

MID-AMERICAN

THE MAGAZINE OF MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



President's Report

FALL 2017



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Dream Bigger. Do Greater.

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Do You Have an Alumni Update or Story Idea?
PLEASE SEND IT TO
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MID-AMERICA
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



@MACHRISTIANUNIV



@MACU



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

COVER PHOTO
Kennedy Hall on the MACU campus

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MACU students take a study break between classes

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

Travelers in ancient times were accustomed to ask local people the way to a destination. In the more remote landscapes and mountainous terrains, travelers often lost their way and in hazardous weather, they lost their lives. Wayside markers were first erected to help guide these travelers. At first, these markers were nothing more than heaps of stone, but by the time of the Roman Empire, they became known as “mile markers.” The Roman roads not only marked the direction in which to travel, but also measured the exact distances between towns.

The “milestone” is an appropriate metaphor for a President’s Report. The President’s Report isn’t really about the President. It is the President pointing to milestones that have marked the University’s past and even point to our future destination. One might compare a President’s Report to Samuel’s wayside marking in the heap of stones he called “Ebenezer” in 1 Samuel 7:12, “Thus far the LORD has helped us.”

Ebenezers are not simply for this moment in history. No, Samuel erected the heap of stones as a testimony for future generations, so that those living in the future would not lose the heritage of faith that gave them their spiritual identity.

In recent years, there has been an evolving debate as to whether there is any value in teaching history. In the Information Age, where innovation is exponentially growing, do we really need to look back when there are so many future inventions and global changes occurring?

Confronted with the ethics of artificial intelligence and vehicles that will operate themselves, do we really need

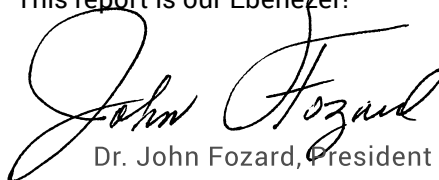
to spend time with the past when we can hardly keep pace with the present, let alone the future? Do we really need “Ebenezers?” Do mile markers serve any purpose other than to mark our pathway to the present?

I would argue that in our rapidly changing culture, wayside markers are vital to tell us who we are and where we are going! Every President’s Report identifies where we are at this point in time and who we are at this junction.

Civil rights activist Marcus Garvey observed, “A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”¹ Without wayside markers, nations, congregations and even Christian institutions can lose their way and perhaps even their existence.

As you read this report, please note the mile markers of God’s goodness to the mission of this university. Note the wayside markers where the university’s future goals are rooted deeply in our past. Celebrate that these markers give us a sense of identity for future leaders and students. Allow this report to convey, “Thus far the Lord has helped us!”

This report is our Ebenezer!


Dr. John Fozard, President



¹Marcus Garvey Quotes. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/marcusgarv365148.html>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2017 MACU STUDENT ENROLLMENT

29 Countries
47 States

STUDENT- FACULTY RATIO

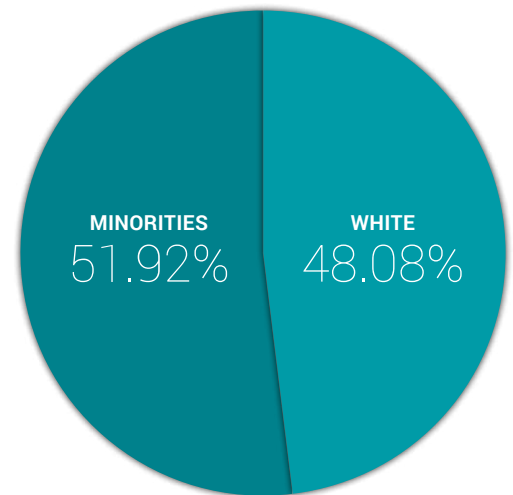
11:1

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

14

641
2017 GRADUATES

THE STUDENT DIVERSITY OF MACU



Board of Trustees

Mid-America Christian University is governed by a 30-member Board of Trustees. Trustees are elected to five-year terms.

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Randall W. Spence
John Steffens
Gideon A. Thompson
Ron Whitton

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



4,848
COMMUNITY
SERVICE HOURS



202
DAYS TOTAL

MACU DAY OF SERVICE

12,000
LBS OF FOOD
DISTRIBUTED

10,350
MEALS
PROVIDED

130+
STUDENT, FACULTY
AND STAFF
VOLUNTEERS

138
FAMILIES
SERVED

MACU Athletics



CHURCH OF GOD
STUDENTS

Grand Total

211

Non-Ministry

110

Ministry

101



222 STUDENT-ATHLETES



75 STUDENT-ATHLETES NAMES TO THE
SAC COMMISSIONER'S HONOR ROL



23 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL WINS -
A SCHOOL RECORD AS AN NAIA SCHOOL



22 NAIA SCHOLAR ATHLETES



01 ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

"Thank You" to All Who Support MACU!

DONOR HONOR ROLL

10 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF GIVING

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Dover, William and Beverly	Sand Springs	OK
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Fowlkes, Edgar and Carol	Yukon	OK
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Wyoming General Assembly of the Church of God	Casper	WY

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Bonnie Church of God	Bonnie	IL
Brookville First Church of God	Brookville	PA
Burkeville Church of God	Burkeville	TX
Camp Ground Church of God	Greeneville	TN
Cedar Creek Church of God	Greeneville	TN
Crossings Community Church	Oklahoma City	OK
Crosspointe Fellowship Church	Kilgore	TX
Eagle Point Church of God	Little Rock	AR
East Side Church of God	Anderson	IN
Emerson Street Church of God	Kennett	MO
First Church of God	Bristow	OK
First Church of God	Clinton	OK
First Church of God	Crossett	AR

First Church of God	Darlington	SC
First Church of God	Doniphan	MO
First Church of God	Effingham	IL
First Church of God	Elkhart	KS
First Church of God	Greeneville	TN
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First Church of God	Hugoton	KS
First Church of God	Hutchinson	KS
First Church of God	Marion	IL
First Church of God	Mount Vernon	IL
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First Church of God	Tyler	TX
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Griggs Church of God	Texhoma	OK
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Hucrest Community Church	Roseburg	OR
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Lakewood Way Community Church	Lees Summit	MO
Landmark Church of God	Covington	LA
Meade Station Church of God	Ashland	KY
Midway Church of God	Oak Grove	LA
New Beginnings Church of God	Albuquerque	NM
New Covenant Church	Middletown	OH
New Covenant Church of God	Pekin	IL
New Song Community Church	Benton	AR
New Song Community Church	Bethel Park	PA
Oak Grove First Church of God	Oak Grove	LA
Oakmont Church of God	Shreveport	LA
Palm City Church of God	McAllen	TX
Pleasant Prairie Church of God	Satanta	KS
Pleasant Ridge Church of God	Hammond	LA
Red Fork Church of God	Tulsa	OK
Rock Creek Church of God	Bessemer	AL
Sapulpa First Church of God	Sapulpa	OK
Shartel Church of God	Oklahoma City	OK
Sullivan Church of God	Sullivan	IL
Teays Valley Church of God	Scott Depot	WV
Waynoka Church of God	Waynoka	OK
Wetly Church of God	Wetly	OK
Zion Community Church of God	Ottumwa	IA

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Bill Warren Office Products	Oklahoma City	OK
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PLANNED GIVING

During 2016-2017, the following individuals either made an estate gift to MACU or indicated their desire to include MACU in their estate planning.

Ayres, David H. (Estate)	Goehring, Raymond P.
Baer, Trulafaye	Gross, Harold E. and Diane
Beltz-Martin, Linda	Kline, Charles D. and Patricia (Estate)
Campbell, Harold and Diane (Estate)	Lewis, Alvin and Juanita
Curtis, Helen	Malcom, Paul J. (Estate)
Curtis, Mary Ruth	Mosteller, Timothy and Peggy
Daniels, Robert M. and Verdine	Repass, Dewayne and Linda
Dunn, Clarence and Linda	Smith-Hinderliter, Maxine
	Walker, Joe B.

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

DONOR HONOR ROLL

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Adams, Robert and Juanita
 Allen, Jody** and Lisa**
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 Alsip, Morgan** and Carol**
 Ardizzone, Dolores
 Baer, Trulafaye
 Bailey, Chad and Rachel**
 Barillas, Nataly**
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 Bell, Ted and Andrea
 Berryman, E. Kent
 Bice, Zach** and Lori
 Bohannon, Larry and Linnea
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 Brown, Mason**
 Burleson, Douglas and Amy
 Burton, Judith
 Cantrell, Richard and Kaye
 Cepeda, Enrique** and Lidia
 Chapman, Ryan and Linda
 Chiles, Steve* and Wanda
 Cloud, Steve and Marceil
 Clouse, Steve** and Patty**
 Cole, Neldarie L.
 Colp, David* and Crystal
 Conley, Dolores
 Craig, Delana
 Curtis, George and Ruthie
 Davidson, Jeff and Stephanie**
 DeBusk, Gayle
 Dobbs, Roy and Donna
 Dutton, Kelsie**
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 Elvik, Elizabeth Ann
 Figura, Dusty** and Kathryn**
 Flanagan, Joe and Jeanne
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 Fowler, Joyce
 Fozard, John** and Brenda
 Gangolf, Linda
 Giron, Jesus
 Goehring, Raymond
 Graham, Jeremy and Ginger
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 Jones, Nancy A.
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 Knight, Whitney**
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 Lyons, Zebodiah
 Mansfield, Richard and Cindy
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 Martin, Ronald and Collene
 Mashue, Wanda
 Mason, Bruce and Katie
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 McDonald, Bill**
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 Newcastle OK
 Cookeville TN
 Oklahoma City OK
 Haughton LA
 Carlisle PA
 Newcastle OK
 Moore OK
 Oklahoma City OK
 Bartlesville OK
 Middleburg Heights OH
 Bristol VA
 Oklahoma City OK
 Houston TX
 Loveland OH
 Oklahoma City OK
 Edmond OK
 Oklahoma City OK
 Lebanon TN
 Oklahoma City OK
 Anderson IN
 Oklahoma City OK
 Satanta KS
 Yukon OK
 New Castle IN
 Stevensville MI
 Circleville OH
 Midwest City OK
 San Antonio TX
 Moore OK
 Houston TX
 Clinton OK
 Oklahoma City OK
 Van Buren AR
 Oklahoma City OK
 Oklahoma City OK
 Texhoma OK
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 Oklahoma City OK
 Fort Worth TX
 Abilene TX
 Westhoff TX
 Oklahoma City OK
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 Moore OK
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 Oklahoma City OK
 Oklahoma City OK
 Moore OK
 Vallejo CA
 Oklahoma City OK
 Greenfield OK
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 Oklahoma City OK
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 Oklahoma City OK
 Yukon OK
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 Moore OK
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 Young, Howard and Karen
 ZumBrunnen, Christina**

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 De Soto TX
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 Wewoka OK
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 Oklahoma City OK
 Oklahoma City OK
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 Red Lodge MT
 Oklahoma City OK

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 Edmond OK
 Norman OK
 Lincoln IL
 Dallas TX
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 Douglas GA
 Oklahoma City OK
 Oklahoma City OK
 Oklahoma City OK
 Coffeyville KS
 Oklahoma City OK
 Eastland TX
 Doniphan MO
 Ridgeland MS
 Norman OK
 Castle OK
 Oklahoma City OK

Beltz-Martin, Linda	Dixon	MO	Gall, Connie**	Chickasha	OK
Berg, Duane and Linda	Yukon	OK	Gamblin, David and Julie	Piedmont	OK
Berry, Donald W. and Winifred	Vincennes	IN	Gamblin, Josh** and Jennifer	Oklahoma City	OK
Bland, Holly	Princeton	NC	Garza, Lisa	Yukon	OK
Boelte, Craig and Paula	Edmond	OK	Gempel, Douglas**	Evansville	IN
Craig and Paula Boelte Family Foundation	Edmond	OK	Glover, Delbert		
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Bollenbacher, Wayne and Linda	Edmond	OK	Goo, Steven* and Jennie	Madison	AL
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Brown, Elaine	Edmond	OK	Gregory, Dwight	Midwest City	OK
Brucken, Patrick and Shari	Martinsville	OH	Griffin, Blake	Atlanta	GA
Burchett, Jim	Lake Wales	FL	Griffith, Pauline	Amber	OK
Burchett, Rachel	Oklahoma City	OK	Grubbs, Martin and Kim	Edmond	OK
Campbell, Ryan and Sarah Beth	Edmond	OK	Grubbs, Dwight and Sylvia	Anderson	IN
Campbell, Douglass	Falling Waters	WV	Guilfoyle, Jennifer Ranay	Lawton	OK
Carley, George	Bixby	OK	Haddock, Raymond and Deborah	Edmond	OK
Carver, Kathleen	Fairborn	OH	Hall, David and Dee	Port Richey	FL
Chaires, Joanne	Oklahoma City	OK	Hall, Skip and Christie	Oklahoma City	OK
Chapman, Carol	Saltville	VA	Halliday, Timothy S.	Spring Brook Township	PA
Chavarria, Leonardo and Fanny	Bentonville	AR	Hamilton, Ronald D.		
Christiansen, Brandon			Hampton, James and Cherrie	Oklahoma City	OK
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Cleveland, Cole** and Natalie	Oklahoma City	OK	Harris, David and Regina	Ninnekah	OK
Cleveland, Dale and Faye	Mission	TX	Harris, Harvey and Almeta	Oklahoma City	OK
Cleveland, Caden	Oklahoma City	OK	Harris, Mark** and Faith	Bethany	OK
Coleman, Donna	Tulsa	OK	Harrison, Paul and Lisa	Edmond	OK
Conrad, Harold	Noblesville	IN	Hawkins, Shannon **	Oklahoma City	OK
Coolidge, David and Shirley	Anderson	IN	Heilaman, Tyan**	Edmond	OK
Cottom, Betty			Hency, Dale and Ruth	Colorado Springs	CO
Betty L. Cottom Family Trust	Oklahoma City	OK	Hendrix, Brenda	White Hall	AR
Cottom, Steve* and Heather	Oklahoma City	OK	Hepp, Marty and Donna	Edmond	OK
Cox, G. David and Jan	Clayton	OH	Herrian, Florene	Ardmore	OK
Crain, Laura	Austin	TX	Hickman, Dean	Hilliard	OH
Creer, Clarence and Patricia	Triadelphia	WV	Higgs, Gayle		
Crockett, Ola G.	Laurel	MS	Gayle M. Higgs Revocable Trust	Oklahoma City	OK
Crow, Charles** and Imalee	Yukon	OK	Hill, Ross* and Raynell	Edmond	OK
Currie, Harry and Joan	Oklahoma City	OK	Hinkle, Trena	Eucha	OK
Curry, Michael and Susan	Plano	TX	Hinkle, Cheryl	Lexington	OK
Curtis, Helen	Oklahoma City	OK	Hinkle, Vickie**	Oklahoma City	OK
Danely, Glenn and Joan	Oklahoma City	OK	Hockman, Marilyn G.	Quincy	IL
Daniel, Jim	Oklahoma City	OK	Hoover, Stephen and Patti	Redmond	OR
Daniels, Robert and Verdie	Heber Springs	AR	Ibarra, Pedro and Nadia	Oklahoma City	OK
Darr, Charles* and Shari	Edmond	OK	Imy, David	Norman	OK
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Earnest, Terrell** and Donna	Yukon	OK	Larkin, Robert and Darlene**	Yukon	OK
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Elkins, Helen	Bastrop	LA	Lawson, Betty	Houston	TX
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L. Jack and Rosella L. Flanagan Family Trust	Texhoma	OK	Luna, Cristela**	Oklahoma City	OK
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Fox, David and Luetta	Poplar Bluff	MO	Mannell, Richard and Virginia	Holton	KS
Frankfurt, Edgar	Oklahoma City	OK	Marshall, Darwina**	Oklahoma City	OK
Freymond, Richard and Jabet	Hacienda Heights	CA	Martinez, Pedro**	Oklahoma City	OK
Frick, John and Deb	Oklahoma City	OK	Mason, Ralph and Helen	Oklahoma City	OK
Fritts, Jason* and Kelli	Moore	OK	McConnell, Dale**	Oklahoma City	OK
Froese, Ken	Inola	OK	McCord, Ron and Debbie	Oklahoma City	OK
Fuelling, Mark	Oklahoma City	OK	McCutcheon, David* and Adrienne	Osprey	FL

McDowell, William** and Becki	Venice	FL	Stephenson, Loren and Betty	Tulsa	OK
McFarlane, Barb E.	Round Rock	TX	Stoll, Judy	Newcastle	OK
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Mills, Jared and Amber	Edmond	OK	Sutton, Wendell** and Elaine**	Moore	OK
Milner, Estella	Edmond	OK	Swenson, Kenneth and Sharon	Dewey	AZ
Mitchell, Byron and Mary	Albuquerque	NM	Tedder, Verne	Bakersfield	CA
Moeller, Marcus** and Hannah**	Oklahoma City	OK	Tedder Revocable Living Trust		
Moore, Ernest and Mildred	Wewoka	OK	Thiessen, Ed and Janet	Edmond	OK
Moore, Neal and Valerie	Marlow	OK	Thomas, Donna		
Morren, Steve and Christian**	Norman	OK	Donna Thomas Family Trust	Sun City West	AZ
Morris, Janine**	Oklahoma City	OK	Tidwell, Ted and Jan	Tulsa	OK
Nall, Krystal**	Oklahoma City	OK	Tipton, Daniel and Terri	Oklahoma City	OK
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Napier, Michael and Tammy	Ardmore	OK	Toler, Stan and Linda	Oklahoma City	OK
Neace, Robert			Torrez, Michael and Rosanna*	Albuquerque	NM
Robert and Joane Neace Revocable Living Trust	Kendallville	IN	Townsdin, Ron and Stacy	Edmond	OK
Nelson, Dan	Oklahoma City	OK	Tyler, Dennis and Pat	Colorado Springs	CO
Newbury, Wanda	Sesser	IL	Vernon, Mr. and Mrs. M. S.	Davis	OK
Newman, Jefferson and Wanda	Blanchard	OK	Verser, Edith		
Nicholson, Linda			The Verser Living Trust	Chickasha	OK
Linda Nicholson Revocable Trust	Moore	OK	Vincent, Jon and Kathryn	Sulphur	LA
Ninemire, Paul M.	Oak Grove	LA	Wakefield, Terry and Lisa	Edmond	OK
Northcutt, Jr., Walter and Kathy	Edmond	OK	Wakefield, Johnny and Donna	Edmond	OK
Novak, Samantha**	Cleveland	OH	Wakefield, Jerry	Cashion	OK
Oldham, Glenna	Ridgeland	MS	Wakefield, Robert**	Edmond	OK
Oldham, Randy and Karen	Carlsbad	NM	Wakefield, Michael**	Edmond	OK
Painter, Zachery	Oklahoma City	OK	Walker, Joe and Barbara	Oklahoma City	OK
Palmer, Ralph and Nan	Winchester	KY	Ward, Sherman	Talihina	OK
Patadal, Elissa**	Oklahoma City	OK	Watson, Gene	Piedmont	OK
Phillips, James and Barbara	Missouri City	TX	Wax, Gary and Tana	Midwest City	OK
Pickens, Lauren	Germantown	TN	Welding, John	Decatur	TX
Pickens, E. W. and P. E.	Stillwater	OK	Whitton, Ron* and Cathy	Groveland	IL
Pickens, Mark** and Elizabeth	Nichols Hills	OK	Williams, Carolyn	Tulsa	OK
Pletcher, David and Mandy	Piedmont	OK	Williams, Barry and Sadonia	Mt. Vernon	IL
Proctor, Dale and Mildred			Willis, David	Edmond	OK
Proctor Joint Revocable Trust	Wetumka	OK	Willoughby, Tim and Jane	Tarpon Springs	FL
Randolph, Spencer	Oklahoma City	OK	Wilson, Don and Gloria	Oklahoma City	OK
Ratcliff, David	Amber	OK	Wiseley, Larry and Rachel	Duncan	OK
Richardson, Sr., Barry	Marston	MO	Woford, Carolyn	Oklahoma City	OK
Rimmer, Terry and Jessica**	Edmond	OK	Wood, Ernie and Dea	Edmond	OK
Roberts, Chuck and Twila	Oklahoma City	OK	Wood, Marie	Elk Grove	CA
Robillard, George and Janice	Lake Wales	FL	Woodall, Scott and Annette	Edmond	OK
Robold, Claude* and Janice	Middletown	OH	Young, Ken and Linda**	Bethany	OK
Roland, Lee	Oklahoma City	OK			
Roper, Jerry and Peggy	Newcastle	OK			
Ross, J. David	Oklahoma City	OK			
Ross Family Revocable Trust Fund	Oklahoma City	OK			
Rothman, Richard and Shelby	Lexington	KY			
Runyan, Walter and Debra	Oklahoma City	OK			
Russell, Charles and Janet	Tuttle	OK			
Russell, Jeff* and Mary Carol	Oklahoma City	OK			
Sandlin, Robert	Yukon	OK			
Sartin, Susan "Mici"***	Edmond	OK			
Sawyer, Dr. Olaseinde and Carolyn	Edmond	OK			
Schneider, L. E. and Marsha	Edmond	OK			
Schulhoff, Jeff and Nedra	Oklahoma City	OK			
Schuster, Ben	Medford	OK			
Schuster, Bryan	Oklahoma City	OK			
Seaton, Steven** and Rhonda	Oklahoma City	OK			
Sevier, Owen** and Lea	Edmond	OK			
Shackleton, Jean	Oklahoma City	OK			
The Martin L and Jean L Shackleton Living Trust	Oklahoma City	OK			
Sieg, Stanley and Elizabeth**	Edmond	OK			
Sloan, Stephen**	Bethany	OK			
Smethers, Todd and Cynthia	Edmond	OK			
Smith-Hinderliter, Maxine	Clovis	NM			
Smith, Leonard					
Leonard Smith Living Trust	Clinton	OK			
Smith, Tim and Jan					
Timothy J. Smith Family Trust	Edmond	OK			
Snider, Lindsey R.	Edmond	OK			
Spangenburg, Janice**	Franklin	VA			
Spear, John* and Suzon	Casper	WY			
Spence, Randall* and Pamela	Tampa	FL			
Splawn, Vicki**	Moore	OK			
Statser, Rex and Deborah	Yukon	OK			
Steffens, John* and Patricia	Edmond	OK			

*Trustee **Faculty/Staff/Adjunct Professor

CHURCH SUPPORT: CHURCH OF GOD

40th Avenue Church of God	Hattiesburg	MS
Alva Church of God	Alva	OK
Bethel Church of God	Liberal	KS
Bonnie Church of God	Bonnie	IL
Brookville First Church of God	Brookville	PA
Burkeville Church of God	Burkeville	TX
Camp Ground Church of God	Greeneville	TN
Cedar Creek Church of God	Greeneville	TN
Church of God	North Apollo	PA
Church of God Southwest	Cedar Hill	TX
Community Chapel Church of God	Natchez	MS
Cookeville First Church of God	Cookeville	TN
Crossings Community Church	Oklahoma City	OK
Crosspointe Fellowship Church	Kilgore	TX
Crossroads Church of God	Howell	MI
Cypress Street Church of God	West Monroe	LA
Dayspring Community Church	McMinnville	TN
DeSoto Community Church	De Soto	MO
Eagle Point Church of God	Little Rock	AR
East Side Church of God	Anderson	IN
Eastland Church of God	Lexington	KY
Emerson Street Church of God	Kennett	MO
Faith Community Church of God	Shawnee	OK
First Church of God	Ansonia	OH
First Church of God	Bristow	OK
First Church of God	Charleston	IL
First Church of God	Clinton	OK
First Church of God	Columbus	OH
First Church of God	Crossett	AR
First Church of God	Cushing	OK

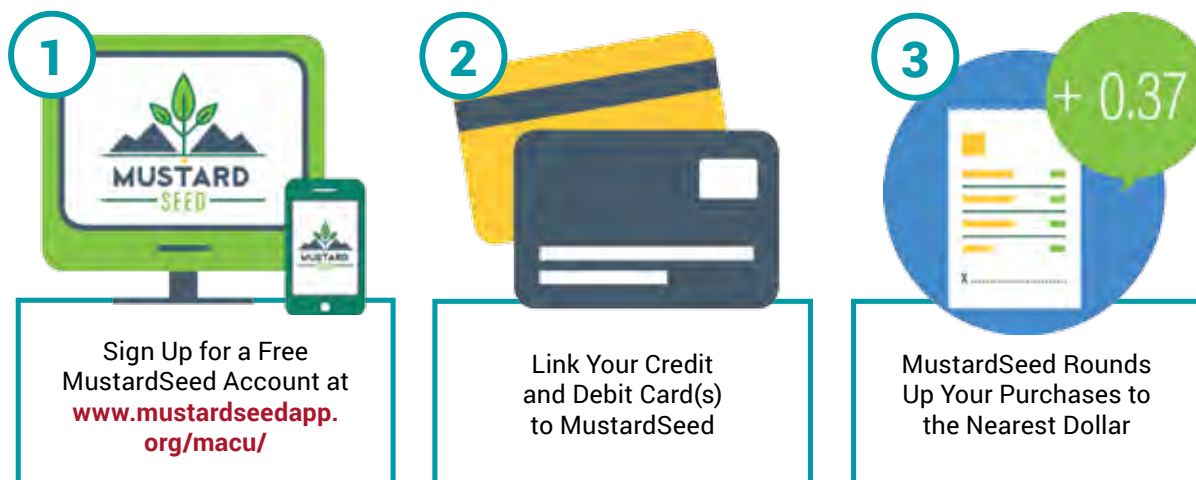
First Church of God	Darlington	SC	United Covenant of Hope Church	Houston	TX
First Church of God	Doniphan	MO	Waynoka Church of God	Waynoka	OK
First Church of God	East Prairie	MO	Welty Church of God	Castle	OK
First Church of God	Effingham	IL	West Baraboo Church of God	Baraboo	WI
First Church of God	Elkhart	KS	West Side Church of God	Wichita	KS
First Church of God	Greeneville	TN	Zion Community Church of God	Ottumwa	IA
First Church of God	Harrisburg	IL	CHURCH SUPPORT: OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH OF GOD		
First Church of God	Hatch	NM	Antioch Christian Church	Oklahoma City	OK
First Church of God	Hickory	NC	Capitol Hill Assembly of God	Oklahoma City	OK
First Church of God	Holdenville	OK	Chickasha Life Church	Chickasha	OK
First Church of God	Hugoton	KS	Emmanuel Baptist Church	Enid	OK
First Church of God	Hutchinson	KS	First Baptist Church	Jenks	OK
First Church of God	Jefferson City	MO	First Baptist Church of Tuttle	Tuttle	OK
First Church of God	Marion	IL	First Cumberland Presbyterian Church	Marlow	OK
First Church of God	Martinsburg	WV	First United Methodist Church	Oklahoma City	OK
First Church of God	Mount Vernon	IL	Frio Canyon Baptist Church	LeaKey	TX
First Church of God	Nacogdoches	TX	Grace Community Baptist Church	Oklahoma City	OK
First Church of God	Pauls Valley	OK	Holy Spirit Catholic Church	Mustang	OK
First Church of God	Point Pleasant	WV	Immanuel United Church of Christ	Ferguson	MO
First Church of God	Poplar Bluff	MO	New Life Church	Stilwell	OK
First Church of God	Pryor	OK	Portland Avenue Baptist Church	Oklahoma City	OK
First Church of God	Saltville	VA	Solace Church, Inc.	Tulsa	OK
First Church of God	St. Joseph	MI	South Lakes Church	Oklahoma City	OK
First Church of God	Tyler	TX	Templo De Albanza	Oklahoma City	OK
First Church of God	Van Wert	OH	Valley Life Church	Pauls Valley	OK
First Church of God	Vancouver	WA	Wilmont Place Baptist Church	Oklahoma City	OK
First Church of God	Venice	FL	AFFILIATED CHURCH AGENCIES		
First Church of God	Winter Haven	FL	Arkansas Chrisitan Women Connection	Benton	AR
First Church of God Missions	Miamisburg	OH	Church of God in Arkansas	Benton	AR
First Church of God of Little Paint	East Point	KY	Church of God Ministries	Anderson	IN
Fresh Start Community Church	Moore	OK	Church of God Missionary Board	Elk City	OK
Goodwill Church of God	Oak Grove	LA	First Church of God CWC	Clinton	OK
Griggs Church of God	Texhoma	OK	Heritage First Church of God WCG	Kingsport	TN
Highland Park Community Church	Casper	WY	Missouri Christian Women Connection	Hazelwood	MO
Home Avenue FCOG	Trenton	OH	Missouri Church Men	St. James	MO
Hope Community Church of God	Andover	KS	Oklahoma Christian Women Connection	Oklahoma City	OK
Horse Creek Church of God	Chuckey	TN	Women of the Church of Scottsbluff	Gering	NE
Hucrest Community Church	Roseburg	OR	Wyoming General Assembly of the Church of God	Casper	WY
Jones Avenue Church of God	Oak Hill	WV	FOUNDATIONS		
Lakewood Way Community Church	Lees Summit	MO	Amazon Smile Foundation	Seattle	WA
Landmark Church of God	Covington	LA	Bank of America Charitable Foundation	Charlotte	NC
Larchmont Church of God	Louisville	KY	Community Hospital Foundation	Houston	TX
Liberty Grove Church of God	West Monroe	LA	Eli Lilly and Company Foundation	Princeton	NJ
Life Builders Church of God	Decatur	IL	National Christian Foundation	Olathe	KS
LifeQuest Church	Springfield	MO	National Philanthropic Trust	Jenkintown	PA
Mayna Church of God	Jonesville	LA	Oklahoma City Community Foundation	Oklahoma City	OK
Meade Station Church of God	Ashland	KY	CORPORATIONS, VENDORS AND OTHERS		
Middle Grave Creek Church of God	Moundsville	WV	A. Du Financial Services	Oklahoma City	OK
Midway Church of God	Oak Grove	LA	Associated Agencies	New Castle	IN
New Beginnings Church of God	Albuquerque	NM	AVL Enterprises	Edmond	OK
New Covenant Church	Middletown	OH	Aztec Building Systems	Norman	OK
New Covenant Church of God	Pekin	IL	Bank of America	Providence	RI
New Dawn Fellowship	Odesa	TX	Bill Warren Office Products	Oklahoma City	OK
New Hope Fellowship Church of God	Rochelle	IL	Bott Radio Network	Overland Park	KS
New Song Community Church	Benton	AR	Christian Vision Ministries; Thomas, Donna	Carmel	IN
New Song Community Church	Bethel Park	PA	Clements Resources; Clements, Michael	White Oak	TX
North Crossings Church of God	Monroe	LA	Club Synergy Volleyball	Piedmont	OK
NorthPark Church of God	Meridian	MS	Comfort Inn & Suites Newcastle	Newcastle	OK
Northside Church of God	Jacksonville	FL	Compass Property Advisors	Oklahoma City	OK
Oak Grove First Church of God	Oak Grove	LA	Comtech Design, Print & Mail	Oklahoma City	OK
Oaklawn Church of God	Hot Springs	AR	Cory's Audio-Visual Services	Oklahoma City	OK
Oakmont Church of God	Shreveport	LA	CrossFirst Bank	Oklahoma City	OK
Palm City Church of God	McAllen	TX	Da Best Sports Apparel	Oklahoma City	OK
Parkgate Community Church	Pasadena	TX	Davila Family Ministries; Davila, Gilbert and Melba	San Antonio	TX
Pekin First Church of God	Pekin	IL	Davis Logistics	Canute	OK
Pine Grove Church of God	Carthage	MS	Encouragement Today	Middletown	OH
Place of Grace Fellowship	San Antonio	TX	Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	Cincinnati	OH
Pleasant Prairie Church of God	Satanta	KS	First United Bank Mortgage	Durant	OK
Pleasant Ridge Church of God	Hammond	LA	Flanagan Land and Cattle	Texhoma	OK
Red Fork Church of God	Tulsa	OK	FMTC, IRA Custodian	Venice	FL
Riverchase Community Church	Birmingham	AL			
Rock Creek Church of God	Bessemer	AL			
Salt and Light Community	Paducah	KY			
Sapulpa First Church of God	Sapulpa	OK			
Shartel Church of God	Oklahoma City	OK			
St. Andrew Church of God	Camden	SC			
Sullivan Church of God	Sullivan	IL			
Teays Valley Church of God	Scott Depot	WV			
Towne Boulevard Church of God	Middletown	OH			

Fritts Farm Development	Moore	OK	Paycom	Oklahoma City	OK
Gallagher Bassett Services	Itasca	IL	PGT	Nokomis	FL
Hey Day Entertainment	Norman	OK	Philos Enterprises	St. Augustine	FL
Hill Custom Masonry	Oklahoma City	OK	Pleasant Pools Supply Corporation	Oklahoma City	OK
HoganTaylor	Lowell	AR	Prime Bank	Edmond	OK
HTX Energy	Tyler	TX	Super Pawn	Oklahoma City	OK
Ideal Mailing	Oklahoma City	OK	Superpawn	Spencer	OK
IHEARTMEDIA	Dallas	OK	Team PDR; Mr. Ron Whitton*	Peoria	IL
ImageNet Consulting	Oklahoma City	OK	Teams of Tomorrow	Norman	OK
J.C. Land Management	Oklahoma City	OK	MidFirst Bank	Oklahoma City	OK
Jackson Mechanical Service	Oklahoma City	OK	The Physicans Group - Dr. M. Sean O'Brien	Oklahoma City	OK
JB Fitness	Moore	OK	Tim's Tax Service	Chelsea	OK
Jolee Consulting	Oklahoma City	OK	Tinker Federal Credit Union	Tinker AFB	OK
L & R Auto Brokers	Yukon	OK	TJC Ministries; Bishop Timothy J. Clark*	Columbus	OH
Leisure Times Pools and Spa	Effingham	IL	Tree of Life Bookstores	Marlon	IN
Lingo Construction Services	Oklahoma City	OK	Troy D. Rhodes & Company	Oklahoma City	OK
Linn Energy	Houston	TX	Tyler Broadcasting Corporation	Oklahoma City	OK
McBride Agency	Stillwater	OK	Universal Insurance Agency	Moore	OK
Metro Pediatrics, P.C.; Dr. Derrol Dawkins*	Birmingham	AL	Vanguard Development Company	Oklahoma City	OK
Midwest Inventory Service	Moore	OK	Wakefield Insurance Solutions	Moore	OK
Mike Hellack Chevrolet	Davis	OK	Wells Fargo Community Support		
OG&E	Oklahoma City	OK	Campaign and Matching	St. Paul	MN
Oklahoma Independent Colleges & Universities	Oklahoma City	OK	YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City	OK

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CREATING DISCIPLES

AS AN EXTENSION of the GiANT Worldwide tools MACU has incorporated across all levels of leadership, the university created two groups for students: the Iron Men and the Women of Valor.

Now entering their third and second years, MACU President Dr. John Fozard said the societies are fulfilling his vision to help develop young men and women not only in their professional careers, but also as Christians who integrate biblical principles in the workplace.

"I want to groom and train our students in how to speak and write well," Fozard said. "We want employers to know that these students from Mid-America Christian University will understand how to be ethically relational with others."

He said the groups are not just another club or fraternity, but societies that combine professional excellence with the intentionality of faith.

"Iron Men and the Women of Valor are designed to be societies made up of disciples of Jesus who will know how to act and lead in whatever work environment God places them in," Fozard said.

"It is not just for business majors. It is for those men and women who wish to be professional in their specific careers and intentional with the influence of their faith."

Vice President for Student Engagement and Success Jessica Rimmer said the societies are helping students see their potential before they graduate and enter the job market.

"We mirror the programs so they're the same quality and content, but the specific organizations allow us to foster relationships for the entire school year," Rimmer said.

Twice-monthly meetings are punctuated by prayer, leadership training and guest speakers from various fields of influence, including the local church, state government, culinary and even the fashion industry.

Session topics range from professional networking and public speaking to attire and etiquette. Faculty mentors help students discuss the tips and tools covered every session and learn how to apply them in their lives.

"The program helps our students determine how to best interact with people and makes it easier for them to recognize their role in different situations," Rimmer said.

She said a unique aspect of the programs is the enhanced focus on intentional discipleship.

"While all of our meetings flow from a biblical worldview, we found that students were hungry to go deeper into their spiritual development through one-on-one discipleship."

This year, 43 students from both organizations have signed up to be a part of the discipleship emphasis.

"We are excited to see the level of change that happens in the lives of these men and women who want to grow in their spiritual development and character," Rimmer said. "That is the basis for Christian leadership."

IF YOU KNOW AN INFLUENTIAL LEADER WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP MENTOR OR SPEAK TO THE IRON MEN OR THE WOMEN OF VALOR, PLEASE CONTACT JESSICA RIMMER AT JRIMMER@MACU.EDU.

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2-4





ADVANCING A LEADERSHIP CULTURE

WHEN MACU BEGAN its partnership with GiANT Worldwide, four senior leaders took part in X-CORE, a year-long leadership program designed to create an impactful, influential legacy to pass down through the university.

During the 12-month program, university leaders developed critical thinking skills, established a healthy work tempo, sharpened communication tactics and gained a greater sense of self-awareness.

Vice President for Student Engagement and Success Jessica Rimmer said the tools helped strengthen her core leadership capacity.

"I gained a clearer understanding of myself and my leadership style," Rimmer said.

And a deeper desire to bring those tools back to MACU.

"We enjoyed going through the X-CORE process so much, we had a real conversation about how to structure GiANT in a way to really change the culture of MACU and make our employees know they matter and we value them," she said. "We wanted to give them a similar experience of life change."

To make that change — and to create a legacy of influence that will be passed down for generations of university employees to come — MACU created M-CORE.

Last year, 37 faculty and staff members made up the inaugural M-CORE program. Divided into groups led by Rimmer and other X-CORE participants, employees participated in bi-weekly meetings and intensive, day-long retreats four times a year.

In the sessions, M-CORE members learned the same GiANT tools as their predecessors, cultivating a circle of influence that continues to be passed down in MACU culture.

Many participants said they felt change beyond the university level. Administrative Services Director Andy Marks said he's incorporated the tools into his personal life — and he's grateful for the insight it's brought to his family.

"It's more than just leadership development," Marks said. "It's something you can do beyond your professional role or your team. You can apply it everything in your world. It changes your whole life."

Now, many members of the original M-CORE group have taken on roles of leadership as a total of 53 employees take part in the second year of the program.

"We're going to continue to do this until faculty and staff members can experience these tools and have their life changed by them," Rimmer said. "We're helping people understand themselves. It's really bonding and life-changing."

GiANT Worldwide is a global company dedicated to leadership transformation through intentional apprenticeship. In addition to incorporating GiANT tools in all levels of leadership at MACU, many degree programs and two student leadership societies — the Iron Men and the Women of Valor — are also enriched with GiANT's teachings.

For more information about GiANT Worldwide, please visit www.giantworldwide.com.

When George Willett graduated with his Bachelor's degree in May, he walked with the rest of MACU's graduating class of 2017 across the stage of Crossings Community Church.



GEORGE WILLETT

AFTER ALMOST 24 YEARS of service in the U.S. Army, retired Sgt. 1st Class George Willett was at a crossroads. Injuries sustained in a military vehicle rollover resurfaced, revealing nerve damage to his back and spine. He was unable to work.

"It was hard. I had to walk with a cane and struggled with depression," Willett said. "Instead of not doing anything about it, I decided to go back to school."

It was a big step for Willett, who started on a degree in business administration more than two decades ago but never finished.

With a lot of support from his wife, Tarshanna, and their daughter, Noel, Willett began searching for the perfect college to continue his education. As a native of Lawton, Okla., he said he wanted to find a local school — but he found a lot more than that in MACU.

"The enrollment process was quick and easy," Willett said. "I had a counselor who guided me along the way."

He started on his Christian Ministries degree in 2014, wanting to finally answer the call to ministry he first felt at eight years old. Willett moved through his classes and his recovery one step at a time, using many of the tools MACU uses to help adult students succeed.

Whether it was having his paper proofread, learning civilian computer programming or creating a time management schedule, Willett said MACU "made the whole difference." That included arranging accommodations for his wife in the classroom for any on-campus classes he wanted to take.

"I just thank God for this school," he said. "They have all the things in place to make you be successful, whether you're

online or on campus. **It's a great place to go, a great place to start and a great place to finish.**"

Willett excelled in MACU's online classroom, earning A's in all of his courses. He said he most enjoyed learning about how to counsel others, as well as managing church finances and — most importantly — how to be a great leader for Christ.

"For every course, I prayed to God that He would help me not only pass the class, but truly get something out of it. I believe He hears prayer. I know He heard mine."

Including one special prayer — one Willett had never made for himself.

"I had never prayed for Him to heal me, even when I could barely walk or when I was in pain," he said. But when his home church held a special week of prayer, Willett found himself asking for healing not for his own life, but for bringing more lives to God.



"I asked Him to heal me because I wanted to continue His work," Willett said.

God heard, and he healed, bringing Willett to a new doctor. A series of shots and a surgery later, he is now pain-free and can walk without the use of his crutch.

Now, Willett is working on his Master's degree from MACU. He said he is excited to see where God leads him next, and hopes to begin an outreach ministry where he can reach individuals at vulnerable places in their lives.

"I want to touch the people who think there's no help for them and let them know there's always hope," Willett said. "I want to use my story to let them know that the Lord loves us. **He paved my way to MACU so I could help others find their way to Him.**"



ANTHONY JACKSON

ANTHONY JACKSON CAME TO MACU to play basketball, but he left with a lot more than two national championships under his belt.

As a high schooler in Putnam City, he was recruited by retired men's basketball coach Willie Holley, who famously drummed up more than 800 wins — many of them put up by Jackson, who Holley called "Little Man."

"He never said my name — all the time, even to this day," said Jackson, who played point guard during his four years at the university.

Straight out of high school, he thought melding his Christian faith with his love of basketball made MACU the perfect choice for him. But Jackson said what really made the difference was the family he found.

"I was surrounded by men and women of God every day," he said. "I would stay up in the commons area all night talking with my friends about how we can do better, about God, about our relationships and our families. That was our time; we didn't need to go out and do this or that or party. The best place to be was just home at MACU."

Like most college students, Jackson said he had ups and downs peppered through his education — but that his professors, coaches and peers kept him going.

"Somebody always had my back," he said. **"Somebody always pulled me aside, got me on the right path and helped me stay there. I went to MACU for basketball, but I came away with so much more."**

Before he graduated in 2004, Jackson left MACU with many accolades. He holds the record for most assists in a

men's basketball game (19) and remains the all-time career assist leader.

His triumphs on the court are recorded with his teammates' on a "Team of the Decade" banner in the Gaulke Activity Center, cementing his place in MACU sports history.

A title he holds especially dear to his heart is that of "Mr. MACU" — the university's equivalent of a homecoming king. Jackson became the first-ever recipient of the crown in 2004, the year the school's name changed from Mid-America Bible College.

"I was really blessed to have that," Jackson said. "My peers around me voted for me and thought I was a great leader on campus. I tried to do the best I could and seeing that recognized was an incredible honor."

Now, Jackson is taking his experiences at MACU and as an officer with the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office straight to the hallways of Crossings Christian School in Oklahoma City as the new school resource officer.

"It's been a dream of mine to work at Crossings Christian School for a while," he said. "I'm blessed and honored that I was selected out of 20 candidates for this position. The students, staff and



parents have welcomed me in with open arms. I consider them my family."

Jackson said influencing children and mentoring to them is the ministry God called him to.

"Now that I am at Crossings, I get to talk about God and pray with the children," he said. "You don't see that anywhere else."

In his new position, Jackson sees to the safety of about 1,200 young men and women, each of which he counts as one of his own children.

"Keeping them safe is my number one priority," he said. "I am always proactive. I am going to be the first one there, the one who steps in front of the suspect or in front of anyone who would try to harm this school or an administrator or a student."

In addition to providing the students and staff members safety, Jackson said he also puts on presentations for the younger grades, especially on topics like "stranger danger" and school bullying. He also works at school sports games and special events at Crossings Community Church.

Jackson said his mother instilled a spirit of giving and serving in him, keeping him grounded throughout his life.

"I wouldn't have become the man I am today without her," he said. "I learned to work hard from her and to never give up on anything in life. She inspires me to excel in life and give back to others."

Although Jackson said some people encourage him to go into ministry, he believes he is exactly where God wants him to be.

"I can still be a servant and witness to people as a school resource officer," he said. "I told my supervisors, 'I'm never leaving!' I want to impact more than just my division — I want to impact the world. I don't want people to be like me, I want them to be better than me, to reach out to people for Christ. Being an officer is my ministry and I thank MACU and God for showing me the way."



In 2004, Anthony was voted "Mr. MACU" by his classmates and peers. He was the first-ever recipient of the award and — because he wasn't expecting to win — he sported an all-pink suit on the special evening.



MACU alum Anthony Jackson with three of his students at Crossings Christian School.

A portrait of Eddie Vandewalker, a bald man with a friendly smile, wearing a blue polo shirt. He is seated in front of a bookshelf filled with books and various items, including a small figurine and a plush toy. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on him.

EDDIE VANDEWALKER

THERE'S A PLEASANT TUNE IN THE AIR AT MACU — and it's not just because of the loony Warner Brothers characters peppering Eddie Vandewalker's office.

"Ever since I went back to graduate school, I've looked forward to being part of a university and doing music education," said Vandewalker, who became Chair of MACU's School of Music this fall.

Although he is far from a stranger to the collegiate environment — Vandewalker taught at junior colleges and other programs prior to joining the MACU family — he said he feels his position at MACU is divinely appointed.

"Teaching future music ministers is my calling," he said. "Music is so important to the ministry. It brings us together; it allows us to be involved with other people in a way that nothing else can reach."

Vandewalker said singing fills the soul and readies it for God's Word.

"I feel like after people have sung together, they're suddenly ready for that hug, that talk. They're ready to open up when they weren't willing to before," he said. "Music helps us get a feel for what our spirits need."


"By the time I hear that first or second hymn at church, I can tell people the way I really am. I can share the struggle I've had this week. God uses singing to allow us that openness with our brothers and sisters in Him."

As he begins his first semester at the helm of MACU's music department, Vandewalker hopes to maintain the 100 percent track record he kept at his previous jobs.

"My goal is that every student who comes through here for the entirety of their degree either gets a job in the field they want or goes on to graduate school," he said.

Ultimately, that will lead to his greatest vision: sending fully equipped music ministers into the world.

"God works through music. Sometimes it comes to us unexpectedly and it's exactly what we need at that moment," Vandewalker said. "If we can use music to send people home a little happier, a little less stressed, then we've done God's work for that day."

A portrait of Shelley Groves, a woman with blonde, wavy hair, smiling. She is wearing a red and white patterned top. The background is slightly blurred, showing a bookshelf and a plant.

SHELLEY GROVES

GROWING UP, SHELLEY GROVES HAD THE SMARTEST DOLLS ON THE BLOCK. “I always knew I was going to be a teacher,” Groves said.

Giving lessons to her toys eventually gave way to pursuing music and English education in her collegiate career. After graduating from Evangel University in Springfield, Ill., Groves landed her first teaching job at Grace Christian Academy in Oklahoma City.

When that school closed unexpectedly, Groves and her husband, Brandon, both lost their jobs as administrators.

“It was heart-wrenching for us; it was like losing a loved one,” she said. With two young daughters at home, their situation seemed bleak. But the Lord provided for the Groves as He always had, and led the family to path He had carved for them.

For Brandon Groves, that was with McNeil’s Funeral Service in Mustang, Okla., his father-in-law’s family business. For Shelley Groves, it was in higher education.

At Southwestern Christian University in Bethany, Okla., Groves found her calling: teaching teachers. In her 10 years there, she jumpstarted the English education department and had several future MACU Evangelists in her classroom, including men’s basketball head coach Josh Gamblin.

“Coming to MACU was like coming home,” Groves said. “It feels like a reunion to me because there are so many people here that I know and so many people here I feel like I already know. It’s that kind of an atmosphere.”

As Co-Director of Teacher Education, Groves said she is looking forward to a new semester of building relationships with and pouring into students.

“Even when they aren’t my students anymore, they’re still with me because they’re my heart,” she said. “That’s the ministry aspect that means so much to me. I know this is what God has called me to do and I’m very, very blessed that He chose me.”

Shelley Groves lives in Oklahoma City with her husband, Brandon. They are the proud parents of two daughters, Emily and Jillian.

SEPT. 29



LANCE LANG

Executive Director, Hope is Alive Ministries, www.hopeisalive.net

Lance Lang serves as the Executive Director of Hope is Alive, a non-profit organization devoted to supporting men and women recovering from all types of addictions. Through this organization, Lance provides addiction outreach, prevention and referral services to many churches and businesses. In addition to his work with Hope is Alive, Lance works as a speaker, blogger and marketing consultant for other non-profits.

OCT. 11



MONA TAYLOR

State Director, U.S. Senator James Lankford (R-OK), www.lankford.senate.gov

Mona Taylor, a native of Oklahoma, graduated from Burns Flat High School and earned a Bachelor's of Business Administration from the University of Central Oklahoma. Later that year, she began a career of almost 30 years in government service. She served on the state staffs of Oklahoma congressmen Mickey Edwards, Frank Lucas, J.C. Watts, Jr. and Tom Cole. For two years, she served the Director and the Deputy Director of the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City. In 2011, she began service with Congressman James Lankford and presently serves as his state director.

OCT. 27



MARTY GRUBBS

Senior Pastor, Crossings Community Church, www.crossings.church

Marty Grubbs is the Senior Pastor of Crossings Community Church. Driven by the foundational and ever-relevant elements of the church in Acts 2, Marty inspires his congregation to live out their mission statement: to be a Christ-centered church committed to live by faith, to be a voice of hope, and to be known by love. Over 7,000 people attend Crossings Community Church weekly across campuses in Oklahoma City and Edmond, Okla.

NOV. 15



DR. ERIC JOSEPH

Vice President for Strategic Initiatives/Chief Diversity Officer, Mid-America Christian University, www.macu.edu

Dr. Eric Joseph serves as the Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Diversity Officer for Mid-America Christian University. In his position, Dr. Joseph collaborates with the President, deans, chairs and directors of institutional units to ensure the creation and subsequent alignment of unit plans with MACU's strategic planning. He is a champion of minority students and diversity issues, and serves as an academic liaison for these students.

NOV. 17



MIKE KEAHBONE

Senior Pastor, Cherokee Hills Baptist Church, www.keahbone.tv

Mike Keahbone grew up in the small town of Elgin, Okla. Though he comes from a proud Native heritage, his family was ravaged by alcohol and drug addiction. Through all of the turmoil, pain and abandonment, there was hope. God put people in Mike's life that would love him unconditionally and model the love of Jesus Christ for him. Today, Mike seeks to honor God and teach Scripture to all people. He combines deep and practical teaching of Scripture with relevant humor, stories and principles for life change. He inspires to provoke a passion for Scripture in the hearts and minds of people everywhere.



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

Ministry has been at MACU's heart since its inception as the South Texas Bible Institute in 1953. Although the university has expanded to offer degrees in a variety of programs in those 64 years, making ministers of all students — no matter the career path they choose — remains MACU's core mission.

That's especially true for the Christian Ministries program, which remains one of MACU's most popular degrees. Dr. Kimberly Thomas, Chair of the Adult School of Christian Ministries, said the compassion and the curriculum make the difference.

"Our students get information right then and there that they can immediately use," Thomas said. "They don't have to wait until they get the degree — they can start applying those principles the next day."

This fall, Thomas said she is going to begin redesigning areas of the Master of Ministry program with a greater emphasis on leadership and the addition of some of the same GiANT Worldwide tools that faculty and staff members are already learning.

"It's an exciting time to be a student at MACU," she said. "These materials will add to what students are already learning. People want to make a difference, they want to be a part of positive change in their churches and their communities. We are going to help make that happen."

MACU currently offers several degrees in Christian Ministries, including bachelor's degrees with multiple emphases and the Master of Ministry. In addition, multiple certificate programs and online enrichment courses are available.



*Dr. Carol Fowlkes
Professor/Chair, School
of Math and Science*

Students who are seeking careers ranging from physical therapy to nursing and everything in between can now earn a degree in biology from MACU, a much-anticipated addition to the university's School of Math and Science.

"We are so excited to see the biology program come to fruition," said School of Math and Science Chair Dr. Carol Fowlkes. "It is a much-needed major because of the number of students it services."

With the addition of the biology major also comes opportunities for more multidisciplinary degrees. For example, a student can add 30 or more hours of biology to existing programs in mathematics, psychology, business and more.

Fowlkes said this expands students' future employment opportunities.

"It really makes a student stand out," she said. "For instance, a biology and English degree partnered together makes for great journal writers for medical research."

That's especially important in a time when STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) jobs are surging. In one study, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projected up to a 62% increase in jobs related to STEM fields by 2020.

"This was a 'Dream Bigger, Do Greater' moment for us," Fowlkes said. "Our staff has been praying and dreaming for this opportunity. The biology major has opened up a whole new avenue of learning and growth for our students."

She said MACU biology students are poised for success due to the school's level of investment in them.

"Our students shine over students at other schools is because we are small enough to teach them and prepare them in a unique way that emphasizes critical thinking, data evaluation, article dissemination and interpretation," Fowlkes said.

But she said it is the heart and passion of MACU faculty members that really make the difference. Fowlkes said it's not just about grades, but about nurturing the student on a spiritual level as well.

"We want to grow them in their walk with Christ as well as their walk with math and science. The world can benefit from their knowledge and their ideas for the future. Nothing can put their passion and flame out."

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL IN ONE OF OUR DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, PLEASE VISIT [PROGRAMS.MACU.EDU](https://www.MACU.edu) OR CALL 888-888-2341 TO SPEAK TO AN ENROLLMENT COUNSELOR.

MACU Fall ATHLETICS

MEN'S SOCCER

10.03 // 4:00 // Saint Gregory's
10.07 // 1:00 // @ John Brown University
10.10 // 4:00 // Bacone College
10.14 // 3:00 // @ Central Christian College
10.17 // 7:00 // @ Oklahoma City
10.21 // 2:00 // @ Southwestern Christian University
10.24 // 3:00 // Southwestern Assemblies of God
10.27 // 3:00 // USAO
10.31 // 3:00 // Texas Wesleyan University

WOMEN'S SOCCER

10.03 // 2:00 // Saint Gregory's
10.07 // 1:00 // @ John Brown University
10.10 // 2:00 // Bacone College
10.14 // 1:00 // @ Central Christian College
10.17 // 5:00 // @ Oklahoma City
10.21 // 12:00 // @ Southwestern Christian University
10.24 // 1:00 // Southwestern Assemblies of God
10.27 // 1:00 // USAO
10.31 // 1:00 // Texas Wesleyan University

VOLLEYBALL

10.03 // 7:00 // Southwestern Christian University
10.06 // 7:00 // Saint Gregory's
10.10 // 7:00 // Bacone College
MACU TRI-MATCH
10.12 // 2:00 // Central Baptist
6:00 // Randall University
10.13 // 7:00 // Haskell Indian Nations
University
10.14 // 1:00 // John Brown University
10.20 // 7:00 // Wayland Baptist
10.21 // 12:00 // Panhandle State University
10.26 // 7:00 // USAO Senior Night

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The ladies of the MACU volleyball team scored big off the court last year, with five team members earning a spot on the Sooner Athletic Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll.

VOLLEYBALL STARTS SEASON WITH TALENTED TEAM, HIGH HOPES

Heading into the 2017 season, head coach Mike Freeman and the MACU volleyball team are looking to bounce back after a 12-win campaign in 2016. The Evangels fell shy of the .500 mark in 2016, missing out on a berth into the NCCAA Central Region Championship.

Now, getting back to the break-even mark is one of a long list of goals for the 2017 campaign.

"Our goal is to make the NAIA tournament as well as the NCCAA tournament," said head coach Mike Freeman, who enters his fifth year at the helm of the program.

MACU made their first trip to the NCCAA Regional under Freeman in 2015, and the Evangels are poised to get above .500 in 2017. The roster includes a dozen players, including five returners, led by First Team All-Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC) selection Laurel Church.

Church, a 5-10 senior from Moore, Okla., belted a team-leading 322 kills in 2016. She attacked the ball at a .238 clip, and posted 94 blocks, moving her into the top-five on the MACU career lists in both categories.

Church is joined by five returners, including fellow seniors Melissa Hoppal, Mary (Burkhead) Siefert, Jasmine Pickett and Breanna Fritschow.

"Our returning players know what to expect from other teams in our conference," Freeman said. "These players know how we attack those teams differently. Their experience and leadership is at a high level this season."

The Evangels also bring in seven new faces to join the squad for Coach Freeman's fifth season at the helm.

WATCH MACU SPORTS LIVE ON
YOUR COMPUTER, TABLET OR
SMARTPHONE

www.macuathletics.com



WOMEN'S SOCCER EYES RETURN TO WINNING WAYS

After falling short of the .500 plateau last season, head women's soccer coach Zach Bice said he's got a great feeling about the year ahead.

"I'm eager to get started on a new season," Bice said. "There's a buzz about the team. We really feel we have something to prove."

The Evangels roster boasts nine returners and 13 newcomers, including six transfers and eight freshmen.

The returning field players combined to score 18 of the Evangels' 22 goals last season, led by Brittney Stephens with 10 tallies and five game winners.

"All of our returners had strong years," Bice said. "They will have some young players joining them who are going to be big impacts this season."

He said the transfers and newcomers are a key piece of the team.

"I'm expecting them to come in and make a huge contribution right away," Bice said. "We have talent in every level of play from the keeper position to the strike position. They bring a competitiveness and high level of play early on."

He said this year's team is different from past seasons.

"We have some strong leadership and some different types of players. We are going to be a very fun team to watch this year."

MEN'S SOCCER TEAM LOOKS TO TURN CORNER IN 2017

In 2016, two-thirds of the MACU men's soccer team hailed from the state of Oklahoma. Entering the 2017 campaign, that number is significantly lower, as head coaches Zach Bice and Evan Dresel have focused on bringing in a wide range of talent from around the globe.

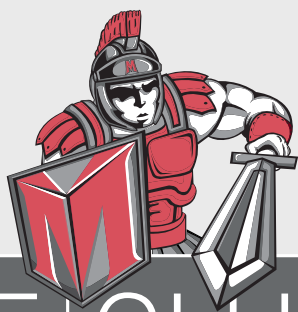
The 2017 squad has a bevy of new faces from a wide range of places. The Evangels have players coming into the fold from countries such as France, Germany, England, Australia, Argentina and more.

With so many new faces in the lineup, there will be many newcomers who will be called on to make an immediate impact on the Evangels' success from the opening kick-off of the season.

"We are more talented than we have been in the past," said Dresel. "This team is out to prove something."

He said one of the challenges that can arise with a wide variety of backgrounds is that soccer is played with different styles in different countries. Dresel believes gameplay will blend together well once the players are more comfortable with each other between the lines.

"Each culture has its own distinct style," he said. "We have always felt the best teams have a good mix of Americans and international players. The cultural differences don't really worry us. We always say that soccer is a language that connects the world. Once we are on the field, the guys are fine."



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A portrait of Pam Barton, a woman with short, curly brown hair and glasses, smiling. She is wearing a blue and white patterned top. In the background, there is a stained glass window with blue, yellow, and orange colors.

PAM BARTON

WHEN SHE STARTED HER CAREER AS A MEDICAL TECHNICIAN, Pam Barton thought science had all the answers. After surrendering her life to Christ at 26, she realized that science didn't really have all the answers — but that it very much pointed to God.

"I don't know how anyone can doubt His existence," Barton said. "When I think about looking at blood under the microscope and all the things it does, I wonder how anyone can not believe that a Higher Power had planned this."

Just as He put together the intricacies of the human body, God planned something great for Barton's life. After spending 17 years in the medical field, she started working at Belle Isle Community Church — the church that would later change its name to Crossings Community Church.

"I had wanted to work at a church from the moment I was saved," Barton said. As an employee in the congregational care office, she managed volunteers, hospital visits and funeral services.

Although she loved the position, she said the solemn work tired her spirit. She transitioned to the Crossings Community Clinic, mingling her medical background with her love of church work.

"During that time, I kept thinking there had to be something more," Barton said. She earned her Master's degree in Christian ministries, driving three hours to and from Friends University in Wichita, Kan. every week.

She punctuated her classes with spiritual formation and exercises, practicing the teachings of St. Ignatius over a 9-month period. Barton learned how to listen and guide others on their spiritual journey while continuing along her own path.

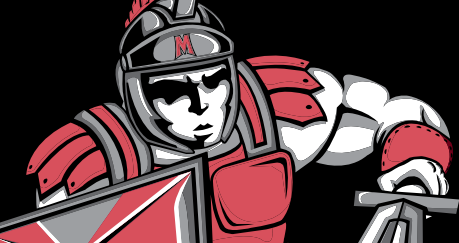
Her work culminated in a 2-year discipleship program in London, where she immersed herself in the teachings of Dallas Willard and James Bryan Smith. When she returned to the U.S., Barton said she realized where God had been leading her all throughout her educational journey: on the other side of the classroom.

"Teaching is so fun to me — it's exhilarating," said Barton, who joined the MACU School of Ministry as an instructor last year. Barton currently teaches most of the introductory theology classes all MACU students take as a part of their degree program.

"Introducing the Bible to students who are just starting out in life is so rewarding," Barton said.

She said she hopes to guide other students who feel God could be calling them on to journeys of their own.

"I want to give my students the kind of experience I had," Barton said. "I want them to know that God will not let you down — He will guide you every step of the way if you're willing to follow Him."



EVANGEL FUND



TANNER CHRISTENSEN

As believers, we know ministry is not limited to the church. It is greater than just an occupation and more than just a degree program. It is a part of us eternally, something that we live and breathe as we follow Him through times both joyous and troublesome.

And perhaps most importantly, it is our duty to use our ministry to guide others, bringing them the Light of Christ into their lives and making disciples out of them also. In Matthew 4:19, Jesus tells us to follow Him and that He will send us out to fish for people. At MACU, we are making fishermen out of our students!

Just this summer, a handful of our young Evangelists served the Kingdom through internships across the country. These opportunities change the lives of our students – students like sophomore Tanner Christensen, who said his summer internship at Crosspointe Fellowship Church in Kilgore, Texas gave him the tools he needed to reach his peers this semester.

“The church was a lot more diverse than Wyoming, where I’m from. I got to work with a broad spectrum of people from many different cultures. God used that as a learning opportunity for me, to show me everyone is the same. We all need His love and when we have that, we can do anything.”

During his internship, Tanner poured his influence into young men and women who didn’t openly profess their faith when the summer began. By its end, he saw them waking up to text Scripture to their friends in the mornings.

“It was awesome to see what a kind heart can do and how God can use me in cultures I didn’t know I would be able to work in. I think he used it to prepare me. This semester, I’ll be serving as a residence hall chaplain at MACU and we have 40 international students from different cultures. I feel like I’m prepared now to minister to them and connect with them in a way I couldn’t have done before.”

MACU is thankful for Tanner and all of our students, who we pour into every day so they may go out and become fishers of men and women for Christ. We are accomplishing great things at MACU – but as you know, the cost of higher education is a daunting one, and up to 90 percent of our students would not be here without the generosity of our donors and the scholarships to which they contribute.

Will you help us make an education at MACU attainable for a student like Tanner? Please spend some time in prayer and consider donating to the Evangel Fund. With your gift, you are giving to the futures of students who are preparing to go out into the world and make disciples out of the people around them.

To give today, visit evangelfund.macu.edu or contact the Office of University Advancement at 405-692-3191.



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To celebrate this symbolic partnership, David and Angela Ayres of Beaumont, Texas, commissioned and gifted a great sculpture to the university in 1985. Mounted in the lobby outside of the JASCO chapel, the "Tree of Life" is outfitted with gold and bronze apples, leaves and stones that represent gifts made by generous donors.

David Ayres passed away on Dec. 4, 2016, but much like the great oaks that surpass us in size and lifespan, his legacy lives on through his eternal investment in MACU and the "Tree of Life" he left behind.

Through nourishing this "Tree of Life" through prayers and financial gifts, MACU supporters are given a special part in preparing Evangelists to go forth from this institution and carry the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

In addition to creating the "Tree of Life" for the university, Ayres also served as a member of MACU's Executive Committee Board from 1973 to 1976 and as a Board of Trustees member from 1973 to 1996.

MACU is forever grateful to David and Angela Ayres and to other individuals and families who make an eternal investment by giving to MACU. To receive information on how estate planning may benefit you or your family, please visit give.macu.edu or contact the Office of University Advancement at 405-692-3191.

Do you have a desire to take part in this everlasting ministry by giving to the "Tree of Life"? You can pledge for a stone, apple or one or more leaves, which may be dedicated in memory of a loved one in addition to recognizing the donor.

Your gift will benefit current students and those to come.

To secure your place on the "Tree of Life" today, please call the Office of University Advancement at 405-692-3191.



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OCT. 18 MACU GOLF CLASSIC



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