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## Dynamic Duo Goes the Extra Mile

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Man's Life During Spring Break

# Dynamic Duo, Champions of Student Health

Tara attended UCO and Molly attended OSU-OKC. They have a combined 36 and a half years of experience.

story by Vickie Jenkins, Staff Writer

School nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the health, safety and academic success of students. The school nurse serves as a liaison between personnel, family, community and healthcare providers to advocate for health care and a healthy school.

When it comes to school healthcare, two nurses stand out for their excellence: Tara Brown, RN and Molly Digiantomasso, RN, known to their students as Nurse Tara and Nurse D. Their dedication and compassionate care touch the lives of countless students, setting a standard of excellence that shows admiration and respect throughout the Bethany School District. Serving approximately 1,700 students across Earl Harris

Elementary, Bethany Middle School, Bethany High School plus caring for children from the Bethany Children's Health Center who attend morning and afternoon classes.

Tara attended UCO and Molly attended OSU-OKC. As school nurses, they were strong advocates for children, especially when the kids struggled to express their health concerns to their parents. The health issues the nurses encountered most often were headaches and stomachaches, which in younger children could sometimes be alleviated by a simple peppermint, or a short break from class. They also spent time educating students about the daily medications needed at specific times and managing the long lines of the annual vision screening.

Of course there are always those unexpected emergencies that arise. Broken bones, seizures, diabetic issues and EpiPen incidents that require stitches or x-rays. In these cases, parents are contacted, and sometimes, an ambulance is called. With an average of 1,100 students seen in a month, a few accidents are bound to happen. It is a true blessing that Tara and Molly show their love and compassion for the children from Bethany Children's Health Center, a leading facility in pediatric rehabilitation and 24-hour complex care. Currently, 16 children from the center attend Earl Harris Elementary School to learn and socialize with others. Some of these children are on ventilators, and in such cases, a nurse accompanies them to school.

Between the two nurses, Tara and Molly, they have a combined 36 and a half years of experience. When Tara recalls her kindergarten teacher standing at the front of the room with a board displaying cards with various careers written on them. As the

children walked to the front of the class, Tara picked one that said, 'nurse.' Although this moment planted a seed, she didn't seriously pursue nursing until she was a sophomore in college.

On the other hand, Molly wanted to be an artist. Apparently, her artistic days were short-lived. Molly began her nursing career working in pediatrics and became a school nurse when she volunteered to go on a fifth-grade field trip with her son's class in Oklahoma City. She loved being with the kids, getting to know them a little better and caring for their scraped knees and bruises. When a school nurse position opened up, she jumped at the opportunity. Both Tara and Molly agree, they both prefer working as a school nurse over working in a hospital.

When asked about the qualities a school nurse should have, Tara and Molly listed a few key elements. "First and foremost, a school nurse must genuinely like kids. They should have patience and understanding, as well as the ability to read between the

See DYNAMIC Page 3

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Tara Brown, RN, and Molly Digiantomasso, RN, are school nurses for the Bethany School District. The school nurses wear many hats but their main focus is caring for the students and going the extra mile.

## DYNAMIC

Continued from Page 2

lines when students are dealing with peer pressure or problems at home," Tara commented. "Sometimes, students just need someone to listen to them. Most importantly, a school nurse should have an open mind, be committed to continuous learning and above all, care deeply for the students to make them feel safe," Molly added.

At Earl Harris Elementary School, there are special events in which both students and teachers

participate. Tara fondly remembers the hundredth day of school when all the younger students dressed up as old people. "It was the cutest thing I had ever seen," she said with a laugh. Molly's favorite event was Thunder Day when all the students wore their Thunder attire. "It was exciting for the students, the teacher, and the nurses," she said.

A big THANK YOU to all of the school nurses everywhere! Thank you, Tara and Molly for giving your genuine love to the students of Bethany School District.

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# OBU Honors Nursing Graduates During Pinning Ceremony on May 17



OBU's 2024 nursing graduates were honored Friday during the Pinning and Lamp-Lighting Ceremony at Immanuel Baptist Church in Shawnee.

Oklahoma Baptist University honored its class of graduating nurses during the School of Nursing's Pinning and Lamp Lighting Ceremony held Friday, May 17, at Immanuel Baptist Church in Shawnee.

Dr. Stephanie Parker, chair of the OBU School of Nursing, welcomed the graduates and guests to the ceremony. Dr. Larinee Dennis, dean of business, health, science and education, led the invocation. OBU President Dr. Heath A. Thomas offered opening remarks and shared a brief word of congratulations with the graduating nurses.

Dr. Rebecca Coon, former assistant professor of nursing for OBU, delivered the address to graduates. She currently is a visiting professor at Chamberlain University and homeschools her children. Coon received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany and her master's degree from the University of Oklahoma. She completed her doctorate in 2022 at the University of Alabama and focused her research on "New Nurse Educator Transition." When practicing as a bedside nurse, Coon worked in pediatrics at OU

Children's primarily in the medical unit, intensive care unit and the float pool.

Dr. Megan Smith, associate professor of nursing, discussed the significance of the ceremony.

Graduating nurses then received their pins from Dr. Parker, including Chloe Ainsworth, Bokoshe; Savannah Auwen, El Reno; Emma Barnett, Kingfisher; Claire Barrett, Owasso; Sydney Bell, Bixby; Anna Black, Ardmore; Haleigh Buse, Graham, Texas; Gracie Carroll, Claremore; Jacob Chesley, Edmond; Jamie Cusack, Oklahoma City; Katelyn Dennis, Norman; Samantha Donato, McAlester; Megan Gallagher, The Woodlands, Texas; Hannah Henry, Oklahoma City; Taylor Hicks, Byars; Emma Lokey, Richardson, Texas; Sarah Lucas, Bixby; Kamryn Manlapig, Shawnee; Chloe McKnight, Collinsville; Gracey Means, Edmond; Carly Meritt, Edmond; Meghan Miller, Okemah; Makenzy Morgan, Corinth, Texas; Haley Myers, Edmond; Emily Nelson, Woodward; Damaris Pitsch, Soldotna, Alaska; London Roberts, Oklahoma City; Kathline Seward, Duncan; Rylee Simmons, Choctaw; Alexis Sprenger, Golden, Colorado;



Dr. Stephanie Parker, chair of the School of Nursing, is shown with graduating nursing student Alexis Sprenger during the Pinning and Lamp Lighting Ceremony.

Juliana Storer, Noble; Kaylee Swaner, Rockwall, Texas; Bailee Terry, Ringwood; McKenna Trautwein, Brighton, Colorado; Diana Trejo, Oklahoma City; Kennedy Valdez, Tulsa; Emma Vernon, Harrah; Brianne Winner, Moore; Brashe Wood, Oklahoma City; and Skylar Wood, Denison, Texas.

Dr. Dawn Westbrook, associate professor of nursing, delivered the charge to the graduates, and Kathleen Kennedy, assistant professor of nursing, led the benediction.

Learn more about the OBU School of Nursing here <https://www.okbu.edu/nursing>.



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# Nursing Students Save Man's Life During Spring Break

by Jet Turner and Ellie Melero

The sound of running water and chattering animals filled the late March air as the river cut its way around rocks, whisking up droplets of water that splashed the faces of the four Langston University students who had come to the Blue River for spring break.

Asher Bellavigna, Jalani Doolin, Mykah Sellers and Soli Pannell had come to the Blue River in Tishomingo to escape the stresses of school, but their peaceful afternoon was interrupted when a gunshot echoed through the hills.

Pannell's first instinct was to run—they were too close to the campsites for it to have been a normal hunting shot—but Bellavigna, an Ardmore native and regular to the Blue River campgrounds, figured there must have been an animal in a nearby campsite someone was trying to scare away.

"There's a lot of wildlife out there," Bellavigna said. "So that's what I was thinking it was, there's an animal or there's something nearby. Maybe he shot a snake, or maybe it was just an accident."

The group waited, listening intently for any other strange noises, and relaxed when no other shots followed.

By then the sun had begun to sink behind the dead pines, so Bellavigna asked his friends if they wanted to continue exploring around the river or head back to his parents' campsite, where they would stay for the night.

Surprising even himself, Doolin suggested they keep exploring the river.

"I'm not really like an outside person," Doolin said. "I just had a feeling like we should just keep walking around. It was just a feeling. And it turned out to be something bigger than expected."

The group trekked up a nearby hill and cut to the left, heading back toward the main campground road. A weird, eerie feeling began to settle over Pannell before she felt two hands push her to the side.



(From left to right) Jalani Doolin, Asher Bellavigna, Soli Pannell and Mykah Sellers took this selfie about 5 minutes before they heard the gunshot.

Bellavigna was the first to hear a faint car engine, and as the Game Warden's vehicle barreled up the road, he pushed his friends to safety. He watched the car disappear down the road in the direction they'd just come, and he knew there must be an emergency somewhere for the warden to drive so fast in the campgrounds. Suddenly, the sound of a blaring car horn drew his gaze to the campsite the warden had just passed.

A 12-year-old boy was frantically honking the car horn while a man lay on the ground by the fire pit, clutching his chest.

Bellavigna sprang into action, running straight for the campsite and calling for Pannell to follow after him.

"I did start running over there thinking, 'Heart attack, what am I going to do?'" Bellavigna said. "Then I see the blood, and that was when it registered: gunshot."

It was later revealed that in a

bizarre accident, the man's loaded pistol had fallen out of his breast pocket when he stumbled on his way to make popcorn, firing a bullet that ricocheted against a rock before going through the man's knee and lodging itself in his chest.

Pannell arrived at the campsite right after Bellavigna, with Doolin and Sellers in tow. She, too, realized this must have been the source of the gunshot and immediately began looking for the weapon. After quickly verifying the gun wasn't in position to go off again, Pannell and Bellavigna got to work.

Both third-year nursing students at Langston, Pannell and Bellavigna's training kicked in as they assessed the man's injuries. Bellavigna began applying pressure to the man's chest while Pannell scanned the campsite for anything that could be used to help Bellavigna staunch the flow of blood. She found a clothesline with

clothes and towels hung to dry, grabbed them and handed them to Bellavigna.

"Asher worked on putting pressure on the guy's knee where the bullet had entered at first," Pannell said. "Then, as I'm looking up, I see that his upper half is covered in blood, so I'm trying to get his jackets and stuff off while holding pressure on the wound that was up there."

As Bellavigna and Pannell worked, Doolin and Sellers got out of their way. Doolin's face had gone pale at the sight of the man's injuries, so Pannell directed him to chase after the warden's car and bring him back. She asked Sellers to check on the boy, who had stopped honking the horn and was trying to wrangle his clearly distressed dog.

Doolin, a psychology major, ran for what felt like a mile to the end of the campground road until he

Continued on next page

# NURSE TALK



What is your favorite season and why?



Earl Harris Elementary School

*"My favorite season is FALL! I love the colors and milder temperatures. I especially love fall in the Smokey Mountains."*



Tara Brown, RN

*"Spring! I love spending time outside in the yard with my children!"*



Molly Digiantomasso, RN

*"I love FALL! I like the change to cooler temperatures...it just makes me happy. I love turning on the fireplace with a cup of coffee!"*



Heather Williams, M. Ed.

## SAVE

Continued from Page 6

finally caught up with the Game Warden's vehicle. Doolin got the warden's attention and told him that, if he was looking for someone who needed help, he passed him and needed to turn around.

The warden quickly turned the car around and headed back toward the campsite, leaving Doolin to walk back.

"I ain't never run like that in a minute," Doolin said. "I walked back. I took my time. I needed to catch my breath."

Meanwhile, back at the campsite, Bellavigna and Pannell continued to administer first aid. The duo found themselves using the knowledge they learned in Langston University's School of Nursing and Health Professions, such as the ABC'S (Airway, Breathing, Circulation and Safety).

Asher Bellavigna and Soli Pannell assist EMS and police while tending to an injured man.

Bellavigna and Pannell continued to assist the officers and EMS workers by holding flashlights when help arrived.

The man was experiencing an adrenaline rush in addition to the obvious blood loss, and he rambled as he tried to piece together how he shot himself. Because he was talking, they knew his airways were clear. The bullet clearly did not puncture his lung, and his breathing, although rapid from the shock and adrenaline, was uninterrupted. He was pale from blood loss, and the nursing students knew if he passed out there would be a whole other set of issues to deal with. So the two students tried to keep him talking.

"The main goal was for sure to keep him alert and oriented," Pannell said. "You never want someone who's losing that much blood to lose consciousness. So just keep them talking and everything like that."

As they waited for help to arrive, Bellavigna and Pannell worked together as a team. Although they had never worked in clinical situations together before, they both said it felt seamless to work with each other. They kept cool heads, they communicated clearly and efficiently, and they didn't let their senses of urgency turn into panic.

It was getting dark when the Game Warden arrived about 10 minutes later, and the group had begun using their phone flashlights

to see. Bellavigna and Pannell had already put the man's leg in a makeshift tourniquet, and they were cutting away clothes to find where exactly the bullet had lodged so as to better apply pressure. The warden was already on the phone with an emergency operator.

About 20 minutes later, the campsite was illuminated with the red and blue lights of an ambulance.

"Once the ambulance showed up (a paramedic) came and got me because I was still in the mode of trying to lock in," Pannell said. "(The paramedic) said we did what we needed to do, so we stepped back and gave the story to the Game Warden and police for reporting."

Bellavigna and Pannell, along with Doolin and Sellers, continued to help by holding flashlights for the paramedics as they picked up the work the two nursing students began.

The injured man was eventually airlifted to a hospital where he received life-saving treatment.

The friends returned to Bellavigna's parents' campsite, talking about everything that had

happened as they tried to process the shocking turn their spring break trip had taken.

As the night pressed on, Bellavigna found himself unable to sleep as the events of the evening rushed through his head. He knew there was nothing more he could have done, but he couldn't stop wondering if there was anything different the nursing duo should have done. For Pannell, the reality of saving the man's life didn't set in until the next day.

Although they had come to the Blue River to forget about school and distress, helping to save a man's life confirmed for both students that they had chosen the right career path and were pursuing it at the right institution.

"Before I even got into nursing school, I knew I wanted to work in the ER or ICU," Bellavigna said. "I like the faster pace and adrenaline. This is what I want to do; I wouldn't mind spending a good portion of my life doing things like this... I'm on the right path. I'm on the right track."

"I'd say similar feelings," Pannell said. "I definitely had a realization of, 'Oh, I can do this.' ... Having that type of experience just on a random base, a random moment, it really did confirm, 'You're good. You're in the right field. You can do it.'"

(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2024 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

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Practical Nursing is a popular program for those seeking a career as a nurse in Oklahoma. Certified Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) provide direct care to patients in

hospitals, home health, doctors' offices, clinics, and other healthcare settings.

Students in the Practical Nursing program learn in real-world settings. They complete tasks in on-campus labs designed to mimic a hospital, complete with the machines and tools they will use as professionals.

Clinicals - often the final step to becoming certified - provide students with experience in professional settings. Students take clinicals at local hospitals where they work alongside healthcare professionals, and these experiences sometimes lead directly to job opportunities.

For those who want to pursue something different in nursing, the Respiratory Care Therapist program offers entry into an area of medicine that is increasingly in need. Due to many factors, Oklahoma has a higher-than-average number of patients who endure chronic breathing problems. The COVID-19 pandemic only made this worse.

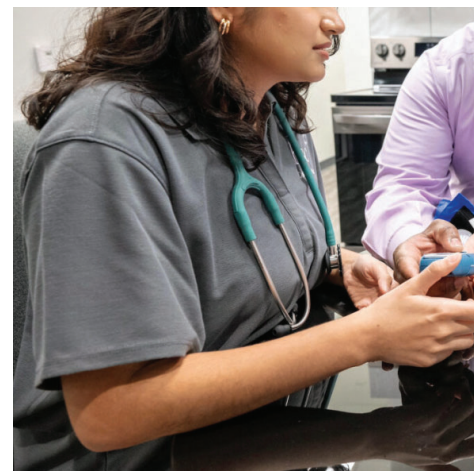
Respiratory Care Therapists help these patients overcome the

daily challenges they face. Students learn in a hands-on environment surrounded by the tools and machines they will use professionally.

Practical Nursing and Respiratory Care are top-notch programs for post-secondary students. Still, there are other ways for students to find a career in nursing. Pre-Nursing is open to high school and post-secondary students and offers various certifications related to nursing.

Depending on the student's plan, they can become certified as an Advanced Unlicensed Assistant, a Certified Medical Assistant, or a Nurse Aid (CNA) through the Pre-Nursing program. Pre-Nursing students can also attend the program part-time, meaning they can seek a certification while they work.

Similarly, Francis Tuttle offers Flexible Health classes to earn nursing certifications. These classes are open for a set amount of time, during which students can attend until they reach the necessary



hours.

Flex Health classes are open for CNA, Home Health Aide (HHA), Certified Medication Aide (CMA), Medication Administration Technician (MAT), Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, EKG Technician, and Medical Assisting (MA) certifications. These classes are also eligible for scholarship or tuition waiver programs that apply to conventional Career Training Programs.

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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2024 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

# Half-century success

## Northern Oklahoma College going strong

Northern Oklahoma College nursing turns half a century this year and the success keeps coming.

Northern Oklahoma College, the State's first public community college is a multi-campus, land-grant institution that provides high quality, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities and services which create life-changing experiences and develop students as effective learners and leaders within their communities in a connected, ever-changing world.

Northern offers a two-year Associate of Applied Science Degree for the RN. A two-year RN's focus is providing care at the bedside regardless of whether the bedside is located in the hospital, clinic, doctor's office, hospice, nursing home or community.

The program also focuses on how to manage care for groups of patients.

To celebrate the 50-year milestone, a two-day event at NOC Tonkawa's Renfro Center was held where faculty, staff, and nursing alums gathered to share their experiences.

The event included time with NOC President Dr. Clark Harris, attendance at a campus jazz concert, and campus tours culminating in a dinner for the attendees.

NOC is also participating in The Daisy Award, an award that recognizes extraordinary faculty. Students, faculty, staff, and alums may nominate anyone deemed worthy of the prestigious award.

NOC instructor Kim Brewer earned the award in 2022, the first year for the program at NOC.

Fifty years of success include more than a few accolades including:

- Top 10 Nursing Program in the state, according to Nursing Hub
- RN Associate Degree Program (Traditional Pathway or LPN to RN Pathway)
- Partnerships with RN-BSN Programs
- Academic Practice Partnerships with Paid Clinical Internships in Final Semester
- High NCLEX Pass Rates
- High Employment Rates and Employer Satisfaction

- The associate degree nursing program at Northern Oklahoma College is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

NOC offers programs at the Tonkawa, Enid, and Stillwater campuses.

Under the direction of Dr. Nikole Hicks, NOC Nursing Division Chair, the program is rigorous and innovative.

Academic Practice Partnership opportunities are available for select students in Tonkawa, Enid, Stillwater, and Tulsa with paid clinical internships in the final semester of the nursing program.

Graduates of NOC's nursing program earn an Associate degree in Applied Science and are eligible to apply for licensure as a registered nurse. There is an entry pathway for current LPNs to enter the program with advanced standing.

NOC partners with several RN-BSN programs to provide graduates with opportunities for advanced education. Additional majors include the Associate in Science Pre-Baccalaureate/Pre-



Dr. Nikole A. Hicks, PhD, RNC, CNE, Nursing Division Chair - Northern Oklahoma College.

Professional Program.

Nursing students are also a part of the Student Nurses Association and Alpha Delta Nu National Associate Degree Nursing Honor Society.

NOC also received grant funding that will improve technology in the nursing practice and simulation labs to provide state-of-the-art equipment to prepare practice-ready graduates.

For more information, please contact the nursing program at [nursing@noc.edu](mailto:nursing@noc.edu) or 580.628.6679 or at NOC's web site at: <https://www.noc.edu>.



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# Rose State and OCU sign partnership for 14 degrees

Rose State College and Oklahoma City University signed a series of articulation agreements Monday aimed at helping students more easily navigate their way to a four-year degree. The collaboration – involving agreements for 14 academic majors in the Arts & Sciences – was formalized during a signing event with Rose State President Dr. Jeanie Webb and OCU President Dr. Kenneth Evans.

This partnership allows Rose State College students to seamlessly transfer credits to Oklahoma City University, providing a clear pathway to achieve their academic goals.

“We are thrilled to partner with Oklahoma City University to offer these structured pathways,” Webb said. “These agreements are a testament to our commitment to student success, ensuring that our students can achieve their academic and career goals without facing the challenges of credit transfer issues.”

Programs under terms of the agreement are:

- Graphic Design
- Studio Art
- Exercise Science
- Human Performance



The collaboration was formalized during a signing event with Rose State President Dr. Jeanie Webb (second from left) and OCU President Dr. Kenneth Evans (second from right).

- History
- History/Political Science
- Multimedia Journalism & Broadcast Production
- Strategic Communication
- Philosophy

- Political Science – International
- Political Science
- Political Science – Pre-Law
- Philosophy/Political Science/Economics
- Psychology

Evans noted that access to an affordable college education is a major point of emphasis for academic institutions around the country.

Continued on page 11



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SCAN ME

# SIGNING

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"Partnerships such as these create the pathways students need to assist them on their journey," he said. "We appreciate the Rose State administration and look forward to welcoming their students to the OCU campus."

The collaboration between Rose State College and OCU represents a significant step toward making

higher education more accessible and affordable, both school leaders said. By starting their education at a community college, students can save on tuition costs and then complete their bachelor's degree at a four-year university, confident that their hard-earned credits will transfer.

For more information on the transfer agreements and the programs available, please visit Rose State College and Oklahoma City University.

## Celebrate Cancer Survivors Day at Scissortail Park

This year's annual celebration of life for cancer survivors will be held on Sunday, June 2 in hundreds of communities nationwide. The event serves as a gathering to commemorate and honor the bravery and resilience of cancer survivors and their families worldwide.

Members of the community are invited to join the INTEGRIS Health Cancer Institute for a free come and go Survivor Celebration on Sunday, June 2 from 10 a.m. to noon at Scissortail Park 300 S.W. 7th Street in Oklahoma City.

The event provides inspiration for those recently diagnosed and offers support for families, caregivers, friends and health care professionals. Activities include therapy dogs, arts and crafts, chair massages, exhibit booths and entertainment. Survivor recognition begins at 11 a.m. Food truck items and t-shirts will be available to purchase. No registration is required.

For inquiries, please call 405-773-6600. For information about National Cancer Survivors Day celebrations and survivorship outreach, visit <https://ncsd.org/>.

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# ORU Graduating Class Largest in the University's History

Oral Roberts University (ORU) held its 2024 Commencement on May 4th. With 925 degree candidates, this year's graduating class reflects the recurring record growth at ORU. The University's student body has increased every year for the last 15 years. In the last academic year, ORU recorded over 6,500 students and welcomed the largest freshman class in the University's history.

As part of the Commencement proceedings, ORU President Dr. William M. Wilson commissioned the graduating class with these words:

"Your educational journey has taken place in a Christian community at the most diverse university in Oklahoma and one of the most diverse in the United States, with students from over 150 nations attending ORU while you have been a student. Through it all, you have been equipped to make your unique contribution and change the world.

In a world overwhelmed by deception and darkness, you will rise to take God's light.

In a world that is deafened by a flood of meaningless voices, you will declare God's distinct voice of



2024 graduates celebrate the university's largest class.

purpose and hope.

In a world that is sick and broken, you will administer Jesus' healing power.

In a world filled with hatred, you will demonstrate Christ's love.

In a world full of chaos, you will live with internal and eternal peace.

In a world exploding with

knowledge, you will demonstrate the wisdom of God.

In a world filled with depression and despair, you will serve with an overflowing joy."

Many in the Class of 2024 began their academic journey in the midst of a global pandemic. ORU students benefitted from the University's world-class faculty, which has been recognized by the Wall Street Journal for its "Student Experience" (Top Ten in America 2024). ORU continues to see strong retention and graduation rates in undergraduate and graduate programs, both residentially and online.

During the event, Dr. Wilson presented the Commencement speaker, Dr. Rick Warren, with the ORU Lifetime Global Achievement Award, which reads:

"In honor of your extraordinary journey, which is a shining light in a dark world, that is unwavering in faith and dedication to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and for your devoted leadership that has touched countless lives. Oral Roberts University presents this Lifetime Global Achievement Award. 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' - Matthew 25:23"

Dr. Warren shared with the class of 2024, "Graduates, the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. We only love because God first loved us. Your marriages, companies, businesses, and ministries will be transformed by love. The more you dwell in the love of God, the more God's anointing and power will dwell on your life. Go into the world to be His witnesses. Love the least loved people. God bless you."

Representing the class of 2024, ORU senior Jasmine Mathews delivered an address to the graduates and those in attendance. As part of her address, Mathews said, "You have reached the end of a chapter, one marked by experiences that set us apart from every other graduating class around the world. As you turn the page from this chapter to the next, remember this: as you have received, freely give.... Class of 2024, what you have learned at this University is not just for you. As you start new jobs, remember that those jobs are your mission field. You have opportunities to serve, love, and heal others with the knowledge you have acquired from your experiences here."

ORU Provost Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez encouraged the graduates with these words, "The diploma presented to these graduates is more than evidence of their intellectual pursuit and personal resilience; it is a reflection of academic and co-curricular commitments embedded within ORU's education and activities. An ORU diploma challenges the graduate to dare to dream a bold vision, it calls upon them to embrace global engagement, and finally—and most importantly—the ORU diploma reflects the lifelong call to spiritual integrity."

Graduating seniors shared their experience at ORU:

"My experience at ORU has been life-changing. I arrived very unsure of myself and worried about what I could accomplish, but I am leaving with confidence and excitement for the future. All the faculty here have been



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Dr. Rick Warren and Dr. William M. Wilson at the commencement proceedings at Oral Roberts University.

## ORU

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incredibly helpful and committed to setting me up for success. ORU requires students to meet with several different advisors, more than other schools I have attended, because ORU focuses on each student's life while enrolled and post-graduation. ORU does more for its students and provides academic, mental, and spiritual guidance, which builds a sturdy foundation to launch from post-graduation. I am incredibly blessed and grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend ORU." — Cassidy Inbody, Political Science

"ORU has brought much growth in my life. ORU has taught me that God is always there, and He will get the glory in everything, all my accomplishments and failures. I have learned that He is the anchor of my soul. I hope that others will be able to experience the unique and extraordinary opportunity of attending Oral Roberts University. It is a safe place to find wholeness in the mind, body, and spirit. All my professors have been more than teachers. They all carry a guiding fire that can illuminate a light in students' hearts. I am hopeful because ORU is raising up students who will be the next wave of leaders in business, government, education, humanities, and religion. I believe that ORU develops a person, not just a set of skills or philosophy. May the University continue to develop leaders for the future and the generations to come." — Daniel Fang, Masters in Divinity

"The time spent attending Oral Roberts University has changed my life. First and foremost, my relationship with the Lord has blossomed to new heights previously never thought possible, which is the number one reason why I feel like God brought me to ORU. At 46 years old, God has shown me, much like Abraham and Sarah, that we are never too old to be used by Him. My quality of life in all areas has improved since starting at ORU, and the whole person education equated to an entire

life transformation, prioritizing the Lord as the center of it all. Thank you, ORU, go Eagles!" — Samuel Fillmore, Finance

"My four years at ORU have been empowering and transformative. I have built incredible friendships, grown in my relationship with the Lord, and learned so much about my chosen profession. I've also come to love education more because of my outstanding professors and hands-on field experience. My experience at ORU has been an incredible blessing and has set me up for a bright future ahead!" — Caryla Brodeur, Education

"I have been extremely happy with my experience at ORU. The professors and community, along with the culture at ORU, create a welcoming environment that fosters excellence and success among its students and graduates. I have enjoyed my time here and look forward to taking what I've learned into the whole world." — Riley Renfroe, Vocal Music Education

"The experience was fantastic! I got the chance to meet amazing professors and classmates, and work with professional equipment, all this while in a Christian environment that pushed us toward excellence." — Renato Sanchez, Cinema, TV, Digital Media

"In a nutshell, it was incredible." — Denu Titus, Biblical Literature

"My experience at ORU prepared me to expand my professional skills. I am spiritually, mentally, and emotionally prepared to enter the workforce with purpose and calling. My professors, classmates, friends, and family transformed my educational experience. God used my time at ORU to dramatically stretch my leadership skills. I am so thankful for my time at ORU, and I feel fully ready to apply my degree in the workplace." — Elizabeth Grantham, International Business

"I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to be an ORU student. The friends that I have made will be in my life well after I leave. The professors I had are all extremely



Jasmine Mathews speaks to the graduating class at Oral Roberts University.

intelligent, spiritually mature individuals whom I am certain I can contact in the future whenever I need help. I have learned and grown so much, and I am so thankful to be at a university that puts the name of Jesus above all else." — Kathryn Gleason, Marketing

"ORU has been amazing, from the professors to the peers. I've created life-long friendships and connections with people full of wisdom and a passion for their respective fields. I wouldn't change a thing about my

decision to come here as I've grown in spirit, mind, and body and am a changed person from when I first set foot on campus." — Kaden Kelley, Accounting

With over five decades of graduating "Whole Leaders for the Whole World," this year marked ORU's 57th commencement. As a globally recognized University, ORU continues to develop Holy Spirit-empowered leaders from all 50 states and 152 nations (in the last four years) to impact the world.

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