

SUMMER 2008

O·B·U

m a g a z i n e



Critical Thinking.
Informed Caring.

The interim administration between OBU's 14th and 15th presidents has now exceeded eight months. As an OBU retiree – a retiree recalled to active duty – my service during the interim has been satisfying and rewarding. I have been pleased and impressed with the high level of support and encouragement provided to me by students, faculty, staff, trustees, Oklahoma Baptists, alumni and friends. As one who loves OBU and believes strongly in her mission, I have renewed confidence in the University's future when I see the high level of commitment expressed by so many of our constituents.



The 2007-08 school year, although one of transition, was not a year of inaction. The OBU family was ready and willing to move ahead. Consider some of our 2007-08 accomplishments.

In November, we dedicated the new Recreation and Wellness Center and the expansion to the Noble Complex. This project – an investment of more than \$12 million – brought significant opportunities to students, faculty and staff, and members of the community to enjoy state-of-the-art recreation and training facilities.

Throughout the year, we prepared for the visiting team from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. We were encouraged by the team's positive response during its visit in the spring. The process of self-study will benefit OBU in the years ahead.

A major challenge facing OBU is improving enrollment, and the entire University family has been working to address recruiting and retention issues. I am pleased to report that we expect increases this fall in retention of current students, the number of transfer students and the number of freshmen. I believe that OBU will experience an increase in enrollment for the fall semester of greater than 5 percent.

The University's planning officers were assigned extra duty this year as we revised OBU's strategic planning assumptions and goals and developed specific objectives for four fiscal years. A Needs Evaluation Team is studying future construction and renovation requests, endowment opportunities and other program proposals. The team will prioritize needs for a Centennial capital campaign.


A Student Housing Task Force is developing a plan for the future improvement of OBU's existing housing facilities and construction of additional apartments. Improvements are underway on Kerr Dormitory and MacArthur Apartments, and WMU Dormitory will be renovated during 2008-09.

OBU has entered into an agreement with the Kunming Guanghua School in Kunming City, China, to accept graduates from this privately owned K-12 school into our Intensive English Program and/or the OBU undergraduate program. We also have re-instated an agreement for exchange of courses with our neighbor to the west, St. Gregory's University.

A group of 17 students and two faculty spent a month in Germany and France as part of OBU's new summer European Study Program, reminiscent of the popular European Study Tour of the 1960s and 1970s. A total of six student mission groups worked in Mexico, South Asia and Thailand during January Term and are working in South Asia and Azerbaijan this summer.

We have experienced a fiscal year record for financial support as gifts to OBU have exceeded \$8.5 million, surpassing our previous record of \$7.1 million. This is in addition to the \$2.8 million in operational support provided by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. We expect to have a balanced budget for the 16th consecutive year.

OBU is alive and well and moving forward! Thank you for your help and support.


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features

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A trendsetter when it started, OBU's School of Nursing has been equipping students for success since 1952. In an aging society where technological change is commonplace, the state's oldest baccalaureate program in nursing is focused on teaching students to think things through.

6 A Grand Gathering of Glorious Song

Humor, reflection, laughter, crying and some beautiful music contributed to a once-in-a-century celebration on the OBU campus last fall. It was a memorable reunion for a group of alumni who are part of a tradition which has spanned seven decades.

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On The Cover: Gisele Mutamba practices a basic nursing technique on classmate Kelly Scatton.



Critical Thinking. Informed Caring.





America has a shortage of nurses, and the gap between supply and demand is widening. That is the consensus of futurists and healthcare officials. The looming crisis is accentuated by the reality that nursing technology and practice is constantly advancing.

Evident need and changing practices are not new to OBU's School of Nursing. In fact, the school's dean believes the manifest needs match well with the program's manifest strengths.

"We educate students to practice for the first six months after they graduate," Bolhouse explained. "After that time, a lot of what they learned is out of date."

That is not a criticism of OBU's program, but rather the reality of quickly changing healthcare advances. It reveals a focus on equipping the nursing students with modern techniques and practices as well as critical thinking skills which can strengthen their ability to address any situations they encounter.

OBU's nursing students have benefited from major fiscal support in recent years. An anonymous donor, determined to address the nursing shortage in Oklahoma, has provided \$1.4 million to fund scholarships, faculty support and a nursing residency program. The funding is in the form of a seven-year commitment of \$200,000 per year. OBU just completed the fourth year of the agreement, which has helped bolster the School of Nursing enrollment. There were 133 nursing majors on Bison Hill in 2003-04, the year before the new support began. In the fall of 2007, 218 students majored in nursing.

Along with the financial assistance for students and personnel, the nursing program's technological offerings have been enhanced by grants from two Oklahoma foundations. The Inasmuch Foundation of Oklahoma City and the McCasland Foundation of Duncan have enabled the purchase of four simulation manikins – two SimMan units, a SimBaby and a female birthing simulator – to assist students in clinical training.

"We can program a scenario and do one thing or another depending on what the student does," said Karen Cotter, assistant professor of nursing. "We're very fortunate to have this level of technology in simulation."

"It improves the students' learning because they can learn with less anxiety. When students go into clinical settings they are more confident when they see a real person."



Members of the Class of 2008 line the steps of Potter Auditorium during the Nursing Pinning Ceremony in May. The celebration highlights the unique nature of an OBU nursing degree.

THINK AND ACT

While the simulation capabilities – which Bolhouse describes as “cutting-edge nursing education” – help in training for actual practice, the technology still has limitations. Simulators can assist with handling a range of responses, but they cannot replicate every human response.

“It is never the same as a person throwing you a curveball,” Bolhouse said.

“The value of live clinical experience is the unpredictability,” Cotter added.

That brings OBU’s 10 full-time nursing faculty members back to a bedrock component of the OBU degree program: critical thinking.

“We want students to consider all options and weigh those options. Then they can go into critical thinking mode,” Bolhouse said. “We teach nursing processes. We have to teach students how to think because we can’t teach every situation they will face.”

She cites one of her favorite nursing educators in explaining OBU’s approach: “We’ve got to get away from what nurses do and talk about how they think.”

For Bolhouse, a 1973 OBU graduate, and Cotter, a 1994 OBU graduate, the University’s liberal arts curriculum has been a steadfast component of the nursing program’s success.

“Liberal arts brings the best foundation for professional practice,” Cotter said. “We have got to have faculty who support the liberal arts.”

Bolhouse agrees, noting that the most of famous of nurses, Florence Nightingale, gained a strong liberal arts education from her father before she became a nurse. For the OBU dean, the connection between curriculum and faculty is critical for her program’s success.

“Faculty are what make the program,” Bolhouse said. “They are clinically current. We have some in grad school, which also keeps them on the cutting edge.”

The faculty will add a new component this fall with the addition of the first man to the school’s full-time teaching corps. Gerry Milligan, a former Southern Baptist missionary, will add his expertise, both from the missions perspective and his breadth of clinical experience in international settings. He joins a group committed to individualized instruction in a Christian community.

Bolhouse notes that at least one course each semester is designed to address spiritual issues unique to the kinds of patients students encounter. Faculty members also are prepared to address questions in class, in clinical settings or individually regarding how nursing students relate to their patients regarding spiritual issues.

“We’re very intentional about speaking to the issues of spiritual care,” Bolhouse said.



GROWING PAINS

The program's recent expansion has not been without growing pains. Space and class sizes have been pushed at the edges.

"We've gone to two sections of classes to accommodate the need for more space. But also to keep the classes at sizes best for faculty interaction," Bolhouse said. "When we started our growth, faculty said 'we don't know the students like we need to know them.'"

While the growth issues present their own challenges, the University's historically strong pass rate on licensing exams was reaffirmed earlier this year, as OBU graduates achieved a 90-percent pass rate.

Looking to the future, Bolhouse is excited about the opportunities afforded by OBU's new master of science in nursing degree program. The graduate program starts this August at the OBU International Graduate School in downtown Oklahoma City. It will give the University a new avenue for addressing the nursing shortage as the program focuses on nursing education.

Bolhouse believes the graduate program can grow to address other emerging trends and needs in nursing on a global scale. That fits with a tradition OBU established in 1952 when the University started Oklahoma's first baccalaureate program in nursing. By equipping students to think and act, they have established and maintained a reputation in nursing education which is a strong foundation for future success. ♦

Cotter At Home On The Hill

When Karen Wood Cotter chose to attend OBU in 1988, she never expected she would one day receive the University's Promising Teacher Award as an assistant professor of nursing. For one thing, Cotter was an education major her first two years on Bison Hill.

Realizing educating young children was not the ideal career for her, Cotter sought another area of study. Dr. Claudine Dickey, who then served as dean for the School of Nursing, encouraged Cotter to put her good people skills to work as a nurse. Cotter worked hard, even taking multiple science classes simultaneously, to graduate in her newfound area of study in 1994.

"My education from OBU prepared me well for my rich and varied nursing career," Cotter said. "It is my privilege to be a part of the faculty that exemplifies compassion, caring and commitment to the excellence that defines quality nursing education in Oklahoma."

At 2008 Spring Commencement, Cotter received the Promising Teacher Award. The honor is presented to a faculty member who has taught at the University for less than five years and "shows great promise as a teacher." Cotter joined the faculty in 2003.

"It was one of my personal goals when I returned here on staff to achieve this award," she said. "As a student, I knew about the award, so it means a great deal to me to receive it."

Cotter earned a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma and is working toward a Ph.D. degree in nursing education from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

"The program is designed to allow me to fulfill my full-time work here while working on that degree," she said.

Cotter teaches all levels of nursing classes at OBU including Chronic Illness and Pathophysiology, and Nursing Leadership and Management. She is an active member of the Oklahoma Nurses Association and involved with the Workplace Advocacy Task Force. She has received the Outstanding Community Service Award from the College of Nursing at the University of Oklahoma. She was inducted in April 2004 into Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society for Nurses, as a community leader. In January 2008, Cotter traveled to Banda Aceh, Indonesia, to train hospital nurses and provide CPR training for lifeguards at a local beach.



Lana Bolhouse, dean of the School of Nursing, said she believes there is great value in OBU's students learning from Bison Hill alumni. For Cotter, educating young nurses is a fitting combination of the goal which originally brought her to campus and the vocation she discovered once she arrived. ♦



Throughout its history, OBU has developed noted academic programs which have gained attention for the University. Ultimately, the strength of the OBU family is found in the individuals who form the community, carry forward the traditions, and expand the institution's scope of influence through their lives. One of those family members is the late Dr. Warren M. Angell, who came to Bison Hill in 1936 to continue a growing reputation for quality music programs. Just two years into a relationship which would last the rest of his life, Dean Angell formed the Bison Glee Club. He later established the Bisonette Glee Club. Those two groups would be critical to the ongoing success of OBU as they performed around the nation and attracted future students to study in Shawnee.

Dean Angell died in May 2006, just days before his 99th birthday. That event nearly derailed the plans of OBU alumni who envisioned a 100th birthday party for their beloved former professor. They decided to host the party in November 2007, combining it with an early 70th anniversary celebration for the Bison Glee Club. Richard Huggins, '69, spearheaded the reunion effort. Reflecting on the experience, he composed a written account of the weekend. A greatly abridged version appears below. The full text can be found at www.bgc.alums.org.

"A Grand Gathering of Glorious Song"

BY RICHARD HUGGINS

FRIDAY REHEARSALS

We started with an early bird rehearsal at 4 p.m. at University Baptist Church. The line to get music and folders was evidence that most people were able to be there by then, and indeed we got off to a roaring start. Soon those unmistakable sounds of richly mature voices, mixed with the scrub-faced voices of collegians, were wafting throughout the auditorium.

Harvest Dinner was at 6 p.m., then we reconvened at the church, adding a good number of folks who couldn't make the first rehearsal. Again all went very well. At 10 p.m. we headed for the student center for the Warren Angell Birthday Party.

ANGELL BIRTHDAY PARTY

Bravo to Kaye Shields for a masterful job of decorating the area. With her touch and with other items brought by some of the alums, it was a walk-through exhibit of Angell and BGC artifacts. Entertainment was by the Four Counts – Jim Brown Bill Littleton, Glenn Boyd and C.L. Bass. They sang some mighty difficult stuff. Next, Sue Kimberling brought a touching tribute to Dean Angell.

The lingering fellowship was nearly indestructible, though finally the last soul struggled to bed, full of dairy products, flour goods and many cups of loving brotherhood. Not to worry, though ... the calories were worked off with countless treks down Memory Lane.

"MIRACLE" SATURDAY

This is the day that it all had to come together in the remaining 23 hours: Maryland with California, youth with, er, seasoned, Dry Bones with Rejoice and September Song with tears. Could it all happen equally well?

8:30 REHEARSAL

Rehearsals moved to Yarborough Auditorium for this morning and the first miracle was that people were upright after the previous night's bender of fellowship. ... Today was the day to tackle Dry Bones and Hawaiian War Chant and other than trying for a high F at 8:30, all went well. The pieces were allowed only minimal rehearsal time but, in fact, that's all they needed. Jim Vernon, who was assigned Dry Bones, wisely had left the striking of the bones to the current BGC members, I guess to minimize the risk of personal injury. However, alumni did get to be the testifiers and performed that task admirably.

"SET UP, EAT UP, SING UP!"

After lunches at reunions or across town, the alums staggered back into Raley for the Mother of All Setups. We set out to move 150-plus people up and down twice, plus six small groups up and down once. Intermixed would be three soloists, representing the quality of graduates the WMACFA could turn out, and several ditties from the Embellishments.

BUT...there was a miracle worker in the room, ready to lead the blind and deaf to a water pump! Her name was Mary Kay, producer of the concert, and she was more than cosmetically wonderful. For weeks she had pondered, studied, measured, sketched and otherwise really annoyed the platform area. Somehow, some way (oh, we know how and way) the plans she made worked and we accomplished in 90 minutes what I had budgeted 120 minutes for.

MORSELS, MEMORIES, MONEY AND MOVIES

At 5:15 p.m. the Geiger Center dining room doors swung open and 300-plus souls came aboard. At 5:45 dinner entertainment commenced with The Embellishments – Don Blackley, Paul Paschall and Jerry Jones – doing the honors. Initially it appeared that they had not been taking their medicines, but then we realized that they always sound like that and that that is their repertoire.

Three people – John Redfern, '05, Mark Groves, '91, and Margi Hawkins, '63 – had been invited to share their “Journeys to the BGC,” telling how it was that they had elected to audition for the BGC and what their BGC experience had meant to them. All of us could resonate with what they said about experiences that literally changed their lives, and in some cases shaped their careers. Peggy Keebler, '58, also brought a touching tribute to Dean Angell, as a representative of the Angell Bisonettes.

The Coda Campaign was kicked off at this event. It is a final fundraiser for the Warren M. Angell Tribute Scholarship, first established at the Dean's 90th birthday. It was my great pleasure to announce that we are two-thirds of the way toward our \$100,000 goal – \$1,000 for each year of his life ... of course, we granted him his 100th year!

A GRAND GATHERING OF GLORIOUS SONG

At 7:30 p.m. every clock and watch inside Raley stopped. For the next two hours not only would no one be aware of or care about what time it was, if they had they could have picked a time, a decade or a year and been right. 1942 sang alongside 2007 who stood next to 1963. The 70's blended with the 50's.

Small Town and Big City made harmony. Music majors counted beats and business majors reconciled them. The BGC sang as a timeless choir, a performing legacy, as the brothers and sisters they eternally are.

A GRAND CONCLUSION

The final piece of the concert was included for several reasons, chief among them being the historical connection to the BGC and Warren Angell. Famed arranger for Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians, Roy Ringwald, arranged Battle Hymn of the Republic for the Waring group. It was to become one of their signature concert pieces, very popular. Ringwald used special voicing for the group – some of the chords on the last two pages have 10 or 11 notes!

Fast-forward to about 1954 when Waring's group came to Shawnee to visit Dean Angell, himself an alumnus of the Pennsylvanians, and to present a concert. Waring asked Dean if he'd like to conduct the group that night and what number would he like to conduct – Battle Hymn! As best we could, we recreated that historical occasion.

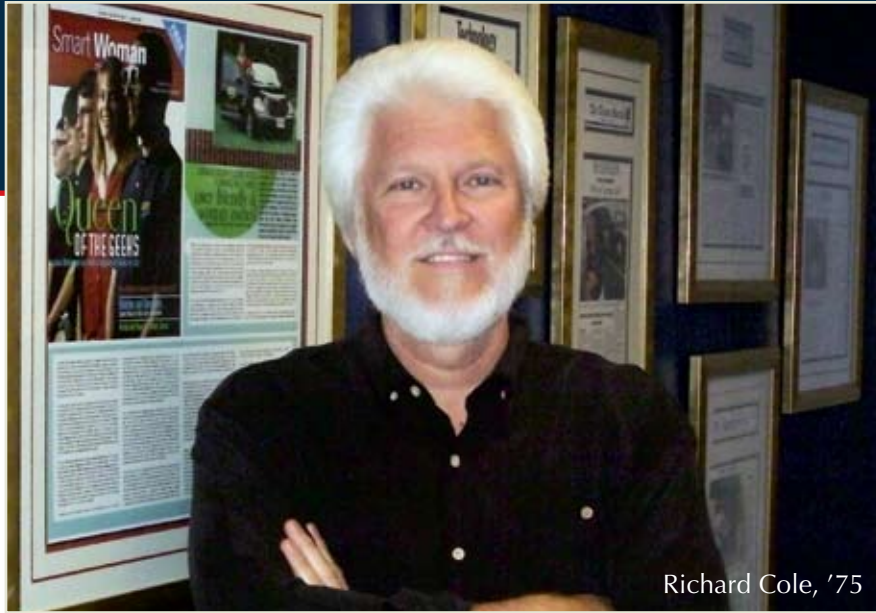
As those final two pages came into view, as the “glory, glory hallelujahs” charged around the final turn heading for the finish, I just know that our beloved Dean's countenance brightened even more. He would have emphasized that God's truth does indeed go marching on. And on. And on! As the final notes of Battle Hymn of the Republic rang out, the audience erupted into a final, sustained, exuberant standing ovation.

What a finish! And we had obeyed the adage Dean liked often to mention: we had left them – and us – wanting more!

On this night we had jointly celebrated Warren Angell's life and the glee club he founded. I think we did it honorably, a fitting tribute to a man and an organization that had changed all our lives to the good. And if I can push theology aside for just a moment, I picture Dean Angell, having heard it all, leaning over heaven's celestial railing and saying to us....

“OK, pretty good, let's try it again!” ♦





The Tenacious Entrepreneur

Cole found inspiration for excellence during his time on Bison Hill from Dr. Warren Angell and Dr. William Tanner, who he knew best in roles as mentors and friends rather than faculty and administrator.

Richard Cole is not a geek.



He's proud that, in 2005, the Hampton Roads Technology Council named the 1975 OBU alum as High-Tech Entrepreneur of the Year. Yet, aside from the power button, Cole doesn't know the first thing about computers.

"If you open a computer, I don't know anything about what's inside," said Cole, the co-founder and CEO of the fast-growing IT solutions company Geeks on Call, headquartered in Norfolk, Va.. "I have no clue how to do anything but turn the computer on. Nothing. Nada. Zip."

However, Cole knows how to identify a need, create a solution and take such an entrepreneurial endeavor to amazing success.

During his years on Bison Hill, Cole completed a degree in philosophy, expanding his vision of what's possible in life. He learned from such notable professors as Dr. Don Wester and Dr. Robert Clarke.

"Those guys let you learn how to think," Cole said. "They would let you take apart your belief system, but they would make sure you understood how to put it back together."

"I think it's very important that we understand why we believe what we believe – and not just religious beliefs, but also socio-political beliefs. I want to own it. And that's what OBU allows you to do and equips you to do."

The first 20 years of his career, Cole banked his business on believing in what he did. As a turn-around specialist, both as an employee and later self-employed, he took billboard companies in disarray, reorganized and recapitalized them, then resold them for a profit. Such ventures, however, require great personal and financial risk and sacrifice. Cole and his family relocated around the country as needed; he leveraged "everything" – and he did it 11 times in 20 years.

"The risks are very high, but the rewards are very, very high," Cole said.

A provider of on-site computer service, Geeks On Call® was founded in 1999 and started franchising in 2001. Currently the company has 250-plus independently owned and operated franchises in the United States. Recognized by their certified, trained and tested technicians driving Chrysler PT Cruisers, Geeks on Call is one of the fastest-growing franchise companies according to *Entrepreneur* and *Franchise Times*.



Retirement attempts

In 1996, at age 43, Cole was set to retire. It lasted about three months. “My wife looked at me and said, ‘This isn’t going to work,’” he explained.

Cole went to work for a communications company in Norfolk, Va., the first time he had worked for another company in a couple decades. They desired to own a billboard company, so he built one. After he did what he did well, it was time to move on.

In 1999, at age 46, he retired again. It lasted about three months. “My wife came to me and said, ‘This isn’t going to work,’” he recalled.

One evening, Cole and an attorney friend lamented how they couldn’t get their computers serviced – it was a chore to unhook all the cables, carry the machine into a store, wait for the repair, take it back home, re-attach the cables, and still discover it did not work properly. The friends decided to launch an at-home computer-repair company. They hired two men who knew how to repair computers and decided to name their new venture “Geeks on Call.” They placed an advertisement for their new company in the Yellow Pages. Calls began coming in – and they haven’t stopped.

The mission of Cole’s company remains simple, and yet it’s ambitious: to be the leading provider of professional IT solutions for small businesses and residential markets in the United States.

“When you call here, they will answer ‘Geeks on Call World Headquarters,’” Cole said, referring to the toll-free call center in Norfolk, Va. “If you don’t think that way, you’ll never get there.”

Inspiration for excellence

Cole found inspiration for excellence during his time on Bison Hill from Dr. Warren Angell and Dr. William Tanner, who he knew best in roles as mentors and friends rather than faculty and administrator. Cole and Angell both were members of University Baptist Church, and their friendship was forged over Wednesday night church dinners.

“I got to know Dean Angell – not the Dean of the College of Fine Arts – but Warren Angell, the man,” Cole said. “There was

a lot of advice and wisdom he dispensed on Wednesday nights, and I listened.”

Cole’s sophomore-year roommate was Bill Tanner Jr., son of OBU President William Tanner. Cole and Tanner Jr. spent as much time at the OBU President’s home as on the rest of campus, and through these casual encounters Cole grew to know Dr. William Tanner and his wife, Ellen, as second parents.

“I had the opportunity to know and appreciate the man Bill Tanner and his theology, and you don’t often get to do that with a college president,” Cole said.

Despite his wealth of personal relationships, the Oklahoma winters provided Cole’s fondest memories of OBU.

“There is nothing like being on the OBU campus when it snows,” he recalled. “There is nothing like walking from Brotherhood Dorm (now Agee Residence Center) to the chapel with the snow crunching under your feet. It’s just a postcard.”

Today, Cole doesn’t see much – if any – snow at his residence at Virginia Beach, Va. He gets in the occasional round of golf, sings in the choir at Bayside Baptist Church and volunteers (under the leadership of his wife, Cathy) in the church kitchen. His wife is a self-described “book widow,” as Cole is an avid reader.

Looking forward, Cole is preparing for what he hopes will be an exciting 2009 for Geeks on Call as the company continues to build its national footprint. And yet, he realizes that what God has so generously provided – prompted by that single Yellow Pages ad – could just as quickly disappear.

“I really believe this isn’t about me,” Cole said. “Whatever success I’ve attained in life is because there are a lot of talented people who committed to going along for the ride. Our company is based on Christian principles, and with that comes a dose of humility.

“All of this is given to us by our Lord, and He can take it away as easily as He gave it. I don’t get to decide where (the company) goes, I just get to make some decisions along the way. God is in control.” ♦

aLife of Obedience

As a youth, Reggie May had a dream to be a U.S. Navy Blue Angel pilot and soar through the sky in fighter jets. But for May, a 1981 OBU graduate, God had a higher calling: to influence individual lives through a ministry based in music.



Reggie May, '81

May was born in Ewa Beach, Hawaii, as a self-described “Navy brat,” and he has maintained a lifelong pride for his military heritage. When his father returned from Vietnam, his final Navy assignment was to Georgia. As a young man, May became involved in ROTC and band.

“The Blue Angels were my heroes, and that is what I thought I wanted to do,” May said. “I had a path laid out for the way I wanted to go.”

The family joined First Baptist Church of Brunswick, where May remained actively involved in the music and youth ministries. The music minister at the time, W.J. Davis (also an OBU alumnus), profoundly impacted May and other youth, and encouraged them to attend OBU. May’s freshman year, seven students from First Baptist, Brunswick, traveled from Georgia to study on Bison Hill.

By the time he arrived on campus, May had answered God's call to a life of ministry. In high school, he began to see opportunities arise in music and opportunities wane related to the military. While at a revival service where his musical group was to perform, May realized God had equipped him to continue such a ministry throughout his life. Time spent at a summer music camp solidified the call.

"It seemed everything I did to pursue the military goal did not work, but everything I did to pursue music, doors opened," he said.

May obeyed, relinquishing his personal goal of becoming a Blue Angel. "My experience at OBU helped to shape me musically, emotionally and spiritually," May said. "My training in music at OBU was not just about music, but also about developing a heart for ministry."

The young musician found himself immersed in Bison Glee Club, band, pep band and as drummer for "The Source" – a contemporary musical group designed to promote the school at banquets, churches and other events. Dr. James Woodward, a legendary professor of music at OBU, was his personal faculty advisor, friend and "model conductor and musician," May said. He also advanced his music knowledge from Dr. Michael Cox, director of the glee club.

"Those two were the models from which I learned, and continue to be the standard by which I judge myself today because they are far and above examples of music excellence," May said.

"On a personal level, no one impressed me more than Sandra Meyer because she had a heart for music and a heart for God. It showed in the way she taught and the way she lived."

Times spent with the Bison Glee Club – both musically and personally – form May's fondest memories of his time at OBU. The group spent hours together in rehearsals, travel and concerts through the years, and many of the group members became close friends. The club traveled as far as Hawaii, where May met the doctor who had delivered him a couple decades before, and to America's Southeast, where he had the pleasure of performing in his home church in Georgia. May remains in contact with several BGC alumni to this day.

Following graduation, May earned a master of church music degree in voice and ministry from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and embarked on a journey which has allowed him to serve in several states. Since 1986, he has served in Florida both in local churches and through state venues, including the Singing Men of Florida. Obedient to God's call, he currently fills the roles of recruiter, motivator, enabler and pastor in his work as Minister of Music at Stetson Baptist Church in DeLand, Fla.

"I'm ordained to the Gospel ministry – music is just the avenue by which I do it," May said. "I consider it a huge responsibility and a tremendous honor."

May continues to recognize great musicians with whom God allows him to be associated. He counts OBU graduate Bob Burroughs, director of the church music department of the Florida Baptist Convention from 1994-2001 who received OBU's Alumni Achievement Award in 2004, as one of his choral heroes.

"I have been influenced by his commitment to excellence, musicianship and ministry," May said. "We learn from those who lead us."

Part of God's plan for May, it seems, is to use him to mentor and positively influence the next generation of ministers of music. He has a heart to guide younger music leaders throughout the state. At Stetson Baptist, he has developed a music ministry internship for students from nearby Stetson University. One former intern graduated this year from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and begins his first church ministry in July.

"There comes a point where you realize part of your calling is to continue a legacy with what God has influenced you, to pass it on," May said. "You have to realize you were prepared for what God brings into your life."

A NEW PASSION

Since 2002, May has had the opportunity to minister as senior chaplain of the DeLand Police Department, building relationships with the men and women who serve on the local police force. He fosters the friendships as a trustworthy, confidential outlet for the officers. The chaplaincy has become a passion for May.

"It's ministry in its purest form," May said. "It's what Jesus told us to be – it's salt and light."

Decades later, May hasn't forgotten the dream of his childhood.

"I still have a huge heart for the military," May noted. "My dad is my hero. Any time I get a chance, I go watch jets fly."

Someday, he might get a chance to ride in a jet. And yet, he knows he is answering a higher call.

"There's something to be said for just fulfilling your call – getting up every day, going to work, doing what God calls me to do," he said.

For May, each day is a step in his life of obedience. ♦

GOOD TO THE CORPS

**“... I COULD ALWAYS
BE A CIVILIAN, BUT I COULDN'T
ALWAYS BE A MARINE.”**

On November 10, 2008, the United States Marine Corps will celebrate its 233rd birthday. For Col. Gene McDaniel, the day will mark his 53rd birthday celebration with the Corps – quite an accomplishment for someone who never intended to be a career military man.

McDaniel grew up in western Kansas, where he spent summers working in the oil fields. His parents wanted him to follow in his sister's footsteps and attend OBU. McDaniel was more inclined to work. However, he agreed to try life on Bison Hill for one year.

He stayed for four years, and graduated in 1955 with a degree in business management.

“When I think of integrity, professionalism and character, I am reminded of Dr. Warren Angell, Dr. John W. Raley and, in particular, Dr. James Ralph Scales,” McDaniel said. “Dr. Scales taught a government class, and I thought he was the best of the professors I had. He had a photographic memory, and he would close his eyes and take us back 300 years. He made government come to life.

“Many other professors and coaches added to the sense of what mattered: loyalty, perseverance and the art of living an honorable life.”

McDaniel commenced his time at OBU just as the Korean War was ending. During one sunny, pleasant April day in 1954, he and a buddy from campus decided they would go to Oklahoma City and join the Air Force. McDaniel passed the initial entrance requirements and was set to report in the fall. When he returned to campus, the first person he recalls seeing was Bonnie Sue Horner. The two soon began dating, and McDaniel

**Col. Gene and
Bonnie McDaniel
celebrate their 50th
wedding anniversary
on Amelia Island,
Fla. The couple
married the day
after graduation
from OBU in 1955.**



Gene McDaniel, '55

cancelled his Air Force plans, choosing to graduate instead. The couple was married the day following graduation and eventually had three children: Michael, William and Piper Beth.

Following a two-day honeymoon, the newlyweds relocated to Salem, Ill., where McDaniel worked as a petroleum engineer trainee for Texaco. Soon afterward, however, his mother called and told him his name was at the top of the military draft list. McDaniel drove to St. Louis, perused the military options of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines – and was taken in by the sharp appearance of the Corps.

“So I left home as a civilian and came back as a Marine,” he recalled. “I decided I could always be a civilian, but I couldn’t always be a Marine.”

McDaniel applied for Officers Candidate School, and thus began his life as a military leader.

“My unique and demanding career included combat and strong leadership positions,” he said. “I was exposed to a great number and variety of people who strengthened and influenced me.”

Early in his career, McDaniel served as a gunnery instructor at the U.S. Army Artillery and Missile School at Fort Sill. More training followed at the Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico, Va., and the Naval Gunfire Support Training Course at Coronado, Calif.

Then the Corps took the small-town Kansas native to a combat assignment in Vietnam where he earned the Bronze Star with a Combat V for valor, a Combat Action Ribbon and a Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star. McDaniel earned three Legion of Merit decorations – one of the highest non-combat awards given – an Army Commendation Ribbon and other prestigious awards.

During a tour in Nashville, he attended graduate school at Vanderbilt University on his own time. The Marine Corps soon sent him to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., to complete his graduate studies in financial management. His “required service” following graduation landed him in Hawaii, where Bonnie completed her training for a bachelor’s degree in music education at Chaminade University of Honolulu.

While in Hawaii, the McDaniel’s son, Michael, finished high school at Hawaii Baptist Academy, where Bonnie worked. He and four other seniors from the school chose to cross the miles and attend OBU.

“We felt very comfortable with that, having gone to OBU and knowing the types of students and professors who would be there with Michael,” McDaniel said.

Other highlights of McDaniel’s career included serving as commander of a battalion on Okinawa; deputy comptroller of the Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, based in Hawaii; and assistant chief of staff, comptroller, of the First Marine Brigade in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

McDaniel was selected to attend the National War College in Washington, D.C., whose graduates are known to greatly influence national and foreign policy. Only 10 Marines are chosen to attend the college each year. Next came a command in Atlanta with the responsibility for all recruiting in the Southeast. During this time, Michael graduated OBU, and Piper Beth entered Wake Forest University, where Dr. Scales served as president. At a new-student reception, McDaniel encountered his former professor, who remembered him.

“It was amazing to me that he remembered me,” McDaniel said. Scales apparently recalled the former OBU student for being well-dressed and well-groomed during his days on Bison Hill.

Next the Corps assigned McDaniel as the director of the division of English and history at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

“The Marine Corps was ‘looking for a few good Naval Academy graduates,’” McDaniel said. “The mission was accomplished, which resulted in my move to Washington, Headquarters Marine Corps, where I was responsible for all Marine Corps recruiting. Without doubt, my assignments had been unique and had opened doors for a transition into a second career in the civilian world.”

Following retirement from the military, McDaniel began work with the USAir marketing division, opening sales offices in San Antonio, Texas; Atlanta; and Tallahassee, Fla. After 11 years, McDaniel issued himself a set of orders for Valdosta, Ga., where today he enjoys his favorite activities: golf, reading and physical fitness. The couple remains involved with their local church, and with airline retirement they can travel at no cost. One weekend, they flew to Denver to see the area; another time they flew to Montreal for dinner. Occasionally they get back to Bison Hill.

“We love OBU,” McDaniel said. “You can get so much more out of going to a small school – you seem to get lost in the shuffle at the bigger schools.”

Years after his own graduation, despite a career that has taken him around the world, it’s the one-on-one connections he made at OBU that rank his alma mater high in the esteem of the decorated colonel.

Prof Hammers Home Point In Address To Grads

JOHN McWILLIAMS claimed he just wanted an excuse to get out of his academic regalia. The result was a memorable Commencement “address” which resembled a home wood-working show.

Dr. McWilliams, OBU’s 2007 Distinguished Teaching Award recipient, gave the 247 OBU graduates a visual demonstration of how their lives have been shaped while in college while speaking at the University’s Spring Commencement May 17.

In front of an overflow audience of more than 1,800 in Raley Chapel, McWilliams created a wooden mallet while delivering the unique address. He used the tool to drive home the point that God has used the graduates’ college experiences to craft them into tools themselves.

The assistant professor of natural sciences employed a portable worktable and a collection of hand tools as he transformed a 2x4 piece of wood into the mallet, without disclosing the intended creation.

“God has the blueprint for what he wants your life to look like,” he said. “We can’t read God’s mind. We trust him to be sovereign and after that we just trust him to know what he is doing in our lives.”

Weaving in puns related to woodworking, he sanded the handle of the mallet while explaining its symbolism.

“The curriculum here at OBU makes you a more well-rounded, smooth character, where you can get that job someday, and function the rest of your lives with your spouse and children and people that you love,” he said. “Even after that, you have situations and experiences all through your lives that are geared for God to allow things to shape you into something.”

McWilliams encouraged the graduates to remember that the God who created the universe also has a plan for their individual lives.

“If you think you’re at OBU just as random chance ... you need to re-enroll and go back through another four or five or six years,” he quipped. “God had a purpose for each and every one of you, and to think that he’s finished with you is kind of absurd, too.”

Pounding the workbench with his freshly finished mallet, McWilliams concluded his 13-minute address with a final

analogy: "My prayer for you, as OBU graduates, is that God actually can make a tool of you that he can use for his purposes for the rest of eternity."

While presenting the graduating class, Tyler Douse, president of the senior class, also encouraged the graduates to implement their education.

"Over the past four years our class has been defined by our potential," said the political science major from Pryor. "Today, as we graduate, that definition must change. We must translate our potential into action to make a positive difference in the world."

Retiring faculty members Rhetta Hudson and Norma Partridge, who both joined the full-time faculty in 1971, were honored during the service. Hudson and Partridge each hold the rank of associate professor of music.

In his charge to the graduates, John W. Parrish, OBU interim president, encouraged them to celebrate the day.

"Make today a very special family day. Express your appreciation to and love for those family members who helped you reach this hour," said Parrish. "Please understand that all too soon you'll be sitting in the audience proudly watching your student graduate from college."

The program also included recognition from the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, which founded the University in 1910. Dr. Anthony Jordan, executive director of the BGCO, commended the graduates.

"Oklahoma Baptists are proud that this is the Baptist university of Oklahoma, and we are proud of you," said Jordan.

View McWilliams' Commencement Address online at www.okbu.edu/obumagazine.

Three Receive Top OBU Awards

OBU's top three awards for faculty and staff were presented during Spring Commencement. John W. Parrish, the University's interim president, bestowed the 2008 honors on three faculty members.

DR. BRAD JETT, Hurley associate professor of biology, received the Distinguished Teaching Award, presented in recognition of "classroom excellence." Jett joined the OBU faculty in 1998. He completed his bachelor's degree at OBU, and his master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine.

KAREN COTTER, assistant professor of nursing, received the Promising Teacher Award, presented to a faculty member who has taught at the University for less than five years and "shows great promise as a teacher." Cotter, a 1994 OBU graduate, joined the faculty in 2003. She earned a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma and is working toward a Ph.D. degree in nursing education from the University of Northern Colorado.

DR. GLENN SANDERS, professor of history, received the University's Meritorious Service Award. Sanders, who joined the faculty in 1988, has chaired the University's North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation self-study team for the past two years. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Baylor University, and a Ph.D. degree from Brown University.

The annual awards are funded by 1970 OBU graduates John and Janet Marshall Hudson of Edmond.



The Thrill of Victory
Anthony Ropkin, left, a Bible major from Aurora, Colo., and Austin Brister, a marketing major from Shawnee, celebrate their milestone achievement on the Raley lawn following Spring Commencement.

Guanghua Partnership A "Dream Come True"

Fulfilling what a Chinese official described as a "beautiful dream" for grade school students, OBU and China's Guanghua Private School entered an educational partnership agreement this spring.

Through the agreement, OBU will allow students from Guanghua to enroll at the university to pursue college degrees. In addition, OBU will admit Chinese students to the university's Intensive English Program.

Guanghua is a private K-12 boarding school in Kunming City, China. The city, nicknamed "Spring City" for its pleasant climate, is the capital of Yunnan Province in southwestern China.

"Since 2001 the school has invited international language programs to teach on a daily basis in our school. Every semester 15 of these volunteers come to our school and teach our students," said Henghe Liu, vice headmaster of Guanghua Private School. "From a very early age our students have a beautiful American dream. Today their dreams come true."

Liu and Guanghua's director of foreign affairs, Guangwei Chu, visited the OBU campus in May and participated in an agreement signing ceremony with OBU Interim President John W. Parrish and Dr. Debbie Blue, OBU senior vice president for academic affairs.

"We are looking forward to developing a meaningful relationship between our two schools," said Blue during the ceremony. "We pledge to help your students further their education at OBU and to achieve their dream of an American college education."

"The Guanghua School students who are even now preparing to attend OBU are

very excited and grateful for this wonderful opportunity," said Liu.

"It is my hope that we can continue to build and strengthen this relationship which has already been established."

Trent Argo, OBU's dean of enrollment management, visited Guanghua Private School in April to work out details for the agreement.

"This agreement is part of our on-going international involvement," said Argo. "We are excited about the possibilities of this new partnership."

Argo said OBU will provide scholarships of \$1,750 annually to the



Chinese students, and will work to help the students assimilate into the campus community.

"I believe today we have formed a very good relationship with OBU that will help to build a friendship not only between our schools but between our two great countries," said Liu.

Guanghua Private School is the largest private school in Yunnan Province. The school includes four departments: primary, junior school, senior school and an English school. Built in 1996, the school has more than 2,500 students.

Lights Are On At Bison Field

OBU baseball hits prime time next spring with the addition of lighting for Bison Field at Ford Park.

Installation and activation of the new lighting system was completed in late June.

The Bison will schedule several home dates for night baseball next spring, though many daytime dates are probable early in the season.

Dr. Norris Russell, OBU athletic director, said the addition of lights for the park will allow for increased fan support while also permitting student athletes to attend more afternoon classes.



Agee Honored With IABCU Educator Award

OBU President Emeritus Bob R. Agee received the Charles D. Johnson Outstanding Educator Award at the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities' annual meeting in June.

Each year the IABCU presents the award to recognize individuals who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to Christian higher education through Baptist-related institutions.

Dr. Agee began his service in Baptist higher education 52 years ago. He served as OBU's 13th president from 1982-98. During his presidency, OBU experienced significant growth and attracted national recognition for the quality of its faculty, its students and its education programs. The university became known among

church-related colleges and universities for its involvement in missionary outreach and international activity.

Agee has been involved actively in numerous national educational and denominational activities and often is called upon to serve in leadership roles for various national organizations. Following his retirement from OBU, Agee became executive director of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools. The organization, which became the IABCU in 2006, includes 51 Baptist-affiliated schools across the nation. Agee retired from the IABCU in 2007.

"I wish I had the opportunity to say a special personal 'thank you' to every faculty and staff member in every one of our schools," Agee said while addressing the IABCU board. "The

Apostle Paul's feelings for the church at Philippi really do express my sentiment: 'I thank my God for every remembrance of you.' At the same time, I feel compelled to continue my commitment to pray for this family of institutions on a regular basis."

Agee and his wife, Nelle, a former OBU education professor, reside in Jackson, Tenn.

The association's award recognizes Dr. Charles D. Johnson who served as chairman of the Southern Baptist Education Commission for 21 years. He was the author of *Higher Education of Southern Baptists* and served in faculty and administrative posts at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkansas A&M College, Blue Mountain College and Baylor University.

Shields Receives 2008 Music Alumni Honor

Noted music educator Kaye Edwards Shields received Oklahoma Baptist University's 2008 Distinguished Music Alumni Award this spring.

Shields, a 1969 OBU graduate, has been active in Oklahoma music education throughout her career. She retired from the OBU faculty in 1998, after directing the university's preparatory department and serving as a music instructor for 13 years.

The award recognizes Shields' "accomplishments in teaching, choral music, and the advancement of the arts in our state," said Dr. Paul Hammond, dean of OBU's Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts.

After graduating magna cum laude with a bachelor of music education degree in voice, Shields completed a master of

music degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1973. Her graduate major was voice with secondary study in piano and music history.

While an OBU student, Shields was a member of the Bison Glee Club Little Sisters. She also toured the Caribbean, performing with OBU's Tuneclippers.

Shields started serving as an independent piano teacher in 1973. She also served as organist for the First Baptist Church of McAlester from 1980-85. She returned to Shawnee in 1985, founding OBU's preparatory department. Shields directed the acclaimed program for 13 years. In addition to her preparatory duties she taught class piano, secondary piano and secondary voice at the university.



In addition to her voice and piano instruction, Shields serves as organist for the First Christian Church in Shawnee. She and her husband, Bill, reside in Shawnee.

Tolin Honored With Coaches Hall Of Fame Induction

OBU head basketball coach Doug Tolin was inducted into the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame on June 6.

Four other basketball standouts were inducted with Tolin. They are Wayne Cobb, Phil Ingersoll, Jimmy Williams and Doug Dugger.

In eight years at OBU, Doug Tolin has taken the Bison to eight appearances at the NAIA Division I Men's Basketball Championship Tournament. He claimed back-to-back Sooner Athletic Conference Coach of the Year honors for 2002 and 2003. In 2002, Tolin coached the NAIA Division I National Player of the Year – Dajuan Brown. The Bison won the conference regular season title for three consecutive seasons from 2002-04, and have won two of the past five conference tournaments.

The former head boys' basketball coach at Norman High School, Tolin became

OBU's 17th head men's basketball coach in May 2000. He has compiled a 220-64 record.

Tolin, who served as executive secretary of the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association for more than a decade, established a record of 117-44 at Norman High School. His Tigers won the 1999 Class 6A State Tournament and were runners-up in 1996 and 2000.

He coached four regional and area champions and reached the State Tournament four times with Norman. He also coached Ada High School and Bartlesville High School to State Tournament appearances.

Tolin graduated from East Central University in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He also earned a master's degree in secondary education from ECU. He attended Bartlesville Sooner High School, graduating in 1971. He was inducted into the ECU Athletic Hall of Fame earlier this year.



Tolin's success did not diminish when he moved to the collegiate coaching ranks. He has taken the Bison to the NAIA Tournament for eight straight years.

Tolin has accumulated 555 wins in his 30 years of coaching.



Riding Away Bison-Style

A group of graduating seniors used OBU's Bisonmobile for a farewell photograph before Spring Commencement. The graduates included, clockwise from left, Hilary (Barker) Knippers, Jordan McCombs, Kari Tague, Becka Weber, Nathalie Jarufe, Cami Johnson, Emily Reiser, Chelsea Irving, Lauren (Payne) Simpson and Meredith Smith. Used by OBU's Admissions staff at special events throughout the year, the Bisonmobile has its own web presence at www.bisonmobile.com. Prospective students are encouraged to submit photos of themselves for the website. Visitors also can go to the site to request the Bisonmobile's presence at an upcoming event.

Choate's Varied Contributions Recognized With Alumni Honor

Kent Choate took a long path to get back home. The 1982 OBU graduate has served as a youth minister, pastoral care minister, full-time counselor, college educator, seminar presenter, trainer, and family ministry specialist. In May 2006, he returned to his native Sand Springs as pastor of his home church, Broadway Baptist.

This spring, Choate was honored with the 2008 OBU School of Christian Service Outstanding Alumnus Award. The plaque he received lists Choate's work as an "exemplary pastor, administrator, teacher and role model."

"Kent has had various forms of ministry in his career and we see him as a good role model for our students," said Dr. Warren McWilliams, interim dean of the Joe L. Ingram School of Christian Service. "It is also significant that he is now pastor of his home church."

Choate completed a master's degree in marriage and family counseling from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. degree in family studies from Texas Woman's University. While completing those degrees, he served in ministry roles in Texas, including work with Cornerstone

Counseling Center in suburban Fort Worth, and as a youth minister at churches in North Richland Hills, Abilene and Cleburne, Texas.

Returning to Oklahoma in the late 1990s, Choate served as family ministry specialist with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. He developed the BGCO's Think Family Initiative, and also served as president of the Oklahoma Council on Family Relations.

Choate and his wife, the former Carmen Cunningham, '82, have three sons: Kendall, Kyle and Kevin.

Bring Your Students. See Bison Hill Now.

Classic landmarks like Raley Chapel and Shawnee Hall still proudly stand on Bison Hill. They stand alongside new and refurbished campus buildings, including the massive Recreation and Wellness Center, Bailey Business Center, and the renovated Noble Complex. The best way to experience the OBU campus today is by making a visit to Shawnee.

Several special visit opportunities are planned for prospective students during the 2008-09 academic year. Mark your calendars now and plan to bring students from your family, your church or your community to visit Bison Hill.

Preview Days

October 4, February 7, March 28

Be-A-Bison Days

September 19, October 31, December 10, February 20, April 17

Night on the Hill

November 9-10, March 8-9

Individual Visits also are available throughout the year.



Call 800-654-3285 or visit www.okbu.edu to schedule your campus visit. Do it today!

HOMECOMING

Mark Your Calendar!



BISON Spirit

yesterday today forever



November 7 & 8

Be Part of A Spirited Celebration

OBU'S 2008 HOMECOMING celebration, "Bison Spirit," will feature favorites such as the local golf tournament and double-header basketball games, classics such as the Harvest Dinner and reunion luncheons for OBU Classes which end in "3" and "8," and novelties such as a theatre production by the Class of 1958 and a Lady Bison basketball team reunion.

"While Homecoming gives us the ideal opportunity to recognize outstanding alumni and celebrate milestones, the true strength of the weekend is found in the times when alumni can reconnect with their classmates and former professors," said Lori Hagans, ex '83, executive director of the OBU Alumni Association. "In that classic sense, our celebration truly is a 'coming home' to Bison Hill. It doesn't matter if you graduated 50 years ago or five years ago. Our former students will be able to rekindle those bonds of friendship and celebrate the shared 'Bison Spirit.'"

The annual golf tournament will tee off Friday afternoon at the Shawnee Country Club. Alumni are encouraged to join classmates, friends, faculty and staff to form a team for the tournament. The shotgun start for this four-person scramble begins at 12:30 p.m. Registration details will be announced soon.

The traditional Harvest Dinner will celebrate this year's Alumni Achievement Awards, Graduate Of the Last Decade Award, and induction of new members into OBU's Athletic Hall of Fame on Friday night at 6 p.m. in the Geiger Center banquet rooms.

Two distinguished alumni, **Dr. Joe Mosley, '58**, and **Dr. David Sallee, '73**, will receive the Alumni Achievement Award, the OBU Alumni Association's highest honor, during the program.

Mosley will celebrate his 50th anniversary reunion during this year's festivities. A native of Oklahoma City, he attended OBU as a ministerial student from 1954-58. His peers elected him president of the graduating class. He later graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Ga., where he earned a doctorate in ministry.

For 30 years, Mosley served as pastor of churches in Oklahoma and Texas. In 1985, he joined the staff of the Dallas Baptist Association, where he served 18 years as director of special services. Since 2003, he has served on the staff at Dallas Baptist University as director of ministry students.

Mosley and his wife, Eileen, have two children, Steve, '82, and Juli.

"Joe Mosley is worthy in every respect to receive the most prestigious award offered by the OBU Alumni Association," said classmate Charles Poor, who nominated Mosley for the award. "In spirit and behavior Joe embodies the intent of the Alumni Achievement Award.

"The ongoing special relationship between OBU and the Class of '58 is largely attributable to the person and presidential leadership of Joe Mosley," Poor said.

Sallee earned a bachelor of arts degree from OBU in 1973, followed by a master of science degree from Pittsburg State University in 1976. He earned his doctorate in adult and higher education from the University of Oklahoma in 1993.

During his tenure at OBU from 1976-93, Sallee filled several roles including vice president for enrollment management,

HOMECOMING

director of planned giving, director of athletics, women's basketball coach and assistant men's basketball coach. He served as dean for enrollment management and vice president for enrollment management at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, from 1993-2000. He has served as president of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., since 2000.

Sallee was nominated for the alumni award by his sons, Patrick, who graduated from OBU in 2002, and Andrew, a William Jewell graduate.

"If you measure achievement by professional success, our father's impressive professional record would set the bar," Sallee's sons wrote in their nomination letter.

"Since we remember, our father's work has distinguished him as a compassionate, trustworthy and intelligent leader."

Following the Harvest Dinner, alumni are invited to attend the classic Harvest Festival in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium at 8:30 p.m. This event features the presentation of the traditional Harvest Court and the crowning of this year's Homecoming Harvest King and Queen. There is no admission charge.

Those wishing to take a stroll down memory lane may choose to attend a special presentation by the Class of 1958 titled "Still Crazy After All These Years." The production also will begin at 8:30 p.m. Friday in Shawnee Hall's Craig-Dorland Theatre.

"Members of the Class of 1958 have crafted a novel presentation which will transport us back in time, reliving some great years in the history of the University," Hagans said. "Alumni and friends will be treated to a very unique trip down memory lane."

Members of the Class of 1958 will celebrate their Golden Anniversary Reunion on **Saturday, Nov. 8**. The celebration will be in the Mabee Suite of OBU's Noble Complex, overlooking the Mabee Arena basketball court. The Class of '58 also will be participating in other reunion events throughout the weekend.

Reunion luncheons and fellowships also will be celebrated for the Fifty-Year Club and the Classes of 1953, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998 and 2003.

The traditional Homecoming Bison Basketball Doubleheader is slated to begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Noble Complex. Members of the Lady Bison Basketball teams from 1979 through 1983 – the years Sallee coached the team – are invited to attend a special reunion from 2-4 p.m. Saturday in the Victor C. Hurt Athletic Heritage Center in the Noble Complex.

The annual Alumni Showcase will wrap up the Homecoming weekend at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium. The production will feature talented musicians from reuniting years, providing varied styles of entertainment. It will be a fitting conclusion to a festive celebration of Bison Spirit – yesterday, today and forever.

HOMECOMING *Highlights*

Friday, November 7

10 a.m.
50-Year Club Reunion and Anniversary
Reunions of Classes of 1933 (75),
1938 (70), 1943 (65), 1948 (60), 1953 (55),
and 1958 (50)

11 a.m.
Registration for Golf Tournament
Shawnee Country Club

11 a.m.
50-Year Club Luncheon honoring the
Classes of 1933, 1938, 1943, and 1948
Class of 1953 55th Anniversary Reunion
Luncheon

12:30 p.m.
Homecoming Golf Tournament Tee-off
Shawnee Country Club

1 p.m.
OBU Bench and Bar Association
Continuing Education Workshop

2-4 p.m.
REUNION FELLOWSHIPS
The Classes of 1963 (45), 1968 (40), 1973 (35)
The Classes of 1978 (30), 1983 (25), 1988 (20)
The Classes of 1993 (15), 1998 (10), 2003 (5)

6-8 p.m.
Harvest Dinner
Recognition of 2008 Harvest Court
GOLD Alum of the Year Presentation
Induction of Athletic Hall of Fame Members
Presentation of Alumni Achievement Awards

8:30 p.m.
Harvest Festival, *Raley Chapel*
"Still Crazy After All These Years"
Production by the Class of 1958
Craig-Dorland Theatre

10 p.m.
ALUMNI REUNION RECEPTION
All alumni invited.

Saturday, November 8

10-11 a.m.
Chapel and Alumni Annual Meeting

10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Children's Festival

11 a.m.
Reception for Alumni
Profile in Excellence Award Recipients

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Future Bison Campus Tour and Luncheon
for 7th-12th grade students | TBA

REUNION LUNCHEONS

11:45 a.m. | Noon | 12:15 p.m.
Classes of 1963, 1968, 1973
Classes of 1978, 1983, 1988
Class of 1958 Golden Anniversary
Reunion Luncheon
Classes of 1993, 1998, 2003

1:30-5:30 p.m.
Homecoming Basketball Doubleheader

7:30 p.m.
Alumni Showcase

Ticket information available at www.okbu.edu



RIDING BACK IN TIME

Many remember the coin-operated children's rides sitting outside the local grocery store. The era of mass-marketing amusement parks had yet to rise, so the appeal of riding a quarter-fed artificial horse for 60 seconds held high value.

Damon Carson, a 1994 OBU graduate, is in the amusement ride business. He has been president of Kiddie Rides USA for four years, but he doesn't make money collecting change from the machines. Instead, he refurbishes the rides and sells them to individuals interested in the machines' iconic significance and their value as memorabilia.

"For over half a century, kiddie rides have captured pop culture in miniature," said Carson, who lives in Denver, Colo. "There have been hundreds, if not thousands, of different kiddie rides molded into all shapes, sizes, and cartoon characters over the years."

Carson bought his current business after a successful venture with a refuse company. He started marketing kiddie rides to hair salon owners looking for fun and creative chairs for children to sit in while getting haircuts. From there, he ventured out to find other businesses which would find his rides appealing.

"What I saw was the nostalgic value that would benefit customer interest," he said, sharing that his customers include pediatric dentists, car dealerships and model home developers.

Kiddie Rides USA recently sold a re-manufactured space shuttle ride to the Saturn car dealership of Oklahoma City.

"It is always fun when a ride fits the specific theme of a business or the hobby of a person," Carson said. "Of course, the space shuttle fits the space theme that the name Saturn conjures up. The Saturn dealer has the ride sitting on the showroom floor. A ride really is a great marketing tool. In their case, you thrill a kid and you have a better chance of selling their parents a car."

Carson promotes his company as "the only stand-alone kiddie ride company left in America." He has been featured in many publications including *Time*, United Airline's *Hemispheres*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

His rides are often used as props by Hollywood. Some of his rides have appeared in *Fun With Dick and Jane*, *The Myst*, *Astronaut Farmer*, and the recently released motion picture *Wanted*. One of his rides was re-crafted for ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. In 2007, his business also was featured on *The Today Show*.

The success of Kiddie Rides USA led Carson to expand his interests. The firm also sells amusement park trains which

can be used indoors or outside. In addition, he now operates a sister company, American Soda Machines. The company refurbishes soda pop vending machines back to "original" condition and design or into custom-designed units.

Carson traces the success of his current ventures back to lessons learned in college.

The Ellinwood, Kan., native chose to attend OBU after his pastor, Mike Trent, a 1980 OBU graduate, encouraged him. Carson said his dream of owning his own business was nurtured by his professors in the Paul Dickinson School of Business.

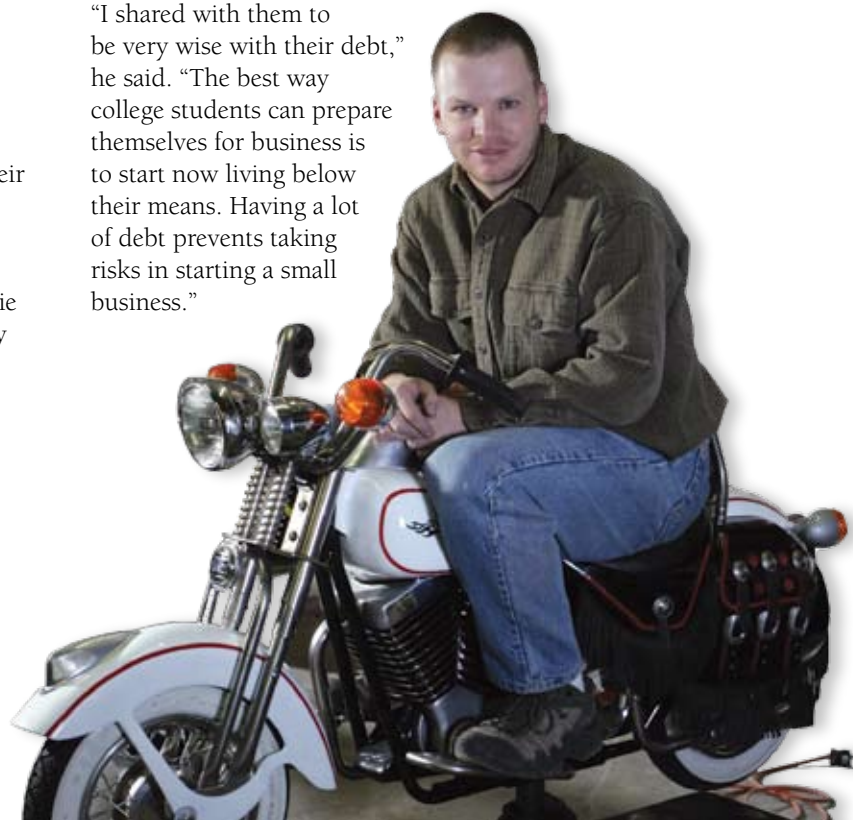
"Two professors who I have great respect for are Dr. Dan Reeder and Dr. Robbie Mullins," he said. "They gave me a good educational foundation in my pursuit of being a business owner."

Carson was one of the first OBU students to participate in OBU's international business travel-study programs. In 1994, he spent a semester in Russia, and he said he gained greater understanding of international business.

"I do appreciate how OBU is very forward thinking," he said. "They allowed students to travel and experience the world years before other schools caught on to doing international programs."

In 2002, Carson returned to the OBU campus as a guest speaker. He offered advice to those who would be future business owners.

"I shared with them to be very wise with their debt," he said. "The best way college students can prepare themselves for business is to start now living below their means. Having a lot of debt prevents taking risks in starting a small business."



Summertime Socializing



SUMMERTIME ON BISON HILL was a great time to visit outdoors in the 1940s, '50s and '60s. White Adirondack chairs provided favored places to enjoy a shady respite. Very few buildings on campus had air conditioning as late as the 1970s, enhancing the attractiveness of outdoor seating in the late summer. The Adirondack chairs, constructed by OBU carpenters, were on the porch and lawn of WMU Memorial Dormitory (as pictured above in this photograph from the 1940s), and under the trees on the quadrangle in front of Britton Hall. To accommodate the temperature, the fall term began in the second week of September in the 1940s.



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