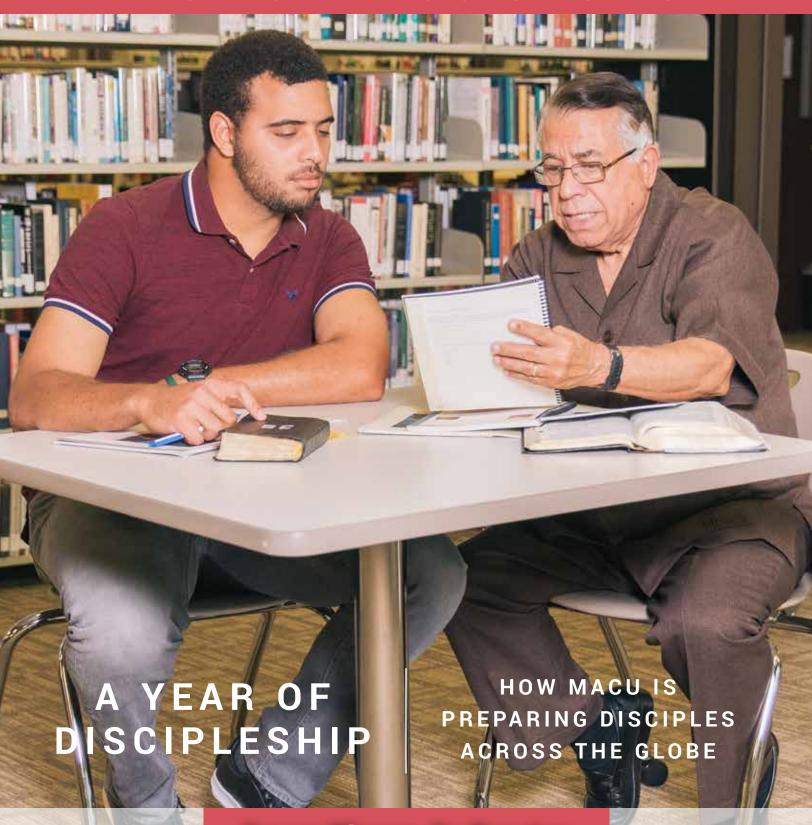
MIDAMERICAN

THE MAGAZINE OF MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



Dream Bigger. Do Greater.

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Sitting in a Google seminar, I was intrigued by one speaker who observed the emerging innovation of driverless cars. The speaker said, "In the future, people will not be buying a car. They will be buying an experience!"

He explained how in the future, cars will be designed to cater to the needs of the traveler. One person may wish to take a nap while he travels between appointments. Another worker selects a car designed with a treadmill that allows him to exercise on his way to the office.

Today, students should not pay merely for an education. Students should receive an experience. What do I mean by that?

I sat in the café one morning and watched a professor come in for breakfast with six of his students. I later learned the professor was meeting with these students helping them to develop a daily devotional life.

At lunch time, I looked across the room and witnessed an IT staff member sitting with one student. I recognized the setting. It was a one-on-one mentoring time. These are not exceptions to daily life on MACU's campus. These examples illustrate our campus culture — professors, staff and students interacting in their daily faith journeys, growing in their service within the Kingdom of God and becoming Christ-like in all of their relationships.

I've been contemplating the passing of one of our faithful trustees, Brian Clemens. Brian wanted our students to have more than just a mental education. He was co-architect in developing a pastoral care experience. Students moved from the classroom to patient rooms. They sat with families in crisis. More than 250 students have experienced over 25,000 pastoral care encounters.

After all, what are congregations, corporations, clinics, and school leaders looking to hire? They want to hire people with "experience!"

Nothing ever becomes real until it is experienced. At MACU, we want our graduates to have a knowledge of the subjects they study and experiences in real life applications, because learning is best when put into practice. Oliver Wendell Holmes summed it up well: "A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions."

Dr. John Fozard, President

Dream Bigger. Do Greater.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP

5 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

D-/ STAFF SPOTLIGHT

8-9
END OF YEAR GIVING

10-11
BUILDING A GREATER
CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

12 MACU DAY OF SERVICE

> 13 CAMPUS LIFE

14
MEN'S SOCCER
CONFERENCE TITLE

15 STAFF SPOTLIGHT

16
CELEBRATION OF CULTURE

17 Alumni discount

> 18 MACU NEWS

19
ETERNAL INVESTMENT



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Do You Have an Alumni Update or Story Idea?
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COVER PHOTO

TSIS Executive Director Dr. Enrique Cepeda spends time in one-on-one discipleship with MACU student Francisco Belen.

DISCIPLESHIP

A YEAR AGO, Mid-America Christian University President Dr. John Fozard had a vision to delve deeper into the spiritual life on campus. While chapel services, ministry events, Bible studies and community service opportunities are already an integral part of the university's pulse, Fozard sought to "Dream Bigger" and "Do Greater" through establishing a one-on-one discipleship initiative.

"We really wanted to take the spiritual opportunities on campus to another level by creating an intentional, personal connection," said campus pastor Matt Cossey. "We don't just want to walk next to our students. We want to walk with them."

Currently, 40 MACU faculty and staff members engage in one-on-one discipleship with 59 students. Groups meet on a weekly basis for at least an hour.

"As a Christian college, there are things that are expected of us — things like teaching classes from a biblical perspective, holding chapel and having student-led worship services," Cossey said. "The discipleship initiative is an unexpected thing."

He said employees go above and beyond their job descriptions to spend time with students, listen to them and counsel them in not only their academic careers and their personal lives, but most importantly, their walks with God.

"We laugh with them, cry with them, read the Bible together," he said. "We establish consistency with them, and most of all, we teach them to become a disciple maker so they are keenly aware of the people in their lives who they can invest in."

Cossey described the initiative as a unique opportunity to help students find their callings while imprinting their hearts with the mark of discipleship.

"We are in the position to help young people discover and explore what they were created to do," he said. "In 20 years, they can look back and see that there were people in their lives who reached out to them in a deeply profound way. And hopefully when they think about that, they will realize they can do the same thing for someone else."





FLASH CARTER

FLASH CARTER FOUND GOD in a high school classroom not as a savior, but as a subject.

It was his first encounter with Christianity in England, a country where more than half the population identifies as non-Christian.

"I didn't hear about any sort of religion until I was 14," he said. "We took a religious education class and that was the first I knew about anything related to God. To be honest, I wasn't really even paying attention."

Carter grew up in Middlesbrough, an English town marked by knife crime, drug use and high teen pregnancy rates. His parents left when he was young, so he and his twin brother, Dash, were raised by their grandparents.

To combat an adolescence riddled with mischief and poor decisions, Carter turned to mixed martial arts. It was there on the mat that his coach led him to Christ.

"My MMA coach was the only father figure I had in my life," he said. "He was saved when I was a teenager. One of the first times he went to church, the sermon was on leading Bible studies."

Every morning before practice, Carter started reading Scripture passages with his coach. Before he knew it, he found himself being filled with the Holy Spirit - and he attended church for the first time soon after.

"I didn't even know church was a thing," said Carter.

At the time, a group of about 40 Americans were in Middlesbrough on a long-term missions trip to deliver the Good News to people who desperately needed to hear it. The congregation members and missionaries poured into Carter, who said the strong community of believers around him led to his salvation through Jesus Christ.

Carter said his family immediately saw a change in him caused by his choice to surrender his heart to God.

"I was a horrible teenager. I was a hooligan. I did whatever I wanted to do," Carter said. "My granddad immediately saw the change in me. Going to church was pivotal for me to see how I was supposed to be living my life, showing me the difference between right and wrong.

He became more active in church, which eventually led to an opportunity to visit Dallas on a missions trip.

"It was my first time in America. As soon as I came over, something came over me, and I just felt like this was the place for me to be," Carter said.

The trip to Dallas afforded him another opportunity: the chance to visit Mid-America Christian University. Since his church pastor knew Carter had an interest in soccer, he decided to drive him up I-35 and visit MACU head coach Zach Bice in the Sooner State.

Carter said as soon as he stepped on campus, he knew he belonged with the Evangels. Although a continued education isn't common in his hometown, he made the decision to attend MACU and earn his degree.

Today, Carter is a junior psychology major and defensive midfielder for the men's soccer team.

"MACU has done everything and more than I thought it would do," he said. "I've matured so much, learned so much. I've grown in my walk with God. If I was in England, I would have never had the opportunity to know Christ this deeply."

As a part of the university's discipleship initiative, Carter gathers early on Monday mornings with MACU President Dr. John Fozard, his coaches and two other international students for a Bible study.

"It's been incredible," he said. "President Fozard is super open with us. We can be transparent with him because he is transparent with us. You wouldn't get that anywhere else. The discipleship has been really key for helping me sit back, reset and assess my week, my life and what I need to be doing. It is super important to me."

He said now he looks forward to holiday visits home so that he can share his faith with his family. Since Carter became a Christian, he has also brought his twin brother, grandfather and great-grandmother to know Jesus Christ.

"They see how much I'm changing," Carter said. "I'm not the same person who I used to be."

ENRIQUE AND LIDIA CEPEDA

AFTER A TRAGIC CAR ACCIDENT claimed the life of his mentor in 1982, Dr. Enrique Cepeda made a decision to carry on his teacher's work of fulfilling the Great Commission — that is, the instruction of the resurrected Jesus Christ to spread His teachings to all the nations of the world.

Thirty-six years later, Cepeda believes his discipleship efforts have led close to 20,000 people to the Lord.

"The secret to discipleship is not about discipling others," he said. "The secret to discipleship is becoming a disciple maker."

After he finished his studies as a young man in Mexico City, his professors encouraged him to come to the U.S. to continue his biblical training. Cepeda wrote to a Church of God pastor, who recommended he attend Gulf Coast Bible College in Houston — the institution that would one day be known as Mid-America Christian University in Oklahoma City.

When MACU President Dr. John Fozard set out to open a school for missions and international studies, he reached out to Cepeda on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees. The initiative became known as the Thomas School of International Studies (TSIS), which was established in 2005.

Cepeda serves as the executive director of TSIS today. In addition to leading the school, which has seen hundreds of Hispanic students from around the globe graduate from certificate and degree programs in the last 13 years, he also plays a huge role in discipling others both on and off the MACU campus.

"MACU is a very unique institution because we are given the opportunity to disciple with our students. But you are not only a disciple to that person — you are a mentor."

It's a mission that's shaped Cepeda since he was a youth — and one that led him to his wife, Lidia, who disciples alongside her husband of almost 50 years. The couple met as students in Mexico City, where they each pursued biblical training.

They fell in love not just with each other, but with the love they shared for the Lord.

As an ordained minister, Rev. Lidia Cepeda leads worship services in Spanish every Sunday on the MACU campus. Their congregation has grown to about 30, including a handful of international students.

"My main call is to be a pastor," she said. "Leading services at MACU has been a very special time for me. To me, it is the foundation of this university. It is a church that makes disciples who will go out and make more disciples."

In addition to leading church, Lidia Cepeda also disciples young people with her husband. While he mentors men one-on-one, she engages with women in similar weekly meetings. Together, the two also serve as counselors to three married couples.

"The Lord is changing lives," Lidia Cepeda said. "The students and young people we are mentoring, they have good, beautiful testimonies. I praise God for that. He is working in a very special way at MACU."

Enrique Cepeda said it is a tremendous blessing to be a part of students' lives as they grow and make commitments that will impact them for the rest of their lives.

"The key to this ministry is finding the right leadership," Enrique Cepeda said. "If you find the right person who understands the Great Commission and that it is his job not just to disciple but to make disciple makers, the ministry will flourish and become self-propagating."

Once, someone asked Enrique Cepeda when a disciple graduates from his or her work. He said that day will not come until a disciple goes to be with the Lord.

"For fifty years I have been a disciple, and I have not graduated yet," Enrique Cepeda said. "I am learning and growing right alongside these students. There is no bigger blessing. God has been so good to us."

"THE SECRET TO DISCIPLESHIP IS BECOMING A DISCIPLE MAKER."

End of Year GING

The year is quickly coming to an end, and 2019 will be here before we know it! As you begin planning for the new year to come, would you consider making a year-end gift to help MACU students receive a top-quality education?

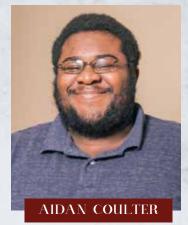




Senior Christian Ministries

Scholarships have helped me significantly in funding my academic career. Without scholarships, I wouldn't be able to come to MACU, and I wouldn't have experienced the life change that I have on this campus.

When I think about the ways the people of MACU have invested in me, it is a full circle moment. I will be the first in my family to complete a bachelor's degree. I could not have done that without the constant help I have received from this university. I have called my professors during the summer to ask questions, I have cried on their shoulders and dealt with some of my deepest convictions alongside them. I am thankful for the people who rooted for me the first day I stepped on campus and are still cheering me on today. This is a special community, and I am



Sophomore Music Education

I never had a lot of money, neither did my family. If it weren't for scholarships, I wouldn't really be able to afford school. When I was younger, I didn't think I would be able to make it to college, but here I am.

MACU is like a second home to me. Since I've been here, everyone that I've met has been really friendly. When I first got here, I was really introverted, but I've made friends who bring me out of my shell. My professors are such a blessing as well. In high school, I was told that your college instructors wouldn't have time to help you and you would be on your own. That isn't the case at MACU at all. Even if they don't have time for me, they make time for me.



Junior Bible and Theology

Scholarships were something that had to be available for me. With the lack of financial help and time to keep up with a full-time job, I knew I had to find a college that would offer scholarships. Without the financial help of scholarships, I would not be at MACU. There is just no possible way.

MACU is exactly the type of school I wanted. It is what I love to call an impact that keeps impacting. Daily, I grow spiritually here at MACU. This university has affected many areas of my life. It will definitely always be a place I look back on and say "my life changed here".







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NON-CASH CHARITABLE DONATIONS If you are considering some other kind of gift (appreciated stock, estate, gift-in-kind, etc.) just give us a call at 405-692-3191!







Dreaming bigger and doing greater isn't just a motto around MACU - it's a way to live.

That's why for the last three years, MACU students and staff members from around the country have taken part in the Day of Service, an event that brings Evangels together for the greater good.

The Day of Service encourages individuals to get involved with organized volunteer opportunities in Oklahoma City or in their local communities. This September, almost a hundred MACU students from ten states participated in the annual event.

Locally, MACU partnered with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Cleveland County Habitat for Humanity in Norman, Okla., where volunteers worked at the nonprofit's ReStore center, which serves as a donation hub and home improvement store.

"The Cleveland County Habitat for Humanity relies heavily on volunteers and their time in ensuring our store runs properly and that we are able to continue working toward our mission of building a world in which all people have a decent and appropriate place to live," said Volunteer and Marketing Coordinator Mike Davidson.

Davidson said the MACU volunteers accomplished about a week's worth of work in the span of an afternoon.

"We are incredibly grateful to MACU for the service provided," he said. "Our ReStore is a large and often unwieldy retail space. Thanks to the effort of the MACU volunteer group, we are in the process of implementing new processes and procedures that will allow us to maintain and even improve upon the progress that was made."

Adult Student Services Director Amanda Harris, who helps organize the annual event, said she believes the Day of Service is a way for MACU to live out its Christian faith in a manner that makes a palpable difference in the community.

"For MACU, a big part of our catchphrase is 'doing greater," Harris said. "With the Day of Service, we feel like this is one of the big ways that we can fulfill that purpose."

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.













MACU MEN'S SOCCER CLAIMS

CONFERENCE TITLE

It was déjà vu for the Mid-America Christian University men's soccer team on Nov. 9 during the Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC) semifinal.

For the second year in a row, MACU (12-5-1) upset the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma Drovers (14-3-3) in the SAC tournament on penalty kicks, this time advancing on penalty kicks after a tied match at 1-1.

"This is the biggest win in our program's history," said cohead coach Zach Bice after the match. "It's great for us and our guys to be able to give something like this to our university."

And the way they did it — by going on the road to beat Oklahoma City University, Wayland Baptist University and USAO-makes it even more spectacular.

"It's hard to describe how good this team is," Bice said. "They're a confident group. They love playing together. They enter every game with a fearless mentality and attitude."

He described MACU's defensive backline as one of the best in the country.

"This is a group of truly special young men," said Bice. "We are really capable of beating anyone."

That includes the USAO Drovers, who MACU defeated in a penalty shootout after regulation went into overtime. Following up on an early 4-3 lead over the Drovers, junior forward Simon Van Rheeden secured a win for the Evangels by converting a penalty kick in the final round of the shootout.

The final score was 5-3 and sent MACU to their first-ever berth in the NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship.

Bice, who has coached the Evangels for 13 years, said leading the team to their first SAC Championship is an "unbelievable" feeling. This title is the first SAC Championship by any sport at MACU.

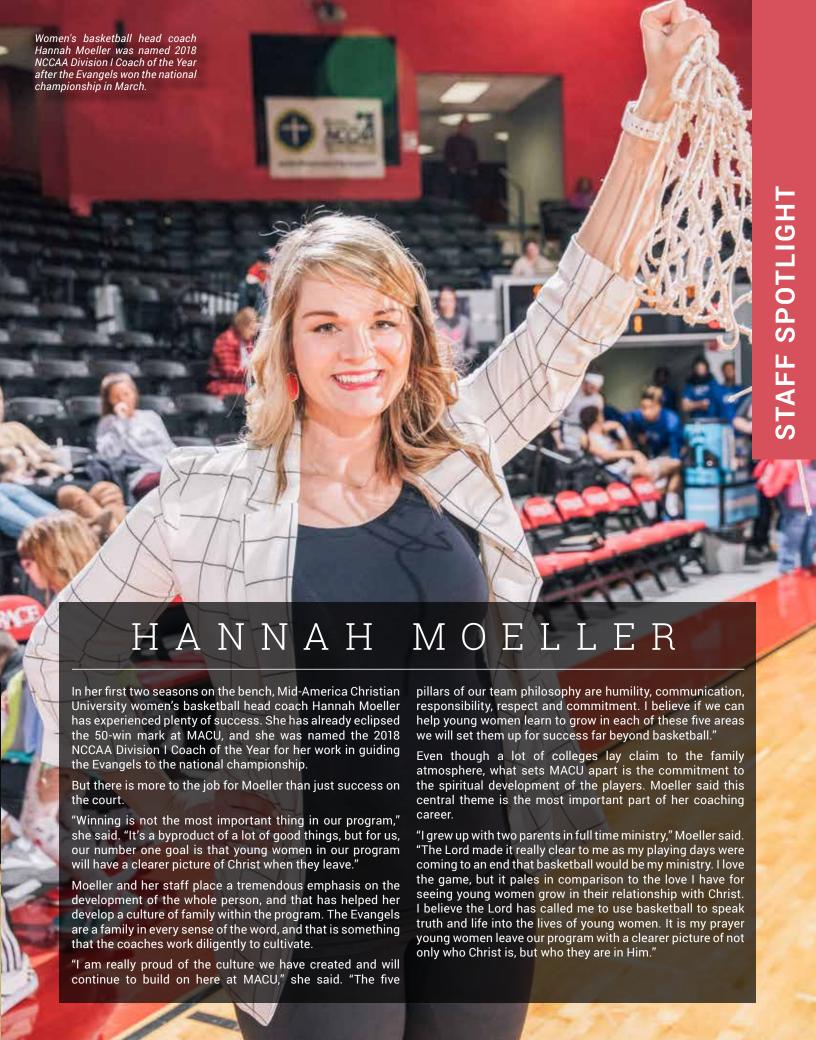
"You don't really need it for yourself as a coach," he said. "The feeling that's so incredible is letting these student-athletes have this experience for our university. More importantly, competing at a national level gives our guys an opportunity to share the Gospel in a way that goes beyond anything we have experienced before. This is bigger than all of us."

On Nov. 17, MACU secured their trip to Irvine, Cali. after winning their first NAIA tournament match against Kansas Wesleyan University with a 2-1 victory. That win marked the first-ever in the NAIA tournament for MACU, and the Evangels' first in any national championship event since 1999.

With the victory, the Evangels also tied a program record with 13 wins for the season.

MACU advanced to the NAIA Championship final site at Orange County Great Park Stadium in Irvine, California.





celebration of C. III B. F.

This fall, MACU received an up-close look at Latin American history and traditions during the university's annual Celebration of Culture event. The event, which is held twice a year, exposes students to the rich diversity of the world while honoring the God who created it all.

The festivities began Oct. 5 in MACU's JASCO Chapel, where Latina recording artist Jacqueline Chavez and members of the OKC Family Church worship team led praise in Spanish. Following the musical performances, more than 30 MACU students from Latin American countries took the stage to share pieces of their home cultures and traditions.

Rev. Daniel Caceres, the morning's keynote speaker, spoke on the richness of Latino cultures. Caceres is the lead pastor at Iglesia Bautista Hispana Church in Norman, Okla.

After a thematic lunch with cuisine hand-picked by several international students to represent their home countries, a van of MACU students traveled to Un Nuevo Amanecer Church in Oklahoma City, where they took part in an afternoon of community service.

To wrap up the Celebration of Culture, MACU students joined OKC Family Church for a bilingual worship service and fellowship with the congregation.

With a student body that identifies as around sixtyeight percent non-white, campus pastor Matt Cossey said the Celebration of Culture exemplifies the diversity of the MACU campus.

"No matter where we come from, we all share the same God," Cossey said. "We want to give our students the opportunity to take part and meet people who share different cultures from their own."

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 different cultures on local and global levels.

Chapel services are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.macu.edu/watch. Archives are available for those who cannot attend or watch at the time of the service.







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EXCITING NEWS!

For a limited time, MACU alumni can continue their education with an exclusive

10% DISCOUNT

on graduate degrees.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RING CEREMONY

This March, the MACU women's basketball team claimed their first-ever NCCAA DI National Championship with a 71-60 win over Concordia University. On Oct. 26, the 2018 championship team was honored with a championship ring and banner ceremony in the Gaulke Activity Center.





MACU is proud to welcome alum Eddie Simons back to the Evangel family! As the Associate Director of Community Relations, Simons will work with vendors, alumni and community members to help raise scholarship funds for students.

MID AMERICA CHRISTIAN UN

BASKETBA

"I want to tell MACU's story. At MACU, people truly care about you and want to see you succeed. Lives change when they are put into the right environment. I know mine was."

Eddie Simons is a member of Crossings Community Church in Oklahoma City. He lives in Edmond, Okla., with his wife and son.





Eternal Investment

NOW RESIDING in the Northeast Louisiana War Veterans Home in Monroe, Louisiana, Pastor Russell Noss has lived several lifetimes.

He received the Purple Heart for wounds in battle in France and Germany in World War II. A fine mind and a creative talent found him seeking a career in architecture after the war. But as he prepared for what he thought his life would become, in sunny southern California, he received a call from God that changed the trajectory of his life altogether.

God had a plan for Noss that would result in his seeking a degree in Biblical Studies and Theology at Warner Pacific College in Portland, Oregon, where he applied his bright mind to becoming a teacher, preacher and scholar.

It was also there at Warner that soon-to-be Pastor Noss met Ethel Yetski, a top ministry student and member of a German congregation of the Church of God in St. Joseph, Michigan. Their lives together included more than fifty years of pastoral ministry in places like Indiana, Louisiana, Arkansas and right here in Midwest City, Oklahoma, as they served in Church of God congregations. A heart for world missions led the couple to serve for a time as missionaries in Costa Rica.

Russell Noss served for a few years as the campus pastor at MACU after the school moved from Houston to Oklahoma City. He later took on the role of professor, teaching courses in Missiology. And for more than twenty years, even on a pastor's salary, the Noss family gave. Ethel Noss is now in Heaven, but Russell Noss still gives.

It was that track record for investing in the work of the Kingdom that prompted Russell to forgive the outstanding balance of a loan extended to the university in 2002, during a fairly dark time in MACU's history.

"I believed that was the right thing to do," Noss said. "I knew that the university was doing great things."

If you would like to discuss leaving your own legacy, we would love to talk with you about how you might make a similar eternal investment through estate planning. Please call Steve Seaton in the Office of University Advancement at 405-691-3191 or email us at advancement@macu.edu.

Celebrating a Life

MACU is saddened to announce that our dear friend and longtime Board of Trustees member, Brian Clemens, went home to be with the Lord on Nov. 15. Brian was a valued member of the MACU family and most importantly, a champion for God. He will be dearly missed by our campus community. Please join us in praying for Brian's wife, Janis, and their two children, Christy and Chas, during this difficult time.





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