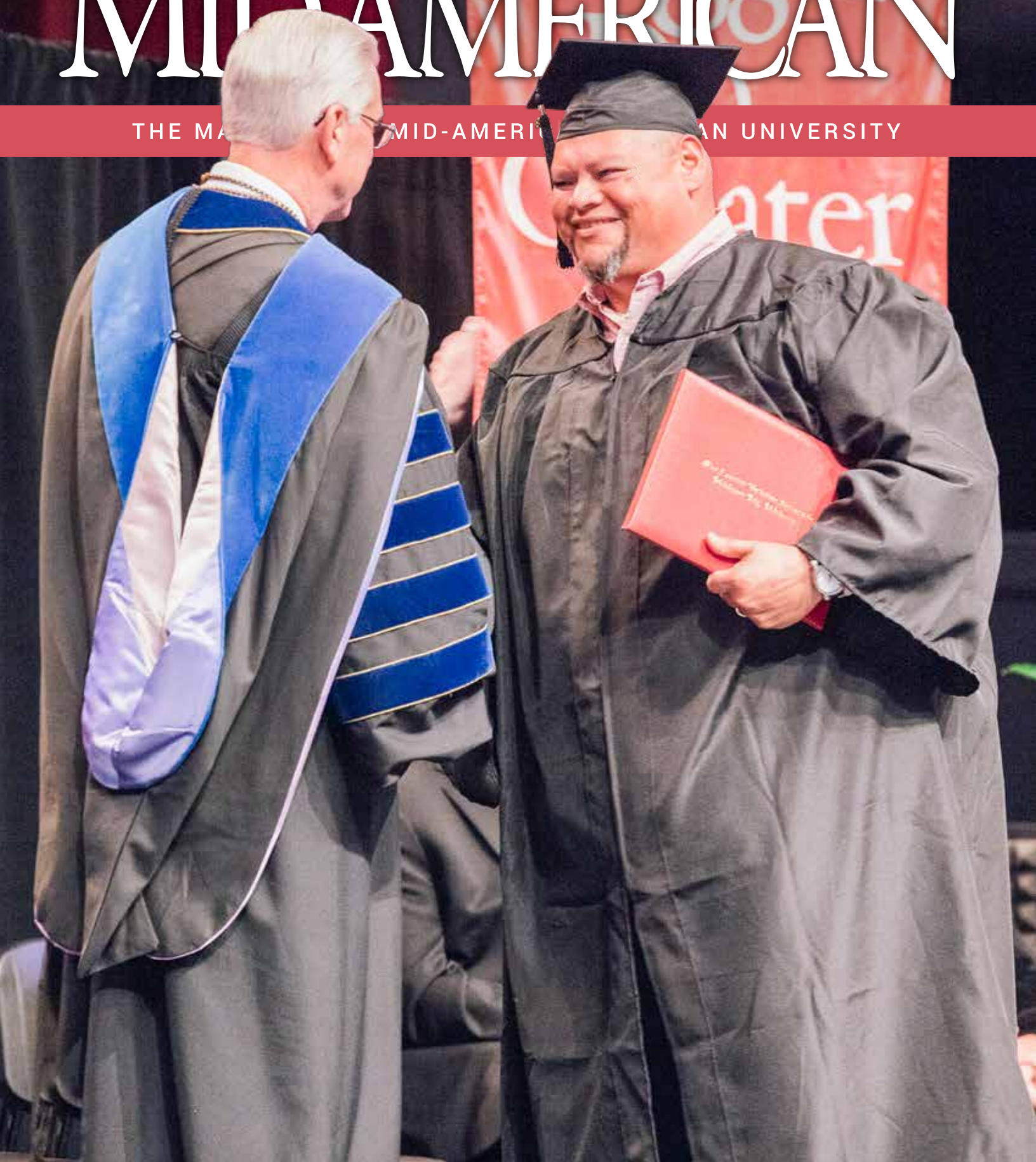


MID AMERICAN

THE MID-AMERICAN UNIVERSITY



SUMMER 2018

Dream Bigger. Do Greater.

WWW.MACU.EDU

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

It comes like a lightning bolt, an epiphany of sorts. It is similar to the sun's rays breaking through the clouds. You have honorable plans when suddenly you are ambushed by a new and intriguing thought. It is like a dog tugging on our pant leg. You can't outrun a sense of "calling."

For instance, there was Noah, who was told to build an ark when there had never been one drop of rain. Abram seemed content living in Haran when God interrupts his daily routine: *"Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you. I will bless you and make your descendants into a great nation. You will become famous and be a blessing to others."* Moses had resigned himself to live beneath his potential because of past failures when a burning bush figuratively lights a flame within his soul to become a leader-deliverer of God's people.

Each man probably pondered, "What just happened here?" This is the manner in which God imprints his plan upon our mind and heart. We think we have the blueprint for building our future. Then, God's dream captures and captivates us.

In this issue, student Kevin Dugay shares how God surprises us with a "calling" that seems 180 degrees from where we were headed. Pastor Mike Keahbone made a similar observation as he spoke at our 2018 Dream Gala. Mike reflected that there were a lot reasons why he shouldn't be doing what he does today as a pastor-evangelist and first generation college graduate. There were too many obstacles in his pathway stemming from his dysfunctional family background to the shocking statistic of how few Native Americans complete college.

What impresses me about each man's story is the comprehension that God never gives a dream just for your own benefit. Future generations draft upon the dream God breathes into us! Mark Batterson writes, "Your greatest legacy isn't your dream. Your greatest legacy is the

next generation of dreamers that your dream inspires—the dreams within a dream."

When Kevin enrolled at MACU, he already sensed that he was "called" by God to use his talents to inspire and serve others. When Mike Keahbone walked across that commencement stage, he didn't see the moment being the culmination of years of study. Instead, his dream was a contagion of sorts. His children, and his children's children, were now "infected" by a dream of becoming college graduates. After all, the word "commencement" does not mean a stopping off point. It signifies an unfolding legacy, the dream within a dream.

Bishop James Dixon challenged our 2018 graduates by saying, "You are God's answer!" He then unpacked that insight by pointing out that people are always wishing that someone would solve the problems that plague our generation. Who will address the needs of the poor and the hungry? Who will confront the social and racial injustice in our nation? Who will come up with solutions to the high rates of incarceration and drug epidemics? You are God's answer! That very insight ambushes us in our comfort zones.

What sense of "calling" has crept into your thinking and won't let up? God surprises us that we are his dream. That thought rattles our world. We are ready to tell God all the reasons why we are unqualified and under resourced. That seems like a decent rationale on why God should move on to someone else. Then, the angel's words to Mary demolishes our protests and prods us to dream bigger ... "For nothing will be impossible with God."


Dr. John Fozard, President



Dream Bigger. Do Greater.

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COVER PHOTO

MACU President Dr. John Fozard congratulates Cherokee Hills Baptist Church Senior Pastor Mike Keahbone during commencement exercises. MACU's 67th commencement ceremony was held at Crossings Community Church in Oklahoma City.



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



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

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MACU students take a break from studies with Puppy Palooza, an annual event held during Finals Week.



CHARLES DUKE JR. has been to the moon and back — literally. On April 20, the retired astronaut shared his heartfelt testimony of faith during MACU chapel services. After speaking, Duke, 82, spent time and took photographs with MACU students, faculty and staff members. His message can be viewed anytime at www.macu.edu/charlesduke.



KEVIN DUGAY

FROM THE BIG SCREEN to the chapel stage, Music and Ministry Worship major Kevin Dugay is used to drawing a crowd.

With his soulful voice and God-given gift for performance, Dugay frequently leads worship during MACU chapel services every Wednesday and Friday. But long before he found himself in Oklahoma City, Dugay was an accomplished young actor with 12 years of stage experience and a promising professional career ahead of him.

"I had been acting for most of my life," he said. "I wouldn't have given it up for anyone or anything. Not a person or a thing would have ever stopped me from continuing."

While he was on the rising plane of success, Dugay didn't have a place for God in his life. He was raised Catholic, but he became apathetic in his belief.

"I never really knew who Jesus was or what He did, what sins were or anything like that," Dugay said.

That all started to change when he met an Oklahoma girl named Linda with a heart burning hot for Jesus Christ. Their friendship turned into a long distance relationship, and although Dugay remained respectful of his girlfriend's beliefs, he still couldn't hear the sound of God calling out to him — until one fateful day that remains vivid in his memory.

"I used to struggle with a lot of anxiety attacks," Dugay recalled. "One time at work, I had a bad panic attack and went to the bathroom to try and calm myself down. Instead of shaking, my heart rate started to slow, and I felt this voice. I couldn't hear it; it was in my chest. I didn't believe in God then, but I still knew it was God. He asked, 'Is this what I put you on earth for?' in reference to me pursuing a music and acting career."

In that moment, Dugay remembers images flooding his vision. He saw himself feeding the homeless, ministering to youth and singing in churches.

"All the sudden, in an instant, I understood that this is real. Jesus is real; God is real," he said. "When I opened the door of the bathroom that day, it was like when Dorothy opened the door in 'The Wizard of Oz' and everything went from black and white to color. Everything in my life that I thought mattered didn't matter anymore."

Dugay decided he wanted to fully pursue Christ.

"I wanted to do what He wanted me to do," he said.

That started with moving to Oklahoma, where Dugay took up a youth worship leadership position in his girlfriend's church. Today, he serves as a music minister while attending school full-time at MACU.

"My goal is now to use the gifts God gave me to glorify Him and to reach out to the people who are lost and broken and bring them to the family of Christ," Dugay said. "I chose MACU so I could strengthen my theological background. I want to be able to minister to people effectively and be honest and truthful as I shepherd people with music."

He said MACU's Christ-centered environment has allowed him to become closer to God.

"I love the spiritual life on campus," Dugay said. "There's so many people on campus who I can just sit down with, and we can start talking about the Gospel and ask questions and find the answers together. Everyone here knows my name and treats me like family."

As Dugay works to complete his degree, he said it's not himself, but God, who he wants to keep in the limelight.

"I used to dream about being this famous actor and being popular and glorified," he said. "But when Jesus got a hold of me, He really put a new dream in me, and that's to use music to minister to as many people as I can. MACU has really been equipping me as a Christian and as a musician. I'm extremely thankful that this school is helping me obtain that dream."

Dream SCHOLARSHIP *gala*

25

FIRST-TIME DONORS

365

SEATS SOLD

\$144,442

RAISED FOR STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIPS





MACU alums Mike Wilkinson (left) and Jason Robinson (right) served as the Masters of Ceremonies for the magical evening.



Cherokee Hills Baptist Church Pastor Mike Keahbone, who graduated from MACU this May with his first-ever college degree, gave his student testimony during the gala.



University of Oklahoma All-American and former Detroit Lions wide receiver Ryan Broyles served as the keynote speaker of the night.



Dream maker award



In appreciation for the JASCO Giving Hope Foundation's Support of Student Scholarships, JASCO founder Dr. Steve Trice was presented with the MACU Dream Maker Award.

save-the-date
April 4, 2019



For their faithful service to MACU, the Church of God and the world, MACU celebrated Executive Vice President Dr. Bill McDowell with an honorary Doctorate of Divinity and his wife Becki McDowell with the

World-Changer Award.

MACU STUDENTS SPEND SUMMER SERVING CHRIST



RIBBIN ANDERSON

MANY COLLEGE STUDENTS might shrug off the idea of spending the summer working, often without pay – but not Ribbin Anderson, a sophomore Bible and Theology major at MACU.

Ribbin is part of a special group of students. Rather than enjoying a well-earned break from academia or taking summer vacations with friends and family members, she and other MACU students have elected to serve others during their summer holiday.

Through mission trips, camp teams and internships, MACU students experience unforgettable memories and irreplaceable ministry opportunities – just as Ribbin did when she traveled across the country last year.

“It will always be the summer that I never, ever forget. So many kids were impacted just by MACU students being a part of camp teams and sharing their testimonies. Many teens walked up and said, ‘I never thought going to college was anything like that; I thought you just learned,’ and I told them, ‘No, it’s so much more than that. I can’t tell you the times I went to class and applied the things I learned not just to what was going to be on my next exam, but to my life.”

Every week, Ribbin leads as many as four Bible studies with her peers and softball teammates. She also works as a tutor in the Student Success Center, where she does more than help fellow students succeed in their classes. She spends time in fellowship with them, leading them closer to God and treating every conversation and question as an opportunity to pour into the life and spirit of another individual.

Oftentimes there is no monetary pay involved for the selfless students who choose to spend their summer serving in camp teams or in other forms of ministry and internships. These men and women accrue many expenses during their summer work, then return to MACU in the fall with student bills and other financial obligations to tend to. Without the gracious support of donors, students like Ribbin would never have the opportunity to impact the lives of children during the summer – or even attend school at all.

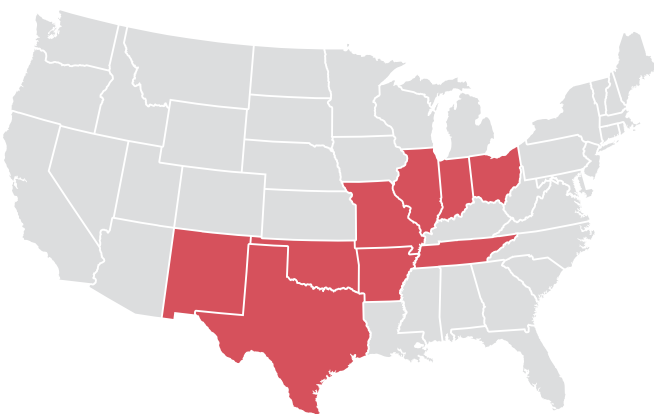
“Scholarships mean I get to go to school. Sometimes I look at my financial spreadsheet and there is no way it would be possible without these people. I never take that lightly. I pray about it and thank God every morning for the money that allows me to go to MACU. The circumstances I grew up in, the home I grew up in, there’s no way I should even be able to be in school right now or have the opportunity to study what I love or impact people the way I have. I don’t know what my life would be like without being able to go to MACU.”

Will you consider spending some time in prayer and making a monetary contribution to help provide MACU students with scholarship dollars?

These students truly embody the spirit of a servant. They aren’t spending their summers for themselves, but for God and His Glory – and they cannot do it without the help of generous donors like you. When you give to MACU, your gift impacts students like Ribbin and allows countless other young men and women to enroll and stay in school through scholarships.

As you pray over your decision to give, please remember our students who will be traveling this summer to serve at camps in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and right here in Oklahoma.

To help our students today, please visit give.macu.edu. Thank you for your faithful support and giving! We truly could not do this without you.



2018 COMMENCEMENT

More than 570 new MACU alumni were celebrated Saturday, May 12, as part of the 67th commencement exercises at Crossings Community Church in Oklahoma City.

Before MACU President John Fozard conferred degrees, uplifting songs and motivational speeches from university professors and Board of Trustees members peppered the ceremony. Ten students who proved their academic excellence by maintaining 4.0 grade-point averages were honored with distinction.

The ceremony was marked with a keynote address by Bishop James Dixon, who leads The Community of Faith Church in Houston. He encouraged graduates to see themselves not simply as students finishing their education, but as God's answer for a troubled world.

"You are a portrait of possibility," Dixon told the packed sanctuary of more than 2,000. "In each of us, there are gifts we haven't even discovered yet. It does not yet appear what God will do with and through your lives."

He cited great biblical figures including Moses, David and Mary, who were once unaware of the great impact they would make on the Kingdom.

"Treasure who you are and take care of who you are because you are God's amazing possibility. Beneath every cap and gown, there is a possibility," Dixon said.

DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITIONS

College of Arts and
Sciences (CAS)

VALEDICTORIANS

Hannah Hartman

Specialized Ministries

Jamie Amanda Walker

Psychology

Dustin Welch

*Secondary Social
Studies Education*

Madyson Womack

Psychology

Kelsey Young

Psychology

SALUTATORIAN

Ashleigh Clouse

Secondary English Education

College of Adult
and Graduate
Studies (CAGS)

HONOREES, WITH ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

Sharon Johnson

Psychology

Rachel Looney

Criminal Justice and Ethics

Betty Sanders

*Business Administration
and Ethics*

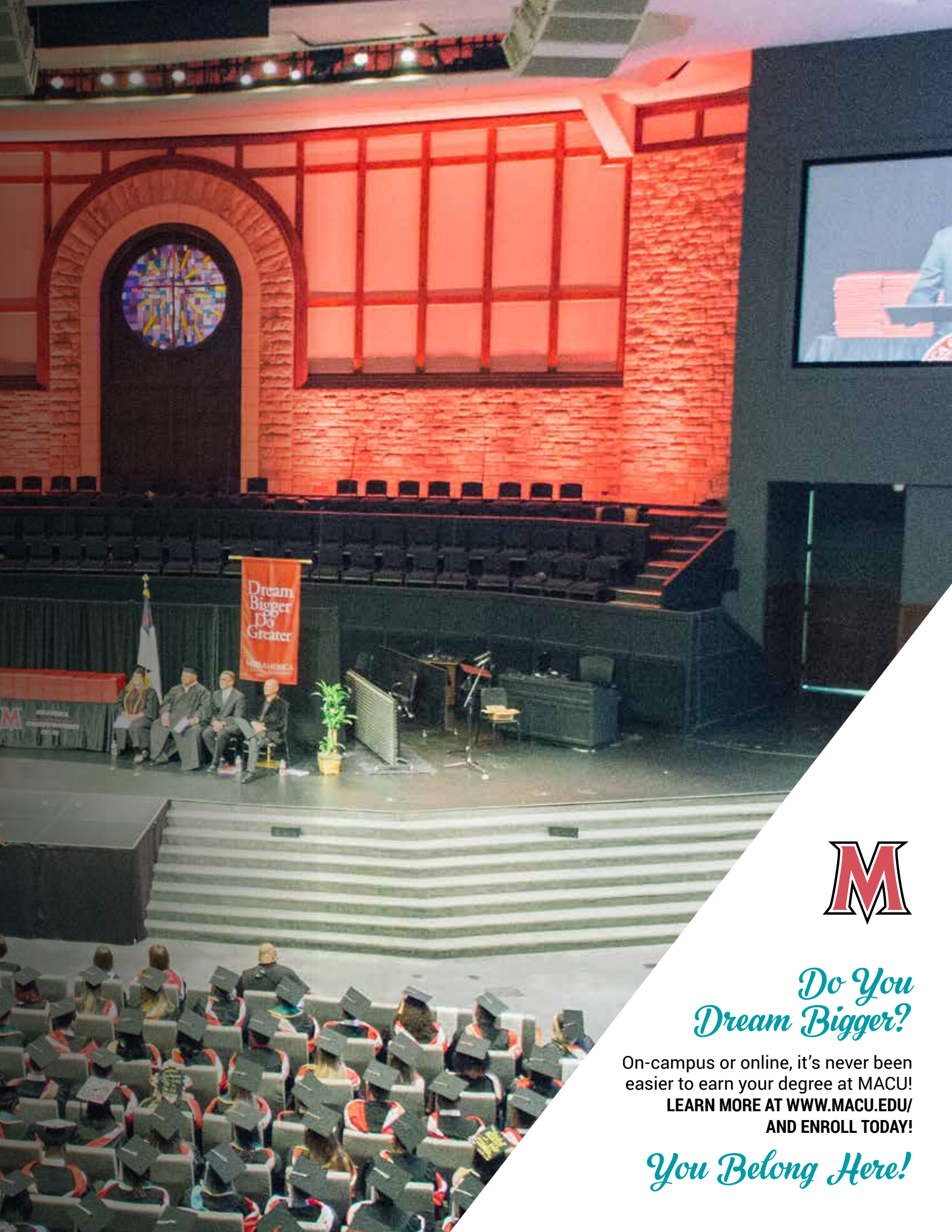
Jared Sollars

*Communication, Public
Relations and Ethics*

Stephen H. Tucker

Christian Ministries





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You Belong Here!



MACU Alumni,

At MACU, we want to make your dreams of earning a master's degree come true, and we have some exciting news to help you achieve that goal! For a limited time, you are eligible to continue your educational journey with a special alumni discount.

When you enroll in any MACU graduate program, you receive 10% off your tuition cost just for being a MACU grad! We are proud to call you a MACU alum, and we want to show you our appreciation. Whether you decide to continue your education on-ground or online, we want students like you — students who value our Christian values and family atmosphere!

With the special alumni tuition discount, our cost is lower than most private universities nationwide.

**CLASSES START SOON —
DON'T WAIT!**

For more information or to apply, visit macu.edu/alumni.



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This subscription-based resource features monthly videos on various aspects of Wesleyan Studies. Each video-based lesson is joined by an accompanying workbook. The videos, taught by Wesleyan scholars such as Dr. Cliff Sanders, provide a much needed resource in the Church.

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NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
DIV

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

The MACU women's basketball team claimed the 2017-2018 NCCAA D1 National Championship with a 71-60 win over Concordia University. Following the victory, head coach Hannah Moeller was named NCCAA Coach of the Year.



HOW MACU AIMS TO ATTRACT FUTURE TEACHERS

TO THE PROFESSION

PROVIDING SCHOOLCHILDREN with qualified teachers and combatting a national teacher shortage are two topics currently on debate in Oklahoma and around the country.

Part of the issue is training teachers.

To combat the issue of training, MACU offers a loan repayment program. Through this program, the university hopes to keep prospective teachers who have a passion for education and a life's calling for serving children in the state.

Many students who want to pursue a career in teacher education have to consider whether or not they will ever see a return on their investment. With Oklahoma and surrounding states remaining some of the lowest paying states for teachers, some potential teachers fear they will drown in student debt.

"In speaking with students and parents during the college decision-making process, one of the biggest concerns we hear is, 'Will my child be able to repay their student loan debt when they graduate?' knowing the salary of a teacher," said Ashley Gotcher, Director of Admissions at MACU.

Gotcher said that is one of the major reasons why the university decided to partner with the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP).

The program, which is for high school seniors and transfer students entering MACU in the fall 2018

semester, can help partially or completely pay off student loans for teacher education majors after graduation. There is no cost involved for students or parents.

Students must graduate from MACU for LRAP to honor the loan repayment. If a student's annual income after graduation is below \$40,000, LRAP will help pay back all or part of a student's loans.

Freshman Early Childhood Education major Sabrina Ethridge said she is grateful for the opportunity MACU provides through the LRAP program.

"Now I don't have to spend a lot of time worrying about how I'm going to repay my loans," Ethridge said. "I want to be a teacher because I want every kid to have a good foundation to help them in the future."

Gotcher said she hopes through LRAP, MACU can raise up the next generation of teachers – like Ethridge – right here in Oklahoma.

She said the state, including MACU, does a great job at training teachers but is challenged when it comes to retaining them.

"Our School of Teacher Education is one of our most distinctive programs at Mid-America. We have a 100 percent placement rate and incredible faculty that work one-on-one with our students, preparing them to stand out as educators," Gotcher said.

MACU is committed to becoming part of a solution for the teacher crisis in Oklahoma.





Over 92 percent of students receive institutional aid to make college more affordable.

MACU has a 100 percent placement rate and incredible faculty that work one-on-one with our students.



MACU also partners with the Urban Teacher Preparation Academy, which prepares students for teaching in high-need schools in urban environments.

"We believe so much in LRAP and the impact that these graduates will make on education nationally, we wanted to encourage students to pursue education without the burden of student loans," Gotcher said.

Ethridge said she plans on taking her education at MACU to make an impact on the lives of students.

"I think every kid deserves a loving place to learn something new, and I want my classroom to be that place," she said. "All of my instructors at MACU are wonderful and are excited to help us become teachers. We get classroom experience which helps us be prepared for our own classrooms one day."

At a time when teacher salaries are lower than many professions, MACU is committed to becoming part of a solution for the national teacher crisis.

"The LRAP program is no cost to students and parents," Gotcher said. "This is the university's way of saying we believe in you and the education you will receive here."

Teacher salaries aside, Gotcher said MACU strives to make education accessible to anybody – regardless of what their career goals may be.

"At MACU, we understand that the cost of education is the biggest concern that students and parents have post-high school," she said. "Through programs like LRAP, our academic scholarships and the generous gifts of donors who believe in our students and our mission, over 92 percent of traditional students receive institutional aid to make college more affordable."

The Loan Repayment Assistance Program covers federal, private and Parent Plus loans. For a complete summary of LRAP, and to connect with the program at MACU, students can visit www.mylrap.org/macu.

Enrollment is now underway for high school seniors and transfer students. To learn more about the Teacher Education program at MACU or other traditional degrees, call 405-692-3188 or email admissions@macu.edu.



PRIVATE DINING ROOMS NAMED

ON MARCH 6, during the annual spring visit of the MACU Board of Trustees, MACU named its two private dining areas in honor of Mike Clements' late wife Amy Clements and Paul Odom. Known now as the Clements and Odom Dining Rooms, respectively, University Advancement Vice President Steve Seaton called the two men "wonderful friends of Mid-America Christian University."

Clements is the developer of Energy Weldfab, a leading manufacturer of gas and oil processing equipment based out of White Oak, Texas. He served as a MACU Board of Trustees member until his beloved wife, Amy, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

Amy Clements lost her courageous battle last November. During her time of illness, Mike Clements said God raised his wife's philanthropic awareness to a higher level. She became keenly interested in several benevolent causes, including MACU.

Seaton said the Clements family has faithfully given to MACU, and several campus classrooms are there in part because of their generosity.

The Odom family is well known through south Oklahoma City and Moore for housing and business development. When MACU was facing financial challenges in the early 2000's, Odom agreed to purchase an acreage of land on the southwest side of the campus. That land was eventually developed into the housing edition Rockport, and its purchase aided the university in moving forward with its operations.

In addition, Odom established the P.B. Odom III Ministerial Scholarship for MACU students, which is funded by a percentage of sales of every Rockport lot.

"MACU has been looking forward to this moment for a very long time," Seaton said. "We are honored to dedicate these two dining rooms for the glory of God and in honor of two very special people and their families."

Located off the main lobby and the university's Café 1412, the Odom and Clements Dining Rooms are designed to serve as meeting spaces for MACU students, staff, faculty members and guests.



Eternal Investment

For more than 40 years, Dr. Donna S. Thomas has served as a faithful part of the MACU family.

When MACU was still located in Houston, Texas as Gulf Coast Bible College, Thomas and her late husband, Chuck, flew the college choir in their airplane to Nicaragua for a ministry tour. The effort was part of the Thomas family's work as co-founding members of the mission agency Project Partner with Christ.

From there, the relationship went skyward. Thomas was elected to the MACU Board of Trustees in 2002, and in 2005, the Thomas School of International Studies (TSIS) was named in the couple's honor. Through TSIS, MACU trains thousands of Christian leaders around the world using global programs.

For her incredible impact on the university, MACU awarded Donna Thomas an honorary Doctor of Divinity in 2012.

TSIS Director Dr. Enrique Cepeda said Thomas and her husband made an indelible mark on his life when he was a young adult – and he values his decades-long friendship with Thomas to this day.

"It was in 1964 when I graduated from GBC that Rev. Chuck Thomas made a call to Dr. Max Gaulke, college president. He asked him if he knew a student that would be able to go with them to Mexico as an interpreter. Dr. Gaulke mentioned my name and took me to Anderson, Indiana, to the General Convention of the Church of God that June."

There, Cepeda met Rev. Chuck and Donna Thomas.

"I made the first missionary trip to Mexico with them that summer," he said. From that moment on, Rev. and Mrs. Thomas adopted me. Every summer, I went with them on missionary trips. The Church of God ordained me as a pastor in 1969, and Rev. Chuck Thomas made the prayer of ordination. I will never forget his

words: 'Father, I will not ask you for Enrique to be successful; I do ask you for him to be faithful.'"

Today, Thomas continues to impact the world for Christ. She serves as the founder and president of Christian Vision Ministries (www.cvministries.org) and has been ministering in the United States and in China, India, Russia, Egypt, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and across Latin America since the 1960s.

She also counsels church leaders and inspires congregations, challenging them to become active in spreading the Gospel with their unique sets of God-given gifts. In more than 50 years of ministry, Thomas has served as a minister, author, missionary and more. She has authored eight books, including her latest title, *The "Why Not?" Factor*.

"I WILL RETIRE AT THE AGE THAT MOTHER TERESA RETIRED," THOMAS ONCE SAID.

And as everyone knows – Mother Teresa never retired.

Through the tireless works and faithful giving of Dr. Donna S. Thomas, her legacy will live on eternally through the works of MACU students, including a gift to the University in her estate planning.

If you would like information on how you can give to MACU, or if you are interested in estate planning to benefit you or your family, visit give.macu.edu or contact the Office of University Advancement at 405-692-3191.





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JUNE 11-14 ANNUAL SOCCER CAMP



AUG 20 TRADITIONAL CLASSES BEGIN



OCT 10 MACU GOLF CLASSIC



OCT 11-13 MACU MASH