

New ORU dean is all business

By **APRIL MARCISZEWSKI**
World Staff Writer

Oral Roberts University is adding fresh corporate experience to its formula for teaching students about business.

Mark Lewandowski became dean of the School of Business this semester, replacing David Dyson, who became a professor of management.

Dyson has been planning the change from the beginning of his nine years as dean, when he predicted that Lewandowski would succeed him or become a major donor.

At the time, Lewandowski was teaching communication at ORU while working on his master's degree of business administration, with an emphasis in finance. Consulting work on the side landed him a job as president of Provider Medical Pharmaceutical.

National Medical Health Care bought Tulsa-based Provider Medical Pharmaceutical in 2001, and Lewandowski became the senior vice president of business development.

NMHC provides companies' employees with pharmacy cards to buy medicine, and it manages the pharmacy-card system to make it cost-effective, said Tery Baskin, chief marketing officer.

Part of Lewandowski's job was to buy out other companies. In 2003, NMHC was named the 27th-fastest-growing company by Fortune magazine, and in 2004 it was named the sixth-fastest-growing company.

"He was a big part of our success," said Baskin, who worked closely with Lewandowski.

Lewandowski wants to use his corporate experience and connections to make ORU's School of Business more visible in the community and to connect students with internships and jobs. He hopes to get faculty members working as researchers and consultants for local companies.

He's also speaking at every event he can to make Tulsa businesses aware of ORU — and aware that it's not just a religious university.

In the past 10 years, he hired several dozen ORU graduates because of their quality education and their work ethic, he said.

Hiring Lewandowski was a way for the School of Business to improve and to keep up with the changing corporate world, Dyson said.

What's unique about Lewandowski is that "he understands and relates to the culture of the university and the corporate world," Dyson said. "I think this will be a professional touch that will be added to the academic competencies."

In a 2002 study, only 7 percent of business deans said they came from corporate backgrounds, while 90 percent previously had held academic jobs, and 3 percent worked for the government, according to the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International. The study included 419 deans from public and private schools.

Lewandowski is the ORU School of Business' competitive advantage, Dyson said.

He also has a strong desire to pass his knowledge on to students.

"I have a real belief that the purpose of my life is to help other people in their unique pursuit of success," he said.

Lewandowski hasn't always known his life's path. Instead, he's discovered it little by little.

As an undergraduate at ORU, he started studying communication before adding business as a major. He had several jobs before returning to ORU for more training. He eventually obtained his doctorate in management from Walden University in



Lewandowski

Minneapolis.

Dyson watched Lewandowski as a student and as a businessman and saw insight, vision, heart and energy.

Baskin, at NMHC, learned about Lewandowski through customers and prospective customers when Lewandowski was still president of Provider Medical Pharmaceutical. Baskin was the president of a competitor, Pharmacy Associates Inc. at the time.

"We felt we outperformed anyone else in the marketplace except them," Baskin said. "We had a mutual admiration for each other."

Baskin's company was bought by NMHC about nine months before Lewandowski's company was acquired.

For several years at NMHC, Baskin was Lewandowski's boss, although Baskin considered him a peer. Baskin admired how Lewandowski got to work early, taught and counseled employees, and got to know people in the company.

"He was someone I really relied on," Baskin said. "... I never questioned his ethics. I never worried about the decisions he was going to make on behalf of the company."

Last spring, Lewandowski had a heart attack that changed everything.

He had already accomplished his life's goals — obtaining a doctorate by age 30, becoming president of a company and being presented with several plaques showing that he had closed acquisitions.

His family was ready for a change, and he was ready to return to living full time in Tulsa.

His cardiologist told him his fast-paced lifestyle would hurt his long-term health, Baskin said.

Changing careers wasn't a decision Lewandowski made on his own. In his office at NMHC, he sat at his table, studying the Bible and praying.

"Lord, if you want me to change jobs, you've gotta make the phone ring," he said he prayed.

About 2½ hours later, he got the call that brought him back to ORU.

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Councilor lives outside district

► Council Chairman Randy Sullivan said he sees no conflict in not living in the district he represents.

By **BRIAN BARBER**
World Staff Writer

City Council Chairman Randy Sullivan has lived outside his district for more than a year and said this week that he has no immediate plans to move back.

"I don't see how not sleeping in my district would affect my ability to serve my constituents," he said. "I still own a house there and pay taxes on the property."

Sullivan, a Republican who represents District 7, is in the middle of divorce proceedings with his wife, Kathryn.

He said he moved out of their house in the 4300 block of East

68th Place to a condominium in the 3700 block of South River Drive on Dec. 1, 2003.

The condominium is in District 9, which is represented by Councilor Susan Neal.

Sullivan, 48, said he chose the location instead of one in his district because it is close to River Parks, where he likes to exercise.

"I still spend a lot of time at the home," he said, adding that the couple's youngest son lives there, too.

"What if I reconciled with my wife and moved back? That has been a possibility."

Tulsa's city charter isn't clear on the residential requirements



Sullivan

of councilors.

The only element specified is that at the time of filing for a council office, a candidate must have lived in the district for more than 90 days.

It does not appear to address whether a councilor is required to remain in the district while in office or whether owning a home in the district is sufficient.

Acting City Attorney Alan Jackere said the charter's language "is what it is."

If the other councilors wanted to, they could review the situation to determine whether Sullivan still qualifies to represent his district.

The council could seek a legal opinion about that from the city's Legal Department or make that judgment themselves, Jackere said.

"We haven't had that happen before," he said.

Sullivan, who first won his seat in 2002, lived outside his

district at the time of his 2004 re-election.

His opponent, John Eagleton, made it an issue in the GOP primary race in February, Sullivan said. He still won with 53 percent of the vote.

Sullivan's living arrangements likely won't be an issue in the 2006 council elections because, he said, he probably won't run again.

He said his service on the council has taken time away from his job as vice president of Avalon Exploration, an oil and gas company.

The recent animosity on the council had nothing to do with his decision, he said.

Since Sullivan became the council's chairman in April, he has been at odds with some members of a council voting bloc on issues related to the city and his leadership.

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Eagle-watching slated at Keystone

The Tulsa Audubon Society will hold its annual Eagle Days event Sunday near Keystone Dam.

The public is invited to view bald eagles as they migrate and hunt for food.

About 1,500 eagles spend much of the winter in Oklahoma, and Keystone Lake is one of their favored roosting sites.

Sunday's viewing will begin at 8 a.m. at the Watchable Wildlife area adjacent to the Army Corps of Engineers' headquarters, 23115 W. Wekiwa Road, on the north bank of the Arkansas River by Keystone Lake.

Signs directing people to the site will begin appearing at the Sand Springs Expressway exit to Oklahoma 151.

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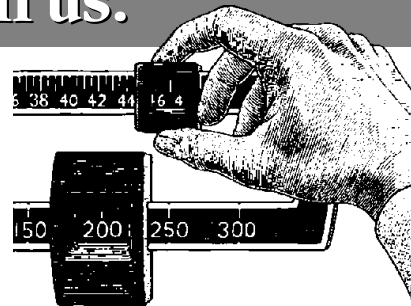
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