



GIVING THANKS

Thanksgiving is celebrated one day a year in the U.S., but at ORU, we know that we are to thank God **every single day** for the many ways He has provided for us and blessed us. He has done so many great things for ORU! We are also abundantly grateful for all the alumni and friends who have prayed for us and given so generously so we can get our students ready for their kingdom assignments. As you prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving this month, know that you are loved and appreciated. **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4

NEWS

HOMECOMING WAS A HIT!

Gather hundreds of alumni on the ORU campus for three days, add plenty of music, sports, meals, and heartfelt worship, and what do you have? Homecoming! "A good time was had by all" is an understatement. If you weren't able to join us this year, mark these dates on your calendar now: November 12-14, 2026!



COLLEGES OF DISTINCTION & MORE

ORU has been named a "Best College in the U.S." by Colleges of Distinction, an organization that has been around since 2000. Its purpose is to help students and their parents when they are in the process of finding the college that will be the right fit. Four distinctions are evaluated by staff: Student Engagement, Teaching, Community, and Outcomes. Special recognition went to ORU's Business, Education, Engineering, and Nursing divisions. ORU has also been ranked as the **#1 "Most Diverse College in Oklahoma"** (Niche 2026) for the fourth year in a row.

DISTINCTION

\$1 MILLION GRANT

ORU has received a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to support the creation of the Institute for Spirit-Empowered Ministry Resilience—a Pathways for Tomorrow 2025 Individual School Grant program.



GRANT



100% ONLINE MBA

The Fenimore & Fisher College of Business offers a 100% online Master of Business Administration designed to cultivate strategic, ethical, and effective leaders. Students may pursue concentrations in Accounting, Healthcare Management, Leadership, Marketing, or Ministry, allowing for focused study aligned with professional goals. This program emphasizes the integration of advanced business knowledge with principled leadership, preparing graduates to navigate complex organizational environments and drive meaningful impact across diverse sectors.

LEARN MORE

GIVING TUESDAY APPROACHES

It's almost here—the day to provide special support for organizations you appreciate...like ORU! Watch for emails on December 2 and get ready to make a gift. Every contribution will help ORU do its best for the students: the Spirit-empowered world-changers of the present and the future!



CREATE YOUR FREE WILL

At Thanksgiving, we're reminded that "every good and perfect gift is from above," and we give thanks for you – our alumni and friends – whose lives and faith continue to impact the world. We're grateful for the ways God has worked through you, and for your desire to bless future generations. One way to extend that legacy is by **creating a will**. In doing so, you not only provide for your loved ones but also steward God's blessings and equip the next generation of leaders for Jesus Christ. As a small measure of our gratitude, we're offering all alumni and friends this **free resource**. We hope it is a blessing as you reflect on your family, your blessings, and your impact.

FREE WILL

ALUMNI

FILM FESTIVAL AWARD

Maggie Pena '25 won the "Best Student Film" award for her film, "Augusta," at the 22nd Annual 168 Film Festival, held October 16-18 in Atlanta, Georgia. It was Maggie's senior film. Four other ORU grads and students worked on the film: **Meagan Dryden '25**, **Tori Ruffin '25**, **Bethany Swanson '25**, and **Nathan Tinkler '26**.



MAGGIE'S AWARD



Emily Zybach
Lincoln Christian School
Tulsa, Oklahoma

HERZOG AWARD

Emily Anderson Zybach '13-M.A.-Teaching is one of 12 educators from across the country who was named a Herzog Foundation Christian Teacher of the Year for 2025. These awards "recognize individuals that embody excellence in Christian education." The recipients went to Washington, D.C. in October for a professional development event, and were celebrated at a gala held at the Museum of the Bible. Emily is an 11th grade U.S. History teacher at Lincoln Christian School in Tulsa.

EMILY'S AWARD

MAKE A NOMINATION

The Alumni Association Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who submitted nominations for the 2025 Alumni Awards. Now it's time to think about 2026...and the Alumni Board is ready to receive your nominations! The deadline is March 1, 2026. Use the link to go to the form.

ALUM AWARDS



EVENTS



FALL OUTREACH

ORU students did it again. They went out into Tulsa neighborhoods on October 31 and collected an amazing amount of canned goods for John 3:16 Mission: a total of 5,464 cans! This will bless a lot of people who need to be fed. Way to go, students!

CAMPUS CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

It's a sure sign that Christmas is just a few weeks away. The ORU Prayer Gardens "came to light" on November 13 with multiple strings of beautiful, colorful Christmas lights! This year, the ceremony happened during Homecoming. Students and staff were joined by alumni and friends outside the Hammer Center to hear the Christmas story and watch those twinkling lights dispel the darkness.



ATHLETICS



COACH OF THE YEAR

Austin Risenhoover, women's soccer head coach, has been named Summit League Coach of the Year. The Golden Eagles won the conference with a 6-1-1 record. This is Austin's fourth season as head coach. He's the first ORU coach since Roger Bush in 2016 to garner the award. In more good women's soccer news, ORU senior Julia Thasaphong was named Offensive Player of the Year.

LEAGUE HONORS



TIME FOR BASKETBALL!

Your Golden Eagles are back in action. Be sure to check the schedules and see when the teams will be playing in your city...and then, go and cheer!

MEN'S BB

WOMEN'S BB



ETC.

Please fill out [this form](#) if you'd prefer to receive a paper receipt—rather than an e-mail receipt—when you make a gift to ORU.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Development and Alumni Relations team is ready and willing to pray for you! Share your prayer requests with us by using the online form. We pray every Monday during our team devotions. We'd also love to hear your praise reports. God bless you!

PRAYER REQUEST / PRAISE



ORU
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