

SUMMER 2009

OBU

magazine

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OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

The Celebration Begins

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We are in the midst of celebration and transformation on Bison Hill. Our Centennial activities officially started in August, and we are at the beginning of a 16-month once-in-a-lifetime event. As we celebrate a century of achievement we are charting a course for the future. OBU is in the Kingdom-focused business of transforming lives and we are forging ahead to effectively fulfill our mission.



In our University's times of greatest success, OBU has worked to fulfill strategic objectives that helped us focus our work and our resources. Our history is filled with illustrations that point to successful achievement of strategic priorities. These are found in the emergence of a nationally acclaimed music program; the development of Oklahoma's first baccalaureate nursing program; the growth of campus housing facilities; the fact that OBU has more missionaries serving with the IMB than any other university in the world; and the growth of international learning and service opportunities for our students. These kinds of accomplishments are the result of our campus community working together, and we have seen ambitious goals realized as God blessed our faithful, focused work. As we step from one century to the next, we are working together to set a shared mission for our future.

Early in the fall semester, faculty and administrative leadership met over a two-day span to chart a course for OBU's future. This was the result of the hard work and research of two planning teams that have been working for several months – the Core Values Team and the Environmental Scanning Team. During our planning retreat, we found consensus in key priorities for our University community. You will see and hear more about our plan for the next decade in the very near future. It will be built on the traditional strengths of OBU, which have allowed us to offer a Christ-centered liberal arts education in a community where students are challenged and nurtured.

Thank you for being a part of the OBU family. Please join us in our Centennial celebration, and remember that as we celebrate our storied past, the best is yet to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David W. Whitlock". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "D" and a long horizontal line extending from the end.

David W. Whitlock
OBU President

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magazine

OBU MAGAZINE STAFF

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Editor

Marty O'Gwynn

Writers

Don Kammerdiener, Kristi
Zevenbergen McFarland, Julie
McGowan, Marty O'Gwynn

Creative Services

Chele Marker

Photographers

William Pope, Jason Jones (cover)

View OBU Magazine Online

www.okbu.edu/obumagazine

Contact OBU Magazine

obumagazine@okbu.edu
405.878.2111

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

President

Dr. David W. Whitlock

Provost and Executive Vice President for Campus Life

Dr. R. Stanton Norman

Executive Vice President for Business and Administrative Services

Randy L. Smith

Interim Vice President for Development

Bill Holley

CONTACT INFORMATION

(area code 405)

Academic Center.....	878.2023
Admissions.....	878.2033
Alumni.....	878.2706
Business Office.....	878.2020
Campus Ministry.....	878.2377
Career Services.....	878.2416
Development.....	878.2703
Mabee Learning Center.....	878.2251
President's Office.....	878.2002
Public Relations.....	878.2111
Residential Life.....	878.2404
Student Development.....	878.2406
Student Financial Services.....	878.2016
Switchboard.....	275.2850

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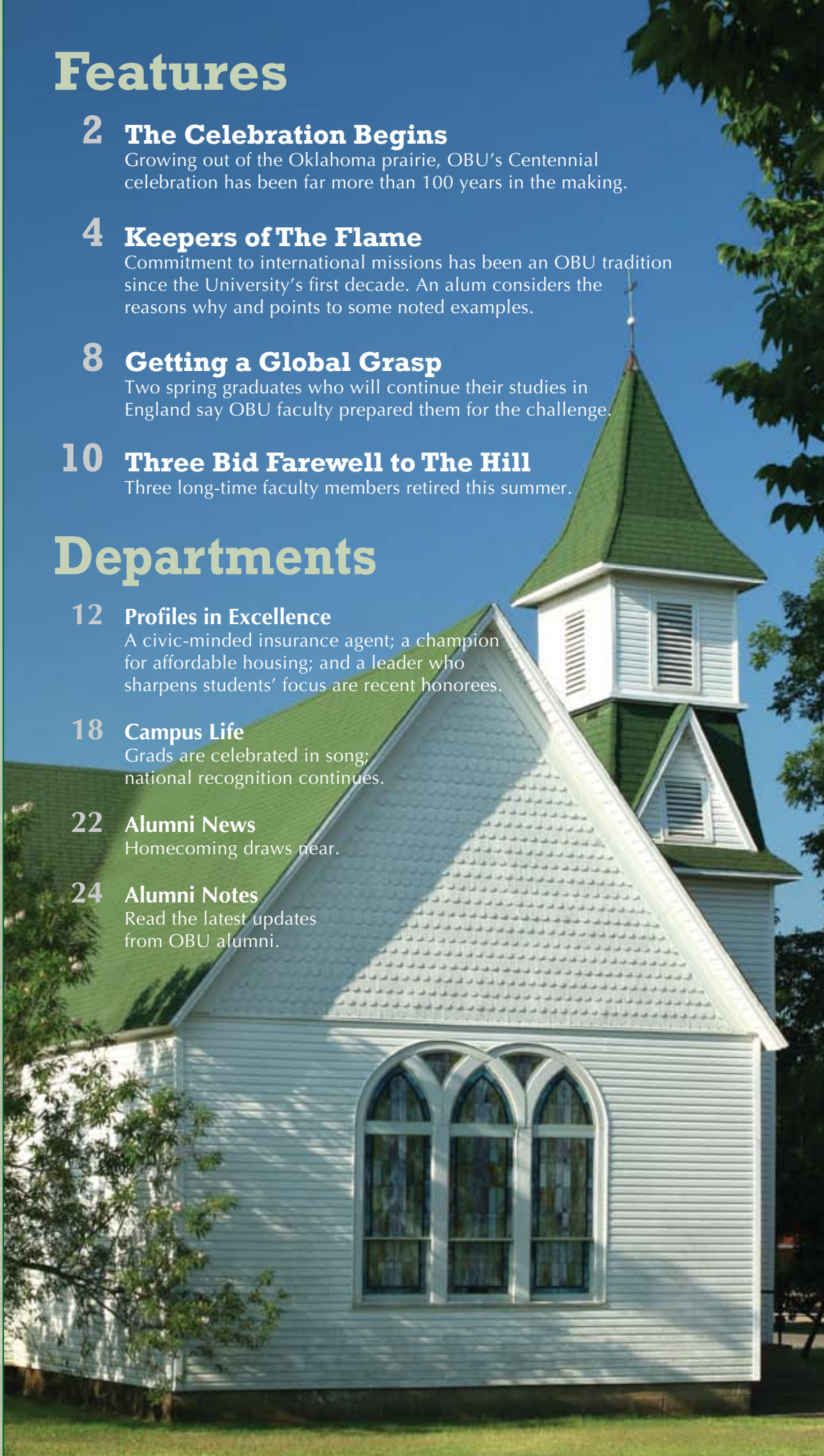
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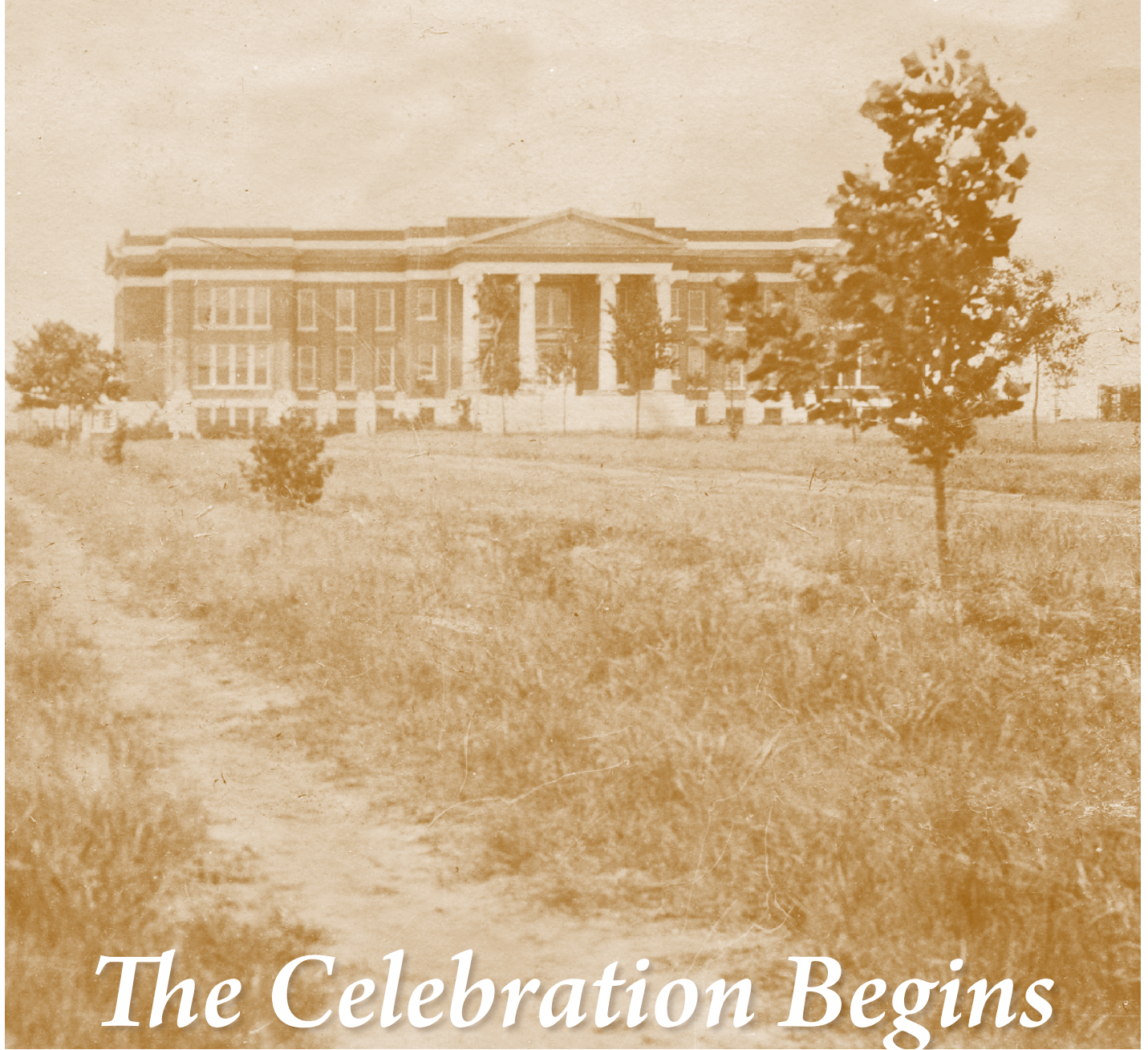
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The Celebration Begins

“The Oklahoma Baptist University could not have been founded prior to coining the word ‘Oklahoma,’ establishing Baptist churches, and forming the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

The University had to have a name, constituency, and founding fathers. In the earliest days of the nineteenth century, the campus was a nameless and infinitesimal tract of ground belonging to the unlimited Louisiana Purchase.”



With those words, legendary OBU professor James Newton "Uncle Jimmy" Owens started his book, *Annals of O.B.U.* Recalling the development of a state and a Baptist organization, Owens traced much of the first five decades of the University's existence. His written history ended in the latter years of Dr. John W. Raley's 27-year presidency. By that time, OBU was an accredited institution with more than a dozen major buildings and a growing reputation for offering a thriving community environment. There were exemplary academic programs, and the Bison Glee Club was putting OBU and Shawnee on the map.

More than 50 years later, the University has 34 major buildings on a campus which has grown to 200 acres. Students consistently come from 40 states and more than 20 other nations to study in Shawnee. A total of 17,012 have graduated from the University. There are alumni in all 50 states. The success of graduates has garnered national and international recognition.

With that brief overview of history, members of OBU's Centennial Committee had little difficulty in selecting "Proudly Stand on Bison Hill" as the theme for a 16-month Centennial

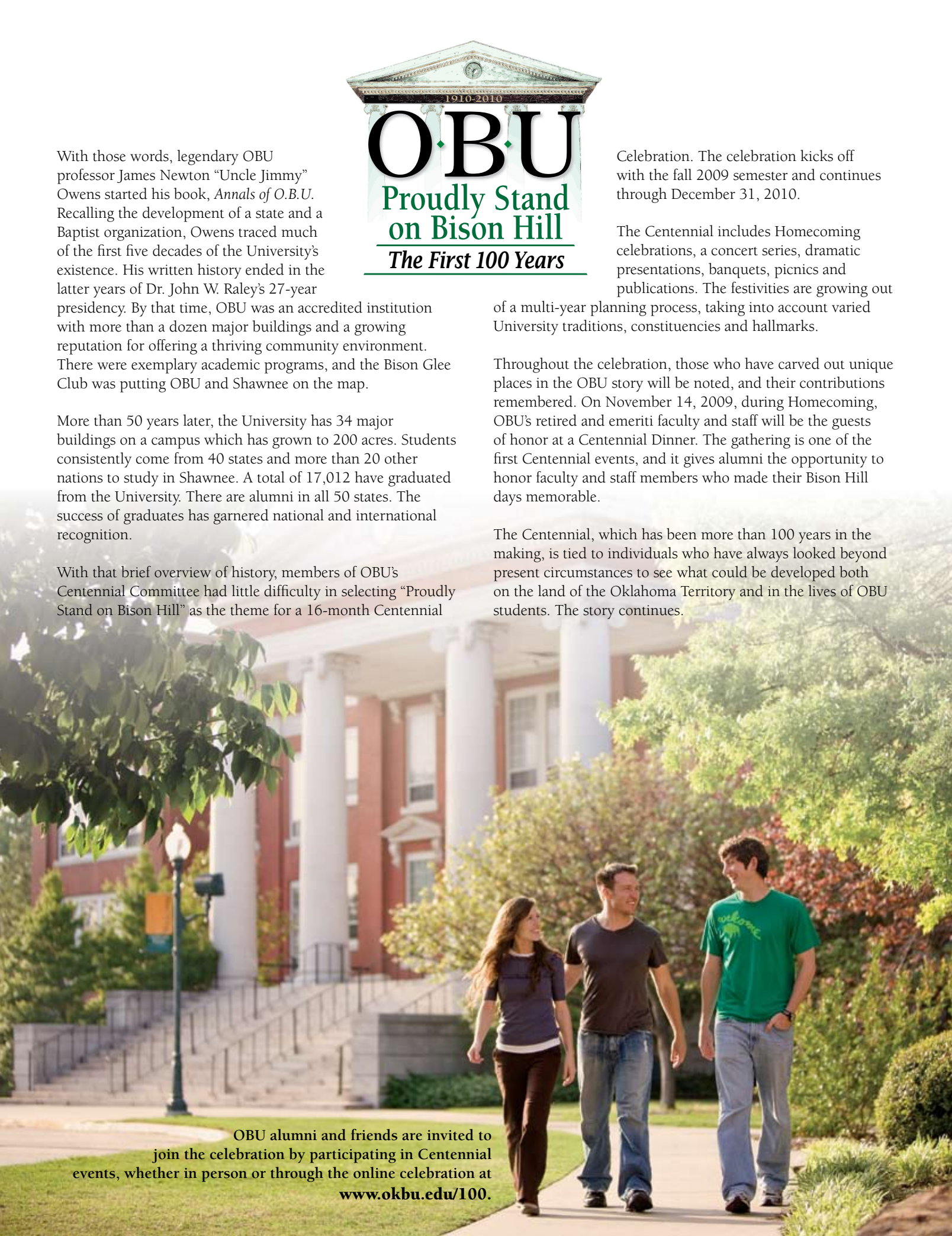
Celebration. The celebration kicks off with the fall 2009 semester and continues through December 31, 2010.

The Centennial includes Homecoming celebrations, a concert series, dramatic presentations, banquets, picnics and publications. The festivities are growing out of a multi-year planning process, taking into account varied University traditions, constituencies and hallmarks.

Throughout the celebration, those who have carved out unique places in the OBU story will be noted, and their contributions remembered. On November 14, 2009, during Homecoming, OBU's retired and emeriti faculty and staff will be the guests of honor at a Centennial Dinner. The gathering is one of the first Centennial events, and it gives alumni the opportunity to honor faculty and staff members who made their Bison Hill days memorable.

The Centennial, which has been more than 100 years in the making, is tied to individuals who have always looked beyond present circumstances to see what could be developed both on the land of the Oklahoma Territory and in the lives of OBU students. The story continues.

OBU alumni and friends are invited to join the celebration by participating in Centennial events, whether in person or through the online celebration at www.okbu.edu/100.



Reflecting on OBU's hallmarks spanning the past century is a challenging task.

Faculty names, academic areas, student organizations and athletic teams can be portals into rambling discussions about ways the University has carved out a reputation for achievement and success.

During the Centennial, *OBU Magazine* is seeking to highlight some of those hallmarks.

One is the influence and impact OBU has contributed to Baptist global missions.

Keepers of the Flame



Recently, Don Kammerdiener, '58, retired executive vice president of Southern Baptists' International Mission Board, delivered OBU's Gaskin Lectures.

He recalled alumni who were missions pioneers, and considered reasons why OBU still leads the world in the number of alumni under IMB appointment.

Here are some of his remarks, including examples of "those who carried the torch." For more, visit okbu.edu/magazine.

It is impossible to review the numbers and quality of OBU alumni who have carried the Gospel message around the world without asking the question "why?" OBU is a small school in a low population state land-locked and far removed from many of the currents of international events. Where does this century-old vision for the world come from?

Part of the answer to this question may be found in the charter documents of the school. The stated purpose as found in the school's web site is clear and explicit. "OBU is an institution founded on Christian principles and teaching ... The University engages in educational tasks in a manner consistent with the purposes of the Convention: to furnish the means by which the churches may carry out the Great Commission."

The formal statement of OBU's purpose is more than perfunctory. It serves as a North Star to guide administrators, faculty, trustees, and students. Every generation of professors has been marked by outstanding individuals who inspired students to adopt the Christian world view and to follow Christ's calling to the world. Dr. J.W. Jent in the early days of OBU was a leader in inspiring young people. Rosalee Mills Appleby noted his influence by reflecting on one of Jent's quotes, "God is all wise and cannot make a mistake. He is all loving and would not make a mistake. Whatever He has for your life, there you will be happiest and do the most good." This expression of faith led Appleby to surrender wholly to Christ for whatever He had for the future.

Later generations of professors carefully nurtured this Christian environment so propitious for calling out and confirming mission volunteers. Not only individual professors but also entire academic departments have contributed to the environment that fostered the cause of world missions. OBU musicians have traveled the world singing the Gospel message and exposing students to the realities of world need and opportunities for ministry.

A variety of mission emphases, activities and organizations have helped to maintain the missionary spirit at OBU. At times the mission volunteers have formed a group known as the Life Service Band. A broader organization, the ministerial alliance, has served the purpose of keeping the focus of students on their vocation and commitment.

The missionary spirit on campus has been enriched by the presence of international students in the student body. There is always a danger that prospective missionaries may have a romantic and unrealistic view of missionary life due to a lack of knowledge of other cultures and peoples. The presence of international students serves as a window to the world and to a more realistic understanding of the challenges of missionary service. Closely related to the influence of international students is the presence of missionary kids in the OBU family. M.K.s bring with them world experience and understanding, and they prove to be valuable interpreters of the missionary experience.

OBU has an unusual record in involving students in mission volunteer trips. Overseas travel has become a regular part of the college experience in many schools. The focus at OBU is not simply on traveling, but on traveling with a missionary purpose. The intention should be to foster missionary passion on the part of the participants and to make a positive contribution to the sharing of the Gospel overseas. The International Mission Board has learned that a large percentage of missionary candidates today come after having had previous experience overseas. OBU is contributing greatly to the cause of missions by fostering these missionary experiences.

The missions environment at OBU took another significant step forward with the establishment of the Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach. Created in 2005, the center is an attempt to unify the academic and the hands-on-field experience related to missions. In a large institution the attention given to any emphasis can ebb and flow according to current fads and the particular interests of administrators. The Global Outreach Center is a means of locking the fact that OBU believes in and participates in the carrying out of the Great Commission.

There are multiple reasons why OBU has become the missions powerhouse that it is today. Nevertheless, we need to return to the question of our philosophy of history in order to address a crucial question. Will OBU remain a missions leader in the future? Many grand schemes regarding the inevitable movement of history have failed and found their way to the ash heap of history. As Christians, we are committed to the assurance of the ultimate triumph of the Kingdom of God. Within that large picture of certainty, however, we live and move within an arena in which we have freedom of action, and our choices do have meaning. We are making history.

OBU has a great heritage of lifting the banner of world missions. As a new century in the life of the school begins, I can only plead that the transition be made to a new generation of missionary involvement and commitment, those who will be keepers of the flame. ♦

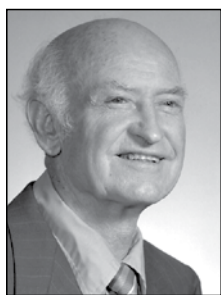
Those Who Carried

The sons and daughters of OBU are prominent among those whose lives and contributions have contributed enormously to the worldwide extension of Christ's influence and rule. OBU's contribution to the worldwide mission effort of Southern Baptists is much more than numerical strength. There is among those missionaries a rich diversity of spiritual gifts and cultural backgrounds.

Many of the missionaries have been noted for their pioneering courage and evangelistic zeal. **Ervin Hastey, '42**, served 22 years in Mexico and was renowned for his effective gifts as an evangelist and for his excellence in the use of the Spanish language. He capped a successful missionary career serving in Richmond (at the International Mission Board headquarters) as the consultant for evangelism on a worldwide basis.

Another noted evangelist from an earlier generation was **Orvil Reid, '33**. For 38 years Reid traveled through the cities and towns of Mexico demonstrating his remarkable physical strength and dexterity with stunts like breaking bricks with his hand, and even allowing a truck to drive over his chest while protected by nothing other than boards laid over him. Each demonstration served as an occasion to share a brief message about the importance of a clean life and healthy

living. The focus always returned to the Gospel presentation through which many children and men heard the call to salvation.



Orvil Reid



Curtis Dixon

Curtis and Betty Dixon represented another stream of the pioneering spirit and evangelistic passion. Graduating from OBU in 1956, they found



Roberta Damon



Rosalee Mills Appleby

themselves pushing the frontiers in Brazil before moving on to Portugal and later to Angola where they served in a violent and revolutionary time. They were never far from the battle zones and demonstrated the kind of commitment required by the Lord who called his followers to take up their cross and follow him.

OBU has long been renowned for its musical excellence. This superior program has produced missionaries who excelled in teaching people around the world to sing the song of the Gospel. We remember with pride the work of **Glenn Boyd, '58**, and **Jeanine Hart Boyd, '59**, in Africa as they spoke, sang and shared the Gospel.

Another specialty which Bison missionaries have used overseas is that of Christian counseling. **Roberta Damon, '56**, took her relational skills to Brazil where she and husband, Bill, served effectively for many years. When Bill returned to the U.S. for service on the mission board staff, Roberta's gift in counseling was soon recognized by a call to the staff of the First Baptist Church of Richmond, Va. She also serves as the chaplain for the IMB staff.

Rosalee Mills Appleby was a leader among Oklahoma Baptist youth in the early 20th century. She was the first person to make a decision for missionary service at the inaugural session of Falls Creek in 1917. She and her husband, David Appleby, went to Brazil where she continued serving after her husband's death in 1925. She is a legend among OBU missionaries, and the quality of her life and ministry is remembered every year when the Rosalee Mills Appleby Award – formerly called the Life Beautiful Award – is given in her memory to a deserving female student at OBU. Among those honored with the Life Beautiful Award is **Helen Gilmore** who, following graduation in 1958, spent a career in Kenya, Africa, and later married and accompanied her husband to serve in the Caribbean. The influence of Rosalee Mills Appleby was felt again by 13-year-old **Dorine Hawkins** who listened intently to Mills' testimony at Falls Creek and cemented her own call to missions. The 1939 OBU graduate's call led her to a long and fruitful ministry as a leader in Brazilian Baptist life.

The missionary calling and gifting touches a wide variety of skills. One of those skills is that of communication through writing. It is noteworthy that three prominent editors of *The*

The Torch

by Don Kammerdiener

Commission magazine, long the key communication tool of the Foreign Mission Board, were OBU graduates. **Frank K. Means, '34**, had a distinguished career as a missions professor at Southwestern Seminary. He went to Richmond as the secretary of education and promotion for the FMB in 1947. During this period which ended in 1954, Means was editor of *The Commission* magazine at which time it reached its all-time highest circulation. Later editors of *The Commission* included **Floyd North, '36**, and **Leland Webb, '54**.

Another significant example of missionary literary skills is the ability of missionaries to master foreign languages and write urgently needed teaching materials for use overseas. **Frank Patterson** graduated from OBU in 1928 and later became the director of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House. His service there from 1943-70 was marked by the production of doctrinally sound teaching materials that did much to solidify a generation of Spanish-speaking Baptists in their understanding of the faith. Patterson was a prolific writer of lessons, tracts and books.

It comes natural for Bison graduates to have a passion for the needs of suffering people of the world. The late **Wilbur Lewis** typified that passion. After graduating from OBU in 1952, he went on to medical school and became a doctor. His calling took him and his wife, the former **Gladys Sherman, ex '55**, to Paraguay to serve at the Baptist Hospital in Asunción. Working under extreme handicaps of professional jealousy and a requirement that he pass every exam in the Paraguayan medical school curriculum, Lewis persevered and pioneered in the field of open heart surgery.

The missionaries leaving Bison Hill have excelled in many areas of ministry. **Eugene Hill, '32**, went to China in 1935 with his wife, Louise. This missionary stalwart became famous for his expertise in the Chinese language. He served in various administrative roles in Southeast Asia including that of mission chairman and treasurer. He was renowned as a theologian and professor at the Graves Theological Seminary in Canton, China. In 1956, Hill accepted the invitation to serve as the FMB secretary for missionary education and promotion. Even during his years in Richmond, he had a major ministry teaching and preaching among the Chinese community.

For much of their history, Southern Baptists were perceived as being isolated from other Christian mission efforts. Baptists were

seen to be more interested in doing than they were in writing about missionary strategy and wider relationships.

There was a drastic change in both the perception and reality with the appearance of **Avery Willis, '56**. An effective and dynamic missionary in Indonesia, he developed on the field the methods and materials later brought back to the U.S. under the name of Masterlife. These materials have been widely used throughout the world. Willis became a major force in leading the International Mission Board into a cooperative and even a leadership role among evangelical mission agencies.

The mission task relies on all of these and other specialties to succeed. There is also a need for administrative leadership, and OBU has been and continues to be a major source for such leadership. The current and past administrative staff is marked by products of Bison Hill. For a whole generation of missionaries in Latin America, Frank K. Means was the embodiment of the Foreign Mission Board. He served as area director from 1954 until his retirement in 1976.

At one time three of the top ranked administrators of the International Mission Board were OBU graduates. They were **David Stevenson, '83**, vice president of finance; **Avery Willis, '56**, senior vice president for overseas operations; and **Don Kammerdiener, '58**, executive vice president.

Today the mission current continues to run strongly at OBU. Some students arrive already aware of God's missionary call on their lives. Others hear that call for the first time while they are here. OBU continues to send out a stream of spiritually motivated and well-prepared candidates for missionary service around the world.

Simply to rehearse this listing of missionaries from Bison Hill is an act of frustration, for the ones mentioned are nothing more than a **small sample** of the great stream of OBU missionaries. Hundreds of others have felt that missionary calling and have been faithful to carry it to fruition. ♦



Floyd North



Leland Webb



Avery Willis



Don Kammerdiener

They arrive on Bison Hill
from small towns
and large cities,
with varied reasons
for choosing OBU.

They leave
four years later
with ambitions and plans
they may not have imagined
as freshmen.



Orrey McFarland, '09

Getting a Global Grasp

OBU faculty seek to challenge each student to be ready for the journey – academically and spiritually prepared to use their gifts for the cause of Christ. That basic concept has spanned the University's 100-year history. The journey for a couple of May 2009 graduates from OBU's Joe L. Ingram School of Christian Service demonstrates the University's on-going global engagement.

The graduates – Orrey McFarland from Fletcher and Sarah Underwood from Edmond, are starting their post-graduation journeys in England this fall. Each is pursuing a master's degree in biblical studies; McFarland at Durham University and Underwood at Cambridge University. Both say they were drawn by the universities' programs and professors.

"I really liked the structure of the masters program at Durham," McFarland said. "It is more research-driven, though there are taught elements as well. A couple of my favorite scholars are at Durham, so the university feels a bit like paradise. Not to mention the fact that I won't mind enjoying the scenery either."

"At Cambridge there is an emphasis on writing and doing your own research," Underwood said. "In this way, the

program is more narrowly focused than some others. I am excited about getting to live in the UK for the next year, and becoming a part of a very international learning community."

The Oklahoma natives saw their academic interest in biblical studies flourish at OBU. The desire to build on that interest and invest their lives as educators led them to where they are now.

"I came to OBU as a Bible major. I was definitely interested in biblical studies, but at that time I had no idea how much I would grow to love it," Underwood said. "I really enjoyed Old and New Testament, but I first began to fall in love with biblical studies when I took Greek my sophomore year. The more that I studied, the more my passion for this field developed."

It was one of McFarland's first classes at OBU that sparked his interest in biblical studies as well.

"Before college, I wouldn't really say I had any academic passions, except Star Wars, perhaps," McFarland said. "My interest in biblical studies really began during the second semester of my freshman year, when I took the New



Sarah Underwood, '09

learn, I am confident in the foundation that has been laid in my time at OBU.”

Throughout the University’s history, graduates have applied their OBU experience in a wide range of careers and locations. Many graduates immediately begin work in a church; others go on to study at Southern Baptist seminaries. As the global leader in the number of alumni serving with the International Mission Board, OBU has seen hundreds of graduates dedicate their careers to the mission field.

Testament intro class. A whole world of new ways to study and understand the Bible was opened to me, and it was really an easy choice after that as to what I wanted to study.”

Throughout their course work, McFarland and Underwood developed more of a passion for biblical studies as they were challenged in their thinking and understanding of biblical literature. By analyzing passages, conducting scriptural research and examining subjects such as Greek, Hebrew, theology, philosophy and the gospels, the graduates began gaining a greater admiration for the biblical texts and teachings.

“As I delved deeper into my studies at OBU, I began to understand the importance of biblical studies in an academic sense,” Underwood said. “Knowing the historical background opened my eyes to a fuller understanding of many passages and letters.”

“I had many light-bulb moments in my classes, times when my entire understanding of a passage was turned upside down, and for the first time in my life I began to realize the importance of biblical studies,” Underwood said.

McFarland and Underwood saw their studies as more than good preparation for their future careers. They found they were developing skills that could aid them in whatever path they chose upon leaving Bison Hill.

“I learned a lot at OBU, not only in my area of study but also in other areas such as history and philosophy,” McFarland said. “But more importantly, OBU taught me a lot about thinking critically.”

Underwood saw significance in the academic foundation she was building, and the importance of continuing to build on it as she left Shawnee.

“OBU cultivated in me the ability to think critically,” Underwood said. “I think that this has been the most valuable aspect of my education. While I still have more to

McFarland and Underwood say they – like other School of Christian Service graduates – have found the importance of applying their biblical studies to further the work of the local church.

“OBU sent me through a circle of realizing first that biblical studies is important, and then that it isn’t important in and of itself, but in how we use it for the church,” McFarland said. “The SCS faculty were excellent models of first-rate scholars who kept these matters in perspective and sought to cultivate the same church-focused aim in us.”

For both graduates, their professors played a large role in not only challenging them to reach their full potential as a student, but also in encouraging them to continue challenging themselves.

“My two New Testament professors, Dr. Bobby Kelly and Dr. Justin Hardin, always pushed me to do the best I could, both in their classes and in my honors thesis,” McFarland said. “They have been constant sources of encouragement and guidance for matters both inside and outside of the classroom. It is doubtful that I would be on the track I am were it not for their roles they have played and continue to play in my life.

Kelly serves as Ruth Dickinson professor of religion. Hardin served as OBU’s Rowena Strickland assistant professor of Bible from 2005-08.

Underwood also appreciates the support Kelly, Hardin and other SCS faculty offered. She found their hard work and genuine interest in their lives a motivation to “do well, study hard and never to settle for average.”

“The faculty at OBU have laid a firm foundation, covering the various facets of biblical studies,” Underwood said.

As McFarland and Underwood prepare for careers as professors, they are demonstrating the OBU tradition of not settling for “average,” but seeing global opportunities for learning and serving. ♦

TECHNOLOGY ADVOCATES: DALE AND CINDY HANCHEY

Shortly after Dale and Cindy Hanchey came to Bison Hill in 1985, the Louisiana natives introduced Oklahoma Baptist University to its first personal computer. They had arrived on campus to find 16 Macintosh computers with 128k RAM, floppy drives and two dot-matrix printers – a relatively basic technology stock, even for that time.

After more than 20 years of advocating for increased campus technology, the Hancheys retired in May 2009. They have seen OBU's computing resources expand across the campus.

"Dale and Cindy have shepherded OBU's computer science program from the pre-Internet days of the mid-1980's through the current digital age," said Dr. Kyle Tresch, dean of the Paul Dickinson School of Business. "Their 24 years of teaching and service to OBU have consistently produced well-educated, highly proficient graduates who have served around the globe in the ever-changing world of computer science."

Arriving to teach at OBU was not Dale Hanchey's first stay in Oklahoma. The Vietnam War veteran had completed an Army officer's course at Fort Sill. He vowed he would never live in the Sooner State. It was too far, in his estimation, from the humidity, trees and seafood of Louisiana. A native of Mittie, La., he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

Dale met his bride, the former Cindy Meyer, in an undergraduate mathematics class at LSU. Born in Crowley, La., Cindy also earned bachelor's and master's degrees at LSU. She

earned a doctorate in computer technology in education with a specialization in computer education from Nova Southeastern University.

As OBU's McCasland associate professor of computer science, Dale taught all levels of computer science courses along with management and business technology classes. He received the Business Teacher of the Year Award for 1987 and OBU's Promising Teacher Award for 1987. He also served as the faculty advisor for OBU's student chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals.

Dr. Cindy Meyer Hanchey served as Ernest C. Wheeler associate professor of computer science. She was active in many professional groups and consulted for the National Science Foundation and other organizations. She taught courses including information technology, programming and ethics. She also taught information technology at OBU's International Graduate School in Oklahoma City.

The Hancheys said they find the constantly morphing field of computer science both challenging and fulfilling. They keep up with emerging technology and the latest trends by reading journals, bulletins and news sources; scouring the Internet; attending conferences; and interacting with peer groups.

"If you don't want to learn new things, and you don't want change, you should not touch this field, because this is ever-changing," Dale said.

"I was a senior at OBU when the Hancheys first joined our faculty in August 1985," Tresch said. "I am struck by how much the computer sciences have evolved since then and amazed at the demands placed on faculty members in that discipline. Yet, the Hancheys have always kept their program and their students ahead of the curve."

The Hancheys successfully helped build OBU's technology base while expanding their personal knowledge of computer science. But the biggest reward, they say, is their graduates: seeing students achieve success in the classroom followed by success in the workplace.

"It's easy to have a good relationship with students if, when they graduate, they get jobs," Dale said. "I don't remember the last time we had a graduate who wanted a job and didn't get a job."

"Demand for our majors has remained extremely high," Cindy added. "I'm constantly being contacted by people who want to hire an OBU computer science grad because they know the quality of the program."

Computer science has been changing since they arrived, and, after leaving OBU, the Hancheys know Bison Hill's areas of technology will only continue to transform.

"We've come a long way," Dale said. "But have we arrived? You never arrive. That's the way technology is." ♦



The Hancheys guided OBU's computer science program through decades of rapid technological change.

Wayne Rhea:

A 43-Year Legacy in Bison Hill Mathematics

Wayne Rhea has taught mathematics for 50 years. He has taught thousands of students how to take arithmetic to the next level of learning. And all the while, he has remained enamored with his chosen area of study.

"If I hadn't had a good time teaching, it would have been difficult to do. But I've had a good time," Rhea said. "Parting is such sweet sorrow."

The Bison Hill fixture, who retired at the end of the 2008-09 academic year, has literally seen generations of students come through his classes during the past half century. One student recently informed him he not only taught her and her mother, but also her grandmother.

Students who learned under Rhea in the mid-70s and returned in recent times to visit their math professor found his former office had been transformed into a men's restroom in Thurmond Hall. That was not the only transformation during Rhea's tenure. He says he has noticed changes in student preparation, dress codes and even the teaching styles and preferences of other teachers.

Through the years, Rhea has faced head-on the challenge of attempting to teach students, including those who are ill-prepared, to raise their knowledge and understanding of math to a level where they can succeed. In doing so, he found the greatest reward of his job: to see students succeed and to feel he contributed just a little part of their foundation for success. His former students include Dr. Deborah Blue, OBU's senior vice president for academic affairs, who became his coworker and, eventually, his boss.

A native of Waco, Texas, Rhea earned a bachelor's degree from Baylor University in 1959. He earned a master's degree from Oklahoma State University in 1961, where one of his housemates was John Parrish, OBU executive vice president emeritus. Following his OSU graduation, Rhea moved to Oskaloosa, Iowa, where he taught at William Penn College, and met his wife, Marianna, who he married in 1964.

In 1966, Parrish told Rhea about two mathematics vacancies at OBU. The Rheas have been in Oklahoma ever since.

Through the years, Rhea said his favorite courses to teach were Calculus Sequence and Differential Equations because they pose a lot of challenging problems. That is a leap of learning from his role as a young man who, in elementary school, was terrible at arithmetic but had a loud, booming voice. People wanted him to be a preacher because he



Rhea, third from left, was part of OBU's mathematics team spanning six presidencies. Here he walks with his colleagues, Dr. John Nichols, Dr. Eugene Hobbs, and Dr. Eileen Hargrove.

could speak well, but he discovered he was not called to that profession.

In ninth grade algebra, where his teacher expected students to solve problems on the blackboard, something clicked.

"It opened up a new world to me," Rhea said. "My teacher let me come early to help students – my classmates who were having difficulties – and it grew from there. The more math I took, the more fun I had. That is why I encourage students to work through problems with others. It is a good way to learn."

Soon after his arrival at OBU, professors started a tutoring program, largely because Rhea had enjoyed tutoring through the years. The program has continued to evolve, leading into the Student Success Center which aims to help today's OBU students in a variety of subjects.

In addition to his classroom teaching, Rhea has been a long-time avid Bison and Lady Bison basketball fan. He attended all but two conference games last year. For 15 years, from 1967-82, he kept the scoreboard in Clark Craig Fieldhouse. He also follows Bison baseball and Lady Bison softball. He hopes to keep following the athletes and sports from his new home in Tulsa. He knows he will miss the campus activity – and he expects he will miss his many OBU friends even more.

"In his 43 years of dedicated service, he has never lost his passion for either his discipline or the University," Blue said.

As he enters a new phase of his life, Rhea anticipates the time he will get to spend with his grandchildren, who call him "Big Daddy." His children, Matthew Rhea and Heather Rhea Streich, '93, anticipate him helping the grandchildren with their arithmetic. That task will come easily for the mathematician who is leaving a legacy of his unbridled excitement for the world of arithmetic on Bison Hill. ♦



A Long Road to Bison Hill

JOHNARLINE HUDSON, ex '48



*F*or Johnarline Hudson, ex '48 – a self-described Methodist Democrat from Arkansas – attending OBU was never in her life plan.

An unpleasant trip to a Washington, D.C., USO by Charles Hudson – a Baptist Republican from Oklahoma – during World War II essentially changed Johnnie's life and took her on a path leading to Bison Hill.

Dr. John Wesley Raley, OBU's president from 1934-61, was a friend of the Hudson family in Coalgate. Many Oklahomans were familiar with the family business, Hudson's Big Country Store, which was a landmark for 91 years. OBU President David Whitlock purchased his first pair of boots at Hudson's when he was a boy.

Raley encouraged Charles Hudson to attend OBU and enroll in the V-12 Navy College Training Program, which was created to increase the number of commissioned officers in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Hudson left high school in his senior year to join more than 125,000 men enrolled in the program. They were spread across 131 colleges and universities during the war.

In 1942, Hudson attended training in Tennessee. He was sent to Washington, D.C., in November 1944 for temporary duty before continuing his studies at Harvard. Shortly after he arrived in the nation's capital, he visited a local United Service Organization center. The non-profit USO was created to provide recreation and morale-boosting activities for U.S. military personnel. A lifelong churchgoer, Hudson did not particularly like the

center's atmosphere, so someone suggested he visit nearby Foundry United Methodist Church.

A couple years earlier and half a country away, a young woman named Johnarline Moseley attended Hendrix College in Conway, Ark., where she ran for the Senate her freshman year. Johnnie, as her friends call her, used the Andrew Sisters' song, "Oh, Johnny! Oh, Johnny! Oh!" for her campaign. While at Hendrix, she was recruited to be a "government girl." She joined her sister Virginia, who had previously been recruited by the FBI, to work in federal offices in Washington, D.C. For two years Johnnie was part of a female wartime work force several million strong, serving with G-2 Intelligence in the Pentagon as a secretary for an Air Force colonel.

♦

“I like a Christian atmosphere, and OBU gave you that.
You felt like your classmates and professors were on the same page.”

Those were exciting days. Johnnie not only was aiding the war effort, but also she was in Washington when Roosevelt died and the when the war ended. She would stay all night in Lafayette Park, across from the White House, during such historic times.

While in D.C., the Moseley sisters visited Foundry United Methodist Church, joining in lunches, dinners and other events for servicemen and government girls. A dinner was planned for a nearby restaurant, and on the two-block trek, Johnnie caught the eye of Charles Hudson.

“Charles walked beside me on the sidewalk, and at this point he was still in bell-bottom trousers,” she said. “I wasn’t too impressed. Of course he managed to sit right by me at the dinner. We disagreed on everything at the table that Sunday.”

By the time the sisters departed for another destination, all Charles knew about the young woman was that her name was Johnnie, she was from Arkansas and she had a sister.

“A week later, he called me on the telephone in my office at the Pentagon – where 25,000 people were working,” Johnnie said. “I have no idea how he traced me down, but he was a determined guy.”

In January, Charles went to Harvard for a semester, then on to the warfront in the South Pacific. In the meantime, Charles and Johnnie corresponded, and he decided she was the girl he would marry.

“All conversations centered around OBU because he had been there and he knew Dr. Raley,” Johnnie said. “I got all the information about OBU, and I don’t know how he had access to that in the Pacific. I imagine his father was sending it to him.”

In August 1946, the couple married, attended OBU just as Charles planned and, after continuing their education at the University of Pittsburgh, they returned to Coalgate. Charles helped operate the family retail store, where they also sold insurance policies. The work merged into an independent insurance agency which Johnnie continued to operate for 23 years following Charles’ death in 1977.

Johnnie also became deeply involved in civic and church activities. She worked in the Coal County Republican party as co-chair and treasurer. She helped secure a new Coal County library. She still serves as a volunteer in the genealogy room and as secretary of the Coal County Genealogical Society. She is a charter member of the Coalgate Music Club, and a lifetime

member of the Oklahoma and National federations of music clubs, serving in all offices at the local and state levels. She has served on the board of directors of Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony in Eureka Springs, Ark., where she is a lifetime member. For 12 years she served as volunteer chair of Junior Music Festivals in Ada and Durant.

At the First Baptist Church of Coalgate, Johnnie worked for many years with students, taking them to Falls Creek each summer. She also served as a Sunday School teacher, choir member and Woman’s Missionary Union director. In education, she was appointed by the Oklahoma governor to serve as a regent for Murray State College. She has served on the OBU alumni board and is a member of the President’s Council.

Charles and Johnnie passed their affection for OBU on to their five children: John Hudson, ’70; Stephen Hudson, ’73; Candy Hudson, ex ’72; Davis Raley Hudson, named for the OBU president; and Holly Hudson Rhoades, ’86. Johnnie credits Charles with doing a good “sell job” about his beloved university and, once on campus, she gained her own appreciation for its merits.

“I like a Christian atmosphere, and OBU gave you that” she said. “You felt like your classmates and professors were on the same page.”

She grew especially close to Lenna Smock, who taught in education at OBU from 1936-56. Her warm, friendly personality impressed Johnnie, and the Hudsons made a donation toward Raley Chapel in her honor.

Johnnie also established the Charles A. Hudson Memorial Scholarship for church music majors. Sixty-five OBU students have received the scholarship, with three scholarships awarded annually. For someone who never planned to attend OBU, Johnnie grew to love Bison Hill. She wants to help others have the opportunity to discover OBU, too.

“I wanted to give back to OBU what we had all experienced there and what we felt,” she said. “I knew the students majoring in church music would always be influential people, wherever they go.

“That has been the most rewarding thing I’ve ever done – to start the scholarship and still have that connection to OBU and feel like I’m helping out somebody. It’s important to give back when you’ve had good experiences and been blessed.” ♦



NORMA PHILLIPS, '66, AND HER HUSBAND, LOREN, '65

At Home With Change

The idea of “home” serves as a common icon of security and comfort for families worldwide. For Norma Rice Phillips, the concept served as the driving force of her influential career, beginning with her time at OBU.

“Leaving home was a little scary for me, and OBU seemed to be a good fit,” said the 1966 graduate. “I went to an orientation in the summer and the students who introduced us future OBU students to the campus made it feel just like home. It ended up being exactly what I needed; a place where I could mature in a Christian atmosphere and try out new ideas.”

Phillips not only considered OBU a second home, the campus also was an environment where she could grow and be challenged in her thinking.

“What OBU did was to enable me to think for myself,” she said. “Both OBU and the era I was there challenged me not to accept blindly what was or what appeared to be. The mid-’60s was a time when civil rights and academic freedom were the issues, and they were discussed openly at OBU by students and teachers from all walks of life. Those lessons enabled me to reach for new experiences.”

Phillips left OBU with an enthusiasm for making a difference through change. She began working in Kansas as a secretary in a government setting. Though she had not planned on becoming a civil servant, Phillips started gaining knowledge in many areas and got a taste of what it was like to work in a state occupation.

"I found it interesting to move from place to place and to feel that I'd done something that benefitted a number of people, even if it was simply cutting some red tape or finding an answer for someone who needed help," she said.

As a rising agent of change, Phillips turned her attention to a specific public: low-income families. She desired for the feelings of security and comfort instigated by the idea of home to be conveyed to families through change. She began her work with the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services with the hope of seeing effective transformation in housing programs for low-income families.

Phillips saw the housing programs within the department grow to receive the HOME Investment Partnership Program, federal assistance helping provide affordable housing for low-income Americans. The program eventually became a quasi-governmental agency called the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation. Phillips took the housing organization to new heights, innovatively working with a program to make houses more energy efficient by conducting thorough energy audits for each home.

"The success of the program influenced other housing programs, leading to energy improvements in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program and the HOME programs," she said.

Phillips and colleagues in the newly formed KHRC used their experience and expertise to also help the Topeka, Kan., community by building two Habitat for Humanity houses.

"It was fulfilling just to be active in helping families actually put together their homes, but we went one better and used the two homes to compare different types of insulation and study how well they performed," she said.

Perpetually inspired by positive transformation within the state system, Phillips synthesized her own experiences. She began to combine her previous work and connections with disability groups and her ongoing work with the KHRC to improve handicap accessibility in new homes.

"Through my continued connections with disability groups, I was involved in the development of a state visitability law. It required a standard level of handicap accessibility in selected newly constructed homes which were partially or wholly funded by the state," she said.

Phillips also worked with the KHRC to develop programs that funded accessibility modifications for low-income families and homeowners. She recently began working with a national website to help list rental vacancies free-of-charge to landlords who assist specific groups seeking rental properties in the state.

"This website enables case workers to identify landlords who are willing to house targeted populations, such as ex-felons, domestic violence victims, people with disabilities, etcetera," she said.

As her inspirational work continued through the housing organization, Phillips unceasingly thought of more ways she could influence not only individuals and families, but communities as well.

"Our organization was very involved with rebuilding efforts in Greensburg, Kan., after a tornado essentially destroyed the town in 2007," she said. "We invested program dollars into building new homes and apartments, both for renters and for home buyers. I was with a group that visited Greensburg a few weeks after the tornado. I saw destruction unlike any I've seen anywhere else."

Phillips also worked with the Topeka Independent Living Resource Center and the Governor's Mental Health Services Planning Council. Over a career spanning nearly four decades, she saw a far-reaching transformation among community members who benefitted from the state's programs and services.

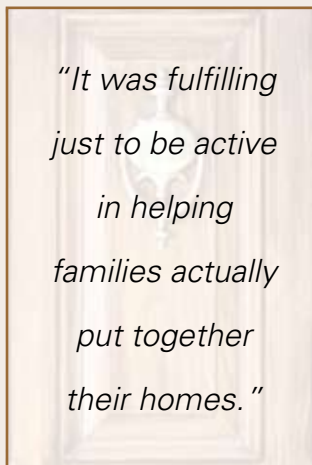
"It was gratifying to see the impact of the programs like a young family able to buy its first home with down payment assistance, an elderly couple able to live safely and more comfortably after their home was weatherized, a disabled person able to stay in her home after it was made handicap accessible, low-income families able to find affordable housing," she said. "I saw the good that tax-funded programs make happen."

Now retired, Phillips and her husband, Lorne, a 1965 OBU graduate, reside in Topeka, Kan. Reflecting on her career, she said she drew motivation from her time at OBU and the encouragement she received to embrace new experiences and ideas. She used those resources to help provide the comfort of home to people throughout Kansas.

While the OBU environment influenced Phillips, she also recalled individuals who helped to shape her career. She remembers Manoi Adair, professor emeriti of business, as someone who pushed her to become a catalyst for change.

"She gave me opportunities to do things I would never have attempted on my own, like substitute teaching a class or two," she said. "I was never cut out to be a teacher, but her confidence in me gave me the confidence to try new things."

She did not know a degree in office administration would lead to a career as a civil servant. But Phillips used the opportunity to help bring lasting change – and a sense of home – to families across Kansas. ♦





FOCUSed *on* Relationships

***John Brooks is focused
on a specific goal.***

Looking through
the lens of the next
generation, his
ambition is to
invest in college
students and the
influence they will
have in the world
around them.

JOHN BROOKS, '73

"Small classes and personal attention from professors is still a reminder to me today of the importance of being willing to consider that students are all in different situations."

The 1973 OBU graduate has helped thousands of American college students create relationships with students in 32 other countries. He is building on a concept he appreciated while on Bison Hill.

As a non-traditional student, his undergraduate experience was different than most students'. However, he said OBU helped make a place for him within the campus culture and encouraged him in his plans for the future.

"Small classes and personal attention from professors is still a reminder to me today of the importance of being willing to consider that students are all in different situations," he said.

It was not until graduate school that Brooks truly recognized his growing desire to work with students. He sharpened his focus on the influence students have in their decisions and relationships. Challenged by a mentor to start working with students, Brooks began to realize the benefits of the investment.

"He told me of the importance and relative ease of investing into the lives of university students," Brooks said. "They are future world leaders and are open and teachable, as they are already in a learning environment. They are making the decisions in their lives that will change the direction of theirs and their families' lives. If right decisions are made, they will change the direction for good in education, business, medicine, and politics."

His investment instantly reaped dividends. After completing his master's and doctoral degrees he worked with students at Wichita State University through an organization which aimed to make a difference nationally and internationally through the influence of students. Brooks shared the ambition. He capitalized on an opportunity to lead a group to Central Asia, prior to the fall of the Soviet Union.

"I was able to interact with Russian and Kazakh students in a meaningful way and saw their desire for truth," he said. "I wanted to provide the U.S. students an opportunity to make friends from other cultures and talk about truth with them."

Brooks increasingly received requests to send students overseas to interact with college students. He said the

stateside students' willingness to invest themselves in others triggered the growth of travel opportunities. Their availability also led to creation of a new vehicle for fostering international friendships.

Though he never intended to create an organization, the more Brooks traveled and met international students, he kept thinking of ways to facilitate cross cultural experiences for U.S. students. In 1995 he established Friends of College and University Students (FOCUS) International to help recruit, train and send students overseas for short-term projects.

"Most students that our students have gotten to know love their country and are eager to be gracious hosts to American students," he said. "Most of these same students are also fascinated with American culture as seen through the eyes of their peers and are eager to make American friends."

His desire to create opportunities for students to make a difference internationally became infectious. The FOCUS students developed an appreciation for the cultures they were experiencing worldwide and began to better understand what international students encounter in America. That made them more willing to invest time with the organization.

"Most of these students now have deep friendships with people from their host country and a greater heart for international students in the States," he said.

Brooks and his wife, Peggy, are driven by the cultural opportunities they can create for students. They now work with six FOCUS staff members to facilitate new global experiences. The effort also is a Brooks family enterprise, as their children, David and Candace, ex '94, have volunteered with FOCUS since its inception.

"My heart's desire is that we would be able to help facilitate these same kinds of relationships between students from all nations of the world," Brooks said.

FOCUS has placed more than 2,200 American students worldwide for short-term projects. The organization works with hundreds of volunteers and more than 25 colleges and universities nationwide. Brooks has fine-tuned his focus, while he continues to broaden his field of view. ♦

Grads Challenged In Word, Celebrated In Song

Encouraged to continue learning and entertained by a professor's original musical composition, 254 OBU graduates received their diplomas during the University's Spring Commencement May 23 in Raley Chapel.

An overflow audience of more than 1,800 people attended the formal graduation ceremonies. Dr. Bradley D. Jett, '88, OBU's Hurley professor of biology, delivered the Commencement address, closing with a song for the graduates.

Speaking on "how Christian discipleship is like being an OBU student," Jett pointed out a collection of similarities ranging from comical to life-altering.

He quipped that many students, like Jesus' disciples, "wear flip-flops and rarely do laundry" and also noted that neither Jesus nor his disciples used Facebook. But he also stressed the challenges both disciples and college students face.

"Like being a good disciple, being a good OBU student is hard," Jett said. "Is it easy to be an effective disciple? No. ... [Jesus said] discipleship is hard. It's supposed to be hard. Being hard is what makes it great."

"Taking the easy way in your walk with God is a good way to destroy your discipleship," he said. "Likewise, taking the easy way is a good way to destroy a good mind and a good education."

Jett explained that the only question he did not want from students was, "What's going to be on the test?"

"At OBU, we did not want you to be satisfied with the superficial answers that would simply get you by," he asserted.

He said OBU students had to be willing to "step outside of their comfort zones," like Jesus' original disciples, who were "home-grown to the extreme."

In both cases, the individuals were challenged to move beyond their own self-imposed limitations.

"How will you engage [a] diverse world if you are only willing to live in your own?" he asked. "OBU students, like disciples, have to be risk-takers, and if you didn't want to be challenged, you probably should have stayed home in bed."

Jett also told the graduates they needed to continue asking questions.

"I've adopted a classroom credo which was passed on to me by one of my former OBU professors and it says, 'I judge students' intelligence not by the answers that they can give, but by the questions that they can ask.'" Jett said.

"I've also noticed that Jesus' disciples and OBU students, alike, had their preconceptions challenged," he said. "Recall Jesus' numerous lessons with his followers where he said, 'You have heard it said ... but I say.' He was introducing to them a whole new way of thinking."

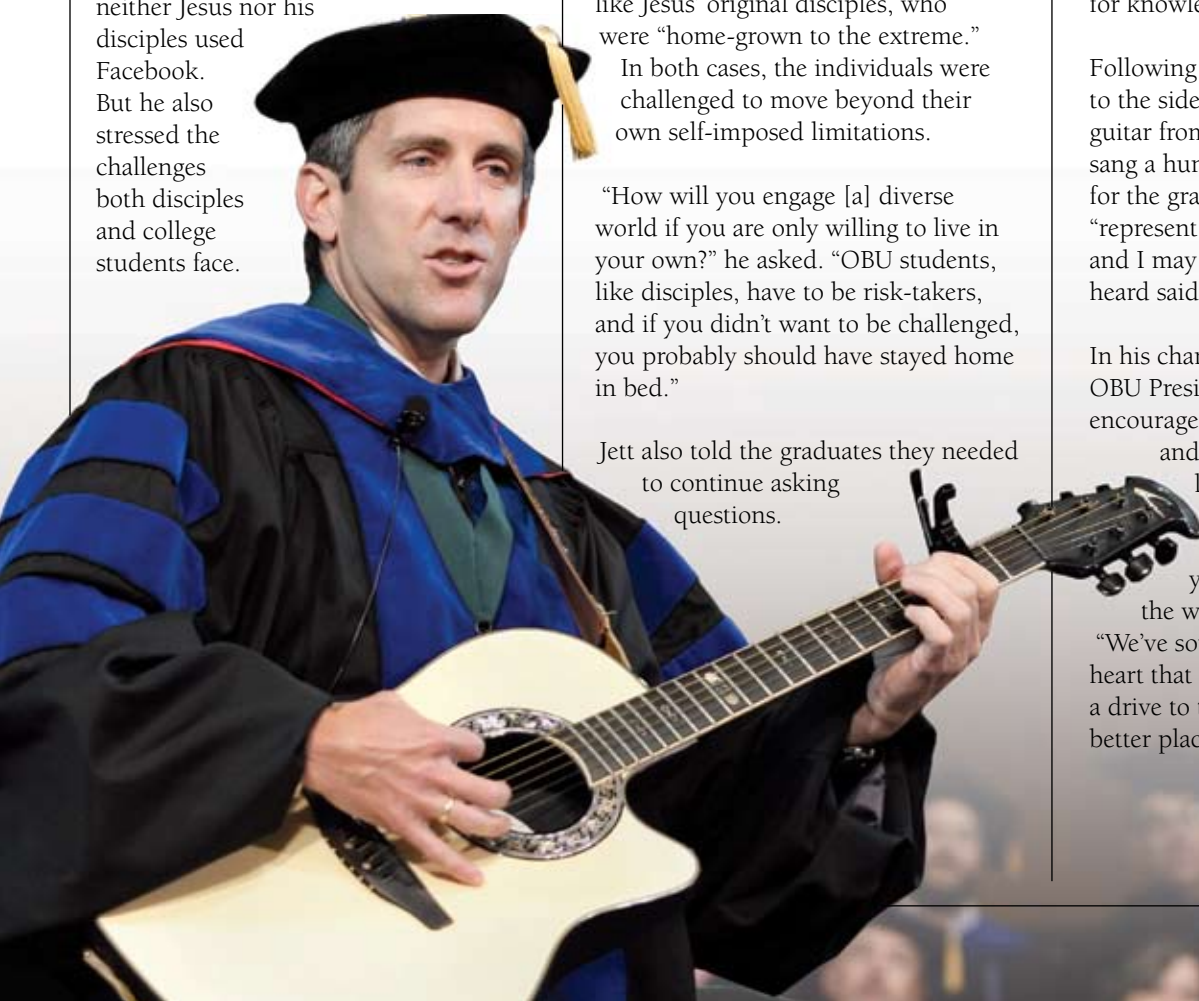
"Remember, OBU graduates, it doesn't matter what you were; it matters what you've become," he said.

"You are only just beginning a great journey. We have tried to nurture a passion for learning within each of you," Jett said. "Don't quell your thirst for knowledge."

Following his remarks, Jett moved to the side of the podium, took a guitar from a faculty colleague, and sang a humorous song he wrote for the graduates, noting the words "represent some of the things that you and I may have either said or have heard said during the last four years."

In his charge to the graduates, OBU President David Whitlock encouraged them to celebrate the day and consider what they have learned.

"We sought to instill in you an honest awareness of the world around you," he said. "We've sought to impart to you a heart that cares, a spirit to serve, and a drive to transform your world into a better place."





The 2009 Award recipients, from left, are Myers, Humphrey and Vernon.

Three Faculty Receive Top OBU Awards

A student of history, Dr. Carol Humphrey had her name etched into OBU's history of top award winners when she received the University's Distinguished Teaching Award in May. The honor was one of three presented during Spring Commencement.

The highest honor for OBU faculty members, the Distinguished Teaching Award is presented annually to a professor who has "distinguished herself in the teaching profession over a period of several years as acknowledged by former students, peers and current students."

Humphrey joined the OBU faculty in 1985 as an assistant professor of history. She was promoted to associate professor in 1992 and gained the rank of professor in 1998.

As he presented the award, OBU President David Whitlock read a portion of an award nomination letter from one of Humphrey's colleagues.

"This recipient exemplifies the commitment to learning and scholarship that makes OBU a quality institution," the colleague wrote. "Her deep and authentic care for students shows in all that she does."

Dr. Benjamin Myers, associate professor of English, received the Promising Teacher Award, presented annually to a faculty member who has taught at the University for less than five years and "shows great promise as a teacher." Myers joined the OBU faculty in 2005.

In presenting the honor, Dr. Whitlock said "numerous colleagues have commented on how quickly he adapted to OBU's culture and embraced our mission of integrating faith and discipline."

Dr. James Vernon, associate professor of music, received the Meritorious Service Award, which honors a faculty or staff member who has "distinguished himself in service to the University as acknowledged by former students, current students, peers, and other University friends."

Vernon joined OBU's faculty in 1990. He has filled various faculty leadership roles during his tenure. Additionally, he founded OBU's Bison Bicycle Classic, which began in 2001.

Whitlock cited remarks from a colleague who nominated Vernon, saying "his godly example and enthusiasm for service to others are life lessons for those around him which go far beyond the classroom."

Vernon is the first OBU faculty member to receive all three of the University's major honors. He received the Promising Teacher Award in 1994 and the Distinguished Teaching Award in 2005.

Prof Tapped To Head New BEA Media Journal

When the Broadcast Education Association rolls out its new Journal of Media Education, the publication will have strong ties to OBU.



Byland

Dr. David Byland, associate professor of communication arts, has been selected as the founding editor of the new journal for the national association.

The journal is an editor-reviewed publication and will be the first fully interactive international journal focusing on pedagogical issues in media education. Available online to members of the Broadcast Education Association, the Journal of Media Education (JoME) will integrate text, audio, video and other interactive media into a downloadable PDF document. JoME will focus on all areas of media education including graphic arts, broadcasting, radio, television, film, music industry education, special effects and more.

The Broadcast Education Association is the professional association for professors, industry professionals and graduate students who are interested in teaching and research related to electronic media and multimedia enterprises. Byland, who joined the OBU faculty in 1992, previously served the association as a board member and in 2006 was elected president of the board of directors.

Students Earn Delegation Honors At MAL Simulation

A six-member team of OBU students brought home delegation honors from the Southwest Regional Model Arab League simulation in late spring. The students competed against 10 other Model Arab League programs in the simulation at the University of North Texas in Denton.

The OBU group represented Iraq during the 2009 competition. OBU students have participated in the simulation for 20 years.

Two students received recognition for outstanding delegation in their committees. Sean Brown, a senior political science major from Houston, Texas, and Rebekah Dillinger, a senior political science major from Buffalo, Wyo., received honors in Palestinian affairs and social affairs, respectively. Joel Hicks, a sophomore from Webber Falls, Okla., received honorable mention recognition for his delegation on political affairs.

The Model Arab League is a leadership program designed to help students learn to think quickly as they pose as Arab diplomats struggling through the world's problems and trying to reach a policy consensus. Students receive a drafted agenda which becomes the basis of their research for a two-page policy statement. The statements are discussed with their fellow committee members. Model Arab League is part of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations.

Students began preparing for the simulation in February and continued to meet once a week to review information about the region, as well as prepare draft resolutions for the various committees.

OBU Professor Emerita, Alum Receive Lifetime Ministry Awards

Two prominent figures in Baptist music ministry, who share strong ties to OBU, were honored at the Baptist Church Music Conference in June.

Betty Woodward, OBU professor emerita of music, and Dr. Bob Woolley, a 1949 OBU graduate, received Lifetime Ministry Awards from the organization. The awards recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to church music throughout their careers.

Woodward served as associate professor of music at OBU from 1966-94. For most of her career she served alongside her husband, Dr. James D. Woodward. He was dean of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts from 1973-86, then served as OBU's artist-in-residence until his death in 1991.

Woodward taught church music, music education and theory. She also directed the Shawnee Honor Choir. She is a nationally recognized children's choir clinician, serving in that capacity in 21 states. She also coordinated the children's music program for Crystal Cathedral from 1982-84.

Woolley is retired music director for the Missouri Baptist Convention. While at OBU, Woolley served as part-time music director at Shawnee's Wallace Avenue Baptist Church. He later served as minister of music at the First Baptist Church of Bristow, the First Baptist Church of Duncan, and several other Oklahoma Baptist churches. In 1967, he moved to Missouri to serve at Raytown First Baptist Church. In 1972 he became director of Missouri Baptist's church music department, where he served for more than 20 years. He was a charter member of the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma and the first director of the Missouri Music Men.

Harris Tabbed To Head Graduate Programs

Dr. Scott Harris has been named director of the OBU's International Graduate School, which offers graduate degrees in business administration and nursing education from an Oklahoma City-based campus.

Harris earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Oklahoma; a master's degree in theology from Dallas Theological Seminary; and a Ph.D. degree from the University of North Texas.



He has served in administrative and leadership roles in education and ministry organizations for most of his career. He moved to OBU from Plano Christian Academy, where he served as headmaster from 2004-08. He also was the academy's upper school instructor for one year. He served as minister of education at Northlake Baptist Church in Garland, Texas; in small group leadership with Dallas Theological Seminary's Center for Leadership; as director of Campus Crusade for Christ at Louisiana Tech University; and as a Campus Crusade staff member at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Dr. Harris' experiences, coupled with his doctor of philosophy degree in higher education, have uniquely and suitably prepared him to serve as director of our International Graduate School," said OBU Provost Stan Norman.

Business Students' Success No Simulation

Competing against students from colleges across the nation, a team of OBU business students placed in the 91st percentile in the 2009 Capsim Management Simulations competition.

Approximately 2,400 student teams participated in the online simulation experience, which is offered throughout the academic year. Three OBU student teams participated, and all three placed above the 50th percentile at the end of the competition. OBU's "Andrews" team placed in the 91st percentile in the first round of competition, marking the highest-ever placement for any OBU team.

Over the course of the competition, two OBU teams scored at or above the

80th percentile for individual rounds, and OBU teams had a record five times when at least one team was at or above the 80th percentile.

"All three OBU teams have set the bar high for future teams," said Dr. Keith Harman, OBU professor of business. The students participated in the Capsim competition as part of Harman's management business policy course.

"Through the competition, they take a product, design, market and sell it," Harman said. "It gives them a real taste of running a business."

The Capsim includes eight competitive rounds, where students log into the

online simulation Web site, enter their results, and see how they compare to other student teams in the nation.

"Through this, the students get two dynamics," Harman said. "There is teamwork that has to occur. Also, they work under pressure of meeting deadlines, being profitable and getting market share. It's as close as we can get them to running a business."

According to the Capsim Web site, the group is "the largest provider of business simulations and business games." The site claims students "learn more and remember more when they are involved by a simulation, rather than just reading a text book or hearing a lecture."

OBU Again Honored As 'Best In The West'

OBU has again been 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."

"We chose Oklahoma Baptist University and the other terrific schools we recommend as our 'regional best' colleges primarily for their excellent academic programs," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review's vice president for publishing. "We choose the schools based on institutional data we collect from several hundred schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of independent and high school-based college advisors whose recommendations we invite. We also take into account what each school's customers – their students – report to us about their campus experiences on our 80-question student survey."

OBU has been included in the "Best in the West" listings for five consecutive years.

The Princeton Review survey for the 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 campus life.

"OBU is pleased to once again be recognized by The Princeton Review for our commitment to excellence in academics and campus life," said OBU President David W. Whitlock. "We're especially pleased the ratings reflect the opinions of OBU students and independent college advisors. As we near the centennial celebration for our university, we look forward to even greater days ahead on Bison Hill."

According to princetonreview.com, production of the regional designation feature "is fueled by a desire to raise awareness of academically excellent

but lesser-known colleges for students looking to study within a specific geographic area."

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.

The Princeton Review designated 218 colleges in the Northeast, 141 in the Southeast, and 158 in the Midwest as best in their locales. The 640 selected colleges represent about 25 percent of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges.

Information on The Princeton Review's "Best Colleges: Region by Region" can be found at <http://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings.aspx>.

The Princeton Review is known for its tutoring and classroom test preparation courses, books, and college and graduate school admission services.

TIMELESS

TRADITIONS

tomorrow's treasures

Homecoming To Offer Centennial Celebrations

OBU's 2009 Homecoming will be the first of two annual alumni events which are tied to the University's Centennial. The event kicks off on Friday, Nov. 13, with a reunion reception, and concludes Saturday evening, Nov. 14, with the annual Harvest Festival. In between, award presentations, Homecoming Chapel, class reunion luncheons and a dinner honoring retired faculty and staff will highlight the weekend.

Emeriti and retired faculty and staff will be guests of honor at a dinner in the Geiger Center Saturday evening at 6 p.m. The dinner will feature a pictorial presentation from John W. Parrish featuring images from OBU's history, a tribute to the retired personnel, and images of current OBU personnel who have been at the University for at least two decades. OBU President David Whitlock also will speak during the program. A reception will follow the event, giving alumni the opportunity to visit with their former professors.

One of OBU's oldest buildings, WMU Memorial Dormitory, will be open to visitors on Friday and Saturday afternoons. The women's residence center, which opened in 1928, was renovated during the 2008-09 academic year and reopened in August. Alumni and friends can tour the updated facility which used to house a swimming pool and was the home to hundreds of U.S. Army Air Corps cadets during World War II.

On Friday evening, six alumni will be honored during Harvest Dinner in the Geiger Center. The program will feature a new awards format, including audio-visual presentations about each honoree, followed by remarks from the award recipients. Alumni Achievement Award recipients are R. Allen Eaker, '68, a retired financial planner from Scottsdale, Ariz.; and Jimmy B. Hodges, '61, a full-time evangelist from Oklahoma City. Dr. Jadee Neff Upshaw, '00, a medical student at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., will receive the Graduate Of the Last Decade (GOLD) Alum of the Year Award. Three former student-athletes will be inducted into the OBU Athletic Hall

of Fame. They are Ford Mastin, '77, a track athlete at OBU who currently is the University's head track and field and cross country coach; Destini Anderson, '01, a softball standout who is softball coach at East Central University; and Jadrea Seeley, '04, former NAIA women's basketball player of the year, who teaches in the Mid-Del Public Schools.

Following the Harvest Dinner, OBU Theatre will present Dr. William Mitchell's original work, *A Cloud of Witnesses*. The play, which premiered on the campus in December 1999, has been updated for the University's Centennial. The work paints a picture of the trials, tribulations, challenges, and successes of the University seen through the eyes of OBU's former presidents as they share their experiences and viewpoints with OBU President David Whitlock.

A late-night ice cream fellowship in the Geiger Center will conclude Friday's schedule of events. At 10:30 p.m., OBU's Social Club Council will host a Homecoming bonfire on the lawn between Sarkeys and Jent Alumni Center.

During the Saturday morning Homecoming Chapel, recipients of the Profile In Excellence Award will be recognized. Recipients are Dr. Robert Barnard, '58; John Brooks, '73; Duane Diffie, '74; Sylvia Howard Fletcher, '69; Randy Horn, '69; Johnarline Moseley Hudson, ex '48; Richard Huggins, '69; Dr. D. Allan Karr, '85; Linda Dorsey Merkey, '78; Norma Rice Phillips, '66; and Sharon Shahan Souter, '76. The Homecoming Chapel message will be brought by Dr. Doug Melton, '83, with worship led by Kelly Anderson, '84. A reception honoring Profile In Excellence Award recipients will follow in the Helen Thames Raley Parlor.

During the Saturday afternoon Homecoming basketball games, alumni are invited to participate in a reunion fellowship in the Mabee Suite overlooking the basketball arena. The reception is designed to offer a relaxed setting for visiting with friends and enjoying refreshments.

For more information or to order Homecoming event tickets, visit okbu.edu/alumni.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, November 12

6:30 p.m. National Board of Development Banquet

Friday, November 13

7:15 a.m. National Board of Development Meeting

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Homecoming Registration

10 a.m. 50-Year Club Reunion and Anniversary
Reunions of Classes of 1934 (75), 1939 (70),
1944 (65), 1949 (60), 1954 (55), and 1959 (50)

10:30 a.m. Registration for Golf Tournament
Driving range opens

11 a.m. 50-Year Club Luncheon honoring the
Classes of 1934, 1939, and 1944
Class of 1949 60th Anniversary Reunion Luncheon
Class of 1954 55th Anniversary Reunion Luncheon
Class of 1959 Golden Anniversary Reunion Luncheon

Noon Homecoming Golf Tournament Tee-off

12:15 p.m. National Board of Development Luncheon

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

1:30-3:30 p.m. REUNION FELLOWSHIP
50-year Club reunion classes and friends are
invited to continue their fellowship time in the
Laura Scales Cafeteria, Geiger Center, Upper
Level. Refreshments provided.

2-3 p.m. WMU Memorial Dormitory Open House

2-4 p.m. Book Signing with R.D. Roberts
Library Student Workers and Staff Reunion

2-4:30 p.m. OBU Archives Open House

6-8 p.m. Harvest Dinner
Recognition of 2009 Harvest Court
Presentation of Alumni Achievement Awards
GOLD Alum of the Year Presentation
Induction of Athletic Hall of Fame Members

8:30 p.m. A Cloud of Witnesses

10 p.m. ALUMNI REUNION RECEPTION
All alumni invited. Honoring the 50-Year Club and
the reunioning classes of 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974,
1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004
Book Signing with John W. Parrish
Book Signing with R.D. Roberts
Book Signing with Dr. William Mitchell
Live at the Black Box (Bison Jazz Orchestra)

10:30 p.m. Homecoming Bonfire
Sponsored by the Social Club Council

Saturday, November 14

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Homecoming Registration

8 a.m. Omicron Delta Kappa Reunion

8:30 a.m. Alumni Association Board of Directors Breakfast
Student Nurses Association Reunion

9 a.m. Cousins Reunion
University Chorale Reunion

10 a.m. Cheerleaders Reunion

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

10:30 a.m. Legends Basketball Game for Alumni Men

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Children's Festival
Childcare: birth through four years

11 a.m. Reception for
Alumni Profile in Excellence Award Recipients
1989 Bison Baseball Team Reunion
Alpha Gamma Tau Reception
Bison Glee Club Reunion
Bisonette Reunion
Bison Jazz Orchestra Reunion
College Players Reunion
Phi Omega Sigma Reunion
Sigma Alpha Iota Reunion
Theta Sigma Chi Reunion

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Book Signing with John W. Parrish

Book Signing with Dr. William Mitchell

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

REUNION LUNCHEONS

11:45 a.m. Classes of 1964, 1969, 1974

Noon Classes of 1979, 1984, 1989

12:15 p.m. Class of 1994, 1999, 2004

1:30-2:30 p.m. Omega Chi Delta Reunion

1:30-5:30 p.m. Homecoming Basketball Doubleheader
Kappa Kappa Phi Reunion

2-3 p.m. WMU Memorial Dormitory Open House

2-4 p.m. **REUNION FELLOWSHIPS***

Alumni are invited to visit and peruse through
yearbooks from their era in the Noble Complex's
comfortable Mabey Suite while watching the
basketball games.

2:30-4 p.m. Volleyball Reunion

5:30 p.m. (immediately following the basketball games)
Student Government Association Reunion

6 p.m. Dinner Honoring Emeriti and Retired Faculty,
Administrators and Staff

8:30 p.m. Harvest Festival

ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



A MELODY OF HOPE

Louima Lilite can carry a tune. Each summer, he carries it all the way back to his homeland.

Dr. Lilite spends a couple of weeks every summer teaching music appreciation to Haitian students at the North Haiti Music Camp.

While it is a relatively long journey for the OBU associate professor of music, the return home offers an opportunity to give back to a camp which made his own future in music possible.

Lilite grew up in Haiti. His parents served as Christian missionaries in the remote Haitian village of Wasenbeck. At the North Haiti Music Camp, Lilite's passion for music grew. This summer, he helped others discover more about music during the camp, conducted July 15-28. It was Lilite's 11th year to volunteer.

"Ms. Laurel Casséus, a native of Haiti, founded North Haiti Music Camp in 1977, with the vision to train Haitian choral directors to become more effective leaders and musicians in their local churches," Lilite said. "Between 1985 and 1991, the camp grew to such proportions that there was a strong band program, a children's choir, two adult choirs, a good string program, several advanced piano students, and much more."

The camp is designed for those who do not have sufficient funds to pay for music lessons, yet have a passion to express themselves in song. Lilite experienced his first formal lesson at the camp when he was child. It is a completely volunteer-based organization seeking "to empower individuals to use music to reach out to others with the love of Jesus, and to equip leaders to bring about positive change in their communities, their churches and their own lives," Lilite said.

The mission of the North Haiti Music Camp clearly is being fulfilled, as confirmed through the lives of students who have attended the camp.

"Alumni of the camp have gone on to become pastors, doctors, musicians, educators and other professionals who have impacted thousands of individuals in their respective fields," Lilite said. "It continues to transform the lives of passers-by who stand mesmerized as beautiful sounds from the camp choirs, the band and selected soloists erupt in the afternoon sky in the town of Limbé."

One of the main focuses for North Haiti Music Camp is to educate the Haitian people, because those who are educated have a greater influence in the community, according to Lilite. With music being a central part of Haiti's culture, people with knowledge of music have the ability to bring about change in a Christ-centered manner, bolstered by the instruction they received during camp.

"It is with the belief that literacy and Christ-centered training can bring about change – and release people from the bondage of poverty and a life without Christ – that the leadership of the camp continues tirelessly in this outreach" Lilite said. "Through music, the Haitian people retain a vital link to a remarkable history and a proud national identity."

To maintain the ministry, the camp partners with the Haiti Hope fund, started by former missionary Ivah Heneise. The fund was established to help those in underdeveloped countries receive education through Christ-centered instruction. North Haiti Music Camp uses the funds to supply scholarships to students as well as to maintain the facilities at the camp. ♦

Let the Celebration Begin!

OBU's Centennial Celebration *is now under way!*

Plan to be a part of the festivities.



From 1917-28 the campus dining room was in the basement of the original Montgomery Hall. A formal waitstaff served meals to students and faculty who dressed for the occasion.



Singing Churchwomen of Oklahoma Concert
October 20, 2009

Homecoming Centennial Kick-off
November 13-14, 2009

First Centennial Hanging of the Green
December 5, 2009

Centennial Founders' Day
February 10, 2010
Convocation at 10 a.m.
Centennial Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.