



O·B·U legacy newsletter

Legacy Newsletter offered by Oklahoma Baptist University

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Plant Now To Yield Immediate and Future Rewards

By Tom Terry, Master Gardener

Planning fall gardening activities can be compared to preparing for or experiencing retirement: invest in something you can enjoy immediately, something that will mature in a few months, and something that will have lasting benefit. Here are some planting investments you might consider this fall.

For immediate satisfaction you can plant several flowers to enjoy in the fall and throughout the winter months. Pansies come to mind first. If you plant them in October not only will they bloom nicely throughout the fall, they will develop a substantial root system that will carry them into late spring. You may find Panolas at some garden centers. These plants were developed from pansies and

violas. They tend to out-perform standard pansies and some have extremely large blooms.

Kale and Flowering Cabbage are impressive plants for both fall and winter. They feature colorful leaves in shades of purple or variegated green and white. Some have curly leaves and others have leaves that look like lace. These plants are very low maintenance, but sometimes they can be damaged by severe ice or snowstorms. I have had good luck covering them with old towels or a blanket held down with bricks or rocks when an ice storm is threatening. If you try this method, be sure to wait until the ice melts to remove the blanket. If you don't, you are likely to remove some leaves with it. (I know this from experience.)

Another nice attribute of these plants is that in the spring they have stems of flowers. If you remove the stems after the blooms are spent, the plant will continue to be attractive during the summer. Or if you grow tired of them, just cut the plants back about an inch above the ground, score the stem with an "X" and you are likely to get multiple heads of Kale or Cabbage in return.

For beautiful spring returns, be sure to plant some bulbs this fall. You'll have more reliable results if you purchase your bulbs shortly after they become available or order them so that they will be shipped at planting time. Store them in a cool dark place until you are ready to plant.

Many types of bulbs are available. I have had good luck with hyacinths and daffodils returning to bloom year after year. Tulips, on the other hand, probably need to be planted every fall, as a fairly low percentage will return the following year. If you have the space in your yard or garden for more bulbs, take advantage of closeouts during December or early January. I have planted daffodils and tulips here in Shawnee, which is in climate zone 7, as late as January and had good results.

In our garden, we have followed the practice of planting daffodils with daylilies. By the time the daffodil leaves begin to brown, the daylilies have appeared and mask the drying foliage. Be aware: daffodil bulbs get their food from this process, so it is important to leave the foliage intact until it withers.

contents

2

Pre-Need Planning

4

An Opportunity Extended

6

Grace In The Details

8

Just a Tweet Away

Continued on Page 5



Pre-Need Planning Saves Money, Time

A lot of time is invested in planning, and many tools are available to help individuals plan effectively. We plan for retirements, for vacations, for major purchases, for educational expenses for our children and grandchildren. Those are fairly commonplace, but many people put off planning their own funeral arrangements. In this issue, we have asked Carter Stewart, owner and operator of Stewart Funeral Service, to guide our readers through the process of advance planning.

Why should you make your own funeral arrangements?

People generally spend less money on themselves. It avoids emotional overspending. If you purchase a guaranteed pre-need funeral it freezes prices at today's costs. Over the last 10 years it has saved contract holders from a five- to six-percent increase every year.

Surviving families are usually glad to do what you request and are relieved of many decisions that have to be made at a time they really don't want to be taking care of business.

How can you pay for the arrangements?

You can pay cash, make monthly payments, or utilize monthly payments with insurance, which provides insurance to pay the remainder of the funeral bill if you die before the contract is fully paid.

Our funeral service is located in a small rural town. Averages in the larger towns should be higher. My average service is about \$7,500 for traditional funerals and \$2,500 for cremation.

You can make funeral arrangements without paying in advance and have your estate or survivors pay the funeral bill at the time of death, but the price is not frozen.

How do you complete the arrangements?

Start by choosing a funeral home. Choose one close

to you or one you know or have been impressed with. Organize your thoughts as to what you want. You may want to talk to your family about it. The possibilities are many. Remember that tradition and religious background give families and communities a certain degree of comfort at the time of death. Make an effort to personalize your service in a way that would truly celebrate your life.

Consider talking to a second funeral home for comparison and use the one that you have the most confidence in. If you are not completely happy, return and tell the funeral home why or go to even a third or more funeral homes.

Make sure you completely understand the contracts and the services that will or will not be provided.

Also, please note that usually there are a few contract items for which the prices are not frozen and can not be guaranteed.

How do you share your plans with others?

After you have made the arrangements tell your relatives about your plans and explain what you want. Give at least two people a copy of your plans.

What will the funeral service need?

The funeral home will need all vital statistic information, your Social Security number, military discharge if any, and your biographical information, including survivors.

How can you make sure your wishes are honored?

Choose someone to be in charge of confirming arrangements at the time of your death.

It is best to be very specific in where the burial will be or where the cremated remains are to be placed.

By planning ahead, you will be saving money and helping your survivors avoid business decisions during their time of loss.

Sample Checklist for Your Planning

- Will your service be at a traditional church or at another location?
- Will it be a Funeral or a Memorial Service?
- Will your remains be cremated?
- Will there be embalming?
- Will there be a viewing of the open casket?
- Who will be the officiating minister and other speakers at the service? *(List them and provide contact information.)*
- What are your music selections for the service? *(List the songs and composers.)*
- Will the music be pre-recorded or performed live? If live, who do you wish to sing at the service?
- Will you have a DVD/video of family photographs at the service?
- What are your favorite Bible verses, poems or other literature which can be referred to or printed in the service folder?
- Who will be your pallbearers?
- What type of casket do you desire?
- What type of burial container or vault do you desire for the casket?

About the Writer

Carter Stewart was born in 1945 in Childress, Texas, and raised mostly in Abilene, Texas. He graduated from Abilene's Cooper High School in 1946, and attended Tarleton State College and McMurry College before graduating in 1968 from Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science. That same year, Carter married Marcia Young, his high school sweetheart.



Carter's father was a funeral director in Abilene, and he had become a funeral director at the same funeral home. In 1976 he left the funeral business to work for an insurance company and then in the oil business. In 1985 he returned to the funeral business, working in Vernon, Texas. The Stewarts moved to Hollis, Oklahoma, in 1989, and he managed the funeral home there until opening Stewart Funeral Service in 1995. In 2008, he purchased the other funeral home in Hollis. Marcia became an elementary school music teacher. She retired in 2009.

All of those facts do not reveal the most important things in Stewart's life. He was raised in a home where few Christian principles were exhibited. He says he married into a faithful Baptist family and began to see a better way to live.

"I struggled several years torn between the lifestyle

I learned as a child and the Christian way," he said.

He accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior in 1968. He became a deacon at South Side Baptist Church in Abilene in 1976, and has served as a deacon at the First Baptist Church of Vernon and the First Baptist Church of Hollis. He also has served in many other church capacities. Meanwhile, Marcia has been a music teacher and a church secretary and has played the piano at churches the Stewarts have attended for more than 35 years.

"I didn't really have much of a chance to go 'wrong' surrounded by all these good people God blessed me with," Stewart said.

A pivotal point in his life was a Lay Renewal weekend at his church in Abilene.

"Marcia and I had been trying to have a child for several years. Because of the loving, God-fearing people who prayed for us during this lay renewal, God blessed us with our first child," he explained.

Melanie was born in December 1975, followed by Ben in August 1977, and Stephanie in 1982.

In 1994 Melanie told her parents she wanted to go to OBU. That began a long-term relationship for Carter and Marcia as OBU parents. With the help of several scholarships and student loans, Melanie graduated in 1998, Ben in 1999, and Stephanie in 2005.

Stewart served on OBU's board of trustees from 2002-06, and said that tenure gave him an opportunity to help further a ministry of Christian higher education which has blessed his family.

Dum Tempus Habemus, Operemur Bonum

(While we have the time, let us do good)

IRA Gifts Still Make Sense

Recent changes in the tax code have extended the IRA charitable rollover through December of 2009. This provision was first offered by Congress in the wake of the Katrina disaster in New Orleans to encourage charitable giving and it has proven to be a popular way for retirees to make gifts to charitable causes.

If you are at least 70½ years old (at the time of the transfer) you can still use your IRA to make a direct charitable gift of up to \$100,000 this year from your IRA without having to pay federal income taxes on the withdrawal. It is a withdrawal, by the way, which qualifies to be a part of your Required Minimum Distributions for the year.

The following is an example of how it could work. Keep in mind that everyone's situation is different and requires thorough study and often also requires professional advice to achieve the results you desire.

Mrs. OBU Donor is 72 and has a Required Minimum Distribution of 4 percent for 2009. At her valuation date her IRA was valued at \$800,000. This means she must take at least a \$32,000 withdrawal for the current tax year and will have to pay income taxes on it. Now, like many people in her situation, she doesn't need to take the withdrawal to live on. She lives simply and has enough income from Social Security and a few other investments.

She would like to continue to fund an endowed scholarship which she and her husband started before his death. However, if she took the \$32,000 distribution and then wrote a check to OBU, it would make part of her Social Security income taxable and she would only be able to take a charitable deduction of a little more than \$16,000 because there is a federal

limit upon a person's charitable deductions of 50 percent of adjusted gross income. This means that she would also be taxed on the amount of the withdrawal above the 50 percent limit. So besides being taxed on a quarter of her Social Security, she also would pay taxes on the \$16,000 above the deductible amount. Because of Oklahoma's tax structure (which is similar to the structures in many other states) she would have to pay these additional income taxes at the state level also.

Then Mrs. Donor heard about the extension of the Charitable IRA Rollover law. She called John Little in the OBU Planned Giving Office to inquire about it. He offered suggestions about how it might work for her, sent her a fact sheet, and suggested that she discuss it with her financial planner, her lawyer or her tax accountant (or even all three).

What John told her was that if she "rolled" a distribution out of the IRA directly to OBU, without "touching" it herself, then she would get credit for her Required Minimum Distribution, she would satisfy her plans for the endowed scholarship and by doing this, in her case, there would be no tax impact on her – none at all! What's more, she didn't need to limit herself to the \$32,000 Minimum Required Distribution amount. The law will allow up to a total of \$100,000 in gifts to charities for an individual, who otherwise qualifies, during 2009.

Why don't you follow Mrs. Donor's lead, and check with John Little as she did? He can be reached at (405) 878-2718 or on his mobile phone at (405) 760-8455. You can write to him by e-mail at john.little@okbu.edu or mail correspondence to Oklahoma Baptist University, Attention: John Little, 500 W. University, Shawnee, OK 74804.

Fall Gardening Offers Immediate and Future Benefits

Continued from Page 1

As you formulate your fall planting plans, it is perfectly “legal” to get some “inside” perspective. Several years ago a local landscape designer impressed on me the importance of considering the view from *inside* your home when planning your *outdoor* landscape. We have tried to follow that practice ourselves, so now, as we look out from our kitchen, from a favorite chair, or while eating, the view is attractive. We have even positioned several bird feeders in the yard that we can see and enjoy while at our breakfast table.

One of the loveliest plants we can see from our breakfast room is Hellebore, whose common name is Lenten Rose. This evergreen perennial plant begins forming blooms about the end of January, and it is not adversely affected by freezes. After the plant freezes and thaws, it is just as hearty as before, continuing to grow and produce blooms that look like small bells suspended from the limbs. The blooms are attractive floating in a bowl for a centerpiece. By June the blooms have changed from pink to cream color and are ready to be removed by the first of July. Horticulturists have developed many other choices of bloom color.

I cut our Hellebores back to the ground about January 1 and they start putting up new shoots within a few days. The Hellebore was selected as an Oklahoma Proven perennial in 2008. Go to oklahomaproven.okstate.edu and click on 2008 to see a photo and additional information. Be sure to plant it in shade and ensure it has moist but well-drained soil amended with compost, peat moss, or some other humus-rich ingredient.

Although Hellebore can be grown from seedlings that will sprout around a mature plant, ensure you get the bloom color you want by purchasing your first plant from a garden center. And be patient; this unusual plant takes a while to get well established.

For lasting benefit, fall is a good time to plant trees and container-grown shrubs. The plants won't suffer the stress of hot weather and can develop their root system during the fall and winter months. Before you purchase

your plant, take care to determine its size at maturity and whether or not it needs sun or shade. More than once I have bought a shrub such as holly or yew and planted it in a place where it grew too large for the space or was damaged by too much exposure to sun.

In addition to planting trees and shrubs in the fall, consider developing a raised bed for a vegetable garden. Benefits include the ability to develop an ideal soil mixture in the bed and ease of maintenance. Many of us have heavy clay soils that are not very well suited for vegetable gardens. I have seen some very practical and attractive raised beds that used concrete blocks for sides with concrete patio tiles placed on top. If the bed is about four feet wide and a comfortable height, you can easily sit on the edge to tend the plants.

Master Gardeners in Norman, Oklahoma City and Tulsa have demonstration gardens featuring different styles of raised beds. A visit to one of those gardens at their county OSU extension center would provide ideas and encouragement. Call ahead to see when they are open.

Finally, here is a suggestion for making wise use of some of your existing assets during the winter that might otherwise sit idle until spring. Take some of your large decorative pots, the ones that are normally filled with annuals or tender perennials from April through early November, and fill them with colorful branches from your yard. For example, if you have Nandinas, strategically remove about a dozen limbs after the leaves have turned red/orange. Punch holes in the upper quarter of a one-gallon milk container so that the limbs can be inserted through the hole giving the appearance of a plant. Fill the container with water and place it in the decorative pot. The limbs will stay fresh looking for about six weeks. After that you can remove them and either install fresh limbs or leave the pot empty until warmer weather arrives.

Some of these suggestions may encourage you to invest a little time and money in a project that will provide both immediate and long-term returns. If you do, I hope that you are pleased with the dividends.

Grace In The Details

God took an oilfield worker's kid who met his young bride at a fine arts contest in rural Oklahoma, brought them to OBU, gave them a vision for the lost and a provision for education, sent them to minister to Native Americans and work in higher education, and used them as a resource to help other rural kids get a quality Christian education.

That, in a nutshell, is the legacy of Bob and Nelda Keck, members of OBU's Class of 1952. But the true testimony to God's grace in their lives is in the details.

God gave Bob a special gift that would change the course of his future: the ability to run. Fast. That gift resulted in another gift: an invitation to attend OBU on a track scholarship. In gratitude to the way OBU positively changed their lives, the Kecks would one day give back to other Oklahoma Baptist students seeking a life-changing education.

"I was astonished anybody would want me," said Keck, recalling his surprise at an offer from longtime OBU coach Eddie Hurt.

Coming from a family of modest income, Keck made his first bus trip when he headed to Bison Hill. He met Dean Lee Spencer, OBU's librarian, at the bus stop, carrying a canvas bag filled with an extra pair of pants and his high school letter jacket. The dean took him to campus, where Keck would set university records in track. Years later, he would be inducted into OBU's Athletic Hall of Fame.

"OBU is a good place for people who come from a limited background financially and culturally," Keck said. "Coach Hurt took me from being a country oil-field kid and gave me opportunities to participate in track, but first of all, to be here at OBU. And I am indebted to that. All that the Good Lord has helped me accomplish has been because of the people of OBU who took time with a kid who was timid."

Years before, the track star from "Ragtown," Okla., in Carter County, had met a young beauty named Nelda

Ward from nearby Fox. They were at a hamburger stand during a high school fine arts contest.

Bob followed Nelda back to the auditorium for the contest performance and got her address. They began to correspond by mail because the nine miles separating their hometowns might as well have been 10 times as far. They occasionally met at Falls Creek and other places before graduating high school in 1948.

Venturing out from their small hometowns, Nelda went to Oklahoma City to attend Draughon's School of Business, and Bob went to OBU.

While at OBU, Bob was an all-conference athlete for four years and was a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics All-American.

In Oklahoma City, Nelda worked at First Baptist Church, led by pastor Herschel Hobbs, as the financial assistant. Nelda recalls that Lucy Gibson, Dr. Hobbs' secretary, provided a positive influence for her.

After graduating business school, Nelda married Bob in 1951. Then she joined her new husband at OBU. They lived in a garage apartment on Kickapoo Street and worked to support their educations.

She was as popular on campus as her husband, who was voted "Best All Around Man" by his OBU classmates. He also was elected president of the Junior Class and captain of the track team. She was a Yahnseh Court candidate.

While Bob said some people at OBU – like Dr. Forbes Yarbrough – directly affected his life, there was also a nurturing environment created on campus by other great personalities such as Uncle Jimmy Owens, Dean James Ralph Scales and Dean Lewis Solomon, even though he did not necessarily interact with them personally.

"When I speak of OBU, it's a beautiful campus and I love what's been done, but I don't think of bricks and mortar, I think of the lives that were here that made

OBU,” Bob said. “That’s the image I have: the people who dedicated their lives.

“The greatest athletes are not always found, but a good person discovers them and brings them along. These people were, in my estimation, the ones who discovered and encouraged the God-given talent we had.”

After graduating from OBU, the Kecks moved to the Fort Worth, Texas, area. Bob attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, earning bachelor of divinity and master of religious education degrees.

The couple agreed to a short-term ministry with a small congregation near Terrell, Texas, called Cobb Switch Baptist Church. Bob preached and Nelda played the piano. What began as an interim ministry lasted seven years. During this time their family grew to include two children: a son, Bob N. Keck, and a daughter, Karee (Keck) Hopkins.

Bob followed seminary with additional graduate work at Texas Christian University, where he earned a master of education degree, then began a long career in Texas education. His roles included work as a teacher and counselor with Fort Worth Public Schools; a state advisor for the Texas State Teachers Association; and a TSTA lobbyist in the Texas legislature and U.S. Congress. He also was executive director of the Texas Parent Teacher Association and assistant director for TRS-Care insurance through the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

Nelda’s work included administrative duties at the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth; the Junior College President’s Association in Austin, Texas; and the University of Texas at Austin’s department of Germanic languages and UT’s development office.

The couple simultaneously ministered in Baptist churches in Texas and Oklahoma for 50 years,



including 30 years of service at West Lake Hills Baptist Church in Austin.

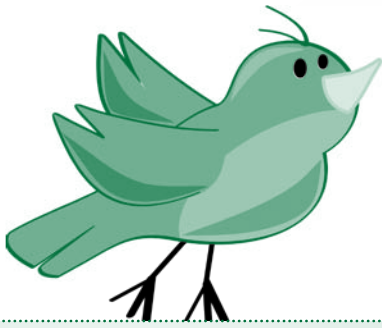
“My philosophy was: If the Apostle Paul could earn a living and preach, why can’t I?” he said. “From that point on, we almost continually had a church where we could pastor on the weekend.”

In 1994, the couple retired from their bivocational service in education and ministry to a small Oklahoma ranch near Ardmore, which they named the “Glory B Ranch.” They feel like the plot is a gift from God, so they responded by naming their home with a declaration of praise. The appreciation the Kecks feel for God’s provisions is evident through Nelda’s photography and their continued service.

Active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, Nelda won first place in divisional, state and national levels in 2007 with her photo, “Oklahoma Rings In Liberty.” (See the image – best viewed in color – at okbu.edu/liberty.html.) She also placed first in all three levels for her 2009 American Indians Committee Report.

The couple also faithfully and generously supports OBU financially through scholarships for students, provisions for Bison athletics and other gifts.

“God has blessed us in so many unique, special positions and opportunities,” Bob said. “Someone did for me what I couldn’t do, and I want to do for others because I owe it to OBU and those who supported OBU and made a way for me.”



Just a 'Tweet' Away

TWITTER LINGO

Tweet – A 140-character message updating your twitter on what is going on in your life.

Follower – Someone who subscribes to your tweets.

Twitpic – A picture that accompanies a tweet. It can be uploaded from a cell phone or a computer.

@username – A way to either direct a tweet to a certain person or to offer a reply to a person's tweet.

#topic – a way to easily group together tweets by topic. It is useful for events and groups. "Returning to my Alma Mater #OBU."

RT – a way of forwarding a tweet onto your followers by giving credit to the person who created it. "RT @username 'Returning to my Alma Mater #OBU.'"

Sharing important news with your family, asking for suggestions for dinner or just wishing everyone a good day can easily be done with Twitter.

Users of Twitter have put its short messages to use in many different situations, such as looking for someone

Social networking sites such as Myspace, Facebook and Twitter have become a dominant presence in our society today. Although Twitter differs from the other social networking sites, it still has one main thing in common — the ability to communicate with friends, family and co-workers around the world.

How is Twitter different? You only have 140 characters to tell your followers – those who subscribe to your tweets – what is going on in your life. Many compare a Twitter update to that of a Facebook or Myspace status update. Twitter gives you the ability to tell a short message to a group of people.

to accompany you to a movie or dinner, or sending out a simple "tweet" asking if anyone wants to get together.

Major news sources such as CNN and FOX News have turned Twitter into an effective way to communicate breaking news to the masses. Both update their Twitters with pertinent breaking news. Celebrities have used Twitter to connect to their fan base in a more intimate way. Not only do celebrities give people an inside look at their personal lives, but they also use Twitter to give sneak peeks at new material and have contest give-aways.

If you are thinking Twitter might be something you would like to do, signing up is easy and free. To sign up for Twitter just go to www.twitter.com, click the "sign up now" icon and fill out the appropriate information. Twitter will ask you to come up with a username, which is a short name that will be used for people to find you and follow you on Twitter.

After you sign up for Twitter there are many settings you can change to make your Twitter more personal. If you don't want everyone to see your "tweets," change the privacy settings to require your permission before someone can follow your tweets. (We recommend this.)

Other settings enable you to send certain people's tweets directly to your cell phone. You can select people you follow to have their tweets sent directly to you with the "mobile update" setting.

Once you sign up for Twitter and change the settings to meet your needs, it is time to start following people and letting people follow you. Your followers' Twitterstream is updated with your tweets and vice versa. Twitterstream is what you see when you sign on to the Twitter Web site. It will list the tweets of all the people you follow. When you see a friend's tweet that you want to respond

to, you can do so like you are writing a normal tweet of your own and adding their username with an “@” in front. For example, if you were responding to a tweet by CNN, you would begin your tweet with “@cnnbrk.”

Twitter also enables you to upload photos to accompany your tweet.

Twitter gives users the option of sending direct messages to their followers. Direct messages can only be seen by the user they are directed to.

Twitter can be used in a variety of ways. Keeping up with family and friends is a popular use for Twitter. Staying connected with children and grandchildren can be easy with Twitter. If you want to let your grandchildren know that you are thinking of them on their first day of school or on a birthday, send out a tweet so all the grandchildren can see.

If you are going on vacation or traveling you can send out a tweet to let everyone know you arrived safely, what your favorite parts of the trip have been, or even if your flight is delayed.

Twitter enables you to give a small amount of information to a large group of people. If you are out shopping and see a good price on a product or a good price on gas, you can tweet about them so that your followers can get in on the good deals. Since you only have 140 characters to convey your message to followers, acronyms and text-messaging short hand has become popular with tweets. Popular Web sites like netlingo.com are good resources for getting acclimated with text-messaging lingo.

The uses of Twitter are endless. You can transform Twitter into anything you want and use it to communicate with a variety of people. Try it out for yourself and see how Twitter can help you communicate with your friends and family.

Get started by signing up with OBU's Twitter services for news and sports. Go to twitter.com/obunews or twitter.com/obusportsinfo and you will be able to keep up with the latest news from Bison Hill.

About the Writer



Andrew Strom Adams is an OBU senior majoring in news and information. Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Andrew came to OBU to pursue a Christian liberal arts education. During his time on Bison Hill, Andrew has been involved in many campus

publications. He currently serves as editor-in-chief of The Bison newspaper. He also works for the Shawnee News-Star, the community's daily newspaper. He has been a writer for the student-produced television newscast News 30. As a sophomore, Andrew was editor-in-chief of OBU's yearbook, Yahnseh, and was events coordinator for the Student Government Association.

During past summers, Andrew has worked on the staff of Camp WOW in Gerty, Okla. He enjoys connecting with and being an example to middle- and high-school students in a Christian environment. He also co-led an OBU Global Outreach mission trip to Salt Lake City during his freshman year. Andrew has a heart for the lost Latter Day Saints community, and wanted to take OBU students to Salt Lake City to share their faith.

Andrew's hobbies include photography, watching reality television with his roommates, and being with his friends. After graduation, Andrew hopes to pursue a graduate degree in communications and start his own faith-based magazine.

Contact Information

John Little may be reached by mail at:

Oklahoma Baptist University, Attention: John Little, 500 West University, Shawnee, OK 74804
Email: john.little@okbu.edu • Telephone: 405.878.2718 • Fax: 405.878.2710

The Dean's Perspective

Dr. Paul Hammond

Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts

The name of Dr. Warren M. Angell is synonymous with OBU. Drs. John Wesley Raley and Warren Angell were an incomparable team who established OBU's reputation and solidified her future. Career options have multiplied for OBU students and areas of study in the fine arts have expanded. Our facilities were greatly improved during OBU's recent Foundation for the Future Campaign. In keeping with our past, OBU

One of the fastest growing areas at OBU is our relatively new degree in graphic design. We are anticipating more than 30 students pursuing this career option for the fall of 2009.

OBU's latest capital campaign enhanced several facilities that house the fine arts. Raley Chapel classrooms and offices were updated. Potter Auditorium received a significant makeover: the stage and pulpit areas were redesigned for greater flexibility; lighting and sound were improved; and the seats were renovated. The stage in Yarborough Auditorium was extended; new lights and sound were added; and the seating was renovated. The entire building is now accessible to all visitors.

Craig-Dorland Theatre received a complete upgrade and is now a fine space for both performers and audience. The stage was lowered and thrust forward; new light and sound systems were installed; and new, comfortable seats were purchased. This historic space honors the legacy of Rhett Mae Dorland through the generosity of the Cleo L. Craig Foundation.

students continue to excel in their fields of study. While many outstanding faculty members and administrators have contributed to OBU's success over the years, we all stand on the shoulders of these two men.

The Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts has extended its reach over past decades and now includes art, applied communication, electronic media production (telecommunication), music, news and information (journalism), strategic communication (public relations), and theatre. In the fall of 2008, the total enrollment in all of these areas was 244, representing 14 percent of OBU's overall enrollment.

Art facilities were completely renovated, leaving only the exterior walls from the old building. That structure now includes instructional space for the various artistic media, such as ceramics, fibers and printmaking, as well as faculty offices and a computer lab. A second space just south of the building was acquired during the process and provides classroom, office, and studio space for this growing area.

All of these improvements would be of little use, however, were it not for our committed faculty of professionals in their fields. As changes have occurred in student needs, professional demands, and



employment opportunities, we have endeavored to keep pace. The OBU administration has supported our efforts to develop computer-equipped classrooms and labs, equip



digital television studios, and address the ongoing equipment needs for all our areas. Our students' accomplishments during this past year testify to the high level of teaching that continues to occur at OBU.

Our production of *As It Is in Heaven* received the Richard A. Weaver Award from participating directors as the best play in the Texas-Oklahoma region of the American College Theatre Festival. This was the first OBU play to make the regional round of competition since *Godspell* in 1976. Ten students advanced to the finals of the Oklahoma State National Association of Teachers of Singing voice competition, and two students won first prizes in their divisions. Seven electronic media production (telecommunication) students won a total of 14 awards at the 2009 Oklahoma Broadcast Education Association's annual convention. OBU graduates continue to be successful in their pursuits, whether in graduate school, teaching, church music, theatre, or performance.

All of us in the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts take seriously the legacy passed down to us. We fully embrace OBU's mission and strive to produce students in the arts whose first calling is to Jesus Christ and who can be effective witnesses through their professional achievements and personal integrity.

About the Writer

Dr. Paul Hammond has served as dean of OBU's Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts since 1986. He also is a professor of music at the university and has taught courses in church music and music history. He has published a variety of articles on hymns, hymnody, and musical instruments in worship.



A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Hammond earned a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Morehead State University, and completed master of church music and doctor of musical arts degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

As dean of the College of Fine Arts, Hammond directs programs in music, communication arts and art. He has served as managing director for the Oklahoma Alliance for Liturgy and the Arts, program chair for the Da Vinci Institute, and an evaluator for the National Association of Schools of Music. He also has served as a member of the Downtown Shawnee Advisory Board.

Before joining the OBU faculty, Hammond was associate professor of music at Ouachita Baptist University. He served on the Ouachita faculty from 1973-86.

Hammond and his wife, Anne, are members of the First Baptist Church of Shawnee, where he is a deacon, Sunday School teacher, trustee, and choir member. Anne is an associate professor of English and public relations at OBU.

The *OBU Legacy Newsletter* is the Planned Giving newsletter of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, published for those who may have an interest in Planned Giving, four times a year, generally in February, May, August and November. Opinions expressed in the *OBU Legacy Newsletter* do not necessarily represent those of the University, alumni, faculty or administration. All comments are protected by copyright (© 2009 the *OBU Legacy Newsletter*), and any use is prohibited without the written consent of the editor, John Little. The *OBU Legacy Newsletter* has a quarterly circulation of approximately 4,200 and is published free of charge to the members of the OBU Legacy Society.

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Oklahoma Baptist University
500 W. University
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Let the Celebration Begin!

OBU's Centennial Celebration

begins this summer. Plan now to be a part of the festivities!



Singing Churchwomen of Oklahoma Concert
October 20, 2009

Homecoming Centennial Kick-off
November 13-14, 2009

First Centennial Hanging of the Green
December 5, 2009

Centennial Founders' Day
February 10, 2010

Convocation at 10 a.m.
Centennial Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.