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Fall 1969

Oral Roberts University...Now vol 1, no 1 (Fall 1969)

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Recommended Citation
Holy Spirit Research Center, Oral Roberts University, "Oral Roberts University...Now vol 1, no 1 (Fall 1969)" (1969). Miscellaneous ORU Newsletters. 3.
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A new Welcome to ORU

By S. Lee Braxton,
Chairman of the Board of Regents

Since Oral Roberts University opened its doors in 1965, we have dreamed and made plans for an entrance to the campus which would portray the concept of the institution, and afford the visitor a fitting introduction to the buildings and facilities.

Now, through the generosity of a member of the ORU Board of Regents, Ernest Simpson, of Glasgow, Ky., the entrance is a reality for all to appreciate and enjoy. It is a thing of beauty to be sure. But it is more than that. Its symbolism is rich with meaning.

The visitor is impressed with the textured-concrete slanting walls which flank the entrance, and represent the welcome of outstretched arms. These display bronze castings of the University’s seal, and open into the Avenue of Flags. The flags are from the nations which are represented by students at ORU. At the end of this avenue, where the roadway divides, stands the tallest flagpole of all, flying the emblems of our beloved country and the State of Oklahoma. At either side are poles topped with the Christian flag and the ORU flag. Artistic landscaping lends charm to the whole, and concealed lights illuminate the flags and cast interesting shadows upon the concrete walls.

This inspiring gateway to the campus stands as a tribute to one man and woman’s faith and generosity. Regent Simpson is a humble man of few words but great deeds. He first learned about the Oral Roberts Ministry through the early Oral Roberts radio programs. His interest has continued undiminished through the years, and has been manifested in many ways. Both a daughter and a son have attended ORU, and it is probable that other of the four remaining sons and daughters will also further their education at ORU.

Mrs. Simpson has been a constant and devoted life partner to her husband, and a proud mother to their six children.

From a humble beginning as a carpenter’s helper, Mr. Simpson has become one of Kentucky’s largest building contractors, specializing in churches, hospitals, and commercial and industrial types of buildings.

Mr. Simpson was elected to the Founding Board of Regents, and serves as a member of the ORU Building and Grounds Committee.

We at ORU are grateful for all the contributions he has made, and pay tribute to him for this latest evidence of his concern for ORU—our new, useful, meaningful, and beautiful entrance.

It is the purpose of Oral Roberts University, in its commitment to the historic Christian faith, to assist the student in his quest for knowledge of his relationship to God, man, and the universe. Dedicated to the realization of truth and the achievement of one’s potential life capacity, the University seeks to graduate an integrated person—spiritually alive, intellectually alert, and physically disciplined.

To accomplish this purpose, Oral Roberts University seeks a synthesis of the best traditions of a liberal arts education with a charismatic concern, . . . healing for the totality of human need.

This statement has been adopted by the Board of Regents as the declaration of the purpose of Oral Roberts University. ORU takes a daring stance in its statement of purpose, and the high goals set forth may seem beyond practical achievement. This magazine is dedicated to communicating in specific terms the means by which ORU is progressing toward the fulfillment of that purpose. Each issue of the magazine will have as its theme a different portion from the purpose statement. The theme for this issue is “. . . healing for the totality of human need.”
A consultant observed a few months back that ORU is a new invention in higher education. He was right!

For many years in evangelistic crusades and on television the eyes of the people were focused on my hands. So much so that what was being said about healing was not being heard.

In a book I wrote in 1947 I said that healing is "...more than spiritual, more than mental, more than physical—it is that and more. It is health in soul, mind, and body; health in our relationships with others, in our attitudes, our habits, in our way of life, all the days of our life." That is what ORU is all about!

Attending a development conference recently, the Vice-President of Development at ORU was asked antagonistically by the official of a well-known educational institution how many classes in healing were offered at ORU. The response was "I hope all of them are!" The antagonist became ally as the need for healing in every academic marketplace was explored.

Education, the social sciences, medicine, political science, every arena of man's encounter problem, is a challenge for a different kind of graduate: one who is aware of his own preparation for problem solving from an academic point of view. But, in addition, there is an obvious need for that person who is aware of the added strength of the Spirit of Jesus Christ in the NOW. It is charismatic concern... healing for the totality of human need.

I was disappointed when I learned that one of the first graduates of ORU was not looking for a job. It would seem that the preparation of a college education should not only equip but also motivate a young man to find meaningful employment. However, I was convinced that the purpose of ORU had broken through when he explained that he was looking for an opportunity to invest his life. That represents the kind of healing influence any employer would be anxious to introduce into his business.

We must agree. ORU is a new invention in higher education—a sound academic preparation quickened by the added dimension of a charismatic concern—healing for the totality of human need.
The Releasing of Your Resources

Michelangelo was walking through a stone quarry with two friends. The only thing the two friends saw was rocks. Michelangelo saw more. Coming upon one rock, he said that he saw an angel imprisoned in it. He took the rock with him. His chipping away finally revealed the angel, a beautiful piece of sculpture. Physically speaking, Michelangelo did not add anything—what counted is what he eliminated.

We all have an "angel" imprisoned within us in the form of potential which God has given to us. Sometimes the key to increased effectiveness is what we chip away—what we eliminate that is keeping us from showing forth what really is there.

Healing, health, and wholeness all come from the same root word. Healing in the fullest sense—not just in the physical but also in the mental, moral, spiritual, and social—is often a matter of getting rid of things. Education is concerned with adding information and skills which help a person to acquire some additional "input." At ORU we are of course concerned with education in that sense. However, we are equally concerned with education in another sense—in a sense that might even be called dis-education. In the Personal Resources programs we deal primarily with helping people to eliminate whatever is keeping them from using unseen realities which are really there.

Everyone has resources and potential which he does not fully use. William James said most of us use about 10% of our potential. This is true in public speaking, golf, typing, making money, health, selling, driving, decision making, human relations, etc. But it is also true in the special resources which are a part of the Christian experience. We have mental blocks, tensions, fears, and negative attitudes that interfere with our effectiveness. We get in our own way and in God's way. We keep ourselves from using gifts which have already been given to us. Acquiring additional information and skills is important in tennis, math, piano playing, and serving God. Equally important is the positive utilization of what we have already acquired.

Paul, the Apostle, speaks of running a better race by "setting aside the weights which beset us." It is a challenge to chip away as did Michelangelo and reveal the hidden resources.

Personal Resources, Inc., Becomes a Division of ORU

Dr. William C. Lantz, Jr., who for the past 2 years has taught speech at ORU, recently accepted an invitation to bring his personal and company-development programs into the University. Lantz's company, Personal Resources, Inc., and its three subsidiaries have merged with ORU to formulate the services of the Personal Resources division which was created officially July 1, 1969.

Dr. Lantz concurrently accepted the position of Director of Community Relations for the University. His Personal Resources program operates on many community levels, such as in churches, industry, and hard-core unemployment areas. Its seminars cultivate positive self-evaluation and goal setting by the elimination of negative attitudes which inhibit an individual's potential.

Dr. Lantz conducted Personal Resources seminars in California before coming to Tulsa. Among his West Coast graduates are Robert H. Finch, U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; TV Personality Art Linkletter; and Actress Jane Russell. Active for the past 4 years in the Tulsa business community, Dr. Lantz has averaged one or two speeches a week as a popular speaker for various service organizations. He also participates directly in the Tulsa Red Cross, YMCA, and other community services. Tulsa graduates of his seminars include David L. Sipes, president of Sipes Food Market, Inc.; and R. F. Walker, president of the former North American Aviation, Inc.
Delegates to the 1969 Oklahoma Education Association Convention are given an explanation of the Dial Access Information and Retrieval System.

Students from the Youth Seminar are introduced to the revolutionary audio-tutorial biology laboratory.

William G. Morgan, a 1969 PH.D. graduate in history from the University of Southern California, lectures from the multimedia desk used in ORU classrooms.

Youth Seminar guests visit the modern ORU multichannel language laboratory.
A large number of students and guests were present for the ceremony.

Flag-raising ceremony held at ORU...

Students from 20 nations in native dress stand ready to raise the flags of their countries.

Oklahoma Senator Finis Smith addresses the audience during the ceremony.

Tulsa Mayor James Hewgley brings greetings for the City of Tulsa.

Representing the ORU Regents is S. Lee Braxton, Chairman of the Board of Regents.

President Oral Roberts speaks prior to raising the ORU flag.
Guest speakers...

The speaker for the graduation ceremony of the first 4-year class at ORU was the Honorable Jennings Randolph, (D), U.S. Senator from West Virginia.

A panel of students responds to Guest Lecturer Dr. Charles Shedd. (l. to r.) Cliff Taulbert, Karlyne Lutke, Doug Kay, Dr. Shedd, and Campus Minister Bob Stamps.

Outstanding students...

One of the 100 Presidential Scholars in America selected by President Nixon, and a National Merit finalist, Sue Stockstill is an excellent example of the quality of students attending ORU.

John Bayley, student from Guiana, South America, ministers in song at a recent concert by the World Action Television Singers.
Recent appointments...

Alice M. Rasmussen,
Chairman, Department of Modern Languages
D. Ed., University of Georgia.

L. Duane Thurman
Chairman,
Department of Natural Science,
Ph.D., University of California

Verbal M. Snook
Chairman, Department of Mathematics
Ed. D. Candidate, Oklahoma State University
(degree to be conferred in 1970)

John B. Johnson, Jr., Acting
Chairman, Department of
Health and Physical
Education M. S.,
Louisiana State University

Kenneth F. Trickey
Director of Athletics
M. A., Middle Tennessee State College
The World Action Television Singers have rapidly achieved national recognition through their television appearances on the one-hour specials, "Contact", and the half-hour programs, "Oral Roberts Presents." Their message is making its impact at every level throughout the nation.

The Singers are effectively communicating the life style that Oral Roberts University is attempting to create through its unique fusion of academic excellence with charismatic concern. This life style is one that connotes wholeness, and has as its dominant characteristic the unquenchable urge to share that wholeness with people who are broken or fragmented in some area of their lives.

The essence of the Singers' message is carried into the lives of others through the channel of contemporary music. By capturing the popular imagination through a modern beat and lively style, the Singers are able to circumvent stubborn intellects and touch tender hearts. The result of that touch often provides the inspiration that will move people to seek the total healing which is implicit in the cultivation of a Christ-centered life style.

In addition to their television appearances, the World Action Singers perform for many local activities. These include appearances at the Tulsa State Fair, General Session of the Oklahoma Education Association, Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Federation of Women's Clubs, ORU Regents meeting, ORU Laymen's Seminars, and local high schools.

With invigorating freshness, the World Action Singers are moving through the land, inspiring listless lives and ministering wholeness to human need.
Scholarship Partners Join With Dedicated Students

"ORU has distinguishing features other than its contemporary buildings and high academic standards. It has the ability to stir up a person to do something in this world."

Larry Dalton, a recent ORU graduate, expressed these thoughts in a letter to scholarship partners.

"Since I've come to ORU I've had to give up... selfish pride in order to give to others... And this is what ORU is all about-being a part of the answer rather than part of the problem."

This is the excitement shared by scholarship sponsors as they learn from the students what it is like to be involved in people's problems. With the trouble on many American campuses in the forefront, it is sometimes hard to believe that college students are committed to anything other than anarchy. However, ORU students are eager to do something meaningful in the world.

ORU's Scholarship-Partner program is responsible for aiding many of these students. Scholarship partners are providing funds for qualified young people who will go into contemporary life working at professions while being active through their Christian faith. In a very real way, the students are the scholarship partners' alter egos. Through them, the partners can minister to a needy world, for the students can go places and do things the partner sometimes cannot.

Some of the scholarship students have been members of the various ORU World Action Teams which have gone to Europe, Israel, Africa, the Iron Curtain countries, and many other parts of the world. As a means of keeping ORU Scholarship Partners informed of the exciting activities, representative scholarship students write a letter each month telling in their own words what the ORU students are doing.

"...While I reach for academic excellence, I am caught up in the challenge of World Action and being an involved Christian. My studies...are very closely related. I need the knowledge I have found here, but I know there is a wisdom superior to knowledge. I need to know how to make a living, and this I've learned; but beyond this, ORU provides guide points on how to live." This observation comes from Naomi Carney, a young lady in the first ORU graduating class who is now happily married and holding down an important position in the Tulsa community.

These letters are received with anticipation by scholarship partners. Each month they get what amounts to an "inside report" of activities. Some students write longer letters than others, but all are sincere, are given much thought, and finally are sent on with the desire that in some measure they can express appreciation for the love and concern someone has extended.

The feelings of the students could be summed up in the words of Yoconda Acevedo, a young student from Chile: "The ideal of ORU has been reached in my life—the education of the whole person and always expecting a miracle."

This experience is more than education; it is more than Christian education; it is a commitment to be involved in the needs of people.
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Yoconda Acevedo testifies to the people of Chili.

Larry Dalton performing with the Ralph Carmichael orchestra during one of the television specials, "Contact."

Naomi Carney, a member of the World Action Team to Indonesia, distributes literature in a marketplace.

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This experience is more than education, it is more than Christian education; it is a commitment to be involved in the needs of people.
On the wall of the Oral Roberts University's Dining Commons is a sign, "Expect a Miracle." Three times a day the students see that sign. It has become a part of our being, our outreach—because ORU is at once a community of faith and a community of learning. Faith and learning exist side by side. Faith gives meaning and wholeness to our educational process.

Our students study with resolution. They have purpose. They desire to understand the phenomena of a physical environment and the implications of scientific knowledge for human welfare.

Also, the exceptional physical facilities and a creative, involved, and articulate faculty consort to offer an exceedingly desirable learning situation.

Academic excellence is implemented through a sound academic program. However, we do not view this program as an end in itself—rather as a means, an instrument which not only trains young minds and fills them with knowledge, but makes them sufficiently flexible and responsive to meet the challenge of accelerated and perennial change.

But more than this is the distinct and profound conviction that the purpose of our campus has at its core a UNIFYING CENTER of experience. The academic program reflects its relation to this purpose—this UNIFYING CENTER—healing for the totality of human need. The student’s academic experience is intended to make him or her sensitive to and able to deal with ignorance, estrangement, and brokenness in the human family.

The academic program actualizes its important place on the campus by making abundantly available the best of man's recorded knowledge. This knowledge is offered in a context intended to make every learner aware of the role that cognitive resources may have in a life style of giving and problem solving.

Almost 30% of freshman classes matriculating at ORU are at or near the top of their graduating high school classes. Substantially over half of these new students ranked in the top 20% of their graduating classes. But the consistency of quality in our academic program does not reside totally in these kinds of resources or in the resources germane to our physical environment. Rather, it resides in the sharpening of vision toward using what is learned in a sharing and healing sort of way.

Thus the academic thrust offers a comprehensive program of course work and tutorial experiences geared to high scholastic standards. But emphasis is placed not merely on assimilation of facts—rather on an understanding in depth and scope of the concepts which have emerged from history's great moments. Above all, this knowledge and understanding should contribute to the ability and sensitivity of every person on the campus to share in the healing for the totality of human need.
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