



IN THE SAME WAY I LOVED YOU, LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Dream Bigger. Do Greater.

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Mid-America Christian University

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www.MACU.edu/

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Do You Have an Alumni Update or Story Idea? PLEASE SEND IT TO COMMUNICATIONS@MACU.EDU



MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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WWW.MACU.EDU/WATCH/ WATCH MACU CHAPEL LIVE DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR EVERY WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT 10 A.M.

> COVER PHOTO MACU Students at Belle Kitchen, OKC

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RESID

Dear Friends,

The picture was unavoidable. You almost collided with it as you walked out of the sanctuary. Its symbolism was something akin to the motto printed on a beam of the tunnel leading into the football stadium. You have witnessed the camera shots as player after player hops to hit his hand on those words that represent glory days of the past and aspiration of victories for the future.

That picture was a huge blown-up snapshot of that past historic and high attendance day. There was a myriad of faces young and old alike that gathered on the church grounds. No words explained what it took to get all those people to attend church that day.

Did it come about through evangelism or a special event? Was it the result of a family bargain in which a spouse agreed to no longer pressure the other to go to church? I even wondered whether leaders knew that day they had broken the attendance record. Sometimes the fruit of hard work and the blessings of God are not recognized except in hindsight.

A President's Report has all the components of the historic photo of that church. It pictures the past and celebrates the accomplishments. While that image visibly memorialized the pioneers, visionaries, benefactors and offspring, a President's Report is a similar snapshot.

Within this report, we celebrate how God has blessed this university. Past numbers reflect the fruit of His Spirit as the Lord advanced MACU's mission. Like the people memorialized in that precious moment in time, our list of donors represents the benevolence and commitment of individuals, families and

organizations. The statistics regarding the number of employees quickly translates into the throng of faithful laborers in the Kingdom of God.

The story of the 2016 commencement, the focus upon alumni and the inspiration of how God continues to work in the life of this university creates a script on the beam of time: "Dream Bigger. Do Greater." Through the tunnels of academic rigor and spiritual growth, our graduates leaped to cast their hands on that motto as they step into classrooms, courtrooms, marketplaces, clinics and into so many other settings.

The President's Report isn't really about the President. No, it's a picture of the way that the Lord Jesus has entrusted His mission to this university and how He is accomplishing His will. It's about faculty, staff and students who have chosen to be in the starting lineup of witnesses and missionaries. It's about the people who have sacrificed to build those players a place to practice in and the coaching necessary to win the game.

When you turn the last page of this report, I hope there will linger a picture that portrays this truth: "Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness" (NLT Psalm 145:3).





Dr. John Fozard, President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



MACU LEADERSHIP:



This past year MACU incorporated the teachings of GiANT Worldwide to cultivate a healthy culture by creating leaders at every level:

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP:

- 4 Senior Leaders
- 1 Year GiANT Leadership National Training

MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP:

- 4 Core Groups
- 36 Participants
- 1 Year GiANT Leadership In-House Training

STUDENT LEADERSHIP:

- 128 Student Participants
- 596 Training Hours
- 477 Mentoring Hours

MACU AT A GLANCE:





2,477

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DR. JOHN FOZARD, President DR. BILL MCDOWELL, Executive Vice President JODY ALLEN, Special Assistant to the Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer DR. ERIC ANTHONY JOSEPH, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Chief Diversity Officer DR. SHARON LEASE, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences JESSICA RIMMER, Vice President for Student Engagement and Success SUSAN "MICI" SARTIN, Chief Financial Officer REV. STEVE SEATON, Vice President for University Advancement DR. BOBBIE SPURGEON-HARRIS, Vice President for the College of Adult and Graduate Studies

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

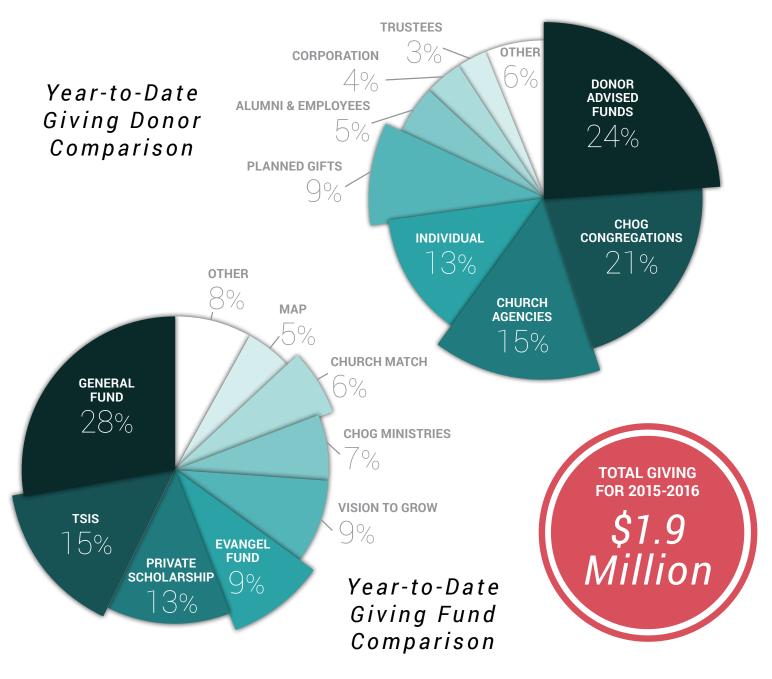




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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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PLANNED GIVING

During 2015-2016, the following individuals either made an estate gift to MACU or indicated their desire to include MACU in their estate planning.

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To receive information on how estate planning may benefit you or your family, contact the Office of University Advancement at 405-692-3191.

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Eagle Point Church of God

East Side Church of God

Soto, Luis Spence, Randall* and Pamela Stanley, Charles and Marilyn Steffens, John* and Patricia Stephenson, Loren and Betty Stortz. Linda Swindell, Charles M. Swindell Revocable Trust Tate, Jay and Dena Tedder, Verne P Tedder Revocable Living Trust Tedder, Verne Thiems, Oscar and Peggy Thomas. Donna **Thomas Family Trust** Tice, Tommy and Judy Tidwell, Ted and Jan Tipton, Daniel and Terri Todd. Elaine Toler, Stan and Linda Torrez. Michael and Rosanna* Townsdin, Ronald and Stacy Treat, Mariah Trimboli, Anthony John Tweedy, Chris and Kara Tyler, Dennis and Pat Van Dorn, Dwight Van Dorn Trust Van Keuren, Mark and Carol Van Lingen, Martha (ESTATE) Vanderslice, Dorothy Walker, Joe and Barbara Walker. Joe and Jeri Walls, Alison** Wardlow, Christopher and Kay Watson, Gene Wax, Gary and Tana Webb. ITF Ruth E. Webb Living Trust Weuve, Vivian Wheeler, Monta Jean Whinery, Tawanna Whitton, Ron* and Cathy Wiley, Stacey Williams, Carolyn Williams, Robert and Joyce Williams, Wilburn Willis. David Willoughby, Tim and Jane Windisch, Tasha Winters, Mark Wood, Ernie Woodall. Scott and Annette Young, Ron and Patty Young, Ken and Linda** Zurline, Brennan** and Chelsi * Trustee ** Faculty/Staff/Ad **CHURCH SUPPORT: CHUR** 40th Avenue Church of God Alva Church of God **Bethel Church of God** Boma First Church of God Bonnie Church of God Brookville First Church of God Burkeville Church of God Camp Ground Church of God Cedar Creek Church of God **Church of North Apollo** Cookeville First Church of God **Cross Pointe Church of God** Crossings Community Church Crosspointe Fellowship Church Crossroads Church of God **Cypress Street Church of God** Dayspring Community Church

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North Apollo	PA
Cookeville	TN
Bloomington	IL
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Kilgore	ТХ
Howell	MI
West Monroe	LA
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De Soto	MO
Little Rock	AR
Anderson	IN

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Lexington Muskogee Kennett Monterey Shawnee Bristow Chilhowie Clinton Crossett Cushing Darlington Doniphan East Prairie Effingham Elkhart Greeneville Harrisburg Hatch Hickory Holdenville Huaoton Hutchinson Jefferson City Joliet Lexington Marion Marseilles Martinsburg Morehead Mount Vernon Pauls Valley Piggott Point Pleasant Poplar Bluff Pryor Saltville St. Joseph Tyler Van Wert Vancouver Venice West Frankfort Winter Haven Miamisburg East Point Tulare Greeneville Moore Oak Grove Granby Texhoma **Bossier City** Kingsport Casper Trenton Andover Roseburg Eastland Oak Hill Lees Summit Covington Louisville West Monroe Decatur Colville Springfield Dixon Fairborn Marion Ashland Moundsville Oak Grove Albuquerque Middletown Pekin Odessa Bauxite Benton **Bethel Park**

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Antioch Christian Church	Oklahoma City	OK
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Capitol Hill Assembly of God	Oklahoma City	OK
Country Community Church	Midwest City	OK
First Baptist Church	Ardmore	OK
First Baptist Church	Jenks	OK
First Baptist Church	Moore	OK
First Baptist Church	Newcastle	OK
First Baptist Church	Verden	OK
First Cumberland Presbyterian Church	Marlow	OK
First United Methodist Church	Oklahoma City	OK
Genesis Church OKC	Oklahoma City	OK
Grace Community Baptist Church	Oklahoma City	OK
Heart to Honduras	Xenia	OH
Innovation Church	Orlando	FL
Moore Community Church	Moore	OK
Mosaic Church	Oklahoma City	OK
Solace Church	Tulsa	OK
South Lakes Church	Oklahoma City	OK
Southpointe Church of the Nazarene	Oklahoma City	OK
Southwest Baptist Church	Oklahoma City	OK
Templo De Albanza	Oklahoma City	OK
The Assembly of God Church	Broken Arrow	OK
Tuttle Christian Church	Tuttle	OK
Valley Life Church	Pauls Valley	OK
West Dallas Community Church	Dallas	ТΧ
Westmoore Community Church	Oklahoma City	OK
Wilmont Place Baptist Church	Oklahoma City	OK

AFFILIATED CHURCH AGENCIES

Arkansas Chrisitan Women Connection	Benton	AR
Christian Women Connection	Anderson	IN
Church of God Ministries	Anderson	IN
Church of God Missionary Board	Elk City	OK
East Tennessee Women of the Church of God	Afton	TN
Iowa State Assembly of the Church of God	Des Moines	IA
Missouri Church Men	St. James	MO
Oklahoma Christian Women Connection	Oklahoma City	OK
West Virginia Christian Women Connection	Culloden	WV
Women of the Church of Scottsbluff	Gering	NE
Wyoming General Assembly of the Church of God	Casper	WY
FOUNDATION	IS	

Amazon Smile Foundation	Seattle	WA
Eli Lilly and Company Foundation	Princeton	NJ
National Christian Foundation	Olathe	KS

Oklahoma City Community Foundation Tulsa Community Foundation	Oklahoma City Tulsa	ОК ОК	Lawn America Legends Auto Collision	Edmond Oklahoma City	01 01
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				Moore Oklahoma City	
Abel Law Firm	Oklahoma City	OK	Mercury Press		OI
Accurate Tax Professionals & Bookkeeping	Kalisipell	MT	Metro Pediatrics, P.C.	Birmingham	A
American Fidelity Assurance	Oklahoma City	OK	Michael L. Chandler C.P.A.	Ardmore	0
Associated Agencies	New Castle	IN	MidFirst Bank	Oklahoma City	0
B&H Construction	Tuttle	OK	Midwest Inventory Service	Moore	0
Bank of America	Providence	RI	MK's Fabric and Notions	Pauls Valley	0
Bank2	Oklahoma City	OK	Murphy Energy Corporation	Tulsa	0
Bill Warren Office Products	Oklahoma City	ОК	MW Financial	Ardmore	0
Bott Radio Network	Overland Park	KS	OK Premier	Norman	01
Bryan's Flooring	Oklahoma City	ОК	Oklahoma Force Fastpitch Softball Org.	Tuttle	01
Campaign Sports	Manalapan	NJ	Oklahoma Independent Colleges & Universities	Oklahoma City	0
Carousel Learning Center	Wellston	OK	Oklahoma Tax Commission	Oklahoma City	0
Chick-Fil-A	Altanta	GA	OP2 Volleyball Club	Edmond	0
Circle W. Ranch	Edmond	OK	Pastors' Fellowship	Winchester	К
Clements Resources, Clements, Michael*	White Oak	ТΧ	Paycom	Oklahoma City	0
Comtech Design, Print & Mail	Oklahoma City	ОК	Pepsi-Cola	Oklahoma City	0
Eckroat Seed Co.	Oklahoma City	ОK	Perry Publishing	Oklahoma City	0
Edward Jones	Maryland Heights	MO	Phoenix Hardwood & Plywood	Oklahoma City	0
EMSCO Electric Supply Co.	Oklahoma City	OK	Physical Education for		
Express Personnel Services	Oklahoma City	OK	Children Schooled at Home	Spencer	0
Exteriors Plus	Edmond	OK	Pinnacle Solving	Edmond	0
FAA Credit Union	Oklahoma City	OK	Prime Bank	Edmond	0
Fidelity & Guaranty Life Insurance Company	Lincoln	NE	Prosperity Bank	Oklahoma City	0
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	Cincinnati	OH	Pumps of Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	0
First Financial Bank Wealth Management	Hamilton	OH	Reynolds Ford Lincoln Mazda	Oklahoma City	0
Flanagan Land and Cattle Co.	Texhoma	OK	Shawnee Elite Volleyball Club	Shawnee	0
Fowler Investments LTD A Partnership	Snyder	ТХ	Spirit Volleyball	Oklahoma City	0
Fritts Farm Development Co.	Moore	ОК	State Farm Companies Found		
Gallagher Bassett Services	Itasca	IL	Matching Gift Program	Princeton	N
Garcia Tire Service	Oklahoma City	OK	Super Pawn	Oklahoma City	0
GuideStone Financial Resources. S.B.C.	Dallas	TX	The Physicans Group - Dr. M. Sean O'Brien	Oklahoma City	0
Homeland	Oklahoma City	OK	The Shoe Bazaar	Marlow	0
Hobsons	Cincinnati	OH	Tim's Tax Service	Chelsea	0
Houston Financial	Oklahoma City	OK	Tinker Federal Credit Union	Tinker AFB	0
ImageNet Consulting	Oklahoma City	OK	Top Hat Talent	Oklahoma Citv	0
Jack B. Riley, C.P.A.	Ardmore	OK	Tyler Broadcasting Corporation	Oklahoma City	0
Jackson Mechanical Service	Oklahoma City	OK	Vanguard Development Company	Oklahoma City	Ō
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"That my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!" PSALM 30:12

GIVE.MACU.EDU/



To our generous donors and sponsors, I would like to offer my deepest gratitude. Because of you, we are able to provide a Christ-focused education for thousands of students. Thank you, and God bless you.

- John Fozard

DREAM GALA 2016

FIRST EVER

DREAM

GALA

More than

\$100,000

Raised for

Scholarships

GIVEN AT EVENT

More than

\$24,000

More than

EVENT SPONSORS - Event Attendance

TOTAL SEATS SOLD

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DONORS

Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK) received the first-ever "Dream Maker" award for advancing the cause of Christian higher education.

SAVE THE DATE April 6. 2017 • 7:00 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT DREAMGALA.MACU.EDU/

SPORTS UPDATE

MACU ATHLETICS FALL 2016

HANNAH MOELLER HIRED AS Women's basketball coach

Hannah Moeller takes over the program after a four-year tenure at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, now Randall University. During her time at Hillsdale, Moeller was named the 2016 NCCAA National Coach of the Year, won two national championships, was twice named Southwest Regional Coach of the Year, coached nine All-American players and touted a 105-28 coaching record.

"I am honored and extremely excited for the opportunity to become the head women's basketball coach at MACU," Moeller said. "It feels like a dream come true to return to the Sooner Athletic Conference. The greatest opportunity of all, for me, is to be able to continue to use the game of basketball as a tool to reach more young women with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Moeller holds an Associate of Arts from Southwestern Christian University and a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management from Rogers State University. Her graduate work is in physical education from the University of Central Oklahoma. Hannah, her husband Marcus and their son Owen reside in Oklahoma City.

Please join us in welcoming Hannah Moeller to MACU!

The Lady Evangels' home basketball game is at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7 against Central Christian College.



It's been a busy summer for

award-winning men's basketball coach Josh Gamblin.

After leading the Evangels to their first-ever NAIA national championship in March and snagging the Coach of the Year award, Gamblin spent the summer with NBA superstar and former University of Oklahoma standout Blake Griffin, hosting an AAU basketball camp for young boys.

Next, Gamblin will speak at a Nike basketball clinic held Sept. 30 and Oct. 1-2 on the campus of Oral Roberts University in Tulsa. He will join other basketball coaches from around the state, including OU's Lon Kruger and Sherri Coale.

At 10:45 a.m. on Oct. 1, Gamblin will present the topic "Covering the Pick and Roll" to attendees. In addition, the MACU men's basketball team will give demonstrations for each coach speaking at the three-day event.

The first Evangels' home basketball game is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25 against Manhattan Christian College.





COACH GAMBLIN

Coach Gamblin worked with Team Griffin this summer, a camp for young boys dedicated to promoting physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle. The camp was founded by LA Clippers power forward Blake Griffin.



INTRODUCING THE MACU Athletics E-club

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE Men's Soccer

3 p.m.	Bethel University
	Played at John Brown
	University
3 p.m.	John Brown University
	Oklahoma City University
7 p.m.	@ Texas Wesleyan
	University
4 p.m.	@ Bacone College
3 p.m.	Wayland Baptist
	University
3 p.m.	@ Southwestern
	Assemblies of God
7 p.m.	@ University of Science
	and Arts of Oklahoma
3 p.m.	@ Saint Gregory's
	University
3 p.m.	Southwestern Christian
	University
	3 p.m. 4 p.m. 7 p.m. 3 p.m. 3 p.m. 3 p.m. 3 p.m. 3 p.m.

This involvement includes participation and financial support for the purpose of fostering the development of the holistic student-athlete experience. The E-Club also serves to support the tradition of excellence in character, academics, athletics and stewardship in our student-athletes, coaches, staff and alumni.

At 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 28, the next E-Club luncheon will meet at MACU's new private dining room. We are happy to welcome new members! For more information about the E-Club, visit www.macu.edu/e-club/

WOMEN'S SOCCER

09.25	1 p.m.	Bethel University Played at John Brown University
09.28	1 p.m.	John Brown University
10.01	2 p.m.	Oklahoma City University
10.04	5 p.m.	@ Texas Wesleyan
	•	University
10.11	2 p.m.	Bacone College
10.14	1 p.m.	Wayland Baptist
		University
10.18	3 p.m.	@ Southwestern
	•	Assemblies of God
10.22	5 p.m.	@ University of Science
	•	and Arts of Oklahoma
10.25	1 p.m.	@ Saint Gregory's University
10.29	1 p.m.	Southwestern Christian
		University



2016 MACU GOLF CLASSIC

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2016 Hidden Trails Country Club 6501 S. Country Club Dr. Oklahoma City, OK 73159

- Lunch and Registration at 12 p.m.
- Shotgun start at 1 p.m.

The MACU Golf Classic is a fundraiser benefiting the university's general scholarship fund. Tournament entry is \$100 per person. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information about the MACU Golf Classic or to register online, please visit golfclassic.macu.edu/

VOLLEYBALL

09.27 09.29	7 p.m. @ Texas Wesleyan University 7 p.m. @ University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma
10.03	7 p.m. Randall University
10.04	7 p.m. Bacone College
10.07	6 p.m. University of the Southwest
10.08	1 p.m. Texas Wesleyan University
10.10	7 p.m. Langston University
10.11	7 p.m. @ Oklahoma City
10.14	7 p.m. @ Saint Gregory's University
10.17	5 p.m. East Central and
	7 p.m. @ Langston University
10.18	7 p.m. University of Science and
	Arts of Oklahoma
10.22	11 a.m.@ Wayland Baptist University
10.25	7 p.m. @ John Brown University
10.27	7 p.m. Southwestern Christian University
10.28	7 p.m. @ Dallas Christian University

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MACU ATHLETIC PROGRAMS!

WWW.MACUATHLETICS.COM/



BLAKE BARNETT'S FIRST SEMESTER as an Evangel was a quiet one. A former homeschool student, his days at MACU consisted of coming to school, attending class, studying and leaving. By the second semester, all of that changed.

Barnett became a member of student government, planned events, led worship in chapel and joined the Iron Men, a new group composed of several young men who MACU President Dr. John Fozard and other school officials identified as great student leaders.

Through his involvement with the group, Fozard introduced an internship opportunity to Barnett with PGT Industries, a window supply company headquartered in Venice, Fla.

Founded in 1980, PGT was established as a leader in impact-resistant windows and doors after the devastation of Hurricane Andrew. Dave McCutcheon, MACU Board of Trustee member and grandson of visionary CHOG pastor Dr. Lillie McCutcheon, serves as PGT's Vice President of Manufacturing. He not only encouraged the position, but offered to host Barnett in his home during the course of the internship. During his time with the McCutcheons, Barnett said he became an honorary member of the family.

He said one of the greatest parts of being a PGT intern was the dedicated time he had to invest in projects.

"While everyone else was busy with the daily business, I had the freedom to come alongside production lines and help analyze them to make processes more efficient. By utilizing some of the GiANT Worldwide tools we learned in the President's Iron Men training, it became easy to invest in the factory employees and communicate with their needs," Barnett said. "One of the projects that we worked on helped save nearly four miles of walking each day for employees," he said. "That equaled extra time saved per shift, and nearly \$330,000 saved in potential production."

Barnett said the real-world leadership skills he gained on the factory floor gave him a boost for his upcoming senior year at MACU.

"I feel more ready than ever to mentor other students. I can't wait to share what I've done and show others what you can get out and do!"

He said his time with the school – and all the opportunities that have come with it – "Has been Godled the entire way. MACU has provided me something I could have never dreamed of."



BECOMING A LEADER

During his 2016 summer internship with PGT Industries, Blake Barnett helped the company save over \$300,000 in potential production.

MALCOLM-MANN

AROUND THE SAME TIME Malcolm Mann sank the buzzer beater that led the Evangels to their first ever NAIA Championship win, the community of Flint, Mich., found themselves facing a serious water crisis.

This summer, the two crossed paths in a way that altered countless lives.

After finishing up his junior year at MACU, Mann was brought aboard as an intern at the Frito-Lay distribution center in Flint. In addition to working as district sales leaders, each of the 300 interns was given a project to work on during their time with Frito-Lay. Mann's was to quantify the effect of the water crisis on the company.

As a part of his project, Mann helped a local church host a water crisis awareness block party. Frito-Lay provided more than 300 bags of chips for the event, the first form of outreach the company provided for Flint since the crisis began.

Mann's work and research culminated in a capstone presentation given by all interns to company executives. Last in line, Mann waited and listened to one speaker after the other. The basketball standout worried that by not speaking in terms of numbers that his work would not be perceived as successful or valued by Frito-Lay.

"Every other presentation, they were talking about how they made \$250,000 for the company or \$50,000 for the company," he said. "That wasn't my assignment."

Despite his nerves, he leaned into God.

"If you turn to Christ and you do what's in His will then everything will work out," he said. "I was worried about the project and the numbers, but I decided to trust what Christ called me to do."

As it turns out, what he did was worth more than money could buy.

"I told the executives that relationships transfer to dollar amounts. I asked them, 'What are we doing intentionally to build relationships with the community and rebuild trust?' It's important to see the people, not just the product."

The skills Mann learned at MACU helped make him successful in his internship, he said. He especially stressed the importance of "knowing yourself to lead yourself," a tool MACU uses from GiANT Worldwide.

When he began his internship, Mann just wanted to do an excellent job and be a valued intern. In the end, he realized what mattered most was to listen to and serve the community of Flint, striving to help them experience Christ's goodness and love in the face of ongoing adversity.

Even though the summer is over and it's time to come back to a busy senior year at MACU, Mann's story doesn't end there. On the day he returned to campus, he received a call from Frito-Lay offering him a full-time job with the company after he graduates next spring.

Whether he's on the court or in the boardroom, Malcolm Mann always comes out a champion of God.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Malcolm Mann spends time caring for some of the youngest Flint residents affected by the water crisis.

CAFÉ 1412

COMMUTER CAFÉ

Thanks to generous donor support, the MACU cafeteria saw some big changes this summer!

The Name

We decided to name the café after our vision verse, John 14:12, where Jesus says, "Truly, truly I say to you. Greater things will you do than I have done because I go to the Father."

Service

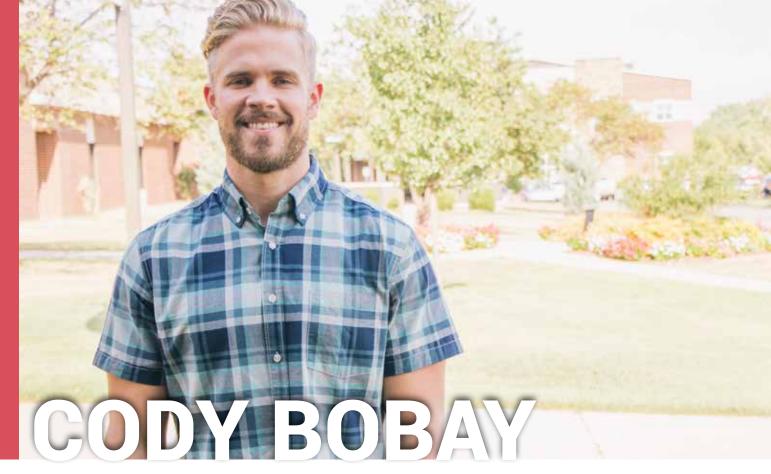
With a seating capacity of 240 and two private dining rooms, Café 1412 serves breakfast, lunch and dinner every day for our students, faculty, staff and friends.

Join Us

We are excited to incorporate the heart of our institution into our beautiful new space.

Please join us for a meal at Café 1412 soon!





As a teenager, Cody Bobay found his identity in what other people wanted him to be.

"I went from party to party and as my popularity increased, so did the pressure to perform," Bobay said.

Keeping up with the routine of a partier was draining. At 18, Bobay decided he needed to break away from the tumultuous lifestyle he knew. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and entered boot camp on Sept. 11, 2003.

"I really had the hope I could make myself a better person," Bobay said. "I wanted to change my reputation so I didn't have to live from one high to the next with partying and keeping up with my popularity."

Two days into the Navy, Bobay was made the leader of the other 80 men in his division. He slipped into his old lifestyle like a well-worn pair of shoes: ill-fitting, falling apart, but familiar. Bouncing from party to party with his comrades, Bobay said he hit "rock bottom" in Panama City some six months later.

"I realized there was nothing left for me," he said.

Alone in his barracks room on March 24, 2004, Bobay crumpled to his knees and cried out for the only help he had left.

"I told God that if He is who He says He is, and if the Bible is real, that I will tell everybody about it for the rest of my life," he said.

It was then that, for the first time in his life, Bobay felt God's unconditional love and acceptance come over him in waves. It washed over him and cleansed away his sinful nature, freeing him from the lifestyle he'd spent nearly half of his life trapped in.

Since that moment, Bobay's life has been about exactly what he told God on the floor of his barracks room: sharing the Gospel. About two months after he gave his life to Christ, his career path in the military changed. He was transferred to Oklahoma City as an airman in the nuclear platform.

"I knew that God's hand was in it," Bobay said. He served six years in the Navy and intended on becoming a Navy SEAL — but God had other ideas, leading him to a wellness ministry.

With only minimal schooling to lean on, Bobay said it was by God's grace that he was able to leave the Navy and step into a corporate wellness position. He said he'll never forget the interview process for that job, where he was the only candidate with an associate's degree and the other applicants had master's degrees to rely on. But what he had was confidence — and faith that God wouldn't fail him.

And He didn't.

Bobay started his corporate job based on his level of belief in himself and his faith that he could get the job done. As a working adult and a husband of three years, he decided he needed to continue his education.

"I knew I had to find the right school so I could balance it with having a lot going on," he said. "I found MACU."

Taking one-night-a-week classes fit perfectly into Bobay's hectic schedule. He graduated with a

bachelor's degree in Business Management and Ethics all the while working full-time, writing his first book and celebrating the birth of his first child. His research project on the positive impact of wellness in the workplace netted him a research award from MACU – and helped him realize the vision God had for his life.

"I knew God was on a mission to continue my work to inspire people and focus in on the church to live a lifestyle of wellness," Bobay said.

After seeking counsel, he decided to pursue a master's degree from MACU. During that time, he started working on his second book as well as on climbing up the corporate ladder in the wellness world. Bobay began speaking to churches, men's groups and conferences.

He said MACU's philosophy of "Dream Bigger. Do Greater." helped him push forward as he kept up with balancing home, work, church and school. As he worked on his graduate degree, Bobay said he started thinking about what his research project — and his heart — was all about.

About a month after graduating with his Master's degree in Leadership, Bobay accepted a promotion within his job of a global wellness coordinator.

He continued writing his second book, *SOULCON CHALLENGE*, which he finished and released on Dec. 16, 2015. The book details a six-week Special Forces inspired challenge for men with a promise to take

them from "an Al Bundy lifestyle to one like Chris Kyle."

As he watched the book gain momentum, finding a place on the shelves of stores like Mardel and Lifeway and netting 5-star reviews on Amazon, Bobay realized he'd finally found his life's calling.



"My purpose is to restore men's ministry across the U.S.," he said. "When I released *SOULCON CHALLENGE*, I felt that God put on my heart that I needed to make that a reality."

That reality culminated this summer when, in the middle of his devotion time, God placed an important date and task on Bobay's conscience.

"This is what I love that MACU teaches: that God's plan for our life is so much greater and way more uncomfortable than we can imagine," laughed Bobay, "way more uncomfortable."

On Aug. 22, Bobay stepped down from his job in the corporate wellness world to pursue his goal of restoring men's ministry with SOULCON Ministries.

This summer, Bobay released a mobile app for men that offers weekly challenges, daily Scripture devotions, workout videos and instructions, and mind, will and emotion training in line with the Special Forces theme that plays heavily in his books. Next year, he'll see SOULCON Ministries host weekly video streams for evangelical churches across the country, breathing life into dying men's ministry programs. And in the future, SOULCON Ministries hopes to open a training facility in McAlester that mimics the experience of his second book with a four-day program.

Cody Bobay lives in Oklahoma City with his wife, Hayley, and their children, Ty and Parker. He is working on his third book, *SOULCON Suburbia*, which will teach men attending his intensive training course how to stay on track after they return home. If you would more information on SOULCON Ministries, please visit www.soulcon.com/

PROMOTING HIS BOOK

SOULCON CHALLENGE is a men's wellness book designed to promote spiritual and physical fitness. It is available in Mardel and Lifeway stores, as well as on Amazon.



WALKING A MILE IN DIFFERENT SHOES

A U.S. Navy shadow box, a set of military boots, athletic sneakers and leather lace-ups represent the different phases in Cody Bobay's life as a member of the U. S. Navy, a wellness coordinator and a motivational speaker.

MIDDLEBROOKS

Pictured: Three generations of the Middlebrooks family



YOU COULD ARGUE that the Middlebrooks family puts the "Mid" in Mid-America Christian University. For close to 50 years, three generations have walked the school hallways both in Houston and in Oklahoma City, making athletics history and filling both student and teacher roles in the classroom.

It all started in the 1960s, when Marvin Middlebrooks came to Gulf Coast Bible College to play basketball. At the time, that was all he wanted to do. He was a child of the decade, a rebel who resented the school's academics and strict rules. Because of his unruly behavior, Marvin Middlebrooks was "kicked out" of GBC several times. He was eventually allowed to stay at the school, but only if he moved off campus so he wouldn't influence other students. His story is a demonstration of God's redeeming love and grace.

There's still a touch of mischief in Marvin Middlebrooks' brown eyes — but nowadays, it's Kingdom work he's famous for.

After re-committing his life to Christ, Marvin Middlebrooks married his wife, Janice, the woman he met and fell in love with during his days at GBC. They served at six churches and raised five children – all alumni of the school – before coming back to the university in 1993.

More than 400 miles away from its roots in Houston and renamed Mid-America Bible College, Marvin and Janice Middlebrooks became a professor and the registrar, respectively. They've spent more than two decades touching lives in and outside of the classroom — including many of their own family members.

In addition to their five children, the Middlebrooks have also seen many of their grandchildren, siblings, nieces and nephews come through the school. Marvin Middlebrooks said it's the familial atmosphere of the school that keeps his loved ones coming back again and again.

"At MACU, community plays into everything, whether it's athletics, in the chapel, in the dorms or in the classroom. We are blessed to be a part of a group of people that serve the Lord and work together to impact the world for Christ," Marvin Middlebrooks said.

Janice Middlebrooks said working at MACU is a privilege.

"It is gratifying to help students achieve their goals and witness how God works in their lives," she said.

This fall semester marks Marvin Middlebrooks' last as a full-time ministry professor. He will retire after closing out the last chapel of the year on Friday, Dec. 9. Don't worry — the Middlebrooks patriarch plans to remain involved in various activities at MACU and to keep touching lives and serving the Lord with his wife, continuing the family legacy.



CARTER

Pictured: Kimberly, Panola and Karen

SOME SIBLINGS SHARE CLOTHES; others share toys or a favorite meal. Then, there's Dr. Kimberly Thomas – who shares her status as a proud MACU alumnus with her younger brother and sister.

Thomas, who serves as the Adult School of Christian Ministries chair at MACU, was the first of her family to attend the university – then Gulf Coast Bible College – in 1979. She decided she'd try the school for a semester after visiting a recruitment table at a Church of God convention in her home state of Tennessee.

"There was such a sense of caring from the professors, and even student to student," Thomas said. It was her positive experience at GBC that paved the way for her siblings to attend.

Three years later, her brother, Panola Carter III, came to GBC after an administrative mix-up prevented him from enrolling in the college he planned to attend. The mistake turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

"I met friends that I still have to this day," Panola Carter said.

"When you go to college, you meet people who impact you for the rest of your life, whether you go your separate ways or you stay lifelong friends. As young believers, you want the influences you allow in your life to be positive ones that strengthen your faith and connection with Christ. A school like MACU allows for the development of intimate relationships that last." The youngest member of the family, Karen Carter said she didn't have much of a choice when it came to following in her siblings' footsteps — and she's glad she didn't.

"I found my true path," she said. "If I had gone to New York [like I originally planned], I probably would've strayed from the church. MACU was good for me."

During her time as a student, Carter was one half of Something Special, a singing group that traveled across the country. She carries her love of music with her to this day, and hopes to one day combine it with her current job in the medical field.

In addition to the three siblings, their mother also took classes at MACU. So far, no other generations have come through the school, but Panola Carter said he wouldn't rule out the possibility of a future Evangel in the family — though the school might need a little more time to prepare before that happens.

"I think it's still recovering from us," he laughed.

Dr. Kimberly Thomas and Karen Carter reside in Oklahoma City with their families. Panola Carter III resides in Detroit, where he serves as an associate pastor at Joseph Campau Avenue Church of God.



LIKE MANY YOUNG BOYS, Jacob Pool grew up with dreams of one day becoming a police officer. He's spent most of his adult life making those dreams come true, working as an animal control officer and policeman at the Weatherford Police Department. Now, he's joined the MACU family as the campus's new Chief of Police.

Pool, who grew up in Clinton, attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, where he remained after graduating with his bachelor's degree and marrying his wife, Jessica. A few years ago, he got the feeling that their plans in the western half of the state weren't as permanent as they once thought.

"We were kind of talking one night and we both felt very strongly that we wouldn't retire from Weatherford," Pool recalled. "We always knew mission work was in the picture, we just thought it was down the road after we retired."

As He often does, God had other ideas. As the couple prayed God would open the right doors, they were approached by two friends about starting a church in Mustang. After spending several days in prayer, the Pools accepted the offer and joined the church's formation team.

Since then, the church has grown from a few individuals meeting in the Pools' living room to groups gathering in the Mustang Community Center. Pool said the church focuses on small groups - called "well groups" - to build a sense of community. The congregation held their first bi-weekly meeting this summer.

"We don't want to rush," Pool said. "We want to have God's timing."

That's something Pool is familiar with. He knew leaving Weatherford probably meant the end of his career in law enforcement. He needed a normal 8-to-5 job, not one with rotating shifts and graveyard hours. He prepared to say goodbye to his passion if it meant fulfilling God's purpose for his life. But God had something else in mind.

After one disappointing job application after another – "[the jobs] just disappeared, or were filled before I got an interview" – Pool said he got discouraged. He didn't even consider applying for another law enforcement job until his wife found the opening for a police chief at MACU.

"MACU has been great," he said. "I've meshed really well here and I appreciate how well everyone has treated me."

Pool said the school blends his love of God, people and the sense of right and wrong. He hopes he will be able to leave a positive impact on the lives of the students he comes into contact with every day, especially in a time when some officers face harsh criticism.

"I see this as an opportunity to really build our relationships and show some of these students that police officers in general want to be your friend. They want to be there for you, they want to help you," Pool said. He said with a school of MACU's size, there will always be students who have had a negative experience with police officers or other figures of authority.

"There are people here who have had some sort of injustice done to them. I want them to know that at MACU, they are loved. They're loved by the faculty, by the police department, by everybody here. We care for them and we want to have a relationship with them so they realize they can rely on a police officer somewhere down the road," Pool said. "[Police officers] aren't just there to arrest people or write them a ticket, they got into the field because they wanted to help people."

Jacob Pool and his wife Jessica are currently looking for a home in Mustang, where they plan to permanently reside. They have two daughters, Beth and Jane, and are expecting their third child in February.

Please join us in welcoming Chief Jacob Pool to the Evangel family!

"I WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT AT MACU, THEY ARE LOVED."

JOINING IN WORSHIP

As a member of the worship team, Chief Pool uses his musical gifts to participate in chapel.

STANDING GUARD

Chief Pool and Police Officer Chris Byram are ready to serve. Welcome back Teacher Edu

FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, Kathy Adams has worked with students of all ages as a teacher principal and favorit

with students of all ages as a teacher, principal and superintendent. Now, she joins the MACU School of Teacher Education as a full-time professor.

"I love to teach," Adams said. "It's so much fun – we're the foundation for everything that's out there. I think everybody can remember a teacher who changed their life."

She described her career as something she fell in love with in high school.

"I had some teachers that really made an impact," she said. "I felt that being a teacher was what I was meant to do – it was a calling."

Although this will be her first time teaching in a physical college classroom, Adams is no stranger to MACU. She served as an adjunct professor in the online program for about a year, teaching students across the U.S. and the world.

"I truly enjoyed it," Adams said. "It was great to meet adults all over the country. Even though I didn't see them, I got to know their background, their life experiences and help them."

She called her full-time position at MACU "a blessing."

"I'm excited to be able to create disciples that are going to give back to children," Adams said. "I hope I can be successful in making a difference and that we can increase the amount of teachers in Oklahoma. MACU teachers graduate with a Christian background, which I think is so much stronger." It's that strength — like that described in Adams' favorite verse, Philippians 4:13 — that she hopes to impart on her students.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Dr. Kathy Adams and her husband, Greg, live in Norman with their three children. Her husband, whose military background first brought the family to Oklahoma in 1999, works at Tinker Air Force Base.

To ring in the fall semester, Dr. Adams provided her new students with a "survival kit" to get them through the first half of the school year. Some goodies inside the kit included:

- A crayon, to color students' days bright and cheerful
- An eraser, reminding students that everyone makes mistakes
- Life Savers candy, because teachers are lifesavers

Pink Pearl

- A paperclip to hold it all together
- And a prayer for students to say at the start of each day

IN HIS YOUTH, Harold Kihega found his love of science through the observation of horses and cattle on his parents' farm in Lawton. Now, he's bringing that passion to the classroom as a biology professor at MACU.

"I always prayed about getting a biology position at a Christian college," Kihega said. "I know God had a hand in me coming here."

In addition to teaching, Kihega hopes to build a biology degree program. He said the goal is to offer more biology courses every semester until a full curriculum is built.

Kihega brings more than 20 years' experience from a diverse range of fields, including serving in law enforcement and teaching at both the primary and collegiate level. He's taught at seven colleges across Kansas, New Mexico and Oklahoma, including the University of Oklahoma in Norman and Oklahoma City Community College.

He said he plans to pick the best parts of the programs he's been a part of and blend them into a dynamic program for his students so they can "Dream Bigger" and "Do Greater" for their community.

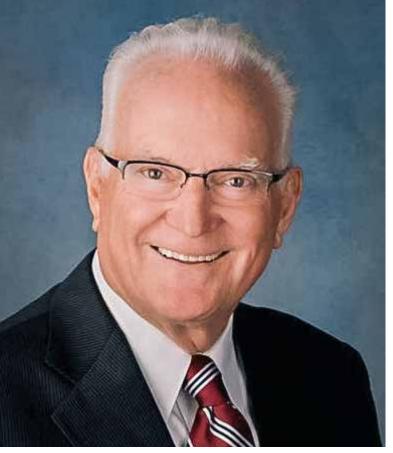
"I want MACU students to have the highest acceptance rate into STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) graduate schools, like medical schools," Kihega said. "I think that Christian people make the best nurses and doctors — they care about the person, not just the job."

Dr. Harold Kihega is a member of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma. He and his wife, Shannon, reside in Norman.

SUMMER CAMP

With the help of Dr. Kihega, MACU has established a partnership with the Otoe-Missouria tribe of Oklahoma and Frontier Public Schools in Red Rock to provide a summer STEM camp at MACU over the next three years. This will establish a bridge program for underrepresented minorities in STEM to receive instruction, mentorship and research training for STEM careers. This will also provide recruitment opportunities for STEM majors at MACU. The Otoe-Missouria tribe has graciously agreed to provide laboratory equipment in exchange for the 3-year STEM camp. Their involvement will help start the new biology program. MACU looks forward to creating other partnerships with various communities to continue the further development of the School of Math and Science.







From left to right: Dr. Eric Joseph, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Diversity Officer, Mid-America Christian University; Marty Grubbs, Senior Pastor, Crossings Community Church; Dr. James Earl Massey, Dean Emeritus, Anderson School of Theology; Gwendolyn Inez Kilpatrick Massey; and the late Dr. David Grubbs.



Dr. David Grubbs lived a true servant's life. Born into a family of Church of God pastors, Grubbs grew in the Lord from a young age. His parents, J.D. and Inez, served churches in much of the southeast as well as Indiana. There, Grubbs attended Anderson College — known today as Anderson University — and graduated in 1960. Fourteen years later, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the institution.

As an ordained Church of God minister of more than 50 years, Grubbs served congregations in Tennessee, Ohio and California. In 1990, he founded David Grubbs and Associates, a consulting and fundraising firm specializing in raising major gifts for churches, schools, universities and civic organizations, as well as assisting in philanthropic endeavors. Because of Grubbs, hundreds of millions of dollars were raised for his clients.

His son, Rev. Marty Grubbs, Crossings Community Church senior pastor, said his father had a deep friendship with Dr. James Earl Massey.

"They had a commitment to serving the church," Marty Grubbs said. "Together they formed a preaching clinic that, for years, taught ministers the art of expository preaching. This scholarship fund is one way to honor my father's love for Biblical teaching and for the Church of God, as well as his deep appreciation for the leadership of Dr. Massey."

That's a decorated legacy that his family is keeping alive with the establishment of the Dr. David Grubbs Church Leadership Scholarship. Designed for the School of Wesleyan Studies within the Dr. J.E. Massey Center for Ministry and Leadership, the scholarship is designed to meet some of the school's monthly subscription costs.

The scholarship can be applied toward tuition or fees associated with The School of Wesleyan Studies for an individual pastor or be used to enroll a church in the congregational subscription.

Wesleyan Studies

APPLY FOR THE DR. DAVID GRUBBS CHURCH LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP AT WESLEYANSCHOOL.MACU.EDU/

EDUCATION UPDATES



Dr. Paul Silvestri, Associate Dean of CAGS

NEW DEGREE: MBA WITH HR EMPHASIS

FOR MANY YEARS, human resources was regarded as a profession of file keepers and party planners. Now, it's gaining ground as highly defined departments within corporations with responsibilities that span legal, recruiting, corporate and human relations expertise.

Recognizing that need, MACU moved to fill the gap with a revolutionary new MBA emphasis program to help HR professionals stand out and be better prepared in their career field.

"The emphasis program is one of the first of its kind in the country," said Dr. Paul Silvestri, College of Adult and Graduate Studies associate dean.

Silvestri said the basic goal of the emphasis is to marry business acumen with a substantive human resource body of knowledge that embodies the crucial and strategic elements of the HR profession. The emphasis blends traditional business classes like marketing and finance with key elements of the HR discipline, creating a program emphasis unique to MACU.

The program, which was designed by business and HR professionals and entrepreneurs, was designed with an intentionality to prepare students to sit for one of the recognized certifications in the field.

"By combining the graduate level core business coursework with salient human resource skills and knowledge, a graduate will be well-prepared to pursue professional certification," Silvestri said. "This program is intended to prepare qualified graduates for ultimately assuming director and executive-level positions."

NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS:

CHURCH STAFF LEADERSHIP

DO YOU DREAM OF BECOMING A LEADER in your church? MACU's new Church Staff Leadership certificate program equips church staff leaders with basic knowledge of the Bible, individual and collective leadership skills, management of self and others, effective communication skills and church tax and law standards.

Dr. Kimberly Thomas, Adult School of Christian Ministries chair, said the certificate is the answer to the many questions church leaders have.

"This certificate program will provide many answers to those questions by offering courses with case studies that address leadership and communication skills, as well as legal guidelines for churches,"

Thomas said. "It's a program that you and your church staff can't afford not to take."

A prerequisite of a high school diploma or certified GED is required.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

ENCOURAGING AND EMPOWERING WOMEN within the church is the purpose behind the new Women in Ministry Leadership certificate program offered this fall at MACU.

"This program will change your life," said Dr. Kimberly Thomas, Adult School of Christian Ministries chair.

Over a 10-month period, certificate students will explore the unique roles of women in the Bible, investigate historical and contemporary influential female leaders and foster study skills to better prepare for teaching and preaching.

"The courses in this certificate program will not only help you explore the purpose and calling that God has given you, but you will gain greater levels of personal confidence applying Scripture to leadership in life, ministry and service," said Thomas.

Upon completion of the certificate program, credit hours may be applied to a bachelor's degree in Christian Ministries. A prerequisite of a high school diploma or certified GED is required.



Dr. Kimberly Thomas, Professor/Chair of Adult School of Christian Ministries

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL IN ONE OF OUR DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, PLEASE VISIT PROGRAMS.MACU.EDU/ OR CALL 888-888-2341 TO SPEAK TO AN ENROLLMENT COUNSELOR.

Possible

WHAT STARTED AS A MISSION to provide the Ecuadorian people with access to clean water turned into a life-saving journey to repair a major piece of a jungle tribe's livelihood.

For six days and five nights, a group of MACU missionaries worked to repair an air strip washed out by a major flood in Shell Mera, Ecuador. English instructor Beccah Bland, who accompanied five students on the trip, said the Achuar people were in desperate need when the Evangels arrived in May.

"They didn't know what they were going to do," Bland said.

Having an air strip was incredibly important to the Achuar community, but they lacked the funds and supplies to repair its flood damage. That's where the Evangel team came in.

For about half of their 12-day trip to Ecuador, five MACU students helped repair the strip so aircrafts could use it again. In addition to restoring the air strip, Bland said, students also participated in worship and held language classes with the natives. By the end of the mission trip, the group was able to communicate with the tribe using a combination of English, Spanish and their native language.

Bland said being able to communicate and work sideby-side with the Achuar people created an "incredible" environment.

"We weren't working for the community," she said. "We were working with them."

Without commodities like bathrooms and technology, Bland said, it was an eye-opening experience for the students.

"It made them open up and honestly realize how much God has done for them."

One of the missionaries, Laurel Church, exemplified Bland's words. She said the trip changed her life and helped her find the path God meant for her to walk on.

ECUADOR



Before leaving for Ecuador, she said she doubted that she had any specific purpose.

Then she became a missionary and realized that God had a purpose for her all along.

"I [learned] that I can show His love through my actions and words rather than waiting to have a 'purpose," Church said.

The students administered aid near some of the same areas where evangelical Christian missionary pilot Nate Saint transformed lives before his 1956 death at the hands of the Huaorani tribe.

"We are a part of that legacy," Bland said. "We are doing the same thing: flying into the jungle to help [the tribes], doing what those missionaries did."



TO MANY COMMUNITIES in the East African country of Kenya, having access to clean water is paramount to having a healthy life. Together with Oklahoma's Water4 foundation and campus pastor Johnny Bland and his wife Beccah, MACU English professor, six students helped bring those life-saving water sources to several communities this summer.

During their time in Kenya, the group tended to multiple projects ranging from a geological survey and soil testing to drilling new wells and restoring and protecting old ones. Johnny Bland said working on the wells and the projects related to them showed students the variety of ways people can get water.

In addition to providing low-cost wells, Water4 and its volunteers train community members on how to maintain and repair the wells, providing a full circle opportunity to make a living and keep the clean water flowing.

"We're not just giving these communities wells, we're training them so it becomes a source of income for young men," Beccah Bland said.

She said MACU tries to partner with long-term mission organizations because of the lasting effect they leave on the communities they touch.

In addition to their hard work helping construct and repair wells, Beccah Bland said the MACU students faced a unique challenge and opportunity when they discovered one of the communities they worked with was of the Muslim faith. "It was a really special experience," Beccah Bland said. "Even though we were of different faiths, everyone came together and at the end of the day we all got in a circle and prayed. It was very beautiful."

It all contributed to what Johnny Bland described as another important part of mission trips: individual growth in God.

"When you put people into settings that they're uncomfortable with, where things are out of their control, we can have conversations with them about their faith, about the role God plays in their lives and what they're learning on the trip," he said.

At night, the group held devotionals so the missionaries could share their individual stories and promote their relationships with one another and with God. Johnny Bland said watching students overcome and persevere through Christ in foreign situations is one of his favorite parts of the trips.

When they weren't working with Water4, the student missionaries had the opportunity to experience many different aspects of Kenya's rich culture. They visited an elephant orphanage as well as a giraffe sanctuary. In a traditional Maasai village, the Evangels had their hair braided and traditional African jewelry draped around their necks. The Blands said it made for an unforgettable experience.

"The Lord was able to do some really wonderful things," Johnny Bland said.



to touch the most lives and further our students as they continue to "Dream Bigger" and "Do Greater" for the Kingdom of God.



SIX YEARS AFTER a tragic accident claimed the life of Yukon baseball standout Justin Sullivan, MACU baseball coach Adrian Savedra joined a group of coaches and pastors who wanted to make a legacy out of his life – a life that was "worth following."

Savedra, who is about to start his second year at MACU, is

the executive director of A Life Worth Following, a nonprofit organization built around Sullivan's two great loves: God and America's favorite pastime. A Life Worth Following weaves them both together with the Oklahoma City Ambassadors, the organization's summer baseball team.

Designed for high schoolers who are hoping to play baseball at the collegiate level, the OKC Ambassadors spend two months together every year. Savedra has coached the Ambassadors since the team's inaugural season in 2008.

He said the Ambassadors are a little different from most travel high school teams.

"We don't ever have a formal tryout like a lot of teams do. Our two prerequisites are that you have a desire to play college baseball and a willingness to learn how to utilize the gifts God has given you so that you can use those gifts to share Christ with other people," Savedra said.

"If they're willing to learn and have a passion and an ability to play baseball, they're probably going to be a good fit."

Savedra said for eight weeks every summer, the Ambassadors host free clinics, play a lot of baseball and "put the Word of God into a lot of lives." It's a season of fun and fellowship topped off with a mission trip. This year, Savedra and his team of 17 young men traveled to Nicaragua.

Although the Ambassadors have also visited the Dominican Republic and Mexico in previous years, Savedra said the team keeps going back to Nicaragua.

"We really feel the Lord opening up several doors for us there," he said. "We sensed that instead of going to new places every year, the Lord wanted us to plant deep roots in one area and to build long-term relationships with different ministries."

This summer marked the team's fifth trip to the Central American country.

For a week, the coaches and players of the Ambassadors traveled to different Nicaraguan cities to promote local churches and ministries through the game of baseball. Savedra said it's the highlight of the summer for his players.

"Many of our kids have never left Oklahoma or the U.S. before, or if they have it's for vacation," he said. "To go to a place where the average income is \$450 a year, to see the poverty, to be in a culture where most of our players don't speak the language – it's a life-changing experience."

Although there is a verbal disconnect between the Ambassadors and the locals, Savedra said there is one language they all speak: baseball.

"We speak English, they speak Spanish, but there's a natural bond," he said. "We're brothers in baseball, but our goal is to share Christ with them so that we can also be brothers in Christ."

EVANGELS IN THE OUTFIELD

Savedra said the yearly mission trips have impacted and changed many lives – not just those of the Nicaraguan people, but the players' lives as well. He recalled one of his former players, Blake Stepanovich, who found his life's calling in the despair of a third world hospital.

"We were walking down the stairs and he turned and looked at me and said, 'I think God is calling me to be a doctor," said Savedra.

Stepanovich finished his residency program at St. Mary's Medical Center in Blue Springs, Mo., this year.

"He followed what God wanted him to do," Savedra said. And it all started in Nicaragua.

Over his nine seasons with the Ambassadors, he's

seen dozens of baseball players dedicate their lives to serving the Lord. This summer, one of the young men felt the call to become a long-term missionary. Every player found a place to play baseball this fall, including one young man who received a Division I scholarship with Kansas State University.

"It's an impactful, life-changing trip," said Savedra. "We go there with the idea of wanting to help, but what happens is, the Lord changes us. He speaks directly to us and opens our eyes to a whole world that people don't often get to experience. It's an amazing trip."

As he heads into his second season with the Evangels,

Savedra said it's something he wants to bring to MACU, too.

"I want Jesus to be a part of our dugout," he said. "I want our players to hear the truth of God's Word. I want them to learn about how God has uniquely gifted them to play a sport. We can either hold that gift and make it all about us or we can open our hands and say 'God, You've given me this gift — how can I use it for Your Kingdom?''

It's a question that Savedra once asked himself, and one that God answered through his call to minister through baseball.

"I view my job as a ministry and apart from my family, my baseball players are what's important to me. They're my ministry."

Just like Justin Sullivan before him, Adrian Savedra is creating a life that is certainly worth following.







MACU friends and family, we ask that you remember the loved ones of Kaylee Hamilton and David Vallerand in your prayers. They were killed in a car accident on Aug. 26 while trying to help the victims of a separate car crash. Vallerand, an OKC Ambassadors coach, was a dear friend of Adrian Savedra and other members of the MACU Athletics team.

CHAPEL PREVIEW

Please join us for chapel at 10 a.m. every Wednesday and Friday during the school year at www.macu.edu/watch/

SEPT. 20-23



OCT. 12



TODD BRASCHLER

the Book of Ruth.

Founder of Todd Braschler Ministries, MACU Board of Trustee Member

BISHOP TIMOTHY J. CLARKF

Todd Braschler is an ordained pastor in the Church of God (Anderson, Ind.) and served as an associate pastor in Worship, Christian Education, Equipping and Assimilation and Connecting Ministries in churches from 1985 to 2001. In 2001, he founded Todd Braschler Ministries, a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to excavating the potential God has placed in people.

Senior Pastor & Author, MACU Board of Trustee Member | Speaking Spiritual Emphasis Week

Bishop Timothy J. Clarke is the visionary leader and Senior Pastor of First Church of God in Columbus, Ohio. Under his dynamic and prophetic leadership, First Church has become a spiritual beacon at the local and national level. Among his many honors and degrees for his service to the church and to the community, Clarke holds a Doctor of Divinity from Mid-America Bible College. He has written several books that minister to our hearts and encourage our souls, such as *Signs of His Coming* and *Celebrating the Family: Lessons from*

0CT. 19

LAURA GREEN MCAFEE

Hobby Lobby, Director of Community Engagement

A third generation member of the Hobby Lobby Green family, Lauren Green McAfee is a connector and Museum of the Bible advocate with a heart to engage others in the Bible. She serves as a board member for The Eden Clinic, a free medical clinic in Norman and Midwest City that specializes in health services related to unplanned pregnancies.

NOV. 09



RAPHAEL MOFFETT

Langston University, Vice President for Student Affairs

Raphael Moffett is the V.P. for Student Affairs at Langston University. He is committed to supporting and challenging students to grow socially, physically, intellectually, culturally, educationally and spiritually. He speaks, consults, trains and coaches on a variety of topics including leadership, customer service, historically black colleges and universities, advocacy, spiritual enrichment, community uplift, professional development, health and wellness, organizational structure, cultural competence and communication.

NOV. 11



BRIG. GEN. (RET.) STAN SIEG

U.S. Air Force | Speaking Veterans Day

Brigadier General (Ret.) Stanley A. Sieg spent 30 years on active duty with the United States Air Force. His previous responsibilities included developing and implementing contracting and acquisition policies and processes, acquiring \$31 billion in research and development, production, test and logistics support for Air Force systems and infrastructure. Prior to that, he served as Director of Logistics for the Air Force Materiel Command managing more than \$10 billion annually in Air Force supply and depot maintenance activities for over 23,000 personnel. After his 2002 retirement, Sieg spent over eleven years as a Senior Executive with the Federal Aviation Administration in Oklahoma City, retiring in 2013. He currently serves as President of Victory Won, LLC.



OVER MANY DECADES, Dr. Robert and Dr. Juanita Adams built MACU's music program into what it is today. Now, as they move to Kentucky to be near their family, they've gifted the program they helped bring to life with something extra special.

On July 12, the Adamses donated their baby grand piano to the school. It's a gift that Chair of Music Dr. Christian Morren said would leave an indelible mark on the School of Music — much like the Adams did in their long and lively history with the university.

Morren said she felt the Adams' effect as soon as she joined the MACU family about five years ago. The couple worked at the school from 1957 to 1991 and saw it through many changes — including two names, three presidents and a historic move from Texas to Oklahoma.

"The music program wouldn't be here without them," she said. "Every music student we have is here because of them."

In addition to creating the program, the Adamses filled nearly every role in the School of Music. They worked as conductors, theorists, composers and professors of nearly every instrument. Now, their piano will continue to help students learn even as they move out of state.

"It represents something big," Morren said. "It represents quality, love, ministry, the church — it represents all these different students they had in the past and all the different students we are going to have in the future."

Because of the Adams' donation, Morren said more students will be able to learn, practice and perform on a piano of incomparable quality.

"We are so grateful for the people who have come before us, who made it possible for us to get here," she said. "The gifts they gave us over the years — there's not a way to properly show gratitude for that."

As a part of their lasting legacy, the Adams family also contributed a scholarship for music students. Right now, Morren said that five students – called Adams scholars – are in school because of the couple's generous gift.

We know that many of you have beautiful memories of your time with the Adams family. If you would like to share those sentiments or look through some old photos, we have created an album dedicated to the Adams on our alumni Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MACUMBCGBCAlumni/

> JUANITA ADAMS A. B. Music

For more information, contact the Office of Advancement at give.macu.edu/



ROBERT A. ADAMS A. B. Music



Dr. Robert and Dr. Juanita Adams with Dr. Christian Morren



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SAVE-THE-DATE

Oct. 7 - CELEBRATION OF CULTURE DAY Oct. 1 (Soccer), Oct. 27 (Volleyball) - MACU CHICK-FIL-A DAYS Oct. 25 - NAIA MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS SEASON OPENER

