

WINTER 2009

# OBU

**magazine**

[www.okbu.edu](http://www.okbu.edu)

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



**Funny Man.  
Focused Man.**

**A Proud Heritage 6**

**Cultivating An Idea Virus 12**

**Agent of Freedom 14**

Life has been a whirlwind since our family arrived on Bison Hill in late October. I am humbled by the privilege of serving as OBU's 15th president, and thankful to stand on the shoulders of visionary leaders who have nurtured our University since 1910. My passion is to effectively integrate academic study with a vibrant faith. Our mission is to transform lives by preparing 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. Our mission is evident in the words and prayers of our founders and OBU remains committed to carrying forward that mission into the future.



Visiting with members of the OBU family on campus, in Shawnee, across our state and around the country, I am impressed with their shared sense of who we are and what we are about as a distinctively Christian university. My vision for the University is that our work be characterized by a love of God and a love of learning. OBU is a university committed not only to excellent academics but also to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. This ties well with our historic liberal arts commitment on Bison Hill. The liberal arts are essential because they are foundational to true learning and quality living. They emphasize service to and edification of others.

As we move forward together, OBU will continue to be known for its commitment to academic scholarship and Christian worldview, for its vibrant spiritual life, and for its nationally recognized faculty scholars and successful alumni. As a community of scholars, OBU demonstrates how the highest academic standards are consistent with the noble calling God places on His children, and how faith not only informs but also redeems and transforms culture, economics, sciences, arts, and professions.

OBU is strong. Our enrollment is growing. Our campus is beautiful. Our faculty is strong. Our vision is clear. As we build on our strengths, we invite your input as members of our extended University family. We have no desire to rest on past accomplishments or maintain the status quo, regardless of how good that status is today. We have been entrusted with the opportunity to develop transformative servant leaders who will change the world. That is a great challenge and an incredible opportunity. I look forward to working with you as we fulfill our mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David W. Whitlock". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "D" and "W".

David W. Whitlock  
*OBU President*



# OBU

magazine

## OBU MAGAZINE STAFF

WINTER 2009 | Vol. 5 • No. 2

### Editor

Marty O'Gwynn

### Writers

Andrew Adams, Julie McGowan,  
Marty O'Gwynn, John Parrish,  
Kristi Zevenbergen

### Creative Services

Chele Marker

### Photographer

William Pope

### View OBU Magazine Online

[www.okbu.edu/obumagazine](http://www.okbu.edu/obumagazine)

### Contact OBU Magazine

[obumagazine@okbu.edu](mailto:obumagazine@okbu.edu)  
405.878.2111

## UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

### President

David W. Whitlock

### Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Deborah Blue

### Senior Vice President for Business Affairs

Randy 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

OBU Magazine is published quarterly by the Public Relations Office, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma. It is mailed to nearly 40,000 alumni, parents and friends of OBU throughout the country and world. To change your mailing address send an email to [update@okbu.edu](mailto:update@okbu.edu); write OBU Magazine, OBU Box 61275, 500 West University, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804; or call 405.878.2706.

In compliance with federal law, including the provision of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Oklahoma Baptist University does not illegally discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in its administration of educational policies, programs, or activities, its admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic or other university administered programs; or employment.

## Features

### 2 **Funny Man. Focused Man.**

David W. Whitlock became OBU's 15th president on Nov. 1. The Oklahoma native is a veteran educator with a keen sense of humor, but he isn't jesting about his vision for OBU's future.

### 6 **A Proud Heritage**

With 17 varsity sports, and three national championships in recent years, the OBU athletic program is a respected power in the NAIA. Today's success grew out of a heritage established over the University's first 50 years.

## Departments

### 10 **Profiles in Excellence**

A nurse with a heart for missions, an educator who is cultivating multi-cultural relationships, and a man who provides mobility for those who cannot walk are three recent award honorees.

### 16 **Campus Life**

Winter Commencement and a regional honor for OBU Theatre are two recent campus highlights.

### 20 **Homecoming in Review**

Dramatic presentations, musical celebrations, basketball victories, and award presentations were among the enduring memories of Homecoming 2008.

### 22 **Alumni Notes**

Read the latest updates from OBU alumni.





*Whitlock “has a devotion to Christ, a commitment to and understanding of academic excellence, and considerable personal warmth and genuineness that will serve OBU well.”*

DAVID and DANA WHITLOCK

# Funny Man. Focused Man.

*OBU President David Wesley Whitlock  
takes the helm with a passion for people and a vision for the future.*

---

*by Marty O'Gwynn*

When David Whitlock met the woman who would become his wife, he was wearing an overcoat. Already a college faculty member, he also was becoming a special project for friends seeking to find him a female companion. One friend called Whitlock's office and told him she was bringing over a friend who had come to visit the Southeastern Oklahoma State University campus in Durant. He kindly pointed out that he was wearing brown – perhaps not his most flattering fashion color – and he probably did not have enough spare time to meet the lady. The friend was undeterred.

Anticipating the meeting, Whitlock told his secretary he was putting on an overcoat. If he did not want to spend time visiting with his friend's friend, he would simply excuse himself and head out of the building. Minutes later, the two ladies arrived, and the bachelor professor met Dana Searles for the first time. The women immediately noted his coat and apologized for catching him on the way out the door.

"Oh, I'm not going anywhere," David said.

His answer was correct at that moment, but his life has been in constant motion ever since.

Humor and adaptability come easy for Whitlock. The latter can aid development of the former. A fifth-generation Oklahoman, he had the opportunity to live in several communities while growing up. Finding the humor and light-hearted aspects in new situations helped ease transitions. It is a skill which has served him well in the early days of his tenure as Oklahoma Baptist University's 15th president.

When he officially took office on Nov. 1, 2008, Whitlock brought with him 24 years of experience as a college educator and administrator. After 14 years on the faculty at a regional state university, he spent nine years at Southwest Baptist University. In recent years, his administrative responsibilities were steadily increasing. Looking back, he sees a path of preparation for his current job. He can trace the start of the journey back to his first visit to Bison Hill in 1993. Touring OBU's new Bailey Business Center just before it opened

more than 15 years ago, Whitlock was impressed with the University's focus as a Christian liberal arts institution. Returning home to Durant that night, he told Dana he believed God was calling him to OBU. He was focused, but he had no clue as to the timetable for that call.

It took a long time for that calling to become apparent to decision-makers at OBU, but now that he has been entrusted with leading the 99-year-old institution, Whitlock is not wasting time making his focus and passion apparent to the University's constituents. He is working to convey his vision for the University known for faith integration and academic excellence, surging forward to fulfill its commitment to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

Although he will often couch statements in humor, his message is clear. He sees OBU building on historic strengths while seeking ways to expand its influence through initiatives to bolster academic achievement and through globalization of the curriculum. He acts with the personal fervor of a man who sees fresh opportunity to use gifts and talents he recently learned to appreciate. To a degree, that is an accurate depiction of his personal experience.

Whitlock graduated from Wayne High School, and opted to pursue a chemistry degree at SEOSU. His extended family has long-standing Baptist connections, and his great-grandfather and grandfather were both Baptist ministers. It was easy for him to form friendships with students active in the Baptist Student Union at SEOSU, but he did not make a decision to accept Christ as his personal Savior until after he and Dana were married. Becoming a Christian "later in life," as he describes his conversion, gave Whitlock a passion to make sure others did not need to wait so long to find that joy in life's journey.

Already on a career path in higher education, he sensed God calling him to expand his work without abandoning that core profession. He became a bivocational pastor in 1993, called by Hendrix Baptist Church in a small community south of Durant. He was co-pastor of Wellspring Baptist Fellowship in





**Students, faculty and staff – some sporting “Dave’s My Fave” T-shirts with a likeness of the president’s face – turned out on the morning of Nov. 3 to welcome Whitlock on his first official day in his Thurmond Hall office.**

Bolivar from 1999 until his move to OBU in the fall of 2008. One of his pastorates nearly altered his academic career path. While pastor of Silo Baptist Church in a small town northwest of Durant, he was offered a dean’s post at Southwest Baptist University. But at the time, the church was in the midst of a building program, and he felt he was unable to leave the congregation. A year later, with the building project nearing completion, he was invited to reconsider the SBU position, which the university had left unfilled over that span. The coincidental timing was not a coincidence in Whitlock’s view.

The pastoral experience, coupled with his academic background, gives him a leadership style which seems somewhat laid back, but can quickly cut to the heart of instructional issues or academic delivery models.

His personal style appealed to members of the presidential search committee. Dr. William Hagan, faculty representative on the committee, said Whitlock “has a devotion to Christ, a commitment to and understanding of academic excellence, and considerable personal warmth and genuineness that will serve OBU well.”

Whitlock hopes to be a servant-leader who can follow a philosophy of higher education leadership which he traces to

mentors including OBU President Emeritus Bob R. Agee; SBU President C. Pat Taylor, who was OBU’s chief academic officer for 10 years; and Dr. C. Henry Gold, a long-time administrator at SEOSU. An avid reader, Whitlock says his views have been informed by noted evangelical academicians, including Arthur Holmes, George Marsden, Michael Beatty and David Dockery.

Just two months before Whitlock was elected as OBU’s president, the University received word that it had successfully completed a comprehensive review process for “continued accreditation” by its regional accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. As a veteran consultant-evaluator for the HLC, Whitlock knows the rigors of the self-review process, and he understands the affirmation that comes with the successful review. He sees that achievement as a good base for continued review and assessment, as University personnel work to implement an overarching vision and continually enhance the relevance and effectiveness of academic and campus life programs.

On one hand, he is leading with strong academic preparation. He completed an M.B.A. degree from SEOSU in 1985, and finished a Ph.D. degree in educational leadership 10 years later. He knows higher education models for both public and

private institutions. He has written or edited books on business. He has been an academic dean, an associate provost, a strategic planning specialist, and the director of graduate, off-campus and adult education programs. He knows what academic success looks like.

On the other hand, he is leading with a strong sense of God's call on his life. He knows what it feels like to have your life redirected by a commitment to Christ. He has been a pastor, a mission team leader, and a local ministry volunteer. He is the father of four sons, including one who is on active service in the U.S. Navy and another who is a college student.

Integration of his faith and his academic profession is not difficult for Whitlock. He knows it has been a working model for OBU throughout the University's history. David Wesley Whitlock appreciates the history, which is evident in his delight at sharing the middle name of OBU's longest-tenured president, Dr. John Wesley Raley. He is delighted to be in the middle of the effort to carry on the OBU legacy of academic excellence and commitment to a Baptist heritage.

When he was first introduced to his wife, he had plans for a hasty escape. But things worked out better than he could have imagined. When he came to OBU, it was the culmination of a 15-year plan he sensed God had for him. He has taken off the overcoat and anticipates a long, focused relationship with the University.

## Inauguration Slated For May 1

OBU will inaugurate President David W. Whitlock at 10 a.m. May 1 in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium. Dr. Bob R. Agee, OBU president emeritus, will present the inaugural address.

An inaugural worship service is planned for Thursday, April 30, at 7 p.m. in Potter Auditorium.

The public is invited to attend the worship service and inauguration.

# David Wesley Whitlock

Born March 29, 1962, in Purcell. Fifth-generation Oklahoman.

## Education

Graduated from Wayne High School, 1980.  
B.S., Chemistry, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, 1984.  
M.B.A., Southeastern Oklahoma State University, 1985.  
Ph.D., Educational Leadership and Policy Studies,  
University of Oklahoma, 1995.

## Higher Education Posts

Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.  
| Associate Provost, 2006-08.  
| Dean, Adult and Off-Campus Programs, 2007-08.  
| Assistant to the President for Strategic Planning, 2001-06.  
| Dean, College of Business and Computer Science, 1999-2008.  
| Professor of Business Administration, 2002-08.

Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, Okla.  
| Chair, Business Information Management, 1995-99.  
| Interim Chair, Management and Marketing, 1992-94.  
| Director, Small Business Initiative, 1990-97.  
| Associate Professor of Business, 1996-99.  
| Assistant Professor of Business, 1991-96.  
| Instructor of Business, 1985-91.

## Ministry Experience

Co-pastor, Wellspring Baptist Fellowship, Bolivar, Mo., 1999-2008.  
Pastor, Silo Baptist Church, Silo, Okla., 1996-99.  
Pastor, Hendrix Baptist Church, Hendrix, Okla., 1993-94.

## Professional Memberships

International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education  
Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs  
American Society of Training and Development  
Christian Business Faculty Association

## International Education/Missions Work

United Arab Emirates  
China  
Russia

## Publications

Author, *Opportunity: Introducing Free Enterprise and Business*  
Co-author, *A Noble Calling: Devotions and Essays for Business Professionals*  
Co-author, *Psalm 15: Integrating Life and Work*  
Co-author, *Solomon Was a Businessman: Advice from the Wealthiest Man on Earth*  
Contributing writer for numerous works.

## Family

Married to the former Dana Searles (1987).  
Four sons: Joshua Christian, 21; Ryan Wesley, 19; David Searles, 17;  
and Landon Allen, 12.





OBU's colors are green and gold because of the wild golden coreopsis which grew on Bison Hill. A historian noted, "This little flower had inspired the students." For nearly a century, Bison baseball players have appreciated the fact that wild pink carnations were not prevalent in the region.



One of OBU's first gymnasiums is now part of the library, which is a refreshing thought considering that many Americans believe big-time college athletics overshadow academic pursuits.



Carl White was an outstanding football player in the 1920s. He also was an outstanding member of the debate team. Merging reading defenses and processing data, the 1925 OBU graduate spent most of his career as Dean of the School of Library Service at Columbia University in New York.

# A Proud Heritage

As OBU approaches its Centennial year, OBU Magazine is looking at key elements of the University's history. John W. Parrish, who recently completed a year-long term as interim president, has witnessed Bison and Lady Bison athletic competition for 45 years.

In 2008, he reviewed highlights from the first 50 years of OBU's athletic heritage in a special Founders' Day visual presentation.

Here are some of those highlights. To see

the entire presentation, visit

[www.okbu.edu/obumagazine](http://www.okbu.edu/obumagazine).





To me, history is an exciting subject. I am one who enjoys studying the past – particularly OBU's history. In recent years, working on an OBU Centennial pictorial history, I have found many names and events important to the development of the University. If we fail to understand history, we fail to learn lessons from the experiences of others. There is much to learn from those who have gone before.

There are unique parts of our history which are tied to athletics. Even though that narrows the focus, our athletic history can still help us understand that not everything of importance in the history of OBU has happened in the past 10 or 20 years.

For example, OBU's track team, under the leadership of National Coach of the Year Ford Mastin, won two national championships in 2007. Our men's and women's basketball teams are perennial national tournament contenders. We have reached high national levels in baseball and softball. But as significant as these achievements are, this is not all of the OBU sports story.

Let's go back to the beginning. OBU's first year of operation was 1911-12 in temporary quarters in downtown Shawnee. Despite the temporary nature of things, the school fielded basketball teams for men and women. There was limited intercollegiate competition in men's basketball. The women's basketball team played against area independent teams.

During OBU's first year of operation, students chose the school colors of green and gold. These colors were selected because of the beautiful wild golden coreopsis which grew on the lush green prairie of the future campus location – Bison Hill. As far as I can tell, there was no school mascot in the earliest days of athletics. The teams were known as "The Baptists."

After the 1911-12 school year, OBU ceased operations for three years until the first building on the new campus – Shawnee Hall – was completed. Classes resumed in 1915-16 and the school fielded a men's basketball team. The coach of this team was Dr. John W. Jent, who later became the dean; and a member of this team was Josh Lee, who later represented Oklahoma in the U.S. Congress and Senate.

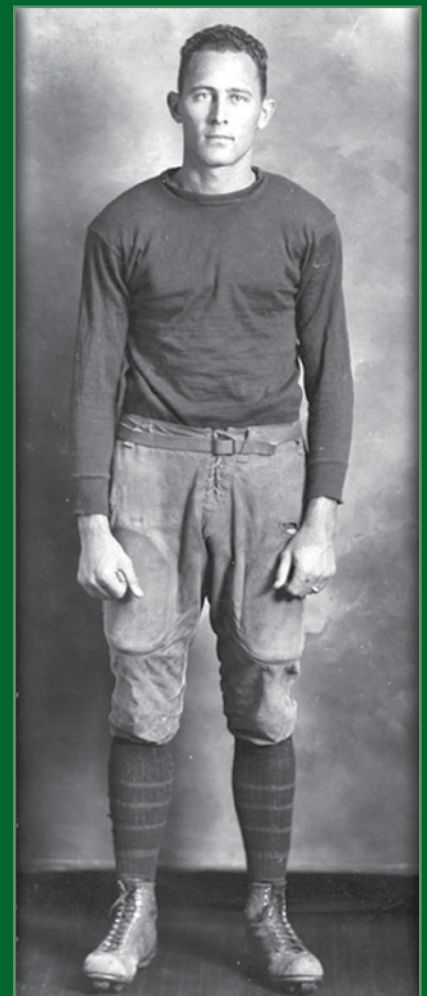
The 1915-16 team compiled a 7-4 record and won the Shawnee Trolley Basketball League, which consisted of OBU, the Catholic University of Oklahoma (now St. Gregory's), Western Business College (located in downtown Shawnee), and Tecumseh High School. The league got its name because the teams had to ride the Shawnee trolley system to the games at Shawnee High School. OBU played its home games in the auditorium/gym in Shawnee Hall. This area is now Craig-Dorland Theatre.

In 1918-19, the Bison was adopted as the school mascot. In an article in the new student newspaper, named *The Bison*, a student writer said, "The Bison, a native of this section of the country, is a hardy animal capable of putting up a great fight, rather slow to anger, but when aroused is very active and strong willed. These are some of the qualities it is hoped the 'Bisons' will acquire. The teams, whether athletic or debating, must be strong, good natured, but willing and ready to put their full strength into combat when the test comes."



How much is a football victory worth today? In 2008, the University of Arkansas' head coach made what amounted to \$570,000 for each of the team's five victories. Back in 1925, OBU's head coach made quite a bit less for each of his eight wins ... including a 6-0 defeat of the Razorbacks, courtesy of two drop-kicked field goals by Raymond Fox.

Bison football lineman Bob Mastin intercepted three passes against Arkansas in 1925. He was the grandfather of current OBU track and field coach Ford Mastin.





In the 1925-26 basketball season, the Bison defeated Oklahoma A&M at Stillwater by a score of 32-31, on a last-minute basket by Wayne Stone, who became a long-time Oklahoma banker. We don't know if he called the bank in advance.

In the summer of 1930, OBU's annual "Coaching School" featured three of the nation's top coaches: Glenn (Pop) Warner, Stanford football coach, who is better known for coaching Jim Thorpe at the Carlisle Indian School; Dr. Forrest C. (Phog) Allen, famed University of Kansas basketball coach; and OBU's Vic Hurt, who was the track specialist. Warner has a national youth football program named after him. Allen has a very famous fieldhouse bearing his name. But when the Bison are playing well, opponents *feel* the hurt.



In 1935, Sam Allen was featured in this Associated Press illustration on sports pages across the country as "Oklahoma's Great Hurdler." He received national attention because of his success and his unique style of clearing the hurdles with both arms forward. On many campuses, he'd be credited with a dance move named in his honor. But that would not be a proper function on Bison Hill.



Victor C. Hurt left OBU in 1935 and he was succeeded as football and track coach by one of his former athletes, Eddie Hurt. Though no relation to his coach, Eddie maintained the tradition of inflicting anguish on the majority of OBU opponents.



Another school tradition which dates back to 1918 is the school yell, "Ka-Rip." Ka-Rip was introduced to OBU students by Fred A. McCaulley who was employed as an OBU field representative.

In the 1920s, OBU began to attract neighbors; however, Bison Hill was still in the country, somewhat distant from downtown Shawnee. The third building on campus was a combination gymnasium/men's dormitory. What is currently Owens Hall was the dormitory. The gym portion later became Brittain Hall Library and then later the Mabee Learning Center. A screen around the court protected spectators from the players. Basketball gyms were called "cages," and players were called "cagers."

Football began to emerge as a key sport on campus in the early 1920s. The football field was south and west of the main campus – about where Kerr and the Geiger Center are now located.

A new coach rode into town in 1923. Victor C. Hurt came to OBU from the College of Emporia in Kansas, and he would be athletic director, football coach, basketball coach, and track coach for 11 of the next 12 years. He would change the shape of OBU athletics.

Football began to gain public recognition for OBU. In the fall of 1925, the football Bison compiled a record of 8 wins and 1 loss and they outscored their opponents, 285 to 15. The Bison defeated the University of Arkansas 6-0 on two drop-kicked field goals by Raymond Fox. Bob Mastin, a lineman who intercepted three passes in that game against Arkansas, was the grandfather of current track coach Ford Mastin. OBU went five seasons, 1924 through 1928, without losing at home.

Victor Hurt's track squads won nine conference championships in 10 years. The 880 relay team was champion at the Texas, Rice, Kansas, and Oklahoma Relays – setting records at three of these meets. The mile relay team won at Texas, Drake, and Oklahoma – setting records at two meets.

The 1928 880-yard relay team was undefeated, capturing championships at the Texas, Rice, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Drake Relays.

In the summer of 1930, OBU's annual "Coaching School" featured three of the nation's top coaches: Glenn (Pop) Warner, Stanford football coach, who is better known for coaching Jim Thorpe at the Carlisle Indian School; Dr. Forrest C. (Phog) Allen, famed University of Kansas basketball coach; and OBU's Vic Hurt, who was the track specialist.

Smiling Sam Allen of Bristow burst on the national track scene in 1934, winning the 120-yard high hurdles at Kansas and Drake. He placed fourth in the National Collegiate Meet, competing against hurdlers from all the major schools. He placed third in the National AAU meet. In 1935, Allen was featured in an Associated Press illustration on sports pages across the country as "Oklahoma's Great Hurdler." He received national attention because of his success and his unique hurdling style of clearing the hurdles with both arms forward instead of the traditional one arm forward and one trailing.





In 1936, Harold Cagle ran the 440-yard dash in 46.5 seconds, just two seconds off the world record, at the National Intercollegiate Meet in Chicago. He went on to earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic team and was the lead-off runner on the 1,600-meter relay team which won the silver medal at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Although OBU has had several track athletes participate in the Olympics, Harold Cagle is the only OBU athlete to represent the United States, as our other OBU track men have represented other countries. Cagle also is the only OBU athlete to earn an Olympic medal.

Victor C. Hurt left OBU in 1935 and he was succeeded as football and track coach by one of his former athletes, Eddie Hurt. Eddie Hurt, who was not related to his former coach, continued the strong traditions in both sports.

Pat Grant, from Cushing, was the state's best female golfer, winning the Oklahoma Women's Amateur Golf championship in 1938, 1939, 1940, and 1941 before entering military service. After returning from World War II, she also won the state amateur tournament in 1946 and 1949.

The 1940 Bison football team won the Collegiate Conference championship and two weeks after the final game, the Board of Trustees voted to discontinue football.

In 1941, OBU opened a new gymnasium, built with the financial support of the Shawnee community. This facility is known today as the Sarkeys Telecommunication Center.

OBU had no athletic competition in 1942-43 because of the war. In 1943-44, OBU returned to basketball competition but most of their games were played against military teams, including five contests versus the Army Air Corps' 91st College Training Detachment, stationed at OBU.

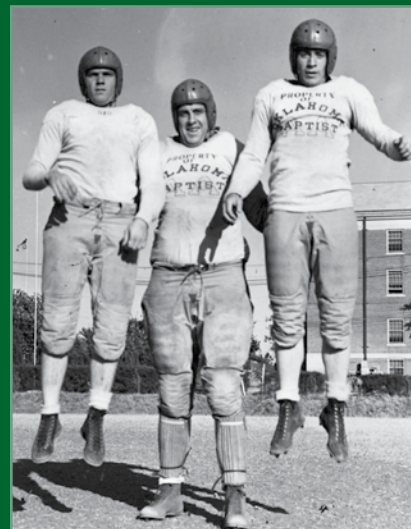
In 1948, OBU opened another new gymnasium – Bison Fieldhouse, which would later be re-named the Clark Craig Fieldhouse. It was a World War II military recreation facility at Camp Maxey, Texas. The building was disassembled, moved to Shawnee, and reassembled. It served OBU as the basketball arena until 1982, when the Noble Complex was opened.

In 1952, Bob Bass, a 1950 graduate, returned to OBU to coach basketball and baseball. From 1952-67, Bass built a strong basketball program, winning the national championship in 1966 and finishing second in 1965 and 1967. He moved on to professional basketball, spending almost 40 years as a coach or general manager in the ABA and NBA.

The 1957-58 basketball team was the first OBU team to win the NAIA District championship and to advance to the NAIA National Tournament in Kansas City.

A look into OBU's past reveals a proud athletic heritage that existed even before the so-called "modern era."

As we approach our Centennial year, we must recognize and honor the heritage that has made OBU what it is today. ♦



Lineman Ed Thompson demonstrated his strength by hoisting running backs Darwin Richardson and Johnny Denton. Smaller OBU athletes have yet another reason to celebrate the existence of the University's new weight room.



Pat Grant was the state's best female golfer, winning the Oklahoma Women's Amateur Golf championship in 1938, 1939, 1940, and 1941 before entering military service. Being in the WAC did not damage the way she whacked a golf ball, as she also won the state amateur tournament in 1946 and 1949.

OBU won the Collegiate Conference football championship in the fall of 1940. Two weeks later, the board of trustees voted to discontinue the varsity sport. With less pressure to recruit against the Shawnee powerhouse, Oklahoma won its first football national championship 10 years later.

*Sidebar text by Marty O'Gwynn*



# Tiny Lady Giant Spirit

*Shirley Coyner gives nursing, travel, missions her all.*

Shirley Stevens Coyner has possibly had the longest “temporary” job in history. She started work at Phillips Petroleum Co. in Bartlesville 56 years ago. Her employer is now ConocoPhillips, but she still works in the same place today. The consistent role doesn’t equate to the lack of an adventurous spirit for this petite alumna. Along with working as an occupational health nurse, Coyner is a licensed pilot and a globetrotting tourist and volunteer.

A Bartlesville native since birth, Coyner never planned to have a connection to Bison Hill. But in 1946, through the influence of an Army chaplain, she decided to give OBU a try. She claims attending OBU was life-changing despite her relatively short tenure at the Baptist institution.

“At the time, OBU didn’t have a nursing school,” Coyner explained. “Now it has the best one in the state – maybe the best one anywhere.”

After two years in Shawnee, she transferred to the University of Oklahoma to complete her nursing degree. OBU’s School of Nursing was launched in the fall of 1952, with the first class of graduates in 1956.

“It was good I went to OBU because I was very immature, and very shy, and very introverted,” Coyner said. “I know if I had not gone to OBU first, I would not have succeeded in nursing school.”

Coyner recalls the influence of Dr. J.A. Trent, her professor in biology and science. Not only was he “a really nice person,” she said, but also, “he was a Christian man, and he knew I wanted to go into nursing, and he helped me get into the (OU) school of nursing.”

After completing nursing school in 1951, Coyner returned to OBU as a campus nurse, working alongside Mary Alice Arrington in 1951 and 1952. She said she encountered many students with homesickness in addition to the usual colds, stomach problems and the occasional injury.

## ‘Temporary’ career

Coyner made her way back to Bartlesville, where she assumed a position at Phillips Petroleum. For 50 years, while

the company’s headquarters were in Bartlesville, Coyner’s department handled almost all of Phillips’ medically related issues. Even today, with the ConocoPhillips headquarters in Houston, Coyner said many people return to Bartlesville for health-related care.

As an occupational health nurse, Coyner is responsible for working with the company’s employees who travel and work overseas. She provides basic physical exams, checks blood pressure, draws blood, and gives immunizations based on the destinations of the overseas travelers.

In 1955, Coyner met her husband, the late Herbert N. Coyner, who worked in research at Phillips. The couple married in 1956, sharing the same employer for their entire careers.

Mr. Coyner took flying lessons, and enjoyed taking his bride on trips in a small plane. Mrs. Coyner, however, did not like the way the plane tipped and moved. Her husband encouraged her to become a pilot herself so she could better understand the plane’s movements.

Propped up with pillows to support her tiny frame – she’s less than five feet tall – Coyner earned her pilot’s license and grew to love flying.

“I really enjoy it,” she said. “It is fun to look down on the ground and see some of God’s amazing creation.”

Following her husband’s death, Coyner was unable to move the couple’s small airplane into and out of the hangar, so she realized she needed to sell the aircraft. But she has found other outlets for adventure.

## Giving back

Not only did OBU provide life experience for the young woman; it also provided a solid foundation for Christian friendships Coyner has maintained to this day. Many of the friendships she fostered were with people planning to serve on overseas mission fields. She has visited several former OBU classmates at their outposts as Southern Baptist missionaries, including George and Beth (Schreiber) Wilson in Hong Kong, and Orby and Betty (Luellen) Butcher and Bob and Jeannie (Butler) Spear in Thailand, among others.



# BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP

Coyner also developed a strong heart for missions. Locally, she serves as director of Woman's Missionary Union at her church, Trinity Baptist in Bartlesville. Regionally, she participated in the construction of "quillows," quilts that fold into a pocket on the side. Her church made about 80 quillows for the children's home in Owasso. Internationally, she has served on a mission trip to Venezuela, where she used her nursing skills to weigh babies, take blood pressures and perform other simple tests.

She also participates in the national Baptist Nursing Fellowship and the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses. The groups meet for fellowship, and the Baptist Nursing Fellowship hosts missionary speakers and provides opportunities for practitioners to earn continuing education credits.

"It's really interesting to hear what's going on in world missions, and here in the United States, and to learn how we can be a part of it," Coyner said.

Coyner also noted lifelong friend Charlotte Velau Willis, who she met as a student.

"She was and is a very fine Christian person, and she has been a big help to me," Coyner said.

Coyner likes to get back to Bison Hill often. She enjoys the continued company of and correspondence with classmates. And she remains thankful for the way people influenced her during her few years as an OBU student.

"I hate to think where I would be and what I would be doing if I hadn't gone to OBU," she said.

Her "temporary" job has made a difference in people's lives for 56 years. Her brief time as a student on Bison Hill has made a lasting difference in her life for more than six decades. ♦



# CULTIVATING *an idea virus*

Allan Karr is on a mission. By beginning several organizations, serving in a variety of congregations, and teaching rising leaders in the classroom, he is working to transform one community at a time – with every tribe and every nation in mind.

Early on, Karr knew that his passion and his ministry were for the diverse cultures in his own country.

“The very first time I remember gaining an interest in ethnic diversity was in sociology at OBU with Dr. Paul Rutledge,” Karr said. “We talked about different cultures and different world views.”

“It was a milestone moment in my life,” he said. “I thought ‘this is who I am, this is what I love.’ I really began to realize that I had a passion for cultural work.”

After graduating from OBU in 1985, Karr began pursuing his master’s degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and took a full time preaching position in Missouri. When he completed his master’s degree, he and his wife, Kathy, moved to Florida so he could begin working toward a Ph.D. degree at Florida State University.

Though Karr fully intended to serve as a pastor at a local church while completing his degree, his heart began to lead him in a different direction.

“I felt that God had started to direct me to do church planting,” he said. “So I started contacting people to see how this would be possible.”

Karr was ultimately led to Riverside Baptist Church in Denver, which agreed to sponsor him to begin Castle Valley church in Castle Rock, Colorado.

“We prayerfully decided that we were open to plant a church anywhere in the world, and then we prayerfully narrowed it down to Colorado,” he said.

Karr continued to follow his “prayer-driven idea” and as Castle Valley grew, the Karrs were able to plant two other churches in the area, essentially “starting a church that planted other churches.” Little did he know that his work with Castle Valley and the other church plants in the area was just the beginning to his dynamic career.

“I got a call from Golden Gate Seminary about joining The Nehemiah Project,” he said. “The North American Mission Board and Golden Gate have a partnership with the project, and they both asked me to join.”

At the time, Karr did not feel led to leave Colorado, so the seminary offered for him to stay in the area. Karr signed on to become a professor of church planting for the seminary and he also was designated as a national missionary by the North American Mission Board, serving as a director for The Nehemiah Project, helping to better equip church planters.

Karr quickly found that he received more than just a teaching position. He also had the opportunity to work with a multitude of diverse cultures, backgrounds and languages.

“I really get to be like a foreign missionary,” he said. “Ninety percent of my time I spend with international people, especially with my students. It is very diverse, which I like. It’s my passion.”

By teaching courses at each of the five Golden Gate locations in Phoenix, Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Vancouver, Wash., Karr is able to encourage his students – primarily made up of missionaries and church leaders – to follow their passion to engage with specific people groups.

“The cities that I travel to and do my work in are extremely diverse,” he said. “In Denver there are more than 175 languages spoken in the school system. And in San Francisco, if there is a student who has a passion for a specific people group, it’s very likely that in the Bay Area there are those who speak that language and who are of that nationality.”

Karr’s work with his students further motivated him to continue church planting in his own community, and to integrate different models of churches his students and his family had encountered around the world.

“We wanted to experiment with a church of a different model,” he said. “We wanted to figure out a way that we could save money and use people who had other full time careers, but also wanted to be involved in the ministry.”

Karr and his family then began the Ethne Church Network, a collection of churches which share the vision to reach all





**Karr's nuclear family includes, front row, from left Alyssa, Micah and Hannah; back row, Joshua, a current OBU sophomore, Kathy and Allan.**

people groups. The network churches, primarily meeting in homes, began to multiply. Some were started by Karr's former students.

Now made up of about 17 churches, with almost 800 people involved, the network has grown to include churches designed for specific people groups in the area. The churches aim to transform the communities around them.

"The church has grown to be what the name is, a church for all people groups," he said.

Karr has been able to also spread the church network idea to those he interacted with at the Golden Gate locations, causing networks to be formed throughout the western United States.

"Other people have heard of the network and have used it in other cities," he said. "I think of it as an idea virus. The virus would be something that people pick up from someone else. The idea just spread."

Karr recently expanded the Ethne Church Network concept to include a ministry for local refugees by beginning Ethne Global

Services. The agency helps supply care to local refugees who are not being provided for. EGS has grown to 25 clients, who receive help with school, finding jobs and saving money.

Karr's family helps six of the refugees. They have had the opportunity to become legal guardians to two former refugee girls, Saymyahtoo and July. They also had the chance to travel to Thailand with the Ethne Church Network to work at refugee camps.

The Ethne Church Network, Golden Gate, The Nehemiah Project and his active roles in other organizations have given Karr the opportunity to expose his children – Joshua, Alyssa, Hannah and Micah – to a variety of cultures.

"Almost every time I travel, I try to take some of my family," he said. "I travel, when I can, with my kids so that they, too, can be exposed to the diverse cultures."

Though Karr is involved in what would seem like more than five full-time jobs, he is not finished and is not slowing down. He continues to pursue his mission of reaching all people groups however he can. ♦



RANDY HORN, '69

# Agent of Freedom

Randy Horn has spent his lifetime vocation ministering to the intangible needs of people around him as a pastor, teacher, speaker, author and long-term care insurance salesman. Today, Horn and his wife, Laura, help meet the tangible need for wheelchairs around the world through Wheels to Freedom.

Growing up as an Air Force kid, Horn attended 13 schools in 12 years in eight different states. As a senior in high school in Chickasha, he felt God call him to serve as a pastor, and he decided to attend OBU.

"I was attracted to the small, liberal arts atmosphere of OBU and its reputation for academic excellence," Horn said. "It broadened my world. Growing up as a nomadic kid going from school to school, OBU took information I had acquired and pieced it together into a holistic education."





## RANDY HORN PROVIDES FOR THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.

He recalls the strength of OBU's liberal arts program including Western Civ, history and English, as well as the integrity of professors such as Dr. James Hurley, Dr. Jim Tanner and Dr. Don Wester, among others.

"Dr. Hurley was particularly influential as a professor and as my Sunday School teacher," Horn said. "He taught that all truth is God's truth. He moved me beyond my fundamental upbringing to a deeper understanding of the Christian faith.

"These professors embodied the best of living lives that had purpose and meaning, and not just developing the human intellect, but also the human spirit," he said.

Horn said he learned from his time on Bison Hill that faith in God has at least as much to do with him asking questions as it does with finding answers. His faith journey resulted in a personal mission statement which, in part, says: "I want to use the gifts and abilities God has given me to equip and empower others to solve some of life's problems, enjoy some of life's pleasure and embrace some of life's mystery."

He also developed a personal definition between "occupation" and "vocation." An occupation, Horn said, is how a person "puts bread on the table" – the source of income. A person's vocation, he said, is using one's gifts to serve God.

Following graduation from OBU in 1969, Horn earned a master of divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. For 24 years, he served as co-pastor of a church in Kansas City, meeting the intangible pastoral-care needs of his congregation. He later became a national and international teacher and author through SkillPath Seminars, providing courses to enhance adults' business and professional skills. He wrote the book, "Having Something to Say When You Have to Say Something: The Art of Organizing Your Presentation," published by SkillPath in 1997.

Horn said he does not believe moving from formal ministry to a secular job ended his ministry.

"I don't feel like I have left the ministry," Horn said. "I don't feel like my vocation has changed; only my occupation has changed."

Following his time with SkillPath, Horn became a long-term care insurance specialist with Genworth Financial in the Kansas City area. Primarily an insurance salesman, he sets appointments to consult with families and small businesses about long-term care insurance needs. America's 76 million baby boomers need to plan ahead for their personal-care needs of tomorrow, he said.

"I have found it very rewarding because it involves a different set of needs from pastoral care," Horn said. "It's gratifying for

me to help people prepare not only to protect their savings, but also their families.

"I'm helping people solve a very practical problem when I help them secure long-term care insurance," he said. "I try to help people so they can care for their loved ones rather than having to take care of their loved ones."

The difference, he said, is having energy and resources available rather than having to do the work oneself, which can lead to the exhaustion and depression of the caregiver.

Horn's passion for people is evident in his results: for several years, including 2007, he was named Agent of the Year, based on sales, for the Southern Plains Agency, including Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Southern Illinois.

Eleven years ago, Horn caught hold of an opportunity to help people in a tangible way – a ministry he can do in addition to his full-time work. He learned of Hope Haven, a ministry based in Rock Valley, Iowa, whose mission states: "As followers of Christ, we unleash potential in people through work and life skills so that they may enjoy a productive life in their community."

One opportunity unveiled by Hope Haven was the need for wheelchairs to be collected and sent to other countries. It's a need the Horns felt they could meet. So the couple founded "Wheels to Freedom," a non-profit organization which collects wheelchairs in the Kansas City area and arranges for them to be stored until they can be refurbished and delivered by volunteers through Hope Haven.

Since beginning the project, Wheels to Freedom has collected several thousand wheelchairs, about 300 each year for the past 10 years. Hope Haven has distributed more than 70,000 wheelchairs in all.

"In developing countries, the disabled are the poorest of the poor," Horn said. "A wheelchair may cost several hundred dollars – a year's salary – so what happens is those people in need are either carried by their families or drag themselves on a piece of cardboard."

Through an annual drive, including a car wash, concert and children's carnival, Wheels to Freedom raises awareness of the need. The Horns also operate the web site [www.wheelstofreedom.org](http://www.wheelstofreedom.org).

"A wheelchair not only changes the life of the disabled person, but also changes the lives of the entire family," Horn said.

Meeting this need provides a fulfilling opportunity for a man who has addressed both the intangible and tangible needs of people around the world for his entire career, building, in part, on life lessons learned on Bison Hill. ♦



## Winter Graduates Challenged to Serve

Challenged to serve others and change the world, 59 OBU graduates received their diplomas during the University's Winter Commencement Dec. 19 in OBU's Raley Chapel.

"There are keys to life we cannot have taught you in the classroom," Karen Cotter said during the Convocation address. "But, hopefully, we have given you tools to accomplish your dreams and pursue your passions."

Cotter, OBU assistant professor of nursing, received the University's 2008 Most Promising Teacher Award. The 1994 OBU graduate said when she considered what was most valuable to her as a Christian, a nurse and a teacher, she thought of service – service to others, the community, to her profession and to the world.

She used the word "SERVE" as an acronym representing graduates' opportunities for the future: Savor, Engage, Reach out to the world, Visit the world, and continue Education. Beginning with the letter S, Cotter encouraged the Class of 2008 to savor the time they spent on Bison Hill, including relationships with fellow students and faculty.

Referring to OBU's mission statement which says, in part, that OBU students and graduates are prepared to "engage a diverse world," Cotter told the graduates to engage – to ask questions and to strive to go beyond the status quo. She culled advice from author Joachim Posada and from Randy Pausch, the late Carnegie Mellon University professor noted for his "last lecture" to his children and students before his death at age 47. Cotter said one of Pausch's observations was that time spent whining was counter-productive to success.

"In following the words of Posada, set your goals clearly, surround yourself with supportive people, and strive to pursue your passions," Cotter said. "Following the advice of Pausch, no whining. Work hard, and you will find yourself in position for success and accomplishment."

Cotter instructed the graduates to reach out. She referred to the Gospel of Matthew, where Christ's followers are told to care for others as if caring for Jesus Himself. She also said to visit the world to serve others. She conveyed her opportunities to visit Brazil and the tsunami-struck region of Indonesia to serve others with her nursing skills and

– despite a language barrier – to instruct young nurses with her teaching skills.

"I was able to use my gifts and knowledge on the other side of the world, and in a different language, and yet I was connected because of our shared calling of serving others' physiological needs," she said. "Visit your world, and share your skills – you may find yourself surprised by your abilities and knowledge that would be valuable and helpful to others."

Although the event marked the end of their education at OBU, Cotter directed the graduates to continue their education both formally and informally.

"You should pursue further avenues of education," she said. "Embrace a mindset of lifelong learning as you progress through your careers."

Cotter's message came from a personal practice of service: she has been honored with the Outstanding Community Service Award from the College of Nursing at the University of Oklahoma, and in 2004, she was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society for Nurses, as a Community Leader.





## Ministry More Than A Hobby

Hobby Lobby President Steve Green recently spoke during an OBU Students in Free Enterprise Business Forum.

The retail company was founded by Green's father, David, in 1972 with 300 square feet of retail space in North Oklahoma City. Thirty-six years later, business is booming for the retail chain, which now boasts 407 stores with sales of about \$1.8 billion dollars in 2007. The company operates in a 33-state area, with Green serving as president at headquarters in Oklahoma City.

Green shared with OBU students about how his family built the company not only on sound financial and business plans, but also on a legacy of faith that guides company-wide decisions and how the success of the company yields opportunities for eternal significance.

Green and his wife, Jackie, reside in Oklahoma City with their one son and five daughters. They are actively involved in Council Road Baptist Church in Oklahoma City along with other national and international Christian charities.

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) is an international organization that aims to develop the business and management skills of university students to help them become socially responsible leaders.

## Three Join Development Team

OBU recently welcomed three new development directors – all OBU alums – to aid in institutional advancement. Bob Cloyde will be meeting with OBU alumni and friends in southwest Oklahoma, Preston Condra will be working in northern Texas, and Angela Brown will serve in northeastern Oklahoma, northwestern Arkansas, east central Missouri, and select areas of Kansas.

Cloyde most recently served as a



**CLOYDE**

consultant and sales representative for Lubrication Specialists Inc., and a distributor for BG Products in Oklahoma City. Previously, he worked as a home care director

for INTEGRIS Marshall Memorial Hospital in Madill. He has served as interim pastor and senior pastor in Baptist churches across southeast Oklahoma and north Texas.

Cloyde earned his bachelor's degree from OBU in 1981, and a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1984. He earned a D.Min. degree from SWBTS in 1996. He is a member of Trinity Southern Baptist Church in Madill, Okla.

Condra most recently served as an adjunct professor at Arlington Baptist College and as an alternative religions specialist for Watchman Fellowship

Inc. in Arlington, Texas. Previously, he served as an itinerant preacher; minister for single adults/college at Immanuel Baptist Church in Duncan, Okla.; vice president of Utah Missions Inc. in Marlow, Okla.; and associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Meeker, Okla.



**CONDRA**

Condra earned his bachelor's degree from OBU in 1993, and a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2004. He completed a summer study program at Oxford University in Oxford, England, in partnership with the seminary in 2000. He is a member of the First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas.

Brown previously worked at OBU as a development director responsible for southeast Oklahoma and north Texas. She has experience as a middle school English and history teacher at The Brook Hill School and Bishop T.K. Gorman Catholic School, both in Tyler, Texas. She also served as a high school English teacher at Edison High School in Tulsa, Okla., and Broken Arrow (Okla.) Senior High.



**BROWN**

Brown graduated cum laude from OBU in 1999 with a bachelor of science degree in education.



# Board Names Track Facility, Sets Costs For 2009-10

OBU's board of trustees voted to name the University's track and field building in honor of a 1956 OBU graduate and outstanding Bison athlete during their fall meeting on campus Dec. 5. Trustees also approved costs for the 2009-10 academic year, and ratified senior faculty status for three professors.

Trustees accepted a proposal to name the track and field facility the Jay P. Chance Track Building. Dr. Chance, a member of OBU's track team during the 1950s, has supported the track program financially for many years, creating an endowed scholarship for track student-athletes. The building is located just east of the intersection of Airport Road and University Street. It houses coaches' offices, locker rooms and an indoor practice facility for the track and field and cross country teams.

In setting tuition, fees and room and board costs for the 2009-10 academic year, the board approved a 5.2 percent overall cost increase. The charges for a full-time student during the next academic year will be \$23,134, a \$1,144 increase over the 2008-09 year. Tuition and fees for next year will be \$17,624, a \$834 increase over the current total of \$16,790.

Trustees have traditionally approved student costs for the next fiscal year at their spring meeting, but University officials requested an accelerated approval process to allow current and prospective students more advance notice regarding OBU costs.

In his first address to the board of trustees as OBU president, David Whitlock said there is a sense of anticipation for the institution as it nears its centennial year in 2010.

"We anticipate great things in 2009 and beyond," said Dr. Whitlock. "We anticipate continued enrollment growth for 2009-2010.

The president also reported on campus improvement projects, including ongoing renovation of OBU's WMU Memorial Dormitory. The women's housing facility, which opened in 1928, is closed for the 2008-09 year for major renovation.

"Residential life is critical to the OBU experience," Whitlock said. "After students determine that a university has quality educational offerings, their shift goes suddenly to 'what will I be doing

outside of class, and where will I be living?'"

Also in board business, three faculty members were approved for senior faculty status, allowing continuous contracts for those faculty. Those approved were Dr. Paulette Belshe, assistant professor of education; Karen Cotter, assistant professor of nursing; and Dr. Benjamin Myers, assistant professor of English.



OBU students, from left, Laura Simma, Taulia Logan and Cylie Hall, represent Shaker sisters Izzy, Rachel and Polly in the OBU Theatre production of "As It Is In Heaven."

## OBU Theatre Production Earns Honor

For only the second time in OBU Theatre history, a University production has advanced to regional competition in The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. The national theater program involves 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide.

The OBU production of "As It Is In Heaven," written by playwright Arlene Hutton and directed by Laura Byland, OBU associate professor and director of theatre, received positive recognitions from festival judges who attended a regular performance of the play in September. The cast and crew of the play received Excellence in Directing, Excellence in Design, and Excellence in Ensemble distinctions.

The Regional Festival will be on the campus of Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, in early 2009.

OBU junior Katie Tyner from Moore, Okla.; junior Lacy Hutchinson from Longview, Texas; and freshman Cylie Hall from Norman, Okla. were nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship, providing recognition and financial assistance to outstanding student performers wishing to pursue further education.



# Recognize Excellence

Do you know a current OBU faculty or staff member who made a significant difference in your life? Would you like to see that individual gain recognition for dedicated service? Now is the time to submit nominations for the University's three major faculty and staff awards for 2008.

## Distinguished Teaching Award

- Must currently be a full-time teaching faculty member, having served on the OBU faculty for a minimum of five consecutive years.
- Must have distinguished himself or herself in the teaching profession over a period of several years.
- May receive the award only once in a six-year period.

## Meritorious Service Award

- Must be a full-time University employee.
- Must have been on the OBU faculty or staff for a minimum of 10 years.
- Must have distinguished himself or herself in service to OBU.
- May receive the award only once.

## OBU Promising Teacher Award

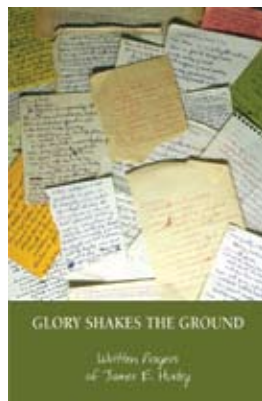
- Must currently be a full-time teaching faculty member.
- Must have been on the OBU faculty for less than six years.
- Must have proven himself or herself to have outstanding teaching promise.

Nominations should include the name of the person nominated, and a brief statement regarding the individual's qualifications for the honor.

Award recipients will be recognized during Spring Commencement at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 23, in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium.

# Celebrate OBU With The Centennial Book Series

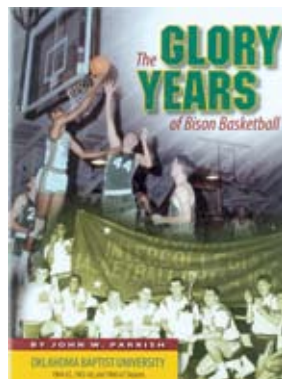
You can own the first three books in OBU's Centennial Book Series. These works include a unique collection of written prayers by the late Dr. James E. Hurley, and two books about OBU's storied basketball history.



**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 compiled into this book. In easy-to-use paperback, the book is both a devotional guide and a study in one man's personal communication with God.

**Oklahoma residents:** \$12.95 plus \$1.10 tax plus \$2.00 shipping/handling = \$16.05

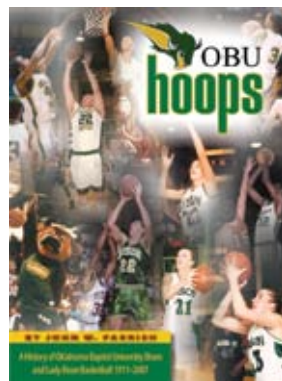
**Out-of-state residents:** \$12.95 plus \$2.00 shipping/handling = \$14.95



**The Glory Years of Bison Basketball: Oklahoma Baptist University 1964-65, 1965-66, and 1966-67 Basketball Seasons** chronicles one of the greatest runs in NAIA history. Coach Bob Bass and standout Al Tucker led the Bison to three consecutive national championship games. They brought home the 1966 championship banner, marking the pinnacle of Bison basketball success. Relive those memorable years through this hardback book by John W. Parrish.

**Oklahoma residents:** \$25.00 plus \$2.13 tax plus \$3.00 shipping/handling = \$30.13

**Out-of-state residents:** \$25.00 plus \$3.00 shipping/handling = \$28.00



**OBU Hoops: A History of Oklahoma Baptist University Bison and Lady Bison Basketball 1911-2007** recaps the entire history of the University's basketball programs. With season-by-season summaries, team rosters, game scores, and a bevy of statistics, this work is a hardback "coffee table" edition which can serve as a ready resource, providing answers to trivia questions, as well as a glimpse at the legacy of OBU basketball which has carried the teams to continued national prominence.

**Oklahoma residents:** \$24.95 plus \$2.12 tax plus \$3.00 shipping/handling = \$30.07

**Out-of-state residents:** \$24.95 plus \$3.00 shipping/handling = \$27.95

To order any of the Centennial Series books, call 405.878.2706 or visit [www.okbu.edu/100/books.html](http://www.okbu.edu/100/books.html)







# HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS



Celebrating a timeless spirit at the dawn of a new presidency, OBU alumni returned to Bison Hill Nov. 7 and 8 for Homecoming 2008. Pictures from the celebration, clockwise from right: Chuck King, '80, who traveled from Jerusalem to be on campus, performs during Saturday night's Alumni Showcase. ■ Alumni and friends enjoyed the flavor of Van's barbecue at a catered dinner in the new Recreation and Wellness Center Saturday evening. ■ OBU President David Whitlock delivered the Homecoming Chapel sermon Saturday morning, in his eighth day on the job. ■ Class reunion luncheons offered a variety of events, including fellowship, quizzes, memorials, and for the Class of 2003, live music from Chris Goff. ■ Bison basketball standout DuJuan Brown, ex '02, right, was inducted into the OBU Athletic Hall of Fame by former basketball assistant coach Lance Johnston, '96. ■ Author Lynda Tinnin Young, '63, visits with fellow alumni during an autograph session in the OBU bookstore. ■ OBU Alumni Association President Jay Sampson, '93, presides at the association's annual meeting Saturday morning in Potter Auditorium. ■ The weekend offered numerous opportunities to reconnect with friends. ■ Dr. Joe Mosley presides at the Class of 1958's 50th anniversary reunion luncheon (a four-hour affair). ■ Some members of the Class of 1998 enjoy their reunion luncheon. ■ Alumnae recall their days on campus while looking through past Yahnsehs. ■ The 2008 Harvest Court included six seniors, from left, Chad Taylor, from Holdenville, Best All-Around Man; Rachel Piontak, from Catoosa, Best All-Around Woman; Scott Ramsey, from Fredericksburg, Texas, Harvest King; Lacy Abbott, from Shawnee, Harvest Queen; Brian Levings, from Perry, Most Servant-Like Man; and Becca Murdock, from Clarksville, Ark., Most Servant-Like Woman.

For more Homecoming images, including the 2008 Class Reunion photographs, visit [www.okbu.edu/alumni](http://www.okbu.edu/alumni).







By Andrew Adams

At first glance, the group's name seems to make light of a serious health issue. But after taking a breath, you realize the name reveals a lot.

Asthma Attack is a comedy group comprised of current and former OBU students. Two of the group's members struggle with asthma, but that hasn't stopped them from forging ahead with an ambitious plan.

The team had its first performance – a collection of comedic skits – in early October. Their inaugural show was an hour-long program sponsored by University Concert Series.

Current students Jason Gallagher and Wade Browning joined with 2008 graduate Ben Fort and 2007 graduate Hayley Kessler to form Asthma Attack.

The group's name first surfaced on the campus with a band performing in Spring Affair, an annual program produced by Campus Activities Board. Fort and Gallagher came up with the name because both struggle with the chronic respiratory disease.

Browning – well-known on campus [and YouTube] for his Christmas Chapel 2007 portrayal of OBU Interim President John Parrish – thought of the idea of starting a comedy group one night while lying in bed.

"I just thought it could be something we could try," said the senior psychology major. "You know, see if this is something we really want to do with our lives. To a degree, that's what we've done, but Ben and Jason have really fueled this thing more than I ever could have alone."

The group does not know how long their comedic stint will last, but hopes to do at least one more show in Shawnee.

"We plan on doing a show at the Ritz Theatre in downtown Shawnee," said Fort, who earned a bachelor's degree in family psychology.

The group collaborates on show ideas, taking different scenarios and developing them into a skit. While Fort said ideas and writing come easily, he said the group's first show proved to be more than they anticipated.

"Our first show ended up being really rushed and was very stressful the day leading up to it," said Fort. "We need to work on scheduling and making sure we get all our work done beforehand and be able to do a relaxed run-through the day of the show."

The group combines a blend of geographic backgrounds with academic preparation suited for communication and understanding. Kessler, from Edmond, completed a bachelor's degree in communications. Gallagher, whose family recently relocated from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex to the small town of Watkinsville, Ga., is majoring in strategic communication. Browning grew up in Yukon, while Fort is from Kingwood, Texas, near Houston.

Gallagher, Browning and Fort are willing to share a common geographic locale if they continue to pursue comedy. They have discussed traveling to Chicago and taking classes at Second City, an improvisational sketch comedic venue.

"If that happens, whoever goes up there I'm sure will continue working together," said Fort.

"That's probably the oldest desire that I've had with this whole comedy deal," said Browning. "It was encouraging and intimidating at the same time. I've always believed in learning everything you can about something if you really love it."



**Oklahoma Baptist University Athletics**

Home | News | Facilities | Staff | OBU Gear | OBU

**Bison Sports**

**Men's Sports**

- » Basketball
- » Track and Field
- » Baseball
- » Tennis
- » Golf
- » Soccer
- » Cross Country

**Women's Sports**

- » Basketball
- » Track and Field
- » Softball
- » Tennis
- » Golf
- » Soccer
- » Cross Country
- » Volleyball
- » Cheerleading

**Bison Links**

- » Listen Online

**Top Stories**

**OBU Shoots Down Stars**

Track  
Sat, Feb 14, 2009 at 11:28 PM

**Men's Basketball**  
Sat, Feb 14, 2009 at 10:28 PM

**Women's Basketball**  
Sat, Feb 14, 2009 at 9:33 PM

**Baseball**  
Fri, Feb 13, 2009 at 11:09 AM

**Men's Basketball**  
Thu, Feb 12, 2009

**Bison Scoreboard**

**Today**

**Baseball**

Briar Cliff University at OBU 1:00pm CST

**Men's Tennis**

OBU at Oklahoma 5:00pm CST

**Tuesday, Feb 17**

**Softball**

OBU at Arkansas Tech University CST

OBU at Arkansas Tech University Game 2

**Thursday, Feb 19**

**Men's Basketball**

OBU at Wayland Baptist University 8:00pm CST

**Fan Poll**

What should we call fans who...

## Follow The Thundering Herd

OBU recently rolled out a new website dedicated to Bison and Lady Bison athletics. The site, obubison.com, offers viewers the latest news on the University's sports programs, a link to audio webcasts of basketball, baseball and softball games, live stats for basketball and baseball, and a weekly opinion poll.

Keep up with OBU's student athletes online at [obubison.com](http://obubison.com).



Oklahoma Baptist  
UNIVERSITY

500 W. University  
Shawnee, OK 74804

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Permit #1

OBU  
magazine