

MID-AMERICAN

THE MAGAZINE OF MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



Sandi Patty's New Role
**NEW WORSHIP ARTS &
LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE**

Building A Greater Campus Experience
**NEWEST RESIDENCE HALL &
CHAPEL RENOVATIONS**

Sports Update
**NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
& HEAD COACHES**



SUMMER 2015
WWW.MACU.EDU

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



DEAR FRIENDS,

We recently celebrated the accomplishments of our newest Alumni members, the Class of 2015. This year's graduating class of 531 men and women have made an invaluable impression on the family and friends of Mid-America. We must pray for them as they continue to follow God's will.

Through the support of our faithful friends, we have continued to build much needed facilities with the "Building A Greater Campus Experience" campaign. The second new residence hall is near completion and will be ready for occupancy in August.

Our Chapel is also under renovation from audio/visual equipment, stage, carpet and more. This renovation will support an inspirational Chapel experience for our students, as well as provide a dynamic venue for speakers and conferences which would open the door to event business partnerships.

You may have heard, MACU has partnered with Sandi Patty to provide a one-year certificate program in Worship Arts & Leadership. I have mentioned in previous communications that ministry enrollment is down nationwide. Due primarily to lack of available training we are at a short-fall especially in Worship Ministers prepared to lead.

The Certificate in Worship Arts & Leadership (CWAL) will provide education and training so desperately needed in this area of ministry. Not to mention, who better to instruct, lead and advise our students in worship ministry than Sandi Patty? The program will be available online beginning this fall semester to allow greater access for students throughout the nation.

In our commitment to provide the best educational experience, we have evaluated our curriculum and instruction methods. I am excited to announce that MACU has partnered with GiANT Worldwide to

provide our students with a unique, apprenticeship-type learning instruction.

GiANT is helping MACU to establish a system that will encompass our entire curriculum and campus—from students, staff to faculty. We must get our students to the point that they can become leaders worth following.

As Christians, we know that Jesus did an apprenticeship with the disciples. He wanted them to watch how He did things, worked with people, His actions, etc. Jesus took 12 men to the country and reshaped them from their previous methods. He knew that when He left their side that they would have His trainings with them still.

In Revelations 5, our Savior is a lamb and a lion. He supports and challenges. He serves and fights. We must train our students to be both as well. Everyone wants to change the world. However, we must know ourselves and allow God to change us so that we have the confidence to lead others.

All of these components are invaluable in preparing our students to lead in their careers and be world changers for Christ.

These are exciting times at MACU! I ask that you join me in prayer for our students, staff and faculty as we prepare for the upcoming school year.

“ We've talked to employers about what they look for in people they hire. Our students will have the distinct advantage to go out into the world with technical skills, but also to be a leader and affect change.

”


Dr. John Fozard, President





In May, MACU honored the 2015 Commencement Speaker, Dr. Steve Green, and his wife Jackie for all they have done and continue to do for Jesus Christ, and their efforts of promoting the Bible.

Dr. Green is known to most as the President of Hobby Lobby, the world's largest privately owned arts and crafts retailer. However, what many may not know is that he is also the Founder and Board Chairman of the Museum of the Bible, which is scheduled to open in 2017 in Washington D.C.

Through Steve's faith in Christ, his visionary leadership and a deep passion for the Bible, he is making the significance of the Bible more known, as well as more accessible to the world. As Chairman, he has assembled a team of academics, designers, technology professionals and other experts to create the 430,000 square foot museum. The Museum of the Bible is dedicated to a scholarly and engaging presentation of the Bible's impact, history and narrative – and is also developing an elective high school Bible curriculum for international and domestic use.

Steve personally has one of the world's largest private collections of rare biblical artifacts, known as the Green Collection. In addition to all of his truly phenomenal achievements, he is also an author. His latest book, "The Bible in America" explores the history and impact of the Bible on the history of the United States and in today's modern world.

His life's service reflects—in steadfast and remarkable ways—the Mid-America approach to education and our commitment to be world leaders for Christ. He has been of tremendous service to Mid-America, to Oklahoma and to the World.

From time to time, the Mid-America Board of Trustees choose to honor individuals whose lives reflect the qualities, virtues and professional achievements that MACU desires to cultivate in student's lives. Such is the case with Dr. Green. President Fozard bestowed a much deserving honor upon Dr. Green, honorary Doctorate of Biblical Literature.

May God bless Steve and Jackie for their love and service to the Body of Christ.

Did you know? Hobby Lobby was founded in 1972 by his parents, David and Barbara, and began in 300 square feet of retail space. The chain now has more than 600 stores, and along with its affiliates—Hemispheres and Mardel stores—there are approximately 28,000 employees and a combined sales of more than \$3.3 billion.

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THE BETHEL SERIES



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On the Cover

International Recording Artist Sandi Patty and
MACU President, Dr. John Fozard

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CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



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MACU.EDU/WATCH

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



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

NEW WORSHIP ARTS & LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE



PICTURED: DON PESLIS, SANDI PATTY AND PRESIDENT FOZARD

Mid-America has announced that beginning in the Fall 2015 semester, students will have the opportunity to learn from Sandi Patty, international recording vocalist, while pursuing a one-year Certificate in Worship Arts & Leadership.

Sandi is partnering with MACU to develop and deliver this opportunity for people interested in worship leadership, whether active or aspiring. She will be an active presence in the online courses and will also participate in some opportunities for face-to-face interaction with students throughout the year.

MACU President, Dr. John Fozard said, "From the days of pastoring to current time, I have received many requests on where to find ministers of music. There is a serious shortage of worship leaders in our churches, especially those who have been trained regarding theology of worship and its practical applications, due to lack of training specifically focused on preparing worship leaders. This has weighed heavily on my heart."

In March 2015, President Fozard met with Sandi Patty requesting her to pray about helping the university develop a certificate focused primarily on Worship Ministry. As Fozard began sharing his burden and vision for developing worship leaders, Sandi shared she had been praying to do this very thing. Sandi and her husband, Don Peslis, have met with the Mid-America School of Music professors and administrative team to develop the program.

"The fact is that I always wanted to be a teacher and my life took a little bit of a different turn performing all of these years. But as that season of my life winds down, I'm excited to wind it back up and be part of the faculty with this much needed certificate. It's going to be an incredible impact on the churches in this world," said Sandi Patty.

Points of Interest regarding the certificate program:

- The certificate will be a one-year certificate covering 24 hours of college credit.
- Students who qualify may receive federal financial aid.
- Students may apply the hours to a Bachelor's degree in Worship Arts & Leadership.

The certificate program will be inclusive of all higher education age groups—recent high school graduates, existing college students and working adults. The coursework and training are ideal for those who feel led to pursue music ministry and those who are currently working in church worship ministries.

For more information, contact College of Arts and Sciences Admissions toll-free at (888) 436-3035, locally at (405) 692-3281 or go online to: MACU.edu/worship-ministry-certificate/

SPRING BANQUET AWARDS



Each year at Spring Banquet we are able to award several recipients with outstanding achievements. These awards are based on a student vote taken during the Spring semester and are awarded to seniors, staff and faculty. The winners of the 2015 Spring Banquet Awards are (pictured from left to right):

Staff Member of the Year: Meaghan Crump
 Faculty Member of the Year: Marvin Middlebrooks
 Leadership and Legacy Award: Caleb Jones
 Lady Evangel of the Year (*formerly Outstanding Athlete*): Chelsea Swisher
 Outstanding Musician of the Year: Matt Burch

Not pictured:

Evangel of the Year (*formerly Outstanding Athlete*): Semar Ferris;
 Matthew 20:28 Award (*formerly Servanthood*): Brianna Maidens;
 Mr. MACU: Brian Spitters; and Ms. MACU: Hannah Luedtke

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

"At Mid-America, it all begins with students having a greater encounter with God. You can get an education anywhere. But you can't have a greater encounter with God everywhere. At MACU, God is at work and our job is simply to join Him there."

Jessica Rimmer

Vice President for Student Engagement and Success





ARBOR DAY: TEAM EFFORT

MACU partnered with Antioch Christian School for a celebration of Arbor Day. Earlier in the day, Antioch students in Grades 1-3 participated in land run activities then later visited the campus to learn more about nature.

Mid-America students shared facts about the importance of trees and assisted the children with planting two trees on the front campus lawn.

STUDENTS TRAVEL TO ECUADOR



Through MACU's Global Learner program, a team of nine students and two advisers traveled to the jungle regions of Ecuador (May 17-27) to share the love of Christ through service.

MACU and Water4 partnered once again to make an everlasting difference for the Ecuadorian people by providing clean water for them to drink and use for sanitation and hygiene needs. For the past three years, they have traveled to Uganda and built water wells in the different villages. However, this year they went to Ecuador, into the actual jungle regions, where there is a lot of rainfall but no way to actually contain that water. So they built rain catch-net systems to help that jungle tribe be able to use the water.

This year's Global Learner missions team includes: Johnny Bland, Beccah Bland, Kayla Baldwin, MaKailee Davis, Leon Gray, Tyler McIntosh, Jenny Pratt, Jamie Trammell, Jesslyn Spells, Josh West and Kelsey Young.

In the Fall 2015 Mid-American look for more about their service experience, as well as stories from other MACU students who gave their summers to serve others.



PHASE ONE – COMPLETE!

Cost: \$6.1 million – PAID!

Student Center completed March 2014

Kennedy Hall completed October 2013

Bookstore completed June 2014

PHASE TWO – UNDERWAY!

Estimated Cost: \$10 million

RESIDENCE HALL #1: FALL 2014

RESIDENCE HALL #2: FALL 2015

Features of the new residence halls:

- Increased per-person space, beyond what is available in current student housing
- Availability of expanded suites
- Card-access security entry and other safety features
- Laundry facilities on each floor
- Contemporary furnishings and pleasant accent colors give students a beautiful and spacious place to call home

CHAPEL RENOVATIONS: SUMMER 2015

Extensive renovations including audio/visual equipment, stage, carpet and more.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND OFFICE

RENOVATIONS: Renovations for classrooms and offices are being planned.

PHASE THREE

Estimated Cost: \$10 million

Foreseeable additions to the campus could include expansion of the Gymnasium and a new Leadership Building and Auditorium.

An incredible year has just passed. We have completed and students now occupy a new residence hall. The Chapel has been totally renovated, thanks to a \$375,000 gift from a friend of the University. This project will not only renew our Chapel hour, but will ensure top-quality streaming video to our students across the world. When students return for the fall semester there will be renewed excitement as more than 120 students will move into another, even larger new residence hall. We will dedicate the new beautiful building in October. What incredible momentum! The Lord has blessed Mid-America Christian University.

This momentum simply MUST be captured; but in order to keep moving we really need your help. I am asking for you to take a few minutes to pray, asking God to lead you in offering your best gift to make MACU's Greater Campus Experience a reality. We still need to complete the funding of the residence halls. Other projects need to be considered for our Athletics and Academics programs to be able to flourish.

You may want to give a gift in honor or memory of a loved one or, as some have done, to honor a faithful church leader or Pastor who has impacted your spiritual walk for eternity. A few months ago I visited with a family in Texas. As the father told me about the gift he was about to give, he said, "I want to honor my childhood Pastor. I would not be a Christian today if not for his influence."

Here's a sampling of those naming opportunities:

AREAS TO BE NAMED

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

If you would like some advice on how to maximize your giving impact, please call (405) 692-3191, or you can give on-line at give.macu.edu/ Would you help us finish this worthwhile goal?

Steve Seaton

Vice President for University Advancement



FRIEND OF MACU

Brian Clemens

Brian Clemens has been named as a, "Friend of MACU," because of his continued dedication to the success of Mid-America, as well as his selfless giving and heart for Christ.

In 2003, as CEO of Midwest Regional Medical Center (MRMC), Clemens worked with President Fozard to establish the Practicum in Pastoral Care. The Practicum program was initially hosted at MRMC. Under Brian's leadership, the hospital provided the initial financial support for the program. Still today, the initial semester of Practicum training is hosted at MRMC.

Rev. Steve Seaton, MACU Vice President for University Advancement, shared why Mr. Clemens is a *Friend of MACU*. "What I admire most about Brian is the enthusiasm with which he approaches everything—his family, his faith in Christ and his leadership in healthcare. His employees know him as a genuinely loving, concerned leader."

Brian serves on the President's Roundtable as a founding member. He previously served as a member of the MACU Board of Trustees and will return as a Trustee this Fall.

Brian and his wife, Janis, have been faithful in giving prayer and financial support to the university for more than a decade. Their son, Chaz, is a MACU Alumni and graduated in 2014. Chaz is also a former Evangel basketball player.

"I have always admired and appreciated his sincere heart and commitment to helping others. Following months of cancer treatment, Brian shared his testimony of God's faithfulness and healing with students in Chapel service [Spring 2014]. He knows what it means to be a true friend, as President Fozard and I have both discovered firsthand," Seaton said.



Congratulations to the newest members of our Alumni family! Our Alumni family tree has been growing for more than 60 years. It has many branches, including South Texas Bible Institute, Gulf Coast Bible College, Mid-America Bible College and MACU.

The Class of 2015 consisted of 531 graduates receiving one of the following degrees: Master of Arts in Leadership; Master of Business Administration; Master of Ministry; Master of Science in Counseling; Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of Business Administration; Bachelor of Science and Associate in Arts.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: [FACEBOOK.COM/EVANGELALUMNI](https://www.facebook.com/evangelalumni)



2015 COMMENCEMENT



MANY THANKS TO CROSSINGS COMMUNITY CHURCH
FOR HOSTING THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY.



*Pictured: Dr. Sharon Lease, Dr. Steve Green,
Dr. John Fozard, Rep. George Young,
Rep. Chris Kannady and Mr. Jeff Russell*

Caleb Jones

Valedictorian, College of Arts and Science

Caleb was born in Dayton, Ohio to parents Raymond and Rena Jones. He was blessed to be raised in the church by loving parents and in his early teens he began to know God relationally. These beginnings led him to MACU. In addition to his educational experiences, Caleb participated in camp teams, served as Student Body President, and traveled with the MACU Global Learner program to teach English in China. He relates that he met caring and life-changing individuals at Mid-America who encouraged him to be the man God wants him to be. He plans to use his degree to follow and serve God by working with church leaders, helping them to fully achieve their roles in the body of Christ. He is honored to be a son of Christ and plans to dedicate his life helping people.

Caleb obtained his Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Business Administration and multidisciplinary in Music.



Kelsey Shaw

Salutatorian, College of Arts and Science

Kelsey discovered her love for teaching at an early age. Although she struggled with illness in high school she never gave up on her dream to become a teacher. While attending church camp, she learned about MACU from students who were serving as camp counselors. Their strong faith, solid friendships, and sense of community was what she was looking for in a college. She knew that Mid-America was where she would realize her dream to become a teacher. She reached this important milestone with the love, support and encouragement of her parents, fiancé and friends. She is moving back to Bloomington, Illinois to be married and obtain a teaching position. Her goal is to become a teacher who makes a difference in the lives of students, where they will know they're loved, respected and their dreams can come true.

Kelsey obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education.



Students with Distinction Honorees, College of Adult and Graduate Studies

These students have maintained a 4.0 cumulative grade point average and have earned 60 or more hours in residence.

Kory Autrey Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Management and Ethics

Dea Dietrick Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Psychology and Ethics

Justin Hackbarth Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Christian Ministries

Ryan M. Smith Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Management and Ethics

Terri Stone Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Christian Ministries

Kristen McGregor

Prior to coming to Mid-America, Kristen worked at Devon Energy as a graphic designer and also as a part-time freelance designer. She hoped to someday own her own business. Kristen received overwhelming support from clients and was able to proceed full-time with her own business of graphic and web design. Now she is a small business owner working with people in Oklahoma and across the nation.

The desire of wanting to be her own boss gave her the necessary push to obtain a degree. She didn't necessarily need the degree to be a business owner, but knew the training would further her communication skills and help in expanding the business into advertising and marketing.

"Having a degree simply furthers my knowledge for future endeavors, giving me the flexibility to grow. MACU's Communication degree actually expands "Communication" into other areas which makes so much more sense to me! The degree I was previously pursuing did not include ethics and public relations. Having that extra knowledge has been more useful than simply communication methods and outlets."

MACU was actually the third college she attended. Kristen received her Associate's degree from Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) and later attended the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) prior to working full-time at Devon. However, the classes she needed, at the times she needed them, were not available. Kristen expressed she was ecstatic to find out that MACU offered online all of the remaining courses she needed to obtain her degree.

"Knowing how to communicate and use different methods of communication can completely change the way we live our daily lives. This degree from MACU not only helps me with clients and expanding my business, but is extremely beneficial for me with my church. When I am witnessing to others and going on mission trips, as well as communicating with friends and family during good and bad times, I am able to rely on information I have learned from MACU."

Kristen said that the professors and staff were readily available to help her get through most anything that stood in the way of getting her degree. She offers advice to other working adults who may be considering going back to college, "don't give up."

"The first two or three classes are the most difficult. Once you get in a rhythm and set yourself on a schedule, the work does itself."

In her spare time she enjoys music, plays bass guitar and sings at church. She said learning and practicing new songs for Sunday are enjoyable. Kristen also enjoys spending every chance possible with family and friends hanging out and making memories.

Where do you see yourself in five years? I'm hoping that by that time, I've had the opportunity to expand into a larger business with a few designers on hand. I'd like to have a portion of the business in advertising and possibly have a little marketing by then. That all depends on where God leads me."

SPORTS UPDATE

Twitter: @MACUathletics

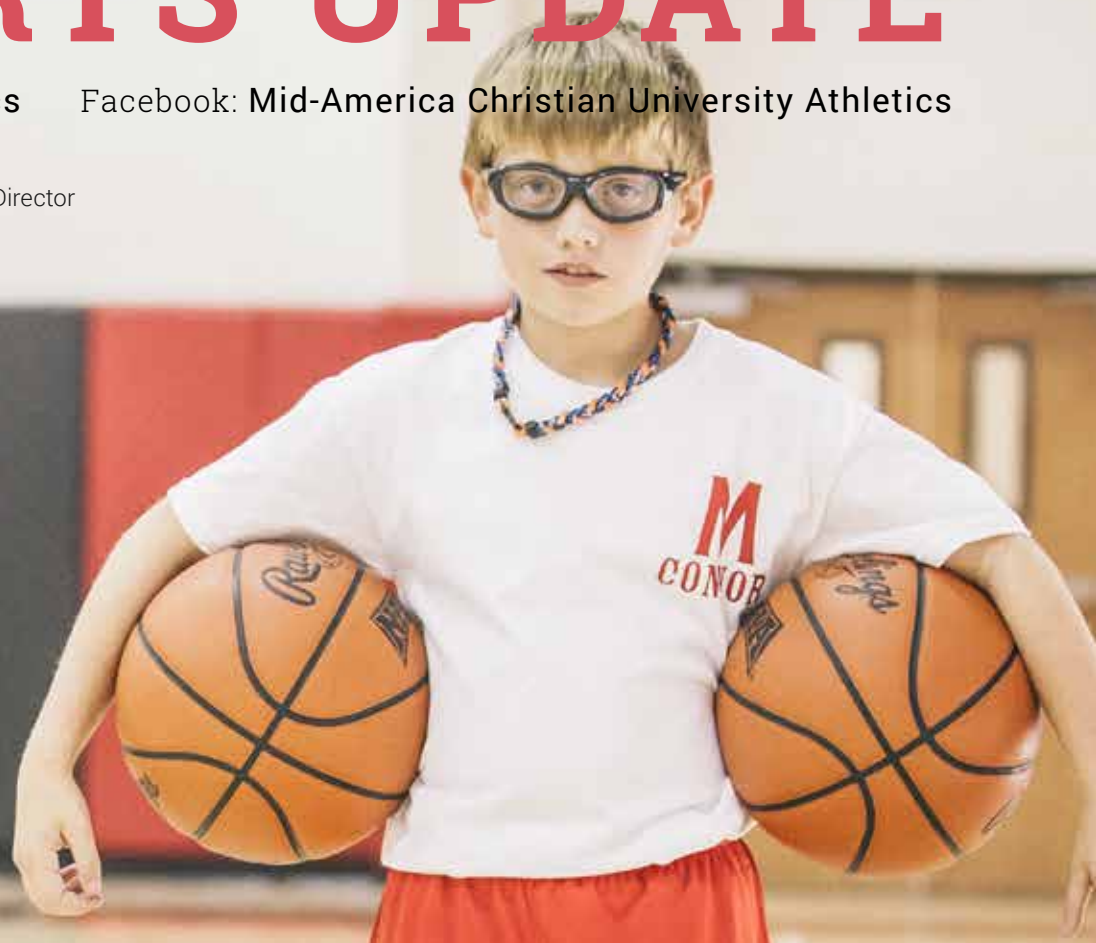
Facebook: Mid-America Christian University Athletics



Levi Convirs

MACU Sports Information Director

lconvirs@macu.edu



NAIA MEN'S BASKETBALL UPDATE

The MACU Evangels wrapped up their historic 2014-15 season by advancing to the quarterfinal round of the 2015 NAIA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship Tournament. Along with it came the end of the legendary coaching career of Willie Holley, who wrapped up his 42nd and final season.

"When I walked off the court and knew it was the final time as a Head Coach, I felt a real peace about the fact that it's been 42 years of what God had called me to do," said Holley. Coach Holley retired with an astounding 813 career victories that ranks second all-time in the NAIA.

The Evangels, who won the Sooner Athletic Conference regular season championship for the first time in school history, opened the tournament with an 84-70 victory over Xavier (Louisiana). In the second round they defeated Missouri Valley College 81-72. MACU then fell to eventual national runner-up Westmont (Calif.) 78-66 in the quarterfinals.

With Holley stepping down, the Evangels now turn to new Head Coach Josh Gamblin to lead the program for the upcoming season and beyond.

Gamblin's coaching resume prior to MACU includes serving as a graduate assistant coach at the University of Oklahoma under Head Coach Lon Kruger, assistant coach at Southwestern Christian University and one season as the Video Coordinator for the NBA's Los Angeles Clippers. Gamblin has also served as the Clippers' All-Star forward Blake Griffin's Summer Basketball Trainer for the past three seasons.

For more information about Coach Gamblin, see page 17.

PICTURED IS CONNOR WHO SERVED AS THE BALL BOY.



BASEBALL The Evangels finished the season 20-26-1 under former Head Coach Mike Brown, marking the first time the program won 20 games in a season since 2011. They went 5-17 in the Sooner Athletic Conference and also defeated a pair of NCAA D-II squads in Southwestern Oklahoma State University and Southern Nazarene University.

A.J. Wilson anchored the Evangels' offense this season, recording team-highs in batting average (.330), home runs (8), doubles (10), slugging percentage (.643) and on-base percentage (.455). Reggie Lindsey (.327), Chevin Noone (.326) and Daniel Thompson (.308) each hit above .300, while Logan Glasgow drove in a team-high 35 runs.

Wyatt Glasgow was a lockdown closer this season for the Evangels, earning second-team All-Sooner Athletic Conference honors after saving seven games and allowing only one earned run in 19 innings. He also struck out 29 and walked only four. Noone led the starting staff with a 3.68 ERA, while Martin Nolasco had team-highs in wins (5) and strikeouts (58).

SOFTBALL The Lady Evangels wrapped up their second straight winning season under fourth-year Head Coach Robert Wakefield at 24-21, representing the program's only two winning campaigns since joining the NAIA in 2008.

Jackie Hilterbran led the Lady Evangels with a .399 batting average, while freshman Mykah Smith burst onto the scene to smack a team-high nine home runs along with a team-best .722 slugging percentage and team-leading 31 RBI. Overall, the Lady Evangels had eight players hit .303 or better and five players drive in at least 20 runs. Macie Crites paced the pitching staff with 10 wins and a 3.31 earned-run-average. Kelcie Wolf won nine games along with a team-best 69 strikeouts.

The Lady Evangels ended the year with seven on the All-Sooner Athletic Conference squad, including two first-team picks for the first time since becoming an NAIA school. The first-team performers for the Lady Evangels were Crites and Kenna McCoy, while Hilterbran, Smith, Wolf, Katie Gracey and Natalie Bissell were second-team All-SAC selections. Tiffany Holt also received a SAC Gold Glove award.

PICTURED (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): KENNA MCCOY, HANNAH LYNCH, NATALIE BISSELL AND KELCIE WOLF



NEW LEADERSHIP FOR MACU'S ATHLETIC PROGRAMS



MACU has announced new leadership within the Athletic department, appointing Marcus Moeller as the Interim Athletic Director. Moeller has served the past three years as the Assistant Athletic Director and for the past two years as the Women's Head Basketball Coach.

"Marcus' commitment to student achievement, innovative advancement concepts and overall knowledge of collegiate athletics is a win for MACU family and friends. He is a man of God who continues to improve the lives of our students and others," said Dr. John Fozard, President of Mid-America.

When asked about the appointment Moeller responded, "I'm extremely honored and humbled. I'm excited to work alongside the coaches and athletic

staff we have at MACU. It's a blessing to make a positive difference in the lives of others while simultaneously growing in my profession. I appreciate the administration for their trust in me."

Under Moeller's leadership, the Lady Evangels basketball program has continually reached new heights. The Lady Evangels now have consecutive winning seasons, as well as Ashlee Ferguson named an NAIA All-American performer both seasons. In his first year, the Lady Evangels had their most successful season since joining the NAIA with 18 wins, and a program-best of 11 victories in the Sooner Athletic Conference.

Before taking the role as head coach, Moeller served as an assistant coach for two years under previous head coach Roman Owen. Prior to MACU, he was an assistant coach at Missouri Southern State University for three years under head coach Maryann Mitts. In those three seasons, Moeller helped MSSU compile an overall combined record of 51-33 and qualify for three MIAA conference tournaments.

Prior to coaching, he had a successful career at Ozark Christian College in Joplin, MO where he played in all 147 games over a four-year span. Moeller, a two-year captain, averaged eight points and five assists while helping lead the Ambassadors to a 24-16 record his senior season. Moeller earned a three-year Associate's degree in Christian Education from Ozark Christian College in 2008 and a Bachelor of Science from Missouri Southern in 2010.

Marcus and wife Hannah reside in Oklahoma City and attend Frontline Church.

WOMEN'S GOLF ADDED FOR 2015-16 SEASON

Mid-America continues to progress competitively at both NCCAA and NAIA levels, and now adds women's golf to the list of sports programs available for the upcoming 2015-16 season. With this addition MACU offers nine sports, which provides increased opportunities for student athletes.

"We're excited about this addition for multiple reasons. Of course, this helps to attract more great athletes to the university, as well as allows us to be part of their higher education experience. We pride ourselves on providing our student athletes with the best overall package—competitive sports programs, greater 1:1 classroom experience/training and in a Christian environment," said Craig Ruiz, former MACU Athletic Director.

Women's golf will be coached by Allen Dukes, who currently serves as the men's golf head coach. Dukes is in his second season at MACU and led the Evangels to the Central Christian College Spring Invite tournament championship earlier this season (March 31).

This announcement coincides with the signing of the sport's first-ever student athletes in Tori Plumley and Mackenzie Thompson.

"The signing of these two student-athletes establishes a solid foundation on which to build this program. They are very talented and I'm anticipating a successful program here at MACU," said Dukes.

GAMBLIN NAMED AS MEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

EXPERIENCE PAIRED WITH CHARACTER ARE KEY FOR A SUCCESSFUL LEADER

Josh Gamblin has been named as the new Men's Basketball Head Coach.

"I am beyond excited for the opportunity to become the next Head Men's Basketball Coach at MACU," Gamblin said. "It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of not only a great coach, but a great man in Willie Holley. To be able to use the game of basketball as a tool to lead young men to Christ is an opportunity of a lifetime."

Coach Gamblin will be inheriting a program coming off a 25-11 season that captured its first-ever Sooner Athletic Conference regular season championship and advanced to the quarterfinal round in its debut appearance in the NAIA National Championship Tournament.

Gamblin's most recent coaching role was at the University of Oklahoma, where he was a Graduate Assistant Coach under Head Coach Lon Kruger. There he assisted in all practices and logged scout games. Gamblin worked with coaches on opponent scouting reports and recently, they celebrated collaborative hard work as their team advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

"We really appreciate all of Josh's assistance during his time with the Sooners and I know he'll do a fantastic job," Kruger said. "MACU is lucky to have him."

Prior to arriving at OU, Gamblin served two-years at Southwestern Christian University (SCU) as lead Assistant Coach on Head Coach Quinn Wooldridge's staff. Gamblin's duties at SCU involved recruiting, leading film sessions and analyzing opponent's scouting reports.

"Josh is one of the best up and coming coaches around," Wooldridge said. "His feel for the game and passion for helping players realize their potential is unmatched. The tradition that has been built over the years at MACU is in good hands with Coach Gamblin."

During the 2011-12 basketball season, Gamblin worked in the NBA as the Intern Video Coordinator for the Los Angeles Clippers under Head Coach Vinny Del Negro. Gamblin helped prepare pre-game scouting reports for the Clippers, as well as logging all opponent games and

being involved in coach's meetings. His efforts with the Clippers led to the best winning percentage in team history.

"Josh has worked at the highest level and continually strives to learn and become a better coach each day," Del Negro said. "He is constantly working to improve his craft and striving for excellence is everything he does."

Off the court, Gamblin has served as Clippers' All-Star Forward Blake Griffin's Summer Basketball Trainer for the past three seasons. Gamblin helped Griffin prepare for upcoming basketball seasons by working on a number of offensive and defensive drills—specifically pick and roll coverages, low post moves and ball handling drills.

Griffin sent congratulations to Gamblin in response to new coaching position, "I know you're going to do great. I'm proud of you; always here for you. Everybody is lucky to have you there."

Gamblin also receives strong praise from Sam Goldfeder, the Senior Vice President for Basketball of Excel Sports Management. "I have seen first-hand the work he put in with Blake Griffin pre-draft as well as post-draft," Goldfeder said. "He helped Blake tremendously. His knowledge of the game, and particularly his ability to teach it, is far greater than his age would indicate."

Josh and wife Jennifer reside in Oklahoma City where they raise their young son Miles.

Gamblin's collegiate-athlete experience includes, but not limited to: competed at SCU on the Men's Basketball team from 2007-11; Varsity Captain (twice); named SCU Male Newcomer of the Year in 2008; and selected as Team MVP for the 2011 season. Additional honors include: Association of Christian College Athletics (ACCA) Honorable-Mention All-America honors in 2010; a Midlands Collegiate Athletic All-Conference selection in 2011; and named "Mr. Southwestern" in 2011, (awarded to the student who exemplifies the values, traditions and spirit of SCU). After the 2011 season, Gamblin received the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference Scholar Athlete award. He graduated from SCU in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and is currently enrolled in the IAA Master's program at the University of Oklahoma.

MEET NEW HEAD BASEBALL COACH, ADRIAN SAVEDRA

Athletic Director Marcus Moeller has announced the hiring of Adrian Savedra as the new Head Baseball Coach.

"I could not be more excited to announce Adrian Savedra as the next MACU Head Baseball Coach," Moeller said. "It became clear from the first conversation that he was the right fit for Mid-America. He loves the Lord and is passionate about using baseball as a way to glorify the Lord and mentor young men in their spiritual and personal growth."

Savedra comes to MACU after a five-year stint as Assistant Baseball Coach at Southern Nazarene University (SNU) in Bethany. At SNU, Savedra was involved in every aspect of recruiting, along with developing and implementing in-season and off-season defensive practice plans and playbooks for infielders and outfielders.

Savedra also has seven years of head coaching experience at the high school level, most recently at Putnam City High School in Oklahoma City.

In 2004, Savedra started the baseball program at Santa Fe South High School in Oklahoma City. After five seasons at Santa Fe South, he spent two seasons as Head Coach at 6A Putnam City High School. While serving as the Santa Fe South Head Coach, Savedra helped form "A Life Worth Following (ALWF)" ministry program in 2008.

Through the ALWF ministry, a summer baseball team was created called the OKC Ambassadors, which Savedra served as the Head Coach from 2008-13. He now serves as the ALWF's Executive Director.

In the seven seasons with ALWF and the OKC Ambassadors, Savedra has coached 128 players. Of those, 102 have proceeded to play collegiate baseball, with 21 at the NCAA Division I level. He also witnessed five of his former players being drafted into Major League Baseball (MLB).



"Adrian's ability to evaluate, recruit, and develop baseball players is undeniable," Moeller added. "He is a 'baseball guy' in the truest sense of the word and the young men that come through the baseball program will love playing for him. The future of our baseball program is in great hands!"

Savedra, a native of Edmond, graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and later obtained his Master's degree in Educational Leadership.

"I am excited to become the next baseball coach at Mid-America Christian University and very grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity," Savedra said. "The challenge of developing these ballplayers, both on and off the field, while building a program that brings pride to the university and glory to God is something that I greatly look forward to. I am deeply humbled and honored to become a member of the MACU family."

He and his wife, Tara, and their 2 boys, AJ (age 6) and Arman (age 2) reside in Edmond, OK.

PASSING OF A BELOVED STUDENT

We have learned of the passing of one of our recent graduates, Danielle Jones, of Tyler, Texas. She was a 2012 graduate and received her Bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science.

During Danielle's time on campus, she played on the softball team and served as a Resident Assistant. It is with deep grief that we received this news. The untimely passing of one of our own is never easy to accept.

We know that in this, God is near. Psalm 116:15 tells us, "Precious in the site of the Lord is the death of one of his saints." Danielle loved the Lord and made an impact on her teammates and fellow students.

Please be in prayer for this family and the students and staff members who are grieving her loss.



THE Bethel Series



The Bethel Series is designed for Pastors and Ministry Staff, Sunday School Teachers, Bible Study Leaders, Christian Counselors, and those who desire a deeper understanding of the Bible.

The Bethel Series Online seeks to equip students to comprehend the major themes that run throughout the Old and New Testaments by drawing together biblical stories and passages that otherwise may seem disjointed. Biblical messages are studied in direct relationship to their historical context.

MACU is committed to making the Bethel Series affordable to all! There are four semesters to the Bethel Series.

For those wishing to take the course for personal growth or to obtain a Bethel Series Teacher Certification, the cost is \$100/semester.

For individuals seeking college credit, the course is \$1,125 for three hours of undergraduate or \$1,746 for graduate college credit.

High school honors students looking to get a jump on their college career are eligible to take the Bethel Series at a reduced rate of \$175 for three hours of college credit.

To learn more about the Bethel Series Online at MACU or to hold your place in the next class, visit bethelonline.macu.edu/

Mid-America's Dr. James Earl Massey Center for Ministry and Leadership is excited to announce the Bethel Series.

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SAVE THE DATE!

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.

WELCOME WEEKEND: August 29 - September 2

Welcome Weekend will now serve as a time of intensive community building with our new students. It is a fun and exciting time of connecting with new students and upperclassmen. During Welcome Weekend we will serve together at a local organization and go through the "IBC Experience," an event designed to introduce students to the Issues Based Curriculum at MACU.

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REMINDER: Early move-in begins August 28!