

WINTER 2011

OBU

magazine

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OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



**Fall
2013**

Football Returns To Bison Hill 2
Celebrating The OBU Influence 6
Pledging To Continue A Tradition 16

In less than 31 months, we will be cheering for the Bison as we resume varsity competition in football for the first time since 1940. The addition of football, men's and women's swimming, and women's lacrosse will add to our strong varsity sports program. We will rekindle old traditions and launch new ones as we get back on the gridiron.

One tradition that will not change is our commitment to our mission of transforming lives through academic excellence, and integrating faith and learning. Our vision for athletics is a means of teaching the virtues of competition, discipline, and teamwork. Our vision is for these new teams to set a high standard of excellence both on and off the field – or as the case may be – in and out of the pool. We believe that character development and diligent preparation in athletics, within a framework of a rigorous liberal arts education, is both noble and consistent with our mission.



We work hard to anticipate and address the needs and desires of our current and future students. This is why, for example, we included new residential life facilities in our campus master plan. Today's high school students have housing expectations far different from those of my generation. Likewise, as high school football has taken on a greater year-round focus for student-athletes, many are seeking a college that will let them continue that passion while pursuing a degree. We have a tremendous opportunity to attract those students and nurture their development academically, physically, socially, and spiritually.

Many students, their friends and their families will consider OBU because of an interest in a particular academic or extracurricular program. Some who express an interest in OBU's programs in swimming, lacrosse or football will discover the outstanding education for which OBU is well known. They also will find a campus atmosphere that fosters spiritual maturity and lifelong friendships.

To be clear, the overriding factor in making the decision to implement these new sports is our belief that they will enhance and expand our mission as a Christian liberal arts university, equipping students to pursue academic excellence, integrate faith with all areas of knowledge, engage a diverse world, and live worthy of the high calling of God in Christ.

That tradition will not change.

Exciting days are ahead for OBU. We are thankful to have you on our team.

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

David Wesley Whitlock
OBU President

OBU

magazine

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Winter 2011 | Vol. 7 • No. 2

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

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Features

2 Football Returns To Bison Hill

The sounds of the gridiron will reverberate on the campus in 2013 as OBU resumes varsity football after a 73-year hiatus.

6 Celebrating The OBU Influence

As three alumni receive top awards during the Centennial Homecoming, they recall how OBU changed them.

8 Pledging To Continue A Tradition

With one of the best four-year graduation rates in the region, OBU makes a promise to new students that can save them time and money.

Departments

Profiles in Excellence 8

A persevering student-athlete, a musician, and a university professor are among alumni honorees.

Campus Life 16

Faculty and student news from Bison Hill.

Alumni Notes 25

Read the latest updates from OBU alumni.

A horizontal banner at the top of the page featuring a green-tinted photograph of several football players in action on a field.

"OBU Football.

FOOTBALL

RETURNS TO BISON HILL IN 2013

For more than a decade,
one of the best-selling shirts in
the OBU Bookstore has declared
a simple, true, yet audacious, message:

**"OBU Football.
Undefeated Since 1940."**

The bottom half of the page features a blurred, close-up photograph of green grass, serving as a background for the lower text.

Undefeated Since 1940.”

How long that claim remains accurate is yet to be determined as varsity football returns to Bison Hill in the fall of 2013.

However, a new tradition is about to begin for OBU students, alumni and friends. On Dec. 16, 2010, OBU President David W. Whitlock announced the addition of four new varsity sports programs. Men's and women's swimming teams will dive into action in the fall of 2011. Women's lacrosse will begin competition on a club sport level in the 2012-13 year. Those new sports have attracted interested students, but the news that collegiate football is returning to Shawnee has commanded most of the attention from the OBU family.

“After a very careful and deliberative process and



in light of the Athletic Committee's recommendation and a multitude of other factors I have considered, I am announcing today that OBU will add men's and women's swimming, women's lacrosse, and men's football to our athletics programs," said Dr. Whitlock.

Earlier in December, the Athletic Committee, chaired by Dr. Bobby Kelly, Strickland associate professor of New Testament, voted 8-1 in favor of all of the new sports teams. That process was similar, in many respects, to the actions of an OBU faculty committee in 1940. That group voted to recommend "discontinuance" of the University's varsity football program. The current committee aggressively sought input on the sports options from students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. Campus meetings, teleconferences, online surveys and an assortment of informal gatherings provided opportunity for stakeholders to share their opinions, concerns and excitement about the possibilities.

"The overriding factor in making this decision is the belief that these new programs will enhance and expand our mission as a liberal arts university, equipping students to pursue academic excellence, integrate faith with all areas of knowledge, engage a diverse world, and live worthy of the high calling of God in Christ," Whitlock said.

"Our vision for athletics is a means of teaching the virtues of competition and discipline and teamwork. Our vision for these new teams will be to set a high standard of excellence

both on and off the field of competition – or as the case may be – in and out of the pool of competition. We believe that character development and diligent preparation in athletics within a framework of a rigorous liberal arts education is both noble and consistent with our mission."

OBU began studying the possibility of adding football in 2006-07, but opted to postpone a decision. More study began in 2010 and included start-up and annual cost, impact on academics, housing and other campus concerns.

"We looked at some sister institutions to see what we could learn from them," said OBU Athletic Director Norris Russell. "Several small Christian colleges have added football in the last 10 years and it has been a sport that brings in a large number of male students and has a very positive impact on student life."

It is estimated that the sports will add more than 170 student-athletes to the campus and generate more than \$750,000 in net revenue.

OBU is a member of the Sooner Athletic Conference and the NAIA. While there are no plans to change those affiliations, the SAC does not participate in any of those sports.

OBU will apply for membership in the Central States Football League, which currently includes conference members Northwestern Oklahoma State University and Southern



OBU FOOTBALL 1921

"We looked at some sister institutions to see what we could learn from them," said OBU Athletic Director Norris Russell.
"Several small Christian colleges have added football

New Teams Will Raise Number of Varsity Sports To 21

Football is just one of four new sports teams OBU will phase in over the next 30 months. For University administrators, the opportunity to gain the attention of large numbers of high school student-athletes was too appealing to ignore.

There are more than 29,000 high school swimmers in the six-state region surrounding OBU. Swimming is similar to

track and field in that no conference affiliation is necessary. Swimmers qualify for the NAIA meet by meeting time standards. OBU will have the only varsity college swim team in Oklahoma. There are 24 NAIA schools offering swimming with two in Missouri and none in Texas, Kansas, Arkansas or Colorado.

"We would be the only varsity collegiate program in Oklahoma and we could be a trend-setter in that regard," said Athletic Director Norris Russell. "People we've talked to about swimming have encouraged us. There are a lot of good swimmers in Oklahoma who have to leave the state to continue their careers."

Lacrosse is a little more challenging. The NAIA does not compete in lacrosse. Currently, women's lacrosse is played

Nazarene University, along with Langston, Bacone, Texas College, Southwestern Assemblies of God and Oklahoma Panhandle State University. SAC member Wayland Baptist also will be a part of the league in 2012.

OBU football was 8-2-1 in its final season in 1940, winning an All Oklahoma Collegiate Conference championship. The Bison beat Arkansas 6-0 in 1925. OBU was 109-71 with two conference championships in 21 seasons of football.

In December 1940, OBU President John W. Raley, citing a continued fiscal deficit for the football program, asked trustees to drop the sport. The board complied, focusing on other initiatives as the University moved out of the Great Depression and Dust Bowl days.

Today, OBU administrators see new opportunities for growth as football is added. Initial start-up costs are estimated at \$1.5 million. A lead gift of \$1 million has given the University a significant start toward covering those expenses.

Dr. Russell said OBU's new Eddie Hurt Memorial Track Complex can easily be converted into a facility to accommodate both track and field and football. A new football locker room, construction of a press box, and completion of a football practice field are in the plans for the new program.

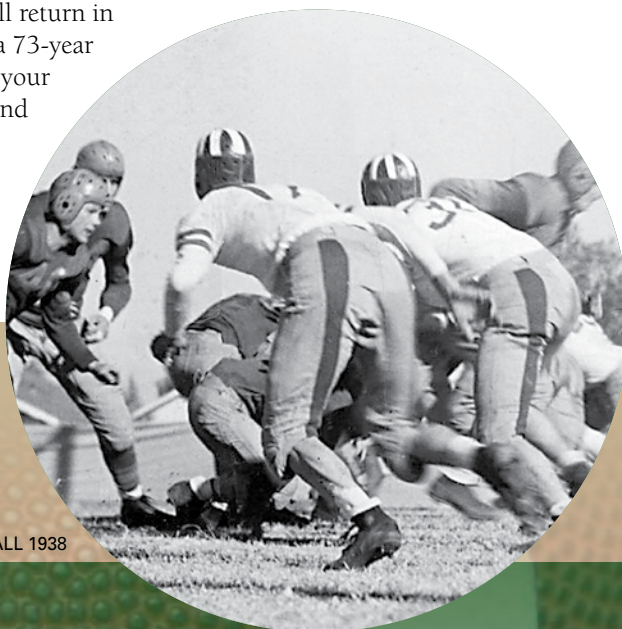
Ninety-two schools played football in the NAIA last fall, including four in Oklahoma, two in Texas, 14 in Kansas and

seven in Missouri. There are more than one million high school football players in the United States.

"We have heard repeatedly, from all corners of the state and across the region, that adding football will attract many students to OBU," Whitlock said. "We see this as a way to extend the reach of OBU as we fulfill our mission. We have the opportunity to create a new tradition and raise awareness about what is happening on our campus."

OBU is currently seeking an assistant athletic director who will oversee new sports implementation and football operations. Coaches have to be hired. Helmet logos and uniforms have to be designed. (Thankfully, padding and other equipment has come a long way since 1940.) Student-athletes have to be recruited. Schedules have to be created. It takes a lot to launch a new program.

Regardless of how long the "undefeated" streak continues, new shirt designs are destined for the OBU Bookstore. Bison Football will return in 2013 after a 73-year hiatus. Get your OBU gear and be ready to celebrate the start of a new tradition. ♦



OBU FOOTBALL 1938

in the last 10 years and it has been a sport that brings in a large number of male students and has a very positive impact on student life."

at 10 NAIA schools. OBU would play a hybrid schedule of varsity and club teams.

"It's novel, but from what we've learned in talking to people, it's doable," Russell said. "It would be a hybrid sport. We look at colleges like Lindenwood as an example of how to make that work."

Lindenwood, located in St. Louis, competes in the Women's Collegiate Lacrosse League, which includes more than 100 club teams. Lindenwood is in a division with Illinois, Wisconsin, Marquette and Northwestern.

Lacrosse has been identified as a growing sport in Oklahoma and in the region. Nationally, more than 60,000 girls play high school lacrosse, with many more

involved in club teams.

"We found that lacrosse is one of the fastest growing female sports," Russell said. "A lot of young ladies, especially in metropolitan areas, such as Kansas City, St. Louis and Dallas, are playing lacrosse. It's also very popular at private high schools."

OBU last added a sport in 2008, with the addition of volleyball. The Lady Bison volleyball team won the Sooner Athletic Conference regular season title this year.

Oklahoma Baptist is coming off of one of its best seasons ever in the NAIA, winning the men's national championship in basketball, as well as the women's indoor track and field national title. ♦

Honorees Celebrate Life-Changing

Noting their ties to OBU and love for their alma mater, three alumni received some of the University's top honors during Homecoming 2010.

Alumni Achievement Awards were presented to John E. Gardner III, '64, and Kay Vandevier Henry, '69. Former OBU student-athlete Gerald "Corky" Oglesby, '58, was inducted into the OBU Athletic Hall of Fame.



GARDNER



HENRY

JOHN GARDNER invested 32 years of service with LifeWay Christian Resources, one of the world's largest providers of Christian products and services. He continues to serve in full-time local church ministry.

The Little Rock, Ark., native recalled the path which led him to OBU and noted four musicians with ties to the University who greatly influenced his life: Leroy McClard, '53, Dr. Warren M. Angell, Dr. Gene Bartlett, '54, and Dr. William Reynolds, '39.

"These four men gave me encouragement in what I wanted to do in my calling," Gardner said. "I have tried to follow that example in helping other young men."

Gardner earned a master of education degree in music and administration from the University of Arkansas in 1968. For the next five years, he served as minister of music, minister of administration and church administrator for churches in Oklahoma and Arkansas. In 1973, Gardner joined the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) in Nashville, Tenn. While with the corporation, he was a bi-vocational minister and church consultant.

At LifeWay, Gardner filled roles in the Church Music Department for eight years and the vice president's office for 19 years. He served as national director of associational ministries in the church resources division and as associate to the vice president in the corporate affairs division.

From 1981-2004, he worked as LifeWay coordinator for mega focus cities/strategic focus cities. He served as a liaison with the North American Mission Board from 1982-2005. He also was chief planner with state conventions from 1988-2005.

Since 1985, he has served at ClearView Baptist Church in Franklin, Tenn., as minister of music, minister of education, church administrator, and currently as associate pastor for missions and ministries.

Gardner and his wife, Kaye, have three grown children, John Gardner IV, Hank Gardner and Kimberly Gardner Stinson, and five grandchildren.

KAY VANDEVIER HENRY has woven a career of service which includes work as a teacher, a reporter, an author, a conference speaker, and a church staff member. For many OBU alumni and friends, she is best known for her roles as alumni director and assistant vice president for development at her alma mater.

Crediting colleagues who opened doors of service for her at the University, Henry thanked them for the opportunity to work with longtime supporters of OBU whose "generosity and vision" have helped OBU students.

"Had not I had this path of service open to me, I would never have known these people and seen what God could do through their generosity and sacrifice," Henry said.

Influence of Their Alma Mater



Born in Shawnee, Henry was a reporter for the Shawnee News-Star before accepting a high school teaching post in Columbia, Mo. She worked with preschool ministries at churches in Claremore, Tulsa and Broken Arrow from 1972-88.

Henry became a regional development director for OBU in 1988. From 1989-91, she was executive director of the OBU Alumni Association. She co-directed the \$3.5 million alumni "Bridging the Centuries" campaign.

Henry returned to preschool ministries in 1991, serving as a consultant for conferences and writing materials for local churches, state Baptist conventions and LifeWay Christian Resources. She is the co-author of five books published by Convention Press.

In 1995, Henry returned to OBU. She served as assistant vice president for development, and was co-director of the \$4.5 million nationwide alumni phase of the "Foundation for the Future" campaign. She retired in 2008.

A resident of Seminole, Okla., Henry is married to Joe Henry, a 1970 OBU graduate. They have two children, Dr. Douglas Henry, '92, who is married to Michele Howard Henry, '91; and Jenifer Henry-Gonzalez, '95, and two grandchildren.

CORKY OGLESBY has invested his career in athletics through coaching, recruiting, and fund-raising. He currently serves as development director for the Red Raider Club at Texas Tech.

For longtime fans of OBU basketball, Oglesby is known as the coach who recruited legendary Bison basketball star Al Tucker. Oglesby recruited a notable collection of student-athletes who helped propel Bison basketball to national prominence.

"I'm here tonight because I've loved OBU and the people who are here," he said. "It is the people who are important."

The Oklahoma City native earned a bachelor's degree in health, physical education and recreation from OBU. He was a member of the Bison track team while in college.

Though not on the Bison coaching staff in the mid-1960s, Coach Bob Bass credits him with several key recruiting accomplishments, including bringing Tucker and his brother, Gerald, to Bison Hill from Dayton, Ohio. Oglesby was instrumental in recruiting several members of the OBU teams which reached the NAIA title game in 1965, 1966 and 1967.

He completed a master's degree in education at Texas A&M University. Bass hired him as assistant basketball coach at Texas Tech in 1969. He filled that role until 1976, and then was head track and field coach at Texas Tech from 1977-96. He moved to his current post in 1996.

The longtime Lubbock resident has two children, Chris, 45, and Elizabeth, 39. ♦



Pledging to Continue a **BISON TRADITION**

In an age when more than half of college students earn their “four-year” degrees within six years, OBU has announced “The Bison Pledge” to help students save time and money – and graduate as planned.

The Bison Pledge is a commitment that OBU will offer all required courses necessary for a student to complete an undergraduate degree and graduate with a single major within four years. It states that OBU will provide a qualified faculty advisor to assist each student in scheduling classes, keeping the student on track to graduate in four years. OBU also commits to provide academic support services to assist each student in successfully completing the chosen degree and graduating within four years.

“One of the first questions a student should ask when comparing costs between colleges and universities is not, ‘Do you offer scholarships?’” said Bruce Perkins, OBU director of admissions. “Rather, it is, ‘What is your graduation rate?’ Most schools offer scholarships and grants that are renewable for a

maximum of eight semesters. What if it takes longer than four years for you to graduate? The scholarships and grants are gone, and you are paying out of your own pocket.

“We are so confident in our ability to graduate students in four years that we created The Bison Pledge,” he said. “It is a contract between student and university. If the student does his or her part, we’ll do ours. We’ll get you out of college, into the work force or on to graduate school in four years – saving you both time and money.”



If a student keeps his or her part of The Bison Pledge and is unable to complete the degree within four years, OBU will provide the additional course(s) necessary to complete the degree at no tuition cost or offer acceptable substituted courses.

In return for OBU's commitment, students are asked to enroll in eight consecutive fall and spring semesters, along with the January Term of the freshman year. They must enroll in and successfully complete at least 32 hours per academic year, or the required hours as defined by the chosen degree plan.

To participate in the pledge, a student must declare a single major before beginning the third semester of study and must continue in the selected major throughout studies at OBU. The student must meet at least once per semester with an academic advisors and commit to making satisfactory academic progress through the course of study as defined by OBU's academic catalog.

For more information about The Bison Pledge, contact OBU Admissions at 405.878.2033 or e-mail admissions@okbu.edu. ♦

Nathaniel McGuire '74

Perserverence and Achievement

Nathaniel “Geese” McGuire found himself on the campus of OBU after following his basketball teammate to the school. He decided to stay for the court.

“I fell in love with OBU’s floor,” McGuire said. He had previously played on OBU’s basketball court while at a junior college. Playing with bad knees, he remembered the Clark Craig Fieldhouse floor was soft, which allowed for easier jumping. While he thought he was just coming to play on the floor he loved, he found himself falling in love with the people on Bison Hill.

Coming from a rough neighborhood in Baton Rouge, La., McGuire lacked direction, confidence and hope. However, when he stepped into the OBU locker room he gained inspiration from the sign the head basketball coach, Gene Wallace, had posted that read, “Victory goes to those who persevere.” Wallace explained to McGuire that if he worked diligently he could accomplish anything.

and even got involved in extra-curricular activities. He became one of the earliest presidents of the campus organization Society of Black Americans, which, he said, ironically drew mostly Chinese students as members.

McGuire used his athletic skills to get involved in the community by going downtown with his teammates to play basketball with Shawnee residents. He played ball with students from St. Gregory’s University in his free time.

As his senior year approached, McGuire still struggled academically and on the court. However, Wallace continued to offer McGuire scholarship money, and even paid for summer school and the fall semester so McGuire could complete his graduation requirements. The coach’s efforts had a strong impact on the young athlete.

“He cared when I had nothing left to offer and he had nothing to gain on the basketball court,” McGuire said. “Coach got me



“I will forever be grateful for the many blessings and acts of kindness extended to me during my stay on Bison Hill.”

“He gave me the chance to truly understand the meaning of ‘All things are possible through Christ,’” McGuire said.

Not only did McGuire find encouragement in this Scripture verse on the court; it inspired him off the court as well.

Knowing he wanted to eventually teach, McGuire studied education with an emphasis in social studies. Yet, having a disadvantaged academic background, McGuire was extremely challenged by the topics and the amount of course work. After failing a political economics course multiple times, he turned to his professors for additional aid. He finally passed the course, only after working closely with them.

“They would never give you a grade you did not earn, but were always willing to go out of their way to help you,” McGuire said.

With the encouragement from Wallace, other OBU faculty, and his wife, Janice, McGuire worked steadily through his classes

to see that you can’t always treat everyone the same, but you can be fair and caring toward everyone.”

McGuire took those lessons and applied them to his life and his professional careers.

Upon earning his degree in 1974, McGuire began teaching in the Mid-Del School District. In his beginning years of teaching, he met a member of the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron who advised him on how he could combine the two things he loved: teaching and being part of a team.

McGuire enlisted in the Air Force Reserve in May 1977. He completed training and returned to Tinker Air Force Base, where he worked as a cargo processor and aircraft loader. He eventually became squadron historian, career advisor and then the squadron’s first sergeant. He did this all while earning a master’s degree in education and serving as a teacher, husband and father of three.

He retired from his 31-year career in public education in 2005. He served in varying positions as a coach and as principal for a high school and two middle schools. During his tenure as an administrator he helped found and direct drug and alcohol identification programs, as well as programs in Black History, cultural awareness, and Civil Air Patrol.

He had served as his squadron's first sergeant for 15 years when he retired from teaching. He then became an Air Reserve Technician in the 72nd Squadron. In 2008, he became the squadron's superintendent and was then promoted to Chief Master Sergeant with the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron of the 507th Air Refueling Wing.

In July 2010, he retired after 33 years of military service. He has the second-longest tenure of any first sergeant in the United States Air Force.

McGuire and his wife have three children and six grandchildren. Their oldest daughter and son live and work in the Oklahoma City area. Years after his own experience, he entrusted his youngest daughter to OBU where she spent her freshmen year as the first African American female on the cheerleading squad. She is now preparing to graduate with a degree in education.

Nathaniel and Janice are members of Oklahoma City First Church where he serves on the Church Security Team. He also frequently volunteers at the Veteran's Center.

McGuire attributes many of his successes as a husband, father, teacher, coach, administrator and military leader to the life principles he learned at OBU.

"I will forever be grateful to the coaching staff, student body, support staff and faculty for the many blessings and acts of kindness extended to me during my stay on Bison Hill," McGuire said.

He said the people at OBU taught him to not only never give up, but to trust others, which restored his faith in humanity and taught him how to treat others.



"I came to understand that when we invest time in others, we change the world for the better," McGuire said. "Every day each person should get a fresh start."

McGuire fully grasps and lives by that ideology, claiming he was given new chances every day while at OBU. Wallace and Janice constantly encouraged him to persevere.

"They refused to allow me to fail or drop out of school because things were not going my way on the basketball court or in the classroom," McGuire said.

He still appreciates what he learned from Wallace in the Bison locker room. He has persevered ever since.

"To this day, Coach Wallace is my mentor and friend, along with my dear friend, John W. Parrish, my biggest supporter. I have always received kind words of support and pride from these two 'lifelong Bison,'" McGuire said.

Years ago, the support of the court helped McGuire stay, but it was the long-lasting support of Bison Hill people that helped him achieve. ♦

Nancy Shelton '70

The Essence of Encouragement



Nancy Shelton's own musical talent grew from encouragement she received on Bison Hill. She passes on that spirit to her students and congregation.

As a young teenager, Shelton attended a musical recital and it changed her life – and has affected the lives of countless piano students and church members in the years since.

An organist and music assistant at First Baptist Church in Muskogee, Okla., for 34 years, and a private piano teacher even longer, Shelton continually shares the passion that so inspired her as a child to seek a life in music.

When she was in eighth grade in Muskogee, she heard OBU professor Clair McGavern present a recital at the Oklahoma School for the Blind, where Shelton's aunt taught. After the recital, she was on a quest to learn music under McGavern's instruction.

"The next year I began studying with another teacher who knew Mr. 'Mac,' and also had gone to OBU," Shelton said. "The encouragement was there. I received a small talentship, but enough to let me know that OBU was where I was to go."

McGavern was an innovative professor at OBU, teaching on campus from 1949-74. The annual Concerto-Aria Concert, born from the desire to allow OBU piano majors the opportunity to accompany an orchestra, was the brainchild of McGavern and Dr. Ron Lewis, professor emeritus of music. Started in 1974, it gradually evolved into a university-wide event which includes both instrumentalists and vocalists.

Arriving on Bison Hill, Shelton donned the traditional beanie, which identified her as a freshman. But she almost resented upperclassmen at the time, because they stopped her from enrolling with Mr. Mac.

Despite the disappointment of missing courses taught by McGavern, Shelton began a foundation of learning at OBU that has had an impact on her life since college. She said she knew the professors at OBU took an interest in her, and they inspired her to always do her best.

Encouraging Learning

"The encouragement I received has given me the assurance that I have something to offer to other people," Shelton said. "The friendships formed while in college have continued through the years. I have been proud to say that I'm a graduate of OBU. My musical education was a high quality that required my best."

Planning for her second semester on campus, Shelton asked McGavern if she could study under his tutelage.

"When I asked him about switching to him, my comment was that I was too close to a dream coming true," she said. "He taught me so much more than music and how to be a better pianist. He instilled in me the desire to always do my best work and work to that point, no matter what I did."

Several other professors also offered a lasting influence that Shelton carries with her today. Kathryn O'Bryan Timberlake, professor emerita of music who taught at OBU from 1952-93, helped Shelton realize the importance of knowing theory and how it relates to other areas of music. To this day, Timberlake's lasting influence compels Shelton to ensure her students understand what they are playing.

Dr. Don Clark, professor emeritus of music, taught at OBU from 1967-2002. He was Shelton's voice teacher, and he took her education to new heights – at least musically.

"He was patient with me, convincing my mind that I could actually sing the high notes," she said. "His encouragement helped me enjoy singing even more."

Shelton said it was in Dr. C.L. Bass's music history class that she "finally learned how to study" through his clear instruction about what was expected. She said the methods of the professor, who taught at OBU from 1965-77, helped her know how to make the grade not only in his class, but in her graduate studies as well.

"It was his organized approach to teaching that helped me prepare for the comprehensive exams for my master's degree," she said.

After graduating from OBU in 1970, Shelton taught junior high choral music and strings in the Muskogee Public School system before going to seminary. She earned both a master's degree in music with a piano emphasis and a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. Attending seminary, she said, was somewhat like a Bison Hill reunion since so many OBU classmates were on the Southwestern campus.

"It was while I was at seminary that I began to realize I wanted to teach piano," Shelton said. "I had a few students there who had some of the same challenges I had as a young student. They were working on hymns, and I realized they needed to play them correctly. From that point on, I took teaching seriously."

Shelton served as a teaching fellow her last two years at seminary. Following graduation, she returned to Muskogee, where she began teaching piano for the children's home associated with Bacone College. She taught two days a week at three of the cottages on the Bacone campus and had a few private piano students. Within a year, First Baptist Church of Muskogee approached her about becoming their organist. While her personal studio grew, at church she eventually assumed the role of music secretary and, later, music assistant.

She continues inspiring students with the lessons she learned at OBU four decades ago and sharing the gifts of her music and leadership with her church. Today, she finds the most challenging aspect of working at the church is to keep up with the advances in technology in the office and the overall changes in church music. In teaching, her biggest challenge is keeping up with her students' busy schedules.

"I still try to encourage them to do their best, so find it important to know how to make the best of what practice time they might have," she said.

Shelton stays active in the Oklahoma Music Teachers' Association and National Music Teachers' Association. She serves as theory chair for Oklahoma, and is a member of the National Guild of Piano Teachers. She frequently serves as a judge with the organizations.

In her line of work, the true reimbursement for her care and effort often come with time.

"The most rewarding part of my work at the church is seeing kids I had in children's choirs through the years still being active in the church music program, as well as encouraging their own children in music," she said.

In her private studio, the rewards come when her students pass the initial learning time to actually begin making music. She also appreciates when her students learn – as she did on Bison Hill – the value of theory and how it applies to the music they are learning. Several of her own students have gone on to play in churches, which is most rewarding to Shelton. They go with a healthy dose of encouragement from their instructor.

"OBU was instrumental in showing me the importance of showing the ones around me that I really cared for them as individuals," Shelton said. "It helped me with the 'book knowledge' to enable me to do a better job, but most importantly, I learned the importance of caring. The teachers gave me a never-ending desire to continue learning. My students are surprised when I tell them I learned something from them." ♦

Dr. Omer Hancock '64

As Iron Sharpens Iron

Dr. Omer Hancock should be able to recognize the signs of quality Christian higher education: he has served for 30 years as a professor at Hardin-Simmons University, a college founded in 1891 by a dedicated group of ministers, ranchers and merchants in Abilene, Texas. Before joining the HSU faculty, Hancock served as a pastor of churches in Texas and Oklahoma.

At HSU, Hancock is a professor of church ministry in addition to his role as director of In-Service Training. When he joined the relatively small faculty in the department of religion in 1981, he taught a variety of courses including Old Testament survey, New Testament survey, work of the minister, field education, Pentateuch, prophets, preaching, world religions, spiritual gifts and a class on cults and denominations. The purpose of the In-Service Training Office involves visiting with prospective students, identifying vocational ministry students, providing opportunities for preaching and ministry experiences and processing financial aid for ministry students.

"The most challenging aspect of the work revolves around the need to communicate the Christian faith effectively to students in a world that needs their witness, their integrity, their ministry and their leadership," Hancock said. "The challenge includes both students and faculty to experience a growing faith that addresses the changing contexts of culture."

When he reflects on the foundation he gained in Christian higher education at OBU, Hancock recognizes the characteristics of what prepared him to, in turn, prepare future generations for successful ministry.

Born in Okmulgee, Okla., Hancock felt God calling him to preach when he was 13 years old while attending Falls Creek. He knew he needed to attend OBU for his formal education in preparing for vocational ministry. He also felt drawn to Bison Hill by the group which has been a magnet for many young men: the legendary Bison Glee Club. Another attractive factor for Hancock was that his sister, Sonya Hancock Coker, '60, and brother-in-law, Jim Coker, '64, attended OBU.

"OBU provided a wholesome and stimulating environment that gave me great encouragement in the calling to vocational ministry," said Hancock. "The professors stretched my mind in ways that deepened my faith and sharpened my skills in reading, thinking, communicating and ministering."

He said the professors and classes on Bison Hill opened his mind to a wider and deeper knowledge of life.

"Our college generation benefited from many good professors," he said. "Without detracting from any of my professors, I recall some who made a profound influence on my life."

Dr. Rowena Strickland, he said, taught her Bible and religion classes with devotion, competence and interest in the students. An OBU graduate, Strickland taught at OBU from 1953-84, retiring with the rank of distinguished professor emerita of Bible. Hancock said Strickland's personal encouragement through Bible courses eventually helped open the doors for his seminary training and earning a Th.D. degree in Old Testament.

Dr. Gregory Pritchard also influenced Hancock through the variety of courses he taught in philosophy. Also an OBU alum, Pritchard taught at OBU from 1952-68.

"His pedagogy demanded thorough reading, memorization and critical thinking," Hancock said. "I chose a double minor in religion and

philosophy, which provided a solid foundation for both graduate degrees and vocational ministry."

The primary focus of Hancock's call to ministry was to serve as a pastor. His major was speech, and Dr. Opal Craig, who taught on Bison Hill from 1947-74, became his primary professor.

"She exhibited great patience and straightforward evaluation in her classes, especially with the 'preacher boys' with their ministerial tone," he said.

**OBU professors
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Like so many members of the early Bison Glee Club, Hancock said Dr. Warren Angell stood out as a great teacher, although not in an academic class for credit.

“Dean Angell taught with his eyes, his hands, his voice, his love for life and for people,” Hancock said of the musician, who taught at OBU for 37 years. “We all looked forward to the late afternoon rehearsals.”

Four years on the OBU campus made a lifelong impact on Hancock. He said the Lord provided him more than just a superior college education and lasting friendships; Hancock also met his future wife, Judy Potter from Beaver, Okla. The two began dating in the middle of their junior year. After graduating in 1964, they were married in Stubblefield Chapel on campus on Aug. 1. Dr. James Ralph Scales, the president of OBU from 1961-65, was among those who attended the ceremony.

“Another set of experiences that provided enormous value revolved around the opportunities to preach, participate in weekend revivals and serve in churches as youth and music minister,” Hancock said. “In the summer after my junior year, I was appointed by the Oklahoma Baptist Student Union as a summer missionary in Washington and Idaho.”

Following graduation, the Hancocks relocated to Fort Worth, where they continued their education. Omer completed a master’s degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Judy earned a master’s degree at Texas Christian University, both in 1967. Omer completed his doctorate at Southwestern in 1974.

Those years involved not only expanding educations, but also an expanding family and career. Their daughter Kira was born in 1968. She later attended OBU and graduated in 1990. Their son Kyle was born in 1970. Hancock’s first pastorate was at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church near Lexington, Texas, from 1969-70.

The family relocated to Guymon, Okla., for his second pastorate at Trinity Baptist Church from 1970-75. Their daughter Kirsten was born in 1975.

The third pastorate brought the family to Highland Park Baptist Church in Edmond, Okla., from 1975-81. Their fourth child, Kirk, was born in 1978.

A new ministry direction took the family south across the Red River to a university post in 1981 – the role he still fills at HSU. A member of Pioneer Drive Baptist Church in Abilene, Hancock has remained active as a deacon, Sunday School teacher and member of the licensing and ordination committee. He has served on various committees of the Abilene Baptist Association and actively serves through a variety of committees on campus, too.

In 2001, Hancock was named the outstanding alumnus in Christian vocational ministry by OBU’s Joe L. Ingram School of Christian Service. Just as OBU provided Hancock the environment he needed to encourage him forward in his vocational ministry, stretching his mind and deepening his faith, so he shares those foundational characteristics of a quality education with the future generations of Christian ministers. ♦

Melton Urges Graduates to Value 'This Day'

Reminded to value today and every day as a unique gift from God, 60 OBU graduates received diplomas during the Centennial Winter Commencement on Dec. 17.

During the ceremony in OBU's John Wesley Raley Chapel, the graduates heard from Dr. Doug Melton, '83, president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. Melton serves as pastor of Southern Hills Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

"This is the day you have been dreaming about," Melton said. "This is the day you have been working toward. This is the day that you thought would never get here, and now that it's finally here, it's over so fast: Graduation day. This is the day that, for many of you, your parents have been praying for and paying for, for many years. This is the day that your faculty and administration have been coaching you and coaxing you toward for these years."

Melton said he wanted to point the graduates to Psalm 118:24: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Focusing on the verse in three parts, Melton first considered the phrase, "This is the day." A lifelong self-described worrier, he said he does his best to start each day thanking God for the day of life and for eternal life. He urged the students to consider adopting the same practice. He also said it is a great way to end each day, thanking God for the

opportunities the day provided to live in honor of Jesus Christ.

Melton said the second clause of the verse, "the Lord has made," is the key of the entire verse. He said because God makes each day, it has great purpose to it, it has a great plan, and it is full of possibility.

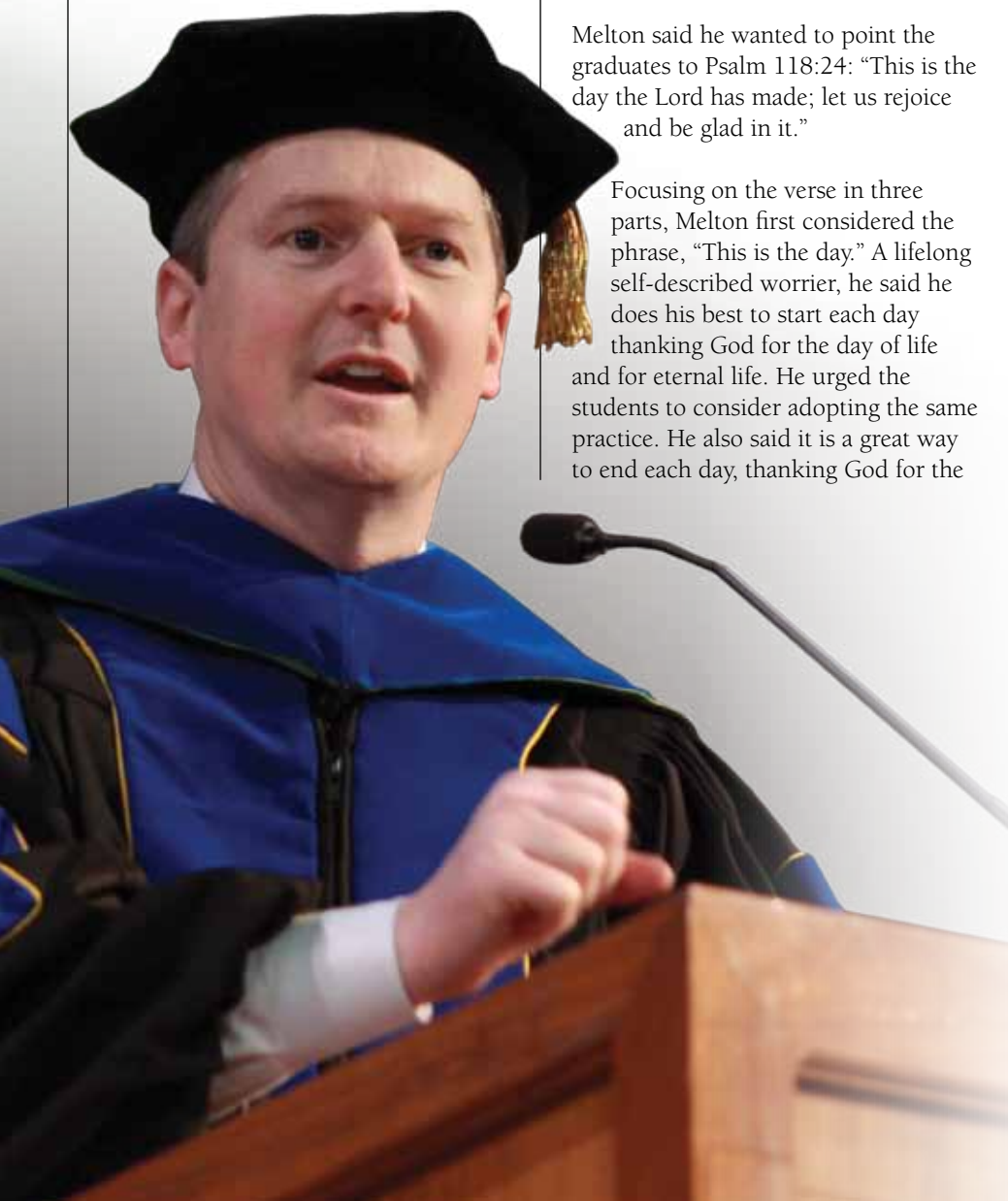
The last part of the verse says, "I will rejoice and be glad in it." Melton said he likes that the verse focuses in on a singular day as well as a singular person. He pointed out that many days of life are considered noteworthy because of the great events they contain, such as graduations and weddings. Many days also bear great challenge. He said each day bears a choice: to rejoice despite the circumstances.

"Graduates, I want you to know that in the days that lie ahead in your life, there will be great triumphs and victories," Melton said. "There will be wonderful times for celebration. But I also want you to understand that in the days that lie ahead, there will be some trials, and there will be loss. There will be some defeats, and there will be suffering.

"But would you choose this day to know and believe that this is the day the Lord has made? I will rejoice. Regardless of what comes, I will rejoice and be glad in it."

As members of OBU's Centennial Class, each graduate received a gold Centennial medallion prior to the graduation exercises. Dr. David Whitlock, president of OBU, brought a charge to the graduates.

The graduating class included two seniors, Maddison Marie Nelson and Aubrey Marie Reynolds, who earned the academic predicate "summa cum laude" for maintaining at least a 3.95 grade point average on all work completed for their bachelor's degrees.



Historic Rock Wall On The Move

Drivers along Shawnee's Kickapoo Street saw the dismantling of a notable fixture on OBU's campus in mid-December as the rock wall which ran along the east border of the campus was removed to accommodate the widening of one of Shawnee's oldest avenues.

However, elements of the historic rock wall are being carefully stored to be reused in OBU's Campus Master Plan. The plan spans projects slated for the next several decades as OBU prepares its 100-year-old campus for continued growth. As a part of the master plan, portions of the wall will be reconstructed along the north and south boundaries of University Street, between Kickapoo and Airport Road.

University officials said relocation of the wall was necessary for the Kickapoo

expansion to a five-lane road. Initial work with city planners included a design which would maintain the historic wall, but that would have resulted in a narrow separation between the wall and the street. Continued discussions led to the plan for OBU to remove the rock structure. As part of the agreement, Shawnee will move existing overhead utility lines underground.

"The rock wall has been part of our campus for 75 years, and we did not want to move it," said Randy Smith, OBU executive vice president for business and administrative services. "However, as we studied all options, it was clear that moving the wall would help to accommodate growth for our community.



"We are very pleased that the overall project will include moving utility lines underground," Smith said. "That will beautify the roadway and shield power lines from weather-related problems."

Workers meticulously saved the rocks of the wall, which originally was a gift to the University from the Class of 1935.



OBU PHOTO 1935

Business Students Fare Well In Capsim Simulation

Seniors in OBU's Paul Dickinson School of Business have again proven themselves among the best business students in the United States.

Competing against 1,855 other teams, two teams of OBU students placed highly in the national Capsim business simulation in the fall semester. Teams of business students represented schools across the country, including Georgia Tech, Michigan State, Penn State and Vanderbilt.

Capsim business simulations engage participants in a dynamic competition to turn struggling companies into successful, profitable businesses. Classes are divided into teams that work together to focus on strategy, finance, production, marketing and key elements that interact to build their business.

OBU's five-person "Andrews" team scored at the 83rd percentile (83 percent of the teams competing had scores below the OBU "Andrews"

team). OBU's six-person "Baldwin" team scored at the 89th percentile (89 percent of the teams competing had scores below the OBU "Baldwin" team).

"The teams' scores are a testament to both the students' hard work and the quality of education they receive at OBU," said Dr. David Houghton, dean of the School of Business. "The strong performance in the Capsim simulation is affirming for both the students and the faculty."

Bison Advance To National Tournament



OBU advanced to the NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship tournament in late November, capping the program's best-ever season.

OBU finished first in the Sooner Athletic Conference regular season race, and then knocked off Oklahoma City University 2-1 in overtime to claim their first-ever conference tournament crown. The Bison then advanced to the 16-team national tournament after a 1-0 overtime defeat of eighth-ranked Kansas Wesleyan in the first round of the NAIA Tournament.

OBU fell 3-2 in a second round match versus William Jewell College in Orange Beach, Ala. That contest included a scoring see-saw in the final 10 minutes, with three goals in a span of 1:53.

The season included a new record for most wins, as the team finished 17-4. Coach Brent Coates' squad picked up the program's first-ever NAIA Tournament victory and first Sooner Athletic Conference regular season and post-season tournament championships.

Sophomore Victor Costa was named Sooner Athletic Conference Men's Soccer Player of the Year. The forward from Natal, Brazil, scored 14 goals to lead the Bison. He tied the school's career record of 28 goals while in his second year.

Coates was named SAC Coach of the Year. Bison Pedro Pereira and Felipe Souza joined Costa on the SAC First Team, while Tito Silva and Cristiano Sampaio were listed on the Second Team.

FINISH: Oklahoma Baptist University 2009-10 Championship Basketball Season

FINISH tells the story of the 2009-10 season in which the OBU Bison compiled a 33-3 record, won the Sooner Athletic Conference championship, and captured the NAIA Men's Division I National Championship – OBU's first national basketball title since 1966.

Written by John W. Parrish, **FINISH** is a 128-page, hard-cover coffee table book with more than 140 color photographs. Buy your copy today!

Out-of-state \$25.00 | Oklahoma \$26.87
INCLUDES TAX & SHIPPING



To purchase, call **405.878.2706** or go to **okbu.edu/100**.

Freshman Earns Volleyball All-America Honors



Freshman Rupia Inck gained the distinction of being OBU volleyball's first NAIA All-American. The middle blocker from Uberaba, Brazil, was named a Second-Team NAIA All-America selection in December.

Inck was First-Team All-Sooner Athletic Conference and SAC Freshman of the Year. She was one of only three freshmen to earn All-America honors.

Inck was 18th in the NAIA with 553 kills this season and had a team-leading 4.04 kills per set. She also led the team with 41 aces and contributed 3.5 digs per set.

Under coach Anna Monson Howle, the Lady Bison won the conference regular season title and finished with a record of 26-10, narrowly missing out on the NAIA national tournament.

Relive OBU History Online

Created during OBU's Centennial celebration, a total of 23 "Centennial Moment" videos are now available on the University's website.

The videos offer glimpses of various aspects of life on Bison Hill from its inception.

The videos are narrated by two OBU graduates: John Holcomb, '88, Tulsa sports director for OKBlitz.com, and Kirsten McIntyre Gantz, '91, anchor/reporter for Oklahoma City's CBS affiliate, KWTW.

Among the featured topics, Centennial Moments reveal how OBU adopted "Ka-Rip" as the school's yell, at what time hundreds of men lived in WMU Dormitory, how 60 acres of wild golden coreopsis influenced the school colors and other details of the University's 100-year history.

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

The video clips are available at www.okbu.edu/100.

Career Fair

2011

march 9

Noon - 3 p.m.
OBU Geiger Center

Recruit talent from Oklahoma's highest rated college in the
U.S. News & World Report rankings for 17 consecutive years.

For more information and to register, go to www.okbu.edu/careerfair.
Inquiries can be sent to stephanie.miller@okbu.edu.

Registration deadline March 2.

Recognize The Excellence of an OBU Alum

You can have a voice in the OBU Alumni Association's awards recognition program by nominating an outstanding alum. Nomination forms, and a listing of previous award recipients, are available at www.okbu.edu/alumni/awards.html.

Here are the four awards and nomination deadlines:

Alumni

Achievement Award

The highest honor bestowed by the OBU Alumni Association, it is given in recognition of outstanding life service which has brought honor to the individual's alma mater. Alumni Achievement Awards are presented each November at the Harvest Dinner during OBU's Homecoming. *Nominations are due April 15.*

Profile In Excellence Award

This honor is given to a former student, not necessarily a graduate, who has demonstrated recognizable accomplishment in his or her profession, business, avocation, or life service in such a way as to bring pride and honor to the University. Each year, 12 Profile In Excellence recipients are selected and each is featured in an article in the *OBU Magazine* and recognized during OBU's Homecoming Chapel service. *Nominations are due August 1.*

Graduate Of the Last Decade Award

The GOLD Award is present annually during Harvest Dinner at Homecoming to a young alum (not necessarily a graduate) of OBU who, in his or her life and career, has demonstrated outstanding achievement and brought pride and honor to the University. *Nominations are due July 1.*

OBU Athletic Hall of Fame

Since its founding in 1969, 104 individuals have been inducted into the Oklahoma Baptist University Athletic Hall of Fame. The Hall was formed to pay tribute to men and women who have helped bring honor and recognition to OBU through their achievements on the

playing fields, or to those persons who by their deeds have made outstanding contributions to the overall athletic program. Honorees are inducted during the annual Homecoming Harvest Dinner, and each is recognized with a plaque in the Hall of Fame, located on the upper level, northeast side of OBU's Noble Complex. *Nominations are due August 1.*



"It was the greatest decision I ever made, not only as academic preparation, but also spiritually, and for establishing friendships that have become lifelong."

OBU was a life-changing experience for Dr. Charles Poor

To help others have that kind of experience, Poor, '58, and his wife, Joanna, have developed two endowed scholarships at OBU in their children's names.

The Julianna Poor Memorial Endowment Fund in Early Childhood Education was created after the Poors' daughter, an OBU junior, died from cancer in April 1991. The Philip W. Poor, M.D., Endowment Scholarship Fund was established to honor their son after he completed medical school.

Through the years, when the Poors want to make a contribution in memory or honor of a family member or friend, they select which fund best reflects that individual.

"The longer we live, the more friends and acquaintances we can remember with a lasting contribution to these scholarship funds," Charles said.

Poor also has been a proponent of OBU's gift annuity options, citing the opportunity to solve tax and gift concerns for the donor, while leaving a lasting legacy at a place where lives are changed.

Learn how you can leave a legacy. Contact OBU's Development Office.

405.878.2703 | giving@okbu.edu.

Student's Art Chosen for Starbucks Blend

Michaela Bell, an OBU senior graphic design major from Longmont, Colo., recently produced artwork chosen by Starbucks Coffee to represent its 40th Anniversary Blend in the North Texas and Oklahoma region.



The artwork will be displayed on stickers and labels on the coffee, which she named "Red River Blend," as well as on shirts worn by employees in stores that get more than 90 percent customer satisfaction ratings.

Bell learned about the competition through her work as a barista at the Shawnee Starbucks. A flyer announced a contest open only to the Starbucks employees, called partners. The parameters said the design must portray the local Starbucks region, known as Area 119 and encompassing North Texas and Oklahoma; include a name for the coffee; and have "Area 119" on the design.

"In my design, I used the things that say 'Oklahoma/North Texas' to me," said Bell, whose artwork includes both vintage and modern windmills and depictions of the area's red dirt. "I tried to show Native American art in the patterns on the hills, the colorful sunsets, open sky, swirling wind, red earth and wind turbines for energy production. I may have exaggerated the hills. I haven't really seen many hills since I've moved to Oklahoma from Colorado."

Bell said after doing design work at a

community college in Colorado for one year, she came to Bison Hill to learn design from Ron Lana, former associate professor of art at OBU. Lana helped Bell secure an internship at Saddleback Church in California, where she got her first taste of real-world graphic design. Lana returned to California, and Corey Fuller came to OBU as assistant professor of graphic design.

Bell said she believes Fuller has moved OBU's graphic design program forward. Before she started in his classes, Bell heard he was a challenging professor.

"I went in thinking I was going to show him how 'tough' I could be and learned that he's tough, but really he wants to see his students work hard and succeed," Bell said. "If you come to OBU to learn design, you're going to learn from a great professor. He'll push you ... but it will make you so much better. Learn to handle it. Deadlines, late nights, positive and negative feedback, and pressure: That's the world of graphic design."

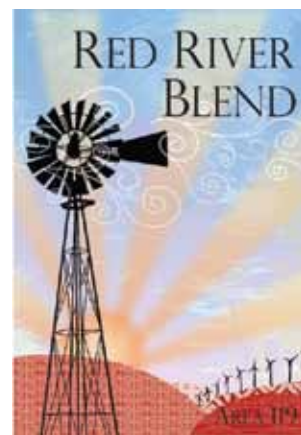
Fuller said he often stresses to students

to use their graphic design skills for ministries, campus organizations or even for their employer.

"If a student has projects and clients that they have pursued on their own, outside of what I've assigned as course work, that indicates a great deal of initiative and passion for design on the part of the student," he said.

Fuller said Bell's achievement through the Starbucks competition speaks to OBU students' ability to compete in the design community.

"To have OBU students winning contests such as this creates a very positive reflection on OBU," he said. "Graphic design is a highly competitive field, and I want our students to be right in the mix of it."



Upcoming Alumni & Friends Events

Join us for an upcoming OBU Alumni and Friends event this spring.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

Albuquerque, New Mexico

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

Denver, Colorado

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

Colorado Springs, Colorado

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

Phoenix, Arizona

Reception at the Southern Baptist Convention



For more details about these and other alumni events, visit okbu.edu/alumni.



REFLECTIONS OF
*Centennial
Homecoming
2010*



okbu.edu/alumni/homecoming_2010



Mark Your Calendars
for Homecoming 2011

November 11 & 12!



Helping The Homeless

The nursing majors, who represented five states, included (from left) Joanna Back, Albuquerque, N.M.; Haley Rachal, Shreveport, La.; Lori Wells, Seminole; Melissa Wilson, Wellston; Robyn Rieger, Burleson, Texas; Emily Roberts, Guyton; Amy Sullivan, Shawnee; and Stephanie Guilmette, Strafford, N.H.

By Robbie Bowman

Homelessness is a growing problem around the world today, and Shawnee is no exception. In November, during National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, eight senior OBU nursing students reached out to the homeless in the local community as part of “Hearts for the Homeless.”

The students assessed the homeless population in Shawnee and found that the biggest need was tangible possessions to keep them warm during the winter. With that knowledge, they set out to collect items to give away.

With a goal of distributing “survival packs,” the students collected donations through a variety of events. During Homecoming basketball games on Saturday, Nov. 13, they handed out purple “hunger and homelessness awareness” ribbons, and collected donations of clothing and money. They also hosted a “sock drive” to collect new or gently-used socks because they found that socks were one of the biggest needs for the homeless. Altogether, they were able to raise \$1,000 for the program.

The future nurses compiled the packs and then gave them to homeless individuals on Wednesday, Nov. 17. The packs included gloves, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste and various other hygiene products. In addition, the packs included a resource card which contained information about different homeless shelters in Shawnee, places and times when free food is served and suggestions of where they may receive help with any addictions.

Thanks to community support, the team of students surpassed their goal, distributing more than 100 survival packs to homeless residents. ♦



Have questions about OBU? We have the answers.

The **OBU:EYE FORCE** has created a collection of videos that answer our most common questions from prospective students.



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LEARNING FOCUSED
EXCELLENCE DRIVEN
MISSIONAL PURPOSED

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2010 FRESHMAN CLASS
AVERAGE ACT SCORE

1099
2010 FRESHMAN CLASS
AVERAGE SAT SCORE

76.3
PERCENT OF 2010 ADMITTED
FRESHMEN OFFERED ACADEMIC
SCHOLARSHIPS

6541
OBU's SAT CODE

3414
OBU's ACT CODE

Visit www.okbu.edu/eye to watch the videos, ask the questions, and learn the answers.