MID-AMERICAN

2026 FALL MAGAZINE



FALL 2026
MID-AMERICAN MAGAZINE

EDITOR
Whitney Knight ('16)

DESIGN
Haylee Batdorf ('22)
Whitney Knight

WRITERS
Haylee Batdorf
Whitney Knight
Ashley Gotcher (G'19)
Anna-Kate Owens (G'22)
Bella Renda

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Haylee Batdorf
Akira Ono ('26)
Sunny Thomas

DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS
Anna-Kate Owens

VICE PRESIDENT OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS
Ashley Gotcher

Do you have a prayer request? We would love to pray for you. Visit **www.macu.edu/prayer**.

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.

MID-AMERICA
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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LETTER FROM THE **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Friends, Alumni, and Families–

As I review the recent reports coming before the Board of Trustees and reflect on the remarkable season our institution is experiencing, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. The incredible momentum we see across our campus today is a clear testament to God's enduring faithfulness and the shared dedication of our exceptional faculty, staff, and students.

This Fall marks a special milestone. The Board of Trustees is thrilled to celebrate our President, Rev. Dr. Phil Greenwald, as he begins his fifth year of leadership at MACU. Over the past half-decade, President Greenwald's vision, steadfast faith, and Christ-centered leadership have anchored and propelled our institution forward. We are deeply grateful for his tireless service.

This issue of *The Mid-American* beautifully captures the vibrant life flowing through our University, showcasing how we encourage students to Dream Bigger and Do Greater for the glory of God:

- **Campus Transformation:** The remarkable progress on our new Student Center, a tangible symbol of our growing, Christ-centered campus community.
- **Innovative Growth:** The launch of exciting new academic programs and technologies designed to equip the next generation for success in both ministry and the marketplace.
- **A Culture of Service:** Inspiring stories from recent mission trips where MACU students served selflessly "near and far," truly embodying our call to be the hands and feet of Jesus.
- **Celebrating Our Roots:** Finally, we are eagerly preparing for Homecoming—a sacred time to welcome our alumni back to campus to celebrate the legacy shaping our future.

As Trustees, we have a front-row seat to the amazing things happening here, and we are more confident than ever in the direction our University is heading. Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and faithful partnership with Mid-America Christian University.

Blessings,



Dr. Randy Spence
Chair, Board of Trustees



IF THOSE WALLS COULD TALK: *A Farewell to Fowler*

Over the past four decades, Fowler Hall served Mid-America Christian University in nearly every capacity imaginable. It hosted student life offices, late night study sessions, state-of-the-art esports matches, campus police quarters, laundry dates, and countless moments between classes.

As demolition began on the long-standing structure, staff members and alumni on campus at the time echoed a single, familiar sentiment: “If those walls could talk...”

They truly would tell a story. Those walls witnessed perseverance, shared laughter, tears during difficult seasons, and the quiet, everyday moments that define the MACU experience. Fowler Hall was a backdrop for genuine community, where lifelong friendships were forged and spiritual growth took root.

While saying goodbye to a building filled with so many memories brings a touch of nostalgia, it also



brings great expectation for what lies ahead. What will rise in its place will carry forward that same heart of service. The area will become a central point of campus—a dedicated space where students can gather for prayer, enjoy fellowship, and connect with mentors and peers ready to serve them.

Best of all, in alignment with our commitment to faithful stewardship, this transformative project is entirely debt-free.

We look forward to sharing regular updates on construction as we prepare for the grand opening of the new Student Center, slated for August 2027. As we bid a fond farewell to Fowler Hall, we give thanks for the rich history created within its walls and look forward to the new memories, answered prayers, and kingdom impact that will flourish as our students continue to pursue their calling.



MAKING HISTORY

The road to Lewiston marked more than a destination—it became a historic journey that established the Evangels among the NAIA's final eight.



WE ARE EVANGELS

For MACU student-athletes, competition goes beyond the score, serving as a platform to develop discipline, resilience, and faith. The spring season showcased historic athletic milestones alongside a commitment to Christ-centered sportsmanship.

BASEBALL

The No. 8 MACU Baseball team made program history by reaching the Avista NAIA World Series in Lewiston, Idaho, for the first time. The Evangels secured their first World Series victory with a 7-3 win over No. 10 Doane before bowing out against No. 1 Taylor University, setting a new standard for the program.

SOFTBALL

A young softball squad grew significantly under first-year head coach Eli Espinosa, capping their season with a hard-fought, extra-inning 3-2 battle against Southwestern Christian in the SAC Tournament.

BASKETBALL

The MACU Women's Basketball team won their first-ever SAC Tournament and earned an NAIA National Tournament spot. Meanwhile, the Men's Basketball team returned to postseason prominence, advancing to the Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC) quarterfinals.

ESPORTS

In the digital arena, MACU Esports reached the pinnacle of collegiate gaming. The Evangels captured their first NACE season championships in both Valorant and League of Legends before launching into a highly anticipated postseason run.

TRACK & FIELD

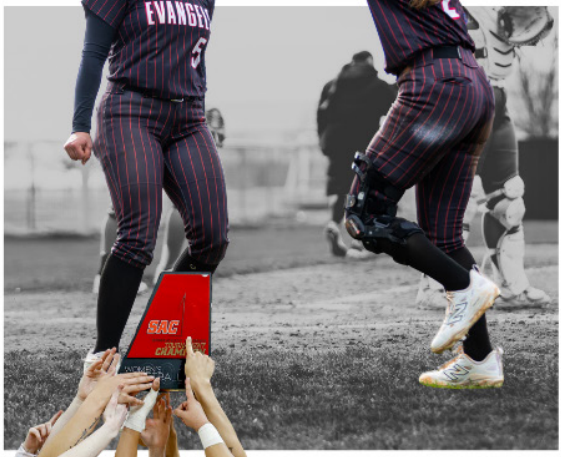
MACU Track & Field earned top honors at the NCCAA level. The men's 4x800-meter relay team won the program's first-ever NCCAA Indoor National Championship, followed by an All-American performance at the NCCAA Outdoor Championships.



CHARACTER WALL

Inside the O'Brien Training Center, a new Character Wall honors MACU's past NCCAA and NAIA Character Award recipients. The display serves as a daily reminder that while the Evangels play to win, they compete primarily to honor God through integrity, humility, and Christlike sportsmanship.


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A CALLING BEYOND THE COURT

FOR SOPHOMORE BIOLOGY MAJOR AND PRE-MED STUDENT-ATHLETE SEYI ATOLAGBE, MACU has become more than just the place where she plays volleyball, but has become a community that has shaped her academically, spiritually, and personally.

A native of Oklahoma City, Atolagbe came to MACU after being recruited by Head Volleyball Coach Holly McKamie, who had coached her years prior. That familiar connection made attending MACU an easy decision, and it has proven to be the right fit.

While balancing the demands of collegiate athletics with a rigorous pre-med curriculum is challenging, Atolagbe credits MACU's faculty for helping her succeed. Their flexibility and understanding have allowed her to excel both in the classroom and on the court, where she earned Freshman of the Year and All-American honors during her first season.

Despite the accolades, Atolagbe says her greatest takeaway has been learning to stay grounded in her faith. "I'm not doing this for other people, and I'm not doing it for myself—I'm doing it to honor God with the talents He has given me," she said.

She also credits Coach McKamie, the Scraper Center counseling staff, and her parents for encouraging her through the physical and mental challenges that come with being a student-athlete.

Looking ahead, Atolagbe plans to attend medical school to become a radiologist, combining her passion for science with her desire to serve others.

Above all, she says MACU has transformed her understanding of community. Surrounded by people who genuinely care about her growth and faith, she has discovered that success isn't measured only by achievements, but by becoming the person God has called her to be.

BUILDING A *future* WITH *purpose*

FOR GABRIEL OCAMPO, PURSUING A COLLEGE DEGREE was never just about earning a credential, but taking a step of faith.

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Ocampo spends his days working commercial electrical jobs while remaining deeply invested in his community. Although returning to school wasn't always part of the plan, he felt God leading him toward something greater. That calling ultimately led him to MACU, where he is pursuing a degree in Psychology and Christian Ministries through our online program.

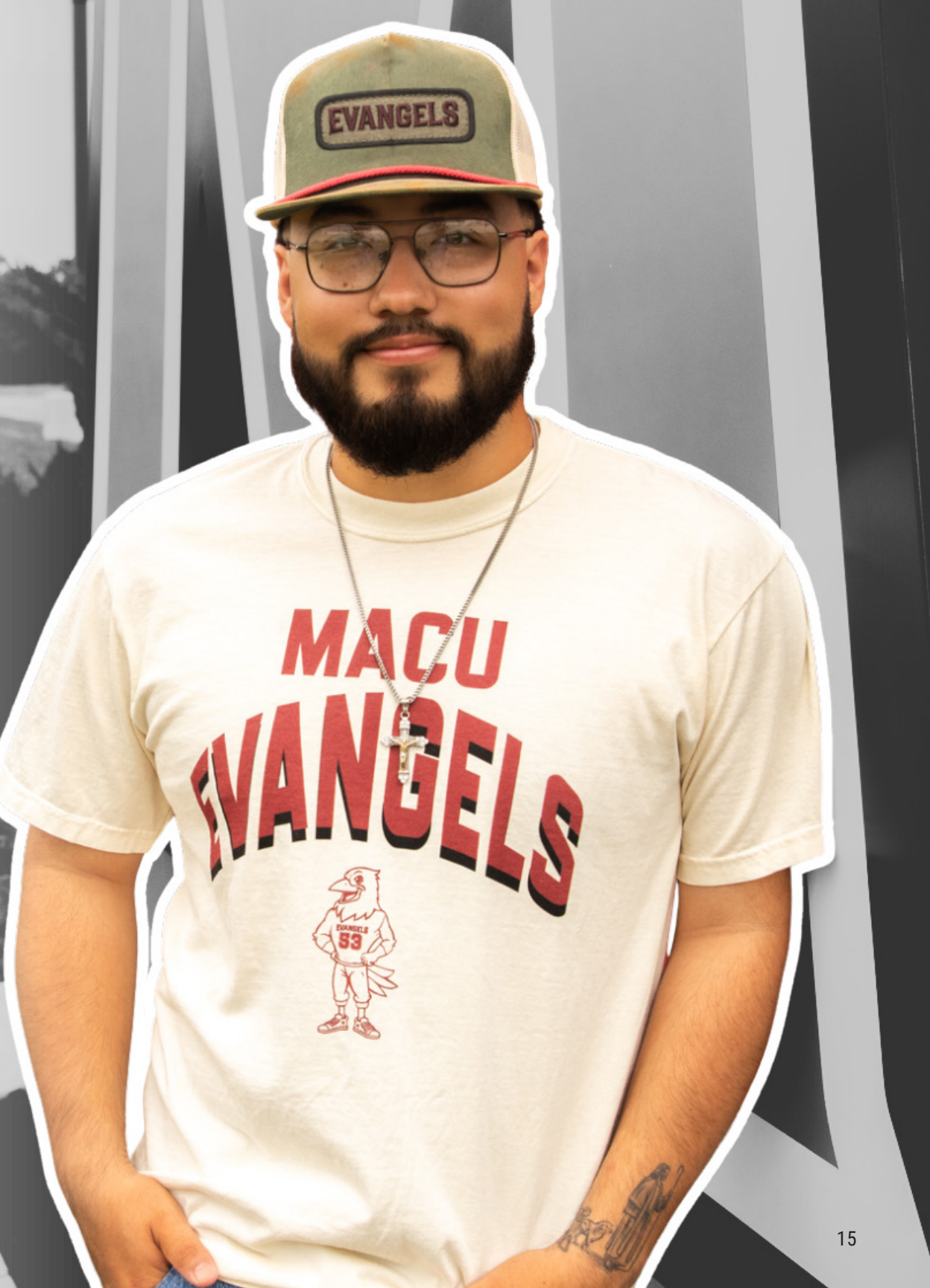
As he approaches his one-year mark with MACU, Ocampo says balancing work and school has required discipline and perseverance. The flexibility of the online program has allowed him to continue building his career, traveling, and investing in the relationships that matter most without putting his education on hold.

The support he's found at MACU has made the journey even more meaningful. From encouraging professors to a faith-centered community, Ocampo says he's never felt like he was navigating college alone.

"MACU is different because it blends flexibility with faith in a way that feels natural and uplifting," Ocampo said. "It's not just a school; it's a community that wants you to grow in every part of your life."

That environment has helped him grow not only as a student but also as a man of faith. Ocampo says his time at MACU has strengthened his confidence, deepened his trust in God's timing, and reminded him that success is measured by more than achievement.

After graduation, he hopes to build a career centered on integrity, compassion, and service, using what he's learned to create opportunities for others and reflect the values that continue to shape his life.


EVANGELS
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REV.
BRIAN
MARLETT


DR.
ROBIN
MCMURRY

PREPARED TO SERVE

Rev. Brian Marlett and Dr. Robin McMurry Join Faculty Ranks

Mid-America Christian University is proud to announce the addition of two highly accomplished professionals to its faculty ranks:

REV. BRIAN MARLETT

Rev. Brian Marlett joins the School of Behavioral Science and Counseling as a full-time faculty member, bringing over 25 years of ministry experience—including serving a decade as MACU's campus pastor—and 15 years as an adjunct professor. A two-time MACU alumnus with both his bachelor's degree and a master's in counseling, his background also includes serving as a junior high counselor in the Oklahoma public school system. This fall, he will begin his doctoral studies while teaching courses such as Professional Ethics and Conduct, Intro to Psychology, and Psychology of Addictions and Substance Abuse.

Rev. Marlett says helping students integrate their faith and education into productive, compassionate careers is his greatest desire as a professor. He and his wife, Crystal—also a proud MACU alum—are the proud parents of two adult children and two dogs.

DR. ROBIN MCMURRY

Dr. McMurry takes the helm of the nursing program at our University, bringing a powerful combination of executive healthcare leadership and specialized clinical knowledge. Before transitioning to academic leadership, she served at the highest levels of hospital administration as a Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) and Chief Operating Officer (COO). Her academic foundation is deeply rooted in Oklahoma, having earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma, her master's from Southern Nazarene University, and her doctorate from Oklahoma City University.

Nationally certified in Inpatient Obstetrics, Dr. McMurry's extensive clinical background spans obstetrics, gynecology, newborn care, pediatrics, and general medical-surgical nursing. In addition to guiding MACU's nursing students, she serves as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) and lends her expertise as an expert witness for medical malpractice cases. She is also a published author, recently writing *A Postmortem of Grief: Understanding the Emotional and Neurobiological Nature of Loss*, which explores the complex intersection of emotion and biology.

STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE OF MINISTRY

MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN its commitment to preparing the next generation of ministry leaders through academic excellence and strategic partnerships. Reflecting that commitment, the University's School of Ministry has been officially accepted into the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and approved by the Global Methodist Church (GMC) as an educational pathway for individuals in the United States pursuing ordination and ministry leadership preparation.

Acceptance into ATS places MACU among more than 280 respected theological institutions across North America committed to excellence in graduate theological education. This recognition affirms that the University's School of Ministry meets rigorous standards of theological quality, providing students with a biblically grounded, academically excellent education that equips them for faithful and effective ministry. As part of the ATS community, MACU joins a network of institutions dedicated to preparing leaders for ministry and service while strengthening theological education for the Church.

Along with this achievement, the University's approval by the Global Methodist Church further expands opportunities for students preparing for vocational ministry. The designation establishes MACU as an approved educational pathway for individuals seeking ordination within the United States, building upon the University's existing relationship with the GMC. Rooted in the shared Wesleyan tradition, both MACU and the GMC are committed to the authority of Scripture, the Lordship of Christ, discipleship, evangelism, personal holiness, and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

Together, these milestones reflect the dedication of MACU's faculty, staff, and leadership to strengthening the School of Ministry and expanding its impact. They also reaffirm the University's mission to prepare Christ-centered leaders who are equipped to faithfully serve the Church and communities around the world. As MACU continues to grow, these partnerships create new opportunities for students to pursue their calling with confidence, excellence, and a firm biblical foundation.





We are deeply honored by the GMC's recognition of MACU's theological framework and academic rigor. This approval affirms our unwavering commitment to preparing faithful, effective leaders for the global church. We look forward to welcoming GMC candidates into our ministry programs and equipping them to impact the world for Christ."

REV. DR. PHIL GREENWALD
President, Mid-America Christian University


Visit **www.macu.edu/degrees/ministry** or scan the QR code to discover all of MACU's ministry degrees!

EQUIPPING STUDENTS FOR MINISTRY

PREPARING PEOPLE TO DO GREAT THINGS FOR GOD AND HIS KINGDOM is at the very heart of everything we do. Standing firm on this mission, the MACU School of Ministry is thrilled to introduce two groundbreaking Ministry Degree Concentrations designed to help students prepare for a career in ministry and refine their calling: **NextGen Ministry** and **Applied Ministry**. Available across multiple, flexible, learning formats, these pathways provide specialized training that bridge academic rigor with real-world application.

The **NextGen Ministry Concentration** provides a comprehensive, "cradle-to-career" pathway for students called to lead and disciple the younger generation. Moving beyond traditional ministry boundaries, this 21-hour concentration integrates the essential pillars of youth, children's, and family ministries into a unified, pastoral leadership framework. This concentration is available in both an accelerated (online) and traditional format.

The **Applied Ministry Concentration** is a collaboration between the School of Ministry, Trellis, and Intern Academy that allows students to receive academic credit for internship experience while processing ministry skills through coursework. Open to online ministry students, the program is designed to help students train in place for vocational ministry through hands-on experience. This concentration is also available to traditional students through internships or positions in local churches.

"MACU is deeply committed to training ministry leaders through a Christ-centered, biblical worldview to lead churches in a fast-changing world," said President Dr. Phil Greenwald. "Our focus is on equipping students with the knowledge, practical skills, and real-world experience to reach the next generation with the good news of the gospel."

MACU DEVELOPS FIRST-EVER DOCTORAL DEGREE

IN A WORLD DEFINED BY RAPID CHANGE, the need for visionary leaders who guide with both strategy and soul has never been greater. Mid-America Christian University is preparing to meet that need at the highest academic level. MACU is developing its first-ever doctoral degree, the Doctor of Strategic Leadership, which is anticipated to offer its first courses in 2027, pending approval of the Higher Learning Commission and the Department of Education.

This program represents a significant expansion of MACU's academic mission, offering advanced development for seasoned professionals across multiple sectors. Designed to cultivate high-impact visionaries, this advanced program challenges experienced professionals to sharpen their long-term organizational foresight and expand their capacity for meaningful, mission-driven influence.

"The Doctor of Strategic Leadership extends MACU's graduate mission to experienced professionals leading in business, nonprofit, higher education, ministry, and organizational sectors," said Dr. LeAnn Brown, Chair of the Thomas School of Global Leadership. "For MACU, it represents a natural next step in our calling to develop leaders equipped to lead in an age of disruption and opportunity."

This degree represents the next step in MACU's enduring promise to equip faithful leaders for the calling on their life.





EQUIPPING FOR THE KINGDOM

MACU Partners with CCCU for Leadership and Faculty Growth

Providing a premier Christian education requires a continuous investment in the people who shape the student experience. This year, Mid-America Christian University demonstrated that commitment by sending key administrative leaders and faculty members to prestigious development programs hosted by the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU).

Erica Alvarez-Stanton, Associate Vice President for Student Success and Retention, and Jennifer Randall, Vice President of Enrollment Management, recently participated in the CCCU's Leadership Development Institute (LDI). The program equips rising leaders to navigate the unique opportunities and challenges facing Christian higher education.

"Participating in the LDI has been a transformative experience for both my professional and spiritual growth," Alvarez-Stanton reflected. "I am deeply grateful to President Greenwald and Dr. Spurgeon-Harris for encouraging me to apply and for their continued investment in my leadership development. One of my greatest takeaways is that leadership is not defined by a title; rather, it is about faithfully stewarding God's calling and using the gifts He has entrusted to me to serve and empower others."

"The CCCU Leadership Development Institute challenged me to think beyond day-to-day operations and focus on what it truly means to lead with purpose," Randall shared. "Learning alongside leaders from Christian colleges across the country gave me new perspectives, practical ideas, and a renewed commitment to serving our students and strengthening the mission of our University. The Leadership Development Institute reminded me that Christian higher education has the power to transform lives, and it challenged me to think boldly about how we can better serve our students, our community, and the Kingdom through our work at MACU."

The University's dedication to development extends directly into the classroom. In early August, Dr. Kelly Riesenmy, Chair of the School of Business, and Dr. Kelsey Carroll, Associate



MACU administrative leaders and faculty gather alongside colleagues from fellow CCCU institutions following their participation in prestigious development programs aimed at advancing leadership and teaching excellence.

Professor of the School of Teacher Education, attended the Faith and Learning Integration Retreat. As part of a year-long mentoring program through the Faith and Learning Institute, they will gain fresh frameworks to weave Christian conviction and hope more deeply into their academic disciplines.

"This initiative demonstrates the University's commitment to integrating a Christian worldview into the lives of its students," shared Dr. Riesenmy. "This program supports our faculty in strengthening the University's vision to prepare students to do greater things for God and His kingdom."

Dr. Kelsey Carroll stated, "I am looking forward to learning from experienced mentors and collaborating with educators from across the CCCU who are committed to thoughtfully integrating faith into teaching and learning."

Through intentional partnerships with the CCCU, MACU remains deeply committed to collaborating with the broader Christian higher education community to advance Kingdom-focused leadership and teaching excellence.





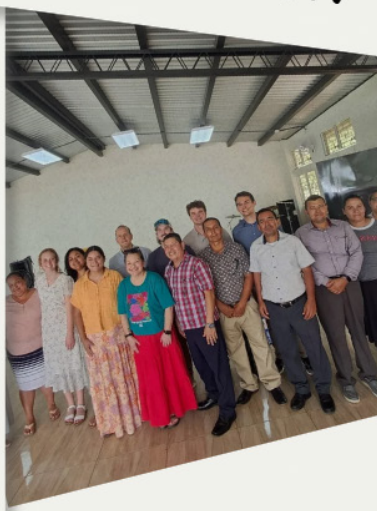




Faith in Action







WHEN JESUS CALLED HIS FOLLOWERS to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth, He was inviting them into a beautiful, sprawling story of redemption that transcends geography, language, and culture. This summer, Mid-America Christian University students and staff stepped directly into that ongoing story. Through MACU Missions, teams traveled to Los Angeles, El Salvador, and Asia, discovering that while communities look vastly different, the human need for hope remains exactly the same.



RESTORATION IN LOS ANGELES

At the L.A. Dream Center in California, a team of MACU students and staff immersed themselves in daily ministry focused on combating hunger, addiction, and homelessness. For participants like Grace Booton, an afternoon spent on Skid Row passing out food and water provided a profound shift in perspective.

"I learned that true ministry takes a lot of intentionality," student Grace Booton reflected. "It's important to get to know people and invest in them as an individual so that you can share the gospel through an actual relationship."

COMMUNITY IN EL SALVADOR

In May 2026, another contingent journeyed to El Salvador, partnering with Crossings Community Church and Enlace to build a playground. While the physical labor was demanding, the spiritual landscape proved even more moving during home visits.

"I gained more confidence to be bold in approaching others with The Gospel!" student Lexy Sweet shared.

FELLOWSHIP ACROSS ASIA

Also in May, a MACU team set out for Asia on a trip centered on friendship evangelism. Uniquely positioned to build relationships, the team engaged in intentional conversations and immersed themselves in the vibrant local culture. By adapting to new foods, customs, languages, and traditions, they deeply expanded their understanding of the global body of Christ.



"I learned that building a community centered in Christ does more than just bring people with the same beliefs together," student Alondra Arrioja stated. "It brings encouragement, love, laughter, and hope."

A SUMMER OF IMPACT

Whether serving through global travel or ministering closer to home as part of the summer Camp Team and the International Youth Convention (IYC), MACU students spent their summer holding out the light of the Gospel. They returned to campus fundamentally changed, with a deeper appreciation for the global Church, a bolder confidence in sharing their faith, and a firsthand testimony of God moving across the world.

A REFRESHED SPACE FOR WORSHIP

WHEN EVANGELS RETURNED TO CAMPUS THIS FALL, they stepped into a beautifully transformed JASCO Chapel. Over the summer break, Mid-America Christian University diligently updated the space to better serve our community as we gather to glorify God.

The main chapel and overflow rooms received comprehensive structural and cosmetic upgrades. The environments feature fresh paint, new ceiling tiles, plush carpet, and modern chapel chairs alongside expanded seating capacity.

To enhance the worship experience, advanced acoustic sound treatment panels have been installed across both rooms, complemented by a new sound booth, an upgraded audiovisual system with state-of-the-art cameras, and additional overflow speakers. The overflow spaces also boast updated chair risers, stairs, and integrated floor lighting.

As we look ahead to a new season of spiritual growth, these enhancements ensure that our community can Dream Bigger and Do Greater in a space dedicated to His Kingdom.



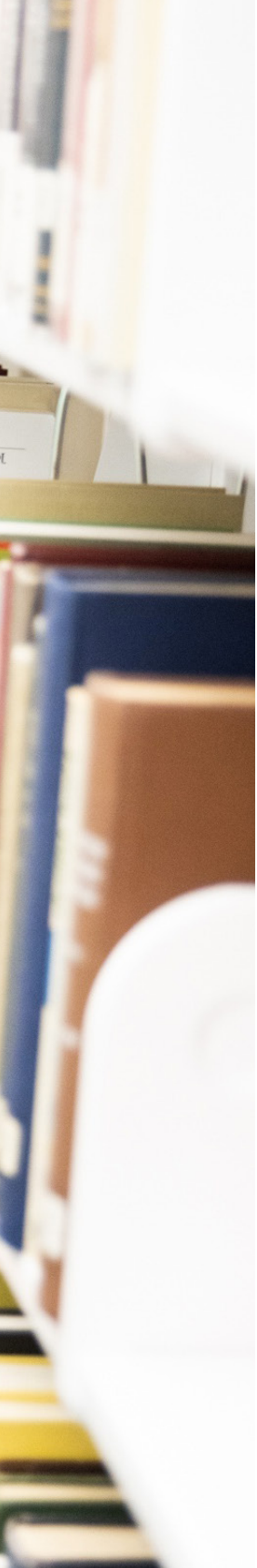
I'm so excited for students to experience the updates to our JASCO Chapel We have a fresh new look with modern chapel chairs, additional seating, new stage decor, and an enhanced audio visual system. We look forward to seeing how God will move in this refreshed space!"

AMANDA HARRIS
Vice President of Strategic Initiatives



> We want the Learning Resource Center to be a place students look forward to visiting. By switching to mobile shelving, we're creating space for cozy lounge seating and private pods for deep focus, giving students greater flexibility in how they learn, study, and connect."

MARSHA KENDRICK
Director of Library Services



A NEW *chapter*

INSPIRING SPACES CULTIVATE INSPIRING MINDS. Dedicated to continually upgrading campus resources, MACU is breathing new life into a key academic hub with a full renovation of the Learning Resource Center (LRC).

More than a refreshed library, the updated LRC serves as a dynamic learning destination where students can study, research, connect with classmates, and engage more deeply with their coursework.

That legacy of connection runs deep within the LRC's walls. When Gulf-Coast Bible College moved from Houston to Oklahoma City in 1985, Ronald Kriesel served as the university librarian, carefully overseeing the collection's relocation. Today, history comes full circle: his granddaughter, Kaley Kriesel, joined the library staff this summer just in time to assist with this latest transition, handling many of the very same books her grandfather moved decades ago.

Building on that rich heritage, the newly-renovated space is being redesigned to help better support today's students while creating an environment that encourages collaboration, discovery, and academic excellence. The renovation includes modernized library space, updated classroom environments, and flexible study areas that provide both individual learning and group collaboration. Every detail was designed with the student experience in mind, creating spaces that are welcoming and adaptable to a variety of learning styles.

As the University continues to enhance the student experience, the refreshed LRC will be a welcoming, modern space that equips students for success both inside and outside the classroom.

TECH WITH A MISSION

How New Innovations are Transforming the Student Experience

MACU has been awarded a $1.3 million federal grant administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The funding will establish a new engineering degree program that integrates artificial intelligence (AI) across teaching, learning, research, and workforce preparation. This investment allows the University to expand its STEM offerings while leveraging advanced technologies to enhance student learning. Building on MACU's partnership with the Oklahoma Friction Free Network (OFFN), students and faculty will gain access to the University of Oklahoma's high-performance supercomputing resources, enabling advanced AI development, engineering simulations, research, and hands-on learning. This advanced computing infrastructure will prepare students to excel in engineering and AI-driven careers while furthering MACU's Christ-centered mission of equipping graduates to lead and serve.

In tandem with our new artificial intelligence (AI) initiatives, a dedicated team of developers and staff is building a mobile app designed to connect, inform, and support the MACU community. Whether studying on campus or online, every student will soon have access to a centralized hub for the resources they use every day.

The app, named Ask Max, leverages AI to simplify the student experience by providing instant access to essential information through a conversational interface. Students can simply ask Max a question and receive immediate answers or be directed to the appropriate campus resources.

Key features will include:

- **Academic Information:** Quick, on-the-go access to billing, class schedules, campus locations, and important academic deadlines. Personalized push notifications will help students stay on top of upcoming assignments and key dates.
- **Faith Integration:** Daily devotionals, Scripture, worship music playlists, and other spiritual resources will encourage students and help keep Christ at the center of their daily lives.
- **Campus Dining:** Real-time access to cafeteria menus and daily meal offerings.
- **Fitness & Wellness:** Students can ask Max to generate personalized workout plans tailored to their fitness goals and the equipment available in the O'Brien Training Center.

By bringing together faith, learning, and innovative technology, Ask Max is designed to do more than improve efficiency—it will strengthen engagement, foster community, and support student success both inside and outside the classroom. We look forward to sharing additional updates as we continue expanding the capabilities of this exciting new platform.



At MACU, we believe that technology should never replace the personal relationships that define a Christ-centered university—it should strengthen them. Our goal is to leverage artificial intelligence and emerging technologies to remove barriers, enhance learning, and create more meaningful opportunities for students to succeed academically, grow spiritually, and prepare for the careers God has called them to."

JODY ALLEN

Chief Information Officer, Mid-America Christian University

CHARACTER, COMPETENCE, AND CALLING

The Minister's Renewal Institute has long been a cherished tradition, shaping our campus and encouraging ministry leaders for generations. Deeply woven into the fabric of our university, MRI has held a special place in the heart of the MACU community since its founding. From our beginnings in Houston to our home in Oklahoma City, MRI has reflected our commitment to equipping those called to ministry. This year, we are honored to once again host this meaningful gathering and continue a tradition that has left a lasting impact on our university and beyond.

Mark your calendars and join us on campus September 17-19 for our 2026 MRI. This year's institute holds a special significance as it coincides with the 2026 Church of God Oklahoma General Assembly, creating a truly unique opportunity for shared learning. Grounded in our Wesleyan perspective, our 2026 theme, Character and Competence: Challenges in Ministry Since the First Century, will explore the timeless qualities of effective ministry leadership required to navigate an ever-changing world.

We are honored to welcome Rev. Dr. Cliff Sanders and Rev. Bill Search as our keynote speakers for this year's event. Whether you are serving on the front lines of pastoral leadership or preparing for future ministry, this gathering is designed to help you step away for intentional fellowship, theological study, and mutual encouragement so you can return to your calling refreshed and inspired.

For a schedule of events and to register, please visit **www.macu.edu/institute** or scan this QR code.



REV. DR. CLIFF SANDERS



REV. BILL SEARCH



ROBERTSON TO LEAD SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION WEEK

We are pleased to welcome Pete Robertson as the speaker for this year's Spiritual Transformation Week, taking place September 8-11. The week will encourage students, faculty, and staff to deepen their relationship with Christ and embrace a life of intentional discipleship.

Pete Robertson brings decades of ministry experience, having served as a youth pastor for nine years, helped plant two churches, and now leads Natural Discipleship, an international ministry that equips churches and ministry leaders through discipleship training, curriculum, and coaching. He and his wife, Christine, own Mission Travel Faith Tours, a faith-based travel company that has partnered with MACU to provide educational experiences around the world.

The Robertsons first connected with MACU while traveling with the University over the past year. Since then, Pete says he has been continually impressed by MACU's commitment to both academic excellence and spiritual formation.

As they prepare to visit campus, they are especially excited to reconnect with students and faculty they have traveled with and to meet new members of the MACU family. During the week, Pete hopes to challenge attendees to view discipleship as more than a ministry program.

"At its core, discipleship is a lifelong journey of following Jesus, being transformed by Him, and helping others do the same," Robertson said.

Their hope is that students leave with a renewed sense of purpose and the confidence that God can use them to make a lasting impact wherever He calls them.

Dreaming Bigger

THE 2026 IMPACT AWARDS KICK OFF HOMECOMING WEEKEND

On Thursday, October 29, 2026, the University will officially kick off Homecoming weekend with our annual iMpact Awards. Hosted on campus in the beautiful outdoor space behind Kennedy Hall, this special evening is dedicated to celebrating the trailblazers, educators, ministers, and community pillars who have profoundly shaped and continue to shape our MACU community.

Scan the QR code or visit ***www.macu.edu/impactawards*** *to learn more and purchase tickets!*

The evening will begin at 5:30 PM with a warm reception and dinner, followed by the main awards program at 6:00 PM. It promises to be a night filled with shared memories, deep inspiration, and a collective celebration of faith in action.

2026 Award Honorees

Lifetime Achievement Award

Rev. Steve Chiles ('79) | Shartel Church of God



For decades, Rev. Steve Chiles has served as a beacon of spiritual leadership, pastoral wisdom, and unwavering faith. A proud alumnus from the Class of 1979, his life's work at Shartel Church of God reflects a profound, lifelong dedication to sharing the Gospel and shepherding others. This award honors his enduring legacy of ministry and his lifetime of service to the Kingdom.

Heart of an Evangel Award

Chip Taylor ('97) | Intern Academy



The heart of an Evangel is defined by a passion for outward-focused service and mentoring the next generation of faith leaders. Chip Taylor, a 1997 graduate, has spent his career equipping young leaders to discover their calling. Through his impactful work with Intern Academy, Chip exemplifies the active, servant-hearted faith that MACU strives to instill in every student.

Young Alumni Award
Catherine Shaffer ('18) | Crossings Mayfair



Since graduating in 2018, Catherine Shaffer has demonstrated exceptional leadership and service in her role as the Children's Pastor at Crossings Mayfair. Her dedication to her community and her early professional achievements serve as an inspiring example to our current students.

Educator Award
Karlie Minson ('19) | Oklahoma City Public Schools



Teaching is more than a career; it is a sacred calling to shape minds and hearts. Karlie Minson, Class of 2019, lives out this calling daily within Oklahoma City Public Schools. Her commitment to educational excellence, student advocacy, and compassion in the classroom represents the very best of MACU's mission in the marketplace.

Community Impact Award
Earlywine Park YMCA



Transformation happens when organizations commit to lifting up the neighborhoods around them. The Earlywine Park YMCA has been an invaluable partner in fostering wellness, connection, and growth within our local community. We are proud to honor their outstanding contributions to the health, safety, and vitality of our neighbors in Oklahoma City.

Evangel Impact Award
Bella Renda | Ministry Leadership & Marketing Senior



The Evangel Impact Award recognizes a current student who is already doing greater things for God's Kingdom right here on campus. As a senior double-majoring in Ministry Leadership and Marketing, Bella Renda beautifully balances academic excellence with active spiritual leadership. Her dedication to her peers, her studies, and the MACU mission shines brightly as a promise of the great things still to come.

WELCOME HOME: JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING 2026!

Mark your calendar for October 29–31 for Homecoming 2026! Whether you're reconnecting with lifelong friends, cheering on our Evangels at MACU Athletics games, or making new memories with your family, Homecoming at MACU is a celebration of our community.

FEATURED EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCT. 29

- 2026 iMpact Awards, 6 PM

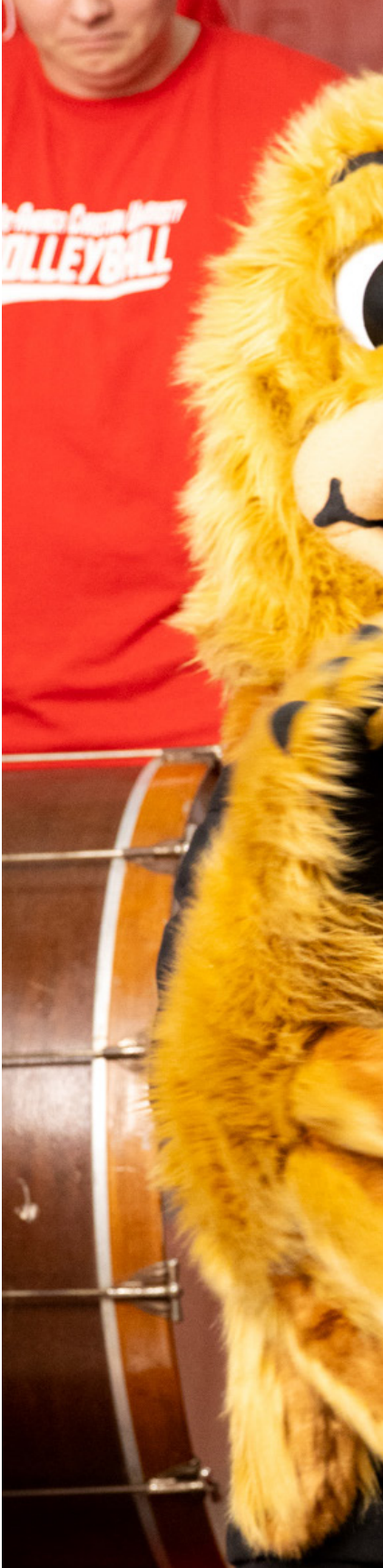
FRIDAY, OCT. 30

- President's Roundtable Breakfast, 8 AM
- Reception and Tours, Morning
- Alumni Cookout, Noon
- Trunk-or-Treat, 5:30 PM

SATURDAY, OCT. 31

- Alumni Worship Service, 10 AM
- Food Trucks, Morning
- Double-Header Basketball Games, 2 & 4 PM

Visit **www.macu.edu/homecoming** or scan this QR code to register for Homecoming 2026!







Scan the QR code to read the complete article on Education Magazine's website!



PREPARING LEADERS FOR MINISTRY AND THE MARKETPLACE

Inside President Greenwald's Feature in *Education Magazine*

We are delighted to share some wonderful news across our MACU community! Education Magazine has named President Phil Greenwald one of "The 10 Leaders Transforming Education, 2026."

The national feature—titled "Rev. Dr. Phil Greenwald: How Faith, Vision, and a Culture of Excellence Are Driving Mid-America Christian University's Mission"—celebrates his commitment to Christ-centered leadership, academic innovation, and the holistic growth of every student who steps onto our campus or joins us online.



FAMILY UPDATE: President Greenwald's youngest daughter, Tori, married Elijah Absher in a ceremony in Oklahoma City this summer.

As President Greenwald enters his fifth year of leading MACU, our University is experiencing a season of momentum and steady growth. From revitalized campus spaces to expanding pathways for adult and graduate learners, his posture remains one of radical hospitality and intentional stewardship—proving every day that deep faith and modern relevance belong hand in hand.

At its core, this recognition reflects the shared heart of our entire campus community. It is a quiet reminder of why we do what we do: walking alongside our students as they pursue their calling and live out their faith for the glory of God and the good of those around them.

MID-AMERICA
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
3500 S.W. 119th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73170

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