

MID-AMERICAN

THE MAGAZINE OF MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



Future of CHOG
**MINISTRY STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Phase II Underway
**NEWEST RESIDENCE
HALL UPDATE**

Sports Update
**SPRING BASEBALL/
SOFTBALL HAS BEGUN**



SPRING 2015
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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



DEAR FRIENDS,

For many years, Mid-America has trained and educated young ministry students to be prepared for church leadership and worldly trials. Our ministry program is a tradition, that much like a farmer with his finest crop, we are proud of and believe the investment is worth the yield.

In fact, more than 60 years ago our founders established what we now know as Mid-America Christian University for this purpose. We answered the call from the Church of God to have a ministerial training institution located in the central region of the United States. Our focus has never wavered. We are just as committed today as we were years ago to training the next generation of Church of God leaders.

Mid-America is at the forefront of schools training and preparing students in pastoral and ministerial leadership. Currently, we have more than 500 students who are pursuing ministry programs.

However, nationally there is a decline in young students pursuing the field of ministry. I believe you will agree with me that this is troubling for the Church of God movement and for the world.

For almost 15 years, we have had a scholarship program at Mid-America that is specifically designed to help ministry students. Since inception of the Ministry Advancement Program (MAP) scholarship, more than 300 students have been awarded.

These scholarship funds not only help the students with their education expenses, but also serves as a blessing later for the churches who employ them.

Additionally, this program allows ministry students opportunities to serve in Oklahoma City area churches and hospitals, summer internships in churches nationwide, and in a multitude of community service projects. These experiences train students in mentoring, preaching, evangelism, church administration, church operations, and so many other key areas.

During this time of year, we ask churches, organizations and individuals to consider giving to this vital scholarship program. Investing in the MAP scholarship is one of the most encouraging gifts you can give to an aspiring minister of tomorrow.

I ask that you continue to support our ministry students, their advisors and faculty through your prayers.


Dr. John Fozard, President



IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE MAP PACKET IN THE MAIL AND WOULD LIKE
TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP A MINISTRY STUDENT, PLEASE GO ONLINE
TO: GIVE.MACU.EDU OR CALL (405) 692-3191.

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MACU.EDU/WATCH

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



Dream **BIGGER.** *Do* **GREATER.**

GRADUATION IN COSTA RICA

THOMAS SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (TSIS)



Dr. Enrique Cepeda, Gordon Garrett, President John Fozard, with Graduates: Alexander Guzman Condega, Alina Alixcia Elisondro, Expedito Pimentel Rivera, Fernando Eliecer Chavarría Morales, Gustavo Alfonso Guerra Fuentes, Hans Granados Mejía, Hans Samuel Granados Sáenz, Héctor Luis Contreras Guerrero, Johanna Korinne Gibbs Líos, Liza Gabriela Sánchez Aymerich, Luis Arnoldo Granados G., Marco Vinicio Guzmán Condega, Olman Rodrigo Hernandez Valverde, Ronnie David Gutiérrez Campos

In August 2014, Dr. Enrique Cepeda, along with a team of Christian leaders, traveled to El Barrio la Cruz, Costa Rica where they trained students in counseling and administration.

The students were taught Biblical foundations, basic principals of counseling, conflict resolution and more. This course prepares them for their existing and future church leadership roles.

“Through this course God has confirmed to us that He desires His children to be prepared so that we receive and acquire knowledge to bless our lives and the lives of others and so that His kingdom may grow and bring honor to His name. I am grateful with the Lord for the Cepeda brothers, my church, MACU, and all those who make it possible for us to participate in this course. “Glory to God”.

- Johanna Gibbs Lios

“The certificate program that TSIS offers has come to fulfill a genuine need in these Spanish speaking communities. It is a blessing to see the eagerness in the pastors and church leaders when they receive the certificate. This encourages us to continue offering this program. I want to express my gratitude to those individuals and churches that with their support have made this program possible,” said Dr. Enrique Cepeda.

In total, there were 14 graduates who received the

Counseling and Administration Certificate. President Fozard and Dr. Cepeda traveled to Costa Rica in December for the graduation ceremony.

“I was humbled to witness how the Lord is working through Mid-America, TSIS and Dr. Cepeda to change lives for Christ in Costa Rica and throughout the world. May God continue to bless them and their church families,” said President Fozard.

The certificate program was made possible through the Thomas School of International Studies (TSIS), established in 2004. This ministry program provides MACU's Master of Leadership degree entirely in Spanish. Dr. Enrique Cepeda is the school's Executive Director.

During the past year, MACU has been able to partner with organizations such as Connecting Businessmen to Christ and Heart to Honduras to offer certificate programs and professional training.



Pictured: Dr. Donna Thomas and Dr. Enrique Cepeda. The Thomas School of International Studies (TSIS) is named in honor of Rev. Charles and Dr. Donna Thomas.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Scott Groves

Scott Groves is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Counseling. After obtaining his degree he would like to continue working with inner-city children, making a positive impact on their lives. Additionally, he would like to merge psychotherapy with wellness (fitness, nutrition, etc.) for a greater holistic and therapeutic approach.

Prior to coming back to college, Scott worked in various other fields for most of his adult life. He said around the age of 37, a mentor encouraged him to look into counseling as a profession because Scott was making such a positive difference in the lives of inner-city youth as a volunteer mentor and coach. At first, Scott ignored the advice and it wasn't until a few years later when he changed his mind.

Since Scott received his undergraduate degree from MACU, he said it just made sense to come back for his Master's. "I was familiar with several of the staff and professors and knew it would be the right decision to attend MACU if I was going to go back to school."

Scott said Dr. Carol Armstrong has provided great support to him throughout the program and has been there to help him every step of the way. He expressed his appreciation to all of the staff and professors who he said are truly invested in his future.

After returning to MACU in the College of Adult & Graduate Studies (CAGS), Scott explains that he has a different outlook on life. He said what seemed as a daunting task initially—now feels like the beginning of a much more fulfilling and purposeful life.

Scott gives much credit to his wife Amy whom he said, "has been very encouraging and supportive of my decision to go back to school and pursue the future that we believe God has in store." Together they have four kids: Landon, 21; Kyla, 17; Taylor, 10; and Jake, 6. Scott also shared that he enjoys hunting and fishing and will hopefully have time for those hobbies after graduation.

Scott's advice to other working adults who are considering going to (or back to) college:

"Stop telling yourself it's too late or that you're too old. There really isn't a good excuse for not going back. Just take the first step and look into it. Make an appointment with someone at the school and see what the program is about. If you believe God placed you here for a larger purpose and a degree would benefit that purpose, then what is stopping you?"

SAVE THE DATE!

REMINDERS & INVITES FOR CURRENT/POTENTIAL STUDENTS

e² Evangel Experience: March 26-27 This event allows Seniors in high school to attend a class, chapel and go on a campus tour. In the spring of 2015, we extended this event to include an overnight stay which will give students a true feel for residence life. Parents are welcome during e². A special catered dinner and information session is included just for them. For more information and to register online: go.MACU.edu/

Super Enrollment Day: April 24 This event allows incoming students the opportunity to enroll at MACU prior to the beginning of the summer. This day is intentionally paired with the MACU All-School Picnic, giving the incoming students an opportunity to interact with future classmates and faculty. Attendees will receive everything they need to make it official, including: MACU Student ID, e-mail account, parking decal, and first-pick of classes offered in the upcoming Fall semester.

New Student Orientations: June 22, July 24 & August 28 Beginning this summer, all new students for the 2015-16 school year will attend Orientation Days during the summer. Orientation Days will take place in the afternoon three different times over the course of the summer. During this time students will get an understanding of what to expect at MACU.

Parent's Orientation will also be during this time with the Student Affairs Team. Overnight stays will be offered June 22 and July 24. For more information, email Meaghan Crump at mcrump@macu.edu.

Welcome Weekend: Saturday, August 29 - Wednesday, September 2 Welcome Weekend will be a fun and exciting time where new students will have the opportunity to meet fellow Evangels. During the weekend students will serve together at a local organization and go through the "IBC Experience", an event designed to introduce students to the Issues Based Curriculum program. For more information, email Meaghan Crump at mcrump@macu.edu.

REMINDER: Early Move-In is available beginning Friday, August 28.

Admissions



Twitter: @MACUadmissions



Facebook: MACU Admissions



Instagram: MACUadmissions



YouTube: MACU Admissions

MACU FUN RUN

sponsored by the
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA)

"Many thanks to all who contributed to the MACU Fun Run and to all who participated. The funds raised were split amongst three very deserving recipients: Feed the Children, Global Learner Scholarship fund and SGA for campus improvement projects.

It was a successful and fun event."

Caleb Jones,
SGA President



THE CHAPEL EXPERIENCE

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT DIVERSITY



Recently, MACU students, faculty and staff participated in a panel discussion, titled “Seeing Diversity Through The Eyes of God.” Though the topic may be sensitive in nature and often avoided by many, panel members encouraged students to acknowledge diversity, educate themselves, and celebrate the beauty in their differences.

Students were afforded anonymity by texting questions to a moderator who then charged the panel for answers. The panel consisted of religion, higher education and state leaders: Reverend Dr. Eric Joseph, Vice President Jessica Rimmer, Campus Pastor Johnny Bland, Dr. Kim Thomas and State Rep. Dr. George Young.

Student questions ranged from race, culture, gender, nationality, to religion and more.

One of the questions asked: “If there is no race in Christianity and we are one in Christ then why do non-racist white people have to keep paying for their ancestors actions?”

Rep. Young explained, “We cannot look beyond what is right in front of our face. Race is a part of Christianity. God made these distinctions and there’s beauty in them. Let’s admit that we come from different cultures/backgrounds. That is not a stopping point; it is a starting point. We also cannot deny the experiences. When we seem to prefer one ‘human grouping’ more than the other, ignoring a group that is not like us, that is when the problem arises. We need to recognize that social ills do exist and address them according to scripture.”

Other question topics included: Jesus’ approach to prejudice and discrimination, addressing society issues and the ‘race card,’ whether we are doing enough on campus, and how students themselves should react when confronted in cruel situations.

“As Christians we are obligated to lovingly confront malice, to help bring understanding.”

Regarding prejudice and discrimination, Dr. Joseph explained that one is prejudging and the other reaction. He reminded students that physiological appearances are not always a factor. Dr. Joseph then charged students to, ‘get out of their comfort zones’ and to engage in conversations with others on campus who they may not have considered talking with before.

Campus Pastor Bland elaborated, “We are passionate about social issues. However, much like social media it is here and now. We get excited about it, move on and forget. We are here acknowledging that it exists and we can’t move past it.”

Dr. Thomas concluded that we are called to love others. “It has to be a part of our thinking, attitudes and behavior. Love is the core of who Jesus is and when he was confronted with malice, He recognized it for what it was and challenged people.”

MACU students participate in an hour-long Chapel service on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. Needless to say with this very important topic, not all of the questions were able to be addressed. There will be another date scheduled to resume the conversation.

VP Jessica Rimmer praised students for their honesty and reminded them, “as Christians we are obligated to lovingly confront malice, to help bring about understanding. We need to be committed to truth even behind closed doors—it is part of being accountable and having that dialogue with one another. Jesus was committed to God’s norms, not a cultural time-stamp. He pushed away from culture, gender and racial identity.”

Are you **#MACUProud**? So are we! Join us on Twitter, Facebook and the web! Check out all of the posts from students, family, friends and staff at: **MACU.edu** (click on #, top right corner)

PHASE TWO – UNDERWAY!

Estimated Cost: \$10 million

RESIDENCE HALL #1: Opened Fall 2014! Since August, students have been occupying this new 30,000 square foot living space.

RESIDENCE HALL #2: August 2015!

- 126 Beds (63 Rooms)
- 12 Grand Suites with living room area
- Card-access security entry and other safety features
- Laundry facilities on each floor
- Contemporary furnishings, built-in microwave and refrigerator in each room, cable and wireless Internet

I am excited to share with you that the second new residence hall is being constructed and on course for students to move-in August 2015.

Thanks to the generous and sacrificial gifts from friends like you; our residential campus will reflect who we are as a Christian university. However, we still have a significant amount of funds to raise for the first new residence hall, that is currently packed with students.

Please know, there are special naming opportunities available for different areas of the new residential facilities. This is a chance for families, churches, Sunday School classes and other groups to pay tribute to someone who has touched their life by naming a room or feature of the new residence hall in their honor or memory.

If you would like to discuss naming opportunities and/or have questions about how you can be part of the Building A Greater Campus Experience campaign, please call me at (405) 692-3191, or email: sseaton@macu.edu.

Together, we are ensuring that Mid-America students have a wonderful campus experience.

Steve Seaton

Vice President for University Advancement



AREAS TO BE NAMED


Commons Area	\$50,000
Expanded Suite	\$30,000
2-Room Suite	\$20,000

CONTRIBUTION

Building a Greater CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

PRACTICUM IN PASTORAL CARE

MINISTRY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

A photograph of two young adults, a woman on the left and a man on the right, both wearing blue lab coats and smiling. They are standing in front of a light-colored brick wall. The woman has reddish-brown hair tied back and wears glasses. The man has dark hair, glasses, and a beard. A third person in a blue lab coat is partially visible on the right edge of the frame.

The Pastoral Care Practicum was designed in 2003 to ensure that MACU ministry students received hands-on training, especially in how to minister to people in the hospital and other crisis situations.

Today, the program is one of the great success stories of MACU ministry education! For the first nine years, the program was under the direction of Rev. Steve Seaton. Seaton is now Vice President for University Advancement. Rev. Justin Key now oversees the

program and reports that, so far, 220 MACU practicum students have provided ministry at Midwest Regional Medical Center (Midwest City, OK) or OU Medical Center (Oklahoma City, OK) or both hospitals. Key was one of six students in the first practicum class in 2004.

In all, the students have made nearly 22,275 ministry visits, including patient visits, staff and physician support visits, family contacts and attended deaths.

Children's



"The MAP Scholarship allows me to pursue God's calling in my life without having to take out large student loans. It also gives me a jump-start to my ministry career. I'm very grateful to all who have made the scholarship possible and blessed me with this experience.

Throughout my life I have admired my parents, as both of them are in prison ministry. I have witnessed

first-hand the difference they have made in so many lives. Now, I am only a year away from graduating and being able to make a difference as well. My degree is in Specialized Ministry and I am gaining more knowledge every day in children, urban and prison ministries."

- Sarah Norris, Senior, Specialized Ministry degree

PICTURED AT THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (OU MEDICAL CENTER)

Left to Right: Brianna Maidens, Chris Kade, Rev. Justin Key, Acassi Spitters and Sarah Norris

Acassi Spitters

Senior, Bible & Theology/Pastoral Care

Q: What are your plans after obtaining your ministry degree?

A: "My plans after getting my degree would be to work for a global non-profit organization. I love caring and providing for the poor and helpless. I want to improve our world by going into different countries and providing love and compassion for the less fortunate."

Q: How has the Practicum Program made a difference in your life and in your future career?

A: "Practicum has taught me how to effectively care for people. It has also taught me the difference between empathy and sympathy. When we are empathetic we are saying 'I'm here and I'm going to walk through this WITH you.' I feel very prepared to go into our broken world and be able to provide an uplifting hand to those in need. Practicum has improved my listening skills and has taught me that sometimes the best thing you can do is just listen. We all just want to be heard."

Q: Of the faculty/advisers in this program, who has made the biggest difference in your life?

A: "Justin Key is my Practicum teacher and has taught me the importance of listening. He is so intentional with his students and when visiting patients. He reminds us to have open ears and to be fully present in our conversations, not just with patients but with everyone we come into contact with."



Chris Kade

Senior, Bible & Theology/Pastoral Care

Q: What are your plans after obtaining your ministry degree?

A: "I want to either go directly into a branch of ministry or I have been considering pursuing a Master's in Psychology. I truly enjoy counseling and helping people."

Q: How has the Practicum Program made a difference in your life and in your future career?

A: "This is my first year in the program. It has taught me how to care for people, how to be someone that they can talk to, as well as reevaluate my own life. I have taken a step back and looked at my life; I appreciate so much more now. When you have conversations with the people [patients] who are going through so much and they have the biggest smiles on their faces, you can't help but be inspired by their spirit."

Q: Of the faculty/advisers in this program, who has made the biggest difference in your life?

A: "Justin Key has been more than an advisor to me. He has helped me through many tough times and has helped me to stay focused. I am so thankful for him."





WHAT IS MAP?

MINISTRY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

Did you know? There are more than 500 students at Mid-America who are pursuing ministry programs? Much of the next generation of Church of God leadership rests in these students' hands. Through the Ministry Advancement Program (MAP) Scholarship, these young men and women are provided with financial support to continue following God's will for their lives.

Did you know? The scholarship program provides ministry students with opportunities to serve in Oklahoma City area churches and hospitals, summer internships in churches nationwide, and in a multitude of community service projects. Through these experiences, students are trained in mentoring, preaching, evangelism, church administration, church operations, discipleship and much more.

Some of the guidelines required to apply for the MAP Scholarship are:

1. Student shall come to MACU from a Church of God congregation
2. Ministry major and remain in good standing within the ministry department
3. While enrolled the student shall serve, paid or unpaid, at a local Church of God congregation
4. Upon graduation the student will serve, paid or unpaid, at a Church of God congregation

For more information on how you can help support the MAP students, go online to give.MACU.edu or contact Steve Seaton, Vice President for University Advancement, (405) 692-3191, or email: sseaton@macu.edu.

SPORTS UPDATE

Twitter: @MACUAthletics

Facebook: Mid-America Christian University Athletics

Levi Convirs

MACU Sports Information Director

lconvirs@macu.edu




MEN'S BASKETBALL

This season has already been historic for the No. 12 ranked Evangels. However, the hope is that it will be even more historic with the program's first-ever trip to the NAIA National Tournament. On February 26 the Evangels became the Sooner Athletic Conference Champions after defeating Texas Wesleyan University. The Evangels have won 13 of their last 15 games to move to 21-8 overall this season.

This year also saw Head Coach Willie Holley become just the 18th coach in college basketball history to reach the 800 win plateau and only the second active NAIA head coach (Dr. Dave Holmquist, Biola University) to achieve the milestone.

Semar Farris has spearheaded the Evangels' attack this season, posting team-highs in points (17.5 ppg), assists (131), steals (62) and threes (61). Reggie Davis is second in scoring with 12.3 points per game, while Jarius Wilson (11.0 ppg) and Jerriek Massenburg (9.8 ppg) are also scoring in double-figures. Chris Runnels leads the Evangels in both rebounding (5.2 rpg) and blocked shots (39). Runnels' 39 swats are the most in a single-season since joining the NAIA in 2007.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Mid-America Christian University Lady Evangels currently sit in fifth place in the Sooner Athletic Conference with a 9-8 league record along with a 16-10 overall mark. Under second-year Head Coach Marcus Moeller, the Lady Evangels have posted conference victories over top-four SAC squads such as Texas Wesleyan University (1/22/15) and current No. 25 ranked Wayland Baptist University (1/15/15).

Ashlee Ferguson recently scored a school-record 42 points to lead MACU to a 76-63 victory at John Brown University (2/12/15). Ferguson leads the Lady Evangels in scoring this season with 16.4 points per game and has also nailed a team-high 68 threes. Alexia Kelley is second in scoring at 12.6 ppg and has a team-high 10.1 rebounds per game. If those numbers hold, Kelley would be the first Lady Evangel since joining the NAIA to average a double-double. Her team-best 47 blocks are also the most in a season as an NAIA school and are 10 away from the overall school record. Alliyah Spatafora has dished out a team-high 114 assists on the season for the Lady Evangels.



LADY EVANGELS APPEAR POISED TO BUILD OFF HISTORIC SEASON

The 2014 season saw the Mid-America Christian University softball team make a historic breakthrough in Head Coach Robert Wakefield's third season at the helm. The Lady Evangels won a program-best 34 games last year and made their first-ever appearance in the Sooner Athletic Conference championship game. With their entire batting lineup back this season, the Lady Evangels appear ready to continue their upward accession in the SAC and the NAIA.

"This does not happen very often," Wakefield said. "You hope that we do better than last year, but we will not be a surprise to anyone this season. We have moved a couple of girls to new positions and I think this will help us defensively. Offensively, we just hope the girls can at least duplicate the hitting year they had last season."

For the Lady Evangels this season, good things will come in fours: as in four seniors, four juniors and four sophomores returning that formed a balanced and well-oiled offensive attack last year.

The seniors are Ashley Sanford, Jackie Hilterbran, Natalie Bissell and Kenna McCoy. The Lady Evangels also welcome back juniors Tiffany Holt, Taylor Green, Carson Osborne and Kenzie Smith. Sophomores returning this season are Hannah Lynch, Taryn Callender, Katie Gracey and Tymber Howard.

Wakefield also inked five newcomers for this season that will look to carve out a role with the team, including juniors Rachel Manning (2B/3B, Moore, Okla.), Cassidy Hart (2B/3B/SS, Oklahoma City) and a trio of freshmen in Mykah Smith (OF/1B, Ardmore, Okla.), Paige Finney (OF,

Lindsay, Okla.) and Allison Smith (OF, Lindsay, Okla.).

On the mound, the loss of Amber Tinney will certainly be felt. Tinney led the Lady Evangels in innings pitched (173.1), wins (16), ERA (3.72) and strikeouts (124). But the good news is Wakefield will be able to rely on senior hurler Kelcie Wolf (Blanchard, Okla.), who enjoyed a season that at least mirrored Tinney's last year. Wolf pitched 152.1 innings on the hill with 12 wins, a 3.91 ERA and 121 strikeouts.

Beyond Wolf, Hilterbran and Sanford are veterans that once again should fill a role on the mound.

Newcomers to the pitching staff are juniors Caitlin Swain (Rosenberg, Texas), Marki Dethloff (Wilson, Okla.) and Macie Crites (Caney, Okla.) along with freshman Cheyenne Anderson (Pittsburg, Okla.).

The Lady Evangels kick off the season on Feb. 10 at former SAC rival Oklahoma Christian University prior to their home opener against Bacone College on Feb. 12. MACU's SAC opener is on Mar. 3 against No. 5-ranked Oklahoma City University. With three SAC schools ranked in the NAIA Preseason Top 25 poll, the conference seasons appears to be every bit as much of a grind as usual.

"The schedule is tough again playing Division II schools Oklahoma Christian and Panhandle State University," Wakefield said. "Plus, the SAC conference teams are going to be better than ever. We will have our work cut out for us but we are expecting to have a solid year with everybody coming back and the new additions to the team."

EVANGELS BOAST NICE BLEND OF NEWCOMERS AND VETERANS

In Head Coach Mike Brown's third season at the helm, the Mid-America Christian University Evangels took a big step forward in their rebuilding process by more than doubling their win total from the 2013 campaign. Now entering Brown's fourth season, the Evangels bring back 13 returners while welcoming in 18 new additions that they hope will aid in continuing their progress in the Sooner Athletic Conference.

Even though the Evangels lost their top hitter from last season in Dustin Carlsward (.367), they are expected to receive major contributions from new additions offensively and also bring back four of their top five hitters from last season, led by Senior Catcher Daniel Thompson. Thompson batted primarily at or near the top of the lineup and hit .317 last year and led the team in runs (27) and stolen bases (7) and was third in on-base percentage (.411).

Junior First Baseman A.J. Wilson will also have a critical role in the lineup after adding some much-needed pop in his first season with the program.

Senior Infielders Matt Cruz and Logan Glasgow are also back with the program this season after showing some promise last year offensively.

Junior Victor Cuevas and Sophomore Chevin Noone should also factor into the equation this season.

Junior Christian Hill is the top returning pitcher for the Evangels this season, leading all veteran hurlers in wins (3), earned-run-average (6.84) and complete

games (5) in 2014. Zach Abbott returns for his senior campaign and is the leading returner in strikeouts (40). Noone and a trio of sophomores in Wyatt Glasgow, Zach Carley and Aaron Conway also received exposure on the mound in 2014 and will push for bigger roles this year. Junior Pitcher Grant Middlebrooks, after sitting out last season with an injury, is also on the squad and will look to contribute this season.

The 18 newcomers Brown has brought in for this season are: Reggie Lindsey (Fr., OF/P, Western Oklahoma State), Brandon Schoelkopf (So., IF, Northwood University), Kody Jones (So., OF, Guilford Technical Community College), Jaramit Monge (Fr., IF, Allen County Community College), Luis Polanco (Fr., IF, Western Oklahoma State), Aaron Carroll (Jr., P, Indiana Tech), Luis Valdez (Fr., IF, Western Oklahoma State), Riley Barnum (Fr., IF, Norman, Okla.), Jacob Kidwell (Fr., IF, Altus, Okla.), Eddy Edgardo (Jr., C, Boston, Mass.), Brandon Bordonaro (Jr., C, Plano, Texas), Martin Nolasco (Jr., P, Western Oklahoma State), Kevin Jones (So., IF, Valley State University), Josh Espinal (Fr., IF, Queens, N.Y.), Alberto Irizarry (Fr., C, Guayanilla, Puerto Rico), Matt Henshall (Jr., OF, Rose State College), David Pope (So., P, Northwood University), Tyler Lax (So., P, Baton Rouge, La.).



After months of prayerfully searching for the right person to fill the vital role of Campus Pastor, prayers were answered and Johnny Bland accepted the position.

Bland is a highly respected instructor throughout Oklahoma Christian universities and community. His impressive leadership roles and background include serving at both Southwestern Christian University and MACU, as well as being a sponsor for the international Global Learner program.

"We are very pleased that Johnny Bland has accepted this new role and believe his distinguished experiences and qualities are a perfect match for what we desire for our students—service, leadership and exposure to international issues," President Fozard stated.

In addition to being highly trained in Theology and spending the past few years educating hundreds in biblical studies, Bland's commitment of service within the United States and abroad provides him with invaluable experience and understanding necessary to continue the MACU mission of training world leaders for Christ.

Vice President Jessica Rimmer states, "I believe that we found God's person for us. I am excited to see how Johnny uses his unique passions and skills to help MACU live out

the unique vision God has given us for campus life. I believe the campus will be a better place because we have Johnny as a part of our team."

Johnny Bland is originally from Jacksonville, North Carolina and is the son of a pastor. He felt drawn to the ministry and attended Southwestern Christian University in Bethany, Oklahoma. After obtaining his bachelor's degree, he continued his education at Southern Nazarene University where he earned a Masters in Theology.

Johnny and his wife Beccah, a member of the MACU English faculty, have two dogs and enjoy spending time with friends.

Additionally, Bland enjoys the arts and sings in an acapella quintet called Wild and Sweet. This group has performed at various venues, including the Oklahoma City Thunder arena.

STAFF/FACULTY FOCUS

Johnny Bland

"Since joining the MACU community, I have enjoyed the warm welcome that has been extended to me from students, staff, faculty, and administration. Being Campus Pastor has been an answer to prayer. I look forward to continuing the work that has already been started by those before me, and I am excited to begin the work which God has prepared and called me to MACU to complete."



BASKETBALL ALUMNI WEEKEND

On Saturday, February 7, Gulf Coast Bible College, Mid-America Bible College and Mid-America Christian University alumni joined together for a day of memories, a few tears and lots of laughter. The events kicked off with the Lady Evangels basketball team challenging St. Gregory's; followed by the Men's Basketball game. Later that evening, the dinner proved to be a special event not only because of retiring Charlie Shorter's #3 Jersey, but because it was a celebration of Coach Holley. Between his 800+ wins and 43 years of service, his lifetime commitments serve as inspiration to many.



We want to hear from you, our Alumni! If you have a story or update to share, please email Dawn Jones at: djones@macu.edu.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Esther Rehbein

Esther Rehbein is a graduate of Gulf Coast Bible College. Currently, she serves as the Director of Teacher Education and the Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

Due to her invaluable work ethic and dedication to education, along with other great Teacher Education faculty and staff, Mid-America recently received exceptional news regarding accreditation.

In November, the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (OEQA) met with President Fozard, Dr. Sharon Lease, Esther and Dr. Saeed Sarani to present a preliminary report for the School of Teacher Education.

Though the initial report was positive, it still had to be approved by the Commissioners and final results determined.

After nearly three months, the final report is in. Mid-America Christian University School of Teacher Education met all national and state standards for Accreditation. They received "Exemplary" standing in Field Experiences and a "Strength" in Diversity. In addition, there were no areas of improvement cited.

This accomplishment is very difficult to obtain, rarely awarded and truly respected.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your position at Mid-America?

A: I love my students! Nothing brings me more joy than getting to teach, interact, and watch my students grow into professional educators.

Q: How does the Accreditation final report help our university and Teacher Education students?

A: The School of Teacher Education has to have a separate accreditation in addition to the university accreditation, proving that they produce highly qualified educators. Our accreditation status shows that we produce professional educators who are highly qualified to teach in their specific programs and allows our students to apply for and be employed by schools across the nation.

Q: Please share one of your favorite memories from GBC and also a favorite experience from Mid-America.

A: I have so many wonderful memories of my college days like eating and hanging out together at Pop's Place, going to the games, being involved in student government, going on choir tours, singing and traveling with Inside-Out, rooming with great "roomies," but what made all of those events so special were the life-long friendships that were formed and established. I guess that still holds true for me at MACU. There are many wonderful memories that come from lasting relationships with my students and my colleagues. It's amazing how much you get to know about each other when you "live" and "work" together in close proximity, even if it's just for a week. For example, like traveling together on a week-long ecology trip or traveling to Roatan, Honduras and working together in a school setting.



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SAVE THE DATE: MAY 2

A blurred background image showing a crowd of people at an outdoor event, with a person's head and shoulders in the foreground on the left.

Commencement 2015

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 11

A background image of four men on a golf course. One man is in the middle of a golf swing, while the others stand nearby watching. A red flag is visible on the right side.

MACU Golf Classic

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 22

A background image of a large group of people sitting at round tables in a large hall, eating and socializing.

*Alumni ^{AND} Friends
Picnic at MACU*