

The background of the cover is a photograph of a church steeple in silhouette against a vibrant sunset sky with orange and red clouds. The steeple is on the right side, and its base is a large, dark, rectangular structure. In the lower-left foreground, there are dark silhouettes of trees. A small, arched window in the base of the steeple shows a hanging lantern. The title 'O·B·U' is in a large, serif font, and 'm a g a z i n e' is in a smaller, lowercase serif font below it.

O·B·U

m a g a z i n e

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OBU MAGAZINE STAFF

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Editor

Zach Kincaid

Graphic Designer

Chele Carr

Contributing Writers

Benjamin Blackmon, Sharon
Bourbeau, Anne Butler, Ray Fink,
Spencer Hicks, Zach Kincaid,
Marty O'Gwynn

Photographer

Bill Pope

View OBU Magazine Online

www.okbu.edu/obumagazine

Contact OBU Magazine

obumagazine@okbu.edu
405.878.2107

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

President

Mark Brister

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Jim Colman

Senior Vice President for Business Affairs

Randy Smith

Senior Vice President for Development

John Patterson

CONTACT INFORMATION

(area code 405)

Academic Center	878.2023
Admissions	878.2033
Alumni	878.2706
Business Office	878.2020
Campus Ministry	878.2377
Career Planning	878.2416
Development	878.2703
Mabee Learning Center	878.2251
President's Office	878.2002
Public Relations	878.2109
Residential Life	878.2404
Student Development	878.2406
Student Financial Services	878.2016
Switchboard	275.2850

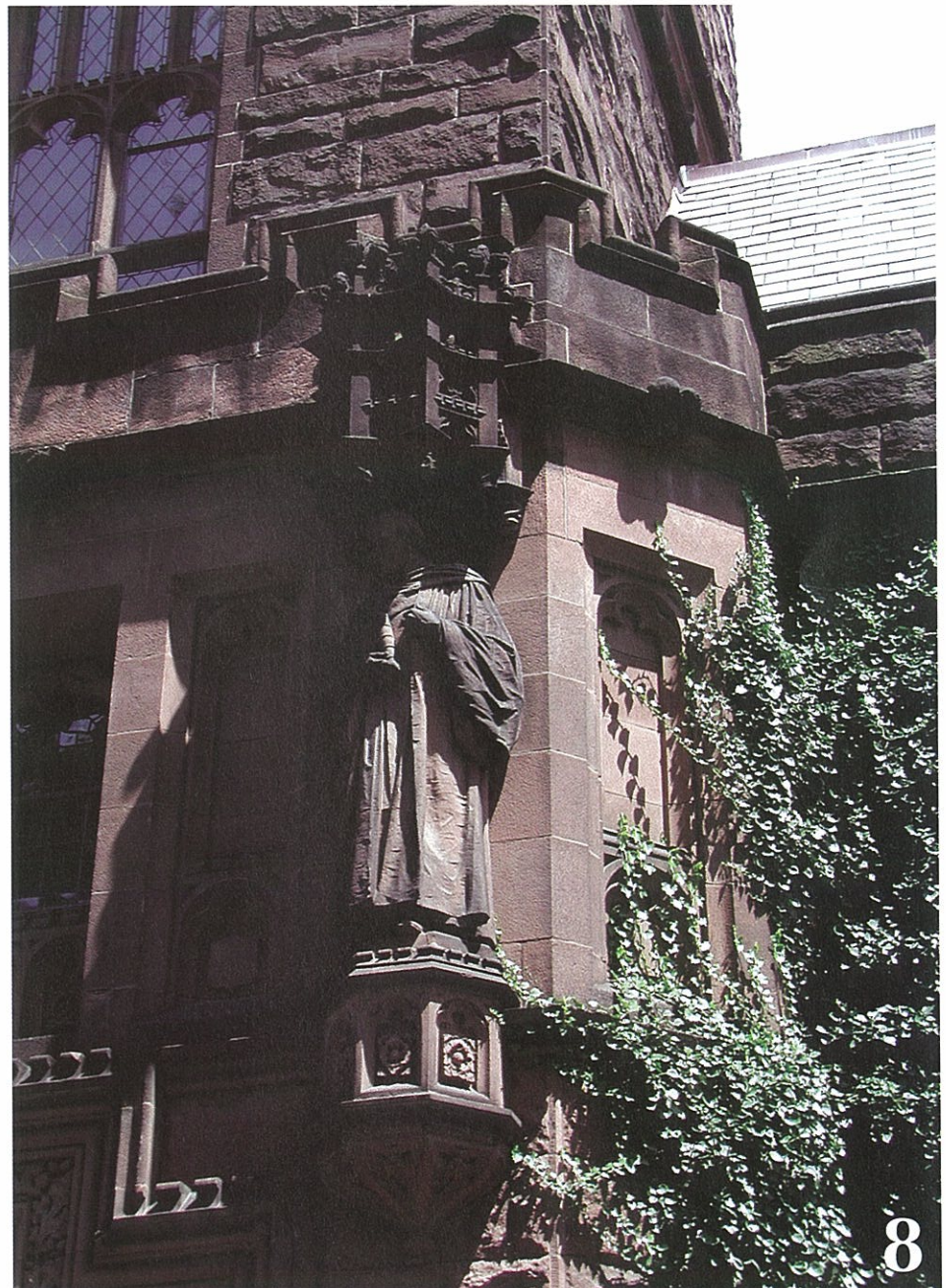
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Spring 2004

m a g a z i n e



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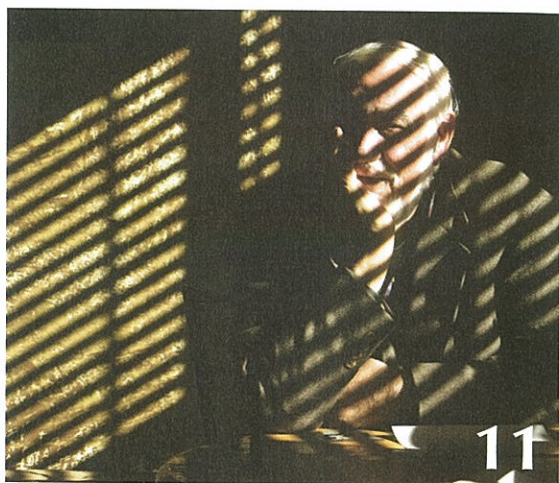
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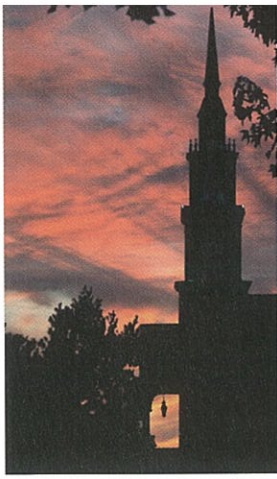
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It's in *the* Air

CAMPUS MINISTRY AT OBU

**It's in the air. If you walk across the campus,
you may find yourself humming some old yet familiar hymn.
"Where did *that* come from?" you may say to yourself,
and then the half-hour rolls around and the campus is
inundated with the chimes from atop the Rayley Chapel spire.
It's in the air...the purpose and mission of OBU.**

Setting To Work

"The person who makes it through OBU knows how to think, organize thoughts, apply knowledge, all in the context of faith. That's what I am here to champion," says OBU Campus Minister Dale Griffin. As a 1984 graduate, he had a dream to return some day to work with students. In 2002, Dale came to OBU from the local church. In his 20 years' experience, Dale has served with the International Evangelism Association in Fort Worth, Texas; Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston; and with Baptist Student Union at Western Oklahoma State College and the University of New Mexico.

In his last appointment before coming to OBU, Dale

served as music minister at Northwest Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. "I had lost my hearing in one ear due to a tumor on the brainstem in 1994," Dale recalls. "The tumor was called acoustic schwannoma, and the doctors sacrificed the ear in surgery in order to take the tumor and protect my motor skills. So, here I am, with one ear, and half a mind to listen, and the opportunity to go to Northwest Baptist as a music minister." Nonetheless, because the pastor desired someone with experience in a discipleship ministry who could also lead music, Dale began a five-year tenure at the church.

"I was happy at Northwest. I loved the people; they were supportive and encouraging to me, so I wasn't

exactly itching to leave,” Dale says, recalling when OBU invited him to interview. “But I began to consider...could the vision for campus ministry at OBU that I had thought about all these years indicate a call on my life?” Through much prayer and consultation, he decided to move his family to Shawnee. Now, he strives to see that vision for Campus Ministry brought to a reality.

As director of Baptist Collegiate Ministry, Jackie Wilks shares the vision for OBU Campus Ministry. Jackie came to OBU two years ago after working as a schoolteacher and counselor. “I’ve done a little of everything,” she says. Jackie recently completed her Ph.D. “Just did that because I wanted to,” she says. In addition, with experience in teaching New Testament, writing on a college level, and various other roles, Jackie brings valuable experience to bear in and on the lives of students. “I want to encourage students to be authentic,” she says. Students are encouraged in their relationship with Jackie, exemplified in the many times she and her husband, Tom Wilks, professor of applied ministry, have opened up their home for fellowship times and dinner with students.

This type of relationship building fits the direction of OBU. “OBU is Campus Ministry,” Dale says. “It is not a club or organization separate from OBU as a whole.” As a result, he and Jackie introduced the philosophy of three integrated environments of worship, small groups and service/missions. “What we’re trying to do is communicate clearly that if a student has chosen OBU, they’ve made a decision to grow in faith and learning. Campus ministry is not something you join, but rather it joins you through the experience of Christian higher education.”

Worship: A Lifestyle

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.

ROMANS 12:1, NIV

The first of the three environments is worship. Senior Elizabeth Finke, co-chair of the OBU Student Worship Team, says that worship is the “acknowledgment of who God really is and who we are in light of that.” She references Isaiah 6 for the description of a worship experience, and notes that the presence and revelation of the Divine

should produce a genuine effect upon one’s life. Finke states that after “we recognize sin and the need to be purified, we must rejoice in the Lord.”

Since God is the Being who simply and mysteriously is “I Am,” then worship is the opportunity given to his creation to recognize his presence and character. A state of awe, wonder, and amazement is the posture of true worship. Dale emphasizes that these “spiritual encounters [even] happen in the classroom.” Elizabeth refers to this idea of worship as a “lifestyle of worship,” where the whole of each day becomes an act of worship.

Intentional times during the week are dedicated to worship, the most obvious being weekly Wednesday morning chapel. Other occasions include Refuge, a worship gathering specifically for women; and late-night worship events. These activities create moments of reflection and ways to pursue spiritual things.

Wednesday morning chapel is designed to give students added contact with different aspects of living faith, complimenting the educational experience. It hosts the formal time for students, faculty and staff to participate in worship together. Although chapel is obligatory for students (at least 12 chapels per semester), many students naturally participate through music, drama presentations, and prayer. The schedule combines local, regional, and national speakers along with the talents of students and the College of Fine Arts as it relates to music.

Evening worship events and Friday Chapels are decidedly student-led. Senior Bryan Ratanasin, co-chair of the OBU Student Worship Team, says that these events allow students the opportunity to worship more freely, “not that they are not able to worship at other chapel services, but these specific events allow students to feel more comfortable and laid-back.” The comfortable environment does not denote a lack of preparation. Elizabeth, Bryan and other student leaders meditate and pray prior to each event. Songs, scripture, and other presentations are thought out for each event. “I love these experiences because they are not something that you have to go to but something that you choose to go to,” says Bryan. “I believe that these worship opportunities bring unity to this Christian campus; OBU students choose to worship with one another.”

Senior Amanda Weeks helps coordinate the women’s worship nights called Refuge. “Our mission statement

states – ‘Refuge is a place where women come together to seek refuge in Jesus Christ and encourage each other in our unique quest for God’s glory.’ Our desire is to provide a place for the women at OBU to come and be refreshed through worship and the testimonies of other women on campus.” Amanda says that she has already seen God challenge and comfort her personally and many other women at OBU.

Small Groups: Working out Faith

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13, NIV

The second of the three environments is small groups. Many opportunities exist for students to participate in small groups including New Student Ministry, Network, and the Chaplain Program.

New Student Ministry began in 2003 spring semester. “Since OBU is campus ministry,” says Dale, “it’s important for new students to be given an ongoing sense of belonging and continued aid in the transition to college life from the onset.” Senior Gina Verzani is co-chair of NSM with senior Owen Nease. “A leadership team was put together,” Gina explains, “and we trained many sophomores, juniors, and seniors to be small group leaders. This fall we had more than 90 small group leaders, and we worked with the Welcome Week steering committee to allow NSM to be a part of Welcome Week. This made a first impression on the students and helped to establish relationships with them before classes started.”

New Student Ministry consists of Tuesday Night Rallies that begin the first week of school. These gatherings provide all freshmen and transfer students a time to interact with NSM workers and other new students. Tuesday Night Rallies extend until the sixth week of the semester. “They provide direction as students develop ownership of their small groups through times of sharing and support,” says Owen. This sense of ownership paved the way for several small groups to form after fall break.



Small Group
Bible Study

“Friendships form to keep you accountable,” says Gina. As a natural extension of the college education, small groups help “actualize the atmosphere.” They seek to move beyond the relationships made in the classroom by providing a safe place for discussion and debate. “Especially for freshmen,” says Owen, “the small group opportunities offer an immediate place of belonging, and aid in transition to a new environment. Small groups further offer an upperclassman mentor who exemplifies Christian leadership; a place that fosters genuineness, peer assistance, guidance, and encouragement in personal spiritual

“For freshmen, the small group opportunities offer an immediate place of belonging...a place that fosters genuineness, peer assistance, guidance, and encouragement in personal spiritual formation.”

formation; and a community in which to discuss and grow in the Christian faith.”

“Network,” according to co-chair Marquette Bugg, “is intended to facilitate campus ministry within the dorms. Network provides one residence assistant with one Network person. This person basically acts as a prayer

partner.” The role of a Network person includes interacting specifically with the students that the residence assistant serves. By doing this, it helps to “displace the load a little bit by reaching every person on the hall,” says Marquette. “We felt we needed to be reaching out to the campus as a whole.” David Duvall and Marquette co-chaired the introduction of Network to the campus this year.

The Chaplain Program is another way to reach out to the students on campus with the purpose of supplying a point person for athletic teams and other organizations or groups. The co-chairs of the Chaplain Program are Amanda Weeks and Matt Neal. “Matt and I are the current SGA Chaplains,” says Amanda. “Our desire is to encourage the leaders of all sports teams, social clubs, and organizations. We base our foundation on Isaiah 45:2-3 that speaks about the Lord breaking through the barriers in our lives so that each of us comes to understand the purpose for which God has uniquely handcrafted us. We attempt to meet twice a month with athletic chaplains and once a month with social club and organizational chaplains.” These student chaplains facilitate ways to build spiritual formation for, communicate to, and stay integrated with the groups they represent.

These are three ways small groups form at OBU. There are certainly a number of others including a Bible study for senior women, an annual marriage retreat, and a campus-wide women’s retreat.

Service and Missions: Beautiful Feet

*“How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring
good news, who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings, who
proclaim salvation, who say to
Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”*
ISAIAH 52:7, NIV

The third environment is service and missions outside OBU. Service opportunities abound in Shawnee and surrounding areas. Students have organized groups based around

known needs in nursing facilities, the local jail and facilities for abused children to name a few. Many students also participate in trips far away from the context of central Oklahoma. This year students will travel to Cambodia, Mexico, and the state of Utah, in addition to annual trips.

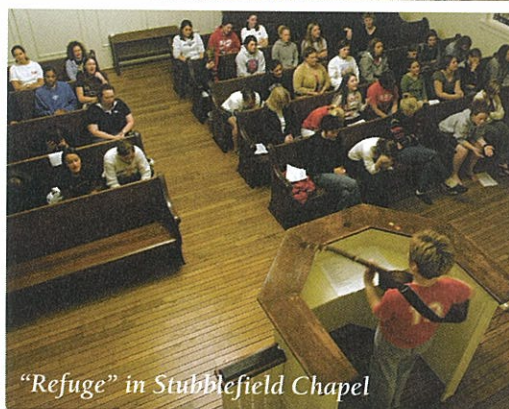
Shawnee

“We are there to be company and get to know them, which in the end allows us to share God’s love as demonstrated through Jesus’ sacrifice. We share Bible verses with them as well,” says junior Jeana Rogers about her work with Age to Age. Age to Age works with the elderly residents at the Shawnee Care Center every Monday and Thursday evening. The group often enjoys coffee at the Center’s coffee dive affectionately called the “Coffee Corner.” They also sing hymns by request.

Every Wednesday, The Oakland Chapel Service Team



Service Project in Shawnee



“Refuge” in Stubblefield Chapel



Nursing Home Ministry

guides activities for children and teenagers. The purpose is to build relationships with the kids in the OBU neighborhood, especially those kids who do not usually attend church. Seniors Emily Lewis and Bethany Hilmer work as the children's activity leaders. "The friendships we have with our kids increase the impact of the Bible lessons,"



says Emily. "We hope and believe that what we say about the Bible is more meaningful to them because they know us personally."

Taken from Matthew 5:41, which says "If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles" (NIV), Second Mile is a group of students dedicated to go the "second mile" in their work with the children in the local North Rock Creek elementary and middle school. The primary focus revolves around four character assemblies performed throughout the year. More than 25 OBU students are involved with Jackie Wilks in presenting and teaching important virtues to the more than 500 kids, faculty, and parents who attend these assemblies. The important character traits of self-control, honesty, respect, and responsibility are presented through song, skits, and open discussion. In addition to the four assemblies, students spend time helping teachers in the classroom and building relationships with the young people. "Serving the community is our passion, and God has been so kind to allow us to serve in such a large capacity," says junior Ashley Wood.

The Hope House Student Team helps poor and abused children. The children at a government-funded agency for children from birth to 18 are involved in custody battles or abusive situations. Many run away from home. "We hang out with the kids for a few hours every week," says senior Brad Carter. "We try to get them out of the shelter and love them as much as possible. We want to show these kids that there are people out there who truly love them and care about them. The kids are in and out of the shelter constantly, but over the past years we have been able to establish some meaningful relationships with several of the kids."

"Every believer should be a servant, as Christ was a servant. We help students to serve where they can in our community," says senior Ryan King, who works with the Volunteer Action Committee or VAC. The group identifies local needs and hopes to "widen" the perspectives of OBU students by meeting those needs.

At times, more than 350 students work on these local projects that include volunteering in a community center, helping with maintenance, building projects in town, and tutoring in a local library. "People grow personally and emotionally when exposed to new situations and people," Ryan says. "We hope to get students outside their comfort zones a bit and stretch their abilities."

Surrounding Areas

Students minister in the Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center, referred to as COJC (pronounced Ko-Jack). “We go into each of the units and do a Bible study,” says senior Tambrea Tschida. There are six units in the Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center, five units for guys and one unit for the girls. Every Thursday, the students work within one of the units for an hour. “The Bible studies are voluntary,” says Tambrea. “They come and share or just listen. They often ask tons of questions.”

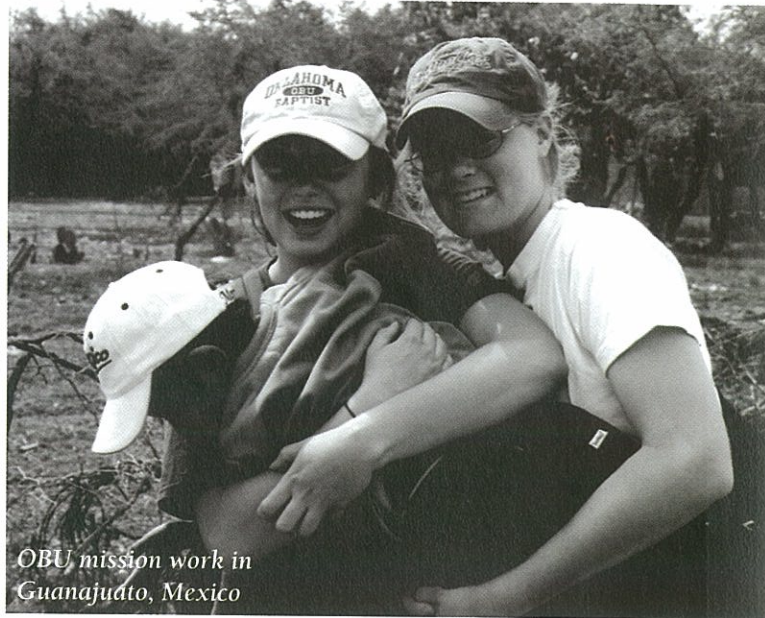
Junior Judd Reynolds and sophomore Katie Irwin are among more than 40 students who travel to the stockyard neighborhoods in Oklahoma City each week. They work at the Mission Center, a place that ministers to the families in those communities. “The voice of reason surrounds this ministry screaming that we can make no difference in the community,” says Judd. “And though many times I listen to this voice and struggle to believe a difference can be made, I am constantly amazed with God and how he destroys the walls of human understanding and triumphantly marches through the streets of the community. It is truly a blessing that God has allowed us to personally see the fruits of labor from the past generations of Mission Center workers.”

Around the World

More than 200 students traveled to places around the world last year to do various types of ministry. This year, the Campus Ministry office will add student trips to Guanajuato, Mexico; Southeast Asia; and Salt Lake City, Utah. “We’re laying a foundation for how service and mission opportunities for students can expand in the future,” says Dale Griffin.

In southeast Asia, Heidi Burkhart and Owen Nease are co-chairing a team of students that will be building relationships and teaching English to university students in that region. Heidi says, “It’s a perfect opportunity to impact students who’ve never heard the claims of Christ.”

In Mexico, Jackie Wilks will be returning to Guanajuato, where she traveled with a group of college students this past summer. “I was asked by the missionaries to return during J-term, with another group of OBU students,” Jackie says. “This area of Mexico has the same number of evangelicals as Iraq. There is a great need for



OBU mission work in Guanajuato, Mexico

these people to hear of God’s love.”

In Utah, students will visit Brigham Young University, the University of Utah Institute of Religion and Weber State University. Through open-forum discussions, OBU students hope to stimulate conversation about the Christian faith. The week concludes with a five-hour reflection and meditation time in the mountains of Utah.

In addition to these trips, OBU sends students to Xinjiang, China, through an international student program; a group of nursing students minister in Haiti each year; and OBU continues to be a leader in the Journeyman Program, part of the International Mission Board.

So what is the future of Campus Ministry at OBU? As senior Gina Verzani puts it, “Campus Ministry is having a larger role on campus and students are beginning to understand more the vision of a body of believers who grow in Christ and serve together.” “Where are we headed?” Dale Griffin asks. “We want to flesh out Campus Ministry, so that when students experience OBU they will see campus ministry as a part of the natural vocabulary of OBU in the context of Christian higher education. The result will be continued Kingdom impact through this and future generations of OBU students.”

Next time you’re on campus, listen afresh to the sounds of OBU. Campus Ministry is in the air, from the hymns that ring from the Raley Chapel spire to the Bible studies in dorm rooms; from the service on the streets that make up Oklahoma to the mission opportunities that take OBU students around the world. ♦

Living a Life Worthy

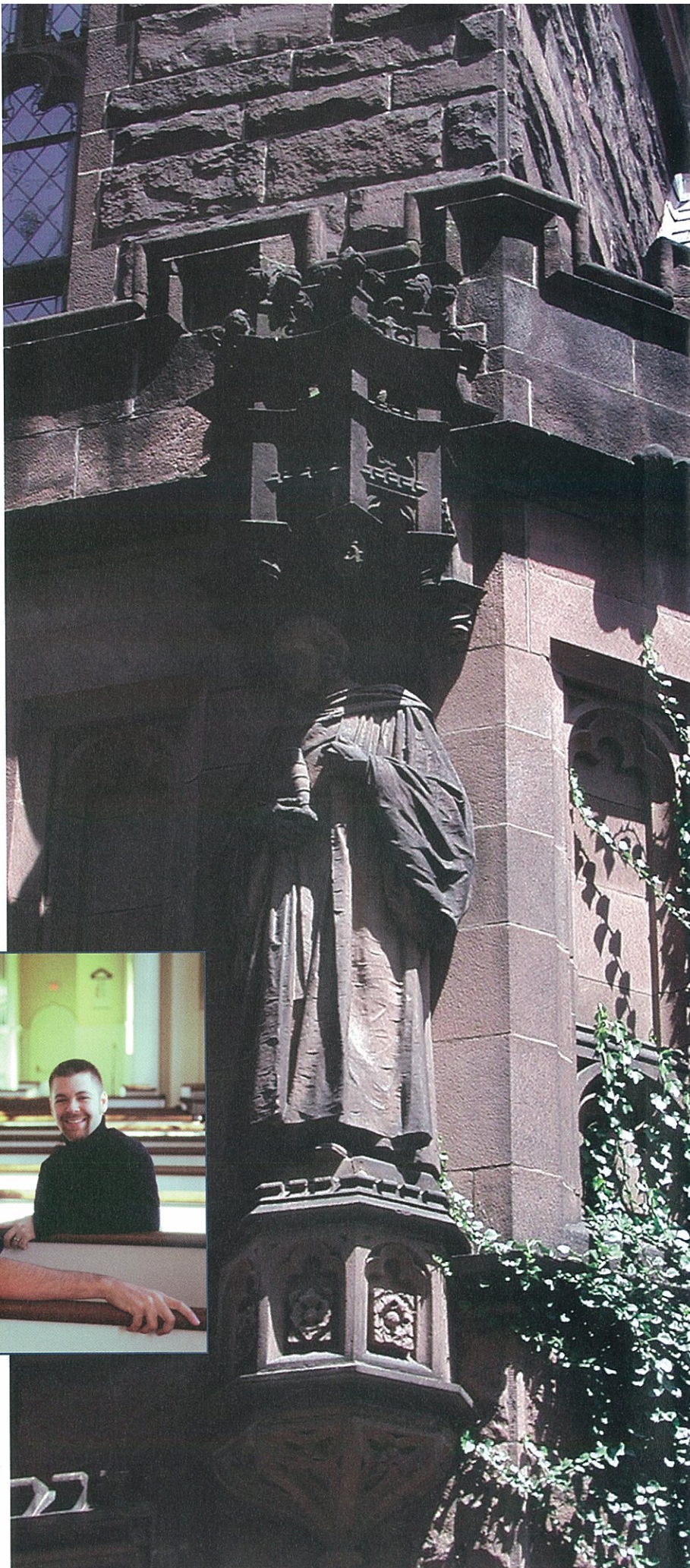
Stories of Four
OBU Graduates
at Princeton

Photos made available by Princeton University.



Amy Peeler, Matt Porter, Eric Barreto and Blake Connelly.

Princeton Theological Seminary
is located in Princeton, New Jersey.



OBU is in the ministry of preparing students for the many challenges of living a life worthy of the calling they have received. “Regardless of major, an OBU education is an investment which will serve you well in life,” Blake Connelly, ’02, says. Eric Barreto, ’01, agrees. “The OBU name carries a great deal of weight in many places and in many disciplines,” he says. “And even if one heads out to places where the OBU legacy has not yet spread, the quality of your work will only prove the quality of your preparation.”

One such place where OBU graduates are thriving is Princeton Theological Seminary. Blake and Eric, along with Amy Peeler, ’02, and Matt Porter, ’03, are current students at Princeton.

“My OBU foundation allowed me the opportunity to not only apply to Princeton, but also to excel here. OBU prepared me to meet the challenges in a more open, diverse community at Princeton by giving me a good theological basis and the skills to begin to think theologically,” says Blake Connelly. “Before attending OBU, I had a limited idea of ministry. I thought that being called into the ministry consisted of being a pastor, a youth minister, or a missionary. I came to realize ministry was much larger than my limited understanding. OBU opened my eyes to the world of theological scholarship.”

Born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Blake grew up in a single-parent household with his mother, Charla, and his little sister, Amanda. (Amanda is currently a senior nursing major at OBU.) “In the small amounts of time outside of class,” he says, “I enjoy reading great works of fiction – *The Great Gatsby*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, and *The Catcher in the Rye*, to name a few.” His love for literature brings him to Scripture with an eye toward “story.” He finds “inspiration and comfort” in the book of Ruth, Jesus’ dealings in the Gospels, and the early church’s beginnings accounted in Acts. Blake is married to Courtney, ’02, who works as a high school Spanish teacher and is pursuing graduate work at Penn State.

“The strengths of my OBU education are numerous,” Blake says. “The ability to work closely with professors such as Dr. Kelly, Dr. Roark, and Dr. Hall who combine scholarly minds and pastoral hearts was an amazing basis for my study at Princeton. The strength of OBU’s biblical

languages program is second to none in the country. I felt prepared in language requirements (Greek and Hebrew) as well as having a foundation in theology, biblical history, and historical critical hermeneutics.” Blake chose Princeton because of its “academic excellence and commitment to the local church,” he says. “Princeton Theological Seminary combines both world-class scholars with a mission to support church ministry.” He hopes that his OBU and Princeton educational experiences allow him to successfully continue on to post-graduate work and eventually into a professorship in New Testament.

Amy Peeler grew up in Oklahoma City. She came to OBU with her high school sweetheart, now husband, Lance, ’02. “During my time at OBU, I grew in my own understanding of my faith and my call,” she says, “and I came to realize that God had equipped me to teach his Word.” She switched from psychology to Greek and New Testament in her junior year. “I want to teach in the area of New Testament and especially Greek at a liberal arts school much like OBU,” Amy says. “I have always enjoyed school and for most of my life wanted to be a teacher. I envision this as a ministry. I want people to gain a better understanding for and a deeper appreciation of the Bible.”

This appreciation, Amy says, stems not only from the Bible’s devotional attributes that motivate the heart, but also its theological aspects that stimulate the mind. “God wants us to glorify Him with our mind as well as our heart. I want to pass that practice on to my students.

“OBU helped prepare me to interact in this very diverse environment that makes up Princeton,” she says. “OBU gave me a solid foundation and taught me how to interact with those who do not necessarily share my views. It allowed me to ask serious questions and help solidify some of my most important beliefs. OBU gave me the space to interact with those from different viewpoints, and it prepared me academically...better than I could have imagined. We OBU students have continued to perform very well in our classes here and sometimes ‘set the bar’ for other students.”

She credits her OBU professors as the reason she is not “overwhelmed” at Princeton, both for providing a rigorous curriculum and for their personal interaction and attention. “Dr. Roark, Dr. Kelly, and Todd Ream (former

dean of students, now at Baylor University) had a profound effect on my academic, personal, and spiritual growth. They embodied what I hope to become as an educator and minister." Her time at Princeton thus far has made her value her roots. "Sometimes people are embarrassed to be from a small Baptist school in Oklahoma," she says. "But I have learned that OBU is a wonderful school and I received a wonderful education, and I have a unique voice to contribute as a Baptist Oklahoman."

"It is said that upon graduation, those who know what they want to be start doing it, while those who are not sure go on to graduate school," says Matt Porter, who decided to journey to the Princeton area with his wife, Michelle, '03, after they graduated from OBU. Matt does not have "strong inclinations" for the next step in his life, whether he will continue in a Ph.D. program or move into a pastoral position. "I find that no matter what I do, I end up teaching," he says. "Every time I preached on OBU Day in the Church, I ended up focused more on teaching. There is so much occurring in the academic branches of the church that would be so beneficial in the pews, and I hope to someday help bridge that gap." Matt and his wife chiefly have one desire: "to live in one town for the duration of life, raise a family and grow with the community," he says.

As a native Oklahoman from Cushing, he credits "blind luck" in reflection on the path that brought him to Princeton. "I really did a poor job of searching for colleges coming out of high school," he says. "I didn't know what a liberal arts education was, let alone how important it would be. But I chose OBU, and I am grateful it turned out as well as it did. In choosing a graduate school, I got 'lucky' again and stumbled upon a premier academic institution that still desires very much to serve the church.

"Go ahead and apply for graduate schools that intimidate you," he says as advice to current OBU students. "Somebody has to go there, and you are certainly prepared."

"I am pursuing a ministerial vocation because of an unmistakable call to serve the people of God," Eric Barreto forthrightly says. "Though I can point to a specific time period in which I embraced this call, my vocation has been most profoundly affirmed through my time at OBU and now at seminary. Reading, thinking, and

teaching theology is truly fulfilling to me."

Born in Puerto Rico, his family moved to Louisiana when Eric turned age 9. They moved several more times before they landed in New York, where Eric spent his teenage years. His grandfather, a Baptist pastor, provided much of the "ministerial inspiration" and direction to study theology. Don Craig, his high school pastor, also disciplined him. "Although my future plans will not necessarily include a pulpit every Sunday morning, my hope is that I can teach the texts, contexts, and effects of the New Testament in such a way as to inspire students, he says, "whether or not they go on to serve in an ecclesial setting. I want them to look to the Word of God to find direction and purpose."

As to his OBU preparation, Eric names it as, "simply priceless. "I had little trouble passing the placement exam for New Testament Greek at Princeton," he says. "I jumped right into an upper-level exegesis course in the book of Acts and felt excellently prepared to tackle a whole new level of academic and theological challenges. I also found that the writing skills instilled through the Unified Studies program – especially 'Western Civ' – served me well. Many of the first-year tests at seminary are essay exams similar to those proctored in 'Civ' and so writing for three hours on a couple hundred years' worth of church history or systematic theology was within my grasp."

Eric is currently enamoured by the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. "From Mary's Magnificat to the Ethiopian eunuch," he says, "the Gospel emerges from the most unexpected sources. This, I believe, is due to the active presence of the Holy Spirit, who shatters the arbitrary division we have between our neighbors and us. In a world fractured by hate and violence, this is the core of a gospel the world yearns to hear."

Blake Connelly says it well: "An OBU education is an investment which will serve you well in life. OBU sets you up to accomplish anything in your career and to attend anywhere for graduate school, whether in medicine, education, law, or theology. OBU has some of the best scholars in all of the various fields, and they take time to get to know you and invest in your life. All of this makes it the premiere Christian liberal arts university in the country, one with a commitment to academic excellence and spiritual depth." ♦

An Ignorant Man Thinking

THE LEGACY OF JIM HURLEY

"Newton tells us that we are playing on an island in a sea of mystery," says Jim Hurley. "Our role is to expand the island, to expand the knowledge we have with the knowledge we have not yet discovered, because our knowledge is only limited by the questions we ask. We need to have a holy curiosity for all realms of life."

Several months before the end of the Korean War, in 1953, a young microbiologist entered the Navy as an officer and began working at the National Naval Medical School in Bethesda, Maryland. He would spend a little under three years in the service. A friend then had invited him to help start the microbiology laboratory at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. After several years, he made his way back to his native Tennessee to finish his Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University. Jim Hurley had grown up near the Nolichucky River in east Tennessee.

His family owned 100 acres where they grew corn and tobacco. "I was always a bookish person," Jim says. "I carried books with me to chop corn on the farm, and at the end of a row I would read a book." This hunger for knowledge was narrowed at Vanderbilt to the study of anaerobic bacteria, or bacteria that cannot live in air. He planned to return to the D.C. area, but at the National Meeting of American Society of Microbiologists, held that year in Kansas City, his life moved a step closer to a teaching career. Despite having a commitment from a hospital in Tulsa and a contract from a college in Wisconsin, Jim added a day to his trip and visited a school in the middle of Oklahoma.

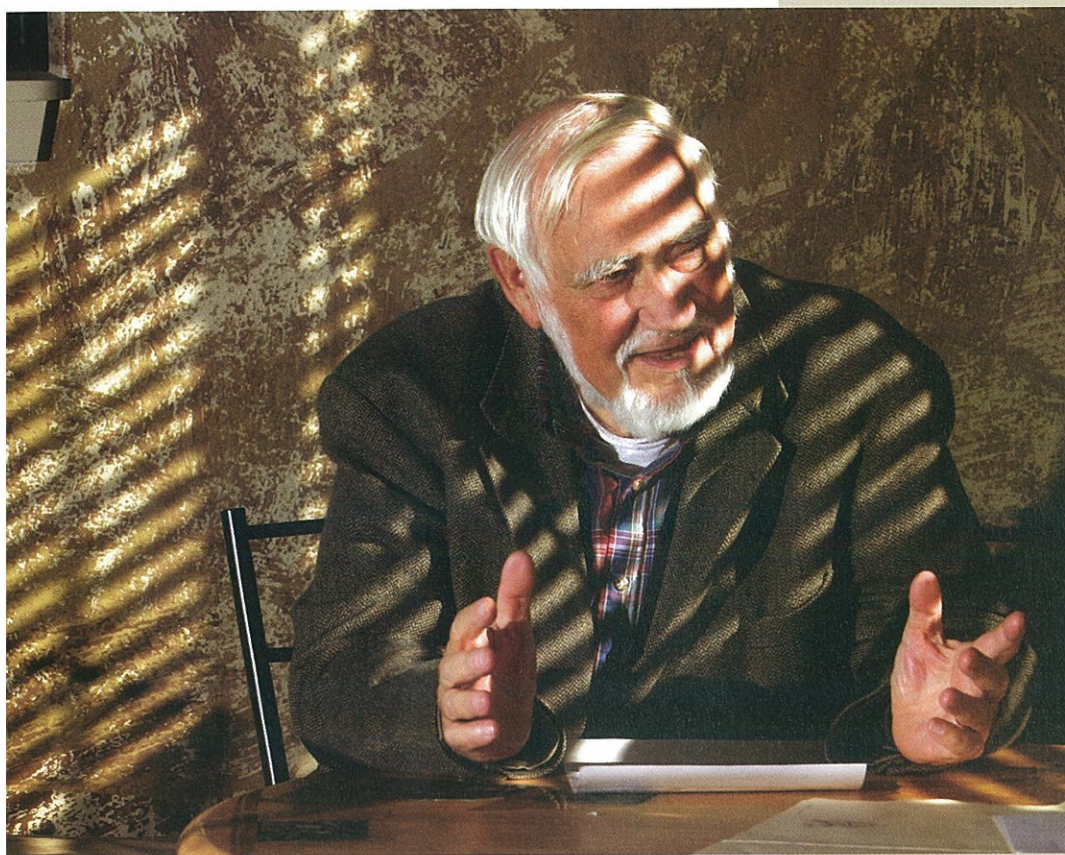
"I was not terribly interested in OBU when I agreed to visit," Jim says. "To make it worse the airline lost my luggage, but once Dr. Neptune escorted me to campus I was wowed. The faculty were my type of people. Their

interests were my interests. Their dreams were my dreams." The year: 1962.

"It should be the chief aim of a university professor," says Jim, quoting the philosopher Alfred Whitehead, "to exhibit himself in his own true character – that is, as an ignorant man thinking, actively utilizing his small share of knowledge. In other words, my job as a professor is to ask questions."

Over his tenure in the Shawnee area, Jim has asked many questions, and he has observed the ways this has positively changed the students he has taught. "I watch the entering students as they master the fundamentals their first year, are urged to question everything by their junior year, and teach the class in their final year." And this structure of integrated learning came by way, in part, of Jim's work as he became one of the principal faculty members who helped birth the Unified Studies program in 1970.

"Newton tells us that we are playing on an island in a sea of mystery...and science is a game we play but it is a wonderful game. Our role is to expand the island, to expand the knowledge we have with the knowledge we have not yet discovered, because," Jim continues, "our knowledge is only limited by the questions we ask. We need to have a holy curiosity for all realms of life." It is this curiosity, this wonder of life with all its beeps, buzzes and whirls, that impresses students about this carefully spoken, unbecoming, gray-white bearded teacher and



Judith James, M.D., Ph.D.

“Dr. Hurley has provided an incredible service to his students as well as to the many states to which his previous students have traveled,” says Judith James, ’89. He devised a curriculum which was extremely challenging and instilled in us the need for excellence in all that we do.” Judith serves as a member of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and an associate professor of medicine and adjunct associate professor of pathology at University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.”

The work that she engages seeks to understand why certain natural defense systems go awry, and lead to disease as the

purveyor of life’s curiosities.

Jim Hurley, professor emeritus of biology, is the same Jim Hurley who watched 13 plays in a 10-day tour through London. He has joined the cast of OBU theatrical productions and the local Shawnee community theatre playing parts in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Agamemnon*, *A Man For All Seasons*, *Rainmaker*, and many others. Jim is also a music aficionado, proven by his long-standing season tickets to the Oklahoma Philharmonic Symphony in Oklahoma City.

During his 36-year tenure at OBU, Jim spent many summers as a visiting professor, often with former students. He continues to communicate with many of his former students and says that every week he receives some type of correspondence. Last fall, Jim’s teaching legacy received recognition by the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society, which inducted him into The Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame. Many of his students also set up an endowed professorship in his name at OBU, the position that one of his students, Brad Jett, ’89, now fills. “Life is a process,” says Jim. “everything builds like the season, in small steps. Life is not as much a momentary thing like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon, but rather a whole process of learning and discovering.” For many, Jim continues to serve as a beacon on life’s journey. ♦

immune system begins to attack itself. Her primary research involves systemic lupus erythematosus, or Lupus, which has no known cure. “We focus on going back in time to understand the initial abnormal human responses,” she says, “so that we can ideally either keep these events from occurring in genetically predisposed individuals or develop selective, targeted therapies to modulate these abnormal immune responses but leaving the normal responses in place.” If this sounds complicated, then it may help to look at a recent result of her work published in the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine*. Judith and the team of researchers progressed toward finding a cure to Lupus by isolating when the disease first occurs. This study paves the way for future work in the hopes of curing Lupus.

In large measure, Judith credits her lifework to Jim Hurley. “He led us by example and provided an outstanding role model,” she says. “He not only taught us to be critical thinkers, inquisitive doubters, and serious lifelong students, but also to be compassionate and caring, deep seeded in our faith. He gave us a culture from which all “Hurleyites” have the same frame-of-reference. No matter where you run into an OBU alum in the medical field, we all share stories and wisdom that we learned from this master teacher.

From Christmas caroling to tri-beta parties, collecting eclectic leaves to theatre productions, writing in enlarging circles to debating the 'Life of a Cell,' we were all slightly intimidated, but at the same time in awe, of this individual who clearly committed his life to the scientific, research, medical, and personal development of all of those that he touched.

"Without my strong belief that I was called by God to practice medicine," she says, "I fear that I would never have completed the arduous task of becoming a physician scientist. Based upon my OBU and church experiences, as well as my personal religious convictions, I always felt compelled to provide medical care to those without resources. I always assumed this would be through short-term medical mission experiences. However, I was astonished to discover that there are many people in Oklahoma without resources for medical care. I currently direct an underinsured medical clinic and serve as an advocate to improve care to the underinsured in Oklahoma."

J. Michael Pontious, M.D.

"There is much to say about this wonderful role model," says Michael Pontious, '75. "Jim Hurley is a talented teacher and such a wonderful mentor for many generations of OBU students." Michael is a professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. He is also the program director for the OU/Enid Family Medicine Residency Program in Enid, Oklahoma. For the last four years he has also served as the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the Oklahoma State Medical Society*. "This is one of those jobs of which you dream," he says about his editorship. "It gives a monthly forum for which I can write an editorial about how I see professional life. Many of the things that I talk about, the approaches that I take and the things that concern me have a "Hurley-esque" nature to them. They are questions and struggles to which I was first introduced as a biology major in Jim Hurley's class."

Michael came to OBU "basically clueless" about his future career. "My high school experience was rather traditional, rather easy and not very thought-provoking," he says. "It was not long into my freshman year at OBU that it dawned on me that this was a different approach to

learning, and that the learning could be exciting and enjoyable.

"Jim Hurley had a lot to do with this transformation in my life. He was fond of telling us that we were not judged on the answers that we had for life's questions, but rather by the value of the questions that we asked of ourselves and the world around us. This was a common thread that was woven into the tapestry of our educational pilgrimage. This is an empowering concept that still motivates me to this day. Academic medicine has allowed me to practice this concept on a daily basis, to teach it to the students and residents with whom I have crossed paths and to take pride and joy at seeing them practice it on their pilgrimage."

Michael counts teaching and practicing medicine a great privilege and recognizes that with such a privilege comes a "continuous responsibility." "I sense that my Christianity prepares me for both of these tasks and allows me to understand this walk as a calling," he says. "Some give their work either a secular or a religious slant. I have not had this privilege. I work in the secular world. Yet, that is where Christ worked as a teacher. The lessons I am called to teach are not always labeled 'scriptural lessons,' but they can be mentored, or lived out. The fascinating thing about teaching physicians is that you see your medical skills replicated and amplified in the lives of your students."

How to teach and ask the right questions of himself and of his students has come by way of Jim Hurley. "He has instilled in me an intolerance for intellectual laziness," he says. "His quest for understanding does not know a boundary, whether understanding the cell wall or bacteria, world religions or a piece of music. He teaches that the quality of the questions asked define who and what we are. It is the questions and not the answers that define each and every one of us.

"Oklahoma Baptist University has had a wonderful impact on my life. A large part of that impact was the mentoring of Jim Hurley Ph.D. and the cadre of faculty who were similarly dedicated to allow me the freedom to find my way and equip me with the tools to repeat the process for many of the students and patients with whom I have crossed paths."

We invite you to comment on the legacy of Jim Hurley at www.okbu.edu/obumagazine.

The Premier Of *Symphonic Psalms*

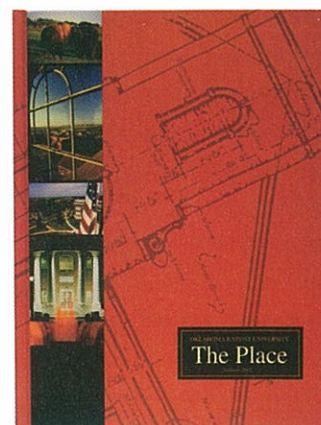
Tuesday, March 9, 7:30pm

Potter Auditorium in Raley Chapel

The premier of *Symphonic Psalms* will take place on Tuesday, March 9 at 7:30pm in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium. The work, which includes text from Psalms 95, 47, 8, 23, 148, 103 and 90, was composed by Dr. Michael Cox, '70, professor of music theory and composition at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, who was commissioned to write the piece for the OBU/Shawnee Community Orchestra. "We are honored to premier a major choral work by one of OBU's most distinguished composers. *Symphonic Psalms* will present a challenge to our students, and the finished product will offer stirring new perspectives on Psalm texts we all know and love," says Dr. Paul Hammond, dean of the College of Fine Arts.

Yahnseh Receives Highest Award

Through the years, many students have worked on the OBU yearbook, affectionately called *Yahnseh*. As the yearbook marks the themes and images that make up a particular year at OBU, it is important to note the 2002 accomplishment of *Yahnseh* staff. Under the charge of editor Ashley Campbell, '02, The 2002 *Yahnseh* received the Pacemaker Award, the highest award given by the Associated Collegiate Press for college yearbooks. From the 11 Pacemaker finalists, only



five universities received the award. In addition to OBU, Pacemaker Awards were presented to Pittsburg State, Murray State, the University of Oklahoma and James Madison University.



A Strong Journey @ 48

OBU continues to lead the nation in Journeyman involvement, according to Cynthia Miller, report analyst for Global Research with the International Mission Board. "The number of Journeyman that have served from OBU is 48. Thirty-five of these are currently active," she says.

Final Two Theatre Productions Of The Season

THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn

By Rita Grauer and John Urquhart

Feb 27, 28 and March 5, 6 at 7:30pm

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.



A Shayna Maidel — By Barbara Lebow

April 22, 23, 24 & 30 and May 1 at 7:30pm; May 2 at 2:30pm

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.

For ticket information call 405.878.2347.



One Kick Closer For OBU Soccer

"What the institution stands for – a commitment to excellence – is what really drew me here," says Marcelo Galvao, new OBU soccer

coach. "OBU is committed to excellence in athletics and academics." Marcelo brings a rich pattern of experience to lead OBU soccer. He is a graduate of Judson College in Illinois, where he holds records in season points, career assists, and career points. "I think Marcelo's an excellent fit," says Norris Russell, director of athletics. "I think his credentials and accomplishments align very favorably with what we had in mind. We're delighted to have him here. He's young and energetic and the type of person that you would look for to build a program from the ground up."

Marcelo will coach both men and women with the help of two assistant coaches. He comes to OBU from Oklahoma Wesleyan University, where he was named the NCCAA

Central Region's Women's Coach of the Year in 2002. Before Oklahoma Wesleyan, he coached the women's team at Judson for three seasons, taking a 1-14 program to the NCCAA national tournament. "I've been involved in college soccer for the last 11 years as a player or a coach," Marcelo says. "I hope to be competitive in the first year. The great thing about the Sooner Athletic Conference is that every team can beat anyone on any day. We'll get stronger in the first few years. It takes a while to get established, but we will have a solid program."

Marcelo holds dual citizenship in Brazil and the United States. He began recruiting for the team in December. Marcelo and his wife, Lisa, have two young sons, Silas and Titus.

Cross Country Team Leads The Course

Mirriam Kaumba, an OBU junior from Zambia, became the first national champion for OBU women's cross country. In Louisville, Kentucky, late last fall, she made a sterling showing in the 2003 NAIA Cross Country National Championship, winning with a time of 17:13.9.



"Mirriam had not been pushed in a cross country meet this season since a girl from Kenya beat her at the Missouri Southern Meet," says OBU Coach Ford Mastin. "I was concerned that we had not taken

her to a really large meet and put her in a position to work on strategy and really experience a suffering-type pace in a race." But Mirriam was up to both the physical and mental challenge, finishing with a course record.

"It really shows what a great natural competitor she is that she responded to mature competition in a National race and refused to give in or to be passed once she made a decision to lead the race after the halfway mark."

Three-quarters of the 2003 NAIA champion 4x400 relay squad return in 2004 with junior Keyonna Hornbuckle, sophomore Chandra Huckabay and junior Melissa Mount.

Freshmen include Carmen Bickley, a state champion in three high school Texas events, as well as Becky Hamm and Kyta Ferrer who should fair well in the jumps and the two-mile relay respectively.

The men's team opens 2004 with a fourth-place finish in the 2003 season. Junior Pat Brown starts the season with a record showing in the 400 hurdles last year, only seven-tenths of a second off the Olympic Trials qualifying time. Others include junior Clint Goodson, a seven-time All-America sprinter; seniors Mylo Miller, Brady Schmiedeberg and Jeff Thompson; juniors Sheldon Lee and Dave Sitzler and sophomore Landon Willets.

Becoming Champions Of Character

Three years ago the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) began the Champions of Character program to promote and emphasize character development. Through awareness, education, and community involvement the Champions of Character initiative seeks to develop an atmosphere of integrity, where every NAIA student-athlete, coach, official, and spectator is committed to the true spirit of competition through respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership, and sportsmanship.

One of the most visible aspects of the Champions of Character initiative is community involvement. The students involved in OBU athletics are involved in several community projects in Shawnee throughout the year. These projects encourage servant leadership.

One example involved OBU softball players who helped to build a home with Habitat for Humanity last October. "Everybody wins in these projects," said Pam Fink, softball coach. "The children and families get a little boost and our athletes work together on a positive project. The team-building that goes on during the project is irreplaceable." Bobby Kelley, professor of New Testament and Champions of Character representative at OBU, agrees. "I have found it to be a great experience with the athletes working alongside families that will be living in the home," he says. "The family is always so grateful that the athletes give their time to come and help."

Another example began last year

when OBU athletes took the initiative to sponsor the Salvation Army's Angel Tree project. The project collects Christmas gifts for children where one of the parents is in prison. In addition to the Angel Tree project, OBU athletic teams also plan a Christmas party for the Boys and Girls Club in Shawnee.

"These projects really open the

students' eyes to a really needy world around them," said John McCullough, women's basketball coach. "It helps to remind us we are part of this world and we are responsible for helping others. As a team, we have to rely on each other and help one another just as we are helping to better someone else's life with these kinds of projects."



Gifts that ENDURE

**2004 Campaign follows a strategic
format to reach \$800,000**

Although OBU has, for decades, raised money to provide funds for annual operating needs, an official 12-month annual fund campaign represents a new approach.

Titled "Gifts that Endure," the 2004 campaign to raise \$800,000 follows a strategic format to inform OBU alumni and friends of the annual needs of the university. This year, more than 35,000 alumni and friends will be contacted by phone, mail and through personal visits to seek their support.

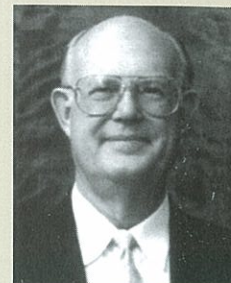
The annual fund provides financial support for scholarships, equipment, library resources, and other day-to-day needs. A gift to the annual fund is an unrestricted gift, which means it can be applied where it is needed most.

The campaign includes three distinct groups: an alumni division, a parents division and a friends division. Several individuals have been enlisted to chair the divisions. The alumni division is organized by decades with an overall decades chair and three alumni leaders per class year. The parents and friends divisions are divided by geographic regions with leaders in each section.

The stories listed here are of these leaders – their personal journeys and their reasons for supporting OBU. We trust this will give a good frame of reference as the "Gifts that Endure: 2004 Campaign" begins.

Burton Patterson *National Chairman for the "Gifts that Endure: 2004 Annual Fund Campaign"*

"God has blessed me with very adequate financial resources," Burton says, "and no



matter how much I give, when I read Mark 12:42 I find myself cast as one of the fat cats and not the poor widow." Mark 12:42 tells the story of Jesus' observation of the widow who placed all she had into the offering plate.

Born to missionaries, his family set out to serve in Mexico City when Burton turned 3. "My dad taught me a lot of theology," Burton says. "He got up every morning at six and spent an hour in Greek study and prayer. He wrote the Adult Sunday School lessons working directly from the Greek to the Spanish." Burton resonated with language study at an early age and became fluent in several languages before he came to the States for college.

He graduated from OBU in 1956 with a degree in philosophy. He began law school and then moved on to a professorship, where he taught for a decade before "entering the corporate jungle," as he says. With four other individuals, Burton began a company that specialized in garbage collection. The company grew to more than 600 employees and grossed more than \$40 million annually.

It expanded to several cities and at one time serviced “53 percent of the certified landfill space in the state of New Mexico,” he says. Ultimately, the offers made by various national companies made it wise to sell the business and retire. He and his wife reside in Dallas, Texas.

Burton holds a master of arts degree in religious education and enjoys both Greek and Hebrew. He often serves in the capacity of Sunday School teacher or as his congregation’s organist, another of his many talents.



“OBU is an excellent choice. It has quality, it has a Christian orientation, and it is my alma mater.”

“To do for others that which was done for you,” he says when explaining his excitement to serve as chairman of the annual fund campaign. “The tuition costs at OBU do not begin to pay for the college education. When I was at OBU the gifts of others covered the excess costs. Now, I can do the same. “My grandfather, Otis Harvey Patterson, held one of the very first embalmer’s licenses in the state of Oklahoma,” Burton continues. “He, like many undertakers, would sometimes comment that he never took a hearse to the cemetery with a U-Haul on the back. Since you can’t take it with you, the most appropriate utilization is charitable giving. OBU is an excellent choice. It has quality, it has a Christian orientation, and it is my alma mater.”

ALUMNI

Pat Adams

Chairman of the Alumni Division

“In 1974, my family moved to Shawnee,” says Pat Adams. “My father, Dr. Larry Adams, became the pastor of Immanuel



Baptist Church. While living in Shawnee, I became familiar with OBU and was drawn to its Christian environment and its commitment to academic excellence.”

Pat graduated from OBU in 1979 and went to work for the CLS Group, where he now serves as CEO and president. The CLS Group provides network deployment and management services to the telecommunications, utility and oil and gas industries throughout the U.S. and Australia. It was the influence of many people, including his father and the former Congressman J.C. Watts, that formulated for Pat the way to live and work as a Christian. “They have performed at high levels in their respective fields and have done so with integrity and unwavering Christian convictions.”

His commitment to these principles explains why he desires to work closely with OBU as the alumni chairman of the annual fund. “This country needs more OBUs,” he says. “There have been countless graduates from this institution who have impacted the world for Christ, in a variety of fields, including the

pastorate, business, health care, etc. As alumni, we need to perpetuate the Christian experience and the academic excellence that OBU offers to our students.” The economic challenges of recent years have impacted every sector of our society, and Pat suggests that this gives cause for alumni to become “proactive,” to “step up” to support OBU by helping with the financial needs of this great institution. “I would challenge every alum to be a part of preserving the great Christian heritage and the unparalleled academics of OBU, for our children and grandchildren.”

PARENTS

Gary & Laura Drumb

Co-Chairs of the Parents Division

Gary and Laura Drumb know well OBU. Their daughters, Holly and Angela, are both graduates, in 1997 and 1999 respectively.



“From the first parent orientation session and through each of Holly’s four years, we quickly realized OBU ‘fills the bill’ in providing a healthy balance of academics and spiritual growth,” Gary says. Laura agrees. “Holly came home absolutely glowing, knowing that she had at last found where God wanted her to go to college!” she says, recalling her daughter’s first visit to campus. “We were thrilled how God answered all our prayers, that our daughter was in good hands, and that our money was

being well-spent!" As to Angela, their other daughter, Laura explains why she chose OBU. "Our other daughter, Angela, had quite a different story," Laura says. "She managed to compete for a full-ride scholarship to another Baptist university. After weeks of intensive interviews she ecstatically learned she had won a prestigious award in excess of \$50,000. But, even after spending three days on that campus, she still felt unsure that God desired her to attend that college. We all anguished over the decision for weeks. The deadline approached. One night she attempted once again to explain to us what she was feeling in her heart, that there was a distinct difference between the atmosphere on the OBU campus and the other one. Simply put, she felt God's presence more at OBU. Gary got on the phone with the admissions counselor at the other institution and tried his best to explain her uncertainty. Expecting him to respond that Angela might consider returning for another visit, he shocked us all by stating, 'Well, if that's what she's looking for, she won't find that here!'"

Gary interjects, "Even if Angela's scholarship had been worth \$5 million I would not have considered allowing her to accept it rather than going to OBU!" The Drumbs saw God's faithfulness in the decision. "He provided what was needed and this includes the fact that Angela met her future husband at OBU."

Gary is a general contractor and Laura is a homemaker. Both graduates of OU, they live in Denton,

Texas, where they attend the First Baptist Church. Both count their own parents as "incredible examples of God's love," inspiring them to be and become what God would have in their lives. These strong examples continue to guide them as they have journeyed down the road of parenthood. "Our girls are not only our children but also our friends," Laura says. "We have had the privilege of watching their faith develop. And as we've watched our girls, along with all their peers from OBU, take their place in society as mature adults, not only mentally and emotionally but also spiritually, we've been deeply impressed with what an excellent job OBU does in preparing its students to face the world outside Bison Hill."

"Life is full of choices," Gary concludes. "Where else would be better to give back a portion of God's bounty to us than by furthering His Kingdom by investing in the lives of future generations of believers?" Laura agrees. "God is at work through OBU," she says. "I would challenge other current and former OBU parents to consider giving sacrificially to the annual fund knowing that it will be used humbly and gratefully to glorify God through encouraging young people as they seek to educate not only their minds but also their souls and hearts at OBU."

FRIENDS

Larry Payton

Chairman of the Friends Division

"I am a strong believer in Christian higher education," says Larry Payton

who graduated from another Baptist institution in 1970. "My wife, Kay, and I both strongly feel this is the best kind of education for so many of our young people."



Larry worked in higher education for more than a decade before beginning Celebrity Attractions in 1983 part time. The work soon blossomed into full time. Celebrity Attractions "is keeping the lights of Broadway burning bright across Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri and Arkansas," reads their website. In six markets – Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Springfield, Lubbock, Little Rock and Amarillo – Larry offers the best in music and drama opportunities through Celebrity.

"My son, Drew, just graduated from OBU," he says. "I believe that we are to help nurture our children in the way that God wants them to be developed," Larry says, "and I can think of no better place to support than a strong institution like OBU that is committed to Christian higher education." Larry knows this firsthand, seeing Drew, '02, come to work with him at Celebrity. "In these challenging times, we need to be more supportive of what we believe in and that is why I agreed to serve on this campaign."

He and Kay live in Tulsa. Drew lives in Tulsa as well. Laura, their daughter, worked with the Walt Disney Company as an intern in January. ♦



Ralph Crawford 54

August of 1947 after only meeting the September before.

The second decision came in his senior year when Ralph took a pastoral position at Trinity Baptist Church in Enid, Oklahoma. "We traveled back and forth to Enid on weekends," Ralph says. "We slept in the car each Sunday afternoon." After

some time, the church found enough money to supply a hotel room each week, and after almost two years, the church invited him to serve full-time. He had yet to finish his work at OBU, lacking one foreign language class. Ralph says he made the effort because of the OBU faculty. Dr. Yarborough sent him a note that read, "You need to get back here and finish that degree. When you finish that, you need to get into seminary." He is the one who got me back to OBU," Ralph says. "Dr. Yarborough was perhaps the most important influence in my life, other than my dad. He was the sweetest, kindest and gentlest man I ever knew. He was one of the teachers who knocked the bark off of me and settled me down to a gentler spirit."

Ralph served the Enid congregation until 1954. By that time, he and his wife were parents of their first son, Ralph Jr., born in 1951. After serving close to three years as pastor of First Baptist Church in Ryan, Oklahoma, Ralph and his young family moved to Ada, Oklahoma, where he began as pastor of another Trinity Baptist. The year was 1957. He and Beverly welcomed their second son, Ryan, in 1959. From Trinity, he moved his family to two additional Oklahoma churches, First Southern for a year, and finally to Olivet Baptist in Oklahoma City in 1964.

In 1990, after more than 25 years at Olivet, Ralph retired. He had left a legacy dedicated to the mission of the local church, and through the years he served on a variety of boards from the Baptist Hospital to the Baptist Foundation, from OBU to the Pastor's Conference. Since his retirement, Ralph has continued his tireless service to the church, serving in more than 77 churches throughout Oklahoma as an interim pastor, evangelist, and Bible study teacher. He and Beverly are also proud grandparents of two grandchildren.

In 1945, Ralph was serving in the Air Force. He was stationed in Foggia, Italy. That year, Ralph decided to dedicate his life to full-time Christian ministry although he didn't know where God would lead him. When he returned home to Oklahoma, he enrolled at OBU, where he solidified several decisions that guided his direction.

The first came by way of Beverly Huff, a fellow OBU student. He saw her standing in line waiting to enroll for classes. "I never dated back in my hometown or when I was in the service. Then I came to OBU and saw Beverly." He remembers that when they first met, he didn't know what to say. "I was so tongue-tied," he says, "and she was so poised." Ralph and Beverly married in the

Deborah Gardner

DEBORAH AND HER DAUGHTER, BETH



Ask Deborah Gardner what she does for a living, and she just might tell you that she's in the customer service business. As chief of planning and organizational development for the Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health, Deb led a customer service initiative in 2001. The training was considered one of the most successful programs ever launched, and additional funding was awarded in 2002. "I feel strongly that we have the best customer service of any government agency. We motivate our employees to bring their best self forward in working with patients as well as co-workers. This work makes me feel like I still make a difference in the patient arena. I use my nursing skills as well as leadership skills I learned at OBU," she says.

Deb decided early on that she wanted to study nursing. "My father offered me some good advice. He said 'Debbie, it's fine if you want to be a nurse, but get a degree.' OBU offered a bachelor's degree in nursing, and that was important to my family background.

"I didn't really know what I was doing when I first came to OBU until I took my first nursing class. It was like I knew then that I was where I needed to be."

Upon graduation from OBU, Deb served in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps for three years. After receiving her master's in psych-mental health nursing, she worked as a clinical nurse specialist for Kaiser Permanente in Hawaii from 1979 until 1984. She first came to NIH as an internal consultant and clinical specialist in research in 1987. "I came to NIH in the '80s because that was the place to be for learning more about the biological aspects of psychiatric illness and that is what I wanted to do. Judy Kiel was a huge influence on me at OBU. She was my psych nursing professor, and gave me many insights into psych nursing."

Deb recalls some other important role models at OBU. "Jaunita Proctor and Juanita Millsap were amazing! These two women looked at the discipline of nursing not just as rote memorization of procedures, but they explained the principles behind the practice. To this day, my teaching is modeled after their Socratic styles. They cared about the whole student which created learning at multiple levels. Dr. Jim Hurley was also a strong influence. He was a challenging teacher who expected you to

"think" about problems from a systems perspective."

In March 2000 Deb began her present role, where she is responsible for leading the collaborative development and monitoring strategic and operational planning for the Clinical Center. "The NIH is a huge organization, consisting of 27 different institutes. I work at the Clinical Center, which is a hospital that is completely clinical research based. Patients are our partners in research. People come here to be on protocols, and often it is their last hope."

Deb's customer service abilities also come in handy in her personal life, since her husband is the town mayor. The Gardners reside in Falls Church, Virginia, and have two daughters, KC and Beth.



Michael "Hawkeye" Pierce 73

Sometimes it is years after graduating from college that our chosen career paths are reaffirmed. That was the way it was for Dr. Michael "Hawkeye" Pierce. Since 1982, Michael has pursued a career in biochemistry and molecular biology. When his father died in 1982 from a cancer known as mesothelioma, that was the turning point in his decision to focus on cancer research. "His was a fast-spreading, metastatic form of cancer, and I realized then how ignorant we were about cancer, especially as it applied to complex carbohydrates on cell surfaces and invasiveness. We've come a long way since then," he says.

Michael, director of the University of Georgia Cancer Center (Athens) is also professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and a member of the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center. He also heads a team of seven scientists who have been awarded a five-year, \$6.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop cutting-edge techniques to analyze cell surface carbohydrates on cancer and stem cells.

"We now know that some of the enzymes that transfer sugars to proteins show specific changes as

cells become cancer cells. When many proteins are made by cancer cells, the sugars attached to them change. By analyzing serum and urine samples for sugar signatures on a particular protein, we now can determine if a woman has a rare form of cancer known as choriocarcinoma. We are now expanding our analysis to other cancers that are more common, such as breast cancer," says Michael. To commercialize this discovery, we have started a biotechnology company with the University of Georgia called Oncose."

But science was not Michael's first love. When he came to OBU, he was headed toward a career in music. He grew up in Midwest City, and his minister of music was Jim Brown, who taught him how to match pitch and sing. Brown later moved to OBU and continued his role as Mike's mentor on many other levels. His first science professor at OBU was Dr. Bill Neptune, a brilliant lecturer who was also an amateur musician. Bill reaffirmed his belief that science and music, in many ways, go hand-in-hand. Michael says Jim Hurley had the greatest impact on his career path, along with fellow professors John Mills and Dick Canham.

Michael's first research experience

at OBU came as a freshman. "Dr. Mills had an NIH grant, and there were a couple of seniors, John Heinze and Mike Hunkapiller, who worked in his lab and took an interest in me. I started washing dishes in the lab along with David Lester, and that was the beginning. After working there and taking Hurley's classes, I knew this was what I wanted to do. My mentors at OBU got me into a great graduate school, Johns Hopkins – just as I work hard to get my students into top schools and jobs.

"When I came to OBU, the world opened up for me. I saw talented people doing important work and becoming a part of their students' lives. I often tell my students that 'science is the only profession I know of where every day you try and prove what you learned the day before was wrong.' There are not many folks who can do this day after day and survive. It is tough, but in the end, you can see the success in your students' lives and in the lives of those that may be impacted by the knowledge that you gain. The Holy Grail for a biomedical researcher is to make a discovery that can benefit someone in need – and that is what we try to do every day."

Mark Your Calendars!

OBU alumni and friends will have the opportunity to visit at special events in Oklahoma and Texas this spring. Events hosted by the OBU Alumni Association are slated for four locations in late April.



"Our alumni events are designed to let OBU people in the local area get together to visit, and to learn more about what is happening on campus," says Marty O'Gwynn, executive director of the OBU Alumni Association. "These are informal meetings, and we encourage alumni and friends to attend, and bring guests who may be interested in the university."

Each event this spring will include a computer-generated presentation about OBU, as well as times for questions and answers with OBU administrators.

Scheduled events include:

Monday	April 26	Lawton, Oklahoma
Tuesday	April 27	Abilene, Texas
Thursday	April 29	Fort Worth, Texas
Friday	April 30	Dallas, Texas

Details about each event will be sent to alumni and friends in the area in March. Details also will be available in the alumni section of the OBU website.

In addition to these dinners, alumni and friends are invited to an OBU Dinner at the Southern Baptist Convention on Tuesday, June 15, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Remember When Raley Was New?

Were you a student when Raley Chapel was under construction? If so, OBU's telecommunication department needs your help. The department is creating a video documentary titled *The Windows of Raley Chapel*.

The department is seeking any film, pictures, or interesting stories related to the construction of the chapel or the installation of the windows. If you have material that might be suitable for the documentary, please contact Michael Bruce, '88, OBU production manager, at mike.bruce@okbu.edu, or by phone at 405.878.2351.

The Oklahoma History Window

One of 12 stained glass windows in Raley Chapel.



Help OBU Honor High Achievement

Do you know an outstanding young OBU alum? Nominate that person for the 2004 Graduate of the Last Decade Alum of the Year Award.

The honor will be presented in November, during Homecoming 2004. Started in 2000, the GOLD Alum of the Year Award recognizes a former student who has demonstrated recognizable accomplishment in his or her profession, business, or avocation in such a way as to bring pride and honor to the University.

Nominators should provide documentation of their candidate's qualifications for consideration. The nominations will be reviewed by the OBU Alumni Association honors and awards committee, and the recipient will be selected by the association's board of directors during the summer.

An official GOLD Alum of the Year nomination form is available in the alumni section of the OBU website. Deadline for nominations is July 1, 2004.

Find complete lists of OBU Alumni award recipients online at www.okbu.edu/alumni.

You can nominate an outstanding alum for an OBU award today!



Tami Smith

The Way Prepared

When Jami Smith graduated from OBU in the spring of 1993 with a degree in music education, she had concerns that her parents would not understand what she felt God had called her to do – lead worship. But he prepared the way.

Since that time she has begun to make her mark on Christian music. Her song, “Salt and Light,” from her album *Wash Over Me* made it to number 12 on Christian Top 40 charts, and number 18 on Billboard. “I believe that my calling is to facilitate an environment where people can worship. I serve as a launching pad, letting people go and be in the presence of God,” she says.

In the fall of 1994 Jami independently recorded her first CD with the help of her friends, the band Mercy Me, author of “I Can Only Imagine.” Her second recording followed in 1996. “It was around this time that I began to dive into worship deeper. God was revealing to me that worshipping him brings a truer sense of freedom than I had ever known,” she says. “Worship will happen because we are designed for it. We are not taught to admire or adore; God creates that desire within us. However, who or what we give our worship to remains to be seen. As a worship leader, I try to lead by example. I do not want to be an entertainer because worship is not meant to be entertainment, but rather a place and time where, together, we seek to be in God’s presence in order to actively participate in honoring our father with our words and attention.

True worship results in change – of your heart, of your actions, of your mind. Otherwise, we have simply sung a bunch of songs over and over like choir practice. So either I am a singer and I go away a bit hoarse or I am a worshiper and go away different.”

In the winters of 1996-97, she recorded the concert CD *Mysterious Love*, and in June 1998, she released the praise and worship CD *Soul Thirst*. God opened the door in 1999 when Jami signed with Vertical Music, part of Integrity Music, and released her self-titled album to an international audience. She began work on her second project, *Home*, in the spring of 2001. Fittingly, Jami recorded *Home* in a live concert at OBU, where she was “surrounded by all these great musicians who happen to be my friends, too.”

In addition to her busy time in the studio, Jami and a band of four other musicians have traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and to several other countries including Australia, New Zealand, and the Netherlands. “I love meeting people from all over the world,” she says, “and being part of their fellowship, to see how they pray and reach out to the poor and needy in their communities.”

Being on the road has had its challenges. “I broke down in 1999,” Jami says. “I was touring 26 days a month. I had no community life, and that is very important. I believe that God works through the community. We need to be plugged into a local body. As a result, I am now traveling about 15 days a month, and I have formed many new

friendships – with my pastor (Bridgeway Community Church) and other intercessors at the church. I know that I can call them 24 hours a day.”

In a word, Jami is intentional. Before every concert, during sound check, she takes the band through ‘Strip My Name,’ a song she co-wrote some years ago. The song brings to light the realities of idolizing others – whether it be an athlete, actor, or worship leader – rather than Christ. “We do this to a fault,” Jami says. “We set these people up next to God. This song helps me to focus on why I’m there. It puts things into perspective for me. If I give the audience me, I cheat them, but if I point them to God, they can walk out changed.”

Jami says OBU prepared her well. “There are so many things I learned at OBU – both inside and outside the classroom,” she says. “I was deeply impacted by the music professors because I was encouraged to learn more. I had had no music theory before coming to OBU. I knew very little about music in general, and I did not grasp it at all at first. Musically and spiritually, there was so much to learn every day in the classroom. As I travel, I tell students who think they know what they want to do that four years of learning at a liberal arts institution will enhance what you know. And it helps you to grow up.”

God continues to prepare the way for her as a worship leader. To learn more about Jami and her itinerary, visit www.jamismith.com.



"Its lofty spire silhouetted on the skyline by day, and sharply etched in white light by night, says in simple eloquence that the sweep of this campus is skyward. Thus, it invites all who come this way across land or through the sky to think and to live toward God. From this forum, leaders in all areas of intellectual and spiritual adventures shall challenge generations of students with their philosophies and their life conclusions. Through this great hall, compelling harmonies from the compositions of the masters will echo into its hearts sensitized and attuned to glorious music. And here we shall bow our heads in community worship – faculty, students and friends."

– Dr. John Wesley Raley
Dedication of the
John Wesley Raley Chapel
February 23, 1962

Read Dr. Raley's entire dedication at
www.okbu.edu/obumagazine.



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