

FALL 2010

# OBU

**magazine**

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OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

## OBU MASTER PLAN

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During the last year, we have been reminded of the remarkable vision of those who came to this very patch of earth a century ago and prayerfully founded a university where the serious investigation of facts and the reading of books would result in the pursuit of truth shaped by a worldview grounded on the authority of Holy Scripture. From our beginning, we have been and continue to be a “Great Commission” and “Great Commandment” University.

Our faculty and staff view their service here as a noble calling in part because the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is at the root of who we are. This commitment is evident in the fact that the IMB reports that more missionaries serving around the globe have their degrees from OBU than from any other university in the world.



OBU is a Great Commandment university as well. In Matthew 22:36-40 Jesus was asked: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” and Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” And I might add, “and OBU hangs on these two commandments.” We are serious about the pursuit of truth and academic excellence. We are dedicated to the proposition of loving our Lord with all our minds – our intellect – as well as our hearts and souls. Our university is committed to the great Christian intellectual tradition.

At our Centennial Convocation early this semester, I spoke about our need to embrace the intellectual and spiritual disciplines. We refuse the false dichotomy that one must choose either the intellectual or the spiritual; it is not an “either/or” issue for us. The alumni and faculty OBU recognizes for their achievements and contributions are evidence of our pursuit of academic excellence, and our commitment to academic excellence is continually demonstrated by outstanding faculty who challenge our students to embrace both intellectual and spiritual disciplines.

One of my greatest concerns is that as a community of learners we might find ourselves unwilling to explore the hard questions, and that we may fail to give ourselves fully to diligent study and the long hours of work required in this age in which we live. And so, we challenge students to settle for no less than intellectual rigor. Our faculty must work to challenge students in ways that may cause a bit of unease in their lives. Alumni can look back and appreciate that often the very best professors are those who comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

Yet we challenge our students in an environment of Christian nurture. We approach our mission with the awareness that a robust Christian liberal arts education is noble and good and distinct from the secular academy. Far from being fearful in our pursuit of knowledge, as Christians we are created and expected to explore boldly the world around us. As believers we need never be afraid of testing the truth of Scripture, for God’s Word can withstand whatever questions are posed against it in a genuine search for truth. Our purpose as a Christian community of learners and scholars is to bring all knowledge and every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. Because all truth is God’s truth, it will be necessarily coherent and consistent. Christian academicians begin with the a priori commitment to the truth of Scripture and the ultimate authority of Christ; therefore the Christian scholar has no higher loyalty than her loyalty to Christ and His Word.

Our time demands that we be about our business with a sense of urgency. As followers of Jesus Christ, and as members of this great OBU family, we all have vital roles to play in leadership and service. Building on a century of success, we are shaping the future. Our alumni are our strongest testimonies to the fact that what we do here matters. The best is yet to come as we lock arms and move forward to meet the challenges of the future.

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

David Wesley Whitlock  
OBU President



# OBU

magazine

OBU MAGAZINE STAFF

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#### Editor

Marty O'Gwynn

#### Writers

Julie McGowan, Marty O'Gwynn,  
Mackenzie Dilbeck

#### Creative Services

Chele Marker

#### Photographer

William Pope

#### View OBU Magazine Online

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

#### Contact OBU Magazine

[obumagazine@okbu.edu](mailto: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

##### Vice President

##### for University Advancement

Will Smallwood

#### 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
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
University Advancement .....	878.2703

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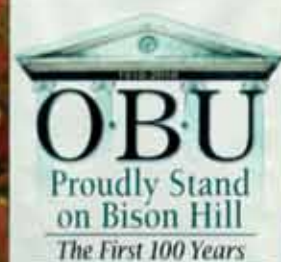
Read the latest updates from OBU alumni.

1910-2010



Centennial

1910-2010



Centennial



# A Plan to Match the Vision



To stand on the fringes of a bison wallow and plan for construction of a university campus at that spot required faith, vision and determination. The daunting task took several years to complete, but it resulted in OBU's first building and generated momentum which led to the 200-acre campus the University enjoys today.

Now, entering its second century, OBU stands at the fringes of a master plan which would reshape and, in several respects, redefine campus landmarks. This, also, is a daunting task and will require several years to complete. University officials see it as a vital element in fulfilling the institution's mission and completing the OBU 2020 strategic vision which OBU trustees approved in the fall of 2009.

"We have worked with groups within the campus community to refine a master plan that can help us achieve the initiatives identified in OBU 2020," said OBU President David Whitlock. "This plan addresses academic, residential life, administrative and athletic needs for our foreseeable future, and we are already on the path to implementing priority projects."

The plan will require significant financial support, and the University is preparing to launch a capital campaign which will address priority projects. The "OBU 2020: Vision for a New Century" campaign will have a \$67 million goal as it addresses several of the construction projects listed in the master plan.

Initial elements of the plan have been listed in alpha order on the working document prepared by OBU and CJC Architects Inc., a Tulsa firm which has worked with the University on several major projects, including the Recreation and Wellness Center and Bailey Business Center.

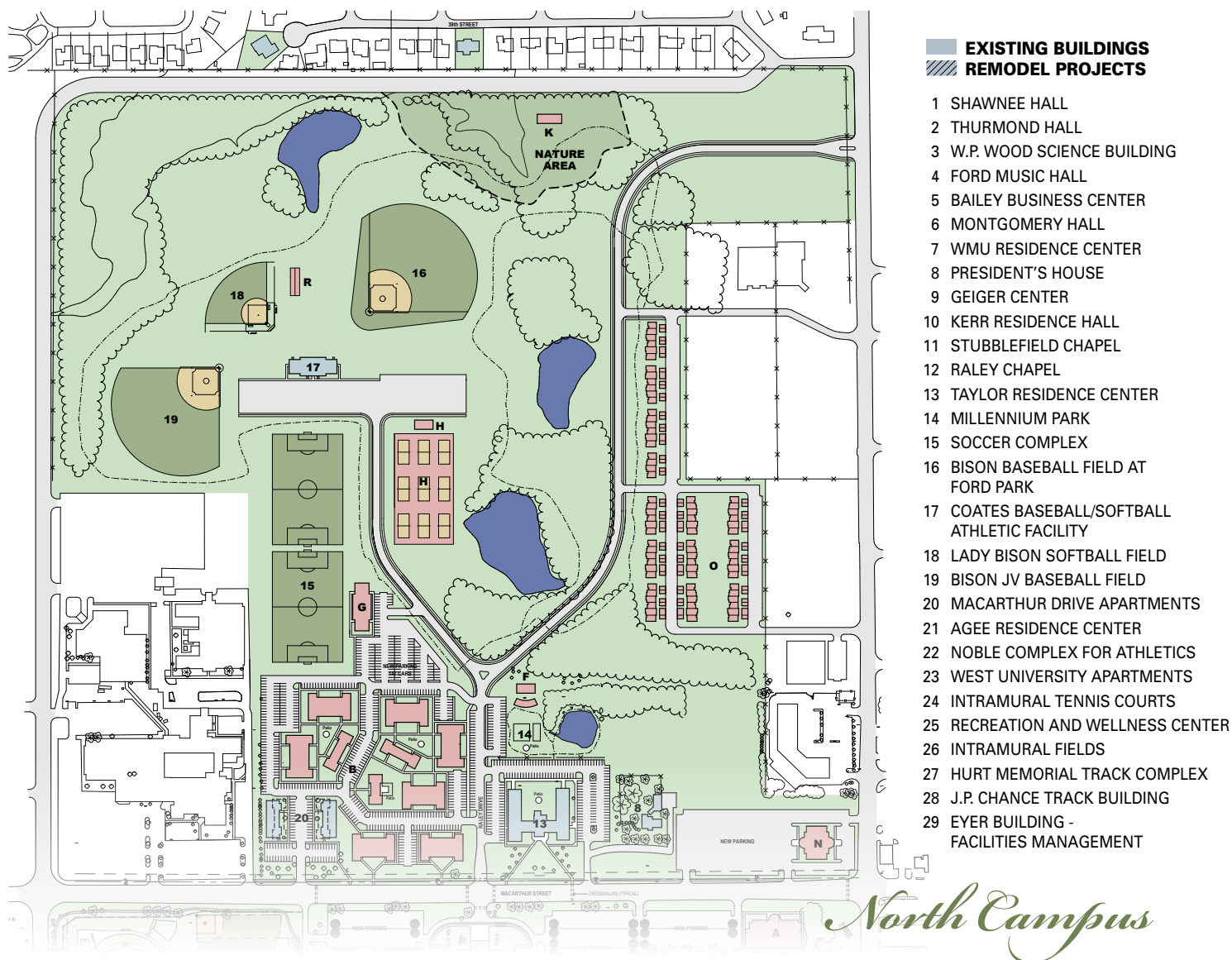
Larry Johnston, a partner in CJC Architects who has worked closely with OBU for many years, serves as the lead architect for creation of the master plan.

"Through our ongoing work with OBU, we have gained a good sense of the University's commitment to embrace a consistent look and feel for campus structures," Johnston said. "The campus currently lends itself to personal interaction and is open and friendly. We are committed to helping craft plans to carry forward that tradition."

Chief priorities include construction of a new building to house OBU's School of Nursing. With a steadily growing enrollment, the nursing school has maximized resources in the Williamson Nursing Center on the lower level of Thurmond Hall.

"There is a continuing need for more nurses in our nation, and our program has grown as students choose careers in nursing," said Dr. Lana Bolhouse, dean of the School of Nursing. "Our laboratory, office and classroom space is steadily utilized, and having our own facility will allow us to build on our strengths and continue a reputation for producing outstanding nurses."

The new building is slated for construction at the corner of MacArthur and Kickapoo, replacing the current Shawnee Hall parking lot.



“It will be a new face for the University,” Dr. Whitlock said. “When people approach what has long been perceived as the ‘front’ of OBU, they will be greeted by a facility which will be similar in appearance to the Bailey Business Center, instead of seeing the back side of our oldest building.”

Residential facilities also are a pressing priority in the master plan. Construction of new apartment-style housing directly north of Agee Residence Center will provide contemporary options for male students. The housing community will incorporate several two-story and three-story buildings. To be constructed in phases, the overall complex is designed to accommodate 608 students.

The plan for new housing means the eventual discontinuation of housing in Agee Residence Center. The building opened in 1949, with Baxter and Storer wings added a decade later. OBU officials said it is a stately and well-constructed facility, but retrofitting it to address current housing expectations would

be a costly undertaking. Current plans were developed after a series of meetings over the summer and early fall months with OBU faculty and staff.

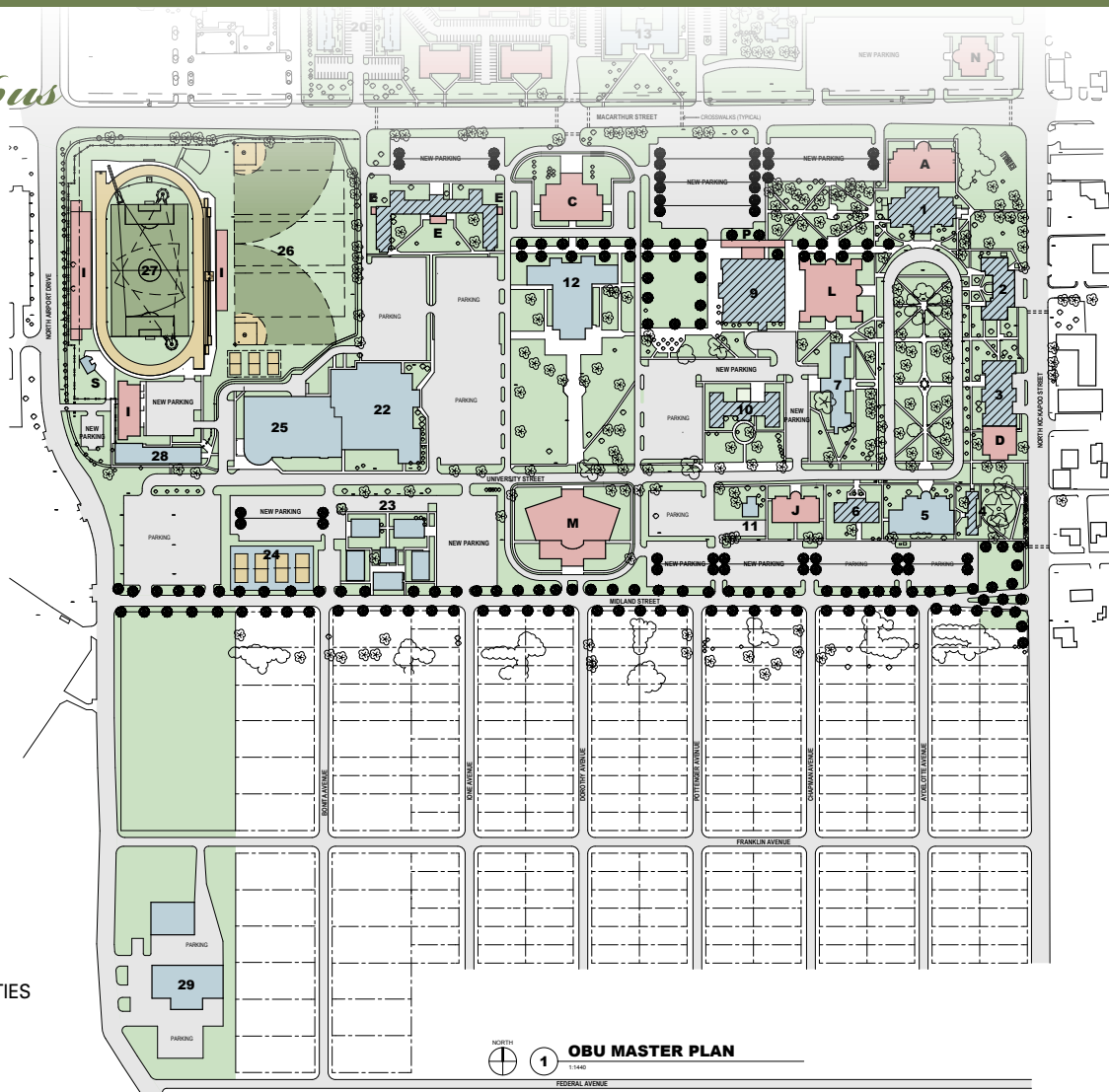
“Our desire is to work with a master plan which has benefitted from the input of the campus community,” Whitlock said. “After our trustees approved the basic structure of the plan at their May meeting, we started conducting forums and meeting with individual academic areas. That yielded great input and creative ideas which we have incorporated into our current plan.”

A recurring idea in the internal discussions was the possibility of abandoning housing in Agee and, instead, converting the facility to office and classroom space. Plans are under way to utilize portions of the east side of the building for administrative offices, the center section for student development offices, and the west side for athletic offices and meeting space.

## South Campus

### NEW BUILDINGS

- A SCHOOL OF NURSING
- B MEN'S RESIDENCE CENTER
- C WELCOME CENTER/  
THURMOND HALL
- D W.P. WOOD SCIENCE  
BUILDING ADDITION
- E AGEE HALL ENTRANCE ADDITIONS
- F AMPHITHEATRE
- G SOCCER/TENNIS BUILDING
- H BISON TENNIS COURTS/  
RESTROOMS & STORAGE
- I ATHLETIC FACILITY  
AND BLEACHERS
- J ART BUILDING
- K NATURE AREA/CLASSROOM/  
RESTROOMS/STORAGE  
(SUSTAINABLE DESIGN)
- L LIBRARY
- M PERFORMING ART CENTER
- N BOOK STORE
- O TOWNHOUSES
- P GEIGER CENTER LOADING  
DOCK ADDITION/COVERED  
WALKWAY
- Q K-12 PRIMARY-SECONDARY SCHOOL  
LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED
- R BATTING CAGES
- S TRACK SCORING/RESTROOM FACILITIES



Moving administrative offices to Agee's east side would compliment other administrative offices which will be housed in a new University Welcome Center. The building is set to be constructed north of Raley Chapel, where Jent Alumni Center currently stands.

"Our desire is to create a one-stop building to address issues for current and prospective students," Whitlock said. "Having a building where we can welcome visitors, as well as meet students' needs with our academic center, student financial services, and business offices, will be beneficial for students and their families.

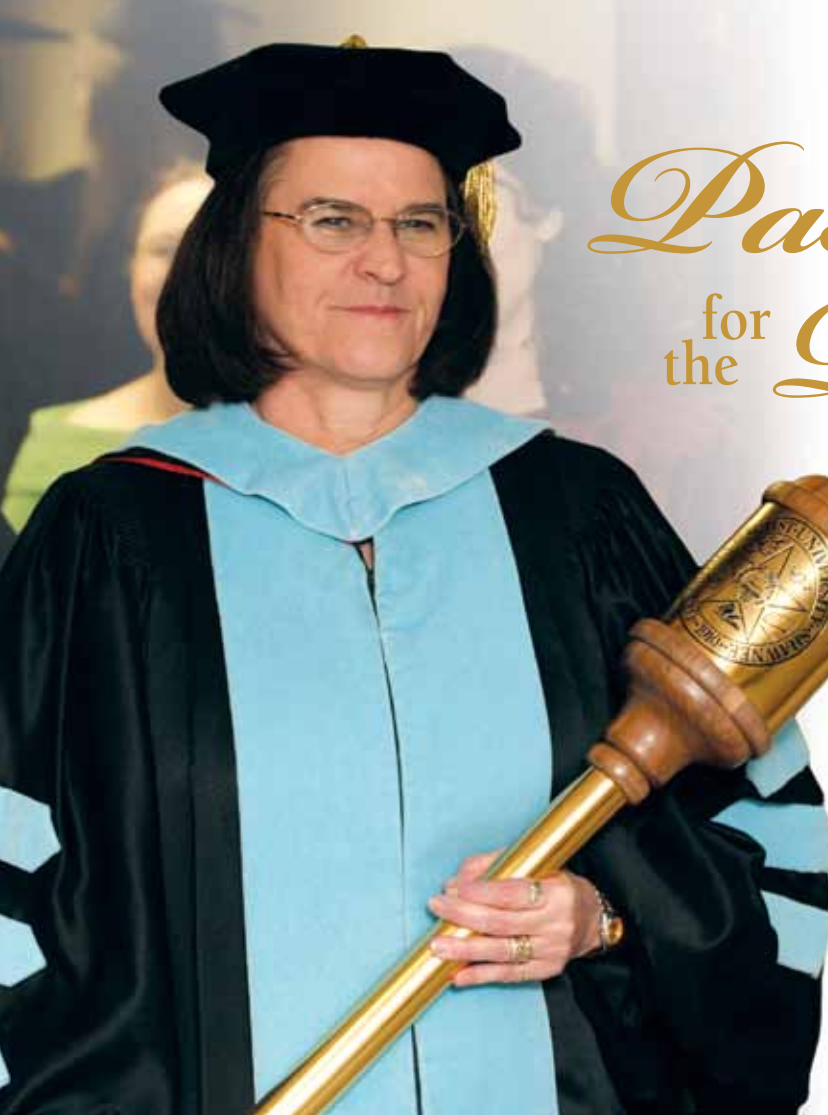
Along with providing more user-friendly administrative offices, the Welcome Center is designed to offer a new "grand

entrance" to the campus. The master plan is built around the addition of a new OBU entrance from Kickapoo Street at the northeast edge of the campus. That roadway would curve to align with the Welcome Center at MacArthur Street, leading to a new oval drive which would eventually encompass the Welcome Center, Raley Chapel, and a new Performing Art Center south of University Street.

"The master plan is a guide for our efforts going forward," Whitlock said. "We anticipate changes in priorities, and we anticipate that this will take decades to implement fully. While the footprint of this plan will probably not be exactly what OBU looks like in 20 or 30 years, it represents a concerted effort to forecast future needs and develop a shared vision for what OBU will look like as we address those needs."

**More information about the campus master plan and priority projects is available at [www.okbu.edu/magazine](http://www.okbu.edu/magazine).**





# *Passion for the Profession*

OBU's 2010 Distinguished  
Teaching Award recipient  
reflects on her career journey.

"Our graduates are young professionals, just like any other teachers," she said. "My greatest blessing, bar none, is when they are successful."

Her former students have found success, earning Teacher of the Year honors in their schools, and helping to strengthen the reputation of OBU's program.

Today's environment is much different from the one McElroy found when she was earning a bachelor's degree.

"At that time, women weren't integrated into sports," she said of the early 1970s. "But I saw women I admired who were very strong in their profession."

OBU's women's sports programs would not begin for several more years. In west central Indiana, the situation was not much different. The Hoosier State's obsession with basketball, however, drew attention to athletics. McElroy had an added interest because her father played for a semi-professional softball team. Her passion for the field of study was too strong to be dissuaded by tradition

She completed a bachelor's degree in secondary physical education at Indiana State University. She was a cheerleader for the Sycamores. She also worked with the National Cheerleader Association as an instructor for three summers, traveling the country to teach at cheer camps. She served as head instructor for the camps during her senior year. At the time, she did not know her curricular and co-curricular interests would be woven into leadership roles during her career.

Married to a fellow educator, the young graduate embarked on a teaching career which wound through public schools in Indiana, Texas, Utah and Oklahoma. She was one of 12

*L*inda McElroy was ahead of her time. Looking back, she sees divine timing in a career journey which has allowed her to pursue her passion and enhance the academic reputation of her profession.

For two decades, the Seelyville, Ind., native has taught at OBU and coached the University's cheerleading squads. During her lengthy tenure on Bison Hill, students and colleagues have been the beneficiaries of Dr. McElroy's wide range of experience as a physical education teacher and consultant. That breadth of experience includes service at all grade levels, as well as work with state agencies.

In her role as professor of kinesiology and leisure studies, McElroy has consistently addressed a two-fold concern she faced as a college student contemplating a career path: convincing people that physical education was a serious academic discipline and proving that women could be effective educators in sports-related roles.

She challenges students majoring in KALS fields to never forget they carry the reputation of their chosen profession with them. She sees it conveyed in how they dress, how they prepare, and how they engage others. Her efforts have resulted in success for McElroy, as well as for her students.



physical education teachers at an Indiana high school, and later ran entire programs for scores of students at a Utah middle school. Along the way, she completed a master's degree at Purdue University and then had the chance to take doctoral-level courses in physical education at the University of Utah, though at the time she was not considering a doctorate.

"I never saw myself able to do that," she said, recalling her entry into the Ed.D. degree program at Utah. "I truly believe it was God-directed."

As she pursued the doctoral degree, she also coached cheerleading at the NCAA Division I institution. It was another opportunity to pursue her passions in education and cheerleading.

Her dissertation explored "selected characteristics of successful physical educators." Again, she was pursuing her passion for elevating the reputation of physical education. Her education was put to immediate use as she moved to Oklahoma and accepted an assistant professor post at Oklahoma State University. Her duties included supervision of entry-year teachers.

She also was assisting with physical education classes at a local elementary school, and when the school needed a full-time teacher, she accepted the task, working with young children for the next four years. "I knew it was where I needed to be," she said. "Those were the most fabulous years and an amazing learning experience."

Armed with a complete range of experience at all grade levels, she accepted a position with the Oklahoma State Department of Education as a physical education consultant and health coordinator. For two years, she traveled the state, leading workshops and supervising implementation of grants from the department.

Linda and her husband divorced not long after arriving in Oklahoma. A few years later, she met Clay McElroy, who was employed by OSU. The couple moved to Edmond after she took the state position, but started to discuss the possibility of Clay working with a new golf course in Shawnee. While they were contemplating that potential move, Linda met Dr. Norris Russell, chair of OBU's health, physical education and recreation division, during a statewide physical education event at the state capitol. She expressed interest in working with the University should an opportunity arise.

A few weeks later, Russell contacted her about a teaching post. He soon discovered her range of experience and expertise fit the position he was seeking to fill. But he asked one more question of the former national cheer training coach: "Do you have any experience with cheerleading?"

"To me, it was God piecing it all together," said McElroy. "The job description fit my strengths right down the pike."

Two decades later, McElroy has seen many examples of the heightened reputation of physical education at OBU. While the program has benefitted from highly respected faculty for many decades, it has had two of its members – McElroy and Russell – selected for the University's Distinguished Teaching Award in recent years. Both also have received the Honor Award, the highest recognition from the Oklahoma Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation. They also serve as faculty marshals. McElroy was appointed to the post after the retirement of Dr. Shirley Jones, who had followed Dr. James Hurley, professor of biology, as faculty marshal.

Today, McElroy has the honor of leading the procession of OBU seniors as they walk into Raley Chapel for Commencement each spring and fall. As a college student, she was a bit ahead of her time. Now, as a respected educator who has invested her life in equipping others, she is at the head of the line. ♦



# Terri Yarbrough-McAdoo '83

## *The Value Of Words*

If her calculations are correct, Terri Yarbrough-McAdoo has written more than 10 million words since graduating from OBU with a journalism degree.

"I was never good at math, so I may be off by a couple of million," she said. "But thanks to former OBU professor John Lovelace, I'm an ace when it comes to working with words."

Yarbrough-McAdoo said that Lovelace's passion for writing, interviewing and getting to the heart of the real story inspired her to pursue a journalism degree. After graduating in 1983, she served as a radio news director, television reporter, and newspaper reporter and editor. She currently owns a successful writing and editing agency in New Jersey.

"John Lovelace was right on target when he told us in class that journalists are students of the world," Yarbrough-McAdoo said. "As a journalist, you learn and experience something new every day. Most of the time, it's painful stuff that keeps you grounded and grateful for God's grace."

Some of her most memorable stories include hanging out of a helicopter to film dead cattle during a flood; accompanying a sheriff's department on middle-of-the-night drug raids; and writing a series of award-winning stories about women who adopted HIV-positive children.

"The story my sons like the most is the one where I covered the annual rattlesnake round-up in Oklahoma," Yarbrough-McAdoo said. "I climbed into the snake pit and learned how to pick up a rattlesnake without getting hurt. Looking back, I would have to say that was not one of my best decisions."

Her decision to attend OBU was less dangerous, especially since she knew the campus well. Her father, Dr. Tom Yarbrough, was University counselor from 1969-80 and taught on Bison Hill. The family lived in Jent Apartments when Terri was 9 years old.

"I knew about OBU from an early age, and my interaction with the professors and students there were always positive," she recalled. "When it came time to make a decision about college, OBU was my first choice."

Her choice for a major was a bit more challenging. Torn between journalism and psychology, she discovered that being a journalist "required considerable insights into the human psyche."







“I am successful today largely because an OBU professor recognized my potential as a writer, took the time to encourage me to never give up, and taught me to be an excellent journalist and an ethical businessperson.”

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“I took some basic psychology classes and read books on my own to develop a deeper understanding of personalities and behaviors,” she said. “This knowledge has helped me immensely during tough interviews with sources.”

In the 1990s, Yarbrough-McAdoo was working for the largest and oldest weekly newspaper in New Jersey, The Hunterdon County Democrat. In 1994, the New Jersey Press Association named her Journalist of the Year for her coverage of health issues, criminal courts, religion and non-profit organizations. In 1996, she opened her own writing and editing agency, Terri McAdoo Communications LLC,

which specializes in employee communications and public relations for the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, consumer products, data management and construction industries.

She has received multiple writing awards from the International Association of Business Communicators, including awards for several annual reports and a book titled “Legal Legends & Lore,” which traces the vivid characters, tragedies and triumphs of a corporate law department.

“During my research for the book, I had to interview 50 lawyers from all over the world – and get all of their quotes approved,” she said. “The copious notes I had to take in Western Civilization class back in the ‘80s were a piece of cake compared to the book deal.”

This year, Yarbrough-McAdoo will celebrate 15 years as a business owner.

“I am successful today largely because an OBU professor recognized my potential as a writer, took the time to encourage me to never give up, and taught me to be an excellent journalist and an ethical businessperson.”

Yarbrough-McAdoo tries to instill those same values in her students. For the past seven years, she has served as an adjunct professor of writing at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J. “If I see a student struggling, I do everything I can to help that student get back on track,” she said. “John Lovelace did that for me a long time ago, and now it’s my turn.”

Beyond teaching and running a business, Yarbrough-McAdoo has raised two sons who are now in college, Ragen, 23, and Jordan, 21. She serves as moderator for Cherryville Baptist Church in Flemington, N.J. She also is a leader in her church for the Truth Project®, a Focus on the Family series that examines biblical truth versus the world’s view of truth.

“I took Old Testament, New Testament and biblical ethics classes at OBU. And, of course, there were all those chapel requirements,” Yarbrough-McAdoo said. “Those classes actually gave me a clinical and spiritual foundation that helps me lead the Truth Project. I remember grumbling about having to buy that hefty biblical ethics textbook. I’m sure glad I kept it.”

Hefty books contain a lot of words. For Yarbrough-McAdoo, words continue to be a valuable commodity for building up lives. ♦

# Arnold Rawls '82

## *Pursing Passions*



### *The operatic stage*

is hardly unfamiliar territory for Arnold Rawls. Having performed in more than 20 roles throughout his career, the 1982 OBU graduate has traveled the world sharing his gift, while bringing the traditions of Bison Hill right along with him.

Rawls' initial aspirations of pursuing church music as a career first brought him to OBU. The University's Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts was famous for producing first-rate church musicians. That reputation reached the Rawls home in West Monroe, La. At a young age, Arnold met OBU graduates Pete and JoAnn Butler, two influential church musicians from the First Baptist Church of Ada. The Butlers told him there was no better place to pursue an education in church music than OBU.

"I trusted the Butlers because I had heard that they were some of the best church musicians in the country," Rawls said.

Their advice paid off.





Rawls said the decision to attend OBU introduced him to some of the most important mentors in his life – mentors whose teachings he would soon take with him across the world.

Dedicated to rigorous study as a college student, Rawls entertained pre-medicine as a degree option. The interest soon fizzled, however, and he returned to his initial focus on church music. Once he began intentionally studying the vocal arts, his talent and drive to succeed musically opened many doors. In addition to church music ministry, Rawls had another passion to pursue – living the life of a performer.

After graduating, Rawls pursued further education, completing a master's degree in religious education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctorate in musical arts at the University of Oklahoma.

He began his career as minister of music at the First Baptist Church of Ada – the very place his first mentors, the Butlers, served. He later moved to Spring Creek Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. Following his stint there, he joined the faculty at Moody Bible Institute as artist in residence and professor of music and voice. For 13 years Rawls fulfilled duties as a faculty member, while travelling worldwide to perform professionally. He recently moved to Edmond to pursue a full-time performance career.

He recounts his first professional performance as being the most powerful of his entire career. His opera company at the time had a partnership with a school for the blind and hearing impaired. While performing for such an audience initially seemed odd to Rawls, he later found it fulfilling to share opera

moment. The child said when I sang he could see the opera in his head because they had studied the story line, were told what the sets were like and had listened to the music. He touched my face that day, and that experience continues to touch my life."

Rawls points to his college days as being most pivotal in terms of personal development and preparation for his future career.

"My time at OBU was one of character building," Rawls said. "It was the first time I was away from home and had to take care of myself and polish my positive qualities and diminish my negative ones. The faculty at OBU were instrumental in helping me form my Christian worldview."

Those most central to Rawls' individual growth during his collegiate studies were his professors. Studying with the OBU music faculty gave him the foundation to pursue a career in the church, in the classroom and on the road. He said he carries their influence with him everywhere he goes.

"Perhaps the most influential of all my OBU professors was Betty Woodward," Rawls said. "She is the best teacher I have ever encountered. She is truly a teacher of teachers. Her strong influence has stuck with me since my OBU days. She is a significant mentor and friend to me this very day."

In his role at Moody Bible Institute, Rawls sought to affect students in the same way he was influenced as an undergraduate at OBU. He worked to create character development opportunities for his students. He prepared and inspired students to teach the art of music to others. He also

## ... church music ministry *and* living the life of a performer ...

with those who rarely have an opportunity to experience it. For Rawls, it was his most difficult performance; yet, it was also his most rewarding.

Following the performance, he was approached by a teacher leading a blind student who wished to meet Tonio – Rawls' character. Awed with the chance to meet a genuine opera star, the child simply asked to touch Rawls' face. To this day, Rawls points to his interaction with that student as being one which has impacted him most in his performance career.

"That was in 1991 and there has not been another moment as powerful as that in my operatic career," Rawls said. "To touch someone's life with the sound of your voice is a wonderful thing. I had never realized the power of it until that very

encouraged students to pursue a variety of passions – as he has done.

Rawls and his wife, Julie, have two children, Graham and Madison. While in Illinois, Julie directed music ministries at their home church. When they can, the family travels with Arnold to his opera performances and vocal recitals. Though still at a young age, both Graham and Madison are opera experts, having spent ample time with their father at his performances.

While he performs around the world, Rawls can still be heard on Bison Hill. He returns to campus every few years to present a recital and talk with current students. That has become another OBU tradition he maintains. ♦

# Major Andy Taylor '91

## *Footprints of Jesus, Boot Prints of Soldiers*



**SOMETIMES** it is the small things that can change the course of a life – or many lives. In the case of Army Chaplain Major Andy Taylor, '91, God used the gesture of a youth minister who contacted OBU admissions about a potential student to shape his future profoundly.

Taylor enlisted in the Army Reserves while in his senior year of high school and left for basic training five days after graduation. He returned after a year of training.

"I was wrestling with God about ministry at the time," Taylor said. "An admissions counselor called me from OBU telling me that as a potential ministry major I would receive a scholarship.

I told her I didn't know that I was planning on coming to OBU. In fact, I didn't even know the Baptists had a college!

"Even with the scholarship, I knew I couldn't afford OBU. But the finance office told me to show up with \$500, and they would keep me here as long as they could. And God was faithful to provide for me all the way through my OBU experience. And I didn't owe a dime the day I graduated."

Taylor said the OBU experience created in him a thirst for life-long learning and a deep appreciation for the Scriptures. On Bison Hill he met his wife, Laurie (Ratliff) Taylor, '94; his best friend, Dr. Todd Fisher, '92; and a host of people who invested their lives in him.

"God used my OBU experience to shape virtually every aspect of my life," he said.

Student ministers Guy Grimes and Odus Compton impacted the young soldier perhaps more than anyone in his four years on campus. He said they modeled incarnational ministry, leadership and compassion. Having little biblical background, Taylor learned to dig into God's Word, encouraged in his love for Scripture by Dr. James W. (Bob) Evans,

professor emeritus of religion, and Dr. Rick Byargeon, former assistant professor of religion. It would not be long until Taylor would begin sharing such encouragement with others.

Following graduation from OBU and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Taylor served as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Chickasha, Okla. During the Christmas season of 1999, he sensed God calling him back into the military as a chaplain. Born while his father was fighting with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, Taylor grew up wanting to be a soldier. When he enlisted in the Army Reserves, he served with his dad in 12th Special Forces Group. In April 2001, he was sworn in as an Army Chaplain in the Oklahoma Army National Guard.



# CHAPLAINS GO WHERE SOLDIERS GO

"Little did any of us know what would happen just five months later on Sept. 11," Taylor said. "I immediately knew I needed to be serving on active duty."

One year later, he resigned from Trinity Baptist Church and went on active duty at Fort Sill, Okla. He deployed for a year to Iraq in April 2003 on his first combat tour. Since then he has deployed again to Iraq (15 months with the 25th Infantry Division) and to Afghanistan (eight months with the 82nd Airborne Division).

In his work as an Army chaplain, Taylor believes and preaches the fundamentals of his Southern Baptist faith. He does not try to proselytize soldiers of other faiths, but when they ask – and they often do – Taylor shares with them about the One who gives hope, strength and courage.

"The cool thing is that I work side-by-side with my congregation every day," Taylor said. "Every morning I do physical training with my paratroopers. One day I may be talking with a soldier at the rifle range. The next day I may be ministering to a paratrooper as we are walking into a C-130 aircraft in order to make a parachute jump.

"Chaplains go where soldiers go. We hold church services just like a civilian pastor, but we also walk in the same boot prints of our soldiers."

The most challenging aspect of Taylor's job is helping soldiers deal with the deaths of their comrades. As the Brigade Chaplain for 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, he dealt with more than 5,000 soldiers operating across southern Afghanistan.

"During our deployment, 38 paratroopers gave their last full measure," Taylor said. "Over 200 Fury Brigade soldiers were injured, with nearly 25 receiving amputations. Walking with our soldiers through so much death and destruction is very difficult. But ministry generally happens in the midst of chaos. War tends to be chaos. The best ministry of my 22 years of ministry has been my three years of being deployed."

The most rewarding aspect of his job is seeing young heroes, so committed to the ideals of the United States, commit themselves to being full followers of Christ.

"These great Americans are honest about where their life stands and honest about where they want to be," Taylor said. "Army chaplaincy presents a raw yet refreshing context for ministry."

He believes OBU provided the resources he needs to be successful in his ministry, providing him a solid foundation of faith and ministry skills he has carried into each new phase of ministry.

"Bison Hill challenged me to think through my faith, to understand why I believe what I believe," he said. "Soldiers have no issue with walking right up to the chaplain and challenging him on issues of faith. OBU set the conditions for success for me by providing a solid biblical theology, a compassionate pastoral ministry, and a critical analysis of the intersection of culture and conviction."

In addition to his foundation for ministry, Taylor traces the beginning of his family to Bison Hill. He and his wife started dating in August 1990, and, after bribing the security guard for admittance, he proposed to Laurie in the steeple of Raley Chapel. They have been married for 18 years.

"Soldiers are constantly lauded as heroes because of what we do during deployments," Taylor said. "In my mind, Laurie is the real soldier and true hero. Parenting three children while half of the team is away requires real courage. The Army has pinned a chest full of medals on my uniform, but I know who really deserves them."

The couple has three children: Seth, age 11; Cole, age 6; and Lexie, age 3. One of the predominant themes in the family's life has been autism, as Seth was diagnosed at about 2 years old. The family works diligently to provide him with the best care possible. Recently, he learned to communicate by using a letter board, a significant advance since he is completely non-verbal.

"One of the greatest moments of my life was a phone conversation with Laurie while I was in Afghanistan," Taylor said. "Seth had spelled on the letter board that he had asked Jesus to forgive him of his sin."

Taylor also traces enduring, life-changing friendships to his campus days.

"I loved Noondays, intramural sports, CAB activities and all the BSU meetings," he said. "But the best, and most memorable, part of OBU was the times with my roommates and friends. Chris Brewster, Jason Yarbrough, Marvin Schoenecke, Doug Wisel, Jon Hix, Chris Wall and Jeremie Kubicek provided a laugh every day as roommates. Gene Phillips, Don Overton and Doyle Pryor constantly sharpened me in my walk with Christ.

"Undoubtedly, the best thing about OBU is the relationships developed. And I have carried that with me from Bison Hill to the mountains of Afghanistan, the deserts of Iraq, and all around the world." ♦



# Gary Underwood '76

*Drawn by Glee, Guided by Grace*

When Gary Underwood was a youth, he was drawn to Bison Hill. He would eventually grow to appreciate the liberal arts courses offered in a distinctively Christian setting. He would one day know the personal and professional value of the friendships and networks built on campus. From ministry in music to directing media for a governor, he would realize the possibilities founded on a strong education.

But in all honesty, it was the Bison Glee Club that enamored a young Underwood and led him to OBU, where he graduated in 1976.

"I had a cousin who was like a brother – Richard Hogue – who was in the Glee Club," Underwood said. "Early in my teenage years I wanted to go to OBU, wanted to be a music minister and wanted to be in the Glee Club."

Underwood fulfilled his entire plan, even beginning his ministry in music while still a student at OBU. He served as part-time minister of music and youth at Trinity Baptist Church in Enid, Village Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, and Temple Baptist Church in Shawnee.

Arriving on campus as a freshman, Underwood was awed by the greeting – traditional at the time – in Raley Chapel: a professor pounded out dirges on the organ and the building erupted with hollers and cheers from upperclassmen filling the balcony. Underwood thought it was incredible. What he greatly feared was failing to make it into the revered men's choral group. But he found encouragement during Welcome Week. While singing the alma mater, an upperclassman told him, "You've got to try out for the Glee Club." He made it, and was soon rehearsing under direction of the legendary Dean Warren M. Angell.

"I probably learned more from Dean Angell than anyone, without ever having a class from him," Underwood said. "The Glee Club rehearsals were learning experiences," including Angell's drive for excellence and a focus on tradition and brotherhood. Underwood said Angell believed there was no higher calling than serving in a local church.

Underwood took that belief to heart. The day he graduated, he and his wife, Susan, moved to Gallup, N.M., so he could serve as minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church. Three years later, he became minister of music at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Farmington, N.M. During his time in the Land of Enchantment, Underwood directed the Singing Churchmen of New Mexico.



"I felt very comfortable graduating and going directly to church ministry," Underwood said. "I felt prepared to do my job and fulfill my calling."

In 1981, Underwood moved to Arkansas as minister of music, media and youth at Elmdale Baptist Church in Texarkana, where he transitioned to focus solely on music and media. He became associated with the ACTS Network, working on one of the first affiliates in Arkansas. The first affiliate in the state was at Immanuel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark., where Mike Huckabee served as pastor. Underwood and Huckabee began associating on a state level regarding media in ministry.

Huckabee moved to Texarkana, Ark., in 1986, where he served as pastor of Beech Street Baptist Church. He immediately began building a cable television station which was soon up and running 24 hours a day. Huckabee established and became president of Beech Street Communications. Underwood was called as minister of media at the church in 1988, where he served until 1996. He also became executive vice president of Beech Street Communications.

Underwood also was a trustee of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. He served as an "incorporator," assisting in merging the RTVC and the Brotherhood Commission with the Home Mission Board during a time of transition in the national convention.

In 1989, Huckabee was elected president of the Arkansas Baptist Convention. During his two-year tenure in that position, people encouraged him to seek public office. He ran for a U.S. Senate seat in 1992, but was defeated. However, that same year, Bill Clinton was elected President of the United States. Arkansas lieutenant governor Jim Guy Tucker became governor. Huckabee ran for – and won – the seat of the lieutenant governor.

In 1996, Huckabee decided to pursue the Senate once again, and he was leading the polls. Governor Tucker was convicted of felony fraud charges connected to the Whitewater investigation, and said he intended to resign. Huckabee abandoned the Senate race, and prepared to take the reins as governor. Then came July 15, 1996, what Underwood describes as "a very bizarre day." Moments before Huckabee was set to be sworn into office, Tucker rescinded his resignation. Hours later, the issue was settled, and Huckabee became governor.





“When Mike found out he was going to be governor, he called and told me that he wanted me to come to Little Rock to be on his staff,” Underwood said. “He said he didn’t know what the title would be, but my charge was: ‘Find ways to help me get my message out directly to the people.’ We also knew we needed to deliver our message unfiltered, so we worked hard to do that.”

Underwood had only been involved in one campaign previously, when he did some work for Oklahoma Governor David Boren. That was for a different political party, but Underwood said what mattered to him was not the political affiliation. What mattered was that his pastor ran for office, and he believed the man brought a lot of integrity to the office.

Huckabee was elected to a full four-year term as governor in 1998, and was re-elected to another four-year term in November 2002. From 1996-2002, Underwood served as director of media operations for the Office of the Governor, State of Arkansas. In 2002, his office merged into a different agency, and he became deputy chief information officer/chief security officer for the State of Arkansas.

In 2004, Underwood became chief technology officer for the Arkansas Department of Information Systems. He managed human resources and communications. He was responsible for the statewide radio system and led in its change from analog to digital formats.

Following his time in state service, he returned to the local church, serving as video producer/service director at The Church at Rock Creek in Little Rock from 2007-08. He recently completed a stint as a partnership specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau, where he worked in a six-state region building relationships with people of influence in local



**Gary Underwood (left) visits with Mike Huckabee at a recent Sherwood, Ark., Chamber of Commerce banquet.**

communities. He currently works as director of business development for ABC Financial Services in Little Rock. He and his son, Kurt, operate Pinnacle Communications, an independent video production service. The Underwoods also have a daughter, Kerri.

For a man who recalls himself as a shy high schooler, on the fringes of his pack of friends, Underwood said attending OBU was the first time he felt forced out of his comfort zone, prepared for the unexpected.

“It was the first step toward me being thrown into a new situation and being able to relate,” he said. “A desire to continually learn new things and excel at them, or at least succeed ... OBU took that to a whole new level.”

Through ministry in music and media to managing a governor’s political communications, Underwood has continued to discover innovative ways to stretch his education. And yet, through the years, he said his best friends in the world are Bison Glee Club members – a fitting fulfillment for the desire of his youth. ♦



## Freshman Enrollment Climbs

Overall enrollment increased at OBU for the 2010 fall semester, bolstered by a total of 414 first-time freshmen. OBU's headcount enrollment of 1,777 students for the fall semester is a slight gain over the fall 2009 total of 1,764 students. The number of freshmen increased by 12.5 percent from a total of 368 last year. The total of first-time freshmen had not topped 400 since 2001.

"We are pleased to have another increase in enrollment this year," said OBU President David Whitlock. "Growth in first-time freshmen is a great indicator that more students realize the value of studying at OBU. Our students are challenged to grow academically and spiritually, and our history demonstrates that the majority of them graduate within four years and move on to careers of leadership and service."

The average ACT score for first-time freshmen was 24.2, an increase over the average score of 23.5 in 2009.

"A significant increase in the number of first-time freshmen reflects well on the efforts of our enrollment management team," said Dr. Stan Norman, OBU provost and executive vice president for campus life. "We are confident that as more students learn about the kind of education they can gain at OBU, they are committing to invest their college years on our campus."

**12.5  
percent  
increase in  
first-time  
freshmen**

The total enrollment includes 106 transfer students. The enrollment included 1,473 full-time undergraduate students. Full-time students are enrolled in at least 12 credit hours for the semester. The total included 60 students enrolled in OBU's Graduate School, which operates in downtown Oklahoma City offering master's degrees in business administration and nursing.

A total of 96 students are studying off-campus through OBU's Ministry Training Institute. Thirty-nine students are studying through OBU's Intensive English Program.

## McQuerry Appointed University Registrar

Longtime OBU staff member Marcia McQuerry was appointed as OBU registrar, effective Aug. 1. She filled the position vacated by Peggy Askins, who served nearly half a century in the role. Askins retired July 31.

McQuerry previously served as senior computer programmer/analyst in OBU's Information Systems and Services Office.

"OBU has enjoyed great stability in this post through the rare opportunity to have someone fill it for 47 years," said Dr. Stan Norman, OBU provost

and executive vice president for campus life. "Marcia can build on our strengths as we expand electronic services through the Registrar's Office. She understands our mission and values the distinctive relationships between our students, our faculty and our academic services areas."

A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, McQuerry joined the OBU staff in February 1983 as a computer coding clerk in the Admissions Office. In the summer of 1983, she moved to the Computer Center as an associate programmer. She later served as

computer programmer, and then as chief programmer, before assuming her most recent role.

"I had the privilege of working with Peggy Askins for over 27 years at my previous position," McQuerry said. "There will never be any way to replace Peggy and the service she has given to OBU, but I can only hope to carry on her legacy."



**McQUERRY**



# OBU Trustees Set Tuition, Approve Graduate Programs

OBU trustees approved tuition and fees for the 2011-12 academic year, ratified plans for five new graduate programs, and gave the University approval to explore and implement potential new athletic programs during the board's annual fall meeting on the OBU campus Friday, Oct. 8.

The University's tuition for full-time students will increase by 4.49 percent, from \$17,220 this academic year to \$17,994 for the upcoming year. The overall costs, which include tuition, fees, room and board, will increase by 5.99 percent, from \$24,300 in the 2010-11 year to \$25,756 for 2011-12.

"We have worked to provide early information on costs for the upcoming year," said Randy L. Smith, OBU executive vice president for business and administrative services. "As prospective students and their families consider college choices, we want them to be able to get a clear picture regarding our university. They can make informed decisions, and we know that those who gather information about OBU's programs, scholarships, and campus life are very likely to choose OBU.

"By setting these amounts early this fall, we can also follow through with financial aid packages for prospective students earlier in the college selection process," Smith said. "Each year, 99 percent of our students receive some form of financial aid, and we want students and their families to have this information as soon as possible."

Smith said the increase will provide resources for enhanced campus technology and will strengthen resources for scholarships and personnel.

"OBU provides an outstanding Christian education which is a great value," said Dr. Kevin Clarkson, board chair.

Trustees also approved creation of five new master's degree programs through the OBU Graduate School. The slate of programs includes the return of a master of science degree in marriage and family therapy. OBU offered the marriage and family therapy graduate degree from 1993-2005.

The other master's degree programs include a master of science in nursing with a global nursing emphasis, a master of education in special education, a master of arts in Christian studies with concentrations in Christian leadership and applied apologetics, and a master of arts in intercultural studies with a concentration in orality.

The graduate degrees were proposed following extensive research by OBU personnel which included study of market needs. OBU officials plan to launch the programs after completing approval processes with the university's accrediting agencies.

Trustees granted approval for both exploration and implementation of potential new varsity sports programs. The action could accelerate the start of new programs. It also allows OBU officials to move forward with discussions about possible additional teams.

"With the board's approval, we can proceed with a series of hearings on the campus with faculty, staff and students to investigate factors related to adding sports programs," said OBU President David Whitlock.

The vote did not include a timetable for launching new sports programs and Dr. Whitlock said a calendar for implementation would be established if new sports are adopted.

OBU currently competes in 17 varsity sports within the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The University's teams won two NAIA national championships last spring, claiming the men's basketball and women's indoor track and field titles in March.

Board officers for the 2010-11 year were elected at the close of the meeting. Dr. Reagan Bradford Sr., a medical research physician from Edmond, Okla., will serve as chair. Dr. Alan Day, pastor of Edmond's First Baptist Church, will be vice chair. Scott Neighbors, pastor of worship and discipleship at the First Baptist Church of Skiatook, Okla., will serve as board secretary.

Clarkson, senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of Moore, Okla., presided at the meeting.

**\$12.9 Million**  
**OBU's 2010-11 Scholarships for students**



**99**  
**Percent of students receiving financial aid**

# Three Rankings List OBU Among America's Best

For the third year in a row, OBU was listed in three national college rankings released at the start of the academic year. U.S. News & World Report, The Princeton Review, and Forbes.com all named the University one of America's best.

For the 17th consecutive year, OBU was Oklahoma's highest-rated baccalaureate college in U.S. News & World Report's annual ranking of "America's Best Colleges." In the 2011 ratings, released Aug. 17, OBU is ranked second in the West.

OBU has made the news magazine's "top 10" in its category for 19 consecutive years. In the 2011 rankings, the United States Air Force Academy, in Colorado Springs, Colo., is first in the 15-state region. The Master's College and Seminary in Santa Clarita, Calif., tied OBU for the second-place ranking.

The exclusive rankings include more than 1,400 schools nationwide.

"We appreciate the national recognition which accompanies the U.S. News listing," said OBU President David Whitlock. "The continued high ranking is a tribute to the faculty, staff and students of OBU who work together to create an outstanding learning environment. During our Centennial year, this is a great reminder that the vision of our founders continues to be upheld on our campus."

"The U.S. News rankings are one of many tools students and their families use to assess quality," said Bruce Perkins, OBU director of admissions. "From our perspective, the lives of our graduates continue to be the best example of OBU's educational product. If consistent high rankings attract attention to our institution, we hope that prospective students will look closely and realize that our alumni have



used their OBU degrees to build lives of leadership and service."

For the sixth straight year, OBU has been named one of the best colleges in the western United States by The Princeton Review. OBU was one of 120 institutions recommended in the "Best in the West" section on the educational research firm's website feature, "2011 Best Colleges: Region by Region," posted Aug. 2.

"We're pleased to recommend Oklahoma Baptist University to users of our site as one of the best schools to earn their undergrad degree," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review's senior vice president of publishing. "We chose it and the other terrific institutions we name as 'regional best' colleges mainly for their excellent academic programs."

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

OBU is one of five Oklahoma schools receiving the merit, among the 120 colleges honored in the 15-state region. The Princeton Review does not rank the colleges in its list hierarchically. Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Christian University, Oral Roberts University and the University of Tulsa also made the list. The "Best in the West" colleges are located in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

For the third year in a row, OBU is the highest-ranked university in Oklahoma in the Forbes.com listing of "America's Best Colleges." OBU ranked third nationally among Baptist-affiliated schools.

Nationwide, OBU ranked 233rd on the "America's Best Colleges" list among 610 undergraduate institutions rated by Forbes.com. The listings are based on an assessment of the quality of the education universities and colleges provide and how much their students achieve, according to the company's website. The rankings were determined through a process conducted by Forbes and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity.

Six other Oklahoma universities were listed in the rankings. The University of Oklahoma was at No. 308, University of Tulsa at No. 367, Oklahoma State University at No. 384, Oklahoma Wesleyan University at No. 461, Oral Roberts University at No. 525 and University of Central Oklahoma at No. 569.

According to its website, Forbes.com launched the "America's Best Colleges" rankings as an alternative to the traditional rankings released annually by U.S. News & World Report. Forbes.com is related to the business and financial news magazine Forbes.





KOCO Channel 5 news anchors Paul Folger and Jessica Schambach report live from a news desk on the OBU campus during the station's "On the Road College Tour" Wednesday, Sept. 15.

## OBU Headlines Oklahoma City Newscasts

OBU was featured on two broadcasts of KOCO Channel 5 news during its "On the Road College Tour" in September. The Oklahoma City ABC affiliate broadcast live from OBU's Oval during the 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. newscasts.

News anchors Paul Folger and Jessica Schambach reported from a news desk north of the Oval fountain. Meteorologist Rick Mitchell provided weather reports from around campus.

KOCO reporter Brandon Beyer interviewed OBU students Ryan Cox and Kristin Pearson, as well as faculty members Dr. Albert Chen, Dr. John McWilliams and John McCullough.

He also featured OBU's Centennial celebration, interviewing Dr. John Parrish for information about the history of Bison Hill.

Telecommunication students assisted the KOCO crew during the all-day event, with student reporter Janna Smith appearing live during the broadcasts.

OBU was selected as one of five universities across the state to be part of KOCO's annual college tour, which also featured Oklahoma City University, the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and the University of Central Oklahoma.

Students enjoyed a carnival-type setting, with giveaways provided by the tour's sponsors: Call Okie, Chesapeake Energy, McDonald's and Love's Country Stores. The event also featured a live band sponsored by Chesapeake Energy.

Before the live broadcasts, the anchors participated in afternoon question-and-answer sessions for students in Bailey Business Center's Tulsa Royalties Auditorium. They discussed the behind-the-scenes life of a news reporter, as well as information about what makes a story newsworthy.

## Compton Named Director of Student Ministry

Odus Compton, '87, returned to a full-time on-campus role at OBU in September, as he was named director of student ministry.

Compton had served as OBU's director of church relations since 2008. He previously worked in Baptist Collegiate Ministry at OBU from 1989-2002.

As director of student ministry, Compton champions the charge from Scripture to "love each other," and provide leadership, training and management in the area of spiritual formation for the OBU student body. Reporting to Dale Griffin, dean of spiritual life, he is a member of the Spiritual Life staff and OBU's representative through the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

Compton earned a master's degree in biblical languages from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1993.

As a student at OBU, Compton said, "I was overwhelmed with a vision of what could happen if God captured the heart of the student population at OBU. I could see OBU students evangelizing and discipling all across the globe and multiplying themselves over and over again. I saw that happening as a result of intentional one-on-one and small group discipleship that challenged students to worship God through yielded lives of unlimited passion, unrelenting service, unwavering commitment and unshakable faith."

Following graduation from OBU, Compton was Baptist Student Union director at Maui Community College in Maui, Hawaii. He returned to OBU in 1989, filling the role of assistant campus minister. He served as OBU's Baptist Student Union director and director of religious activities from 1992-2002.

Odus and his wife, Paula Kaye Paschall Compton, '89, have eight children.

## Lang Directs Church Relations

Dr. Wendell Lang, '78, has been named OBU director of church relations. Lang, senior pastor of Surrey Hills Baptist Church in Yukon, Okla., is serving on the OBU team in a bi-vocational role.

Dale Griffin, dean of spiritual life, said Lang will provide leadership in determining churches, associations and other stakeholders that could benefit from the mission and vision of OBU through personal contacts and shared service. Lang earned a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a doctor of ministry degree from Phillips University.

He served as pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., from 2005-10. From 2003-05, he served as executive director/treasurer of the Illinois Baptist State Association. He previously served as a pastor at churches in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

## Watson Named to Oklahoma Education Hall of Fame

Widely known for his portrayal of historic Oklahoman Will Rogers and favored on Bison Hill as a longtime professor and scholar, Dr. Doug Watson was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame Oct. 12. The ceremony and dinner were at the Jim Thorpe Museum and Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

Watson joined the OBU English faculty in 1980. He retired in 2007 as professor of English after serving 27 years at the University. He taught a variety of English courses. Watson was a Fulbright professor of American literature in Nigeria, West Africa, during the 1988-89 academic year, in addition to being a Rotary Fellow for Overseas Education.

OBU faculty members elected him chair of the Faculty Council for the 1989-90 academic year, and he served as a

member of the council for several terms. In 1992, he led in the establishment of the University Honors program, which he directed until 2006.

In 1997, Watson began developing "Conversations with Will Rogers." He continues to appear as this Oklahoma treasure. Watson has made more than 600 performances throughout the nation as Will Rogers – and more than 800 performances, plus workshops, of one of his characters.

Watson and his wife, Kay, a retired eighth grade English teacher, reside in Shawnee. They enjoy gardening, exercising, reading and travel.

Other OBU faculty and administrators who have been inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame include Dr. John Raley, Dr.

Warren Angell, Dr. Bob Agee, Dr. James Hurley, Dr. Juanita Millsap and Dr. Katherine Rader.



## Eight Join Faculty at Start of 2010-11 Academic Year

Eight educators joined the OBU faculty for the 2010-11 year.

**Arika Bowles** is reference/instructional services librarian. She earned bachelor's degrees in history and computer science from Huntington University and a master's degree in library sciences from Indiana University.

**Dr. Michael Clark** is director of the Ministry Training Institute. He earned a bachelor's degree in religious studies and Spanish from the University of Arizona in 2001 and a master's degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in 2004. He completed a Ph.D. degree in world religions from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Dr. Lauren Denney Wright** is assistant professor of music and director of bands. She earned a bachelor's degree in clarinet performance from Vanderbilt University in 2000, a master's degree in clarinet performance from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro in 2002, a bachelor's degree in music education from Kennesaw State University in 2007, and a doctorate in instrumental conducting from the University of Miami Frost School of Music in 2010.

**Dr. Krista Hands** is assistant professor of mathematics. She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Southern Nazarene University. She earned a master's degree in mathematics education from the University of Kansas. She earned her doctorate in mathematics from the University of Oklahoma.

**Dr. David C. Houghton** is dean of the Paul Dickinson School of Business and Minter professor of business. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting with concentrations in marketing and East Asian studies from the University of Kansas. He earned master's and doctoral degrees, both in marketing, from the University of Cincinnati. He received an honorary doctorate from the Kazak-

American Free University in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan

**Mollie Moore** is an instructor of English. She earned a bachelor's degree with honors from Hardin-Simmons University in 2007 and a master's degree in English from Baylor University in 2010.

**Phyllis Tipton** is instructor of education. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in early childhood education from the University of Central Oklahoma. She is certified in elementary education and early childhood education, and has extensive training in the Literacy First process.

**Nichole Turnage** is assistant professor of computer information science. She earned a bachelor's degree in computer information science from Southwest Baptist University. She earned a master's degree and completed work toward a doctorate in instructional systems technology from Indiana University.

**Dawn Westbrook** is assistant professor of nursing. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from OBU in 1989. She was licensed as a registered nurse in July 1989. Westbrook earned a master's degree in nursing education from the OBU Graduate School in March 2010, as part of the first cohort to earn the University's master of science in nursing degree.



## Titles Propel OBU to SAC Cup

OBU rode two national championships to the Sooner Athletic Conference's SAC Cup victory for 2009-10. The annual award measures the best athletics program for the year. Each of the 12 schools in the SAC is scored based on regular season standings. In sports in which standings are not relevant (track, cross country and golf) the conference meet or tournament results are used.

Additional bonus points are awarded for success in postseason play. A team can earn 10 bonus points for its school by winning the national championship, eight for being national runner-up, six for making the semifinals or top four and three for making the quarterfinals or top eight. Each university's top six sports count toward its total. Only sports in which six or more schools compete are counted as a conference sport.

"It's been a good year," said OBU director of athletics Dr. Norris Russell, who also was named SAC Athletic Director of the Year. "It's a tribute to great coaches and high-achieving student athletes."

OBU finished with 379 points, edging Oklahoma City at 375. Lubbock Christian was third at 333, followed by Oklahoma Christian at 331. Southern Nazarene was fifth at 316, Wayland Baptist sixth at 305, Rogers State at 235 and John Brown at 208. Northwestern was ninth at 195, followed by Mid-America Christian at 165, USAO at 155 and St. Gregory's at 150.

Oklahoma City and OBU had finished first and second, respectively, in the last seven SAC Cup standings. This is OBU's first win. OBU won the regular season basketball title and the national championship for the 70 point maximum. OBU also got 68 points in women's indoor track, 66 in men's track and 60 each in women's track and women's basketball. Men's cross country added 55 points.



# OBU Honors Legacy of Faculty Excellence

To honor former OBU faculty members who were master teachers, making a significant impact on their students, the University inducted its inaugural Faculty Hall of Fame class during the Centennial Homecoming chapel service Saturday, Nov. 13.

The inductees include faculty members from across the decades and disciplines:

**Dr. Warren M. Angell**, dean emeritus of OBU's Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts, served the University from 1936-76. He was the youngest college dean in America at age 27, and won much acclaim



as a choral director while at OBU. During his tenure, he built a College of Fine Arts with a faculty of 29 and an enrollment of 300. In addition to his academic leadership, he was a respected teacher, a noted composer and arranger, a widely recognized pianist, and a well-known choral conductor. In 1938 he founded the Bison Glee Club and directed the organization until 1975. He also founded the Bisonette Glee Club in 1954 and the Tuneclippers in 1962. He published more than 50 choral compositions and four piano pieces. He also wrote and published five books on vocal and choral techniques. Angell died in 2006.

**Max Brattin**, professor emeritus of economics, served at OBU from 1966-2000. An OBU graduate, Brattin joined the University as assistant professor in 1966; achieved tenure in 1969; was promoted to associate professor in 1980; and was



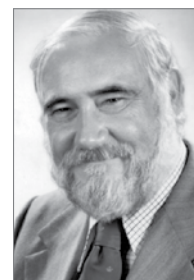
named professor emeritus in 2001. During his career he taught a variety of classes in economics and business. He served as OBU's NAIA faculty representative for 12 years. In 1984, he received OBU's Distinguished Teaching Award, the highest award given to a faculty member on campus. He was part of the Faculty Council 15 times, serving as chairman three times. Brattin was active with the student body, sponsoring groups such as Sigma Delta Phi, Delta Mu Delta, Phi Beta Lambda, Omicron Delta Kappa and Mortar Board.

**Dr. Rhett May Dorland**, professor of drama and theatre, served the University from 1919-56. She was the first speech and theatre professor on Bison Hill, and her title was "instructor in expression and dramatic art." Her ability to teach and coach students in public speaking was legendary. In 1920, she founded the OBU Dramatic Club, which was renamed College Players in 1935. Through the years, hundreds of students preparing for ministry took her course "Vocal and Literary Interpretation of the Bible," designed to help ministerial students in oral reading of the Bible. The 1949 yearbook, *Yahnseh*, was dedicated in her honor. In 1956, the OBU board of trustees named the theatre in historic Shawnee Hall for her and launched a campaign to renovate the facility. In 1965, the University awarded her an honorary doctorate. Dorland died in 1976.



**Dr. James E. Hurley** joined the OBU faculty in 1962 as an associate professor of biology and was promoted to professor of biology in 1968. He served at OBU until 1998. During his time on Bison Hill, hundreds of biology and pre-

medical students under his tutelage won admission to medical school or to graduate studies. He received the University's two highest honors: the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1982 and the Meritorious Service Award in 1994. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2003. He expressed support for future OBU students with a gift of \$1.5 million, which established the James E. Hurley Professorship in Biology and the Hurley Science Scholarship. Hurley died in 2004.



**Eddie Hurt Jr.** served at OBU from 1935-55 as coach and director of physical education. He graduated from OBU in 1929. He coached track from 1936-55. He also coached football from 1935-38, and basketball from 1938-44 and 1945-47. He served as OBU's athletic director throughout his tenure and was chair of the physical education department. His track teams won 13 consecutive Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference championships. He left OBU in 1954 to work with the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. He returned to OBU in the 1970s to work as a part-time development officer. Hurt died in 1996. OBU's track complex was named the Eddie Hurt Jr. Memorial Track Complex in 2008.



**Dr. Juanita Millsap** served the University from 1953-82 as associate professor of nursing and chair of the Nursing Department. As a founding member of the nursing faculty, she worked with doctors and the OBU administration to



establish the first baccalaureate nursing degree in Oklahoma. The School of Nursing established the Juanita G. Millsap Faculty Award for caring in 1976. After her formal retirement in 1980, she served as acting dean of the School of Nursing for two years. She was elected to the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2000. OBU awarded her an honorary doctorate in 2002. An avid collector of memorabilia concerning Florence Nightingale, she left her collection to the University after her death in 2006.

**Dr. William R. Mitchell**, professor emeritus of English, arrived at OBU in 1958 on a week's notice to fill a position vacated by a faculty member. He stayed 37 years, retiring in 1995. He taught



English courses and was chair of the department. He also served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1973-82 and was dean of Unified Studies before returning to the classroom full time. He received OBU's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1987 and the Meritorious Service Award in 1995. He also is a published poet and a playwright. Shawnee Little Theatre produced his play "Tilghman" in 1992, and he wrote "Cloud of Witnesses" about OBU's first 13 presidents. In retirement, Mitchell has served as a pastor in Southern Baptist churches in Oklahoma and Colorado.

**Dr. James Newton Owens**, professor of modern languages, served at OBU from 1917-19 and 1923-56. During his 36 years on Bison Hill he taught physics, mathematics, history, philosophy,



Greek, Latin, German and Spanish. In 1919, OBU seniors gave him the title "Uncle Jimmy," which was a term of endearment more than a nickname. He

was known for the rocking chair where students were told to sit when visiting his office. At the invitation of the student newspaper editors, he penned a weekly column imparting wisdom titled "Uncle Jimmy Says." In 1947, OBU named its arts and science faculty office building J.N. Owens Hall. The University recognized him with an honorary doctor of humanities degree in 1953. During his retirement he wrote several books including "Annals of OBU," a history of the University through 1955. Owens died in 1972.

**William Thomas Short**, professor of mathematics, taught at OBU from 1915-47. When he died in 1947, he was the only remaining faculty member or administrator who had served the University from



its 1915 opening in Shawnee Hall. He was vice president of the Oklahoma section of the Mathematical Association of America and a frequent contributor to mathematic journals. On campus, he was known for his annual chapel speech, "The Importance of Little Things." Dr. John R. Raley, OBU's longest tenured president, said Short "reflected the highest in varied relationships – as a student, a teacher, and a friend."

**Dr. Rowena Strickland**, distinguished service professor of biblical studies, served the University from 1953-80. She blazed the trails for women in Baptist circles, but even more, she was a



revered teacher. She rose to the rank of professor in 1962. In 1977, she was the fifth professor and the first woman to receive OBU's Distinguished Service Professor title. Former students established a fund to support a professorship in her name. The fund and proceeds from her estate endowed the Rowena Strickland Professorship in Bible. Each year the School of Christian

Service awards the Rowena Strickland Scholarship to a worthy religion student with an interest in biblical studies. Strickland died in 1997.

**Dr. James Samuel Timberlake** earned a bachelor's degree from OBU in 1940. Following military service and graduate studies, he served as professor of religion from 1958-88. He taught a range of subjects including



Greek, Bible, Christian doctrine and theology. He served as chairman of the Division of Religion and Philosophy, and frequently preached in Oklahoma churches. Timberlake served as sponsor of the Ministerial Alliance. He was a member of the American Academy of Religion, Southwestern Baptist Association of Teachers of Religion and the American Association of University Professors. Timberlake died in 2005.

**Dr. Warren Forbes Yarborough**, distinguished service professor of religious education, served on Bison Hill from 1925-58. It was his desire to have a former student serving in every mission field of



Southern Baptists to make a "slight" contribution to world missions, thereby multiplying the results of his labor. In 1932, Yarborough became the third man in the history of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to receive a doctorate in religious education. He served as chairman of the Division of Religion and Philosophy from 1934-58. OBU honored him as the Distinguished Service Professor of Religious Education in 1953. In addition to teaching, he served as assistant to Dr. Raley, OBU's eighth president, and as chancellor. Yarborough died in 1965.

For more information about this annual University honor visit [www.okbu.edu/magazine](http://www.okbu.edu/magazine).



# *Serving* at HOME



More than 340 OBU students hit the streets of Shawnee with service and a smile as part of their Welcome Week festivities for the annual “Serve Shawnee” initiative.

“Serve Shawnee” participants engaged in a variety of service opportunities at about 26 locations city-wide. Ten to 12 students worked at each location in tasks varying from sorting clothing at the Salvation Army Thrift Store to painting the front of City Church of Shawnee.

Groups were comprised of both new freshmen and transfer students who arrived on campus Saturday, Aug. 21, and the upper class Welcome Week Workers, whose duties included acclimating new students to campus and the local community. The week-long emphasis was led by Welcome Week Steering Committee co-chairs Sara Wilson, a senior from Bethany, Okla., and Scott Risinger, a senior from Oklahoma City.

“The projects went very smoothly, thanks to the hard work and planning of senior Welcome Week Steering Committee members Kaitlyn Rothaus and Tim Kurtz, as well as the help and encouragement of volunteer bus drivers from all over Shawnee,” Wilson said. “Welcome Week Workers are also an invaluable aspect of this project, leading and encouraging new students to get to know the city of Shawnee and its needs.

“I think that this year’s project did a great job of connecting students to the greater Shawnee community. Tim and Kaitlyn ensured that every new student received a brief summary of the morning’s achievements, as well as the contact information for every project visited, so that new students can continue to serve Shawnee throughout the year if they so wish. All in all, it seems to have been a really successful project.”

Rothaus is a senior from Bethany, Okla., and Kurtz is a senior from Heber Springs, Ark.

“Serve Shawnee is an important aspect of new student orientation,” said Michael Burns, director of residential life and student activities. “Shawnee has so much to offer, and the service project allows students to break the bubble and get beyond the walls of the university. OBU hopes to teach students what it means to live in a community – not to simply exist in it, but to engage it.”

**Amanda Kirby, an early childhood education major from Waldorf, Md., paints the front of City Church of Shawnee as part of “Serve Shawnee” on Monday, Aug. 23. The initiative allows OBU students to engage the community in service as they begin the new academic year.**



Oklahoma Baptist  
UNIVERSITY

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You are invited to our

**Centennial Hanging of the Green**

Saturday, December 4, 2010

as OBU's Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts

*presents*

# Messiah

7:30 p.m.

Potter Auditorium

John Wesley Raley Chapel

**Share in this Centennial Christmas season celebration.**

Find details about  
our Centennial  
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Centennial books.