

MID-AMERICAN

THE MAGAZINE OF MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



BUILDING A GREATER CAMPUS EXPERIENCE



WINTER 2019

Dream Bigger. Do Greater.

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT


Dr. John Fozard, President



In 1999, Catherine Hyde authored a novel, *Pay It Forward*. The plot focuses upon a social studies teacher who challenges his students to change the world. A 12-year old boy accepted the challenge and impacted his family, his classmates and even his teacher through deeds of kindness. *Pay It Forward* was later turned into a motion picture, and its success prompted Hyde to establish the Pay It Forward Foundation.

Realizing the difference that small acts of kindness could make in the lives of others launched the goodwill movement known as “pay it forward,” in which people of varying ages and means think about how simple acts and generous deeds could change the world for the better.

This fall, we have witnessed a special moving of God’s Spirit. People have received Jesus’ forgiveness! Students have come forward to follow the Lord in baptism! People of varying ages have stood to their feet declaring their consecration in becoming disciple-makers! Jesus has helped people to forgive others and in the process find healing for themselves!

Why are these lives being transformed and inspired? Literally, because people “paid it forward!”

We meet in a chapel where people and a foundation equipped “that room” to become “the Lord’s sanctuary.” Before any current student was even born or entered high school, people had financially given to construct classrooms, residence halls, a library, a café, a gym and offices for faculty and staff members. Before one person ever knelt at an altar to pray or sat on the edge of the bed in their dorm room to discuss how to know Jesus, people like you paid it forward, knowing in their hearts that any generation of students would join a growing movement of graduates who would impact this world for the glory of Jesus Christ!

We need you to again seize an opportunity to “pay it forward” in creating another ministry building! Sometimes folks don’t feel that buildings are a very good investment of Kingdom dollars, but may I remind you that our Lord first went into the synagogues to preach and teach that the Kingdom of God had come! Facilities built with intentional mission become as holy as any sanctuary so long as the Good News is shared and faith is expressed.

In this issue, you will read of an opportunity we have to build needed athletic facilities. We have already received some major gifts that have been given as matching gifts. You will discover how these future facilities will meet the needs of both athletes and non-athletes alike. Student-athletes make up more than 50 percent of our traditional enrollment. Yet 70 percent of those student-athletes have no locker rooms, practice rooms or private offices where players can discuss life decisions with their coaches. Don’t think the goal is to simply play sports. Our intent is to see facilities that attract students locally and internationally to come play, but to also come pray. These facilities will also serve our non-athlete students, who do not currently have a space for intramural or wellness activities.

Every year, we witness about a dozen students making decisions to follow Jesus as Savior. We have gone from a few students meeting for discipleship to over 120 students participating in discipleship — with a majority of these students being athletes!

We have never raised a sizable amount of funds in such a short amount of time. Our major donors have pledged their money as matching gifts saying, “We will release these funds if others will give to construct these facilities—debt-free!”

We can cross this finish line if we can soon receive the final \$2 million dollars. We may not be able to give equal gifts, but we all can give sacrificially to build this impactful ministry center! Won’t you “pay it forward?” Won’t you give us a generous end-of-the year gift to continue to see graduates serving Jesus in so many ways and in so many global locations?

God has blessed us for a reason — so that we can be a blessing! Please pay it forward by considering a generous gift that will help us construct a much needed “ministry” training center.

How appreciative we are for your prayers and financial support!

Dream Bigger. Do Greater.

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DR. ROHR LEGACY

COVER PHOTO

A proposed athletics training facility would mean an improved environment for athletic, academic and spiritual excellence for our students.



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



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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.

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MACU students enjoy food, fun and fellowship during an autumn cookout using one of the campus fire pits.



WATERS THAT UNITE

This fall, Board of Trustees member Marsha Reeder led chapel services that had three students scheduled for baptism. Moved by her powerful message of hope and forgiveness, more students began to answer the call and publicly declare their faith in Christ, with baptisms continuing until well after the appointed chapel hour. In all, eleven MACU students gave their lives to Christ this day!

This water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 3:21



11

MACU STUDENTS
GAVE THEIR
LIVES TO CHRIST
THIS DAY





LEO BEJARAN

At just 17 years old, Leo Bejaran signed with the Dominican Summer League Royals, a minor league baseball team affiliated with the Kansas City Royals. He was released just two years later, leaving him without a clear plan for his career or his education.

"Baseball culture is different in the Dominican Republic," said MACU head baseball coach Adrian Savedra. "You sign at a very young age and if you don't develop the way the team envisions you to develop, they just release you."

When that happens to a young ball player, Savedra said many of their options — and their dreams — are eliminated.

After a player signs to a minor or major league team, they lose their eligibility to play for most colleges. The NAIA is one of the only college athletics associations to accept former professional players who have been cut from their teams.

After he was released from the DSL Royals, Bejaran was given the opportunity to come to MACU with the help of Savedra and Jeff Diskin, the Kansas City Royals' cultural development coordinator. In his role with the Royals, Diskin helps young men like Bejaran get their education if their professional careers don't take off.

Diskin helped coordinate Bejaran's arrival at MACU two years ago. Since then, he hasn't just found a chance to play baseball again — he's found a new life in Christ.

"My time at Mid-America has been amazing," Bejaran said. "I have learned a lot. My English has improved a lot and I have gained a lot of knowledge from my classes. But most importantly, I have turned into a different person on a professional and a spiritual level."

Bejaran gave his life to Christ during his first year at MACU. He said it was Savedra who helped lead him to God and ultimately find his salvation in Him.

"I am still a new Christian, I am still learning," Bejaran said. "I try every day to be a follower of Jesus Christ and follow His path and start a new life according to His Word."

He said his classes and weekly chapel services have helped him grow spiritually, as well as the leadership and discipleship opportunities he has been given on campus. Bejaran is a member of MACU's Iron Men leadership group and a part of the university's one-on-one discipleship initiative.

And now, Bejaran is prepared to share his story with the world of professional baseball.

This winter, he will travel to San Diego, where he will speak at the 2019 MLB Winter Meetings. This annual event sees representatives of all 30 MLB teams and their 160 minor league baseball affiliates convene for four days to discuss league business and conduct off-season trades and transactions.

Bejaran will address the cultural coordinators of all 30 MLB teams by sharing his experience at MACU. He hopes to prove that just because a young baseball player is cut from a professional team, his dreams of receiving an education or playing again are not over.

"Leo encapsulates what the mission of MACU is all about," Savedra said. "He comes from a different country not really understanding much about Christianity, he comes here and is exposed to the Gospel by his professors and coaches and teammates. Because they shared Christ with him, the Lord used that in his life in an eternal way."

Now, Savedra says Bejaran is equipped to go and be that force in someone else's life after he graduates from MACU.

"I would say that God opens doors for a reason. I think He can use Leo to show all of the Major League that MACU and other universities can recruit quality young men and quality baseball players who have been cut from professional teams and are just looking for an opportunity."

Bejaran agrees wholeheartedly with his coach. He said he hopes that one day, he will be able to give other young men a second chance like he was given two years ago.

"I would love to do what Jeff Diskins and Coach Savedra have done for me for another person — not just one, but as many as I could help. MACU has helped me learn how to communicate with other people, how to be a better person in society, how to be something more than just a student-athlete. I feel like I am prepared to be ready for the outside world when I'm out of school."



USDA Grant Awarded

To Expand STEM Distance Learning Into Rural Oklahoma Communities

STEM is growing faster than any other sector, with starting salaries in those jobs more than 30 percent higher than those in non-STEM careers.

But for PK-12 students living in rural areas, there remains a barrier to high-quality STEM education.

Shortages of mathematics and science teachers, high teacher turnover and pinched resources mean that many promising elementary, junior high and high school students in rural communities do not have access to advanced STEM courses in their schooling.

It's a gap that MACU hopes to help close with the help of a new grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant program.

The grant is a part of the USDA's Access to Online Math and Science (ATOMS) rural development project. ATOMS seeks to improve teaching, learning and the self-efficacy of students and teachers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Funding from the grant will enable MACU to provide STEM distance education to three rural and economically disadvantaged Oklahoma school districts: Alex Public Schools, Peggs Public Schools and Stilwell Public Schools.

"Mid-America Christian University is pleased to be at the forefront of distance learning, especially in the fields of math and science. The ATOMS project will enable us to improve the quality of STEM teaching and learning for teachers and students in grades 3-6," said MACU President Dr. John Fozard.

"The project provides a national model for increasing interest in the STEM fields for economically and racially diverse student populations."

Fifty-six percent of MACU students identify as being non-white. The university is intentional in promoting inclusivity through employing a diverse team of professors and staff members, including in its biology program, which launched three years ago.

"We are proud of our ability to offer these services to an underserved population," Fozard said. "This project could not have been made possible without the support of Congressman Tom Cole and Senators Jim Inhofe and James Lankford, who supported us throughout the process. We appreciate their leadership on STEM education."

Using video conferencing technology, ATOMS will deliver subject content for teachers and students through live, synchronous interactions. Distance learning will allow for collaboration between MACU faculty and ATOMS school system teachers; MACU faculty and ATOMS school system elementary school students; MACU juniors and seniors majoring in STEM studies and ATOMS school systems teachers; and between ATOMS school systems teachers at the three networked school system sites.

The project provides funding for telecommunications technology including iPads, Smartboards and other equipment for real-time connectivity with the schools. These resources would not be possible without the support of the USDA program, which fills a critical gap for teachers in the participating school systems.

High schoolers Josh Lewis and Jayson Lantis are taking concurrent classes at MACU, cutting costs for their families and giving them a jumpstart on their college careers.



CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

Almost 70 percent of young adults who go to college take out student loans to pay for college. The number of college students graduating with significant debt is staggering — a recent report by the U.S. Federal Reserve showed that most students graduate already more than \$30,000 in debt.

To help make earning a college degree more affordable for families, MACU offers a chance for high school juniors and seniors to get an affordable head start on their college educations with concurrent college classes.

High schoolers can take general education courses like English Composition and Government for just \$175, which can add up to a significant amount of savings on their college careers. Families could save as much as \$20,000 on tuition for the first two years of college.

“Concurrent classes significantly cut expenses for students and their families,” said MACU Registrar Stephanie Davidson. “On average, our concurrently enrolled high schoolers complete about one and a half years of college courses. If a student really put their mind to it, they could complete their

associate’s program at minimal cost and go straight into core classes when they begin college.”

The classes are offered on campus during the day, which Davidson said also gives high schoolers an authentic taste for college life. Many classes are also offered online for high schoolers who are juggling part-time jobs or who live farther away from the MACU campus.

It’s an opportunity too great for parents like MACU alum Jamie Ward to pass up. His son, Brock Ward, began taking concurrent classes this summer.

“The price to take classes is unbeatable,” Jamie Ward said. “Being graduates of the college, my wife and I were already familiar with the school and excited to have Brock be a part of what helped to train us both spiritually and educationally.”

Since he began taking classes at MACU, Jamie Ward said his son has grown more disciplined with his studies and has grown more familiar with time management, effective research and operating by a syllabus — study habits that will suit him well in college.

"The ability to enroll in concurrent classes is helping Brock gain some very valuable life skills, such as the ability to prioritize school and life," Jamie Ward said. "The ability to gain life skills and improve writing and research skills will prove very valuable to his future career."

He said his family almost felt that not enrolling their son in concurrent classes would be a disservice.

"Everybody knows the price of higher education is rising," Jamie Ward said. "The ability to take college classes at a significant discount will provide a big financial relief for our family as Brock prepares to attend college full-time. We almost felt like it would be irresponsible not to take advantage of the opportunity."

Although he admitted his parents were a big factor in beginning concurrent classes, Brock Ward said the experience kept him going once he got started.

"Originally, I thought that college classes would be extremely hard. But after the first week, I realized that the classes are challenging, but not impossible," he said.

"MACU is really good at making sure to explain every aspect of your class and making sure you know how to do your assignments, how to contact your professor, what resources you should use and anything else you need to know."

Brock Ward said taking concurrent classes has not only helped prepare him academically and given him a jumpstart on his degree, but it also has given him valuable experience for college life.

"Taking concurrent classes has helped me with the experience of talking to a professor when I get confused and even just having conversations with other college kids," he said. "MACU has made it really easy for high school students to take concurrent classes, and they are helpful in every way possible."

It's a sentiment shared by fellow concurrent student Josh Lewis, who began taking college classes in 2018 during his junior year.

"The professors and staff are there to help you," Josh Lewis said. "The skills and knowledge I've learned in my classes are helping me get to the next level in my academic career. My professors know what they're teaching, but they're still really approachable and easy to talk to."

His mother, Jennifer Lewis, said that's one of the many benefits to come out of her son's concurrent enrollment.

"We enrolled Josh in concurrent classes for several reasons," she said. "We wanted him to get a cost-effective jump start on his college education, but we also wanted him to get an idea of how college courses differ from his high school classes and experience life on a college campus."

As a high school athlete, Jennifer Lewis said it was imperative for classes to work with her son's busy schedule. She described MACU as the perfect fit for him not only academically but also spiritually.

"He has quickly learned that he can go to any of his professors for advice, guidance and assistance to maintain his coursework while remaining active in his high school athletics. The professors at MACU have been more than accommodating and understanding of his schedule," Jennifer Lewis said. "From a spiritual perspective, he has gained insight from instructors who are able to integrate the Gospel into their field of study without reservations."

She said the family did a lot of research on concurrent enrollment before enrolling their son in classes at MACU — and she recommends the path to all families of high schoolers.

"We looked at some alternatives and found that other schools offered classes at two to three times the cost of MACU's courses," she said. "Concurrent classes have helped our family financially and allowed Josh to get his basics out of the way so he can focus on his career path."

To enroll in concurrent classes through MACU, high school students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above and a minimum composite score of 20 on the ACT. A student may enroll in a combined number of high school and college courses per semester not to exceed a full-time college workload of 15 semester hours. Students cannot take more than six hours of college-level work per semester without approval from their high school counselor.

If you are interested in enrolling your child in concurrent classes at MACU, you can visit apply.macu.edu to complete the free application and begin the enrollment process. You can also call 405-691-3800 to speak with an admissions counselor.



Jamie and Heather Ward enrolled their son, Brock, in concurrent classes at MACU to help save on tuition and give their son a jumpstart on his college career.



MATTHEW HOLATA

Many can attest to the old saying that “God moves in mysterious ways.” As Matthew Holata learned, sometimes that can even mean through the radio waves.

A native of Morris, Okla. in the eastern half of the state, Holata grew up as a competitive kid with a love of sports and teamwork. He planned to pursue the path of a student-athlete after graduating high school, but came up just short — literally.

“When it was time for graduation, I was a little on the tiny side to get a scholarship anywhere,” Holata said. “I had to figure out another way to get to college and pay for it.”

He joined the U.S. Army Reserve, an arrangement that would allow him to attend school full-time while participating in drill service and active duty training a few times a year. He began his first semester in 2003 and was deployed three weeks later, bringing his college career to a premature halt.

A year and a half later, Holata gave it another shot. He completed a semester this time, but received his orders to go to Germany before he could continue his education.

“It was as if every time I kept trying to pursue an education, life would intervene and I would end up getting orders from somewhere,” Holata said.

He completed several tours of duty for the U.S. Army and spent three and a half years in Iraq. By the time Holata had his boots back on American soil, he wondered if his dreams of obtaining a college education were permanently shelved.

“I had a wife, I had six kids, and at the time the focus for me shifted to raising my babies, being a dad and husband and providing for my family,” he said. “This was kinda put on the backburner for quite some time, until everything fell into place. I can honestly say it was no longer life intervening — it was God.”

As He often does, God revealed his plans to Holata in an unconventional way. After accepting a warehouse job at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, he said he realized pretty quickly that operating forklifts and filling orders for sheet metal wasn’t his calling in life.

“It was mundane,” Holata recalled. “There was no interaction with anyone.”

The job paid the bills and offered great benefits for Holata and his family, but he said warehouse work left him feeling incomplete. The only thing to keep him company was the radio, which he kept tuned to the Christian radio network Air1.

“Every day, I was listening to the commercials, and MACU kept coming up over and over,” said Holata. It was a name he remembered some months later when he was let go from his job. Despite the severity of the situation, he described feeling an overwhelming sense of peace as he sat in the parking lot, praying for God to take the situation and guide him where he was meant to be.

As he sat there in his car, Holata’s cell phone rang. One of his friends had called him to tell him about a vocational rehabilitation program at the VA that would allow him to pursue his education full-time while replacing his lost income and supporting his family. He quickly applied for the program and was told he was the perfect candidate.

Not even five hours after losing his job, Holata was on the path to enroll in college and begin his degree program. And he said he knew exactly where to go next.

"I'd always heard that MACU's programs were phenomenal for adult students. With six children, you can only be in so many places at once. When I inquired and my enrollment counselor told me it was one night a week, I just knew it was a God thing. Otherwise I would not be here."

Holata, now a psychology major, began attending evening classes on the MACU campus. He said the support he's received since day one has made it possible for him to succeed.

"I've attended other schools, and they put on this face of 'We will help you achieve and succeed,' but it's mainly for their own benefit. It's not like that at MACU," Holata said. "These guys call me and check on me. I've never felt support like this from any educational institute. During my first year, I was on the phone with my student support specialist at least once a week. She's become a family member to me."

He also appreciates the approach of taking one class at a time, which he said suits his learning style.

"My main difficulty coming from public education and military training was, it was always difficult for me to focus on

multiple subjects at once," Holata said.

After he graduates, Holata plans to pursue his master's degree from MACU in counseling. Eventually, he would like to work with individuals with trauma recovery.

"The impact that this place, these instructors and these people has made on me has already allowed me to impact people outside of here," Holata said. "The military kept pulling me, but now that I've been at MACU, they haven't messed with me much. I get it, I get it. I was supposed to be here in the first place."



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MACU ATHLETICS

MORE THAN A GAME

At Mid-America Christian University, athletics is “more than a game.”

“Winning may be our goal, but it is not our purpose,” says Coach Hannah Moeller, who coached her women’s basketball team to back-to-back National Championships in 2018 and 2019. “Our purpose is seeing student-athletes grow in their relationship with Jesus.”

Every year, there are numerous stories of student-athletes coming to know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. It is a narrative we never want to stop reading. Coaches fill the role of disciple-maker first and coach second.

“On the baseball team, our coaches are a daily witness to Christ,” said head baseball coach Adrian Savedra. “We always begin every practice with prayer. Prayer is as normal in our practice as batting practice is.”

Coaches accept that a chief role of their jobs is to evangelize and disciple their teams, following a three-point philosophy crafted by Athletic Director Marcus Moeller.

1. We expect our coaches to put Christ at the Center of the athletic experience at MACU. Whether it be discipleship or evangelism, our student-athletes will know that having a **Christ-centered culture** is paramount on their athletic team.
2. We view college athletics at MACU to be a vehicle to help young people achieve their **highest academic capability**. Simple eligibility is a baseline expectation, not a goal. The goal is that we will have pushed our student-athletes to achieve the highest form of their academic capabilities.
3. We do everything within the rules and resources we’ve been given to strive for **competitive excellence** on the field and court. We want to win. This is college athletics, and we won’t apologize for working as hard as we can to win as much as we can.

You may have noticed that winning comes third for MACU Athletics. That is not because it is not important — in fact, it is very important for the success of our programs. But winning is not more important than the first two items on this list.

A PRESSING NEED

Our Gaulke Activity Center is inadequate for our athletics programs.

Built in 1996, the activity center only provides locker room space for three of our teams: men's and women's basketball and volleyball. **Unfortunately, this means 120 of our student-athletes from our baseball, softball, and men's and women's soccer teams are left without a place to change for practice, hold team meetings or simply gather as a team in community spaces.**

As a result, roughly 70% of our student-athletes are forced to change uniforms in their cars or in campus bedrooms prior to practices or games. The lack of locker room space becomes even more amplified on game days, when we host games that see us shuffling up to eight teams between four locker rooms. That requires teams to take all of their equipment to the field or court with them during the game and then return to a different locker room after the game is over.

For our baseball and softball teams, conditions can get downright uncomfortable when they take to the field for practice in January – sometimes in unforgiving Oklahoma winds with temperatures dipping below freezing.

In addition to lacking a training space for our outdoor sports, the Gaulke Activity Center similarly does not contain a weight room. We presently budget as much as \$80,000 for student memberships in a local YMCA in order to have access to weight training and exercise equipment.

Not only is this expensive and taking away from funds we would like to put into the operations of our own facilities and programs, it is also frustrating for many of our student-athletes. This is especially true of our international student-athletes, who are not able to drive and oftentimes resort to walking back and forth from the gym, even when weather conditions are not favorable.

The privacy for coaches to interact with student-athletes and their families is another large concern. Every available space in the activity center for coaches' offices is used. Some coaches occupy what was designed as the ticket booth area. Two coaches share cramped offices under the reserved seating sections of the court, originally designated as storage closets. Six of our coaches' offices were created by using two-thirds of our concessions area. These coaches sit in open cubicles.

This poses a big problem for privacy with players, whether that is for witnessing to a player or even disciplining a player. There is no private space in the facility where coaches and players can quickly go to discuss private matters. Even facilitating discussions between prospective students and their families can be difficult when it comes to matters of the affordability of a college education. It is awkward for parents to discuss their financial situation within the hearing distance of others.



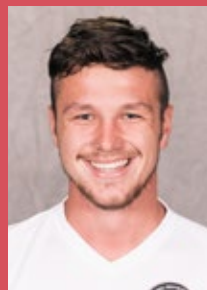
With your help, we can build an athletic training facility that will make an incredible difference in the lives of our student-athletes, coaches and our whole campus community.



A state-of-the-art workout facility would serve the entire campus, not just student-athletes.



Much-needed locker facilities would provide a private space for outdoor sports teams to change, store their equipment and get together before games.



Senior soccer defender Joseph Carter comes from London, where more than half of the population identifies as non-Christian. After he graduates, Joseph plans to use his soccer skills to go to China on an evangelism team. He sees using sports as door-openers into countries which have been closed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"MACU has done everything and more than I thought it would do for me. 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."

HELP MACU BUILD A STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY FOR OUR EVANGELS

You now know the critical need for a brand new athletics facility on our campus, fulfilling not only the needs of our athletics programs, but for our ministry as a whole. As the end of the year approaches, would you please consider giving a sacrificial gift to help us construct this much-needed facility? Your gift may be matched by one of the generous donors who has already made a gracious commitment to MACU students!

In addition to making a gift of any amount, you may also be interested in the naming opportunities we have available. To give today, visit give.macu.edu. If you have any questions about your gift, or if you are interested in leaving a legacy, contact University Advancement at 405-692-3191 or email advancement@macu.edu.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Field House - \$1,000,000

Workout Area - \$750,000

Locker Rooms - \$150,000 each (4 available)

Conference Room - \$25,000 Fully Funded

Offices - \$25,000 each (10 available)

O'BRIEN FAMILY ATHLETIC TRAINING CENTER

It is our honor to officially announce the name of the new training center as the "O'Brien Family Athletics Training Center." The O'Briens represent now three generations of GBC/MBC/MACU alumni, with third generation O'Briens being represented in two recent commencement ceremonies. Sean O'Brien, and brother Tony, were named to the 1980's All-Decade Team during their MBC days. Sean played under then-coach Willie Holley before attending medical school. When Dr. O'Brien and I spoke a year ago about this project, his immediate response was, "We have to do this!" Sean and his wife, Kris, then gave a gift of \$1 million to encourage others of the Mid-America family to generously give to this worthwhile project. We cannot thank them enough for impacting Evangel student-athletes for generations to come!

Steve Seaton

Steve Seaton

Vice President of University Advancement



WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE

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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!



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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RING CEREMONY

To celebrate their back-to-back NCAA DI National Championship titles, the MACU women's basketball team was celebrated with a ring ceremony during their season opener on Oct. 25. The women triumphed over Brewton-Parker College in the March championship game with a final score of 87-84, securing their second national title in as many years.



Salt and Light



EVERY YEAR, THE CHRISTIAN BUSINESS MEN'S CONNECTION (CBMC) GIVES THE SALT & LIGHT AWARD TO A MAN WHOSE LIFE IS THE PERSONIFICATION OF THE "SALT AND LIGHT" THAT CHRIST ASKED HIS BELIEVERS TO BE IN MATTHEW 5:13-16.

This year, that honor went to MACU's own President, Dr. John Fozard, in an Oct. 8 ceremony attended by hundreds at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Under his guidance, MACU has grown exponentially over the last two decades. When he assumed the helm as president twenty years ago, the university was more than \$17 million in debt and facing closure. Fozard saw the school become debt-free in 2006, and since that time, the university has grown to offer a hundred on-campus and online degree programs covering many different fields.

In his keynote address, Fozard noted it is the university's intentional push for discipleship that truly makes it unique among other Christian schools.

"This generation needs to be transformed by the love of Jesus Christ. People need someone to walk with them and share life with them in a way that goes deeper than

a tweet or a text. This generation needs to be filled with the power of God's spirit, not filled with the panic and pessimism that is brokered today in our society by those who profit in creating anxiety."

He said that this year, 120 MACU students are taking part in discipleship with faculty and staff members. Some of those students have even begun to disciple their peers.

In addition to establishing the university's discipleship initiative, Fozard also created two unique leadership groups for students: the Iron Men and the Women of Valor. The societies are structured to fulfill his vision of developing young men and women not only professionally, but as Christians who integrate biblical principles in the workplace.

Both groups attend the CBMC banquet every year as part of their exposure to social events, professional dress code and proper dinner etiquette.

← Rev. Marty Grubbs, Crossings Community Church Senior Pastor, presented the Salt & Light Award to President Fozard at the annual CBMC banquet.

Light

**"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE
BEFORE OTHERS,
THAT THEY MAY SEE
YOUR GOOD DEEDS
AND GLORIFY YOUR
FATHER IN HEAVEN."
*Matthew 5:16***



Members of the student leadership groups Iron Men and Women of Valor, created by President Fozard to develop young men and women into Christian business professionals, attended the Salt & Light Award dinner.



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GILLIGAN'S ISLAND

The MACU School of Music performed *Gilligan's Island: The Musical* over four days in November. High schools from several metro districts traveled to MACU to enjoy the musical, which was inspired by the 1960s hit television show.

MACU CAST

Gilligan: Thomas Phelps

Skipper: Aidan Coulter

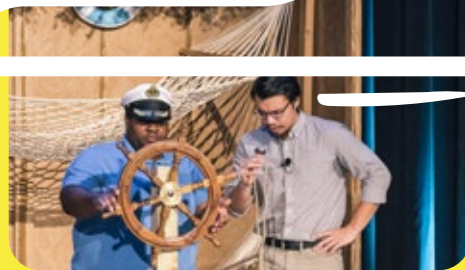
Thurston Howell: Koty Boyer

Lovey Howell: Hali Wenglarz

Ginger: Aubrielle Taylor

Professor: James Brooks

Alien: Zach Bolton



GILLIGAN'S ISLAND: THE MUSICAL

MUSIC & LYRICS: Hope & Laurence Juber

BOOK: Sherwood Schwartz & Lloyd J. Schwartz

BASED ON THE TV SHOW "GILLIGAN'S ISLAND"

CREATED BY SHERWOOD SCHWARTZ



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women's Basketball Looks To Continue Carrying Championship Aspirations Into 2019-20 Season

The MACU women's basketball team will look to continue playing at a championship caliber for the 2019-20 season as the Evangels enter the campaign as the back-to-back NCCAA National Champions.

The Evangels bring back a talented lineup from last year's squad, headlined by NCCAA First Team All-American and All-Sooner Athletic Conference First Team selection Alexis Shannon. The Noblesville, Ind. native is a force to be reckoned with on the offensive end, averaging 16 points per game and 7.7 rebounds per game last season.

In her third season with the program, Shannon will be looking to climb up the MACU career scoring record book. She moved into sixth-all time after her 28-point effort in the Evangels' win over Manhattan Christian College in the season opener on Oct. 25.

That same game set a single game scoring record for the program's NAIA era with a 130-39 victory over the Thunder. The Evangels topped the previous best of 124 set twice last year, both in home and road wins at Bacone College.

However, the most impressive of MACU's early season wins came in an exhibition match at NCAA Division I North Texas on Nov. 7. Playing at The Super Pit in Denton, Texas, MACU rallied from a 17-point second half deficit to defeat the Mean Green 61-59, completing one of the most monumental victories in program history.

The upset marked MACU's first-ever win over a DI school in any sport.

MACU will look to compete for the SAC Championship after being picked to finish fourth in the conference's preseason poll. The Evangels opened conference play on Nov. 21 against Langston University.



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men's Basketball Looks To Return To Championship Form In 2019-20

Entering the 2019-20 season, expectations are high for the MACU men's basketball team. Playing in one of the toughest leagues for NAIA college basketball, the Evangels were not only picked to finish third in the Sooner Athletic Conference Preseason Poll but also ranked No. 18 in the NAIA Top 25 Preseason Poll.

The MACU men's basketball team is coming off a successful 2018-19 campaign that saw the Evangels go 21-13 and appear in their first NAIA Tournament since winning the 2016 NAIA National Championship.

Three weeks into the new season, the Evangels are already turning heads as MACU is off to its best start in more than two decades. MACU has won its first five games of the season, including a 103-89 victory over No. 11 LSU Shreveport in the Gaulke Activity Center on Nov. 7.

In his fifth season at the helm, MACU head men's basketball coach Josh Gamblin has assembled a squad that will look to contend for a Sooner Athletic Conference title, despite having just four returners from a season ago. Of the returners,

redshirt junior forward Dominick Ford has provided strong leadership early on in the season, averaging 9.4 points and 7.2 rebounds per game through the first five contests.

The Evangels are incredibly proud of the incoming core of players they've recruited in the off-season, led by redshirt senior forward Cedric Wright. Wright has led MACU in both scoring and rebounding, averaging 17 points a game on a blistering 75 percent shooting to go with a team-high 38 rebounds.

Senior guard/forward Ashford Golden has also made an enormous impact in his first five games with the Evangels, averaging 15.4 points per game and six rebounds per game.

Not to be outdone, junior guard Terrance Jones has provided strong leadership from off the bench. The sixth man is averaging 12.4 points per game and 6.4 rebounds per game.

MACU began its SAC Championship pursuit with a Nov. 21 conference opener against Langston University.

MACU Certificate Programs

Whether an individual is looking to stay current in their job field or make themselves stand out among others vying for a coveted position, certificate programs make for an attractive option, said MACU College of Adult and Graduate Studies Dean Dr. J. Hall.

"The value of certificates is that they point towards specific kinds of career or skill demonstration," Hall said. "There are many folks out there who already have a graduate degree, but it's more generalized and they're looking to bolster it with more specific work."

Currently, MACU offers a dozen accredited undergraduate and graduate certificate programs in multiple fields, including psychology, criminal justice, teacher education and business.

The certificates are aligned with industry standards and continuing education requirements, which Hall said makes them a great option for those who want to enhance their career or prepare for new opportunities. "The graduate certificates all lend to specific skill sets and knowledge bases," he said.

"If you already have an MBA but didn't get a specialization and now you're in HR or you find yourself interested in health care, you can gain the knowledge base you need to pursue that career change."



In addition, Hall said that a certificate program could be an alternative for those who do not want to pursue a full graduate degree but would like to become certified in the field, giving them a faster option to gain the skills and knowledge base they need for success.

Almost all of MACU's graduate certificates can be taken without having a graduate degree. The only exception to this is the Drug and Alcohol Counseling Certificate, which is only available to students who hold a Master's in Counseling.

Undergraduate certificates make for a great complement to a student's degree program, Hall said, as they track more with specific areas of interest. Like the graduate options, these certificates can be taken as standalone programs.

"We have had criminal justice professionals without bachelor's degrees who needed coursework in investigations to move forward," he said. "Rather than just take a couple of random classes they have to pay for out of their pocket, they can pursue this certificate, which allows them to qualify for financial aid and have a credential to put on their resume that is more substantial than 'I took these two or three classes.'"

That credential can make a big difference when it comes to landing a job, Hall said. Having a specialized certificate in a field can give a candidate a leg up over others who only have generic degrees.

MACU's 100% online certificate programs vary from 12 to 24 hours in length. Students who pursue a certificate program are eligible for financial aid.

If you are interested in earning a certificate from MACU, call 888-888-2341 or apply today at apply.macu.edu

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

During the Fall 2019 meeting of the MACU Board of Trustees, seven Trustees members were elected or re-elected into new positions and terms.



DR. RANDALL SPENCE

*voted Chair of the
Board of Trustees*

- Academic Affairs Committee
- CEO Evaluation Committee
- Governance Committee



DR. GARY KENDALL

*voted Vice Chair of the
Board of Trustees*

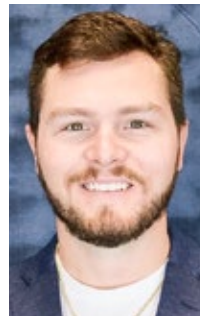
- Academic Affairs Committee
- CEO Evaluation Committee



MR. STEVEN GOO

*re-elected as Secretary
of the Board of Trustees*

- Finance Audit and
Investment Committee



MR. MICHAEL CLEMENTS, JR.

- Advancement Committee



MR. JUSTIN KOCH

- Advancement Committee



MR. TYLER GRUBBS

- Adhoc Investment Committee
- Finance, Audit and
Investment Committee



MR. JEREMY GRAHAM

- Student Affairs Committee

MACU is governed by a 30-member Board of Trustees to serve five-year terms. The Board provides general supervision of the university and serves to uphold MACU's commitment to providing a high quality, Christian higher education. The MACU Board of Trustees is made up of business professionals and ministers from around the country. Trustees members serve on various committees that are dedicated to maintaining university excellence during their term.

FAMILY HONORS LEGACY OF DR. ROHR

As a respected physician and a lay leader in the Church of God, Dr. Loren Rohr touched a multitude of lives during his 97 years on earth. He was a man described by MACU's own ministry professor, Dr. Cliff Sanders, as one of the greatest influences in his life.

"Dr. Rohr was really interested in pastors being as healthy physically, emotionally and relationally as they could be," Sanders said. "He really distinguished himself in caring for pastors and leaders."

Sanders, who grew up in Texas with Rohr's four children, said the doctor was one of the "finest Christian gentlemen" he's ever met.

Rohr was the first person ever elected to the General Assembly of the Church of God as a lay leader and had a long history with the church. He was an incredibly faithful member of the Pasadena Church of God, where his passion for healing and giving impacted many lives.

In 2016, the Rohr Family Scholarship was established in honor of Dr. Rohr. His wife, Nancy, served on the MACU

Board of Trustees for a number of years. The scholarship is a "gap" scholarship, which benefits all students but is specifically used to help those who need to pay a "gap" in their student account balance in order to stay in school and finish their education.

"Dr. Rohr was a gracious, generous man with his resources all his life," Sanders said. "This scholarship has been a fantastic way to honor Dr. Rohr and his wife, Nancy, as faithful supporters of the university."

MACU is eternally grateful to the Rohr family for their generous contributions to MACU students through the Rohr Family Scholarship. If you are interested in making your own eternal investment, we would love to talk with you about how you can help MACU students for generations to come. Please call the Office of University Advancement at 405-692-3191 or email advancement@macu.edu.



Former MACU Trustee Dr. Loren Rohr seated in the foreground with four generations of the Rohr family, including four MACU alums.



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