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WINTER/SPRING 2013 | okbu.edu

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75
YEARS

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The Bison Glee Club hosted a 75th-anniversary concert to celebrate its rich tradition during Homecoming 2012.

For such a time as this, distinctively Christian higher education has never been more needed in our nation and world. When OBU's founders began dreaming of a Christian university for the new state of Oklahoma, they may not have envisioned the challenges we face in 2013. But they did understand the importance of an education based on Augustine's credo ut intelligam -- faith precedes knowledge.



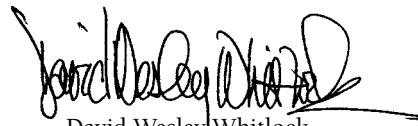
For more than a century, OBU faculty, staff, students and alumni have made a difference in our churches, our state, our nation and our world. The sun never sets on Bison Hill as our alumni serve around the world in their respective fields and callings.

What we do matters. In a time of great challenges in our world, the mission of OBU is more relevant than ever. So much of a person's life trajectory is set during the years in college. Life-changing decisions are made during the years of study at a university.

Lives are transformed on Bison Hill. In turn, our alumni help transform the lives of those they encounter and serve.

In this issue of OBU Magazine, you will learn about how our former students have taken the solid foundation they received at OBU to impact the world for Christ. Mark Johnson, '82, creates movies with a Christian worldview to show the world a loving and caring God. Mike Edge, '86, teaches business leaders the Christian concept of going the extra mile. David Steverson, '83, impacts missions around the world as he serves as vice president for finance at the International Mission Board headquarters. As a worship leader, Don Blackley, '63, has spent a lifetime teaching believers how to use their gifts for Kingdom service and helps people draw nearer to Christ.

I pray you will find these stories encouraging and that you will continue to join us on our mission of transforming lives. I invite you to help us spread the word about the great life-changing value students discover in the Christ-centered education found at OBU. It is a privilege to serve at OBU for such a time as this.


David Wesley Whitlock
OBU President

OBU Grad Serves Abroad with Pacific Partnership

By Alex Shirley
OBU Communications

“Preparing in calm to respond in crisis.” Pacific Partnership 2012, a major humanitarian aid and civic mission, built its recent work on that theme as it traveled on a four-month endeavor through the Asian Pacific region. The partnership included multiple government agencies, 13 partner nations, and, at its heart, the United States Naval Ship Mercy.

Kelly Scatton, a 2010 OBU nursing graduate from Lake Forest, Calif., served as a volunteer nurse aboard USNS Mercy for the entirety of the 2012 Pacific Partnership. Her responsibilities included providing light surgery care and wound care in the intensive care and intermediate care units.

“Mercy,” a converted tanker, served as a fully functioning hospital with 12 operating rooms, a full laboratory and a radiology department with an MRI and state-of-the-art imaging.

Beginning its adventure in San Diego, Calif., Mercy departed from the continental United States on May 1. The ship first sailed to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and then stopped in Guam before reaching its first major destination: North Sulawesi, Indonesia. Over the course of the Pacific Partnership, Mercy made two-week stops in various locations in the Asian-Pacific region, including Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia. The region is susceptible to massive floods, volcano eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis,

and it is home to many people groups without access to medicine or medical aid.

In response to the region’s needs, Mercy delivered high-end medical, dental and engineering support wherever the ship anchored, treating more than 49,000 people.

“Many surgical specialties were represented by what we brought,” said Navy Capt. (Dr.) Tim Hinman. “It included ophthalmology, general surgery, ear, nose and throat, pediatric surgery and OB/GYN.”

“I think because this is a joint military and civilian mission, everyone has done their best to integrate everyone into a cohesive group as soon as possible,” Scatton said. “I think everyone has embraced the fact that this isn’t just a Navy mission, an Army mission or a military mission, but a mission for everyone to work together for the good of those we are helping.”

While surgeries did take place on ship, many clinics were run on shore. Volunteers and personnel on the mission treated hundreds of patients each day the on-shore clinics were open. On one particular day in the Talaud Islands of Indonesia, medical staff treated more than 350 patients, teaching them about vitals and

basic assessments. Scatton played a key role on that day, teaching the waiting crowds about high blood pressure, its symptoms, and how to prevent it. The lessons served a large percentage of the population in the Talaud Islands who suffer from high blood pressure.

“I truly enjoyed teaching the patients about their medications and discussing symptom management,” said Scatton, who also treated many patients with tuberculosis, leprosy, tumors, goiters, deformities and ulcers.

The patients were thankful for any service and help provided by the USNS Mercy, she said. In areas where even basic medical attention is limited, Mercy’s aid was vital to patients’ well-being. Scatton said the trip was especially important to her because of the global experience and new perspective of the world she gained.



Kelly Scatton cares for a 4-month-old girl in Indonesia following a cleft lip and palate repair surgery. Scatton served as a Project HOPE nursing volunteer aboard the USNS Mercy in summer 2012.



Pat Brown, Dr. Caleb Harris, Quinn Wooldridge, Johnny Cullison, Dr. Deborah Blue

Five Alumni Honored at Homecoming Harvest Dinner

Five alumni were recognized at Harvest Dinner during OBU's 2012 Homecoming festivities.

THE ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD is given "in recognition of outstanding life service which has brought honor to the individual's alma mater."

Dr. Deborah (Hopkins) Blue, a lifelong supporter of Bison Hill, serves as dean of OBU's James E. Hurley College of Science and Mathematics. A Shawnee native, she graduated from OBU in 1972 and completed a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Tulsa in 1975. She earned her doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Oklahoma State University in 1991. Blue joined the OBU faculty in 1980 and became dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the University's largest academic division, in 1996. She was named OBU's chief academic officer in 2006 and dean in 2011.

Johnny Cullison built a career on keeping OBU in peak condition. A 1974 graduate, Cullison served in various positions in OBU's physical plant department and retired in 2003 as assistant vice president for business affairs/physical plant. He directed or was otherwise involved in the construction and renovation of numerous buildings across campus.

In 2007, the OBU Board of Trustees gave him the title of "administrator emeritus." He was recognized with a certificate of distinguished service for his leadership during construction of OBU's Recreation and Wellness Center and work related to expansion and renovation of the Noble Complex.

THE GOLD AWARD is presented to a young alum who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in his or her life and career and brought pride and honor to the University.

Dr. Caleb Harris, a 2002 alum, has built on his liberal arts education from Bison Hill to share his musical gifts around the world and with future generations of musicians. He serves as associate professor of music at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. He enjoys an active career as a pianist, chamber musician, conductor and vocal coach. Possessing a broad and diverse repertoire, he is equally at home on the keyboard as he is at the podium. He has appeared throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. He earned the master of music degree, doctor of musical arts degree and performer's certificate from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. He has studied piano extensively with Billie Jo Forney, Ronald Lewis and Douglas Humpherys.

THE OBU ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME recognizes former athletes/coaches for their record-setting tenure at OBU.

Quinn Wooldridge, a native of McAlester, played four years at OBU on basketball teams that had a record of 124-24. He is the Bison all-time leader with 362 three-point field goals and is third on the all-time scoring list with 1,886 points. He also set the school record with 115 three-pointers made in 1997. He played in four NAIA tournaments, including one appearance in the national championship game. Wooldridge was named All-Conference in 1999 and All-SAC Tournament in 1997.

Pat Brown, who came to OBU from Lawton, set the school indoor record in the 60-meter hurdles in 2005 and later that year set the school record for 400 intermediate hurdles outdoors. He won the 2004 indoor national championship in the 55 meter hurdles. In 2005, he swept the outdoor hurdles, taking the national championship in both the 400 hurdles, with a school record time, and the 110 high hurdles. He also was a member of the national champion 4x400 relay team in 2005. In his career, Brown had seven indoor All-America honors and 13 outdoor All-America honors, to make for a rare 20-time All-America career.

To nominate an alum for one of the awards listed above, visit okbu.edu/alumni/awards.html.

Former Faculty Members Inducted into Hall of Fame

Three former OBU faculty members were inducted into the Faculty Hall of Fame during the 2012 Homecoming chapel service Saturday, Nov. 10. The Faculty Hall of Fame was created to honor former OBU faculty members who were master teachers, making a significant impact on OBU students.

Manoi (Smith) Adair, professor emerita of business, is a 1950 OBU alumna who earned a master's degree at the University of Oklahoma. She was named assistant professor in 1958; achieved tenure in 1960; named associate professor in 1969; served as interim dean from 1981-82, 1984-85 and 1987-89; named professor in 1990; and named professor emerita in 1997. She received the Meritorious Service Award, given for faithful service to OBU in faculty, administrative or support staff positions, in 1986. She has been a member of the National Business Education Association, Delta Pi Epsilon and Kappa Delta Pi, and she was listed in *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*. Having played a key role in transitioning the business program from a department to a school, she retired in 1996 after 41 years on the OBU business faculty. She is married to Preston Adair, a 1951 OBU graduate. They have two children, Karen Adair Heflin, '81, and Sharon Adair Floyd, '83.

Dr. Laura Crouch, professor of English, earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Oklahoma in 1968; a master's degree at the University of Texas in Austin in 1970; and a doctorate at OU in 1975. Her dissertation was titled, "The Scientist in English Literature: Domingo Gonsales to Victor Frankenstein." Following work as a graduate teaching assistant at OU, she was named an assistant professor of English at OBU in 1975;



Faculty Hall of Fame inductees, Mary Kay Parrish (left) and Manoi Adair were honored during OBU's 2012 Homecoming Chapel Service.

associate professor of English in 1982; and professor of English in 1988. She was named chair of the Western Civilization program in 1976; chair of the Department of English in 1979; and chair of the Division of Language and Literature in 1985. She received OBU's Distinguished Teaching Award for classroom excellence in 1991 and the Meritorious Service Award in 1998, the year of her retirement. She was on the board of directors of "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma," a library reading and discussion program. A member of University Baptist Church in Shawnee, Crouch died in January 1999 at age 52 after a long illness.

Mary Kay (Higginbotham) Parrish, professor emerita of music, is a 1962 OBU alumna who earned a master's degree from North Texas State University. She served on the faculty of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts from 1964-2002. She was

named assistant professor in 1967; achieved tenure in 1969; and named associate professor in 1980. She received the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1981. Throughout her career, Parrish has been known as a respected handbell composer and clinician. She founded the University Ringers, which she directed for 19 years. The group, recognized as one of the top collegiate handbell programs in the nation, toured in 31 states and several foreign countries. Jeffers Publishing named her composer of the year in 1983. Parrish retired in 2002 after 38 years of service at the University and was named professor emerita in 2003. She is married to Dr. John Parrish, executive vice president emeritus at OBU, and they are members of University Baptist Church in Shawnee. They have two children, Dr. John Michael Parrish and Robin Parrish McAlister, '99.

To nominate a former faculty member for the Faculty Hall of Fame, visit okbu.edu/alumni/awards.html.

BISON GLEE CLUB 75 YEARS

Bison Glee Club Celebrates 75 Years



For the past 75 years, OBU's Bison Glee Club has performed both secular and sacred works in performances throughout Oklahoma, the United States and the world.

The longest standing ensemble at OBU, the Bison Glee Club (BGC) was founded in 1938, when several students approached the new dean of Fine Arts, Warren M. Angell, about the possibility of creating an all-men's ensemble at OBU.

Currently under the direction of Dr. Brent Ballweg, director of choral activities, the Bison Glee Club hosted a 75th-anniversary concert to celebrate its rich tradition during Homecoming 2012. Performing songs such as the traditional "Dry Bones" and "Hawaiian War Chant," the group amassed to more than 150 members, current and former members alike, singing as one entity.

For Bison Glee Club Vice President Curtis Headrick, a senior accounting major, singing with so many members during the 75th anniversary concert is regarded as his best memory of the BGC thus far.

"I think it really hit me when we all began to sing 'Dry Bones,' Headrick said. "Everyone was having so much fun and singing with so much energy and unity, all because we were part of something together, whether this year or 50 years ago."

Trevor Rodman, a theatre major and first-year member, said the 75th anniversary



Current and former directors of the Bison Glee Club share a moment on stage with Fred Rayman (left), former tour bus driver of 42 years. BGC directors joining in the 75-year celebration are (second from left to right) Dr. James Vernon, OBU professor of music and third director; Dr. Brent Ballweg, OBU director of choral activities and current director; Dr. John Simons, fifth director; Dr. Randall Bradley, fourth director; and Dr. Michael Cox, second director.

concert was the first time he fully realized the rich tradition of the BGC.

“[The Bison Glee Club] is not just a group of guys singing songs,” Rodman said. “The group is full of love for one another, and stories and songs that stretch from the beginning to the present. It’s the kind of group [in which] you can speak to someone who was a member in the ’50s and know exactly what the other is talking about. The passion that the alumni have for this group is a testament to what the group is.”

“I’m always impressed with the level of dedication most Glee Clubbers exhibit,” Ballweg said. “We have many non-music majors in the group, and many have to work around a variety of schedules to make singing in the BGC possible. It’s worth it though, as the

bond of brotherhood and great musical experiences make this a very unique group.”

Scheduled to tour in Western Oklahoma this spring, the BGC has 23 non-music majors and eight music majors in the group.

Dr. James Vernon, the third director of the BGC and professor of music, said touring was always an adventure with an all-male group in close quarters.

Dr. Randall Bradley, the fourth director of the BGC and director of church music programs at Baylor University, agrees that men function quite differently when they are not around women.

“While they do tend to be a bit more rambunctious, they are also more

vulnerable and sensitive,” Bradley said. “They are more willing to be open and transparent with each other, and as a result, traveling with the Glee Club often had moments where the guys seemed to feel more deeply and showed their genuine care for each other more than they might have had they been in a choir of men and women.”

Ballweg said touring with any group is fun, as you have the opportunity to create closer relationships because of time spent together with the specific goal of sharing music with others. It also challenges groups to maintain high performance standards in every setting encountered, he said.

The BGC has a knack for taking an ordinary moment and turning it into a memory, Bradley said.

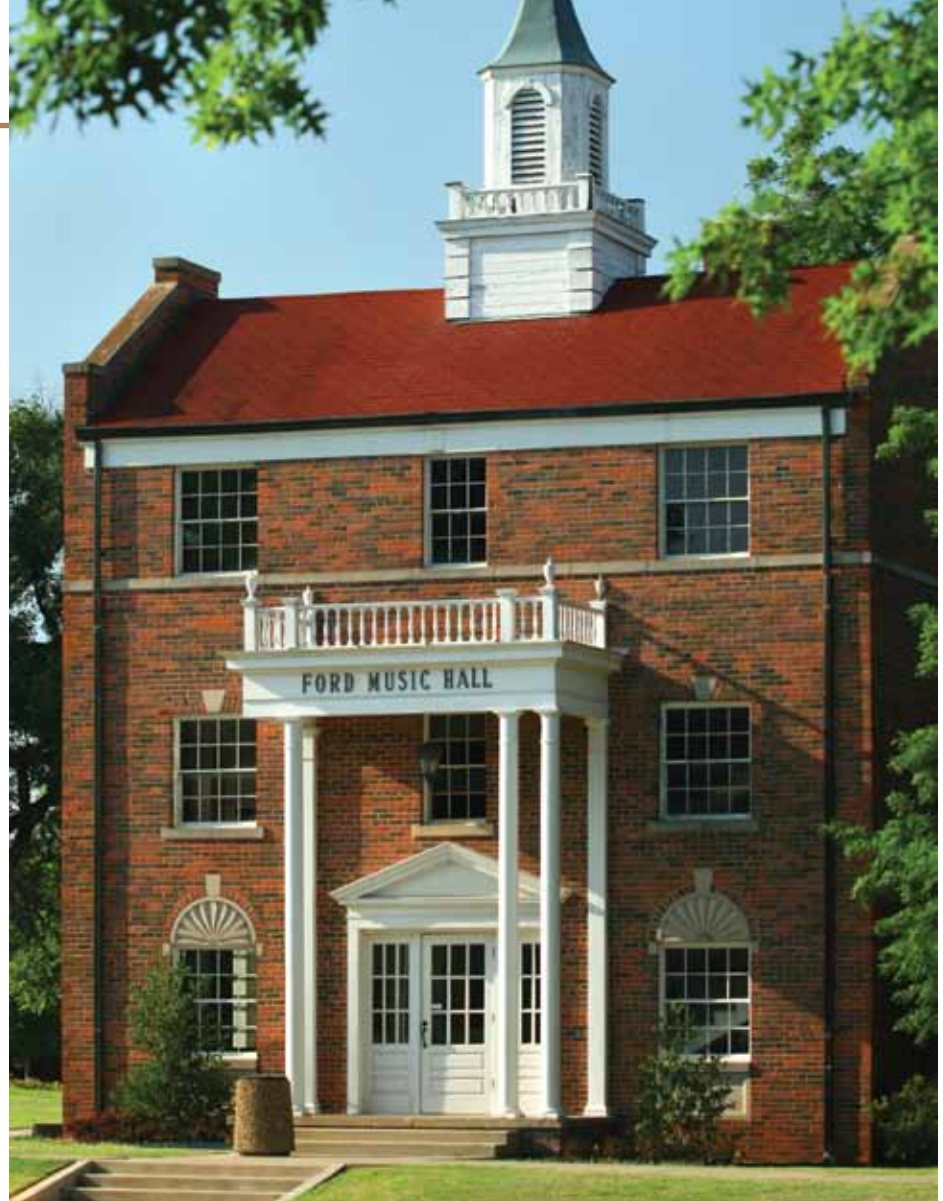
Ford Music Hall Holds Many Fond Memories for BGC

For most members of the Bison Glee Club (BGC), many memories are made in one particular location located on the third floor of Ford Music Hall. Completed in 1952, Ford Music Hall has housed the BGC's rehearsal space for more than 60 years and still remains their rehearsal room to this day. Ford Music Hall is the place where BGC members have met, rehearsed, laughed, cried and created lifelong memories, Dr. James Vernon, OBU professor of music and former BGC director, said.

"To step into that space is to be immediately surrounded by greatness, and where you'll begin to discover yourself in some small way among all those whose voices have rehearsed within those walls," Dr. Randall Bradley, director of church music at Baylor University and former BGC director, said.

Ford Music Hall not only is the home of the Bison Glee Club, but also serves as a rehearsal space for all music majors. The hall also plays an important role in OBU's daily outreach to the community because it houses the Music Preparatory Department, according to Dr. Conchita Hansford, Director of the Department.

Each week, more than 100 adults bring their children or grandchildren to private music lessons, keyboard



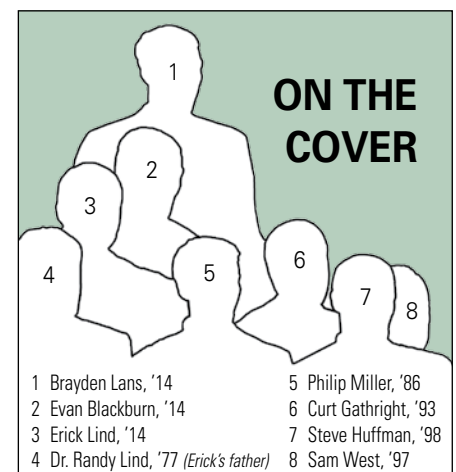
readiness classes and Kindermusik classes in Ford Music Hall.

The renovation of Ford Music Hall has been designated as one of the initiatives in the OBU Vision for a New Century Capital Campaign. The University is in the process of raising \$3 million for repairs and restoration that will include a new heating and cooling system to regulate the temperature and humidity in the building, a new roof to end leaks and resulting water damage, a card-access entry system and significant interior renovations.

The BGC continues to call Ford Music Hall home while spreading their mission of promoting brotherhood, developing musicianship, being of service to OBU and furthering the ministry of Jesus

Christ through the study, rehearsal and performance of music.

To contribute toward the Ford Music Hall renovation effort, please visit okbu.edu/giving or call 405.878.2703.



Bison Glee Club's Longest Member Retires

For 42 years, the Bison Glee Club's most loyal fan drove the bus to take the group on their many tours throughout the nation. Fred Rayman, affectionately renamed "Derf Namyar" by club members, never missed a performance on the road unless he was required to rest before a 500-mile trip he would be driving the next day.

Recently retired, Rayman is just as much enthralled by the Glee Club as the day he started driving for them in 1970. And club members are equally enthralled with him. During the Glee Club's 75-year reunion, "Derf" was honored by BGC members, alumni and the audience as the Glee Club's quartet, the Fallen Angels, entered Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium "driving" a miniature wooden tour bus down the aisle to the cheers of all those in attendance.

For more than half of the Bison Glee Club's history, one of the most constant elements for club members and directors has been their loyal bus driver.

The connection between the directors and bus driver was evident as Rayman

joined the directors on stage to "direct" them in a song.

"I can proudly say that I've driven for all the Bison Glee Club directors," Rayman said.

Rayman described his introduction to the Bison Glee Club as a "total accident." The bus driver originally scheduled to drive the tour bus that year had to cancel at the last minute, so Rayman was asked to drive. Knowing nothing about OBU and having just completed a 30-day charter, Rayman was hesitant to take the Glee Club on their two-week charter through Miami, Fla. However, once he decided to accept the job, Rayman found the decision changed his life. He treasured the relationships he made with Glee Club members and directors while enjoying their music for the next 42 years.

Rayman said he has no idea how many Glee Club concerts he has attended over the years, but most likely, the number is in the hundreds. In spite of his self-proclaimed lack of singing ability, he

was inducted into the Glee Club in 1974 and given a commemorative membership pin that he wears proudly.

"There I was driving the bus for an extraordinary music group, and I can't carry a tune in a bushel basket," he said.

Rayman reflected fondly on his time spent with Dean Warren M. Angell, a man he said he "totally admired." After only one year of driving, he wanted to quit but received words of encouragement from the Club's organizer and first director.

"Anybody can quit," the dean told him. "Hang in there and show them you can do it."

Those words of encouragement led Rayman to continue on to a 43-year career as a bus driver, 42 of those driving the Glee Club.

"The only thing I miss about driving is the club," Rayman said. "They are a wonderful bunch of guys."



\$42

Campaign Goal - \$42 million

■ Amount given and pledged - \$32 million

■ Remaining need - \$12 million

vision FOR A new century

Gifts made through the Vision for a New Century Campaign will provide the resources needed to fulfill the University's Vision 2020.

\$32

Gifts and Pledges Reach \$32 Million

Through the Vision for a New Century Capital Campaign, OBU will strengthen academic programs, expand student scholarships and construct new academic, residential and administrative facilities which will enable OBU to continue to fulfill its mission.

Since May 2011, the campaign has generated \$32 million in gifts and pledges toward the overall goal of \$42 million. Campaign projects include \$16 million in endowment funds, construction of an \$8 million Nursing and Allied Health Building, a \$6 million renovation of the Agee Residence Center, a new \$6 million Student Services Center, a \$3 million renovation of Ford Music Hall, a \$1 million expansion of the W.P. Wood Science Building, and \$2 million in campus property and grounds improvement.

Many donors choose to provide donations to the endowment to fund student scholarships, academic chairs and professorships, campus lecture series, the honors program, the faculty sabbatical program and emerging Centers of Excellence.

The alumni giving campaign was officially launched during Homecoming with chairpersons designated for

each decade. Alumni campaign leaders will begin contacting members of their graduation classes to encourage them to join together in building on OBU's legacy of success to reach the vision God has provided. According to Lori Hagans, executive director of the Alumni Association, some friendly competition among classes is expected. Alumni can expect information to arrive in the mail.

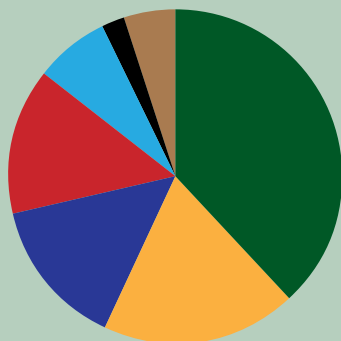
"We are grateful to the many generous OBU supporters who have given to the Vision Campaign and in so doing are providing the needed resources to continue to provide a transformational, unapologetically Christian education for our students," said Will Smallwood, vice president for university advancement. "As our enrollment continues to increase, OBU builds on a history of success, knowing our best days are yet to come. We encourage our OBU friends and family to join us in this exciting time of growth."

\$30

\$20

\$10

Vision for a New Century Campaign Projects



- \$16 Million – Endowment
- \$8 Million – Nursing & Allied Health Building
- \$6 Million – Agee Residence Center Renovation
- \$6 Million – Student Services Center
- \$3 Million – Ford Music Hall Renovation
- \$1 Million – W.P. Wood Science Building Expansion
- \$2 Million – Campus Property and Grounds Improvement

Scholarship Gala to Feature Tony Dungy

Members of Oklahoma Baptist University's greater community, as well as patrons interested in benefiting Christian higher education, are invited to a special event featuring legendary NFL coach Tony Dungy on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at The Tulsa Convention Center. The "Green & Gold Gala" will present an opportunity to hear a renowned Christian author and leader while contributing to student scholarship funds for Bison Hill.

"The Green and Gold Gala is an incredible opportunity for able benefactors to provide an affordable Christian liberal arts education for tomorrow's students while receiving a message from a renowned leader," said Dr. David W. Whitlock, OBU President. "The evening promises to be one of inspiration and motivation as we hear from this great coach, father, mentor and author."

Dungy is a historic Super Bowl-winning head coach whose teams made the playoffs each of his last 10 seasons, unprecedented in his era. He now serves as a studio analyst for NBC Sports' coverage of NFL events. While Dungy is considered one of the most influential voices in football today, he also is the No. 1 New York Times bestselling author of "Quiet Strength" and "Uncommon."

His crowning sports achievement came in Super Bowl XLI, when he became the first African-American coach to lead his team to a Super Bowl victory as the Colts defeated the Chicago Bears. A former NFL defensive back, Dungy is one of only three men to win Super Bowls as both a player and head coach joining Mike Ditka and Tom Flores.

Off the field, Dungy is renowned for his contributions to the community – both civic and charitable. He is focused on his faith and the value of education. He and his wife, Lauren, are the parents of seven children.

The impetus for OBU's Green and Gold Gala rests in bridging the financial gap for future generations of OBU students. In 2011-12, a reported two-thirds of students who attended private nonprofit schools graduated with debt.

"Financial aid studies reveal that tuition continues to increase every year – sometimes at about twice the general inflation rate," said Will Smallwood, vice president for advancement at OBU. "To address the ever-growing concern of how today's students can afford a Christian liberal arts education, we work diligently to increase the scholarship funds provided through OBU. The Green and Gold Gala is one opportunity for contributors to help meet students' needs."

The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception for major sponsors. At 7 p.m., the Green and Gold Gala will feature Dungy speaking on "Motivating the Spirit."

Cost for the Gala is \$150 per ticket, which includes dinner. Of that price, \$90 will go toward OBU scholarships as a tax-deductible gift to OBU. Individual tickets may be purchased online at okbu.edu/gala.

Tables may be purchased by calling OBU University Advancement at 405.878-2703 or emailing Crystal McKee at crystal.mckee@okbu.edu.



Mark Johnson '82

Success Built on Fundamentals

Mark Johnson, '82, is the vice president for marketing at Veritas Entertainment in Franklin, Tenn., where he engages in the challenge of creating quality movies with a Christian worldview.

"Three words that describe our purpose best are courage, character and conviction," Johnson said. "Within this framework, we hope to provide alternatives to the great majority of Hollywood films which do not have a godly message or are not appropriate for all family members."

Johnson said the employees of Veritas believe that attending a theater film is the only "pulpit" by which many people will ever receive a redemptive message.

"Our goal is to make captivating stories and character studies which describe a loving and caring God," he said.

After graduating from OBU, Johnson earned a master's degree in music composition from the University of Oklahoma. He served on the music staff at First Baptist Church in Carrollton, Texas, from 1987-96 before becoming a consultant, editor and editor-in-chief in the Music and Worship Department of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tenn. Throughout his career, Johnson has found opportunities to work with studio, professional, amateur and student musicians in a variety of instrumental and choral groups and projects.

Since 2006, he has worked as a freelance music composer, orchestrator, conductor and music programmer, assuming his role at Veritas in 2012. His wife, Lisa, is a graphic artist and Web designer, and



their two daughters, Anna and Lara, are college students.

Johnson identified several OBU professors who helped prepare him for a lifetime of work and ministry.

"All of my music studies transferred directly to my work with films, where the storytelling tools now include not only music, but acting and visual images," he said. "My OBU experience prepared me to discern what film elements are working well and which elements need to be developed to provide the most convincing message."

As a member of the University Chorale under the direction of Dr. James D. Woodward, Johnson experienced innumerable teaching moments where the dean would use practical applications for style, performance, rehearsal techniques, vocal production and team building.

"This was the group that formed many great musicians from OBU and had the largest impact on me," Johnson said.

"I compare the success of all groups I lead or participate in to the Chorale experience."

Others who greatly influenced Johnson include Dr. Nancy Cobb Lippens, "a composition teacher, encourager and enabler," and piano teacher Dr. Robert Wood. The classes of Dr. Wiff (Wortley) Rudd, an orchestration and jazz band instructor, provided the basis for Johnson's instrumental work. Mary Kay Parish and Katherine Timberlake taught him music theory, sight singing and ear training.

"At the time, the fundamental building blocks they taught seemed much more academic than practical," he said of the music theory lessons. "But in real life music experiences, these tools are used in every rehearsal I have ever directed, every student and professional musician I've worked with, and every critical decision regarding music selection and placement. Their patience with students was overwhelming as was their ability to challenge, and hopefully this continues on through the musicians I work with."

Mike Edge '86

Leader Focused on Others

Mike Edge, '86, strives to be "others focused." He believes business should be this way, too.

In 2007, Edge felt called to make a positive impact on the corporate world, leading him to found The Xtra Mile Group. The company's title and mission are clear, deriving from Matthew 5:41: "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles." Edge, who serves as CEO to the Colorado-based company, practices this concept in his business as he studies organizations' cultures and centers on building trust and developing leaders who focus on others. He also helps organizations build and expand commercial operations, develop strategy and build processes. Though Edge's mission is clear now, he did not always have such direction.

Edge said he wanted to play basketball in college, he just didn't know where.

greatly by attending OBU," Edge said.

He attributes much of his success and achievement in the business world to lessons learned on Bison Hill. He felt prepared for the workforce because he said he understood his discipline, with multiple opportunities to study unique, real-life situations through classroom instruction and internships.

"An OBU education is a special thing," Edge said. "It's very challenging. It's demanding. But when you leave OBU, you are prepared."

Edge said his professors inspired and shaped him. He considered them role models as he admired how they lived their lives and their interactions with others. He said they showed they cared about people by being involved in local churches and campus activities which help set a tone and culture for a great learning environment.



and better equipped to handle specific life challenges today because of these individuals."

After graduation, Edge corresponded with his former professors as they continued to mentor him. Edge said God has blessed him with lifelong friendships built at OBU. He is especially grateful for having met his wife, Amy Griffis, '87, 25 years ago at OBU.

Edge and his wife have spent much of their free time in gyms, fields and auditoriums as their three children, Nate, 20, Tasha, 17, and Carlee, 12, have been involved in sports and music. Edge said he's been fortunate to be able to coach all three children in different sports over the years.

Today, Edge practices the "others focused" concept he learned from OBU professors in his business and by being active in his community by coaching and mentoring youth.

**"It's very challenging. It's demanding.
But, when you leave OBU,
you are prepared."**

Several schools showed interest in recruiting him, but Edge, having grown up in Purcell, Okla., attending First Baptist Church and Falls Creek, was familiar with Oklahoma Baptist University. Edge eventually chose OBU because he liked the people, the mission and the close proximity to his hometown.

"I had no idea what God had in store for me and how my life would be impacted

"I always respected the professors at OBU because they were committed not just to your professional and educational growth, but to your personal growth as well," he said.

"They cared about you."

Edge appreciates all his professors, but said Dr. David Sallee, Max Brattin, Dr. Rhonda Hall, Dr. Slayden Yarbrough and Bobby Canty were some professors and administrators who greatly impacted his time at OBU.

"All had a positive impact on my life and shaping me into the person I am today," Edge said. "I am a better person

David Steverson '83

Counting God's Blessings

David Steverson, '83, came to OBU from overseas, and not long after graduation found himself overseas again. But the education he earned in the middle of Oklahoma has impacted his career for nearly three decades.

Steverson arrived on Bison Hill more from practicality than anything else. He was getting out of the U.S. Air Force, where he was stationed in Germany, and his parents heard about a house for sale in Tecumseh, Okla.

"However it happened, I believe the Lord was in it," Steverson said. "OBU gave me a good business education with a faith base. I wanted to be in the business world, but I also wanted to serve the Lord. My education at OBU has helped me fulfill both goals. I immediately went into public accounting there in Shawnee, and within three years from graduation was on the mission field."

Professor Nancy Haigler proved to be a valuable resource for a young business major such as Steverson. Haigler not only was a great encourager for her students, but also provided the practical experience of doing taxes part-time for a local accounting firm. During Steverson's senior year, under recommendation from Haigler, he filled the part-time job as an internship while receiving class credit. Following graduation, Steverson worked full time at the CPA firm recommended by Haigler. He took the CPA exam and passed on his first try, a fairly unusual feat for young accountants.

After working for Horne and Company, CPAs, for three years, Steverson attended

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for one semester. In 1986, he and his wife, Judy, were appointed as Southern Baptist missionaries to Thailand where he served as business manager and treasurer for missions work in that area of the world. He traveled throughout Asia doing financial work in that role.

In 1992, he was asked to move to Richmond, Va., to serve as associate vice president for finance at the International Mission Board headquarters. In 2001, he was elected as vice president for finance. In his current role, he faces the daunting challenge of balancing a budget affected by a down-turn in giving to non-profits, which then affects global missions endeavors.

"We are grateful that it hasn't been a great decline, but it has been down,

In retrospect, OBU's caring professors, practical experience and inter-cultural study set a firm foundation to empower Steverson to literally count God's blessings around the world.

and we have had to make adjustments," Steverson said. "Making those adjustments so that they have the least impact on our work is one of our biggest challenges."

Steverson said the education he earned at OBU has benefited his work in finance around the world. Studying the German language on Bison Hill helped him acquire the basics of how to learn



another language. And while he can't speak German today, he learned to speak Thai, and 20 years later can still get off an airplane in Bangkok and carry on a pretty deep conversation.

"OBU also provided me a well-rounded liberal arts education which has helped me better understand people from different cultures and even people from our culture who do things differently than I do," he said.

In retrospect, OBU's caring professors, practical experience and inter-cultural study set a firm foundation to empower Steverson to literally count God's blessings around the world both in international missions work and on vacations with their extended family, including children Jennifer Quealy and Matthew Steverson. His OBU education truly has enabled his to engage a diverse world.

Don Blackley '63

Leading a Life of Worship

As a senior in high school, Don Blackley felt the Lord wanted him to serve vocationally as a minister of music. With OBU having a reputation of being the best place to prepare for ministry, Blackley said going to Bison Hill was the right decision for him.

Blackley graduated from OBU in 1963 with a degree in music and earned a master's in church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth in 1966.

With the phrase "ring by spring" common on Bison Hill, Blackley gave his proposal a shot during the Christmas season while looking at lights across OBU's campus. Parked on the president's driveway, Blackley said he planned to deftly pull out a ring while his sweetheart was looking at the lights so she would see the ring when she turned to him.

"All was working well until I opened the box, and the ring fell out onto the floor of my car," said Blackley.

He managed to put the ring back in the box just in time to propose to his future wife, Gerrie Blackley, a graduate of Oklahoma State University.

He and his wife feel blessed that all three of their triplet children are 1990 graduates of OBU: Trent Blackley; Brenna (Blackley) Stull; and Tamara (Blackley) Overton. All three of their spouses serve on a church staff.

Blackley served as full-time music minister for Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, from 1966-

82; First Baptist Church, Norman, Okla., from 1982-91; and First Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas, from 1991-2004. Since 2005, Blackwell has worked as part-time worship leader for Lake Pointe Church in Rockwall, Texas.

In addition to his church-staff work, Blackley has been a member and

Dr. Warren Angell had a big impact on Blackley, greatly influencing his conducting skills.

directed both the Singing Churchmen of North Central Texas and the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma. He currently directs the Texas group.

The life of a music minister comes with challenges and rewards. Blackley said he finds it challenging to teach the average church member they are just as responsible and privileged to minister in God's kingdom as a paid staff member. He spends many hours investing time and work on special productions or projects, often without adequate funding.

"I think the worship leader's biggest challenge is teaching believers the importance of worship, individual and corporate, in the life of the body of Christ, and to teach them, in the power of the Spirit, how to respond in worship to what God has done for us in His wonderful son, Jesus," Blackley said.

For Blackley, the most rewarding part of his job is two-fold. First, he leads

people to use their gifts for Kingdom service. Second, he sees people brought into the Kingdom of God as the sung Word and the preached Word combine to draw people to Christ.

At OBU, Dr. Warren Angell had a big impact on Blackley, greatly influencing his conducting skills. Under Angell's direction, Blackley served as president of the Bison Glee Club in 1963 and traveled with the Tune Clippers' USO Pacific Tour.

Blackley said OBU gave him the tools he needed for his music craft, filling him with spiritual encouragement and challenge from administrators and professors throughout his four years of college.



GARLOW INSPIRES GRADUATES TO Step Up to Make a Positive Difference

Hearing a message inspiring them to step into their future, 92 Oklahoma Baptist University graduates received their diplomas during OBU's 2012 Winter Commencement on Friday, Dec. 14.

The ceremony marked the first combined graduation for undergraduate students from OBU's Shawnee campus



Willa Ruth Garlow

and graduate students from the OBU Graduate School in Oklahoma City.

During the ceremony in John Wesley Raley Chapel, the graduates heard from Willa Ruth Garlow, an author and speaker from Oklahoma City. Garlow challenged the students to make a difference in the world. She cautioned them as they step into the future that the world does not offer “glass slippers” or “ruby slippers,” but instead requires a conscious decision to put on shoes of work, play, dress, home and correction – whatever shoes best fit each graduate and what he or she wants to accomplish.

“It’s a fact of life you will be required to wear ‘work shoes,’” Garlow said. “In order to eat and live, you have to wear work shoes.”

Garlow said students will find success in work if they employ the quality of self-discipline.

She told the graduates to balance time wearing “work shoes” with wearing “play shoes” because rest, relaxation and play are important.

She also told the graduates to have their “dress shoes” ready, cleaned and polished to be appropriately dressed for whatever occasion might arise in their futures, and to take responsibility for wearing their “house shoes,” creating a comfortable haven at home.

“Resolve to step up with a confident, positive work ethic and wear your work shoes,” Garlow urged the graduates. “Resolve to step up with a sense of joy and wear your play shoes. Resolve to step up with a sense of personal self-esteem and wear your dress shoes. Resolve to step up with love and home and family and wear your comfortable house shoes. And with that same resolve, step up and wear your corrective shoes.”

“Corrective shoes” pinch, Garlow noted, but are necessary for a balanced life. She told graduates to mend broken relationships, to be the first to say, “I’m sorry,” to straighten out one’s personal spiritual life and to make attitude adjustments.

“You can step up to make a positive contribution, to make a positive difference in our world,” Garlow said. “Go for it!”

In his charge to the graduates, President David W. Whitlock, challenged them to remember they carry the distinction of being graduates of OBU, having studied at an institution that has sought to stand for Christian distinctiveness and academic excellence since its founding in 1910.

“We have sought to instill within you an honest awareness of yourself and the world around you,” Whitlock said. “We have sought to strengthen your commitment to Christ. We have sought to make you a better decision-maker. We have sought to impart to you the heart to care, and the spirit to attempt great things that will make your world a better place.”

The President's Medallion

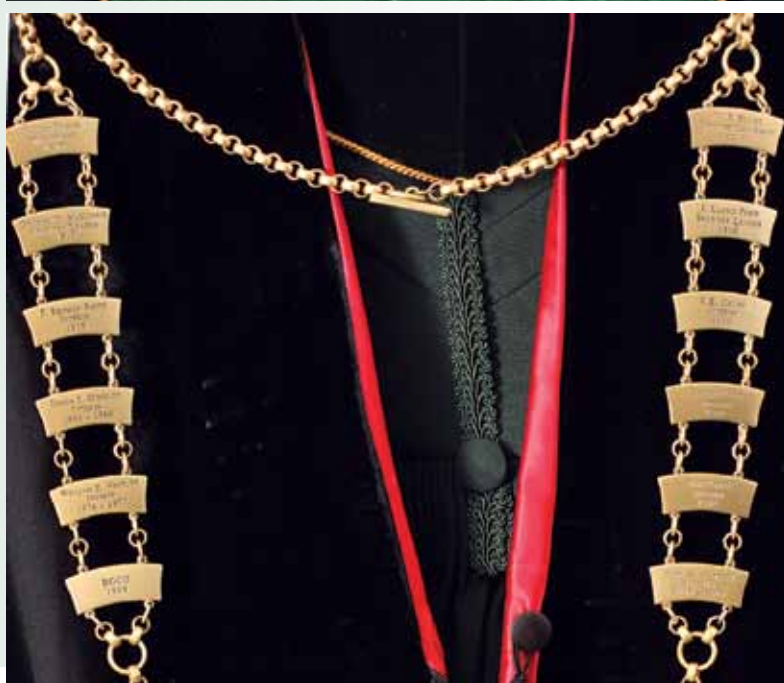
The president's medallion is a symbol of the University's distinctly rich history and priceless heritage. A gift from an anonymous donor in honor of the OBU centennial, the medallion is worn by the OBU president at formal ceremonies including Convocation in August, Winter Commencement in December and Spring Commencement in May.

Displayed on the left and right sides of the chain are rectangular links listing the previous 14 presidents and their dates of service. The two sides come together at the base of the chain above the medallion with the name of the current president, David Wesley Whitlock.

Engraved on a square link above the previous presidents on one side is a portion of the prayer by John Wesley Raley, Sr. delivered on his inauguration as a reminder of all those who have served: "God, make this my altar, myself the sacrifice, this task to which I put my hand."

Engraved on a square link on the other side is a list of the core values that guide the decision-making process of the University and the tasks to which God has assigned OBU: "Christ Centered, Excellence Driven, Learning Focused, Missional Purposed, Community Directed."

Displayed on links on the back of the chain are G. Lee Phelps, missionary, and W.P Blake, trustee chairman, who visited the future campus location in 1910 and there gathered and arranged twelve stones, commemorating God's leadership of the Israelites across the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Also displayed are Shawnee leaders George D. McKinnis and J. Lloyd Ford, OBU interim presidents and their dates of service, and the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and its founding date of 1906.



PRE-MED STUDENTS GAIN PRICELESS **Perspective on Medical Missions Trip**

Five OBU representatives impacted the lives of the people of South Asia by administering medical aid to a region burdened with poverty during a trip to northeast India last summer, arranged and directed by Dr. Brad Jett, professor of biology.

The missions endeavor was one of nine Global Outreach Trips sponsored by OBU's Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach during the summer 2012 semester. More than 60 OBU students, faculty and staff members participated in the trips.

The primary destination for the medical team was Tezpur, India, a city located in the eastern Indian panhandle and home to more than 100,000 people, with many living in poverty. Jennifer Jett, a junior biology major with medical school intent, explained the team's objective.

"As a team of pre-med students, our primary goal was to get experience practicing medicine in a third-world setting," Jett said, also noting that the team found ample opportunities to share their faith in Jesus Christ. "We spent a week living in a small remote village working with people who had never heard the name of Christ before. We were also given the chance to help teach at a summer Bible school for over 400 students from Hindi backgrounds."

Dr. Jett said he had never been to a place with a more diverse set of needs concentrated into one relatively small location as the team found in the area



Dr. Brad Jett, OBU professor of biology, administers deworming medication to a young girl in India during a summer medical mission trip. Jett led a team of five OBU representatives to work through the Baptist-Christian Hospital of Tezpur, India, as well as in rural villages.

surrounding Tezpur. The team aided in flood relief, distributed medicine to a local orphanage and worked with children with special needs. Students also traveled to many remote villages, assisting in the prevention of various tropical diseases.

India experiences one-fifth of the world's tuberculosis cases, nearly two million per year. In fact, residents of India die from tuberculosis at a rate of one every 90 seconds. The No. 1 cause of fever in the region surrounding Tezpur is "srub typhus," a Rickettsial infection spread by mites. Malaria also is rampant. Students provided aid to people in this region by administering medications and teaching ways to prevent diseases such as these.

While the team felt an urgency to offer medical attention to the people living in remote villages, the majority of the trip was spent working at the Baptist-

Christian Hospital of Tezpur alongside the Indian medical staff. Despite being in an incredibly impoverished area, the hospital has maintained a respectable reputation in the community and made the most of its limited resources, team members reported.

"The Baptist-Christian Hospital (BCH) of Tezpur and its staff are providing quality care (for a 'secondary'-level hospital) at an affordable price (sometimes free-of-charge) as a means of sharing the love of Jesus," said Dr. Jett.

Dr. Jett's connection to the hospital developed when he was invited by Dr. Koshy George, the hospital CEO, to interact with the hospital staff by delivering seminars and lectures to their nursing-school students and teachers, their medical interns and residents, and their microbiology laboratory personnel. In addition to teaching the hospital staff, Dr. Jett conducted

research about tropical microbiology in the Indian region surrounding Tezpur. His research will be included in an immunology textbook he is writing.

The team said the accomplishments of the trip are coupled with intentions to help in the region again. Dr. Jett said he hopes OBU's relationship with the Baptist hospital of Tezpur will continue.

"The hospital administration has expressed its desire for assistance; indeed, it is the only way in which they are able to stay in operation," said Dr. Jett, noting while the hospital has a constant need for assistance, students also benefit from serving in Tezpur.

"This hospital has enormous potential as a site to which members of the OBU community could travel to render service," explained Dr. Jett. "In the two weeks I was there, I believe our OBU students witnessed and assisted in a greater number of diverse medical scenarios than they would have experienced in a six-month period of time in a local hospital in Oklahoma."

Jennifer Jett, the daughter of Dr. Jett, proved one example of how OBU students benefit from serving with the hospital. Her participation on this trip was a combination of her career interests in medicine and her eagerness to serve God on a mission trip.

"The realization that I could use my desire to become a doctor as a ministry tool to reach out to people on all corners of the globe had completely shifted my focus," Jett said. "Every single day brought a new adventure, a new experience, a new discovery about myself and the Lord."

Students on this India medical trip gained experience in a future career field, faced challenges of working in a foreign environment and witnessed firsthand life from a new perspective – a perspective that is priceless.

MUDLIAR INSTALLED TO OBU's Dickinson Chair of Religion

Dr. Ishwaran Mudliar was installed to the Dickinson Chair of Religion during an October chapel service in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium.

Endowed chairs and professorships are awarded to select professors who are outstanding teachers and who have demonstrated exceptional ability in their academic disciplines. The gift which provides an endowed academic position is invested in the University's permanent endowment fund, and the annual earnings are used to assist with compensation. OBU currently has 27 active endowed chairs and professorships.

The Dickinson chair was established in 1986 by Paul Dickinson, a former businessman from Ardmore, Okla. OBU's College of Business also is named in Dickinson's honor.

The faculty member who holds the Dickinson Chair of Religion teaches religion courses to those entering the ministry and other church-related

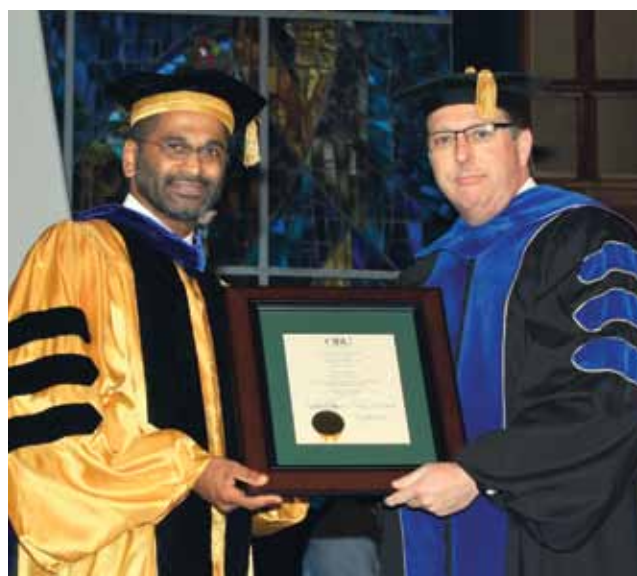
vocations and provides instruction in the area of practical Christian ministries.

Mudliar joined the OBU faculty in 2012 as associate professor of religion. He received his doctorate in Hebrew Bible and Northwest Semitic Languages from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, a master of arts degree from Johns Hopkins University, a master of divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and a bachelor's degree in theology from Union Biblical Seminary.

Mudliar has taught at the undergraduate and graduate level for the past nine years, most recently as an assistant professor of Old Testament at Southwestern Baptist

Theological Seminary. Prior to his teaching career, he served as an associate pastor, youth minister and associate pastor of family ministry and outreach.

He and his wife, Hannah, have three sons: Daniel, Aviel and Mikhael.



Dr. Ishwaran Mudliar (left), associate professor of religion in OBU's Herschel H. Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry, receives a certificate from OBU Provost Stan Norman during his installation to the Dickinson Chair of Religion.

OBU MUSIC

Professor Performs at Liszt Academy

Dr. Michael Dean, associate professor of music, embraced the opportunity to perform on a stage once used by legendary pianist and composer Franz Liszt in Budapest, Hungary.



Dr. Michael Dean in Budapest, Hungary.

Dean performed alongside Dr. Terrie Manno during a concert last fall at The Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. Dean and Manno, a professor of music at Minnesota State University, Moorhead, performed on invitation of the academy for one of the institution's weekly

concerts which feature musicians from around the world.

Typically when performing as the Manno-Dean Piano Duo, the professors

play two-piano works. However, the Liszt Academy stage holds one piano, so the duo played four-hand piano duets as well as solo pieces. Their program included works by Mozart, Schubert, Mendelssohn and Dvořák. When the packed house insisted on an encore, the duo presented a piece of American

culture, finishing their concert with a ragtime composition by Scott Joplin.

The Franz Liszt Academy of Music is a concert hall and a music university founded in Budapest by Liszt in 1875. Since its foundation, the academy

has been the most prestigious music university in Hungary, providing promising Hungarian musicians such as Dohnányi, Bartók, Kodály and Weiner their first lessons in composition.

"This concert demanded a high level of artistry," Dean said. "Anytime I have a chance to really stretch my creativity and artistry, it makes me a better professor, musician, performer and teacher."

The concert brought attention to OBU's Division of Music, Dean said, by creating curiosity among the audience about the location of Oklahoma and providing insight for academy students about the music studies available in OBU's Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts. The Duo was so well-received that the academy invited them to return as soon as possible, although the institution's concert is booked through the 2014 season.

For Dean, just as Liszt determined 150 years ago, teaching music requires great dedication, but the effort results in great reward as future generations of musicians thrive.

OBU DIVISION OF MUSIC PRESENTS

The Glow From That Fire

Each spring, the OBU Division of Music presents The Oratorio Project featuring great choral and orchestral works performed by the University's combined choirs along with the orchestra. This year's concert, titled "Visions of Liberty," will feature a new work by Dr. James Vernon, professor of music and coordinator of composition, on April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in Raley Chapel's

Potter Auditorium. The concert also will include "Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened" (Coronation Anthem for King George II, 1727) by George Frederic Handel and "Testament of Freedom" (with texts by Thomas Jefferson) by Randall Thompson.

For more information about the concert and its accompanying events, including

lectures and discussions, contact the OBU Division of Music at 405.514.2002 or via email at music@okbu.edu.

To read an indepth article about the Oratorio Project written by Dr. Kristen Stauffer Todd, professor of music and humanities and chair of the OBU Division of Music, visit our website at okbu.edu/magazine.

OBU PRESENTS

Hobbs Award to Robert Kellogg

OBU presented the Herschel H. Hobbs Award for Distinguished Denominational Service, named in honor of a legendary Southern Baptist pastor and denominational statesman, to Robert Kellogg during the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma

annual meeting held in November 2012 in Moore, Okla.

Kellogg, a 1984 OBU graduate who serves as president and CEO of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma, received the award from President

David Whitlock. Kellogg has served in foundation leadership since 1993.

The award is named to honor the noteworthy Southern Baptist denominational service of Dr. Herschel H. Hobbs, a prolific author, preacher and radio program host.

“We are honored to present the Herschel H. Hobbs Award for Distinguished Denominational Service to Robert Kellogg for outstanding servant leadership to the churches of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and the Southern Baptist Convention,” Whitlock said.

Whitlock noted Kellogg has exemplified servant leadership not only to the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, but also to the affiliates of the BGCO.

“He has served in industry, on the staff of OBU, and in denominational service for the last 19 years,” Whitlock said. “As the president and CEO of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma, he manages more than \$300 million in Foundation assets and faithfully manages with our utmost confidence the OBU endowment.”



BOB NICH PHOTO

Robert Kellogg receives the 2012 Herschel H. Hobbs Award.

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS CELEBRATES

Gift of New Harpsichord



Burton Patterson, a 1956 OBU alumnus, provided a generous gift to OBU for the purchase of a new harpsichord that will provide increased opportunities for music students. Patterson, who also endowed a chair in music, collaborated with Dr. Paul Hammond, former dean of the College of Fine Arts, to make the gift possible. The instrument is a Flemish-style, double-manual harpsichord with multiple stops built based on a 1745 Dulcken instrument.



Those participating in the ribbon cutting of the Eddie Hurt Jr., Memorial Track complex include (from left) Robert Davenport, athletic director; Ford Mastin, head track coach; Eddie Hurt III; Martha and Ben Bryant, Hurt's daughter and son-in-law; Dr. David Whitlock, OBU president; and Dr. John Parrish, executive vice president emeritus.

Eddie Hurt Jr. Memorial Track Complex Dedicated

OBU hosted a dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting for the Eddie Hurt Jr. Memorial Track Complex Dedication on Nov. 9. The track complex is located on the northwest corner of the Shawnee campus, on the corner of Airport Drive and MacArthur Street.

The complex was constructed with significant gifts from 1941 OBU graduate Lawrence Harris. The oil and gas businessman, who resides in Roswell, N.M., endorsed naming of the complex in memory of his OBU former coach. Harris played football for OBU and was coached by Hurt in 1937 and 1938.

Hurt graduated from OBU in 1929. He served at OBU from 1935-55 as coach and director of physical education. He

coached track from 1936-55. He also coached football from 1935-38, and basketball from 1938-44 and 1945-47. He served as OBU's athletic director throughout his tenure and was chair of the physical education department.

Hurt's track teams won 13 consecutive Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference championships. He left Bison Hill in 1954 to work with the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. He returned to OBU in the 1970s to work as a part-time development officer. He died in 1996.

Ford Mastin, current head track coach and a 1977 OBU graduate, wrote and read the following poem for the ceremony.

SAC Coach of Character

The Sooner Athletic Conference selected OBU track and field coach Ford Mastin as its Coach of Character for 2012-13.

“We’re delighted that Coach Mastin is recognized with this award,” said Robert Davenport, OBU director of athletics. “He has been a man of integrity and a strong positive role model for our athletes.”



of integrity and a strong positive role model for our athletes.”

Each fall semester at OBU, Mastin organizes Champions of Character team meetings several nights where OBU track alumni return to speak to the team on the five core values in the NAIA's Champions of Character program.

He promotes team, student-led Bible studies and emphasizes spiritual growth. Mastin demonstrates integrity as he practices what he preaches, attending and periodically leading the coaches' Bible study.

Working through long days, Mastin tirelessly fosters a family atmosphere within the team. He promotes good sportsmanship and is slow to anger – showing grace and leading by example.

Mastin organizes community outreach opportunities. During the fall 2012 semester, he took OBU team members to speak at a local Shawnee Elementary school about how the team tries to be Champions of Character.

Mastin is a five-time NAIA National Coach of the Year with five NAIA national championships since starting with the Bison in the 1996-97 campaign.

The highlight season came in 2007 when the women won the Indoor National Championship and the men won the Outdoor National Championship. Along with the Championships came National Coach of the Year awards to bring Mastin's total to five – one each in 1998, 2005 and 2012, and two in 2007.

Mastin, who has a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a master of education degree from East Central University, is a 1977 graduate of OBU. He lettered in track from 1973-77 and was captain and most valuable athlete in his senior season.

*It took an act of courage in 1925
For a boy to leave his country town and expect that he'd
survive.*

*Eddie came from Carmen to the city of Shawnee
To knock the farm dust off his shoes and be what he dreamed
to be.*

*The college had so many things and he seemed to try them
all
And he found the crowd would stand and cheer when they
handed him the ball.*

*With the football carried in his arm he made opponents cry
And when Track season came around the guy could almost
fly.*

*Any relay he was on was sure to take the gold
His State Long Jump Record made it to 25 years old.*

*I used to prod my Granddad for tales of his teammate
He would tell how Hurt was fast, but LEADING made
him great.*

*God gave the gift to Eddie Hurt to lead boys into men
The Bison teams were always good but did more than just
win.*

*They learned respect and how to give great effort fueled
with passion
A striving for excellence that will never become old-
fashioned.*

*He took 'em North and took 'em South, rode trains from
East to West
And showed the world what happens when men strive to
do their best.*

*When powers that be decided to give a facility someone's
name
The memory of that person and his character should remain.*

*As guests will read the Arches above and wonder who he was
May our effort, passion, and witness for God carry on his
cause.*

*To the Hurts we're indebted for what took 80 years to build
We pledge to honor your memory by what we do on this
Track and Field.*

Cross Country Teams Place in NAIA Championships

OBU finished fourth in the men's race and sixth in the women's for a combined third place at the NAIA National Cross Country Championships in Vancouver, Wash.

The Bison finished with 179 points and the Lady Bison finished with 253 points to give OBU a combined 432, which is the third-best combination total in the NAIA.

Adam Godwin and Hannah Helker captured All-America status with top 10 finishes.

Godwin finished eighth in 24:45, giving the Bison their second All-American in as many seasons. Cordell Baker finished 36th at 25:27 with Jory Custar in 39th at 25:30.

Godwin joins a short list of Bison cross country All-Americans that includes Baker, four-time All-American Pat McMahon, three-time All-American Peter Schouw, two-time All-American Brady Schmiedeberg and Willie Rios, Tommy Morris, David Whaley, Brian Whitlock, Daniel Ellis and Landon Willets.

Helker became OBU's first women's cross country All-American since Mirriam Kaumba won the title in 2004. She is just the sixth OBU All-American in cross country, joining four-time All-American Brandy Bratton, two-time All-Americans Kaumba and Gabriela Hniklova, Kari

Nunneley, and Melissa Flood. The Edmond sophomore completed the five kilometers in 17:33 to finish fourth in the five kilometer race.

Both OBU teams reached the meet by taking the Sooner Athletic Conference Championship.



HANNAH HELKER

OBU Designated as Five-Star Champion of Character Institution

OBU has again been named a Five-Star Champion of Character Institution by the NAIA.

"We take seriously the five core character values of the Champions of Character program and are committed to developing leaders in our athletic programs," said Robert Davenport, OBU director of athletics.

OBU's Champions of Character program is diligently overseen by Dale Griffin, dean of Spiritual Life. Each of OBU's 21 sports participate in community service, team Bible studies and character development assemblies.

Institutions are measured on a demonstrated commitment to Champions of Character and earn points in character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion.

Institutions earned points based on exceptional student-athlete grade point averages and personal conduct in the community, as well as behavior

during competition throughout the course of the academic year. The scorecard process emphasizes the five core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership.

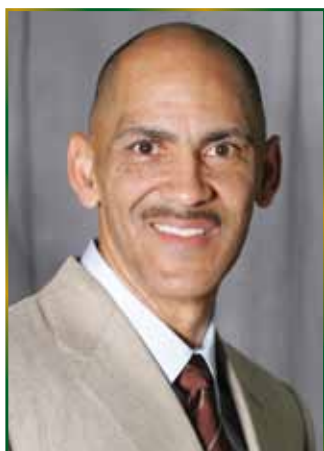


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Make plans to attend
the inaugural

Green and Gold GALA

featuring



TONY DUNGY

April 9, 2013

at the

Tulsa Convention Center

OBU's inaugural Green and Gold Gala will feature Tony Dungy, former head coach of the 2007 Super Bowl Champion Indianapolis Colts and current analyst for NBC's *Football Night in America*.

The Green and Gold Gala is one of
Oklahoma's premier events for raising student scholarships at OBU.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Lead | \$50,000+

- 2 Tables (20 Seats) with Preferred Seating
- Signed Book
- Logo on marketing materials and on rotating slides
- Photo Opportunity w/ Dungy (Photo passes required)
- Pre-event Reception for sponsor and guests
- Private pre-event meet and greet w/ Dungy or host Dungy at their table during the gala
- Brief speaking part during program

Platinum | \$25,000+

- 1 Table (10 Seats) with Preferred Seating
- Signed Book
- Logo on rotating slides
- Photo Opportunity w/ Dungy (photo passes required)
- Pre-event Reception for sponsor and guests

Premier | \$10,000+

- 1 Table (10 Seats) with Preferred Seating
- Name recognition on screen
- Signed Book
- Photo Opportunity w/ Dungy (photo passes required)
- Pre-event Reception for sponsor and guests

Gold | \$5,000+

- 1 Table (10 Seats) with Preferred Seating
- Name recognition on screen
- Signed Book

Green | \$3,000+

- 1 Table (10 Seats) with Preferred Seating
- Name recognition on screen

White | \$1,500+

- 1 Table (10 Seats) with Preferred Seating