



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ORU!



*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11, ESV)*

The ORU campus has been overflowing with Christmas cheer in recent weeks. When we consider what happened on that special day so many centuries ago, the only possible response is **JOY!**

During this holy season, we pray that you will experience the same joy...and peace... and heartfelt gratitude that comes from knowing how very much God loves us and what He did for us in Bethlehem.

REJOICE!

NEWS



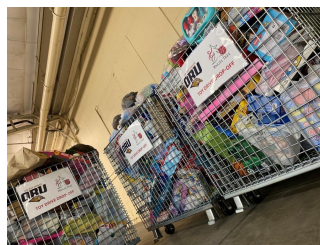
HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Part of the ORU International Student Center's mission is to connect students with families in the Tulsa Metro area over breaks and holidays for fellowship, meals, and cultural engagement. This is an opportunity to serve those who may not have the ability to see their families throughout the year and would benefit from a home-like atmosphere. Please note that this program does **not** include living accommodations, as a host family and families are not expected to host more than one student at a time. ORU alumni have made a significant impact on the lives of international students with this partnership, and we would be thrilled to continue this legacy through your support. Click on the button to sign up.

HOST A STUDENT

OODLES OF TOYS

One of ORU's longstanding traditions is the Bring Good Cheer toy drive. Each year, guests who come to the Mabee Center for the Christmas concert are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy. These toys are given to the Salvation Army to distribute to boys and girls in the Tulsa area. This year, ORU collected 1,181 toys. Thank you to everyone who contributed a toy!



Will Beck - Veterans Experience Director

BECK'S NEW TITLE

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Will Beck has been named director of ORU's Veterans Experience. He had been serving as the military liaison since May of 2021. Before coming to ORU, Will completed a 28-year career as a U.S. Army Infantry officer.

WILL

NEW BOARD CHAIR

Kevin Cox '96, '99 is the new board chair of ORU's Alumni Association Board of Directors. Alumni will be glad to know that he hit the ground running—literally. Look under **EVENTS** (below) to see what we mean. We also want to express our deep appreciation to **Cory Nickerson '69** for his outstanding service as the board chair these past few years. He has been an incredible leader, and we know he will continue to make a positive impact on ORU and its alumni for years to come.



Kevin Cox '96, '99



SEASON OF GENEROSITY

December will be over before we know it. Be sure to make your end-of-year gift to ORU before the stroke of midnight on the 31st. Phase II of the [Whole Leaders for the Whole World campaign](#) is in motion. Gifts to the three new buildings (two residence halls and a dining hall) will be matched, 3-to-1, by a generous donor—up to \$30 million. This phase also includes the renovation of EMR and Claudius residence halls and funds for [Quest First and International Quest scholarships](#). Remember that year-end gifts to ORU will likely reduce your 2022 income taxes.

MY GIFT

SKY VENTURES

Four ORU students—Andrew Formsma, Daniel Marques, Isaiah Sparkman, and Hayden Guenzler—

have created an initiative called Sky Ventures “to provide campus-wide support for entrepreneurs and start-ups.” The students worked with **Jim Stovall '81** to develop this concept, which is under the Stovall Center for Entrepreneurship.

SKY VENTURES



ORU's Sky Ventures team.
(left to right) Andrew Formsma, Daniel Marques, Isaiah Sparkman and Hayden Guenzler



RENOVATIONS TO COME

ORU is planning to renovate the former Early Learning Center (located behind CityPlex Towers) and create a reimagined academic facility for the Biology and Chemistry Department. This will give students and faculty more space for research projects, lab work, and experiments. With environmental sustainability in mind, ORU could also incorporate new features such as a greenhouse, a pollinator garden, and indoor/outdoor classrooms. Contributions to this \$4 million project are welcome!

RENOVATIONS GIFT

EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE: CAREER FAIR

ORU will hold its **2023 Spring Career Fair** in Mabee Center on Wednesday, March 1, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. (CST). Employers are invited to participate. The Spring Career Fair represents students and alumni of all majors. If you would like to register as an employer, you can do so now.

EMPLOYER REGISTRATION



SAVE THE DATE: 5K RUN

Alumni Association Board Chair **Kevin Cox '96, '99** has announced that the association will hold a 5K “Run for the First Mile” on April 1. Proceeds from this event will benefit the ORU Alumni Association, the Whole Leaders for the Whole World campaign, and the Quest First Scholarship, which goes to students who are the first in their family to attend college. In addition, participants will be running in honor of Eugene Quaynor, an ORU soccer team captain who was killed when a drunk driver hit his car earlier this year. As you run this race, you will see the names of over 60,000 students who have attended ORU over the last 50+ years. Kevin says, “It will be an amazing event—and yes, I will be running it.”

ALUMNI



John Bolin '92

“The Thorn” is a musical drama about Jesus that began as an illustrated sermon created by **John Bolin '92** in the late 1990s. Over the years, it evolved into a stage production with touring groups managed by John’s wife, **Sarah '90**. Now it’s a film that will be released in theaters in March 2023. Tickets are available now.

THE THORN

Tige Charity '93 is the founder and executive director of [Kids in the Spotlight](#), an organization she started in 2009 to give foster care youth “the opportunity to heal and grow” through creating their own films. The organization recently celebrated the KITS Film Awards, their version of the Oscars where these young filmmakers received awards in several categories.



Tige Charity '93

KITS AWARDS



Tom Newman '80

Fans of the Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli will want to see “A Bocelli Family Christmas,” a film produced by Impact Productions. **Tom Newman '80** is the founder and CEO of Tulsa-based Impact Productions as well as the head of Content and Development at Trinity Broadcasting Network. The film will be shown on TBN on December 16 at 7:00 p.m. (Central).

BOCELLI CHRISTMAS

ATHLETICS



MEN'S BASKETBALL @ OMAHA

The Golden Eagles are coming to Omaha on December 29 for a game with the University of Nebraska-Omaha Mavericks. Game time is 7:05 p.m. in [Baxter Arena](#) on UNO's campus. Tickets are just \$12.75...marked down from \$17! When you go online to make your purchase, enter the promo code **ORUALUM** first. That will take you to the block of seats that are reserved for our group. Omaha has a [clear-bag policy](#).

OMAHA TICKETS

MEN'S BASKETBALL @ DENVER

The Golden Eagles will play the University of Denver's Pioneers on Saturday, December 31. Game time is 1:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) in Hamilton Gymnasium on the DU campus. Tickets are just \$8 each (discounted!) and seats set aside for ORU fans are in Sections 1 and 2—right behind the ORU bench. The gym is located inside the [Ritchie Center](#).



DENVER TICKETS



BATTER UP!

While some of us might be in the icy grip of winter weather, we can take comfort in knowing that spring is coming. Here's proof: ORU Baseball recently released their 2023 schedule. Make your way to J. L. Johnson Stadium or catch an away game in your city and support your Golden Eagles!

BASEBALL SCHEDULE

ETC.

Are you doing any shopping on Amazon this month? If so, please make ORU your preferred nonprofit. Visit [this page](#) to learn about the **AmazonSmile** program.

The choice is yours: paper or e-mail receipt? Fill out [this form](#) if you'd rather get a paper receipt when you make a gift to ORU.

DID YOU KNOW?



The ORU-TU men's basketball rivalry began on March 4, 1974. In 2012, a prize for the victor was introduced: the Mayor's Cup, which has changed hands several times over the years. ORU earned the award last season—and kept the trophy for another year with a 77-66 victory on December 3 over the Golden Hurricane at TU's Reynolds Center!

MAYOR'S CUP



Oral Roberts University | 7777 South Lewis Ave. | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74171 | (918) 495-6610

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