

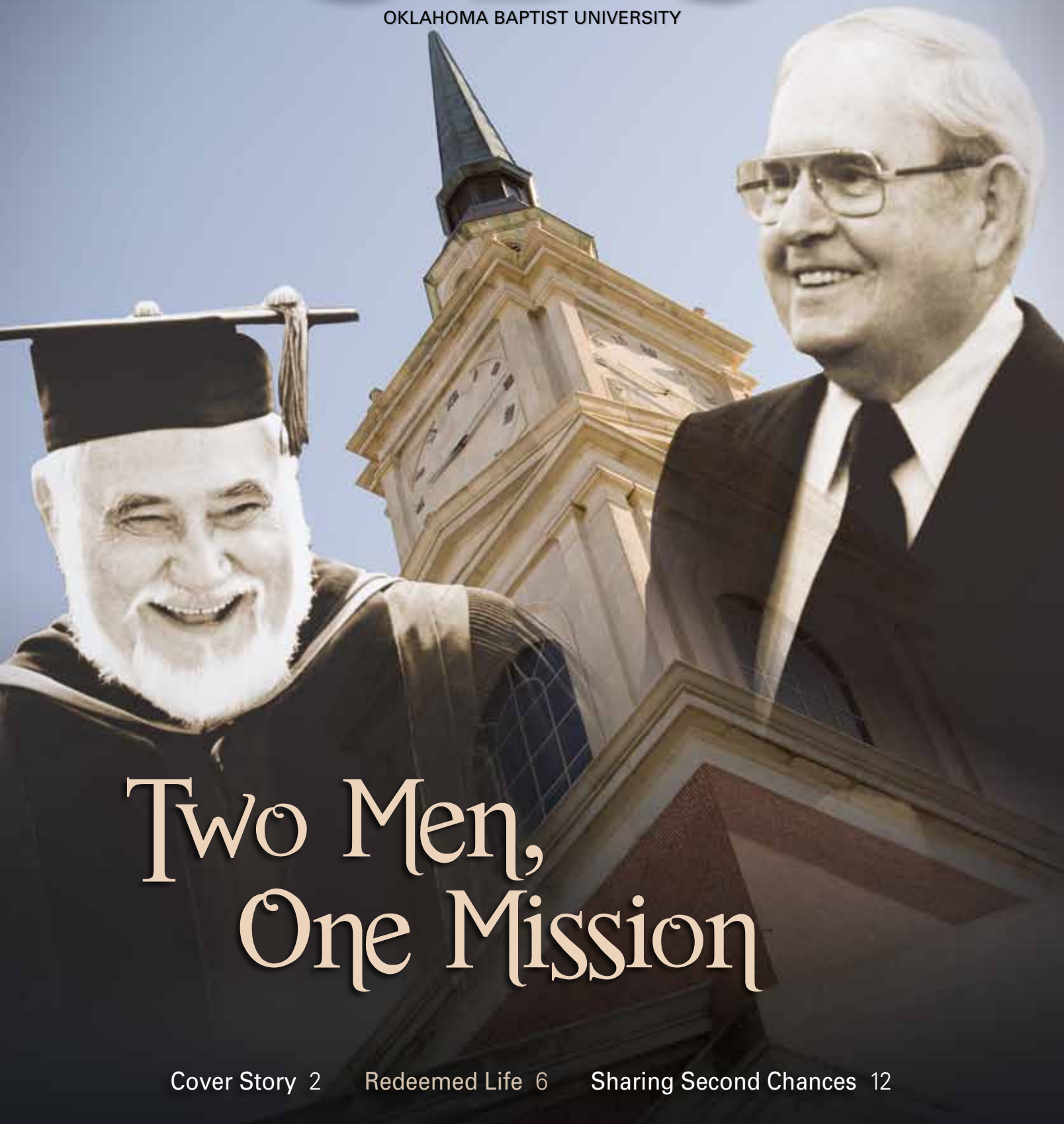
SPRING/SUMMER 2011

OBU

magazine

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OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



Two Men, One Mission

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What's in a name? A name carries a reputation born out over time. It identifies a set of traits, qualities and expectations. In modern vernacular, it defines the organization's "brand." Proverbs states, "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold" (Prov. 22:1). The Oklahoma Baptist University name carries a reputation for outstanding and distinctively Christian academic preparation. OBU enjoys a most excellent reputation and name.



Throughout our 101-year history, OBU has developed an impressive list of names that convey immediate definitions. Jent, Raley, Angell, Agee, Bass, Strickland and Solomon are easily associated with perseverance, leadership, artistry, vision, athletic success and educational leadership. Our recently inaugurated Faculty Hall of Fame attests to some of the great names of our University. Great names carry great weight. This spring, our trustees voted to identify two of our academic colleges with great names from OBU and Oklahoma Baptist history. The Herschel H. Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry and the James E. Hurley College of Science and Mathematics are new colleges that house legendary programs.

The consistent success of our graduates in theology, ministry, science, mathematics, medicine and research has carved out a brand identity for OBU in these fields. Now we have names for these colleges that link our storied success and our future achievement.

From his pastorate in Oklahoma City, Dr. Hobbs built a reputation that has impacted Christendom and Southern Baptist life for more than four decades. The Hobbs Bible Commentary materials are still a vital part of Bible study preparation for Sunday School teachers across the SBC. As a scholar, denominational statesman and pastor with a heart for the local church, Hobbs is synonymous with focused, effective, Christ-honoring ministry and mission. Our college is pursuing that same mission, and we are honored to have the Hobbs name attached to OBU.

From his outpost on Bison Hill, Dr. Hurley shaped future leaders in biology, medicine, scientific research and nursing. His legacy extends beyond those disciplines and beyond the classroom. The Hurley name conveys the pursuit of excellence, of delving deep into questions, searching out truth and applying it to all areas of life. For 36 years, Hurley prodded – even provoked – students to not settle for less than their best efforts as they used God-bestowed talents. The Hurley College will be a living tribute to his passions and his example, just as hundreds of successful alumni are right now serving around the world.

A name conveys a great deal. A good name is priceless. Thank you for bearing the name of Oklahoma Baptist University as a member of the OBU family.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Wesley Whitlock".

David Wesley Whitlock
OBU President

OBU magazine

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Two Men, One

HERSCHEL HOBBS
and **JAMES HURLEY**
had a common bond
beyond their Baptist
heritage. Both were
asked to serve on the
faculty of Oklahoma
Baptist University.

They gave different
answers, but their
responses had a
similar effect. The
two Oklahoma giants
made indelible marks
upon the University
and upon thousands
of OBU students.



THEIR LEGACIES HAVE BEEN TIED TO
OBU FOR MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY.

Mission



JAMES HURLEY

HERSCHEL HOBBS

Now, both names are clearly tied to OBU programs in their respective fields of expertise. On May 13, the Board of Trustees at OBU voted to name the new College of Theology and Ministry in memory of Dr. Hobbs and the new College of Science and Mathematics in memory of Dr. Hurley. These names honor the contributions each made to the university, reaching as far back as the early 1950s and extending to the present day.

“No one in Oklahoma Baptist history could do a better job of exemplifying what we want to do than Herschel Hobbs,” said Dr. Mark McClellan, dean of the Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry. “There is not a more fitting scholar/pastor/preacher.”

Dr. Brad Jett, OBU professor of biology and a former student of Dr. Hurley, sees a parallel reason for naming the new college of science and mathematics for his mentor.

“It can be argued that Dr. Hurley was one of the greatest professors to ever teach at OBU,” Jett said. “Much of the reputation of OBU’s science program can be attributed to his 36 years of teaching here.”

Although significant in their own rights, the naming of these colleges in honor of these men is more than public recognition of Oklahoma Baptist legends. The Hurley College gives a greater presence for the highly successful science and mathematics programs of the university. The college will be guided by a dean who can give a voice to the academic disciplines as a member of the Dean’s Council, and faculty

from the new college will have their own area represented on university committees.

“The science and math division has historically enjoyed a place of prominence on Bison Hill,” Jett said. “Now, with its re-organization into a distinct college, the division is positioned to grow even further.”

Dr. Herschel Hobbs had a profound impact upon Southern Baptists in general and with Oklahoma Baptists and OBU in particular.

James Leo Garrett Jr., distinguished professor of theology, emeritus at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, noted that Dr. Hobbs, under whatever criteria, should be reckoned as one of the foremost Baptist leaders of the 20th century. Dr. Garrett stated that Hobbs was “reared in both rural and urban Alabama and educated in the Robertson-Davis tradition of Greek New Testament study at Southern Seminary. He sought to build bridges between the world of biblical scholarship and grassroots Baptist church life.” According to Garrett, the influence of Hobbs was extensive, felt in his service as pastor, “Baptist Hour” preacher, SBC president, prolific author and denominational statesman.

Hobbs was known among and trusted by pastors and adult Sunday School teachers.

“Although about 150 of his books were published after he became pastor in Oklahoma City in 1949, he was genuinely

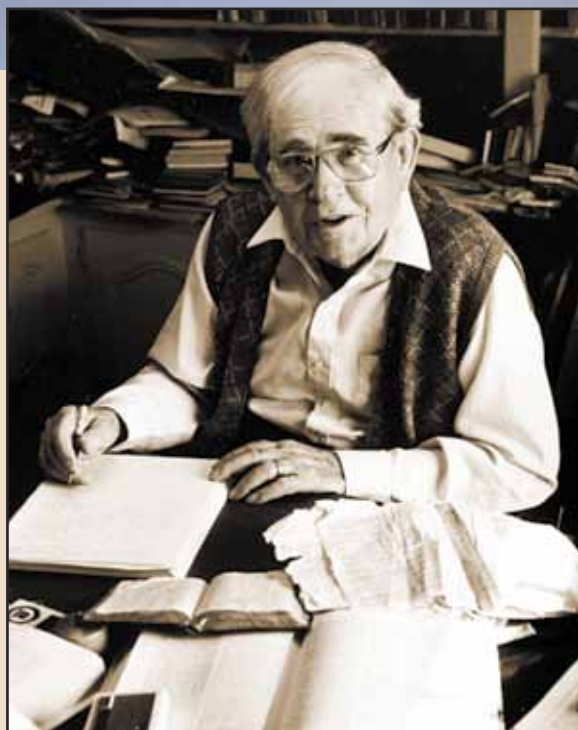
surprised in 1963 when he was named to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame,” said Garrett. “He regarded his role as chairman of the 1963 SBC Baptist Faith and Message Committee as his greatest service to Southern Baptists.”

According to Dr. Jerry Faught, OBU professor of religion, President John Wesley Raley recognized the stature and influence of Hobbs in Oklahoma, prompting Raley to ask Hobbs sometime in the late 1950s to become the chair of the religion department at OBU. Although honored by the invitation, Hobbs declined the offer. He felt that his calling was to serve in pastoral ministry.

That calling included more than 22 years of service as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City (1949-72). Hobbs cast a long shadow across the Southern Baptist Convention from his pastorate in the heartland. Many Baptist leaders view Hobbs as the prototypical denominational statesman. He served two terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention and was chairman of the committee that crafted the Baptist Faith and Message in 1963. He served two terms as chair of the OBU board of trustees and presided over the 1955 meeting when the board voted to integrate the student body.

“Hobbs faithfully supported Oklahoma’s only Baptist university,” Faught said. “Under Hobbs’ pastorate, members of First Baptist, Oklahoma City, offered strong support for OBU. Deacon and Sunday School teacher Robert S. Kerr, who also happened to be one of the most powerful United States Senators of his era, served as a major benefactor for OBU.”

Hobbs and his wife, Frances, played a significant role in the establishment of a major scholarship program for ministerial students at OBU. Mrs. Louise Prichard, a member of the church, was encouraged by Mrs. Hobbs to consider leaving part of her estate to create a scholarship fund for OBU students. Mrs. Prichard liked the idea, and when she died in 1966, she left a trust of approximately \$5 million to OBU. Her generosity resulted in the establishment of the Prichard Scholarship, an endowed fund that provides scholarships to students answering



the call of God to full-time ministry. The Prichard trust provided OBU with one of the most significant ministerial scholarships in the nation.

The Hobbs College perpetuates the commitment to ministry preparation. The new college encompasses six distinct divisions, giving a focused approach to disciplines within the theology and ministry umbrella.

“Our purpose and mission is to educate men and women under the leadership of Christ to fulfill the mission of God,” McClellan said.

The six-fold structure includes departments of biblical and theological studies, Christian and cross-cultural ministry, and philosophy; the re-defined Joe L. Ingram School of Christian Studies; the Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach; and the Don R. Kammerdiener Center for Missiological Research.

The department of biblical and theological studies is the “pillar for what we do in the Hobbs College,” said McClellan. “We are committed to informing our students with the truth of the Word of God in its entirety.”

Through the Christian and cross-cultural ministry division, students will be equipped to put into practice what they learn.

“Knowledge lived out will prepare graduates who can go do what we prepare them to do,” said McClellan, a longtime missionary who has served in Central America and the southwestern United States.

With a defined department of philosophy, the dean envisions an area which “helps us see the framework of ideas and intellectual seeking which examines truth and morality.” McClellan said the department will include apologetics courses as well, giving students “legs” for engaging in philosophical arenas.

The Ingram School of Christian Studies will house programs for online and distance education, specifically serving people active in ministry roles away from the campus.

"We are educating and preparing them right where they are," said McClellan. "This program is an extension of what we do."

By adding the Willis and Kammerdiener centers to the Hobbs College, OBU is creating a rare global missions academic structure, according to McClellan.

"The Willis Center for Global Outreach is unique among Baptist universities for the integration of faith, knowledge and mission," McClellan said. "We are bringing together scholarship with fulfillment of God's mission, taking the Gospel to every tribe, every nation."

The Willis Center is named for the late Dr. Avery T. Willis, longtime Southern Baptist missions and discipleship leader, who graduated from OBU in 1956. The Don R.



to be recognized as a premier quality liberal arts curriculum."

"Dr. Hurley championed the liberal arts approach to learning so grandly that he became known as the 'What is Life?' professor," recalls Blue, a 1972 OBU graduate.

For Hurley, who taught a Sunday School class at University Baptist Church, the questions were an opportunity to explore and embrace God's creation and to instill an attitude of learning.

"The essential things in life are the questions you can ask," he said in an interview not long after his retirement in 1998. "The questions are eternal, and the answers change as you go through your life. You expand and you create new expressions of your own understanding of the issues raised

The Hurley College gives a greater presence for the University's highly successful science and mathematics programs. The Hobbs College perpetuates the commitment to ministry preparation.

Kammerdiener Center for Missiological Research is named for Dr. Don Kammerdiener, a 1958 OBU graduate, who served with the International Mission Board throughout his career, including 11 years as executive vice president. In retirement, he continues to work with IMB staff around the world. With the research arm of the Kammerdiener Center, McClellan envisions a program where scholarly research can be completed to further the mission of OBU as it relates to global engagement.

The influence of Dr. Hurley extends beyond the sciences. He was part of the OBU faculty team which created the Unified Studies core curriculum in the 1960s.

"In 1962, Dr. Hurley accepted the challenge from OBU President James Ralph Scales and Dr. William E. Neptune, dean of liberal arts, to help build the 'new' OBU, one with a liberal arts curriculum inextricably woven throughout all degree programs," said Dr. Debbie Blue, OBU senior vice president for academic services. "Over the next eight years, he and his OBU colleagues developed what came

by the questions. The college function is concerned with hunting out these eternal questions and asking them again and again in different courses and different approaches to perspectives on the same thing, and thus the students come to an understanding which is their own."

"The naming of the new Hurley College of Science and Mathematics is an appropriate way to honor the legacy of the man who gave so much of himself to build excellence into both the science and liberal arts traditions of OBU," said Blue. "Now, it is up to OBU to continue his legacy by continuing to ask the hard questions of life, in all the classrooms of the university. That would be the Hurley way."

Hobbs died in 1995. Hurley passed away in 2004. They did not work together on Bison Hill, but they shared a vision for a vibrant Baptist university which would produce well-prepared leaders. Their legacies have been tied to OBU for more than half a century, and with their names adorning two academic hubs, their voices will continue to echo on the campus. ♦

Dennis Jernigan '81

Living A Redeemed Life

For Dennis Jernigan, making music is less about perfectly combining melody and lyrics and more about redemption and transformation. Jernigan is a well-known Christian singer and songwriter who has penned thousands of songs. However, the ability and desire to write such moving songs came to him through a journey he did not expect.

While growing up, Jernigan experienced what he believes was spiritual bondage in the form of unwanted same-sex attraction. After graduation from OBU in 1981 Jernigan attended a worship event where he was freed from his bondage and forever changed.

"At that time, I acknowledged the fact that I was totally helpless, and I turned everything in my life over to Jesus – my thoughts, my emotions, my physical body and my past," Jernigan said.

After Jernigan was able to settle his sexual-identity issues, God used his innate music ability and the things he learned at OBU to help others.

Jernigan's voice teacher throughout his time at OBU was Dr. Jeri Graham-Edmonds. She taught him how to lead worship from the piano and pushed him to work hard to train his voice.

"I credit her high standards with giving me an instrument with which to praise God until my dying day," Jernigan said.

He also gives credit to Kathryn Timberlake, professor emerita of music, and her music theory classes where he learned the language of music.

"She enabled me to get onto paper what was in my heart, and because of that, my music and message of hope has literally been sent around the world many times over," he said.

Jernigan not only learned and gained encouragement from his professors, but faculty members he never studied under also supported him. Sandra Meyer, retired associate professor of music at OBU, met him years ago and keeps up with his ministry and encourages him today.

"Sandra Meyer has taught me much about God after my days as an OBU student," Jernigan said.

Though OBU prepared him well academically and technically in the area of music, Jernigan felt spiritually trapped.

"It was the harsh reality of life after OBU that forced me to learn how to live an abundant Kingdom-focused life and to adequately apply the scholastic and technical training I had learned at OBU to the reality of the ministry God had called me to," he said.

In 1983, Jernigan married Melinda Hewitt, also an '81 OBU graduate, and they started a family. During this time, Jernigan became completely immersed in the music business; however, he was different than the typical Christian singer. He did not write songs according to current trends of songwriting, nor did he choose to go on tour. Instead, he worked closely with his wife and children.

"I did not find solace in being so different, but I did find an intimacy with God that I do not think I could have found otherwise," Jernigan said.

Jernigan said he is able to use his past experiences to minister to people struggling with the same feelings he experienced by serving on the board of directors for Exodus International, the world's largest ministry for people struggling with unwanted same-sex attraction. The organization and its affiliate ministries receive more than 400,000 calls each year from those who struggle with such feelings, as well as their families and friends.

"I feel I am a part of something cutting edge, yet as old as time," Jernigan said. "People need freedom, and God's Word tells the redeemed to say so. I am proud to say so." Jernigan said he seeks to build relationships with hurting and struggling people and walk with them through their difficult times, primarily through his songwriting and singing.

"My goal is to walk with God and write what I need to say to Him, what others need to say to Him, and what I hear Him singing over me," he said.

Since his national launch in the music industry in 1988, Jernigan has been sharing the message of hope and healing found in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Jernigan has sold more than 1 million recordings, and he has witnessed the body of Christ sing several of his songs around the world, one of his most popular being, "You Are My All in All." In addition to recording more than 35 music albums, he has authored several books and devotionals.

By sharing his story and the stories told through his songs, Jernigan said he has seen thousands of struggling, desperate

Back Row: Dennis, Galen Marie, Judah Paul; Middle Row: Ezra Thomas, Melinda, Israel David, Hannah Faith Brown, Ashley Brown, Glory Bethel Thompson, Shaun Thompson; Front Row: Christina Danielle, Raina Joy, Asa Robert, Ann Elizabeth



Through my music and through my testimony,
I have witnessed tens of thousands begin the
journey toward wholeness.

people break free from their spiritual bondage and find healing and hope through Jesus Christ.

“Through my music and through my testimony, I have witnessed tens of thousands begin the journey toward wholeness,” he said. “My greatest delight, easily, is seeing someone suddenly realize the truth of freedom and begin to walk in transformation.”

When Jernigan and his wife started their family, they vowed to give their nine children to God in hope that they, too, would choose to minister to others.

Three of their older children – Israel, Anne and Hannah, along with their spouses – serve in ministry positions around the world. Two of their children, Glory and Judah, work with Jernigan in managing his music career in Muskogee, Okla. Galen will be a sophomore in college in the fall semester, and Raina recently graduated from high school. The Jernigan’s two youngest children, Asa and Ezra, will be high school seniors in the fall.

Jernigan said his time at OBU offered some high points – learning about music, singing in the Bison Glee Club, practicing in Ford Music Hall and meeting his future wife. And though much of his college was also filled with anguish, God used what was most damaging and hurtful to Jernigan to transform him so he could help others.

“When I settled my identity issues, the Lord began to pour songs of deliverance, worship and ministry out of me,” he said. “As I shared these songs with others, a wonderful thing began to happen – others were finding truth and being set free through music.”

While experiencing great success with his songs and books, he has come against some protest for his past choices. Despite occasional opposition, he holds fast to his miraculous transformation and continues to share his story of redemption.

“My story is precious to me and to the Lord, and I will continue to proclaim freedom to the captive until my dying breath,” he said. ♦

Sadie & Madie Gardner '39

The Ripple Effect

OBU transforms lives by equipping students to pursue academic excellence. Identical twins Madie and Sadie Gardner arrived on Bison Hill having learned the noble pursuit of academic excellence from their father.

Born June 11, 1914, near Texhoma, Okla., to Jason Everett and Mary Lowery Gardner, the twins and their siblings – older sister and brother, Lorene and J.E., and younger brother, Cap – learned about the importance of hard work, honesty and respect for country and fellow man.

A love for learning and a genuine, compassionate interest in people is a standard the sisters passed on not only to their own families, but also to thousands of students during their 40-year teaching careers. Many young teachers have, in turn, passed these values on to their own students in honor of the twins. The ripple effect of the two pixie-sized teachers has reached countless lives.

As they recently celebrated their 97th birthday, the sisters could look back on lives marked by service and care. After attending a one-room school for first through eighth grades in the Oklahoma Panhandle, they attended Texhoma High School. It was too far to walk to school, and the Depression made everything more difficult, so the girls lived with separate families in town while cooking, cleaning, doing laundry and caring for children to earn their keep.

Sadie and Madie graduated from high school as valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. Because she was valedictorian, Sadie received a two-year scholarship to OBU – but she would not go without Madie. To allow the two sisters to attend college together, First Baptist Church of Texhoma provided tuition for Madie for two years. The sisters once again worked for their room and board.

In those days, a person could teach with only two years of college education. After two years at OBU, Madie began teaching in a rural one-room school at Keokuk, Okla., to pay for Sadie's tuition. While there, Madie earned \$70 a month for teaching and \$3 for janitorial work. She used the janitor pay to purchase school supplies for the children, because many could not afford them due to the Depression. After Sadie completed her degree at OBU, she began teaching in Trousdale, Okla., to pay for Madie's tuition at OBU. The sisters graduated together in 1939.

During her 10-year tenure at Trousdale, Sadie taught third and fourth grades, and ninth-grade English and world history. While there, she met her future husband, Fraser Blanton, on a blind date. They married three years later, and would eventually have three daughters, now Carolyn Barrett, '68, Peggy Gass and Barbara Glorioso.

"You were always my favorite teacher during my first years at Trousdale," Murry Perkins wrote Sadie with greetings on her 94th birthday. A retired University of Chicago engineer, Perkins worked on the Mars "Rover" exploration instrument. "It's because of you and your sincere and serious approach to teaching that I am what I am today! I'm sure that things would be entirely different for me otherwise."

In 1947, Sadie moved with her husband to New Orleans, where they lived for the next 32 years. He would become a naval hero, Commander Blanton. Sadie attended graduate school at Tulane University. She taught fourth grade for 30 years at New Orleans Academy, an elite boys' military school. She made a lasting impression on many people with her sparkling blue eyes and her listening ear.

"She just had a peace about her, a gentleness that was so evident," recalled David Barrett, 'ex 67, who met Sadie when he visited his future wife – her daughter – in New Orleans. "Although she was (and still is) the size of a pixie, I sensed a giant of a woman. When I was around her, she made me feel so important and special. Thirty years later I realize that she has the same effect on everyone who knows her."

In 1978, Sadie was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year, and the New Orleans Academy yearbook was dedicated to her. She is a lifetime member of Delta Kappa Gamma and Eastern Star. While in New Orleans, she was a Sunday School teacher for adults and teenagers for many years and active in Woman's Missionary Union. She also served 20 years as the Vacation Bible School director for Highland Baptist Church in Metairie, La.

After retirement in 1978, Sadie and Fraser returned to Oklahoma and settled in Shawnee. They were married for 45 years before his death in 1985. Sadie is a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Shawnee.

Following her graduation from OBU, Madie returned to the Panhandle to teach at rural Unity School about 17 miles west of Guymon, Okla. Because she was a certified teacher, she



Thousands of lives have been forever blessed by two pint-sized teachers

made \$100 a month for the nine-month school year. In addition to teaching, she cleaned the building – a challenge with the Panhandle dust and winds – and some days she shoveled out buckets of dirt. She also cooked lunch, teaching the seventh- and eighth-grade home economics class to cook and serve stew and hot chocolate for the meal.

The school was the center of the social activity for the community. Madie met her future husband, James E. Shaffer, at a box supper. They were married in August 1942, and farmed and ranched in the Unity community. They would have two daughters, now Jane Ann Locklear and Cindy Williams. Madie excelled at creating community celebrations for holidays and other important dates, said her former student, Elois Baker Nowels.

“Madie Ann Shaffer’s guiding, counseling, caring nature positively impacted my life as it did with all who came in contact with her,” Nowels said. “She was a master teacher even before there was an officially recognized title.”

One of Madie’s gifts was making every child feel as though he or she were her favorite student. She learned every child’s name before the school year began, and then never forgot them, even years later. Many teachers have expressed they chose a career in education due to the calm, nurturing spirit they witnessed in Madie. One student said she taught students to read and write “with the gentleness of an angel.”

“Madie has had a profound spiritual impact on my life,” said Melinda Powell Veres, whose family has known Madie for more than 70 years. “She was dedicated to the study of the Word and exemplified the Proverbs 31 Christian woman.”

Madie taught at Unity for 10 years; at Guymon for 28 years; and, after retiring in 1979, continued to substitute teach for another 20 years, finally retiring in 1999 at age 85. She was honored in Oklahoma City as a 50-year active member of Delta Kappa Gamma. She is a member of the Oklahoma



Retired Educators of Texas County and First Baptist Church in Guymon. In 1974, she was named Guymon Teacher of the Year and Texas County Teacher of the Year. She was 2010 Queen of the Pioneer Days Parade in Guymon.

Madie and James were married 59 years before his death in 2001. She still lives in Guymon.

The Sadie and Madie Gardner family is an OBU family by education and service. As their father encouraged them to get a good education, the twins also encouraged their children and grandchildren. All are college graduates, and most have advanced degrees. Four daughters and one granddaughter followed as teachers. Two granddaughters work with international missions organizations.

The twins’ younger brother, Cap Gardner, received OBU’s Meritorious Service Award in 1996 as an administrator for the OBU Physical Plant from 1947-96. His wife, Wanda, worked in the OBU Bookstore from 1964-92.

Sadie and Madie’s family said OBU provided the opportunity for them to prepare to live amazing lives of service in their roles as educators, wives, mothers and Christian women – and to encourage countless others in the same noble pursuits. ♦

Charles and Betty Alexander '54

Open Homes, Open Hearts

It just seemed like the right thing to do – for Charles Alexander to follow his sister to OBU, and for Betty Nabors and her family to relocate from Addington, Okla., to Shawnee when it was time for her to attend college.

Betty's parents rented a two-story house across the street from the campus, and her parents rented out four upstairs bedrooms to eight OBU students. It only seemed right for Charles to try to convince his friend, Ken Roper, to not move into the house, but stay in the dorm. He crossed the street and knocked on the door. Betty answered.

Some seemingly innocuous decisions affect the rest of a person's life. In this case, the decision affected the lives of countless others on two continents.

A romance sparked among the young co-eds while they pursued their studies on Bison Hill. Charles had felt called to the pastoral ministry, and Betty had nurtured a talent in music

through high school. Charles studied under several professors who made a big impression on the young man, including Dr. Forbes Yarbrough, Dr. James Timberlake, Dr. Opal Cole and Dr. Robert Laessig.

"Dr. Timberlake was particularly significant in arranging an opportunity during my freshman year to go before a small church south of Ada, Connerville Baptist Church in Johnston-Marshall Association," Charles said. "This resulted in a four-year relationship in which I was thrown in, sink or swim, to pastoral responsibility and the weekly labor of sermon preparation and delivery. The precious people there took me, and later my bride, under their wings and nourished us both materially and spiritually."

His bride was Betty, whom he married three years after their unexpected meeting. She recalled she was fascinated with the multi-talented Dr. Warren M. Angell and admired Uncle Jimmy Owens, but she found she also favored Dr. Yarbrough because she felt the need to be saturated in God's Word. She had dedicated her life to missions at age 12 after hearing Miss Lucy Smith from China give her testimony in Comanche, Okla.

"God's call to missions continued in my heart throughout our ministry in different church activities and as I attended Falls Creek Baptist Assembly every year and heard missionaries speak," Betty said. "It continued on through my college and seminary training and our pastorates as well."

Betty worked so Charles could graduate from OBU on time in 1954. She managed to complete three years on her own studies, too. When the couple learned they were expecting their first child, they moved to Texas so Charles could pursue his seminary studies.

Life seemed to change quickly in the ensuing five years. Charles worked as a clerk at the General Motors assembly plant and commuted back to Connerville on the weekends. Betty graduated from Texas Christian University and gave birth to their son, David. Charles accepted a role as a weekend pastor of Lebanon Baptist Church, also in Johnston-Marshall Association. Betty accepted a teaching position in Fort Worth, allowing Charles to focus on his seminary studies full time. Their daughter, Melanie, was born in 1960. Charles graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1963 and became the pastor of First Baptist Church in Washington, Okla.

"During our four years there, we enjoyed the experience of full-time dedication to ministry," Charles said. "The friendships





developed there were phenomenal and still continue. It was during our final year in Washington that I felt the call that Betty had felt since her teen years, to foreign missions.”

The couple was appointed by the International Mission Board (then the Foreign Mission Board) in 1966. Following a year of language school in Costa Rica, the family settled in Chile, where Charles began his ministry as a chaplain and Bible teacher at “Colegio Bautista,” the Baptist Academy in Temuco. Betty worked as a kindergarten teacher at the academy and as a pianist wherever she was needed.

“The most difficult aspect was the language,” Betty said. “In Costa Rica, where we studied Spanish for a year, the conversation was slow and easy going. (Warm climate!) When we got to southern Chile, the speech was so fast I didn’t know what hit me! (Cooler climate!)”

Meanwhile, the family grew: they all-but-literally adopted a young woman named Rosa Farfal, and her sister, Ida, who lost their parents in the 1960 earthquake and tidal wave in southern Chile. David graduated from OBU in 1979, Rosa in 1982, and Melanie in 1984.

The Alexanders’ missions service in Chile was disrupted by political upheaval, so the mission board assigned them to Lima, Peru, in 1973, to a literature ministry. Charles ran a wholesale book deposit offering Christian literature to bookstores throughout the country and supervised three Baptist bookstores in Lima, Trujillo and Arequipa. He also served as interim pastor of First Baptist Church of Lima for several months. Charles was known by fellow missionaries for his “unbelievable grasp” of the Spanish language.

Whatever the task at hand, the Alexanders followed through with a cordial and willing spirit, including showing compassion to young people such as Patty Gloyd, who they adopted in Lima when she was 10 years old.

The couple returned to Chile, where they worked for the remainder of their service – 28 years in all. Charles was charged with the responsibility of Theological Education by Extension, and later as the district missionary of the South Association in Temuco. He was elected by the Chile Baptist Mission as administrator, so they returned to Santiago where he also served as interim pastor of Parque Apoquindo Baptist Church.

Betty took an interest in puppetry with her to Chile, which caught the eye of a mission board administrator. He put her

in touch with John Magyar in Baptist communications in Cali, Colombia, and the end result was 26 programs for television using homemade puppets. The program, in Spanish, was titled “La Casita en el Arbol” (The Treehouse). The project took three years and 13 trips to Colombia to complete.

“When God is in something, He moves things along, and we had a fantastic team,” Betty said. “He definitely led in every step of what we did. It is amazing what He does when He calls and one commits to what He wants done.”

The Alexanders retired from the mission board in 1994 and settled in Benbrook, Texas, where Charles serves as a deacon at First Baptist Church and is active in the church’s audio/visual department. Betty continues her commitment to the puppet ministry, making and providing puppets and materials for churches needing programs, music, Bibles and other resources to help them reach children on missions trips.

And true to the nature of their family – which reflects the hospitality instilled by the Nabors’ boarding house for OBU students years before – the Alexanders have continued to unofficially adopt young people who they mentor in life: Victor Manterola from Santiago, Chile; Jorge and Sary Maldonado who live in Minnesota; and Marco Antonio Cuevas, a pianist from Temuco, Chile. Betty’s mother, Tommie Nabors McGarr, ’59, lived with them until her death in January at age 99.

“Ever since Charles and I married and David was born three years later, we have had someone living with us in our home,” Betty said. “God has truly blessed us in this dedication to young people who are starting out in life and need guidance. We have truly received far more than we have given from these precious young people.”

Their compassion for people in need, and their commitment to the work God has called them, has given Charles and Betty Alexander a notable life of service touching lives on two continents and beyond. ♦

ADJACENT PAGE: Charles and Betty on vacation in southern Chile near the border of Argentina. **ABOVE: 1.** As OBU students in 1951, Charles and Betty study in the Nabors’ boarding house in Shawnee, where they met on the doorstep. **2.** On the set of “The Treehouse,” cameraman John Magyar Jr. (right) and his dad, producer/cameraman John Magyar Sr., are set to film. Missionary artist Brad Price (left) takes pictures while Betty and Patty pose with Pedro and Anita, two of the three puppet stars in the 26-program TV series. **3.** Charles participates in the appointment service of Chilean Baptists’ first foreign missionary family, a thrilling milestone for the convention. The young couple served in Ecuador.

David Dennis '79

Sharing Second Chances

David Dennis needed a second chance. In January 1975, Dennis stood in the registrar's office at OBU wearing blue jean overalls with a long ponytail trailing down his back. After making poor choices as a teenager and squandering a couple years at a state college, Dennis explained to the office assistant that, despite his cumulative 1.4 GPA, he should be admitted to OBU. He shared how he had recently made a commitment to Christ and explained how he felt God was calling him to attend there. Fully aware of OBU's admissions standards, the assistant graciously told Dennis he would not qualify. Dennis kindly asked to speak to the university president.

After being directed to the executive office, Dennis explained his unique situation to the president's secretary. She responded that the president, Dr. William Tanner, was a busy man and could not assist him in his plight. As Dennis turned to leave, he heard Tanner call to him. Having overheard the conversation, Tanner invited the young man into his office.

Dennis again explained his troubled past and his present calling. When he finished, the two men sat in silence. Dennis said Tanner then exclaimed, "I believe you. Let's kneel down here and pray that God will give you the strength and ability to graduate, because I am about to get you enrolled!"

Wanting to explore different ministerial vocations, Dennis decided to major in religion. He said he wanted to explore his new faith and stimulate his spiritual growth, but mostly, he had a strong desire to understand more about the Bible and his life purpose. Dennis enjoyed school, but he found he had to study and apply himself more than he ever had in his life.

"I had never been pushed to discover my creative thinking skills along with my critical thinking skills," Dennis said. "It was incredibly difficult for me."

By the time he started taking the well-known Western Civilization course, he was severely struggling academically.

He began showing up late for class and missing class all together. One day, after skipping class, his literature professor, Dr. Laura Crouch, showed up at his door with an alarm clock in hand. She said she did not know if he was missing class due to a faulty alarm clock, but told him to put the new clock beside his bed, and when he looked at it, to remember her coming over that day. She said she thought he had a great, creative mind and potential, and she encouraged him to get a tutor, learn to study and not quit. He took her advice. Dennis enlisted the aid of two fellow classmates who patiently tutored him.

"I learned how to learn," Dennis said. "I learned how to think. I learned my faith and my intellect are both only complete together."

He not only read and pondered about what it meant to be in ministry, but he also applied what he learned to his life. Dennis became a volunteer "Big Brother" at Hope House Youth Services and was heavily involved at First Baptist Church of Shawnee.

Due to his own troubled past, Dennis discovered he could relate well to the children in the youth services program. The trouble was not all of his own making, as Dennis' early childhood was filled with turmoil. Both parents were alcoholics. His father died when Dennis was still very young. His mother continued to drink heavily. Dennis and his sister were removed from their mother's custody by Oklahoma Child Protective Services and adopted by their aunt and uncle. The relatives gave him a second chance, which he acknowledges and appreciates to this day.

Outside of my faith and
relationship with Christ,
my wife and children
are my greatest joy,
my greatest gift,
my greatest teachers,
my greatest inspiration,
my greatest encouragement
and my greatest supporters.



"When you're talking about Christian Education, you're talking about a philosophy and attitude that permeates all disciplines. It's something more that is caught, rather than just taught. It's something that's experienced rather than learned. I see Christian Education as a way of life."

William G. Tanner
OBU's 11th President, 1971-76



“My gratitude for that second chance is what drives me to spend my life seeking that same second chance for all those I serve,” Dennis said.

After graduating from OBU in 1979 with a degree in religion, Dennis earned a master’s degree in marriage and family counseling from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He received certification as a Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Licensed Childcare Administrator.

Dennis serves as president and chief executive officer of Eckerd Youth Alternatives in Clearwater, Fla., one of the nation’s leading non-profit providers of behavioral health, juvenile justice and child welfare services. He works with children and families in the foster care and juvenile justice systems and other private care families who struggle with difficult personal or family crises.

Dennis and his wife, Becky, have five children including four boys and one girl, ranging in age from 10 to 21 years.

Their oldest son, Dillon, is a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma where he is on the Sooner wrestling team. His brother, Dalton, also a wrestler, plans to start at OU this fall. The younger boys, Dryden and Daxon, aspire to follow in their brothers’ footsteps.

Dabney, the only girl of the family, looks forward to being part of a collegiate swimming team.

“Outside of my faith and relationship with Christ, my wife and children are my greatest joy, my greatest gift, my greatest teachers, my greatest inspiration, my greatest encouragement and my greatest supporters,” Dennis said.

His experiences as a child and his time at OBU molded him into who he would become as an adult.

“Those days were the foundation of an adult life lived with much greater capacity, competence, confidence and conviction,” Dennis said.

“Without a doubt, OBU taught me to be a critical and creative thinker. Getting to be involved with students from all states in the U.S. and many different countries broadened my cultural awareness and appreciation for diversity. That was an immensely enriching experience as well as educational, encouraging and equipping toward an ease with all people I encounter and an expectation to find something enriching about everyone I meet.”

Dennis, who was given a second chance by Dr. Tanner about 36 years ago, now helps give second chances to others.

“I have tried to make good on his investment and belief in me,” he said. “I will never be able to repay him fully, and I will forever be grateful for that grace and belief he extended to me that day.

“I love the fact that the slogan for Eckerd is, ‘The First Name in Second Chances,’” Dennis said. ♦

Day's Heart for OBU Shared

The message came from a man OBU President David Whitlock called "one of the godliest, most gifted orators in the world."

Dr. Alan Day, vice chair of OBU's board of trustees, prepared an address which reflected his heart for the institution, to be presented at the University's 2011 Founders' Day chapel. But the Feb. 9 event was postponed due to winter weather, and Dr. Day died in an accident the following week.

At the rescheduled Founders' Day chapel on March 23, OBU Provost Stan Norman, a longtime friend of Day's, presented the address exactly as it had been prepared for the original event.

In the message, Day noted that it is possible to "celebrate" the day without actually realizing its significance. He wrote that "Founders' Day is more than a trip down memory lane or an excuse for celebration. OBU was founded by people committed to a specific vision and a sacred mission animated by deep convictions."

Day wrote that he recently served on an OBU committee tasked with the mission of studying founding documents to determine the exact convictions and commitments that animated OBU's Founders. He identified three convictions that resulted in the birth of OBU to share in his address.

"It is clear to me that, after all these years, not one of those principles is outdated, irrelevant, or unnecessary," Day wrote. "They are founding and foundational principles."

The first principle, Day said, is that OBU is the child of the Baptist churches of Oklahoma, conceived by the Baptist passion for missions and evangelism.

"Oklahoma Baptists have believed that Jesus is Lord of every area and every

endeavor of human life and experience; and their conviction that His Lordship extends to the intellectual arena eventuated in the conception and birth of OBU," he wrote.

He said while other Christian colleges and universities have chosen to separate from their denominational parents, causing the acceleration of secularization, Oklahoma Baptists have nurtured OBU and provided for her by the commitment of Cooperative Program funds, by the appointment of trustees, by sending students and in a hundred other ways.

"We will not forsake our roots, our heritage, our commitment to the Word and to our Baptist family; for to do so would be to trample upon the prayers and sacrifices of untold thousands of Oklahoma Baptists who believed in this institution, who prayed for her leaders, and who sacrificed to send their children to a Christian school," Day wrote.

A second principle of OBU, Day said, is that "a consistent Christian worldview will be embraced and advocated by every division, every department, every professor, every administrator and, especially, the president himself."

"It is the grossest expression of idolatry to fence off any intellectual endeavor from the influence and sovereignty of Jesus Christ," Day wrote, noting every professor and especially the president must be committed personally to Jesus Christ and His leadership.

The third foundational principle Day identified is the missional purpose of OBU and that the university exists as an extension of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. The founders, he said, believed not merely in the superiority of Jesus Christ, but in the uniqueness and exclusivity of His Person and Work.



"What energized them was the commitment to truth interpreted from a Christian theistic position – truth that would transform the lives of students and, consequently, would bless and transform business, industry, community, and culture," Day wrote. "For this reason, OBU has been and continues to be a community of Christian pilgrims as well as a community of Christian scholars. The campus is alive with worship and prayer as well as the most rigorous intellectual pursuits.

"Life and cultural transformation through the serious search for and engagement with the truth has been the mission of OBU from the beginning."

Building on the foundational principles set forth by the university's Founders, Day said the task of today's OBU advocates is to keep faith alive, intelligent and articulate through Christian liberal arts education.

Day died in a motorcycle accident in Edmond on Feb. 16. He was 62. He had served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Edmond for 25 years.

"Alan Day was a consummate Baptist statesman," said Dr. Whitlock. "He had a pastor's heart and a servant's spirit, which was demonstrated in his love for his church family and his leadership role in the Edmond community. His warmth and caring were so strong that they sometimes overshadowed his keen theological mind. He was a student of God's Word and an innovative communicator of biblical truth."

Governor Tells Grads to Invest Lives in Service

With firsthand congratulations from Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, 248 OBU graduates received their diplomas during Spring Commencement on May 13. Before an overflow audience of more than 1,800 in OBU's Raley Chapel, the graduates heard the State's first woman governor tell them just as she has made history through her political career, they have equal opportunity to achieve their personal aspirations.

Fallin, who grew up in Tecumseh and attended OBU in 1973-75, told the graduates she shared some of their experiences during her two years on Bison Hill. Those included her earliest memories as a freshman, learning "Ka-Rip," and successfully completing the required Western Civilization course. She said her time at OBU helped shape her into the woman she is today.

She congratulated the graduates on reaching such a significant milestone in their lives, noting their college degrees will help them achieve financial success. But more important than the financial success, she said, is the wisdom and knowledge they have gained along their journey.

"The Bible tells us, 'Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold,'" Fallin said, quoting from Proverbs 3:13-14. "So in other words, the Bible teaches us that knowledge – the knowledge you've gained here at Oklahoma Baptist University – is more valuable than gold, and you can take that knowledge and invest it back into today's world."

Fallin also told the graduates she had something to ask of them: to be good citizens – and preferably good Oklahoma citizens.

"Invest your life in something that is rewarding and interesting, and invest

your life in service to other people," she said. "Give back. Your key to success in this state is in your hands now. You've been given every opportunity possible with great wisdom and great knowledge, and now it's up to you, what you're going to do."



Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin

The audience, Fallin said, included Oklahoma's future, with the graduates representing the state's future business men and women, preachers and music directors, educators, lawyers, doctors and "maybe even a couple politicians." Whatever path they follow, Fallin said she knows the graduates' potential is unlimited, and they have many great opportunities before them.

"There is nothing that is off limits to you," Fallin said. "Setbacks are just opportunities for comebacks."

She told the graduates to never stop learning and to know the future is unlimited. She also urged them to dream big, and to always work hard.

Senior Class President Kathryn Barrett followed Fallin's words of wisdom with a question prompted by the book, "The Idea of a Christian College," by Arthur

Holmes, which is given to all OBU freshmen. In presenting the class for their diplomas, Barrett asked her fellow seniors to consider not only how their education at OBU has impacted and transformed them, but also how they will use their education to serve God. Barrett was a mathematics major from Neodesha, Kan.

OBU's top three awards for faculty and staff were presented during the ceremonies by OBU President David Whitlock.

Dr. Bobby Kelly, Ruth Dickinson professor of religion, received the Distinguished Teaching Award, presented in recognition of "classroom excellence." Kelly joined the OBU faculty in 1997. He earned his bachelor's degree from Clear Creek Baptist College, and he earned his master's degree and doctorate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Michael Dean, assistant professor of music, received the Promising Teacher Award, presented to a faculty member who has taught at the University for less than five years and "shows great promise as a teacher." At OBU since 2006, Dean earned two bachelor's degrees from Minnesota State University-Moorhead, and he earned his master's degree and doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.

Bobby Cox, head baseball coach and instructor of kinesiology and leisure studies, received the university's Meritorious Service Award. At OBU since 1984, Cox was inducted into the OBU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996 and named Sooner Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. In 1993, he was named OBU's "winningest" coach. Earlier this year, he was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame. A 1979 OBU graduate, Cox earned his master's degree from East Central University.

SIFE Team Wins Competition

A campus group which began with two inexperienced students last August grew into a national competitor in March.

The OBU Students In Free Enterprise team was named a regional champion at the SIFE USA Regional Competition in Rogers, Ark., on March 11. As one of 12 regional champions, the OBU team advanced to the 2011 SIFE USA National Exposition in Minneapolis, Minn., in mid-May.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment for the OBU SIFE students," said Dr. David Houghton, one of the team's faculty advisors and dean of the Paul Dickinson College of Business. "The team began the year with two students, neither of which had any SIFE experience. Under Katie Smith's leadership, the team completed six meaningful projects, logged 533 hours of service, and competed successfully against many established teams at the Rogers regional competition."

OBU's SIFE team represents one of nearly 600 programs in the United States. Participating students use business concepts to develop community outreach projects that improve the quality of life and standard of living for people in need.

During the academic year, the OBU SIFE team organized six projects in the Shawnee community, including the team's work with the Regional Development Committee to create a marketing campaign against roadside dumping.

"We believe our logo and slogan development for the campaign against roadside dumping will increase awareness of the problem we have in Pottawatomie County and be an important next step in cleaning up the county," said Katie Smith, a junior from Shawnee, who serves as the team's



OBU's SIFE team was named a regional champion at competition in Rogers, Ark. The team includes (front, from left) Chelsea Jordan, Samantha Olson, Jessica Storey, Katie Smith, (back, from left) Dr. David Houghton, Caleb Stogner, Clay Dodgion, Tim Frymire and Dr. Craig Walker.

president. "All else being equal, it's easier to attract businesses to a county without litter and dumping problems. Everyone wins with a cleaner county."

The culmination of the SIFE program is an annual series of competitions that provide a forum for teams to present the results of their projects, and to be evaluated by business leaders serving as judges.

"This accomplishment shows how our students are gaining vital knowledge while at the same time putting that education into practice," said OBU President David Whitlock. "Our SIFE team exemplifies OBU's commitment to produce leaders who are equipped to produce leaders who are equipped in their fields and engaged in their communities."

First United Contributes \$25,000 To Bolster Real-World Learning

Investing in the education of future business leaders, First United Bank of Shawnee recently presented OBU a check for \$25,000 to finance the University's Student Managed Fund.

The bank's president, Paul Bass, presented the check to OBU President David Whitlock and Dr. David Houghton, dean of OBU's Paul Dickinson College of Business, on Thursday, Feb. 17, during halftime of an OBU basketball game.

"A select group of OBU students will manage a stock portfolio on behalf of the University," said Dr. Dan Reeder, Geiger professor of finance. "Students in the class will gain substantial experience dealing with real world problems that professional fund managers face."



Paul Bass (center), president of First United Bank of Shawnee, presents a check for \$25,000 to Dr. Whitlock (right) and Dr. Houghton to finance OBU's Student Managed Fund.

As the name implies, the Student Managed Fund is entirely student managed, and those selected to manage the fund are responsible for all investment decisions, Reeder said.

Student members establish the stock selection criteria, research prospective investments, generate reports and make buy/sell decisions.

"The grant provided by First United Bank will enable OBU students to move beyond theory and into practice," Houghton said. "Making real investments raises the stakes for the students and will give them an experience unmatched at many institutions. We are extremely grateful for the generous gift provided by First United Bank."

"This fund will provide students with an innovative experiential learning opportunity and OBU with a longterm method of attracting high quality students," Reeder said.

Board Approves New Structure, Faculty Promotions

Along with reorganization of OBU academic units, OBU trustees passed several other items during their spring meeting on the campus May 13.

The board ratified a reorganization proposal from the OBU administration which included elevating two academic schools to “college” status, dividing the OBU College of Arts and Sciences into two separate colleges, and creating a new college for theology and ministry.



Dr. Stan Norman, OBU provost and executive vice president for campus life, presented the 2011 OBU Founders' Day address, written by the late Dr. R. Alan Day, to OBU trustees during the spring meeting of the board on May 13. “Our task is to keep the bell of Christian liberal arts ringing and to keep the faith alive, intelligent, and articulate,” Day wrote in the address.

The action creates the James E. Hurley College of Science and Mathematics and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The two units replace the College of Arts and Sciences. The reorganization also creates the new Herschel H. Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry.

The overall reorganization resulted in seven major academic divisions: the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts, the James E. Hurley College of Science and Mathematics, the College of

Nursing, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Herschel H. Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry, the Paul Dickinson College of Business, and the OBU Graduate School.

The board meeting began with the presentation of an address written by the late Dr. Alan Day, former vice chairman of the board of trustees, who died in a motorcycle accident on Feb. 16, 2011. Day, longtime pastor of the First Baptist Church of Edmond, was scheduled to present the address during Founders' Day at OBU during the spring semester.

Dr. Stan Norman, OBU provost and executive vice president for campus life, read the address to the full board.

Day's remarks concluded that “life and cultural transformation through the serious search for and engagement with the truth has been the mission of OBU from the beginning.”

“As I stand here this morning, I want to reiterate the challenge which poured out of every pause in that address,” OBU President David Whitlock said in his remarks to the board. He noted that Day stressed OBU founders believed the “universe is saturated with purpose.”

“If that is true for a universe where man can choose to live apart from God, how much more does it apply to a Christian liberal arts university where we are seeking to live by the Spirit?” Whitlock said. “Alan understood the kind of contribution a Christian university can make in the world today.”

Trustees unanimously passed a “resolution of appreciation for the life of R. Alan Day” during the meeting, noting Day was a “tireless supporter of OBU” and “a faithful churchman committed to Christian higher education.”

In other action, trustees approved the university's strategic objectives for the 2011-12 academic year. The annual objectives correspond to seven major objectives listed in OBU 2020, the institution's long-range strategic plan.

The board ratified promotions for four faculty members. Dr. Jerry Faight, who joined the faculty in 2001, was promoted from associate professor of religion to professor of religion. Dr. Nathan Malmberg, who joined the faculty in 2005, was promoted from associate professor of biochemistry to professor of biochemistry. Dr. Kristen Stauffer Todd, who joined the faculty in 1999, was promoted from associate professor of music and humanities to professor of music and humanities. Dr. Karen Youmans, who joined the faculty in 1999, was promoted from associate professor of English to professor of English.

Board members also approved contracts for seven new faculty members. New faculty include Tawa Anderson, assistant professor of philosophy; Dr. R. Bruce Carlton, professor of applied ministry; Mary Chung, assistant professor of piano; Dr. Elena Foulis, assistant professor of Spanish; Dr. Sam Freas, professor of kinesiology and leisure studies; Christian Timothy George, assistant professor of religion; and Dr. Randolph Burge Johnson, assistant professor of music theory.

During their winter meeting, postponed to March 4 due to a major February snowstorm, trustees ratified a \$47.69 million operating budget for the 2011-12 year. Randy L. Smith, OBU executive vice president for business and administrative services, said the new operating budget will include a projected distribution of \$16.21 million in scholarships for the 2011-12 academic year, an increase of nearly \$3.2 million over the 2010-11 distribution.

Twelve Receive Graduate Degrees

Twelve students celebrated the completion of master's degree studies through the OBU Graduate School during Commencement March 5 in Raley Chapel.

Travis Pickens, ethics counsel for the Oklahoma Bar Association, presented the Commencement address. An adjunct professor of commercial law at OBU Graduate School, Pickens was an honoree for the 2010 Leadership in Law award, honoring Oklahoma's outstanding leaders.

Pickens urged the graduates to recognize the value of their education, especially during a time of economic struggle. He said they join an elite group of less than 8 percent of the United States population who obtain a graduate degree, setting a foundation for future success in employment and leadership.

"But today means more than simply a credential," Pickens said. "What you should remember above all else is not simply what you have earned, but more importantly, what you now know you are capable of doing, both now and in the future. Obtaining this degree proves without any doubt that you have the abilities and intellect to not only survive any economic downturn, but to eventually thrive and prosper."

Pickens told the graduates they are now poised to lead their peers in business and medicine. He encouraged each graduate to consider how they can best use their degree in a purposeful life, noting people who have a purpose live longer. He said it is important the graduates pause to consider both what they have accomplished and what they will do in the future.

"You have chosen two of the greatest professions: business and medicine," he said. "In each of these are stunning



Graduates who received master of business administration degrees during the Oklahoma Baptist University Graduate School Commencement ceremony on Saturday, March 5, included (from left) Cameron Dunn, Cameron Crane, Bo Jim Ross and Juliann Strange. Not pictured is David Sisco.



Graduates who received master of science in nursing degrees during the Oklahoma Baptist University Graduate School Commencement ceremony on Saturday, March 5, included (front row, from left) Gail Livengood, Sheila Blalock, Cheryl Gilbert, (back row, from left) Shayla Spriggs, Donna Urbassik, Nichole Jackson and Megan Gregg.

examples of men and women in both professions who lived purposeful lives that were more than successful – they were significant. And I urge and challenge you to live a life of significance, not simply success."

A luncheon for the business graduates featured remarks from Dr. Stan Norman, OBU provost and executive vice president for campus life.

"You have chosen a degree well," Norman said. "With the education you have received, you have the capacity to enter any facet or realm of life and make a profound contribution and a meaningful impact.

"God made us to pour our lives out in service to others," he continued. "We are most satisfied and most happy in

life when we are pouring ourselves out for the benefit of other people."

Graduates earning master of science degrees in nursing received a unique pin specifically designed for OBU MSN graduates during a luncheon hosted by OBU President David Whitlock.

Whitlock told the MSN graduates that the OBU Graduate School not only prepares people for a career in their chosen discipline, but also prepares them with a biblical worldview. He said nursing education provides an ample opportunity to integrate faith and knowledge.

"I'm convinced real ministry is meeting people at their need," Whitlock said. "I can't imagine a more appropriate place than in nursing."

Eight Retire from Bison Hill Faculty and Staff

Two deans, one of OBU's first Distinguished Teaching Award honorees, a popular pianist, a local missions leader, a longtime mathematics educator, an award-winning yearbook advisor, and a former OBU trustee are retiring from the University's faculty and staff this summer.

The retirees represent 205 years of service to OBU.

BOBBY CANTY, dean of students, joined the OBU staff in 1984 and wore a number of hats before becoming dean of students in 2000. His tenure at OBU has included service as athletics director, tennis coach and director of student services.

DR. ROBERT DAWSON, WMU professor of missions, joined the OBU faculty in 1985. He was instrumental in developing new academic programs in cross-cultural ministry, including the first full program in orality studies to be offered in any Baptist school. Dawson is also the co-founder of the Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach and founder of the Don R. Kammerdiener Center for Missiological Research.

DR. RONDA HALL, professor of Spanish, joined the OBU faculty in 1973. The longtime faculty member was honored as the second-ever recipient of the University's highest honor, the Distinguished Teaching Award.

ANNE HAMMOND, associate professor of English, joined the OBU faculty in 1986 and has served as chair of the language and literature division. She was longtime advisor for *Yahnseh*, helping student staffs garner consistent Columbia Press honors for the yearbook. She was awarded the Promising Teacher Award in 1989.

DR. PAUL HAMMOND, dean of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts since 1986, also has served as

professor of music, teaching classes in church music and music history. He has published a number of articles. He has served as managing director for the Oklahoma Alliance for Liturgy and the Arts, program chair for the Da Vinci Institute, and evaluator for the National Association of Schools of Music.

DR. EUGENE HOBBS, professor of mathematics and chair of the science and mathematics division, joined the OBU faculty in 1996. He moved to OBU after a long tenure on the mathematics faculty at East Central University.

JOHN LITTLE has been OBU's director of estate and gift planning since 1998. He formerly served on the University's

board of trustees. Prior to joining OBU, he worked for the State Insurance Fund, the Oklahoma Tax Commission, and the Oklahoma State Board of Affairs, and also as a practicing certified public accountant.

SANDRA MEYER, associate professor of music, joined the OBU faculty in 1975. She has taught in the piano and theory departments. She also has worked as a piano instructor and music theater accompanist for Williams Syndrome Music and Art Camps in the U.S. and Northern Ireland. A nationally certified member of the Music Teachers National Association, she currently is serving as state president of the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association.

Myers Receives Oklahoma Book Award for Poetry

Dr. Benjamin Myers, OBU associate professor of English, recently received the 2011 Oklahoma Book Award for Poetry for his book, "Elegy for Trains."

The prestigious award is given annually to books by Oklahoma authors or about Oklahoma in five categories: poetry, design/illustration, children/young adult, non-fiction and fiction.

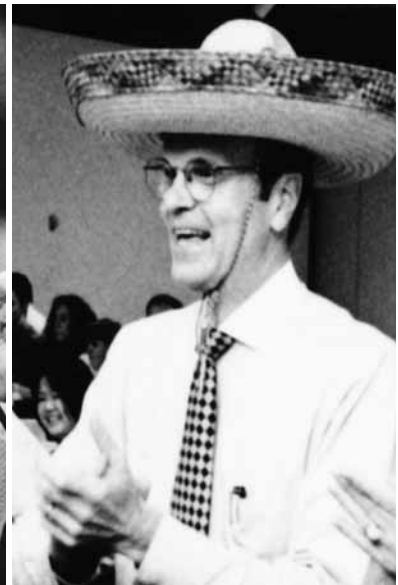
Myers poetry is intimately connected to the landscape of Oklahoma. "These meditative poems range from the rural to the urban, the past to the present, from gain to inevitable loss, and the universal to the personal – all with the ease of grace," Oklahoma Book Award winner Carl Sennhenn said about Myers' work.

The award is sponsored by the Oklahoma Center for the Book, a state affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The center is organized to focus attention on the vital role of books and reading in Oklahomans' lives. The Center promotes the past, current and future works of Oklahoma authors; promotes the literary heritage of the state; and encourages reading for pleasure by Oklahomans of all ages.

Past winners in poetry include Poet Laureate of Oklahoma Jim Barnes, N. Scott Momaday, Joy Harjo and Leanne Howe.

Reared in Chandler, Myers now resides in the Lincoln County town with his wife and three children. His poems have appeared in numerous literary journals, including *Ruminate*, *The Mid-America Poetry Review*, *Möbius* and *Byline*.





Hammond Retires After a Quarter Century

Dr. Paul Hammond, dean of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts, announced his retirement in spring 2011 after 25 years of service on Bison Hill. Hammond and his wife, Anne, joined the OBU faculty in 1986.

Hammond came to OBU from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., where he served as chairman of the church music department. Following the legendary Dr. James D. Woodward as dean, Hammond oversaw expansion of the College of Fine Arts in several areas and initiated the "Friends of the Arts" program to encourage support among alumni and friends of OBU. During his tenure, the College of Fine Arts has become more diverse and is much more than a music department.

"We have a vibrant art and graphic design division, excellent theatre and telecommunication programs, and many different music programs of study to fit today's profession," Hammond said. "I am pleased that the orchestra has existed now for 10 years with professional string principals. As a town-and-gown ensemble, it is comprised of 50 percent OBU students, and faculty and fine musicians from as far as a 50-mile radius. Music education remains our largest professional

program, and the church music options are much more diverse. We will have choral scholarships for the first time starting in the fall."

In addition to his duties as dean, Hammond has taught courses on church music, music history and fine arts. He said he has cherished working with the students and faculty because the real satisfaction in his job comes from facilitating the teaching-learning process. In return, OBU graduates report how they have been successfully prepared for whatever field or endeavor they enter.

"OBU has always provided a balance of professional preparation, critical thinking and writing skills, and Christian growth," Hammond said. "Our students make a difference because they can stand on equal footing with their peers and show Christ through their personal lives."

Serving as dean of a fine arts college is not all work and no play, and Hammond recalled several creative performances through the years.

"There have been some very outlandish M&Ms concerts," he said. "I especially remember a band performance with

floor polishers and vacuum cleaners. The Theatre for Young Audiences productions have always been hilarious, especially as I've sat with the school groups."

He also has witnessed landmark performances. He said the production of "A Streetcar Named Desire" advanced OBU Theatre and set the stage for further growth. The oratorios, conducted by world-renowned choral directors, remain highlights of his time as dean.

"Hanging of the Green has become a community-wide event that begins the Advent season for many of us," he said, noting his personal favorite annual event. "As it has evolved over the years, each presentation takes on a different theme. It is worthy of a wider audience; my desire has always been to produce a PBS show that could be aired nationwide."

During his tenure, Hammond has published a variety of articles on such subjects as "Hymns and Hymnody in Revivalism," "The Christian Lyre and Its Influences on American Hymnody" and on shape-note hymnody in America. He has served as managing director for the Oklahoma Alliance for Liturgy and



on Bison Hill

the Arts, program chair for the Da Vinci Institute, an evaluator for the National Association of Schools of Music and chairman of the board of trustees for the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art in Shawnee. He is a member of the Program Review Advisory Board of the Commission on Teacher Preparation for Oklahoma.

His wife, Anne, also is retiring from her role as an associate professor of English and language and chair of the Language and Literature Division in the College of Arts and Sciences. However, they both will teach OBU courses in the fall, and they will stay involved at First Baptist Church in Shawnee where he has served as a deacon, trustee and choir member, among other roles including interim minister of music.

The Cincinnati natives never thought of living west of the Mississippi. After 13 years in Arkansas, Oklahoma struck them as having a more Midwestern feel. Hammond said they have greatly enjoyed the renaissance that has taken place in Oklahoma City in recent years. In the near future, they plan to stay in their adopted home of Oklahoma, although they welcome the opportunity to travel in their newfound freedom called retirement.

Highlights of the Hammond Era

Named Dean of Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts in 1986

Friends of the Arts program begun to support the College of Fine Arts

Began "Friends of the Arts" newsletter in 1987

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers recognized the University Ringers as one of the exemplary college handbell programs in 1990

OBU Preparatory Program continued to reach more children with choirs receiving state and national recognition

Initiated OBU Oratorio program combining all choral organizations under the direction of nationally known guest conductors; group sang Brahms' "Requiem" with Tulsa Philharmonic in 1990

Art Building renovated and remodeled; Arts Annex building acquired

Celebrated the 90th birthday of Dean Warren M. Angell in May 1997

Potter Auditorium, Yarborough Auditorium, music studios, and classrooms remodeled in 1999-2000; building made handicap accessible; organ console replaced and enlarged to include a four-manual keyboard

OBU/Shawnee Community Orchestra inaugurated in 2001 with funding from Kirkpatrick Foundation and in cooperation with University of Oklahoma

Craig-Dorland Theater renovated in 2003

Division of Music added Worship Arts component in 2006; graphic design major introduced by Department of Art in 2007

OBU Theatre's presentation of "As It Is In Heaven" named best play presented at the 2009 Region VI Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

OBU electronic media production students regularly win the majority of top awards in competition with state and regional colleges



Bison Eliminated from World Series with 7-5 Loss to Concordia

For the first time in 15 years, the Bison baseball team earned a berth in the NAIA World Series. Coach Bobby Cox led the team to a No. 3 seed in the national tournament in Lewiston, Idaho, in late May.

OBU compiled a 46-14 record, finished second in the Sooner Athletic Conference regular season and runner-up in the conference tournament. The Bison won the NAIA's Opening Round tournament in Joliet, Ill., in mid-May to punch their ticket for the World Series. The Bison went 1-2 in the double-elimination tournament. After falling to Lubbock Christian 7-2 in their first game, OBU bounced back for a come-from-behind 8-6 victory over Tennessee Wesleyan. The Bison fell to Concordia (Calif.), 7-5, on the third day of the series.

"This is a special group of guys," said Cox. "They work hard. They never take a pitch off and they have represented our program well."

Completing his 27th year as the Bison skipper, Cox took his third team to the World Series. The Bison finished fourth in the nation in 1989. They last advanced to the tournament in 1996.

The Bison pitching staff ended the year leading the nation in strikeouts. The OBU hurlers amassed 486 strikeouts over the 60-game campaign.

The loss marked the end of the collegiate careers for 13 Bison seniors, including Alan Trayler, Jonathan Gelpi, Anthony Lopez, Reece Alnas, Brenden Davis, Jesse Orozco, Ryan Plum, Michael Sliger, Blake Gallacher, Steven Blanchette, Richie Mirowski, Kyle Brule and Mike Giaramita.

Trayler and Lopez led OBU with 15 home runs each. Mirowski compiled an 11-2 record to lead the team in victories. Sliger led the team in batting with a .405 average for the season.

"These guys restored the tradition of Bison baseball after some disappointing years," said Cox. "They set the example in leadership, and our next group of seniors can look to that example."

The team earned an OBU milestone win this spring, as the Bison gave Cox his 1,000th career victory with a 17-7 run-rule defeat of Southwestern Oklahoma State on April 5 in front of home fans at Bison Field at Ford Park.

OBU Women's Indoor Track and Field Wins Fourth Banner

OBU successfully defended its national championship in March, winning the NAIA Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships in Geneva, Ohio. It was the fourth national championship banner for the Lady Bison in the past seven years.

The team won despite an injury to one of its projected high-scoring athletes. Gayon Evans came up lame in the 60 meters and did not compete in the 200, where she was the second seed, nor the 4x400 meter relay, which she was to anchor.

"Verone Chambers had a great meet. Whenever you have 10 girls score points, that's a great team," said OBU coach Ford Mastin. "That's strong. If you had told me that Gayon wouldn't score at all, I would have thought we wouldn't win the meet. She's just so competitive and goes so hard that her legs couldn't take it."

The meet's MVP, Chambers stepped into the anchor role and claimed her third title of the championships along with Stacy Warrior, Shondia Drew and Nikita Tracey in the 4x400 relay, which was more victory lap than the dramatic finish OBU turned in in 2010. The team won in 3:44.16.

The Lady Bison had the meet won heading into the final event and finished with 75 points, followed by Simon Fraser at 58 and Azusa Pacific at 56. But the Lady Bison won the meet long before that, Mastin said.

"I knew they were going to win in the fall," said the longtime

coach. "They were too committed to win to do otherwise. You could just see it in their eyes."

In the 600 meter run, Tracey (1:33.38), Yesenia Avila (1:33.76) and Sarah Patterson (1:34.38) went 2-3-4 to give OBU 18 points. Chambers won the 400 meters in 54.83 seconds with Warrior coming in second at 55.02 to give the Lady Bison 18 points in that event.

Chambers won the 200 meters for 10 points and a national championship in 24.03 seconds and also picked up eight points in the 60-meter hurdles in second place with a time of 8.48 seconds.

Nicole Cummings added to the fun, scoring points that the seed suggested would not come, with a fifth-place finish in the triple jump at 38-10.25.

The Lady Bison 4x800 relay squad of Tracey, Whitney Day, Andrea Mellontree and Avila were seeded seventh and not expected to score, but instead picked up six points with a third-place finish at 9:08.63. Evan Shimanek was seeded sixth but got fourth in the pole vault, clearing 12-2.75.

The Lady Bison added to their national success in late May, finishing second at the NAIA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Marion, Ind. The Bison squad finished third in the nation at the outdoor meet. For more details, visit obubison.com.

Former Olympic Coach Heads Swim Program

Former Olympic and NCAA Division I swim coach Sam Freas has been named the first swimming and diving coach at OBU.

Dr. Freas, who coached the Republic of South Africa's swim team in the Olympics, has been the head coach at Arkansas, Hawaii and Louisiana State, as well as SUNY-Potsdam and Allegheny College.

"We are fortunate to have a man with Dr. Freas' credentials and background in swimming and diving here at OBU," said former OBU Director of Athletics Norris Russell. "We anticipate that he will get our program up and running in no time."

Freas has won at every stop in his career. He was 64-12 at Allegheny, 84-15 at Arkansas, 61-9 at LSU and 40-0 at Hawaii in dual meets, compiling multiple top-10 team finishes with each program. His swimmers at Arkansas set seven U.S. records, three world records and produced 11 Olympians and one world champion. In all, 19 of his college swimmers have competed in the Olympics.

In addition to his work with athletic programs, Freas has served as a faculty member at Arkansas, LSU and Allegheny College. He also was director of athletics and health, physical education and recreation at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, and associate dean at Palm Beach State College in West Palm Beach, Fla.

"He's a legend in the swimming world, and we're excited to have him come join the OBU family," said Jack Peavey, OBU assistant athletic director for new sport implementation.

An author of several books on swimming, Freas served as president and CEO of the International Swimming Hall of Fame from 1989-2004.

Freas attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and graduated from Springfield College with bachelor's and master's degrees. He studied toward a Ph.D. degree at Iowa before earning a doctorate in education from California Western.

OBU Alum Robert Davenport Named Athletic Director

Longtime college coach Robert Davenport was introduced as OBU's full-time athletic director in late May. Davenport started in the new role on June 2.

"Robert brings a rich background of experience with collegiate athletics and a personal commitment to Christian higher education," said OBU President David Whitlock. "He understands the role athletics play in the life of a vibrant Christian university, and he is excited to build upon our historic success and bring OBU to even greater levels of ministry effectiveness. Robert has served the NAIA and the NCAA at the national level. He is a respected leader in college athletics, and he is anxious to lead our athletics programs."

Davenport, a 1988 OBU graduate, moves to OBU from Wayland Baptist University, where he had served as head men's basketball coach since 2005. The Olive, Okla., native played basketball for OBU for two seasons, and returned to his alma mater as a basketball assistant coach from 1993-97.

"Obviously, it is a huge honor to be named to this position at my alma mater," Davenport said. "This is something I had prayed about and dreamed about. Having played there and coached there, I feel invested in the department. (Davenport's wife) LeAnna and I are extremely excited about the opportunity to be back in the OBU family on Bison Hill."

Davenport succeeds Dr. Norris Russell, who served as athletics director for 23 years, leading development of one of the largest programs in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Russell will move into a full-time role as professor of kinesiology and leisure studies and chair of OBU's division of kinesiology and leisure studies. He also will continue to provide leadership for the university's wellness program, including the Recreation and Wellness Center and a thriving intramural program.

Russell will serve as senior athletics administrator for the 2011-12 academic year, working with Davenport in a transitional period.

"Following Dr. Russell won't be an easy task," Davenport said. "He is someone I look up to and respect. I am glad he will still be around to work with me in this transition."

After graduating from OBU with a degree in public relations, Davenport worked at two financial institutions in Texas before beginning his coaching career as an assistant basketball coach at Collin County Community College.

He was an assistant coach at OBU before taking his first job as a head coach at LeTourneau University in 1997. He served one-year stints there and at Missouri Baptist before joining former OBU basketball coach Bob Hoffman's staff at Texas-Pan American in 1999. He was promoted to head coach in 2003 and was named head coach at Wayland Baptist in 2005.



OBU's athletic department has won eight national championships, and student-athletes in OBU's 17 current varsity sports and eight junior varsity-level sports make up a strong percentage of the university's student body.

OBU adds men's and women's swimming and diving in 2011, lacrosse in the spring of 2013 and football in the fall of 2013. The additions will bring the number of varsity sports to 21.

"I am excited about the direction of the athletic department," Davenport said. "Adding new sports will give us the opportunity to build on our reputation."

Davenport earned a master's degree in secondary education from East Central University in 1996. He will begin a doctoral program this year. Robert and LeAnna have been married 23 years and have two children. Their daughter, Morgan, is 16, and their son, Reid, is 12.



Russell Leaves Legacy of Growth and Success

Citing a desire to remain in a full-time academic role, Dr. Norris Russell stepped down from his part-time post as OBU athletic director in early June. The part-time job has produced a legacy of big-time results in small college athletics.

During the 2011-12 academic year, Russell will serve as senior athletics administrator, working with Robert Davenport,

OBU's new full-time athletics director, to facilitate a smooth leadership transition.

Russell joined OBU as a faculty member, and began his tenure as athletic director in 1988. He will continue as professor of kinesiology and leisure studies and chair of OBU's Division of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies. He also oversees the university's wellness program, which includes the OBU Recreation and Wellness Center and the recently completed McDowell Family Intramural Complex. Approximately 50 percent of OBU's 1,777 students participate in a robust intramural program.

Under Russell's leadership, OBU's athletics program has grown to become one of the largest programs in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Since 1988, OBU has added men's and women's soccer and women's golf. The university also brought back the women's volleyball and women's track programs, rejuvenated the tennis and men's golf programs, and added junior varsity squads to most existing sports. In December 2010, OBU announced the addition of football, men's and women's swimming and diving and women's lacrosse based on research Russell led. By the time the new sports are implemented, OBU will have 21 varsity teams.

Along with enlarging the number of varsity sports, the university has built new softball, baseball, softball and soccer fields, a new track, additional tennis courts, a new track building and a new baseball and softball building. With Russell at the helm of the athletics and wellness programs, OBU opened one of the most popular buildings on campus, the Recreation and Wellness Center, in 2007.

On Russell's watch, OBU has more than doubled its student-athlete population. Seven of OBU's eight national championships and nine of its 11 national runner-up finishes

have come during Russell's tenure. There have been more than 750 All-America honors and 125 All-America Scholar Athletes.

"With the growth of our athletics area, we have reached a point where it was unfair to ask one person to lead both athletic and academic programs," said Randy L. Smith, OBU executive vice president for business and administrative services. "Dr. Russell has provided strong leadership for both areas. While he is moving to fully work with our academic programs, we are going to be able to use his athletics expertise during this transitional period."

"OBU owes a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Norris Russell," said OBU President David Whitlock. "During his tenure, Russ has seen OBU grow in the number of varsity sports, adding nine teams. Of the eight national championships in OBU's history, seven have come during Dr. Russell's tenure. While he has guided this clipper through the waters of collegiate athletics, he also has led in establishing an outstanding reputation for OBU's Kinesiology and Leisure Studies academic program. He has provided the leadership for the academic programs, helping students move into successful careers or be accepted to outstanding graduate programs. We are pleased that Dr. Russell will be continuing to provide leadership for our academic program."

A 2005 OBU Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, Russell was named 2010 Sooner Athletic Conference Athletic Director of the Year. The Oklahoma Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance named Russell the 2003 recipient of the Honor Award, the highest recognition offered by the organization.

Russell's academic role also has brought recognition. He received OBU's highest faculty honor, the Distinguished Teaching Award, in 1999. He also serves as one of two faculty marshals for OBU.

Russell attended Rice University, earning a bachelor of science degree in health/physical education and biology. He continued his education at East Texas State University and earned a master of science degree in health and physical education. Russell also completed his Ph.D. degree at ETSU.

Before coming to OBU, Russell taught at ETSU. He has published two editions of a book and has had his work appear in numerous publications.

He and his late wife, Dr. Jimmie Russell, have two grown children, Jeremy and Meredith. Russell also is a proud grandfather.

Peavey and Fluke Named Assistant Athletic Directors

Preparing for growth in OBU's athletic program, the University named two new assistant athletics directors during the spring semester.

Jack Peavey was named assistant athletic director for new sports implementation and director of football operations in February. Steve Fluke, a 1988 OBU graduate, was named assistant athletic director for compliance in May.

Peavey moved to OBU from Texas A&M-Commerce where he was assistant head coach/offensive line coach.

"Jack brings a portfolio of great contacts in fundraising," said OBU President David Whitlock. "As he discussed his own spiritual growth over the last several years and his desire to invest his life in God-honoring service, he convinced me that his greatest desire is to see God glorified through a Christ-centered athletics program. He will serve alongside our great athletics department in developing these new sports as model programs befitting a Christian liberal arts university."



Jack Peavey

In his capacity at OBU, Peavey will be responsible for overseeing the hiring of the coaching staff, facility implementation, equipment purchase, scheduling, fundraising and budget preparation.

Prior to A&M-Commerce, Peavey had stops as a football head coach at Southwest Baptist University and William Paterson University. He also was offensive coordinator at Mississippi College and Millsaps College, and a position coach at Alabama State University, the University of Arkansas, Brown University, Jacksonville State University, Millersville University and the University of Rhode Island.

As a high school football coach at Bishop Feehan in Attleboro, Mass., he advanced to four consecutive state championship

games, winning three in a row and posting a 44-4-2 record in a four-year span.

Peavey was also a successful student athlete, where he earned multiple honors and went on to play in the National Football League with the New England Patriots and the Denver Broncos.

Fluke moves to OBU after serving as director of athletics and activities for Shawnee Public Schools since 1999.

"Steve has a proven record of successful administrative leadership," said Randy L. Smith, OBU executive vice president for business and administrative services. "He understands OBU's mission, and he is a proven leader in our local community. We are delighted to have him fill this post in our athletic department."



Steve Fluke

Fluke will oversee NAIA compliance for the University's 19 varsity teams. He also will handle other administrative roles for the collegiate program which will grow to 21 varsity teams with the addition of football and women's lacrosse in 2013. During the 2011-12 academic year, Fluke will serve as OBU's interim tennis coach. He will temporarily replace Sue Dick, who had served as part-time tennis coach at the University since 2001.

In his 12-year tenure with Shawnee Schools, Fluke guided an athletics program which is a consistent power among Oklahoma Class 5A schools. Shawnee fields 19 high school sports teams and 10 middle school athletic programs. The high school programs have garnered several state titles and runner-up finishes, as well as many academic honors. From 1991-99, Fluke was a teacher and coach with Shawnee Public Schools. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from OBU. He is a Certified Athletic Administrator and has served as a tournament director for many Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association regional and state tournaments.



Strike Out Cancer

Oklahoma Baptist University's Strike Out Cancer game raised \$2,260 for Susan G. Komen for the Cure in April. The baseball team sold T-shirts, auctioned the player jerseys and had money donated for free meals. The night included the players and coaches wearing pink jerseys, a free meal of chicken sandwiches, pink lemonade, chips and dessert donated by Aramark, and a 12-2 victory over St. Gregory's.



OBU Students Grieve Homeland Tragedy

THE WORLD WATCHED IN
HORROR AT THE AFTERMATH
OF THE MAGNITUDE 8.9
EARTHQUAKE WHICH HIT
JAPAN ON MARCH 11,
INCLUDING A TSUNAMI-
DRIVEN 30-FOOT WALL OF
WATER WHICH WASHED OVER
THE JAPANESE SHORE. FOR
FOUR OBU STUDENTS, THE
IMAGES TOLD OF THE LARGEST
EARTHQUAKE TO EVER HIT
THEIR HOMELAND AND THE
ENSUING DAMAGE.

The lives of Nastumi Nemoto, Daisuke Shimokawa, Atsuko Takakura and Wilson (Junior) Leal were impacted by the recent natural disaster.

Takakura, an exchange student from Seinan Gakuin University majoring in political science, is from Fukuoka, which is located on the northern shore of the island of Kyusyu. When the earthquake hit Japan, she had just arrived at La Guardia Airport in New York. A shuttle bus driver told her about the news and the tsunami warning. They listened carefully, and Takakura learned her hometown was not heavily damaged.

"But the next morning, a friend who joined me in New York said, 'Tohoku District got the tsunami,'" Takakura said. "After that, about 200 corpses were washed up."

Every day the number of victims increased. In the weeks and months since the initial earthquake, death tolls rose to more than 15,000 and Japan struggled to stabilize a crippled nuclear reactor plant.

Shimokawa and Takakura organized a donation effort in the Geiger Center to aid Japanese victims through the Japanese Red Cross. Through student donations and support of local churches, they raised more than \$1,500 to send home. They also distributed silicone bracelets that read "Pray for Japan" to raise prayer support.

"We discussed a lot about our country, and tried not to be influenced too much by emotion and sadness because there was much wrong information," she said. "Even so, we really felt powerless."

Takakura said all her family members in Fukuoka were fine, although they suffered a few earthquakes. Yet the disasters indirectly changed their lives. Her father works at a soy-source company, and its production greatly increased because the other company at Ibaragi suffered damage from the earthquake. His company hired people who moved to Fukuoka from the Tohoku District, and most of them are still looking for family members, she said.

While her family was not directly affected, Takahura said they see people all around them facing changes. Many people from Tohoku District, who lost everything, moved to Fukuoka because of unemployment. One of her friends who lives in the middle of Japan was not able to buy bottles of water for a month. Her college, Seinan Gakuin University, started accepting students from Tohoku District for free.

As volunteers from around the world work to help in the wake of the disasters, Takakura expressed her appreciation for all who donated to the fund through OBU, as well as the support for her country by the United States Navy.

SOMETHINGNEW



Legends of the West
Given to OBU by First Baptist
Church, Oklahoma City.