SUMMER 2010



OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

An Earned Privilege

Simple Beginning. Lasting Influence. 6 Preserving the Faculty Tradition 10 Broadening Perspectives 14 Across our nation and around the world, students soon will be packing up to head to college for the start of a new academic year. Back in my day, the list of college gear included a large hardback dictionary with a slipcover that would eventually fall by the wayside as its treasure trove of words were used to craft stirring research papers and clever reports. At least, that is what we thought we were doing. Today, our students get the same dictionary information off their phones. Access is much more convenient, but our quest for truth and responsibility to love the Lord with all our mind, as well as our heart and soul, is still foundational at OBU.



We have responsibilities as Christ-followers to investigate life, science, literature, art and the professions, and in doing so we develop a greater

appreciation, awe and love for God. I certainly empathize with the legendary Dr. John Wesley Raley who wrote:

"I want my boy to study science ... [and] when he has completed all of his investigations, to bow his head and say, 'Oh wondrous Creator, Thy ways are past finding out.' ... I want my boy to study literature ... but when he does I want him to know that life's superb literature springs from the heart of God and is in that Blessed Book which you and I love. ... I want him to interpret the progress ... of man, but I want him to learn that history ... is a plan culminating in the return of Christ and the incoming of the Kingdom of God. I want my boy to learn music, but I want him to have the harmony of God in his soul. ... I want him to appreciate art, but I want him to know when he sees Turner's 'Landscapes,' or Rembrandt's 'Portraits,' or any of the rest of the masterpieces, that it is the hand of God that paints the sunset and colors the rose."

That is what I want for my own sons and for every student who studies at OBU. Ours is a worthy calling and worthy of investing our lives here on Bison Hill.

In this issue of *OBU Magazine*, as we continue to celebrate OBU's Centennial year, we see the long sweep of influence our university has exerted over the past 100 years. We see an Oklahoma Panhandle boy who made a fairly long trek to Bison Hill in the 1930s. Then we pivot to see the opportunities of the future as we reflect on the Centennial Class of 2010. The stories in these pages highlight the lives and activities of OBU family members who have seen God direct their paths through our campus. These stories share a common thread – the thread of investment. An online dictionary offers the definition of investment as something acquired for future benefit.

Dr. J.T. Allen benefitted from his OBU degree. His family invested in him. He invested in his education. Now, he has invested a record-setting gift in his alma mater for the benefit of others. Recipients of his scholarship funds will be investing in an education for their future benefit as our graduates have over the past 10 decades. In turn, as demonstrated through our Profiles in Excellence, our graduates will be equipped to invest in the lives of others, and in their own careers and communities. The benefits of those investments continue to be evident around the world.

We are grateful for the investment you have made in OBU. As we embark on our second century, the return on those investments will continue to grow. Each of us has the opportunity to continue investing in this enterprise of world-changing Christian higher education. Pack your bags and join us.

David Wesley Whitlock OBU President

OBU magazine

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Commencement is more than getting a diploma. The event is steeped in tradition and a touchstone for many graduates.

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OBU made a lasting impression on a product of the Oklahoma Panhandle. His generosity will make an impression on generations of OBU students.

Preserving the Faculty Tradition

A second installment on the past quarter-century at OBU looks at the growth of endowed academic positions on campus.

Broadening Perspectives

OBU Graduate School students gain a global education in the United Arab Emirates.

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Profiles in Excellence 16 Two university professors, a disaster relief leader, an attorney, and a couple devoted to education are among this year's award recipients.

Campus Life Faculty and student news from Bison Hill.

Alumni NewsCentennial Homecoming is November 11-13.

Alumni Notes Read the latest updates from OBU alumni.







From top: Commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, (center, first row) posed with the Class of 1938.

Uncle Jimmy Owens led the 1949 Convocation faculty professional.

Led by faculty marshal Lee B. Spencer, an academic procession marched toward the south entrance of Raley Chapel in 1963.





OBU GRADUATION An Earned Privilege

From their first days on the OBU campus, students are confronted with the expectation that they will graduate from the University. While that may seem an overly basic concept for entering freshmen, the fact is that six-year graduation rates hover around 50 percent nationally. In fact, many universities now quote their six-year graduation rates in promotional materials.

OBU, however, conveys the expectation that students will complete their time on Bison Hill and receive diplomas in Potter Auditorium four years after they begin study on the campus. Hence, the traditional conclusion of Welcome Week each August is "The Walk." New students make the westward trek from the University Oval to the front steps of John Wesley Raley Chapel. That starts a journey many of them will complete four years later in cap and gown.

The Walk for graduates is from the Geiger Center through flanking rows of faculty and administrators to enter Raley Chapel and celebrate completion of their OBU degrees. It is a grand tradition on the campus, a perfect-for-pictures event which celebrates completion of a task and inclusion in a community. It also demonstrates continuity of an institution. Throughout OBU's century of existence, Commencement has maintained a formality that has transcended trends.

The Walk did not begin when graduates had to find a way from the Geiger Center to Raley Chapel. It predated the opening of the chapel in 1961, back to days when graduates processed across the quadrangle for Commencement in what was then the University Auditorium, later to become Sarkeys Telecommunication Center.

For many graduates, the chief memories of Graduation Day involve family. In a recent Facebook post, alumni recollections included Teresa Burgess, '83, recalling her grandfather walking down the aisle to congratulate her. On the other end of the generational spectrum, Larry Masters, '67, graduated three days before he and his wife, Barbara, had their first child.

Faculty interaction also is high on the list of memories. In 1997, admiring the doctoral regalia worn by Dr. Tony Litherland, professor of political science, Gabriel Matney asked how he could get such apparel. "You must work much, much harder," Litherland replied. (Matney followed his advice, earning a Ph.D. degree in mathematics education.)

In May 2010, graduates received their own special regalia: a medallion signifying their membership in the University's Centennial Class. They are part of a long procession of students who stood proudly – in cap and gown – on Bison Hill.

2010 Spring Commencement

GRADUATION

Grads Urged To 'Commence' Work

As they celebrated accomplishment of their college educations, 57 OBU graduates were urged to begin reshaping the world during OBU's Winter Commencement on Dec. 18, 2009, in Raley Chapel.

"Commencement is not an end," said Dr. Emerson Falls, president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, as he delivered the Commencement address. "It is a beginning."

Falls, pastor of Glorieta Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, urged the graduates to start working in three specific areas: learning, working, and making a difference.

"You have learned how to learn," he said. "Today, knowledge comes with an expiration date. Graduates, you are so relevant. You are so up-to-date, but what you know today will be obsolete tomorrow. Knowledge will continue to increase. You are going to have to grow."

The Native American pastor also told graduates that Commencement meant they must "commence to work."

"The future is not fixed," Falls said. "It is fluid. It is changing, and it is waiting for you to hammer it into shape.

"I am confident that you are going to pick up a hammer and you are going to go to work," he said. "When you pick up a hammer and you start to reshape (the world), I'm probably not going to like it because it will be out of my comfort zone. But hammer away, and make it what you want it to be so you can hand it off to the next generation."

"Commence to make a difference," Falls challenged the

Raley Reminds Grads To Rely On Faith and Love

Urged by a member of the University's most revered family to rely on faith and love, 244 graduates received their diplomas during OBU's Centennial Spring Commencement on May 15.

Before an overflow audience of more than 1,800 in John Wesley Raley Chapel, the graduates heard from the son of the chapel's namesake. Dr. John Wesley Raley Jr. grew up on



the University's campus while his father was OBU president from 1934-61.

The elder Raley's presidential tenure is the longest in the University's 100-year history. The younger Raley, a 1954 OBU graduate, recalled how his parents arrived at an institution "on the brink" of collapse in the midst of the Great Depression. "Through dust, debt, depression and war, my father and my mother ... by sheer determination, enormous energy, armed by boundless faith, kept this school alive," Raley said. "Today, this incredible story of OBU is part of your tradition."

Citing examples of modern challenges, Raley said there are "two twin towers of strength, two immutable, everlasting, rock solid, omnipresent sources of strength for this generation and beyond."

The former U.S. attorney for the eastern district of Oklahoma drew from American history to stress the strength of faith.

"Each generation of Americans has had its moment of greatness," he said. "Each has demonstrated the willingness to stand firm. Loyalty to the cause or mission by strong and inspired individuals is a major part of our heritage. A first century Jewish lawyer set an example for 2,000 years of Christian faith," he said, quoting the Apostle Paul's statement in II Timothy 4:7: "I have fought the good fight ... I have kept the faith."

"Those of you who stand today in the bright golden sunlight of morning ... heed the call ... keep the faith," Raley said.

In explaining the second "tower," Raley said, "Faith is how we know where we're going. Hope is what keeps us going. Love is how we get there."

graduates, encouraging them to ask "Why not?" when facing obstacles.

"All of us commence our lives with dreams and visions, but soon we encounter the inertia of the practical. Soon our dreams and visions give way to the practical inertia of life. We become so busy making a living that we stop dreaming." Citing Psalm 23:1, Falls told the graduates to follow God's plan for their lives, as sheep follow a shepherd.

"If the Lord is my shepherd, what follows is as natural as night following day – and that is that 'I shall not want," he said. "He is the one who gets us through this life so that we achieve what is really important and what really matters. "Live in such a way that you make yourself proud, but also live in such a way that you make your family and your friends proud. Most important of all, live to make the Lord proud," he said. "Pick up your hammer and go build."

Weaving from the creation of the world through the life of Jesus Christ, Raley said God has provided the opportunity for individuals to decide to have a relationship with him.

"Our God is a God of incomprehensible mercy, compassion and love, and that divine love is a second tower of strength," he said. Raley urged the graduates to continue their personal ties to OBU.

"Resolve that the Bison Spirit you shared will remain in your heart," he said. "Then, through the hush of fading day, pause and whisper a prayer that the memories shared in this home will always be a part of your life, that the friendships forged will continue, and that God will continue to bless OBU."

As members of OBU's Centennial Class, graduates wore gold Centennial medallions during graduation exercises.

OBU's top three awards for faculty and staff were presented during the ceremonies by OBU President David W. Whitlock. Dr. Linda McElroy, professor of kinesiology and leisure studies, received the Distinguished Teaching Award. McElroy joined the OBU faculty in 1990. Dr. Louima Lilite, assistant professor of music, received the Promising Teacher Award. Lilite joined the faculty in 2008. Marty O'Gwynn, associate vice president for university communications, received the Meritorious Service Award. O'Gwynn joined the OBU administrative staff in 1991.



Three retiring faculty members and one long-time administrative staff member were honored during the service. Dr. Jim Hansford, Patterson professor of music and director of bands; Dr. Carol Bell, associate professor of music; Diane Shank, technical services librarian; and Peggy Askins, OBU registrar, were recognized.

Hansford and Bell each joined the faculty in 1990. Shank joined OBU as a librarian in 1971. Askins has worked at OBU since 1960, including 47 years of service as the University's registrar. •



Simple Beginning



J.T. Allen, '38 OBU Senior Picture

A PRODUCT OF THE OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE DEMONSTRATES GRATITUDE, HONOR, AND A BELIEF IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HIS ALMA MATER AS HE GIVES OBU THE LARGEST INDIVIDUAL GIFT IN THE UNIVERSITY'S CENTURY OF EXISTENCE.

Lasting Influence

Dr. J.T. Allen had a humble beginning in No Man's Land, born Jan. 9, 1916, in the dusty prairie town of Boise City. The young state was not even a decade old when Allen entered the world, at the end of the Panhandle, far from big-city politics. The oil boom had not yet taken over central portions of the Sooner State, and Black Sunday, ushering in the Dust Bowl era, was still almost 20 years away.

His parents were actively involved in their community. J. Lindsey Allen was elected a member of the board of county commissioners in Cimarron County in 1910. His mother, Odalee (Allison) Allen, had completed her education at the University of Chicago and taught for several years before being appointed the postmaster of Boise City. In addition to his ranching duties, her husband served as assistant postmaster. James Thomas – always called J.T. – was the couple's only child.

DR. ALLEN LOVED HIS FAMILY, HIS HERITAGE AS A SON OF THE OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE, AND HIS UNDERGRADUATE ALMA MATER, OBU.

The year before the legendary windstorms hit his home in Cimarron County in 1935, the young Okie had graduated from Boise City High School and traveled downstate to Bison Hill. He pursued a bachelor's degree in chemistry from OBU, graduating in 1938. His entire life, Allen credited his parents and an uncle with making his education at OBU possible. Later in life, Allen honored their dedication by creating a sizable scholarship named the Odalee, J. Lindsey, and Charles A. Allen Memorial Scholarship.

"I knew Dr. Allen for more than 30 years and had the opportunity to visit with him on several occasions at OBU, alumni meetings in Nashville, and his home in Murfreesboro," said John Parrish, OBU executive vice president emeritus and Centennial Committee chair. "I helped him set up the endowed scholarship fund which he has supported so generously during his lifetime and through his estate."

Allen's estate grew over a career of leadership and service in his profession and his church. When he died in late 2008, he had built what would become the largest single gift in the history of Oklahoma Baptist University. As of July 23, 2010, more than \$6.7 million had been given to the University through the Allen estate.

"Dr. Allen loved his family, his heritage as a son of the Oklahoma Panhandle, and his undergraduate alma mater, OBU," Parrish said. "His OBU scholarship fund memorializes his parents and an uncle, and provides financial support for students who come from the western part of the state. Dr. Allen's desire was that these students have the same opportunity and receive the same type of quality Christian education that he received at OBU in the 1930s."

Allen earned an M.D. degree from Vanderbilt University in 1942. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in World War II as a battalion surgeon in England, France, the Netherlands, Germany and the Pacific and Philippine Islands. After active duty, Allen continued in the Army Reserves for 28 years.

He completed post-graduate medical studies in Rochester, N.Y., and at Vanderbilt. His wife, the former Olivia Ann Rook, was a registered nurse. She graduated from the Peabody College for Teachers, receiving a bachelor's degree in nursing education in 1940. Mrs. Allen taught nursing and health in the city schools of Roanoke Rapids, Va., Virginia Beach, Va., and Rochester, N.Y.

From 1951 until 1955, Allen had a private practice in Waverly, Tenn., and from 1955 until 1969, a medical practice in

Dickson, Tenn. Mrs. Allen served as a nurse in his office in Waverly. She initiated and organized the visiting nurses service of Nashville, Tenn., in 1958. The couple moved to Murfreesboro in 1969, and joined First Baptist Church. He remained a member of the church until his death on Dec. 28, 2008, just weeks before his 93rd birthday.

His roots in the Murfreesboro community grew very deep. Never a father, Allen took pleasure in the relationship and loved the family of his friend and neighbor, Charles Moore, as his own.

He was Chief of Medical Services at the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center from 1969 to 1983. The facility provides primary care and subspecialty medical, surgical and psychiatric services to veterans, including long-term rehabilitation and nursing home care.

Mrs. Allen died Nov. 15, 1989, at the age of 82. Allen's relationship with OBU had helped his desire to leave a larger legacy in addition to the Allen Memorial Scholarship. He was considering leaving the bulk of his growing estate to the University.

But first, as was his personality, he tested those who would handle his gifts. Meeting the doctor who had just turned 90, OBU's John Little quickly discovered he was being evaluated. Little, who serves as director of estate planning and gift planning, believed Allen wanted to ensure OBU still taught students to think, and he measured that by the kind of people the University sent to meet with him.

"Besides, I think Dr. Allen considered it a type of game to 'grill' the University's representatives and see if he could 'oneup' us," Little recalled fondly. "The first time I met Dr. Allen, I was impressed with his intellectual alertness. His memory of complex details and his ability to ask focused questions on nearly any subject demonstrated to me a man who still had vigorous mental acuity. He was still directly managing his investment portfolio up to his death and had done a good job with it."

During the three years Little knew Allen, his respect for the doctor quickly grew from a common business relationship into one of deep respect. He considered Allen a man of "dignity, integrity and rectitude."

"I hoped it was mutual respect," Little said. "One of the great pleasures of my work is meeting people who share our passion



The home where J.T. grew up still stands today in boise city.

to integrate faith and learning. Dr. Allen was a man of learning and had a passion that OBU would continue to give young people the same experiences he had as a young man."

At Allen's request, Little reviewed his estate plans – a service he offers to OBU donors. He reviewed Allen's will, durable powers of attorney and medical directives. Allen spoke often about what he wanted done with the bequest to the University.

"He had a dream of creating scholarships for children from the Western side of Oklahoma who were willing to work hard and learn, especially young people from the Panhandle counties," Little said. "He often told me how he was given the gift of educational opportunity by his parents, and now he wanted those benefits to be extended to other deserving young people."

The J.T. Allen estate gifts will be used to expand and perpetuate scholarship opportunities for students from Oklahoma.

"Dr. Allen was someone who loved his alma mater and desired for other young people – particularly from his home area in western Oklahoma – to have the same opportunity he had," OBU President David W. Whitlock said. "He was a remarkable man and I am glad I had the privilege of getting to meet him."

Allen reiterated he did not want credit for scholarships the money would provide to these students. He wanted the credit to go to his mother, father and a treasured uncle so their ministry to him could be continued in other lives. Just as they planned and worked to provide him the foundation for a quality Christian education, he has given provisions to help many young Oklahomans attend OBU.

In the University's Centennial year, alumni and friends have celebrated the vision of founders who wanted an institution to equip future Christian leaders of a new state. That vision has grown as OBU alumni continue to lead in global arenas. But the difference an OBU degree made for a Panhandle boy in the 1930s serves as a reminder of the faithfulness of pioneering Baptists to first cultivate leadership in their home soil. And through his thorough estate planning, his legacy will continue well into the next century on Bison Hill. \blacklozenge

Preserving the Faculty TRADITION



A key component of the University's most recent quarter-century has been the growth in the number of OBU's endowed faculty chairs and professorships. In this article, Dr. Jerry Faught, Dickinson associate professor of religion, discusses the faculty's role in the University's record-setting enrollment growth of the early 1990s, as well as continued strengthening of faculty positions throughout the presidential administrations of Dr. Bob Agee, from 1982-98, and Dr. Mark Brister, from 1998-2007.



BU faculty members contributed to the increase in enrollment by offering a challenging academic experience in a positive climate. The faculty not only focused on excellence in teaching; they made a concerted effort to show interest in the lives and progress of students which generated an exceptional atmosphere that drew students from 47 states and 32 foreign countries. OBU has a history of attracting quality faculty members who have enjoyed lengthy careers at the University even though they have worked for salaries well below the national average. President Agee frequently described OBU's faculty as the "University's greatest resource," and often marveled that fine scholars and teachers would serve OBU at such great personal sacrifice. He understood that OBU faculty deserved higher salaries and said as much. Although faculty compensation never reached preferred standards, Agee made it a priority to improve the faculty salaries and upgrade the quality of faculty. OBU sought to reach both of those goals by hiring more faculty members who held earned doctorates and by increasing endowed faculty positions.

In 1982 only 42 percent of the faculty held earned doctorates. During Agee's last year as president, more than 70 percent of the faculty possessed earned doctorates. This increase materialized because of an intentional plan to hire Christian professors with doctorates and to encourage existing faculty to pursue doctoral work. The OBU faculty's willingness to adopt a mandatory professional development program and the administration's willingness to secure funds to assist the effort set the stage for numerous faculty members to pursue their terminal degrees. OBU attracted and retained outstanding faculty members by increasing endowed faculty positions. Endowed chairs and professorships are vital to the success of a university and enhance its academic reputation considerably. When the program began, a gift of \$150,000 endowed a professorship and \$400,000 would underwrite an endowed chair. Currently a gift of \$250,000 will endow a professorship and \$500,000 will endow a chair. A professorship provides from \$7,500 to \$12,500 toward the salary, benefits, and research expenses of a faculty member while a chair provides \$20,000 or more in support of a faculty position.

Before 1985 OBU had only two academic chairs. The first endowed faculty position at OBU was established in the summer of 1982. The Auguie Henry Chair of Bible, which continues to be held by Warren McWilliams, longtime professor of theology at OBU, was endowed by R.A. Young in honor of Henry. Henry left the pastorate at First Baptist Church, McAlester, in 1949 to become the executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma, a position he held for 18 years. Later in 1982, OBU established the Ida Elizabeth and J.W. Hollums Chair of Bible. Mrs. Hollums funded the chair in memory of her husband who served as a longtime pastor in Texas and Oklahoma. Mrs. Hollums served alongside her husband until his death in 1953. She taught Sunday School for 56 years as well as being involved in the Woman's Missionary Union.

In 1986 Paul Dickinson, in addition to other generous gifts to OBU, endowed the Dickinson Chair of Religion and in 1987 endowed the Dickinson Chair of Business. Upon Dickinson's death in 1991, the Ruth Dickinson Chair of Religion was established in memory of his wife. In 1989 Lloyd G. Minter provided funds to establish the Lloyd G. and Betty E. Minter Professorship in Business. Later, additional funds were added to raise the status of the professorship to that of a chair. From its inception the Minter Chair of Business has been In 1982 only 42 percent of the faculty held earned doctorates. During Agee's last year as president, more than 70 percent of the faculty possessed earned doctorates.



OBU's first endowed faculty position, the Auguie Henry Chair of Bible, was announced in June 1982. Pictured are, from left, R.A. Young, the Oklahoma City businessman who created the endowment; Auguie Henry, retired president of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma; Joe L. Ingram, BGCO executive director; and OBU President E. Eugene Hall.

designated for the dean of the School of Business. Minter, a past chairman of the OBU board of trustees, is retired senior vice president and general counsel for Phillips Petroleum Company.

Also in 1989 the Robert L. and Sara Lou Cargill Professorship in Business was established. In 2008 additional funding raised the professorship to chair status. Fort Worth entrepreneur Robert L. Cargill, a 1951 OBU graduate and former OBU development director, endowed the academic chair in order "to invest in Christian education and the youth of tomorrow." Cargill is founder of



Cargill Associates, a fund-raising consulting firm that assists churches, educational institutions, and other non-profit organizations in implementing capital programs. In 1990 the Tulsa Royalties Company provided funds to establish the Lawrence Peitz Chair of Business. Peitz, who handled the business details of the company he helped to create in 1951, had been a generous donor to the University dating back to the mid-1960s. Peitz, a member of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, for more than 60 years, died in 2004 at the age of 92.

In 1990 funds from the Marie Barby Estate established the Ralph and Marie Barby Chair of Psychology. Ralph and Marie Barby built a successful cattle ranching operation in Knowles. Ralph Barby also served as an OBU trustee and as a member of the board for the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma.

Prior to 1982, OBU had only one professorship, the WMU Professorship in Missions. Established in 1978, this professorship was supported by annual gifts from the WMU of Oklahoma that had actually been received since 1968. Under Agee's leadership OBU increased the number of professorships significantly. OBU established three professorships in 1989. The Crouch-Mathis Professorship of Literature was funded by the estate of Martha Mathis, aunt of longtime OBU professor of English, Laura Crouch. The professorship was established in memory of Mathis's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.T. Mathis and her aunt, Ida C. Crouch. The Crouch-Mathis Professorship is the only endowed position in the English Department.

The Jewell and Joe Huitt Professorship in Religious Education was funded by Joe Huitt. Huitt, who served two separate terms as an OBU trustee, worked for many years as an independent oil operator in Tulsa. Huitt died in April 1991 at the age of 87.

The Rowena Strickland Professorship in Bible was funded by the estate of Rowena Strickland, longtime OBU religion professor. Strickland, who officially retired from OBU in 1984, was a 1937 OBU graduate who went on to blaze trails for women in Baptist circles. She completed a master's degree in theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and was the fourth woman to complete a doctorate in theology at the Texas seminary. Before entering the doctoral program, Strickland had intended to pursue a career as an international missionary but her application was rejected. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board) believed that at 85 pounds Strickland was too frail for missionary life. Instead, Strickland opted for a career in teaching Bible. She taught Bible at North Texas State University and Texas Woman's University before arriving at OBU in 1953 to teach Bible.

The McCasland Foundation Professorship in Business and the Elizabeth Randel Scales and Ann Scales Professorship in Constitutional Law were established in 1993. Tom McCasland and his wife, Phyllis, independent oil producers from Duncan, built a successful family business and made their company, Mack Energy, into an industry leader. The Elizabeth Randel Scales and Ann Scales Professorship in Constitutional Law was established by former OBU president James Ralph Scales to honor his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Ann.

The Violet Sturgeon Minton Professorship in Early Childhood Education, established in 1994, was endowed through the estate of Violet Sturgeon Minton. A psychiatric counselor, Sturgeon Minton was the first woman to serve on OBU's board of trustees. She served on the board for 12 years. Sturgeon Minton died in April 1980 at the age of 72. Family, friends, and former students of longtime OBU biology professor Jim Hurley established the James E. Hurley Professorship in Biology in 1995. Also in 1995 Burton Patterson established the Frank W. and Pauline G.

Patterson Professorship in Journalism and several years later established the Burton H. Patterson Professorship in Music. Patterson, a 1956 OBU graduate, has enjoyed a career as a lawyer, college professor, and waste management executive. Patterson established the professorship in journalism in honor of his parents who were pioneers in Baptist work with Spanish-speaking people groups. Patterson's father, a 1928 OBU graduate, once served as an employee of the OBU Press.

Upon Agee's retirement in 1998, OBU had 13 active endowed faculty positions, 11 of which had been established during his tenure.

During the Mark Brister presidency, OBU continued to hire gifted and well-qualified faculty who brought fresh energy and new ideas to the campus. Entering the 2001-02 academic year, 82 percent of OBU's full-time tenure-track faculty had earned doctorates. The University increased its faculty chairs and professorships considerably during Brister's presidency in order to continue to hire and retain quality faculty. Some of the professorships and chairs previously founded during the Agee administration became operational during Brister's presidency. Currently OBU has 14 academic chairs and 12 professorships.

The Ruth Jay Odom Professorship in Art was endowed by the estate of German Odom, Ruth's husband, in 1999. Ruth Odom, who died in 1987, and German, who died in 1999, were active members of the First Baptist Church in Haskell. Ruth was an avid painter who loved art and teaching art. She enjoyed a 30-year teaching career at the elementary and high school levels before retiring in 1975.

In 2002 OBU filled the Ernest C. and Ruby Wheeler Professorship in Business and in 2003 filled the Ernest C. Wheeler Chair of Business. The Wheelers, from Bartlesville, endowed the academic positions in order to encourage the study of the concepts of free enterprise and the application of Christian ethics to business. The Mary A. White Chair of Teacher Education was established in 2007 through the estate of Mary White who spent 41 years as a teacher, primarily in elementary schools in Tulsa. White, who had been a member of Tulsa's First Baptist Church for 83 years before her death in 2006, was a loyal supporter of OBU. She served as a member of OBU's President's Council for many years and in 1998 served as honorary chair of the Tulsa phase of the University's Foundation for the Future Campaign.

The Albert J. Geiger Chair of Business also was filled in 2007 due to the generosity of Albert J. and Laura Belle Geiger, longtime Tulsa area residents. Because of Dr. Geiger's many involvements with the University, his friends sometimes called him "Mr. OBU." A former chair of OBU's board of trustees, Geiger held many leadership positions at OBU. Throughout the years the Geigers, longtime members of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, provided financial support for the University in numerous ways.

OBU added to its number of academic chairs with the creation of a chair in education and one in nursing. The Lawrence C. and Marion V. Harris Chair of Education and the Lawrence C. and Marion V. Harris Chair of Nursing were endowed in July 2007 by alumnus Lawrence Harris and named for him and his late wife. The endowed nursing chair is the first in the history of OBU's nursing program. Harris also contributed more than \$750,000 to OBU in 2008 for the completion of the new track complex, and made the request that it be named to honor Eddie Hurt Jr. who was one of Harris' coaches at OBU. Harris, a 1941 OBU graduate, played quarterback on the Bison football team. During his senior season, OBU won the conference championship. Marion Harris, a 1940 graduate of Indiana University, died in 2004 at the age of 86.

Grad Students Broaden Perspectives in Dibai

ducation broadens a person's perspective of the world, and under the guidance of their professor, Gene King, four OBU graduate students recently traveled to the United Arab Emirates for 10 days of experiential learning about the business and cultural environments of the rapidly changing country. For some, it was a lifechanging experience.

> Students Christina Balmer, Patty Eneff, Grace Kong and David Sisco – all working to earn their MBA degrees at the OBU Graduate School – visited business sites, educational sites and cultural sites in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Sharjah in January. Having lived in Dubai for a year with his wife and children, King, who serves as associate professor of business at OBU, guided the students to maximize their on-site learning opportunity.

> The group's objectives were to increase their appreciation and understanding of the Emirates in terms of the economy and culture; to increase their knowledge of the regional and international business environment; and to observe the multi-cultural nature of business organizations operating in the Emirates. They also had the opportunity to observe the distinctive business architecture which has grown in the region since the turn of the century, as well as the cultural diversity which has endured for generations.

"The international business emphasis is important because we live in a global economy," King said. "You can't escape aspects of international business. The people who are the best prepared for business are those who have international experience.

"It's also important for students to see how sophisticated these businesses are, and how well-run they are. It opens their eyes to the competition on the global market and gives them a vision for their own business practices."

King said companies looking to set up regional or hemispherical offices have moved to Dubai, currently one of the hot spots for business. The group visited several businesses and sites in the Emirates including Halliburton's Global Headquarters for



During a recent international learning experience to the United Arab Emirates, OBU Graduate School students (from left) Patty Eneff, Tina Balmer, Grace Kong and David Sisco, accompanied by their professor, Gene King (right), had the opportunity to visit with two Emirati men, Hamed and Rashid, over coffee at Mercato Mall in Dubai.

Even in China, Kong said the opportunity to engage foreign companies is rare for college students, which made the experience more valuable for her.

"What impressed me most was the environment and culture of their companies," she said. "The working experience I have is just several months of internship in China. In my mind I could not imagine how American companies work together. The other thing that moved me a lot was the leaders who gave us speeches. They are smart, visional, enthusiastic and kind."

> Kong said the speeches of the business executives impressed her to the point she made an important personal decision for her life: to foster a relationship with God. She said during the trip, she realized the kind of person she wants to be. One night when she could not sleep, she asked herself the same questions again and again: "Why did I come here? Why did I choose OBU? Why have I met so many nice

people? Why is my English name 'Grace'?"

"The answer I found is God blesses me and always directs me," she said.

Kong said she also understood the culture shock some people experience when they make the difficult decision to live and work in a different culture.

"After the trip, I changed a lot," she said. "I started to receive American culture, to make more friends, to study the Bible, to appreciate everything I own, to help other new Chinese students to overcome the culture shock and to find the truth. I am heading for my goal. I believe that I can do that."

For more information about OBU's Graduate School, go online to www.okbu.edu/graduate.

the Eastern Hemisphere, Schlumberger's geo-market headquarters for the Middle East, Baker Hughes' Middle East headquarters, the American University of Sharjah, the Commercial Service of the U.S. Consulate in Dubai and the important Jebel Ali Free Zone. The group met with numerous leaders at each location with the opportunity to interact with them and discuss various topics important to the group's objectives.

"We got to visit with some top-quality global businesses," King said. "Several top managers spoke to us on topics including

human resources, increasing oil businesses and increasing business in the Middle East."

King said the group also had several beneficial cultural experiences within a very short amount of time, such as visiting a desert oasis town, riding camels on a desert safari, eating a traditional desert meal and sharing coffee and conversation with

Emirati men at Starbucks. Because 80 percent of the people in Dubai are foreigners, he said the opportunity to have a direct connection with local people was an unusually good experience.

Grace Kong, who is a Chinese national studying on-site at OBU, said the trip offered several "firsts" for her: It was her first time to travel with Americans, her first opportunity to engage with foreign companies and her first time to "bargain" in purchases.

"Although I lived and studied with American students on campus, I can admit that I felt pretty nervous because we would go to a different country where I would be out of place," Kong said. "But later, what I felt was that I had good times and a family. They tried their best not to make me feel alone such as talking with me, explaining the words I did not understand and caring about my health."



Charlton McIlwain '94 Influencing the Social Landscape

It has been said that education is wasted on the young – that it takes many years after a college experience before a person can truly appreciate the opportunities available in pursuit of an undergraduate degree.

For professor and researcher Charlton McIlwain, '94, the appreciation began before he ever left Bison Hill.

As a family psychology major, McIlwain was a senior sitting in Dr. Oscar Jeske's class one day when he raised his hand with a question.

"He called on me with one of his classic 'What on earth could you possibly want to ask me now?' looks on his face," McIlwain recalled. "I asked, 'What would one do after he or she graduated with a degree in family psychology if he or she did not want to go to graduate school?"

The professor stared at his student in silence for a moment and then replied, "Nothing."

"That one-word reply probably shaped my future career trajectory more than anything else," McIlwain said. "I'd barely gotten by with a 2.7 GPA. I'd never even thought seriously of going to graduate school."

McIlwain put Jeske's claim to test. Following graduation from OBU, he moved to Oklahoma City and assumed the role of a counselor at an in-patient juvenile detention center.

"After getting bitten trying to restrain a kid on one occasion, hit in the eye by a wild punch trying to break up a fight on another, and then refusing to chase a couple of kids who ran away from the facility, I decided this was not really for me," he said.

The next job he took was as a counselor at a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. A client alleged that the owner of the facility had engaged in inappropriate conduct. McIlwain reported the alleged conduct to the state medical licensing board and was summarily fired.

RACE STILL IMPACTS THE LIFE CHANCES OF SO MANY PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY.

The experience ended his interest in counseling as a career, but indicated to the young graduate that his professor had given him an accurate expectation, preparing him for additional education and a larger task. The second sign he was well prepared at OBU came during a master's degree program in human relations at the University of Oklahoma. "The professor assigned us a 20-page final research paper, and many of my classmates seemed taken aback by the scope and rigor of the assignment," McIlwain said. "Needless to say, I'd done that assignment a dozen times in my two years at OBU. No sweat. Maybe it was just to make myself feel better, but I started comparing my 2.7 OBU G.P.A. to the 3.5s and 4.0s of my classmates in my program."

McIlwain became involved in politics while completing his master's degree and pursuing his Ph.D. degree in communication. He served as campaign press secretary for Ed Crocker in 1996. Although he had never done such a job, he learned the ropes quickly (but his candidate lost). Two years later he worked as the communications director for Laura Boyd, who ran for governor. (She lost.) He later worked as the communications director for the Oklahoma Democratic Party. In 2000, he was selected to be a delegate to the 2000 Democratic National Convention.

"Despite the love of politics I developed over those years, I ultimately decided I wanted to pursue an academic career," McIlwain said.

He interviewed for and landed a job at New York University, moving to Manhattan about two weeks prior to the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center. He has been in New York ever since and was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor with tenure in 2009.

As a professor at a research institution, he spends most of his time doing research, writing and publishing work. He also teaches; usually one undergraduate and one graduate course each semester.

McIlwain's research is related to issues of race, media and politics. His work, he said, involves "trying to understand the myriad ways that media shape and are shaped by our attitudes, the language we use and the ways we think and talk about race in America. I am interested in the ways that we are socialized to think about or, in many cases, avoid talking about issues of race and racial discrimination and the ways that our socialization influences other aspects of social and political life."

He said the big challenge is trying to engage people in discussion about a topic many people would rather avoid altogether.

"It is a challenge to try to engage people in productive conversations about the ways that race still impacts the life chances of so many people in this country, when many people would rather believe that racial problems no longer exist or believe that it is counterproductive in the first place to even talk about racial distinctions."

He finds the same challenge rewarding. As McIlwain is often interviewed for stories in national or international media, he has the opportunity to connect more people with the conversation.

"The reward of my work is to have those moments when people are actually engaged – when people are willing to say, 'I will bring my intellect and my passion to bear on this topic, despite whether one agrees or disagrees.' In short, it's rewarding to know that I'm having some small influence on people – even if all that means is that I've gotten to engage in this aspect of civic life rather than just check out."

McIlwain's wife, Raechel Adams, is a passionate advocate for civil rights. She is senior attorney for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, where she litigates class action cases on behalf of employees who have been discriminated against by their employers. In October 2008, the couple was blessed with a baby boy, Marcus Adam McIlwain, who is passionate about food, Elmo and extreme toddler sports such as attempting swan dives off the kitchen table.

Looking back, McIlwain said OBU professors Dr. Katherine Hale, Dr. Jeff Liles and Dr. Tom Dowdy were instrumental in shaping his worldview. They first piqued his interests in issues of social justice – issues he chose to focus on in his career.

"Each, in their own unique way, and from their differing backgrounds in communication, education and sociology, respectively, really pushed me to think creatively about the world around me, my role and responsibilities in it and the choices I would make to influence my social landscape," McIlwain said.

Odus Compton, then director of OBU's Baptist Student Union, was one of the people McIlwain respected most on campus.

"I admired his approach to spirituality, his ability to empathize with others and his willingness to always say what was on his mind or what he thought you needed to hear at the time," McIlwain said.

He also appreciated the support of Dr. Juanita Johnson, professor emerita of nursing, who, at the time, was the only African American faculty member at OBU.

"In the specific area of research and teaching I do, OBU really provided a context – a set of experiences – that I would be able to look back on critically when I think about issues of race and ethnicity," McIlwain said. "OBU was not the most racially diverse, but few schools – especially of its size – are. But in many ways it was living and learning and building relationships in that context that really provided me the kind of perspective I have on issues of race, especially as it relates to issues of religion and spirituality, social responsibility and the like. Looking back, I certainly wouldn't have traded it for anything." ◆

OBU Alumni Association **PROFILE IN EXCELLENCE**

Don Hargis '79 A Life of Service



DON HARGIS HAS BEEN IN THE RUBBLE OF HAITI, ON THE WAVE-CRUSHED COAST OF INDONESIA AND AT GROUND ZERO AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS IN NEW YORK CITY. HIS SERVICE-DRIVEN HEART FOR THE WORLD'S AFFLICTED IS LARGE AND BURSTING WITH LOVE.

Don's path to international disaster relief work started with a lot of hard work as a college student.

The Chico, Calif., native arrived in Shawnee in the mid-1970s. While attending OBU, he worked at and managed the local Pizza Hut, and worked at the Shawnee Coca-Cola Bottling warehouse. The hard work paid off. Hargis met his future wife, Shirley Jean Newnam, '75, while they both worked at Pizza Hut.

Not only did Hargis' time as an OBU student introduce him to Shirley; it also prepared him for the career he would come to love.

"It changed my life," said the 1979 graduate.

He credits OBU for his foundational preparation for pursuing a career in ministry. While religion courses helped him theologically, other courses helped him learn how to focus on his calling, Hargis said. That calling has led him to pastorates of churches in California, Colorado and Oklahoma, and service as interim pastor for multiple churches. He now is Baptist Men's Ministries specialist for the California Southern Baptist Convention.

Hargis recalled Dr. Rowena Strickland, longtime OBU religion professor, as being particularly influential in his growth as a student.

"Dr. Strickland was a tradition at OBU," Hargis said. "I remember hearing from some of the upperclassmen that even Jesus would have had a tough time passing her Life of Christ class. But she taught me to stay with it and I admired her greatly. She was a true saint of God." Strickland's encouragement to "stay with it" propelled Hargis to complete his degree at OBU. While his education took longer than the average stay, Hargis experienced life lessons some of his fellow students might not have.

"One valuable lesson was learned from the determination it took to complete my degree, even when it meant retaking classes and 'cramming my four years into seven," Hargis said. "My last three years of college were finished part-time while I was married, starting a family, working full-time and pastoring a church on the weekends."

The servant spirit and attitude of putting others before himself, which Hargis cultivated at OBU, continued to grow as he moved from Bison Hill.

Hargis earned a master of divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He has also completed work toward a doctor of ministry degree at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

In his current role, he wears many hats. His responsibilities include disaster relief ministries, organizing multiple camps, and ministering to California Baptist men.

Hargis has traveled all over the world with disaster relief, including places like Japan, Mexico, El Salvador, Indonesia, American Samoa and Haiti. He also has worked with disaster relief initiatives in more than a dozen states.

"The California Southern Baptist Convention informed me at the time I was hired that the job would involve disaster relief ministries," Hargis said. "I asked them what that meant and they told me not to worry about it because it would not take much of my time. Eighteen years later, CSBC disaster relief ministry occupies 75 percent of my time."

Beyond traveling to disaster sites and assisting with recuperation efforts, Hargis also works across the Golden State to train and equip others in disaster relief. He has been honored for his training and participation in upwards of 50 disaster recovery efforts over the past 18 years.

Through his CSBC work Hargis also has created and coordinates STRAM Camps. STRAM stands for State Recreational Adventure Mountain and Marine. Depending upon which camp a student chooses, he or she can experience mountain adventures, or marine adventures. The acronym for STRAM Camp also encompasses its mission statement:



Don Hargis (left) works with the people of Haiti in May to rebuild their nation after the tragic January 2010 earthquake.

"STRAM exists to **s**trengthen spiritual lives, to provide **t**eam building, to **r**each non-Christians, to **a**dvance missions awareness and to **m**agnify God."

The camps are divided by age group and activity intensity, allowing all campers to have a full "adventure" experience. Hargis said each year nearly half of the participants will make life-changing decisions.

Hargis also helps California churches start and sustain ministry programs for men.

"My passion is to see men come to understand their place in the Kingdom of God," Hargis said. "I teach them they are to be leaders because the Father has called every Christian man to leadership in the home, the church and the marketplace. There are no exceptions."

Don and Shirley have been married for 35 years. She has taught English for several years and is now literacy consultant for the Fresno County Office of Education. Their three children, Daniella, Dustin and Shane, have provided them with the blessing of nine grandchildren, with one on the way. Hargis enjoys playing basketball, softball, soccer and going snow skiing with all of his grandchildren.

"The most challenging aspect for me now is that I am gone so often from home for long periods of time," Hargis said. "At this point in my life, when I leave home, I am already ready to return. However, my travels are worthwhile. My reward is being an effective tool in the hands of the Carpenter."

For Hargis, the act of service – whether it takes the form of rebuilding nations, leading youth on adventures or encouraging men toward leadership – is not simply a voluntary action. His urge to love others through service comes from years of cultivating a heart for those in need. •

Laura McConnell-Corbyn '83

Part of the Family



Having been in the rigorous classroom of Dr. Hurley through my college days made the law school classroom seem easy.

When Laura Haag joined the Oklahoma Baptist University family she had no plans to spend her career working with familial issues. But being a part of the University family broadened her perspective on how she could invest in the lives of others.

Now recognized as one of the top 50 attorneys in the state of Oklahoma, Laura McConnell-Corbyn traveled from Abilene, Texas, to Bison Hill in the late 1970s to earn a degree in biology. That demanding academic field does not usually lead graduates to law school. Laura credits her major professor, Dr. James E. Hurley, with giving her a broader perspective.

"Dr. Hurley had such a role in inspiring a life-long love of learning," McConnell-Corbyn said. "He saw the world as a beautiful daily gift from a magnificent creator. I was privileged to have spent four years learning about life and about God from Dr. Hurley." Hurley's presence in McConnell-Corbyn's life was not confined within the classroom. She recalls some of her favorite memories at OBU being spent in the home of the legendary professor of biology, eating dinner and receiving lessons on how to make flavored tea.

It was Hurley's passion for teaching and education which made such an impression upon the 1983 graduate.

McConnell-Corbyn uses the lessons from Hurley in her work as a family law specialist. She is on the forefront of helping families who find themselves in trying situations.

"I know that my education at OBU is far and away better than I could have received at any other school I was considering," McConnell-Corbyn said. "Having been in the rigorous classroom of Dr. Hurley through my college days made the law school classroom seem easy." After graduating, McConnell-Corbyn worked for a year with State Federal Savings and Loan in Shawnee. Spending time with the branch's legal counsel cultivated an interest in the practice of law. She decided to apply for law school and see if she could "cut it" as a lawyer.

McConnell-Corbyn received her juris doctorate from the University of Oklahoma's School of Law in 1987. She was a member of the Oklahoma Law Review and graduated third in her class with highest honors. She "cut it" and then some.

"The liberal arts education provided a wonderful base for a law career," McConnell-Corbyn said. "Dr. Hurley taught his classes by the same Socratic method that is used in the law classroom. The writing and analytical methods that we used in Western Civilization were helpful in learning to structure a law school final exam answer."

Her success was recognized by one of Oklahoma's most wellrespected law firms, Hartzog Conger Caser and Neville. She still works at the firm where she began her career in general litigation. However, after completing some pro bono work in the area of family law, McConnell-Corbyn's interests expanded and she began to specialize in family law. She developed the practice area within her firm and now is one of two attorneys working in the specialty. She also works with clients in employment law alongside five other attorneys. Her record of success helped McConnell-Corbyn achieve partner status.

Her role as mediator and counsel in family law cases comes at pivotal life moments for the majority of her clients. Many of the cases McConnell-Corbyn handles include issues of property division, support alimony, child support and child custody. "One of the most challenging aspects of the family law practice is remaining objective for the benefit of the client while still letting the client know that we care very much about what he or she is going through," she said. "The most rewarding part of the practice is seeing clients who came to us as very hurt and fragile people going through one of the most difficult times of life, and move on to become happy, fulfilled and healed by the end of the process."

McConnell-Corbyn's own family fills much of her time outside of work. Her husband, George S. Corbyn Jr., also is an attorney, practicing with his own firm, Corbyn and Hampton. McConnell-Corbyn has two daughters, Danielle and Ryleigh McConnell, as well as five stepchildren, Michelle Foster, J. Rienke, Janie, Kevin and Will Corbyn. She said holidays for the family are fun-filled and frantic.

Meanwhile, her career has been filled with honors and recognitions. She is consistently listed as one of the Top 25 Female *Oklahoma Super Lawyers*, and is recognized in *Best Lawyers in America* in the area of family law. She was a 2006 Leadership in Law honoree; and was the 2007 Central Oklahoma Association of Legal Assistants Attorney of the Year.

In the little spare time she has, McConnell-Corbyn is active as director of the Oklahoma County Bar Association and co-chair for the Oklahoma County fund-raising committee for Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma.

She continues to invest in the lives of others, seeking to carry on the legacy of her favorite professor, as she seeks to make the most of her life in this "daily gift from a magnificent creator." •

Dr. Hurley saw the world as a beautiful daily gift from a magnificent creator.

Gladys Lewis ex '55 Building an Educational and Literary Reservoir

More than 50 years ago, a registered nurse named Gladys Sherman arrived on Bison Hill to pursue a bachelor's degree so she could be appointed as a medical missionary. In a journey of half a century which took her to the Southern Hemisphere and back, Dr. Gladys Sherman Lewis, ex '55, now serves as a professor in the English department of the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

Lewis teaches courses in American literature and graduate courses in American and British literature. She said the most challenging aspect of her work with undergraduates is to help them learn the connections between sociology, history and art.

"My goals each semester come from my determination to help students learn, appreciate and feel at ease in their identities as cultural subjects whose experiences are treated in the literature of our culture created by the best minds we have produced," she said. "That continues, of course, with graduate students, but in those classes, I am challenged to help them learn ethical research of substance so they can contribute to our educational and literary reservoir."

Lewis' plans as a college student did not include shaping tomorrow's literary leaders at the turn of the millennium. When she finished a three-year nursing degree at St. Anthony's School of Nursing in 1953 and successfully completed her board exams to be a registered nurse, she knew she wanted to be a medical missionary. The Foreign Mission Board, now the International Mission Board, of the Southern Baptist Convention required a bachelor's degree for missionary appointment, so Lewis pursued the coursework. Her family could not help her financially in those days prior to student loans, so she sought employment.

She learned Oklahoma Baptist University employed nurses who were also students to operate the student health clinic. She applied for a position that had just come open and was hired.

"To my delight, the salary was room, board, books, tuition and \$25 a month!" she said. "What could be better? I supplemented my income as I could by working occasional shifts at what was then the Baxter Clinic. That decision gave me experience with another kind of academic life, friends who have remained friends the rest of my life, and a reassurance that I was in the right path for my life."

In 1955, she married Dr. Wilbur C. Lewis, '51, and she finished her baccalaureate degree at Texas Christian University while he

was an intern in Fort Worth. After his residency training, the couple studied for a year at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth before they were appointed as medical missionaries to the Baptist Hospital in Asunción, Paraguay, where they served 11 years. They left that post because of political problems in the country and returned to Oklahoma, where Dr. Lewis went into private practice.

The Lewises spent many years as "professional Baptists," serving in a variety of capacities. Wilbur was one of seven doctors who formed the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship and participated in many service and humanitarian projects around the world. Gladys said she found joy and absorption in her local church while assuming a number of roles in the SBC, such as serving on the Southwestern Seminary board of trustees and the SBC committee on order of business. She has been an active participant in student work as a speaker for weeks at summer assemblies such as Glorieta and Ridgecrest. She also enjoyed a long period of being a speaker for chapels, conferences and study groups.

"When my last child was in high school, I decided to return to study myself to the first love: literature and writing," she said.

That decision took Lewis through a master of arts degree in creative writing at UCO and a Ph.D. degree from Oklahoma State University with a specialization in American and British literature. She started her teaching career at UCO in 1991 and recently completed her 20th year in that role. Though she was not considering a future role as an educator while a student at OBU, she said her experience on Bison Hill afforded both fun memories and life lessons which still apply.

Lewis said she had a good time "on duty" in Owens Hall, where the clinic was located when she first came to OBU. Later, the clinic was moved to a central campus location which afforded even more opportunities for social activity. Lewis said she enjoyed the annual Christmas events, in particular Hanging of the Green. And she was fond of Sadie Hawkins Day activities because she could "hit on" the good looking guys without apology or guilt.

"I did learn the importance of the bond between student and teacher, the blend of friendship with academic demands, and the mastery of academic material," Lewis

I did learn the importance of the bond between student and teacher, the blend of friendship with academic demands, and the mastery of academic material.

said. "Years since in other academic institutions have reaffirmed those qualities and given me additional skills in practicing them."

She recalled OBU professors who impacted her tenure as a student and throughout life since: Dr. W. Forbes Yarborough, her Bible professor, whose kindness and gentleness, combined with high expectations, helped her understand the depths of Old Testament and New Testament material in ways she had not encountered before; Dr. Robert Laessig, her German professor, who taught her zest for life and joy in each day in addition to the requirements of academia; and professors in government and history who taught her the value of critical thinking and analytical insight.

"My English professor, Dr. Katherine Rader, inspired a love for literature that had already been a part of my passion, but she showed me how far the heights of study could go and how literature plays such a prominent role in cultural identity," Lewis said.

Today, Lewis is the professor who is shaping tomorrow's leaders.

"The most rewarding (aspect) comes at the end of the semester when I see the growth of student minds, watch them progress across the stage to receive earned degrees, and hear their accolades of appreciation," she said. "A particularly rewarding dimension of my work comes with continued contact through the years with students who have gone on to become professionals of various kinds in their own right."

Lewis' husband died five years ago after battling for life for 11 years after a tragic skiing accident left him a ventilatordependent quadriplegic (the Christopher Reeve injury). The Lewises' children attest to their value of education and service: Karen is a professor of economics at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business; David is an oceanographer with the Navy Research Lab at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi; Leanne teaches educational administration at Baylor; and Cristen, a critical care R.N., is a heart recovery nurse at Oklahoma Heart Hospital.

Lewis has "nine practically perfect grandchildren (my PPGs)." They have an incredible example to follow in their grandmother – a nurse, wife, missionary, mother, professor, churchwoman, scholar, speaker, writer and volunteer. •

Dan Ford '77 & Nancy Ussery Ford '80 Going the Distance,

Enjoying the Journey

Together, Dan and Nancy Ford have compiled 60 years of teaching experience as they approach their 30th wedding anniversary. The Fords agree the secret to longevity, both in the classroom and in marriage, is to enjoy the journey, balancing life's challenges and joys.

Nancy, '80, is a special education teacher at Grand Prairie High School in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. In the past, she served as a homebound teacher and as an elementary and kindergarten teacher. The recipient of OBU's 1979 Lenna Smock Elementary Education Award, Nancy faces unique challenges in her classes, which have been featured in newspapers and on local television.

Dan, '77, is a bilingual mathematics teacher at Lee Middle School's Newcomer Academy in Grand Prairie. He also has served many years as a bilingual elementary teacher. In 1989, Dan was chosen Grand Prairie Educator of the Year and was a nominee for Texas Teacher of the Year. While teaching at Bowie Elementary in Grand Prairie, he helped his school win the Governor's Excellence Award. Dan also won the State PTA Scholarship and is a PTA Lifetime Member.

In 2002, Dan became a bicycle commuter and recently completed 6,800 miles riding to and from work. The twowheel journeys are a loose metaphor for the winding journey of the Fords' life together.

Nancy's current assignment and her previous assignment as the district's homebound teacher challenge the assumption that the sole purpose of education is to prepare students for giving back to society as adults.

"Many of my students have a shortened life expectancy due to a congenital condition and some may even be terminally ill," Nancy said. "In these situations, the purpose of education shifts from the future to the present, to the joy of learning in the here and now and not for a future that may never come.

"My students remind us all to live in the present and to realize that the worth of each person is defined by something beyond what one might contribute to society in the future; our worth is an intrinsic, God-given thing, right here and right now," she said.



"This realization is my students' great gift to society, a gift that society desperately needs," Nancy said. "As more and more of us age or become infirm, we will benefit or suffer to the extent that society becomes a place in which the old or infirm are more than an afterthought amidst our affluence."

A big part of Nancy's job is advocating for physically and mentally challenged students, persistently requesting that she and her coworkers get the specialized supplies they need to make the classroom a genuinely cheerful place where love triumphs over circumstance.

Believing much of what society needs to know can be learned in her classroom, and to make sure the lesson is not lost, Nancy gives students from regular classrooms the opportunity to interact with her students on a regular basis. In the process, students learn "the joy of compassion rather than the emptiness of entitlement."

On more than one occasion, Nancy has visited one of her students in the hospital and all too soon attended that same student's funeral. Whenever this happens, Nancy offers the bereaved parents the heartfelt empathy that can only come from one who has also lost a child. In 1987 the Fords lost their infant son, Sam, to a congenital heart condition. To help deal with the loss of a student she has grown to love, Nancy donates blood in the student's honor. She is a multi-gallon donor.

Dan still remembers the first moment he saw Nancy at OBU in 1976, at a Baptist Student Union meeting. Nancy remembers praying that she would one day marry a man who loved being outdoors as much as she did.

The answer to Nancy's prayer may have become more than she bargained for: shortly before her 50th birthday, she found herself dangling 450 feet above the ground from a climbing rope high on the face of a sandstone cliff near the Ford's summer home in western Colorado. Dan had encouraged



Nancy to participate in an annual July 4th fund-raiser climb in Colorado National Monument. Nancy eagerly joined 30 other novice climbers who ascended the vertical sandstone where they raised an American flag while the trumpet notes of the National Anthem echoed off canyon walls.

Nancy also is an accomplished bicyclist, having served as vice president of the Lone Star Cyclists. She recently participated in an MS 150 charity ride in which she raised \$600 for the fight against multiple sclerosis. Her diligent training enabled her to easily pedal the first 75 miles in just five

hours before the event was called off due to lightning.

Dan said some of his remarkable outdoor adventures are a result of a 1977 OBU backpacking class in Big Bend National Park. During the class, Dan vowed to return one day with a canoe and explore Santa Elena Canyon where the Rio Grande has gouged a shadowy slot 1,500 feet deep, through solid limestone and class IV rapids.

Dan's plan to paddle six miles upstream through the canyon in a tiny solo canoe was met with skepticism by a park ranger.

Before allowing him to attempt the trip, the ranger insisted Dan leave his footprint on a piece of carbon paper in case it was needed by a search squad. Dan successfully used eddy currents, upstream ferries and bracing strokes to negotiate the canyon without incident. Then he returned the same six miles downstream, having seen the canyon twice in one day while avoiding the hassle and expense of the usual overnight car shuttle.

Several years later Dan returned to Big Bend National Park for another ambitious adventure. He biked and hiked 70 miles in a single day, from the park's lowest point beside the Rio Grande

Our worth is an intrinsic, God-given thing, right here and right now.

to its highest point on Emory Peak, a total climb of more than 7,000 feet. Recently, Nancy accompanied Dan in repeating both of the Big Bend adventures.

The Fords said they do not consider their outdoor adventures as feats of endurance, but rather as celebrations of life that have added balance and longevity to their demanding careers. At their summer home in Fruita, Colo., they enjoy entertaining friends, biking, hiking, kayaking, reading and writing. Dan credits much of his love of writing to OBU's Western Civ and

> backpacking professors Bill Hagen, Gerry Gunnin, James Farthing and Shirley Jones.

"They had the creativity and courage to create a college course combining a physical outdoor activity (backpacking) with an intellectual discipline (writing) which became a model for the balanced and beautiful life that Nancy and I have shared together over all these years," he said.

The Fords' ties to Bison Hill stretch back several decades. Dan's mother, Jeanette White Ford, graduated from OBU in 1949. His father, Dr. LeRoy Ford, was a long-time education professor at Southwestern Baptist

Theological Seminary. Dan and Nancy have two daughters: Sally, 25, teaches ESL in Korea; and Becky, 21, is pursuing a career as a registered nurse.

After sharing 60 years in a profession with a burnout rate approaching 50 percent within the first five years, Dan and Nancy agree it is essential that teachers set reasonable expectations for themselves and communicate these limits to others: "If someone asks you to walk on water, gently remind them that neither one of you are Jesus. But be ready to walk the second mile just the same. And don't forget ... enjoy the journey." •

Houghton to Lead School of Business

Dr. David C. Houghton will assume the post of dean of the Paul Dickinson School of Business in August.

Since 2008, Houghton has taught as associate professor of marketing at Charleston Southern University where he has served as chair of the department of business and economics. For 11 years, he was professor of marketing at Northwest Nazarene University, where he also was director of undergraduate business programs, chair of the department of business and economics and faculty vice chair. As vice chair, he led the transformation from a non-ranked, non-tenured faculty into a rank and tenure system. He played a significant role in managing an early retirement process and worked with the strategic planning process for the university.

"Dr. Houghton brings a proven record of academic and professional experience to OBU," said Dr. Stan Norman, OBU provost and executive vice president for campus life. "His excellence in the classroom, his scholarly contributions, and his academic leadership will serve him well as the new dean of the Paul Dickinson School of Business."

Houghton 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.

Houghton has held the Sam M. Walton Free Enterprise Fellowship since 1999. He is a member of the Society for Consumer Psychology, Association for Consumer Research, Christian Business Faculty Association and World Future

Society. He received the Idaho Business Review 40/40 Award, and served as a board member for Idaho Business Week from 2004



HOUGHTON

to 2008. He serves on the Praxis Marketing Education National Advisory Committee, and as a reviewer for the Christian Business Academy Review, the Journal of Biblical Integration in Business and the Sheth Dissertation Award: Society for Consumer Psychology.

Smallwood Heads University Advancement

Will Smallwood was named vice president for university advancement in May. He previously was director of development for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

"OBU has a rich and strong advancement legacy. Will will build upon that tradition and will lead our development initiatives into our second century," said Dr. Stan Norman, OBU provost and executive vice president for campus life. "His background in business and development will enhance our already strong development team. I am confident that friends, donors and alumni will come to appreciate his servant-heart and passion for Christian liberal arts."

Smallwood had served at Southern Seminary since July 2006, securing gifts for capital projects (including

renovation of the seminary's library), increasing membership in the seminary's foundation board, and codeveloping and managing



SMALLWOOD

the campaign to increase giving during the seminary's sesquicentennial. He served as pastor of West Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville from March 2007 to May 2009. He previously was a sales consultant for StorterChilds Printing Co. in Gainesville, Fla., for five years. A native of Ocala, Fla., Smallwood earned a bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of Florida. He earned a master's degree in theology from Southern Seminary, where he is pursuing a doctorate in biblical spirituality.

In his vice presidential post, Smallwood serves as OBU's chief development officer and directs programs in resource development and alumni relations.

"I am excited to stand on Bison Hill with President Whitlock and the entire administration in fulfilling the mission and vision of OBU 2020," Smallwood said. "I know God will continue to provide to OBU as we look to make an impact in this world for the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education."

Three Long-time Educators Retire From Posts

Dr. Carol Bell, associate professor of music, and Dr. Jim Hansford, Burton Patterson professor of music and director of bands, both retired in July, following 20 years of service at OBU. Earlier in 2010, Diane Shank retired as technical services librarian. She joined the OBU faculty as a librarian in 1969.

Bell earned a bachelor's degree from William Carey College, and a master's

degree and doctorate from the University of Oklahoma. At OBU, she taught courses including class piano, piano sight reading, piano literature, major and



BELL

minor applied piano, piano ensemble, principals of choral accompanying and choral accompanying lab.

"Dr. Bell's investment in her students has helped them become better pianists as well as better persons," said Dr. Paul Hammond, dean of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts. "While we have often joked about her Mississippi accent, her gentle spirit and warm personality belie the discipline and high expectations she has for her students."

In the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association, she has served as an adjudicator, presenter, local association president and state composition competition chair. She has served as the South Central Division composition competition coordinator for the Music Teachers National Association. She was chapter secretary of Pi Kappa Lambda in 1991-92. She also is a member of Delta Omicron, College Music Society and American Brahms Society.

Bell was married to the late Digby Bell, who taught and performed at OU for

more than 40 years. For 25 of those years, he served as the chairman of the OU keyboard department. The Bells were well known in Oklahoma as a duo pianist team. Following his death in March 2004, Bell and her fellow OBU music faculty established the annual Digby Bell Memorial Recital, presented at OBU each spring.

Bell is a member of First Baptist Church in Shawnee, where she has served as the church pianist. Her hobbies include reading and walking. She has three grown children: Stephen, Richard and Elisabeth.

Hansford earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a master's degree and doctorate from the University of North Texas. At OBU, he taught courses

including advanced conducting, instrumental methods and procedures, marching band techniques, band literature and applied low brass, in addition to



HANSFORD

serving as conductor of the Symphonic Band and the OBU-Shawnee Community Orchestra.

Hansford stays active as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator in the public schools and churches of Oklahoma, Texas and the Southwestern United States. He regularly supervises student teachers and educators in their entry-year residency programs. In the summer of 2004 Hansford lectured at the School of Music at Xinjiang Normal University in Urumqi, China. He has served as conductor of the Oklahoma Baptist All-State Symphonic Band since 1992, including tours to England and British Columbia and trips to Boston and Phoenix.

"During Dr. Hansford's tenure, the annual fall M&Ms Concert continued to grow in popularity, and his choice of concert literature raised the bar for the next director," Hammond said. "It has been a special privilege for me to work with Jim as the founding director of the OBU-Shawnee Community Orchestra."

Hansford is an active member of First Baptist Church in Shawnee where he sings in the choir and serves as a deacon. His wife, Conchita, a children's music specialist who directs the Shawnee Honor Choir, is director of OBU's Preparatory Department. They have two daughters, Candace and Tamara, and two grandchildren, Channing and Clark.

Hansford plans to continue conducting the OBU-Shawnee Community Orchestra following his retirement.

Shank earned a bachelor's degree at the University of North Texas, and a master's degree at Louisiana State

University. Before coming to OBU, she worked as a children's librarian at the Dallas Public Library.

"She has invested 41 years of



service on the University campus, helping OBU negotiate many changes in library services over that span," said OBU President David Whitlock.

Shank was a member of the Oklahoma Library Association and the Southern Baptist Librarians Association. She enjoys antiques, reading and dogs.



Alumna's Estate Gift Strengthens SCS Resources

When Faye Hughes Van Sickle was a child, her father began training for ministry. Through her estate, Faye is perpetuating training for future generations of ministry leaders.

The OBU alumna's estate has provided the University \$857,500, which will be used as endowment funds for scholarships and an academic position, OBU President David W. Whitlock announced this summer.

The gift creates an endowment trust in honor of Van Sickle's parents, the Reverend A.E. and Dora Johnson Hughes, to support a professorship chair in Christian studies and to supplement an existing endowed scholarship benefiting OBU students.

The professorship will be named the Reverend A.E. and Dora Johnson Hughes Chair of Christian Ministry. The Van Sickle gift also supplements the existing Reverend A.E. and Dora Johnson Hughes Endowed Scholarship, which provides financial support for OBU students preparing for the pastorate or music ministry.

"This is a very significant gift, and we will be good stewards of it," said Dr. Mark McClellan, dean of the School of Christian Service. "The real impact of this gift will be in the lives of countless numbers of students who will be educated and prepared here at OBU for Christian ministry."

Born in Tillman County, Oklahoma, in 1897, Alter Eli Hughes was a Southern Baptist pastor and missions leader in Oklahoma and Texas. He followed a call to ministry which came after he began a career in agriculture. He attended Decatur Baptist College (now Dallas Baptist University) in Decatur, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. In 1917 he married Dora Johnson in Elbert, Texas. He died in 1958.



Members of the Faye Hughes Van Sickle family gathered at OBU in June. They are, front row, from left, Brad Kennedy, R.Wayne Hughes, Maj. Gen. Neil Van Sickle and Angela Palmer. Back row, Richard Kennedy, Elaine Kennedy, Margaret Hughes, Paula Carpenter, J. Randy Hughes, Paul Carpenter, and Stephen Palmer.

Faye graduated from high school in Byron, Texas, and earned an associate's degree from Decatur Baptist College. She attended OBU as a member of the Class of 1947, and also attended the University of Hawaii. She taught grade school near the southwest Oklahoma towns of Frederick and Hollister before moving to Fort Worth, Texas, with her husband, Col. Charles T. Moreland. She fulfilled her goal of becoming a licensed private pilot, and was employed by General Dynamics for 20 years, attaining the rank of aircraft design engineer.

Col. Moreland died in 1980. In 1987, Faye married Maj. Gen. Neil Van Sickle, acquiring nine grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. The couple settled in Kalispell, Mont., where she was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. She died in Kalispell on Jan. 13, 2010, at the age of 85.

Throughout her life she remained close to her family, including her brother, Wayne Hughes, of Frederick; her nephew, J. Randy Hughes, of Noble; and her nieces, Elaine Kennedy of Pauls Valley, and Paula Hughes Carpenter, '72, of Denton, Texas. Van Sickle's family described her as a Christian woman who was tenacious, generous, long-suffering, dependable, compassionate, graceful, beautiful, elegant and tough.

"The entire family is to be commended, and we are so grateful to Gen. Van Sickle and Faye's relatives for their investment in the lives of our students," OBU President David W. Whitlock said. "Faye sounds like one of the most remarkable women I've ever heard about – a design engineer, pilot, and Gen. Van Sickle tells me she was also a motorcyclist."

Van Sickle's brother, Wayne Hughes, said his family loves and values the University, as indicated by the family members who have attended OBU. He said he thinks OBU can offer students what is important: an education in a Christian environment that is small enough for students to get to know their classmates.

"I hope OBU continues to do what OBU does: to teach young people how to live," Hughes said. "I think my family is a good example of that."

Centennial Moment Videos Online

OBU has released a series of short "Centennial Moment" videos offering a glimpse of various aspects of life on Bison Hill from its inception. The clips are available online at **www.okbu. edu/100.**

Narrated by John Holcomb, '88, and Kirsten McIntyre Gantz, '91, the videos reveal how OBU adopted "Ka-Rip" as the school's yell, at what time hundreds of men lived in WMU Dormitory, how 60 acres of wild golden coreopsis influenced the school colors and other details of the University's 100-year history.

The videos originally were released during OBU weekly chapel services and during special Centennial events such as the Founders' Day celebration in February.

The Centennial Moments are written by Dr. John W. Parrish, hon. '89, chair of OBU's Centennial Committee. They are produced by Michael Bruce, '89, OBU assistant professor of telecommunications, and Derek Watson, '06, a video producer in Oklahoma City.

Holcomb is sports director for KOTV, Channel 6 (CBS affiliate) in Tulsa, and co-host of OKBlitz.com. McIntyre Gantz is an anchor/reporter for KWTV, Channel 9 (CBS affiliate) in Oklahoma City.

More than a dozen additional Centennial Moment videos will be released during the fall semester as part of the Centennial celebration.

Fall 2010 Centennial Events

September

- 1 Centennial Convocation 10 a.m., Potter Auditorium
- 30 Singing Churchmen ofOklahoma Concert7 p.m., Potter Auditorium

October

25 Vocal Recital, Arnold Rawls, '82 7:30 p.m., Yarborough

November

- 5-6 OBU Theatre production: Antigone, 7:30 p.m., Craig-Dorland Theatre
- Alumni Recital:
 Paula Paschall Compton, '89, harp
 Stephen Goforth, '82, trumpet Jennifer Peck, '03, flute
 Martin Marks, '81, saxophone
 Dusty Higgins, '02, trombone
 Katie Cease Robertson, '06, oboe
 - 8 p.m., Potter Auditorium
- 12-13 Centennial Homecoming Celebration (see pages 32-33)
- 15-16 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Annual Meeting on the OBU campus

December

- 4 Centennial Hanging of the Green (*Messiah*)7:30 p.m., Potter Auditorium
- 17 Centennial Winter Commencement2 p.m., Potter Auditorium

Stay up-to-date with OBU at okbu.edu or Twitter. — AND — Become a Facebook fan of OBU.

Board Approves Master Plan

Approval of a long-range campus master plan highlighted the spring meeting of OBU's trustees on May 14.

OBU President David Whitlock presented the campus master plan, prepared by Coleman Johnston Clyma Architects of Tulsa. The plan will serve as a "blueprint for our physical plant," Dr. Whitlock said.

The overall plan for the 100-yearold university includes several new academic, administrative, housing and student life facilities. Whitlock said priority projects will be a building for OBU's growing School of Nursing, a new housing center for male students, and a two-story administration/visitors' center.

"The center will serve as a onestop shop for any enrollment and business matters for students," Whitlock said. "It will include admissions, student financial services, the academic center, alumni and other campus offices."

For more details on the Campus Master Plan, visit okbu.edu/magazine.

In other action, trustees ratified a policy for the OBU campus which bans use of tobacco in any form. The policy states, "In keeping with the mission and purpose of the University, and in order to encourage a clean and healthy environment, the use of tobacco by anyone in any form, including simulated tobacco products, is expressly forbidden ... on all OBU campuses, in/on University buildings, grounds, vehicles, and at University-sponsored events on or off campus."

A Constant Through Five Decades of Change

Spending more than 50 years on Bison Hill, OBU registrar Peggy Askins saw the methods of her work change from pen, paper and typewriters – and a problematic registration process commonly referred to as a "cattle drive" – to high-tech computerized systems and a continuous registration process. A walking encyclopedia of OBU academic information, Askins completed her tenure as registrar at the end of July.

"OBU's history is richer because Peggy Askins has invested half a century into its students and being," said Dr. Debbie Blue, OBU senior vice president for academic services. "She will be greatly missed from the daily life of the University."

The former Peggy Corley, a 1957 graduate, launched her OBU career in 1960 as administrative assistant to the director of student services. The office no longer exists in the



Peggy Askins sorts computer punch cards early in her tenure as registar at OBU. Askins, who assumed the role of registrar in 1963, retired at the end of July.

same form on campus, but at the time covered admissions, financial aid, mail room supervision, the copy center, the switchboard and glee club tours.

Back then, each person with administrative duties was also required to teach one course per semester. The policy provided a great opportunity for Askins, who had graduated as an art major intending to work in interior design. She taught courses such as portrait and figure drawing, color and design, watercolor, arts and crafts for elementary teachers, and art appreciation.

"This continued for 11 years, and I think that was probably my favorite role – teacher," Askins said recently. "I enjoyed the association with art majors in the upper division classes, but it was also quite exciting to see the light come on for a student who was in the art appreciation class just because it was required."

Within three years, the position of registrar became available. Askins assumed the role – one she has fulfilled for 47 years.

"She was chair of our admissions committee for decades, and has given the OBU registrar's office stability and professional credibility for 50 years," said OBU President David W. Whitlock. "Peggy was born in Fame, Okla., just east of Stidham. We are thankful that she has invested her talents on Bison Hill and helped to bring fame to our university for a full half of our existence."

Askins said the most fulfilling tasks at OBU have also been the most challenging. Through friendships she formed in professional associations – including the Oklahoma Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, and the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers – she worked with registrars from all types of institutions around the nation and other countries.

"As new ideas and practices were put forth from such a wealth of resources, I have tried to bring home and implement those I thought would be helpful to OBU," Askins said. "Three such instances that I feel have been very good for OBU were the practice of early registration, the consolidating of nuisance fees into the already existing student fees and doing away with fees for official transcripts."

Prior to the current practice of opening registration in April for fall semesters and in October for spring semesters, OBU enrolled all students within the last three days before classes started. Among registrars, Askins said, the practice is known as the "cattle drive." At OBU, it required all offices and faculty to move to a central location – all the Shawnee Hall hallways and classrooms – and necessitated hiring and training a large number of temporary workers. Askins said the method created a lot of errors because of the frantic pace and the use of temporary staff.

Years ago, OBU imposed individual fees which had to be paid to the cashiers at the time of transactions such as dropping or adding a class and changing a grade.

"If the student didn't have the cash to pay the fee, they couldn't drop or add the course on time or have the grade recorded when an 'I' was finished," Askins said. "It was so very frustrating to students and did not give us timely information in maintaining registration and grade records. These are called 'nuisance' fees or 'nickel-and-dime fees,' and I am so glad to be rid of them." A third big change about 20 years ago under Askins' leadership was to stop charging for official transcripts.

"Not having to collect and bill these fees has been a time saver for our office so we have one of the best turnaround times

for issuing transcripts of any school in the country," she said. "It also adds greatly to alumni satisfaction."

Askins said one big change she has campaigned for has not yet come to pass: joining a network for electronic data interchange which allows the exchange of transcripts via computer and the inclusion of equivalent courses recorded intact from other institutions.

"I am disappointed that I was not able to accomplish this task, but if I have planted and watered, perhaps someone else will harvest," she said.

Such an extended tenure has netted Askins many friends – and respect as an expert in her field.

"Naturally I am close to the ladies in my office staff," Askins said. "But there are so many others, both faculty and staff, with whom I have had a long and close association. I will miss our regular contact as we work together on the business of OBU."

Askins also developed close friends among fellow registrars through professional organizations. She served as president of the Oklahoma ACRAO twice – once in the 1970s and again in the late 1980s. Through the American ACRAO, she served on committees regarding international education, registration techniques, office management and nominations and elections. She was appointed to task forces to revise and update manuals published by the association, including Retention of Records and The Academic Record and Transcript Guide, which is commonly called "the registrar's bible."

Askins was appointed to a task force to devise an associational response to a call for help from foreign embassies in Washington, D.C., helping industry and governmental agencies who were dealing with credential fraud.

"For over six years, we presented workshops and seminars on how to recognize and deal with faked documents, and then I was asked to write a book incorporating our research and response," she said. "The resulting publication was 'Misrepresentation In The Marketplace and Beyond: Ethics Under Siege.' These colleagues became very close friends, and I know those friendships will continue after retirement." Askins was married for 42 vears to her late husband. Donald, also a 1957 OBU graduate. She has two children, Michael and Anna. Michael and his wife. Karen, have three sons: Thomas. Timothy and Anthony John. All of them live in Shawnee

Despite her impending retirement, Askins has other life engagements which keep her busy. She and her daughter are active in Liberty Baptist Church in Shawnee. She helps Anna teach a Sunday School class for special-needs children. They both are members of a worship group at Liberty who participate in The Burn ministry in Shawnee and Seminole.

There is also an international ministry pulling the heartstrings of the faithful servant.

"I have a deep love for Israel and the Jewish people, and my daughter and I have been to Israel twice in the last six years and hope to go again soon," Askins said. "We have formed some great friendships and associations with Messianic Jewish congregations in Israel, in Oklahoma, Florida and Ohio, and have had the pleasure of worshiping with them on such special occasions as Passover and Succot, as well as the weekly Shabat (sabbath) services."

After working diligently over the past five decades on Bison Hill, Askins is retiring from OBU but has some wellearned adventures awaiting her.

OBU Creates New Honor For Legendary Faculty

Already recognized nationally for academic quality, OBU is launching a new campus recognition program which will honor legendary faculty members. The OBU Faculty Hall of Fame will induct its first class in November, during the University's Centennial Homecoming.

The Hall of Fame distinction is designed to "honor former OBU faculty members who were master teachers, making a significant impact on OBU students," according to the award nomination form.

"Our University has been blessed by a great legacy of faculty members who invested their lives on Bison Hill and made lasting contributions in the lives of their students and colleagues," OBU President David Whitlock said. "This Hall of Fame is a fitting tribute to those individuals, and launching it during our Centennial year gives added distinction to the fact that OBU's great history is linked to the way God has blessed us with professors who have wholeheartedly supported our mission."

The first class of inductees will be recognized during Homecoming Chapel at 10 a.m. Saturday, November 13, in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium. Any emeriti or former full-time faculty member who has had an exemplary teaching career at the University is eligible for the award. According to selection criteria, honorees should have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in the areas of "teaching, interest in students, professional development, research and writing, the life of the mind, service to the University, and Christian faith and professional life."

For the inaugural year, up to 10 nominees will be selected. For the following years, up to five honorees will be selected. If an honoree is deceased, a family member will be invited to accept the award in memory of the recipient.

Alumni and friends are invited to nominate individuals for the award. A nomination form is available at okbu.edu/awards. Each nomination should include the name of the nominee and a brief statement regarding why the former faculty member should be considered. Please submit nominations for 2010 by Sept. 1, 2010. Nominations can be mailed to the OBU Alumni Office, OBU Box 61275, 500 West University, Shawnee, OK 74804, or submitted via e-mail to alumni@okbu.edu. Homecoming_2010

CENTENNIAL HOMECOMING SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 12-13

Thursday, November 11

 6:30 pm National Board of Development Banquet
 8 pm Alumni Instrumental Recital Theatre Production: Antigone

Friday, November 12

7:45 am	National Board of Development Meeting
9 am-4 pm	Homecoming Registration
10 am	50-Year Club Reunion and Anniversary Reunions Classes of 1935 (75), 1940 (70), 1945 (65), 1950 (60), 1955 (55), and 1960 (50)
10:30 am	Registration for Golf Tournament, Driving range opens
11 am	50-Year Club Luncheon honoring the Classes of 1935, 1940,1945, 1950, and 1955
	50th Anniversary Reunion Luncheon, Class of 1960
Noon	Homecoming Golf Tournament Shotgun Tee-off
12:15 pm	National Board of Development Luncheon
12:30 pm	Book Signing – Steffanie Compton Lincecum, '87 "Patternmaking for a Perfect Fit"
1 pm	OBU Bench and Bar Association Continuing Education Workshop
1–3:30 pm	REUNION FELLOWSHIP 50-year club reunion classes and friends are invited to continue their fellowship time in the lower level of the Geiger Center. Refreshments provided.
1-5 pm	Centennial Book Sales
1 & 2:30 pm	Campus Tours by Van
2-4 pm	Library Student Workers and Staff Reunion
2-4:30 pm	OBU Archives Open House
6-8 pm	Harvest Dinner Recognition of 2010 Harvest Court GOLD Alum of the Year Presentation Induction of Athletic Hall of Fame Members Presentation of Alumni Achievement Awards
8-11 pm	Centennial Book Sales
8:30 pm	Combined Choirs Concert of Music by OBU Composers
10 pm	ALUMNI REUNION RECEPTION All alumni invited. Honoring the 50-Year Club and the reunioning classes of 1960, 1965 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2005

Saturday, November 13

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8 am-5 pm	Homecoming Registration
8 am	Omicron Delta Kappa Reunion
8:30 am	Alumni Association Board of Directors Breakfast Student Nurses Association Reunion
9 am	Cousins Reunion Mortar Board Reunion University Chorale Reunion
10 am	Cheerleaders Reunion
10-11 am	Chapel and Alumni Annual Meeting
10 am-1 pm	Centennial Book Sales
10:30 am	Legends Basketball Game for Alumni Men
10:30 am	Book Signing I Steffanie Compton Lincecum, '87 "Patternmaking for a Perfect Fit"
11 am-2 pm	Childcare: birth through four years Children's Festival
11 am	Reception for Alumni Profile in Excellence Award Recipients Alpha Chi Epsilon and Delta Tau Alpha Reunion Bison Glee Club Reunion Bison Jazz Orchestra Reunion College Players Phi Omega Sigma Reunion Sigma Alpha Iota Reunion Student Government Association Reunion Theta Sigma Chi Reunion
11:45 am	REUNION LUNCHEONS Luncheons for Classes of 1965, 1970, 1975
Noon	Luncheons for Classes of 1980, 1985, 1990
Noon	Spanning the Decades Luncheon (for all alumni who are back on the Hill to celebrate the Centennial Homecoming but don't have a specific reunion luncheon to attend)
12-2 pm	Future Bison Campus Tour and Luncheon for 7-12th grade students
12:15 pm	Luncheons for Classes of 1995, 2000, 2005
1:30-5:30 pm	Homecoming Basketball Doubleheader
	REUNION FELLOWSHIPS* Alumni are invited to visit and peruse through <i>Yahnsehs</i> from their era in the comfort of the Mabee Suite in the Noble Complex while watching the basketball games. (basketball tickets required)
1:30-5 pm	Centennial Book Sales
2:30 pm	Theatre Production: Antigone
6 pm	Music Banquet
7 pm	Harvest Festival
8:30 pm	Alumni Symphonic Band Reunion Concert
	All times are subject to change.

FINE ARTS EVENTS HIGHLIGHT CENTENNIAL HOMECOMING

Musical Presentations

Students and alumni from OBU's Warren M. Angell

College of Fine Arts will present concerts on both Friday and Saturday evenings in Potter Auditorium during the Centennial Homecoming Nov. 12-13.

The music of OBU composers, performances by current groups, and music from a reunion choir will be featured on Friday evening. Dr. Brent Ballweg, '78, OBU director of choral activites, and Dr. Jim Vernon, associate professor of music, will direct the groups in this vocal presentation.



On Saturday night, instrumental groups will take the stage as the OBU Symphonic Band and Bison Jazz Orchestra perform, as well as a reunion band of alumni and current students. Dr. Lauren Denny Wright, newly named director of bands; Dr. Kevin Pruiett, BJO director; and Dr. Jim Hansford, recently retired director of bands, will conduct the performances.

For more details about the concerts, and information on alumni participation, visit obku.edu/magazine.

OBU Theatre Presentation

OBU Theatre will present a Homecoming run of the classic work Antigone November 11-13 in Craig-Dorland Theatre. First produced in Athens in 441 BC, Antigone centers on a distinction between law and justice. The production will be offered at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13. Tickets can be purchased through the OBU Alumni Office.

student**spotlight**

Hope Takes By Misty Hamilton

It sounds like a bird, and that is fitting for a ministry effort which offers hope so families can take flight.

Each week during the fall and spring, OBU students devote time to serve refugees in Oklahoma City through the Spero Project, an organization named for the Latin word for "hope." The refugees, who come from countries all over the world such as Myanmar, Iraq, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and Eritrea, have been resettled into an apartment complex.

Spero Project – pronounced like "sparrow," the bird which is a symbol of hope – ministers to refugees every day. The program provides conversational English tutoring on Tuesdays, homework help four days a week, classes to develop skills that women can transfer into ways to help provide income for their families, and more.

"Spero Project assists them with language acquisition, job and interview skills, basic life skills and anything else they need," said Sara Scott, a senior from Harrah, who chaired the OBU Spero volunteer team in the spring. "We go on Thursday nights to provide tutoring, play with the kids and develop relationships with the families."

OBU became involved in this project in April 2009 with the support of the Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach. A group of 10-15 OBU volunteers serve the refugees each week. The project was founded by OBU alum Brad Bandy, '98, and his wife, Kim. Bandy earned a bachelor's degree in cross-cultural ministry and anthropology.

"We feel a deep respect for the individuals and their families who have taken the long journey to arrive in America," Bandy said. "Being among the few who survive war, famine, torture and then gain International Refugee status, they deserve more than to simply arrive here 'safe.' Rather, their perseverance and strength must be valued, engaged and developed into a force that changes their communities both here and in their home countries. After risking their lives for a future, the question to us is 'what will come of that life?"

Spero Project is divided into four ministries: Resource, Legacy, Voice and Aspire. Each division has a clear mission and goal.



Steve Lambiase (bottom), a senior from Spring Branch, Texas, plays with children involved in the Spero Project.

The Resource ministry is committed to providing assistance to those living in poverty, encouraging the local church to aid in an individual's development, both physically and spiritually, while responding to them with respect and compassion. Volunteers involved in this sector spend time with the food pantry and clothing center as well as praying for, and building relationships with, those in need.

Spero created the Legacy division to network with local churches and communities to meet the needs of children in foster care and the adoption system in Oklahoma. The team partners with local and global awareness and service agencies to help individuals understand the options of foster care and adoption and how to utilize the services.

Spero Voice serves international refugees from war-torn regions across the globe who have been relocated to safety in Oklahoma City. The volunteers seek to connect the network of resources in the local community with the needs of the population, all the while trying to be a voice to the voiceless.

Aspire exists to network organizations and individuals working on behalf of marginalized women and their children across the globe, knowing that working together brings more effective results and a deeper hope for those living in oppression and fear to aspire to a better life.

For more information on ways to become involved with this mission, go online to www.thesperoproject.com.



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