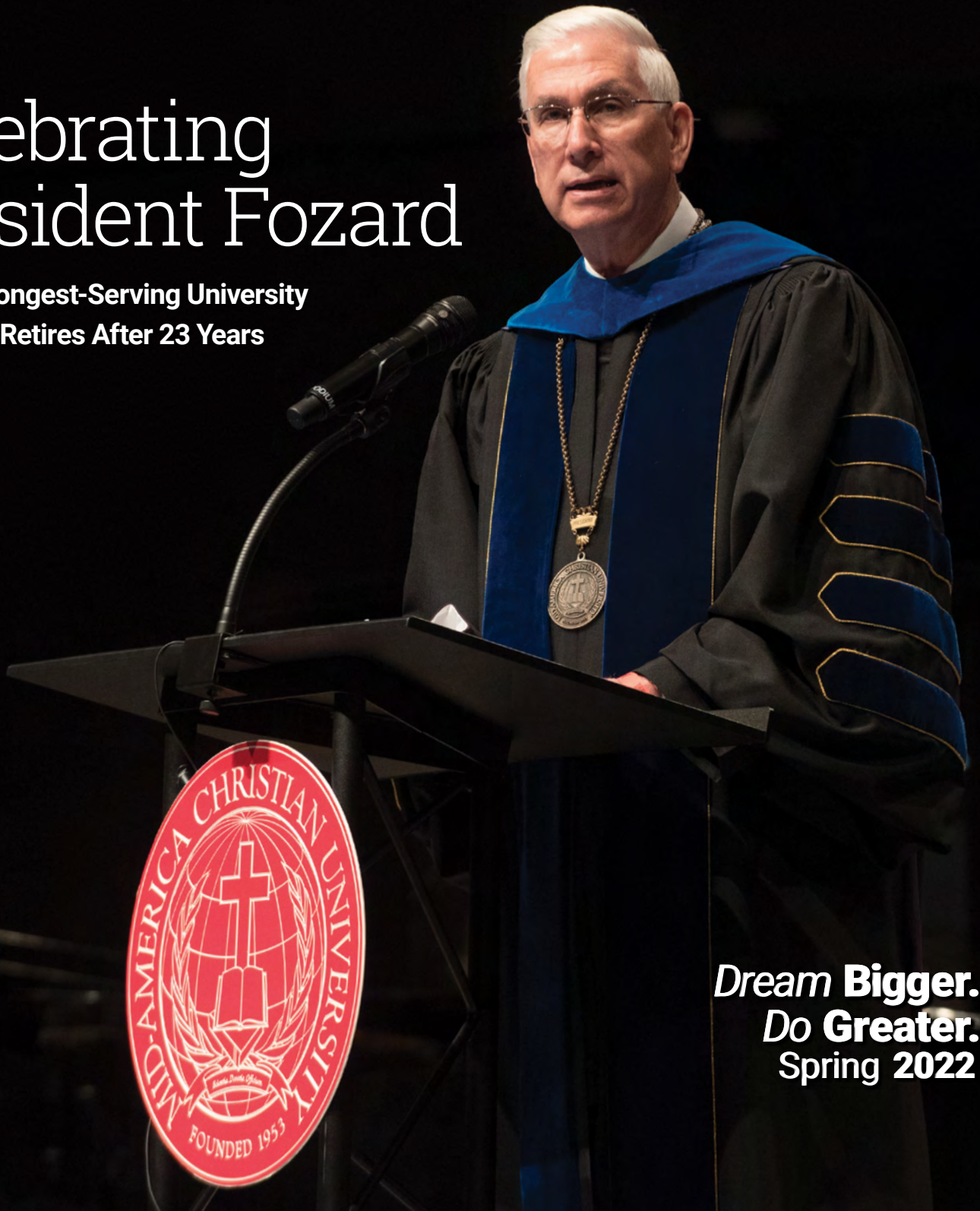


# MID-AMERICAN

THE MAGAZINE OF MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

## Celebrating President Fozard

MACU's Longest-Serving University  
President Retires After 23 Years



***Dream Bigger.  
Do Greater.  
Spring 2022***

# President's Letter

Financial planners advise us to attempt to become debt-free by retirement. I will retire at the end of May and there is no possibility of being debt-free. In fact, I am heavily indebted with no means of repayment! Ironical, isn't it? God has miraculously delivered this university from overwhelming financial debt and here I am going into retirement personally deep in debt.

Allow me to explain how my indebtedness has come about. I will forever remain indebted to the myriad of intercessors who have prayed for my leadership and the university these past 23 years. I have been constantly humbled to learn of people and congregations who have prayed for me daily. This university has overcome its challenges and advanced in its mission because of the faith and prayers of God's people!

I am in deep debt to the Trustees who have served over these two decades and ultimately for all Trustees who have served since the founding of this university back in 1953. These men and women have not only given their time and talents, they have also generously given their finances to enable this school to reach its current stature of academic excellence and international influence. These board members took a risk on me, believed in me, encouraged me, mentored me and provided a friendship that produced strategies and strength for my leadership.

One cannot overlook the indebtedness that I owe to faculty and staff. Many of these "heroes of faith" had already given sacrificially to advancing the Kingdom of God long before I even knew there was a Church of God reformation movement. These servant-leaders have stood shoulder to shoulder with me as we addressed various challenges and they have been great advisors in every endeavor.

A president receives accolades that really do not belong to him alone. There are legions of faculty and staff who remain unsung heroes and who have made every president look better than they were. These are the faithful servants who often worked with meager resources while achieving massive goals. Their experience and acumen achieved various accreditations and created new degree programs!

Perhaps one of the largest debts never to be repaid is the one that I owe to MACU's alumni and friends. Pastors, graduates and congregations have been faithful recruiters and financial supporters. Every day I am reminded of an awesome stewardship that has been entrusted to me to keep the university focused upon its obligation of preparing leaders for the Church of God reformation movement! Alumni and friends have transformed our 67 acres into the beautiful campus it is today!

Every leader knows the indebtedness he owes to his family



who supported him and sacrificed family time so he could be at meetings and events. My wife has always provided the support and encouragement for me to follow the Lord's directions. Her quiet and behind-the-scenes helpfulness has enabled me to be in public service. It feels like there is a "sainthood" in the eyes of God for those who are minister's spouses and president's wives!

There is one to whom I am most indebted: my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I Corinthians 6:19-20 was the passage that led me to surrender my life to Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote, "...do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

The sacred hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" has this lyric: "Oh, to grace how great a debtor. Daily I'm constrained to be..." I concede grace does not produce debt, grace pays debt! No one can repay Jesus by doing good works for what Jesus accomplished through his redemptive work! Instead I am in awe that like Paul, having lived such a self-centered and sinful life, that Jesus would still allow me to serve Him in the Kingdom of God, "that...Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen" (ESV 1 Tim. 1:16-17).

"Oh, to grace how great a debtor!"

Oh, to God's people to whom I owe so much!



*John Fozard*  
Dr. John Fozard, President



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**Dream Bigger.  
Do Greater.**

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# Looking Back On President Fozard’s Legacy

## MACU’s Longest-Serving President Retires After 23 Years

By Whitney Knight

On June 1, 1999, a pastor from Effingham Church of God in Illinois was chosen by God to lead Mid-America Christian University, known then as Mid-America Bible College. Not many knew the name of Dr. John Fozard back then – but 23 years later, he has left an indelible mark on the university.

When Fozard assumed the helm, MACU had a total enrollment of about 500 and the university had not seen significant growth in many years. The university had more than \$15 million in debt, which was threatening to push the college out of existence. As the debt climbed to over \$17

million in 2002, leadership could do nothing but fall upon their knees and cry out to the Lord.

And He answered.

Under Fozard’s leadership, the university navigated the waters of debt. In October 2006, MACU became completely debt-free. Eliminating \$17 million of debt was nothing short of a miracle that was aided by the generosity of many donors.

“Dr. Fozard has a gift for fundraising; it was a big part of getting us out of debt,” said Mici Sartin, who served as MACU’s Chief Financial Officer for 18 years. She came on board right

as MACU’s financial situation was at its peak, and credits Fozard’s vision and courage as a leader and fundraiser for navigating the school through that difficult time.

“When you ask people what comes to mind first about Dr. Fozard, a lot of people say his visionary leadership. While he certainly is a visionary leader, for me his most defining trait is his faith. He is such a man of God, such a servant leader – and a very courageous one. He made decisions that had a big impact on the university and he bore the weight of them, but he always felt that as leader of the university it was his weight to bear. No matter how dire the situation, you would always see his impeccable character and integrity.”

“He is such a man of God, such a servant leader – and a very courageous one.”

When Sartin took on the role of CFO, she recalled that MACU had \$17 million in liabilities, but just \$15 million in assets. Today, the university stands at \$46 million in assets and just \$5.3 million in long-term debt – an incredible jump for a university that was close to shuttering its doors.

To facilitate the university’s growth during the first years of his presidency, Fozard also helped create new degree programs and added sports such as soccer and softball. In 2003, the name of the university was changed to Mid-America Christian University and Fozard introduced the university to a forward-thinking idea: online learning.

“When I was in college, you left where you lived and moved where you were going to attend school,” said Dr. Shirley Roddy, who played an instrumental role in MACU’s early distance learning programs. “The idea was to launch an adult program that would give older students with families and established careers the opportunity to earn their degree wherever they were.”

When Fozard became the university’s fourth president, he brought with him a vision and passion to lead the university in becoming a growing and vibrant Christian university. This



dream began with the introduction of online classes.

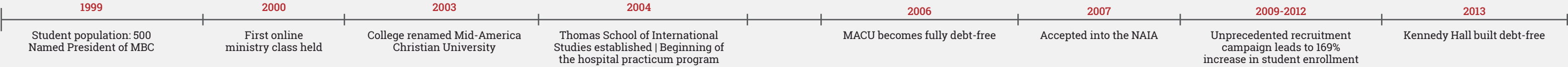
In 2006, MACU became one of the first Christian universities in the country to receive the Higher Learning Commission’s approval to offer all of its degree programs entirely online.

The accessibility of an accredited, Christian degree program helped contribute to the university’s enrollment boom. In just three years, Fozard grew student enrollment by an unprecedented 169 percent – so much that on April 1, 2010, MACU opened a second location in north Oklahoma City.

MACU began to achieve as a global-serving university which is seen throughout the many schools, partnerships and initiatives that Fozard has spearheaded. In 2005, he established the Thomas School of International Studies. Today, TSIS has trained over 150,000 leaders throughout the world. This growth in the Hispanic community led to the Department of Education designating MACU as a “Hispanic-Serving Institution” in 2020.

As enrollment began to grow, Fozard led many projects

### Dr. Fozard’s Presidency Through the Years





to contribute to a greater campus experience, including the construction of Kennedy Hall, two new residence halls, two biology labs, lights for the soccer field, a public services facility and the O'Brien Athletic Training Center, as well as remodelings of the Student Center, Cafe 1412, JASCO Chapel, Gaulke Activity Center and the front entrance. The majority of the projects were completely paid for with donor funds. In 2020, the university's main building was renamed Fozard Hall in recognition of his many contributions to the school.

Fozard has also been instrumental in raising funds for scholarships and special projects. In 2019, MACU secured a USDA grant to assist rural Oklahoma public school districts with their STEM education goals. The university has provided technology and tutoring services to those districts' teachers and students in three Oklahoma school districts. The university again in 2021 received another grant to provide high school concurrent classes to students across the state.

"President Fozard's servant-leadership and vision have led MACU from a time when the university's survival was questionable to a place of stability and growth and as a premier Christian university," said Dr. Randall Spence, Chairman of the MACU Board of Trustees. "He has led creatively and always with an eye to the future. He will leave MACU in a great place poised for an even better future."

"He has led creatively and always with an eye to the future. He will leave MACU in a great place poised for an even better future."

Fozard is responsible for much of MACU's growth, including new degree programs, new buildings and new modalities for learning. But one of the most important legacies he leaves behind is his intentional training of Christian disciples and leaders.

During his 23 years at MACU, Fozard has never wavered from the early mission of the university to raise up Christian leaders. In 2015, he established Iron Men, a leadership program

for young men on campus. The initiative has since grown with a female group, Women of Valor, and led the way to the establishment of MACU's unique one-on-one discipleship initiative. It was Fozard's dream – and now his legacy – to delve deeper into spiritual life on campus by making real, intentional connections with students.

Since the discipleship initiative was established in 2017, more than 100 students annually engage in weekly prayer and Bible study with faculty and staff. Fozard's leadership has brought a new culture to MACU that has established discipleship as a priority and placed in the hearts of every Evangel a calling to "Dream Bigger" and "Do Greater." Athletes and coaches will tell you there is no bigger fan of Evangel athletics than Fozard. He routinely attends games and under his leadership moved the university into the NAIA division in 2007. MACU has won 13 National Championships in athletics in the past 23 years.



For the last 13 years, Dr. Claude Robold has served as the Chairman of the MACU Board of Trustees. He said that journeying with Fozard through much of his presidency has been a privilege.

"The importance of Dr. Fozard's role as president of MACU could be summed up in one word: transformation," Robold said. "His leadership brought MACU from the brink of closure to the impactful university it is today. If you walk this campus, you see the evidence of this transformation at every level: in the facilities, the staff, the faculty and the student body. We thank God for his servant leadership."

Fozard, who announced his retirement on October 13, 2021, will continue to lead the university through May 2022 and will deliver the commencement address during this year's exercises. Beginning June 1, Fozard will assume the role of Chancellor of MACU to assist with the presidential transition. The MACU Family is forever grateful for his leadership, his vision, his passion for the MACU campus and most of all, his heart for Jesus Christ.





# Trustees Honored for Service

## Mr. Ed Abel

*Senior Attorney at Abel Law Firm  
15 years of service to MACU*

Mr. Ed Abel is a Senior Attorney at Abel Law firm in Oklahoma City. He has been serving MACU as a trustee for 15 years. Abel founded his law firm in 1976 and since then has won many awards, including being listed in "Best Lawyers in America" as a "Top Dog" in his profession. Outside of his work, Abel lives a faith-filled life. He also takes time to disciple young men through the Living Faith ministry.



## Mr. Jason Fritts

*Manager of Land/Property  
Development of Teddy Bear Partners  
10 years of service to MACU*

Mr. Jason Fritts has served as a trustee on the MACU board for 10 years. He also works as the Manager of Land and Property Development for Teddy Bear Partners and Fritts Farm in Oklahoma City. Fritts works hard to implement Stephen Covey's *Seven Steps of an Effective Leader* into his business of helping Moore residents and creating a sense of community.

## Dr. Veronica Grabill

*Chaplain, Clinton Memorial Hospital  
10 years of service to MACU*

Dr. Veronica Grabill has served MACU for a decade, while also serving others in her line of work. Grabill is a Chaplain and the Volunteer Coordinator at Clinton Memorial Hospital in Ohio. She is available 24/7 to provide spiritual care for patients and their families in need. Grabill attends Elevation Community Church in Ohio.

# New Campus Pastor

By Whitney Knight

Six years ago, Kevin Dugay moved to Oklahoma to begin a new life in Christ. He enrolled at MACU as a Music and Worship Ministry major, setting him on a path to use his love and passion for the performing arts for the glory of God.

And now, that path has led him right back to MACU. This spring, Dugay was hired as MACU's next Campus Pastor.

"It feels like coming home," he said. "MACU made an incredible impact on my faith walk, an incredible impact on my life. It changed my life in a really great way."

*"MACU made an incredible impact  
on my faith walk, an incredible  
impact on my life. It changed  
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MACU's former campus pastor, Matt Cossey, stepped down this year to pursue a full-time position as Lead Worship Pastor at The Bridge in Mustang. He texted Dugay about his decision and asked if he and his wife, Linda, would pray about the opportunity.

"I prayed for a whole month because I wanted it, but I wanted to make sure that God wanted me to do it," Dugay said. "Any time there's an opportunity in ministry, the first thing I do is pray. No matter the paycheck or location or the ministry, I just want to be where God is calling me to be."



Dugay said it's been a wild ride filled with a lot of prayer – but there is nowhere else he would rather be than back home on the MACU campus.

"I can't imagine another scenario where I would have been better equipped to do this if I hadn't gone to school here," he said. "I push MACU to everyone I know because I truly believe in it. My professors developed me as a person of high competence but also high character."

He said he doesn't want to just be a good speaker or a good worship leader – he wants to represent Jesus.

"If there's anything I want students to take away as Kevin Dugay as campus pastor, it's that they left knowing that this was an invitation to a relationship with God. I want people to see Jesus in me and I definitely feel like the university prepared me for that."

## Stay Connected with Campus Ministries

Share your prayer needs:  
[www.macu.edu/campus-ministries](http://www.macu.edu/campus-ministries)

Join us for weekly devotionals on  
Instagram: [@macucampusministries](https://www.instagram.com/macucampusministries)



# Celebrating MLK Day

MACU Participates in  
annual parade honoring  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Anna-Kate Weichel

For the first time in university history, MACU participated in the annual MLK Jr. Holiday Parade in downtown Oklahoma City.

On Jan. 18, MACU students, faculty, staff and families donned special “Dream” T-shirts and marched proudly alongside a float they helped create to represent the university and honor King’s life, legacy and his dream for the future.

The event, hosted by the OKC MLK Coalition, is the third largest of its kind in the country, with more than 100 floats included in the miles-long parade.

MACU’s role in the event was organized by Executive Director of Community Outreach and Services Erica Alvarez-Stanton, who described the opportunity to march with the university “an honor and privilege.”

“Dr. King told us that ‘We cannot walk alone,’” Alvarez-Stanton said. “We needed to get out there and do our part to show the community that they are not alone, we stand with them as children of God.”



For more information about  
the 2023 parade, visit  
[www.okcmlkcoalition.org](http://www.okcmlkcoalition.org).

## Staff Spotlight

*Erica Alvarez-Stanton*

*Executive Director of Community  
Outreach and Services*

By Anna-Kate Weichel

The percentage of Latinos who receive their Master’s degree in Oklahoma is shockingly less than 10 percent. Erica Alvarez-Stanton is beating those odds — and now she’s helping MACU students do the same.

Alvarez-Stanton grew up in Brownsville, Texas, just a few miles from the border of Mexico. All of her classmates were Hispanic, the career paths were limited and she had to teach herself English through primary school. Upon graduating high school, she knew she was ready for a change.

She moved 12 hours away to attend college in Kansas, where she found herself surrounded in diversity. After she graduated, she knew she was ready to make a difference in the world.

Within two years, Alvarez-Stanton made the decision to move to Oklahoma City to take a job and be closer to her sister. She started exploring her career path by working as a translator, in higher education and then in human resources. She was excelling in her full-time career while also finishing her Master’s degree. Soon after receiving her graduate degree, she had her beautiful daughter, Alexa.

Just as everything in her life was moving along, her nephew was diagnosed with cancer. She constantly drove back and forth to Texas to be with her family. But during that period of darkness, she found a light in the form of the man who would become her husband: Brett Stanton, MACU’s head baseball coach.

“Out of this insane tragedy came my biggest blessing,” Alvarez-Stanton said. As their relationship blossomed, she felt the call to return to higher education, feeling ready to challenge herself and make better use of her skills in a more diverse environment.

“I needed to get back to higher education,” she said. “I felt such a passion to mentor students and when you have that passion, it’s not really work.”



*“I needed to get back to higher  
education. I felt such a passion to  
mentor students and when you have  
that passion, it’s not really work.”*

She began her position as Executive Director of Community Outreach and Services at MACU in December of 2021 and has been moving full speed ahead ever since. Alvarez-Stanton is already a mainstay on campus and recently organized the Latino Youth Empowerment Conference which was held in March. She said she looks forward to continuing to reach all of Oklahoma City and beyond to represent MACU and its diverse campus community.

“I know firsthand how important it is for Latinos and members of other marginalized communities to have role models in various fields,” she said. “I really think this is where God has led me and I am so excited to make an impact on student’s lives”.



# Celebrating MACU's Diverse Campus

Students share their cultures during annual event

By Whitney Knight

The campus came alive in colors, songs and high spirits this February as MACU hosted the third annual Celebration of Cultures. The annual event was back in full force this year after being hosted virtually last spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Festivities began during Wednesday chapel services, where students and employees shared traditions and memories of their native cultures. Afterwards, the celebration moved into the Student Center, where students set up booths to share colorful regalia and samples of their home cuisines while performers took to the stage to perform native dances and songs.

"I love the culture of MACU, especially the diversity we have. I love to see how God has brought so many different people here together," said Sladan Kavedzic, who works in MACU's IT department as a database specialist. Kavezdic is a native of Bosnia who became a U.S. citizen in recent years. He was one of the speakers who took to the stage in February to share about his journey to Oklahoma and his true citizenship in Jesus Christ.

"People make it complicated, but the good news is that it's simple. I'm a citizen of Bosnia and I'm also now a citizen of America, but that's not my ultimate citizenship. My ultimate citizenship is in heaven. My ultimate identity is a child of God – and I can't think of a better one." MACU holds the Celebration of Cultures every February. If you would like to watch this year's event, you can find it in our chapel archives by visiting [www.macu.edu/chapel](http://www.macu.edu/chapel).



**African American**



**Native American (Comanche/Sac and Fox)**



**Germany**



**Jamaica**



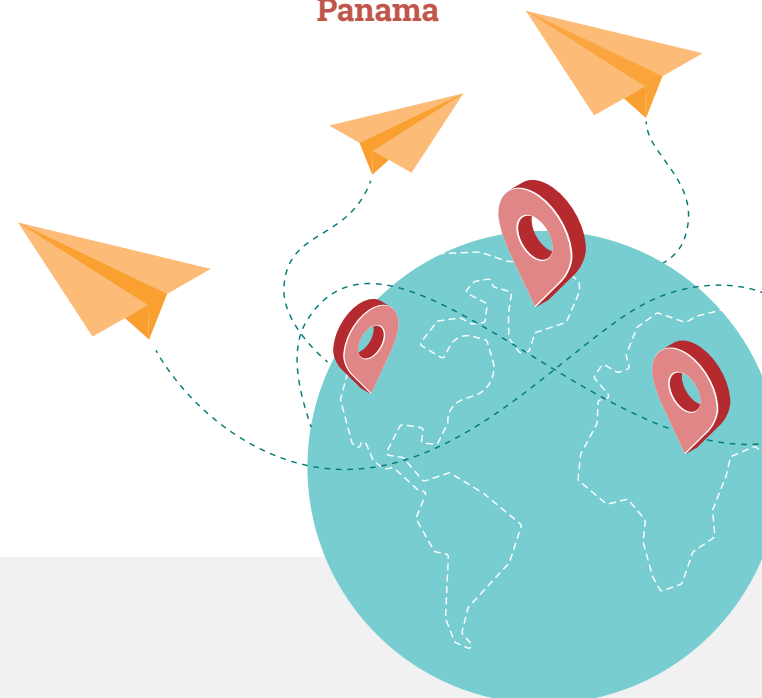
**The Netherlands**



**Panama**



**Mexico**



**"I love the culture of MACU, especially the diversity we have. I love to see how God has brought so many different people here together."**

- Sladan Kavedzic



# MACU Opens Food Pantry to Help Students in Need

By Whitney Knight

During these times, food insecurity can be a big worry. To help alleviate this burden on students, MACU has partnered with the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank to open a food pantry, ensuring that no Evangel goes hungry.

Open three days a week in the Fowler Center, MACU’s food pantry serves both the traditional and adult student populations. The pantry stocks various types of non-perishable foods such as canned goods, bread, cereal, rice and snacks, as well as some perishable items that are kept in a freezer.

“The food pantry is incredibly helpful for me,” said student Margarita Pena Franco, who majors in Mathematics and Psychology. “I’m able to get basic foods like legumes, rice, pasta and even complete meals that have kept me from having to spend so much money on my groceries.”

Franco said she visits the pantry once a week to stock up on basics.

“It makes me feel loved and cared for by how much MACU has given to us by providing the food pantry,” she said.

Student Activities and Leadership Coordinator Caleb Schirmer, who helps oversee the food pantry, calls the effort “God-led.” Over the last few months, he said he is proud to have seen the pantry grow from a small effort to help stranded international students during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic to the permanent fixture it has become on campus.

“The pantry in a way reminds me of God’s Grace — it is a gift freely given,” Schirmer said. “Nothing can be done to earn it and faith is the only action we can do to receive it.”



He said the food pantry operates the same way.

“Students don’t have to do anything to receive it,” he said. “All they have to do is come, have faith to step into the room and take freely what’s presented to them. It’s a blessing for me to be a part of the Lord’s work and watch Him be present in my life and theirs.”

The food pantry also offers students a means of earning credit for community service, which is required as a part of MACU’s curriculum. Every week, students can serve their peers by working in the food pantry.

There are also opportunities to give. In addition to accepting donations of non-perishable foods, the food pantry appreciates Walmart gift cards to help purchase items that students love and need.

*If you are interested in helping the food pantry, please email [caleb.schirmer@macu.edu](mailto:caleb.schirmer@macu.edu) or call 405-692-3193.*



## New Certificates Added to Church Leadership Program

By Whitney Knight

Two years ago, Bishop Timothy J. Clarke initiated a conversation with President Dr. John Fozard about what could be done to help strengthen the pastoral staff personnel, volunteers and others who desire to develop their leadership skills and their biblical and theological knowledge.

One key area of knowledge being sought was the area of Wesleyan theology. Dr. Cliff Sanders, retired MACU professor and creator of the School of Wesleyan Studies, stepped up to lead two 5-week certificate classes covering the subject. Since then, the certificate project has flourished, with courses in six additional areas being added and ample room for future growth.

Since launching the program, more than 100 students have achieved certification in one or more of the 5-week courses. But Dr. Julie Nance, Adult School of Ministry Program Director, says the success goes far beyond numbers.

“There is a ripple effect of serving one student who turns around and serves others,” Nance said. “One needs to look at how people are implementing what they are learning.”

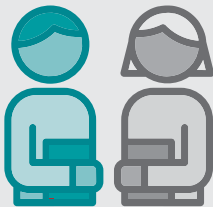
*“There is a ripple effect of serving one student who turns around and serves others, one needs to look at how people are implementing what they are learning.”*

She said students who have completed the courses said that what they are learning and experiencing in each certificate session is improving their leadership skills, their ministries and their personal desires to continue to dig deeper and become successful leaders. Several students have since gone on to enroll in a degree program at MACU, while another was accepted into Leadership Focus ministry training with the Church of God.

This spring, four new certificates were added to the program’s lineup: A Visionary Communicator & Leader Like Jesus led by Rev Todd Braschler, An Emotionally Healthy Leader and Life Leader led by Rev. Dr. Gary Kendall and Women in Ministry led by Dr. Melissa Pratt. New topics are anticipated to be added during the fall semester.

The cost of each course is only \$195 plus textbooks and shipping, but \$100 scholarships are available to qualifying students, bringing the course down to just \$95 plus materials. If you would like to know more about MACU’s leadership certificates or enroll, please visit [www.macu.edu/church-leadership](http://www.macu.edu/church-leadership). We are continuously adding new start dates and certificate offerings to help our students train their theological knowledge and practical skills.

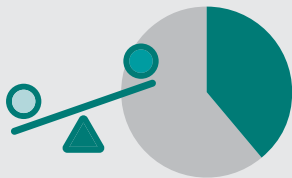
### How Hunger Impacts College Students



52% of students sometimes used off-campus food banks



33% of students know someone who dropped out of school due to difficulties affording food



39% of students at two- or four-year schools have experienced food insecurity in the last 30 days



35% of students said hunger has impacted their ability to study at some point

Source: Forbes.com



# Student Athlete Spotlight

## Hanna Foecker

By Adam Stanek

After leading MACU's volleyball team to its first-ever trip to the NCCAA Division I National Championship, senior outside hitter Hanna Foecker is leaving behind a legacy that will be nearly impossible to match.

During the 2021 campaign, Foecker led the Evangels to their first 30-win season in twenty years. MACU wrapped up the season with a 30-9 overall record and made it all the way to the NCCAA Division I National Championship.

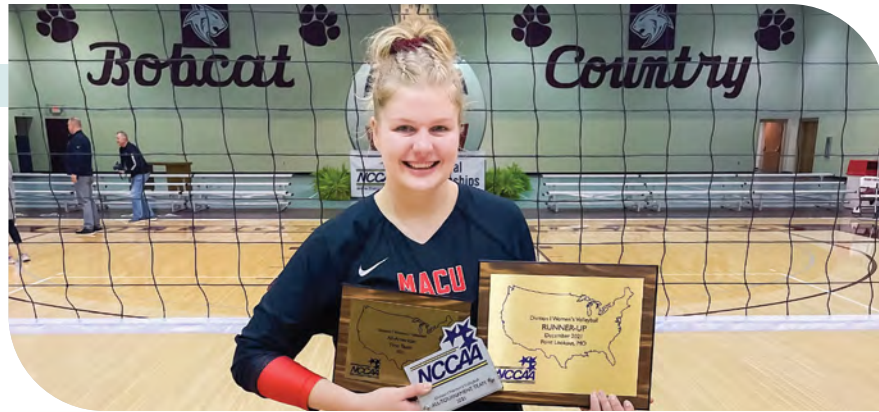
By the end of the season, Foecker – a native of Borken, Germany – had accomplished something that no other player in MACU athletics history ever had. She led all of collegiate volleyball in total kills, topping out with 776 and outpacing all other players in the NCAA, NAIA and NCCAA divisions. She also boasted the third-highest kills per set rate in the country at 5.32.

During her three-year career as an Evangel, Foecker shattered nearly every attacking record in the program's NAIA era record book, including kills and total attacks.

*Foecker shattered nearly every attacking record in the program's NAIA era record book, including kills and total attacks.*

"Hanna is the most talented player I've ever coached in my 13 years of coaching volleyball," said Head Coach Holly McKamie. "She is the perfect combination of determination and grit. On the court, she's tenacious, but off the court, she is one of the kindest, humblest athletes that I've ever worked with. I am still to this day impressed at her willingness to improve on the court day-in and day-out."

Foecker had won several awards over the course of her career with MACU. She is the first Evangels volleyball player to ever be named to an NAIA All-America Team, earning Second Team honors in 2021 while receiving an Honorable Mention nod in 2020. She is also the first to be named a three-time NCCAA All-American, garnering First Team acclaim in 2020 and 2021 to go with a Second Team selection in 2020.



In the Sooner Athletic Conference, Foecker was named the Co-Attacker of the Year in 2021 and the Newcomer of the Year in 2019 while being tabbed to the First Team in 2020 and 2021 as well as the Second Team in 2019.

On top of her stellar performances on the court, Foecker has also been remarkable in the classroom. She was recently named a CoSIDA NAIA Academic All-America Second Team honoree while also being named an NAIA Scholar-Athlete in 2021 to go along with two NCCAA and two SAC Scholar-Athlete accolades.

"I never would have been able to accomplish all of this without having such supportive and talented teammates and coaches," Foecker said. "Our team motto is 'We are stronger together' and I truly believe that."

Not only did Foecker shatter one program record after another, she also played an instrumental role in the program's resurgence at the national level.

Prior to the 2019 season, the team had struggled to find success after joining the NAIA in 2007. In those eleven years, the Evangels had only put together one winning season and had not qualified for a single national tournament. After Foecker joined the team in 2019, MACU recorded three consecutive winning seasons and qualified for the NCCAA Division I National Championship every year.

Foecker came to MACU in August 2019 after playing for two years in Florida. She described the transition as the best decision she's ever made.

"I don't regret a single moment," she said. "The faculty and staff here genuinely care about me and have helped shape me into the person I am today. I also met some of the best friends I've ever made in my life and made some of the best memories that I will always be happy to look back to. I am so thankful that I got the opportunity to be a part of the MACU family."

Foecker will graduate from MACU with her MBA this May. After she graduates, she hopes to continue her volleyball career professionally either domestically or internationally.

"No matter where Hanna goes and what she does, I know she is going to shine," said McKamie. "I know she was a winner on the court here, but I know she is going to be a winner in life as well."



## Help MACU Keep Education on Par

**May 9, 2022**

**Lincoln Park West**

*Registration/Check-In Begins at 7 a.m.*

The MACU Golf Classic is a vital part of our campus culture. Every year, this fun golf tournament raises money for the Evangel Fund, which goes directly to student scholarships. Help us reach our goal of \$65,000 this year! This year our grand prize is two tickets to the PGA Championship at Southern Hills in Tulsa!

**Sponsorship opportunities are available!**

Email Eddie Simons at [eddie.simons@macu.edu](mailto:eddie.simons@macu.edu) or call us at **405-692-3191** for more information.



# Ministry Options Added to MACU's FastTrack Program

By Whitney Knight

Three years ago, MACU launched a 4+1 program that allows students to begin their Master's degree while completing their Bachelor's degree. With more and more employment opportunities requiring business opportunities, this accelerated option was added to help students save both money and time while earning their graduate degree.

Now, the program is growing with the addition of two new options for students earning their degree in ministry at MACU. For the first time, students who enroll in MACU's Ministry Leadership program can now choose to pursue a Master of Leadership or an MBA in conjunction with their bachelor's degree.

Ministry Professor Justin Key says that although Master's degrees are not typically seen as necessities for those entering the marketplace, they can have a positive impact on those who have answered God's call to ministry.

"Having that graduate level of knowledge is going to further equip students to handle certain administrative matters within the life of the church," Key said.

He said that includes preparing them to think in terms of budget management, financial leadership and the administrative skills needed to operate the church on a day-to-day basis.

"While the church is made up of people as the body of Christ, there is a side of it that has to be managed – and managed with faithful stewardship," he said.

The MBA option is a great option for students who may have a vision to partner with or even lead a nonprofit, Key said, while the Master of Leadership enhances leadership skills specifically in the area of ministry, such as the ability to cast vision and cultivate meaningful relationships with those who they are leading.

The most important component of either degree, he said, is the biblical and theological frame of reference.

"We want our students to lead not just with ordinary, average, everyday principles but principles that are ingrained in Scripture," he said.

Ministry students who wish to jump on the "fast track" to their Master's degree can get started in their junior year, when they will indicate to their advisor that they want to get started. Then, they will begin taking graduate courses alongside their undergrad classes.



If you are interested in enrolling in MACU's 4+1 program, please visit [www.macu.edu/fasttrack](http://www.macu.edu/fasttrack) or call 888-888-2341.

# Your Time Is Now.

No matter where you are in life, MACU has an accredited degree program that's designed to fit your schedule and help you achieve your dreams. Choose from weekly classes on-campus in south Oklahoma City or earn your degree 100% online. MACU offers undergraduate degree programs in many exciting fields of study, including:

- Accounting
- Business Administration
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Classes  
Begin  
May 31<sup>st</sup>



# Student Spotlight

Madison Mullenix

By Anna-Kate Weichel

Madison Mullenix has turned the act of handing fruit out to strangers into a way to spread The Word and build relationships with others.

Mullenix grew up in a non-religious home in Fletcher, Okla. Throughout her youth, she would ask her mom to drop her off at church every Sunday. It was the only resource she had to learn about God. After she graduated high school, she committed herself to her faith and enrolled at MACU.

"I knew very little, but I knew I wanted this life," Mullenix said.

Without a formal education or Christian upbringing, Mullenix said she had some reservations about enrolling at a private university. But she put her trust in God and took a leap of faith that's led her to where she is today.

In her second semester, Mullenix was introduced to the Dream Center in Oklahoma City. The Dream Center is a non-profit organization that works to reach, rescue and restore individuals affected by poverty. She took her service to the next level and has built thoughtful relationships with those serviced by the Dream Center.

Now, she's ready to take her servant heart to the Los Angeles chapter of the Dream Center this summer. A group of about ten students will travel to LA for a week in May, where they will work with and minister to the largest homeless population on Skid Row.

"I feel so called to not only serve the Dream Center in OKC, but to expand my ministry to LA," said Mullenix. She said during the mission trip, student and staff volunteers will hand out food and essential grocery items while also connecting with those who they are serving. As an Elementary Education major, Mullenix said she is especially excited to work with the children of the area.



"I can share my love for Jesus here in Oklahoma, but on Skid Row they are looked down upon. Everyone deserves love and kindness," she said.

Mullenix has a heart for serving others in every situation, but has found her true passion in caring for the impoverished community. Despite her busy schedule as a college student, she faithfully serves at the OKC chapter of the Dream Center every weekend. Currently, she's working on a goody bag project to provide others with the opportunity to interact with the homeless.

"My heart is really set on serving lower income individuals and the homeless," said Mullenix.

And that is apparent through her work and love for Christ.

700+

**VOLUNTEERS**

Helped to effect  
lives in need

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**FREE ITEMS**

Distributed by our  
Clothing Closet

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**INDIVIDUALS**

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**MEALS**

Served through our  
Dinner On Us Program

statistics from [www.dcokc.org](http://www.dcokc.org)

## We Need Your Help

### To Train the Next Generation of Church of God Leaders!

Since 1953, MACU has served as a pillar in the Church of God community by preparing pastors and ministers to answer God's call to ministry. But the cost of higher education does not come cheaply, and many students and their families struggle to find the finances needed to attend college. To help offset tuition costs, MACU has three distinct scholarship programs that are specifically designed for churches and ministry majors.

#### Church Match

Through Church Match, MACU will match up to \$500 per semester for each traditional student given by any Church of God agency or church.

#### Vision 2 Grow

When your church partners with MACU through the Vision 2 Grow program, 2% of your annual budget is committed to the university. In return, each qualifying student from that congregation who attends MACU receives a \$1,500 scholarship every semester!

#### MAP

Designed specifically for ministry majors, the MAP scholarship allows MACU to significantly reduce the financial burden of a college education. In addition to providing financial aid, this powerful scholarship program provides ministry students with opportunities to serve in Oklahoma City area churches and hospitals, nationwide summer internships and in a multitude of community service projects.

Thank you for considering a gift to ministry students at MACU. Your gift enables many students who could not otherwise afford college to attend MACU and gain a life-changing Christian education that's rooted in Wesleyan theology. To give, call us at 405-692-3191 or visit [churchrelations.macu.edu](http://churchrelations.macu.edu) to give online.



It was important to me that I go to a Church of God School. I wanted to make sure that I stayed aligned with how I had been raised and to learn more about the roots of the movement. Without the MAP scholarship I receive, I've been able to get by without taking out large student loans. It's been a real blessing to me to help me get through school and stave off some of the finances that are to come so I can get my feet under myself and hit the ground running as a youth minister.

**Cristian Hardin**

Senior, Ministry Leadership



I felt the call to go into ministry when I was in the eighth grade, but I didn't know how I was going to make that happen. When it was time to think about college, I couldn't afford the school I was looking at. I prayed the Lord would provide a way for me to get my education and provide for me financially so that I could get my degree and begin my ministry. MACU found me the scholarships I needed so that I could attend school. Scholarships are an answer to prayer; they have made a way for me to be here.

**Hannah Brumfield**

Freshman, Ministry Leadership





# Beloved Professor Steve Clouse Honored with Coaching Suite Dedication

By Whitney Knight

On Dec. 16, 2020, Professor Steve Clouse lost his battle with COVID-19. It was a loss that rippled through the MACU community – and one that is still felt on campus today.

“I think about him all the time,” said student Endri Copa, who was a part of Clouse’s discipleship group on campus. “He was like a father to me. We used to talk about everything, and he was always listening carefully.” He said Clouse guided him not just through his coursework, but through his life’s work.

“He taught me how to be a better person and face situations with a different mentality. There were times where I was feeling frustrated or sad due to personal problems, and every time I came out of his office with a big smile on my face and lots of positivity,” Copa said. Athletic Director Marcus Moeller said there are few people who have impacted the lives of MACU students more deeply and intentionally than Clouse.

“His purpose was to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and push young people to places

they didn’t even realize they could go,” Moeller said. “Steve did these two things through consistent acts of service. His willingness to serve the smallest and biggest needs of our students tightly knit him into the culture of our campus.”

To honor Clouse’s heart for students and his passion for MACU Athletics, the new basketball coaching suites in the Gaulke Activity Center were named in his memory. The Steven Clouse Office Suite is located in the northeast corner of the gym, which recently underwent a remodeling.

Clouse’s family, including his wife, Patty, were given replicas of the plaques that now hang outside the office walls during a special ceremony between basketball games this season.

As an avid sports fan, Clouse rarely missed a MACU sporting event. Moeller recalled how when Clouse was really excited and proud, he would stand up emphatically and clap hard in support of his beloved Evangelists. “He rooted on the university’s student-athletes on the court, fought for their best off the court and was a more loyal friend and fan than any of us deserved,” Moeller said.



Professor Steve Clouse

# Eternal Investment

By Anna-Kate Weichel

Nila Tolliver came from a family of doers. Growing up, her parents worked hard and started numerous churches all while raising ten kids. Tolliver continued in her parents’ footsteps while creating her own legacy.

She married her husband, Rob Tolliver, at a very young age. They had two children two years into their loving marriage and later added a third to their family. Rob Tolliver worked the hard life of a coal miner, while Nila Tolliver remained in the home to raise their three young children. One of the couple’s daughters, Trulafaye Tolliver, said that her parents placed a big emphasis on teaching her and her siblings the Word of God.

“Every morning, before we would walk to school, Mom would sit us down and read us stories from the Bible,” Trulafaye Tolliver said.

She said her parents both worked hard to spread the Word to others while giving their children the best life possible. Nila Tolliver went through a number of jobs from waitressing to working at a shoe factory and began attending college at night. At a time when many women weren’t getting their education, Trulafaye Tolliver recalls that her father was her mother’s greatest supporter.

As busy as she was, she always serving in different capacities in ministry.

“I can’t remember a time where Mom wasn’t working with the Church of God at large,” Trulafaye Tolliver said.



Rob and Nila Tolliver



Nila Tolliver graduated from Gulf Coast Bible College in the 1970s.

At one point, Nila paid a visit to her brother, Neville, who was preaching in Houston while he attended Gulf Coast Bible College. It was just a weekend trip, but those couple of days changed her life forever. She knew she was meant to study at GBC. As always, Rob Tolliver supported her decision and the couple moved to Houston not long after, with Rob and Nila Tolliver serving as dorm parents at the college.

One of their residents was Dr. Kimberly Thomas, who today serves as professor and director of MACU’s adult Psychology program. She grew to be quite close with Nila Tolliver and the two women sparked a lifelong friendship.

“When I met her, I was just an eighteen year old girl,” said Thomas. “We walked through so much together. She invested in so many lives. Ministry, serving others and Gulf Coast Bible College were all such an integral part of Nila’s life.”

About ten years later, Rob Tolliver went to be with the Lord – but Nila Tolliver knew God wasn’t done using her yet. She moved to West Virginia to be near her daughter, where she became a hospital chaplain. For several years, she enjoyed helping others find joy in Jesus during difficult times. Sadly, Nila Tolliver was later diagnosed with cancer, and found her home in heaven on Nov. 7, 2010.

Both Thomas and Trulafaye Tolliver agreed she is looking down joyfully at MACU surrounded by strawberries and glass bottles of Dr. Pepper.

Before she passed, she conveyed to her daughter that she wanted her estate invested into ministry students at MACU.

“It was so important to her that women in ministry be supported and encouraged, because that was her love and life,” Trulafaye Tolliver said.

About 10 years ago, she set up the Rob and Nila Tolliver Scholarship for Women in Ministry to honor her mother’s wish and everlasting love for Jesus Christ. MACU is forever grateful to donors like Nila Tolliver who invest in our students through financial means. If you are interested in making your own eternal investment in MACU, please call University Advancement at 405-692-3191 or visit [give.macu.edu](http://give.macu.edu).



# Celebrating the Class of 2022

## Spring Commencement

**10 a.m. | Saturday, May 7th | Oklahoma City Convention Center**

We look forward to celebrating the MACU graduating class of 2022! We hope you will join us in person or watch live online at [www.facebook.com/MidAmericaChristianUniversity](https://www.facebook.com/MidAmericaChristianUniversity).

What's  
Next?

**APR 27** Academic Awards  
**MAY 7** 2022 Commencement  
**MAY 9** MACU Golf Classic  
**MAY 31** Adult Classes Begin