The Ervin Legacy

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

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.

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.”

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, write to careers@oru.edu, or call 918/495.6912.
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If you haven’t seen the RTV widget in action, go to 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.)