

O·B·U

m a g a z i n e



Oklahoma: The Experience

Page 4

Being More.

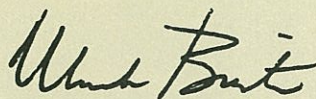
OBU values great tradition. Our academic programs, campus buildings, and athletic teams have historic places in the OBU story. Our faculty members, student organizations, holiday celebrations, and student productions help knit our community together. For nearly four decades, *The OBU Anvil* has chronicled these traditions, and other elements of the OBU community. The *Anvil* and *Bison Hilltopics* have helped us tell the OBU story to alumni, parents, and other friends across our state and around the world. With this issue of the *OBU Magazine*, we are starting a new tradition as we look toward OBU's new century beginning in 2010. *OBU Magazine* will serve an expanded role as we share more about the people and the mission of Oklahoma Baptist University.

The premier edition includes a cover story about Oklahoma itself. Throughout our state's relatively brief history, Oklahomans have carved out a unique niche. Bill Hagen, professor of English, has invested his talents in planning this fall's Red Dirt Book Festival. The statewide event held in Shawnee will feature dozens of authors who have explored and communicated what it means to be part of our state. You can learn more about the festival and our state in the story that begins on page 4.

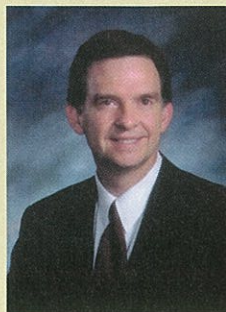
Student success continues to be a great tradition for OBU. Recently, one of our 2003 graduates was named a Fulbright Scholar. Chrissy Espina will be using the skills she gained as a nursing major on Bison Hill to help address medical concerns in the Philippines. She shares her story in this issue, starting on page 12.

Outstanding and committed Christian faculty and administrators have helped OBU achieve its mission throughout our history. A key figure in our academic structure is our new senior vice president for academic affairs, Jim Colman. You can learn more about Jim and his background in a story on page 14.

As we near the centennial of OBU, we are pleased to introduce this new flagship publication. God continues to bless OBU's primary mission: life enrichment through excellent Christian higher education. Four times a year, this magazine will tell you more about members of the OBU family, and the ways they are touching lives as they are being *more* in their communities. Thank you for being a part of our story of success.



Mark Brister
President



Cover photo by Bill Pope.

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Features

4 Oklahoma: The Experience

by Bill Hagen

America is the land of the second chance; one can always start over, somewhere else. That's been the belief, even after the frontier disappeared. As one of the last states to join the union, Oklahoma carries many stories of new beginnings.

8 Learning 'To Die is Gain'

"Some may think it depressing to work with patients who are often times dying, but so many of them are Christians. For them, death is life, and they somehow communicate that in their last days. I do not believe as Christians facing death, that we exit this life alone. I know we will be ushered by angels into eternity."

10 Economics of Jesus

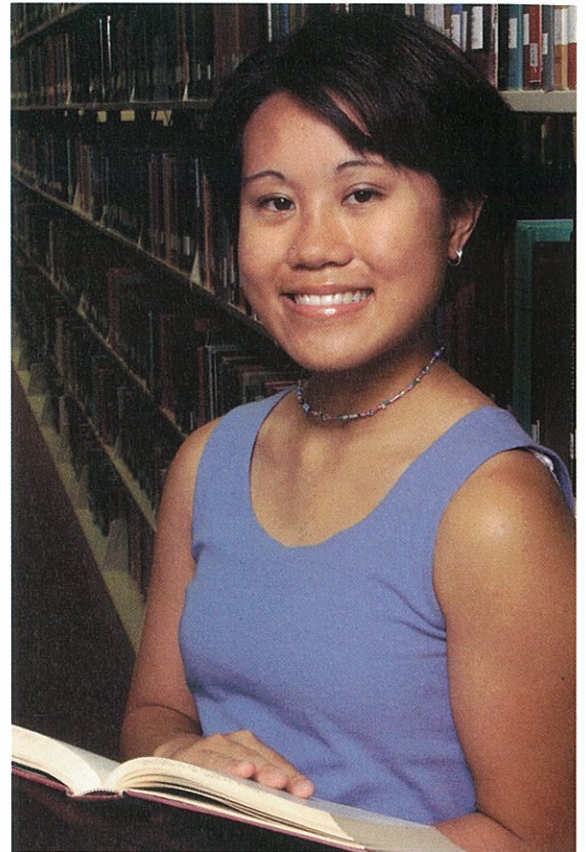
by Craig Walker

"As an economist and a business professor," says Craig Walker, "I spend much of my time teaching students about the virtues of capitalism. I also try to teach my students that God calls them to actively love others."

12 Being A Picture of Christ's Love »

by Chrissy Espina

"I believe through offering academic excellence," says Chrissy Espina, '03, "I can be a picture of Christ's love to my community as a Fulbright scholar and wherever God leads afterwards."



Departments

- « 14 **Campus Life:** The Melody of Jim Colman
- 20 **Athletics:** Running With Purpose
- 22 **Campaign OBU:** \$25,000 grant for telecommunication
- 24 **Profiles in Excellence:** Examples of *being more*
- 26 **Alumni:** Homecoming 2003
- 27 **Newsnotes:** News from alumni around the world

A full-page photograph of a man with grey hair, wearing a dark blue short-sleeved button-down shirt and khaki trousers, standing on a reddish-brown, rocky hillside. He is holding an open magazine or book in his left hand and has his right hand on his hip. The background shows a clear blue sky and some green foliage on the right side.

OKLA

BY BILL HAGEN
Professor of English

Its name first in English was Indian Territory, and then, for a short time, it was called two territories, Indian and Oklahoma – meaning both the same thing, a redundancy – and then, again, it is one. The land took and held its Indian name, its Choctaw name, okla homa, meaning ‘red people,’ as the whole of the continent, changing, would hold her place names, her mountains and rivers, in the tongues that first named them. The shape of it, drawn in mythical lines by men who collaborate in illusion, is that of a saucepan, or hatchet. It lies not in the heart but in the belly, the very gut of the nation...

*Rilla Askew
The Mercy Seat*

HOMMA

The Experience

America is the land of the second chance; one can always start over, somewhere else. That's been the belief, even after the frontier disappeared. As one of the last states to join the union, Oklahoma carries many stories of new beginnings: a territory forced on some; a newly opened land others rushed to secure; a scorched, unproductive home many reluctantly left. Their stories record the struggles candidly, unashamedly, because, in a sense, people become what they have endured.

Many of the stories arise from recognizable historical events: The Louisiana Purchase, The Sante Fe Trail, The Trail of Tears, The Chisholm Trail, The Spanish American War, The Oil Rush, The Dust Bowl, The Oklahoma City Bombing.

Many have written about the Oklahoma experience, the influxes and outflows of people, the boom times and the decline times. Many memoirs and stories record enduring. Since 1990, or perhaps earlier, however, Oklahoma authors' vision seems to have become more expansive. We have a contemporary literature that can stand in stature next to the literature of any other state. Some of the best Oklahoma writers will attend the Red Dirt Book Festival at OBU this October. The best known, Tony Hillerman, grew up in South Pottawatomie County, and later settled in New Mexico, which he has made the setting for his famous Navajo mysteries.

Some of the outstanding younger writers scheduled to attend now live out-of-state, and recast the Oklahoma experience from a late 20th century perspective: Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (*Red Dirt: Growing Up Okie*); Rilla Askew (*Fire in Beulah*); Diane Glancy (*Pushing the Bear*); LeAnne Howe (*Shell Shaker*). Oklahoma's past is certainly not a closed book for them. All their narratives show people shaping their lives within the historical moment, even when they are caught up in events that are beyond them.

One is struck by the diversity of these narratives, dramatizing regional and cultural differences within the state. Historians divide Oklahoma topography between eastern, piedmont/prairie, and western plains. These divisions have created different agricultural economies in the state, as migrant waves have enriched Oklahoma's culture. Glancy and Howe focus on two important tribes, the Cherokee and Choctaw, which have strong matrilineal elements. Askew dramatizes the connections, compromises and collisions among whites, Native Americans, and African-Americans in a 15-year period after statehood, leading up to the Tulsa Race Riot. Through an account of her own life, Dunbar-Ortiz explores the social psychology of the poor whites who became the "Okies" of the '30s and '40s.

After an 18-year process of research that included traveling the route taken by 13,000 Cherokees in 1838, Diane Glancy offers *Pushing the Bear*. Glancy transforms and enlarges the historical documents by parceling the story among many voices. The narrative proceeds state by state, from North Carolina to the Indian Territory, with maps to indicate the way taken. While a large number of characters speak, Glancy's narrative centers on one North Carolina couple, Maritole and Knobowtee, and their families. Through the wife, we are drawn into both the weaknesses and the resources of strength that hardship and deprivation can stimulate. Through Knobowtee, we learn much about the political history, the trail of broken treaties and agreements that led to this awful journey. The travelers are opposed by a bearlike force which seems to resist and even kill them. Some survive by becoming solitary animals, like a lone bear. As they trudge toward the Indian Territory, beset by cold and sickness, the Cherokee debate whether they should or could have done something else at some point and why they suffer so unjustly. Such questions, along with anxieties about the future, stimulate a dialogue that

sets white man's Christian answers and self-serving actions against the Cherokees' own traditional stories and beliefs.

Rilla Askew's *Fire in Beulah* provides a story of the "belly," when the displacements and speculations of the original land boom were echoed by racial conflict and thinly regulated oil exploitation in the 1920s. The state quickly recapitulated two great national excesses: the first large race riot in Detroit and the earlier gold rushes in the West. As in her first novel, *The Mercy Seat*, Askew features two families: Althea Whiteside Dedemeyer and her husband, an oil entrepreneur, and Graceful Whiteside, her black maid, whose family lives in the doomed Greenwood section of Tulsa.

Askew credits a number of studies on the Tulsa Riot that emerged in the late 1990s: the unearthing of a mass grave and a state-sponsored investigation of what happened to determine liability. Oil fever, lynch fever, and the great gulf between the black and white communities of Tulsa contribute to the passions and misunderstandings that sweep all the major characters into the climactic destruction of that night of May 31, 1921.

A central chapter in Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz' *Red Dirt: Growing Up Okie* details the kind of people who pushed to the frontier, stubbornly fighting the elements and determined to establish a home. Because of the Depression, many moved West; some stayed, clinging to marginal farms and businesses. Dunbar-Ortiz identifies herself as an "Okie" in both senses, growing up among those who stayed and later joining those who settled in California. Pressed by a powerful, alcoholic mother and the realization of utter poverty during the flush years of the 1950s, the young Roxie Dunbar wonders whether she will ever have a "normal life." The author eventually returns to her childhood, to the place in middle Oklahoma that formed her. She returns to family gravesites, to relatives and friends. Journeys can sometimes culminate where they began.

LeAnne Howe's *Shell Shaker* focuses on a group of Choctaw women – peacemakers and visionaries known as shell shakers. The novel weaves stories of two generations that experience conflicts associated with a culture entangled in white interests: the English and the French in 1738 and the profits generated from successful casino operations in the 1990s. The first must

OKLAHOMA HISTORY

1541. Coronado's expedition crossed into Oklahoma at the Arkansas River.

1803. The Louisiana Purchase is made which includes much of Oklahoma.

1817. A military post, called Fort Smith, is established at the mouth of the Poteau River, on the Arkansas side of the Oklahoma-Arkansas border.

1820. The first Christian mission in Oklahoma is started to educate and convert Indians.

1825. The Santa Fe Trail, a wagon road extending from the Missouri River to Santa Fe, New Mexico, is laid out by a commission representing the government of the United States. It crosses Cimarron County, in the extreme northwestern part of Oklahoma.

1828. A treaty is signed in 1817 by which a group of Cherokees gave up one third of eastern tribal lands for land in the West. This group, the Western Cherokees, is already settled in Arkansas. They sign another treaty in 1828 trading

their Arkansas land for land in what is today northeastern Oklahoma.

1830. The Indian Removal Act is passed by which the Five Civilized Tribes (Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole) are compelled to move to the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma).

1835. The Treaty of New Echota is signed. Ultimately, most Cherokees are forced off their lands in 1838 and walked from Georgia to Oklahoma on the "Trail of Tears"; more than 4,000 die on the journey. Throughout the 1820s and 1830s, treaties are made with Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole tribes that force them to leave their land.

1862. The Battle of Pea Ridge in Arkansas, a Union victory, contributed to the end of Confederate control of the Indian Territory, though the Confederacy still operated freely in the area. Other

battles are fought in and around what is today Oklahoma, principally among various tribal factions, including the famous Battle of Honey Springs in 1863.



1866. Reconstruction Treaties with the Five Civilized Tribes provide for the cession of western lands that ultimately becomes the Oklahoma Territory (about two-thirds of Oklahoma today).

1867. Medicine Lodge Council marks the beginning of the process to compel western tribes of Native Americans to move into the Oklahoma Territory.

work within and sometimes violate tradition; the second must relearn traditional ways. Old and new means of negotiation and resolution, of initiation and death are set side by side. Both generations of women must work out their moral and visionary imperatives in a culture led by strong males. Both learn that the process of healing often involves violence or loss, as well as peacemaking. Whereas *Pushing the Bear* raises the question of what displacement and a traumatic journey will do to family and tribal groups, *Shell Shaker* explores whether a displaced people who have since accommodated to modern culture can unify and reclaim old traditions.

Does a common Oklahoma experience exist? Early census figures support the case for regionalizing the state into midwestern and southern cultures, with a central portion of intermingled "Oklahoman" culture. These narratives suggest that contexts of place and time matter. However, we do find an essential commonality: people who confront challenges that define who they are and what they will become.

While all of these stories are set in Oklahoma, the racial prejudice, the poverty, the town or urban environ-

ments, the violence, and even the extremes of weather could have occurred elsewhere. In a sense, these novels mark a maturation of Oklahoma literature, a merging of the state's distinctive experiences with mainstream narrative themes. No longer does the state itself seem so much under a microscope, as a place set apart by Indian settlement, land rushes, and the Dust Bowl, although the legacy of these elements is clearly present. ♦

On October 17-18, 2003, the first annual Red Dirt Book Festival will be held at Oklahoma Baptist University and St. Gregory's University. More than 80 Oklahoma authors, publishers, storytellers, and musicians will gather to discuss and celebrate the Oklahoma experience. The Pioneer Library System, especially the Shawnee, Tecumseh and McLoud branches, is organizing the event. Grant assistance has been provided by the Oklahoma Humanities Council, augmented by many donations from Shawnee area businesses and individuals. Bill Hagen helped design a new library discussion series featuring Glancy, Askew,

more »

1871. The Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway is built across the territory, from the Kansas line on the north to the Red River on the south. In addition, the Chisholm Trail continues to have large herds of Texas cattle cut through Oklahoma on their way to Kansas.

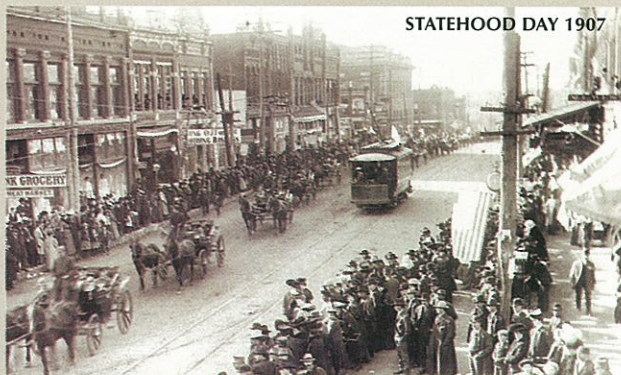
1889. The Springer Amendment, a rider to the Indian Appropriation Bill, is passed and signed into law by President Benjamin Harrison. This authorizes the Unassigned Lands of today's central Oklahoma to be settled by a land run. (Those who illegally make their way into the land run area before the prescribed time are called Sooners.) The Jerome Commission is established to allot western Indian lands, making way for more white settlement.

1893. The Dawes Commission is created to negotiate with the Five Civilized Tribes to allot their lands. This marks the beginning of the end of tribal ownership in the eastern Indian Territory.

1900. Oil industry peaks in Oklahoma from 1900 to 1930 and again in the 1970s. Glenn Pool, Seminole oil field, and Oklahoma City oil field are major producers.

1905. The Sequoyah Convention marks an effort on the part of the Five Civilized Tribes to create a separate state presided over by Native Americans. The Sequoyah Constitution is rejected by Congress, but many of its provisions find their way into the Oklahoma Constitution.

1906. The Enabling Act disclaims the title of all the land owned by Indian tribes.



1907. Oklahoma becomes the 46th state of the United States.

1921. Tulsa erupts in a race riot that destroys what had been the "Negro Wall Street," in the Greenwood section.

1930. The Dust Bowl brings desert-like conditions to Oklahoma, a result of drought and overuse of land.

1935. "Okie" migration to the West begins in earnest, as Oklahoma farmers flee the Depression.

1995. Bombing of Alfred Murrah building in Oklahoma City.

Historical images (20537.197, 4917 and 20584.4) courtesy of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Original photos were tinted and cropped specifically for this publication.

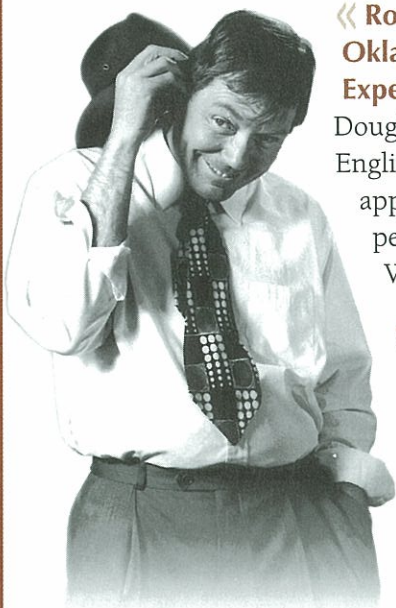
Dunbar-Ortiz, and Howe for the “Let’s Talk About It, Oklahoma” program. Professor of Art Steve Hicks and Associate Professor of English/Journalism Anne Hammond created the illustrations and layout for the pamphlet that will describe the new series. Bill will be one of several OBU faculty moderating or participating in sessions at the festival. Others include:

« **Roots in Red Dirt: The Oklahoma Experience, Experience Oklahoma**

Douglas Watson, Professor of English, performs as Will Rogers, appearing with another performer who will present Woody Guthrie.

The Oklahoma Experience: Re-Visions

A panel with authors Rilla Askew, Diane Glancy, LeAnn Howe and Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
Bill Hagen, Professor of English



Trails and Tears: Oklahoma Authors on Reading and Writing the Western

Sidney Watson, Assistant Professor of English

Whispers and Shadows: Oklahoma Authors on Reading and Writing the Mystery, Part 1

Bill Hagen, Professor of English

Bill Mitchell, Professor Emeritus of English

Red Dirt Reading Recommendations, Part 1

Cathy Adams, Head of Public Services at the Mabee Learning Center

Stake Your Own Claim: Self Publishing, Part 2

Deborah Blue, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

A Patchwork of Memories: Stitching the Pieces Together

Carol Humphrey, Professor of History

For Bill Hagen’s reading list of current Oklahoma literature, information about the anthology that will be produced, and a link to the Red Dirt Book Festival website, go to www.okbu.edu/obumagazine.

LEARNING ‘to die is



“**A**N ACT RELATING to catastrophic health emergency related to acts of bioterrorism,” states Oklahoma House Bill 12502 as presented by student Keri Atkinson last spring. As part of Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature (OIL) at OBU, Keri traveled with student Mariah Stone to present the bill, chosen among other OIL bills debated on the floor of the House of Representatives during the OIL Session for passage into law. The bill won first runner-up for best legislation.

Keri is 31 and a single mom. As an OBU nursing student, she hopes to combine her interest in law with her love for helping people. She is currently working as a student intern in a local hospital’s oncology department. “My patients are ‘real’ people,” she says, “real people dealing with enormous life and death issues. Some may think it depressing to work with patients who are often times dying, but so many of

gain'



them are Christians. For them, death is life, and they somehow communicate that in their last days. I do not believe as Christians facing death, that we exit this life alone. I know we will be ushered by angels into eternity. I have the privilege of being part of that. An angel holds one hand and I hold the other. I would not trade that for anything.

"I have the opportunity to work with several Christian nurses who see past the life in the bed and into an eternal perspective. Not a day goes by without experiencing some opportunity to give my faith in Jesus Christ to a patient and, at times, to their family members through the simple act of caring. I give and my patients give back to me a thousand-fold by allowing me the privilege of having a brief glimpse into their most

personal, core, state of being. In my short time in oncology, I have received little pearls of wisdom from those who have won cancer's battle and from those who are seeing their last days.

"I will never forget comforting a patient who was in a great deal of pain. After pain medication was administered, I simply sat on the side of the bed and held his hand – just he and I – as he slipped in and out of consciousness. I was there for about five minutes praying to myself, when he began mumbling, 'To die is gain... to die is gain...' He then looked at me and with the clearest of voices said, 'You are an angel sent from God.'

"I am certainly no angel, but I will be a nurse, and I do believe God sends his Holy Spirit every day to help me accomplish that goal."

As to the challenges that Keri faces with responsibilities at home and requirements at school, she says, "It's amazing. God has blessed me with a wonderful son and

two incredible parents who do so much to help me. God has been so faithful." She and Grant, her 4-year-old son, live with her parents in Newalla, Oklahoma. "You just do what you have to do," she says. "I refuse to study when Grant is awake. It makes for late nights, but it's worth it to have the extra time with him. It is very hard to leave my son every day. But I know God has a plan for us and my faith and trust are in him. Charles Swindoll says in his book, *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*, 'Take time to be tender. Fragile and delicate are the feelings of most who seek our help. They need to sense we are there because we care – not just because it's our job.' I Thessalonians 2:7 says, 'But we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.' A mother first and then a nurse, two titles I am so proud to bear."

After working in the nursing profession, Keri hopes to attend law school and work further to help people in need. As for House Bill 12502, it was one of three winning OIL bills to be sent to the desk of Governor Brad Henry for review. ♦

HOUSE BILL 12502

An act relating to catastrophic health emergency related to acts of bioterrorism; providing for short title; providing new laws; providing codifications; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Section 1: This act shall be known as the "Quarantine Act of 2003."

Section 2: NEW LAW: A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6101 of Title 63 unless there is created duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Upon the event of a catastrophic health emergency, related to bioterrorism (i.e., smallpox) the following measures will be instigated. Based on the location of the exposure, a quarantine radius will be established.

Quarantine parameters require resolution of the contagious state of the disease. A person is contagious to others until all of the scabs have resolved. Personnel will be appointed to take care of the basic needs of the exposed individuals. Any quarantine site will have leadership appointed by state/county. Families affected by the lack of an authority figure shall have state care available if no other options are available. Bioterrorism funds will be appropriated as needed. Those exposed will be inoculated.

Section 3: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act shall be repealed upon passage of this act.

Section 4: All parts of this act are severable.

Section 5: This law shall go into effect ninety (90) days after it is passed.

Economics of Jesus



BY CRAIG WALKER
Associate Professor of Business

AS AN ECONOMIST and a business professor I spend much of my time teaching students about the virtues of capitalism, the profit-maximizing firm, and the benefits that accrue to society when individuals are given the freedom to own property and use that property and their skills in their own best interest.

I also try to teach my students that God calls them to actively love others, to use the unique skills that they acquire as business students at OBU in volunteering with non-profit organizations that better their communities. Habitat for Humanity calls this the “economics of Jesus:”

When people give without seeking profit or interest, God can magnify the effects of their efforts and improve the quality of life in their community. Together, the donated labor of construction volunteers, the support of partner organizations and the homeowners’ “sweat equity” make Habitat’s house-building possible. (Habitat website)

I have had the opportunity to serve on the board of directors for the Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Shawnee during the last three years. Currently, I serve as board president. Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing and homelessness around the world.

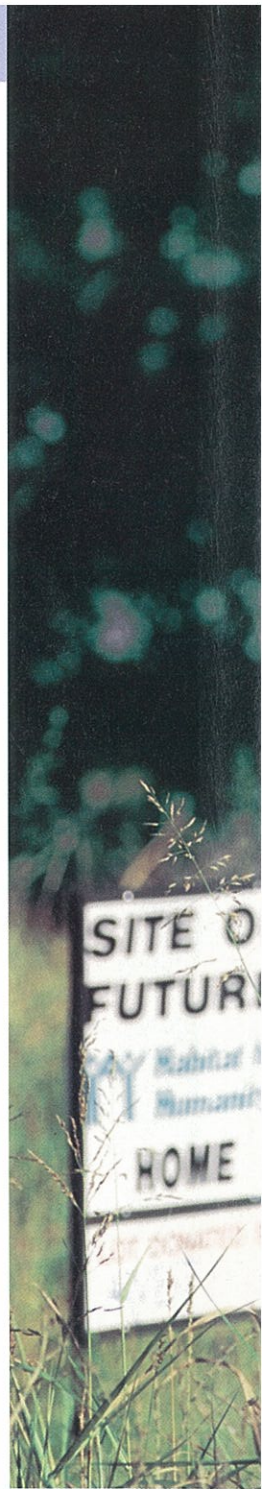
Let me correct a couple of common misperceptions about Habitat for Humanity. First, former President Jimmy Carter did not start Habitat for Humanity, but rather he has been a great friend of Habitat for Humanity for many years and still participates in building houses. Millard Fuller and his wife founded Habitat for Humanity in 1976 in Americus, Georgia, and to date the organization has built 150,000 houses in 87 countries.

Second, Habitat does not give away houses. “Habitat partner families” buy their homes through a combination of sweat equity and repayment of an interest-free loan. Habitat homeowners become partners, working on the construction of their own house and houses for other families. The Habitat for Humanity logo, two people joining and uplifting hands, symbolizes the combination of partnership and self-help opportunities that are gained.

The concept of partnership extends to the international character of Habitat for Humanity. Local affiliates in the United States and other countries contribute a tithe that goes toward international efforts. Habitat also partners with both local and national businesses. These businesses provide funds, volunteers, and material. As a Christian organization, it partners with local churches that provide funds, volunteers, and most importantly prayer support.

The Apostle John reminds us to “not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:18). “What does the Lord require of you?” asks the Prophet Micah. “To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). These verses call us to action, to be proactive in loving others and in doing justice. One way to take that action is to help a family experience the dignity of a decent, affordable home.

Many experiences provide testimony to the opportunity Habitat has provided for me. For example, I met a man who worked more than 40 hours a week, evenings and all day Saturday, to provide a decent home for his wife and





hard work of volunteers. What I communicate to students is that giving back to the community through volunteer and charity work is part of being a respected business person, and, more pointedly, integral to being a business person who embraces the Gospel. God may place students in the impoverished community of Rio Bravo, or in the corporate offices of Lockheed Martin. No matter where he has placed you, the economics are the same: actively love others as Christ has loved us. ♦

Finding Humility Across the Border

“Being in Mexico was an extremely humbling experience,” says senior Jessie Pace. She traveled to Rio Bravo, Mexico, to serve with the Oklahoma Methodist Volunteers in Mission. A business student, Jessie scheduled the five-week trip to fulfill her internship requirement. Rio Bravo lies only 45 minutes from the U.S. border, “but the moment you cross over you recognize the complete difference,” she says. “The level of poverty is surprising.”

Jessie worked alongside six other American women (now lifelong friends) in two distinct environments. First, in an effort called “Hands Together Mexico,” Jessie worked to construct *casitas*, 12x16 foot homes, with many other U.S. teams. Because of her fluency in Spanish, she helped translate the instructions from the Mexican construction workers and the Mexican families to the U.S. students. “When we completed a home,” she says, “we always had a dedication of the home to the Lord.” Second, Jessie spent time with the people of Mexico. She attended weddings, forged friendships with families, and worked in a small orphanage run by a pastor and his wife. “The children were by far my favorite part,” she says. “There is something about children that enables them to relate to anyone. It’s humbling; it puts you in your place.”

She says that God taught her volumes about working in Mexico and relating to its people. In the future she hopes to study Spanish in Guatemala, building on the immersion of this trip, but more on the preparation of the Spanish classes at OBU. “My Spanish was much better than I expected thanks to Dr. Hall’s classes,” she says. Through this humbling experience in Mexico, Jessie sees afresh “the importance of being grounded in God’s Word, and consumed by the Lord alone.”

two sons; a single mother so thankful that she and her son now have a home; and volunteers dedicated to Christ and to the goal of using their talents to make their community a better place to live.

Charitable organizations such as Habitat for Humanity have constant need for financial, management, and marketing skills that a business professional can offer. As I discuss with OBU students, if God blesses you with these skills then they are the talents you can use to actively love others. The charity and volunteer organizations that make our world a better place to live cannot exist without the

Being a Picture of Christ's Love

THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

has the objective to “bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs,” says the organization’s website, “and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship.” The program, sponsored by the United States Government, began in 1946 to facilitate study in other countries, “exchange ideas, and develop joint solutions to address shared concerns.” The President appoints the Fulbright board. The elite award provides grants to approximately 4,500 students annually – students chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential.



My time at home after graduation has allowed me to slow down, take a deep breath, and reflect upon the last couple of years at Oklahoma Baptist University.

I came to OBU through DiscipleNow, a youth retreat. The leader talked very highly of her university, proud of the spiritual and academic challenges it provided. I sought spiritual nourishment and academic challenge to push me to my potential, and OBU soon became my new home.

I could not imagine settling down to one course of study. My interests were divided; they still are. Through the Unified Studies program, I was introduced to the academic pursuit of my faith. I was captivated. The spring of my freshman year, I pursued Biology/Pre-Med. Both my parents are medical professionals, my father, a family practice physician; and my mother, a registered nurse.

One summer I went to China through a study abroad program at OBU. This experience reinforced my calling to work closely with people, widening my worldview.

I decided to change to nursing for many reasons. However, many times I struggled to see where my passion for ministry could fit into the concrete picture I had of a nurse. In the fall semester of my senior year, community health made nursing real to me. I realized that nursing doesn't look the way I thought. I began to see how my future ministry and field of study could fuse together, and this brought me direction. That same semester I received a campus-wide email about the Fulbright program which funds undergraduate, master's, and doctorate students to conduct research in international settings for one year. One of the commonly granted areas of study is public health.

Bill Hagen, professor of English and OBU Fulbright advisor, informed me about the need to know someone in the country of choice and to have a feasible plan of action for research. I immediately thought of the Philippines, where my parents had spent their childhood and college years. I have strong connections through my family in the Philippines. I had only three weeks to submit a research proposal and curriculum vitae. Candidates are encouraged to start at least the summer prior. I prayed earnestly and felt the strong leading to apply despite the odds. For the next three weeks, I made many phone calls and spent many hours in the library researching.

I knew I wanted to work with women's health issues. Narrowing down the subject to focus on a need feasible for research was the most difficult part. My contact person, Fely David, had conducted a research study three years prior on women's experience with abortion in four Filipino villages. In the Philippines, clandestine abortions as a birth control method are a common occurrence but not widely addressed due to the cultural stigma.

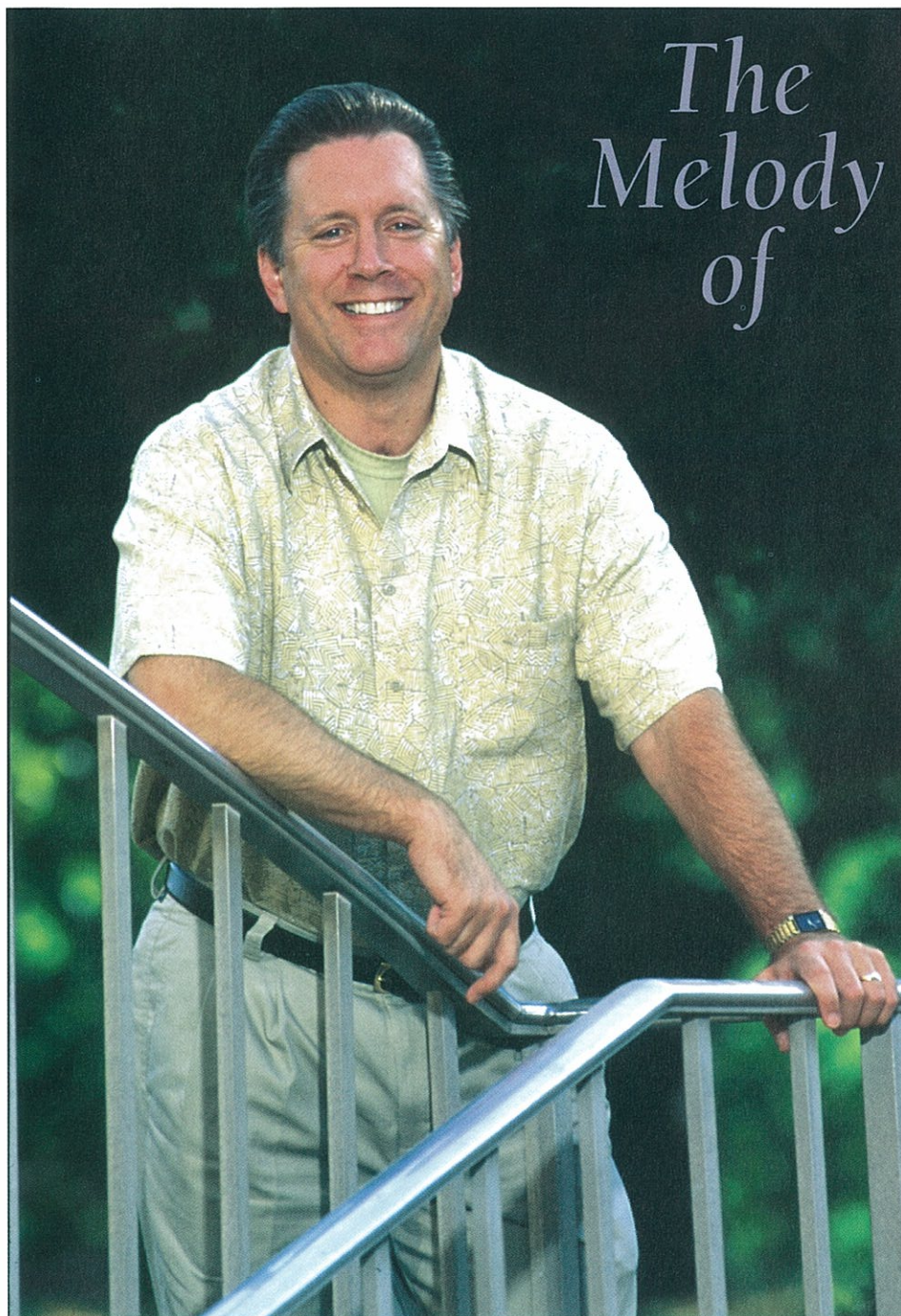
Using Dr. David's research as my initial source of information, I chose to focus on the availability and effectiveness of post-abortion services provided by reproductive health facilities in two villages. To minister to post-abortion clients, I proposed to assess their needs and coping mechanisms to help develop care. Finally, I wrote, edited, and re-edited the best research proposal and curriculum vitae I could, and submitted it to the faculty committee for evaluation, and a final draft was sent to the U.S. Fulbright student program.

I finally received the good news that my proposal was approved. I leave at the start of October to live in Iloilo City for at least the first six months. I will take classes at the University of the Philippines, pursuing a Master of Science in Public Health. I will conduct my research in two villages in Bacolod.

My final semester at OBU proved the most rewarding. I felt my education "coming together." Courses that were once disjointed in my mind came together naturally. For example, in senior seminar, we discussed nursing related issues like social justice/service, spirituality, and law. These discussions stretched me to see nursing as a specific, creative calling.

I am so thankful for the faith-based and excellent education OBU provided me. OBU helped me develop my own life philosophy to serve out of my specific passions endowed by the Creator to bring the love of Christ to a world that is lost, hurting, and dying. I believe through offering academic excellence, I can be a picture of Christ's love to my community as a Fulbright scholar and wherever God leads afterwards. ♦

Chrissy plans to submit ongoing correspondence about her experiences while in the Philippines this coming year. We invite you to read along online at www.okbu.edu/obumagazine.



The Melody of

Jim Colman

after accepting Christ as his Savior, my father began taking me to church and it was there that the testimony of a godly Sunday School teacher led me to Christ.” His father, sensing a call into the ministry, moved the family two more times, to Iowa and to Indiana, before Jim left to attend college at a small school in Indiana.

In college, Jim met his wife (now of 20 years). After graduation, he began teaching junior and senior high school band and choir. He moved on to graduate studies in music and, eventually, into higher academics as a professor and administrator. “I am a pianist,” he says. “Piano is my background since the age of 8. I actually started college as a biology major, but couldn’t break away from music. The administrative part began taking shape in the early 1990s when I took on additional leadership roles and experienced a progressive chain of opportunities.”

How does a pianist become an administrator? “While it’s hard to categorize musicians, they frequently lean toward one of two categories,” Jim explains. “On one side are the musicians who focus on the joy of making music. This group usually practices long hours, finds great pleasure in performing, and has a very high level of creativity. On the other side are the musicians who focus on the beauty of musical

Combine music, science fiction, higher academics, and postal history. Somewhere between these interests – and a host of others – is Jim Colman, the new senior vice president for academic affairs at OBU. As to how he arrived in Oklahoma? “Moving a lot,” he says. Born in Florida to a salesman and his

wife, his family moved to California when his father decided on photography as a second career. The next move took Jim and his family to Nevada, where his father opened a studio. Here, in the middle of the desert, “our family came to Christ,” Jim says. “I was 9 and I had never attended church regularly. Shortly

construction. Musicians in this group find pleasure in the complexities of music theory and composition and are generally better at organization." Somehow, Jim ended up with characteristics from both groups, a mix that has proved helpful in working with a variety of different personalities.

"OBU attracted me because it's a place that seeks to meet the needs of students while maintaining a commitment to its call as a Christian institution," he says. "I recognized the strengths of OBU academics – the school's faculty and students, and certainly I was drawn to OBU because of the people I met when I visited.

"One of the things about the OBU faculty that impresses me is that their superb qualifications would allow them to teach at any institution in the country. They are nationally known in their fields, and I am excited to work with such a high caliber faculty – a faculty committed to OBU as demonstrated by the number of professors with 10, 20, 30, or more years of service."

Jim understands the demands that an administrative role places on his available time, and how this translates into meeting students. "I want to be involved," he says, "because I love mentoring students. So, I'm always searching for ways to be with students – in the cafeteria, at athletic events, fine arts events, and in chapel."

Now, with music and higher academics connected, how do science fiction and postal history correspond to Jim's life?

"As a kid, I loved reading science fiction books," Jim says. "I was fascinated by new and unusual

things, and sci-fi reading fed that fascination. Some of my favorite books are the *Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis and *The Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien. Through the years, the writings of these two authors have continued to inspire and challenge me."

Not only did Jim avidly read sci-fi as a child, but he also collected stamps. A hobby shelved for years, he uncovered it in a fresh way when he explained to his wife one day, "I need something to do that's not music and not teaching." As a result, he began to collect postal history – letters (and envelopes) carried through the mail. "I have in my collection a 1918 letter from the battlefield of World War I," he says. "The soldier is writing home to his mom from Bastille, France. 'Dear mother,' reads the letter, 'this is to let you know I'm okay. We've lost some guys due to the gas and artillery shells the Germans are dropping.' The letter continues in more detail and ends this way: 'This is to let you know I'm safe and that my destiny has been determined by your prayers.' It's just an amazing spot in history." Jim notes, among other items, his collection includes an envelope signed by Eleanor Roosevelt.

So, combine music, science fiction, higher academics, postal history, along with many other interesting characteristics, and find Dr. Jim Colman, new senior vice president for academic affairs.

More New Faces

Also joining the faculty, Michael Martin began as dean of the Joe L. Ingram School of Christian Service in August. Coming from Golden Gate

Seminary where he taught since 1984, he has written on a wide range of subjects in New Testament theology. Ordained in a Southern Baptist church, Dr. Martin also has served as



MICHAEL MARTIN

youth minister, pastor, and interim pastor. New faculty also include: Paulette Belshe, assistant professor of education; Bonnie Sneed, associate professor of music; and Karen Cotter, assistant professor of nursing.

A Different Kind of Business Meeting

Implementing a mentoring program that matches seniors with sophomores and establishing a unique student-faculty collaboration, the Student Advisory Board for the Paul Dickinson School of Business brings fresh ideas to the classroom and campus life. Conceived by Dan Reeder, dean of the business school, the advisory board, "has given students an opportunity to become an integral part of what goes on here," says Dr. Reeder.

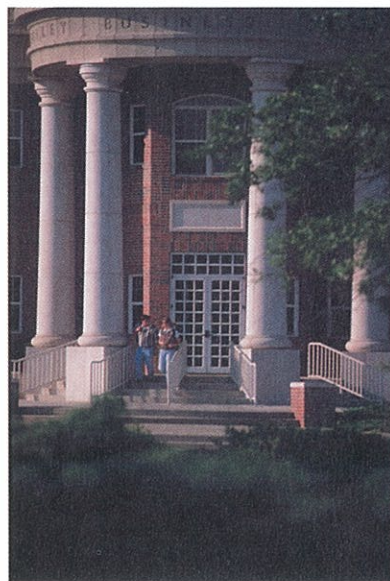
"Being part of the board's leadership built upon my classroom instruction," says Danielle Wulf, '03, who served last year as co-chairperson. "The meetings bring open discussion about many ideas." From these meetings came the ideas to develop a mentoring program. "At OBU, your sophomore year is the most difficult in the School of

Business,” explains Danielle. “Not only do you take the dreaded CIV, but also Accounting and Economics. It quickly becomes a lot of work, and discouragement sets in easily. That’s why we thought it important to start this program.”

Danielle came to OBU because she attended Super Summer, a summer camp that is hosted on the OBU campus. “I wanted to be part of a Christian school, where God was central and academics were strong,” she says. This year’s student advisory chairperson, senior Cari Myers, agrees. “I arrived at OBU because I felt like it was the place where I would receive a thorough education,” she says, “but more importantly, where my relationship with the Lord would grow. I chose to pursue a degree in business because business

is such an integral, practical part of society.”

Danielle and Cari also share similar views on how their faith and business careers compliment one another. “I feel that being in the business world is a wonderful opportunity,” says Danielle, who works in a marketing management position at an Oklahoma-based car dealership. “The way that I carry myself at work presents such a wonderful opportunity to share God with people.” Cari suggests that a career in business, “will allow me to use my



knowledge for God’s purposes through hard work and open-mindedness toward others. OBU has provided a place to figure out my place in God’s plan and in the world, and the journey of doing that continues to be incredible.”

The Student Advisory Board offers one way in which business students

learn the principles of corporate communications and collaboration, and also learn to mentor one another – to spur each other onward toward the high calling of Christ – as workers unashamed.

Chapel at OBU

OCTOBER

1 Alan Day
*Pastor of First Baptist Church
Edmond, Oklahoma*

8 Dale Griffin »
Campus Minister



10 Student-led Chapel

15 Jim Colman »
Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs
and
Michael Martin »
Dean of the Joe L. Ingram School of Christian Service



22 Hobbs Lecture with Bob Agee »
Former president of OBU



29 Anthony Jordan
*Executive Director-Treasurer
Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma*

NOVEMBER

5 John Holcomb
*Sports Anchor
CBS TV affiliate, Tulsa, Oklahoma*

7 Student-led Chapel

12 Victorya Michael Rogers »
Entertainment Careers Consultant



19 An Ngwyn
*Pastor of Northwest Vietnamese Community Church
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

DECEMBER

3 Roger Ferguson
*Pastor of First Baptist Church
Owasso, Oklahoma*

10 Christmas Program
*Warren M. Angell
College of Fine Arts*



Chapel Services are at 10am in Potter Auditorium, Raley Chapel. Guests Welcome.

U.S. News & World Report Ranks OBU Second in the West

For the 10th consecutive year, OBU has received recognition as the top comprehensive college in Oklahoma by the *U.S. News & World Report* annual rankings of "America's Best Colleges." OBU's listed second among "Comprehensive Colleges-Bachelor's" for the western region in the 2004 rankings.

OBU is ranked second in the category for the third consecutive year. In the 2004 rankings, as in 2002 and 2003, the private liberal arts college in Shawnee is ranked after Linfield College, a private institution in McMinnville, Oregon. It marks the 12th consecutive year for OBU to be ranked in the top-10 for colleges in the West, and the 14th time in 15 years for the university to

be listed as one of "America's Best Colleges."

"The *U.S. News* ranking lends an objective voice to what we at OBU have long believed — the concept of a strong academic standard in a Christian environment not only can, but should be marked by a high level of quality," says Dr. Brister.

Among colleges in the regional rankings, OBU had the highest percentage of 2002 freshmen who were in the top 25 percent of their high school graduating classes. A total of 68 percent of OBU's freshmen were in the top quarter. "Our reputation for excellence with a Christian world view has resulted in our ability to attract top-notch students who seek to learn from

outstanding educators," says Dr. Brister.

In the statistical rankings, OBU had the second-highest percentage of faculty serving full-time among the top-10 and Oklahoma colleges in the region. A total of 87 percent of OBU's faculty serve at the university full-time.

OBU's student-faculty ratio of 14/1 ranked third among the region's top 10. OBU also was ranked third in the region in "peer assessment," a category which is based on an academic reputation survey sent to presidents, chief academic officers and admission deans at peer institutions in the region.

Fine Arts Concert Series

OCTOBER

13 Piano Recital
Caleb Harris, '02 »
7:30pm
Yarborough
Auditorium



20 Organ Recital
Ron Davis »
Associate Professor
of Organ
7:30pm
Potter Auditorium



23 M & Ms Concert
with the
Symphonic Band »
& Bison Jazz
Orchestra
7:30pm
Yarborough
Auditorium



28 Lecture and
Presentation
Ron Pen »
Director of John Jacob
Niles Center for
American Music
University of Kentucky
12 noon, Raley Chapel, Room 203



NOVEMBER

13 Voice Recital
Rheta Hudson »
Associate Professor
of Music
7:30pm
Yarborough Auditorium

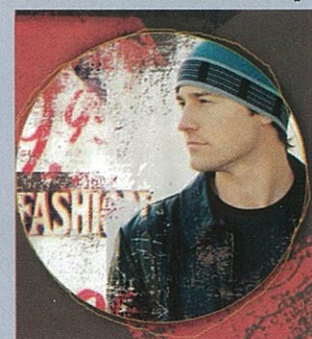


18 Hymn Festival
Featuring the Chapel Choir and
Associate Professor of Organ Ron Davis
7:30pm, Potter Auditorium

DECEMBER

7 Music Preparatory
Choirs Concert
3pm, Potter Auditorium

University Concert Series Coffee Shop



OCT. 24, 2003

**Bebo Norman
in concert**

9pm - Midnight
Geiger Center

For Information call 405.878.2305.

For Information call 405.878.2404.

Theatre In The Making

Down one of those roads where hill turns upon hill in an endless rhythm, you will come to discover, marked by a modest billboard, the official home of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!*. For more than three decades, hot summer evenings in Oklahoma, 10 miles west of Tulsa, have chimed with "Oh what a beautiful morning, oh what a beautiful day." This year the singers who belted out *Oklahoma!* included five from OBU.

The cast is chosen from national auditions that begin each year in the spring. Once selected, the 35 singers and dancers have only six days of rehearsals before opening night. The play runs from June to August, four nights each week. "The run is the biggest challenge," says former student Lloyd Holt who plays Judd. "There aren't many summer stock places that will run for three months outside in 98 degree weather. It's taxing both vocally and physically, but for the most part it is rewarding and an awesome experience."

Joining Lloyd is five-year *Oklahoma!* veteran Brenda Kitchen, '03, students Crystal Morrow and Latricia Reichman, and Associate Professor of Music Rhetta Hudson. Brenda is dance captain, Crystal sings in the women's ensemble, Latricia works as assistant stage manager, and Rhetta plays Aunt Eller. Also joining the cast from Shawnee is Ian Hutton who currently attends St. Gregory's. However, both of his parents attended OBU.

"I think OBU has prepared me for

hard work," says Latricia, who serves as student costume shop supervisor during the school year at OBU. "The professors show us how to work hard, and I love that because I come out here and feel like I'm in my element." Latricia is not alone in this feeling of preparedness. Many students share similar testimonies regarding the theatre department at OBU. Though small (the major has a little more than 30 students), theatre faculty Laura Byland and Joyce Aldridge recognize the program's strengths. "We provide life examples," says Laura. "We carefully select plays and read current literature. We help prepare the very best Christian theatre students for professional theatre."

"When you're in your own little circle, that's your safe zone," says Lloyd. "But when you are thrust into a cast of 35, all from different walks of life, you have to be aware of who you are and how you need to come across. The moment they find you're from a Christian university, their eyebrow raises, and you may have

an opportunity." Brenda, Crystal, Latricia, and Ian agree. One references the surprise she received when some of the cast discovered she never kissed the gentleman she had dated for more than a year. Another tells the story of a young woman who had begun to explore the things of God through Scripture reading. "I never really said, 'Listen, we need to talk about God,' he explains, "but I guess she saw how I work out here and the way I live."

Journey down that *Oklahoma!* road heading out for miles, and discover five individuals from OBU and at least one other in Ian Hutton, who know how to put on a production but also know what it takes to live in such a way to be an example.

Many other roads take you to theatre companies across the country,



Top Row (l-r): Ian Hutton, Brenda Kitchen, Lloyd Holt; Latricia Reichman, Rhetta Hudson, Crystal Morrow.

2003-04 OBU Theatre Season

where OBU students have contributed." Sonia Justl and Tiffanie Pearce are two additional examples. After a "rather intense application process," Sonia received the assignment this past summer to work in two Texas theatres as an intern. Similarly, Tiffanie worked at Michigan's premiere Interlochen, "a place entrenched by the arts," she says.

"I would have never been able to do it without the knowledge that I received in costume design," Tiffanie says regarding her role as costume mistress at Interlochen. "And because I served as stage manager on *The Adding Machine* at OBU, I felt confident to work as a stage manager for another part of the summer. Most of what I did, I already knew how to do because of my experiences at OBU."

"I did everything from writing grant proposals and press releases to designing makeup," Sonia says. "Part of my job even included co-designing and constructing 60 costumes in two weeks, and we did it. I could not have done those costumes if it had not been for the training I had received at OBU," she says.

In her second location, a massive amphitheater located in Palo Duro Canyon, Sonia served as stage manager. "The greatest part about being in the Canyon was incorporating my Christian walk into my work," she says. "I have done my best to simply live life and shine the love of Christ. Just this week," she adds with a stroke of excitement, "I shared my faith with the entire show crew, and the response was amazing!"

W;T

By Margaret Edson

W;T presents Vivian Bearing, a renowned professor of English who is diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. A scholar of John Donne's metaphysical sonnets, Vivian comes to reassess her life and work with a profundity and humor that is transforming both for her and the audience.

August 28, 29 and September 4, 5

The Pirates of Penzance or The Slave of Duty

Book by W.S. Gilbert,

Music by Arthur Sullivan

Join the band of swashbuckling buccaneers, bumbling British bobbies, and frolicsome Victorian maidens, for a rollicking romp across the rocky coast of Cornwall. This exuberant 1879 musical was the only Gilbert and Sullivan operetta to have its world premiere in the U.S., and its popularity has continued ever since. *The Pirates of Penzance* – they'll steal your heart away.

October 30, 31 and

November 1, 2, 8, 9

Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn

(Theatre for Young People)

By Rita Grauer and John Urquhart

Join Huck Finn and Jim, a runaway slave, as they journey down the Mississippi. This adventure gives Huck acceptance for the first time, and teaches him responsibility, awareness of equality, and the meaning of true friendship. Suitable for children ages 5 and up.

February 27, 28 and March 5, 6

A Shayna Maidel

By Barbara Lebow

Jewish for "pretty girl," A Shayna Maidel, tells the haunting reunion story of two sisters separated by the Holocaust. Rose left Poland with her father before the war and is entirely Americanized; her sister, Luisa, survived a concentration camp. While the family struggles to become restored, old barriers give way to the conviction of a better future in this stunning play first released in 1985.

April 22, 23, 24, 30 and May 1, 2

For tickets call 405.878.2347.

Productions: The Last Five Years

2002-2003

Arsenic and Old Lace
Much Ado About Nothing
The Mischief Makers
The Adding Machine

2001-2002

Someone to Watch Over Me
All My Sons
The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood
Our Town

2000-2001

The Woman in Black
Tartuffe
Zink: The Myth, The Legend, The Zebra
On the Verge

1999-2000

The Madwoman of Chaillot
Brer Rabbit Tales
The Little Moon of Alban

1998-1999

Kindertransport
The Velveteen Rabbit
Quilters

Running With Purpose

BY RAY FINK, '85, WITH FORD MASTIN, '77

Once upon a time almost 30 years ago, Ford Mastin thought he might be on OBU's last track team. Now, as the head coach of the men's and women's track and cross country squads, his teams are not only surviving, but thriving.

"Reactions varied among the 30 students on the 1974 track team when OBU made plans to drop track because of tough financial times," Ford says. "My response was to do something to change this terrible event. Every time I thought about losing the sport, I remembered the many pictures that had become larger than life – from the old OBU *Yahnseh* yearbooks of my grandparents (1924-1927) and my parents (1949-1952).

"Many times I had carefully studied the pages that described the men who had worked so hard to bring dignity and quality to the teams that always seemed to win at everything. Their old-style fashions and serious looks added an air that seemed to portray that what they did was important and valuable, that molded them to be disciplined and dependable."

Those images proved inspiring. "Pride and class seemed to radiate from the pages. With images of those legends and their winning aura providing a deep motivation, a few of us worked to preserve the program," Ford continues. "We were delighted

to find the sport given new life after a few months. Even though the 1970s brought competitive challenges, the program steadily grew and developed into something that would make proud those original, dedicated athletes from years ago. Little did I know that one day I would be given the responsibility to maintain and build on that success."

Ford knew his life would consist of ministry, and discovered this to be an integral part of his coaching.

"I loved the time I spent as an athlete on the Bison team. We worked hard and cared about each other. Our relationships and common goals matured us," Ford says. "As graduation came, I knew my life would be involved in a ministry. While at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, I also spent time training with the TCU track team. I eventually became a coach. This helped form a desire to see coaching and athletics as a way to be involved in a great mission field – education and sports."

The minister-turned-mission-minded-coach thought his music degree from OBU might be a hindrance. Instead, he says God used it.

"Since my degree at OBU was in Music Education, it was somewhat miraculous to see God's hand in providing a job for a coach and vocal

music teacher. Prague High School in Oklahoma took the chance. Living in a small town allowed me to have close relationships with students in many sports. Prague was also close to the church I attended as an OBU student, Draper Lake Baptist Church in Midwest City. Draper Lake is responsible for my continued spiritual growth and maturity. They have also given me the privilege of serving as song director."

But it was more than a job that Ford found at Prague High School... much more.

"At Prague I became impressed with a particular teacher, her ability to control a huge number of kids with a quiet spirit," says Ford. "The teacher, Terri, became my wife and the mother of our three children."

The town of Prague, just minutes from Shawnee, also allowed Ford to keep close ties with his alma mater and the track program he helped keep alive.

"Prague was close enough to Shawnee to enjoy watching the OBU track program grow. With each passing year, the dream of possibly serving at OBU grew," he says. "I loved working with students, being a help to them as God directed and observing changed lives. After 14 years in public schools, I came to OBU. Ever since, I have enjoyed watching and helping student

athletes grow in their desire to serve and be people God can use to lead families, commit to churches, and be 'givers.'"

After the 1996 season, Glen Stone retired from OBU as track coach. He left a strong legacy, and the search began for a successful coach to carry the program forward. The university didn't have to look far.

"It was difficult to follow Glen Stone, the coaching legend," Ford says. "Most of the team felt cheated to

end up with me. However, a few special athletes, through their great effort, helped give my 'turn at the wheel' some credibility. Specifically, two talented foreign athletes, Desire Pierre-Louis, '98, (National Record Holder) and Gabriel Hnilkova, ex '98, joined with some wonderful American kids: Zac Johnson, ex '99, Justin Klein, '01, Andrew Grein, '01, Sueanna Hilton, '00, and Jamaal Jackson, '01. Together, they became multi-All-Americans, great students,

and successful OBU alumni. I owe much to Jamaal's leadership, his winning example, and his great competitive ability and spirit."

The strong start continued into a healthy tradition.

"Soon, many great athletes like Brandy Bratton, '02, Sarah Phillips '03, Aaron Talton, '03, and current students Pat Brown and Landon Willets, along with others, chose OBU as the place to contribute their skills and become part of our community. They will all build on the very special past that those great men of character began over 90 years ago."

The road has produced some hurdles, but God's leadership has remained visible.

"I must admit that there have been challenging team members; there are stories of failure," Ford says. "Yet, God has provided an atmosphere of team pride and purpose that has brought enjoyable successes including 29 National Champions, two third-place national team finishes, four fourth-place finishes, 24 Sooner Athletic Conference team championships, and more than 170 All-America Awards."

Those awards are accompanied with nearly as many Conference Coach of the Year Awards. In addition, Ford received the NAIA Men's Outdoor Track and Field Coach of the Year Award in 1998. But more than plaques and banners, is the call of purpose.

"It is my desire to see the athletes take what they develop at OBU and grow," Ford says, "grow to be individuals with a sense of mission for their workplace and neighborhoods, faithful to their family and committed to their church." ♦



Bob & Leta Ringwald

A lonely car drives down the hot afternoon road in secluded Guthrie, Oklahoma. Dust flares. Through a rugged fence that flies an American flag from one of its posts, is the humble home of Bob and Leta Ringwald. Storm clouds hide the sun, and a warm wind catches the chimes that line the front porch, memoirs from their world travels.

Both natives of Oklahoma, Bob and Leta met a long distance from home toward the middle of the 1950s, in Berkeley, California, at a small mission church. She had come to the coast to continue seminary; he had come after working the wheat harvest in North Dakota. "Let me tell you, I was not looking for a husband," says Leta. "It was the last thing on my mind." With Bob engaged to a girl back in Oklahoma, and Leta writing to two gentlemen in Texas, they evaluate their quick romance as purely the work of God. Now, as they anticipate celebrating their 50th anniversary this January, they understand more fully the path that God has sent them down.

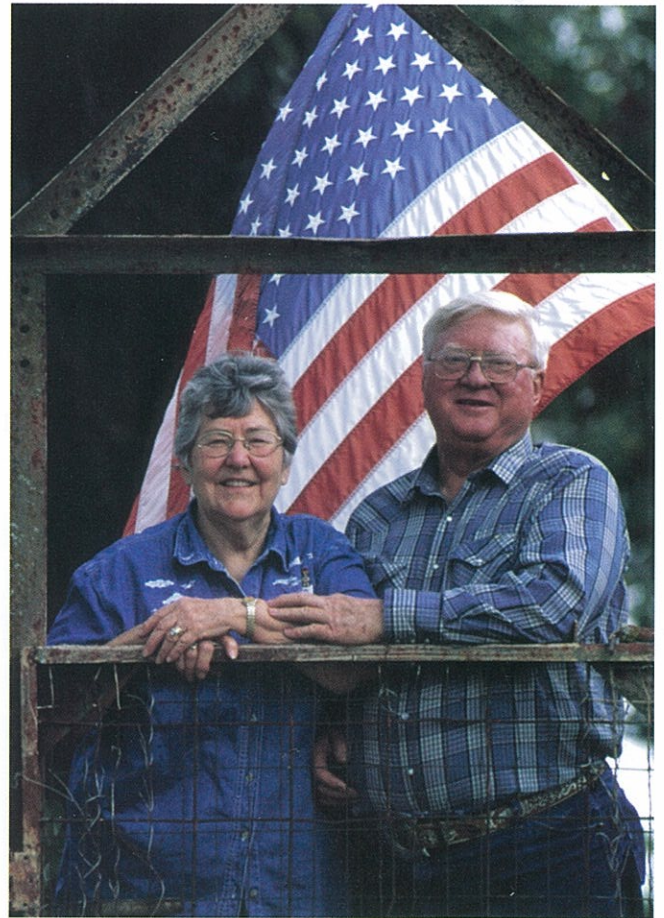
Leta came to OBU as the daughter of a poor farmer. All four of her college years brought a balancing act between work and study. "I had a partial scholarship," she says, "but I had to live off campus and work for my room and board." She graduated in 1950 with a degree in secondary education and a minor in speech. Saved as a sophomore in high school

and committed to pursue ministry, Leta followed her undergraduate work with seminary. After a year in Fort Worth, Texas, she transferred to Golden Gate Seminary, then in Berkeley, California.

Bob dropped out of high school after his junior year. His family needed him to work, and he found it with a farmer out of Billings, Oklahoma.

When he returned to school the next year, he met Richard Beadles. Richard took Bob to church, and Bob became a believer that year. He also heard about OBU from his friend who encouraged him to attend. After a semester at another university, Bob decided to enter the Army. His travels took him to California, where he met Leta. But Richard's early encouragement brought Bob back to Oklahoma, to OBU, and to ministerial studies, this time with Leta.

It was not long after Bob finished at OBU that they returned to California to each begin careers as public school educators, positions they held for 30 years. They returned to Oklahoma to retire in 1999. They are the parents of four children: Rebecca, Fred, Roanna and Rob. Their renewed involvement with



OBU began, in part, because of their daughter, Roanna. In 1984, at the age of nearly 17, she was in a fatal car accident. "Because our hearts have always been with OBU, when we decided to memorialize Roanna's life, OBU naturally came to mind," Leta says, referencing the plaque that is dedicated to her in Montgomery Hall. Since then, Bob and Leta have given to OBU in an increasing number of ways including endowed scholarship funds, a collection of Navajo rugs, annual fund support, construction of the new Montgomery Hall, statuary from Turkey, gifts of property, and a house. Their estate plans include a significant bequest to OBU.

As to the future, Bob and Leta plan to board their 68th cruise, in celebration of their anniversary, this January. ♦

OBU Telecommunication

The Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation of Oklahoma City recently awarded the telecommunication department a \$25,000 grant for the 2003-04 school year to support replacement of outdated computers and equipment, internship honoraria, conference registrations, workshop lectures, and a documentary film festival field trip.

Estate and Gift Planning

Did you know that you can make a gift which will pay you back? Additional details are available on the OBU website, www.okbu.edu. Click on "Giving to OBU" and then "Gifts that pay you back." These gift instruments can be a great way to provide income for retirees as well as provide a tax deduction.

School of Nursing Endowment Campaign

In celebration of the School of Nursing and its 50th anniversary, an endowment campaign that began this summer has received pledges that total more than \$130,000. More than 60 nursing graduates have responded with four-year pledges during the campaign's leadership phase. An additional 600 nursing alumni have recently received invitations to support reaching the \$250,000 victory goal. The funds will provide permanent annual support for equipping and updating a skills/technology laboratory for the School of Nursing.

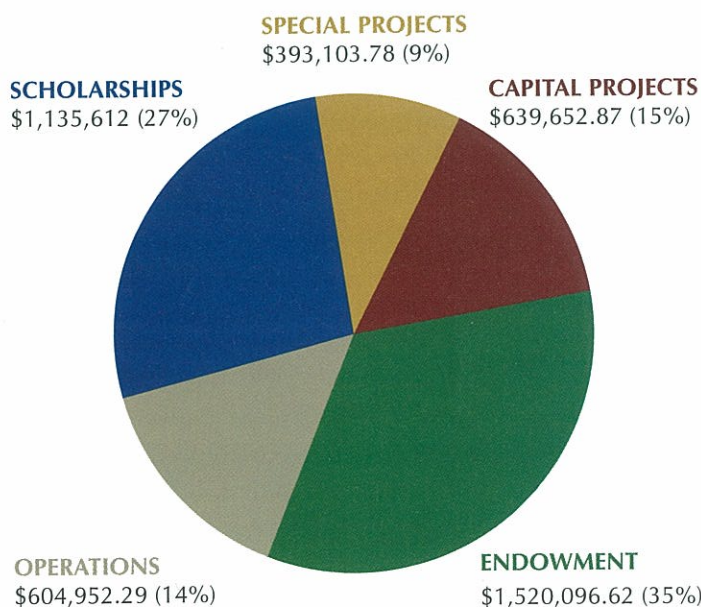
Recreation/Wellness Center Campaign

Fund raising continues for the proposed \$9 million recreation/wellness center which will replace Clark Craig Fieldhouse. At this time, approximately \$800,000 is committed toward the project. The search for a lead gift/pledge continues. Stock market conditions have greatly impacted those who previously had the ability/means to provide this type of significant funding. In addition, several foundations have expressed interest in the project but have indicated that a significant portion of the funding must be committed before they can respond to OBU's request for funding.

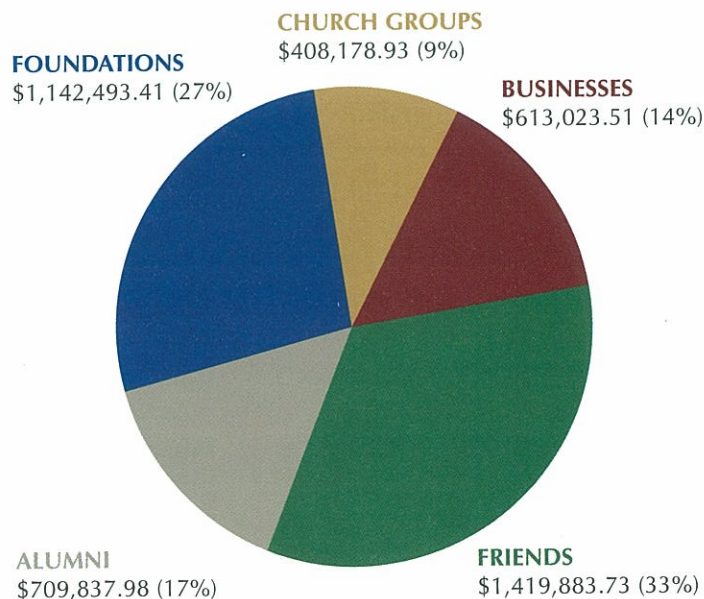
To make a gift to OBU visit www.okbu.edu, go to 'GIVING' or call 405.878.2703.

2002-03 GIVING REVIEW*

By Designation



By Group



TOTAL \$4,293,417.56

*Does not include approximately \$3 million from the Cooperative Program of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma for operating budget.

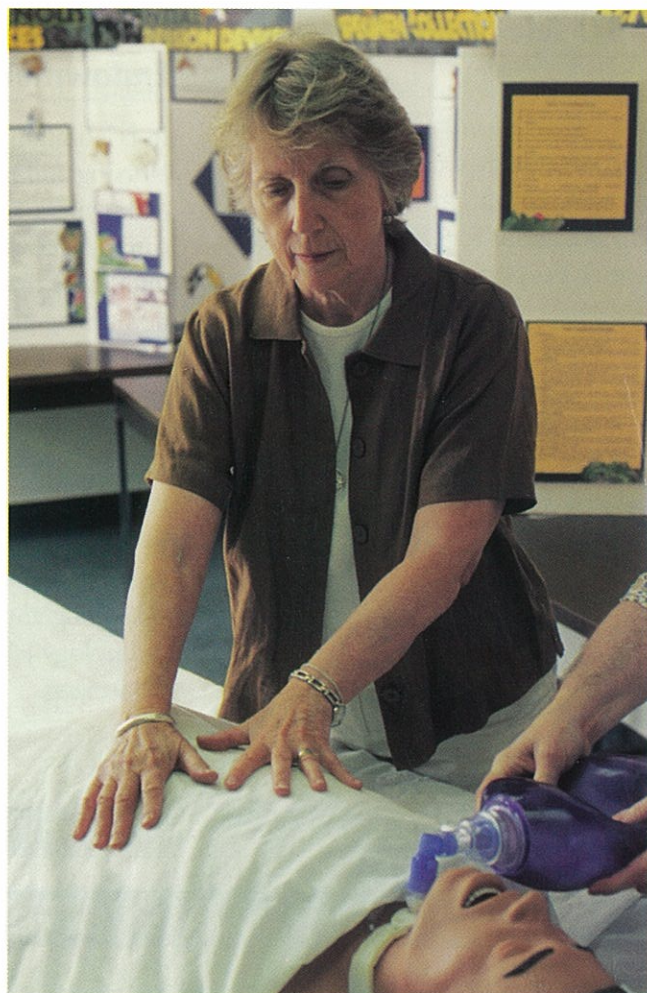
Sheila Taylor Myers 59

"It was a course on dying," Sheila says in reference to the reason she decided to complete the nursing program. "We read the autobiographies of people with cancer and discussed how nursing can impact lives." Juanita Milsap, professor emeritus of nursing and now a legend among OBU nursing graduates, taught the class. "This class worked as one of several events that directed me to a career in nursing," says Sheila. "I never planned a career. I have tried to recognize the next opened door; I only wait for guidance, and then journey forward."

Sheila, a member of the fourth nursing class, was working in an Oklahoma City hospital after graduation when another door opened. Late in filing applications to several schools, Sheila did not expect everything would work out so quickly. In a matter of weeks, she moved East and began graduate studies at Yale University in maternal and newborn nursing and midwifery. While at Yale, she completed a midwifery internship in Chicago. "I had always learned about pregnancy in regards to a hospital stay," she says, "where women came in lying down, medicated, and helpless. In Chicago, I learned about midwifery firsthand. In my inaugural outing, I climbed the stairs to a third floor and opened the

door to a small apartment. Inside, the mother labored in the back room while she directed her other children with homework assignments and dinner plans. She impressed me, her control of the situation and awareness of her surroundings." During this time, she began research on how nurses assist pregnant women. "This study focused my thinking about the nursing profession, the importance of identifying patients' needs, and what nurses do to change their outcomes," she says.

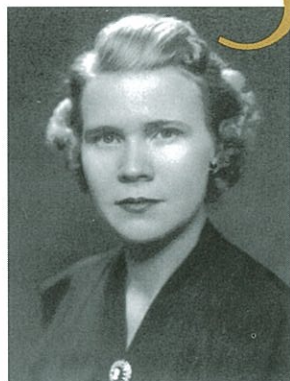
Sheila's journey brought her back to Oklahoma as an OBU professor for several years, at which time she met her husband during a book discussion group in the library – another door. After marriage, a door opened to work in West Virginia for five years before she returned to Oklahoma and, in 1975, began teaching at the University of Oklahoma. She now holds the title, Professor Emerita of Nursing. "My purpose in teaching is to encourage nurses to think... to think about God's options and then to listen," she says. "That's difficult to hang on to when many in the healthcare world do not acknowledge the spiritual as part of care."



In 1993, she began working with bedside nurses through Baptist and Children's hospitals and was instrumental in establishing the Center for Clinical Nursing Research Utilization and Development. The purpose of the Center is to help nurses identify what they are doing to change patients' outcomes and to increase their use of knowledge already available in our nursing journals. Today, she continues that work in the OU Medical Center exploring the clinical infrastructure of nursing, asking how nurses make a difference in patient well-being.

"I never have experienced an epiphany from God like Paul did," she says. "God just continues to open doors. I plan to continue walking." ♦

Dorine Hawkins Stewart, 39



Dorine in May 1943.

Dorine Hawkins Stewart was only 13 years old when her father, an Oklahoma pioneer

minister, posed the question, "Sister, what do you want to do when you grow up?" "I think I either want to be a missionary or a movie star," she replied. His challenge to her: "Choose wisely, but remember the reward of being a missionary. You can serve the

Lord until you are 60 or 70 or maybe even 80." Two years after that conversation, she made her commitment to mission work, eventually to Brazil.

She arrived at OBU in October 1935. Classes had already begun, but she decided to attend class and anxiously watch the mail for her "letter from God," she says, money for tuition. It arrived. The president of the southwest district of WMU mailed her confirmation of a scholarship to attend the first semester. Support from the WMU continued through OBU and on through seminary.

With school completed, Dorine left for mission work in 1945. She arrived in Rio de Janeiro and says, "For a little farm girl to make a difference in this big world humbled me. I was beginning to believe God could take this Oklahoma preacher's daughter and use her to glorify him. And that

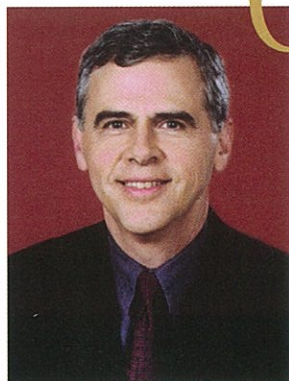
old dream of being a movie star or ballerina didn't hold a candle to this one!"

After intensive language study, Dorine taught high school students until 1949, when she became director of the Southern Brazil WMU Training School that served nearly 30 Brazilian young women, two Brazilian teachers, and 10 missionaries.

Between furloughs, she completed a doctorate degree, and in 1976, her life took an unexpected turn, when at the age of 60 she married Buford Stewart. They settled in Austin, Texas. "My new life and very different 'mission' had begun," she says.

Soon, Dorine began discussing a return to Brazil. They attended Foreign Mission Week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center. Challenged by the pastor, they decided to go to Brazil together. They served until 1980, and now live in Austin. ♦

Walter Grubbs, 69



"The idea that what I do could make a difference motivates

me," says Walter Grubbs, vice president of human resources for California-based Vision Service Plan for the past 10 years, one of *Fortune Magazine's* best places to work in America. "I suppose you could say it's

providential. One opportunity or experience has led to another," he says, "and it has culminated in working for a great company that shares my values and ethics."

After OBU, Walter completed a Master of Divinity degree from Golden Gate Seminary to prepare for pastoral ministry. He followed seminary with two years of full-time clinical pastoral education in general hospital and mental health settings. He proceeded to take a role as associate pastor of a church, but came to the realization that he should pursue something else. "It became a painful and disappointing time of transition," he says. "I was afraid that years of study and preparation might be wasted."

He found a place where his skills and training transferred well, a career

in management and human resources, beginning a long employment with First Interstate Bank of Oregon and California and moving into work with Vision Service Plan. "We want Vision Service Plan to be a place where people consider long-term careers," he says. "We've analyzed it, and the factors that most strongly influence employee retention are treating people with respect and supporting career development. This is made easier when we keep the perspective that we're dealing with children of God and not disposable resources."

Regarding OBU, Walter especially recalls professors and fellow students who challenged his faith in a healthy, constructive way, and did not take a "lazy" approach, intellectually or morally. ♦

Homecoming Offers Traditional Celebrations And New Options

Award presentations, musical celebrations, basketball action, and a new family festival will be part of the agenda for "Back to the Hill," OBU's 2003 Homecoming celebration, Nov. 7-8.

Alumni from across the nation will return to campus for the annual weekend, which will include special reunion events for OBU classes ending in "3" and "8."

OBU students and alumni volunteers will provide a new Homecoming event for children on Saturday. At 10:30am, OBU's first Children's Festival will begin in Clark Craig Fieldhouse. Children age 4 through sixth grade are invited to participate in carnival-style games at the fieldhouse. During the festival, grade school children will be able to attend special academic programs in nursing, natural sciences, or music, and be part of a student-led praise and worship service. A sandwich lunch also will be provided during the festival, which will conclude at 2pm.

"The festival will give children of our alums a chance to see OBU from a different perspective. They will get to see OBU students in action, and enjoy a program specially designed for their ages," says Marty O'Gwynn, hon '58, executive director of the OBU Alumni Association.

Friday events include a reunion luncheon for the 50-Year Club, and a 50th anniversary luncheon for the Class of 1953.

The Homecoming Golf Tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 12:30pm Friday at the 18-hole Shawnee Country Club.

The annual Harvest Dinner, at 6pm Friday evening, will include recognition of two Alumni Achievement Award recipients, and the 2003 Graduate of the Last Decade honoree.

Shirley Jones, '58, and Ron Clem, '67, will receive the 2003 Alumni Achievement Award. The award is the highest honor presented by the alumni association. Shirley is professor emerita of literature at OBU. She retired as the University's Crouch-Mathis Professor of Literature in 2000. Ron is president and CEO of Executive Training International.

Joel Phelps, '93, an administrator with Integris Bass Hospital in Enid, Oklahoma, will receive the GOLD Alum of the Year Award. The honor is given annually to an outstanding graduate from the previous decade.

Darrin Fowler, '93, and Fabio Sant'Anna, '95, will be inducted into the OBU Athletic Hall of Fame during the Harvest Dinner.

On Saturday morning, 12 alumni will receive the Profile in Excellence award during the annual Homecoming Chapel in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium. The Homecoming sermon will be delivered by Doug Melton, '83, pastor of Southern Hills Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

A special dinner for alumni from the School of Nursing will begin at 5:30pm Saturday in the Geiger Center. The dinner is part of the school's golden anniversary celebration, which began in 2002, marking the 50th year since OBU's nursing program began. The university started the first baccalaureate nursing program in the state of Oklahoma.

Homecoming will conclude with presentation of the 2003 Harvest King and Queen and the Harvest Court on Saturday evening. That event will follow the annual Alumni Showcase, which begins at 8pm in Raley Chapel.

For more Homecoming details, visit www.okbu.edu/alumni.

Back to The Hill

Your Children: Part Of A Bison Legacy

Each summer, dozens of children of OBU alums have the chance to see Bison Hill while their families pass through Shawnee on vacation. For many, the first exposure to campus is in the midst of a heat wave, when few students are on campus.

First impressions will take on a new look for these "legacy" children, as they become part of a new program that helps them enjoy their role in the OBU family.

Members of the OBU Alumni Association board of directors unanimously approved the Bison Legacy program at their August meeting. The program, coordinated through the OBU Alumni Office, provides children of alumni with special information and unique OBU-related items from birth until they turn 16.

"Legacy children have a built-in connection with OBU," said Lori Hagans, director of alumni programs and special events. "We want to celebrate that relationship with them by helping to mark special times in their lives."

The Bison Legacy program includes special OBU birthday gifts for children when they turn 6, 11 and 16. Other elements and special events are included in the program.

To assure that each of your children can participate in the program, please email their birthdates (including birth year) to alumni@okbu.edu.

For details, call 405.878.2706, or visit www.okbu.edu/alumni.



⚡ **Class of 1955**
Three of the first
OBU nursing students.

In the tradition of Florence Nightingale, nurses first wore a long conservative black dress. The World Wars changed nursing attire because the profession became associated with the military. The increasingly rigid environment brought the starched white dresses, stiff nursing caps, white hosiery, blue capes, and thick-soled shoes. No individuality existed. Nurses began wearing white pantsuits in the 1960s. That decade began an evolution to many different colored uniforms represented today, indicating either individual taste or specific expertise.

Jennifer Crane, '01, studied the history of nursing uniforms in her senior project "Nursing: Yesterday, Today, Forever." Jennifer is currently Charge Nurse at Davita Dialysis in Midwest City, Oklahoma. "OBU gave me the tools to make my career a bright one, focused on knowledge, compassion, and a calling you know you have as a nurse," she says.



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