Chapell, Taylor Pinkstaff, Grace Jerrell, Head Coach Patti Buchta, Valerie Lewis, Caitlin Huff and Assistant Coach Dave Gossman.



# Spring sports coming to an end

