

Spring 2007

Ervin Retires

Jadell Forman

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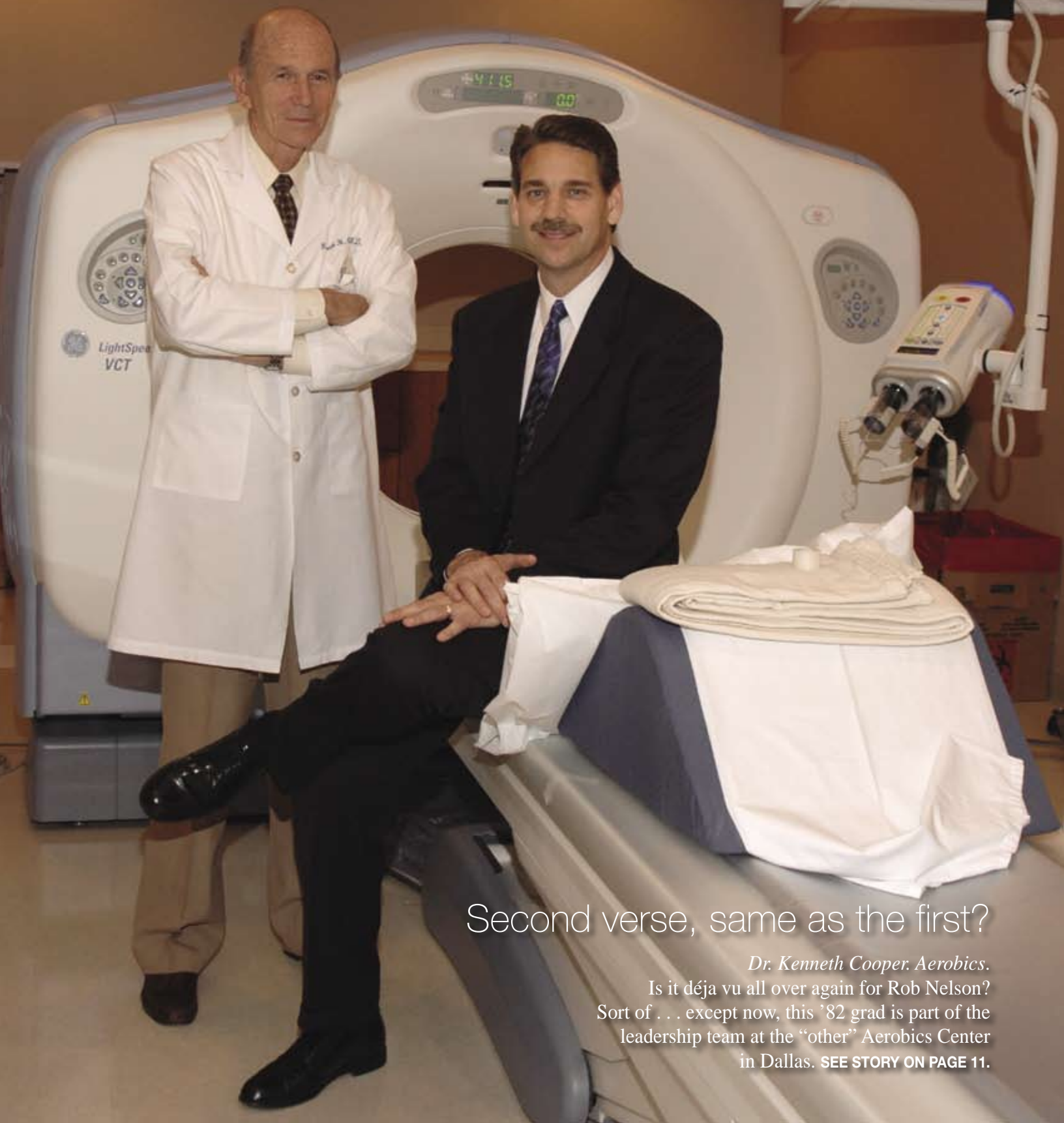
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spring 2007

excellence

for oral roberts university alumni and friends



Second verse, same as the first?

Dr. Kenneth Cooper. Aerobics.

Is it déjà vu all over again for Rob Nelson? Sort of . . . except now, this '82 grad is part of the leadership team at the "other" Aerobics Center in Dallas. **SEE STORY ON PAGE 11.**

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**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."

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Rob Nelson continues to take fitness very seriously . . .
as president and chief operating officer of
Cooper Aerobics Enterprises, Inc.

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Dissatisfied with the curriculum, Dr. Edward Watson
created his own . . . and won an award for it.



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On the front cover:

Inside the Cooper Clinic GI/Imaging Center, Dr. Kenneth Cooper (left) and Rob Nelson are pictured with the LightSpeed VCT Scanner, which GE describes as "the world's first clinical volume CT system, a revolution in CT scanning with significantly increased coverage and high-resolution imaging." It performs CT angiography, a special form of computed tomography that permits visualization of the coronary arteries.



Representing various departments including English, History, Theology, and Nursing, a number of ORU faculty members sought to “light a candle in the shadow of racism” by presenting at the conference and later, in a related faculty-led forum on the topic of diversity.

to all men” (1 Corinthians 9:22) in order to effectively witness to diverse populations.

Attendees were full of hope for the reconciliation of all peoples. As Dr. Kay Meyers, ORU professor and conference presenter, pointed out, the “melting pot” nature of the U.S. has made living amongst a mosaic of people a normal part of life. “Americanness,” she said, “is another word for diversity.”

Ervin Retires

Already something of a campus celebrity, Dr. Howard M. Ervin now has a perpetual place in the halls of ORU. On Dec. 5, in honor of his 40 years of service and recent retirement, the School of Theology and Missions unveiled the newly named “Howard M. Ervin Preaching Lab.”

Dozens of students, faculty, and staff gathered just outside the lab to “celebrate his life and ministry,” said emcee and theology dean Dr. Thomson Mathew.

A student said class with this senior professor of Old Testament Studies was like “storytime on this kind of level,”

raising her hand to measure a place at the top of her brain. That meant he had an example, a story, history, context, and the ability to weave the ancient Old Testament topics into a living tapestry of faith. A staff member said that whenever he came by her desk, she hung on every word and “didn’t want him to ever leave.”

But he’s not one for unnecessary lingering, being known as the first one to adjourn any given meeting he attended. On the other hand, leaving the classroom isn’t as easy for him. “It’s difficult, after 40 years of teaching, to cease abruptly,” he said, referring to a recent fall that necessitated his retirement at age 91.

Throughout two days of festivities, faculty and staff attempted to honor him with words that encapsulate his legacy. But how does one summarize Ervin’s illustrious academic life?

Numerically, he has five degrees and held five job titles at ORU over the course of four decades. Before moving to Tulsa, he pastored two churches in New Jersey, and then took three years to

decide to accept Oral Roberts’ invitation to teach at ORU.

Historically, Ervin has been involved with the university since 1963, when he and Roberts discussed its founding and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, among other things. In a recent letter, Roberts thanked Ervin for his years of service and called him a “close, close friend.”

Others called him mentor, father, grandfather, scholar, professor. But he repeatedly referred to himself in less-glowing terms, “an old rat in a bar,” and with a quiet pensiveness that recalled previous decades, “something of a fixture.”

Gathered and poised to receive his parting words, the audience silently listened to his traditional and insightful few. “We live in one of the most dangerous and opportune times. You’re called to witness and preach in that context. Pray, and pray without ceasing.”

What are your memories of classes you had with Dr. Ervin? E-mail us at alumni@oru.edu and tell us your stories, or send notes of appreciation. We’ll post them on the Web and share them with Dr. Ervin.



Dr. Ervin receives a DVD from Dr. Mathew, School of Theology and Missions dean. It contains comments from faculty, staff, and students concerning Ervin and the investment he made in their lives.