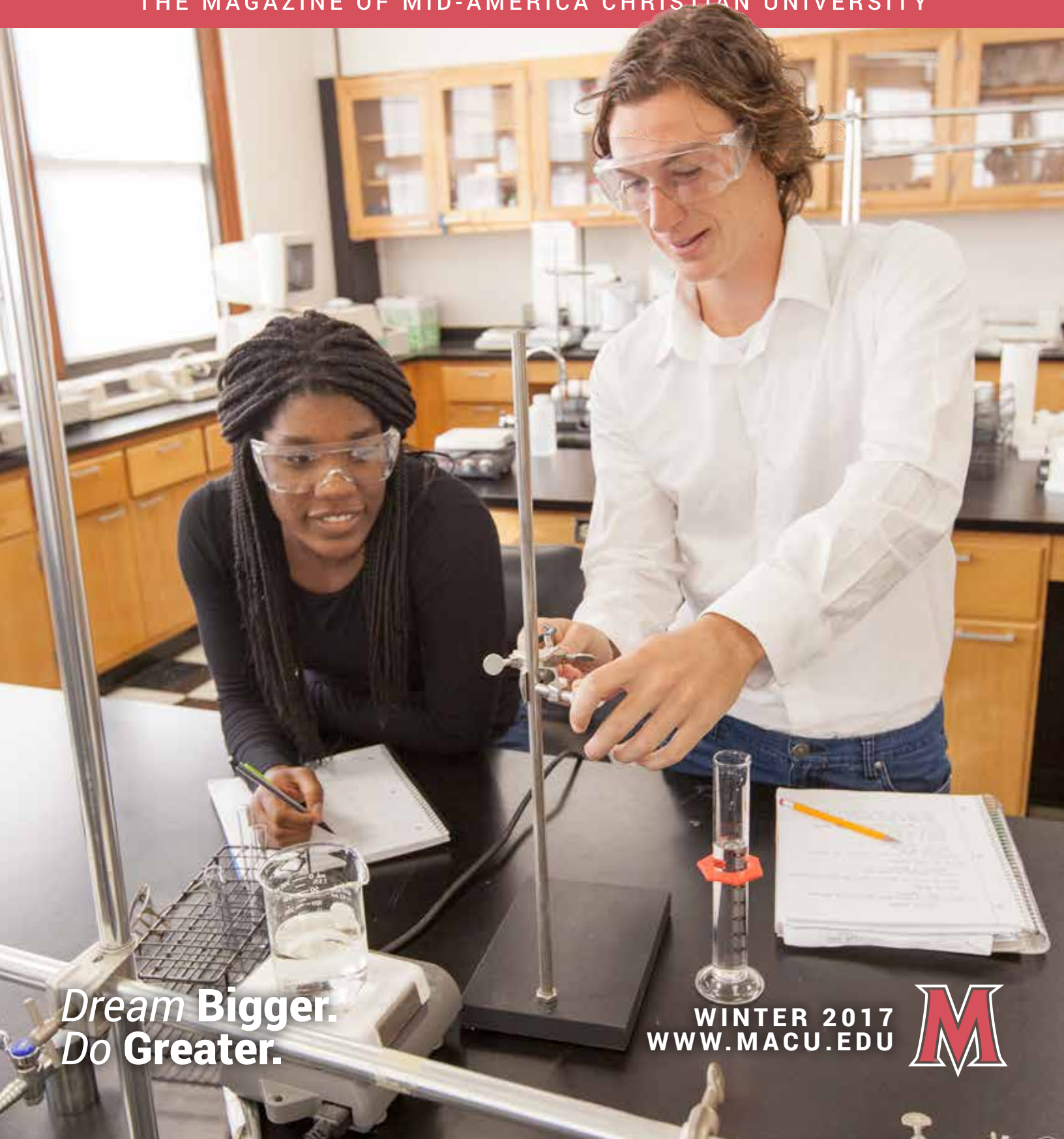


# MID-AMERICAN

THE MAGAZINE OF MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



*Dream Bigger.  
Do Greater.*

WINTER 2017  
[WWW.MACU.EDU](http://WWW.MACU.EDU)



# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



## Dear Friends,

**FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS**, we have been describing Mid-America Christian University as a global university. Is that really true? What does it mean to be global?

Angel Cabrera in the Harvard Business Review observes, "...global leaders act as bridge builders, connectors of resources and talent across cultural and political boundaries — relentlessly dedicated to finding new ways of creating value. They don't just think and act global, they are global... Connecting, creating and contributing are the three core tasks that make or break a global leader."<sup>1</sup>

I find Cabrera's core tasks interesting: connecting, creating and contributing. Mid-America's mission statement reads: Mid-America Christian University prepares students through a Wesleyan perspective to create, collaborate and innovate to solve local and global problems for the glory of God through Jesus Christ and the good of society.

In this issue of the *Mid-American*, we celebrate the opportunities that God has given us to be "global." Through our Thomas School of International Studies, God recently opened a door for witnessing in Guanajuato, Mexico, where Dr. Enrique Cepeda spoke to over 600 people attending a congress on education. His message? "How to reach men for Christ and disciple men in the marketplace."

In October, one of our professors, Dr. Jose Aguirre, began teaching a business certificate program to 20 students in Quito, Ecuador. In November, 17 people in Argentina graduated from a certificate program on Christian leadership. Forty-eight people are currently enrolled in the Bethel Series, 26 of them taking the studies in Spanish and representing eight international locations. The Concilio Hispano of the Church of God recently identified the Bethel Series as a key tool in biblical studies.

Being global is a circular experience. MACU has gone into four continents, providing biblical and marketplace training for over 150,000 leaders. This fall, the university has been blessed by the world coming to us! MACU now has 88

international students participating in online discussions and bringing fresh insights into on-campus classes. This semester, we have 29 nations outside of the U.S. attending our daytime classes on our main campus. Not only do these students bring different cultures and languages, but they bring fervent prayer lives and a contagious passion for evangelism and discipleship.

Each Monday and Friday evening, men from Latin America hold a worship service in McCutcheon Hall. While the service is delivered in Spanish, it is also interpreted into English. Since beginning those services, seven of these men's teammates or fellow students have received Jesus as his Savior. A new Hispanic congregation is now meeting on Sundays in our chapel overflow room. One of our soccer players from England led one of his teammates to Christ during the first week of the semester. There have been four students baptized this fall as a result of students being "global!"

Yet, the full impact of this moving of the Spirit is in the way our graduates will "go out" into the world. Many of them intend to return to their home nations, taking with them GiANT leadership tools and CBMC resources to impact their nation's marketplaces and congregations.

When Jesus gave the Great Commission to "Go ye into all the world and make disciples..." (Matthew 28:19), the word "go" could be translated, "as you are going." One of our professors observed, "Everyone is 'going' someplace. The question is not whether you 'are going' but whether you are fulfilling the imperative of this verse — to make disciples!" So, being global is to go, and come, and keep going...to make disciples!

Shouldn't every Christian university be global? Being global is walking across the street to build a relationship with our neighbors, eating a meal in our campus café, holding class thousands of miles from campus or sitting and listening to the inspired words of those who have traveled thousands of miles to speak to you. It is building bridges and changing lives.

Amidst this life-sharing, we discover students and faculty creating, collaborating and innovating to solve local and global problems for the glory of God through Jesus Christ and the good of society. Being global isn't an elective course for Christian campuses. It is the normal experience for those who follow Jesus! It is so loving the world as much as is humanly possible so that we share in the likeness and passion of our heavenly Father who "so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

  
Dr. John Fozard, President



<sup>1</sup>Angel Cabrera, Harvard Business Review: <https://hbr.org/2012/04/what-being-global-really-means>



# Dream Bigger. Do Greater.

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PLEASE SEND IT TO  
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MID-AMERICA  
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



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@MACU



[MACU.EDU/WATCH](http://MACU.EDU/WATCH)

WATCH MACU CHAPEL LIVE DURING THE  
SCHOOL YEAR EVERY WEDNESDAY AND  
FRIDAY AT 10 A.M.

**COVER PHOTO**

MACU biology students test out the facilities at the  
Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics.

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Performers demonstrate traditional Japanese drums  
during the annual Celebration of Culture.



**THE CHRISTMAS SEASON** brings with it thoughts of family and loved ones, of distances to travel, new memories to forge and — in the middle of it all — a reminder of the greatest gift God ever gave to us.

Every day at Mid-America Christian University, we are surrounded by the gift of our students, faculty, staff and the incredible way God's Will moves through our campus.

As you'll notice reading through this winter edition of the *Mid-American*, the fall semester has been an exciting one! Our students have grown in their studies and in their relationship with Christ. There is truly no better time to be a part of MACU, and we are grateful for the opportunity to share these young men and women with you.

We are also humbled, because without your support, many of them simply could not afford to be a part of these joyful times!

For students like ministry sophomore Emily Ferrell, whose father served as a pastor at South Memorial Drive Church of God in Newcastle, Ind., an education at MACU would not be possible without the gift of scholarships.

**"Growing up with a family in ministry, there wasn't a whole lot of extra money to send me to college. During my senior year, I would have told you up and down that I was going to attend a university in another state. That April, my dad sat me down on the couch and told me they couldn't afford for me to go to college. I was heartbroken. I am a lifelong learner and I didn't know what I was going to do."**

The Ferrells turned things over to God — and He led them to MACU. After a 20-minute phone call, our enrollment counselors

found multiple scholarships and grants that made a Christian education possible for Emily.

**"God closed the door I thought I was supposed to go through and blew this one right open for my family. Getting those scholarships gave me more than just the opportunity to learn and grow at MACU. When it's time for me to leave, I won't have a bunch of pressure or the burden of student loans. The scholarships gave me peace. God could call me anywhere in the world and I don't know what my financial situation is going to be, but through scholarships I am reminded that God is helping me take care of my future and His future ministry as well."**

When she graduates, Emily hopes to enter the ministry full-time as a pastor or perhaps in a position at a Christian publishing company. She has a passion for teaching and spreading the love of God through the written word — and without the support of donors like you, she would have never had the opportunity to get the education, training and experience she needs.

There are many more students just like Emily who have had that difficult discussion with their parents as they struggle over the high cost of higher education. Will you help us ease that burden on the families of our future and present students?

When you give to Mid-America Christian University, you are investing in students who are invested in the Kingdom of God. Your generous gifts will be poured into the lives of students like Emily and make an affordable college education a reality. Please consider MACU in your year-end giving by visiting [give.macu.edu](http://give.macu.edu).







# Thank You

I am so thankful for people who love this school so much, they want to see how they can help students like me. That's one of the most genuine things you can do. Thank you for taking what God has blessed you with and using it to bless others. You're helping me better myself and better the Kingdom. I hope I can do it for others someday.

*Emily Ferrell*

## HOW CAN I GIVE TO MACU?



You can give financial gifts online at [give.macu.edu](https://give.macu.edu), by calling 405-692-3191 or by mail.



Non-cash valuables such as stocks, real estate, estate gifts, cars and more can be given to help MACU students.



Leave a legacy with MACU! Contact University Advancement to discuss naming opportunities or to consider a planned gift.

## GIVE.MACU.EDU





*From left to right: MACU Biology Director and Professor Dr. Harold Kihega, OSSM President Dr. Frank Y. H. Wang and MACU President Dr. John Fozard in the state-of-the-art OSSM chemistry lab that students will use next spring.*



*Dr. Kihega reviews homework with biology major Kylie Hogan. Kylie is one of the students who will utilize the OSSM facilities in the spring semester.*



*Biology major Calton Woodson gets a first-hand look at proper cleanup in a laboratory setting as he works with Dr. Kihega.*

# OSSM

## IT'S NEVER BEEN A GREATER TIME TO MEET SCIENCE WITH FAITH.

To match the needs of a budding biology program, MACU has partnered with the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics to provide students with access to a state-of-the-art chemistry lab.

After MACU's biology program saw three times its expected enrollment for its inaugural fall semester, university administrators headed up a search to find a suitable lab space for MACU students.

"We talked about several locations, but when we went to OSSM we really felt a connection there. The facilities are phenomenal," said Dr. Harold Kihega, who serves as director and professor of the biology program.

OSSM is located on a 32-acre campus in north Oklahoma City. It is designed as a two-year residential public high school for academically gifted students in mathematics and science.

Starting in January, MACU biology students will travel once a week to OSSM for their lab work.

Some of the amenities at the OSSM space include a large lab space and storage for chemicals and equipment, eliminating the need to transport them between campuses. Supplies ordered from MACU will also be delivered directly to OSSM.

"They've been so accommodating and willing to work with us," Kihega said. "We are truly looking forward to this partnership and what it will mean to our MACU students."

He said the facilities will serve as a stepping stone while MACU transitions a Kennedy Hall classroom into a larger lab space. Kihega anticipates that upgrade to be completed in the next few years.

Until then, the OSSM partnership will contribute to the success of MACU's first biology program, which heads into its second semester next spring. More than a dozen new students have already enrolled for the degree program.

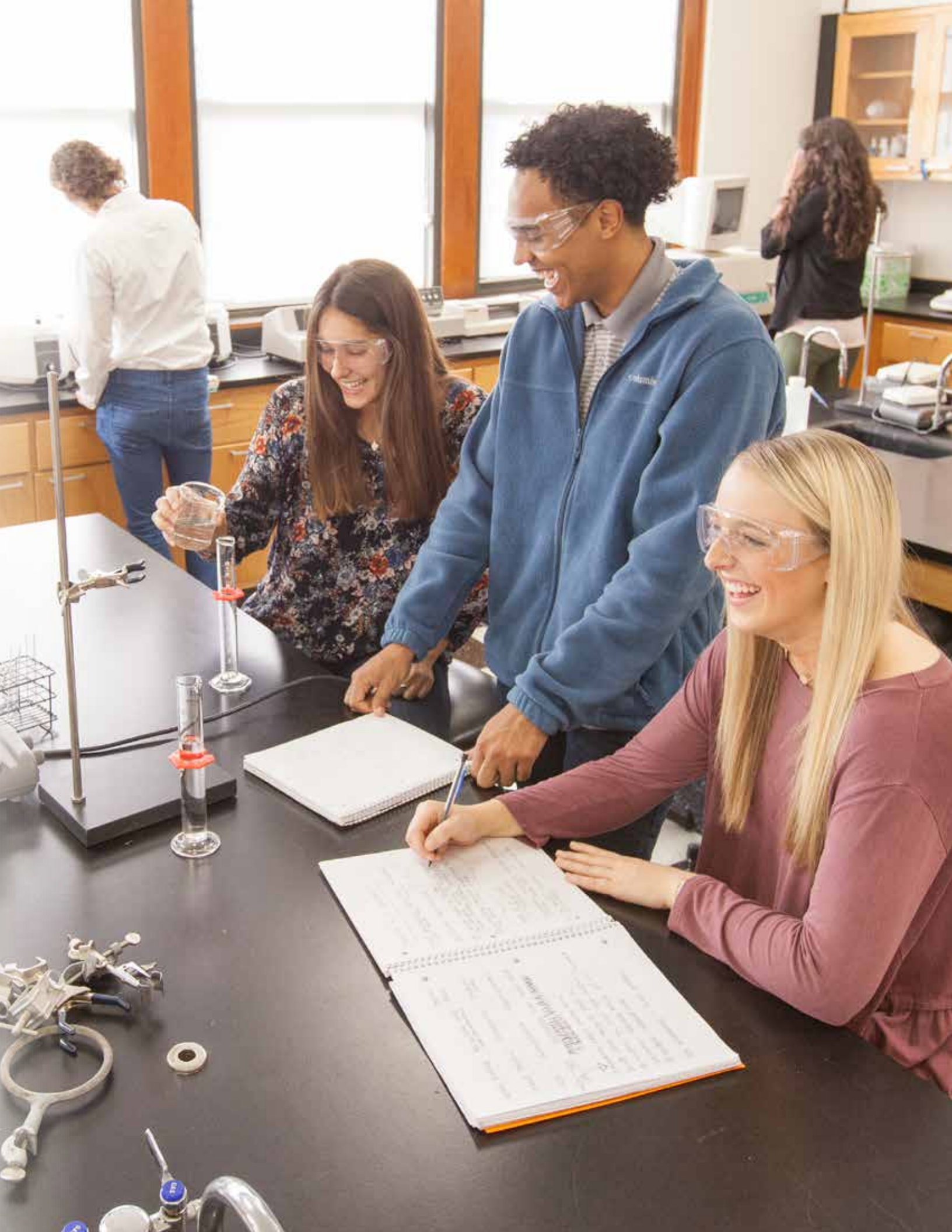
Kihega said interest in STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) careers is rising rapidly, with the U.S. Bureau of Labor projecting up to a 62% increase in jobs related to STEM fields by 2020.

MACU's biology degree program segues into many of those job paths, laying the groundwork for graduate study in areas like nursing, physical therapy, marine biology and more. Although many universities offer biology degrees, Kihega said MACU's Christian perspective makes the difference.

"It's difficult to find Christian scientists and biologists," he said, "but it is unnecessary to push evolution against creationism. We believe in the Bible, and we believe in God as the basis for how things began."

Enrollment is currently open for the spring semester, with traditional classes beginning Jan. 10. For more information about MACU's biology program or other courses, please visit [www.macu.edu](http://www.macu.edu).









# Day of Service

**WHEN WE DREAM BIG**, we do great — for our students, for our community and for Christ.

As a part of our commitment to Christian service and volunteerism, MACU held its second annual Day of Service over two days in September.

More than a hundred students, faculty and staff members participated in 13 states, serving in various charities and organizations across the country.

Locally, MACU partnered with three groups in Oklahoma City: the City Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity and Sommerset Neighborhood Assisted & Memory Care.

At the City Rescue Mission downtown, MACU volunteers worked in a variety of roles. Participants cooked and served warm meals to the homeless, then joined with them at lunch tables for an afternoon of prayer and fellowship.

Later, volunteers sorted and prepared donations to be distributed to individuals in need.

On the other side of town, a group of MACU students joined Sommerset Neighborhood residents for a luau. Volunteers donned grass skirts and sang, danced and dined with patients and their families.

Finally, another 17 students, faculty and staff members spent a day working with Habitat for Humanity. Through hours of hard work and a break for pizza, the MACU group saw the house go from a bare slab to having a nearly completed framework.

Adult Student Services Director Amanda Harris said it was a positive experience, especially for students who had never served in such a physical capacity.

“We worked hand-in-hand with the future homeowners, which gave us the opportunity to really interact and bond with them,” Harris said. “At the end of the day, seeing the results of our labor was incredible. Our students felt very rewarded.”

She said even though community service is a requirement for MACU’s traditional student body, the campus views the day as a time to band together and practice their Christian faith.

“MACU believes that serving others is at the foundation of who we are and that ministry comes in many forms,” Harris said. “Whether that is providing a service or just spending some time in fellowship with someone in need, it is a rewarding experience for us. We hope these days have a positive impact on our community.”

MACU’s Day of Service is held every fall, and the university invites on-campus and online students from across the country to participate.

For more information, visit [www.macu.edu/serve](http://www.macu.edu/serve).



**WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY,**  
*MACU volunteers worked alongside  
a deserving family to build the  
frame of their new home.*

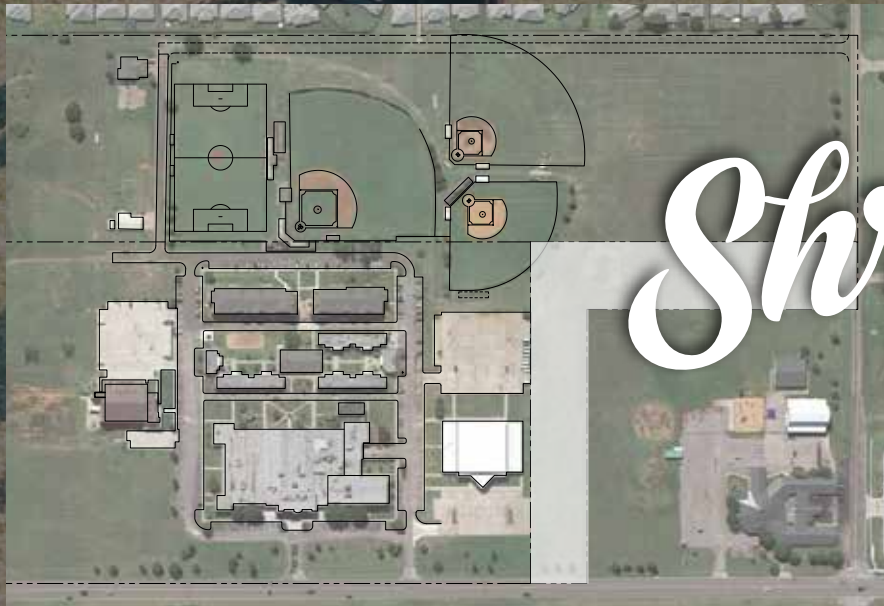
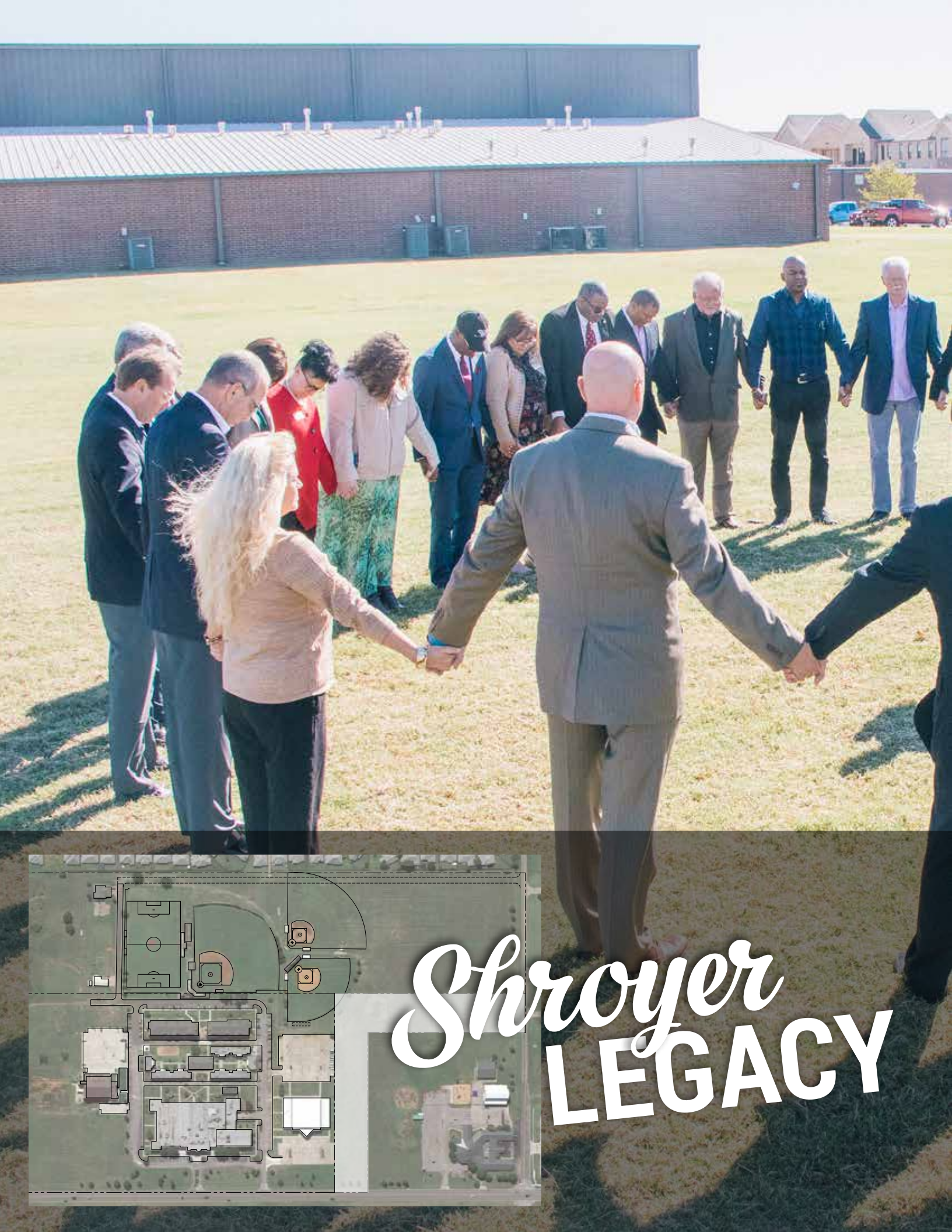


**A GROUP OF MACU STUDENTS**  
*helped put on a luau for residents at  
Somerset Neighborhood Assisted &  
Memory Care in south Oklahoma City.*



**AT THE CITY RESCUE MISSION**  
*in downtown Oklahoma City, students  
cooked and served hot meals, then stayed  
for lunchtime prayer and fellowship.*





# Shroyer LEGACY





## IN 1984, JOHN AND VIRGINIA SHROYER

made 35 acres of their Oklahoma City homestead available for purchase. The property, which had been in the Shroyer family since the Land Rush of 1889, became the building grounds for the new campus of Mid-America Christian University — then known as Gulf Coast Bible College. An additional 27 acres was subsequently offered for purchase, allowing the campus to expand its property west for a total of 62 acres.

This fall, Mrs. Virginia Shroyer saw her family legacy brought to completion as she sold the remaining five acres to MACU. The purchase brings the university's property total to 67 acres and allows for development west of the Gaulke Activity Center. MACU is grateful for the Shroyer family as we continue to "Dream Bigger" and "Do Greater!" for the Glory of God and His Kingdom!



### THE MACU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*prays over the new property during  
their annual visit Oct. 17.*



## MEN'S HOOPS LOOKS TO BOUNCE BACK IN 2017-18

Entering his third season at the helm of the Mid-America Christian University men's basketball program, head coach Josh Gamblin and the Evangels are starting fresh.

This marks the team's first season without a single member of the 2015-16 NAIA National Championship on roster, and Gamblin said there have been some challenges – but ones he's certain the Evangels will overcome.

"We made a conscious effort in recruiting to make sure we put together a cohesive group," Gamblin said. "The guys embraced their roles early on, which always makes things easier. Our chemistry has been great, and we have an awesome group of guys who enjoy competing for one another."

The Evangels return two players from the 2016-17 campaign: Keyshawn Perkins and Jordan Rhodes. The



returners each have experience to bring to the table, which Gamblin said is imperative for the team's many newcomers.

Those new faces will be the key for MACU as they try to get back to the NAIA National Championship in 2018.

With such a new group, Gamblin and his coaching staff have put together a schedule they think will best prepare the Evangels for the tough Sooner Athletic Conference slate.

The schedule is difficult by design, as Gamblin knows his team has some maturing to do in order to achieve their goals this season.

"We need to grow in every way," he said. "Obviously wins and losses are cut and dried, but if we are not improving each night, then we will not get to where we need to go."

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL LOOKS TO BUILD ON LAST SEASON'S SUCCESS

Coming off one of the program's best seasons to date, the MACU women's basketball team has high expectations for the fall campaign.

"We're looking forward to building on the success of last year this season," said head coach Hannah Moeller. "Playing five postseason games after the conference tournament last year was an invaluable experience for our growth and confidence."

The Lady Evangels return six players from the 2016-17 squad that posted a 23-13 record and a fourth-place finish at the NCCAA National Championship. Moeller has added six additional players, while losing only four from that roster.

She said the team has improved in depth and defense on the floor.

Headlining the returning players is Mikki Flores, a Third-Team All-Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC) selection who also earned a Second Team All-NCCAA Central Region nod.

Flores scored 12.2 points per game, and she racked up an incredible 206 assists, the second highest total



in NAIA Division I women's basketball. Other significant returners include Brittany Thompson, Nevada Denton and Jessica Fairley.

"We expect a lot out of Mikki this year," said Moeller. "She had a great sophomore year, but having played for us for a year now, she's already made huge strides to get even better."

To round out their returning players, the Lady Evangels added several impact talents.

Alexis Shannon and Becky Wilson come to MACU as NCAA Division I Transfers, along with Jennah Coffman and Chelseah Savage, who transferred to MACU from schools at other levels. Local high school products Shelby Thrailkill and Ossyana Ozoani also joined the fold.

Moeller noted the diverse group has already become very comfortable as a unit off the floor.

"Our team is extremely tight," Moeller said. "It's been fun to see them grow together in such a short amount of time."





# HURRICANE HARVEY

**IN A PLACE WHERE DISASTERS** are more familiar than foreign, it's become known as the "Oklahoma standard" – the spirit of generosity that has bonded the state through terrorism and tornadoes.

It's the same mission the MACU baseball team carried with them south to Houston this September, where they spent a weekend assisting victims of Hurricane Harvey with relief efforts.

The Texas city was among one of the hardest hit by the Category 4 storm, which devastated the Gulf Coast in August.

"We knew we had to help," said head coach Adrian Savedra, who loaded up vans of more than a dozen student-athletes and coaches for the 7-hour trip.

Over a weekend, Savedra and his team helped with mud-outs, where they cleaned dirt and debris from the flooded portions of homes.

Because many homeowners in the area did not have insurance, he said the repairs could have cost residents thousands of dollars.

"I was really proud of this group's attitude," Savedra said.

That was especially true of one extraordinary group of young men – a handful of international students whose home countries in the Caribbean were affected by Hurricane Irma.

"Their hearts were already heavy for their countries," he said. "When they saw the opportunity to help people in a similar situation to their friends and families back home, they stepped up immediately."

Junior pitcher Juan Rafael Puente said the decision to head to Houston was a no-brainer.



## BEFORE THEY LEFT

*on the trip to Houston, MACU President Dr. John Fozard led the student body in prayer over the team.*

"I came to Coach Savedra and said, 'You don't need to ask me. Just tell me where I need to go and what I need to do. I'm ready to help.'"

Savedra said Puente's selfless attitude spread through the team. In two days, the baseball team cleaned out four homes, which included removing sheetrock, flooring, insulation and dangerous mold.

"It was incredible to see what this brotherhood could accomplish together," he said. "You hear the phrase 'blood, sweat and tears' to refer to the hard work athletes put in on the field. In this case, our guys literally did that for two days with people who had lost everything."

Savedra said it also served as an emotional journey.

"We were not mentally prepared for the devastation we witnessed," he said, "but these families desperately needed our help. It was a great experience for all of us."





# CELEBRATION OF CULTURE



*Members of the University of Oklahoma's Confucius Institute join with MACU students to perform a traditional Chinese dragon dance.*

**EVERY SEMESTER**, MACU holds the Celebration of Culture: an event that highlights the rich diversity of the world and the God that binds all cultures together.

The university continued that tradition Oct. 6-8 by offering its students, faculty and staff members a closer look at the traditions behind Asian-Americans, an ethnic group that makes up about two percent of Oklahoma's population.

Festivities began Oct. 6 in MACU's JASCO Chapel, where performers and representatives of the Confucius Institute of Norman drummed, danced and lectured the audience on the history behind various Japanese and Chinese traditions.

As the keynote speaker, Rev. Jayson John of New Life Bible Church combined his testimony with his experience as an Asian-American from India. John's family emigrated from the southern Indian state of Kerala, where Christians trace their origins directly to the evangelistic activity of Thomas the Apostle.

After a thematic lunch of sesame chicken, broccoli beef, eggrolls and sugar donuts, a van of MACU students traveled to Military Park in the heart of Oklahoma City's Asian District for a community service project.

On Saturday, Oct. 7, student groups returned to Military Park for the Lunar Moon Festival. Hosted by the Vietnamese Community Church of Oklahoma, the Lunar Moon Festival is a harvest festival celebrated by ethnic Vietnamese and Chinese people. The event featured dragon dances, dance performances, food trucks, games and more.

To wrap up the Celebration of Culture, MACU students, faculty and staff members joined the Vietnamese Community Church of Oklahoma for their Sunday morning service on Oct. 8. After services,



*A dancer performs a traditional Chinese sword dance, which began as a military training exercise (top left). A demonstrator uses Chinese martial techniques to circulate "chi," a life-giving energy that is said to unite body, mind and spirit (top right). Two demonstrators perform a traditional Chinese tea ceremony, which highlights the practice of tea-making and pouring as an art form (bottom right). A performer beats a traditional song on classic Asian drums (bottom left).*

the groups came together for a traditional Vietnamese lunch and fellowship with Rev. An Linh Nguyen, who pastors the church.

MACU holds the Celebration of Culture in the fall and spring semesters. The festive chapel services and community projects are used to raise awareness of various cultures on local and global levels.

"By introducing our students to different cultures in chapel, and by giving them opportunities to take part and meet people who share that culture, we help them see race and diversity through the eyes of God," said Dr. Eric Joseph, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives at MACU.

Between traditional on-campus students and non-traditional, adult students who take classes online or once a week on-site, more than half of the MACU student body identifies as a minority.



# DREAM GALA

*Petroleum Club, Oklahoma City*

*Save-the-Date*

04 . 05 . 18

One night to make a student's dream come true  
Benefiting MACU's General Scholarship Fund

DREAMGALA.MACU.EDU



# BLAKE CARLSON

**FOR BLAKE CARLSON**, the college experience was a deeply formational time.

Now, Carlson is using his position as Student Life Director at MACU to help guide young men and women through the same influential period.

"For me the college experience was fun, but I also recognized the pieces that were put into my life at that time," he said. "The things I went through as a student projected me into adulthood in a positive manner."

Because he recognized that as a pivotal moment in his life, Carlson said he can see it in others — and he is looking forward to pouring into MACU students as they work towards graduation.

"The college experience is like no other," he said, "especially on a Christian campus. Students have the opportunity to learn, grow and be challenged in a particular way. Most universities don't have the chance to do what MACU is able to do."

Carlson said working with young adults is a passion of his. In addition to serving at MACU, he teaches Sunday school for middle schoolers and oversees mission trips, youth camps and youth leadership development.

He said what he enjoys most about working at the collegiate level is the ability to touch the lives of students every day — not just during scheduled class and activity times.

"You can make an impact from all sorts of places, but I cherish the close proximity that comes with having students in our office as we plan activities and build our MACU community," Carlson said.

It's that closeness that he said helps build intentional relationships that will impact students long after graduation.

"I am blessed because I am able to work with young men and women to give them the structure they need to thrive not only academically, but beyond — in what they do, and how they live as Christians," Carlson said.

His passion for touching lives reaches far past state lines. Carlson said he has a strong desire to minister to the Chinese and Tibetan people, and has lived in China for about three years in various mission capacities.

He said it's all a part of a giving spirit — something he feels strongly on the campus of MACU.

"People here go above and beyond," Carlson said. "There's a great attitude of 'We're going to help you, we're going to get this going, we're going to do this.' I see it happening over and over with people. Everyone here really cares, and they're moving forward. It's just part of the MACU culture to do so."

Blake Carlson lives in Oklahoma City with his wife, Daisy, who works as a nurse practitioner. He is the proud father of two stepdaughters, ages 9 and 11.



# SYDNEY SATCHELL



## Sydney Satchell is used to overcoming hurdles.

As a decorated athlete, Satchell saw her high school in Washington, D.C. to multiple broken records and national accomplishments in soccer, basketball and lacrosse. At the collegiate level, she played divisional lacrosse at Howard University, where she melded athleticism with her burning passion for the Gospel.

Her biggest barrier came not on the field – but on an icy road.

Satchell was the driver in a life-altering car accident that led to two months of hospitalization, eight surgeries and the decision to amputate her left leg at the age of 22.



**"I didn't get through on my own strength," she recalled. "I had a great foundation in God. I leaned on Him for all of those things."**

After being fitted for a prosthetic leg, Satchell said she was blessed

with a new normal. Her prosthetist introduced her to the Paralympic sport of sitting volleyball.

At first, it was a way for Satchell to reconnect with her athletic side while she recovered. She traveled to Oklahoma to experience the sport at the University of Central Oklahoma, which houses a training site for Team USA athletes training in a variety of Olympic and Paralympic sports.

"I always had a love and an understanding of volleyball, but I had never played it as an organized sport," Satchell said. "God was planting seeds for me to be in the position I am now, to have a love for this sport so I could play it."

Satchell said when God says He will waste nothing you have gone through, He means it.

She made the move to Oklahoma permanent, and the need to balance her passion for sitting volleyball with a full-time career brought her to MACU.

As the women's resident director, Satchell is in charge of every female student who lives on campus. She routinely receives updates on academics, maintenance issues, roommate troubles and more.

"We do life together," she said. "Being with students holistically – not just in the classroom or on the athletic field – is what builds connections and makes impacts on lives. I love being able to intentionally discipleship these young women during such an influential time."

Outside of the dorm, Satchell is continuing her training as a member of UCO's resident athlete program. Many of the teammates she practices with weekly are a part of Team USA, including members of the women's sitting volleyball team that won gold in the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

"Every day I'm trying to get better, to understand the sport more and to gain consistency so I can be invited to the national team," said Satchell.

She hopes to compete for the U.S. at the 2020 Paralympic games in Tokyo.

"Even when I'm just talking to students at MACU or with my teammates, I'm always reminded of how amazing God is," Satchell said. "This is what God wants. I'm here for a reason. I'm really excited about why he brought me to Oklahoma and MACU."

You can follow Sydney Satchell's journey to the 2020 Paralympics by visiting [www.sydnaysatchell.com](http://www.sydnaysatchell.com) or by following her [@SydneySatchell](https://www.facebook.com/SydneySatchell) across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.








## 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. Classes offered in English and Spanish.

*Apply Now! Classes begin in January.*

**[BETHELONLINE.MACU.EDU](http://BETHELONLINE.MACU.EDU)**



## Nataly Barillas

**TRANSCRIPT COORDINATOR AND MACU ALUM** Nataly Barillas was named a winner of the 30 Under 30 NextGen Awards. Barillas was recognized for her talent, drive and service to higher education in the state of Oklahoma.

"The NextGen Under 30 program recognizes the best and brightest young professionals dedicated to staying in Oklahoma to devote their time and effort toward a variety of professions and to our state as a whole," said Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb in a letter to winners. "Oklahoma is great and will continue to be great because of leaders like [Barillas]."

**For a complete list of winners, please visit [www.nextgenunder30.com](http://www.nextgenunder30.com).**



# Eternal INVESTMENT



**LIFELONG CHURCH OF GOD**  
*member Linda Beltz-Martin,  
with her husband Edgar  
Martin, made the decision to  
leave her estate to MACU.*

## FOR LINDA BELTZ-MARTIN, LEAVING A LEGACY IS IMPORTANT.

She still lives on the farmland her grandparents first tended in the 1800s, with a backyard view of her childhood home and her church family just down the road at Kenner Church of God in Dixon, Mo.

Beltz-Martin has a lot of fond memories at that church — like Sunday mornings in a simpler time, when her grandmother invited the congregation to their home for dinner and fellowship week after week.

“We had wonderful memories of sitting in the yard and visiting, kids playing and just enjoying our time with each other and the Lord,” she said.

It is that loving touch she hopes to leave on the Church of God she loves deeply.

“I came to know Mid-America Christian University when it was Gulf Coast Bible College in Texas,” Beltz-Martin said.

Her husband, the late Charley Leroy Beltz, was a lifelong educator who remained actively involved with Missouri youth throughout his career and retirement from the Parkway Public Schools system. The couple learned about GBC and became invested in the college.

“It is so important for young people to learn and be mentored in the faith they grew up in,” Beltz-Martin said. “The teachers at Mid-America give the students what they need to go on and do the work that the Lord wants them to do.”

The couple kept GBC in their hearts during its historic move from Houston to Oklahoma City in 1985, remaining faithful partners in prayer and giving.

After her husband passed away in 2004, Beltz-Martin began wondering about the lasting touch their lives would leave on God’s Kingdom — and remembered the university they held close to their hearts.

“I just kept thinking and thinking, ‘What are we going to leave behind?’” Beltz-Martin remembered. “I felt that Mid-America and its students were the ones who really needed help in getting their education, the training they needed and the background they needed to go on and be God’s servants.”

In addition to yearly gifts, Beltz-Martin made the decision to leave her estate to MACU, promising a legacy that will carry on through MACU students as they enter the ministry and go into the world as fully prepared disciples of Christ.

“Whatever I do, whatever impact I can have on anybody’s life, it’s not me,” said Beltz-Martin. “It’s the Lord that does it.”

MACU is forever grateful to Linda Beltz-Martin and to other individuals and families who wish to make an eternal investment in the university by the gift of their estate. To receive information on how estate planning may benefit you or your family, visit [give.macu.edu](http://give.macu.edu) or contact the Office of University Advancement at 405-692-3191.





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# SAVE-THE-DATE

**JAN. 10** SPRING CLASSES BEGIN

**FEB. 28** FALL REGISTRATION OPENS

**MARCH 2** CELEBRATION OF CULTURE

**APRIL 5** DREAM SCHOLARSHIP GALA

