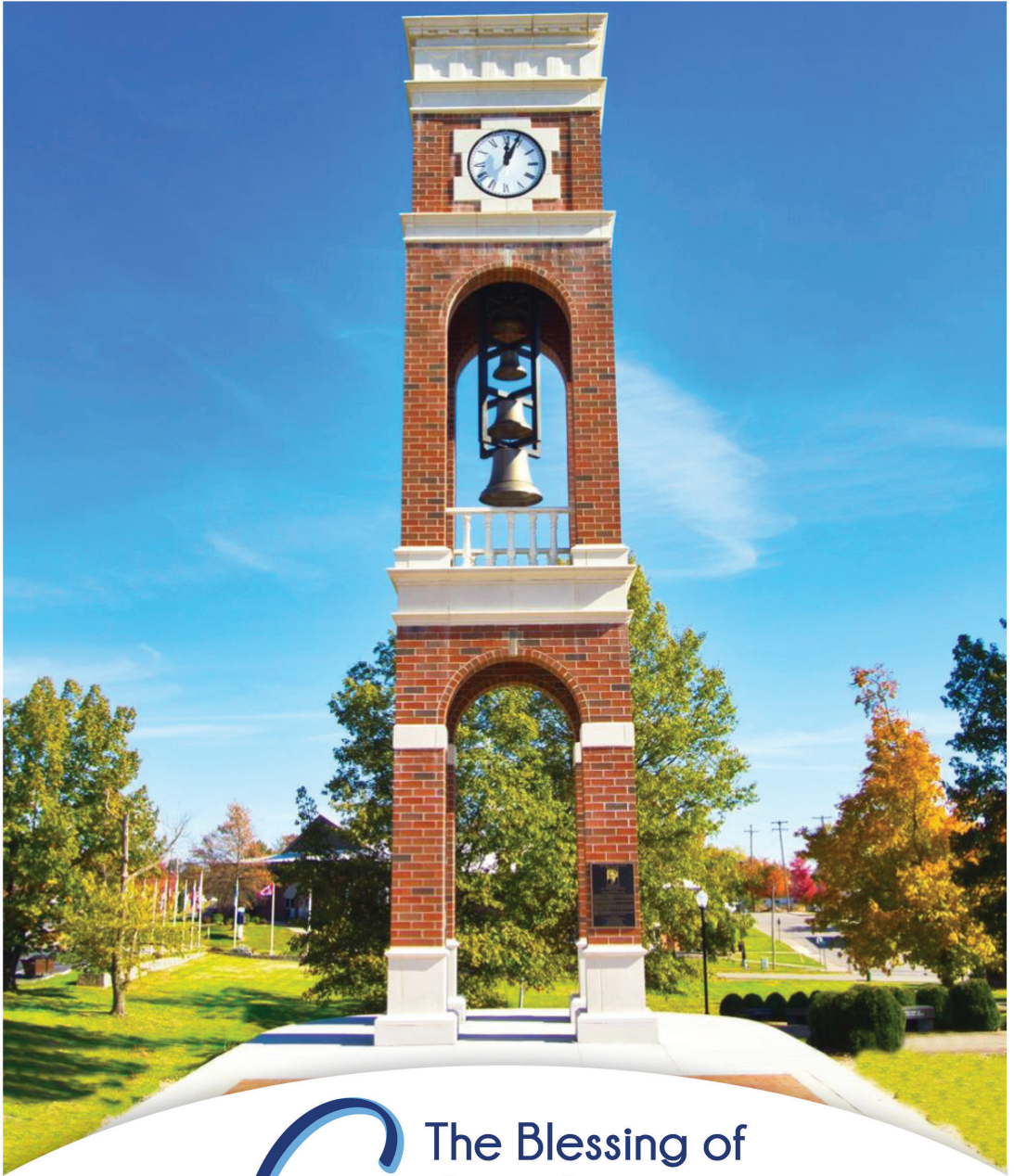


# THE CONNECTION

OAKLAND CITY UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

VOLUME LXX 70 | NUMBER 1 | SPRING 2022



## The Blessing of *Giving*



OAKLAND CITY  
UNIVERSITY

Founded by General Baptists in 1885

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OAKLAND CITY  
UNIVERSITY

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2022 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DUES?



We so appreciate the support of our Mighty Oaks and Living Oaks who paid their dues in 2021. Now at the beginning of January 2022, we are soliciting first time dues payers and renewals from our faithful donors. This year's card design will be imprinted with a photo of our new Bell Tower Plaza.

PAY ONLINE AT [OAK.EDU](http://OAK.EDU) “**GIVE**” AND FOLLOW THE  
PROMPTS TO BECOME AN **ANNUAL MEMBER FOR \$50**  
OR A **LIFETIME MEMBER FOR \$1000**

You will receive your alumni key tag that allows you a 10% discount on campus store merchandise; free admittance to most sports and campus events, and a subscription to the Connection Alumni Magazine. This year as a special “Thank You” to our Alumni Family, every alumni receives a free reservation to the annual Alumni Luncheon scheduled for June 11, 2022. More info coming on how to register for free!

*Thank you for your support!*

*The 2022 Alumni Membership lists will be  
published in the next issue of The Connection.*





## OCU RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GIFT

*RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GIFT FOR  
THE CHAPMAN SEMINARY ENDOWMENT  
FUND FROM BOARD TRUSTEE/ALUMNAE*



Drs. Edna and Wayne Brumfield have made a \$1 million gift toward *The Preserving the Future* campaign for Chapman Seminary at Oakland City University. The campaign's goal for the Chapman Seminary endowment is \$5 million. This endowment fund will ensure the longterm viability and success of ministerial education at OCU. "The Brumfield family continues to be a generous and committed

supporter of Oakland City University," stated President Ron D. Dempsey "This transformational gift will ensure that Chapman Seminary can live out its mission to professionally educate called men and women for effective leadership in the church." The university will recognize this legacy gift through the establishment of the Drs. Wayne and Edna Brumfield Chair of Christian Studies. Dr. Edna Brumfield graduated from Oakland City University in 1968 with a Bachelor's degree in Science Education: Biology and was conferred an honorary Doctor of Education degree in 2013. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. Chapman Seminary is the only General Baptist seminary in the world and educates ministerial students from all Protestant denominations.



## ENROLLMENT

### *OCU WELCOMES LARGEST INCOMING CLASS IN MORE THAN A DECADE*

Oakland City University is proud to announce its Fall 2021 incoming class of undergraduate students is the largest in more than decade. These 167 new incoming undergraduates helped increase overall undergraduate enrollment on the OCU campus by 12% from last fall and 34% since 2018.

Associate Director of Recruitment Jennifer Lantrip stated, “To be able to say we surpassed our enrollment goal is huge considering the challenges

we faced last year with the pandemic. We are excited about the future of OCU and the growth of our programs. We have already set our travel dates for college fairs, high school visits and will go to any high school that allows us.” The graduate program at OCU also continues to grow. With over 550 undergraduate and graduate students, it is the largest enrollment on the main campus since 2011. Our athletic programs have played a large part in the enrollment growth. All of our coaches reached their roster expectations. Several coaches recruited beyond their roster expectations in order to have development teams.

The racial/ethnic diversity of our student populations continues to increase as well. OCU set a goal to increase the enrollment of students of color to 17% by 2022. This fall, we surpassed that goal with students of color representing 35% of our



*Dr. Ron D. Dempsey*  
*President*

*Continued on page 6*

**ENROLLMENT** *(CONTINUED)*

student undergraduate population. This increase is due to our recruitment of international students. We have 60 international students who hail from 29 countries. The racial/ethnic breakdown of undergraduates on our main campus was:

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Native American/Native Alaskan | 0.5%  |
| Asian                          | 2.1%  |
| Black/African American         | 9.2%  |
| Hispanic/Latinx                | 2.5%  |
| International Non-resident     | 12.2% |
| Two or More Races              | 8.7%, |
| White/Caucasian                | 64.8% |

President Ron D. Dempsey states, “As a Christian institution, we believe that God created all of humanity and that Jesus calls us to love all people. Our students will work and live in an increasingly diverse world. OCU needs to provide our students with experiences which we prepare them to operate well in such a world so they can demonstrate the love of Christ to everyone.

## *A Prayer for the New Year*

Dear Father,

I thank You that throughout the season of life, there are endings and new beginnings. I bless Your Word that reminds us that there is a time for every purpose under heaven. So, I thank You for the things that have ended in my life and I bless you for new beginnings. In Jesus’ Name I pray, Amen.

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

## OCU RANKINGS

*THE EXCELLENCE CONTINUES!*

Oakland City University has been ranked in four categories by *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges. The survey measures multiple factors including the ability of students a university can attract, the retention and graduation rates for students, the faculty to student ratio, and alumni giving.

The 2022 rankings included:

**#28** BEST REGIONAL COLLEGES MIDWEST

**#2** BEST COLLEGES FOR VETERANS

**#29** BEST VALUE SCHOOLS

**#21** TOP PERFORMERS ON SOCIAL MOBILITY

Oakland City University continues to maintain our commitment to offering a private Christian education at an affordable price. We are proud to be recognized as an institution who faithfully serves and educates our veterans which is a manifestation of our value commitment to God and Country. President Ron D. Dempsey stated, “All of us within the OCU family are grateful of this recognition by *U.S. News & World Report*. This recognition is a direct reflection of the profound work of our faculty and staff who instill core educational values in the lives of students. Oakland City University is emerging as a first level choice for students who want a solid career-focused education in a Christian environment. We are no longer, thankfully, the best kept secret in Indiana. Our mission is to impact real world problems across our region, nation, and world.”



## DRS. DON & ANN WILDER

*GIVE NAMING GIFT FOR THE  
NEW TENNIS CENTER AT OCU*



Drs. Don and Mary Ann Wilder have given the naming gift for the new Tennis Center at Oakland City University. Don and Ann Wilder are longtime friends of the university and residents of Oakland City. Don is an avid tennis player, having won numerous tournaments across the nation. Ann has served on the OCU's Board of Trustees and currently serves on the OCU Foundation Board. Their lead gift will provide six new lighted courts and

increased spectator viewing as part of the Drs. Don and Ann Wilder Tennis Center. "The Mighty Oak tennis teams will have a spectacular new home with the construction of the Wilder Tennis Center," stated President Ron D. Dempsey. "Don and Ann have supported OCU in so many ways such as the Wilder Center and now with this new tennis complex. We are grateful for their generosity. Their gift elevates Oakland City University's athletic program to a new level."

This gift is part of *The New Era of Excellence* athletic campaign which seeks to raise \$3 million for upgrades to OCU's athletic facilities. The campaign includes renovations to the Johnson Center arena and locker rooms, the Pinnick baseball field, and the Aigner soccer field. These campaign funds also seek to

*Continued on page 9*

construct a new softball complex on the university campus. “Our move to the NAIA has been a great success,” stated Athletic Director T-Ray Fletcher.

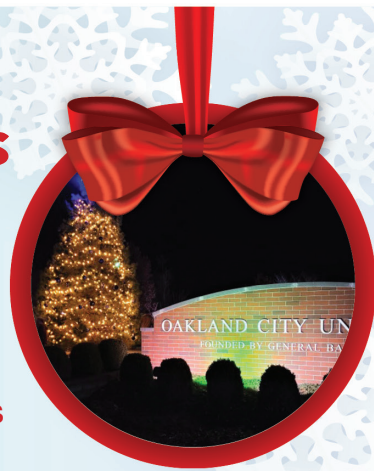


“These enhanced facilities will be some of the finest facilities in the NAIA River States Conference.”

## New Christmas Tradition on Campus

Our President, Dr. Dempsey, is a huge fan of Christmas! This year he is instituting a new campus tradition. On December 2nd, we had an outdoor campus Christmas Tree with a tree lighting ceremony at 6 pm in front of the Murray Center. Treats were hot chocolate, fire pits for toasted marshmallows and a Bell Tower Christmas Concert. What a wonderful experience to kick off the Christmas season before the students left for holiday break!

Thank you, Dr. Dempsey!



## BELL TOWER PLAZA UPDATE

On April 30, 2021, Oakland City University dedicated the Bell Tower in honor of Dr. Jerry W. Phillips, a longtime professor math and beloved dean of Academic Affairs.

The Bell Tower Plaza including the installation of 460 engraved bricks was completed in November.

We have **reopened the brick order process** and are now accepting orders for the next installation in 2022. **Go online to: [oak.edu/belltowerplaza/](https://oak.edu/belltowerplaza/).** You may order and pay for your brick on that site. The bricks come in two sizes 4"x8" for \$100 and 8"x8" for \$250. Each can have three lines of text (16 characters maximum) and a logo if desired.

Thank you to the many supporters of the Brick Plaza. Your brick orders totaled nearly \$50,000 in revenue.

Top photo: Meagan Cargal, Donor Relations Coordinator and Susan Sullivan, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations overseeing the first day of the engraved brick installation.

Middle photo: A pallet of bricks awaiting installation.

Bottom photo: Dave Lueking '65 browsing the sample bricks.

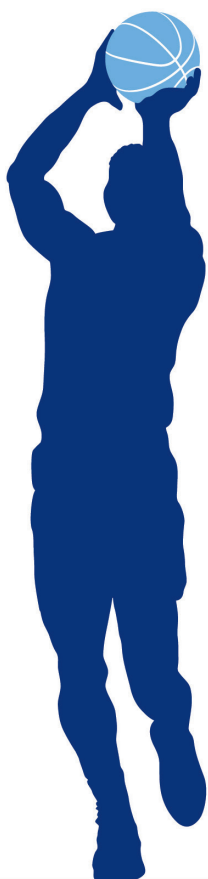




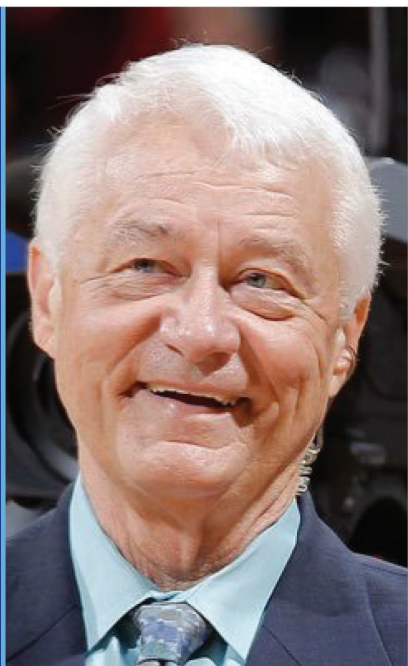
## TWO ALUMNI INDUCTED

*INTO THE INDIANA BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME*

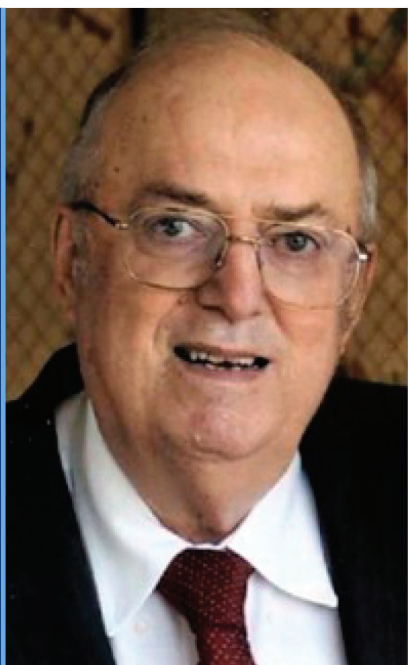
Jerry Reynolds, 1966 and the late Ray Roesner, 1957 were inducted into the Indiana Basketball of Fame this this past October. They join five other Mighty Oaks that have been honored. They are Gene Cato, Phil Eskew, Charles McConnell, Joe Todrank, and Herman Keller. We applaud the success of our alumni and thank them for making OCU proud! Go Mighty Oaks!



JERRY REYNOLDS



RAY ROESNER



*Oakland City University  
Intercollegiate Athletic*



Congratulations to Our Alumni  
Inductees to the OCU  
Hall of Fame for 2020 - 2021

Inductees for 2020

*Chad Miller, 2007*

*Erin Evans Kerns, 2004*

*Carl Rex May, 1957*

Inductees for 2021

*Jeff Durlauf, 2006*

*David Lueking, 1965*

*Pete Swanson, Honorary*



## INDEPENDENT COLLEGES OF INDIANA

*INDUCTS DR. JOHN M. DUNN INTO THE  
INDIANA ACADEMY HONORING PREEMINENT  
HOOSIERS IN OCTOBER 2021.*

An Evansville native, John M. Dunn founded the Dunn Hospitality Group in 1978. Since that time the group has built or acquired over 50 hotels in Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. Dunn continues to serve as their chairman and CEO.



*Dr. John M. Dunn  
OCU Chancellor*

He is also Chairman of the board of Directors for Tri-State Youth for Christ, a member of the Advisory Council for Indiana University Medical School, and a trustee and member of Church of the Cross in Evansville. He is treasurer of the P-47 Foundation of Evansville. He was the past chairman and director of the Oakland City University Foundation, past chairman of the board of trustees for University of Southern Indiana, and the past chairman and director of Welborn Baptist Hospital and Welborn Baptist Foundation.

He has retired from the corporate board of directors for South Central Communications, Inc., Old National Bank, and Vectren, Inc. He also served on the board of directors for Boys and Girls Club of Evansville, Southern Indiana Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, and the Salvation Army, and is the past president of St. Mary's Health Systems Seton Corporation.

Dunn is an alumnus of Oakland City University. He served on Oakland City's board of trustees for 12 years and was awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Humanities. He also holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Southern Indiana.

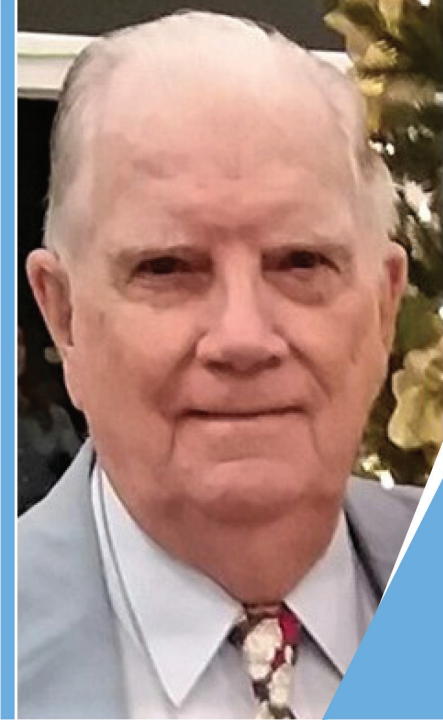
Dunn and his wife, Gail, have three daughters, two sons, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



## TWO MEN OF GOD

*130 YEARS OF MINISTRY*

**Dr. Elvis O. Wilson**  
**1926 – 2021**



Elvis Wilson was born on March 12, 1926, to Doyle and Laura Wilson. He entered Heaven on August 23, 2021, at the age of 95. He was married to Mary Lou (Benson) Wilson for 75 years. Their children are Deborah Carlton, Richard Wilson (Gay), Rebecca Figliolo, and Charles Wilson (Rhonda). Grandchildren are Chari Rothrock, Derrick Carlton, and Kara Green. Great grandchildren are Ian Rothrock, Alex, Ellie and Jack Carlton, Emma and Allyson Woodall and Liam Green.

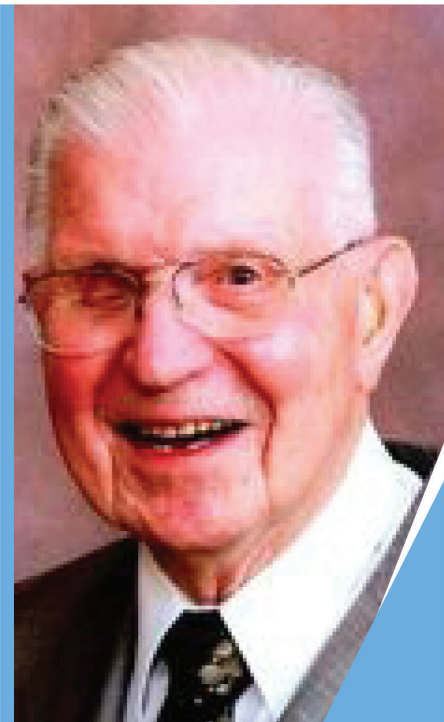
He was a World War II veteran of the U. S. Navy. He was a 32nd degree Mason, a member of Harold O. Grauel Lodge AF&AM. He also held the commission of Kentucky Colonel.

Elvis entered the ministry at age 34 and received his education at Oakland City University, graduating in 1964. He was elected to the Board of Trustees of OCU in 1969 and served as chairman of the board for 12 years. In 1999 the Honorary Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him. He retained the title of Honorary Trustee to his death. During his ministry he pastored churches in Indiana, Kentucky, and Missouri.

After spending the last 37 years in Florida, he and Mary Lou had moved to Saxony Village in Cape Girardeau, MO. A “Gathering

of Friends and Family” was held on October 2, 2021, at the First General Baptist Church Family Life Center, 1812 Cape LaCroix Road in Cape Girardeau.

**Reverend Leroy Jolly, DD  
1924 – 2021**



Reverend Leroy Jolly, DD of Davison, age 96, died Sunday, August 29, 2021, at Charter Care-Davison.

Reverend Leroy Jolly was born in Caruthersville, Missouri on November 21, 1924. He was a veteran of World War II.

He married Wilma Young in 1950 and together they sought to put their Lord and Savior first place during their married life. He announced his call into the ministry of the Lord in February 1951.

Dr. Jolly earned an AB and BS degree from Oakland City University in Oakland City, Indiana; and was also honored with a Doctor of Divinity degree. For 12 years, he was privileged to teach College Extension Courses through OCU. He pastored churches in both Indiana and Michigan; and also taught high school English in both states.

Since 1989, Dr. and Mrs. Jolly conducted “Prayer Enrichment Revivals” through the United States and more than 1300 had committed themselves to become God’s Prayer Warrior.

*Continued on page 16*

## TWO MEN OF GOD *(CONTINUED)*

He is survived by his daughter, Linda Sue Holloway; three grandchildren, six great grandchildren, several nieces, nephews, and special friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Reverend Lee and Ethel Jolly; wife, Wilma; son, Loren; son-in-law, Leon Holloway; brother, Fred Jolly and sister-in-law, Brenda Jolly.

## ALUMNI MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*\*Editor's Note: Due to the sensitive areas in which they work and the ongoing persecution of Christians in the world today, in some cases, this article does not use full names and only general geographical locations. Please keep these workers in your prayers as they are making a difference in so many lives.*

**Andrew J. Ford**  
**Class of 2007, serving in Honduras**



I arrived on campus in August of 2007 and graduated with a business administration degree, with concentrations in management and marketing in 2010. I could never have imagined I would be



coming upon 10 years of living and serving in Honduras since graduated. When I graduated, I knew God had bigger plans than I could imagine. Faculty, staff, and friends that have become financial and prayer partners over the years have kept me going through so many tough times. During political unrest and horrific hurricanes back-to-back God had been faithful to provide wisdom in some unthinkable situations. When God answered a six-year prayer that brought my main ministry project to an end in 2019, it was friends that I had developed in my time at OCU that helped me remain focused and praise God for answered prayer even though I was grieving my personal loss. Oakland City University continues to be a place I call home and when I visit all these years later it still welcomes me with open arms. I am asked often when I will return to the states and that is a question only God can answer. He gave me the calling to go as clear as it could be, and I know He will give me the release of the calling when it's time. For more information about my current ministry projects and how to partner financially visit **[www.missiononthemove.org](http://www.missiononthemove.org)**. I also love to receive emails and messages **[fordandrew.ky@gmail.com](mailto:fordandrew.ky@gmail.com)**.



**Rachel\*** *(See Editor's Note)*

Hello! I currently live and serve in a gorgeous, tropical, Buddhist country in southeast Asia. I serve here as an English teacher, building relationships with my university students and other locals, striving to share the Good News and be His light in a place surrounded by temples and Buddha statues.

I graduated from OCU in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in Music. As a

*Continued on page 18*

**ALUMNI MAKING A DIFFERENCE** *(CONTINUED)*

student, I was always eager to learn, but often felt inadequate. The care and encouragement that I received from my professors helped me to overcome those feelings of inadequacy and simply strive to be the best student I could be. As I grew in my understanding of music and performance, I also began to grow into leadership roles as a playwright and director in the drama department. After graduating, I returned to OCU to work and serve as a Resident Hall Director.

I started my overseas service in 2019 doing a 6-month program serving as a volunteer English teacher in several countries in Asia. I started my long-term service technically in 2020 and was supposed to arrive in southeast Asia in August last year, but because of the pandemic, I arrived in the spring of 2021. I have just begun my first full year of teaching at the university. I am teaching English majors in the Faculty of Letters, Department of English, at the national university. Although we are currently online for classes because of COVID, I already have begun building relationships with my students and can see in so many of them the true desire to learn and grow, but also the same feeling of inadequacy I once felt. I strive to be the teacher to them that my professors were to me.

My greatest challenge by far has been this past year with the pandemic. It took me 9 months of daily trying to get updates on when I could arrive to the country that the Father had placed so greatly on my heart. I had been to this country previously, met the people, made friends with the locals, and my heart cried to return to the people He had called me to love. But it also made getting here and seeing my local friends again my greatest joy. And while I have yet to meet my students in person, I already love them so deeply and cannot wait to be with them face-to-face.

Anytime someone asks me what my future goals are, I almost laugh at this point because as we have seen, our plans often get changed in major ways. But I hope to remain in this beautiful country alongside these lovely people for at least a few years. But it's all subject to His plan and how He leads me!

If you would like to support me financially, you can do so at this web address: [https://my.elic.org/support/teacher\\_pages/rachel-toepfer](https://my.elic.org/support/teacher_pages/rachel-toepfer).

If you would like to receive updates about my work, either in the mail or email, or would like more information, you can email me at [rachelcre-dente@gmail.com](mailto:rachelcre-dente@gmail.com). Feel free to contact me but when you do, please be mindful of what you say. Emails can always end up being read by someone besides who you send it to.

### Mat & Victoria Murphy

*Mat Murphy graduated in 2011 with a B.A. in Religious Studies*



My current position is Founder of Running Water Events beginning in May 2019. With my wife, Victoria, and our dog Water, we strive to make a difference with

who, what, and where we are. We speak at local churches, make devotional videos for our partner organizations around the world, and stay connected with local congregants through our social media platforms. We raise money for the water projects General

*Continued on page 20*

## ALUMNI MAKING A DIFFERENCE *(CONTINUED)*

Baptist Ministries supports internationally, but our main effort is to encourage and empower people to Make a Difference.

OCU helped me by creating opportunities for me to minister in controlled environments with trusted and experienced leaders, so I could feel confident in my competence beyond OCU. Coming from outside of the General Baptist family, OCU gave me the opportunity to gain connections with church leaders who have mentored, coached, and partnered with me as a local church pastor, a fundraiser, and most importantly, a family member.

Our greatest challenge and greatest joy fit together. We love spending time with our GB family all over the world. However, the growth of our GB family makes it challenging, at times, to stay connected with many of the individuals we love.

Our future goals are to use a therapy trained dog to remind people that God uses whatever we have, wherever we allow Him to use us. We, as local congregants, can make a difference locally and globally. Our difference making can be baking a cake or providing drinking water, but real reason we live is to point people to the Bread of Life and the Living Water.

To donate to clean water projects via General Baptist Ministries: <https://giving.ncsservices.org/App/Giving/gbgiving> (click on Water Project)

To stay connected with and reach out to us on our social media platforms: @RunningWaterEvents or email me at [pastormatmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:pastormatmurphy@gmail.com).



# COME FLAMINGLE IN FLORIDA!

Don & Mary Ann Wilder will be hosting an area alumni event at their home in Tavares, Florida. We were unable to schedule our “Snow Bird” meeting last year due to Covid-19, so the Wilders have decided to jazz things up with a “Flamingle Party”.

**Don & Mary Ann Wilder**  
**616 Lake Dora Dr 🌺 Tavares, FL 32778**

**Saturday, March 5, 2022**  
**11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Lunch at 12:30 p.m.)**



**GAMES**



**PRIZES**



**GREAT FOOD**



**CATCH UP  
WITH FRIENDS**

**RSVP: Susan Sullivan (812) 749-1226**

**RSVP deadline: February 23, 2022**

## THE FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

*IS ALL ABOUT CREATING STUDENT SUCCESS*

*BY DR. STEVE CUSTER*

Starting college can be quite intimidating.

Embarking on any journey requires courage, perseverance and – as President Dempsey challenged us in his 2021 Commencement address – resiliency. Meeting such challenges alone can seem even more overwhelming. That’s why here at Oakland City University the First Year Experience was designed to build a community of success. As conceived by Dr.



Ron Dempsey and initially launched two years ago, the FYE First Year Experience was intended to overcome barriers that might often cause new students to stumble by equipping them with the resources needed to truly succeed in the campus environment.

From the very first moment that I heard his vision for this program, I was eager to join and wanted to do everything I could do to support this powerful initiative. Last year, I was a Success Coach along with many others representing our administration, faculty, and staff. The 2020-2021 Success Coach Pairings featured Dr. Cathy Robb, Dr. Jervaise McDaniel, Dr. Rodger Minatra (my success group partner), President Ron D. Dempsey, First Lady Mrs. Amanda Dempsey, Executive Assistant Mary Nossett, Vice President for University Advancement Brian Baker, Dr. Iran Daniels, Pastor Jeff Bralley, Associate Vice President for Student Life Brad Knotts, Dr. Rachel Yarbrough, Dr. Tom Leuze, Heather Hose, Dr. Sarah

Wilson, Jennifer Lantrip, Vice President for Administration Clint Woolsey, and Executive Assistant Kathy Bailey.

From the list of coaches above, it should be obvious that this cause was supported at every level of the institution. In fact, that was a tremendous strength of the program and certainly brought a distinctive element onboard. As one of the OCU Success Group team, what do I believe made this program so successful in its inaugural year in 2020-2021? First, the concept brought together key members from all across the university community in a collaborative effort to demonstrate how much we care about our students in general and our Freshmen specifically as they leave home and transition to university life. After all, if you truly believe in something, you will do whatever it takes to commit resources to supporting it. In this case, this program was driven by some of the very best human resources that this institution possesses starting with our President.

Second, the FYE Success Program provided an atmosphere in which students could feel comfortable in meeting fellow freshmen from all over the world who were beginning this new adventure just like them. While some institutions enable this type of endeavor only in orientation, our FYE Success Program at OCU enables students to continue this experience for many weeks and months into their first academic year. In my personal experience, as a success coach, it remains so satisfying to see students begin to familiarize themselves with the basic ingredients essential to navigating university life and then to witness them as they build confidence in completing those tasks and in forging new friendships all at the same time.

*Continued on page 24*

## THE FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE *(CONTINUED)*

Third, and most importantly, the FYE Success Program (in its first year of implementation) conveyed the importance of student engagement. Last year, every effort was made to group all first-year students into a community of no more than 15 students. That way, the Success Coaches could really get to know their members and to begin to foster the kind of relationships with them where the students felt that they had a support system at the university level unlike any other. Time and again, President Dempsey advocated that his main objective for this program was ultimately about engagement. That was the heartbeat of the inaugural FYE experience, and it continues to be in its second year.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, the FYE Success Communities built on the solid foundation of the prior year and even added an extra element. Whereas in the inaugural year an accelerated series of sessions during the first week provided students with training relevant to academic efforts, in the second year the first four weeks were allocated to ensure an effective transition to the college classroom via Moodle, the university online Learning Management System.

After the first four weeks, the FYE Success Communities shifted to a Service Learning model for the duration of the semester while still majoring on engagement. In most cases, each FYE group adopted a different service project. Some collaborated with other groups in accomplishing larger philanthropic goals. A few groups even contributed to multiple service projects. All in all, these initiatives were a win/win in that they enabled the



first-year students to bond with one another while serving the community at large.

Examples of projects embraced by the FYE Success Communities in the 2021-2022 year included the implementation of a campus recycling program, a campus chapel cleaning project, building blessing boxes, volunteering for the community Halloween Spook-tacular event, providing support for the Fall at Cockrum Hall community event, collecting items for the Annual Thanksgiving/Christmas Food Drive (a continuation of the ministry started several years back by Dr. Nancy Miller's group), volunteer efforts in support of the OCU Dining Hall, and creating gift bags for teachers at Wood Memorial.

Success Group Leaders for the 2021-2022 year were again comprised of OCU faculty, staff, and administrators. They included Brian Baker, Mary Nossett, T-Ray Fletcher, Dr. Jervaise McDaniel, Dr. Cathy Robb, Mr. Dave Wilderman, Rev. Jeff Bralley, Kathy Bailey, Rev. Clint Woolsey, Mr. Brent Maguire, Dr. Steve Custer, Jennifer Lantrip, Dr. Tom Leuze, Carla Ashabrunner, Fahkara Hawkins, Brad Knotts, Dr. Cathy Gonzales, and Elaine Pauw.

One of the greatest elements of the First Year Experience has yet to be mentioned, however. As these groups started last year, returning students were recruited to serve as mentors to each success community. The students who participated as mentors were able to pass along what they had learned and to share their experiences both inside and outside of the classroom with

*Continued on page 26*

## THE FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE *(CONTINUED)*

the first-year students in an effort to increase their likelihood of success. Students who served as mentors in the 2021-2022 FYE program included Madeline Hoppenstedt, Gillian Blessinger, Ashley Underwood, Esteban Gonzalez, Megan Ghrist, Dan Juckes, James Gates, Makinze Kaetzel, Katlyn Valdez, and Javin Burnett – who had such a positive experience as a freshman during the 2020-2021 FYE program that he was motivated to share that knowledge and give back to the program as a student mentor upon his return as a sophomore. One way to truly measure success is to witness students who are eager to share what they have learned to others. That's a winning formula that translates to success and it's the best description of the First Year Experience at Oakland City University.



*Success Community Group working on the Chapel landscaping.*





CAMPUS  
SNAPSHOTS



**PASSAGES***REMEMBERING OUR ALUMS & FRIENDS***RICHARD ABELL**

Jasper, Indiana died December 21, 2020.  
Class of 1965.

**DWIGHT W. BLAND**

Boonville, Indiana died August 19, 2021.  
Class of 1972.

**ARVIL CALLIS**

Boonville, Indiana died May 26, 2021.  
Class of 1962.

**LARRY CATT**

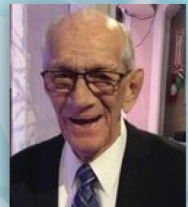
Petersburg, Indiana died January 24, 2021.  
Class of 1960.

**JOHN R. "DICK" COCHREN**

Princeton, Indiana died July 01, 2021.  
Class of 1963.

**JAMES "JIM" COWSERT**

Malden, Missouri died October 28, 2021.  
Father and father-in-law of Mark '85, and  
Valorie '91 Cowsert, Michelle '89 and Brian  
'90 Cook and Lisa and Chris Burch.

**MATTHEW A. EMBREE**

Patoka, Indiana died November 06, 2020.  
Class of 1986.



**PASSAGES** *(CONTINUED)***WILLIAM L. GARRISON**

Richland, Indiana died June 7, 2020.  
Attended.

**SHIRLEY A. HENSON GRINSTEAD**

Oakland City, Indiana died March 18, 2021.  
Class of 1967.

**JOHNNY A. HIBBS**

Dixon, Kentucky died December 26, 2020.  
Attended.

**VESPER L. HILL**

Union, Indiana died July 10, 2021.  
Class of 1960.

**DONALD HUME**

Winslow, Indiana died December 31, 2020.  
Served as State Representative for 22 years.  
Class of 1951.

**JAMES T. "J.J." JULIAN**

Lynnville, Indiana died February 16, 2021.  
Class of 1979.

**LARRY KING**

Bradenton, Florida died August 2, 2021.  
Class of 1960.



**PASSAGES** *(CONTINUED)***JAMES H. MARSHALL**

Selvin, Indiana died December 19, 2020.  
Class of 1960.

**MICHAEL L. MASON**

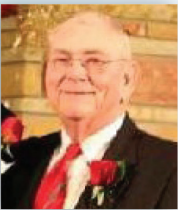
Boonville, Indiana died December 11, 2020.  
Class of 1963.

**DR. MARIE MCCORD**

OCU Artist in Residence Emeritas.  
Oakland City, Indiana died October 28, 2020.

**HELEN MEYER**

Boonville, Indiana died November 23, 2020.  
Class of 1970.

**HAROLD JUNIOR MOODY**

Oaktown, Indiana died December 10, 2020.  
Class of 1963.

**ELAINE WOOD NORRICK**

Champaign, Illinois died December 29, 2020.  
Class of 1952.

**PAULA ESKEW NOSSETT**

Frederick, Maryland died December 27, 2020.  
Class of 1958.

**PASSAGES** *(CONTINUED)***DIANE HEAVENER PAUL**

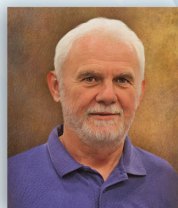
Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee died November 26, 2021.  
Class of 1984.

**SHERRY M. POOL**

Columbia, South Carolina died December 9, 2020.  
Attended.

**CARL RAY RUNYON**

Owensboro, Kentucky died June 13, 2021.  
Class of 1973.

**THOMAS A. SCHUM**

Ireland, Indiana died January 31, 21.  
Class of 1965.

**MARILYN MALLET SLATTON**

Elnora, Indiana died October 25, 2020.  
Class of 1960.

**ROBERTA ANN TOY WILLIAMS**

Loogootee, Indiana died January 4, 2020.  
Class of 1965.

**RAY WINKLER**

Mt. Carmel, Illinois died June 22, 2021.  
Class of 1950.





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