

FALL 2009

OBU

magazine

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OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

LOOKING FORWARD

OBU 2020

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Joining the OBU family just over a year ago, I thought I knew a good deal about Oklahoma Baptist University. I had paid close attention to the University since I visited Bison Hill in the early 1990s and knew OBU alumni who were working in distinguished positions of leadership across the state and among Baptists worldwide. I held a deep appreciation for the University's reputation for academic excellence. A year later my love and appreciation for Oklahoma Baptist University and our mission has grown exponentially as has my awareness of how powerfully God has used this university. No one this side of glory can fully comprehend the breadth and depth of the OBU influence on the lives of our alumni and those they influence. Throughout our history, OBU has reached forward, seeking ways to fulfill our mission of distinctively Christian higher education, and thereby fulfill the promise of which our founders dreamed. Their dream is ours: As a Christian liberal arts University, OBU transforms lives by equipping students to pursue academic excellence, integrate faith with all areas of knowledge, engage a diverse world, and live worthy of the high calling of God in Christ.



In this issue of *OBU Magazine*, you will read about our plans to build on OBU's historic success. Our strategic plan, titled "OBU 2020, Vision, Mission, Values" is a roadmap to guide us through the first decade of our second century. "OBU 2020" is a document that represents the collective desires and aspirations of faculty, students, staff, alumni, trustees, and administrative leaders. We have taken lengthy lists of ideas and goals developed in a planning retreat and crafted them into seven strategic initiatives. Faculty, staff, and the administration have found consensus in determining these initiatives, having worked through frank discussions about what OBU should do and be over the next 10 years. The strategic initiatives OBU has identified are challenging and ambitious. They will help us make decisions and prioritize funding and resources for key projects. They also will help us stay on task, following a course we collectively charted for the University.

As you read about "OBU 2020," I encourage you to also visit www.okbu.edu/obu2020 and review the entire document. You will be able to read detailed explanations of our initiatives and join us in contemplating how our University will look 10 years down the road. Please use this document as a prayer guide for OBU, and use it as a guidebook for how you can be actively engaged in our work and our mission. There are initiatives which you are asked to help us achieve through your prayer, your time, and your resources.

"OBU 2020" is more than we can do on our own. That is how it should be. Throughout our history, we have trusted in God's blessing on this university, and we continue to rely on Him. He has given us a future and a hope ... and a promise to fulfill. I am excited about what lies ahead as lives are transformed on Bison Hill. Join us in this work and you will make an eternal difference as you travel this road with your OBU family.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Whitlock". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "D" and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David W. Whitlock
OBU President

OBU

magazine

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LOOKING FORWARD

OBU 2020

Vision, Mission, Values

In a popular major motion picture,
the final scene shows the lead character standing
at a crossroads on the open plains of the Texas Panhandle.

He is contemplating which road to follow,
and the movie closes with just a hint of his choice.

Shift the scene to the east about 237 miles,
and you find Oklahoma Baptist University at the
crossroads of a new presidency and a Centennial celebration.

When OBU President David Whitlock arrived at the
intersection in November 2008, he did not stand there
contemplating a path. Instead, he started asking
for directions. A year later, he has unveiled a
new roadmap for the start of the
University's second century.

Titled “OBU 2020: Vision, Mission, Values,” the 10-year strategic plan was developed by administrative and faculty leadership over a six-month period. OBU trustees unanimously approved the document at their fall meeting on the campus Oct. 2.

“This document outlines our vision, mission, our core values, and the strategic initiatives OBU will undertake as we begin our second century of preparing students for service and leadership,” said Dr. Whitlock.

“OBU 2020 was developed with input from faculty, staff, alumni, students, trustees and friends of OBU,” Whitlock said. “Building consensus has been a very important part of creating the long-range plan.”

Pivoting on five core values, OBU 2020 includes seven strategic initiatives. The core values “represent the convictions, passions and beliefs of Oklahoma Baptist University,” Whitlock said. “These shape the standards and beliefs of the mission and purpose of the University.”

The five adopted core values include Christ Centered, Excellence Driven, Learning Focused, Missional Purposed and Community Directed.

The plan’s initiatives include enhancing academic services, programs and support; expanding student scholarships; advancing student services; strengthening marketing and enrollment management; enriching quality of life for OBU employees; reinforcing faculty development; and improving university relations with diverse constituencies.

Continued



CORE VALUES

Christ Centered

Jesus Christ is the center of all things, and as such is the ultimate goal of an OBU liberal arts education. Oklahoma Baptist University is genuinely committed to and operates within the framework of the Christian world and life view as set forth in the Old and New Testaments. At the center of this commitment is the person and work of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son and Word of God, and the divine Creator and Savior of the world. OBU aspires to be a Christ-centered institution of higher education in its character and conduct, and in its academic pursuit of truth. This aspiration calls for all faculty, staff, and students to integrate the Christian faith in all learning based on the supposition that all truth is God’s truth, and there is no contradiction between God’s truth made known in Holy Scripture and that which is revealed through creation.

Excellence Driven

Excellence should permeate all efforts and all facets of Oklahoma Baptist University. The Christian faith mandates excellence in service to God and humanity in all spheres of life and conduct. This commitment to excellence in all things is an expression of the Lordship of Christ and necessitates the stewardship of His creation. Because the Lord cares about our work, OBU strives to be motivated in humility to excellence in all things for the glory of God.

Learning Focused

Oklahoma Baptist University seeks to promote the virtue of a life of learning and to fulfill the Great Commandment. Scripture affirms our responsibility to love the Lord with all our heart, our soul, and our mind. Every area of the University should be focused upon

the mission of scholarship, teaching, and learning. Learning does not occur simply for its own sake, but learning should instead transform each believer into the image of Christ. Through the undergraduate and graduate curriculum, OBU values the life of the academy and seeks to instill in its students a lifelong pursuit of learning and wisdom.

Missional Purposed

As a Christian liberal arts university, Oklahoma Baptist University exists to transform lives for missional purpose in global engagement. OBU strives to equip and educate students to engage a diverse world in obedience to the Great Commission and in submission to the Lordship of Christ. OBU seeks to prepare servant leaders with the character traits of Christ, the intellectual knowledge and wisdom attained from the liberal arts, competencies required for professions, and motivation for responsible Christian action and service.

Community Directed

Oklahoma Baptist University strives to create and nurture a university community where persons relate to one another in Christian charity and compassion. Creation in the image of God is the basis for human dignity and uniqueness and is therefore affirmed for all persons. Jesus Christ is the perfect image of God, and the result of the process of salvation is becoming fully like Christ and thus, most human. OBU is committed to the commandment to love others as ourselves and endeavors to value and relate to all persons in accordance with their created uniqueness. This belief applies both to individual persons and to all human social structures.



The final draft of the strategic plan was developed during a two-day meeting of OBU faculty and administrative leadership in mid-September. Participants in that retreat utilized reports from two groups – a core values team and an environmental scanning team – which prepared documents to outline the University’s planning assumptions.

“During our planning retreat, we found consensus in key priorities for our community,” Whitlock said. “OBU 2020 provides the backdrop against which the University will plan and budget. It is integral to everything we do.”

In addition to the core values and strategic initiatives, OBU 2020 includes a vivid description of a proposed campus master plan which offers a glimpse of the future of the University’s 200-acre Bison Hill campus in northwest Shawnee. That plan includes new campus housing facilities and a building for OBU’s growing School of Nursing.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

ENHANCE ACADEMIC SERVICES, PROGRAMS, AND SUPPORT

Strategic Initiative: Oklahoma Baptist University will aggressively monitor and address the needs for adapting curriculum to changing environments, studying and proposing missional-appropriate academic programs in the traditional liberal arts, professional areas, and graduate programs. Through establishing Centers of Excellence, OBU will position itself as a leader in targeted areas of expertise and leadership.

Vision: By 2020, OBU will be nationally and internationally recognized through centers of excellence including areas of music, education, theology, church recreation, and faith and discipline integration. OBU’s undergraduate programs will include new and innovative academic areas with a vibrant liberal arts foundation. OBU’s graduate programs will include degrees in theological studies, education, allied health fields, counseling (marriage and family therapy) and other fields consistent with our mission and new environments.

EXPAND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Strategic Initiative: OBU will aggressively expand existing scholarship programs and seek additional scholarships to recruit and retain targeted populations.

Vision: By 2020, OBU will have added an additional \$20 million to its scholarship endowment. Increased and additional performance-based and leadership scholarships will have been added to the endowment. Specific scholarships targeting Oklahoma Baptist ministers’ dependents and students surrendering to full time Christian vocations will be provided so that in addition to need-based state and national grant programs, sufficient financial aid and scholarships provide for a minimum of half of the tuition costs. Competitive scholarships for missionary dependents will be provided

so that in addition to need-based state and national grant programs, sufficient financial aid and scholarships provide for full tuition costs.

ADVANCE STUDENT SERVICES

Strategic Initiative: Oklahoma Baptist University will advance student services as a priority on the campus including new and expanded services in advisement, health and counseling, improved and additional housing options, and additional security improvements.

Vision: By 2020, OBU will have a newly designed area housing all academic services including a welcome center, enrollment management, retention, registrar services, and financial aid services. The University will have another student services area including the dean of student life offices, a health and counseling center, and a center for career placement and counseling. Student housing at OBU will be ranked very high by prospective students in their decision to attend. Residential housing will include additional apartment-style facilities, a planned renovation schedule for all facilities, and a remodeled and redesigned Agee Residence Center that accommodates dormitory-style, quad-style, and private room and bath options.

STRENGTHEN MARKETING AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Strategic Strategy: Oklahoma Baptist University will strengthen marketing efforts and enrollment management strategies by implementing an integrated marketing plan. A comprehensive enrollment management plan will aggressively increase enrollment and retention.

Whitlock said several elements of the strategic plan were drawn from a report developed by a University needs-analysis committee which prioritized capital projects. Chaired by John Parrish, OBU executive vice president emeritus, the committee was comprised of faculty and administrative staff members.

Standing at the intersection between the past and the future, OBU has made a public declaration to expand programs and resources. The overall plan presents several major objectives at a time when the national economic picture is not as bright as in past years.

"We know that the challenges ahead are great, but we are equally convinced that the opportunities ahead are even greater," Whitlock said. "What we do matters. What we do has great consequence."



The entire OBU 2020 document is available online at www.okbu.edu/2020.

Vision: By 2020, Oklahoma Baptist University will be nationally recognized as a Christ centered, innovative university known for excellent academics and faith integration. International student enrollment and increased racial and ethnic diversity will add to the richness of university life and reflect the diversity of the state and region. The University's redesigned Welcome Center will be inviting, exciting, and immediately attract prospects to be a part of the OBU Story. Marketing efforts, a highly interactive Web site and innovative outreach to prospective students will result in an enrollment of more than 3,000 students.

ENRICH QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OBU EMPLOYEES

Strategic Initiative: OBU will proactively improve institutional quality of life. University quality of life issues will be addressed, including significantly increasing salaries, wages and compensation packages for employees and implementing a strategic faculty compensation system.

Vision: Oklahoma Baptist University will employ faculty and staff who are among the best compensated of member institutions of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities and the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, with faculty salaries in the upper quartile of IABCU and CCCU member schools. OBU will have implemented a formal system for faculty compensation based on factors including educational preparation, rank, experience, market factors, professional development and commitment to mission. Benefits and employee services will be among the best of OBU's sister institutions. By 2020, the number of endowed professorships at OBU will have increased by 10.

REINFORCE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Strategic Initiative: OBU will reinforce faculty development through additional endowment, grants, and a University Press.

Vision: By 2020, Oklahoma Baptist University will have established a formal program of faculty development that offers competitive funding for research, grant applications, and other scholarly activities. OBU will increase the number of endowed professorships by 10. A robust and competitive sabbatical program will be implemented that funds three to five sabbaticals per year. A University Press that has gained a national reputation for relevant missional publications will be publishing three to seven books per year and will publish at least two academic journals online.

IMPROVE UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Strategic Initiative: OBU will increase and improve external relations with its diverse constituencies including the local community, alumni, donor, and denominational relations. This initiative includes intentional efforts with local schools, community service and learning, and environmental stewardship.

Vision: By 2020, OBU will be identified as a leader in community outreach and involvement with specific targeted programs that reach area school systems, home school families, and the general public. OBU programs in service and learning that reach out to underserved and impoverished individuals will be a model for other institutions. Environmental stewardship and creation care initiatives will be cited regionally and nationally, including new facility construction and remodeling with specific goals to include conservation and green efforts. By 2020 the OBU campus will be regionally recognized as one of the top arboretums in the state.

Living the Dream

When Jadee Upshaw Neff was contemplating colleges as a high school student in Shawnee, she wanted to choose the right place to start her higher learning process. To aid her search, she made a list of potential universities to evaluate them based on their academic merit and cost. Even though as a Shawnee student it “wasn’t cool” to consider staying in her hometown, she appeased her parents – who were OBU alums – and included OBU on what became a detailed spreadsheet.

After evaluating the results, she realized the top two contenders were OBU and the University of Oklahoma. Conflicted about her choice, and with deadlines looming the next day, she prayed about making the right decision and then went to bed.

That night, she said she had a dream that she was on Bison Hill, attending classes, and very happy. When she awoke, she took her dream as a sign from God, and she chose OBU.

Now a Mayo Clinic medical student in Rochester, Minn., the 2001 OBU graduate already has completed her Ph.D. degree in immunology and additional research in a post-doctorate fellowship. Neff said she feels confident OBU was, indeed, the right choice.

Neff said attending OBU impacted her life in three areas: professionally, personally and spiritually. Professionally, she said her studies as a biology/chemistry double major with a physics/mathematics double minor laid a good foundation for her life work.

At first, she feared attending a relatively small liberal arts university would put her at a disadvantage because it is not a big research school. However, she said OBU professors helped her learn not only scientific hypotheses, but also the reasoning behind them.

“Through the classes I learned the principles behind the defense techniques and the hypotheses that everyone was learning about,” she said. “I learned critical thinking.”

The perceived disadvantage also pushed her to seek out summer research internships.

Personally, Neff said OBU introduced her to some of her closest friends. One friend, Dixie Williams Green, filled a summer internship position in Chicago. Through that internship, she met Kevin Neff – who would one day become the husband of her OBU classmate, Jadee Upshaw.

Back on Bison Hill, a close group of students with science-related majors developed late-night study habits in Wood Science Building. Her junior year, Neff joined Branson Stevens, Jeff Brooks and others who started taking their dinner to Wood, where their socializing involved staying up all night studying their science and math subjects.

OBU also provided a grounded spiritual component to Neff’s scientific studies. Growing up in the Bible belt, Neff said she felt sheltered from varying challenges to faith. At OBU, she said she observed a group of intellectuals who love God and love Jesus.

“There is a notion in academia that people who are intelligent are not Christians, and people who are strong, faith-based Christians are not necessarily the most intelligent,” she said, noting that while it is understood there are exceptions, such opinion holds a strong place in academic cultures. “If it weren’t for the training at OBU and meeting intellectual people who are Christians, I wouldn’t have had that to fall back on.”

In addition to the culture at OBU, professors both inside and outside the fields of science affected Neff’s future work. Dr. Albert Chen, professor of physics, expected her to give her very best, never relenting on her studious quests. Dr. Mark Hemric, Dr. Brad Jett and Dr. Dale Utt modeled a Christian intellect and modeled a balance between teaching and research.

“Dr. Chen was probably the most influential in pushing me for excellence, pushing me to strive hard and do my best,” Neff said. “He always expected a lot, but then he was always there to help. He definitely pushed me, and Branson Stevens, to our limits.”

As part of her liberal arts education, Neff noted the influences of Dr. Joe Hall and Dr. Jim Farthing – her freshman English and Western Civilization professors – for planting the seed

*Nett said her studies
as a biology/chemistry
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physics/mathematics
double minor laid a
good foundation for
her life work.*

encouraging her to be more critical in her thinking.

Following graduation from OBU, Neff began the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine M.D.-Ph.D. program, completing two years of medical school. From 2003-07, she earned her Ph.D. degree in immunology from the Mayo Clinic. She added extra research to her repertoire with a post-doctoral fellowship in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine School of Graduate Medical Education. In April 2009, she entered her third year of medical school, beginning the “big survey” year where she completes rotations in various areas of concentration.

Neff's research focused on Natural Killer cells. She studied a specific receptor on those cells. The receptor, she explained, is important for seeking and destroying cancer cells. However, she said she anticipates her future work may focus on immunology, both by seeing patients and doing research.

“I think it would be very interesting to do research on allergies – mainly food allergies – and try to develop immunotherapies to cure that,” Neff said.

With graduation from medical school slated for May 2011, Neff has a couple years of sleep deprivation still before her. But she keeps her eye on the end result of her efforts.

“The biggest reward is knowing that I'm learning how to take care of patients, that I'm learning how to help people when they're sick and that I'm one day going to know how to make them better,” she said.

Despite her hectic medical school schedule, Neff makes time to lead the toddler/preschool Sunday School and the toddler/



preschool choir at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester. Both of Neff's children – 3-year-old Dixie and 1-year-old Ezekiel – are in the classes.

While she focuses on her career, Neff's husband, Kevin, is in a biochemistry graduate program at the Mayo Clinic. Building on undergraduate studies in electrical engineering, he hopes to one day be involved in designing equipment for medical research.

For this young family dedicated to hard work, the dreams of helping others are not so very far on the horizon. They're committed to the long, but rewarding, journey that started with another dream leading to OBU. ♦

Front Row *at the* White House

David Alexander poses the second question to President Obama during a televised press conference on July 22, 2009. The full press conference may be viewed at www.whitehouse.gov.



David Alexander, '79, was buying food with his last pennies when, as a young, dead-broke journalist, he took a job at the Lebanon Daily News in Pennsylvania. A couple decades and thousands of globe-trotting miles later, Alexander now has a front-row seat for national and international politics as a Reuters reporter assigned to the United States' top leaders.

Alexander's journey from Bison Hill, through central Pennsylvania, to Pennsylvania Avenue began as the child of Southern Baptist missionaries to Chile and Peru. His parents, Charles and Betty Alexander, served with the International Mission Board from 1966-94. They were members of OBU's Class of 1954. Following his parents' footsteps to Oklahoma, David Alexander said he felt encouraged to pursue his varied interests through a liberal arts education at OBU.

"I majored in philosophy and took lots of classes in history, economics, political science, art and math," he said. "And I took advantage of opportunities that presented themselves. I worked as a photographer for the school, reported for the school newspaper and ran for student government offices.

"In the end I spent five years at OBU and amassed way more credit hours than I needed to graduate. It was a nurturing environment and I enjoyed the experience."

After working at the Shawnee News-Star for several years, Alexander decided to attend graduate school. The Pennsylvania State University responded to his application first and offered him a teaching assistantship, so he moved to the Keystone State for the one-year program. He taught two sections of introduction to journalism and completed his coursework, but he never finished his thesis. Later, while working in London in the mid-1990s, he would earn a master's degree from London Business School.

After Penn State, Alexander found himself penniless. He accepted a job as assistant city editor at the Lebanon Daily News in Lebanon, Pa. He stayed in a run-down motel until he earned his first paycheck, which afforded him the luxury of renting a place to stay. He stayed in the job for about a year.

He applied for a job with United Press International in Harrisburg, Pa. After a few months uncertain of the outcome of his interview, he received an invitation from the UPI state editor in Philadelphia. He learned UPI had run into financial woes and had a temporary hiring freeze. With the company's finances recovering, he was offered a job, which he accepted. It opened the door to an exciting, globe-trotting career in journalism.

Following two years in Philadelphia, Alexander worked on the UPI foreign desk in Washington, D.C. He edited copy from correspondents and stringers overseas. He was on the foreign desk for about a year before being posted to the Jerusalem bureau.

Alexander worked in the Jerusalem bureau for about six months before financial woes once again plagued UPI. He was laid off, so he worked as a freelance journalist in Jerusalem for about six months before UPI offered him a job back on the foreign desk in Washington. He worked there until he was posted to New Delhi.

From New Delhi, Alexander worked two years as bureau chief for South Asia. His responsibilities included coverage of Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. In 1990, he went to Saudi Arabia to cover the military buildup following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. India's government fell shortly after the end of the first Gulf War, so he returned to New Delhi to provide media coverage of the elections.

"I was in Delhi when Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated while campaigning in southern India," Alexander said. "While in India I went to Kashmir several times to report on the insurgency there. I also did some reporting in Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan. In Afghanistan I interviewed Najibullah about a week before his government fell and he went into hiding in the U.N. offices in Kabul."

Alexander returned to Washington in 1992 and worked on the UPI foreign desk again for about a year before being posted to London. In the United Kingdom, he worked first as the deputy

bureau chief and later as the editor for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. UPI folded its operations in Europe and Africa in 1997. Alexander returned to Washington in 1998 and was hired by Reuters.

The past few years, he has worked mostly as a general assignment reporter and deputy news editor. He worked part time at the White House during the last nine months of the Bush administration, and he worked full time at the White House during the first six months of the Obama administration. Once again doing general assignment reporting and news editing, some days he writes stories and other days he assigns and edits stories.

“Since I’m a general assignment reporter, I bounce around a lot,” he said. “I went down to Guantanamo Bay a couple of years ago to report on the pretrial hearing of Osama bin Laden’s driver. I was with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on her diplomatic travels after war broke out in Georgia last year. In the course of little more than a week we were in southern France, Paris, Tbilisi, Crawford, Washington, Brussels, Warsaw, Turkey, Baghdad and Washington. And I was with Obama on a number of trips, including his visit to Cairo for the speech to the Islamic world.”

While Alexander has no immediate plans to change his current job, it’s a job that is constantly changing – by geographical location and news story subject. He covered the Palestinian intifada, the first Gulf War and the conflict in Kashmir. He reported on such things as the Jamie Bulger murder case in England, the marital breakup of Charles and Diana and the Downing Street Declaration that started the Northern Ireland peace process. Last summer, he could be seen asking President Obama a question during a press conference televised across the country and around the globe. In just the past month, he reported on Hillary Clinton and traveled around the world – to Berlin, Singapore and Manila – and back.

For Alexander, a front-row seat at a White House press conference or a jaunt to another country with a Cabinet member is just another day at the office. ♦

For more first-hand accounts of Alexander’s global journalistic experience, go online to www.okbu.edu/obumagazine.

(TOP) Alexander works on a story using a portable typewriter outside the Kuwait International Airport shortly after the 1991 ground war ended. After being dropped at the airport by a helicopter, he hitched a ride into town with a passing Kuwaiti motorist.

(MIDDLE) Alexander attends a political party meeting in Punjab, India, before state elections. Due to separatist violence, everyone attending had bodyguards, thus all the weaponry.

(BOTTOM) David Alexander prepares to board a helicopter during his coverage of the first Gulf War.





SHARON SOUTER, '76

Sharon Souter:

An advocate for all generations

Each day, Dr. Sharon Souter invests her professional skills as a nurse educator to prepare the next generation of compassionate, competent nurses. But Souter's concern focuses not only on society's younger generations; she also invests her personal research efforts on the nutrition of senior adults.

For Souter, dean of the Scott and White College of Nursing at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, positively affecting both tomorrow's nurses and today's seniors is a driving force in her career.

Souter's nursing career began as a sophomore transfer student to OBU. The 1976 nursing graduate went on to earn her master's degree in nursing from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in 1981, then her Ph.D. degree in nursing from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio in 2002.

Today, Souter is responsible for all activities in the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor's College of Nursing, which includes assessing, planning and evaluating the total function of the college. She supervises a staff of 15 full-time faculty, several part-time faculty and 300 nursing students. She also serves as the advocate for the program between local, regional and out-of-state health care providers.

Souter herself benefitted from training on Bison Hill with OBU nursing pioneer Juanita Granger Millsap and legendary biology professor James E. Hurley. Millsap and OBU administrators worked with state medical leaders to start OBU's nursing

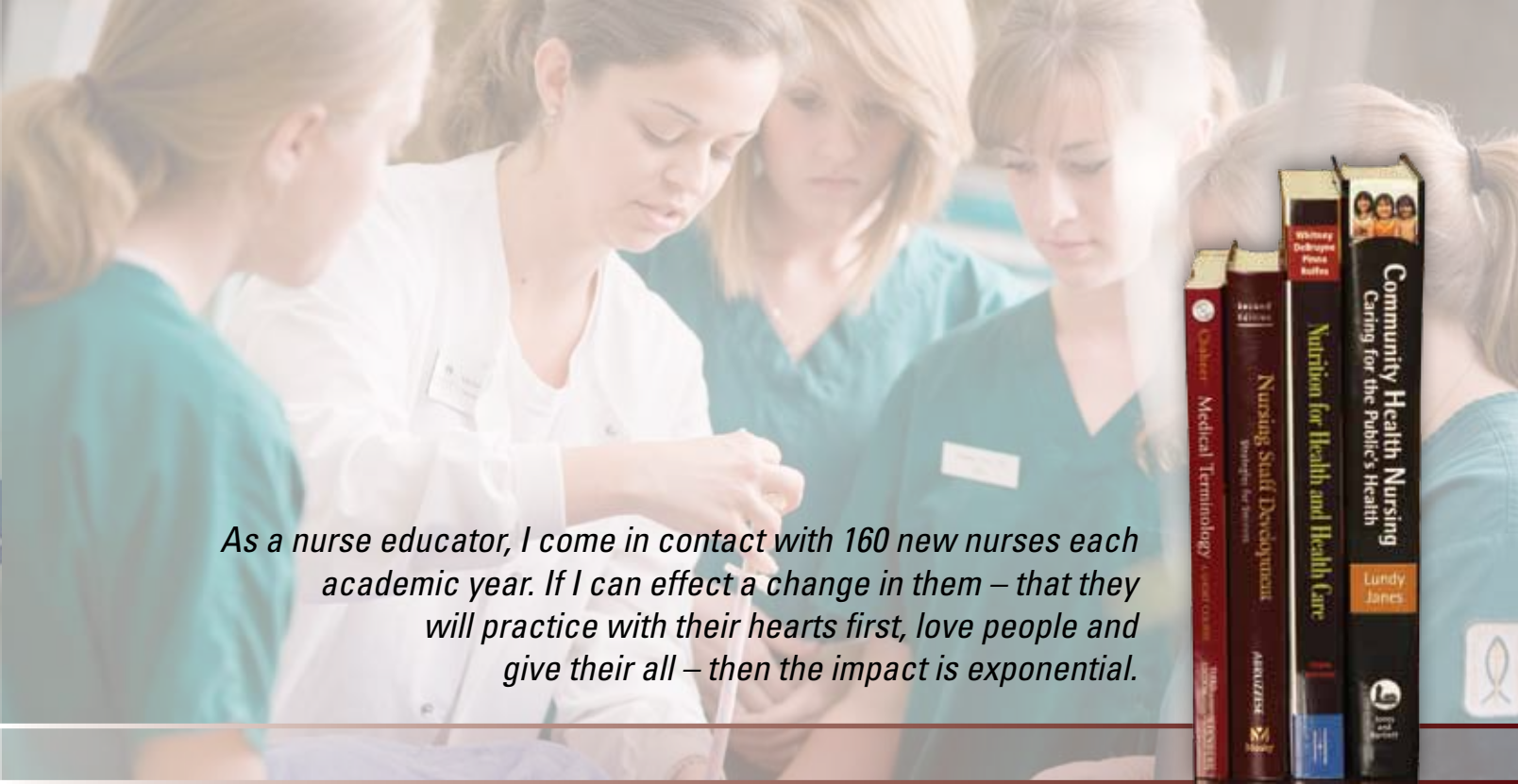
program in 1952. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2000. Dr. Hurley was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2003.

"Dr. Hurley was tough, firm but very effective in his teaching and care for students," Souter said. "Mrs. Millsap was the epitome of professional nursing. I still make references to some of my experiences with her in my own nursing school history with my current students today."

During their tenures, Hurley and Millsap taught hundreds – perhaps thousands – of OBU students to excel in their quest to join the medical field. Souter also recognized the potential to make an impact on the medical field through nursing education.

"I went into nursing education because as one person I could touch the life of several patients throughout my practice, but as a nurse educator, I come in contact with 160 new nurses each academic year," Souter said. "If I can effect a change in them – that they will practice with their hearts first, love people and give their all – then the impact is exponential. I want them to go out and demonstrate the love of God, care with their hearts, but be excellent critical thinkers who can identify patient problems early and intervene appropriately so that health occurs and health promotion is ongoing.

"I love students. I love trying to teach a difficult concept and see lack of understanding among the students and then try a different teaching technique and the 'light bulbs' come on. I want them to say, 'Dr. Souter taught me to be a nurse, to think



As a nurse educator, I come in contact with 160 new nurses each academic year. If I can effect a change in them – that they will practice with their hearts first, love people and give their all – then the impact is exponential.

on my feet, to know the answers conceptually so that I am always ready.”

Reports indicate nursing is the single largest health profession, with more than 2 million jobs. However, the world faces an unprecedented nursing shortage due to factors such as an aging work force, fewer nursing students and job stress. Souter recognizes the enormous need.

“The nursing shortage will need to be addressed not only by educating more nurses but modifying the working environment to be more nurse friendly,” Souter said. “The workload at present is tremendous and even new nurses burn out easily and early. Many of the students who come to nursing today do not necessarily share the love for people that brought the nurses of my generation to the nursing arena. I believe some of aspects of caring can be taught but some are within the person. To be a great nurse, individuals must want to make a positive difference in the lives of others and this can be expensive emotionally and physically.

“Tomorrow’s nurses must be able to find the answer while at the same time supporting the dignity of their patients as individuals, regardless of age, status, ethnicity or beliefs.”

Souter recognizes not only challenges facing the generations younger than hers, but also people in her parents’ generation. She said she has an inherent love for older adults because her mother and father were older when she was born. One challenge she sees facing senior adults is malnutrition – due to money, lack of access or poor health. For some seniors, food

today does not measure up to what they grew up with: fresh fruits and vegetables, milk from the cow in the barn and meat from the farm’s livestock.

“The most difficult finding for me at a personal level was that many participants told stories of writing a list, giving the list to a family member or neighbor and, rather than purchasing the items on the ‘list,’ they would buy what they ‘thought’ was good or better for the older adult,” Souter said. “This distressed them greatly. I have come to the conclusion that it is a far larger problem than we realize and that community congregated centers that provide lunch and fellowship or Meals on Wheels are very important to this generation.”

Souter said her love for senior adults drives her research in the area of nutrition.

“I love older adults, I love their stories and the contributions they have made to this world of ours,” she said. “I want to make a difference in the outcome of their lives in any way possible.”

The positive influence of Souter and her husband, Lonny, also is evident through the work of their children. Her son, Zach Souter, serves as youth minister at Taylor Memorial Baptist Church in Hobbs, N.M., and her daughter, Hope Souter McNeil, is children’s minister at Westbury Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. Souter is also the proud grandmother of Hannah, 4, and Jackson, 1. Her career is a daily testament to her desire to make the world a better place for those most precious in her life – and for countless others. ♦



Caring Enough to Connect

During his time at Camp Kilpatrick, a former OBU student-athlete developed programs for basketball, baseball, soccer, track and football.

The football program, however, gained the most recognition when it was used as the inspiration for the 1993 television documentary, "Gridiron Gang."

Duane Diffie can take on a challenge. The 1974 OBU graduate has always had a love for sports so he knows what it is like to meet opposition. However, an unexpected career opportunity presented Diffie with a challenge unlike anything he had faced before: serving as athletic director at a juvenile detention center.

Diffie met the challenge using his passion for sports and the lessons he learned at OBU to influence the lives of juvenile youth for nearly two decades.

"OBU taught me to have compassion," Diffie said. "Coming from southern California, I was a very active, busy guy. Athletics was always in the forefront of my life and I was missing a lot of what God was trying to give me. He wanted me to slow down and know that He is God."

During his sophomore year of college, Diffie took a trip to see his high school friend Keith Arledge at OBU. The trip ultimately led Diffie to enroll for classes on Bison Hill the next fall.

"I saw Keith and was introduced to Gene Wallace, who was the athletic director and head baseball and basketball coach at the time," Diffie said. "He had me try out and gave me a scholarship for baseball and basketball."

Diffie returned to California after obtaining a teaching degree. He completed postgraduate work in psychology and married Jill, his wife of 35 years. The couple built upon his passion for athletics and opened Sunrise Sports, a sporting goods business. After six years of running the business, Diffie moved on to work for a surfing company and began serving as a basketball coach at Los Alamitos High School, where he received a life changing offer from a colleague.

"I got an offer to start a program for the L.A. County probation department at a juvenile detention center in Malibu," he said.

Diffie accepted the opportunity to work at the center, named Camp Kilpatrick. He signed on to develop an athletic program and to serve as athletic director so the kids could compete

against area high school teams. The kids, however, were coming from backgrounds that Diffie did not easily identify with: drug dealing, stealing, carjacking, and gang activity.

"I knew nothing about gang lifestyle," Diffie said. "I was a white, 6'4", blonde-haired, blue-eyed guy from Orange County. What should I know about gangs other than they were away from me? I was led to one of the camps and introduced to the lifestyle these kids have, and God gave me a love for them."

Not having a background working with juvenile offenders, Diffie drew motivation from a more familiar field and used his love for athletics as a means to influence the Kilpatrick young men. He began learning more about gangs and the kids' experiences to better approach their situations, but also found the compassion that he learned at OBU essential in his position.

"There was no formal education that could prepare you for this," Diffie said. "I knew I could help and wanted to change lives. You have to be blessed with a heart for them and genuinely care. If you don't, your life will be miserable and they will destroy you if you give them a chance."

Diffie also reflected on lessons he learned from long-time OBU administrator John Parrish and Coach Wallace and "his intensity and attempt to produce perfection in his players." He wanted to help the Kilpatrick youth work to become men they were proud of in their own eyes and in the eyes of others.

"I wanted to make sure the schools we played and the community at large perceived us not as a *camp* but a *school*," Diffie said. "I wanted these young men to be viewed as any other students. We treated them that way and expected them to act that way. If you wanted to be a gang member, then you were removed from our 'students.' We were going to succeed; you were not as a gang member."

During his time at Camp Kilpatrick Diffie developed programs for basketball, baseball, soccer, track, and football. The football program, however, gained the most recognition when it was

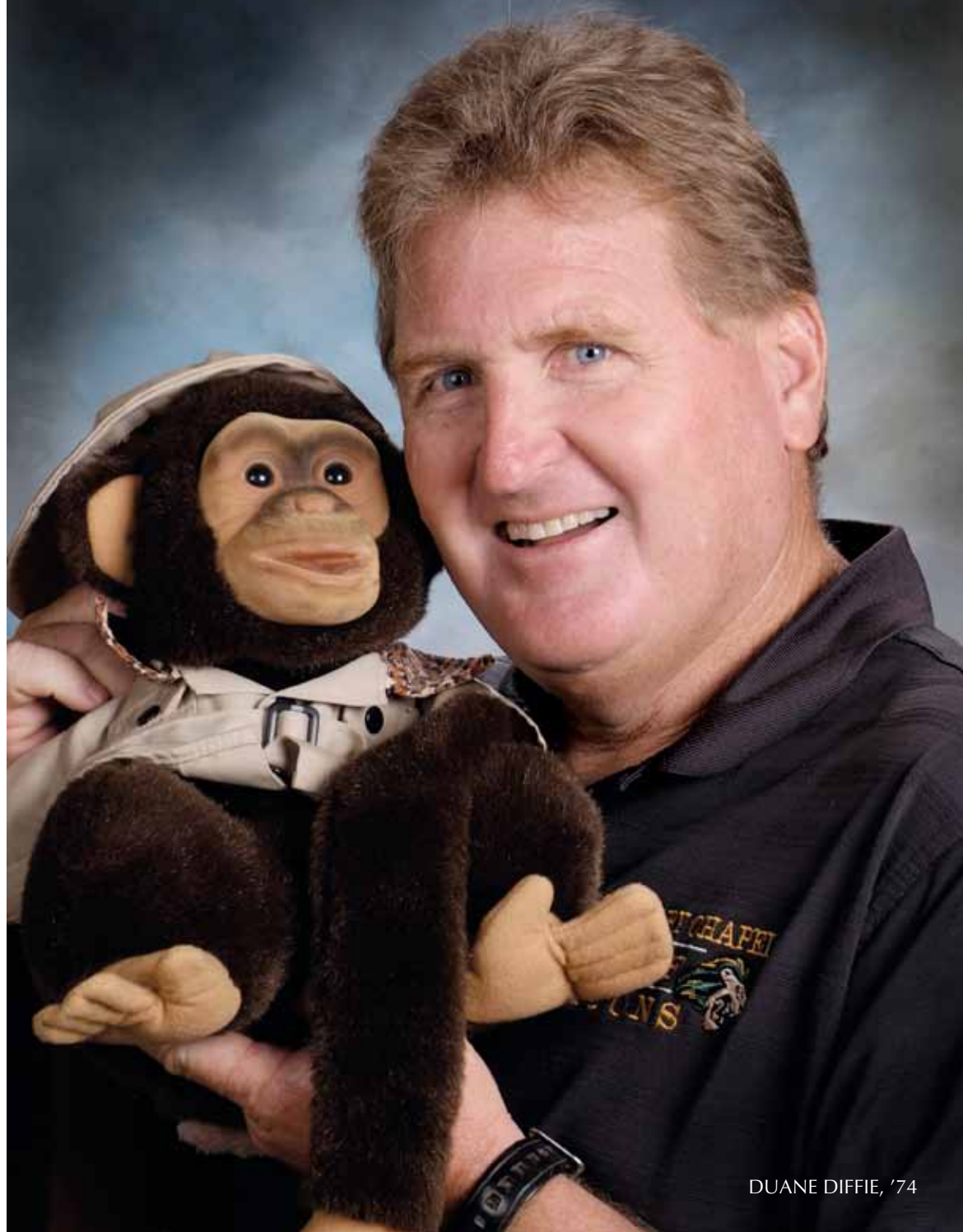
used as the inspiration for the 1993 television documentary, "Gridiron Gang." The story was recast in a major motion picture released in 2006. But the films do not serve as Diffie's success story. Instead his stories of success center around the Kilpatrick kids and the obstacles they overcame.

"A young man lost 87 pounds in camp because he wanted to play football and found himself to be of some worth," Diffie said. "He was proud of himself and he didn't have to follow anyone. He was a man, a successful man. There was also a doubting boy that was abandoned by his mother and left in the streets. He took his life from camp, continued his education and is now an administrator in the L.A. education system."

Diffie saw the lives of young men dramatically change. Though some of the youth are still serving time or ended up where they started, Diffie finds joy and pride when he runs into kids who are "not only surviving, but leading special lives in the community."

Now serving as athletic director at Calvary Chapel in Moreno Valley, Calif., Diffie finds that he still will be on the look-out in a crowd for potential problems – a habit he finds hard to break. But Diffie took away more than a watchful eye from Camp Kilpatrick; he took away a deeper passion for investing in the lives of youth.

"I love interacting with them, helping them, laughing with them, making jokes with them, and sometimes crying with them," Diffie said. "Jill and I have no children, so these are my kids on loan from their parents for the time I'm with them. Don't mess with my kids."



DUANE DIFFIE, '74

Diffie said experience has taught him to use a variety of means to connect with youth, ranging from athletic challenges to use of humor.

Diffie continues to use his love for athletics to influence the lives of youth in helping them develop their own success stories, though he said he now feels that he has taken on a more challenging audience since Camp Kilpatrick: junior high girls. Though his career path was unexpected, Diffie said he knows that the opportunities he received were intentional from God.

"His plans were deliberate, focused and trustworthy," Diffie said. "He does the driving and all you have to do is enjoy the scenery and give His love to all around you." ♦

Board Discusses Scholarships, Sets Costs For 2010-11 Year

While approval of a strategic plan for OBU's next decade highlighted the fall meeting of the University's trustees Oct. 2, the board also discussed student aid initiatives and set costs for the 2010-11 academic year.

Expansion of student scholarships was one of the strategic initiatives adopted in the "OBU 2020" plan. In discussing the initiative, OBU President David W. Whitlock told trustees the University has adopted a new scholarship structure which will start with the 2010-11 academic year. The University will offer three new top academic merit scholarships. The Founders' Scholarship

will provide \$9,000 per year, the Trustees' Scholarship will be \$7,000 per year, and the President's Scholarship will be \$6,000 per year.

Whitlock also announced a new Oklahoma Baptist camp scholarship program which will offer \$1,000 scholarships for each summer a student attends a camp program sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma or a cooperating state Baptist association.

The president said that the University will increase its minimum aid guarantee to children of Southern Baptist

missionaries. OBU will provide a minimum of 50 percent of tuition costs for "missionary kids" through university scholarships and awards.

Trustees approved costs for tuition, fees, room and board for OBU's 2010-11 year. The overall costs will increase 5.04 percent, from \$23,134 in the 2009-10 year to \$24,300 for the upcoming academic year.

"This is the earliest we have been able to state actual costs for the upcoming year," said Randy L. Smith, OBU executive vice president for business and administrative services. "With our new scholarship programs, this will allow students the opportunity to make informed decisions earlier in the college search process."

The fall meeting of the 33-member board was the first for OBU's newly enacted trustee meeting schedule. The board formerly met in December, March and May, but will now meet in October, February and May each academic year.

Board chair Richard Streeter, a financial planner from Claremore, presided at the meeting.



OBU President David Whitlock, left, and Board Chair Richard Streeter participate in a discussion during the trustees' meeting.

OBU Sees Enrollment Increase For Fall Semester

OBU saw enrollment increase for the 2009-10 academic year, with 1,764 students enrolled for the fall semester. That is a slight gain over the fall 2008 headcount of 1,753 students.

The total enrollment includes 368 first-time freshmen and 139 transfer students. The average ACT score for first-time freshmen was 23.5.

"We are pleased that enrollment is up on our campus this fall," said Bruce Perkins, director of admissions. "These are challenging economic times for many people. The fact that many have chosen to remain at OBU and others

have chosen to enter OBU for the first time speaks well of the trust they place in our university due to our reputation and the success of our graduates."

The University's retention rate – the percentage of eligible students who chose to continue studying at OBU – rose from 86 percent in 2008 to 89 percent in 2009.

The enrollment included 1,497 full-time undergraduate students, up from 1,467 in the fall of 2008. The totals included 55 students enrolled in OBU's International Graduate School in downtown Oklahoma City, and 136

off-campus students who study through OBU's Ministry Training Institute. Thirty-nine students are studying through OBU's Intensive English Program.

The overall headcount includes 1,065 students from Oklahoma, a slight increase over 1,055 last year. Oklahomans account for 60.4 percent of the enrollment. In-state students come from 67 of Oklahoma's 77 counties.

OBU students represent 39 states and 14 other countries. A total of 603 students are from other states, and 80 – 4.5 percent – are from other countries.

Social Media Helping Students Avoid Social 'Butterflies'

OBU's Class of 2013 arrived on Bison Hill in late August with the excitement of nearly 100 OBU freshman classes before them. However, many of these freshmen were missing a common element – social “butterflies” – that has plagued people throughout history who endure transitions.

The new students had a secret weapon: a large percentage of them had previously connected with their future classmates using OBU Admissions' Ning.com online social media network.

“I chose to participate in the Ning Web site because I thought it would be a good way of getting in touch with people I would be spending the next four years with, and a way to get past the awkward stage of first meeting,” said Shelby Hartgrove, a freshman from Yukon. “It allows you to talk about something you have in common during that first meeting.”

Students who are accepted to OBU become part of an exclusive group called “I'm a Bison,” named for the university mascot. So when OBU Admissions decided to venture into the realm of online social media sites, they chose to name the group the “I'm a Bison” Network, hosted on Ning.com. Members can join only by invitation of the OBU Admissions staff. When the summer came to a close, 260 students – more than 70 percent of the nearly 370 enrolled freshmen – were members of the site.

Listening to their audience and recognizing the opportunity, the OBU Admissions staff chose – among a myriad of social media options – to establish their network on Ning.com, an online platform for groups with common interests. While the initial site was free, OBU Admissions staff chose to pay a minimal fee to remove advertising and banners. The resulting site allows members of the incoming class to participate in interactive communication

such as posting on blogs, reading a news feed of the group's activity, joining groups with common interests and sharing photos and videos.

“I have met almost everyone that I met through Ning as well as Facebook,” said Arturo Diaz, a freshman from Garland, Texas. “It was interesting to actually meet everyone in person for the first time and yet still know so much about them already before meeting face to face. It was great to see how easily we could strike up a conversation amongst ourselves.”

With the majority of the incoming class participating on the site, OBU Admissions saw the new students take the opportunity to connect and expand on it. Several students participated in a contest hosted by OBU Admissions, photographing themselves wearing their exclusive “I'm a Bison” T-shirts in creative settings. Other students connected with fellow freshmen from their regional areas.

One group even planned a missions trip, inviting new friends – future Bison – from both Ning and Facebook groups to meet in Shawnee June 20-29. They camped at Cargo Ranch and served through Good Shepherd Chapel, where they fed, played with and led devotions for children.

“It was their own brain-child,” said Konnor Martin, an OBU admissions counselor who monitors the online network. “That's really what we're looking for: for them to take the initiative. With the little amount of encouragement we've given them, we've been pleased.”

As the freshmen became fully vested in Bison Hill

life, and their need for the custom site ran its course, OBU Admissions phased out current members in early fall. Martin said use of the Ning.com site dropped significantly when classes started, confirming to OBU Admissions that students used the site just as it was intended: as a resource leading up to their transition to college.

Hundreds of high school seniors admitted to OBU are receiving an exclusive invitation to join the online “I'm a Bison” Network for the Class of 2014. Martin said OBU Admissions plans to monitor traffic on the site and update the content with videos, slide shows, student blogs, highlights of campus organizations and more on a weekly basis.

“Hopefully as we refine the content and strategically spark an interest for posting photos or other content, it will grow even more on its own,” Martin said. “We don't want it to become stagnant, either. We don't just want it to be an extension of the OBU Web site, to be somewhere they come for information. We want it to be somewhere they come to connect with their peers.”



New students, who met through an OBU Admissions social media network, served at Good Shepherd Chapel in the summer. The group included (from left) Megan Sandridge, Alice Putnam, Kirk Tinsley, Chloe Kuhlmann and Michael Chadwick, pictured with Chris Lam, '07.

Students Offered Free Housing For J-Term 2010

OBU extended a hearty invitation for students to continue their education during January Term classes by offering free classes and free housing to qualifying students.

On-campus residents for either the fall or spring semesters who enroll in a J-Term class can live on Bison Hill for free during J-Term. The only expense is the purchase of a meal plan, which already is a requirement for all on-campus students. The meal plan costs \$181 and is a 10-meal plan which includes lunch and dinner Monday through Friday.

Three free First Year Experience courses are offered for qualifying freshmen: Success 101, Success 102 and Christian Worldview. Each course merits one credit hour. OBU faculty members developed six other innovative one-hour First Year Experience courses also geared toward freshmen.

Along with these offerings, many additional courses are available during the three-week session, Jan. 4-22.

Shortened to a three-week period, January Term is designed to help students catch up on their degree plan progress, take unique courses, or focus on specific courses in an intensive format. The University also is offering study-abroad and global outreach trips during the month.



PDSB Students In Top 5 Percent Nationally

Students in OBU's Paul Dickinson School of Business scored in the top 5 percent among business students nationwide in a national test which measures educational outcomes.

OBU students ranked in the 95th percentile on the spring 2009 Major Field Test. The test is conducted annually by Educational Testing Service. According to the ETS Web site, the MFT is designed to "measure the basic knowledge and understanding achieved by students in a major field of study."

"We are delighted by the success of our students on the Major Field Test," said Dr. Stan Norman, OBU provost and executive vice president of campus life. "This is a tribute to the hard work of the students and the faculty members in the Paul Dickinson School of Business. Our faculty members are providing an environment where students can develop core competencies and prepare for successful careers. We want OBU students to fully utilize their God-given talents and abilities, and these test results indicate that they are doing so."

OBU was one of 564 colleges and universities represented by more than 83,000 students who took the test. The MFT business categories include accounting, economics, management, quantitative business analysis, finance, marketing, legal and social topics, information systems and international issues.

"Our business students' outstanding performance on the field exam underscores the talent and commitment to excellence embraced by both the faculty and students on our campus," said Dr. Kyle Tresch, dean of OBU's School of Business. "The School of Business faculty are equipped not only with the knowledge in their respective fields, but they are gifted in their ability to effectively communicate and equip tomorrow's business leaders."

"Correspondingly, our students' performance reflects their pursuit of learning as a lifelong endeavor as they strive to become those leaders," Tresch said. "While we are exceptionally proud of our students' accomplishments on this most recent field exam, we are even more proud of the future successes and the impact that these students will make in the global marketplace."

The Major Field Tests are offered in more than a dozen undergraduate fields of study. According to the ETS, the MFT goes beyond the measurement of factual knowledge by also evaluating students' ability to analyze and solve problems, understand relationships and interpret material from their major field of study. The test usually is administered during a student's final year of study or after completing most of a major's required courses.

Making The Grade On Three National 'Tests'

Three national college rating services currently list OBU as one of the region's best colleges. One of them ranks the University as the state's top institution. The national recognition continues an 18-year trend.

In their 2010 list of "America's Best Colleges," released in August, **Forbes.com** ranks OBU 109th among 600 institutions. The listings are based on an assessment of the quality of the education universities and colleges provide and how much their students achieve, according to the company's Web site. The rankings were determined through a process conducted by Forbes and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity.

Six other Oklahoma universities are listed in the rankings. Oklahoma Wesleyan University was at No. 155, University of Oklahoma at No. 379, Oklahoma State University at No. 401, University of Central Oklahoma at No. 419, University of Tulsa at No. 511 and Oral Roberts University at No. 553.

OBU also is the top Oklahoma university in the new **Forbes.com** listing of "America's Best College Buys." The University is No. 74 in the nation.

For the 16th consecutive year, OBU is listed as Oklahoma's highest-rated baccalaureate college in **U.S. News & World Report's** annual ranking of "America's Best Colleges." In the 2010 ratings, released Aug. 20, OBU is ranked second in the West.

In addition to the ranking for overall academic quality, OBU ranked third in the magazine's "Great Schools, Great Prices" category for the western region.

OBU has made the news magazine's "top 10" in its category for 18 consecutive years. In the 2010 rankings, the United States Air Force Academy is first in the 15-state region.

The "Great Schools, Great Prices" listing is derived from a formula which "relates a school's academic quality, as indicated by its U.S. News ranking, to the net cost of attendance for a student who receives the average level of need-based financial aid. The higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost, the better the deal," according to a release from the national news magazine.

The U.S. News rankings for baccalaureate colleges are based on seven categories: peer assessment (25 percent), graduation and retention rates (20 percent), faculty resources (20 percent), student selectivity (15 percent), financial resources (10 percent), graduation rate performance (5 percent) and alumni giving (5 percent). Among the top 10 schools in the region, OBU ranked third in average graduation rate.

OBU also was named one of the best colleges and universities in the western United States by **The Princeton Review**. OBU was one of 123 institutions recommended in the "Best in the West" section on the educational research firm's Web site

feature, "2010 Best Colleges: Region by Region," posted on July 27. OBU has been included in the "Best in the West" listings for five consecutive years.

The Princeton Review survey for this project asks students to rate their own school on several issues – from the accessibility of their professors to the quality of the campus food – and answer questions about themselves, their fellow students and their campus life.

OBU is one of five Oklahoma schools receiving the merit, among the 123 colleges honored in the 15-state region. Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma State University, Oral Roberts University and the University of Oklahoma also made the list.

"These rankings continue to affirm the quality education offered at OBU, as well as the hard work exhibited by the faculty, staff and students on Bison Hill," said OBU President David Whitlock. "We appreciate the national recognition which complements the standards of excellence we seek to uphold and even raise."



Fifth graders from Grove School in Shawnee listen as senior Callie McAnally, an elementary education major from Nikiski, Alaska, leads them in "The 1950s: A Cultural Study." About 40 fifth-grade students attended the annual learning opportunity, led by OBU students in the Social Studies Methods class. Dr. Jeanne Akin, OBU professor of teacher education, oversees the event.

OBU Plans 'Green' Christmas On Bison Hill

Nothing against Bing Crosby or the frozen water vapors favored by Christmas card artists, but this year, OBU is planning for a "green" Christmas. Sure, plenty of the campus staff and administrators welcome the chance for a Christmas Eve snowfall, but for the sake of energy conservation, they're getting a guaranteed extra week of vacation as well.

As an added benefit for OBU staff members and a significant way to positively affect energy consumption, OBU announced a plan to close campus offices from Dec. 21, 2009, through Jan. 1, 2010. Originally, the Christmas holiday was set for Dec. 21-25 this year. The energy conservation dates will be Dec. 28-31, with Jan. 1 being New Year's holiday.

"OBU is committed to conserving energy in all areas of the campus," said

President David Whitlock. "This is one meaningful way to save on heating and power consumption during a time when there is not a great deal of activity on the campus. We realize every step toward conservation is helpful. That has been part of our planning as we construct and renovate facilities, update heating and cooling equipment and replace lighting fixtures on the campus. We know that these efforts have a cumulative effect."

This year's extended break results in four extra days of paid leave time for full-time staff members. Coincidentally, OBU should reap maximum conservation of energy by avoiding heating, lighting and other services for the majority of campus facilities during the holiday season.

"Expenditures for energy needs comprise a significant percentage of

OBU's operating budget," said Randy Smith, OBU executive vice president for business and administrative services. "We strive to be good stewards of our financial resources, and adopting this conservation policy for the holiday break will not only conserve environmental resources. It also will help OBU reduce utility costs. By being pro-active in conservation and green initiatives, we are reaping the added bonus of fiscal savings."

Supervisors in several campus offices will work with their staff members to ensure essential services are provided during the extended break including security and student housing. Staff members who work during the period when offices are closed to the public will receive equitable leave time.



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Mitchell Releases New Poetry Work

Dr. William Mitchell, OBU professor emeritus of English, recently released the latest edition of his popular Christmas volume, "Tribute to the Advent." Mitchell said he expects this fourth edition will be the final update to a project which started 39 years ago.

The book started in December 1973 as Mitchell sat at his desk addressing Christmas cards to fellow OBU faculty members. He had purchased a box of cards with a "peaceable kingdom" motif. As he looked at the illustration on the cards over and over, he thought of a line of poetry, which he quickly wrote down:

"In that kingdom where a little child shall lead us, force and love shall be at home, reconciled."

He finished the poem – which is included in "Tribute to the Advent" – and wrote it in each of the cards. Every year since then, he has written a poem to send to friends and family at Christmas. Each work starts out on a yellow notepad, later to be typed and revised before publication. Mitchell said his poems often deal with finding a deeper meaning in the popular scenes of Christmas during a time of year that can become "mechanical."

"I began thinking of characters in the original story and what it meant to them," he said. "For example, the stable boy working at the inn gave up his own bed. They defined themselves by what they did."

He said the poems reflect a deep spiritual search on his part, seeking to understand what God intended with the incarnation. He delved even deeper into what theologians would call the "problem of the incarnation." He searched the Old Testament for clues on what was happening in man's relationship with God. He said as he probed, he gained insights into the Advent.

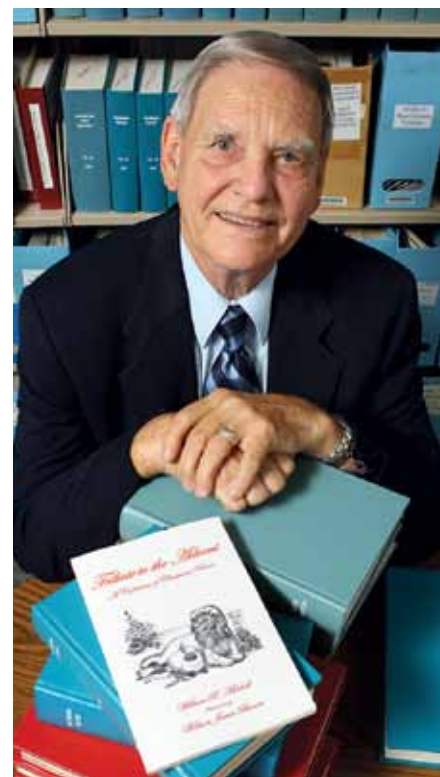
"I have discovered something about the various participants in the original Advent drama," Mitchell wrote in the book's preface. "The coming of Jesus seems to have presented each of them with the demand to respond in some sacrificial or sacramental way. If they did so, they were themselves transfigured into something new and holy. Thus even in the cradle Jesus called those whom he encountered to redefine themselves in his own image, as he continues to do for all who genuinely encounter him."

Mitchell approached Jim Brown, OBU professor emeritus of music, to draw an illustration for each poem. Steven Hicks, OBU professor of art, provided a calligraphy rendering of the biblical Scripture which carries the theme of each entry.

The first volume of the book was released in 1990 and sold out. The second edition was released in 1998 and included additional poems with the corresponding illustrations and calligraphy. For an expanded third edition in 2000, the publisher suggested a paperback format which required an additional 100 pages. Mitchell went to his files and added poetry, paraphrases, dramatic monologues and ballads based on Scripture. That volume was titled "Voices of the Advent and Other Voices."

Mitchell retired from OBU in 1996. Two years later, his wife, Dorthy, died. They had been married 49 years. Mitchell was ordained as a minister at age 68, and he served as a pastor for several years.

Eleven years ago, he married Mae, who had been widowed after 50 years of marriage. She served alongside him in his pastorates in Colorado and Oklahoma until he retired. They have joined the First Baptist Church of Shawnee, where Mitchell first joined in 1958. If God calls them, they are willing to be back in church ministry.



Mitchell has continued active writing and ministry work since he retired from OBU more than 13 years ago.

In the meantime, Mitchell's ministry continues through the release of his heartfelt book.

"I will be 79 shortly, and I find myself reworking earlier themes in the collection, so I suspect this will be the final edition," Mitchell said. "I really want (the collection) to survive for the sake of the illustrations. Jim's illustrations are so striking and so sensitive to the tone of each poem."

"What I have learned is that the incarnation of God in Jesus the Christ is the statement of all Scripture, the source of peace and strength in human experience, the essence of God's purpose toward his creation, especially toward his human children," he wrote in the fourth edition's afterword.

"Tribute to the Advent" is available for purchase online at amazon.com and crosstimbersbooks.com, where Mitchell's autobiographical work, "My Life Before the Fire," and his novel, "Finding Amy," also are on sale.



TIMELESS

TRADITIONS

tomorrow's treasures

Alums reunited on campus in November for the first of two Centennial Homecoming celebrations. Along with traditional reunion events, including class luncheons, alumni participated in several Centennial-related activities. Below, retired music professors Norma Partridge and Rhett Hudson performed at a Saturday dinner honoring retired and long-time faculty and staff. For a recap of the weekend, including slideshows and audio from several events, visit www.okbu.edu/alumni.

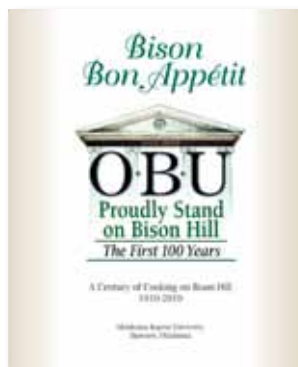


'Bison Bon Appétit' Celebrates OBU Family History

Celebrating a century of cooking on Bison Hill, the centennial cookbook, "Bison Bon Appétit," is now on sale. Copies of the 400-page book are available for \$15 each.

"This isn't the usual cookbook, but an historical journey through the OBU years," said Rhett Hudson, retired OBU associate professor of music, who served as chair of the Centennial Cookbook Committee. "I hope readers will be pleased with the historical touches: the First Ladies' section, OBU Bison logos, 100 historical facts, biographies of teachers and staff, the delicious recipes and more that are presented in 'Bison Bon Appétit.'"

"The historical aspect of the Centennial cookbook has been personal to me," Hudson said. "I spent 37 years on the faculty. My folks graduated from OBU in 1928 and 1930, and my children and husband have all attended and/or graduated from OBU. For me personally, 'Bison Bon Appétit' reflects historical events, and faculty and staff friendships of many years."



Patty McWilliams, who served as editor and typist of the cookbook, said each recipe includes a historic notation about the contributor. McWilliams, retired manager of the OBU bookstore, is the wife of Dr. Warren McWilliams, Augie Henry professor of Bible.

"My favorite parts are the recipes from many of the professors and staff members who are no longer with us but who are a big part of my memories of OBU," Patty McWilliams said.

"Bison Bon Appétit" is the result of many hours of work by the Centennial Cookbook Committee, comprised of Hudson; McWilliams; Dr. Debbie Blue, senior vice president for academic affairs; and Teri Walker, degree counselor.

"The new OBU cookbook covers a significant period of OBU history," said John Parrish, Centennial Committee chairman. "I am sure that those who purchase the book will find interesting information and great recipes which have been shared on Bison Hill for several decades."

Celebrate OBU With The Centennial Book Series

Own all of the books in OBU's Centennial Book Series.

These works currently include *Bison Bon Appétit*, a unique collection of written prayers by the late Dr. James E. Hurley, and two books about OBU's storied basketball history.

Glory Shakes the Ground: Written Prayers of James E. Hurley is a



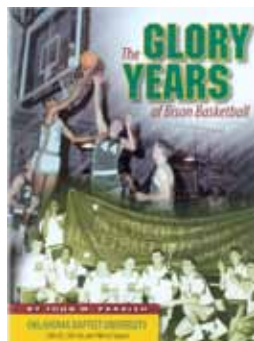
paperback work which takes the reader into the heart and mind of one of OBU's most revered faculty members. The late biology professor wrote many prayers, several of which have been

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The Glory Years of Bison Basketball: Oklahoma Baptist University 1964-65,



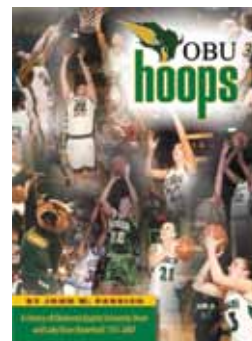
1965-66, and 1966-67 Seasons chronicles one of the greatest runs in NAIA history. Coach Bob Bass and standout Al Tucker led

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Trevor, middle, is carrying forward the Mastins' athletic tradition which Gerald and Ford strengthened during their years on Bison Hill.

A FAMILY TRADITION

When Trevor Mastin signed on to high jump and hurdle for OBU, it did not come with a lot of fanfare.

The signing did, however, continue a tradition in the University's athletic department that began more than 80 years ago. Trevor is the son of OBU track coach Ford Mastin, '77. He is the grandson of Gerald Mastin, '53, who played baseball, basketball and golf for the Bison. Trevor is the great-grandson of the late Robert Mastin, '27, who was inducted into the OBU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1983 in recognition of his standout career as a three-sport star in football, track and baseball.

Now a sophomore, the newest Mastin Bison is carrying on more than a tradition. He has a full course load, track practice and meets, and a budding start to on-stage performance. A theatre major, Trevor already appeared on stage at the Shawnee Little Theater and in OBU Theatre's "Anatomy of Gray."

"I'm glad he's well-rounded," said Ford, who was a music major at OBU. "He's got a lot of demands for his time in theatre. It was easier for me. I was a music major and had track practice, but nobody really wanted me to be involved in music stuff."

Unlike his forefathers, Trevor comes in with a few expectations. There was enough of a gap between Robert and Gerald, that not many people at OBU put the two together. The same held true for Gerald and Ford. But Trevor is competing under his father and for one of the most prominent track programs in the NAIA.

As a freshman, Trevor scored in two events at the Sooner Athletic Conference track meet, helping the Bison win the SAC title.

Strong coaching has been one of the constants in the lives of the Mastin boys. Robert was a two-time All-State and All-Conference pick for the Bison under OBU Hall of Famer Victor Hurt. Gerald played basketball under Bob Bass. And Ford ran under a young Jeff Potter, who coached at several colleges and now teaches at St. Gregory's University in Shawnee.

Another OBU mainstay, Eddie Hurt Jr., was a teammate of Robert's and the athletic director for Gerald's class.

Despite that, there were some rough patches. Gerald played for four basketball coaches in four years before Bass steadied things in 1952. The golf team was a little more out of sorts, but successful all the same.

"We put about five of us together who had played golf and went over to the Oklahoma City Country Club and won the conference championship in 1952," said Gerald, who was OBU's Outstanding Senior Athlete his final year on Bison Hill.

His playing days included an unusual road basketball game at McAlester where the Bison toured the state penitentiary before

taking on a team of inmates. Gerald did not come to OBU in the traditional parent-drop-off means. He and two other OBU athletes-to-be came in a car ride from Gary, Ind., with one of the boy's parents.

After graduating and getting a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma, Gerald taught and coached for 35 years in Okmulgee and Stillwater. He and his wife, Atha, had four sons – Darrell, Ford, Kyle and Gene. Ford and Kyle both ran track at OBU and all four have been involved in school athletics to some degree.

Ford's track career was nearly cut short by a lack of funds.

"I had the same spikes all four years that I had used in high school," Ford said. "Potter was pretty resourceful. He got a deal on some jackets and got 'OBU' put on them with those old heat-transfer screens."

It looked for a while that even the little funding for track was about to be taken away, but a presidential decision saved the program and indirectly continued the Mastin tradition at OBU.

Already burdened by having to set up track meet after track meet on their own and pay their own way for road meets, rumor set in that the scholarship days were coming to an end for the athletes.

"We lost a few guys because the word was out that the scholarships were going to be taken away and I had thought about it, too, but when Dr. Tanner decided to keep track, it was full-speed ahead."

After graduating, Ford got degrees from seminary and graduate school and coached at various levels from Happy Hill Academy to Texas Christian University. Thirteen years ago, he made the move to OBU from Prague High School.

Robert, who was one of the most decorated football players in Bison history, would be proud. Ford cannot hang every coaching honor he has won in his office, but the highlights include three national championships – including the first women's national title in school history – and four NAIA Coach of the Year awards.

In addition to that, he has produced athletes and assistant coaches who are making names for themselves at conference and national levels. There are hundreds of All-Americans, a couple of Olympic hopefuls and one tradition-continuing son.

It is difficult to get the Mastin boys talking about awards. Atha had to call in the Outstanding Senior Award for this report. But the kids are another matter. Ford will tell you – sometimes in poetry – about his athletes. But of his own flesh and blood, the prose is more than lyric. It is from the heart.

And OBU is richer for it.

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FOR OBU'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



Centennial Founders' Day
Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Centennial Founders' Day Convocation
10-11:30 a.m., John Wesley Raley Chapel

Founders' Day Worship Service
6:30 p.m., John Wesley Raley Chapel

For details on these and other Centennial activities, visit www.okbu.edu/100.