MID-AMERICAN

THE MAGAZINE OF MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



PRESIDENT'S REPORT
2017-2018

Dream Bigger. Do Greater.

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COVER PHOTO

This year marks the 65th anniversary of Mid-America Christian University! Thank you for your faithful support of this institution for the last 65 years.



Mid-America Christian University

3500 SW 119th Street Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73170 405-691-3800

www.MACU.edu

President Dr. John Fozard

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Photos/Images: Frankie Heath Andy Marks, Grandeur Photography, L.L.C.

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



MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



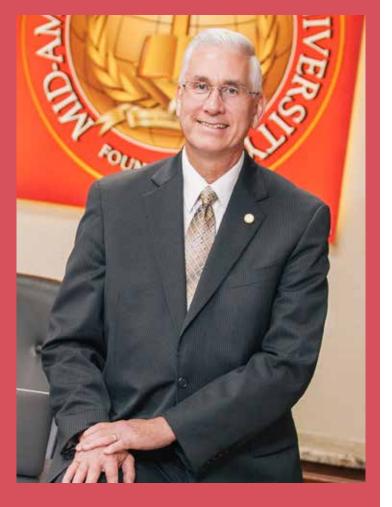


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MACU.EDU/WATCH
WATCH MACU CHAPEL LIVE EVERY
WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT 10 A.M.

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New and returning MACU students move into the Residence Halls ahead of the start of a new fall semester.



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2018, Mid-America Christian University celebrated its 65th anniversary in Christian higher education!

In 1950, ministers from five central states met at the Midwest Assembly in Kansas City, Missouri. Concern for the training of church leaders moved from coffee breaks into the business meeting. What resulted in those discussions that day was the selection of seventeen state representatives. These persons, duly appointed by their respective states, met in Oklahoma City on August 26-27, 1952, for the purpose of organizing and discussing the proposal of beginning a Church of God college to serve the central states.

Max R. Gaulke was selected as the chair of that executive committee. There was a consensus in the group that classes offered would be designed to prepare students primarily for ministry — pastoring, religious education and general church work. The group was confident that such a school could open by the fall of 1954.

Individually, Chairman Gaulke kept exploring what it would take to start such a school. His visioning and research turned into a personal call to become the founding president. Word went out to the church-at-large that the First Church of God in Houston, Texas, the congregation that Gaulke pastored, would host a new Bible institute scheduled to get underway in the fall of 1953.

By September 14, 1953, 26 students had enrolled from eight states and dubbed themselves the "Pioneer Class." While not everyone was to become a preacher or teacher, all of the students enrolled were preparing to serve Christ. The school would first be called the South Texas Bible Institute. The following year, the school was accredited by the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges. This prompted a new name, Gulf Coast Bible College.

In time, the second president of the college, Dr. John Conley, sensed a need to relocate the college to a more centralized location with available acreage on which to expand. Mr. and Mrs. John and Mary Shroyer made available 35 acres in south Oklahoma City. Thus, the college would move to Oklahoma City, where 33 years earlier, that executive committee met to envision a future school.

At no time had any Church of God higher learning institution ever moved into a completely new campus designed for the unique purpose of serving the church. Gulf Coast Bible College had come to a new day, a new home, and would receive a new name, Mid-America Bible College.

Instead of a single day for dedication, a full weekend of dedication ceremonies was scheduled between September 5-8, 1985. The ribbon-cutting ceremony introduced the new school to the business community of Oklahoma City with the Honorable George Nigh, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, serving as guest speaker. Dr. John Leone, Chancellor of Education in the State of Oklahoma, shared greetings. Dr. Paul Tanner, Executive Director of the Church of God, represented the church in North America.

In time, the college expanded its degree program, classifying itself as a Christian liberal arts college. The growth in

enrollment also witnessed an expansion in the diversity of its student population. Working adults now enrolled in degree completion programs that used distance learning technology.

To expand our global footprint, the Board of Trustees voted to change the college's name to Mid-America Christian University — a name globally recognized as a regionally accredited higher learning institution. With the establishment of the Thomas School for International Studies in 2005, the college expanded its enrollments into Central and South America via online learning.

This very brief history doesn't really do justice to all of the faith and toil of those who helped establish and advance this university. However, I find it interesting that the gemstone used in most 65th anniversaries is the blue sapphire. The sapphire is symbolic of loyalty and the fulfillment of dreams.

The word "loyalty" is so apropos to those who dreamed bigger and then sought to do greater in serving the church! Think of the loyalty of past presidents, Dr. Gaulke, Dr. Conley and Dr. Robinson. Think of the host of staff and faculty who sacrificially gave their lives to birth and grow an institute into a global university!

There were family names of early staff like Acheson, Erickson, Mitchel, Nelson, Oesch, Howland, Golden, Curtis, Carver, Adams, Brumfield, Kirks and Mashue. The list of loyal leaders, trustees and donors is simply too long to include in this magazine. Still, their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life and some of them have preceded us to heaven to await an even greater celebration than a 65th anniversary.

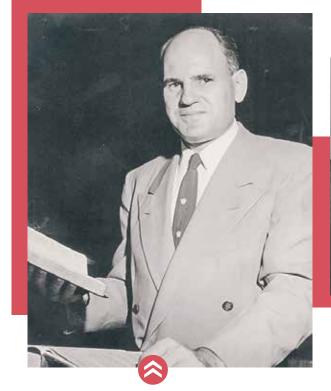
Today, the university continues to be loyal to its original goal of preparing church leaders. Last year, the university had an enrollment of 2,700 students. Four hundred and thirty of those students left MACU prepared for professional ministry through serving local congregations.

However, let us not limit the definition of "minister" to those who will graduate with a Bachelor's in Christian Ministry. MACU students are able to choose from 95 degree programs. We believe we are sending out "ministers" into schools, board rooms, clinics, counseling centers, congregations and the marketplace.

The university has become a global university, one that is not only diverse by international reputation — with over 30 nations represented on campus — but also a university that has become very diverse in its ethnicity and racial student populations. In the 2017-18 Academic Year, 57 percent of our students identified as being "non-white."

What began as a dream in 1952 causes us to continue to "Dream Bigger" and "Do Greater" more than six decades later. Happy Anniversary MACU! A big "thank you!" to all the trustees, faculty, staff, donors, congregations, students, parents and friends who have made this 65th anniversary a reality through your prayers and support!





Dr. Max R. Gaulke served as the first president of Gulf Coast Bible College, which was originally founded as South Texas Bible Institute in 1953.



In 1953, 26 students from eight states made up Gulf Coast Bible College's inaugural class. These students were known as the "Pioneer Class."





To reflect its status as a regionally accredited Christian university to students on a global scale, the school was renamed Mid-America Christian University in 2002.

The university's second president, Dr. John Conley, spearheaded the historic move from Houston, Texas to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The original Gulf Coast Bible College campus was located in Houston, Texas.







The 1956 graduating class of Gulf Coast Bible College, pictured in front of the campus educational building.

Mr. and Mrs. John and Mary Shroyer, for which MACU's Shroyer Drive is named, made available 35 acres of land in south Oklahoma City on which to build the new campus.





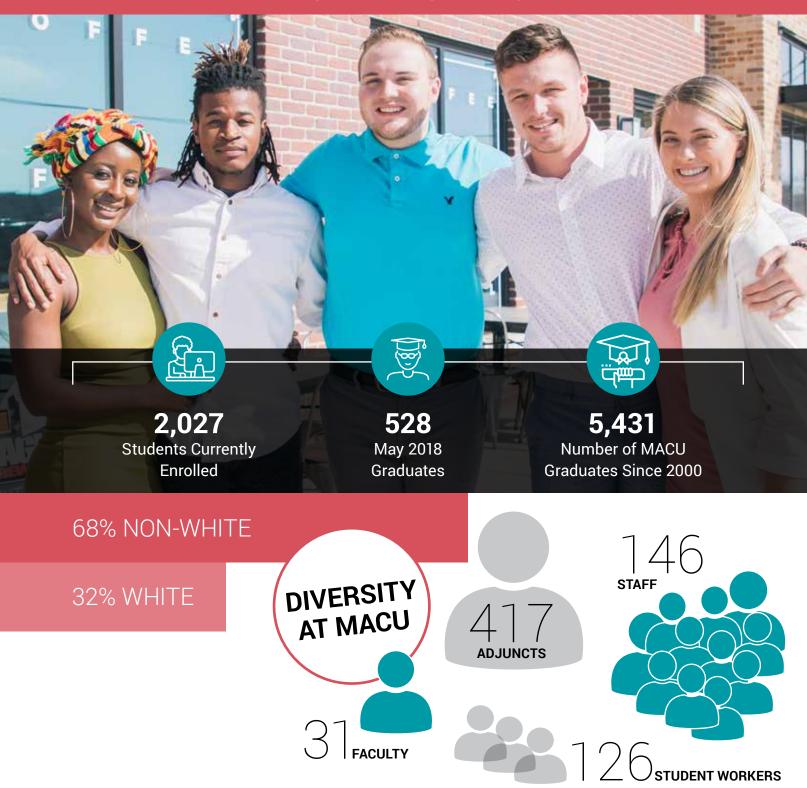
In the 1980s, ground was broken for the campus of Mid-America Bible College in Oklahoma City.



In 1999, Dr. John Fozard became the fourth and present university president.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Administrative Officers

DR. JOHN FOZARD, President

JODY ALLEN, Chief Operating Officer, 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

SUSAN "MICI" SARTIN, Chief Financial Officer

REV. STEVE SEATON, Vice President for University Advancement

DR. BOBBIE SPURGEON-HARRIS, Executive Vice President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



95 Degree Program Options Available



\$144,442 was raised for student scholarships at the 2018 Dream Gala.



5,160 Hours of Community Service



FOR 2 YEARS MACU was voted the best MBA program in the state of Oklahoma among private universities by *The Journal Record*.



1,240 Hours One-on-One Discipleship Training

MACU Athletics -

HANNAH MOELLER

NCCAA Division I Women's Basketball Coach of the Year

SAC Academic

SAC Academic All-Conference Team Members 9 NCCAA

NCCAA All-Americans 8

NCCAA Scholar-Athletes 7

NAIA Scholar-Athletes





PRESIDENT'S REPORT



STUDENTS LIVING ON CAMPUS



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



418

Ministry Students



50

Bethel Bible Series Students



179

Church of God Students

Board of Trustees

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



2018

Mr. Gary Bohm Rev. Don Dykes Mr. Ross Hill Rev. Eli Pagel Mr. Jeff Russell Rev. John L. Spear



2019

Mr. Steven E. Cottom Mr. Scott Ethridge Mrs. Brenda Pierson Dr. Randall W. Spence Dr. John Steffens Bishop Gideon (Gilbert) A. Thompson



2020

Mr. Ed Abel Mr. Todd Braschler Rev. Steve Chiles Mr. Brian Clemens Mr. Chuck Darr Mr. Ron Langford Dr. Claude Robold



2021

Rev. Robbie Davis, Jr. Mr. Scott Duncan Mr. Steven Goo Rev. Gary Kendall Mrs. Rosanna Lucero-Torrez Mrs. Marsha Reeder



2022

Dr. Derrol Dawkins Mr. Jason Fritts Dr. Veronica Grabill Mr. David McCutcheon Mr. Ron Whitton

DONOR HONOR ROLL

10 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF GIVING

ALUMNI GIVING			
Alsip, Morgan and Carol	Oklahoma City	ОК	
Boyles, Matthew and Judith	Loveland	OH	
Burton, Judith	Oklahoma City	OK	
Cantrell, Richard and Kaye	Lebanon	TN	
Cepeda, Enrique and Lidia	Oklahoma City	OK	
Chiles, Steve and Wanda	Oklahoma City	OK	
Cottom, Steve and Heather	Oklahoma City	OK	
Davidson, Jeff and Stephanie	Moore	OK	
Fozard, John and Brenda	Oklahoma City	OK	
Hanohano, George and Sue	Moore	OK	
Hyatt, C. Donovan and Maribel	LaPorte	TX	
Mashue, Wanda	Houston	TX	
Parker, James and Doris	Gordonville	TX	
Rehbein, Jon and Esther	Moore	OK	
Spear, John and Suzon	Casper	WY	
Stevenson, Raymond (dcsd. Aug. 2018)			
and Jean	Cleveland	TX	
Whitesel, Doyle and Velva	Hot Springs	AR	

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

INDIVIDUAL DONON	3	
Abel, Ed and Carol	Oklahoma City	ОК
Bale, Clifford and Luella	Coffeyville	KS
Basham, Darrell	Eastland	TX
Beltz-Martin, Linda	Dixon	MO
Berg, Duane and Linda	Yukon	OK
Bollenbacher, Wayne and Linda	Edmond	OK
Brown, Elaine	Edmond	OK
Conrad, Harold	Noblesville	IN
Cox, G. David and Jan	Clayton	OH
Curtis, Helen (dcsd. March 2018)	Oklahoma City	OK
Daniels, Robert and Verdie	Heber Springs	AR
Darr, Charles and Shari	Edmond	OK
Dover, William and Beverly	Sand Springs	OK
Dunn, Clarence and Linda	South Prince George	VA
Earnest, Terrell and Donna	Yukon	OK
Elkins, Helen	Bastrop	LA
Fowlkes, Edgar and Carol	Moore	OK
Freymond, Richard and Jabet	Hacienda Heights	CA
Hall, David and Dee	Port Richey	FL
Harris, Mark and Faith	Bethany	OK
Hoover, Steve and Patti	Redmond	OR
Palmer, Ralph and Nan	Winchester	KY
Richardson, Sr., Barry	Marston	MO
Rimmer, Terry and Jessica	Edmond	OK
Robillard, George (dcsd. Jan. 2018) and Janice	Lake Wales	FL
Russell, Jeff and Mary Carol	Oklahoma City	OK
Sartin, Susan "Mici"	Edmond	OK
Seaton, Steven and Rhonda	Oklahoma City	OK
Sloan, Stephen	Bethany	OK
Steffens, John and Patricia	Edmond	OK
Tidwell, Ted and Jan	Tulsa	OK
Todd, Elaine	Flora	IL
Toler, Stan (dcsd. Nov. 2017) and Linda	Oklahoma City	OK
Torrez, Michael and Rosanna	Albuquerque	NM
Tyler, Dennis and Pat	Colorado Springs	CO
Wax, Gary and Tana	Midwest City	OK
Willoughby, Tim and Jane	Tarpon Springs	FL

CHURCH SUPPORT: CHURCH OF GOD

40th Avenue Church of God	Hattiesburg	M
Bonnie Church of God	Bonnie	IL
Brookville First Church of God	Brookville	P
Burkeville Church of God	Burkeville	T
Campground Church of God	Greeneville	1T
Cedar Creek Church of God	Greeneville	1T
Crossings Community Church	Oklahoma City	01
Crosspointe Fellowship Church	Kilgore	T
Eagle Point Church of God	Little Rock	ΑI
East Side Church of God	Anderson	II.
Eastland Church of God	Lexington	K۱
Emerson Street Church of God	Kennett	M

First Church of God First Church of God First Church of God First Church of God	Crossett Venice Effingham Charleston	AR FL IL
First Church of God	Marion	IL II
First Church of God	Mount Vernon	ΪĹ
First Church of God	Elkhart	KS
First Church of God	Hugoton	KS
First Church of God	Hutchinson	KS
First Church of God	St. Joseph	MI
First Church of God	Doniphan .	MO
First Church of God	East Prairie	MO
First Church of God	Bristow	OK
First Church of God	Clinton	OK
First Church of God	Cushing	OK
First Church of God	Holdenville	OK
First Church of God	Pauls Valley	OK
First Church of God	Pryor	OK
First Church of God	Greeneville	TN
First Church of God	Tyler	TX
First Church of God	Point Pleasant	WV
First Church of God of Little Paint	East Point	KY
Fresh Start Community Church	Moore	OK
Goodwill Church of God	Oak Grove	LA WY
Highland Park Community Church Home Avenue First Church of God	Casper Trenton	W Y OH
Hucrest Community Church	Roseburg	OR
Jones Avenue Church of God	Oak Hill	WV
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	Albuguerque	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
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
Welty Church of God Zion Community Church of God	Welty Ottumwa	OK IA
Zion community charcil of God	Uttuiliwa	IA
OLUDOLIAC	ENIGIES	

CHURCH AGENCIES

Church of God Ministries	Anderson	IN
Wyoming General Assembly of the Church of God	Casper	WY

CORPORATIONS, VENDORS AND OTHERS

BlackRock Midstream	Tulsa	OK
Bill Warren Office Products	Oklahoma City	OK
JASCO Giving Hope FOundation	Oklahoma City	OK

PLANNED GIVING

During 2017-2018, the following individuals either made an estate gift to MACU or indicated their desire to include MACU in their estate planning

or indicated their desire to include M	IACU in their estate planning.
Ayres, David	Kline, Charles D. and Patricia A. (Estate)
Baer, Trulafaye	Lewis, Alvin and Junita
Beltz-Martin, Linda	Mosteller, Timothy and Peggy
Curtis, Mary Ruth	Repass, Dewayne and Linda
Daniels, Robert M. and Verdie	Thomas, Donna S.
Dunn, Clarence and Linda	Smith-Hinderliter, Maxine
Goehring, Raymond P.	Walker, Joe B.
Gross Harold and Diane	·

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

DONOR HONOR ROLL

	DONOR	H
ALUMNI GIVI	NG	
Adamson, Donn and Gaylene	Park Hills	МО
Allen, Darryl and Susan Allen, Jody** and Lisa**	Winchester	KY OK
Alisip, Morgan** and Carol**	Newcastle Oklahoma City	OK
Ardizzone, Dolores	Haughton	LA
Arington, Diann	Hot Springs	AR
Baer, Trulafaye Barillas, Nataly**	Carlisle Moore	PA OK
Bath, Bill and Sandy	Bartlesville	OK
Bell, Ted and Andrea	Middleburg Heights	ОН
Boelte, Hunter	Rogers	AR
Bohannon, Linnea Bowerman, Eric	Houston Rowlett	TX TX
Boyles, Matthew and Judith	Loveland	OH
Burleson, Douglas and Amy	Edmond	ОК
Burton, Judith	Oklahoma City	OK
Cantrell, Richard and Kaye Cepeda, Enrique** and Lidia	Lebanon Oklahoma City	TN OK
Cepeda, Effique and Lidia Chapman, Ryan and Linda	Fishers	IN
Chiles, Steve* and Wanda	Oklahoma City	OK
Colp, David and Crystal	Stevensville	MI
Cox, Troy and Elizabeth Cravens, Arley and Ruby	Moore	OK WV
Davidson, Jeff and Stephanie**	Scott Depot Moore	OK
Davis, William S.	Oklahoma City	OK
Dobbs, Roy and Donna	Clinton	OK
Elvik, Elizabeth A	Oklahoma City	OK OK
Flanagan, Joe and Jeanne Ford, Clint	Texhoma Huachuca City	AZ
Fowler, Joyce	Kremlin	OK
Fozard, John** and Brenda	Oklahoma City	OK
Fuller, Tommy and Mary	Florence	MS OK
Gaddis, Anita Gentry, John and Eulah	Oklahoma City Cookeville	TN
George, Terry and Susan	Hutchinson	KS
Giron, Jesus	Abilene	TX
Gleason, James W.	Kearney Westhoff	NE TX
Goehring, Raymond Graham, Jeremy and Ginger	Oklahoma City	OK
Hall, Matt and April	Norman	OK
Hanohano, George and Sue	Moore	OK
Hinton, Sam R and Gail Howland, Delbert	Greensboro Lincoln	NC NE
Hughes, Wilbur and Jeanne	Southside	AL
Hyatt, C Donovan and Maribel	LaPorte	TX
Irwin, Scott and Michelle	Waco	TX
Jones, Nancy A Kelchner, Larry and Priscilla	Wichita Sun City West	KS AZ
Klein, Charles D. and Patricia A. (Estate)	Chappell Hill	TX
Knight, Whitney**	Oklahoma City	OK
Konstantopoulos, Bill and Kay	Winchester	KY
Kurtz, A. Elaine Lacy, Adrian and Vanessa	Thompsons Station Vallejo	TN CA
Latimer, Ron	Oklahoma City	OK
Mansfield, Richard and Cindy	Albuquerque	NM
Marks, Andy** and Lynne	Oklahoma City	OK
Martin, Ron and Collene Martin, Tommy	Crossville Ruskin	TN FL
Mashue, Wanda	Houston	TX
McClain, Joy	Evansville	IN
McElhany, Jake and Stephanie	Blanchard	OK
Middlebrooks, Marvin** and Janice Mikkelsen, Bruce and Jennie	Oklahoma City Wellston	OK MI
Miller, David and Paula	Nacogdoches	TX
Mirabal, Eddie and Merlinda	Albuquerque	NM
Mobley, Larry and Che Che'	Camden	SC
Mondragon, Lorenzo and Margaretha Neace, Robert and Joane	Corpus Christi Kendallville	TX IN
Neace, Robert and Joane Newton, Leon and Linda	Valley	IN AL
Norholm, Kresten and Lenora	Yukon	OK
		OK
Norris, Vann and Kelley	Oklahoma City	
Pagel, Eli* and Kendra	Tuttle	OK
Pagel, Eli* and Kendra Parker, James and Doris	Tuttle Gordonville	TX
Norris, Vann and Kelley Pagel, Eli* and Kendra Parker, James and Doris Peslis, Don and Sandi Phairas, Clarence and Sharon Phifer, Nathan** and Valerie**	Tuttle	

HOITHOLL		
Popp, Patricia	Sacramento	CA
Rehbein, Jon and Esther**	Moore	OK
Repass, D. Dewayne and Brenda	San Antonio	FL
Robinson, Jason and Emily	Norman	OK
Roddy, Ronald and Shirley	Oklahoma City	OK
Rucktashel, Marion	Houston	TX
Sanders, Cliff** and Becky	Oklahoma City	OK
Schaffer, Charles	Hurst	TX
Sergeant, Rev. Howard and Rev. Diane	Decatur	IL
Shupe, Ralph and Tonya	Oklahoma City	OK
Siebels, Robert J and Mary	De Soto	MO
Smith, Doyce and Suzanne	Pittsburg	TX
Spencer, Vicky	Bethel	ΑK
Stevenson, Raymond (dcsd. Aug. 2018)		
and Jean	Cleveland	ΤX
Stoner, Ryan	Edmond	OK
Strong, David and Millie	Ottumwa	IA
Sutton, Loren and Elouise	Opelika	ΑL
Taylor, Riley and Diane	Kilgore	ΤX
Taylor, James** and Celeste	Oklahoma City	OK
Thomas, Rev. Curtis and Rev. Dr. Kim**	Oklahoma City	OK
Thompson, Jonathon and Morgan**	Oklahoma City	OK
Tilman, Alva and Gloria	Mountain View	MO
Underhill, Charles and Debbie	Lincoln	NE
Walters, Paul and Margaret	Roanoke	VA
Wehmuller, Charlotte	El Reno	OK
White, Jeff and Dianne	East Point	ΚY
Whitesel, Doyle and Velva	Hot Springs	AR
Wilkinson, Mike**	Oklahoma City	OK
Williams, Jacquelynne	Oklahoma City	OK
Wilson, Don and Carolyn	Oklahoma City	OK
Winning, Gale and Claudia	Ford Cliff	PA
Wood, Ernie and Dea	Edmond	OK
Young, Ryan and Ciana**	Columbus	NE
Wax, Gary and Tana	Oklahoma City	OK
INDIVIDUAL GIVI	NG	

INDIVIDUAL GIVI	ING	
Abel, Ed* and Carol	Oklahoma City	ОК
Adair, Rob	Edmond	OK
Adams, Lonnie and Kathleen	Decatur	MS
Alexander, Rich and LaDonna	Lincoln	IL
Anderson, James and Geraldine	Douglas	GA
Balch, Stanley**	Oklahoma City	OK
Baldwin, Russell and Sandra	Oklahoma City	OK
Bale, Clifford and Luella	Coffeyville	KS
Bartel, Jon	Edmond	OK
Basham, Darrell	Eastland	TX
Beard, Chris	Edmond	OK
Been, A.D. and Shirley	Castle	OK
Beltz-Martin, Linda	Dixon	MO
Berg, Duane and Linda	Yukon	OK
Boedecker, John E. and Judith D.	Waxahachie	TX
Boelte, Craig and Paula	Edmond	OK
Bohm, Gary* and Mandy	Barboursville	W۷
Bollenbacher, Wayne and Linda	Edmond	OK
Bowers, Claude and Kathryn	Mommoth Spring	AR
Boyer, Robert and Sarah	Oklahoma City	OK
Brandt, John and Barbara	Wenatchee	WA
Brown, Adam	Juneau	ΑK
Brown, Robert and Kristy	Thayer	MO
Brown, Elaine	Edmond	OK
Broyles, Ryan and Mary Beth	Norman	OK
Bruce, Vandal L. and Janice Kay	Oklahoma City	OK
Brucken, Patrick and Shari	Martinsville	OH
Chiles, Steve* and Wanda	Oklahoma City	OK
Clemens, Brian* and Janis	Oklahoma City	OK
Cleveland, Cole and Natalie	Oklahoma City	OK
Cleveland, Dale and Faye	Mission	TX
Cobble Insurance	Moore	OK
Colp, Deon	Marion	IL
Conrad, Harold	Noblesville	IN
Cottom, Betty L.	Oklahoma City	OK
Cottom, Steve* and Heather	Oklahoma City	OK
Cox, G. David and Jan	Clayton	OH
Crow, Charles** and Imalee	Yukon	OK
Cruzen, Dorothy	Oklahoma City	OK
Currie, Harry and Joan	Oklahoma City	OK

Curtis, Helen (dcsd. March 2018)	Oklahoma City	OK	Lee, James and Luella	Bucyrus	KS
Curtis, George R and Mary Ruth	San Antonio	TX	Lee, Bernice	Moore	OK
Danely, Glenn and Joan	Oklahoma City	OK	Limm, Jeff and Jayne	York	PA
Daniel, Jim	Oklahoma City	OK	Lingo, Stanley L. and Renee P.	Oklahoma City	OK
Daniels, Robert and Verdie	Heber Springs	AR	Listen, Jackie	Noble	OK
Darr. Charles* and Shari	Edmond	OK	Livingston, Eric and Lisa	Decatur	IL
Dawkins, Derrol* and Patricia	Birmingham	AL	Loftis, Melba	Tulsa	OK
Day, Richard L and Joan	Oklahoma City	OK	Lyman, Eric	Oklahoma City	OK
DeScottier, Leon**	Oklahoma City	OK	Marshall, Darwina**	Oklahoma City	OK
Dillman, Ray** and Kelly	Newcastle	OK	Martin, Norma	Franklin	IN
Dillon, David**	Washington	IL	Martinez, Pedro**	Oklahoma City	OK
Dover, William and Beverly		OK		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	Sand Springs		Mason, Ralph and Helen	Oklahoma City	OK
Dowdy, Norma J.	Oklahoma City	OK	McCutcheon, David* and Adrienne	Osprey	FL
Dugan, Dick	Oklahoma City	OK	McCutcheon, Robert and Patricia	Venice	FL
Duncan, Scott* and Debra	Oklahoma City	OK	McDonald, Bill	Moore	OK
Dunn, Clarence and Linda	South Prince George	VA	McDowell, Ron	Arlington	TX
Durr, Bobby and Glenda	Baton Rouge	LA	McDowell, William** and Becki	Venice	FL
Dutton, Lonnie	Blanco	ΤX	McDowell, W. Scott**	Venice	FL
Earnest, Terrell** and Donna	Yukon	OK	McIlvoy, Vickie	Oklahoma City	OK
Elkins, Helen	Bastrop	LA	McInturff, Jerry	Shawnee	OK
Elmore, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E	West Monroe	LA	Moeller, Marie	Joplin	MO
Engelaer, Cheryl**	Edmond	OK	Moore, Ernest and Mildred	Wewoka	OK
Fowlkes, Edgar and Carol**	Moore	OK	Moore, Leslie and Karianne	Raymore	MO
Frankfurt, Edgar	Oklahoma City	OK	Morrow, Harriet	Collinsville	OK
Freymond, Richard and Jabet	Hacienda Heights	CA	Nance, Julie**	New Albany	IN
Frick, John	Oklahoma City	OK	Neace, Robert and Joane	Kendallville	IN
Fritts, Jason* and Kelli	Moore	OK	Nicholson, Linda	Moore	OK
·	Chelsea	OK OK		Marion	
Fry, Lorene			Norman, Gene and Pauline		IL OV
Fuelling, Mark	Oklahoma City	OK	Northcutt, Jr., Walter and Kathy	Edmond	OK
Gall, Connie**	Chickasha	OK	Odom III, Paul	Oklahoma City	OK
Gamblin, David and Julie	Piedmont	OK	Oldham, Glenna	Ridgeland	MS
Gamblin, Barry and Anne Marie	Piedmont	OK	Oldham, Randy and Karen	West Monroe	LA
Garcia, Anthony	Tinker AFB	OK	Olson, Gary	Edmond	OK
Gibson, Todd R. and Johanna C.	Moore	OK	Palmer, Ralph and Nan	Winchester	KY
Glover, David**	Carson	CA	Pappy, Reji and Rachel	Edmond	OK
Goo, Steven* and Jennie	Madison	AL	Patadal, Elissa**	Oklahoma City	OK
Grabill, Vic and Dr. Veronica*	Clarksville	OH	Peddycoart, Brenda	Yukon	OK
Granger, Edward and Brenda	Oklahoma City	OK	Perry, Velvet L.	North Augusta	SC
Gray, Ed	Nichols Hills	OK	Phillips, James and Barbara	Missouri City	TX
Gray, Albert and Kim	Mustang	OK	Pickens, Mark** and Elizabeth	Nichols Hills	OK
Gregory, Dwight	Midwest City	OK	Pierson, Brenda*	Middletown	OH
Groves, Brandon and Shelley**	Oklahoma City	OK	Pratt, Debbie	Oklahoma City	OK
Grubbs, Dwight and Sylvia	Anderson	IN	Proctor, Dale	Wetumka	OK
Hall, David and Dee	Port Richey	FL	Prousy, Louise	Oklahoma City	OK
Hall, Jeff	Warr Acres	OK	Rahill, Charlene	Oklahoma City	OK OK
		OK OK			
Hamilton, Richard	Newcastle		Rahill D.D.S., Gary R.	Oklahoma City	OK
Hampton, James and Cherrie	Oklahoma City	OK	Redding, Nancy J.	Oklahoma City	OK
Hardaway, Roger**	Alva 	OK	Reed, John	Oklahoma City	OK
Harlow, Margaret	Louisville	KY	Reyna, Miguel	Oklahoma City	OK
Harris, Harvey and Almeta	Oklahoma City	OK	Richardson, Sr., Barry	Marston	МО
Harris, Mark** and Faith	Bethany	OK	Richo, Deloris	FernandinaBeach	FL
Harroz Jr., Edward and Susan	Oklahoma City	OK	Rimmer, Terry and Jessica**	Edmond	OK
Hatcher, Merlyn and Imogene	Beaver	OK	Roberts, Chuck and Twila	Oklahoma City	OK
Hency, Dale and Ruth	Colorado Springs	CO	Robillard, George (dcsd. Jan. 2018) and Janice	Lake Wales	FL
Henry, Lyle	Oklahoma City	OK	Robold, Claude* and Janice	Middletown	OH
Herring, Wesley	Corpus Christi	TX	Rogers, Susan G.	Oklahoma City	OK
Hickman, Dean	Hilliard	OH	Rothman, Richard and Shelby	Lexington	KY
Hill, Ross* and Raynell	Edmond	OK	Russell, Jeff* and Mary Carol	Oklahoma City	OK
Hinkle, Vickie**	Oklahoma City	OK	Sartin, Susan "Mici"**	Edmond	OK
Hockman, Marilyn G	Qunicy	IL	Schulhoff, Jeff and Nedra	Oklahoma City	OK
Hoover, Steve and Patti	Redmond	OR	Seaton, Steven** and Rhonda	Oklahoma City	OK
Horn, Eddie**	Mustang	OK	Sevier, Owen and Lea	Edmond	OK
Johnson, Jean	Murfreesboro	TN	Shackleton, Jean	Oklahoma City	OK
Joseph, Eric** and Jill	Edmond	OK	Shaver, Jason	Edmond	OK OK
Kaplan, William and Nancy	New Bloomfield	MO	Shaw, Gary and Charlotte	Edmond	OK
Kendall, Gary* and Belinda	Olathe	KS	Shroyer, Virgina	Oklahoma City	OK
Kennedy, W. Elton	Mer Rouge	LA	Sieg, Stanley and Elizabeth**	Edmond	OK
Ketch, Susan	Edmond	OK	Sinclair, William and Sandy	Olathe	KS
Kimbro, John and Katie	Oklahoma City	OK	Sloan, Stephen**	Bethany	OK
Koch, Justin and Christy	Elk City	OK	Smith-Hinderliter, Maxine	Clovis	NM
Kreke, Dennis and Nancy	Effingham	IL	Smith, Leonard	Clinton	OK
LaFerney, Don	Kingsport	TN	Smith, Timothy J. and Jan	Edmond	OK
Langford, Ron* and Lillian	Hamilton	OH	Spear, John* and Suzon	Casper	WY
Langley, Michael and Dana	Shawnee	OK	Spence, Randall* and Pamela	Tampa	FL
Larkin, Robert and Darlene	Yukon	OK	Spurgeon, Donald Jake	Oklahoma City	OK
Laurick, Jim	Edmond	OK	Staton, Scott and Angela	Oklahoma City	OK
Lawson, Betty	Houston	TX	Statser, Rex and Deborah	Yukon	OK
Lawson, David	Anderson	IN	Steffens, John* and Patricia	Edmond	OK
Lawson, David Lease, Ken and Sharon**	Oklahoma City	OK	Stephenson, Betty	Tulsa	OK OK
Lease, Neil and Sharon	okianoma only	ΟK	otephenson, betty	iuisu	ΟI

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Stockwell, Brent and Debi	Edmond	OK
Stone, Randall and Sherri	Anton	ΤX
Stortz, Linda	St. Petersburg	FL
Sutton, Wendell** and Elaine**	Moore	OK
Swarowsky, Marc and Denis	Norman	OK
Tedder, Verne	Bakersfield	CA
Thomas, Donna S.	Sun City West	ΑZ
Thompson, Michael and Jill	Edmond	OK
Tidwell, Ted and Jan	Tulsa	OK
Todd, Elaine	Flora	IL
Toler, Stan (dcsd. Nov. 2017) and Linda	Oklahoma City	OK
Torrez, Michael and Rosanna*	Albuquerque	NM
Townsdin, Ron and Stacy	Edmond	OK
Trimboli, Anthony John	Howard Beach	NY
Trisler, Lloyd and Peggy	Jonesville	LA
Turner, Charles and Betty	Granby	MO
Turner, Mark and Cheryl	Neosho	MO
Tyler, Dennis and Pat	Colorado Springs	CO
Vanderslice, Dorothy	Albuguergue	NM
Vandewalker, Eddie**	Oklahoma City	ОК
Vidler, Gene	Oklahoma City	ОК
Vincent, Jon and Kathryn	Sulphur	LA
Waddell, Diana	Guthrie	ОК
Walker, Joe and Barbara	Oklahoma City	OK
Ward, Tonya	Oklahoma City	OK
Whitton, Ron* and Cathy	Groveland	IL
Williams, Carolyn	Tulsa	OK
Willoughby, Tim** and Jane	Tarpon Springs	FL
Womble, Robert and Lynne	Oklahoma City	OK
Woodall, Scott and Annette	Edmond	OK
Young, Ken and Linda**	Bethany	OK
*Trustee **Faculty/Staff/Adju	,	Oit
Tradice Tabalty/Otali/Auj	and i foresser	

CHURCH SUPPORT: CHURCH OF GOD

40th Avenue Church of God	Hattiesburg	MS
Alva Church of God	Alva	OK
Bennett Spring Church of God	Lebanon	MO
Bethel Church of God	Liberal	KS
Bonnie Church of God	Bonnie	IL
Brookville 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	Detroit	MI
Church of God	North Apollo	PA
Church of God Southwest	Cedar Hill	TX
Connection Point Church of God	Sidney	OH
Cookeville First Church of God	Cookeville	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
Eastland Church of God	Lexington	KY
Emerson Street Church of God	Kennett	MO
Faith Community Church of God	Shawnee	OK
First Church of God	Crossett	AR
First Church of God	Venice	FL
First Church of God	Charleston	IL
First Church of God	Effingham	IL
First Church of God	Harrisburg	IL
First Church of God	Joliet	IL
First Church of God	Marion	IL
First Church of God	Mount Vernon	IL
First Church of God	Elkhart	KS
First Church of God	Hugoton	KS
First Church of God	Hutchinson	KS
First Church of God	St. Joseph	MI
First Church of God	Doniphan	MO
First Church of God	East Prairie	MO
First Church of God	Jefferson City	MO
First Church of God	Poplar Bluff	MO
First Church of God	St James	MO
First Church of God	Hatch	NM
First Church of God	Ansonia	OH
First Church of God	Miamisburg	OH
First Church of God	Van Wert	OH
First Church of God	Bristow	OK
First Church of God	Clinton	0K
First Church of God	Cushing	OK

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First Church of God First Church of God	Holdenville	OK OK
First Church of God	Nowata Pouls Volley	OK OK
First Church of God	Pauls Valley Prvor	OK OK
First Church of God	Ellwood City	PA
First Church of God	Greeneville	TN
First Church of God	Ira	TX
First Church of God	Tyler	TX
First Church of God	Vancouver	WA
First Church of God	Martinsburg	WV
First Church of God	Point Pleasant	WV
First Church of God of Little Paint	East Point	KY
Fresh Start Community Church	Moore	OK
Goodwill Church of God	Oak Grove	LA
Highland Park Community Church	Casper	WY
Home Avenue FCOG	Trenton	OH
Hope Community Church of God	Andover	KS
Horse Creek Church of God	Chuckey	TN
Hucrest Community Church	Roseburg	OR
Jones Avenue Church of God	Oak Hill	WV
Lakewood Way Community Church	Lees Summit	MO
Landmark Church of God	Covington	LA
Liberty Grove Church of God	West Monroe	LA
Life Builders Church of God Madison Park Church of God	Decatur Anderson	IL IN
Mayna Church of God	Jonesville	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 Dawn Fellowship	Odessa	TX
New Life Church of God	Bauxite	AR
New Song Community Church	Bethel Park	PA
New Song Community Church	Benton	AR
New Vida Church of God	Dallas	TX
North Crossings Church of God	Monroe	LA
NorthPark Church of God	Meridian	MS
Northpointe Church of God	Nacogdoches	TX
Northside Church of God Oak Grove First Church of God	Jacksonville Oak Grove	FL LA
Oaklawn Church of God	Hot Springs	AR
Oakmont Church of God	Shreveport	LA
Palm City Church of God	McAllen	TX
Parkgate Community Church	Pasadena	TX
Pekin First Church of God	Pekin	IL
Pine Grove Church of God	Carthage	MS
Place of Grace Fellowship	San Antonio	TX
Pleasant Prairie Church of God	Satanta	KS
Red Fork Church of God	Tulsa	OK
Restoration Church	Springfield	MO
Rock Creek Church of God	Bessemer	AL
Salt and Light Community Church	Paducah	KY
Sapulpa First Church of God	Sapulpa	OK
Scott Memorial Church of God	Chattanooga	TN
Shartel Church of God	Oklahoma City	OK
South Sand Springs Church of God	Sand Springs	OK
St. Andrew Church of God Sullivan Church of God	Camden Sullivan	SC IL
Teays Valley Church of God	Scott Depot	WV
Towne Boulevard Church of God	Middletown	OH
United Covenant of Hope Church	Houston	TX
Waynoka Church of God	Waynoka	OK
Welty Church of God	Welty	OK
West Baraboo Church of God	Baraboo	WI
Zion Community Church of God	Ottumwa	IA
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CHURCH SUPPORT: OUTSI	DE OF THE CHURCH OF	GOD

Braden Park Baptist Church	Tulsa	ОК
Capitol Hill Assembly of God	Oklahoma City	OK
Emmanuel Baptist Church	Enid	OK
First Baptist Church	Newcastle	OK
First Cumberland Presbyterian Church	Marlow	OK
Followers of Jesus Church of Christ	Tuttle	OK
Freedom Church	Mt Sterling	KY
Frio Canyon Baptist Church	LeaKey	TX
Genesis Church OKC Inc.	Oklahoma City	OK
Grayson Missionary Baptist Church	Enid	OK
Koffee Talk Ministries, Inc	Moore	OK

Libetry Worship Center Oklahoma City OK Porstand Avenue Baptist Church Oklahoma City OK Portand Avenue Baptist Church Oklahoma City OK Romanian Philadelphia Northside Assembly of God Solace Church, Inc. Summit Church Norman OK Summit Church Norman OK Summit Church Oklahoma City OK Allabara Universe Church of Christ Whitchouse Ty Alley Life Church Pauls Valley OK Alley Life Church Pauls Valley OK Alley Life Church Oklahoma City OK Wilmont Place Baptist Church Oklahoma City OK Church of God Winistries Anderson Na Church of God Winistries Anderson Na Mississippi General Assembly of the Church of God WC Cinton Oklahoma City OK Mississippi General Assembly of the Church of God Laurel Mississippi General Assembly of the Church of God Laurel Mississippi General Assembly of the Church of God Casper Vyr CORPORATIONS, VENDORS, AND OTHERS American Fidelity Assurance American Fidelity Assurance American Fidelity Assurance American Fidelity Assurance Oklahoma City OK Oklahoma Cit						
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Portland Avenue Baptist Church Normanian Philadelphia Northside Assembly of God Furcy, Marker Maley Community Church Doniphan Mo Solace Church, Inc. Summit Church Norman Mo Kity Charles Church, Inc. Summit Church Norman Mo Kity Charles Church, Inc. Morman Mo Kity Charles Church Morman Mo Mo Morman Mo Morm		Bethany	OK		Oklahoma City	OK
Romanian Philadelphia Northside Assembly of God Norman Nor	Portland Avenue Baptist Church	Oklahoma City	OK	Fuzzy's Taco Stand	Oklahoma City	OK
Romanian Philadelphia Northside Assembly of God Norman Nor	River Valley Community Church	Doniphan	MO	Gallagher Bassett Services Inc	Itasca	IL
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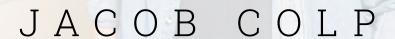


APRIL 4

DREAM GALA

2019

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IN A POOL OF 300 APPLICANTS — many of them already college graduates — MACU sophomore and business major Jacob Colp wasn't sure he would stand out among the hundreds of young men and women vying for a prestigious Life.Church internship.

Colp, who transferred to MACU after a year of nursing school in his home state of Michigan, applied for the internship at the recommendation of MACU Board of Trustees member Ross Hill. He met Hill after he was invited to a luncheon during the board's annual visit, and a mentor-mentee relationship was forged between the two.

This summer, Hill shared the opportunity to intern at Life. Church with Colp, who previously served at a Michigan nonprofit specializing in community, economic and workforce development.

"He did a ton for me," Colp said. "We prayed together over the phone, then he gave me advice on my resume and we rebuilt it from scratch."

Before Colp's first interview, Hill called and prayed with him again — and after a rigorous process of two phone interviews and two days of panel discussions and one-onone interviews, Colp was one of a handful of interns chosen for the four-month internship, which began Sept. 17.

At his new position at the main Life. Church campus in Edmond, Okla., Colp will be working in the data analysis department.

"All the data Life.Church gets, they use that for a couple of apps they own: Church Online and YouVersion," he said. "My job is to look at that data, find patterns, analyze it and give meaning to it so people in the organization can make important decisions."

Life.Church currently has campuses in eight states. The multi-site evangelical church is well-known for its technological prowess and broadcasts weekly, interactive worship services live over the internet.

Perhaps most famously, Life.Church developed YouVersion, a Bible app for mobile phones, in 2008. The app, which delivers 1,492 versions of the Bible in 1,074 different languages, has been described as "the world's most popular Bible program for mobile phones."

It's been downloaded more than 300 million times in the last decade — and now, Colp can barely believe he's going to be a part of something so monumental.

"Anybody who has a Bible app on their phone has YouVersion," he said. "This internship is going to stretch me in a lot of ways, both professionally and spiritually. It's going to be a great experience overall."

And Colp said none of it would have happened without MACU.

"I don't know how many colleges where students get invited to board luncheons, but that's how this started for me," Colp said. "Ross Hill, a former bank president, was willing to invest in me, a 20-year-old college kid."

He said MACU equipped him with leadership skills he wouldn't have otherwise had through learning opportunities with GiANT Worldwide and Iron Men, the university's student leadership society for young men who show an interest in and a potential for business.

"I learned how to lead, whether I'm at the bottom or the top," Colp said. "MACU has built a confidence in me I didn't know I had. No matter what happens in the future, I know this is experience is going to be unforgettable."

FROM THE Past





To accommodate high student enrollment this fall, MACU renovated and reopened Harrington Hall, one of our old women's dormitory buildings.



























EXCITING NEWS!

For a limited time, MACU alumni can continue their education with an exclusive

10% DISCOUNT

on graduate degrees.



MATT COSSEY

WHEN MATT COSSEY VISITED MACU to see his friend graduate in 2003, he never imagined that fifteen years later, he would be back on campus to fill a vital role: that of campus pastor.

After filling in as MACU's interim pastor last year, Cossey recently transitioned into the position full-time.

"I was in between seasons of my life when the opportunity came about to be the interim," he said. "At first it was odd to me, working in a school instead of a church, but I loved the idea of being a part of students' lives."

For Cossey, ministry is the calling of a lifetime. He grew up in the church, where his father served as a deacon and a song leader. In 2004, he entered the ministry full-time and served as a youth pastor, worship leader and church administrator.

Although he described the collegiate atmosphere as different from the traditional church settings he was accustomed to, Cossey said he relishes the unique opportunity MACU offers: the chance to pour into young men and women during a crucial period of spiritual development.

"They're in that phase of their life when they are deciding who they are going to be," he said. "They're not as easily influenced as they are when they are teenagers. They are really coming the adult version of themselves and deciding where they're going to go with their lives."

In addition to serving as a spiritual advisor and leading chapel services twice a week on campus, Cossey also heads up MACU's discipleship initiative. The unique program pairs students with faculty and staff members who meet together for one-on-one personal and spiritual development during the school year.

"At MACU, we have a special and unique opportunity to make a personal and eternal investment in our students," Cossey said. "You can't get that anywhere else."

He also leads many student activities, including evening devotionals and various campus events. As campus pastor, Cossey also serves as a counselor to MACU students.

"I love developing relationships with students and having a rapport with them," he said. "If they need someone to talk to, whether it's something good in their life or it's a struggle they're experiencing, they have someone to talk to who they can trust."

Whether those moments are down at the chapel altar or playing ping-pong in the Student Center, Cossey is dedicated to meeting students where they are in their life. He said it's all a part of carrying on the MACU tradition he is now proud to be a part of.

"The heart of this school has been passed down for decades from when it was Gulf Coast Bible College," Cossey said. "Even though MACU has expanded its programs, it hasn't changed its heart."

SPORTS UPDATE



FAITH AVALOS

LEADS VOLLEYBALL
PROGRAM TO
OPENING SUCCESS

FAITH AVALOS



When MACU Athletic Director Marcus Moeller began searching for a new volleyball head coach last winter, he received applications from numerous qualified candidates — but none caught his eye like the resume of Faith Avalos.

"From the first time we spoke, it was obvious that she is a great fit with our institution," Moeller said. "She

loves the Lord and is passionate about using volleyball as a way to glorify God and mentor young women in their spiritual and personal growth."

That nature is paramount at a place like MACU, but the Evangels' program had also plateaued on the court. Avalos came in and quickly added nine dynamic players to a quartet of returning student-athletes who had gained valuable experience during the 2017 season.

Of course, this is not surprising considering her previous experience elsewhere.

From 2014 to 2016, Avalos was an assistant coach at Ouchita Baptist University, where she enjoyed a run of tremendous success. She served as the program's recruiting coordinator, as well as planned and organized all the team's practices and workouts. As the recruiting coordinator, she successfully recruited and signed OBU's first full early signing class in more than a decade.

On the court, the Tigers were tremendously successful with Avalos on the bench. Their 2016 campaign culminated with a Great American Conference (GAC) title win and school records for both overall record (23-7) and conference record (12-4). That season, OBU boasted three All-GAC first team selections, including the GAC Setter of the Year, one All-GAC Second Team honoree, the GAC Freshman of the Year and numerous academic awards. In 2015, Avalos helped coach the unanimous GAC Player of the Year and four All-GAC selections. During Avalos' coaching debut in 2014, the Tigers had three All-GAC honorees.

She continued that role at the University of Arkansas-Monticello in 2017 under head coach Kelly Burdeau, who congratulated Avalos on her move to MACU.

"I have no doubt that she is ready and she will do great. Faith radiates passion for the game with a balance of genuine care for the players. MACU is getting a great coach and even better person to add to their community. She makes everyone around her a better person," Burdeau said.

Early on in 2018, the fit looks to be a good one, as the Evangels have bonded through some early season adversity and are off to a solid start to the season. MACU refinished the floor in the Gaulke Activity Center beginning in late July, and delays forced Avalos and the Evangels to practice wherever they could get on a court prior to their season opening tri-match at nearby Randall University.

Despite the challenges, Avalos and the Evangels opened their season with back-to-back wins — a feat the MACU volleyball team had not accomplished in more than three years.

"After four years recruiting at the NCAA Division II level, Faith has established herself as an elite recruiter in the Midwest with a tremendous reputation of building meaningful and lasting relationships early in the recruiting process," Moeller said. "The future of our volleyball program is in great hands."

ACHIEVING CHEVING CALIFETIME



After his first daughter was born, Josh Bleke dropped out of college and took up a career with a semi truck parts company in his hometown of Fort Wayne, Ind., to support his growing family. At times, he even juggled three jobs to try and make ends meet, which left him little time to spend with his wife and children.

Bleke knew something had to change. When his mother suggested he go back to school and earn his degree, he was skeptical at best. By then in his 30s, he believed he had long ago awoken from his dream of earning a college diploma.

As it turns out, his dream was only just beginning.

"I was at this point in my life where I just wasn't satisfied," Bleke said. "I didn't want to grind it out my whole life and not enjoy what I was doing. When my mom encouraged me to go back to school, I wasn't certain if I could do it or what I would even go for. If I was going to get an education, I wanted it to be for something I was passionate about and not just to get a different job. She told me there was one thing I was absolutely on fire about, and that was my faith in Jesus Christ."

Bleke applied to several colleges who turned him down because of his previous grades.

"Nobody wanted to give me a shot," he said, "and then I found MACU."

After coming across MACU through a typical Google search, Bleke submitted his application and was accepted into the Christian Ministry program. The flexibility of MACU's 100% online classes appealed to Bleke, who said the self-motivated learning style gave him the chance to flourish in a way he never did in a traditional classroom setting.

"It was absolutely perfect for me," he said. "I was able to dig myself in and I could work whenever was convenient for me. Every lunch break, every single day, I took that hour and did my schoolwork. Thursday nights, I blocked off five hours for my studies. Having to raise a family and still work full-time makes college difficult, but MACU's program was perfectly conducive to that."

By the end of his degree program, Bleke found himself able to read, research and write fully-developed papers. He graduated summa cum laude and earned the degree he had once seen as unobtainable.

"When I got it in the mail, I thought, 'Wow. I really did this," Bleke said. "To say the words 'Yes, I am educated,' means a lot. The lesson I was able to teach my daughters in digging in and pushing that hard to accomplish such a big goal is invaluable. I feel as they get older, that lesson will pay dividends."

Now, Bleke is using his degree in his new role as a middle school director at The Pointe Church in Fort Wayne, Ind., where he works with youth between grades six and eight.

"They don't come in with a lot of predispositions," he said. "They're just beginning to understand and be curious about faith and what it looks like. My childhood was a self-inflicted prophecy; I had a really rough go of it when I was in my teen years. God really put it on my heart to use my story to specifically help that age group."

He described the relationships he builds with the youth in his care as a living product of God's handiwork — and proof that it is never too late to start a new dream or make an old one come true.

"You can't give up," Bleke said. "Sometimes you just have to let God have it. If you have faith, He will put you where you are supposed to be."

Josh Bleke is the middle school director of The Pointe Church in Fort Wayne, Ind., where he resides with his wife Wendy and their two daughters. He is an avid outdoorsman, hunter, fisher and motorcycle advocate — but above it all, he is passionate about faith and young people.

THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL MARKETING STARTS NOW

As technology advances, so does our need to reach an increasingly digital market. With MACU's new Digital Marketing degree program, students will take a deep dive into the fascinating field of advertising through online channels like social media, mobile apps, paid search and more.

MACU Digital Marketing graduates might look forward to a career in content management, business analysis, work for creative and digital marketing agencies or even start one of their own. Only a few universities in the U.S. offer a degree specifically for Digital Marketing, so put yourself ahead of the competition and enroll today!

CLASSES START JANUARY 2019

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RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION of Christian business leaders: that's the mission of Iron Men and Women of Valor, two MACU student leadership societies entering their fourth and third year, respectively.

In twice-monthly sessions, students group up with campus mentors. During these meetings, students are exposed to GiANT Worldwide leadership tools and hear from MACU leaders as well as community professionals who actively walk in faith while maintaining successful positions in the field of business.

It's an initiative that women's basketball coach Hannah Moeller said she is humbled to be a part of. As the leader of Women of Valor, Moeller oversees about 30 young women who aspire to become strong leaders both on campus and after graduation.

Combined, around 60 MACU students are a part of Iron Men and Women of Valor this year.

"The experience they gain in these leadership societies is something they won't get anywhere else," she said. "The practical skills they learn aren't things they can just read in a textbook."

Through four unique learning opportunities every year, Iron Men and Women of Valor members are placed in real-world situations to help prepare them for their professional life after

graduation. Moeller said one of the most fun and educational of these is the etiquette dinner, which took place Sept. 17 at the Petroleum Club in downtown Oklahoma City.

"It's a setting that's unlike anything most of them have ever been in," she said. "It's a tangible training piece where they learn how to look and act appropriately, how to carry a professional conversation and what they're supposed to do with those seven forks on the table."

Shelby Thrailkill, a MACU sophomore majoring in biology, said the dinner setting was something she had never been exposed to before.

"I was able to interact with people I wouldn't usually get the chance to interact with, while learning skills that will benefit me as I progress through my college career and afterwards," Thrailkill said. "I will never forget what I learned that night."

In addition to the etiquette dinner, students who are a part of the leadership societies will attend the Salt and Light Award banquet this year, as well as MACU's Dream Scholarship Gala and the Metro Prayer Breakfast in 2019.

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 Hannah Moeller at hannah.moeller.macu.edu.



Behavioral Science

DR. MICHAEL O'BRIEN

As a 40-year veteran of the counseling career field, Dr. Michael O'Brien brings an array of experience to the classroom as a full-time Counseling and Psychology professor.

His career started in a lock-up facility, where he served as a behavioral evaluator for young men who committed violent crimes. O'Brien said when he got the opportunity to work with individuals who suffered from mental illness and with disabilities, his perspective changed - and he felt God calling him to a career in counseling and psychology.

Now, that long-lived career path has led him straight to the MACU classroom.

"I love to teach, I love being a professor," O'Brien said. "I get excited about it every day. Being able to interact with and teach students is as good to me as any hobby."

In his time in the field, O'Brien has served as an administrator, professor, practitioner and more. His field expertise has led him to testifying before the U.S. Congress and to representing Gov. Mary Fallin at the National Governors Association on the topic of employment for individuals with mental disabilities.

He said he plans to prepare MACU students for careers in psychology and counseling by creating an open environment that encourages students to remain open and unbiased.

"They need to be able to see and help anybody," O'Brien said. "There are a lot of people who get into the field who aren't prepared, but these students will be."

Dr. Michael O'Brien has been married for 41 years, has four grown children and 13 grandchildren. He is an avid fisherman and hunter who serves as a volunteer counselor at the Dict Virtue Center assisting with addiction and legal problems. With a lightened travel schedule as he settles into his role as a full-time professor, he hopes to become more involved in his church.

Science & Mathematics

DR. DESHANI FERNANDO

To meet the need for MACU's budding Science and Mathematics program, Dr. Deshani Fernando joined the Evangel family as a full-time chemistry professor this year after serving as an adjunct during the spring semester.

Fernando, who grew up in Sri Lanka where she saw both her parents and grandmother teach, said the opportunity to pour into students at the collegiate level is a lifelong dream materialized.

"From the very beginning, I saw how dedicated they were to their students. I took in how they spent time on them and genuinely cared for them, and that inspired me to become a professor," she said.

Fernando said chemistry is a longtime love of hers - and being able to combine her passion for science with her profound faith in Jesus Christ made MACU the perfect place for her to begin her teaching career.

"We learn science because we want to see the world, define things around us and understand things around us," she said. "What we discover in this world - all of it is God's creation. He has guided me to this point in my life. I am excited for the opportunity to work with students and teach them not only about science, but about God."

Dr. Deshani Fernando enjoys serving as a volunteer in her home church. She enjoys spending time with her family, singing, watching movies, listening to music and doing cross stitch patterns.





MARVIN AKERS

For more than three decades, Marvin Akers has fulfilled his childhood dream of serving in law enforcement.

During his decorated career, he's served as a police officer, federal agent, state investigator and police chief. His work has taken him around the world as he worked undercover and served in the U.S. military.

And now, it's all come full circle.

Akers, who has been involved with MACU in a varying capacity since 2001 and helped build the Criminal Justice program six years ago, joined the university full-time as a professor and program director this summer.

"I've done many things with my life that I'm humbled God gave me the opportunity to do," he said. "Now, it's my time to pour into others through an incredible degree program."

MACU's Criminal Justice program is set apart from other schools because it is built to be functional and operational within the law enforcement career, Akers said.

"You can't go to a police academy and get all the tools you need," he said. "That comes with experience, and we have incredibly talented and experienced instructors teaching these young men and women things that will set them five years ahead of their peer group."

Another facet of MACU's curriculum that Akers said makes the university stand out? Incorporating God in the classroom.

"We're not bogged down by secular handcuffs at MACU," Akers said. "A cop's life is a rough life. Being in this job takes a wear and tear on people. But there is help out there. It's not from your fellow police officers; it's from a spiritual standpoint."

Marvin Akers enjoys spending time with his family in his free time. He is an active member of his home church, where he leads the church security team.



Psychology & Counseling

DR. ANNETTE PULLEN

For some, distance really does make the heart grow fonder.

That's certainly the case for Dr. Annette Pullen, who instructs her psychology and counseling students from her home state of Wisconsin. Pullen joined the MACU family as a Counseling and Psychology professor this fall after completing her doctoral program.

"I had a professor who contacted me outside of class to let me know I would be a good fit at MACU," she said. "The cool thing is, I only had one class with her so she didn't know a lot about me. What she knew was my love for the Lord."

And that's a love that she plans to share with her students in the virtual classroom.

"I'm excited to be a part of MACU. The inclusion of God really sets us apart," she said. "We can share Scripture with our students and let them know we are praying for them. If you meet with a student on the phone, you can pray with them in the moment. You don't get that at any other university," she said.

Dr. Annette Pullen is married to her husband of 27 years. Together, the couple pastor their small group ministry, teaching with an emphasis on equipping leaders and encouraging them to go forth as disciples of Christ. They are the parents of two adult children and grandparents to four grandchildren.





CAMPUS UPDATES

There are some big changes happening at MACU! In addition to repaving existing parking lots and adding additional spaces, we have some exciting new signage at the front of our campus. Keep an eye out for the December issue of the Mid-American for more updates!



Eternal Investment

Since the Practicum in Pastoral Care program was launched in 2004, MACU students have made more than 27,000 caring contacts with patients and families in Midwest City, Okla. and at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

The life-changing training program was made possible in part by Brian Clemens, a longtime friend of MACU and devout supporter of the university and its mission.

Now, Clemens is pouring into MACU students through the gift of education. The Clemens Leadership Scholarship, established last fall, encourages leadership development among young men and women.

The scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate strong leadership ability and commitment. Recipients are required to take part in one of MACU's student leadership societies, Iron Men or Women of Valor.

"MACU HAS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF MY FAMILY AND ME," CLEMENS SAID. "BEING CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH MACU FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS, WE MADE THE COMMITMENT TO BE INVOLVED FOR MANY MORE YEARS BY CREATING THE CLEMENS LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP WITH THE GOAL OF DEVELOPING FUTURE CHRISTIAN LEADERS."

In addition to jumpstarting the Practicum in Pastoral Care program and establishing the leadership scholarship, Clemens also served as a MACU Board of Trustees member from 2005-2010 and 2010-2015. He is also a charter member of the President's Roundtable and has delivered the opening greeting at multiple commencement ceremonies.

MACU is eternally grateful to the investment Brian Clemens has made in the university through his countless contributions. He and his wife, Janis, make their home in Midwest City, Okla. Clemens now serves as the CEO of Clemens Innovative Solutions. Their son, Chaz, graduated from MACU in 2011.





HONORING A LEGACY

MACU remembers Dr. James Earl Massey, who went to be with the Lord on June 24, 2018. Dr. Massey was a great voice for God and a special friend of MACU. We named our J.E. Massey Center for Ministry and Leadership in honor of his commitment to train and educate pastors on our campus and around the world. Our prayers and thoughts remain with Dr. Massey's wife, Gwendolyn and the Massey family during this time of bereavement.





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