

IMPACT

A PUBLICATION OF REGENT UNIVERSITY

VOL. 6 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2015



2014 | KEEPING A HIGH PROFILE

A look back at the impressive lineup of leaders and speakers who visited the Regent campus in 2014

Regent University's mission is to serve as a center of Christian thought and action. The school's motto, *Christian Leadership to Change the World*, reflects a deep desire to profoundly impact lives around the globe.

One of the best ways to equip students to become distinctive influencers is by exposing them to prominent men and women who model true servant leadership in the fields of business, entertainment, law, medicine, politics, religion and other significant areas.

The Regent community is privileged to steadily see and hear from Regent founder, chancellor and CEO [Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson](#) at campus events. Likewise, some students pursue mentoring and instruction from distinguished professors such as former U.S. Attorney General

[John Ashcroft](#), chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice [Dr. Jay Sekulow](#), and former Chief of Naval Operations [Admiral Vern Clark](#).

But additionally in 2014, Regent welcomed one of its most distinguished lineups of speakers and newsmakers ever at its Virginia Beach campus. These prominent authorities shared their keys to leadership success.

Regent's Executive Leadership Series luncheons (ELS), the [Ronald Reagan Symposium](#), the

INSIDE:

A LANDMARK AGREEMENT

PAGE 4

A HEART SAYING "YES"

PAGE 5



KEEPING A HIGH PROFILE — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Clash of the Titans® debate and several other noteworthy events featured insight, analysis and opinion from many high-profile individuals. Students, alumni, faculty, staff and guests heard from former heads of nations, a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, two likely 2016 presidential candidates, a former Navy SEAL, a Hollywood “leading man” and many other national and international figures over the past year.

In March, *New York Times* best-selling author, film producer and pastor of the Dallas megachurch, The Potter’s House, Bishop T.D. Jakes met with students from the Schools of [Divinity](#) and [Communication & the Arts](#) (SCA), and other groups, at on-campus events over several days. In addition to presenting a pre-release screening of his popular and successful film, *Heaven is for Real*, Jakes shared what makes a true leader of a congregation: character, competency and an understanding of one’s “core.”

Just two days later, Emily Colson, daughter of the late Prison Fellowship founder Chuck Colson, was on hand for Regent’s first annual [Ethics in Media and Culture Conference](#), where she presented an award named in her father’s honor.

“You can’t be a leader if you’re looking at the masses to find out what it is you’re going to do.”

-Former Gov. Mike Huckabee

The month of May saw the return of Dr. Benjamin Carson, a groundbreaking pediatric neurosurgeon and possible 2016 presidential candidate, to Regent as commencement speaker. A former member of the university’s board of trustees, Carson said he wanted the graduates to understand the importance of having enough courage to stand up for their convictions, while adding, “I’m hoping that many of you will move into legislative arenas and will exercise some wisdom and some direction from God to be able to learn from mistakes that have been made in the past.”

SCA welcomed several high-profile guests to talk about show business and faith. They included actor, producer and director John Ratzenberger (*Cheers*, Pixar films); former producer of *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, Dave Berg; and Emmy- and Golden Globe-

nominated actor Corbin Bernsen (*L.A. Law*, *Major League*, *Psych*). In April, SCA also announced a feature-film project with Bersen’s production company, Home Theatre Films. *Jesse & Naomi* began shooting in January 2015.

DeVon Franklin, the president and CEO of Franklin Entertainment, spoke at December’s ELS luncheon. Franklin and his newly minted



production company, which works in conjunction with Sony Pictures Entertainment, helped produce the popular faith-based film *Heaven is for Real* and the recent remake of *Annie*.

Visits from a sitting U.S. Supreme Court Justice and a former governor and presidential candidate were separated by just four days in September. On the 16th, Associate Justice Antonin Scalia became the third member of America's high court to visit Regent when he spoke to a group of approximately 150 students before attending a banquet in his honor at The Founders Inn ballroom, where he addressed some 700 guests from across the region.

On September 19, former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee kicked off the 2014 fall season of ELS. While commending the university's "extraordinary commitment to ... spiritual and academic excellence," the 2012 Republican presidential candidate warned of the dangers of a leadership crisis in America. "If you don't know what you fundamentally believe ... then it's hard to be a leader," he said. "You can't be a leader if you're looking at the masses to find out what it is you're going to do."

On October 24, 2014, a highly distinguished panel of experts gathered for the 12th annual *Clash of the Titans*® debate to answer the question: "Has America Lost Its Leading Edge?" Dr. Jay Sekulow moderated the 90-minute discussion between former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney;

former Mexican President Felipe Calderon; former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton; and the editor-in-chief and chairman of Forbes Media, Steve Forbes. The opinions of the four political and business leaders were best summed up by Forbes, a two-time Republican presidential candidate, when he said, "In terms of America losing its leading edge, it has been blunted. But that is only temporary."

Other notable on-campus guests in 2014 included Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Manny Garcia and these ELS speakers: best-selling author and leadership expert Dr. Henry Cloud, author and etiquette expert Joy Weaver, executive chairman of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts® James Morgan, and former SEAL Team Six member Robert J. O'Neill.

By consistently bringing some of the nation's strongest voices to Regent, the university is shaping faculty, staff, students and friends as citizens who are more productive, engaging, and hopefully, more virtuous. And in turn, these faithful men and women are infusing a palpable excellence into our nation and our world.

For more information about Regent University's undergraduate and graduate degree programs, call **800.373.5504** or visit **regent.edu/academics**.



A Landmark Agreement

A new, historic partnership with Eastern Virginia Medical School will allow Regent students to pursue master's degrees in five health professions

At the dedication ceremony for the College of Arts & Sciences' (CAS) new Applied Science & Ethics Laboratory back in September, Dr. Richard Homan, president and provost of Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) in Norfolk, Virginia, shared that he was exploring academic collaboration opportunities with Regent University. Those discussions led to a landmark agreement that will benefit both Regent and EVMS.

On January 5, 2015, Homan and EVMS vice president Dr. Donald Combs joined Regent's executive vice president for academic affairs and CAS dean Dr. Gerson Moreno-Riaño and university founder, chancellor and CEO Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson at a ceremony held to sign the official agreement.

"This is an important moment in the history of Regent University," Robertson said. "I am delighted that we can partner with this great institution and have students from Regent begin studying in this field. We want to emphasize health care and science more extensively at Regent, and this is an initiative that I'm thrilled to participate in."

After the ceremony, Moreno-Riaño told *Impact*, "I see it as a new beginning, and I see it as a consummation of a process that began in 2011. That's when I first introduced the idea of pursuing a Biophysical Science Program at Regent."

Starting next fall, 25 CAS juniors and seniors in various majors will be eligible to receive "early assurance of acceptance" for EVMS master's programs in five sought-after health-care professions: Art Therapy & Counseling, Biomedical Sciences Research, Biotechnology, Public Health, and Surgical

Assisting. A meeting between Moreno-Riaño and Homan this past summer laid the groundwork for the early assurance program, which is the first step in future collaborations between the two schools.

"EVMS actually suggested the partnership to us," Moreno-Riaño explained. "This agreement paves the way for outstanding and qualified Regent University undergraduate students to pursue and complete graduate education in health-care fields at EVMS." CAS students majoring in biblical studies, biophysical sciences, business, Christian ministry, government, psychology and other fields of study are eligible to apply for admission to one of the five EVMS master's programs.

At the signing ceremony, Holman praised the efforts of both institutions to make this agreement a reality: "Health care is a growing field and I think (this partnership) is a wonderful opportunity for Regent University ... as we train the next generation of health-care providers. ... I look forward to continuing

the relationship and to welcoming students from Regent in the coming years."

Moreno-Riaño added that this partnership will help Regent students carry a biblical worldview to the forefront of moral dialogue on science and medicine: "These are areas where we need Christian leadership to shape conversations about end-of-life issues, quality-of-life issues, bioethics and human dignity with significant ethical values and standards."

"We want to emphasize health care and science more extensively at Regent, and this is an initiative that I'm thrilled to participate in."

-Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson

For more information about Regent University's College of Arts and Sciences or the Early Assurance of Acceptance Program with EVMS, call **888.718.1222** or visit regent.edu/cas.

A Heart Saying "Yes" to the Call

Regent student Medina Elaasar longs to be wherever God wants her



Every Regent student has a unique story about his or her journey to the university. Many involve growing up in a Christian family, attending high school, and at some point, feeling called by God to attend Regent University. Other student stories, like Medina Elaasar's, are nothing like that at all.

Elaasar is the daughter of a Muslim father. After being introduced to faith in Jesus Christ by a friend in high school, she says the extreme emotional, verbal and spiritual abuse that followed led her to make the difficult decision to leave home at the age of 16: "The way my father treated me at that time pushed me to either convert, deal with the abuse and stay in the house, or take a step of faith and leave. I felt the Holy Spirit tell me it was time, and that's when I moved out of my house."

Even though she lacked support from her biological family, Elaasar says, "My spiritual family at church was more than excited to encourage and lift me up."

She chose to attend Regent after visiting the campus with her pastor's daughter. Elaasar calls that decision "one of the most crucial" of her life: "It was a stepping stone. I never thought I would have the opportunity to come to a Christian university. But I knew, as soon as I saw the highway exit sign to Regent, that this was the place my journey was taking me."

But without the financial support of her father, Elaasar would need to rely on the help and generosity of strangers to make her Regent dream a reality. "Donors made it possible for Medina to receive the financial aid and scholarships she needed to attend this university," says Regent vice president for advancement [Ann LeBlanc](#). "She is a beautiful young woman with an amazing voice who, because she already has lost so much for her faith, will be a Christian leader to continue to change the world."

"I am eternally grateful," Elaasar explains. "And I want to say thank you to every Regent donor and every person even considering being a donor. You never know how just one seed can grow in a person's life."

Now a senior in Regent's [College of Arts and Sciences](#) majoring in Christian ministry, Elaasar says the past three years have transformed her into a Christian leader ready to conquer whatever is ahead: "The amount of leadership opportunities offered and accepted at the university—as a life-group leader, a resident assistant, and a worship team member—are extremely humbling. I am grateful that all these experiences are pushing me forward to the future."

"I want to change the world by being an example of what happens when you say 'Yes' to the call of God."

As Elaasar nears the completion of her degree, she is prayerfully considering where God is leading her. "The 'next step' is always the lingering question for students," she says. "I believe that the Lord is calling me in this season specifically towards the next generation of rising leaders and worship ministry. ... I know that I am a daughter of God, capable

of expressing my faith freely, and that whatever happens post-grad is a result of what Regent has done in my life."

Elaasar understands that what she may have lost or given up for her faith in Jesus Christ has been returned to her many times over: "My faith did cause my father to disown me for a while. But since then, our relationship has gotten better. Now, I simply want to be used by the Lord. I want to change the world by being an example of what happens when you say 'yes' to the call of God; no matter what background, circumstances or place you have come from!"

To learn how you can sponsor a Regent World Changer like Medina Elaasar, please call **800.335.4409** or visit regent.edu/worldchanger.



REGENT UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

THE RONALD REAGAN SYMPOSIUM 2015

DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION? CHALLENGES TO FOSTERING GLOBAL FREEDOM

"Around the world today, a democratic revolution is gathering new strength." Ronald Reagan made that bold statement before the British Parliament in 1982. He challenged the West: "If the rest of this century is to witness the gradual growth of freedom ... we must take actions to assist the campaign for democracy."

Join us for the 2015 Ronald Reagan Symposium as we explore how well we're promoting liberty and today's U.S. policy toward democracy and democratization.

Friday, March 20, 2015 | 9am-1pm

Register now for your **FREE** tickets.

Information and Registration:

regent.edu/reagan

or 757.352.4245

REGENT WORLD CHANGERS

Becky Weichhand, Esq.

Executive Director, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute



Regent Law alum Becky Weichhand '07 was recently named executive director for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) in Washington, D.C. In her new role with the nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, Weichhand is committed to bringing America's leaders "the

voices of children and young people who do not yet know the love and support of a forever family."

Weichhand says her Regent experience solidified her sense of calling and vision, preparing her practically for the work she does now: "At an early age, I was keenly aware of my calling to help children living outside of the protective and loving arms of a family find a place to call home, to belong, to heal. People of faith should be bringing both creative and common sense solutions to the social and legal systems that impact our vulnerable children."

Please join the Regent University community in praying for Becky Weichhand, January's alumni World Changer.

POINT. CLICK. GIVE.

Online giving is a fast and convenient way for you to support Regent University. **Point** your browser to regent.edu/give. **Click** the "Online Gifts" link. **Give** via electronic check or debit/credit card.

STAY CONNECTED

Are you a Regent graduate who wants to stay connected to the university? Log on to Regentalumni.org for an interactive online community with news updates, event information and job listings. You can also contact the Office of Alumni Relations by calling **888.294.ALUM** or by emailing alumni@regent.edu.



A Message From the Chancellor

Dear Friend,

Regent University welcomed the New Year with nearly 6,000 students enrolled in the spring semester. We are thankful for what the Lord has done in the past year and for what He's going to do in the year ahead. Isaiah 42:8 tells us, "I alone am the Lord your God. No

other god may share my glory" (GNT). In obedience to God, the entire Regent community gives Him all the glory and praise for the great things He has done and will continue to do at and through this university.

Back in May, Regent awarded degrees to the largest graduating class in our 36-year history. The university currently has nearly 19,000 alumni in 112 countries. Seven alums currently serve as college presidents; 32 are sitting judges; nine serve in state legislative positions; and one is a member of Congress. Our graduates are influencing the United States and dozens of other nations around the globe for the glory of God!

Your partnership is crucial to helping Regent faculty and staff accomplish our mission to equip Christian leaders to change the world. Your faithful prayers and generous donations make a tremendous difference in the lives of the men and women who answer God's call to attend the university both on campus and online. Your best gift today will ensure that this generation of World Changers receives the excellent, Christ-first education available at Regent University.

Thank you for your friendship and support.

Sincerely,

Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson
Founder, Chancellor & CEO
Regent University

"HE IS YOUR PRAISE, AND HE IS YOUR GOD, WHO HAS DONE FOR YOU THESE GREAT AND AWESOME THINGS WHICH YOUR EYES HAVE SEEN."

DEUTERONOMY 10:21 (NKJV)





regent.edu/impact

Regent University's Impact is published monthly by the university's Office of Advancement, free of charge, for alumni and friends of the university. Regent University admits students without discrimination on the basis of race, color, disability, gender, religion or national or ethnic origin. Regent University is certified by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to operate campuses within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Regent University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associates, baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404.679.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Regent University. Opinions expressed in Impact are those of individuals and do not necessarily represent the views of Regent University's board, faculty, administration or staff. Regent University accepts news submissions from readers but reserves the right to edit based upon clarity, length and content. The university may decline to print material at its discretion.

ADV150088



1000 Regent University Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Christian Leadership to Change the World

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Norfolk, VA
Permit 91