Our OCU Alumni Family was mailed an Alumni Dues Brochure in November 2015 instituting a new dues structure with a minimum of $50. It included a response card and an envelope for your annual dues payment. You may also pay your dues online at www.oak.edu. Ways to Give and follow the prompts to make your gift. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. The 2016 dues period covers the calendar year from January through December.

Robert Allen
Virginia Anderson
Barbara J. Antrim
Larry Baker
Jon Barclay
Charlotte C. Barnard
Gary Barrett
Dwight Beard
Carrie Bellamy
Charles & Martha Bellamy
Reba Benson
Ronnie & Sandy Black
Jan Blackburn
Dwight & Brenda Bland
Marinda C. Bliss
Steve Bottoms
John Bowman
Charles E. Brauser
Dawnelle Brown
E. Erelene Brown
Lester Brown
Luann Buck
Eldon Butcher
Nancy Lee Byrns
Anel Callis
Norma Callis
Walter Carnahan
Robert & Inez Carr
Janice Carr-Whalen
Ronnie Cary
Phyllis Casson
Lillian Cato
Tim & Peggy Chancellor
Carole Ann Chapman
Randall Ray Chapman
Mark Christian
Linda Clark
Dick Cochen
Glen Coleman
Artwood Courtney
Cecil Courts
Beverly Daugherty
Doris Davis
Roger Davis
James Dean
Mary K. Denneau
Vernon Deutsch
Carrie Jean Dillon
Mary Lou Douglas
Dana Duncan
Jack Eberhardt
Michael Elaman
Diane Elmore
Adam C. English
Hugh Eskew
J. Paul Evans
Owen Fair
Molly Flodder
Connie Ford
Bill & Ruth Foust
Judy B. Foust
Iona Froman
Gwendolyn Fulk
Ronald & Diana Galen
Robert A. Gentil
Wayne Gipson
Harry Goeritz
Robyn Goins
Janna Butler Graves
Phyllis Greenlee
Nancy Griffith
John Hales
Karen S. Hales
Roger D. Hall
Heidi Hamilton
Donald J. Harris
Lloyd & Cristie Harry
J. Mitch Haskins
John W. Haskins II
Donald Hazleton
John Helsley
Elton Hopkins
Helen Horton
Harold & Janie Hughes
Bradley Hussung
Stanley Jochum
Teresa D. Johnson
Thomas L. Johnson
R. Stanley & Judy Jones
James Julian II
Michael Keown
Dennis Kirkman
Mary Kitchell
Marian Lagrange
Ellen Lamb
L. Diane Lawyer
Joshua Lee
Drusilla Legg
Ramona Lennen
Darrel & Edie Lewellyn
Johnny Liles
James & Linda Lindauer
William Marshall
Gloria Mason
Ivan Mason
Michael Mason
Carl Rex May
Judy McGillem
Margaret McGirt
Shannon McKinney
Vance S. Meier
Emmett Merrill
Elaine Meyer
David & Vera Middleton
C. T. Montgomery
Patty Moore
Dayna Mosier
Lennis & Dewania Murray
L. Rex Myers
Bonnie Nash
Janie S. Norman
Paola Nossett
M. Austin Odom
Jery Osmon
Kevin Oxley
Howard & Kerby Parish
Diane Paul
Linda Payne
Jane Pemberton
Kenneth & Kathy Perkins
Johnita Petry
Ray Phelps

THANK YOU SO MUCH!
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ~ John 1:1 KJV

MIGHTY OAK SOCIETY
MEMBERS CONTINUED

Gary Phillips
Dorothy Powers
Terry & Paula Prather
Lois J. Raisor
Sally Redding
Jarvis Reed
Russell Reeves
Tom Roberts
Marvin & Sharon Roeder
Gary R. Rumsey
Daniel Ryan
Franklin D. Sablan
Hugh S. Schaefer

Robert Service
Ronald Shaw
Joan Shepard
Deborah Shields
Shirley Shields
Betty Shirley
Stan & Vicky Shoultz
Wanda Shoultz
Marjorie Simpson
John Sloan
Steve & Gill Smetzer
Elaine Smith

Richard Smith
Byron Songer
Del Steinhart
Norma J. Stephenson
Opal Lee Stevens
Charles Tevebaugh
Jack & Jane Tichenor
Donald Townsend
Mary E. Tubbs
Ron & Joyceann Underwood
Melvin Vaughn
Rhonda Veen

Ruth Ann Wade
Shadi Wadi-Ramahi
Eric M. Walker
Gay Marie Weir
David & Judy Whitten
Anthony Wigand
Steven Williams
James D. & Pat Wilson
Linda Wilson
L. Ray Winkler
Sherry A. Winn

At an OCU event this past spring, we were honored to have these three men of faith as our guests. Clint Cook, Executive Director of General Baptist Ministries, Dr. Glen Spence ’57, and Ron Black ’69 both former Executive Directors of General Baptist Ministries.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE BIBLE
11-14-2016

In recognition of the 2016 International Day of the Bible, the Alumni Office is planning a special event to involve faculty, staff, administration, students and community. This event will involve volunteers reading the Bible aloud in ONE DAY. As a faith-based educational community, Oakland City University stands for biblical truth and wisdom. If you would like to be a part of this special event, contact Susan Sullivan at ssullivan@oak.edu or 812-749-1226.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ~ John 1:1 KJV

GETTING TO KNOW DON & MARY ANN WILDER

Family, community and church. These three words sum up the ongoing commitment of the Wilder family to Oakland City University. In nearly three decades of giving, they have supported Oakland City University by establishing an endowed scholarship, contributing to building projects, giving to the annual phonathon and donating in-kind gifts of real property.

Don and Mary Ann Wilder have been married for 54 years and have three children, John, Sheila and Kelly. They met on a blind date shortly after Don returned from serving in the Army in Germany from 1959-1961. He completed his degree in 1963 and then became a partner with his dad, Ira Wilder, in the oil business. They owned several Texaco stations, as well as establishing Propane 1, an LP Gas company, which they sold in 2010. They have been lifelong residents of Oakland City.

Their relationship with Oakland City University began many years ago, when Ira Wilder, a well-known local businessman, served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1959-1968. Ira and his wife, Lela Mae were friends with OCC President Onis Chapman and his wife through their membership at the First General Baptist Church in Oakland City. Fred Wilder, Ira’s brother, was a Trustee from 1974-79. The Wilder women have also been Board of Trustee members, Mary Ann, from 1986-2007 and their daughter, Kelly Hopper currently serves on the Board. Kelly is also an alumna of 1987. In the early 1960s, Mary Ann served as the campus school nurse. Mary Ann is also a lover and collector of antiques and is very skilled in restoring old pieces to pristine condition. She recently volunteered to help OCU with a restoration project. She will soon be working on the antique pump organ that belonged to the Cockrums, the founding family of Oakland City University. Once she has refinished the surface, it will reside in Cockrums Hall. She shared a story of how she and Don discovered that a clock that once graced the mantle of historic Cockrums Hall had appeared at a local antique dealer. They bought the clock, restored it and gave it back to the University where it once again adorns the fireplace mantle in Cockrums Hall. The Wilders have an amazing collection of Texaco memorabilia that is likely one of the most extensive collections in the country. Mary Ann also shared a few treasured pieces of china from Wheatley Hall, one of the original dormitories on campus.

In the early 1990s, the Wilders acquired the property and building on Highway 64 that had previously been used as the Old Ben Coal Company offices. In 1996, they gifted the building to Oakland City University to be used for classrooms and offices. For the past twenty years, it has been used to establish Propane 1, an LP Gas company, which they sold in 2010. They have been lifelong residents of Oakland City.
In 2005, the Wilders established the Ira M. and Lela Mae Endowment Scholarship in honor of Don’s parents. This scholarship is awarded annually to a member of the First General Baptist Church of Oakland City attending OCU. This endowment grows yearly and will continue helping students attain a Christian education into perpetuity.

When asked why they support OCU, Mary Ann stated “It’s simple; we love the community and we love the University.”

Oakland City University deeply appreciates the contributions made by the Wilder family. They have passed the torch from generation to generation, giving of their time, talent and treasure to the school they believe in.

God’s call wondering where it would lead. However, and refocusing of our lives in the vocational service of my family. After marriage, two children, and working 8 at the age of 27, I felt the call of God to the ministry. This was an exciting experience. I would never have foreseen this as a way of life for me.

Life is filled with unknown possibilities. One never knows what a day may hold, but living in a foreign country among people who speak different languages and where life is viewed through a different cultural lens greatly multiplies the possibilities of the events and adventures that may occur. With this in mind, one might envision that the life of a missionary could be an exciting experience. I would never have foreseen this as a way of life for me.

At the age of 27, I felt the call of God to the ministry. This was a momentous moment for change for me and my family. After marriage, two children, and working 8 years in medical fields, this called for the retraining and refocusing of our lives in the vocational service of the Lord. We sold our home and began the pursuit of God’s call wondering where it would lead. However, of Guam. It is the largest and capital of a chain of 14 islands known as CNMI, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There were approximately 90,000 people living on Saipan when we were serving there in 2006. The majority of them were contract workers from all over Southeast Asia. However, with the loss of garment industry and jobs, the economy took a downturn. The population today is only 48,200 and the tourism industry has become the number one source of income. Saipan is becoming the vacation spot for many Asian travelers.

People from many ethnic groups from Asia, the Pacific Islands and other parts of the world live and work in Saipan. This makes for many cultural differences for a small island, and this is also what makes Saipan and Saipan Community Church most unique.

On any given Sunday, the congregation of Saipan Community Church looks like a microcosm of heaven. There are people from many cultures, languages, races and nations worshiping God together in four different services. These groups form a unique brotherhood under the umbrella of Saipan Community Church joining together in great celebrations and ministry events in some very unique ways.

We were surprised when a phone call came asking if we would consider returning to Saipan to serve as interim missionaries. After a period of prayer and preparation, we consented to stand in the gap until a new missionary could be placed on the field. Due to some last minute decisions in our family, the decision was made – Linda would stay in the U.S. and I would go to Saipan for six months. When I arrived, June 23, 2015, the church had been without a missionary for about a year. There were needs and challenges to face in ministry, but nothing like what we soon experienced.

Within a few days, a tropical storm hit that severed a communication cable on the ocean floor. Saipan was cut off from the rest of the world for two weeks. Then on Sunday night, August 2, the island suffered a direct hit from Typhoon Soudelor. What a night! Morning light blew away the roofs from many homes and businesses. Power companies from Guam and U.S. sent in workers to help erect power poles and restoring lines. In 100 days, electric power was restored to the island and businesses began to open and people returned to work.

People were out of work. There were some damages to the Saipan Community Church and School property, but it was minimal compared to the destruction of property and disruption of many people’s lives that took place in Saipan. There was a tremendous amount of debris everywhere. It took us three days just to locate the members of our congregation and to assess their needs.

Don and Mary Ann with their daughter Kelly, who currently serves as a member of the OCU Board of Trustees

Mary Ann Wilder with a china gravy boat from Wheatsley Hall

Saipan - A Pearl in the Pacific

By Glenn Jenkins


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But God was so gracious to us. Our new mission director, Bro. Mark Powell, arrived in Saipan August 15 to assess the situation. He brought with him a chain saw and money from the General Baptist relief fund. The $15,000 of the immediate relief fund was quickly depleted.

Through the generous gifts of our denomination and individual people and churches, funds continued to come our way, and we were able to help 43 families financially survive until other resources were made available. We distributed food, drinking water, flash lights, batteries, candles, bedding, mosquito nets and repellent, and manpower to remove debris during the immediate stages of recovery. We were also able to repair the buildings on our campus and rebuild two old truck gardens for Saipan Community Church and School. We combined our worship services and opened our K-8 school a month before the public schools were opened.

Within a few weeks of Typhoon Soudelor, a rationed supply of potable water was restored. The army supplied manpower and equipment to clear the roads of downed trees and debris. Power companies from Guam and U.S. sent in workers to help erect power poles and restoring lines. In 100 days, electric power was restored to the island and businesses began to open and people returned to work.

We celebrated Thanksgiving in a renewed light. We had so much for which to be thankful. We had received so much help and support that we had much to share with others in need. And not one life was lost through all the storms and destruction.

During December we had a tremendous celebration of the birth of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Our choir
presented a Christmas cantata. We held the traditional Christmas Feast and fed over 400 people.

Different ethnic groups gave presentations from their own cultural traditions. People begin to trust Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. The last Sunday of the year, ten of these new believers were baptized in the ocean. Five of them were from the 43 families that we had helped through the relief funds.

2015 was a tough year for Saipan and Saipan Community Church and School, and they are still in the process of rebuilding and recovery. Life is truly full of unknowns, and you never know what will happen when you say “Yes!” to Jesus. I know I didn’t initially sign up for what I experienced. It turned into a quite an assignment. Space does not permit the telling of the many stories of God’s amazing grace. I somehow think my old face and the new struggles helped to bring some stability and growth to the situation in Saipan. It was a joy to see the community of faith pull together through their trial of faith and their labor of love.

As I returned home January 2, 2016, the trees were regaining their foliage, flowers were blooming and the island was beginning to look like Saipan again. We know that God helped us, and that many of you have helped us too. We want to say a big “THANK YOU” to all our General Baptist family and friends. God sustained us. Your prayers strengthened us. Your giving uplifted us. We love you. You helped us survive the storm.

My prayer is that someone reading this will feel the call to become that much needed missionary to Saipan. It will be a divine adventure. Returning to Saipan affirmed my faith in a long believed principle of truth: “Life is sometimes hard, but God is always good!”

JOSH ’05 & RACHEL SLATER
FAMILY HEADED TO SAIPAN

When thinking of going to the mission field, our first thought is not: “We are at such a spiritual place in our life that NOW is the perfect time to become overseas missionaries.”

Our thoughts are humbled that, despite our weakness and limitations, God still wants to use us for great things! God does not call the best, He calls the willing. When Josh speaks from the pulpit, he often says (when it comes to supporting missionaries) “They cannot do it alone. There are several things YOU can do to help them – You can either pray, send money, send money and pray, or GO and serve with them.”

We have loved supporting our mission field workers through these means and now have come to the final way to help – GO!

Jesus tells us the harvest of souls eager for the Gospel is plenty, but the workers are few. We want to step up and be counted among those willing to work to being in the harvest. We want to be willing to follow where God leads us when He calls us into the unknown.

Josh is excited to come alongside Pastor Abe, who serves the Filipino congregation; working as a team to disciple and nurture the spiritual needs of the people of Saipan. Rachael will begin by serving her family as she raises their children and encourages Josh in his work. She will also serve the congregation by offering her gifts as God leads.

Our children: Wesley, Ethan, Gideon, Trinity, and Aurora are looking forward to making new friends, offering their own gifts and talents and having a beach right outside the back door!

Join us in our journey by supporting us through prayer, encouragement, and financial gifts. The little island of Saipan can do great things through God! As the church likes to say: “We’re reaching an island to touch the world!”

Support Us:

There are four ways to be behind us in ministry: PRAY, GIVE, ENCOURAGE, and VISIT.

We would love for you to join our team in any of these ways! Contact us and let us know how you like to be involved.

More Information

email: josh.slater@generalbaptist.com
website: www.slaterinsaipanlong.wordpress.com
telephone: 618-798-0193 (Josh)
573-780-7748 (General Baptist Intl. Missions)
The Class of 1966: Tom Rosenfeld, Burley & Martha Herrin, Martha Emge, Sharon Wertman, Joe Huey, Ron Hampton and Hugh Schaefer.

Judy Phillips ’62 and Jean Weir

Alums and friends enjoying homemade root beer floats and brownies

Below: Closing with the singing of the Alma Mater

Reba Benson and Glen Spence being recognized as members of the 1950s decade

Jerry L. & Pam Aigner
Jeannie Anson
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Baker
Dr. & Mrs. Ray Barber
Robert A. Bean
Patricia M. Berbeco
Angela (Shelton) Blackburn
Anthony & Belena Brantley
Rev. Fred J. Brittian
Drs. Wayne & Edna Brumfield
Phillip & Sharen Buyher
Lewis R. Clark
Wendy J. Colglazier
Laura Conklin
Terry L. Crane
Todd E. Culley
Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Daugherty
Daniel D. Ditzer
Dr. Bob & Mrs. Norma Doane
Tom Doty
Dr. & Mrs. Leland Duncan
Dr. & Mrs. Wallace Duncan
Charles Howard Ellis
Mrs. Lennetta Burl Ellis
Larry & Martha Emge*
Terry & Marilyn Enlow
Joe Fielden
A. J. Ford
Rose Gwaltney Fritz
Wanda J. Gardner
Drs. Charles & Jean Glasgows
Carol J. Graf
Dr. & Mrs. Darrell and Savannah Hargraves
Dr. Donna S. Hazelwood
Norma Sue Hazelwood
Cynthia A. Helton
Alec & Julie Hensley*
Dr. & Mrs. Darrell W. Hillhouse
Kelly Wilder Hopper
Dr. Carol Davidson Home
Sen. Lindel O. Hume
Bette Jo Georges Hunt
Max Jacobus

Marion R. & Janet S. James
Dr. Leroy Jolly
Eddi Marie Evans Julian
Charles & Rita Knight
Mathew J. Konkler
Rev. C. Glen Lashley
Deena J. Lewis
Janice Loveless
Antonia Babauta Lyzenga
Louie & Melba Medlin

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin & Janice Menke
Lou R. Meuche
Gerald W. & Betty W. Montgomery
Jean Carnahan Murray
Michael J. Murray
Dr. Rae Murray
Mrs. Marlene S. Nailey
Glenn B. Nutty
Marsha Orth
Dennie Oxley
Janet A. Parrish
Dr. Gary L. Phillips
Mrs. Judy Black Phillips
Dr. James & Mrs. Kristina Pratt
Gary & Donna Vilet Pruet
Valada J. Raper
Joan Reed
Becky T. Richeson
Arvin & Rosina Nance Roberson
Mrs. Lois Robertson
Coaina M. & Rod Rosenbury
Mrs. Diana Sablan
Michael & Nancy Scherschel
Rev. Billy Secoy
Judith A. Simpson
J. Eloise Stockinger Smith
Jeannette Turner Smith
John Snyder
Bill & Sharen Spencer
Joshua Steele
Susan D. Sullivan
Dr. Patricia A. Swalls
Rev. Michael W. Tooley
Elaine Trafton
Floyd Viieth, Jr.
Gerald & Elizabeth Weber
Carolyn M. White
Richard Whiting
Drs. Don K. & Mary Ann Wilder
J.D. & Jeanie Woods
Dr. & Mrs. Curtis Yarbrough
Mrs. Joy Yeager
Dr. Robert Yeager

*Designates a new Living Oak Member added since the last issue.

If your name is appearing incorrectly, please call 812-749-1226 with the correction for the next issue.
Remembering Dr. William R. Hasselbrinck 1929-2016
BY WALLY DUNCAN, ’78

On July 29, 2016, I was saddened to learn of the death of Dr. William R. “Bill” Hasselbrinck, whose keen intellect, dry wit and unique mannerisms made him one of the most colorful and memorable professors ever to conduct a class at Oakland City University. Some of my fondest, and most humorous, memories of my time there revolve around Dr. Hasselbrinck, both in and out of class.

Dr. Hasselbrinck had come to Oakland City College in the mid-sixties as a professor in the Social Sciences Department, and by the time I arrived at OCC in 1974, he had acquired the reputation as being one of the toughest and most intimidating instructors on campus. Because the Social Sciences faculty, like other departments, was small, and because a certain number of Social Science credits were required to complete a degree at OCC, it was practically impossible to get through there without taking one of Dr. Hasselbrinck’s classes. My number came up in 1975, my sophomore year, when I signed up for an 8:00 a.m. course in American government.

One thing I discovered immediately about Dr. Hasselbrinck was that he was a creature of habit—his classroom routine never varied. Every day, as we were assembling for class and waiting for the bell, he would be standing in front of the blackboard in that old Stonin Hall classroom, head down and eyes staring at the floor. The second the bell rang, he would slowly raise his head and begin lecturing, staring out the classroom window as he spoke. He didn’t let up until the next bell rang.

I can honestly say that I found his lectures both interesting and informative. He punctuated his teaching with his unique brand of humor, throwing in side comments like, “Economics has been called a dismal science. This is not entirely true. Economics is not a science—it is, however, dismal.” While I enjoyed his lectures, one day I decided to skip class and sleep in. Not thinking I was missed, I casually took my seat the next morning, only to be startled by the very first question of the day: “Well, Mr. Duncan, now that you’re all rested up, can you tell us the difference between a Republican and a Democrat?”

I can also honestly say that Dr. Hasselbrinck was a most challenging professor in his classes. He certainly kept me on my toes in that early morning class, probably due to the fact that I was called upon to answer about every third question that he asked. Once he caught me nodding; I was in that half-sleep mode when I suddenly heard my name. It startled me awake, and I guess that I had been alert enough to hear the question, because somehow I came up with the correct answer. Obviously perplexed, Dr. Hasselbrinck stared at me for what seemed like 10 minutes. Finally, he said, in that slow drawl, “Mr. Duncan, you amaze me.”

One of the unique things about OCC in those days was the access we had to the professors both in and out of class. At any given time, I could usually find Dr. Hasselbrinck with Dr. Tom Greer, and sometimes Dr. R.B. Smith (two other great professors at the time), having lunch at the cafeteria or coffee at the Oaks. I used to love to sit and listen when Hasselbrinck and Greer engaged in debate about any given subject. Their intellectual banter was pure comedic genius. On one such occasion I had just finished class with Dr. Greer, where we were studying Moby Dick. Dr. Hasselbrinck saw the book in my hand and began relating his take on the novel, saying, “Now as I understand it, the whale didn’t exist.” Dr. Greer quickly corrected this interpretation, and then went on to expound about the importance of the book and its place in modern American literature. When the discussion led to Ernest Hemingway, it became apparent that Dr. Hasselbrinck did not share Dr. Greer’s enthusiasm for modern American literature in general or for Ernest Hemingway in particular: “I’ve read Hemingway, and his books are all about bullfighters.” Greer countered, “They’re not all about bullfighters.”

“Well, bullfighters and war. I’ve read For Whom the Bell Tolls, A Farewell to Arms and The Sun Also Rises.”

“Well, I’ve read them all!”

“Well, I didn’t get that carried away.”

They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. If this is so, Dr. Hasselbrinck was by far the most flattered professor at OCC during my years there. His style and mannerisms provided fodder for countless stories and jokes, and was very much a part of the OCC experience for every student who attended there in the 70’s. Everyone had a Hasselbrinck impression, and everyone instantly knew when someone was impersonating him. Back in those days, he was a much larger man, and he tended to wear shirts that were too tight around his neck so that the corner of his shirt collar always stuck out. Wherever anyone flipped up a collar, we knew a “Hasselbrinck” was coming.

In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Hasselbrinck also served as Academic Dean while I was there. I had the opportunity to work as an admissions counselor at the college after I graduated, and I came to appreciate his devotion to academia, and his desire to maintain the highest academic standards possible for OCU. He had little patience for anyone he thought was not serious about his or her studies.

Once, when a student in our class failed to bring an assigned report, Dr. Hasselbrinck just looked at him and said, “If you choose to remain ignorant, I can’t help you.” Another incident that is told of was when the college was giving an honorary doctorate to singer Tammy Wynette. As they were walking out of the ceremony, Dr. Hasselbrinck turned to Dr. Smith and said, “Well, R.B., did you enjoy Hee Haw?”

William Hasselbrinck left an indelible mark on Oakland City University and upon every student who ever encountered him. In the past several years, I enjoyed seeing him at the annual Founder’s Day and Oak Leaf Society dinners, and having the opportunity to reacquaint myself with him. When I signed up for that American government course all those years ago, never did I dream that I would actually put the knowledge he imparted to me to good use. I will miss him.
William F. "Bill" Ping, '51, was presented the 103rd annual Owensville Watermelon Festival's 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award Thursday evening. Ping, a U.S. Army veteran, was married 60 years to the former Mary Beth Barry of Owensville. In addition to a lifetime of ministry, Ping has also traveled to Haiti (since 1999) to help build churches, schools, orphanages and assisting with health clinics. Presenting the award was festival chair Vanessa Riggs, and former Mary Beth Barry of Owensville. In addition to a lifetime of ministry, Ping has also traveled to Haiti (since 1999) to help build churches, schools, orphanages and assisting with health clinics. Presenting the award was festival chair Vanessa Riggs.

This group of OCU alums met recently in O'Fallon, Illinois. Margaret Moffatt McGirt '72, Carolyn Duckworth Funkhouser '71, June Taylor Detmer, Vickie Barker Hulsey '72.

College friendships last forever. Cherissa Williams '83 and Kim Bilskie '84.

Davies Community Hospital is very pleased to announce that Dr. Rex Stroud, Family Physician, (OCU Class of 1997), recently accepted the position of Chief Medical Officer with Davies Community Hospital. He will continue to provide care for patients of all ages at Stroud Medical in Washington. Dr. Stroud is a member of Davies Community Hospital's Medical Staff.

"Dr. Stroud is a welcome addition to our leadership team," said David Bixler, CEO of Daviess Community Hospital. "He is well respected by his peers and we believe his leadership will be very beneficial to our medical staff." Dr. Stroud earned his MD from Indiana University School of Medicine and is Board Certified in Family Medicine. He has an undergraduate degree from Oakland City University. He has been part of the DCH team for years which has included providing medical care in Daviess Community Hospital's Emergency Department.

When asked about his new role, Dr. Stroud remarked, "I am very excited about this opportunity and to be part of the organization's ongoing growth and success." Stroud Medical is located in the DCH Medical Building, 1401 Memorial Avenue, Suite C, in Washington.

Matt Vollmar, Class of 1999 and former member of Earthlight, recently took time to check in and let us know how his music career is progressing. It was great to connect with him!

1. WHEN WAS THIS BAND ESTABLISHED AND WHY?

The band started a few years after I graduated from OCU. I sang in Earthlight for three years and thought my path would be to join a southern gospel group. I sang some solo performances when I was asked to lead worship at an Assembly Church in Granite City, IL for the youth. I knew four chords on the guitar and used that knowledge to learn all the songs I could off the pink Sonicflood CD. At this church I was joined by my cousin Dustin Sendejas and bassist Rob Boston. We worked on worship tunes and decided to form a band. We picked up Dustin’s drummer from his church, Chad Carpenter, and started asking churches if we could come and play. That was the start of Max Power which eventually became The Great Romance.

2. WHO IS IN THE BAND?

I’m the only OCU alumnus. The band now consists of rotating members, most from Nashville, TN. My guitarist, Chase Weber, plays with me the most. And Jed Primero is on drums about 75% of the time.

3. WHERE ARE YOU BASED?

I’m based out of St. Louis, MO, but most of my bandmates live in Nashville, TN.

4. HOW MANY PERFORMANCES IN 2016?

We’re currently averaging a little over 100 gigs a year all across the U.S.

5. HOW SHOULD SOMEONE CONTACT YOU THAT IS INTERESTED IN BOOKING A DATE?

They can contact us through our website: www.thegreatromance.com and email us directly at: thegreetromance@gmail.com.

6. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MUSIC?

Our sound is pop rock with elements of worship throughout our songs. People compare us to bands like Tenth Avenue North, Chris Tomlin, and Switchfoot.

7. WHAT/HOW HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST INSPIRATION?

I have two answers: If it weren’t for OCU and my time with Earthlight, I would not be doing music full time. It was in college where I developed into the person I am today and the foundations for stage presence, vocal strength and training were laid.

Two: my dad, Randy Vollmar, General Baptist preacher and mom, Virginia. My parents have always been my biggest supporters and have encouraged me to follow God’s calling on my life, even from the time I was young. They would have me singing in a ton of GB Churches as a kid and tell me to use the talent God gave me for Him…or he’d give it to someone else.

8. ARE YOU MARRIED, HAVE A FAMILY?

I am married to my wife Lindsay and we have one cat: Tigger.
9. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE?
One thing I love about our band is how we can adapt to almost any audience. We mostly play events for youth such as camps, retreats and more. But, because of my foundation in hymns and such, we can play a little something for everyone.

10. WHAT IS THE LARGEST VENUE/CROWD YOU HAVE PERFORMED FOR?
One of the largest events we've played was the National Presbyterian Youth Convention at Purdue University in front of 6,000 youth and leaders.

We've also opened up for some big artists in Christian music such as Audio Adrenaline (original), David Crowder, Switchfoot, and most recently, for King and Country and all of those crowds were in the thousands.

11. WHAT KEEPS YOU MOTIVATED?
Doing what I love and feel called to do. Following God's path for my life. The travel, driving, and set up can take a lot out of you but staying focused on God keeps us all motivated as a band.

12. WHAT IS THE GREATEST REWARD FROM PERFORMING?
The greatest reward is having someone come up and tell me that my music helped them get through a tough time or draw closer to God. Just this past weekend a boy at a camp said he had seen us a year ago and was struggling with suicidal thoughts. He told me that our song Stolen Me which talks about feeling alive through Jesus Christ made him realize there was more to live for. That makes it all worth it.

13. IS THIS FULL TIME, OR DO YOU HAVE ANOTHER JOB?
This is my full time job. I also lead music part time at my home church when we are not on the road.

14. ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?
We just released our newest EP called “Who You Are” which is available on ITUNES: https://itun.es/us/0AFreb. Also, I want to be an encourager to anyone who has a dream or a calling from God. No matter how crazy it might seem, if God has really called you to do something, ignore the naysayers and go after it with all you've got! God will take care of the rest.

FROM PRISON GARDENS TO FOOD PANTRIES... OCU PROVIDES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Pearson, Director of Correctional Education, reports that as of August 5th, the offenders have grown and donated 3,208 pounds of produce has been to local food pantries and senior centers. What a blessing for both the givers and the receivers. Our prison programs are truly changing lives for those inside and outside the walls.

As many of you know, Oakland City University provides vocational and educational courses in nine correctional facilities within the state of Indiana. At the facility at Putnamville, classes in horticulture are offered. As part of their training, the offenders plant, tend and harvest large vegetable gardens. Ted

CATCHING UP WITH... ELVIS ’64 & MARY LOU WILSON

Dr. Elvis, ’64, and Mary Lou Wilson celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on June 5, 2016 at Connection Point Church in Jackson, MO at a reception given by their children. Debbie Carlton, Rick & Gay Wilson, Beckie Figliolo, and Chuck and Rhonda Wilson. The entire family attended church together and celebrated with dinner at Delmonico’s in Jackson. Attending the reception were many friends and relatives that Elvis and Mary Lou had not seen for many years.

Elvis and Mary Lou were married on June 2, 1946 by Dr. Onis Chapman, former president of OCU, at the General Baptist Church in Owensville, IN. Elvis entered the ministry in 1959 and graduated from OCU in 1964. He pastored churches in Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri. He was elected to the OCU Board of Trustees in 1969. He was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of OCU during the ’70’s and ’80’s and is presently an Honorary Trustee. The Honorary Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon Elvis on November 6, 1998.

Elvis and Mary Lou now reside in Valrico, FL where they are active in New Hope Church of Brandon, FL. Elvis teaches a Bible Class at the church and Mary Lou sings in the choir. They are also active in the community where they live. Mary Lou is editor of the monthly newsletter, The Quill of Featherock and the annual phone book of the community.

During the reception a presentation was made to Elvis by his family of a “Quilt of Valor”. The beautiful patriotic quilt was hand-crafted by their daughter, Debbie Carlton. “Quilts of Valor” is an official project to honor and comfort those touched by war. Elvis served in the U.S. Navy during 1944 - 1946.

ALUM STEVE SCHROEDER LAUNCHES NEW BUSINESS IN BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

Founded by Bloomington native Steve Schroeder, Zeitgeist’s premium fresh fruit sorbets and indulgent vegan frozen treats are all crafted in true artisan style. Zeitgeist is a proud member and supporter of the Bloomington community and collaborates with other local businesses and restaurants to drive growth and awareness of organic foods and products. Steve Schroeder studied culinary arts with Oakland City University and started his business in 2015. Check out Zeitgeist on FaceBook, twitter and Instagram.
James Edward “Jim” Julian
March 17, 1935 - October 3, 2015

Dr. James E. “Jim” Julian, Class of 1971, Pastor of Herald Baptist Church and owner of Beckles Candies, accepted his new assignment in Heaven on October 3, 2015. In June of 1965, Jim and Eddi Marie Evans, Class of 1963, were married in Evansville, Indiana. As an extension of their ministry, he and Eddi Marie have owned and operated Beckles Candies and Gifts since 1988.

Pastor Jim was active in local, state, and denominational affairs. In 2002, Oakland City University (Indiana) honored him with a Doctor of Humanities degree for his continuous service in multiple arenas. Dr. Jim was also recognized locally with the Good Shepherd Award and nationally the Silver Good Shepherd Award by the Association of Baptists for Scouting.

The Celebration of Dr. Julian’s Life and Legacy took place at Herald General Baptist Church, Saturday, October 10, 2015.

Julian Family Establishes Endowed Scholarship

The Dr. James and Eddi Marie Julian Endowment Scholarship is established in order to honor a lifelong commitment to the purpose of helping others desiring an opportunity to pursue intellectual and spiritual growth. This fund will continue that commitment and assist deserving students in obtaining their education at Oakland City University. Students who receive the Dr. James and Eddi Marie (Evans) Julian Scholarship will Go Forth To Serve throughout the world, sharing the love of Christ and fulfilling the mission of the University.

Gifts in memory of James Julian for this scholarship may be sent to Oakland City University, Advancement Office, 138 N. Lucretia St., Oakland City, IN 47660

Angela Turpin certainly never expected a park to become a defining moment in her life, but then again, she’s becoming accustomed to the unexpected.

Turpin, a Mitchell native and mother of two, is leading the charge to help Hoosier Uplands build a community park near Meridian Road and East Frank Street on Mitchell’s east side. The park is being constructed on three acres of land that once housed a blighted trailer park. Hoosier Uplands purchased the trailer park, hauled out all the mobile homes and cleared the area about three years ago.

“But there was no real plan for the area,” said David Miller, chief executive officer of Hoosier Uplands.

So, at the beginning of this year, he approached Turpin, who sits on the Hoosier Uplands’ board, and asked her to form a committee. Those individuals — Emily Drake, Mark Jessie, Albert Tolbert, John Turpin, Danny Baker and Miller — would be charged with coming up with a plan for the park.

The project is close to her heart because not only does she live near the proposed park, but when her own life seemed bleak and without hope, the community gave her the tools to pick herself back up.

HOPE IS BORN

Turpin was a young, stay-at-home mother of a 3-year-old when an abusive marriage turned her life upside down. She ended up alone and penniless and didn’t know where to turn.

“Once I learned what went into Head Start, my heart was all in.”

One day, while visiting the Mitchell center, she saw a flyer from Capstone Ministries — a Mitchell organization that does charitable projects in the community through the funding it generates from the ReGeneration thrift store — for a scholarship essay contest.

“I always wanted to go to school, but it was never realistic for me,” said Turpin, who describes the day she learned she won the contest as “one of the first days of the rest of my life.”

Capstone paid whatever expenses her grants didn’t cover, and Turpin graduated with both an associate degree and later a bachelor’s degree from Oakland City University. Both were in business administration.
“I couldn’t have done this without my family, Hoosier Uplands and Capstone Ministries,” Turpin said. “I’ve been so blessed and had so much given to me. I made a promise the day I was called by Capstone Ministries to learn I won the contest. I promised them I’d give back to my community. It was the least I could do after they changed my life.

“I know they say I changed my own life, but they gave me the ability to change my life and my child’s life. You don’t have to come from much, but we can all go to much.”

In fact, accessible playground equipment will be installed next week. Sidewalks and a shelter house are under construction at the park. A basketball court and soccer field will round out the park. A grand opening is planned for July 16.

Turpin describes herself as a “background person” and points toward her committee as the real reason the park is coming to fruition.

“My motto all along has been ‘teamwork makes the dream work,’ and the people on this committee are the ones making this work,” Turpin said. “I am so thankful for their willingness to do whatever it takes to make this park a success. I couldn’t do any of this without them.”

But she wanted to tell her story hoping it would help unify the community and push others toward making a difference in their lives and the lives of others.

“If anyone can take anything from me, it’s to give,” Turpin said. “You never know how you’re going to change a life. Hoosier Uplands and Capstone Ministries changed my life, and if I can do anything to continue that legacy, I will.”

She points to the life of Ollie Eager. Eager once managed Carpenter Body Works and was credited with pulling the employees of the manufacturing facility together after a fire destroyed the factory in the 1930s. She wrote a report about Eager for a school project. His legacy of unity is one she’d like to see for Mitchell.

“A new book, Pike County, Indiana Notables: 1816-2016, recognizes 122 Pike County persons who received special recognition for significant achievements in their chosen fields.

At least 23 Pike County notables attended OCU and their stories are fascinating and inspiring. A few examples include the college’s first student, and later its President, William Dearing 1895 who served as President of OCU for 42 years and was one of the longest serving college presidents in the nation. He was born in a log cabin near Littles in Pike County.

President Dearing is credited with recruiting the students, faculty, and funds necessary to make OCU a viable Christian University. He was a memorable and popular speaker and delivered more than 900 speeches to area high schools, churches and civic groups in order to build-up Oakland City University.

The Lyceum Magazine of Chicago named Dearing as one of the three most popular speakers among college presidents. He was known for his power of oratory and his life philosophy. Among Dearing’s most requested addresses were “Character Building,” “If I Were You,” “The Educated Man and His Mission,” “The Old and the New,” “The Dignity of Youth,” “The Teacher’s Creed,” “A Theology for the Business Man,” and “The Fine Art of Appreciation.”

President James A. Dearing was an OCU alumnus and is the namesake of the Dearing Library.
Pike County provided two additional OCU presidents. President Onis Chapman 1936 served as President from 1955 to 1965 and is from Spurgeon in Pike County. He was followed by Carl Shepard 1941 who served as President from 1965-1968, and was also from Spurgeon.

Emory “Big Rich” Richardson 1912 was designated Indiana’s Poet Laureate in 1928 and was recognized as Indiana’s Poet Laureate for the next four decades. At a lanky six-foot- two, he was the tallest player on the OCC basketball team. To help pay for college, he set up a shop where he washed, cleaned, pressed, and sewed other students’ clothing. He is from Union in Pike County.

Following college, he became a state-wide known Hoosier composer of poems and songs. One of Richardson’s first poems, “My Alligator Grin,” was his life trademark. He began each talk with a big grin and his philosophy “Let’s just trade grins and then be friends.” When asked for his autograph, he signed with his eight-word statement of life.

His writing style was full of homespun humor, similar to that of Indiana’s James Whitcomb Riley. Big Rich, as he was known, spoke and entertained organizations throughout Indiana and spoke in 49 states. He lived in Evansville during his adult years and the Evansville Courier wrote, Big Rich “is probably Evansville’s best known name in the Tri State.”

Melba Phillips 1926 became one of America’s earliest female PhD theoretical physicists during an era when very few women participated in this branch of physics. She worked with both Oppenheimer and Einstein. She grew up on the family farm near Union in Pike County, graduated from OCU in 1926 and earned a PhD at the University of California, Berkeley.

Phillips pursued physics and math courses at Oakland City College, even though no physics major was offered. She wrote that her Oakland City College math professor, William Jordan, “was a source of strength and inspiration well beyond [the] mathematics he taught.”

At age 28, she and Oppenheimer (known as the Father of the Atomic Bomb) published the explanation of the behavior of accelerated nuclear reactions, known as the “Oppenheimer-Phillips Reaction.” This explanation was Phillips’ most famous contribution to nuclear physics and is still in use today. Phillips was recommended to Albert Einstein at age 30, she was offered a job as a researcher at the University of California, Berkeley.

At age 30, she was recommended to Albert Einstein (called the smartest man in the world) to edit his new physics book, “The Evolution of Physics from Early Concepts to Relativity and Quanta.” Phillips worked as a fellow at Princeton’s Institute of Advanced Studies during 1937-38 while she edited his book. When asked what it was like to work with Einstein, she said, “Oh, physicists didn’t work with Einstein, physicists work for Einstein.”

In 1952, a U.S. Senate Judiciary subpoened Phillips. She invoked the Fifth and Sixth Amendments and declined to answer when asked if she had ever been a member of the Communist Party. Her refusal to answer brought immediate and severe repercussions. Two weeks later she lost her long time Brooklyn College professorship and, for five years, was unemployed and unemployable.

Dr. Phillips was eventually invited back to academia and went on to teaching physics at the University of Chicago, the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook, New York, and at the Graduate School of the University of Science and Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, China. Later she was publically honored by her profession with major awards and a professional medal being named for her.

Melba Phillips is arguably the state of Indiana’s most accomplished female physicist of her era or any era.

Ralph Coleman 1931 became chair of the Mathematics Department in the University of Evansville. He served as the acting Vice President of academic Affair for the University during the 1970’s.

Coleman graduated from OCC in 1931, earned a PhD at Indiana University and went on to teach math in Stendal and Otwell in Pike County before joining the University faculty in 1946. He was raised on a farm near Algiers in Pike County. He recalled “While in grade school, I got up one frigid morning to shuck corn. I decided then and there not to go into farming, but to become a teacher.”

Theodore Roosevelt Hunley 1938 was assigned, at the request of Dr. Janet Travell, President Kennedy’s personal physician, to be available as a dentist for the president and the president’s family. He grew up in Pike County, graduated from OCU and then earned his doctorate in dental surgery and pursued a 23 year naval career.

Following the death of President Kennedy, he continued to be one of the dentists for President Johnson and Johnson’s family. He recounted that Lady Bird Johnson was his White House favorite. He regularly helicoptored to Camp David, the presidential retreat, where he established a dental service for the Camp David staff.

Following retirement from Navy service, he continued to teach young, aspiring dentists as a part time Professor of Operative Dentistry at the Indiana University School of Dentistry in Indianapolis.

A Parting Request
To all good Hoosiers
On Hoosier soil or sad
Take a brand new grip
And hold on to God

A Parting Request
To all good Hoosiers
On Hoosier soil or sad
Take a brand new grip
And hold on to God

Miles traveled ........................................ 5,567
Public addresses .................................. 128
Letters written ...................................... 675
Churches visited .................................. 104
Special Sunday School meetings ............. 55
Sunday School conventions attended ....... 10

Brewster did not let the fact that she was not an ordained minister, or that she was a woman, prevent her from doing whatever needed doing. She mobilized her denomination’s women on behalf of missions. During her last 20 years Asenath worked in the slums of Louisville, Kentucky. She always chose to live among the poorest people she served.

Brewster organized the first Women’s Missionary Society in the General Baptist denomination. In her honor, the General Baptist named an annual Christmas missions offering the “Asenath Brewster offering.”

She died of a heart attack at age 72 on Good Friday, 1952, while conducting an eight week Vacation Bible School in a blighted area of Louisville, recording 46 conversions and rededications. She was returned to her beloved Winslow Baptist church for interment.

These graduates validate that OCU’s Go Forth To Serve is more than a motto. It’s a calling, a lifestyle and a mission for its graduates. The footprints the graduates leave are profound and vast.

About the Author: Arthur “Art” Miller was born and raised on a Washington township farm, was active in 4-H for 10 years, graduated from Petersburgh High School in 1950, and receive a degree in business from Indiana University in 1954. He is grateful that his Pike County roots run six generations deep. Although he has not lived in Indiana for many years, he often returns to Petersburgh to maintain contact with family and friends. In his retirement, the former businessman devotes much of his time to researching and writing about his passion, Pike County. Art resides in La Jolla, California and wrote this book in conjunction with the state of Indiana and Pike County celebrating their Bicentennial in 2016.

Note: The book, Pike County, Indiana Notables 1816-2016, is available at the Pike County History Center at 1204 Main Street in Petersburg for $10, or email the author artmiley@gmail.com.
MISSION STATEMENT:

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

Oakland City University was formed in 1885 out of the persistent effort of a committed group of General Baptist pioneers. These founders set out to see that the gospel of Jesus Christ was proclaimed through education. Our founders would be pleased to know that the cause for which they struggled and sacrificed is still alive and well today.

While Oakland City University is conscious of the call of God, honoring our ties to the General Baptist denomination, and mindful of the church universal, we welcome all people from all faiths to realize their education dream. Oakland City University stands for academic excellence in a warm, Christian environment.

Oakland City University’s motto is “Enter to learn. Go forth to serve.” Not only do we stand proudly on the meaning of that phrase as individuals, but we go forth as a university to provide the highest quality Christian education!