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Dr. Ray Barber Announces Retirement
The Connection

Oakland City University’s 9th President, Dr. Ray Barber has announced he will retire on December 31, 2019, following more than a decade of service as CEO.

Dr. Barber has expressed his appreciation to the OCU community. He said “God has richly blessed Beth and me throughout our service at this illustrious institution and through the many friendships we have established. We look forward to the next phase of our lives, personally with the assurance that God will guide the Oakland City University family into a bright future.”

Mr. Bill Blackburn, Chair of the Board of Trustees, said “The board is grateful for Dr. Barber’s years of service and we wish him and his family well as they transition into this new chapter.”
Getting to Know Bob Bean

Bob Bean graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Religious Studies and English in 1967 and a MDiv at the United Theological Seminary. Of his time at OCU, Bob says “I was able to get back in touch with my Christian walk at OCU. I answered the call to ministry at a Monday night prayer meeting that was held in a small room in the old gym.” Since that time, he has served as Prison Chaplain in Terre Haute, Indiana for eight and half years, Wisconsin and Virginia. He has pastored churches in Indiana and Georgia. For the last 24 years, he has lived in Brunswick, Georgia employed at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) as BSD Instructor and retired chaplain, Bureau of Prisons. In his time there, he has written a column twice monthly “From the Chaplain’s Desk” for The Glynco Observer, the newspaper for staff and students at FLETC. He is retiring in January and recently completed his 576th story. Bob is quite the story teller. Due to its length, the story can be found on the Alumni Facebook page and on the https://www.oak.edu/about/campus-news/bob-bean-occ-alumnus-retires website. Here is a photo with his dream car to entice you to read his story online. We wish Bob all the best in his years to come and hope he will continuing telling his stories.

“As I close this chapter of my life at FLETC, I want to thank The Glynco Observer staff for the opportunity that was made possible for me to share my faith in a story form. For 24 years, twice a month, I made the deadline for a story in The Observer. That totals 576 stories. My, my how time does fly.

For the faithful readers who have been so kind to give me encouragement during my pilgrimage, your kind words have humbled me. For reading a few of my stories more than once, thank you for your patience. Some weeks my writer’s ink well was totally dry.

Many of my stories were not “victory laps” but more of a limp around the track after falling flat on my face. We limped together and felt stronger because our loneliness was chased away with our love.

My last story is the story about my love for my parents, Don and Margaret Bean. Many of you already know about my Mom and Dad from my stories about them. As a coal miner’s son from the mystical hills of Southern Indiana, I have owned two 1951 Fords. My first one was when I was 17 years old. The picture shows me sitting in my second ’51 Ford at 74 years old. In my retirement, my first bucket list project this spring will be to drive my ’51 Ford 900 miles to Lynnville, Indiana (center of the universe). Come ride with me one more time as I share my love story about a Father and a Son that learned on Christmas morning how to show the world that they loved each other.”
Feliz Año Nuevo from South of the border. Joe and I retired in Ajijic, Mexico on Lake Chapala in 2012, an art community 50 miles south of Guadalajara. The first question people usually ask us is, “Do you feel safe down there?” And, yes, we feel perfectly safe here! Sure there are dangerous parts of Mexico just as there are dangerous parts of the United States, but the crime rate where we live is much lower than the crime rate in Evansville, Indiana, where we moved from. Our Mexican neighbors are our friends! When there is a need, we all pull together. When there is a celebration such as a wedding, a birth, or a death, we’re all there for it. Just before Christmas the neighborhood had a Posada; a ritual re-enactment of Mary and Joseph’s searching for lodging in Bethlehem. Later everyone gathered for Pozole, a traditional Mexican stew, tamales, Ponche, a warm Christmas punch, and pinatas filled with candy for the children. The posada is just one of many celebrations throughout the year that our neighborhood and village come together to celebrate.

As soon as we moved into our new home Joe immediately set up a ceramic studio and began researching local clay. The best clay he has found so far is in the mountains right behind our home. Being retired he has many more hours to create new sculptures. Since retirement, he has had 6 international exhibits as well as several local. Currently, he is preparing for an upcoming show at the Ajijic Cultural Center, the Pat Apt Gallery, and a publication. In addition to his own work, he continues to love teaching. Each Saturday Joe opens his studio to the children in our neighborhood. Typically there are between 10-25 children who enjoy creating with clay. Joe also sings in a professional international choir and our church choir.

One day each week I work at FM4 Paso Libre a non-profit organization dedicated to the defense and promotion of human rights of migrants and refugees through comprehensive humanitarian assistance and advocacy. Our team is made up of an extensive group of activists, academics, students, professionals, religious affiliates, mothers and fathers. We work together with other civil society organizations, educational institutions, churches, research centers and a network of people related to the cause who contribute their resources, experience and work to create a hospitable society seeking the passage...
migrant or refugee to be more dignified and fair by providing safe shelter, food, medical care from Doctors Without Borders, legal assistance, showers, toiletries and a change of clothes.

My grandmother, OCU alumni, Geraldine Woolsey, moved to Mexico to live with us in 2014. One day while Joe and I were in Indiana visiting with her she said, “Can I live with you?” surprised, I said, “You want to live in Mexico?” and her reply made it impossible for us to refuse her request, “Everyone should have one last adventure!” At age 91, she moved to Mexico with us where she enjoyed playing cards with neighbors, helping Joe with the children on Saturdays, meeting new friends at the village plaza, attending music performances, and most of all she enjoyed sitting and reading on our mirador (veranda) looking out over Lake Chapala and the Sierra Madre mountains. Joe and I were both with her holding her hands when she passed away peacefully December 23, 2016. We were blessed to have her with us the last two years of her life!

In 2015 another OCU alumni moved to Mexico. Sister Kristine Anne Harpenau ('71), retired music teacher and Major Superior of Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Indiana moved to Ajijic, Mexico as a missionary in a local orphanage. She lives with us and has become part of our family!

Together, Sister Kris and I are writing a book entitled Imagine Peace: What can I do. Publication set for spring 2019. Through stories the book describes how peace begins with each of us; creating peace in ourselves, our families, neighborhoods, and in our world. It celebrates the hopeful stories of ordinary people who imagined and then stepped out of their comfort zones to create peace. It is a challenge to each of us to be part of the peace process.

Last year two other members of the OCU family, Dr. Chuck McKinney and Zoe Payne, moved to Ajijic, Mexico. Each Wednesday Chuck, Zoe, Sister Kris, Joe and I gather at each other’s homes to spend time in prayer and meditation and then share a meal together. While we all attend church on Sunday mornings our small prayer group has become our faith community.

In addition to our creative endeavors and volunteer work, Joe and I enjoy hiking in the mountains, attending performing arts productions, art shows, exploring historic and religious sites throughout Mexico, dinner parties with friends, and having our children/grandchildren visit us. We also enjoy traveling; most recently we spent 6 weeks in Guatemala on Lake Atitlan and 3 weeks in Cuba. Fall 2019 we will spend 6 months traveling through Eastern Europe, Greece and Turkey.

We visit our family and friends in the States for a month twice a year and while we love being with them, we always look forward to returning to the beauty of our village. The cobblestone streets, children playing outside, families sitting in front of their houses in the evenings, the occasional horse being ridden down the street, the sounds of chickens and donkeys, the vista of the mountains and lake, the ringing of the church bells, purple and pink bougainvillea vining over stone walls, the smell of tortillas wafting from open doors, people greeting us as we pass by, all call us back to paradise!
RECENT CAMPUS VISITORS

A.J. Ford ’10, visited in December while he was in the states. A.J. serves as a missionary in Honduras to special needs boys. To find out more, look him up on Facebook.

Miss Marietta Smith attended Carolyn Browning Weng’s art exhibit in November at the Dunn Gallery. Marietta served many years as administrative assistant to the Alumni Office with then Director, Dr. Judy Whitten.

Carolyn Browning Weng, guest of honor at her Dunn Gallery exhibit with Roger Willis ’69, OCU Gallery Director.

Our weekly chapel service guest speakers were Scott Fowler and Josh Townsend, members of the Legacy Five southern gospel group.

is there a new
“little acorn”
in your house?

The Office of Alumni relations is looking for our newest little acorns. In past issues, we have proudly announced the births of alumni babies and grandbabies, in what we like to call our “Little Acorns” page. We would love to post your baby’s photo, up to one year of age (or a family photo) in our next issue. All you need to do is email the photo (high resolution), baby’s name and DOB, parents’ name and years attended or graduated and mailing address. Each of our Little Acorns will receive a special gift from the Alumni Office and the OCU Campus Store. We know there are a lot of beautiful Little Acorns out there, so send your photo and info by June 1, 2019.
Ms. Luane Clark came to campus as a freshman in 1967 and never left. There are likely more alumni who know her name and face than any other staff member on campus. She has become a campus icon for multiple generations of students. Luane lived in campus housing for many years, participated in gospel mission trips and was active in various campus activities. On December 31, 2018, she retired to her home in Henderson, Kentucky.

In a recent interview, Luane was asked how she would like to be remembered after she retires. She stated “Remember me as a pleasant, fun person who did my job. Doing your job well is important, but the relationships with others is the most important. It’s been a wonderful experience that I have enjoyed so much.”

When asked about highlights of her years here, Luane said that she really enjoyed the interaction with students. She was the sponsor for the Student Christian Association for more than 40 years. Luane worked in the Business Office for a year and a half, then spent the rest of her time here in the Education Department as an administrative assistant.

There is no doubt that Luane Clark loves this school; bubbling over when she talks about OCU. She truly enjoyed working with other departments and loved helping others saying “People really care about one another. I have worked here for this long because that is true.”

Luane is looking forward to volunteering with children in some way. She loves children and has volunteered at the local elementary school for special events. She’s not sure what the future holds, but trusts God for guidance. We wish you all the best, Luane, well done!

For anyone wishing to contact Luane, her home address is:

**Ms. Luane Clark**  
**44 N Garden Gate Drive**  
**Henderson, Kentucky 42420**

This quote sums up perfectly how Luane feels about her career at Oakland City University:

“There are no letters in the alphabet to make the words to explain how much I love this school and what it stands for.”
Recently, a group of OCU freshmen participated in a service learning project at the Good Samaritan Home and Rehabilitation Center. Students delivered personalized Christmas cards and shared Christmas carols with residents during their visit. They were accompanied by: Pam Jackson, Brad Knotts, Josh Brown, and Dr. Steve Custer. The group is pictured here in the lobby of Good Samaritan Home in Oakland City.

Progress can be seen every day on the site of our planned student housing and retail space. Tentative completion date is late 2019. Raising funds for this project is ongoing. If you would like to make a gift, find out about naming opportunities or have questions, contact Brian Baker, Associate VP for Advancement at bbaker@oak.edu or 812.749.1228.
IHS Presents Oakland City University Professor with 2018 Dorothy Riker Hoosier Historian Award

Oakland City, Ind.—Over more than three decades, Randy K. Mills of Oakland City,” (OCU Class of 1973) has established himself as a prolific writer and leading scholar of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Indiana.

For this reason and others, the Indiana Historical Society (IHS) proudly names Mills the recipient of the 2018 Dorothy Riker Hoosier Historian Award. The award is named for Dorothy Riker, who enjoyed a 50-year career at IHS, and recognizes historians who have made distinguished contributions to the field of historical scholarship, including presentation and preservation.

Mills is a professor in the Education Leadership Program at Oakland City University. He is also the author of more than 50 articles in academic history journals, magazines and publications, such as Indiana Magazine of History, Ohio Valley History and Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History.

“I have read a number of his books and many papers, all of which I found to embody the highest standards of scholarship,” writes historian and author Fergus M. Bordewich in a letter of support. “In each instance, though thoroughly rooted in the historical soil of Indiana, his works transcend the local and regional to capture or illustrate larger national perspectives.”

Mills is one of seven individuals that will be recognized at IHS’s annual Founders Day dinner on Monday, Nov. 5, at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center in downtown Indianapolis. The Founders Day event, sponsored by Hirtle, Callaghan & Co., celebrates the accomplishments of historians, teachers, writers and businesses from around the state, as well as the work of IHS.

For more information on this event and other Indiana Historical Society programs, call (317) 232-1882 or visit www.indianahistory.org.

Dr. Randy K. Mills

ABOUT THE INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Since 1830, the Indiana Historical Society has been Indiana's Storyteller™, connecting people to the past by collecting, preserving and sharing the state’s history. A private, nonprofit membership organization, IHS maintains the nation’s premier research library and archives on the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest and presents a unique set of visitor experiences called the Indiana Experience. IHS also provides support and assistance to local museums and historical groups; publishes books and periodicals; sponsors teacher workshops; produces and hosts art exhibitions, museum, theater and outside performance groups; and provides youth, adult and family programs. IHS is a Smithsonian Affiliate and a member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.
LIFETIME LIVING OAK MEMBERS

1940's
Rev. Cecil ‘49 & Lois Robertson
Jeannine Anson ‘51
Reba Emerson Benson ‘59
Phillip ‘58 & Sharen ‘69 Buyher
Daniel Ditzer ‘55
Mrs. Lenneta Burl Ellis ‘52
Joe E. Fielden ‘56
Drs. Charles ‘57 & Jean Glasgow
Dr. Leroy Jolly ‘57
Rev. C. Glen Lashley ‘56
Antonia B. Lyzenga ‘58
Lois A. Mondy ‘54
Lois J. Murray ‘59
Arvin Roberson ‘50
Mrs. Diana Sablan ‘53

1950’s
Carol J. Graf ’65
Dr. Darroll ‘64 & Savannah ‘62 Hargraves
Lindel O. Hume ‘69
Bette Jo Georges Hunt ‘60
Max W. Jacobus ‘63
Marion R. ‘64 & Janet James
David ‘66 & Karen ‘65 Jones
Eddi Marie Evans Julian ‘63
Charles ‘62 & Rita ‘67 Knight
Rev. Billy L. Secoy ‘61
John K. Snyder ‘65
Bill ‘66 & Sharen Spencer
Rev. Michael W. Tooley ‘63
Royce ‘64 & Rose Traylor
Floyd E. Vieth ‘63
Richard T. Whiting ‘66
Drs. Donald ‘63 & Mary Ann Wilder
Dr. Curtis ‘67 & Pauletta Yarbrough

1960’s
Y. Elaine Trafton ’68
Jerry L. ‘69 & Pam Aigner
Dr. Gary W. Barrett ‘61
Robert A. Bean ‘67
Drs. Wayne & Edna ‘68 Brumfield
David ‘63 & Aasta ‘63 Carver
Terry L. Crane ‘62
Dr. Bob ‘67 & Norma ‘81 Doane
Dr. & Mrs. Leland ‘62 Duncan
Larry ’67 & Martha ‘66 Emge
M. Rosetta Fritz ‘60
Louie Medlin ‘67
Mr. Melvin ‘67 & Mrs. Janice ‘69 Menke
Lou R. Meuche ‘66
Betty ‘64 Montgomery
Marsha Orth Moore ‘60
Judy A. Phillips ‘62
Joan R. Reed ‘61
Coaina M. ‘61 & Rod ‘64 Rosenbury
Michael ’67 & Nancy ’68 Scherschel
Rev. Billy L. Secoy ‘61
John K. Snyder ‘65
Bill ‘66 & Sharen Spencer
Rev. Michael W. Tooley ‘63
Royce ‘64 & Rose Traylor
Floyd E. Vieth ‘63
Richard T. Whiting ‘66
Drs. Donald ‘63 & Mary Ann Wilder
Dr. Curtis ‘67 & Pauletta Yarbrough

1970’s
Patricia M. Berbeco ‘70
Angela (Shelton) Blackburn ‘78
Rev. Fred J. Brittain ‘70
Tom Doty ‘70
Dr. Wally ‘78 & Kathy ‘75 Duncan
Terry ‘70 & Marilyn ‘70 Enlow
Cynthia Helton ‘70
Janice S. Loveless ‘73
Michael J. Murray ‘79
Marlene Nalley ‘73
A. Janet Parrish ‘70
Kenneth ‘77 & Kathy ‘76 Perkins
Gary ‘75 & Donna Vilet Pruett
Carolyn M. White ‘72
J.D. ‘73 & Jeanie ‘74 Woods

1980’s
Mark ’85 and Valorie ’91 Cowserl
Dr. Ray ‘85 & Beth ‘01 Barber
Dr. Walter “Gator” Carnahan ‘82
Melvin Menke 1962 RECEIVES EDUCATOR AWARD

Melvin Menke (Class of 1962) received the distinguished educator award in May 2018. This award is presented annually to a retired educator who served with distinction in the Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools or in a school that is located within the present boundaries of the school corporation.

Melvin Menke graduated from Holland High School in 1958 and Oakland City University in 1962. He attained a Master of Science degree in 1968 from Western Michigan University. He started his career teaching at Dale High School, teaching math for seven years. He continued his teaching career at Jasper High School where he remained in the math department for the next 35 years. He retired from teaching in 2004. Menke has served on both the Dubois Rural Electric Board and the Dubois County Council. He is a member of the Holland Kiwanis and the Huntingburg Optimist Clubs. He has been a lifelong member of Salem United Methodist Church of Christ.

He and his wife, Janice (Class of 1969) have been married over 50 years. They have three children: Craig Menke, Angela Ballou, Lisa Rasche, and four grandchildren. The Menkes reside in Huntingburg where he is still farming the land which has been in his family since 1877. He is available to call for a square dance at any event.
Melba Newell Phillips, the first female president of the American Association of Physics Teachers, died on November 8, 2004.

Phillips was born in Hazleton, Indiana, on February 1, 1907. She received a B.A. from Oakland City College in 1926 and her M.A. from Battle Creek College in 1928. She was a Whiting fellow at the University of California, Berkeley from 1932-1933 when she received a Ph.D. in physics.

Phillips was the first graduate student of J. Robert Oppenheimer to receive a degree in theoretical physics. The two physicists in 1935 offered an explanation of the mechanism of the nuclear reaction between a proton and a deuteron, which has come to be known as the Oppenheimer-Phillips Process.

During World War II, she did research on radar countermeasures at Harvard Radio Research Lab, and following the war she was appointed to the Columbia University Radiation Laboratory. At this time she also was an assistant professor in the Physics Department at Brooklyn College.

In 1952, during the infamous McCarthy era, Brooklyn College and the Columbia Radiation Laboratory dismissed Phillips for refusing to cooperate with a congressional committee that was investigating friends and colleagues. In 1987, Brooklyn College publicly apologized.

Phillips history of service to AAPT and to physics education is long and varied. In 1966, during her term as President, the Executive Secretary and TPT Editor, J.W. Buchta passed away. Phillips, with the other Board officers, assumed his duties until a replacement could be found. In addition to her years on the Executive Board, Phillips served as Acting Executive Officer during 1975-1977.

In 1981, to recognize her creative leadership and dedicated service, AAPT created the Melba Newell Phillips Award. Phillips became the first recipient in 1982. The award is given only occasionally to those who show similar achievements and exceptional contributions to the Association. Phillips also received AAPT’s Distinguished Service Citation and the Oersted Medal. In 2003, the American Physical Society granted her the Joseph A. Burton Forum Award. She was the co-author of two textbooks in

Dr. Mills’ efforts persuaded the Indiana Historical Society to agree to a historical marker on the OCU campus and donations were collected from alumni and friends to fund the marker, which will be placed on campus in fall of 2019.

IN MEMORIAM: MELBA NEWELL PHILLIPS 1907–2004

Alumni, the Gibson County Visitors and Tourism Commission, faculty and staff have responded to support a project spear-headed by Dr. Randy K. Mills ’73. Dr. Mills recently wrote an article about Melba Phillips which was published in the Summer 2018 issue of Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History, a publication of The Indiana Historical Society. The six-page article tells of Dr. Phillips beginnings at Oakland City College in the 1920’s and the successes and disappointments in her career as the foremost female physicist of her time. Below is a copy of her obituary that lists her career highlights.

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science: “Electricity and Magnetism” with Wolfgang Panofsky, and “Principles of Physical Science” with F. Bonner.

• Phillips came by her love of teaching early on, as her maternal grandmother, her father, and his siblings were all teachers at one point in their lives. When she was 16, she applied for her teaching certificate and passed. However, Indiana law required all teachers to be at least 18 years old, so Phillips decided to go to college. She had acquired a love of physics in high school, and pursued physics and math classes in college even though there was no physics major. She later wrote that her math professor, William Jordan, “was a source of strength and inspiration well beyond the mathematics he taught.”

• Phillips later created the “William Jordan Endowment Scholarship” at Oakland City University, Oakland City, Indiana, in memory and honor of Jordan. The family requests that any memorials be directed to the Scholarship.

2019 MIGHTY OAKS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Nancy Lee Byrns          Karen F. Elkins Strait          Vance S. Meier          Gay M. Weir
Norma M. Callis          Danniece R. Henderson          William F. Ping          L. Ray Winkler
Elizabeth Dunlap          John P. McElhone          Joan R. Reed

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2019 DUES?

Your support makes it possible for the Alumni Relations Office to succeed. Please mail your dues in today, or go to www.oak.edu ► Click on “Menu” and scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Alumni & Friends ► give now ► then select Alumni Dues on the form. Or use the form below and the enclosed envelope to send in your dues. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

With a minimum contribution of $50 you become an active member of the OCU Alumni Association. Here’s how to get connected: Check one of the following categories of membership and return this form with your check or credit card information.

Name: _________________________________________________________________ Class Year ________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________________

City / State / Zip: _____________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________ Email: __________________________

☐ Check Enclosed   ☐ Pay By Credit Card: ☐ American Express  ☐ Discover  ☐ VISA  ☐ MasterCard

Card # ____________________________

☐ $50.00 — Mighty Oak Society* Expiration date: ____________ CVV Code: ____________

☐ $1,000.00 — Living Oak Society* How do you want your name listed for publication?

*Can be individual or couple
In December 2018, a group of 1990’s through 2000’s alumni had an informal reunion on campus. Spearheaded by Terry Prather ’98 and assisted by Brian Baker and Susan Sullivan, several alums and their families came to enjoy an afternoon of food, fellowship and fun. The gathering was hosted in the Student Life Center and catered by Pioneer College Caterers. After much visiting and catching up, the alums and families were treated to free admission to the Mighty Oaks Basketball game courtesy of the Athletic Department. Many thanks to all that attended and especially to Paula Prather for her wonderful scrapbooks of their college years. **Do you have a group of college friends that would like to come back to campus for a visit? We would love to host you.** Just call or email Susan Sullivan, 812.766.3858 or ssullivan@oak.edu. WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Attending from left to right: Attending with their families were back row: Brian Baker, Dr. Danny Dunivan, Kyle Carnahan, Brad Huntsman, Josh Slater, Dr. Josh Reasor, Dr. Dan Allen, Ermil Wilhite. Second row: Julie Riesenbeck, Kelly Joh Shade (Dean), Terry Prather, Miguel Osuna Garcia, Tara Reasor, Cara Wilhite. First row: Mendy Ross, Leanne Kelle, Katie Carnahan, Paula Prather, Jamie Baker, Rachel Slater.

**CATCHING UP WITH KYLIE CLARK, CPA ‘99**

Kyle Clark, CPA, joined Huth Thompson LLP in July 1999 and became a Partner in 2014. He graduated from Oakland City University in May 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. His nearly twenty years of public accounting practice has given him experience, knowledge, and expertise in the fields of equipment dealerships, nonprofit organizations, and single audits of governmental financial assistance programs. He also has provided accounting and assurance services to a variety of small businesses. Currently, he is a member of the Indiana CPA Society, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, as well as president for Legal Aid Corporation of Tippecanoe County. He is also a member of the United Way of Greater Lafayette and Tippecanoe County Campaign Cabinet. Kyle stated in a recent email: “I have so many cherished memories from my four years at Oakland City University. I made lifelong friendships, competed in intramural sports and launched my career with a degree in accounting. The small campus environment allowed me to develop relationships with my professors and I will never forget the conversations I had with them as they educated, motivated and encouraged me along the way.”
Administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of Oakland City University met November 2, 2018 for the 133rd recognition of the institution’s founding. Our guest speaker was David Kelle ’74. Music was provided by the OCU Choir under the direction of Cynthia Retana. Special recognition was given to Dr. Richard Beesley, former executive vice president, who participated in the processional to mark his 50th year of affiliation with the university. He was accompanied by his wife, Naomi and their son. A delicious lunch was provided by Pioneer College Caterers. The special day concluded with the Gospel Music Concert featuring The Hoppers and The Isaacs.
Passages...Remembering our Alums & Friends


Seth Patrick Clark, ‘16, Birdseye, Indiana passed away May 6, 2018.

Jan Royal, ‘98, Mulberry, Florida passed away August 5, 2018. Survived by her husband Don, and daughters, Claire and Ellen.


Julie Marie Osborne, ‘08, Fort Branch, Indiana passed away September 16, 2018.


Dr. Ben M. Elrod, former OCU President, Sherwood, Arizona, passed away August 7, 2018.

Mrs. Betty Lou Elrod, wife of former President, Ben Elrod, passed away September 12, 2018.

Dr. Paul Root, former OCU professor, Arizonakadelphia, Arizona, passed away October 2018.


Kathy Dunn-Jagielski, former art instructor, passed away November 20, 2018.

Dwight Beard, ‘60, Newburgh, Indiana passed away October 25, 2018.


Ilene Heckler, Carmi, Illinois, widow of Roger Heckler 1961, died November 12, 2018. Ilene and Roger were faithful volunteers for the OCU phonathon for many years.

- Kerby Parish, ‘60, Manitou, Kentucky passed away December 2018.
2019: The Year of the OCU Alumni

Every year in January, we kick off the annual alumni membership drive. Alumni dues are $50 per year for single or couple, (husband/wife, father/daughter, sisters, etc.). Annual dues payers receive a key tag that admits them free to most campus events and if presented at checkout at the OCU Campus store, they will receive a 10% discount. For those that would like the convenience of paying one time, we offer the Living Oak Lifetime Membership at $1,000. This amount can be made in installments over the course of one year. Lifetime members receive a lifetime key tag, the OCU Campus store discount and a custom Living Oak watch as a token of our gratitude. Your dues payments help to keep the Alumni Relations office operating, aids in advertising and sponsoring events throughout the year. In our database, we have 10,000 alumni with confirmed mailing addresses. Each one receives the Connection magazine. Currently, 4% are annual or lifetime dues payers. If half of our data base paid their annual dues, we would have $250,000 to budget for alumni events, outreach and scholarships. What a difference it would make for our university and our students! Many of you are part of that 4% that faithfully pay your dues each year and also give to other needs at our university. We cannot thank you enough. If you are reading this, and have not paid dues ever, or recently, this is your time to make a difference. We need to hear from you. We are doing everything possible to keep our wonderful alumni informed of what is happening at our school. We are careful stewards of the funds you entrust to us. To paraphrase an old quote: “We have done so much with so little for so long, we can do almost anything with practically nothing!” This year, please consider supporting your university. Think of the friends, the memories and the good times you had as a student. Your dues payment can make that a reality for students in the future. The cost of education has not decreased. We are still a small (but mighty!) faith-based liberal arts University. If you are reading this, you know we graduate some of the finest students who go forth to serve. May God richly bless you in 2019.

~ Susan Sullivan, Director for Alumni Relations
In 1974, Dr. Jack Tichenor was appointed as director for the new vocational technical training program for Oakland City College. Over 100 applicants had applied for acceptance into the automotive-diesel technology program. Through the years the program evolved into also offering HVAC training and welding. It was a popular program for many years. Enrollment declined in the early 2000’s and it was closed. The building remained as a storage area for the maintenance department. Last fall, the decision was made to remove the upper level of the building, while retaining the basement level for maintenance use. Prior to 1972, the building had two previous uses: it was part of the Oaks Printing Company and then became the annex for the First General Baptist Church across the street.

During the demolition of the building, a time capsule was discovered in the cornerstone. It was placed there by the Oakland City Kiwanis Club members on September 25, 1923. Maintenance staff assisted with opening the 94 year old sealed, metal box. The contents were in relatively good condition with the exception of some newspaper clippings that disintegrated upon removal. One of the most interesting items was a newspaper from the date of the time capsule (pictures below). Jerry Aigner 1969 assisted with the demolition.
It is that time once again!

Annual Membership Drive

For more information, visit page 13.

In order to better serve our alumni, we will be conducting an online survey in the near future. Please take time and answer the questions. Also, later this year, we will be starting the process for our 2020 alumni directory. Stay tuned for more info.

Save the date!

ANNUAL ALUMNI LUNCHEON
SATURDAY JUNE 8, 2019
RECEPTION 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM (CDT)
LUNCHEON & PROGRAM FOLLOWING

HONOR CLASSES WILL BE...
- 50 YEAR: 1969
- 25 YEAR: 1994

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