

NINE NEW FACULTY INTRODUCED | **FAITHFUL DONORS** | ALUMNI NOTES

OBU MAGAZINE

FALL/WINTER 2011



vision FOR A
new century

The Campaign for Oklahoma Baptist University

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Standing at just the right spot near the north end of OBU's oval drive, you can see two cornerstones on display at Shawnee Hall. One has been celebrated in photographs, video clips and books about the University's history. That black marble stone still shines from its place east of the main entrance to OBU's oldest building, proclaiming that The Baptist University of Oklahoma was "Founded 1910, A.D."

Sitting at the building's southwest entrance, worn by decades of wind and rain, is the cornerstone of the Oklahoma Baptist State College, founded in 1900. That chunk of rock memorializes pioneering Oklahoma Baptists who earnestly sought to build a college for a U.S. territory in the heart of the union. One cornerstone is a memorial. The other is a physical reminder of an enduring testimony. OBU rose out of what our second president, Dr. Frank M. Masters, called the "ash heap of dead schools."

We can only imagine the excitement and enthusiasm that abounded on the day our cornerstone was set in place. There was great hope, great expectation and great faith. More than a century later, our cornerstone has not shifted. Our mission is still clear. We enter OBU's second century with excitement, enthusiasm, hope, expectation and faith.

Our University has enjoyed great periods of growth over the years because of a shared vision for the future. Our buildings reflect our vision for equipping godly leaders who are nurtured in a Christ-honoring community. Our academic programs are built from a cornerstone of excellence.

Our community, our reputation and our heritage as an Oklahoma Baptist institution are all built on a cornerstone of commitment and sacrifice.

Peter reflected on the importance of building on the right Cornerstone when he wrote to the early Church about coming to Christ, the "living stone... choice and precious in the sight of God." Our founders did that. We can do no less if we expect God's continued blessing on our collective work.

In this issue you will read about our Vision For A New Century Capital Campaign. Our vision is ambitious. Our dreams build on OBU's historic strengths and challenge us to fulfill our responsibilities as a Christian liberal arts university. As we boldly move forward, we will continue the enduring testimony of Oklahoma Baptist University. We have a great history and a great future. We are not looking to set new cornerstones, but to be true to the One which was set for us long, long ago.



DAVID WESLEY WHITLOCK

President, Oklahoma Baptist University



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Student Alex Myers approaches the challenging moments of life with a positive attitude and a willing spirit.

vision FOR A new century

WHAT IS THE VISION FOR A NEW CENTURY?

For more than 100 years, Oklahoma Baptist University has been in the business of transforming lives through Christian liberal arts education. In that time, God has raised up generations of faithful men and women who have sustained OBU through their investment of time and resources. They have given sacrificially to the idea of an unapologetically Christian university. Their investment has produced such a university — a university where faith and learning are woven together to form a tapestry of success, a university which consistently produces exceptional graduates, a university with a global vision and an enduring sense of mission.

Today, as she embarks on a second century of fulfilling the mission, Oklahoma Baptist University is positioned for a season of unprecedented growth and expanded effectiveness. To make the most of this opportunity, OBU

launched the Vision For a New Century Campaign in May 2011 — the most aggressive capital campaign in OBU history. Through the Vision For a New Century Capital Campaign, OBU will invest resources in academic and athletic programs, scholarships and capital projects that will enhance the world-class education and experience for current and future students of OBU.

From the very beginning, the founders believed in the power of Christian liberal arts education. Today, the need for an OBU education has never been more important. As in the past, we know the alumni and friends of OBU to be the decisive advantage in propelling OBU to new levels of excellence. Join as we undertake this God-sized endeavor.

» **CREATING A NEW HOME**
for OBU's College of Nursing is one of the chief priorities



in the Vision For a New Century Campaign. With a steadily growing enrollment, the College of Nursing has maximized resources in the Williamson Nursing Education Center on the lower level of Thurmond Hall.

OBU launched the state's first bachelor of science degree program in nursing in 1952. In 1981, OBU's School of Nursing was established from the existing program in the College

ARTIST'S RENDERING OF THE PROJECTED
NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH BUILDING



of Arts and Sciences. In 1987, the Ferril C. and Phyllis Williamson Nursing Education Center was dedicated in OBU's historic Thurmond Hall. The name of the program changed to the College of Nursing in August 2011.

In 2008, OBU Graduate School in Oklahoma City added a master's degree in nursing, with the first cohort of 12 graduates receiving degrees in March 2010. The undergraduate

program currently has 207 students enrolled for the Fall 2011 semester. Forty-six OBU nursing students participated in the Nurses' Pinning Ceremony in May 2011, marking the completion of their bachelor's degree program.

"At OBU, the nursing program is a perfect example of how every student can integrate faith with all areas of knowledge," said Dr. David Whitlock, OBU president.

"Real ministry is meeting people at their point of need, and I can't imagine a more appropriate example of this than in nursing. This facility will serve as an enduring reminder that as agents of transformation for Christ, many employment opportunities and service areas are increasingly found in professional arenas — and that these important areas are best taught on the foundation of the liberal arts."

VISION FOR A NEW CENTURY (CONTINUED)

Dr. Lana Bolhouse, dean of the College of Nursing and a 1973 OBU graduate, said a new nursing facility will allow OBU's nursing program to remain at the cutting edge of the state's nursing programs.

"We've always been at the front of nursing education in Oklahoma, so it will be in keeping with that trend to have this facility which will be one of the nicest in the state," she said.

The proposed nursing facility will be on the corner of MacArthur and Kickapoo, replacing the current Shawnee Hall parking lot and providing a new face for the University. The two-story structure will provide ample classroom and office space along with state-of-the-art practice for medical techniques.

The first floor of the proposed facility will include 17 offices and the dean's office. The building will provide space for eight simulation skill labs, as well as a basic skills area. In addition, the proposed facility will include a home-health simulation room and a bathing training room for rehabilitation patients; a student preparation room combined with a safe room; and a conference room.

The second floor of the facility will be comprised mostly of classroom space, with two classrooms for 40 students each and two seminar-style classrooms. The second floor includes a large classroom with space for 75 students; the space can be divided into smaller

classrooms as necessary. The cadaver lab will be housed on the second floor, and the building also provides room for future growth of other allied health programs on campus.

In her 13th year as dean, Bolhouse has seen the nursing program grow from a graduating class of 15 seniors to a class of 46 seniors in 2011. Bolhouse said OBU's original nursing program called for students to study on campus during their first two years, followed by two years of study in Oklahoma City hospitals such as Wesley Hospital, which later became Presbyterian Hospital. Located across from First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, students lived in a dormitory behind the hospital which was established when the hospital ran its own nursing program.

Through the years, nursing faculty found offices in Presbyterian Hospital, Baptist Hospital or Olivet Baptist Church — wherever they could find a space, Bolhouse said.

In the 1980s, then-dean Dr. Claudine Dickey, along with OBU President Bob Agee and Dr. Pat Taylor, an OBU administrator, worked to get OBU nursing students back on campus for all four years of their studies. Although students complete all their classes on Bison Hill, they now drive to clinicals in Oklahoma City.

"Still, there wasn't space," Bolhouse recalled. "We met in Ford Music Hall in the Bison Glee Club room, where there are music staffs on the blackboards. We had cubicle spaces for offices on the second floor."

The College of Nursing moved into its current location, which was renovated with funding from Ferril C. and Phyllis Williamson, after Wood Science Building was completed in 1985.

"We thought it was wonderful to have this space and these offices and labs," Bolhouse said. "We've simply outgrown it."

"THE NEW FACILITY WILL SAY SOMETHING TO THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF NURSING ON THE OBU CAMPUS."

One advantage of the new nursing facility will be the expanded space for eight high-fidelity skills labs which employ high-tech manikins, compared to the one high-fidelity lab in the current space. Through grants from two Oklahoma foundations, The Inasmuch Foundation of Oklahoma City and the McCasland Foundation of Duncan, the program acquired four simulation manikins — two SimMan units, a SimBaby and a female birthing simulator — in recent years to assist students in clinical training.

"The simulation space is necessary because the availability of clinical spots is tighter than ever before," Bolhouse said. "Everyone

is looking at how to use simulation to enhance clinical skills. The simulation space is not just a nice addition, it has become almost imperative with the tighter availability of clinical spots.”

Bolhouse said the new facility will fulfill the expectation of the Oklahoma State Board of Nursing that OBU increase its need for space. During its routine five-year review, the board also said OBU needs to increase its nursing faculty. When Bolhouse met with the board for a follow-up meeting in July — and received the necessary five-year approval for the program to continue — one board member from Shawnee was impressed with the proposed facility.

“It will say something to the community about the importance of nursing on the OBU campus,” Bolhouse said.

The Vision For a New Century campaign seeks to raise \$8 million to fund the new facility to house the College of Nursing and other allied health sciences. The facility is only one facet of the Vision For a New Century campaign. The endeavor also seeks to raise OBU’s endowment (\$16 million); renovate Agee Residence Center (\$6 million); construct a new Student Services Center (\$6 million); increase campus property and grounds improvement (\$2 million); renovate Ford Music Hall (\$3 million); and expand the W.P. Wood Science Building (\$1 million).

“We are confident our vision for tomorrow is truly God-sized,” Whitlock said. “Our history inspires us and challenges us to pursue that vision with faith and determination.”



THE VISION FOR A NEW CENTURY TEAM



WILL SMALLWOOD

VP for University Advancement

MARTY O'GWYNN

Associate VP for University Advancement, Assistant to the President

BILL HOLLEY

Associate VP for Development

BRIDGET BROCK

Director of Development

ROBERT CLOYDE

Director of Development

PRESTON CONDRA

Director of Development

CRYSTAL MCKEE

Director of Annual Operations

JACK MOORE

Director of Development; Assistant to the President for Strategic Partnerships

FOREST PICKETT

Director of Development Programs and Systems

ROBIN SCARBERRY

Director of Grants and Prospect Research



okbu.edu/2020

ENDOWMENT \$16 MILLION

OBU provides a unique standard of excellence which has helped build a national reputation for quality and a global reputation for leadership. That standard has been established because of a strong endowment fund. The endowment provides scholarships and initiatives while facilitating growth and minimizing inflation. Through the campaign, OBU will strengthen student scholarships, endowed academic chairs and professorships, campus lecture series, the honors program, the faculty sabbatical program and emerging Centers of Excellence. These priority areas are worthy of enduring support through endowed gifts.

NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH BUILDING \$8 MILLION

Enrollment has consistently increased in the Oklahoma Baptist University College of Nursing. Since 1987, the college has been housed in the Williamson Nursing Education Center on the lower level of Thurmond Hall. The program has outgrown its home with more than 200 nursing students, continuing a tradition of record-setting growth. OBU launched the first baccalaureate nursing program in Oklahoma in 1952, and the success story continues as 98 percent of our nursing graduates are employed within six months of graduation. The new building will be constructed at the southwest corner of the Kickapoo and MacArthur intersection. The facility will include state-of-the-art simulation laboratories and other equipment to support this outstanding academic program. The design for the facility also will be adaptable for equipping students in other allied health fields.

FORD MUSIC HALL RENOVATION \$3 MILLION

The primary practice facility for students in the Division of Music, Ford Music Hall has been part of the campus since 1951. The three-story structure includes piano practice rooms and space for OBU Preparatory Department classes and choral rehearsals. Renovation will include a new heating/cooling system, a new roof, a new card-access entry system and significant interior renovations including updated furniture.

AGEE RESIDENCE CENTER RENOVATION \$6 MILLION

With a storied history, the main housing facility for men — formerly Brotherhood Dormitory — has served the campus since the original building opened in 1947. By creating a new student residential village on the north campus, OBU will renovate Agee to provide a contemporary facility for campus offices and student organizations. A new, attractive and stately entrance will be constructed on the south side of the main hall, providing a new welcome and registration desk. Renovation also will include new meeting spaces for small-group discussions, student conversations and relaxation.

STUDENT SERVICES CENTER \$6 MILLION

A major element in the campus master plan is a new center which combines key student services in one modern location. This structure in the heart of the campus will accommodate a wide range of administrative areas in one convenient facility. The building also will serve as an inviting welcome center for guests, prospective students and their families. The stately, high-use structure will be constructed north of John Wesley Raley Chapel, linking one enduring campus landmark with a new major resource for Bison Hill.



W.P. WOOD SCIENCE BUILDING EXPANSION \$1 MILLION

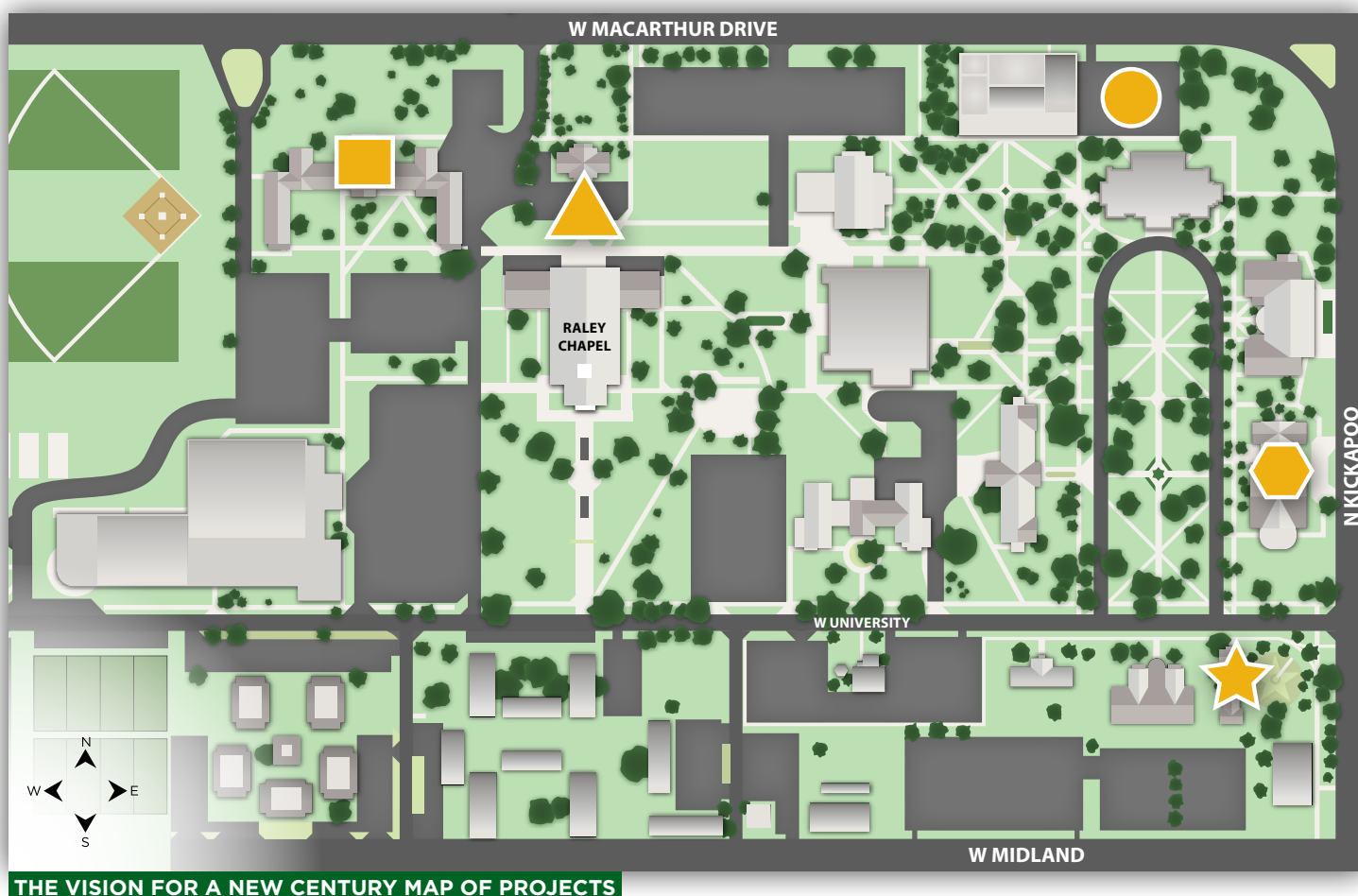
Outstanding science programs at OBU have produced internationally acclaimed researchers, and the success of recent graduates is carrying forward that tradition. More than 90 percent of pre-medicine graduates are accepted to medical schools, while the national average acceptance rate hovers below 60 percent. Strong programs in physics, biology, mathematics and chemistry have taxed the resources of the W.P. Wood Science Building. To house the newly established James E. Hurley College of Science and Mathematics, the University plans to add a new section to the existing building, expanding to the south. The section will provide 11,000 square feet of added space for much-needed laboratories and storage areas, offering opportunities to reconfigure and enhance existing classrooms and labs.

CAMPUS PROPERTY AND GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT \$2 MILLION

With a commitment to providing an attractive campus setting, OBU currently offers a welcoming environment with well-maintained landscaping. To build on that strength, the university will take steps to beautify and enhance the grounds of Bison Hill, making the campus one of the most appealing arboretums in the region.

OBU FUND

As OBU operates a focused capital campaign, the University's day-to-day operations — normally undergirded by annual gifts — must be supported by the OBU Fund. To remain focused on campaign priority objectives, all unrestricted gifts to the OBU Fund will be included in the Vision For a New Century campaign.



THE VISION FOR A NEW CENTURY MAP OF PROJECTS



vision new century

FOR A
Faithful Donors

DR. RUSSELL AND CATHERINE SHUPE

Dr. Russell Shupe and his wife, Catherine, are not OBU graduates, but the faithful Oklahoma Baptists committed a large part of their estate to benefit Bison Hill. The Shupes initiated conversations with OBU President David W. Whitlock and Will Smallwood, vice president for university advancement, more than a year ago.

With a professional background in science at Conoco, Dr. Shupe discussed the ideas of funding a “faith and science” Center for Excellence at OBU or underwriting a professor chair in chemistry. The Shupes are members of North East Baptist Church in Ponca City.

“I have enjoyed so much getting to know the Shupes,” Whitlock said. “They are warm and caring people who have embraced OBU with great enthusiasm. Dr. and Mrs. Shupe are outstanding examples of a Christian couple who have determined to invest their resources in Kingdom enterprises. With his love of science and his love of God, Dr. Shupe’s generous gift is an investment in the lives of thousands of students for generations to come.”

Donors such as the Shupes help guarantee the future financial strength of OBU without

any effect on their assets during their lifetime by including OBU in a will or revocable trust.

“Dr. and Mrs. Shupe are literally a gift from God to Oklahoma Baptist University,” Smallwood said. “At a time when University plans call for the establishment of Centers for Excellence, the Lord — as he providentially does — raised up the Shupe family to invest in the outstanding science programs at OBU. Their sacrificial gift is a wonderful testimony to all of us on Bison Hill. Having devoted his life to a career in chemistry, it is fitting that Dr. Shupe and his wife, Cathy, would allow their resources to be used by faculty and students at OBU for the pursuit of Christ-honoring science.”

For more information about establishing an estate plan or will to benefit OBU, visit okbu.edu/advancement or call (405) 878-2703.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Russell Shupe, age 68, died Oct. 31, 2011. A Graduate of Oklahoma State University, he worked for 26 years at Texaco and Conoco. He was a deacon at North East Baptist Church in Ponca City. He is survived by his wife, Catherine Eyster Shupe.

DR. MARY BRASLER

Dr. Mary Brasler, a 1966 nursing graduate, is also a faithful donor to OBU's annual fund. Her giving draws from the quality liberal arts education she received in Oklahoma's first baccalaureate nursing program — and her desire to see future generations equally well-prepared for future careers.

"I support OBU's annual fund primarily because I appreciate the excellent education I received in OBU's nursing program," Brasler said. "The courses were challenging and faculty members were effective teachers, encouragers and role models."

"THROUGHOUT MY CAREER, I RECOGNIZED JUST HOW WELL OBU PREPARED US TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS."

Brasler earned a master's degree in nursing in 1976 from Medical College of Georgia (now part of Georgia Health Sciences University) and a doctorate in adult and continuing education in 1991 from Virginia Tech. She retired in June 2010 after serving 12 years as director of programs and services for the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, directing various health education programs for health professionals, asthma patients and their families. For more than 20 years, she taught nursing, 13 of those years at Marymount University in Arlington, Va.

"Throughout my career, I recognized just how well OBU prepared us to face the challenges of health care professionals," Brasler said. "I continue to give because I want to help ensure that future students' lives will be changed as well."



DALE AND JONETTA CATES

Longtime Shawnee residents Dale and Jonetta Cates are faithful donors to OBU's annual fund, which assists in the university's ongoing operation as well as specific endeavors such as building the Bailey Business Center. They also founded the Cates Scholarship, established for students who need additional support to remain on Bison Hill.



"It's a blessing to give to OBU," Dale Cates said. "What has been a blessing to us is to receive a note from the student who receives the scholarship. It makes you feel good when you hear from students who say they couldn't have made it without the scholarship."

Annual fund support can be contributed through unrestricted gifts, donations for the Bison Athletic Association and aid for the Friends of the Arts. Annual contributions come through a variety of appeals, including the annual phone-a-thon, direct mail and personal contact. Unrestricted gifts assists the university in providing the difference between the total cost of educating the student and what the student actually pays.

"Through their continuous giving, Dale and Jonetta Cates demonstrate what it means to be faithful," said Will Smallwood, vice president for university advancement. "We are grateful for their investment in the students on Bison Hill."

ON THE HILL

OBU WELCOMED SIX PEOPLE TO ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES BEGINNING WITH THE FALL 2011 SEMESTER, FOUR FILLED BY CURRENT EMPLOYEES. NINE NEW FACULTY MEMBERS ALSO ARRIVED ON BISON HILL.



DEAN OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

BRUCE PERKINS

This year, Bruce Perkins was named dean of enrollment management. Perkins has served as director of OBU Admissions since 2006. As dean, he provides direction for the Academic Center, Admissions, Student Financial Services and Student Success Center.

Perkins earned a bachelor's degree from Howard Payne University and a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has completed all pre-dissertation work for his doctorate at Oral Roberts University. During Perkins' tenure as director of admissions, freshman enrollment at OBU has grown from 315 in the fall 2007 class to 476 in the fall 2011 class. Approximately 2,000 new freshman and 600 transfer students have enrolled at OBU during the past five years. Attendance at new campus visit events for prospective students has increased 83 percent in the past year. Also this year, the OBU Admissions team received one of four national awards in marketing and recruitment from Noel-Levitz.

DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL MOBILIZATION

DR. JOY TURNER

Dr. Joy Turner is director of global mobilization. She provides leadership, training and management of short- and long-term outreach efforts, both local and global, by OBU students, faculty and staff. Turner earned her bachelor's degree in religion from OBU in 1987. She earned her master's degree and doctorate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Since 1992, she has served as a North American Mission Board missionary in the role of director of international ministries

for the Oahu Baptist Network in Hawaii. She developed relationships, recruited volunteers, mentored students and oversaw day-to-day ministries to international students and their families. Born in London, England, Turner holds British citizenship while maintaining permanent residency in the United States.



DR. PAM ROBINSON



Dr. Pam Robinson was named associate provost of the University in June, while remaining in her role as an academic dean of the recently reorganized College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

As associate provost, Robinson provides oversight and leadership of institutional effectiveness and assessment as it relates to accreditation; provides leadership for new faculty orientation; and works with the Faith and Disciplines Committee to form faith and disciplines strategic initiatives.

Robinson also supervises the assistant vice president for instructional technology who is responsible for coordinating the implementation, training and utilization of instructional technology resources for the university.

"In her service as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Robinson has already made

significant contributions to the tradition of academic excellence at OBU," said Dr. Stan Norman, provost and executive vice president for campus life. "She is an able administrator, and her abilities were most recently demonstrated as she assisted Dr. John Farris to achieve continued accreditation for our Teacher Education program. I am confident that Dr. Robinson will continue to provide strong leadership as dean of our recently reorganized College of Humanities and Social Sciences."

Robinson has served as dean of OBU's College of Arts and Sciences since 2007. A member of the OBU faculty

since 1993, she was an assistant professor of special education for six years before being promoted to associate professor. She received the rank of professor of education in 2005.

She earned her bachelor's degree in special education from Oklahoma State University. She continued her education at OSU, earning her master's degree in student personnel and guidance and her doctorate in special education. Before coming to OBU, Robinson was director of federal programs for McCloud Public Schools. She also served as assistant director of special education for the State Department of Education.

Norman said Robinson is a gifted leader who will use her experience to provide direction in the areas of instructional technology, institutional effectiveness and assessment and faith integration initiatives.

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC SERVICES / ACADEMIC DEAN

DR. DEBBIE BLUE

Dr. Debbie Blue has been named as the founding dean of the newly formed James E. Hurley College of Science and Mathematics, while retaining her role and responsibilities as senior vice president for academic services.

While fulfilling all the duties of an academic dean, Blue's responsibilities as senior vice president for academic affairs include developing and implementing a revised advisement structure, as well as administration of library and media services and the Intensive English Program. She also maintains responsibility for OBU's Learning Communities, designed to give incoming freshmen the best-possible opportunity for success.

"Dr. Blue comes to the role of dean of the James E. Hurley College of Science and Mathematics with a rich history of academic excellence at OBU," said Dr. Stan Norman, provost



here, and then serving as a professor of mathematics, academic dean and vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Blue has a deep appreciation for the legacy of Dr. Hurley. She is the right person to serve as the inaugural dean of the Hurley College, and she will provide outstanding leadership that will

future professionals seeking degrees in these areas."

Blue has served as senior vice president for academic services since 2010. She previously served as senior vice president for academic affairs. Blue was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1997-2006 and chair of the division of natural sciences and mathematics from 1991-97. She joined the faculty in 1980 as an instructor of mathematics and achieved the academic rank of professor of mathematics in 1998.

She earned a bachelor's degree at OBU in 1972. She completed her master's degree from the University of Tulsa and her doctorate from Oklahoma State University.

and executive vice president for campus life. "Having completed her own degree in mathematics

continue and enhance the Hurley tradition of academic excellence for

"SHE WILL PROVIDE OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP THAT WILL CONTINUE AND ENHANCE THE HURLEY TRADITION OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOR FUTURE PROFESSIONALS SEEKING DEGREES."

DEAN OF FINE ARTS

DR. KEN GABRIELSE



Dr. Ken Gabrielse was named dean of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts in June following the retirement of Dr. Paul Hammond, who served as dean for 25 years. Gabrielse previously served as the worship and music specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. As dean of the College of Fine Arts, Gabrielse directs the instructional and administrative activities of the Division of Art and Design, the Division of Communication Arts and the Division of Music. He earned a bachelor's degree at William Jewell College. He earned a master's degree and a doctorate at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with a specialization in conducting. He previously served as chairman of the Division of Church Music Ministries and professor of church music at New Orleans Seminary.

DEAN OF STUDENTS

BRANDON SKAGGS

Brandon Skaggs was named dean of students in August, following the retirement of Bobby Canty, who served at OBU for 27 years. Skaggs earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and a master's degree in business administration from Tarleton State University. He has completed pre-dissertation work toward a doctorate in education from Dallas Baptist University. His research has focused on the Millennial Generation and integrating social media into marketing strategies. Since 2006, he has served as director of admissions and recruitment and as coordinator of student engagement, retention and advising at DBU. He serves as the president of the Young Alumni Board for University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.



NEW FACULTY



TAWA ANDERSON

Dr. Tawa Anderson is assistant professor of philosophy. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Alberta, Canada; a master's degree from Edmonton Baptist Seminary in Alberta, Canada; and a doctorate from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.



CHRISTIAN GEORGE

Dr. Christian George is Jewell and Joe L. Huitt assistant professor of religious education. He earned his bachelor's degree from Samford University, his master's degree from Beeson Divinity School and his doctorate from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland.



SARAH MARSH

Dr. Sarah Marsh is assistant professor of mathematics. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Central Arkansas and her master's degree and doctorate from the University of Oklahoma. She is a member of the Mathematical Association of America.



BRUCE CARLTON

Dr. R. Bruce Carlton is director of the Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach, WMU professor of missions and missionary in residence. He and his wife, Gloria, served as missionaries with the International Mission Board for more than 20 years. He earned a bachelor's degree from Georgetown College, a master of divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a master of arts degree from Azusa Pacific University and a doctorate from the University of South Africa.

"OBU CONTINUES TO ATTRACT AN ASTUTE FACULTY WHO DEMONSTRATE A KEEN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT TAKES TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE REAL WORLD."

—DR. DAVID W. WHITLOCK



RANDOLPH JOHNSON

Dr. Randolph Johnson is assistant professor of music theory. He earned a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and a master's degree and doctorate from The Ohio State University. He previously taught at Ohio Wesleyan University and at Ohio State University.



MARY CHUNG

Dr. Mary Chung is assistant professor of piano. She earned a bachelor's degree from North Greenville University and a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi. She previously taught piano at the University of Southern Mississippi.



RONALD JOHNSON

Ronald A. Johnson is associate professor of electronic media production. He earned a bachelor's degree at Marietta College and a master's degree at Kansas State University. He completed additional graduate study at Wheaton College in systematic theology and communication.



ELENA FOULIS

Dr. Elena Foulis is assistant professor of Spanish. She grew up in Matamoros, Mexico, and moved to the U.S. in 1992. She earned a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Arkansas.



JEFFREY WELLS

Dr. Jeffrey Wells is associate professor of theatre. He earned dual bachelor's degrees in business administration and communication/human relations at Trevecca Nazarene University. He earned master's degrees at Auburn University and Roosevelt University and his doctorate from Texas Tech University.

You can learn more about the new faculty by visiting okbu.edu/newfaculty or scanning the code below.





BISON SPIRIT

HOWLE COLLECTS 100TH WIN

Oklahoma Baptist rolled past Mid-America Christian (3-0) on Tuesday, Oct. 4, to give Coach Anna Howle her 100th win on Bison Hill. Howle collected the milestone 28 matches into her fourth season. She is 16th in all-time coaching wins in all sports at OBU and seventh in women's sports.

Howle, a former Big XII co-Libero of the Year, was named head volleyball coach in 2008. Since coming to OBU, she has coached the team to

a record 31-win season. She has coached two Sooner Athletic Conference Freshmen of the Year, a Newcomer of the Year, an All-American and NAIA Scholar Athletes, along with a number of All-Conference players.

In addition to her coaching duties, Howle has directed numerous volleyball camps at OBU. She also teaches kinesiology and leisure studies courses.

BISON BASEBALL PLAYERS HELP AREA ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

OBU's baseball team and Dale Elementary School have formed a partnership this fall to make a difference in the lives of all the students — both college and elementary age.

Head Coach Bobby Cox and his wife, Lyn, who is a teacher at Dale, organized the opportunity with elementary school counselor Teresa Templeton and aide Jenny Kuhn of Dale Elementary, designed to give the players an opportunity to participate in the community.

"The OBU baseball players are providing a fantastic community service for Dale Elementary School students and teachers doing one-on-one and small-group work with pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, plus special education students needing a little extra assistance," said Templeton.

"The students look forward to seeing the players, and the young men really seem to be eager to assist them," she said. "It is a win-win situation because everyone benefits from this opportunity."

Senior catcher Mitchell Prophet visits Mrs. Cox's room and takes kids to the cafeteria, where he reads to them and then helps them read to him.

"After that, we just talk baseball and they really respond," Prophet said. "They want to know about baseball. It feels awesome. They look up to me and I'm just a college baseball player."

Coach Cox said the program is special to both the Dale students and OBU students.

"I think our guys went into this thinking about how they could help, and now our guys really look forward to going over there," said Cox.

"They talk about it in the locker room and in the dugout about what their kids did — how they did on a test. It's been a great experience for them."

Dale Elementary School plans to "adopt" the players for their spring season.





PROFILE IN EXCELLENCE

THE PROFILE IN
EXCELLENCE
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WHO HAVE
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ACCOMPLISHMENT
IN HIS OR HER
PROFESSION,
BUSINESS,
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BRINGING
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UNIVERSITY.



VINCE ALEXANDER, '89



When Vince Alexander decided to attend OBU, he said he did not realize how the decision would change his life.

Although the 1989 graduate was a Christian, taking religion classes and attending weekly chapel was a new experience for him.

"I learned so much more in depth about my Heavenly Father and Savior, Jesus Christ," said Alexander, now the head men's basketball coach at the University of South Carolina Aiken. "Not only

did it broaden my perspective, but I also became more disciplined in the Word of God and my spiritual walk."

Today he studies his Bible regularly and maintains daily devotions, practices he attributes to his time on Bison Hill. As captain of the Bison basketball team, he said he wanted to be a leader who "backed my talk with my walk." He also became involved with the Baptist Student Union (now Baptist Collegiate Ministries), which gave him the opportunity to meet students who were not athletes.

"I met my wife, Anita Reckart Alexander, at OBU, and she has also played a huge role in the man that I have become," Alexander said. His wife graduated from OBU in 1990. "I have no doubts that OBU was the school God chose for me, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to be there."

Alexander said he believes his experiences at OBU have contributed to his success as a basketball coach, educator and person. He was named the 2008 Peach Belt Conference Coach of the Year, 2008 NABC Region Coach of the Year, 2008 NABC All-Star Head Coach, and he coached the 2008 Peach Belt Conference Champs and 2010 Peach Belt Conference Tournament Champs.

"I was very blessed and fortunate to have some great mentors in Dr. Norris Russell, Judy Taylor and Dr. Pat Taylor, to name a few," he said. "These people took time to share with me essential qualities that would help me to not only become a successful coach, but husband and father as well. OBU is a great school and certainly a place where I would love to have my kids attend someday."



CHRIS BREWSTER, '92



Chris Brewster, '92, not only values the education he received at OBU, he also invests his life in quality education as superintendent and principal at Santa Fe South Schools, a charter school in Oklahoma City. Brewster and his wife, Christina, '92, have four children who attend the school: Anna, 14; Ben, 11; Jesse, 8; and Lydia, 5.

"OBU provided a very strong foundation for me to launch my career in education," said Brewster,

"I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE OUR STATE, CONVENTION AND OUR STUDENTS TO NOT TAKE OBU FOR GRANTED."

who received the distinguished Milken Educator Award in 2010. "More importantly, I formed an understanding of how a Christian can and should professionally function in a lost world. I am deeply grateful to an institution that exemplifies excellence in the attainment of its mission.

"Throughout its history, OBU has produced individuals who represent the highest levels of

mastery in their chosen fields of service. The idea of excellence in the workplace has never been at odds with the high calling of Christ and OBU truly provided an outstanding example of this for me."

Both Chris and Christy are "missionary kids." His parents, Phil and Retha Brewster, '66, served as International Mission Board missionaries in the Philippines. Chris also serves in ministry as pastor of The Well, a new Southern Baptist church plant in Oklahoma City. As a second-generation OBU graduate, he hopes his children will choose to advance their education on Bison Hill.

"I strongly encourage our state, convention and our students to not take OBU for granted," he said. "My prayer is that OBU can continue to raise up generations of Christian activists, those who struggle daily for the cause of the Gospel, lead their families and serve in their communities."



**PROFILE IN
EXCELLENCE**

DR. ED MINARS, ex '49

July 2011 marked the 63rd anniversary of the relationship Dr. Edward J. Minars has cultivated with OBU. Through the years, Ed Minars, ex '49, has experienced OBU as a student, a staff member of the maintenance department and a member of the Board of Trustees. He has been a 26-year

presidents who have served OBU during its 101-year history. Of the 150 faculty and staff members who have served 20 years or more at OBU, he has known 119 of them as his teacher or as a colleague.

A native Missourian, Minars earned his bachelor's degree

"THESE PAST 63 YEARS HAVE BEEN HAPPY YEARS OF EXPERIENCING AND SHARING THE BISON SPIRIT WITH WHOMEVER I MEET. THIS RELATIONSHIP HAS SPANNED NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF THE HISTORY OF OBU..."

charter member of the National Board of Development, co-chairman of two capital fund campaigns and an annual financial supporter on the President's Council. He served as an instructor for the Ministry Training Institute, a lecturer in psychology and as the university counselor.

"These past 63 years have been happy years of experiencing and sharing the Bison spirit with whomever I meet," Minars said. "This relationship has spanned nearly two-thirds of the history of OBU, providing opportunities to know many of the great professors and administrators of the University."

Minars has shared a personal relationship with 14 of the 22 presidents or interim

at Oklahoma State University, his master's degree at Fort



**PROFILE IN
EXCELLENCE**

Hays State University and his doctorate at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His love for his alma mater is shared by his daughter Chelan Minars, '78, her husband Stephen Dras, '77, and their daughter, Lyndsey, '08; and his daughter Dena Minars Studstill, '81, her husband, Tim Studstill, '80, their son, Jonathan, '11, and their daughter, Julie, a member of the Class of 2015.





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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BY KALI OLDACRE

ALEX MYERS

IS AN ACTIVE YOUNG MAN. THE OBU SOPHOMORE IS PURSUING A DEGREE IN YOUTH MINISTRY AND WORSHIP ARTS.

He is a normal college student who happens to be legally blind.

The Broken Arrow native was diagnosed with retinoblastoma when he was just 13 months old. Myers said he “doesn’t ever remember seeing clearly.”

He graduated from Oklahoma School for the Blind in 2008, with plans to follow what he senses as God’s calling to a ministry career. Myers enjoys writing worship songs and playing the piano and drums. In his second year with the campus worship band, he also serves as a leader for a freshman discipleship group and recently joined the Bison Glee Club.

He admits there have been many challenges over the years. Coming to college, he had trouble finding textbooks in formats he can read.

He approaches the challenging moments with a positive attitude and a willing spirit. He is quick to cite Philippians 4:13 as a biblical foundation for living.

“Regardless of these challenges, I know that through Christ all things are possible and I can lean on him for strength,” Myers said.

PHOTO CREDIT: NICK OXFORD





BISON SPIRIT

OBU launched two new sports this fall with the addition of men's and women's swimming and diving.

The teams have competed to a packed house in the Recreation and Wellness Center in three intramural meets this fall with improvement showing and confidence growing with each meet.

The team is under the direction of Dr. Sam Freas, two graduate assistant coaches and several volunteer coaches.

The team's facilities recently were renovated. Room was made for an entry for the athletes from the Noble Complex and the pool itself has seen renovations, including the addition of a one meter diving board, starting blocks and electronic timing equipment. A trampoline with harness was added to the patio adjacent to the pool to help the dive team practice its maneuvers.

SWIMMING TEAM SUCCESS

Oklahoma Baptist claimed a victory in the University's first swim meet, taking the Hendrix Classic men's title. The Lady Bison placed second.



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