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BIG DAY FOR ATHLETICS



After about 17 months of construction, ORU introduced the Mike Carter Athletic Center on a windy Oklahoma day to a large crowd of faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends, donors, and dignitaries that included Tulsa Mayor G. T. Bynum. At April 12's outdoor ribbon-cutting and dedication, guests heard from President Wilson, Mike Carter, Athletic Director Tim Johnson, Board of Trustees Chair Holly Moore '86, the Mayor, and basketball head coaches Russell Springmann and Kelsi Musick. After the ceremony ended, the crowd poured into the center for self-guided tours and

marveled over the two identical, regulation basketball courts, the amazing strength and conditioning center, the ELI Academic Center, study rooms, team rooms, and coach and staff offices.

NOW OPEN!

NEWS

FACULTY HONORED

For many years, the Alumni Association has presented cash awards on an annual basis to outstanding faculty members. The current process is this: Professors in each department nominate colleagues, and from those nominations, one professor from each college, and from Learning Resources, is chosen to receive an award. At the April 12 Honors Chapel, seven “Excellence in Teaching” awards were presented to Dr. Chris Brown (Arts & Cultural Studies); Dr. James Russell (Business); Dr. Amanda Wilson (Education); Prof. Angela Foster (Health Sciences); Prof. Sasha Turtova (Science & Engineering); Dr. James Barber (Theology & Ministry); and Dr. Angela Sample (Learning Resources). There is also a “Faculty Alumni Relations” award. Dr. Patrick Otto (Education) was this year’s recipient. From among these eight aforementioned honorees, one is chosen for a separate award: The Harold & Edna Paul Excellence in Teaching award. This year, it went to Dr. Russell. Dr. Julie Ma (Theology & Ministry) was also honored in chapel with the “Models of Excellence in Scholarship” award.

At Commencement, four faculty members received the Faculty Emeritus honor: Dr. Jim Myers (Education), Dr. Patricia Catts (Health Sciences), Dr. Robert Samuel Thorpe (Theology & Ministry), and Dr. Agena Farmer (Arts and Cultural Studies).



Left to right: Dr. Brown, Dr. Russell, Dr. Wilson, Prof. Foster, Prof. Turtova, Dr. Barber, and Dr. Sample



VP Mike Carter & Dr. Otto



VP Mike Carter & Dr. Russell



ORU THEATRE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

In April, ORU Theatre sent two casts on the road for their Kids Show Tour 2023. They presented “The Great Cross-Country Race,” a contemporary retelling of *The Tortoise and the Hare*, to Tulsa-area elementary school students at 12 locations.

LOVE'S ENTREPRENEUR'S CUP

A team of five students—Gabriela Blanco, Timothy Blanco, Madeline Brandt, Joshua Brennan, and Raeleigh Lucy—took second place in the Small Business division at this year’s Love’s Entrepreneur’s Cup, a collegiate business plan competition. They won \$8,000 and an additional \$1,000 for their advisor, Dr. Bob Leland. Their concept, WorldChef, is a once-a-month meal subscription that provides families with a fun and educative experience by developing children’s culinary skills, all while providing exposure to different cultures around the world. Gabriela said that she and her teammates had been working on WorldChef since it was a marketing project during the fall semester. “We felt like we had a good product and wanted to pursue it,” she said. The competition “was the perfect opportunity to learn and grow.” The team was one of eight teams that made it to the Oral Competition. Going to the University of Oklahoma for that round on April 13, they made it to the finals (top 6) and competed again on the 14th. Winners were announced at an April 20 banquet. “It was a wonderful experience,” Gabriela said.



Left to right: Rex Smitherman, President of iE Inc., Timothy Blanco, Gabriela Blanco, Raeleigh Lucy, Madeline Brandt, Joshua Brennan, and Mark Lauinger, Senior VP/Client Services at iE.



World
Chef

The logo features the word "World" in a light blue, cursive font. The letter "o" is replaced by a stylized globe showing the Americas, topped with a white chef's hat. Below "World" is the word "Chef" in a dark green, cursive font. Both words have a thin, darker outline.



Scott Alons, Victor Gomes, and Judah Clayton



Dr. Jayne Ann Harder, Scott Alons, and Dr. Andrew Lang at the OK-AR MAA Sectional Conference

PUTNAM EXAM

The 83rd William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition, known as the Putnam, was administered on December 3, 2022. It is considered to be the hardest math exam in the world. When the results were released this spring, it was revealed that three ORU students scored on this highly prestigious exam. Earning even one point is seen as a great accomplishment. There were 3,415 students from 456 institutions who took the test. Achieving scores on the Putnam were Victor Gomes (5 points), Scott Alons (4 points), and Judah Clayton (1 point). Congratulations! Scott also won the R.B. Deal Award for First Place Undergraduate Presentation at the OK-AR Mathematical Association of America Sectional Conference in April.

ALUMNI



Cassia Carr '09, Deputy Mayor of Tulsa, is one of 10 Tulsa-area women who was honored in April with a "Madam President" Award from the League of Women Voters of

Metropolitan Tulsa. The award goes to women in the community whose leadership and commitment to service are such that they would be worthy candidates for President of the United States.

CASSIA

Bruce Fowler '88 has joined Husch Blackwell's Denver office to serve as a Private Wealth Partner.

BRUCE





Teresa Knox '10, '12-MBA was honored on April 15 as Tulsa Mayor G. T. Bynum declared it to be “Teresa Knox Day” in the city. Teresa is the owner of Church Studio, which hosted the first-ever Carney Fest on the 15th. This old-school, carnival-type music festival had a mission: “to produce, promote, and perform a family-friendly outdoor experience that enriches our community’s cultural landscape through the power of music, leading to a measurable economic impact.”

TERESA

Vinay Manda '08-MBA, Associate Vice President and Chief Data Scientist at ORU, has been named one of the Top 10 Technology Professionals in the world by OnConferences. The OnCon Icon Awards were presented virtually in April. They are peer- and community-voted awards. Winners are those who have made a considerable impact on their organization and/or previous organizations; made strong contributions to their professional community through thought leadership; innovate in their role/career; and exhibit exceptional leadership.

VINAY



EVENTS



HOMECOMING 2023

It's never too early to start thinking about the biggest alumni event of the year. In 2023, the Homecoming dates are November 9-11. For those of you from the Class of 1973...get ready for your 50th reunion! It's being called "The Return of the Titans: The Mother of All Reunions." Chris Busch '73 is spearheading this event. And that's just one of many, many activities that will take place during the weekend. Watch for updates...

ATHLETICS

NEW FACES IN ATHLETICS

Alex Ruby is the volleyball team's new assistant coach. She comes to ORU after serving most recently as an assistant coach at Trinity Christian College. In men's basketball, two new assistant coaches have joined the staff: Antonio Bostic and Bill Lewit. Dave Nedbalek, one of the team's former graduate assistants (2020-22), has returned and will serve as director of Player Development/Video Coordinator. John Bloom is the new director of Sports Performance.

ALEX

MBB STAFF



Alex Ruby



RISING THROUGH THE RANKS

ORU Baseball clinched the regular-season Summit League title on May 7. It's title #20 for ORU since joining the Summit in 1998. In addition, the team has been climbing the Collegiate Baseball poll rankings, going from #30 to #24 to #12 since April 17. The Summit League Baseball Championship is happening in Fargo, N.D., May 24-27.

RANKED

A BROKEN RECORD

Abraham Sargent broke his own school record in the javelin throw as ORU's track and field program competed at the Sooner Invitational in Norman, OK, April 14-15.

ABRAHAM



BASKETBALL 'CHALLENGE SERIES'

The Summit League is teaming up with the Big Sky Conference for a three-year challenge series. Both men's and women's teams will play one home game and one road game against two opponents from the other league. The series begins in January —on the 3rd and 6th.

THE CHALLENGE

ELI AWARDS

It was time to honor ORU student-athletes on April 26 at the annual Eli Awards. Six were named Whole Person Champions: Max Abmas (men's basketball), Romulo Bosqueiro (men's soccer), Adrena Mazzei (women's track & field), Jake McMurray (baseball), Reagan Miley (women's tennis) and Samantha See (women's soccer). Click on "ELIS" to see who else was honored.

ELIS





ORU CARAVAN & PEP RALLY

Come out and support ORU Athletics, meet the coaches, and cheer on ORU to another record-breaking year! The event takes place on Sunday, June 25 at the Jimmy Austin Golf Club in Norman, OK.

ORU CARAVAN

ETC.

ORU's Development and Alumni Relations office has gone paperless. That means when you make a gift to ORU, your receipt will come via e-mail. You can still choose a paper receipt, though, by filling out [this form](#).

DID YOU KNOW?



At this year's Commencement ceremony, ORU celebrated 863 graduates from 43 states and 52 nations. The College of Theology and Ministry had the largest number of graduates: 214. The average GPA of the Class of 2023 was 3.46.

COMMENCEMENT



ORU

DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

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