

Fall 2008

# The Ervin Legacy

Danielle Parker

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalshowcase.oru.edu/ervin\\_bio](http://digitalshowcase.oru.edu/ervin_bio)



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), and the [Christianity Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation


Danielle Parker, Th

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Theological Heritage of ORU: Howard M. Ervin (1915-2009) at Digital Showcase. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bibliography & Biography by an authorized administrator of Digital Showcase. For more information, please contact [mroberts@oru.edu](mailto:mroberts@oru.edu).

fall2008

# excellence

*for oral roberts university alumni and friends*



## Ready for His Close-Up

Phil Cooke (pictured with wife Kathleen) has a lot to say about the ever-changing landscape of media, marketing and ministry. (See page 8.)

**Alumni Relations Staff  
Key Contacts**

**David Wagner 73**  
President and Chairman  
Alumni Foundation  
Board of Directors  
918/495.7312  
dwagner@oru.edu

**George Paul 69**  
Associate Vice President  
Alumni and Development  
918/495.7324  
gpaul@oru.edu

**Natalie (Kilgore)  
Bounds-Adams 88**  
Alumni Relations Director  
918/495.6588  
nadams@oru.edu

**Chris Miller 95, 05-MMGT**  
Director of Development  
918/495.7436  
cmiller@oru.edu

**Winnie Perdue**  
Alumni Events Coordinator  
918/495.6627  
wperdue@oru.edu

**Publisher**  
ORU Alumni Foundation

**Editor**  
Debbie Titus 77 George

**Contributors/Writers**  
Rhae Buckley, Jadell Forman, Debbie  
George, Rachel Wegner.

**Photography**  
Kristen Carollo, Logan Chambers and  
Michael Deen (Day of Prayer),  
Phil Cooke, Anne Downey, Debbie  
George, Wayne Jacobsen, Mike  
Minyard (ORU Athletics), Joy Palazzo,  
Paula Sterns, Don Wilson.

Cover photo 1: courtesy of  
Cooke Pictures. Cover photo 2  
by Kristen Carollo.

**Art and Production**  
Waller & Company Public Relations

*Excellence* is published and distributed  
to alumni and friends by the Oral  
Roberts University Alumni Foundation.

**Direct all inquiries to:**  
ORU Alumni Foundation  
P.O. Box 702333  
Tulsa, OK 74170  
Phone: 918/495.6610  
Fax: 918/495.6650  
Web site: alumni.oru.edu  
E-mail: alumni@oru.edu  
Questions or comments?  
Contact the editor at  
dgeorge@oru.edu.

**Excellence Magazine  
Mission Statement**

*The purpose of Excellence magazine  
is threefold: to make alumni aware  
of what their former classmates are  
doing, to tell alumni what is happening  
today on the Oral Roberts University  
campus, and to share the good news  
about alumni accomplishments with  
faculty, staff, and friends of the  
university. Excellence magazine is  
proof positive that the mission of  
ORU is being carried out on  
a daily basis all over the globe —  
"in every person's world."*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

# excellence

FOR ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Fall 2008 | Vol. 20, No. 2



## FEATURES

5

### Balancing Marriage, Motherhood and Mass Tort Litigation

How Joy (Lea) Palazzo does it.

8

### Faith, Culture and Other Mysteries

Media consultant and author Phil Cooke  
shares his perspective.

11

### Wayne's New World

A meeting with some guy from Oregon led Wayne  
Jacobsen into uncharted waters with a little book  
called *The Shack*.

**On the Web . . .** at [alumni.oru.edu](http://alumni.oru.edu) . . .

- Phil Cooke and Wayne Jacobsen: More of their stories
- Renovations: LRC 1, the library, and IT

## DEPARTMENTS

### 4 Presidential Perspective

*ORU announces a reduction in force.*

### 14 Campus Currents

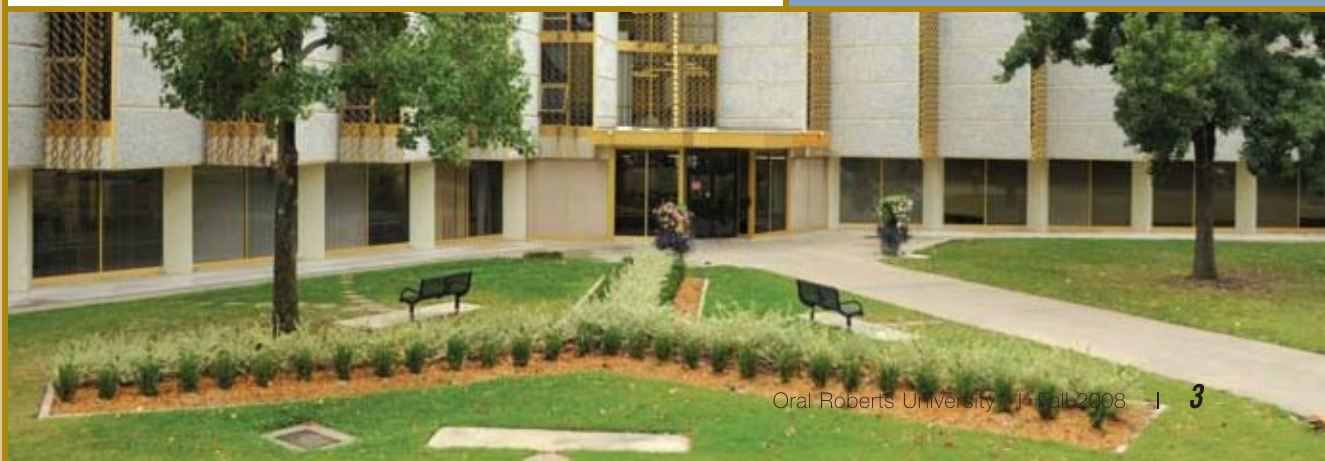
- Renovations!
- Day of Prayer and Fasting
- Library Work Day
- New Faculty
- The Ervin Legacy
- Chancellor Roberts' New Book

### 24 The Eli Report

*Track star Andretti Bain makes ORU history.*

### 26 Lifelong Links

- ORU Intercensors
- Anne Downey's Quest
- Alumni News
- Obituaries





## Armstrong Means Extra Strength

All along, Kevin Armstrong (1980-82) planned to start his education in ORU's communication arts department. But he didn't plan to end up teaching there.

Born in Tulsa but raised in Ohio, his heart's desire was to return to his birthplace and attend ORU. But as an aspiring journalist, Armstrong knew he'd have to finish his degree at a school with a journalism emphasis — something not offered at ORU. So, after attending ORU his first two years, he transferred to the University of Missouri.

In 1984, Armstrong graduated from UofM and launched into 24 years in the newspaper business, mostly at *The Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk. There, through the invitation of a friend, he also began teaching adjunct at Regent University in 2005.

He and his wife Marcy and their son Tyler were enjoying life in Virginia while the couple's two daughters (Amanda Espino 08 and Ashley [Class of '09]) attended ORU. Then, during a Thanksgiving 2007 visit to Tulsa to visit the girls and his parents, Armstrong saw a possibility for doing more teaching while living close to family. So, the newsman-educator sent a letter of interest to the communication arts department. His letter went something like this: "I have a job at Regent University and *The Virginian-Pilot*; I don't need a job. But if you ever see a place for me at ORU, give me a call." A few months later, ORU called, Regent counter-offered, and Armstrong ultimately accepted the ORU position.

Armstrong's veteran media experience now infuses his newfound joy



Dr. Joel Gaikwad (foreground), assistant professor of biology, and biology/pre-med major Anup Kumar were among the first to use the new microscopes.

of Christian university teaching. He believes he can do more good as a teacher training a class of college students than as a journalist training a few new-hires.

At ORU, Armstrong teaches courses in News Reporting, Feature Writing and Mass Media Law. As director of student publications, he helps students apply those skills to the student newspaper (*The Oracle*) and yearbook (*Perihelion*).

Asked what he hopes for ORU's students, Armstrong said, "I hope and pray that they live each day with great expectations of what the Lord wants to reveal to them about the plan He already has prepared for them. It's so much greater than they could ever imagine. I know. I'm living proof by being here at ORU!"

## ORU By The Numbers

This fall, ORU is serving 3,067 for-credit students. These students represent 49 states (no Vermont!) and 62 countries. The top five states for student enrollment are Oklahoma, Texas, California, Florida, and Michigan.

## Scope These Out!

"Awesome!" is a word that's been used to describe the newest additions to ORU's Microbiology Lab: 24 Labomed Lx400 microscopes, which arrived this summer. They're top-of-the-line and worth nearly \$16,000. Funds for purchasing the microscopes came from two sources: biology alumni gifts and a portion of a gift received by the School of Nursing from Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

## The Ervin Legacy

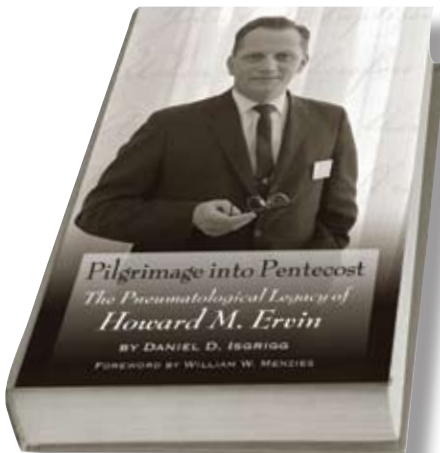
When Daniel Isgrigg was looking for a master's thesis topic, Dr. Cheryl Iverson suggested Dr. Howard Ervin. Unfamiliar with one of ORU's original theology professors, Isgrigg said he'd think about it, especially since he would be taking Ervin's Pneumatology course.

A few days into the course (which incidentally was Ervin's final course as an ORU professor), Isgrigg knew he had to capture the life and legacy of this man. The end result, *Pilgrimage*

*Into Pentecost: The Pneumatological Legacy of Howard M. Ervin*, was the master's thesis that became both a book and a presentation at the Society of Pentecostal Studies meeting on March 14 at Duke University in Durham, N.C.

Isgrigg said the project changed his life. "I am much more committed to the Pentecostal message because of Dr. Ervin . . . He showed that we have sound reasons for believing in baptism in the Spirit, tongues as evidence, and an empowerment that is needed to reach the world for Christ. For 50 years, this is what he preached."

For the full story, visit [alumni.oru.edu](http://alumni.oru.edu).



## Careers That Count

Alumni are welcome to contact Career Services for help in finding a job. But that's not all! Career Services would like to hear from alumni who are willing to serve as mentors to current students (for a very short time commitment), and from those alumni who are in a position to hire other ORU graduates (or who know of openings at their company). Go to [orugoldenhire.com](http://orugoldenhire.com), write to [careers@oru.edu](mailto:careers@oru.edu), or call 918/495.6912.

## Theology Is Intact

Although Oral Roberts University has recently experienced dramatic changes, its seminary hasn't.

Dr. Thomson Mathew, who has been dean of the school since January 2000, confessed that when the new leadership arrived, his school admittedly and rightly had initial concerns about the university's spiritual direction. "*In the beginning*, we didn't know what we were signing up for!" But now enthused to have several academicians on the Board of Trustees, he realizes the benefits of their support. "They enhance our work," he said.

Because Pentecostal denominations make a strong showing on the board, observers might wonder if ORU has gone denominational. According to Dr. Cheryl Iverson, associate dean of Academic Affairs in the School of Theology and Missions and an ORU graduate (M.A., Theological/Historical Studies, 1985), ORU remains not

only charismatic but also ecumenical. The school's faculty represents various denominations, including Assemblies of God, Lutheran, Southern Baptist, and Roman Catholic.

Mathew said the school's curriculum remains unapologetically charismatic in conviction and commitment — and balanced. "We teach the whole counsel of God — everything God wants us to know to live the kingdom lifestyle."

Holy Spirit in the Now, Charismatic Life and the Healing Ministry, and Signs and Wonders are still on undergraduate and graduate degree plan sheets, along with Old Testament and New Testament survey courses.

Joy Ames, an '08 M.Div. graduate, said, "If someone . . . approached me and asked about ORU's spiritual direction, I would assure them that the Holy Spirit is still alive and active on the campus of ORU. I am proud to be a graduate of ORU's School of Theology and Missions. If asked if I would do it again, there is no question; the answer is yes."

## Put Your Stock to Work!

*At Oral Roberts University's Estate Planning office, our first responsibility is to help individuals practice good stewardship by making the most of the financial resources that God has entrusted to them.*

We also find great joy and satisfaction in working with individuals who have a passion for the mission of ORU.

We want you to know that if you purchased stock a number of years ago and it has grown in value, it is possible for you to receive fixed, monthly income in exchange for that stock, as well as possible tax savings. To learn more about receiving high fixed payments — with added tax savings — please contact our office at 800/822.8203 or send an e-mail to [development@oru.edu](mailto:development@oru.edu).

Additional information on this and other planned giving options that allow income generation for you and benefit ORU is available on our Web site. Just go to [www.orugift.com](http://www.orugift.com).



ALUMNI FOUNDATION  
P.O. BOX 702333  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74170

[alumni@oru.edu](mailto:alumni@oru.edu)  
<http://alumni.oru.edu>

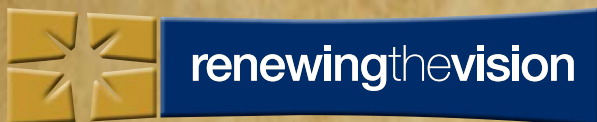
NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

TULSA, OK  
PERMIT NO. 777

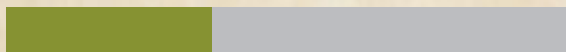
# WHY WATCH THE WIDGET?

Because it will give you the latest “Renewing the Vision” campaign news!



## \$25 Million Matching Campaign for Oral Roberts University

### CASH AND PLEDGES



*millions of dollars and climbing*

### DEBT REDUCED TO



*millions of dollars and decreasing*

*Over 8,000*

### PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN GIFTS & PLEDGES

**CLICK HERE TO SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS**

Our “Renewing the Vision widget” comes in handy when you want to see how close we’re coming to raising the \$25 million for the *Renewing the Vision* matching gift campaign. It’s updated daily as more and more gifts and pledges come in. Thousands of alumni and friends have gotten involved because they recognize the importance of supporting the unique whole-person education that ORU has to offer.

## What About You?

If you haven’t seen the RTV widget in action, go to [www.oru.edu/renewingthevision](http://www.oru.edu/renewingthevision). Then, go one step further and join the thousands who have already made a commitment to renew the ORU vision! (Hurry! Our goals are \$25 million and 20,000 donors, and the deadline is April 30, 2009.)



RENEWING THE VISION: IT’S THE SMART THING TO DO.